

# THE BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL



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

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## **POLICE STATION:**

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**

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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](http://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](http://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](http://www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk)

[Buntingfordfoodhub@gmail.com](mailto:Buntingfordfoodhub@gmail.com) | 07842 889 772



LETTER FROM

# The Editor

**D**id our front cover this month catch you out? Were you trying to work out where in Buntingford it was taken? Well actually it's not Buntingford at all, it's Ware, but I thought it was a beautiful photograph and it's one of the winning entries of the annual St Ives Inter-Print Competition that was taken by Simon Jenkins of our Ware & District Photographic Society, have a look on p.12 to see some of the other winning photographs.

Also in this issue, as you know, we like to support our local businesses and this month we have an article on p.18 about Melodies School of Music who are celebrating their 6th anniversary in our town. And I would like to say a big personal thank you to Jon who, after reading his article my son reached out asking about work experience placements and is now set to join Jon and the team for what looks to be a really interesting and exciting week in June, so a big thank you to Jon and the team!

I was sent a very funny poem by Val Hume who was inspired by Meadonian's writer's group article last month, it rang very true with me and I am sure it will with many of you too - see p.20.

We have a wealth of interesting historic information for you this month as well, with the History Society's story of Buntingford's Isolation Hospital on p.22 and Louise Hampton's engaging history of the Buntingford Chamber of Commerce on p.38.

Enjoy!

Anne

# BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

APRIL 2026

## EDITOR

Anne Wright

[journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

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Journal Contributions  
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Buntingford, Herts, SG9 9AB

## ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

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[advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

## EDITORIAL DEADLINE

Editorial copy deadline for the next Journal is: **15th 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, but is editorially independent of, the Buntingford Civic Society. For information on how to join the Society and have the Journal delivered to your door for free, please email: [membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)**

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## ON THE COVER

Ware in the Mist by Simon Jenkins - Ware & District Photography Society

**B**y the time you read this month's article, the clocks will either be going forward, or will have already gone forward 1hr, heralding the start of British Summertime.

A significant event this month, will be the **Annual General Meeting of the Society**. It will be held in the Bunters Suite at the Seth ward Community Centre on **Tuesday 21st April**, and all members of the Society and Journal readers are cordially invited to attend. The AGM will start at 7pm but access to Bunters will be from 6.30pm.

Following the official business of the meeting we will be handing over to this year's guest speaker, Peter Lohmeyer, our Membership Secretary, whose talk with will be titled: -

### **"My 13 years at the Playboy Club"**



We are sure that the talk will be interesting, especially as the period is London in the 70's, of which

it has been said, "If you remember the 70's, you were not there".

Following the talk, the Executive Committee invite you to join them in some light refreshments.

All residents and businesses in the Town should have received a letter from HCC, Transport for Hertfordshire, inviting you to participate in a consultation on plans to "Improve Buntingford Town Centre". We would encourage you to take the time to review the plans and comment as you see fit. The consultation period started on 16th March and is running for 6 weeks, ending at midnight on the 26th April. Printed copies of the plans and the survey will be available at The Manor House, 21 High Street. This proposed scheme is financed through the Active Travel Scheme and is HM Government funded.

Taylor Wimpey have now submitted their Reserved Matters application for Land, North of Hare Street Road, for 214 dwellings. This application is "putting the flesh on the bones" of their outline permission, granted by EHDC, planning, on the 12th February 2026. Plans can be viewed on the EHDC website, entering the application reference, 3/26/0217/REM.

For information on other Planning Applications visit or email Buntingford Town Council, or contact the Chairman of the Society at [chairman@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:chairman@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

*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](http://www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk) or email the Membership Secretary, Peter Lohmeyer, at [membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto: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

**Y**ou may remember a petition organised by the Town Council asking East Herts Council to undertake a new Community Governance review into the prospect of warding Buntingford. This petition was presented to East Herts Council on the 4th March, following debate, Councillors voted against the motion to hold a new review. Please see below statement from The Town Mayor:

*I am disappointed on behalf of Buntingford residents who expressed anger and frustration towards a process from which they felt excluded. When legitimate concerns were raised by a significant number regarding the consultation process, the response was one of dismissal and irrelevance with no acknowledgement that on this occasion there had been a complete breakdown of meaningful engagement.*

*Our community understandably sought assurance that due diligence had been applied by those entrusted with positions of such importance. This was not about the outcome, merely a desire to be heard and have their right upheld through a democratic process that would withstand scrutiny and maintain the organisational*

*integrity of the administrative process. Sadly, that, in the opinion of so many is tarnished. The bedrock of governance is trust which we should all seek to build and maintain. This was an opportunity to address community frustration in a meaningful way, but which, sadly has been missed.*

Despite the installation of new gates in Layston Court Gardens, there remains a problem with people accessing the gardens after hours. The Police are aware of this and are doing their best to alleviate the problem.

The Mayor, Councillor Duncan Wallace will be holding his annual **Quiz Night on 25th April 2026** at the Seth Ward Community Centre, further details will be published shortly.

The Town Council were pleased to agree a significant grant to the Ward Freman Swimming Pool Group towards the cost of re-opening the pool, hopefully later this year.

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 month of April are:

<b>Thursday 2nd April</b>	7pm	Amenities Committee.
<b>Thursday 9th April</b>	7pm	Planning and 7.15pm Resources Committee
<b>Thursday 30th April</b>	7pm	Planning Committee and 7.15pm Full Council.

*All meetings held at The Manor House unless indicated otherwise.*

# BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY NEWS

**Kathleen Beale**, Library Manager [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/)

The Buntingford Library Team would like to thank all our wonderful customers for their understanding and patience during our recent temporary closure.

We welcome everyone back to our lovely library on 30th March and please see a friendly staff member if you have any issues arising from the closure.

## REMEMBERING JEAN PITTS (HOOPER)

22nd June 1936 - 31st January 2026

The team at Buntingford Library would like to pay tribute to Jean Pitts (Hooper) who dedicated 31 years of service to Buntingford Library. Jean worked at the library from 1970 until her retirement in 2001.

Hertfordshire Libraries would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution that Jean made to Buntingford Library and the community throughout her 31 years of service. She will be missed and remembered by all her former colleagues and customers.



**Easter at Buntingford Library**

**Design an Easter Egg Competition**  
From Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April  
£1 per entry

**Everyday Drop in activities...**  
Scavenger Hunt  
Colouring & Activity Sheets

**Easter Storytime**  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 10.30am  
This a FREE session, donations welcome

**Easter Bonnet Making**  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 11.00am  
£4.40 per child, book in the library  
Children under 8 years must be accompanied by an adult

The poster features a large yellow Easter egg in the center, a white rabbit on the left, and colorful Easter eggs at the bottom. The background is light blue with a string of colorful bunting at the top.





## BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY

77 High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AE

Telephone enquiries: 0300 123 4049

Follow us on Facebook

#BuntingfordLibrary

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/)

### Opening Times:

Mon, Tue, Thur 10am – 5:30pm

Fri 2pm – 5:30pm

Sat 9am – 1pm

### Regular events:

Baby Rhyme Time:

Mondays at 10:30 & 11:30

Jigsaw and Cards: Tuesday at 10:30


Chair Yoga with Kim: Wednesday at 11

Story Time: Thursday at 10:30

Lego Club: Second Thursday of the month at 4pm

The Friday Club: Friday 4pm-5pm



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

Fitness Pilates, Circuits, Dance Fit, HIIT, Hooping, Boxing & Mindfulness Classes and workshops

WWW.JACQUI-SMITH.NET  
07956 647806

Spring is a season of renewal. Just like nature wakes up and grows stronger, it's the perfect time to refresh your body and mind through movement. Every workout is a step toward more energy, better health, and a stronger version of yourself.

