

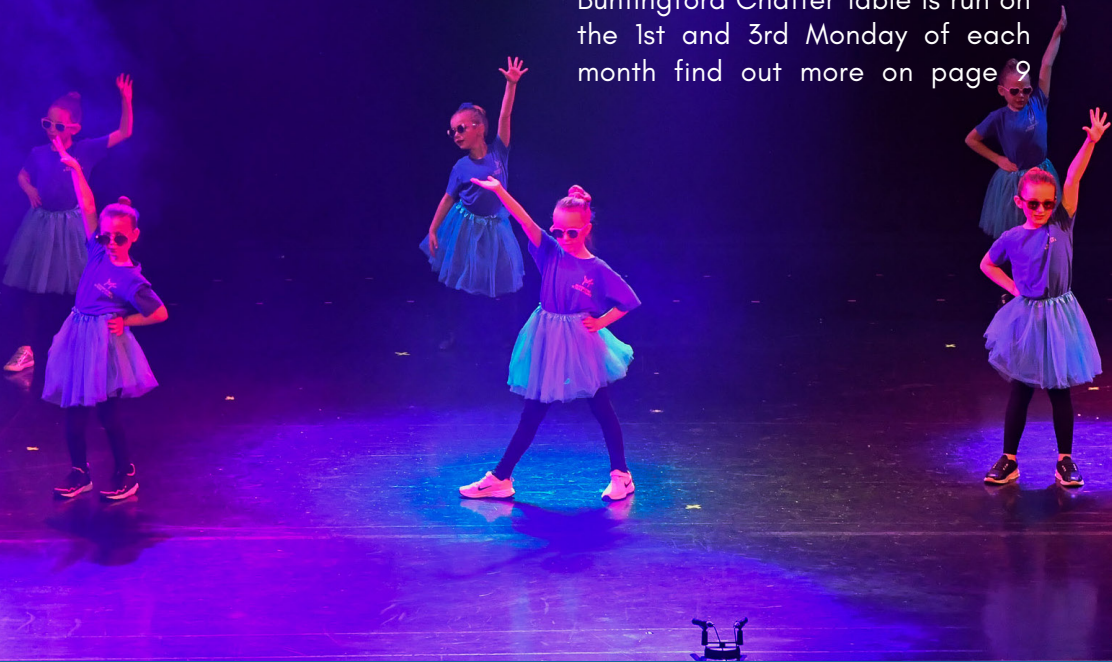
THE BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

STRIKE A POSE

with Buntingford School of Dance
on page 16

FANCY A CUPPA?

Buntingford Chatter Table is run on
the 1st and 3rd Monday of each
month find out more on page 9



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

April 2025 Volume 50 | Issue 3

£1.25



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Baldock Road, Buntingford

GAS

ELECTRICITY

WATER (Veolia)

WATER (Affinity Water)

SEWERAGE (Thames Water)

FLOODLINE

DOCTORS:

Buntingford Medical Centre,
White Hart Close

B A S H (Buntingford Action
for Social Help):

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

LOCAL COUNCILS

BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY

77 High Street, Buntingford,
SG9 9AE | 01763 274 608

CITIZENS ADVICE EAST HERTS:

BUNTINGFORD FOOD SUPPORT

Non-emergency telephone: 101

In emergencies dial 999

Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999

Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838

Emergency – Freephone 0800 376 5325

Emergency – 0345 357 2407

Emergency – Telephone 0800 316 9800

Emergency – 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188

Environment Agency Incident Line: 0800 80 70 60

Tel: 01763 271362 (24 hours)

Bash volunteer drivers providing transport to medical
appointments Tel: 07787 183 288

Confidential Information Helpline: 01992 554 440
(in emergency, dial 999)

Buntingford Town Council: 01763 272 222

East Herts District Council: 01279 655 261

Housing – 01279 714 714

Benefits – Freephone 0800 373 852

FOR EMERGENCIES out of office hours:
01279 655 261

Adult Care Services: 0300 123 4042

Children's Services: 0300 123 4043

Hertfordshire Highways: Report faults online:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/highwayfaults

Tel: 0300 123 4047

Opening times: Mon, Tue, Thur 10:00 – 17:30

Fri 14:00 – 17:30 **Sat** 9:00 – 13:00

Telephone enquiries – 0300 123 4049

Option 1 – Renewals 3:00 – 23:45 every day

Option 2 – All other enquiries Mon–Fri 8:00 – 20:00,
Sat 9:00 – 18:00.

More info: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

Call the CAB Message Line on 01920 459 944 at
anytime and they will call you back. They aim to return
calls within 24 hours (except at weekends).

www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk

Buntingfordfoodhub@gmail.com | 07842 889 772



LETTER FROM

The Editor

I'm always struck when I put this magazine together by how many people go out of their way to provide company, support and social opportunities to ensure that nobody ever needs to feel isolated or lonely. Everything is carefully thought about, including transport, so that nobody gets left behind. We should be proud to live in such a community that looks out for each other so well. This issue as ever, is full of such opportunities, so there is something for everyone, whether you have been feeling a bit lonely or if you are a social butterfly who prefers a busy diary.

I was interested to read about the history of music and the various bands that have formed and performed in the town over the years, with the first being in 1886. What a legacy our Buntingford Music Live contestants are joining when they perform at the community centre this month, find out all about it on p.22 (and p.42 for Buntingford Music Live).

Finally reading about what you lucky children get up to at Millfield School on p.32 it really makes me wish I was at primary school again! From going to 'Hazard Alley' to learn how to stay safe in lots of different situations to having a Kings and Queens experience day where you get to have a go at jousting and then getting to mix up pancake batter on pancake day with a stationary bike fitted with a blender! I could do with one of those, and maybe a child fitter than I to power it too! I'm sure school was never so full of adventure when I went to primary!

Anne

BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

APRIL 2025

EDITOR

Anne Wright

journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

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

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

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01763 272 032
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EDITORIAL DEADLINE

Editorial copy deadline for the next
Journal is: **11th April**.

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

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

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

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

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ON THE COVER

Buntingford School of Dance Show 2023



BUNTINGFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Graham Waite, Chairman

chairman@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Member of

CIVIC VOICE
talking civic sense

reg. Charity: 1014873

As we get older it seems that time passes much more quickly than it used to. A great example of this is that it seems only a week ago that I wrote my last article for the Journal and here I am doing another one for the April issue, where did those 4 weeks go?

Perhaps the older we get the more we try to cram in, maybe it's something we have to get used to.

In my March article I mentioned some things that we are planning for the coming few months.

We have now set dates for the reintroduction of **"Buntingford in Bloom"** competition. Entry forms for the competition will be available in May with judging planned to take place over the weekend of the 28th and 29th June. There will be 3 categories, Containers, Rear Gardens and Front Gardens. The competition is free to enter and there will be prizes, 1 each for the 3 categories. More details of the scoring system will be in the May issue of the Journal.

We have yet to decide a date for the **"Historic Town Walks"** but they will take place on a weekend in June. The guided walk takes about 1.5 hours to complete and will start at St Peters Church and includes the High Street moving to Wyddial Road, St Bartholomew's Church via "Coffin Walk", The Causeway, ending at the Junction of Church Street / High Street. Places may be limited so make sure you book your place when the booking forms are available in May.

Just a reminder that our **Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 15th April, 7.00pm** for 7.30pm start in Bunters Suite, Seth Ward Community Centre. Our Guest Speaker for the AGM is Heather Falvey, and her talk is entitled "Jottings of two Buntingford vicars – the Layston Parish Memorandum book". We are sure you will find this talk interesting, especially as it is pertinent to Buntingford.

A brief report on the meeting will be included in the May issue of the Journal. We look forward to welcoming you on the 15th April. As mentioned in my March article, I attended the Planning Appeal, in support of Graham Bonner who spoke against the development. Sue Nichols, one of our EHDC councillors, also spoke against the development, but as is the norm at these hearings, the outcome cannot be foreseen as the Inspector has to now look at all the evidence before making a measured decision, which is expected sometime in May.

For those of you that are not aware, we have a website, **www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk** and a presence on Facebook, just search for "Buntingford Civic Society".

On a final note, by the time you read this article, the clocks will have gone forward one hour, heralding British Summer Time (BST), with lighter evenings and hopefully warmer days.

Graham Waite

Chairman, Buntingford Civic Society

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



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

01763 272 222

clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk

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

@buntingfordtc @BuntingfordTC

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

The hearing for planning approval on land off London Road took place on 11th March, representation was made by Town Councillor Graham Bonner and District Councillor Nicholls. A decision is expected on or before 2nd May.

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Thursday 17th April at the Seth Ward Community Centre, 7pm. This is a meeting of the electorate and not the Council, although if the Chairman of the Council is present then by law he has to chair the meeting. The Chairman will give an overview of the past year and then there will be the opportunity to ask questions.

Local elections will take place on Thursday 1st May at the Seth Ward Community Centre. This is for a seat on Hertfordshire County Council. District Council elections will take place in 2027.

The Town Council along with local churches and the Royal British Legion are planning an event to celebrate the **80th anniversary of D Day**. This will be held on the **8th May** and details at the moment are a street party on Market Hill from 5pm and a service at the War Memorial at 8pm

followed by the beacon lighting. We are keen to hear from any residents who were in the town on D Day and are able to give an account of the day from a personal perspective.

The Manor House is licensed for Civil Ceremonies and many local residents have held their marriage ceremonies in the Grade II Listed Building. Ideal for small ceremonies of up to approximately 30 guests. All enquiries to the Clerk's office where we will be happy to show you around and answer any questions.

