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WHAT'S ON IN APRIL 2012

MONDAYS

- 10:00am – 12 noon Multi Activity Group at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Dave Austin on 01763 272066.
- 10:30am – 12 noon Iyengar Yoga Classes at URC Hall – term time only. Contact Jen Harris on 01920 821288.
- 10:00 & 10:45am Stretch'n'Grow – 10:00am session for 18 months to 2 yrs; 10:45 for over 2s. At Seth Ward Community Centre. £2 per family. 01763 273008
- 1:30pm – 3:00pm Stay & Play at Jenyns First School, Braughing. £1 per family. 01763 273008.
- 1:30pm – 3:30pm Senior Citizens Club at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Bingo and an afternoon of socialising. For more information contact Jeanne Clark on 01763 274631.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Cougars Under 7s training, Norfolk Road. Andy on 07941 078069.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Shotokan Karate at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Peter Deacon on 01462 642922.
- 7:00pm Play Bridge for experienced players at Buntingford Bowls Club. £2.50 per session. Contact Gwen on 01763 272775 or Eddie on 07976 896718.
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm Pilates 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.
- 7:30pm – 9:00pm Buntingford Community Choir at Edwinstree School, Bowling Green Lane. No need to read music, no auditions, just bring your enthusiasm! For more details call 07814 912595 or email buntingfordchoir@gmail.com.
- 7:30pm – 9:45pm Buntingford & District Youth Club for young people aged 13–19 years, held at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Contact Nick Howell on 07789 92764 or email nick.howell@hertscc.gov.uk.
- 8:15pm Circuit Training at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact 01920 823677.

TUESDAYS

- 9:15am – 10:15am Badminton at Seth Ward CC, £2.50 per session. 01763 273712.
- 9:30am – 11:00am Tuesday Toddlers at URC Hall, Baldock Road. £1.50 includes drink and snack. Term time.
- 10:00am – 11:00am Under 1s Group at Buntingford Bowls Club. £1 per family. 01763 273008.
- 11:15am – 12:15pm Musical Minis at Seth Ward Community Centre. £2 per family. 01763 273008
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm Leapfrogs Pre-school (Great Hormead). Cookery sessions for ages 2 to 5 years, £6.75 per session. It is not necessary to be attending the pre-school. Booking is required. Please call 01763 289942. Term time only.
- 1:30pm – 2:30pm Musical Minis at Seth Ward Community Centre. £2 per family. 01763 273008
- 3:30pm – 9:00pm Buntingford Dancing School – Dance classes at Layston School. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Cougars Under 12s Blues training, Norfolk Road. Shaun on 07836 214129.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Cougars Under 14s training, Norfolk Road. Frank on 07768 078167.
- 7:00pm – 8:15pm Grade 5 Ballet Lessons, Layston School. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
- 7.30pm Buntingford Karate Club, Edwinstree School Gym. Contact Bill Hooper 01763 273123.

WEDNESDAYS

- 10:00pm – 3:00pm Story Sacks at Jenyns First School, Braughing. £1 per child. 01763 273008.
- 2:00pm – 3:00pm Baby Café for pregnant mums and new parents with babies under 20 weeks. At Bramble Hill Children's Centre, Mill Close. 01763 273008.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Cougars Under 10s training, Norfolk Road. Martin on 07834 318518.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm Circuit Training for 50+ at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Cougars Under 11s training, Norfolk Road. Sean on 07860 365681
- 7:30pm – 8:30pm Body Circuit classes at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm Boxercise/Tae Bo session at Fit Together Gym, Buntingford. Contact Al on 07739 131694.
- 8:00pm – 9:00pm Cougars Under 16s training, Norfolk Road. Mike 01763 271750.
- 8:00pm Horizon Divers at Freman Pool. Contact 01920 823955.

THURSDAYS

- 9:30am – 11:00am Little Ones Mother & Toddler Group at Scout Hut. Contact Jean on 01763 272081 or Lindsey on 01763 274868.
- 9:30am – 11:00am Mother & Toddler Group at Anstey Village Hall (next to the school). Arts & crafts, music, outdoor activities, small world play, trikes & bikes & role play. Term-time only, £2.50 per child (tea & coffee, snacks & juice included).
- 9:45am – 11:00am Jumping Jacks Stay & Play, Herts County Guide Headquarters, Cottered. £1 per family. 01763 273008.
- 10:00am – 12:00pm Carpet Bowls at The Bowls Club, Wyddial Road. Phone Julia on 01763 272584.
- 11:00am – 12:00pm Fitness for 50+ at Seth Ward Community Centre. £4 per person per class. Contact Eileen Dixon 01763 257474 or 07966 222272, or email: eileensaerobics@hotmail.com
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm Leapfrogs Pre-school (Great Hormead). Art sessions, 18 months to 5 years, 1:30pm–2:30pm, £6.75 per session or £4 a session if parents stay with their child (under 2s must be accompanied). Booking required. Phone Kim Semple on 01763 289942.
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm Baby classes run by the Best Start Club at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane. Magical Musical Playdays, for 1 to 3 years olds, start at 1:00pm; followed by Baby Signing classes, for 0 to 16 months, at 2:00pm. Contact Laura Sheriff on 07801 796334. Email: laura@thebeststartclub.com.
- 4:30pm – 6:30pm Drama workshops for 15 to 18 year olds with Stagefrights Theatre at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Dave on 01438 232181 or email stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk
- 5:00pm – 6:00pm Cougars Under 9s training at Norfolk Road. Kevin 07930 192079.
- 5:30pm – 10:00pm Buntingford Swimming Club at Ward Freman Pool. Contact Adelaide Boon on 07710 550050.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm Cougars Under 8s training at Norfolk Road. Matt 07814 838460.
- 6:15pm – 7:00pm Jazzercise Class at Seth Ward Community Centre.
- 7.30pm Buntingford Karate Club, Edwinstree School Gym. Contact Bill Hooper 01763 273123.
- 7:45pm – 9:45pm Buntingford Badminton Club at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Liz James on 01763 274010.

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL (CONT.)

FRIDAYS

- 9:30am – 10:30am Badminton at Seth Ward Community Centre – term time only.
- 10:00am – 11:00am Baby & toddler 'Rhyme Time' at Seth Ward Centre. £1 for first child, 50p for additional children to include tea & coffee. Contact Bramble Hill Children's Centre 01763 273008.
- 11:00am – 12:00 Drop-in Breastfeeding Support Group at Bramble Hill Children's Centre, Mill Close. Led by the health visiting team. 01763 273008.
- 3.30pm – 8:00pm Buntingford Dancing School – dance classes at Layston School. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
- 5:00pm – 6:00pm Cougars Under 15s training at Norfolk Road. Darren 07764 573696.
- 5:30pm – 8:00pm Friday Project, Buntingford & District Youth Club for young people aged 13–19. A range of activities, held at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Contact Nick Howell on 07789 92764 or email nick.howell@hertsc.gov.uk.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm Cougars Under 10s Stripes training at Norfolk Rd. Dave 07836 231915.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Cougars Under 12s Whites training at Norfolk Rd. Dave 07786 933963.

SATURDAYS

- 8:30am – 2:45pm Buntingford Dancing School – dance classes at Layston School and United Reformed Church Hall, Buntingford. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
- 9:15am – 2:00pm Musical Theatre School for 4–14 year olds at Seth Ward Community Centre. New students needed. Call Anna 07545 788433 or email stage-door@brilliantmusicaltheatre.co.uk.
- 10:00am – 11:30am 3rd Sat in the month, Dad's/Male Carers Group at Buntings Nursery. £1 per child. 01763 273008.
- 2:15pm – 4:15pm Drama workshops for 6–15 year olds with Stagefrights Theatre at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Telephone Dave on 01438 232181 or email stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk.
- 2:00pm – 4:00pm Police Surgery at Buntingford Police Station, Baldock Road.

MONDAY–FRIDAY 9:00am – 5:00pm Buntingford Heritage Centre in the Manor House.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

APRIL 2012

- Sun 1st 10:00am–4:00pm. Antiques & Vintage Fair at Barkway Village Hall. Rosei Frost 07912 322 538
- 3rd – 4th Easter Soccer School with Buntingford Cougars (see page 45)
- Tues 3rd 8:00pm. Buntingford & District Caged Bird Society at Benson Hall. New members welcome. Enquiries Mr W Lodge 01920 438482.
- Thurs 12th 7:45pm. Buntingford WI meeting at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Speaker Jacqueline Gray (see page 26)
- Thurs 12th 8:00pm. Royal British Legion meeting at Crown PH. All members welcome.

APRIL (CONT.)

- Sat 14th 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – Bingo at Benson Hall.
- Tues 17th 7:30pm (doors open 7:00pm) at The University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, Room 161. Herts Visual Arts present 'Secret Britain: A Photographic Journey through Nature', with photographs and commentary by leading wildlife photographer Andy Sands. HVA members free; non-members £3. Light refreshments included.
- Wed 18th 10:30am–12:00noon. BALA Coffee Morning at Benson Hall – coffee, cakes, bric-a-brac, raffle.
- Thurs 19th 7:45pm. Annual Town Meeting at the Community Centre.
- Fri 20th 8:00pm. Buntingford Railway & Local History at the Crown PH. Dave Baker – 'Railway Films
- Sat 21st 7:30pm at Reed Village Hall. Royal British Legion presents Dave Ranc's Rocking' Chair Jazz Band (see page 9).
- Sat 21st 7:30pm. Braughing Music Society presents John Benson and his Stars of British Jazz (see page 47).
- Sat 21st 7:30pm. Quiz Night for St Elizabeth's Centre (see page 33).
- Sun 22nd 10:00am start – Buntingford Clean-Up Day (see page 9).
- Tues 24th 7.30pm. Buntingford Civic Society Annual General Meeting, at Benson Hall (see page 11).
- Wed 25th 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – Bingo at Benson Hall.
- Wed 25th 7:30pm. Buntingford & District Flower Club – Doug Howard presents 'Wake Up Call'. At Benson Hall; parking at rear of hall, entrance through Rib Way. Doors open 7:00pm.

MAY 2012

- 4th – 7th Annual Beer Festival at the Fox, Aspenden (see page 47).
- Sat 12th 9:30am–12noon. Aspenden Festival Committee Plant Sale (page 17)
- Sat 12th 7:30pm Quiz Night at Layston School (see page 29)
- Sun 13th Four Manors Sponsored Ride (see page 12).