### HAPpy Children's Camps 2nd & 9th April

for children aged 5-12 year olds funded by Department of Education & Herts County Council. There are FREE places for eligible children on funded school dinners and subsidised places for all other children, funded by Community Initiative Charity

Buntingford Stretch & Sound Bath Workshops was a success in February, with more sessions scheduled for May, July & October. Donations of £10 to charity to attend.

Our Ware Priory 4 hour workshops with breakfast and lunch all finished off with Sound Baths. Spaces available for May, July & December. £35.00

And as usual all our regular exercise classes in Buntingford, Hertford, Bishop's Stortford and Ware for all ages and abilities

*April is the perfect time to refresh your routine—get outside, stay active, and let the new season motivate you to move more.*

**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](http://www.communityinitiativecharity.com) | [www.jacqui-smith.net](http://www.jacqui-smith.net)



**I've found myself in a really difficult financial situation and I don't know where to turn. I was made redundant recently and now I'm finding it hard to keep up with my bills and am getting into debt - what can I do?**

**M**oney problems can feel overwhelming, but the most important thing to remember is that you don't have to face this alone. We know that times are incredibly tough for lots of people right now, and Citizens Advice is here to help you find a way forward.

Make sure you've been paid everything you're entitled to by your former employer. You can check what your rights are on the Citizens Advice website.

If you're finding it difficult to stay on top of bills, free budgeting tools like the one on the MoneyHelper website can help you understand what money you have coming in and going out each month, and where you might be able to cut costs.

Before you start, try to find your most recent bank statements, payslips, debit and credit card statements or bills, and receipts for things you usually pay for in cash. Make sure you include all your expenses, for example money you spend on your partner or family.

If your budget just doesn't add up and you need help to afford essentials like bills and food, you can find out how to get help with your bills as well as what cost of living support is available on the Citizens Advice website.

Please don't ignore bills or letters about money that you owe. You should collect and organise all debt-related documents

to create a comprehensive list of all your debts. It might feel overwhelming when you see everything written down - but try not to worry, the important thing is that you're taking action to sort things out.

If you're behind on household bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. Take a look at the Citizens Advice website for more information about what bills to prioritise and how to manage debts. You can then speak to the organisations you owe money to – they might let you pay smaller amounts or take a break from payments.

For other types of debt like credit cards or loans, gather all the information on what you owe, create a budget, and contact your creditors to set up an affordable repayment plan. This might seem scary, but it's an important first step.

Lots of people miss out on benefits they're entitled to, so it's worth checking what you can get on the Citizens Advice website. Claiming benefits might also let you get access to other financial help like cost of living payments and discounts on energy and transport.

**Whatever your situation, you don't have to face this alone - get in touch with us and we can help. Our advice is free and we won't judge you – most people are two to three pay packets away from crisis. Our advisers can help to check if you're eligible for any benefits or financial support, and explore all the options for dealing with your debts. Call our Message Line 01920 459944 or visit [citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk](http://citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk) for our advice options. Or you can come and see us on Mondays between 10 and 12.30 at The Manor House, High Street, Buntingford.**



No.6 Cafe, Oops! IT, Riverside Taxis, The Beauty Lounge, The Luxury Brand, Touch of Glamour.

And thank you to everyone that attended and contributed to the grand total raised (final total next month). Every penny will be put to good use to support our veterans and their families

**A**nother very successful Quiz Night, with a fish and chips supper, was enjoyed by over 100 people on 14th March, raising funds towards this years' Poppy Appeal. We are very grateful to the following Buntingford businesses, without whose generosity this would just not have been possible:

Ali's Attic, Attend to Health, Bonney's Boutique, Cheese Plate, Chris Dellar, Crazy Daisy, Crossfit, Derosa Music, Detour2 Menswear, Hairthentic, InTerm IT, Jo Morden Hair, Jonathan Hunt, Kathryn Beauty, Locks Stock & More,

You do not have to have served in the Armed Forces to become a member of the Legion. The charity is open to everyone who has an interest and it is so easy to join. Just go to [www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/membership/become-a-member](http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/membership/become-a-member) or simply Google RBL membership. Becoming a member does not mean you have to serve on any committees or do anything beyond what you already do (although we wouldn't discourage you if you wanted to get more involved.) We would just love to add you to our list of supporters. Thank you.

We will remember them .

## Westmill Art Exhibition 2026

will be taking place on Sat 30th & Sun 31st May  
in Westmill Church, SG9 9NH

If you would like to exhibit this year, please  
send your name & details to  
[alex@alexphotos.co.uk](mailto:alex@alexphotos.co.uk) or 07768 790902

# WARE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

**Barbara Norris**

[www.wareps.org.uk](http://www.wareps.org.uk)

**W**are & District Photographic Society has had further success! The Society entered the annual St.Ives Inter-Print Competition and came second this year. There are over 20 Clubs who enter this competition and it has been several years since Ware won the trophy. (See some of the 6 winning prints here).

In March a number of members will have headed into London to participate in a professionally led Street Photography day. We will have held our AGM during March and a draft programme for next season will be available. This season's programme finishes at the end of

May but we will be having our Annual BBQ in July. Interested in photography? Looking to learn, be inspired and meet like-minded local photographers? Then do get in touch - We'd love to see you.

New members and visitors are warmly welcome to come along on Wednesday evenings from 8pm - 10pm in Thundridge Village Hall. Further details are on the Club's website: [www.wareps.org.uk](http://www.wareps.org.uk)



*Family Dispute by Kathy Sharman*

*Luskentyre by Roger Walton*





*Angry Birds by Simon Jenkins*

*Ware in the mist by Simon Jenkins*



Last month members of the u3a Church Crawlers visited the Harlow Jewish Community and were very surprised to be greeted by a very colourful Lady Rabbi. She was wearing a lovely turquoise Kippot (ladies skullcap) which was colour co-ordinated with what she was wearing. She said she has many Kippots of different colours to match her clothes.

Rabbi Irit Shillor was born in Israel and moved to England when she was 30. She got married, had children and became a Rabbi. Irit's first language is Hebrew and she recently had the honour of being asked to be one of many proof readers for a new Torah Scroll.

Also present was the Rev'd Sarah Bagnall the new Assistant Curate of Aspenden, Buntingford & Westmill who works closely with Irit on inter-faith engagement and understanding.

Members enjoyed a very interesting talk by Irit, a look round an exhibition in their hall, refreshments (super pastries) and then another talk by Irit about the Torah Scrolls.



### **Forthcoming Monthly Meetings:**

**Monday 13th April** - Neil Hanson - 'Inn and Out at the Top' - humorous tales running a pub on the highest hill in Britain.

**Monday 11th May** - Sue Thiedman - 'Nepal Adventures'. Sue tells us about her

Adventures trekking through Nepal and about the people she met along the way.

*Photo 1. Rabbi Irit Shillor - u3a Group Leader  
Keith Bradfield - Rev'd Sara Bagnall (Asst Curate, Aspenden, Buntingford, Westmill)*

*Photo 2. Reading the Scroll*

**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](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford)  
- New members always welcome.**

**Paul Webster**

## Fantastic News

**W**e have found a new Musical Director. After many months of worrying that we may have to fold finally we have recruited Heather Carmel as our new MD.