The management of the Multi Games Area is now back with the Town Council. If you wish to hire the MUGA, please contact the Clerk's office and we will check availability. Layston Cemetery is owned and managed by the Town Council, please call us if you have an enquiry.

Details of the April Council meetings below.

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

Jill Jones PSLCC Cert HE -Town Clerk

Town Council meetings for the months of April are:

Thursday 3rd April	7pm	Amenities Committee.
Thursday 10th April	7pm	Planning and Resources Committee
Thursday 17th April	7pm	Annual Town Meeting at Community Centre
Thursday 24th April	7pm	Planning Committee and Full Council

All meetings held at The Manor House unless indicated otherwise.

BUNTINGFORD FAMILY'S HEARTFELT MEMORIAL

David Plummer

A local family has turned their grief at the death of a beloved brother and uncle into practical support for the entire community by funding improvements to the public use defibrillator (AED) cover in Buntingford.

Paul and Jeanette Gynn, supported by their family, have funded the installation of a public AED at European Cars on Baldock Road as a memorial to John Paul Gynn, who passed away after experiencing a cardiac arrest during the Covid19 emergency in 2020. This brings the number of defibrillators accessible by Buntingford locals 24-hours-a-day to eight.



John was a well-known and liked local window cleaner. He went to school in Buntingford and was apprenticed as a plumber to a local heating firm. During a national recession he built a local window-cleaning round, finding he enjoyed the company and the outdoor work. Window cleaning remained his profession for the rest of his working life.

He boxed competitively for Stevenage, winning the Home Counties championships as a featherweight from 1991 to 1994, as well as achieving international sporting recognition in Germany. As a result, he met British boxing greats such as Henry Cooper and John Conteh.

John remained a lifelong supporter of local boxing.

The AED installation on Baldock Road in Buntingford ensures Greenways, Skipps Meadow, Longmead and western Monks Walk areas are now within easy reach

of critical life support in the event of a cardiac arrest.

This supports your local Community First Responders (CFRs) plan to ensure everyone in Buntingford is within 250 metres range of a public use defibrillator and to train residents in basic life support techniques.

The installation could not have taken place without the generous support of other local businesses and community groups. The public use security cabinet and device warmer was provided by FurBeGone Pest Control. Installation and ongoing electricity costs were funded by European Cars. Monthly monitoring of the AED is provided by Buntingford, Standon and Puckeridge CFRs.

For more information on what you can do to help improve local lifesaving resources, contact Buntingford, Standon and Puckeridge CFRs via their Facebook page www.facebook.com/BSPEEASTFR.

SOON WE MIGHT NEED MORE ROOM!

Pat Furness

On Tuesday 11th March 23 regular members of the Chatter Table enjoyed another lunch date at The Woodman Pub in Nuthampsted. What began as a one-off trip around eighteen months ago is now an established element of the Chatter Table calendar. Of course, we couldn't have got there without transport support, so our thanks

go to the Lynx bus service for collection and transport back to the Manor House. Thanks also to the Woodman for another excellent chicken pie! It was the preferred option for almost all out diners, though those who opted for the alternatives were equally grateful. We are already talking about the next time!

We are growing and our round the table natters are increasingly lively. How lovely to see new members each week and to share in the stories everyone brings to the table. We are squeezing as many as possible into the Manor House Council Chamber, but the more the merrier it seems. Today we shared our thoughts on what the Chatter Table has meant to individuals and how it has helped those who were new or feeling isolated to find avenues for their time.

- Our Chatter Table is run on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. A very warm welcome is had by all, plus free tea, coffee and biscuits. A great place to meet people if you're lonely. Everyone is made to feel welcome- whatever your age. "The Golden Girls"



- So happy I joined. To me it's therapeutic. Very friendly and welcoming.
- I look forward to the Chatter Table twice a month. It is a friendly place to enjoy tea, biscuits and chat. I have made many friends through it.
- It's a warm and welcoming group which is getting larger and is a good group for new residents to start to integrate.
- So nice meeting different people and having a coffee and chat.
- Lovely chatty group and getting larger with new people joining us- very welcoming.
- I enjoy having a good natter over a cup of coffee. It is good fun and one meets a lot of people of one's own age.
- I knew nobody when I removed to Buntingford. It has been the Chatter Table that helped me get to know people.

Don't just read about it- join us.



NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME
Garden Open For Charity

Alswick Hall

Hare Street Road, Buntingford,
SG9 0AA

Sunday 13 April
12 - 4pm

Adults £8 Children free
Light refreshments



More information at ngs.org.uk



PHOTO: MICHAEL ALSWICK

ROYSTON & DISTRICT MRC

MODEL RAILWAY

CLUB EXHIBITION
2025

MORE THAN
20
LAYOUTS



- LIVE STEAM RIDE ON RAILWAY
- VARIOUS GAUGES • VINTAGE BUS RIDE FROM ROYSTON
- TRADE STANDS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

BASSINGBOURN VILLAGE COLLEGE
Nr. ROYSTON. HERTS. SG8 5NP

start: **10:30 am** **12TH APRIL 2025** **£5** adult
end: **16:00 pm** **FREE** under 16

FREE PARKING - REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Rita's fundraiser for MND Association



Skydive 25 May



Last year my husband was diagnosed with MND in January. Our family have done various fundraising events and challenges to raise funds for the MND Association and I have decided to do a skydive to raise funds. Do donate if you can. Any money raised will help the MND Association to continue their work in supporting people living with MND and in research so that one day they will find a cure.

Scan the QR code for my **JustGiving Page**

[mndassociation](https://www.facebook.com/mndassociation) [@mndassoc](https://www.instagram.com/mndassoc)

www.mndassociation.org
Funds: Cook House, 6 Goswell Road, Northampton, NN1 6BU
Registered charity no. 294334 | Created in RightMarket | 14/1/2025 | 180415



JOIN BEAVER SCOUTS

BUNTINGFORD SCOUTS

At Beaver Scouts, boys and girls ages 6-8 years old embark on an unforgettable experience that builds character and nurtures leadership skills. Look no further and join us!

We have spaces at our monthly section, held every second Saturday 12pm-4.30pm



BEAVER SCOUTS ACTIVITIES

- Outdoor Adventures
- Exciting Challenges
- Character Development
- Skills for Life

For further info and registration email jo.mcnamara@yahoo.co.uk



WARD FREMAN

COMMUNITY POOL
GROUP

Joanne Willett, Trustee

jwillett@wardfremanpool.org

www.wardfremanpool.org

 WardFremanPool

Thank you to the 623 people who completed our 2024 Impact Survey during February. There were so many statements of how the closure has been detrimental to individuals' physical and mental health as well as the increased time, financial and environmental costs for those people who have been able to continue their aquatic activities at other swimming pools. All this data has enabled us to compile a quantifiable impact statement which we will use in our applications for charity funding.

Unfortunately this was not ready for our first grant request of 2025 where we asked Buntingford Town Council for £45,000. We are grateful to all the people who attended the Council meeting on 27th February. Councillor Wallace did a fantastic job ensuring that everyone had an opportunity to share their own personal impact statement. Councillors have a few more questions about our business plan, but we are hopeful that as a result of working together they may be able to offer us a grant to assist with reopening the pool.

We have also submitted an application to the Simon Gibson Charitable Trust for £20,000 and our impact statement makes a great headline. We only have 500 words with which to grab the trusts attention as to how their funding will make a difference.

Ward Freman Swimming Pool Closure Impact Statement:

- Prior to closing in December 2023 the pool had 5000 monthly visitors including 470 children enrolled in weekly swimming lessons.

- Data was collected from 623 local residents in February 2025 including 165 people who had not used the pool prior to it closing.
- 60% of respondents had decreased their aquatic activity as a direct result of the pool closure, with 38% of these no longer regularly using a pool in 2024.
- During 2024 there was a net increase of 181,886 car miles by the other 40% of respondents who had maintained or increased their activity using other pools. Based on an average sized petrol car, this equates to either 100.3 tonnes of CO2 emissions (co2.myclimate.org) or 48.15tonnes (carbonfootprint.com), either way it's 3.8 times the amount in 2023!
- If the pool were to reopen, 50% (311) of respondents stated that they would be able to walk or cycle to the pool, along with 178 new pool users, meaning that despite more users there would be a decrease of 38,512 car miles.
- 510 local school children have not been able to attend school swimming sessions since the pool's closure. (There is a national curriculum requirement for the end of year 6 that pupils are able to swim 25m and demonstrate life saving techniques.) Coupled with the impact of Covid, local 13 year olds have never had the opportunity to swim as part of their education. Shockingly, drowning is statistically the highest cause of mortality in 15 year old boys (National Child Mortality Database).



June & Eric Fairbrother, Margaret Barthlemy, Hilary Curtis, Janet Murrells, Linda Edge, Lyn Chapman, Maureen Bedborough, Dawn Preston, Mary Palmer, Pat Murray, Joan Jones, Jill Walsh, Helen Sowerby, Diane Sibley, Maggie Bell, Grant Sowerby.

The Seated Exercise Group as you've never seen them before - standing! This photo was posted on the Buntingford u3a Facebook by their Trainer Jacqui Smith with the message "Lovely to see and teach the Buntingford u3a Seated Exercise Class whilst Carly is away."

Our Speaker for **Monday 7th April is Suzie Harrison- Cambridge American Cemetery.** A talk about the history of the American Cemetery in Cambridge. Recommended by our friends in Melbourne u3a.

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

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

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

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford - New members always welcome.