JUNE 2012

- Fri 1st 3:30–4:30pm. Oliver Heald MP surgery at the Manor House.
- Mon 4th Jubilee Street Party organised by Buntingford Chamber of Commerce
- Thurs 7th Buntingford Gardener's Club trip to Beth Chatto's Garden
- Sun 10th 10:00–4:00pm. Buntlympics 2012 at Seth Ward Recreation Field. Entry forms from The Clerk's Office at the Manor House, tel 272222.
- Sun 10th 1:00pm. Highfields Reunion, Hare Street village (see page 37).
- Sat 23rd Buntingford Carnival
- Sun 24th Cottered Village Festival

JULY 2012

- Sun 22nd Aspenden Village Fete

USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

- POLICE STATION:** Baldock Road, Buntingford
Non-emergency telephone: 101
- Saturday Police surgeries:** Every Saturday, 2:00pm – 4:00pm at Buntingford Police Station
- GAS:** Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999
- ELECTRICITY:** Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838
- WATER (Veolia):** Emergency – Freephone 0800 376 5325
- SEWERAGE (Thames Water):** Emergency – Telephone 0845 920 0800
- DOCTORS:** **The Medical Centre** – White Hart Close
Telephone 01763 271362 (24 hours)
Orchard Surgery – Baldock Road
Telephone 01763 272410 & 272411 (after hours)
- 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: 01992 554440 (in an emergency, dial 999)
- LOCAL COUNCIL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:** **East Herts District Council** – 01279 655261
Housing – 01279 714714
Benefits – Freephone 0800 373852
Buntingford Town Council – 01763 272222
Hertfordshire Highways – 01438 737320
- BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY:** All enquiries including renewals call 0300 123 4049
Select option 1 (renewals) 03:00–23:45 every day
Select option 2 (all other enquiries) Mon–Fri 08:00–20:00, Sat 09:00– 6:00
- Mondays: 09:00 – 18:00
Tuesdays: 14:00 – 18:00
Wednesdays: CLOSED ALL DAY
Thursdays: 09:00 – 18:00
Fridays: 14:00 – 18:00
Saturdays: 09:00 – 13:00
Sundays: CLOSED ALL DAY
- CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU:** The Manor House, Market Hill, Buntingford
- Mondays: 10:00am – 4:00pm
Tuesdays: 10:00am – 1:00pm
Wednesdays: 10:00am – 1:00pm
- Telephone advice available Monday to Friday
10:00am – 4:00pm on 08444 111 444
- HOUSEHOLD WASTE SITE:** Watermill Industrial Estate, Aspenden Road
- Open: Mondays – Fridays 5:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday & Sunday 10:00am – 1:00pm

EDITOR'S LETTER

Whether you're the sporty type or not, there isn't going to be any avoiding it, so we might as well just get into the spirit and get on with it – the Olympics, that is. The Buntylympics organisers are doing just that, and there's more on this family event on pages 24-25, including an application form for those wanting to enter a team. For those of a more sedentary bent, perhaps of a certain age, on page 40-41 Vyse gives us his thoughts on the coming big event, plus his recollections of the last London Olympiad in 1948. We also have more information on what is planned for the Jubilee Street Party on page 19.

This month, as well as the regular reports from all our schools, we have some delightful reminiscences of what it was like to attend Layston School in the 1950s. Many thanks to Sandra for writing down some of her memories of those days. They really bring home how much things have changed over the years – can you imagine having to rub your teacher's chilblained legs in class? I hope she feels inspired sometime to do the same for her memories of secondary school, as hinted at the end of her article on pages 30-31.

Congratulations to the Friends of Westmill Church on being awarded a grant from English Heritage (more details on page 18). They still have a way to go to raise all of the money needed to fix the church roof, but this is a huge help. If you are interested in volunteering or helping to raise money for charity, there are lots of possibilities in the Journal this month – involving varying degrees of commitment – of things to get involved in over the coming weeks, from quizzes to a sponsored ride, from eating barbecue in support of RATS to helping clean up the Rib. Whatever you are doing, it is now officially Spring, and I hope that puts a spring in your step and a smile on your face.

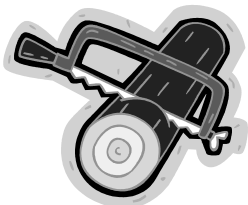
Christine Noble

Many thanks to Debbie Lemay for proofreading

**Editorial copy deadline for the May 2012 Journal is
12.00 noon on Tuesday 17th April 2012**

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

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



LOGS FOR SALE

**Cut to size by request
Delivered to your home
Please contact John on:**

TEL: 01763 272516 MOBILE: 07773 845648

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Layston Church of England First School is looking to recruit a Community Governor to join their friendly and committed team of existing governors. A Community Governor can be anyone who works or lives in the community served by the school. Is this you?

I had no experience of being a governor until 18 months ago when I was recruited by the school's governing body, but I have gained a great deal of personal satisfaction from getting involved in the life of the school and have made some new friends along the way. Being a school governor provides a rewarding and interesting opportunity not only to become involved in the life of the school but also in its strategic planning for the future. The current governors involve themselves in a wide range of ways, from hearing readers in school and helping out at planned events like the recent 'Cookathon' (which I have to say could produce some budding Masterchefs!), to monitoring the site maintenance and school budget out of school hours.

There is a regular commitment to attend a Full Governing Body meeting and a committee meeting each term, but this provides the chance to get together with people from a range of backgrounds and also develop some new skills. Our team is very friendly and good fun and always keen to meet new people who can add to our diverse skills. Layston's Governors welcome people from any walk of life who are committed to the success and development of the school and the safety and protection of our pupils. Induction, training and support will be provided. A commitment to Child Protection is essential. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the school on 01763 271235 or the Chair of Governors Clive Alexander on 01763 271012.

Susie Betley
Vice-Chair of Governors

Dear Christine

I would just like to say a very big THANK YOU to the Buntingford Am Drams for all the hard work that goes into the productions that they put on every year, whether it be a play or pantomime or whatever. The finished product is always of the highest standard and excellent value. This year's was no exception. Again thank you and well done.

Ashley Cantor
49 Fairfield, Buntingford

Dear Editor

The residents from Ashfords & Carters Close raised £580.00 for Against Breast Cancer at the fundraising event held on Saturday 17th March. They would like to thank the following shops and everyone who gave raffle prizes for their support: The Post Office, Kirkhams, Piggotts Butchers, Country Flowers, The Co-op, Budgens, K & M Shah Chemists, Crazy Daisy, The Cheese Plate, Herts & Essex Antiques Centre at Sawbridgeworth, and Stortford Grange Physio Centre. Thank you once again and to everyone who attended for your support.

Peggy Osborne

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

The Royal British Legion

Buntingford Branch

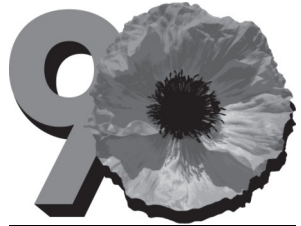
PRESENTS: **Dave Ranc's Rockin'
Chair Jazz Band**

April 21st 7.30pm at Reed Village Hall

Hot Supper * Licensed Bar * Raffle

Tickets £12 from Di Bamford 01763 848481

**All proceeds to The Poppy Appeal
Please book early**



The Royal British
Legion is in its
91st year of raising
money to support
our ex-servicemen

Peace Child  International
-empowering young people-

Registered Charity No: 1095189

Did you know that Sunday 22nd April is Earth Day?

**Buntingford will play its part by doing the
Buntingford Clean Up – Sunday April 22nd 2012**

More than one billion people around the globe will participate in Earth Day 2012 and help Mobilize the Earth™. People of all nationalities and backgrounds will voice their appreciation for the planet and demand its protection.

Peace Child International (a Buntingford based international charity), in association with the Civic Society, is organizing a clean up **starting at 10:00am** at the Ford at Wyddial Road, Buntingford. Come and do your bit for Buntingford and the planet by coming in your wellies to help clean up the river and some of the footpaths.

Finish up at 12.30ish with coffee, teas and cake at the White House and find out what PCI is doing along with thousands of other young people to promote a sustainable world and a message to world leaders to take action at the Rio Earth Summit in June 2012. For further details contact:

Rosey Woolcombe
rosey@peacechild.org
01763 274459

The White House, High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AH



Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)



BUNTINGFORD CIVIC SOCIETY – WHAT WE DO

For some 40 years the Buntingford Civic Society has led or been significantly involved in enhancement, planning, restoration, supporting and communication associated with improving aspects of life in Buntingford and Aspenden. These activities have included:

Enhancement

- Erection of the Town Sign on Market Hill
- Erection of and planting around 'Welcome' Boundary Signs
- Financial contribution to and assistance with installation of Christmas Lights
- Fitting of Blue Plaques to buildings of historical interest
- Improvement of Town Notice Boards
- Financial assistance to Aspenden Parish Council for children's play equipment
- Provision of seats in Layston Gardens and on the Causeway
- Tree planting in Layston Court Gardens and provision of a water supply
- Illumination of the Almshouse frontage
- Installation of the Seth Ward Plaque at the Community Centre
- Clearing the River Rib

Planning

- Commenting on Local Planning Applications, County Structure Plans, the East of England Plan, the East Hertfordshire Plan and the Local Development Framework
- Campaigning for a Town By-pass
- Consultation on High Street enhancement
- Taking a leading role in the preparation of the existing (1986) Town Plan and contributing to the Local Community Strategy
- Conducting opinion surveys and organised meetings on matters of local interest

Restoration

- The Cage at the Bottom of Church Street
- The Jubilee Pump on Market Hill
- The Milestone by St. Peter's Church

Youth Support

- Financial support to Freman College in its quest for Specialist School Status, to Buntingford Scouts for their new Scout Hut and to The Youth Club
- Running an Art Competition for 4 to 18 year olds
- Running an Essay Competition for 11 to 13 year olds
- An award to a Freman College Student for Services to the Community

Communication

- Publication of the Buntingford Journal
- Buntingford Civic Society Website
- Preparation of a set of Illustrated Town Trails
- Assistance with Buntingford Area Footpaths Map

We were instrumental in the resurrection of the Buntingford Carnival and are involved in other local working/advisory groups. Using funds derived from the Buntingford Journal advertising revenue, we have provided financial support to other Town organisations whose activities are consistent with our own aims including:

- To the Buntingford Relief In Need Charity for restoration of the Old Town Clock
- For the Millennium Town Clock
- For the Restoration of the War Memorial
- To the Town Carnival Committee
- To the Chamber of Commerce for Celebration Street Parties

Buntingford Civic Society is a registered charity funded by membership subscription fees and by the revenue obtained from the sale of advertising space in the Buntingford Journal. Through our membership of Civic Voice, the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) and the Association of North Thames Amenity Societies (ANTAS) we are able to have influence on a wider range of planning issues.

Our meetings are conducted in a friendly atmosphere. If you might be interested in spending a few hours a month involved in this type of activity and/or would like to attend one of the meetings of the Committee as an observer, please contact the chairman Derek Cooper on 01763 271115 (email: bridewell@btclick.com) or the secretary Joyce Jackson on 01763 271463 (email: henryjack@msn.com).

Check out our website at:
<http://www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk>



Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)

invites Readers to its

Annual General Meeting

to be held at the Benson Hall, Buntingford,
on Tuesday, 24th April 2012, at 7:30pm

The business part of the AGM will be followed by a short talk given by

Councillor Mike Carver

(Executive Member for Planning Policy, East Herts Council)

'Planning in East Herts for the period to 2031'

Light Refreshments will be served at the end of the Meeting.

RSVP to Joyce Jackson, 8 Longmead, Buntingford, SG9 9EF Tel: 01763 271463



BUNTINGFORD CRICKET CLUB

Spring and the smell of freshly mown grass bring with it the anticipation of a new season. From humble beginnings Buntingford Cricket Club has now established itself as one of the strongest clubs in the area, both on and off the pitch. The introduction of our Colts section has proven to be a great success and as well as ensuring a bright future for the cricket club, it enables us to provide a chance for local youngsters to enjoy the game of cricket within their own town.



As a club we are fortunate to have a number of individuals who work hard enabling the club to run smoothly and without such people we would not be in such a healthy position. The good working relationship with the Town Council and local sponsors is much appreciated and we hope to promote the town in a good light as we showcase the facilities available in Buntingford.