As we now have a new MD we are actively looking for new members. If you are interested, we have organised a free taster session: **Monday 20th April**

At Millfield School, Monks Walk,  
Buntingford. SG9 9DT

No Auditions, no need to read music, just a love of music and singing with a friendly community choir.

Just turn up at 7:30pm

If you cannot make the taster evening but are still interested in joining the choir please contact us on this email address:  
**info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk**

## BUNTINGFORD GARDENER'S CLUB

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 1st April

**At:** The URC Hall, Baldock Road

**Doors open:** 7:45pm for 8pm start

**A** date to remember and the promise of no April Fools!  
Last month was our AGM which was well attended. Afterwards we had a seed swap and Richard, one of our members, gave an interesting talk on what to do in the garden in March. Hopefully this will be a regular event as it was very interesting and entertaining!

This month, we are pleased to have Kerrie Lloyd Dawson giving a talk entitled "How We Made Our Garden". Kerrie illustrates how she went from a blank canvass to being accepted for the National Gardener Scheme in the space of 4 years! Kerrie will also have some plants for sale, so please bring some cash along with you.

Our club is a friendly club for all gardeners: young: old: expert and beginner.

The club has monthly meetings on the 1st Wednesday of every month (no meetings in January or August). We aim to promote and encourage the



skill, knowledge and art of gardening through a wide range of activities, mainly consisting of invited speakers, demonstrations, outings and socials.

Of course, there is always time for a cuppa and chat after the main event.

This month's competition, which is optional, is to bring along a vase of spring flowers.

Annual membership costs £20 and visitors are also welcome at £4 per visit.

Come and see what goes on– there is no upfront commitment.

If you would like any more information, please contact our secretary, telephone 07757 259 689.

**W**ho would have thought that we would need someone to show us how to breathe! Harriette Wright did just that when she came along to our March meeting and took us through a Breathwork Session for women's well being. She told us that women's lung capacity is smaller than men's but that women's lungs mature faster because of oestrogen.

Harriette took us through a range of breathing exercises, to help with balance, reduce stress as well as helping us to sleep. The latter worked so well that one of our members almost nodded off! We were all given a Practice Handout sheet so that we can continue the exercises at home.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday April 9th** at 7:15pm for 7:30 start at the URC Hall (opposite Budgens). Our speaker is Gary Fisher who will be talking about the Bayeux Tapestry. Quite topical, as the Tapestry is coming to Britain on loan from France later this year and will be displayed in the British Museum. 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 271 305

## **REED GARDEN CLUB**

### **Jenny Gottfried**

**T**he next meeting is on Wednesday 8th April at Reed Village Hall from 2-4pm, entry £4.

We'll start with a few fun rounds of Beetle Drive with some Easter treats as prizes, followed by tea and coffee with homemade Easter themed cakes and biscuits.

This will be followed by a talk all about Capel Manor, given by Steve Dowbiggin OBE. Steve was the principal of Capel Manor College for a record breaking 33 years.

New faces are always welcome. You don't have to be a Reed resident and you can just turn up. There's no financial commitment as you just pay on the day. I look forward to welcoming you. Jenny (07753 267 006)

## **THE BUNTINGFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB**

### **Brian Jones**

**N**ow the days are getting warmer and spring is here, why not come and meet new friends for tea coffee and bingo.

We meet 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 272 019

# BUNTINGFORD SCHOOL OF DANCE



Zoë Eaglesfield [www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk)

Buntingford School of Dance | buntingfordschoolofdance



**T**he Spring term has seen more exams in Ballet, Tap and Modern Theatre and pupils beginning to learn the choreography for the Showcase in June. We have also welcomed many new pupils to our Baby Boppers class with Mums, Dads and Grandparents coming along to join in with their toddlers.

Our Showcase in June will see the return of some of our Alumni who will be getting their dancing shoes back on to perform a Ballet, Tap & Modern medley. Many of these former pupils attended classes with us for 10 years or more when growing up and then continued to dance either with further performing arts training, university dance societies or joining adult classes. We are really excited to welcome these pupils back.

We are delighted that the tickets for our Showcase in June will go on sale via Buntingford Live!. It is great to have the support of such a fantastic local

organisation which is providing access to the arts in and around Buntingford.

**TWO WEEK TRIAL:** For all our children's classes for 3 – 18 years we now offer a two-week trial period, contact us to book.

**PAY AS YOU GO CLASSES:** For our toddler class (Baby Boppers) and adult classes (ballet & tap), classes can be booked online for a single week, a few weeks or a full term.

**WHAT WE OFFER:** ACRO; BABY BOPPERS; BALLET; COMMERCIAL/ STREET DANCE; CONTEMPORARY; MODERN/JAZZ; TAP

**WHY DANCE?** Dance is great for improving flexibility, core strength, posture, coordination as well as giving you a mental work out learning and remembering steps. Dance is also good for your social and emotional well-being; reducing stress and boosting self-esteem. It's a great way to meet new people with a shared interest.

If you wish to register with us to trial/join classes or book one of our pay as you go classes, please use the QR code above to take you to the CONTACT page of our website or email [admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk](mailto:admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk) for more information.

# MELODIES SCHOOL OF MUSIC

## Hitting the Right Note at Melodies

**M**elodies School of Music is celebrating its sixth year in Buntingford, providing high-quality music tuition to the local community and surrounding areas.

Founded and directed by Jon Bartlett, Melodies has grown into a vibrant creative hub for musicians of all ages. With over 25 years' experience working with young people and aspiring performers, Jon has dedicated his career to helping students develop their musical ability, confidence and creativity. Many students come to Melodies not only to learn but also to explore the wider possibilities within music, from performance to composition and production.

Most of all, Melodies is all about fun and the students enjoying their musical journey. In addition to the regular weekly sessions, workshops held during the school holidays include vocal training, creative songwriting, music composition & production. These sessions are designed to give local young talent the opportunity to deepen their skills, collaborate with others and experience the creative process in a professional studio environment.

Melodies continues to work closely with several local schools and colleges, offering meaningful work experience placements for students interested in music and the creative arts. The school also actively supports students using music as a skill for their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Later in the year Melodies will host its annual showcase, giving students the opportunity to perform live



and celebrate their achievements with family, friends and the wider community.

Parents and students are invited to book a free taster session with one of our dedicated teaching team.

Programmes include piano and keyboards (rock, jazz and classical), voice training (rock, pop and musical theatre), music production and sound design, composition for GCSE and A Level, and guitar and bass.

## MELODIES SCHOOL OF MUSIC

- ♪ Piano & Keyboards: Rock Jazz & Classical
- ♪ Voice training : Rock Pop & Musical Theatre.
- ♪ Music Production & Sound Design.
- ♪ Composition: GCSE & A Level
- ♪ Guitar & Bass : Rock & Pop.



Book a **FREE** taster session for any of the above!  
✉ Email [Jon@melodiesschoolofmusic.com](mailto:Jon@melodiesschoolofmusic.com)



# STANDON & PUCKERIDGE TENNIS CLUB

**Diana Foster**

[www.standon-ltc.co.uk](http://www.standon-ltc.co.uk)

**W**e 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 £5 for under 16's. We even have availability at weekends. Contact Sally Bradshaw on 01920 821 152.