Winter is coming to a close, and there is a general feeling of Spring is just around the corner. Time to think of a joining or going back to singing with a Choir. It is well known that singing in a group of people is good for you both physically and mentally. But most of all it's a lot of fun. So if you are interested in singing with Buntingford Choir either just turn up to Millfield

School in Monks Walk on a Monday evening at 7:20pm for a 7:30pm start, or email us at the following address.

info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk

Or for more information go to our website:

www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk

BUNTINGFORD GARDENER'S CLUB

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 2nd April

At: The URC Hall, Baldock Road

Doors open: 7:45pm for 8pm start

Ixpect we are all looking forward to some better weather and getting back out into our gardens.

April is a great time to rake out that lawn and seed any bald patches you may have to give it a good start for the year.

This month we are pleased to have a talk given by Gwenda Kyd on "People and Plants: Molecules, Medicines and Mischief",

Covering subjects like plants to drugs, edible and drinkable plants plus aromatherapy plants to name just a few.

Our meetings are monthly on the 1st Wednesday of every month (no meetings in January or August). We have interesting speakers giving talks on a variety of



relevant subjects, demonstrations, as well as quizzes and outings.

Annual membership cost is just £20.

Visitors are also welcome at £3.00 per visit.

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

Look forward to seeing you there.

Our Speaker in March was Kay Goddard, a textile artist, and her talk was about quilting history. She told us the fascinating story of how the block patterns on quilts helped slaves follow the trails which led them from the southern states of South America to Canada, a journey which took them up to two years to walk. The slaves could not read or write and each coded square helped them to follow 'The Patterned Path to Freedom'. The picture shows one of Kay's quilts.



Do you remember the red white and blue squares we made to decorate the town for the Coronation? These were turned into blankets and have now been donated to RATS in Hare Street.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday April 10th** at 7:15pm for 7:30pm start at the URC Hall (opposite Budgens). Our

speaker is Ian Murton who will tell us 'How to Empty our Stress Bucket and Survive'. Visitors are welcome to all our meetings so if you are new to Buntingford (and even if you're not!) – just turn up on the night and come to see what Buntingford W.I. is all about.

If you would like further information about Buntingford W.I. please contact Pat on 01763 271305

THE BUNTINGFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

Spring is here. Time to get out and about, why not come and meet new friends over tea/ coffee and a game of BINGO.

We meet every Monday (except Bank Holidays) 1:30pm for 2pm in the Church Hall opposite The Post Office in Baldock Road.

For more information please call Val on: 01763 272019

STANDON & PUCKERIDGE TENNIS CLUB

Diana Foster

www.standon-ltc.co.uk

The days are getting longer and hopefully the weather is improving so come along and have a game of tennis. We have three all weather courts and new members are always welcome.

PAY TO PLAY: is available to all if you just want to book a court. £8 per hour for adults or £4 for under 16's. We even have availability at weekends. Contact Sally Bradshaw on 01920 821152.

COACHING: our Head Coach is Cliff Devonshire, who is an LTA level 4 performance coach. Cliff has introduced programs for all types of players from junior to experienced club members, these are run term time only. For more information please contact Cliff on 07709 355655 or email him at clifforddevonshire@hotmail.com

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

which gives an opportunity to play with different people.

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

TEAMS: This summer we have two Men's Teams in Hertfordshire Hot Rackets, the first team are in the Premier League for the first time. We also have a Ladies and Mixed in the Essex Small Clubs Leagues and 7 junior teams in the Hertfordshire League. Contact Cliff Devonshire for information on the men's and junior teams on 07709 355 655 and Diana Foster on 07778 031 430 for the Ladies and Mixed teams.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME: Special rates for parent/child/family memberships, for details contact Sally Bradshaw 01920 821 152.

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/standonpuckeridgeltc or check out our website: standon-ltc.co.uk

REED GARDEN CLUB

Sue Huggins

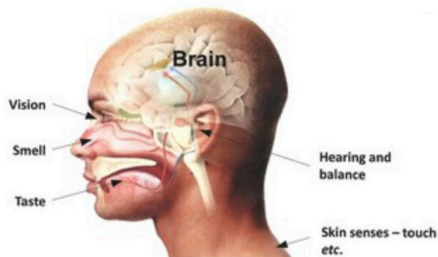
Wednesday 9th April 2-4pm

Reed Village Hall

Speaker Mike Carroll

"The Five Senses; touch and related issues"

£3 entrance Tea/coffee



Zoë Eaglesfield www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk

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



This term the focus has been on learning dances for our Show at the beginning of June at Southmill Arts, Bishop's Stortford. All classes including our toddlers and adults are included, and it's exciting to see everyone working together and show dances taking shape. Some of our show numbers include several classes which together with shapes and patterns in the choreography, makes for great impact on the stage.

Our Baby Boppers and Baby Ballet classes have proved very popular this term and we have welcomed lots of new little dancers, so if you have a budding young dancer do get in touch for more information and to book a trial class.

We hold classes in the centre of Buntingford for all ages from toddlers to adults and offer Baby Boppers, Ballet, Commercial, Modern/Jazz and Tap.

Timetable: (Ages given as a guide)

- Monday (Buntingford) - Ballet Age 10/11 - 18

- Tuesday (*Barkway) - Adult Tap 18+
- Wednesday (Buntingford) - Commercial Age 6 - 18; Adult Ballet 18+
- Thursday (Buntingford) - Ballet Age 8 - 18 & Contemporary
- Friday (Buntingford) - Modern/Jazz Age 4 - 18; Tap Age 5 - 18
- Saturday (Buntingford) - Baby Boppers toddling - Age 3+ & Ballet Age 3 - 11



BABY BALLET & BABY BOPPERS
ENROLLING NOW!
ADMIN@BUNTINGFORDSCHOOLOFDANCE.CO.UK

Buntingford Classes are at the URC Hall, Baldock Road; *Barkway classes are at Barkway Village Hall

If you wish to trial/register for classes, or want more information please use the QR code below to register and state class type you are interested in, email us or visit our website JOIN US page. In the event of classes being oversubscribed we will add you to our waiting list and offer you a space as soon as one becomes available.



BUNTINGFORD BOWLS CLUB

Dave Murphy



Buntingford Bowls Club, are holding their **open days for new bowlers, for the 2025 season on Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4th May**. The doors will be open from 9:45am to 1pm both days.

It will be a morning of fun and games and for those who wish to find out more about this great sport, you can look forward to four FREE coaching sessions, over the following weeks, from our enthusiastic volunteer coaching team.

We have over 100 members ranging in age from 15 up to those in their 80s, a sport truly for all ages. The club has a fully stocked bar, which opens every evening during the season and will be

open on the open days too. We hold many social events throughout the year including quizzes, dances, race nights and indoor short mat bowls during the winter months. We are a very sociable club where you can play to whatever level you wish to attain.

Come and try bowls at our friendly club. We are in Wyddial Road, Buntingford, SG99AT, about half way along. All you need is a pair of flat shoes or trainers (no heels) and yourself! All ages are welcome, however, as a guide, children should be over the age of 10 (mainly due to the size of the bowls and being able to use them).

Any enquiries, please contact Dave Murphy on 07917 084 891.



A very successful Quiz Night, with a fish and chips supper, was enjoyed by over 90 people on 8th March, raising over £1150 towards this years' poppy appeal. We are very grateful to the following Buntingford businesses, without whose generosity this amazing amount would just not have been possible:

Attend to Health, Bonney's Boutique, Cheese Plate, Chris Dellar, Crazy Daisy, Crossfit, Detour2 Menswear, Devran Shish, Hunters, InTerm IT, Jo Morden Hair, Jonathan Hunt, Kathryn Beauty, Locks Stock & More, No 6 Cafe, Oops! IT, Riverside Taxis, Sanctuary, The Beauty Lounge, The Chippy, The Luxury Brand, Touch of Glamour.

And thank you to everyone that attended (including Dave the cat).



We would like to once again extend thanks to our loyal supporters who turn up every year to see our performances. We are always looking for new ways to bring the growing community of Buntingford together to engage with and enjoy the arts. This summer you can expect something VERY different from us at Seth Ward Community Centre! Our next production is under wraps and promises to be really refreshing and we will be looking to you - the audience - to play a bigger part in a production than ever before. All will be revealed next month!

Ghost Walk

As you are reading this, our popular Ghost Walk will already have taken place. Tickets sold out once again in record time. Rest assured that we will be running this event again in the autumn



once the nights draw in and heart rates have returned to normal.

For more information about our events go to www.buntingforddrama.uk

Plans are nicely coming together for this season's activities River Rib-wise. Affinity Water (Biodiversity Dept) are supporting us again with 'INNS' (Invasive Non-Native Species eradication) funds and staff volunteer time, along with our regular RiverWatchers, to tackle the Giant Hogweed and Himalayan 'Balsam-bashing' effort during the summer. This year we are aiming further downstream towards Sandon, where all our past years' seeds end up. Plus, some local tidying up.

Embedded in the town, the River Rib through Buntingford has seen a lot of urban modification and use (redirected, brick and concrete lined, industrial use, waste water disposal etc) in common with most of Hertfordshire's other chalk streams. This brings its own challenges. In our more recent work to persuade our regular Kingfisher visitors to stay and raise chicks, we installed a couple of kingfisher nest holes in the brick wall at River Green – the male looks after and feeds the first clutch while the female raises a second clutch in the second hole. I was wondering why the kingfishers had not yet taken us up on the offer, so I checked only a couple of days ago. The first hole had spider webs over the entrance (so not yet inspected). The second hole was completely blocked, by a mole-shaped stuffed textile, (photo attached to prove it) that took a pair of pliers to remove. I don't suspect it climbed up the wall by its own efforts. So the more we can get to educate the local population of all ages to appreciate what we have in Buntingford and what it could be like, is effort well spent in my book.