Last year saw more on-field success with both 1st and 2nd XIs winning their respective divisions. Let's hope for another good year ahead of us. As a progressive club, we are always on the lookout for players wishing to come and play. Whether you fancy playing friendly cricket on a Sunday, the more competitive league games on a Saturday, or you are a young player wanting to learn more about cricket through our club coaching, then you would all be made most welcome. Just come up to see us at the pavilion at Norfolk Road Playing Fields on a Saturday or Sunday when we have a game. For further details please visit our website, www.buntingfordcc.co.uk, or phone Peter Townsend on 07738 649106.

Barry Walker, Chairman

The Four Manors Sponsored Ride

Sunday 13th May

The Herts and Essex Borders group of the Riding for the Disabled Association is organising a **sponsored ride and barbecue** from Benington Lordship Farm to raise money towards the annual running costs of about £8,000. This enables over 70 children to take part in riding lessons and a summer picnic ride during the year.

Join the sponsored ride to help this very worthwhile cause and ride across the beautiful and historic countryside of the Four Manors of Benington Lordship, Benington Park, Walkernbury and Walkern Hall.
3 mile, 5 mile or 10 mile route with rosettes for all participants.

For details ring Pep Brookbanks on 01279 843218,
or email pepbrookbanks@hotmail.com
or visit www.horsedates.co.uk for a schedule and entry form



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
BUNTINGFORD
CARNIVAL COMMITTEE



Buntingford Carnival

Saturday, 23rd June 2012

With only three months to go to the Carnival, we have been informed by the Olympic Organising Committee that we cannot use the word Olympic in our theme as we will be infringing copyright laws! Therefore we will be changing it to something else, but it will still encompass things that are going on in Britain this year.

Not only does this include the **Olympics** and the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** but also it is **Charles Dickens'** bi-centenary, 50 years of the **James Bond** film franchise, the centenary of the sinking of the **Titanic**, 50 years since the opening of the new **Addenbrooks Hospital** in Cambridge, the 500th anniversary of the unveiling of the ceiling of the **Sistine Chapel** painted by **Michelangelo**, 50 years since the first nuclear power station supplied electricity to the national grid, 20 years since the opening of **Disneyland Paris**, 50 years since the launch of **Telstar**, the first communications satellite, the centenary of the **Retreat from Moscow and the 1812 Overture**, 50 years since the death of **Marilyn Monroe**, the centenary of the death of **Bram Stoker**, author of **Dracula**, the 200th anniversary of **Spencer Perceval**, the only British Prime Minister to be killed whilst still in office, and **Alan Turing**, mathematician, cryptographer, father of computer science and the man responsible for breaking the Enigma code at Bletchley Park would be 100 on Carnival Day this year,

These famous people and events made a difference to our lives in very different ways and should be remembered. Also, we must not forget that this is the 25th anniversary of the **Buntingford by-pass** and of our own **Buntingford Carnival**, which started in 1987. Our Carnival is the chance to remember some of them.

There appears to be some confusion going around that vehicles are not allowed in the Carnival procession. This is not true – we welcome as many vehicles as we can get, large or small. So get your thinking caps on and come up with something special and original for the day. The entertainment is booked and so is good weather, so we should all have a great time.

Ashley Cantor
Chairman, Buntingford Carnival Committee

A Load of Old Rot

Martin & Mandy – Part 28

The last few articles have focused more on the history of St Bartholomew's and the people that have been involved with it – so this month we thought we'd bring you up to date with what we're actually doing behind that hoarding.

So, we appreciate that the Nave does not have a roof right now and we obviously need to do something about that – but first of all, after the delightful visit we had from the lead thieves, we need to deal with the roof of the tower. Now the friends of Layston did a top dollar job of patching the roof up and keeping most of the water out, but while we have all that scaffolding in place it's going to pay to send a little TLC in the direction of the roof, especially now the lead removal has left a gaping hole in it. The general plan was to consolidate the rafters that were loose, replace a couple that are clearly rotten, patch up the insulation and batons then replace the existing tiles. So from below you will see the oak sarking, above that will be a felt membrane, a super-duper space-tech insulation layer and then the original tiles. At this point we will pause to cut some bat holes.



New on the right – old on the left

We started by taking off the tiles which were then stacked carefully on the top lift of the scaffold so that we can see the felt underlay and batons that the friends put up there in the 1990s. We find Alan, Chris and Alf's graffiti on the batons from the last roof rebuild and we can now assess the state of the framework. Immediately life is not good, we could clearly see the bottom of the roof from the bell frame but now we can look down from above we have a couple or three issues to deal with. The first one is the roof plates. 'What are roof plates?' I hear you say and that's what I said as well! Apparently a roof plate is the bit of wood that sits on top of the walls of the tower and the whole roof's weight is borne by them. In the tower they are big bits of oak and there's four of them on each side of the tower. Well I say there are four of them – what I should say was there are meant to be four of them! We have about 30% of them intact and the rest have all rotted away where the rain has got at them. The outer parts of them have all gone, but lucky for us the inside parts (those visible from inside the bell chamber) are still intact and look great.

So the chaps set about cutting out the rotten roof plates and replacing them with new oak and strapping the new pieces to the existing pieces. The south rafter is also a bit under the weather, well I really meant 60% rotten, but the top 40% is actually rather fine. It's amazing how you can look at a piece of wood and think it's gone completely and then after a bit of scraping and brushing you discover that the core of the wood is actually in

very good nick. So the rafter has all the rotten wood cut out and it's then spliced onto the new piece of oak and manoeuvred by about six people and a winch into place. A few more of the smaller rafters are replaced but in reality a lot fewer than we originally



Right in the centre of the rafters

planned for, so that's good. The little doorway out onto the roof is a bit of a surprise and again is more rotten than good – but the plan originally called for the door to be replaced anyhow, so we just fix the rotten parts. A bit more serious is the East-West tie beam – this, like the name suggests, is the bit of timber running from the east to west in the middle of the roof, and it's about 5m long and 400mm by 400mm, i.e. big.

Now we can look down from above, the east end of the beam has been soaked in water for years and so the top two thirds of the last 350mm of the beam

is basically not there – this is not good at all – we really don't want to change the beam because it's original to the building, it looks fab and it's a really nasty job to actually change... So we start with a lot of scraping to get rid of all the rotten wood and confirm just how big the hole is that we need to fix. Back in the 1600s this would have been a real problem and the only solution would have been to change the beam. However, we now have technology on our side, and basically what we do is make up some side panels in oak that cosmetically look right and then fill the void where the rotten wood was with Araldite – we don't actually use Araldite, that would be silly! We use a wood repair epoxy that's a close cousin to Araldite, comes in a 7.5 litre bucket and brings tears to your eyes as you buy it! Sydney Opera House is apparently held together with the stuff so it must be good. Anyway, the results are rather excellent. From the



Painfully expensive Araldite on a tie beam

bell frame it's not possible to see the repair, the original beam is still in place and we have some structural integrity back in the roof at last. Check back next month for what happens to the rest of the roof and if you're confused like us about the hours that roofers work.

**For more history and information related to St Bartholomew's, visit:
www.layston-church.org.uk**



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

April	1	Palm Sunday	Rev Duncan Goldie
	8	Easter Holy Communion	Rev Paul Whittle, Moderator of the Eastern Synod
	15	Morning Worship	Rev Derek Newton
	22	Morning Worship	Rev Duncan Goldie
	29	Morning Worship	Rev Duncan Goldie
May	6	Morning Worship	Dr Janet Bottoms

Churches Together will be holding an **open air service on Good Friday**, which this year is 6 April, on Market Hill, starting at 12.00 noon.

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 occasional visiting speakers – meets on alternate Tuesdays at 2.30pm in the Church Hall.

Coffee & Company, organised by 'Churches Together', is in the Church Hall every Thursday from 10.30am for anyone wanting fellowship and time for a chat.

Lunches organised by Christian Aid are held in the Church Hall from 12.30 to 2.00pm on the first Friday of the month.

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

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

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

Weekdays at 9:15pm; Saturdays at 10:00am

Saturdays at 6:00pm at Furneux Pelham

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





United Benefice of

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



Reverend Ian Hill – Telephone 01763 274072

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

Everyone is welcome at any of the churches

Services for April

Sun 1 st	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	10:00am	St. Mary, Aspenden	Family Service
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
Wed 4 th	9:30am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion, Book of Common Prayer
Thurs 5 th	7:30pm	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Said Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar
Friday 6 th GOOD FRIDAY	12:00noon	Market Hill	Churches Together Open
	3:00 –		Air Service
	5:00pm	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Service of Meditation
	7:00pm	St. Mary, Aspenden	Said Tenebrae Service
Sun 8 th EASTER SUNDAY	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	9:30am	St. Mary, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 15 th	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
Sun 22 nd	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Morning Worship
	9:30am	St. Mary, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 29 th	9:30am	St. Mary, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship with Baptism

Aspenden Festival Committee

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday 12th May, 9:30am– 12:00noon

Outside St Peter's Church, Buntingford

**Annuals • Perennials • Vegetables
Cakes & Preserves • Coffee & Scones**

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, WESTMILL

£99,000 English Heritage Grant

The church of St Mary the Virgin, situated in the heart of the village of Westmill, is of Saxon origin and Grade II listed. Within the building are many fine architectural features which are worthy of preservation and protection.

Last May an investigation was carried out as to the state of the church roof. It was found to be in great need of repair, the amount of money required to carry out the repairs being in the region of £150,000. The last extensive works were carried out in 1870.

In June last year we applied to English Heritage (who administer funds on behalf of the Heritage Lottery Fund) for a grant and we are delighted to say that we have received an offer of £99,000 towards the necessary work to the roof. We are now able to commence Stage I of the grant which is the development plan. Stage II, the structural repair work, can commence once Stage I is complete.

Since the initial estimate last May, a more detailed costing has been calculated and our current estimate for the cost of repairs is £171,000, so we are very pleased to have received this grant offer from the Heritage Lottery Fund via English Heritage and are very grateful for it. In January of 2011 the Friends of Westmill Church was formed and they have done a marvellous job, raising well over £35,000 to date. This level of support shows how much the community values the church, and the size of the grant shows that English Heritage was impressed by their support and enthusiasm

We still have a shortfall and will be continuing our fundraising efforts. For more information on St Mary the Virgin and how to donate to the Roof Appeal please go to the Friends of Westmill Church website, www.friendsofwestmillchurch.org.uk. You can also donate through *BTMydonate*, the online fundraising service from BT.

All thanks to everyone who has donated to our fund, to the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, the Friends of Westmill Church and the people of Westmill for their great support and help to preserve our beautiful church for future generations.

For further details contact the Reverend Ian Hill on 01763 274072



Sue Phipps and Hilary Harding
Churchwardens, St Mary the Virgin, Westmill

Diamond Jubilee

Street Party

Monday 4th June



To celebrate our esteemed Majesty's 60-year reign, the Buntingford Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that a street party will be held to mark this auspicious event. There will be a medieval theme to the day and it is hoped that many attending will enter into the spirit of things and dress accordingly!!

The Street Party will be held along the High Street which will be decked with bunting and flags. Tables and chairs will be provided and the tables will be dressed in a patriotic red, white and blue manner. To complement the medieval theme a professional re-enactment group – The Swords of Chivalry – will perform in Layston Gardens and demonstrate medieval tournament life at the end of the 14th century, with full authentic costumes and armour from across Europe. Layston Gardens will also host the fun and games, including stocks (come and throw wet sponges at some of the Town's luminaries!!!), sausage tossing, apple bobbing and more.