Times available during school terms:

Monday	9am to 2:30pm
Tuesday	9am to 5pm
Wednesday	12 to 2:30pm
Thursday	9am to 6pm
Friday	9am to 12:45pm
Saturday	9am to 6pm
Sunday	12 to 6pm

More times are available during school holidays.

Please note Saturday and Sunday are only available if there is not a match.

**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 355 655 or email him at [clifforddevonshire@hotmail.com](mailto: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:** In the summer we have two Men's Teams in Hertfordshire Hot Rackets and a Ladies Team and Mixed in the Essex Small Clubs League and Junior Teams in the Herts Junior Leagues.

Contact Cliff Devonshire, 07709 355 655, for information on the Men's and Junior teams and Diana Foster, 07778 031 430, for the Mixed and Ladies teams.

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

Facebook: [standonpuckeridgeltc](https://www.facebook.com/standonpuckeridgeltc) or check out our website: [standon-ltc.co.uk](http://standon-ltc.co.uk)

**BUNTINGFORD SHORTS** Supporting Young Film Makers in Hertfordshire and Beyond

**Saturday 11th April 2026**  
19:30 - 21:30

**Youth Film Showcase**  
Watch seven short films followed by Q&A with directors

**FREE ENTRY**  
NO TICKET REQUIRED

Christ Church URC  
Opposite Budgens, Baldock Road

[f](https://www.facebook.com/buntingfordshorts) [i](https://www.instagram.com/buntingfordshorts)  
@buntingfordshorts

**NUTWOOD** **THE WOODMAN INN** **yellow** **Buntingford Cinema**

# HOW MANY MEN DOES IT TAKE TO MEND A TAP? \*

## - Val Hume

We had a little plumbing job – nothing major, thank the Lord;  
It shouldn't take too long to fix and luckily we're insured.

The plumber turned up promptly and was a very pleasant chap.  
He went outside to turn the water off but found a broken tap.

He said 'You need to call Veolia, mending taps is what they do.'  
Veolia said: 'In about 10 days we'll get a man to you.'

A fortnight later a white van turned up, a man got out and then  
He sprayed a blue ring on the pavement and off he drove again.

Ten days later another van with a trailer and two men  
They dug a hole, repaired the tap, then they drove off again.

Next day a big white lorry came with two different men, I guess.  
They got to work and filled the hole then swept up all the mess.

Two more lorries then turned up with tarmac, tools and spade.  
Two men spread tarmac on the hole and soon it was neatly laid.

They then drove off, the work all done – hooray give me high five.  
But wait, they've left their barrier – it was sitting on our drive.

Then yet another lorry came and a different man got out  
He stood a notice on the tarmac patch – what was this all about?

He then got out a camera and took a photo of the site.  
He picked up the barrier and notice and drove off into the night!

*\* Answer: 9 men including our plumber, 2 vans, a trailer and 4 lorries.*



## Good listener? Empathetic? Reliable? Your strengths could change lives....



### Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire are looking for people to join the Board of Trustees

Home-Start Trustees help guide our charity and support local families through challenging times. You don't need board experience, just a commitment to doing what's right and a desire to make a difference in your community.

#### ► What's involved?

Around 8 - 10 hours a month including 5 board meetings  
Helping to shape strategy and support good governance  
Championing kindness, inclusion and family support  
Bringing your lived experience, ideas and experience

#### ► What you bring?

A warm, people-centred approach  
Willingness to listen, learn and support  
Reliability and curiosity  
A passion for helping families thrive

**Interested?** Find out more: [www.hspsc.org.uk/become-a-trustee](http://www.hspsc.org.uk/become-a-trustee)

**Let's talk** Or contact us on 01763 262262 to arrange an informal chat with one of our team

**HOME  
START**  
Royston, Buntingford &  
South Cambridgeshire  
Registered Charity No. 1100300



**WARD FREMAN**

COMMUNITY POOL  
GROUP

**Frazer Willett**

[fwillett@wardfremanpool.org](mailto:fwillett@wardfremanpool.org)

[www.wardfremanpool.org](http://www.wardfremanpool.org)

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

**B**y the time you read this our charity should be the owners of the pool and work will have begun on the refurbishment.

As we have said from the outset though, this is just the first stage in our vision to create a modern and welcoming facility for us all to enjoy. Fundraising will and must continue. We have been subject to New Year price rises which have eaten into our budgeted contingency. This then brings me to an immediate need we had not originally planned for.

The pool was built as an addition to the Ward Freman School in the 1970s and as such the water supply is inextricably linked to the school's supply. We had thought that the supply to the pool could be metered at the point it divides, but this proved to not be possible. We are therefore obliged to establish an independent connection to the water main. We have applied to Affinity Water for this new connection and have been given a rough estimate of the cost being up to £10,000 depending on the work required. That will only bring water to the boundary and we will then need to connect the Affinity pipe to the plant room.

It's an old joke, asking for donations to open a swimming pool and being offered a bucket of water, but building on the success of our campaign for the tile repairs, we have created a new Crowdfunder project for that very thing, to source water for the pool. Please follow this link and donate if you can [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/ward-freman-water](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/ward-freman-water)

**The AGM of the Charity will take place on 14th April at 8pm**, ideally at the pool or at Freman College who have offered the use of a room to us, assuming the pool as a building site, would be unsuitable!

Look out for our stall at the village fayres this summer including the Braughing Wheelbarrow Race where we will be selling preloved books as well as our shopping bags and insulated cups. Come and say hello and we can have a chat about progress and how you can sign up for membership or swimming lessons as we prepare the timetable.

Once again, your involvement will make a real difference to bringing this project to life so please get in touch if you feel you can help in any way.

*Frazer Willett.*

## **BOOK SALE IN REED**

**A** very good quality second hand Book Sale will be held in Reed Church on **Friday 8th and Saturday 9th May.**

The Church will be open from 10am - 4pm on both days. Proceeds to St Mary's Church, Reed.

Light refreshments provided.

All very welcome

# BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Carol Emery

buntingfordlocalhistorygroup@hotmail.com

Following on from last month's article when we looked at the long overdue fresh water supply to Buntingford, this month we looked at the Isolation Hospital.

Disease was rife in towns, villages and cities all over the country in the 1700's and 1800's due mainly to the poor sanitation and water supply.

Many of the illnesses were contracted from drinking contaminated water, and the Medical Officer for Health Dr Turner, appointed by the government would visit people diagnosed with a notifiable disease which if not kept in check would spread quite rapidly. On the 12th August 1897 Dr Turner sent a report to Buntingford Rural District Council. He stated that he had visited Mr Gatward and family at Owls Cottage and found the family all ill. It transpired that they drew their water from Mr Saggars well which when tested contained vegetable matter and sand rendering it unsuitable to drink unless filtering it and then boiling it. Mr Saggars a local builder had installed new drains and a WC but this obviously didn't cure the problem. He also went on to say that a case of scarlet fever had been reported at Buckland Hill Farm but when he visited the patient was downstairs with the rest of the family. He told the father to isolate the patient, a child, and keep them away from the rest of the family.

Dr Turner said that Buntingford needed its own isolation hospital as a matter of urgency, the council needed to buy or rent a suitable cottage to be used as an isolation hospital. At almost every council meeting Dr Turner reported on further cases of diphtheria, typhoid, dysentery and scarlet fever all notifiable illnesses, which in many cases would kill the patient.