If you feel the same, feel free to join us : 'RiverWatch - Buntingford' is a closed WhatsApp group (over 50 members) for announcing and organising volunteering events, and also a closed Facebook group (over 100 members) of the same name for those interested to know what is going on but less likely to join in with active events (- still very welcome of course).

Derrick Guy, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, - Living Rivers Champion (volunteer)

Send a joining request to the WhatsApp and / or the Facebook group or contact me via email : love.your.chalk.stream@gmail.com



Unblocking the second kingfisher nest hole

Chris Kell

The Equinox

"What's an Equinox Dad?" Sam then pronounced it Equine-ox. "A cross between a horse and an ox?" and giggled at his own cleverness from the back of the car.

Pete driving, allowed himself to be half-amused at his 10 year old son's wit; Hannah sitting next to her brother, said "No, silly, equinox is some kind of sleeping pill, isn't it Dad?"

"No you two, you're both wrong. What's the context Sam?"

Sam looked up from his Ipad. "Just says here that it's the Autumn Equinox this weekend" and continued his manic scrolling on the screen.

"OK - so twice a year the days are as long as the nights, Spring and Autumn Equinox. Before we had computers, clocks or any other gadget (and I know that's hard for you to imagine) people watched the seasons very closely. Their livelihoods depended on it. They noticed the weather, the sun, the moon, the stars and presumed that the gods were orchestrating everything. So, if they didn't appease the gods there'd be trouble. Are you listening to any of this, you two?"

"Yesss Dad", Hannah sighed. Sam feigned renewed concentration on his game.

"Sometimes they'd sacrifice their own children to appease the gods. Personally I can see why!"

"Oh Ha Ha" said Hannah. Sam looked up at Hannah and grinned. "I know who I'd sacrifice. No trouble."

"That's horrible," said Hannah.

"Sacrifice your own children - kill them you mean?"

"Yup... as some years were good and some bad for their crop, they thought it was because the gods were happy or not happy, and they needed to do something like offer up their children to deliver a good harvest. So they'd often do it at the Equinox.

Hannah looked out of the car window and thought, not for the first time, how revolting human beings were. Sam wondered if he could find any pictures of human sacrifice to send to his friends.

"Haven't you done any Pagan history at school either of you? As it happens, we'll be driving past Stonehenge on the A303 in about an hour. We could call in there for a history lesson if you like."

They both groaned and said in unison, "No thanks, Dad."

Pete, contemplating human sacrifice of one sort or another, let his mind return to the impending hand-over of his kids to his mother-in-law and her new partner for the coming weekend. We may not believe in gods any more, he thought to himself, but we still think some powers need appeasing - and if it means throwing your own children to the wolves for a couple of days, so be it.

Not so civilised, after all. He smiled to himself and put on the radio.

I'm worried about my debt and rising bills, and I want to know what support is available. Do you have any advice on managing rising costs and what to do if you fall into debt?

With energy, water and broadband bills on the rise, it's getting increasingly difficult for many people to cover their expenses. It's important to know you're not alone in finding things difficult and that financial support might be available to help ease the burden.

Checking benefits eligibility

A significant number of eligible people don't claim the benefits that are available to them, so it's important to understand what you're entitled to. You may be able to claim benefits if, for example, you're at working age and on a low income, you're sick or disabled, are of State Pension age with a low income or no income, or if you're a carer.

You can check the Citizens Advice website for information on what benefits you might be eligible for.

Reducing outgoings

If you claim benefits or are on a low income, you may be eligible for a reduction in Council Tax. Discounts can also be given to students, those living with a carer, or people who live alone, to name some examples.

If you have children and claim certain benefits, or are on a low income, you may qualify for free school meals, transport to school, or support with the cost of uniform. Your local council may be able to help you pay for things like energy and water bills, food or other essential costs. This is called 'welfare assistance' or the 'Household Support Fund'. Each council runs its own scheme, so you'll need to contact your local

authority to see what type of support you can get.

To reduce other expenses, you may be able to switch to a cheaper broadband deal, get a water meter fitted, or access discounted travel options. Find out more about ways to get help, including advice on saving money heating your home, on our website.

Creating a budget & prioritising bills

If you're finding it difficult to stay on top of bills, budgeting tools like the one on the MoneyHelper website can be very useful in helping you understand what money you have coming in and going out each month.

If you're behind on bills, you should prioritise paying rent, mortgage payments, Council Tax and energy bills, as these are known as 'priority' debts which have the most serious consequences if missed.

Once you've got priority debts under control, you should look at credit card or store card debts, missed Buy Now Pay Later payments or payday loans.

Whatever debt you're dealing with, it's important to speak to the person or company you owe money to as early as you can. You could show them a copy of your budget to let them know what your financial situation is and then see if there are any steps you can take to start dealing with your debt. Just remember, there's lots of help out there and you're not alone.

If you need advice, the quickest way is to call our Message Line 01920 459 944 anytime (or visit www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk for our advice options.

If you don't have phone or email or need extra support, Citizens Advice Contact Centre in Manor House, Buntingford, is open every Monday from 11am to 1pm, where our friendly staff will listen to what's happening and help you work out what to do next.



The meeting started with the sad news that Nancy Mayes died peacefully in her sleep last week. Many people will remember Nancy as she used to work as a helper at Layston School many years ago. She was a member of the History Group and even though she had moved away to a nursing home near her son in Berkshire during Covid, I still sent her the article each month, and also asked her many questions when I was writing my articles. She was also a member of the WI and the Flower Club.

This month we looked at "Music in Buntingford through the Ages". Buntingford has always had a tradition of music, be it brass bands, church bands, or pop bands, but we started with the first band that we have record of which was

the Salvation Army Band. For many years Buntingford didn't have a Salvation Army group but all that changed in September 1886 when the church leaders considered that Buntingford would be a good place to establish a proper band of "blood and fire soldiers". According to an article written by Philip Plumb which he found in War Cry the Salvation Army magazine a group of seven soldiers started to play their instruments, a tenor horn, a drum, and cornets on Market Hill. They were soon joined by more "soldiers" from Newport and further troops from the Pelhams. Soon there were 22 soldiers and bandsmen and people from the town gathered to hear. The idea obviously worked as quite soon a Buntingford group of the Salvation Army was formed and their meeting hut was a wooden building in an alleyway next to the technical institute.



The band took out a loan to buy the instruments. The total cost of the instruments was just over £278. Of that £163 was raised from members of the band and other locals.

The band played many events to pay off the loan as quickly as possible. They played at the agricultural shows at Coreybury Manor held every year. They arranged whist drives and dances each week, usually in a room at the George.



The next band on the scene was a band formed by Mr Worrall, who worked at the chemist. He thought it would be a good idea to form a band for the young men of the town to give them something to do other than football and cricket. Their uniforms took the style of the Hussars. Mr Worrall is the man in the top hat. This photo taken from Buntingford in Old photos is dated 1897.

By 1910 there was another band called the Town Band, made up of older men wearing another uniform.

These bands played at events throughout the town, fetes, shows and garden parties.

By 1924 the band became the Silver Band, new uniform and new instruments, which came at a cost.

A big money spinner was the yearly Xmas draw for which tickets were sold. In 1925 and 1926 they raised £26 5s 10d and £22 9d

Instrument Loan 1924		
Capt H H Williams	✓	10-0-0
Mrs J P Williams	✓	10-0-0
W Steele Esq	✓	10-0-0
Mrs J Smith	✓	50-0-0
C H Poulton Esq	✓	10-0-0
C Trases. Esq	✓	10-0-0
L F Smith	✓	38-0-0
A Smith.	✓	10-0-0
Dr Fell.	✓	5-0-0
Miss Baker.	✓	5-0-0
Miss H J Ashford.	✓	5-0-0
		<u>£163 0-0</u>

BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP CONT...

respectively. Another event was a garden fete on Whit Monday 1924. They had various stalls usually seen at fetes, the biggest profit was made at the sweet stall which took £6 7s9d, the total raised was about £52 making a profit of £36 towards their funds.

The band entered a brass band competition at Crystal Palace in 1926. They were up against strong competition from the brass bands from collieries all over the country. I haven't been able to find out how they fared at the event.

At Xmas 1934 they had a prize draw which made £5 11s 4d. this shows the prizes on offer and how much they cost. At Xmas they played all round the town, Aspenden, Chipping, Buckland and Westmill. The money they made from collections was shared by band members, the lamp carriers and collectors.

During the war the band ceased playing, but a band made up of REME staff played at local dances. Also, a newly formed

	L	s	d
50 Books of Tickets	11	6	
Turkey	13	6	
Beef	5	8	
Whisky	6	6	
Beer	3	6	
Chocolate	2	6	
Cigarettes	5	4	
Tobacco	1	11	
Port	3	6	
Postage		3	
Free Ticket (Oakley)		3	
	£	2	16 5

Chicken given by Mr. P. Boulton

group called the Mascot Band stepped in. After the war the Silver Band reformed and continued playing at many events. By 1960 the band were struggling to find new members. It appears the band folded up sometime in the 60's. they loaned their instruments to Royston Town Band at 25/- a year which the understanding was that if they wanted them back, they needed to give 2 years notice. Despite the town



council trying to reform the band in 1970 nothing came of it.

During the 1950's a dance band called the Ambassadors were very popular playing at many dances held at the WI hall. In the 1960's many bands formed, such as Rave On, and Just 6 made up of Johnny Bourne, Bud King, Bill Smith, Pete Belloti, Les Green and Jimmy Cassidy. They were very popular but eventually Pete, Les and Jimmy left the band. Rick Paine stepped in and the band became Top Four.