Market Hill and the Manor House Car Park will host a special Jubilee market where it is hoped the medieval theme will continue. Hog roasts and barbecues will be set up and lunch boxes will be available to purchase at the Coffee Shop. The Coffee Shop will also be providing food with a 'Coronation' theme. The Cheese Plate will be open for business and I am sure that the medieval theme will be in evidence here! The sheltered housing residents will be treated to complimentary refreshments (tea & coffee, sandwiches and cakes) and all of the tables along the High Street will be supplied with soft drinks and snacks.

Musical entertainment will be provided throughout the day with DJ Wheelie Bin, Coup de Grass, Banjo Band and Lipstick Torpedo already booked. For a much more local and probably more subtle approach, The Folk, a local all-girl group, will be performing. Lucy, Rose, Sam and Lauren – who are all Freman College students – look like making it very big in the future, so this will be a chance to see them live. To complete the local theme the Buntingford Choir will perform a half hour set at 14.00.

Adults and childrens fancy dress competitions will be held and it is hoped that all businesses that open for the day will go along with the medieval dress theme. There will also be face painters and a children's painting competition.

Further entertainment ideas are still being considered and a full programme of events will be published nearer the time. Put the date in your diaries now – this is an event NOT to be missed!!!



Edwinstree Middle School



Just a handful of the many characters on display on World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day with pupils and staff dressing up as book characters. We had a wonderful array of costumes: J.K.Rowling's Harry Potter, Lewis Carroll's Alice, Dav Pilkey's Captain Underpants, Roger Hargreaves' Mister Men and many others. Last year we were awarded a Guinness World Record for 'The Most People Dressed as Story Book Characters' and with the help of Millfield First School we were attempting to break our own record. We had a beautiful sunny spring morning for our walk along the High Street. Thanks to Mayor Stan Bull and to everyone who came out to

see us, and also to Buntingford Library for allowing us to use their counter system to verify numbers. A special thank you to everyone at home for providing such marvellous costumes and giving everyone a day to remember.

Twenty Year 8 pupils are taking part in the Rib Valley Book Award alongside Freman College and Ralph Sadleir. Students are reading five specially selected books and will then decide their favourite. One of the books is *Blood Red Road* and it is hoped that the author, Moira Young, will visit Freman in May when participants will have a chance to meet her.

Our Maths department has had a busy time, with Year 3 pupils from Layston and Millfield joining our Year 6s for an enrichment day. Four of our Year 8s went to Cambridge University for the UK Maths competition and Years 7 and 8 are taking part in the Junior Maths Challenge in April.



Taking part in the maths challenge



Local girl band 'The Folk' on stage at Edwinstree

Year 6 visited Morgans School in Hertford for 'Crucial Crew' workshops. Subjects covered included electricity and water safety, travel on trains and coaches, healthy eating and the dangers of smoking.

Local girl group The Folk visited school and gave a performance of two of their own songs. Three of the four members are ex-Edwinstree pupils, Lauren Deakin Davies, Rose Goodship and Sam Seward. We wish them well in their music careers.

On the same day Lord Laming came into school and spoke to Years 7 and 8.



Year 8 get creative at Tate Modern

The educational visit to the Tate Modern was a chance for Year 8 pupils to enrich their art studies. A great favourite was the 'Obliteration Room' designed by Yayoi Kusama. All visitors were given sheets of coloured stickers and encouraged to cover any available surface in the room.

Years 7 and 8 are looking forward to their visits to France to improve their linguistic skills, with Year 7 going to Boulogne and Year 8 to Normandy. More news of these events next month.

Diane George



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

It appears that an article that appeared in *The Mercury* in January has caused some confusion and Councillors have asked me to set the record straight. Below is a transcript of a press release that we recently sent to the local press.

“At a meeting of all Buntingford Town Councillors it was decided that in light of recent press reports, the public should be made aware that the Town Centre Management Team is not a committee/sub-committee of Buntingford Town Council, although the Council supports and appreciates all that the team has done for the town. The group is completely autonomous of the Council both in its achievements for the town and its financial affairs. The Town Council understands that the Lottery Commission is satisfied with how the TCMT has conducted its business.”

Work to the wildlife area has now started. Although the area is looking a little bare at the moment, a vast amount of planting will take place when the time is right for planting. Pitch maintenance has commenced at the Community Centre: no football will be permitted after the end of April to ensure that the maintenance is as effective as possible. Work to the Multi Games Area will start on the 10th April, hopefully taking approximately 6 weeks.

June will see a month of festivities in the town starting with the Jubilee Street Party, then the Buntlympics and ending with the Carnival. The Town Council would like to thank all of those hard working volunteers who are making all of this possible.

Jill Jones MILCM Cert HE
Town Clerk

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

Tel: 01763 272222

**email: btc.manorhouse@btclick.com
website: www.buntingfordtowncouncil.co.uk**

Town Council meetings for April 2012

Thursday 5 th	7:30pm – Amenities Committee
Thursday 12 th	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Resources Committee
Thursday 19th	7:45pm – Annual Town Meeting at Seth Ward Community Centre
Thursday 26 th	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Full Council
All meetings will be held at The Manor House unless indicated otherwise. All members of the public are welcome to attend.	

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



Buntingford Swimming Club hosted a sponsored swimathon in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on Sunday 11th March in memory of the club's head coach, Alan Bowell, who passed away before Christmas after a long and brave battle with cancer.

The event was organised by Christina Branch and Emily Burns and enthusiastically supported by the club's membership with 47 participants swimming a combined distance of 36 miles. Those swimming included Alan's daughter Sue who was sponsored to swim a mile for Macmillan. "We wanted to arrange this swimathon in recognition of the many hundreds of hours of his time Alan gave voluntarily to the club. He was a truly inspirational swimming coach," said the organisers. "We chose to raise funds for Macmillan in recognition of the support they gave Alan during his illness."

The Club Chairman, Richard Moody, was full of praise for the swimmers and the large crowds in attendance which included the Mayor of Buntingford, Stan Bull, pictured below with members of the club. The swimathon was also supported by the management of Ward Freman Pool who waived the pool hire charges for the event and the pool's lifeguards who donated their time for free. Richard said: "We are so pleased that our event will raise a significant sum for Macmillan Cancer Support and would like to thank local businesses and Buntingford Town Council for their donations to the charity."



The BUNTYLYMPICS 2012

England hosted the 1908 and 1948 Olympic Games and here we are just weeks away from our third games. Up and down the country towns and villages will be having their own mini games and we in Buntingford are no different.

Plans are well ahead for this one day event to be held on Sunday 10th June which takes place on the Seth Ward Recreation Field.

This will be a Fun Day with the emphasis definitely on Fun but with all the trappings associated with the Olympics. There will be an opening ceremony and a closing ceremony with each team parading with their own flag and each race will have a medal winners' ceremony.

The races are fun race, as you can see from the programme opposite. A team can consist of up to 15 competitors, from ages 'Under 7s' to 'Adults'.

So how about entering a team? It could be young families who are friends, or it could be a street entry, or a club, a company, or school. It could be grandparents entering a team made up of their children and grandchildren; your team can be made up of anyone.

There was famously once an Olympic Games where one country entered just one competitor and ours is no different, but if you have a child who would like to take part but does not want to compete all alone, please let us know so that we can put you in touch with an accommodating team.

Once you have your team organised, fill in the form opposite and hand it in to the Manor House. If you have any questions please ring 01763 272222.

At Seth Ward
Recreation Field,
Luynes Rise

Sunday
June 10th
10:00am to
4:00pm

**A Free
and Fabulous
Fun-Filled
Family event**



The BUNTLY OLYMPICS 2012

TEAM ENTRY FORM

For official use:

Date recvd:

Team No:

Number of participants in each group				
T - age 0 to 7		C - child age 8 to 15		E = Either sex
A - adult 15+		Overall total (max 15)		X = Mixed

	Event	Age	Sex	Entrant 1	Entrant 2	Entrant 3
1	Egg & Spoon 30m	T	E			
2	Throwing the Wellie	T	E			
3	Running backward 30m	T	E			
4	Hoola Hoop challenge	T	E			
5	Throwing the javelin	C	E			
6	Standing Long Jump	C	E			
7	Three legged 60m	C	X	boy:	girl:	
		C	X	boy:	girl:	
8	2 x 30m Paper Bag	C	X	boy:	girl:	
		C	X	boy:	girl:	
9	Discus	A	E			
10	Stone, Paper, Scissors	A	E			
11	Three Legged 120m	A	X	male:	female:	
12	Boules Challenge	A	E			
13	3 by 30m Tag relay	X	X	T:	C:	A:
14	Target Golf	X	X	T:	C:	A:

Team Manager:

Contact Address:

Tel. no:

email:

Entrants' names may be just Christian or first name and surname initial

Closing Date for entries: **30th April 2012**

You do not need to enter every event nor have maximum number of entrants

Never mind the 'Empty Nest' ... I've got the 'Empty Line' syndrome!

Thirty years ago, white, lemon and green,
Graced my washing line, when tiny baby clothes were seen.
Not knowing if a boy or girl, I stuck to neutral tones,
Not till three years later could we enter the 'pink' zone.
My line was full, my heart was full, and full too was the pram,
So much washing of sticky bibs, with milk and rusk and jam!!
Lines of nappies, washed many times, ruled our garden with a will,
Ah! for a day of frostiness to make them whiter still.*
As years went by the clothes got bigger, no longer tiny knits,
But jeans, tee-shirts, bras and socks ... childhood fading bit by bit.
One leaves home, the wash depleted, the line hangs slack and sad,
Two are gone to pastures new ... and I know you'll think I'm mad,
BUT I MISS those days of tiny clothes when my line was full and needed,
"Don't wish you children grown my dear", are words I wish I'd heeded.
For now, some days, the line is empty ... There's nothing else that's soiled.
And when there is, it's just us two, or a tea towel too few to boil.
So, thank you to my washing line, you've served me well dear friend.
It's just the BLOOMIN IRONING, that sent me round the bend!!!

Teresa Bonner (*n.b. It's a well known fact that frost makes terry nappies white!)

BUNTINGFORD W.I.

Thanks to everyone who came along to our Spring Lunch in March and enjoyed some home-made soup and a mouth-watering selection of home-made cakes – and wasn't it a lovely Spring day!

Marlene McAndrew was the Speaker at our March meeting and her subject was the National Census and a House in Clerkenwell. The first part of Marlene's talk told us about events leading up to the National Census, starting with the first thorough survey of England in 1086, when William the Conqueror ordered the production of the Domesday Book. Although this painted a detailed picture of life in England at that time, it merely established the ownership of assets for the purposes of taxation. It was not until 1538 that, on the orders of Thomas Cromwell, Parish Registers came into being recording baptisms, marriages and deaths in each parish. The first Census Act was in 1801 and the ensuing censuses taken every 10 years have given us a far greater insight into our ancestors' lives. For the second part of Marlene's talk she concentrated on No.8 Exmouth Street, Clerkenwell – at one time the home of the pantomime clown Joseph Grimaldi – and its various occupants over the years.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 12th April at the United Reformed Church Hall at 7.45pm, when Jacqueline Gray will be talking about Millinery and a Little Bit More. Visitors are welcome at all our meetings.

Val Hume

EAST HERTS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Manor House, Buntingford

Drop-in:

Monday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Telephone:

08444 111 444

Monday – Friday

10:00am – 4:00pm



Cancelling Regular Card Payment

I took out a payday loan. Now I've found my lender is taking money out of my account that I need to pay my rent. What can I do to stop this?