On the 28th July 1898 Dr Turner again wrote to the council about a family in Hare Street, on his visit he found 2 adults seriously ill upstairs with diphtheria and the mother and 3 children downstairs, 2 of the children also had diphtheria. He had trouble finding a nurse to help the mother who was unable to manage all the patients but the 2 adults died before a nurse could be found. There was no one to help the nurse with the dead bodies. Mr Thody was told to have the bodies buried at once and to destroy all the clothes and bedding they had been in contact with. The children recovered but their father Mr Bull asked for compensation of £9 10s 6d for the bedding he had burnt on the orders of Mr Thody, he received £4 10s. Dr Turner said that there was an old iron hospital at Hertford up for sale and it would be a good idea for the council to buy this and erect it on some suitable land to act as an isolation hospital.

The clerk to the council was told to write forthwith to Hertford and Ware joint hospital board to find out more about the building and the price. A committee comprising of Mr Porter, Major Anderson, Mr Coleman, Mr Johnson and Mr Postle were tasked to find a suitable piece of land for the hospital. A reply was received stating the iron building was £50 and consisted of 2 wards of 20ft square, a nurse's room and store. It came with a roof, 2 doors and 6 windows and was stored at Gallows Point in Hertford. The councillors agreed to purchase the building but asked if it could remain at Gallows Point until they had found a location to erect it.

Several land owners were approached to sell land, but all refused. In the end Mr

Postle acquired a field called Stonecroft, about 8 acres from Mr Thomas Maxwell at Rifford's Hill, in the parish of Aspenden. The cost was £99 but he also had to pay Mrs Fanny Crouch £7 to give up the lease she had on 1 acre of the land.

In March 1899 Mr Thody was told to get estimates to erect the building with him overseeing the work. Mr Thody drew up plans showing the building would have a brick foundation with the iron sheeting erected off that.

3 estimates were received:

Mr John Henry Alderton, Walkern:  
£141 7s 0d

Mr Herbert Beamiss Cottered:  
£139 10s 0d

Mr George Saggars, Buntingford:  
£135 0s 0d

Mr Saggars was awarded the contract but had to finish the work by the 15th July 1899.

A well was sunk by Mr James Savage for £5 2s 6d to supply clean fresh water.

On the 1st June 1899 a letter was received from the Government Board saying that in their opinion a second-hand iron building wasn't suitable and even if it was new they would refuse a loan to buy and build it.

Mr Postle sent a letter to the government saying he had looked at the building along with a builder from Ware and they considered the iron was only suitable for sheds and outbuildings. He considered the main building should be made in brickwork although this would be at a considerable cost. He offered to go to Whitehall to meet with a minister to discuss this proposal and try to encourage them to give the council a loan.

The clerk to the council was told to write back to the government and say they purchased the iron building on the recommendation of their medical health Officer. Mr Thody was told to start work straight away.

Work progressed quickly and the committee authorised extra works to be done to improve the hospital.

In the end the buildings were insured for £600, although I can't work out where all the extra materials came from as the original second-hand building only had 2x 20ft square wards with a nurse's room and store.

Building 1. Actual hospital 70ft x 20ft divided into 2 wards heated by a stove in each.

Building 2. Used as an administration block, 40ft x 20ft heated by a Kitchener stove and boiler.

Outbuildings. Iron built coal and woodshed and an iron and brick-built mortuary.

By January 1900 George Francis and his wife had been given the job as temporary caretakers of the building at a weekly wage of 5/- and an allowance of coal, coke and paraffin. Mr Thody was dispatched to Bishops Stortford isolation hospital to find out how they ran theirs. He reported back that they paid a husband and wife 10/- a week when the hospital was empty rising to 17/6d when they had patients. When they had no patient's, the husband was allowed to get employment elsewhere but the hospital must be kept ready at all times, being clean, and aired. Their duties included, cooking meals for patients and nurses, empty the earth closets, do the washing and disinfect the hospital as needed. They also had an ambulance to transport patients to the hospital, this cost £80.

## BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP CONT...

Mr Thody suggested they pay a husband and wife 15/- a week, be allowed fuel and vegetables they could grow in the grounds of the hospital. When the hospital had patient's, they would also get a food allowance. The man would be expected to work at the sewerage farm and on the public drains and highways whilst the hospital was empty. He recommended they purchase a Brougham instead of an ambulance.

They managed to get a Brougham for £8 and built an iron shed to store it in.

An advert was placed in the Herts and Cambs Reporter in June 1900 for a husband and wife to run the hospital. There was only one applicant, James White and his wife and they were hired after being interviewed by the councillors. So, on the 9th August they moved into the accommodation and the hospital opened.

The hospital took in patients and everything was running smoothly but in 1912 the county council said the hospital was too small, they could only accommodate 4 patients, 2 in each ward and they could only manage one



illness at a time and things were very cramped. Saying that Hitchin, Stevenage, and Baldock councils had no isolation accommodation, so Buntingford were in a better position. Following an outbreak of scarlet fever in 1913 a second ward split into male and female was added allowing them to cope with 2 infections at a time.

When Buntingford's fresh water supply arrived in 1907 cases of dysentery and diarrhoea reduced but scarlet fever and diphtheria continued. It wasn't until the 1940's that mass vaccination for diphtheria began.



*This picture from Buntingford in old photos Facebook page shows the hospital and the Brougham with George Aylott driving, Mr Thody sitting next to him, the nurse is in the carriage and Jack the caretaker is waiting for them.*

**EPIDEMIC.** — We are pleased to learn that there have been no further cases of diphtheria, which epidemic originated in Buntingford during Christmas week. The ten patients are undergoing treatment at the Isolation Hospital, and there is every hope that the epidemic has now been stemmed. In reporting the facts to the District Council, their Surveyor (Mr. E. G. Thody) said the nurse and patients heartily appreciated the thoughtfulness of a local gentleman in sending a gramophone and records for use at the Hospital throughout Christmas.

In 1931 this report from the Buntingford Gazette talks about an outbreak of diphtheria during Christmas week. The patients had come from St Francis school, and extra help was needed to cope with the laundry, cleaning etc.

It was very scary for children to be isolated from their families but the medical officer said that parents could wave at the children through the windows, and often local tradesmen would send sweets and fruit for the children.



*This picture shows the property they lived in.*

*This is the chalet bungalow that Tony built on the land.*

*It has now been demolished and all that remains is 3 piles of rubble. There is planning permission for a very fancy property to be built on the land the asking price at one stage was £7,000,000.*

The hospital closed in December 1934 and it was offered for sale but the council didn't receive a decent offer so it went to auction and sold for £400.

What happened after that is a bit of a mystery but thanks to one of our member's we have found out that at some stage the land and possibly the old hospital was bought by Alfred and Ivy Ellis. They lived there for some years and their son Tony built a chalet bungalow adjacent to the house he lived in with his parents. In November 1991 he and his father cleaned out the solid fuel boiler in the kitchen and whilst Tony was out shopping his mother and father were overcome with carbon monoxide fumes and died. The flue in the boiler had become blocked and the room had filled with the fumes.



Our next meeting is on the **14th April** at 2pm in the United Reformed Church Hall. Everyone is welcome its £2 per person which includes tea or coffee. The talk will be on the remaining utilities.

1984 - 2024



Anjuli Cooper

www.rats-animalrescue.co.uk

Celebrating 40 Years of Animal Rescue

There's been plenty going on at RATS Animal Rescue this month, from the busy kennels to our thriving Biggleswade shop, and, of course, the incredible journeys of some of our animals.