Top Four acted as a support band for Dave, Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mitch and Titch and Fleetwood Mac to name but a few.

Johnny Bourne died in 1995 so Bud King and Rick King joined forces with Paul Brownless and Dave Whitton to give a memorial concert in his memory.

In the 70's and 80's more bands came on the scene, The Tean Beats, Malc the Talc and Roadhog to name just a few. In 1974 Geoff Strachan formed a group called Hopkins Wood. They played a lot of Shadows music. Geoff left Hopkins Wood in 1984 but formed another band called Highly Strung. It started as a duo with Geoff and Jim Oliver but then Ray

O'Connor joined them, followed by Richard Royal. They had a vocalist called Anne. Just as they started to get work Ray left but was replaced by Dick Boesberry. In 1994 Anne left followed by Dick and Richard. Terry Hume was persuaded to join the group and a new vocalist Paul Farrenden and a drummer called Steve Beckwith completed the line up.

Other bands of the 90's was The Big Ears Band and more recently Beans and Biscuit's and the Smoking Goats all of whom became popular at local events.

And so, the music goes on with young hopefuls offered the chance to perform at Buntingford Live Music Event in April.

What I wonder happened to the Silver bands instruments are they still with Royston Town Band?

Next months meeting is on the 8th April at 2pm in the library. Steve and Linda Bratt will be coming to give a talk called "Furneux Pelham a thousand years of history." Everyone is welcome its £2 per person which includes tea or coffee.



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Tricia Moxey, Trustee



Late 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps record the location of numerous ponds in farmland across lowland England, but since then farming practices have changed and many have disappeared.

Well-maintained ponds are hot spots for biodiversity, supporting special plants and animals. Responding to concerns about the loss of such habitats, researchers at the Pond Restoration Research Group at University College London joined forces with others to investigate the potential for restoring such lost ponds and produced advice about the best ways to create new ones.

Following on from this, Essex Wildlife Trust identified 17,200 Essex farmland ponds on these old maps but noted that 10,400 had since disappeared. A few have been restored, and the team is working with the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group to secure funding to help more farmers reinstate their lost ponds - <https://www.fwageast.org.uk/ponds>

However, pond restoration can be challenging - as evidenced by the difficulties faced during the project to resolve problems with Doctor's Pond in Great Dunmow. In recent years it has been polluted by toxic blue green algal growth. Ambitious and costly plans were drawn up to desilt the pond which necessitated the safe removal of fish so they could be returned in due course. Work commenced last October with the installation of safety fencing and

the draining of water so that a digger

could be used to help remove over 1,900 tons of contaminated silt. Heavy rains made the silt very slippery, and the digger became stranded in January. By the end of February all the silt had been removed.

Future plans include landscaping of the surrounding area and replanting with suitable vegetation once the pond is refilled. It is anticipated that in the coming months this attractive pond will once again provide a great habitat for ducks, fish and dragonflies.



Albury – Patmore Heath



Finchingfield



Matching



Matching Green



Little Bardfield, pond NW of Church



Doctor's Pond, Great Dunmow, February 2025

Exciting News!

We're thrilled to announce that Attend2Health in Buntingford has been awarded the Patient Partnership Quality Mark (PPQM) by the Royal College of Chiropractors!

This prestigious award is given to chiropractic clinics that demonstrate excellence in meeting patient expectations across key areas, including accessibility, cleanliness, safety, and patient communication. The decision is made by a panel of patients and members of the public from the Royal College of Chiropractors' patients committee.

The award was officially announced at the Royal College of Chiropractors' AGM on 29th January 2025.

"The award of the Patient Partnership Quality Mark recognises this clinic's commitment to meeting the expectations



our patients have when they visit us for advice and treatment. The aim of our clinic team is to continually improve our levels of service, and this award encourages us that we are achieving this."

A huge thank you to our amazing team and wonderful patients for your continued support!





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Online FREE Breath & Mediate sessions (1 per month) please follow my facebook page for information @ communityinitiativecharity

Move Meditate & Relax dates are set for 2025

Ware Priorsy - 17th May – FULLY BOOKED

6th September - 7 spaces left

20th December – 13 spaces left

9.30am-1.30pm

Includes entry drinks and Danishes and a cold buffet lunch

Our popular 2 hour sessions will be back in May 2025

Please do refer to community initiative website below for more information

Not only do we run community classes but also classes for the local U3A

Monday Circuits – spaces available at Seth Ward Community Centre, 10.30am Pop along and have a look

Thursday – Seated Full Body Work United Reformed Church Hall 1pm

So, let's keep people fit and healthy during 2025

Craft Club
Easter Baskets & Easter Egg Holders

Tuesday 8th April
Bunters Suite, Seth Ward Centre
1pm
£10 towards costs of materials

A Community Initiative Charity Event
Charity No 1109106

Move Meditate & Relax

Saturday 17th May / 6th September / 20th December
9.30am - 1.30pm
Ware Priorsy, High Street, Ware

Strength, Stretch, Breathwork, Tapping & Meditation
Includes pastries on arrival, hot drinks, snacks & a Cold Buffet Lunch

£30.00

This workshop is being subsidised by Community Initiative Charity
Reg No 1109106

Want to come to an Exercise Class or fancy one of our FREE workshops then contact me on: 07956 647 806

Jacqui Smith Personal Trainer & Chair of Community Initiative Charity

www.communityinitiativecharity.com | www.jacqui-smith.net





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

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



Year 5 - The Good Samaritan helping others is important, you need to listen to people that you would not normally listen to, help can come from unexpected places. Do not turn away someone who has a different idea to you. Listen, they might help you.

Year 6 - Rich old fool. I learned that while money is important to have, to look after yourself and your family, it should not control you. There is much more to life than counting your money, what about friends, family and care. Do not make money your God.

Year 7 - The Prodigal Son showed us that everyone deserves a second chance, and that even if you get things wrong, you have a chance to make amends and improve.

Year 8 - The Parable of the Talents taught me that I should not hide or waste what I am good at, I should let my talents show, and if I use them, they will grow. I should also not waste my time worrying about why someone else has a better or more talents. I should concentrate on me, because if I do, my skills will grow.

The parable of the vineyard owner shapes the foundations on which our school operates. Here is a year 8's explanation:

What value have we been exploring in COWO this term?

This term we have been considering the value of Wisdom, this is something the staff trembled at a little as we were not confident at first in this value, however, we know that modelling how we learn does help students equally as when we are the expert in the room. We discovered that wisdom is very different from knowledge – it is the understanding of the true meaning of life, and to find Wisdom, we headed as always to the bible and were steered by the quote from Jesus, John 14: 6 "I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". We wondered what we could learn about the true meaning of life, from the stories Jesus told which he called parables. Here are some reflections from the students:



Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Codex aureus, Episternacensis)

The vineyard worker collects people to pick his grapes at the beginning of the day, he goes back at lunch time to pick up some more workers and then back again an hour before sun goes down. When he stops, he gives everyone the same money, even though some have worked 10 hours and others one. This made us angry at first, but the story teaches us that the vineyard pickers who are left in the market, who were not picked at the start of the day had the most stress, they were worrying about how they were going to feed their families. Those who were chosen for work at the start, were comforted because they knew they would get paid and have food. This makes me think in a really different way.

How have we been supporting our students to be courageous advocates?

The Church of England steers us that students should be given the tools to help them believe and seek to help others. We work hard to support our students to raise funds for charities



close to their heart. A boy in Year 7, whose family member had used the Air Ambulance service, raised funds along with a group of friends in February with a bake sale and non-uniform day and invited in the Air Ambulance team to talk to the school about their service. This act of raising funds was deeply personal to these students and they felt amazing at the end of the day, when they were able to hand over £800 to the Air Ambulance team. Thank you to the wonderful bakers in our community, who always help to support these events. Our next fund raiser is Cancer Research and of course Comic Relief will see us have fun with Strictly Come Edwinstree.

Our Christian Values:

Reverence, Wisdom, Thankfulness, Humility, Endurance, Service, Compassion, Trust, Peace, Forgiveness, Friendship, Justice, Hope, Creation, Community



MILLFIELD FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL

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

Laura Kennedy-Weeks, Headteacher

As we approach the end of the Spring Term, we celebrate another exciting term filled with a range of events and special moments to enhance our learning.



Year 4 Hazard Alley Trip

On Monday 10th February, Year 4 visited Hazard Alley in Milton Keynes to learn more about

how to stay safe. They participated in 12 scenarios, including how to stay safe near water, online safety and finding safe places to cross roads. The children experienced making urgent phone calls to the emergency services and putting someone into the recovery position. Year 4 children very much enjoyed the trip and were great representatives of Millfield.

Kings and Queens Experience Day

It was great to see the children engaging and enjoying the Year 1 Kings and Queens experience day hosted by Past Productions Education. The children had lots of fun throughout the day taking part in a variety of activities, experiences and crafts relating to monarchs. They took part in jousting, received a knighthood and looked at objects from the past. The children thoroughly enjoyed dressing like royalty and attended a royal ball at the end of the day!



World Book Day

On 6th March, we celebrated World Book Day. The children came to school dressed as a character from

their favourite book and brought the book to share with their class. It was lovely to see the children reading to one another and enjoying books together.

Over the week, classes worked on a 'top secret mission' to create a window display inspired by a book. It was great to see the creative and imaginative artwork the children created. The children took great pride in showing parents/carers their artwork, as well as guessing what books the classes had based their displays on.