There's a common myth that once you've agreed to regular payments being made from your account, you have no power to stop them. This is not true.

When you give your credit or debit card details to a company and authorise them to take regular payments from your account, it is known as a 'recurring transaction' or 'continuous payment authority'. This is not the same as a direct debit.

To cancel a regular payment just phone your bank and tell them you are withdrawing your consent for further payments to be taken. You don't need to tell the company taking the payments or confirm your instructions in writing for your bank to stop payments. Your bank should stop making payments as soon as you tell them you have withdrawn your consent – regardless of whether you have also told your payday lender – and you can do this verbally.

If you have contacted your bank in time, and a payment is made after you have told it that you wish to stop the payment being taken from your account, it will be regarded as an unauthorised transaction and your bank must give you an immediate refund, and put the account back in the position it would have been if the payment had not been made. In other words, the bank must refund any interest and charges that were applied as a result of the payment being made.

If you're still having problems get free, independent advice from your local CAB. For contact details of your nearest CAB, go to www.adviceguide.org.uk

'Copyright Citizens Advice'. For the most up-to-date version of this article, please visit the CAB Adviceguide website at:

www.adviceguide.org.uk

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

**A CUT ABOVE • BASRA'S SUPERMARKET • BUDGENS
CO-OP SUPERMARKET • COUNTRY FLOWERS • DELISSIMO
FLUTTERBY'S • HARE STREET SHOP & FILLING STATION
MARK DOEL • PEARCE'S FARM SHOP • PIGGOTTS
QUILLER BOOKS • THE FOX AT ASPENDEN • WESTMILL TEA ROOM**



LAYSTON C OF E FIRST SCHOOL

March has been such a busy month at Layston. As usual, we have been enjoying a variety of events, some traditional and some new.

We celebrated World Book Day with our Reading Breakfast again this year. It was brilliant to welcome so many mums, dads and grandparents. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and it was great to see so many families sharing books together. Our PTA did sterling work in feeding everyone – we got through a record ten loaves!

We also loved taking part in the 'Let's Get Cooking' National Cookathon. We were attempting to break the record for the number of people cooking healthy food at the same time. Our Year 1 and Year 3 pupils cooked up a feast with the



Tucking in to reading and breakfast

help of their parents and we all enjoyed sharing the banquet at the end of the session. Congratulations to Mrs Hall and Mrs Handy who masterminded this hugely successful event. The recipes we used are posted on our school's website.

In our assemblies we focus each month on a different value. During this month of Lent we have been considering Equality. We have been thinking about those who are less well off than ourselves. The children have written prayers and blessings on a range of subjects, from caring for our world to thinking of those who have disabilities to overcome.

We also remembered those children in some countries who are unable to go to school because their families are too poor. The children wanted to raise some money for a disability charity so we organised a grand book and toy sale. Everyone had great fun shopping and we raised nearly £200.

Do you enjoy reading about all the exciting goings-on at Layston every month? If so, why not consider becoming one of our Community



'Let's Get Cooking' at Layston



The grand book and toy sale raised nearly £200

Governors? We currently have two vacancies. There is more information on what is involved in this month's 'Letters to the Editor' on page 8. If you are interested, please contact our Chair of Governors, Clive Alexander, on 01763 271012.

If you would like to find out more about our school, please take a look at our website at:

www.layston.herts.sch.uk

Or contact us on 01763 271235 to arrange a visit.

Gill Langley
Headteacher

QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 12TH MAY 2012

AT LAYSTON FIRST SCHOOL

THE CAUSEWAY, BUNTINGFORD

DOORS OPEN 7.30PM FOR 8.00PM START

**£8 A TICKET, INCLUDING PLOUGHMANS SUPPER
LICENSED BAR**

MAXIMUM 8 PERSONS A TEAM

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TEL: 01763 272398

If you would like to have your event in the diary of events pages, please contact **Christine Noble** 01763 273095
email: Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

When I was a 'Mixed Infant'

A childhood story of Layston School

My first day at school was in 1951. I had never left Mum before and was both excited and a little frightened, but having two older brothers at the school helped me to settle in quickly. My older brother Keith was very embarrassed at me having to sit next to him on the big boys' table at lunchtime because I was crying for some reason. I was teased about it many times in adulthood.

My first class teacher was Miss Anthony, a scary character who suffered from chilblains. We had a large open fire in the classroom and it was a task for us each to rub her legs in turn on cold days. The pretty little classroom had flowers hand-painted on the lower halves of the windows which changed with the seasons. I can see the daffodils and baby chicks in my mind's eye even now. I was to meet up with Miss Anthony many years later and was surprised that she still knew my name and asked after both my brothers.

After a year I was moved up to Mrs Corp's class next door. This was a much larger room and had a large coal burner with a big chimney, but was not as snug as class 1. Mrs Corp played the piano and was in charge of the school choir as well as the usual teaching. I sang my heart out for three years and loved every minute. On one occasion we went to a choir contest at Hertford Grammar, where my brother was a pupil. I can't remember how we did but I do remember singing 'Speed Bonny Boat' and one about a mermaid. I really liked Mrs Corp; though strict she was fair and always found time for that extra step.

My favourite subject was sums and I loved chanting the times tables. Pride of place, I was a school monitor, which meant I was allowed to share out the plasticine for art class and was allowed in the stationery cupboard. This was quite prestigious.

Each day a 'crocodile' of over 100 children, coated and booted, marched two-by-two from school to The Technical Institute (opposite the Post Office) for dinner, supervised by Mrs Clark and Mrs Paintman (we all called her Ada Paintpot). We were not supposed to talk but we all dragged our knuckles up the corrugated tin fence on Church Street – what a racket we made. The meals were very different then. Stodge was gratefully received. My absolute favourite was semolina. There was no choice of menu – you ate it or went hungry. Mrs Plumb was the cook and Mrs Bull was her assistant. How on earth did they cook for so many when everything was made in-house? We still have a lot to learn.

After eating we were allowed to look at donated comics for 15 minutes whilst our food went down and then marched back to school. The school day was extended to take this march into account. We did have some play time and often skipped four to a long rope or played tag. Then one long blow of the whistle and it was back to the classroom.

My third class was Mrs Jackson's. I knew her well, as she came from my home village and accompanied us little dears on the school bus. Oh my, was she strict – no messing in her class – but she was a great teacher. Her classroom was at the north end of the red brick building which remains today. One morning a week we had music lessons from the radio, joining in with our percussion instruments. We even had the famous opera singer Kathleen Ferrier come to the school to sing for us one day and I remember that she sang 'Blow the wind southerly'.

I kept my head down and it was soon time to go into Miss Davis's class. Miss Davis I best remember for a fabulous large green agate ring that she wore all the time and the many

different scarves she constantly wore over her cardigan. To my mind at that time I thought Miss Davis to be quite posh and here again a good teacher. I was moved up to Mr Jones's class early, which meant I left all my mates behind. Mr Jones was Welsh and an art teacher. Like his predecessor, Mr Neep, he decided to build a statue in the garden. Mr Neep's contribution was a dragon called Jasper, who sat under the apple tree in our rather large school garden. Mr Jones decided to make a pond with a shepherdess playing a recorder (he taught recorder as well as art). When the shepherdess had been covered in cement and the pond had set, I was given the afternoon off lessons to scrub the concrete to remove the lime which would stop the water plants growing. Sadly, I understand that the shepherdess has disappeared along with the garden plots. We had gardening lessons on a Friday with Mrs Berge and on a Friday afternoon the classes took it in turn to pick the many yellow pansies and take a bunch home for our Mums.

It was a bit daunting to move up and I remember when Mr Jones had an accident Mrs Whitaker took us for a while. For the first time I got into in trouble, for rolling a pencil across the desk, and received a slap with a ruler across my knuckles from Mrs Whitaker, but I learned a valuable lesson about paying attention. My favourite lesson with Mrs Whitaker was sewing and after the usual sampler I went on to hand-sew a red gingham skirt. Wow, I was so proud of myself! I remember it being on show at sports day. Years later I met Mrs Whitaker at Ward Fremam School, where she had been teaching my son and I tackled her on the corporal punishment she meted out on my poor hand. She laughed but obviously didn't remember the incident.

Sports day was in the summer term and all parents were invited to watch their little darlings race up and down. The egg and spoon race raised many a laugh and the sack race was only bettered by the parent's sack race, especially if one of them fell over.

Well it was now time to face the dreaded 11+ and as the school was bursting at the seams the top class of 8 pupils sitting the exam were moved into Mrs Skip's office. Building was about to start on the new part of the school, so all my peers who were not taking the exam were sent along with their teachers to what is now Edwinstree School for their last two terms of the year. We were given brand new desks and were all extremely proud. We even polished our desks every week.

The one and only telephone at school was in Mrs Skip's office and one of our gang was allowed to phone up Mrs Plumb, the cook, with the number for lunch that day. I had never used a phone before and was really scared to ask the operator for 'Buntingford 248, this is 235'. Why do I remember that, I wonder? On February 6th, 1952, my brother Colin had the duty to phone Mrs Plumb advising her that lunches would not be required that day. Mrs Skip instructed Colin to say 'The King is dead. Long live the Queen'. We were all sent home early as the school was closed out of respect.

The site manager of the new school build was a Mr Diable and he came into our classroom twice a day to boil the kettle for the men's cuppa. Can you believe that? Mrs Skip, the headmistress, had an old baby milk tin painted green and filled with toffees. The toffees were awards for effort and good work. I was allowed to choose one after I helped look after two Italian children who had moved to the area. I will tell you that my nickname from Mr Jones was 'Mother Bullard' as I was always looking after the young ones. I was a bit of an old hen even at the tender age of 10.

The day had come. School as I had known it was now over and it was time to move to my second school. Well, that is another tale ...

Sandra



Millfield First and Nursery School



This has been a very busy month at Millfield. Mrs Irene Fish retired from working at our school on Friday 24th February. She has been at Millfield since it opened in 1969! She worked in the kitchens for many years before changing her role to that of cleaner. We wish her a very happy and well deserved retirement. She has lived in Buntingford for all of her time at the school.

World Book Day on Thursday March 1st was a great occasion at school. All the staff and children came to school dressed as a character from a book. They then walked to the town library and met with the Edwinstree children in an attempt to enter the Guinness Book of World Records for the most children dressed as book characters in one place! All the children were given a World Book Day voucher to spend on books.

We had a visit on Monday 5th March from an assessor to decide if we could retain our Green Flag for the eco work we undertake at the school. During a two-hour visit the assessor had a tour of the school and met the Eco Action team. We were delighted when we were re-awarded our Green Flag. Taking care of our environment is an important part of life at Millfield School and we are proud of the work of the Eco-Action team.

On Thursday 8th March our Yr 4 children went to Freman College to meet the author, Liz Pichon, winner of the Roald Dahl book award. They found out how she



Saying goodbye to Mrs Fish, who retired after 43 years working at Millfield School



Darth Vader and other characters make their way up the High Street on World Book Day

became a published author and illustrator and had the opportunity to buy her signed book.

On Friday 9th March some of our Yr 3 mathematicians went to Edwinstree to take part in a Maths Challenge Day, which gave them the opportunity to work with pupils from Edwinstree and Layston schools. They all had a great time.

The School Council is now busy planning a Talent Show to raise money for Comic Relief!