One pup who has captured everyone's hearts is Roo, a brave and extraordinary one-year-old dog whose story is nothing short of inspiring. She recently overcame pneumonia, which was caught early and treated successfully, and she's now enjoying short walks and plenty of rest. Roo's journey hasn't been easy — when she was found at just three months old, she was tiny, malnourished, and all alone on the streets. An emergency vet visit revealed a rare condition called Megaesophagus, which means her oesophagus cannot push food down properly. Roo must be fed upright and remain upright for 20 minutes after every meal, and her water must be thickened or turned into jelly.

Despite these challenges, Roo has shown incredible resilience. Her ongoing veterinary treatment, specialist medication, and daily care all come at a cost, and support from donors helps ensure Roo can continue to live a happy and healthy life. Every donation, no matter the size, goes directly towards her care and the care of other animals in need: [www.justgiving.com/page/pleasehelproo?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=CL&utm\\_campaign=020](http://www.justgiving.com/page/pleasehelproo?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=020)

Life at the kennels has been lively too. Andy, King of Kennels, shares: "Lovely sunny mornings mean Twigs and I get to enjoy good walks with Shadow — a nice



change from paddling through muddy fields. The latest new inmate making the biggest impact is Hagrid, a big, sappy pup who thinks he's smaller than he is. He loves affection and, given half a chance, will sit right on top of you!"

Meanwhile, our Biggleswade shop is bursting at the seams, but still offers fantastic bargains, including dog harnesses, food bowls, grooming accessories, and toys. Donations of clothing, bric-a-brac, electrical goods, bubble wrap, and carrier bags are always welcome during shop hours. The shop is located at 1b Market Square, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire SG18 8AP.

Through the kennels, the shop, and the inspiring stories of animals like Roo, it's clear that RATS continues to make a real difference. Our volunteers, supporters, and the animals themselves are at the heart of everything we do. Every bit of help ensures we can continue this vital work and give these animals the care, love, and second chances they deserve.



BUNTINGFORD ACTION  
FOR SOCIAL HELP

**Volunteer Hospital  
Driver Service**

Helping local people since 1973

## Volunteer Drivers Needed

Do you have a car and a little spare time?

Could you help someone in your community get to an important appointment?

Buntingford Action for Social Help (BASH) is looking for friendly volunteer drivers to provide transport for local residents attending medical appointments.

### Why Volunteer with BASH?

- » Drive when it suits you
- » Local journeys
- » Meet and help people in your community
- » Make a real difference to someone's day
- » £ Expenses reimbursed

### What the Service Provides

- » Transport for patients registered at Buntingford Medical Centre
- » Patients driven to a range of medical appointments
- » A reliable, caring community service

### Our Impact

- » 376 journeys provided last year
- » 10–12 trips per week on average
- » 13 trips in our busiest week
- » Quietest week: 6–7 trips in our quietest week
- » 11,180 miles driven in 2025

### Who Can Use the Service?

Patients registered at Buntingford Medical Centre

## FAQs

### What happens after I join the volunteer group?

You will get a call from our Drivers' coordinator asking if you are available for a specific date and time that has been requested by a client

### How often would I be expected to drive?

BASH drivers do 2 or 3 drives per month, but some only do occasionally – any help is welcome!

### Can I say "no"?

Of course! BASH drivers only take on a drive if they can spare the time.

### What costs will I incur?

All drivers are re-imbursed for petrol – currently 45p per mile

### Is the service free?

No, the client pays a fee which the driver collects in cash – for example, Lister hospital is £10

### What about insurance?

BASH has public liability insurance, and you just need to have fully comprehensive car insurance and phone your own insurer to inform them. There is usually no issue and no cost involved, and it is easy to do! You shouldn't need Business insurance – just Social, Domestic and Pleasure and possibly Commuting (depending on your insurer)

### Interested in Volunteering?

If you enjoy helping others and don't mind getting behind the wheel, we'd love to hear from you.

**Contact:** Karen Share (BASH Secretary)  
buntingfordbash@gmail.com

# THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)

**Ken McDonald**, Secretary



**H**orses were once very important in everyday life. This changed quickly with the advent of tractors, trucks and the motor car.

Horses were used extensively in agriculture; they also hauled delivery carts and buses and everything in between. Some of us may remember the horse-drawn milk float or the coalman and rag-and-bone man. There were blacksmiths, smithies and forges in most towns and villages.

We still have blacksmiths who work in metal, making gates, weather vanes, tools and farm implements, as well as shoeing horses. A farrier is a specialist in equine hoof care.

Whilst blacksmiths and farriers are quite rare today, there are reminders of this aspect of our heritage around The Hundred Parishes, for example in the names Forge Green at Hildersham, Anvil Cross in Great Hallingbury and Smith's End Lane in Barley. The area has five pubs called The Three Horseshoes – a name which probably came about because they had a nearby farrier, ready to deal with a customer who arrived with a horse that had lost a shoe.

Today, dwellings with names like The Old Forge or Anvil House often reveal their earlier lives.

Much Hadham Forge is still in use, part of Much Hadham Forge Museum. The museum usually opens Friday to Sunday, April to December, 11am to 5pm. It is housed in a series of listed buildings, dating from the 15th to 19th centuries. The forge itself dates from the 17th century; today's blacksmith runs forge experience days.

Ashdon once had three blacksmiths in the village. Now, one of Ashdon Museum's excellent displays is a representation of a blacksmith's shop with all the tools and equipment that he would have used. The museum is open April to October from 2pm to 5pm on Sundays and bank holidays and is well worth a visit.





*Bartlow – The Forge*



*Barkway – Old Forge*



*Much Hadham – Forge Museum*



*Braughing – Old Forge*



*Matching Green – Forge Cottage*



United Benefice of  
Aspenden, Buntingford  
and Westmill

# UNITED BENEFICE OF ASPENDEN, BUNTINGFORD & WESTMILL

Reverend Kirsty Wainwright



## OUR SERVICES FOR APRIL 2026

Wednesday 1st April	7pm	Taizé	St Mary's Aspenden
Thursday 2nd April	7pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
Good Friday	10am	Walk of Witness	Churches Together
Friday 3rd April	11am	Stations of the Cross	St Peter's, Buntingford
	2pm	Hour at the Cross	St Mary's, Aspenden
Easter Sunday 5th April	6am	Sun Rise Service followed by Holy Communion Service	St Mary's, Aspenden
	9:30am	All Age Holy Communion	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	11am	All Age Holy Communion	St Peter's Buntingford
Sunday 12th April	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary's Aspenden
	11am	All Age Worship	St Peter's Buntingford
Sunday 19th April		No Service	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Aspenden
	11am	Holy Communion	St Peter's Buntingford
Sunday 26th April	9:30am	Sug Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
		No Service	St Mary's Aspenden
	11am	Morning Worship	St Peter's Buntingford
Sunday 3rd May	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's Aspenden
	11am	Holy Communion	St Peter's Buntingford

# REGULAR EVENTS AT OUR CHURCHES



## Little Lambs at St Mary the Virgin Westmill

Every Wednesday in term time 10-11:30am for pre-school children and their grown-ups. Songs, a bible story and prayer along with activities and playtime. A very informal social and worship occasion for pre-school children and their carers. There is a short service with songs and prayer followed by a story and activities for the children including toys.



## Morning Prayer

9am Every Tuesday at **St Peter's Buntingford**, **Wednesday at St Mary the Virgin Westmill** and **Thursday at St Mary's Aspenden** 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. Please contact us for the link.