During the week, to celebrate World Book Day, each class in KS1 and KS2 had the opportunity to visit Buntingford Library to take part in three activities. The Librarians also read a selection of books to the children, who were completely engaged. Thank you to Buntingford Library for this lovely opportunity.

Year 4 Pancake Workshop

Herts Catering Limited hosted interactive workshops for our Year 4 children. The children worked hard to pedal stationary bikes equipped with blenders to mix the pancake batter, promoting both sustainability and fun physical activity. The session covered pancake making techniques, ingredient choices and healthy choices. Children enjoyed their creations, making it an engaging and educational experience for all.



British Science Week

British Science week took place between 10th and 14th March with the theme of 'Change and Adapt'.

Science was a key focus for the week. Classes engaged in a range of exciting activities, with lessons incorporating as much Science as possible. This included live lessons, hands-on investigations and fun activities, such as science-themed word searches, building challenges and discussions about animal adaptations.

In addition, to mark the event, a KAPLA Workshop was held on Thursday 13th March where the KS2 children took part in a 3D hands-on learning activity. Each class used small planks of wood to develop specific construction together under the guidance of a KAPLA expert.

Additionally, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 children took part in the STEMpoint Create Challenge, where children designed and created a creature. Each class selected a winner from which a child from KS1 and KS2 was chosen to represent our school. It was an exciting and engaging week of Science learning shared by children and staff.

Cambridge Botanical Gardens

Our Year 2 children had a thoroughly enjoyable day at Cambridge University Botanic

Gardens. They explored the rainforest inside the glass house and looked at one of the largest trees in the UK beside the pond area. The Children were excited to find and point out the wildlife. A great day was had by all. Well done Year 2!



Red Nose Day

On Friday 21st March children and staff celebrated Red Nose Day by wearing 'something red' as the theme was 'say something funny for money' children brought in a joke to share with their class. A big thanks to our school community for their kind donations to this excellent charity.

Alice Hemming, Author visit

Alice Hemming visited Millfield to hold a school assembly and creative writing workshops for children. What an experience! The children were immersed into the life of the author. They were fully engaged from the outset and were enthusiastic to ask questions. This opportunity has supported to raise the profile and passion for reading and writing.

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 271 717.



St Peter's, Buntingford

ST PETER'S CHURCH, BUNTINGFORD RESTORATION PROJECT



When in 1614, the Vicar of Layston, Alexander Strange, determined to build a new Chapel of Ease on the site of the dilapidated Chapel of St. John the Baptist, it would cost £418 10s 1d. That's equivalent to £88,800 today. A year later and St Peter's would open its doors of welcome for the first time. Following major 'restoration' in 1899 and with further re-ordering in the late 1970's and early 1980's, St Peter's is again in need of some essential restoration work to take it forward into the future.

What's happening and why?

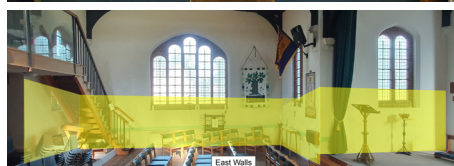
Over the coming year St Peter's will be having work done to address areas of long-term damp to the Entrance Hall, Toilet, Benefice Office, and Church internal walls. This will see some major restoration to both the interior and exterior of the church and will be the biggest projects undertaken by St Peter's in more than 40 years.

The work is due to commence in early May and run through to the end of the summer.

Externally: the parapet wall above the perimeter of the hall, office and toilet will be taken down to the roofline, damp proof courses installed and then rebuilt.

The yellow-highlights show the amount of wall to be taken down and rebuilt and how the current structure allows water in, and how the rebuilt parapet with damp proof courses will prevent future ingress. The estimated cost here is £13,500.

Internally: the render to the walls of the Welcome Area and of the East Walls (roadside) of the Nave and Chancel will be removed back to the brickwork to a height of 2 metres above floor level and then re-rendered in stages with the correct, lime-based render. This will allow the walls to breathe and dry naturally. The walls will be decorated with a breathable, silicate-based paint.



The yellow-highlights show the extent of render to be replaced where damp is present in the walls and trapped through the wrong materials being used in the past. The estimated cost here is £23,500.

St Peter's will need to close for a period whilst these internal works are in progress. Services will continue as normal but will instead be held at Edwinstree School. St Peter's would like to thank Jo Gant and the Governors of Edwinstree School for their generosity and hospitality during this time.

St Peter's will be re-decorated and will provide a clean and bright environment for all, its ministry, mission and for other events and activities.

We need your help

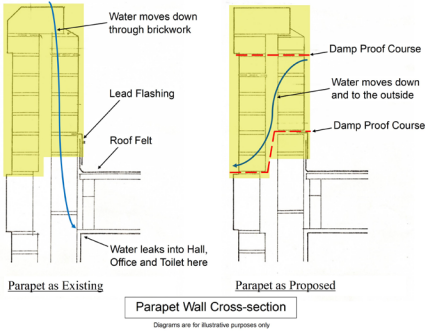
The total cost is estimated at £37,000. To date £23,500 has been raised, leaving £13,500 still to find to fulfil the restoration project. St Peter's Church is

Continues>

LENT REFLECTIONS

David Woollcombe

A series of reflections for people of all faiths and none to explore sources of HOPE in our lives - 8pm to 9:30pm every Tuesday in Lent (coffee and biscuits from 7.30pm) at the home of the Woollcombes, 57 Wyddial Road, Buntingford SG9 9AX



a Grade 1 Listed building, which requires specific materials and methods to be used.

If you would like to contribute to the funding, here are some examples of how your donation could help:

- £15 buys 1 litre of paint (95 litres needed)
- £50 buys 1 tonne of sand (3 tonnes needed)
- £100 buys 100 bricks (3000 needed)
- £450 buys 1 tonne of lime plaster (4.6 tonnes needed)

If you would like to know more or to donate toward the project, you can do so through the QR code at the top of this article, visit us at: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7839/ or contact St Peter's Treasurer at buntingford.treasurer@outlook.com

Tuesday 1st April: Mary Marshall - Hope for the Environment: Mary went to her local Methodist church until age 10 joining the Society of Friends (Quakers) in 2005. She attends the Hitchin Meeting where she and her partner David keep the Meeting house grounds tidily wild. She joined the Green Party in 2015 to help keep the environment on the political agenda.

Tuesday 8th April: Dr Charles Bell - Hope in Unity: priest, forensic psychiatrist, fellow of Girton College, Cambridge and author of: Unity – Anglicanism's Impossible Dream. Unity is a clear source of hope and Christ's clarion call to His church, but what might that unity look in our church and our world? That is what Dr Bell will discuss with us.

Tuesday 15th April: Mark Freeman – Hope in technology. A Hertfordshire-born mechanical engineer whose company makes parts and machinery for sustainable ways to drive the creation of a Green Economy. He sees hope in well-managed, intelligently-funded development and regulation of new inventions and technology.

Directions: Call: 01763 271 459 for directions or if you get lost!

Park where-ever you can, and look for slate signs with white letters: "The Stables The Barn". Follow the path or the drive up to our grey-green Front Door.

If you have mobility issues, please let us know and we will tell you how to get to us without having to walk

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." – Isaiah 40:31



United Benefice of
Aspenden, Buntingford
and Westmill

UNITED BENEFICE OF ASPENDEN, BUNTINGFORD & WESTMILL

Reverend Kirsty Wainwright



CONTACT DETAILS

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

email: unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com | 07484 345 027

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

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

OUR SERVICES FOR APRIL 2025

Sunday 6th	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 13th Palm Sunday	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	All Age Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 20th Easter Day	6am	Sun Rise Service	St Mary's, Aspenden
	9:30am	Easter All Age Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Easter All Age Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Easter All Age Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 27th	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
		No Service	St Mary's Aspenden
	11:00am	Morning Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford

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

Direct links to our 3 church Service and Event pages:

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

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

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

REGULAR EVENTS HELD AT ST PETER'S CHURCH



Prayer for Buntingford

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

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



Monday Morning Coffee

Held weekly, every Monday (expect Bank holidays)

10am – 12pm

@ St Peter's Church Buntingford.

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



Morning Prayer

9am Every Tuesday and Thursday mornings, we pray together using the Church of England Daily Prayer book, with bible

readings, a reflection and a psalm.

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

We have moved this to Zoom during the cold months please contact us for the link.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

You are invited to join us for Holy Week services at our 3 churches. Experience the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus through song, prayer and reflection.

Palm Sunday 13th April

9:30am Sung Eucharist - St Mary the Virgin Westmill - Gather at village green 9:15am

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

11am All Age Worship - St Peter's Buntingford - Gather at the Manor House at 11am

Monday 14th April

7pm Compline - St Mary the Virgin Westmill

Tuesday 15th April

7pm Compline - St Mary's Aspenden

Wednesday 16th April

7pm Compline - St Peter's Buntingford

Maundy Thursday

7pm Holy Communion - St Mary's Aspenden - With the washing of the feet

Good Friday

11am Stations of the Cross - Outside St Peter's Church

2pm Hour at the Cross - St Mary the Virgin Westmill

Easter Sunday

6:00am Sunrise Service - St Mary's Aspenden

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

9:30am All Age Holy Communion - St Mary the Virgin Westmill

11am All Age Holy Communion - St Peter's Buntingford

Followed by an Easter Egg Hunt



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



plant Sale

Saturday 3rd May
9:30am - 12pm
St Peter's Church



The
United
Reformed
Church

CHRIST CHURCH

Baldock Road, Buntingford. SG9 9AA

www.buntingfordurc.org.uk

 URCbuntingford

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

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

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

April	6	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender
	13	Palm Sunday	Rev Allen Morton
	18	Good Friday @ 2:30pm	Rev Sue Fender
	20	Easter Day	Rev Dr Janet Tollington
	27	Morning Worship	Rev Sue Fender
May	4	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender

LENT BIBLE STUDY COURSE

The Rev Sue Fender will be leading a Lent Bible study on **Wednesdays 9th & 16th April**

12.30 for Lunch
Bible Study from 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY

After Easter we will be holding a new Ecumenical Bible Study on Wednesday lunch time.