Easter time is fast approaching and we will

be holding our Easter Assembly on Thursday 29th March at 9:05am in the School Hall; Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 will all be taking part. The School Council will be taking a collection for Sports Relief at the end of the Assembly.

On Thursday 29th March the Parent Teacher Association will be holding an Easter Egg Hunt, starting at 2:30pm, and the Easter Bazaar will be held at the end of the school day.

If you would like to know more about our school please visit our website: www.millfield.herts.sch.uk or contact the school on 01763 271717.

Kathy Willett, Head Teacher



POSITIVE LIVING AND LEARNING FOR PEOPLE
WITH EPILEPSY AND OTHER COMPLEX NEEDS

QUIZ NIGHT

RAISING MONEY FOR
ST ELIZABETH'S

on Saturday
21st April 2012

at Buntingford Scout Group HQ, starting 7:30pm

£7.50 per person, including Ploughman's Supper

Maximum 8 per team

Contact Steve Tomkins 01763 274798



Please note due to Easter Monday falling on the 2nd Monday of the month, April's meeting will be on Monday 16th, when Janet Naylor will be giving a presentation about the 'Golden Age of

Radio'. Doors open at 2:00pm, at the Seth Ward Community Centre, Buntingford. Guests are very welcome, £2 including refreshments.

Carpet bowls has now finished until the Autumn. It is hoped that we may start a line dancing group and also make the most of the Summer with visits to local gardens. Some members will be joining together at local quizzes. Membership open to anyone retired or semi-retired, yearly fees £12.50, including the U3A News delivered to your home. If you would like more information, please phone:

Christine Jeffries 01763 273466 or Jean Devenish 01763 271783

First Monday Contact Hilary Curtis	Craft Group 01763 272323	2pm – 4pm Various crafts
3 rd Tuesday 17 th April Contact Carol McKimmie	Walking Group (2hours plus) 01763 271054	9:50am – 12:00noon TBA
Last Thursday 26 th April Contact Dave Austin	Wine Appreciation £5 01763 272066	8pm – 10pm Seth Ward CC Please take 2 glasses
4 th Wednesday 25 th April Contact Hilary Curtis	Shorter walks (1hour plus) 01763 272323	10.30am TBA
Individual sessions Contact Colin Gibbons	Family History 01763 271398	In Buntingford
3 rd Thursday 19 th April Contact Alan Rumble	Computers (all levels) £3 01920 823608	2.00pm – 4.00pm Seth Ward Community Centre
2 nd Friday 13 th April Contact David Smith	Digital photography £2 01763 849023	2.00pm – 4.00pm URCH
2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays Contact Christine Jeffries	Singing for Pleasure 01763 273466	2:00pm – 4:00pm Wyddial
Every Tuesday Contact Alan Smith	Bridge (all levels) 01763 287657	10.00am – 12.00pm Homes
Various Contact Val Lochead	Out to Lunch 01279 658069	Various
Various Contact Evelyn Smith	Social Outings 01763 272241	Local theatres, meals out, quiz nights, outings etc
Mondays Contact Dave Austin	Keep Fit £2 01763 272066	10am – 11.30am Seth Ward Community Centre
Last Wednesday Contact Anne Austin	Book club 01763 272066	2.30pm Fairfield
Every Friday (not school hols) Contact Rosemary Poulton	Pilates £20 for 6 or £5 per session 01763 271598	1.30pm – 2.30pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every Wednesday Contact Dave Austin	Table Tennis £2 01763 272066	2pm – 3pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every Wednesday Contact Roy Ellard	Badminton £2 01763 271578	3.15–4.15pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Varies Contact Lyn Paynton	Art Appreciation 01920 821017	Varies
Every Monday Contact Vidyut Sharma	Yogic breathing £5 01763 271779	10 – 11.30am Monks Walk
Last Tuesday 24 th April Contact Mick Westwood	Strollers 01763 272594	2.00pm Various places



APRIL 2012

Coast to Coast Walk: from St Bees to Robin Hood's Bay

Flexible dates in April. For more information contact Julie North on 01707 382547.

Thu 5th Apr – Net Working Lunch 12:30–14:00

To be held at LUSSMANN'S, 42 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1BY. A monthly networking lunch run by Isabel Hospice Corporate Relationship Manager, Julie North, in association with Marketing Kinetics and Lussmanns. We welcome companies from all over Herts & Essex. Cost of £15 includes buffet, glass of wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee. Would you like to sponsor a 1st Thursday? Sponsorship of £100 includes promotion on website and email invites, display of literature and banners at the event, and a 10-minute presentation. Contact Julie North 01707 382547.

Tue 10th Apr – Coffee Morning 10:30–12:00

You are welcome to attend our fundraising coffee mornings, held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Markwell Pavilion in Bishop's Stortford. Enquiries 01279 755320.

Thu 19th Apr – Net Working Lunch 12:30–14:00

To be held at Grill 55, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3AL. A monthly networking lunch run in association with Marketing Kinetics. We welcome companies from all over Herts & Essex. Cost of £15 includes buffet, glass of wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee. Would you like to sponsor a 3rd Thursday? Contact Julie North 01707 382547.

Fri 20th Apr – Golf Day

In aid of Isabel Hospice, Rotary and HAD. At Hatfield London Country Club, Essendon, 22 teams compete for The Marquess of Salisbury Challenge Trophy. Entry £500 per team. The day will start with coffee and bacon rolls and end with a Gala Dinner, Charity Auction and Prize-Giving. For more information contact John Hopley on 01707 325808

Fri 27th Apr – The 3 Peaks Challenge: Ben Nevis, Snowdon, Scafell Pike

The ultimate challenge for climbers and walkers in Britain, incorporating the 3 highest peaks in Scotland, Wales and England. Travelling over 475 miles, with 3,407 metres of ascent over 26 miles of mountain paths. Whether you try to complete in the challenge time of 24 hours, or take your time and enjoy the views and mountain air, this is an experience not to be missed. For more information contact Julie North on 01707 382547.

Sat 28th Apr – Jumble Sale, Thundridge Village Hall 14:30–16:30

20p entry. Come and grab some bargains. Contact 01920 462992.

Thu 3rd MAY – Net Working Lunch at Lussmanns in Hertford 12:30–14:00

Thu 3rd May – Old Time Music Hall 20:00–22:30

Fish & chip supper, licensed bar, prizes for best outfits. At Thalian Hall, Welwyn Garden City. Call Val Robinson on 01707 382500.

Sat 5th & Sun 6th May – Sponsored Abseil for Charity 12:30–17:30

At Church Langley Water Tower, Harlow. Fee of £30 must be paid before you start to find sponsors. Contact Mary Bunyard on 01279 73421.



Garden notes

from Church Farm Growers

Into April and the spring sowing schedule at Church Farm is already well under way. Back in January, we started off our tomatoes, peppers and aubergines for production in two of our polytunnels. Additional tomatoes will also be grown outdoors this year. February saw the sowing of an early crop of carrots under protection in polytunnel one, while in March the seed sowing programme for the new season began properly with seeds of all manner of produce for both indoor and field cropping.

April is the time for sowing, among many other things, crops that thrive in the midsummer sun and yield their bounty during the late summer or autumn. Such plants include sweetcorn, climbing french beans, and winter squash. Of course, these are usually grown separately in the garden, allotment or field, especially if a conventional crop rotation system is in use. However, they may also be grown side-by-side in the same plot, in a remarkable companionship known as the 'three sisters', or alternatively the 'pre-Columbian association'.

The 'three sisters'

This polyculture technique derives from the wisdom of various Native American tribes, for whom these crops were all essential staple foods. The technique was used for many centuries with little variation by diverse peoples throughout the North American continent. These people held forthright spiritual beliefs about the importance of these crops and their relationship with each other, with the land and with the people, but there are numerous purely practical aspects of their success as a companionship, not least the fact that up to 20 per cent increased aggregate yields can be achieved for similar areas of land than growing the crops separately, with lower expense of water and fertilizer.

The association involves planting the three crops together in such a way that they have a beneficial effect on each other. The corn provides a structure for the beans to climb up, removing the need for assemblages of poles or strings. The beans, coming as they do from the legume family of plants, fix atmospheric nitrogen in the soil and thereby help to provide essential fertility for all three sisters. The squashes sprawl over the ground and in spreading their large leaves they shade the soil, suppress weeds and conserve soil moisture. The three sisters complement each other as foods as well as growing plants, between them providing a balanced range of nutrients important for human health.

So why not give it a try in your own garden or allotment? To cultivate the three plants in this fashion, the soil they are to grow in will need to be in good heart in order to support these three hungry plants at once. Ideally it will have been well looked after for at least two seasons, with annual applications of manure or garden compost. Sow sweetcorn seeds about 30cm apart in blocks, not solitary rows, to help ensure pollination of the flowers. Or raise them as seedlings under protection in pots or modules to plant out in blocks later. When the young corn plants are 6 inches (15cm) tall, it is time to sow the beans, at 8 inch (20cm) spacings around the corn, and the squashes, at 2 feet (60cm) apart in the spaces between the corn/beans. An additional trowel of compost when planting the squashes would not go amiss. Water well, then stand back and prepare for

an abundant harvest in late summer and autumn. Oh, and by the way, it looks wonderful too.

At Church Farm we won't quite be following this technique on the large scale we work on, as our beans on their own currently form an important part of our conventional crop rotation plan. However, we do intend to intercrop sweetcorn and winter squash. For the sake of a little inconvenience regarding harvesting of the corn, the benefits in terms of yield per acre of land and aesthetic enjoyment should be great. I'm looking forward to it!



The three sisters: sweetcorn, climbing French beans and winter squash

To find out more about Church Farm, Ardeley, visit www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk. You are more than welcome to walk the farm and kitchen garden for free at any time. This spring, look out for bouncy spring lambs in the fields and beautiful bluebell carpets in the woods. We hope to see you soon!

Faye Maher

An invitation to an Open Day at R.A.T.S. The Friends of Highfields Reunion Sunday 10th June 2012, from 1:00pm

Since our new facility of Highfields has opened we have homed over 116 dogs. This year we are pleased to announce we will be holding a reunion for all dogs homed by us from Highfields along with their owners, as well as welcoming R.A.T.S. friends, volunteers and dog-walkers. We will also be delighted to welcome any local people who would like to see what we do here and the improvements we have made.

The main aim of our open house is to have an informal get together, but there will be activities throughout the afternoon, including a parade of all the homed dogs and their owners, photographs and fun and games with prizes. There will be a BBQ cooked by our famous chefs Digger & Speedy – those who attended our sponsored walk last year will remember their food went down splendidly. There will also be a variety of stalls selling RATS merchandise, old fashioned sweet & preserves, new items for pets, a tombola and homemade refreshments including cakes and soft drinks.

If you would like more information, or want to place an order for BBQ, please contact **Sue Greaves on 01767 222545**, or email her at geoffgreaves56@hotmail.com. The BBQ costs £3.00 and includes a burger & sausage in a roll, with accompaniments (there will be a vegetarian option). The deadline for BBQ orders is 31st May.

For anyone who has never been to Highfields before, we are at the Hare Street end of Hare Street Road, on the right as you approach the village from Buntingford. We look forward to welcoming you to Highfields.