## Monday Morning Coffee is back at St Peter's Church.

Held every Monday (except bank holidays) A chance to meet up with old friends and meet new ones. All ages welcome.

*He is not here*  
FOR HE IS RISEN

## Easter Day Services

All Age with Holy Communion

9:30am St Mary the Virgin Westmill

11am St Peter's Buntingford

Services will be followed by an Easter Egg Hunt

# plant sale

## Saturday 2nd May

### 9:30am - 12pm

### on behalf of

## St Mary's Aspenden

### outside St Peter's Church

Proceeds will support ministry in  
The Benefice for Aspenden, Buntingford and Westmill

## CONTACT DETAILS

website: [www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/32-012BK/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/32-012BK/)

email: [unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com](mailto: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)

St Mary's Church Aspenden Website



St Mary the Virgin Church Westmill - Website



St Peter's Church Buntingford Website





The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

## CHRIST CHURCH

Baldock Road, Buntingford. SG9 9AA

[www.buntingfordurc.org.uk](http://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

3	Good Friday	Rev Sue Fender
5	Easter Day	Rev Sue Fender
12	Morning Worship	Rev Allen Morton
19	Morning Worship	Richard Lewney
26	Morning Worship	Rev Sue Fender

May

3	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender
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## REGULAR EVENT

### COFFEE & COMPANY

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

## FRIENDS OF REED CHURCH

Friends of Reed Church present a Murder Mystery Play with the Barkway Players on **Saturday 2nd May at 7pm for 7.30pm.** Join us for an evening of mystery, sleuth and cunning. Enjoy a Ploughman's Supper

and Licenced Bar whilst having the opportunity to solve a shocking crime!!

Admission £20 per person. To book please contact Liz - 07596 597 042 or [elizabethjakeman@live.co.uk](mailto:elizabethjakeman@live.co.uk)

PHOENIX MOON PRODUCTIONS

PRESENTS

12A

**MURDER AT  
RAMAR MANSION**

**THE PREQUEL TO  
THE HOUSE OF GEORGE  
THAT NOBODY ASKED FOR**

**THURSDAY 30 APRIL  
FRIDY 1ST MAY  
SATURDAY 2ND MAY  
7.30PM**

**THUNDRIDGE VILLAGE HALL  
ERMINE STREET  
WARE, HERTS  
SG12 0SY**

**TICKETS £9.50**

<https://phoenixmoonproductions.co.uk>  
[enquiries@phoenixmoonproductions.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@phoenixmoonproductions.co.uk)



**FOR TICKETS, SCAN THE CODE**





## Hertfordshire's popular country show, Barkway Market, will return on Saturday 9 May 2026



If you're looking to spend a day in the country to enjoy a quintessential day out in an idyllic setting, Barkway Market on **Saturday 9 May**, is for you.

One of Hertfordshire's popular country shows, Barkway Market is held within the beautiful grounds of Manor Farm, one of the village's oldest houses, alongside a craft fair in the neighbouring Church. Manor Farm will once again be opening its formal gardens for visitors to enjoy this year.

The event, which is held in Barkway, is part of the old London to Cambridge coaching route, and is expected to attract over 4,000 visitors. The event dates back to medieval times in 1270. It was re-established in 1977 as a 'Street Market' when residents Molly Bruce, Mr Fidler and others wanted to raise money for a village party to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

Barkway's Grade II Listed 'Carriage Wash', which can be found close to Manor Farm, is a monument to the coaching village's past, and was added to Historic England's National Heritage List in 2024.

The annual Market is organised by a team of volunteers on behalf of Barkway Village Hall, which is a registered charity and hosts many of Barkway's community groups. All proceeds go towards local good causes and in 2025, over £25,000 was raised for charitable benefit.

The Market is also an opportunity for local organisations to raise funds including the Barkway Church, The 7th Royston Barkway Scout Group, and Barkway School.

At this year's event, there will be over 180 stalls selling unique items ranging from ranging from antiques to bric-a-brac, artisan food & drink to homewares, garden wares to plants, clothing to jewellery, curiosities and more besides.

Entertainment will also be provided for all the family. Catering will include homemade sweet and savoury delights from Barkway Church as well as a food court with a licenced bar, fresh coffee and delicious food from local food vendors to satisfy all appetites. And ice cream too!

There will be a small entrance fee of £5 for adult visitors (there is no charge for children 16 and under) and a suggested donation of £2 for car parking, which goes directly to Barkway Scouts who marshall the car park. Parking is provided for in adjoining fields.

For more details about the Market, please visit **[www.barkwaymarket.org](http://www.barkwaymarket.org)** or follow them on Facebook @barkwayvillagemarket or Instagram @barkwaymarket.

Some stalls are still available, but are selling out fast – a link can be accessed via the website or for information, please contact **[bookings@barkwaymarket.org](mailto:bookings@barkwaymarket.org)**

Residents recently joined Chiropractors Louise and Sam from Attend2Health for an engaging and informative talk on Understanding Low Back Pain. Held on 17th February, the session was very well received, with attendees appreciating the clear explanations, practical demonstrations, and reassuring advice on how to better understand and manage back discomfort.

Louise and Sam explored why low back pain is so common, how lifestyle factors contribute, and what simple changes can make a meaningful difference. They also answered questions from the audience, offering guidance on posture, movement, and when to seek professional support. Attend2Health plans to run more community talks throughout the year, and the team welcomes suggestions for future topics.

With spring finally showing its face after weeks of rain, many people are heading back into the garden. Gardening is a wonderful way to stay active, but it can place unexpected strain on the back if we're not careful. Treating gardening like any other physical activity—warming up, pacing yourself, and using good technique—can help prevent aches and pains.

## Top 10 Tips to Protect Your Back While Gardening

**Warm up before you start** — Gentle mobility exercises for your hips, shoulders, and spine prepare your body for bending and lifting.

**Use smaller loads** — Choose smaller bags of compost or divide heavy materials into lighter portions to reduce strain.

**Avoid prolonged bending** — Repeated forward bending can aggravate the lower back; try kneeling on a cushion or using long handled tools.



**Take regular breaks** — Stand up, stretch, and walk around every 20–30 minutes to reset your posture.

**Switch tasks often** — Alternate between digging, pruning, and planting to avoid overworking one area of the body.

**Keep tools close** — Reaching and twisting can irritate the back; keep frequently used tools within easy reach.

**Lift with care** — Bend your knees, keep the load close to your body, and avoid twisting while carrying.

**Use raised beds if possible** — They reduce the need for deep bending and make gardening more comfortable.

**Stay hydrated and don't rush** — Fatigue increases the risk of poor technique & injury.

**Listen to your body** — A little stiffness is normal, but sharp or persistent pain is a sign to stop and rest.

## Supporting Our Community

Attend2Health continues to be committed to helping local residents stay active, informed, and confident in managing their health. The team is always happy to offer advice, whether you're dealing with back pain, returning to exercise, or simply wanting to move better. Book a free chat today by calling 01763 87 80 87.