We will meet for lunch from 12.30 and our bible study will run from 1.00 – 2.00 pm.

Entitled Influential Women we will look at the stories of the women of the New Testament. Some only get a brief mention and we may not remember them, others have played a significant part in the life of the early church. All of them have story to tell us.

Next meeting 7th May

COFFEE & COMPANY

Meets every Thursday, 10:30am to 12:30pm, in the URC Church Hall. If you're elderly, living alone, new to the area, perhaps working from home, and would like some company, come along to share Coffee, Cake, Company and Chat. All are welcome. Just turn up and give a small donation for the refreshments.

Home-Start Royston, Buntingford and South Cambridgeshire will be running the refreshment stall at the **Meldreth Easter Market to be held on Sunday 6th April** at Meldreth Village Hall – 10am – 3pm. Come along and treat yourself to a savoury or sweet treat. There will be many great stalls offering different items for sale. Poster attached.

Home-Start Royston, Buntingford and South Cambridgeshire - **Literary Lunch to be held on Tuesday 29th April** – The Old Bull, Royston, 12-15-2.15pm – Jude Simpson will be in conversation with author, Ruth Leigh

Ruth Leigh is a novelist and freelance writer from East Suffolk, best known for her Isabella M Smugge series. Described as "Austen with added Instagram" by Fran Hill and "funny, smart and insightful" by Paul Kerensa, her work blends sharp social commentary with humour. She has also written A Great Deal of Ingenuity and The Little Book of Unexpected Poetry. Ruth is a dynamic speaker,



sharing her expertise at schools, festivals, and retreats, offering energy, encouragement, and plenty of laughs.

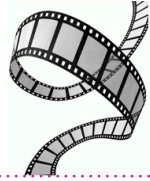
To book: Tickets are £15 to include a buffet lunch, please call 01763 262 262, email events@hsrsc.org.uk or book online here www.hsrsc.org.uk/events/ Please let us know of any dietary requirements when booking.



BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

Bringing Cinema back to Buntingford

David Woollcombe

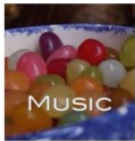


– Saturday April 5th at 7.30pm – the Community Centre –

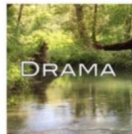


Our **April Film** is Ridley Scott's "hugely entertaining and spectacular" *Gladiator II*. Costing over \$300m and starring Paul Mescal and Denzel Washington, it is famous for the gladiators' Coliseum fights with actual Rhinos and – when they flood the arena – with live sharks! Come see it on our Big Screen!

– Saturday April 12th at 7.30pm at Christ Church URC & 13th April Online –
8th Annual Buntingford Shorts International Student Film Festival
FREE Entry – just turn up!!



ANIMATION



Over 1,600 International eligible entries have now been received from over 70 countries by this, the best known international event hosted by Buntingford! The quality is higher than ever, so do come along to the URC to watch the films of the five Local Finalists in the Festival that has made Buntingford a byword for excellence in youth (*under 25*) film-making the world over. All the films have been reviewed by Jake Andrews and his team of volunteers. Two local and two international judges have been booked – all of whom are past Festival competitors. **Local winners'** films will be screened at the URC event on Saturday 12th April at 7:30pm with free entry: no tickets or reservations required. The **International winners** event will be premiered online on Sunday 13th April at 7:30pm at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@buntingfordshorts>

- where they will remain until the end of May 2025.

LAST SHOW OF THE SEASON
RALPH FIENNES

in



This multi-award-winning, box office success and all round triumph of a film is our choice for the last film for our 2024/25 season. Based on the Robert Harris book, it tells the story of how a new Pope is selected by a bunch of scheming and, in this story, hilariously corrupt, Cardinals. It is brilliantly scripted and will keep you on the edge of your seat throughout; It won the British *and* American Oscars for the best-adapted Screenplay Oscar for Peter Straughan. A superstar cast led by Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci and Isabella Rossellini are likewise gripping. If you have seen it – you will appreciate it more on a second viewing and, if you haven't, come see it. With the current beloved Pope Francis aged 88 and in frail health, there will likely be another Papal Conclave before too long and, though some may disagree, this film gives a wonderful behind-the-scenes look at what will happen when it does.

– Saturday May 10th at 7.30pm – the Community Centre –

All tickets: £8.00 (to include a glass of wine or beer + snacks!)

At: www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordfilmclub

or at Sanctuary, 42 High St. Buntingford

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be Friday 20th June @ 7.30pm: Come along to review Film Club policies and help us plan & choose films for the 2025 / 26 season.

Technical Volunteers PLEASE! - In order to ensure we maintain our scheduled programme, we urgently need more technical volunteers. We are providing a training on the new Film Club equipment at 16.00 on April 5th. Please contact: rosey@peacechild.org if you are interested.

Buntingford Music Live

Update on Buntingford Music Live at Seth Ward on from **5-7pm Saturday 26th April 2025**. We had a good response to our request for applications to participate in our forthcoming Buntingford Music Live event, with submissions from many talented 11-18 year olds from East Herts. This celebration of young musicians will take place in our community centre.

We would encourage the local community to come and support these young people in what promises to be a fantastic live event! Entry is free and all ages are welcome. We would recommend that you secure tickets via the links on our website and social media.

Friday 2nd May 7.30pm at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Westmill

We are delighted to welcome Andrew O'Brien, Director of Music at the College and his talented young musicians for a return visit.

The pupils are very much looking forward to their visit. This year, the programme will be equally exciting and there will be something for everyone. Solo items will be given by our music scholars and beautiful choral pieces will be performed by our senior consort 'Cantores'. In contrast, Jazz favourites will be offered by one of our jazz ensembles. It promises to be an enthralling evening!

Entry is free but we advise you to book your seats on our website **buntingfordlive.org** as capacity is limited.

Donations will be gratefully received at the end of the evening. These will be shared by the church, Buntingford Live, (to cover costs) and our local Air Ambulance Charity.



**BUNTINGFORD
music
LIVE!**

**Saturday
26th April**
5pm - 7pm
Seth Ward
Community
Centre
Licensed bar plus
soft drinks and
snacks available

A celebration of young musical talent from Buntingford and surrounding areas!

Come along to support the fantastic musicians selected to perform at this live event.

Entry is FREE but scan the QR code to secure tickets if you prefer



**BUNTINGFORD
LIVE!**

*Maytime
Music*

Featuring students from
St. Edmund's
College

Friday
May 2nd, 7.30pm
St. Mary The Virgin
**FREE
ENTRY**

Director of music
Andrew O'Brien is bringing a group of talented young musicians to entertain us with a variety of solo and ensemble works.

There is limited capacity in the church so please book your FREE seat on our website buntingfordlive.org
Donations will be gratefully received at the end of the evening, which will be shared by the church and Buntingford Live to cover our costs, and the local Air Ambulance Charity.
Alcoholic and soft drinks will be available from a paid bar.
You may find the benches a little hard so it might be worth bringing a cushion!

**LAST FEW
TICKETS
REMAINING**



There will be a pay bar serving wine, soft drinks and snacks.

DRAG QUEEN NIGHT

Friday 23rd May in the Bunters Suite,
Seth Ward Community Centre Tickets £15

Come along from 7pm. Showtime is 8pm
Licensed Bar

A FABULOUS EVENING OF CABARET,
VOCAL PERFORMANCE AND A WHOLE
LOT OF FUN!

Miss Lightening

The UK's most electrifying Cabaret Queen. She's shockingly talented and has dazzling vocals. Singing cabaret classics, theatre and movie tunes and party anthems,... she's ready to create a storm wherever she goes.

Magenta Slipperz

All Live singing with scream-along classics, maximum cheese and dance floor fillers. A drag queen you can safely hug and bring your granny to see!

Abbey Tart

Serves up a deliciously camp performance, packed with fun, sass and cheeky twists. Like the perfect Tart, she's sweet, sharp, and leaves you wanting more. She brings a playful mix of bold humour, infectious energy and a touch of fabulousness.

**THIS EVENT IS PROVING VERY POPULAR
SO HURRY TO PURCHASE THE LAST
REMAINING TICKETS!**

WESTMILL ART EXHIBITION 2025

Westmill Art Exhibition 2025

Saturday 31st May 10am- 5pm

Sunday 1st June 11am-5pm

Come along and support the 35th year of this wonderful event, featuring local artists' work for sale at affordable prices. All funds raised will go towards Westmill Church.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Yet to be finalised, we have another 'completely different' offering on:

**Friday 13th June In The Bunters' Suite
At Seth Ward At 7.30pm**

'Uncanny' Featuring Nell Phoenix

A full-time London based performance storyteller who will offer chilling and rib-tickling entertainment!

More information next month.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We're happy to announce that we have another concert in Westmill Church featuring students from Haileybury College.

**This is booked for Friday 26th
September 7.30pm**

We are delighted to say that we have secured a booking of:

'A Christmas Carol 'with Guy Masterson!