Buntingford Social Club



C I U affiliated
6 Church Street, Buntingford, Herts. SG9 9AS
Telephone 01763 271889
www.thebuntingfordsocialclub.co.uk

* EVERY MONDAY BIG CASH BINGO *

Guaranteed £150 minimum snowball prize.
ALL WELCOME. Start time 8:00pm

ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS SHOWN, TIMES PERMITTING

♪ Live entertainment on Saturdays except
2nd Saturday in the month (unless otherwise announced) ♪

Plus: Darts ▪ Pool ▪ Snooker ▪ Wii console
We have Club Knockouts for Darts, Crib, Pool and Snooker

WE HAVE **HAPPY HOUR** EVERY DAY FROM 5:30PM TO 6:30PM
and Happy Hour prices for some sports events!!!
EVERY SUNDAY IS FUN DAY, WHEN THE POOL TABLE, SNOOKER
TABLE AND WII ARE **FREE ALL DAY**

GOLF DAYS: Breakfast at 9.00am, Tee off at 10.00, then 18 holes followed
by presentation at club (all enquiries speak to club Chairman)

Friday 11th May - Hatfield London (Essendon)

Friday 22nd June - T.B.C.

Friday 3rd August - Abbotsley

Friday 14th September - Cambridge Meridian

Friday 5th October - East Herts

ENTERTAINMENT FOR APRIL

7th April - KARAOKE / DISCO - your turn to entertain us

14th April - NO ENTERTAINMENT (Pool, Snooker, Juke Box free)

21st April - JUST JUAN MORE - 60s to present day (new to club)

28th April - SATURDAY NIGHT FAMILY SPECIAL - Gleek (Glee musical)
and Desmond and Charlie with Chris (ventriloquist)

Members free, Guests £4 when entertainment provided or £7 for a special night

Don't forget to check out our page on facebook. And check out our website for
information about bands, how to join as a member, and updates and photos of
great nights at the Social Club. New Members are always welcome, and for any
of you lapsed members, you are always welcome to rejoin at anytime.



BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

www.buntingfordtownfc.com



The First Team's poor run of form has continued and our first string unfortunately finds itself at the foot of the league table, albeit with games in hand over its immediate rivals. A real chance of 3 points was wasted with the visit of Mill End Sports, who are also struggling; the final result of 1-1 was a big disappointment for both sides.

As can be seen from the fixture list below, we do have plenty of games scheduled for the remainder of the season, but even so, the chances of avoiding relegation from the top flight now look extremely slim. But, football is a funny old game, and at the League's AGM anything can happen. It is therefore important that we make a determined effort to finish as high up the table as we can.

In their league the Reserves are one place from bottom, and certainly need victories in order to remain in Division 1 for the 2012/13 season. Again, the fixture list would suggest that this is possible, and we must target our best performances for the games against Hinton, Sandridge and Sarratt.

Whereas matches have been few and far between for our County League teams, the Veterans have had a full schedule. Defeats against Bengoeo Trinity (3-1) and Tolmers (4-1), were followed by a 4-1 victory over Walkern. The following week saw a narrow defeat, going down 2-1 to Royston in their final game before the long-anticipated match against the Spurs Legends. It promises to be a great occasion!

Remaining fixtures for the season are below. Come and support us please!

Chris Thurgill
Chairman, Buntingford Town FC

Forthcoming Buntingford Town FC 2012 fixtures:

Sat 31 Mar	15:00	First Team	Standon & Puckeridge	Away	League
	15:00	Reserves	Hinton Reserves	Away	League
Sun 1 Apr	10:30	Vets	Golding Vets	Home	Friendly
Sat 7 Apr	15:00	First Team	Codicote	Away	League
	15:00	Reserves	Cuffley Reserves	Home	League
Sun 8 Apr	10:30	Vets	Old Michendonians	Home	Friendly
Mon 9 Apr	15:00	First Team	Baldock Town	Home	League
Sat 14 Apr	15:00	First Team	Sandridge Rovers	Home	League
	15:00	Reserves	Sandridge Rovers Reserves	Away	League
Sun 15 Apr	10:30	Vets	Wormley Rovers Vets	Home	Friendly
Wed 18 Apr	15:00	First Team	Letchworth Garden City Eagles	Away	League
Sat 21 Apr	15:00	Reserves	Sarratt Reserves	Home	League
Sun 22 Apr	10:30	Vets	Ashwell Vets	Away	Friendly
Sat 28 Apr	15:00	First team	Duffley	Away	League
Sun 29 Apr	10:30	Vets	Tolmers	Away	Friendly

For full details of fixtures, see our website: www.buntingfordtownfc.com

On Your Marks!

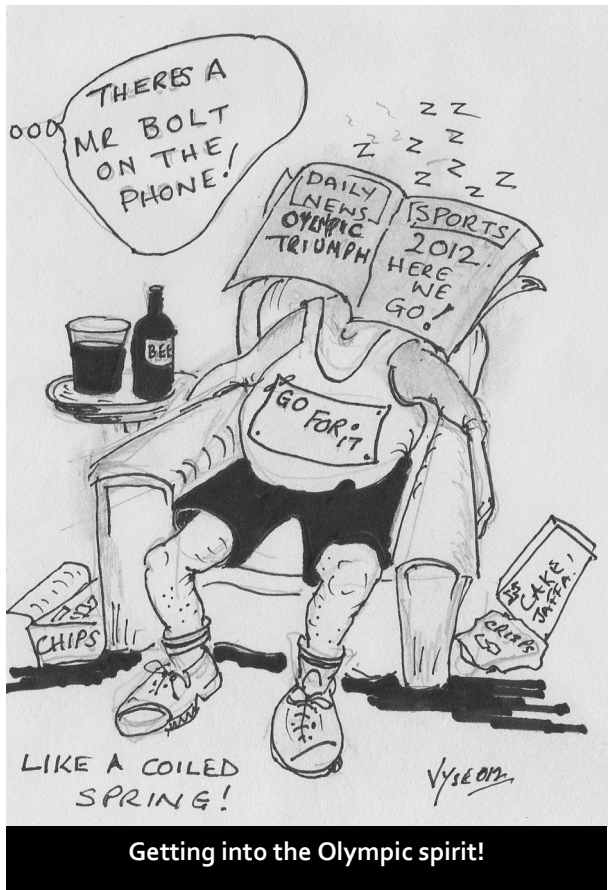
With all the coverage of the up-coming Olympics I was almost moved to dig out the old plimsolls and get fit for the big event. However, these days when I feel the urge to take up anything strenuous, I have a lie down with a stiff drink until the moment passes.

But I have noticed how much things have changed since the last London Olympiad in 1948, the so-named 'austerity games', while at the same time noticing how some things never change. I seem to remember the Arabs were kicking up about Israel showing their flag at the opening ceremony, Russia was not even included, and the only former axis country invited was Italy. So even then politics and politicians couldn't resist the temptation to interfere.

Whilst there was some 'sponsorship' of athletes at that time, mostly under the guise of competitors being members of the various countries armed forces, for the most part it was amateur. My heroes of that period all competed like Reg Harris the champion cyclist, Tom Richards marathon runner and Emil Zatopek middle distance athlete, and the oddly named Tebbs Lloyd-Johnson road walker and Bert Bushell rower. The first and last mentioned were both in the 'sitting down' events, as we Brits excel at these civilised pursuits, a trait that makes you feel proud.

As I recall the organisation was somewhat rudimentary, and accomplished with that same can-do and make-do spirit that had helped us recently in the defence of our realm. If my memory serves me well I think there was a handful of police on hand for 'security' and the remainder was dealt with by the boy scouts?

Most of the overseas competitors were housed in wooden huts whilst our team came by bus after work. The BBC was involved in the coverage in black and white, which was broadcast in-between the other programmes of the day and within limited hours.



I don't seem to remember any 'Elf and Safety' being around and the White City track was still very basic. Clement Attlee was prime minister – that was when prime ministers were bald and were not 'personalities' like call-me Dave or the opportunist Tone. (It will be interesting to see how Blair wangles himself into the proceedings.) Attlee wished everybody a good games and fair weather, and then went back to running the country. I don't recall a single firework extravaganza at any point?

But now we are in a new age, although we still seem to be in a recession of some sort. But honestly can we compare the current downturn to way back then? Going without a nightly bottle of wine, nail bars, tanning and 'me' time hardly equates to rationing, smog, diphtheria, polio and slums.

Now, thanks to the good offices of Lord Coe (if he gets this right he could be PM soon), we have a sell-out games due mainly to smart marketing and the money-grabbing banks. Still, paying top dollar plus credit card and booking fees for the privilege of watching the heats of synchronised swimming is a small price to pay for being able to tell your grandchildren 'I was there'.

The so-called athletes now come with an entourage of dietitians, physiologists, trainers, technicians, agents and sponsors. (I understand that competitors are being discouraged from shaking hands with other athletes as they might get some dastardly bug!)

It has also been necessary to install a major drug testing operation and the SAS will be patrolling the Thames, with a no-fly zone over the city and more CCTV cameras watching our every move in case some lunatic might have a rucksack moment? Meanwhile personalities and fellow travellers will be whisked about in chauffeur driven limos along special VIP lanes whilst the rest of us struggle and queue.

But hey, lets not be too curmudgeonly about this, as I've been told its all good stuff and has created loads of jobs in the construction of the venues, although I am bound to say that from what I have heard the job creation for design and construction has not been solely for the good of indigenous companies or workers.

Perhaps I am being a little too nostalgic and not buying into the hype, but I do miss that special thing that sport, especially in England, meant – fairplay and the taking part. Indeed in the 1948 games we were 12th in the medal tables, but it was about the sport not the glitz and glamour that seems to be a necessary component to spike our jaded, demanding lives.

One is minded to reflect that sport over the interceding years has become another aspect of life where money buys the winner. This is very much in our minds presently with football clubs, so what is it worth to us ordinary humans? Are we being manipulated in the same manner that our forefathers were conned and when Christians were on the menu at the Coliseum, just to take our minds off more pressing issues of the day?

Who knows, perhaps the 2012 games will make us truly European and, like the Greek economy, finally bring us to our knees? Is that another Coke and a T shirt made in China? Just put it on the Barclaycard, you know it makes sense.

Thank goodness the town is holding its own games as we may see some real sport and fellowship. Now where did I put those old blue shorts from my schooldays? I don't think they had a wash since 1952! I wonder if I still have what it takes? The certificates say I won the 100 yards back then, is metres further than yards? I may be in with a chance!

Vyse

B A L A

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus trips April 2012

MARCH Mon 2 nd	10:30am – 3:00pm	Welwyn Garden City – John Lewis, M&S, Debenhams, WHSmith, Boots etc.	Cost £6
Thurs 5 th	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Tues 10 th	10:30am – 3:00pm	Brookfield Centre – Boots, M&S, Argos, Next, Tesco etc.	£6
Thurs 12 th	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£4
Fri 13 th	10:30pm – 3:30	Country Gardens and Bury Lane Farm Shop – Cotton Traders, Edinburgh Woollen Mills, Pavers Shoes, The Works, Plants, Deli etc.	£4.50
Sat 14 th	1:30pm	'My Son Pinocchio', musical at Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage	£15.50 + Bus £4
Mon 16 th	8:30am	Leave Buntingford for Tour of Bank of England Museum. Home 5:00pm approx. Ring for more details.	£12
Thurs 19 th	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Thurs 26 th	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£4
Mon 30 th	10:30am – 2:30pm	Letchworth – drop off at Morrisons	£5
MAY			
Tues 1 st	10:00am – 3:00pm	Scott Polar Exhibition, Cambridge	£7
Thurs 3 rd	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
AUGUST			
Sat 18 th	2:30pm	'The Sound of Music' at Gordon Craig	£17 + Bus £4

To book a seat or for more information phone 01763 273623 or 01763 271909

B.A.L.A. Coffee Morning

at Benson Hall – Wed 18th April – 10:30am to 12:00noon

Coffee / Cakes / Bric-a-Brac / Raffle / Marmalade

Proceeds for the B.A.L.A. Minibus



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Meet your local PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers)

Buntingford – Charlotte Creedon and Adam Frame Villages – Amanda Higham

If you have any issues to raise, or just want to say hello, please stop by at the dates, times and places given below.

Charlotte or Adam will be available in Buntingford on:

5th April, 10:30–11:30 at the United Reformed Church, Baldock Road

12th April, 10:30–11:30 at the United Reformed Church, Baldock Road

23rd April, 10:30–11:30 at St Peters Church, Buntingford

Amanda will be in the following villages on:

29th March, 9:30–10:00am – Meesden, outside Village Hall

29th March, 10:00–10:30am – Brent Pelham

4th April, 11:30–12:00noon – Furneux Pelham

11th April, 2:30–3:00pm – Hare Street village

(Times are subject to change at short notice)

Telephone 101 for non-emergencies

While patrolling around Buntingford, I do notice people on mobile phones while driving. Also, seat belts are not always worn. It's often the case that people have pulled over into a parking space to grab a takeaway or quickly nip into a shop. I politely ask 'is there a reason why you are not wearing your seat belt?' and the vast majority respond that they simply forgot to put the seat belt on. Can I take this opportunity to remind people that seat belts are a safety device fitted as standard in modern cars and in most cases there is no reason why people should not be wearing them. Let's take advantage of this safety device. Even driving around town and sticking to the speed limit, accidents can and do happen. If you are not wearing a seat belt in a vehicle a £30 fine can be issued, unless you are medically unfit to wear a seat belt.

I would also like to remind drivers that using a mobile phone while driving is an offence. It may seem a harsh penalty to pay a £60 fine and have 3 points on your license for using a phone while driving. But there is an even harder and tougher penalty to pay if an accident occurs as a result of using a mobile phone while driving. If you need to use your phone for an emergency, pull over when it is safe to do so and park, as this is the best possible way to use your phone in a safe environment.

Adam Frame, PCSO



Buntingford Cougars Under 8s Go From Strength to Strength

In March our Under 8s represented our town proudly and have shown amazing progress whilst having loads of fun. On March 3rd our squad travelled to play Stevenage Boro Tornados. The first match saw Nathan Anderson create the goal of the game when he picked up the ball in the middle before delivering an inch perfect cross from the right to Hayden Whalley at the near post who converted to score. It was a deserved one goal victory for our Cougars.

The second game was even. After George Godfrey opened the scoring with a great shot the hosts equalised despite some heroic defending from George Hegerty and Brogan Duxberry and some great stops from Max Young in goal. The man of the match award for the morning went to George Withey for a skilful display. Afterwards Coach Richard Whalley was thrilled to report: "The boys and girls made it an exciting match today. At times I was pulling my hair out as we went close to scoring. I think overall we deserved a victory and then a draw in the second match was a fair result."

On March 10th, Cougars travelled to another of our big town rivals to play Bishop Stortford who in a previous encounter had scored six goals to no reply. Cougars feared the worse as the hosts went ahead early, but hard work from Robin Harpin, Oliver Page and Evan Howard kept the game even. Indeed Cougars were unlucky not to equalise before the final whistle. In the second game Stortford went two up but Cougars really showed their character as twice Hayden Whalley set up Nathan Anderson to fire in two unstoppable shots. The man of the match went to Remy Knowles for her hard working performance. Coach Dean Howard was delighted with the performance stating: "We did really well today and the scores prove how far we have come recently. We are so proud of the boys and girls."

March 17th saw Cougars Under8s host Stevenage Boro Harriers and despite a determined effort Cougars could not find the net whilst Harriers scored a goal in both matches. Because of his commitment and attitude Hayden Whalley earned the man of the match award. After the game Cougars Coach Darryl Dean remained upbeat saying: "Our players did extremely well today against a quick, skilful and physical squad from Stevenage. We were really proud of our boys and girls."

Buntingford Cougars is a youth football club where children of all abilities can have fun. It's a safe environment where everyone is valued, respected and encouraged. All our volunteers, managers, coaches and referees are CRB checked. We're a trusted part of the local community. So if you are looking for a team that's right for your child, you'll find Cougars has a lot to offer. Any questions? Please call Richard Daly on 07944 237400.

BUNTINGFORD COUGARS YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

Affiliated to Hertfordshire County Youth Football Association

www.buntingfordcougars.com



Founded 1971

EASTER SOCCER SCHOOL

3RD/4TH APRIL 2012 10:00am–3:30pm

U7 – U11 (5 – 11 YEAR OLDS)

ALL SESSIONS OPEN TO BOYS AND GIRLS OF ALL ABILITY

COST OF EVENT

COUGARS MEMBERS: £15 – 1 day; £14 – 2 day (per day)

NON-COUGARS: £20 – 1 day; £18 – 2 day (per day)

VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED

FOR BOOKING FORM CONTACT:

MRS HELEN BAKER, 20 FAIRFIELD, BUNTINGFORD, 01763 271176

MORETON ROMANIAN ORPHANS FUND

Registered Charity No: 1007688

Want to help an orphaned child and meet new friends doing it? Then please read on. On Friday, August 10th, a group of kids from some of the poorest parts of Romania will arrive in the UK for a two-week break courtesy of the Moreton Romanian Orphans Fund, a local charity that has been organizing such visits for more than 20 years. Once again, we're looking for families in this area to accommodate and care for a child for the duration of the trip. The children are unlikely to have set foot outside Romania or experienced being part of a family group before, so for them it is a huge step.

As a host, you would provide them with food and accommodation, and possibly also a few items of basic clothing as the children often arrive in little more than what they are wearing. Other than that, the entire cost of the trip is funded by the charity, which also puts on a full programme of events for the children and their host families, such as discos, picnics, sports events and days at the seaside. If you are interested, please call hosting officer MROF **Barbara Saunders on 01279 832001**.

More information on the Moreton charity can be found on our website:

www.mrof.co.uk

Freman

COLLEGE

Prizegiving this year was, as ever, a fantastic way to return to college after the Christmas holidays. It is always lovely to see our former Upper Sixth Form after their first term away from college, but it was also a treat to welcome comedian, broadcaster and protestor Mark Thomas to the college as our Guest of Honour. It was particularly magnanimous of Mark to join us, as he

came in part to award the Amnesty International Group of 2009/10 the World Record for the most protests made in 24 hours, which he had previously held. His speech had us all in stitches, after which he handed out A level certificates to our former Upper Sixth students and then awards to our prizewinners of all ages. We certainly worked him hard!

No sooner had Prizegiving passed than Ofsted swept in to inspect the college. While I don't think any headteacher would claim to enjoy an inspection, it was a very positive experience. Despite new, tougher inspection procedures, the inspectors were full of praise for all aspects of college life and, as in previous inspections, I felt tremendously proud of the students and staff who impressed the Ofsted team.

Although postponed due to the bad weather, House Music was once again a fantastic evening and it was certainly worth the wait. As one of the adjudicators commented, it is hard to believe how it could be possible, but the standard seems to rise every year. I never fail to be impressed by the musicianship and the hard work and dedication that goes into organising and rehearsing each House's performance. I know that there were lots of parents and staff in the Hall that night, like me, feeling very proud indeed.

The half-term holiday certainly came as a welcome break with lots of students heading off to extreme climes. The ski trip to Italy was a fantastic success and much to my relief, not a single broken limb this year. (I think this may be a first!) Meanwhile, another group of intrepid students were dealing



Students on two very different trips abroad: skiing in Italy (above) and visiting Freman's partner school in Ghana (below)





Mark Thomas, guest of honour at prizegiving, hands the world record to the Amnesty group

with mosquitos and soaring temperatures on our first visit to our partner school in Ghana. Both groups had an amazing time and their teachers who accompanied them could not praise them highly enough for their excellent conduct and positive approach on two very different visits.

The half term ahead is important in many ways. For E Years and Sixth Formers it is their last full half term before their exams start. For A Years the process of choosing their Key Stage 4 options subjects takes place. The work we do together as staff and students in the coming weeks will be critical in terms of students' future opportunities.

However, as usual there are lots of nice things to look forward to as well, including House Swimming just before Easter, theatre trips, and visits to Germany and Greece during the holidays. So as ever at Freman a healthy combination of work and play lies ahead!

Helen Loughran, Headteacher

Braughing Music Society -

John Benson and his Stars of British Jazz

Saturday 21st April at 7:30pm, St Mary's Church, Braughing

TICKETS: £15, £12 or £10 Children free

Telephone Box Office: 01763 289073
Email: bookings@braughingmusicsociety.co.uk

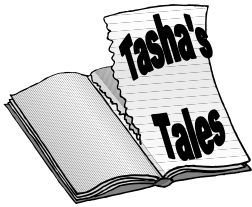
THE FOX, ASPENDEN

ANNUAL BEER FESTIVAL Fri 4TH – Mon 7TH MAY

Cask ales and ciders, live music and good food. Starting 5:00pm Friday and finishing with a Family Fun Day on Monday.

FREE ENTRY! **Tel: 01763 271886**

www.thefoxaspenden.co.uk



I really enjoy history, learning and helping to make history. I am fascinated by how things happened and what influenced what, I am even following on my history studies into 6th form at Freman too. But then, along with other students at Freman, I was offered a chance to help document history. I jumped at the chance. There is this project called the 'Mass Observation Project' that anybody in the UK can contribute to, sending in diary entries or opinions on things to then be

documented for history. Freman is going to be doing a survey of everybody at college, students, staff and parents, to create a big file of opinions to be sent in to this project and the teacher running this asked for student volunteers to help. I am really excited about this project as you get a chance to say how you feel about certain things, and often especially as teenagers you don't get to say what you want as you are restricted by parents and school, not saying it's a bad thing. So I am really excited about that!

My sister and my Dad both had their birthdays in March. My sister is finally making the transition into her teenage years, good luck to her! Mother's Day in March was lovely, we all went up to Norfolk to my grandparents so I was with my Mum, she was with her Mum, and my Nan got to see her Mum who lives in a retirement home in Norfolk too. In total there was four generations of us in the same room.

While I was working in March, it was a Sunday lunch time at Brunels' and I had this table of two, who were really lovely. After talking to them for a while, two things were achieved: they found out who I was, that I wrote 'Tasha's Tales' in The Buntingford Journal, and I successfully made my first ever coffee floaters, hope they tasted right!

Tasha Morrison

FRIENDS OF BERDEN CHURCH

are very pleased to announce **three concerts** for 2012

Saturday 21st April 8:00pm – in the Church

RICHARD DIGANCE ... comedian, singer and songwriter.

Tickets £12.50, Children £10.00

Friday 4th May 7:30pm – in the Church

GIGSPANNER ... a trio consisting of ex-Steeleye Span violinist

Peter Knight and two of his most musically talented friends.

Tickets £12.50, Children £10.00

Saturday 30th June 8:00pm – in the Village Hall

LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

with **SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN BAND** and **BERDEN CHOIR**

An outdoor picnic concert with Social Club bar and many surprises.

Tickets one price for all ages: £5.00

Tickets for all three concerts are available now and already selling! Contact John Burton on 01279 777674 or email: JOHNBURTON@BERDEN.ORG.UK