This will be on Friday 21st November

*WATCH THIS SPACE FOR NEWS OF
MORE EVENTS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE JOURNAL*

Please use our website:

buntingfordlive.org

WHAT'S ON - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL 2025

- Wednesday 2nd** Gardener's Club: People and Plants: Molecules, Medicines & Mischief p.13
- Friday 4th** Braughing Get Together: Whist Drive
- Saturday 5th** Film Club: The Gladiator p.40
- Sunday 6th** Meldreth Easter Market with Homestart p.39
- Monday 7th** U3A: Suzie Harrison-Cambridge American Cemetery p.12
- Tuesday 8th** History Society "Furneux Pelham a thousand years of history." p.22
- Wednesday 9th** Reed Garden Club: "the Five Senses touch and related issues" p.15
- Thursday 10th** WI: How to Empty our Stress Bucket and Survive p.14
- Saturday 12th** Buntingford Shorts Film Festival p.40
- Tuesday 15th** Civic Society AGM p.6
- Friday 25th** BALA Coffee Morning h p.46
- Saturday 26th** Buntingford Music Live p.42
- Tuesday 29th** Homestart Literary Lunch with Ruth Leigh p.39



LOOKING AHEAD

- 2nd May** Bunts Live! Maytime Music p.42
- 3/4th May** Bowls Club Open Days p.17
- 10th May** Film Club: Conclave p.41
- 23rd May** Bunts Live! Drag Queen Night p.43
- 31st May** Bunts Live! Westmill Art Exhibition p.43

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAYS:	TUESDAYS:	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS:	FRIDAYS:	WEEKENDS:
From 8.30am: Buntingford Market	7.30–9pm: Braughing Sing Community Choir in Jenyn's School Hall	Buntingford Meditation Online at 8 pm and once a month in Saint Peter's Church. To join the group the best way is to contact me via the website - www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation New meditators are welcome and guidance is given on how to meditate in the sessions.	10.30am–12.30: Coffee & Company in the URC Church Hall		Sun, 9am: Norfolk Road Playing Fields Junior Parkrun
10–11.45am: Chatter Table at the Manor House – 1st & 3rd Mondays			2–3pm: Mind & Music at Standon & Puckeridge CC		Sat, 10am: Walking Football at the MUGA, Norfolk Road Playing Fields
Morning Coffee 10-12 St Peter's					
EVENTS IN THE LIBRARY:					
10.30–11am & 11:30 -12pm: Baby Rhyme Time (songs, rhymes, actions and puppets, for ages 6 weeks to 3 years)	10.30–12.30: Jigsaw & Chat club		10.30 – 11am: Storytime (storytelling with props, for ages 2-5 years) 11am: Chair Yoga with Kim	4-5pm: Lego Club for children	
11.45am–12.45pm: Forever Cycling at the Community Centre -1st & 3rd		10-11am Chatter & Natter, Buntingford Coffee Shop			
1.30 for 2pm: Buntingford Senior Citizens' Club at URC Hall		12- 4pm Braughing Shed Group			
7.30–9:30pm: Buntingford Community Choir at Millfield School					

BUNTINGFORD ACTION FOR THE LESS ABLE (BALA)

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus Trips April 2025

	TIME	DESTINATION	PRICE
APRIL			
Thurs 3rd	9:30-3	Southend	£13
Wed 9th	10:30-12:30	Café Amigo, Fowlmere (coffee and cake or an early light lunch)	£5
Thurs 10th	10-2:30	St Neots (Market Day)	£8
Mon 14th	10-2:30	St Ives	£8
Tues 22nd	10:30-2	Saffron Walden	£6
Wed 23rd	11:30	Pub Lunch	£5
Mon 28th	10:30-2	Frosts @ Willington / A1 Retail Park, Biggleswade	£7.50
MAY			
Thurs 1st	9:30-3	Lakeside Shopping Centre, Thurrock	£12

Any suggestions for future trips gratefully accepted

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

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

Coffee Morning

Friday 25th April, 10-11:30am

(soup and a roll, cakes etc)

at **URC Hall, Baldock Road**

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Church of Saint Richard of Chichester

St Richard of Chichester Catholic Church
3 Station Road, Buntingford SG9 9HT
Telephone 01992 623156

Parochial Administrator: Father John Cunningham
Parish Deacon: Paul O'Connor

Regular Services at St Richard's Buntingford

Mass - Sunday 9.15am
Mass - Tuesday 7.30pm
Holy Hour - Friday 5.00pm

Services at St Thomas's Puckeridge

Mass - Sunday 11.00am
Mass - Thursday 12.30pm



If you would like your child baptised, to get married, or to find out about the other sacramental programmes, please speak to the priest or deacon after one of the masses.

Further information is available on the parish website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/buntingford/

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For a trusted, experienced and straightforward service phone or email Kate to arrange an appointment to see her for a free no obligation meeting at your home.

Kate Bennett
07525 454160
kbennettlegal@gmail.com

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Calling all Artists!



By popular demand

THE WESTMILL ART EXHIBITION IS BACK!

to take place in St Mary the Virgin Church, Westmill, SG9 9LJ

on Saturday 31st May - Sunday 1st June 2025

For further information and entry form please contact:
alex@alexphotos.co.uk or 07768 790902 with your name and details



BUNTINGFORD FESTIVAL CHOIR

is actively seeking
TENOR and BASS SINGERS

If you love singing, have at least a basic knowledge of musical notation and can reliably hold a tune then we'd love to hear from you

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THURSDAY EVENINGS between **19:00 and 20:30**

Please get in touch via the contact form on our website:-

buntingfordfestivalchoir.org

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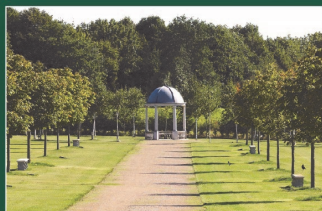
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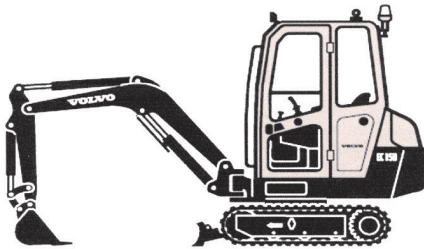
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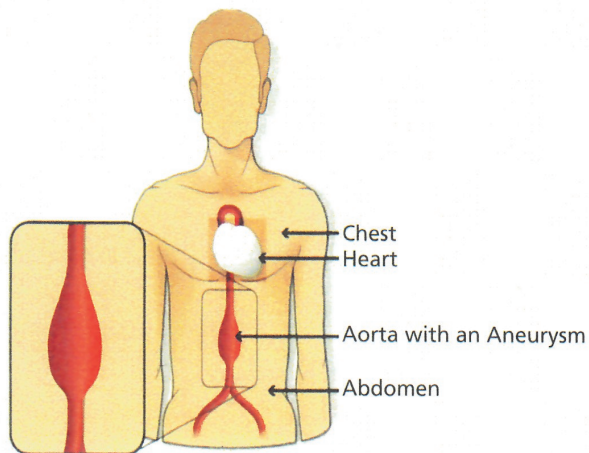
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WHO ARE WE?

We are your local amenity group, established in March 1971 initially as a conservation group covering the ancient parishes of Buntingford, Layston, Aspenden, Wyddial and Throcking.

We obtained charity status in 1993.

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

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

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

Publish the Buntingford Journal

Restored the town pump twice and Town Cage once

Initiated erection of Christmas lights in the High Street and Market Hill

Present an annual school civic award

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

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

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

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

Contributed financially to the Fremantle College sports hall, Buntingford Film Club, previous

Buntingford Carnivals, Summer Arts in Buntingford 2022 weekend, and gave a grant to the Friends of the River Rib and Quin

Paid for the Local History Group competition prizes in 2023

Done River Rib and town cleans

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

Were actively involved with the production of the Neighbourhood Plan

Arranged Buntingford in Bloom competitions

Updated the circular walks on local footpaths leaflet in 2017

In 2024 paid for roses and a plaque in memory of Queen Elizabeth II and for the Coronation of King Charles III at the new cemetery

Hosted 2 annual Civic Day walks

WHAT ARE WE PLANNING TO DO?

Monitor future housing development and continue to work with local organisations for the benefit of Buntingford, including the River Rib Project. Are now sourcing a replacement plaque for The Cage. Are looking to host a third Civic Day Walk, arrange a fifth Buntingford in Bloom competition and be part of a D Day commemoration event in May

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Buntingford 2025

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When: Last Tuesday of each month,
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29th Jul	26th Aug	30th Sept	28th Oct	25th Nov	No meeting in Dec

One of our Carer Support Advisors will provide 1:1 appointments at some meetings.

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

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

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For one-off adverts or to advertise a specific event, contact the Journal editor, Anne Wright, email journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk. Adverts for charitable or community events are normally free of charge.

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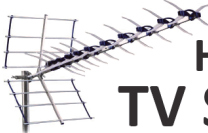
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Wednesday 7:15pm Layston School (£6 or with strength HIIT £10)
Thursday 10am Seth Ward Community Centre
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There are ample photo opportunities outside the classic Georgian frontage, on the staircase, in the garden or in the stunning Layston Court Gardens across the road.

For a full colour brochure contact :

Jill Jones-Town Clerk, The Manor House, Buntingford, Herts., SG9 9AB.

Or email : clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk Telephone: 01763 272 222

www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

Gareth White Electrical Services



Welcome to Gareth White Electrical Services based in Buntingford: we are experienced and qualified electricians working with local home owners, landlords, developers, contractors and local businesses in and around Buntingford.

We are independent electrical contractors that place our customers first offering friendly, expert advice alongside our electrical services.

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