# MILLFIELD FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL

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

**Laura Kennedy-Weeks**, Headteacher

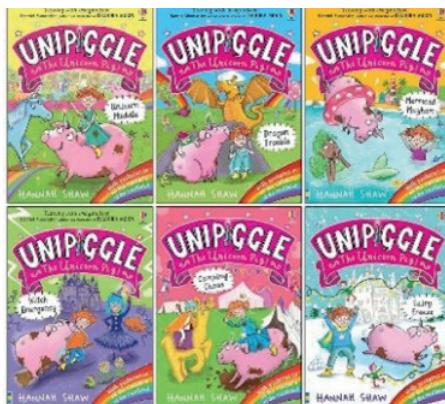
As the first signs of Spring begin to brighten our days, Millfield has been buzzing with more excitement than ever. The past few months have been incredibly busy, with children and staff jumping into projects, events and opportunities that showcase learning. With so much happening, we're delighted to share just a few of the highlights that have made this Spring so special.

## World Book Day Celebrations

To celebrate World Book Day this year we had an action-packed week. On the day, the children came to school dressed in their pyjamas and brought their favourite bedtime story. It was lovely to see the children reading to one another and enjoying books together. As part of the day, the children also created a dish inspired by their secret book. They had lots of fun thinking carefully about how to represent their story through food.

We were also delighted to welcome Buntingford Librarians to Millfield, where they inspired our children through a wonderful exploration of books. Children had the chance to dive into a wide variety of texts, discovering new genres, authors and illustration styles. They also took part in creative activities, including designing their own front covers and imagining what their own stories might look like. A huge thank you to Buntingford Library for providing such a memorable and engaging experience for our children.

We were also fortunate to welcome author Hannah Shaw for a truly inspiring author visit!



Hannah led engaging workshops and wonderful storytelling sessions for all year groups, capturing everyone's imagination from start to finish. The children loved hearing about her creative journey and discovering more about her fantastic Unipiggle series.

Thank you, Hannah, for such a memorable day filled with creativity, laughter and a real love of reading. We are so grateful for the time and energy you shared with our school community!



To finish the week on a high, Millfield staff took to the stage to perform a lively pantomime, bringing the traditional story

of Jack and the Beanstalk to life. The children absolutely loved seeing their teachers in such playful and unexpected roles, and the performance was met with plenty of laughter. It was a wonderfully entertaining end to a very busy week!

### **Year 4 Hazard Alley Trip**

On Monday 16th March, 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.



### **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!

### **Supporting Red Nose Day**

This year, our school community once again came together to proudly support

Red Nose Day. From wearing something red to taking part in fun activities and making donations, everyone played a part in raising awareness and contributing to the brilliant work that Red Nose Day supports. We are incredibly proud of the caring spirit within our school and grateful to every member of our community who helped make the day such a success.

### **Easter Friendship Ladders**

This term's Friendship Ladder Day celebrated the theme 'Spring Arts and Crafts.' Children mixed across year groups to work together on a range of spring-themed creative activities. Children shared ideas, supported one another and created colourful artwork inspired by the season, including flowers, trees and Spring scenes. It was lovely to see children of different ages working together, building friendships and enjoying their creativity.



### **PTA Easter Egg Hunt**

A big thank you to the Millfield PTA for their commitment to our school. An Easter Egg Hunt was held during the school day, the children thoroughly enjoyed searching for eggs and being rewarded with an Easter treat!

If you would like to know more about our School, please visit our website [www.millfield.herts.sch.uk](http://www.millfield.herts.sch.uk) or contact the School on 01763 271 717.

# BUNTINGFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Louise Hampton** Chair of The Buntingford Chamber of Commerce

## The Early Years of the Buntingford Chamber of Commerce

The Buntingford Chamber of Commerce began on Thursday 3rd March 1955, when a determined group of local traders gathered for the inaugural meeting of what was then known as the Buntingford Branch of the Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

The list of those present paints a vivid picture of Buntingford's thriving mid-century High Street. Among them were Mr Bonner of Moss Bros; Mr Hope of Dupont's; Mr Neville and Mr Borsberry, ironmongers; Mr Howlett, butcher; Mr Tottman, grocer; Mr Jarvis, shoe repairer; Mr Castle of Castle & Mays Builders; Mr Smith from the garage; Mr Cooper, cinema proprietor; Mr Greensmith, chemist; Mrs Bailey of WH Lee Auctioneers; Mr and Mrs Taylor, drapers; Mrs Burrell, stationer; Mrs Thody, greengrocer; and many more besides.

The annual subscription was set at one guinea (£1.1.0), rules were agreed, and a formal structure was put in place — including a President (honorary), an Executive Committee, strict quorum requirements, and even a clause that the organisation would dissolve if membership fell below twelve.

From the outset, the Chamber was not shy about making its voice heard.

Within months it had sent a strongly worded telegram to Duncan Sandys, then Minister of Housing and Local Government, protesting against proposed increases in the rate burden on shopkeepers — at a cost of 14 shillings and sixpence for two identical telegrams. There were concerns about local schools bypassing town traders for school

uniforms, objections to inadequate High Street lighting, frustration about parking, and action taken to ensure the Playing Field grass was cut.

The mid-1950s were not without their challenges. Petrol rationing was still in force in 1957, affecting bus services to Hertford and Royston. There were complaints about poor telephone connections, debates about planning proposals, and strong views on matters ranging from kerb stones to the sacking of Water Department employees following contracting changes.

Attendance at meetings typically ranged from 12 to 19 members. In April 1962, when just six out of 61 invited people attended a meeting regarding a new sewage disposal plant, the minutes described it as "paralytic apathy in this town."

Yet, despite frustrations, there was remarkable energy and civic pride.

The Chamber organised Carnival Weeks, treasure hunts, bingo sessions and shop window competitions. In 1962, their Carnival float carried the defiant theme: "Buntingford is no ghost town." Financial success was variable — one year's Carnival made a modest profit of £1.16s.7d before a donation to the Football Club resulted in an overall loss — but the minutes wisely concluded that "financial success was not all-important" compared with the advertising and interest generated and this is something the Chamber does to this day with Late Night Shopping just covering its costs.

By 1961 the organisation simplified its name to Buntingford Chamber of Trade, dropping "Commerce". Its main preoccupations at that time included

what was described as the “deplorable state of the High Street” and insufficient trade refuse collection. There were calls for Christmas tree lights by the almshouses, proposals for parking solutions on Market Hill and Baldock Road, and discussions about introducing light industry into the town to secure its economic future.

The Chamber also campaigned for practical improvements: reinstating the 7am bus to Hertford (a rare recorded success), establishing 20-minute High Street parking to curb speeding, and lobbying for a pedestrian crossing — although the latter was refused by police.

Through the late 1950s and early 1960s, the town wrestled with rumours of railway closure, debates over housing expansion, and population decline in the Braughing Rural District — at the time the only district in Hertfordshire to show a loss in the census. Meanwhile, local businesses continued to adapt and advocate, even challenging adverse press coverage and choosing where to place their advertising accordingly.

Carnivals became a fixture of civic life, often in partnership with the Football Club, and the Chamber adopted promotional campaigns such as “Buntingford is a friendly place”, investing in shop window signage to draw visitors in.

Over the decades, names came and went from the High Street — Trudgett’s, The Key Shop, Buntingford Mowers, Neil’s Bookshop, Chadwell Tools, The Old Swan Tea Shop, Morash Crafts, The Spinning Wheel, Trencrom, Webb’s — but the underlying purpose of the Chamber remained consistent.

Indeed, the Objects and Membership agreed in March 1955 were recorded as being unchanged in the 1988 Constitution — a testament to the enduring vision of those founding traders.

Looking back at those early minutes, what stands out is not just the detail — the shillings and guineas, the telegram costs, the spirited complaints — but the commitment. The Chamber’s members cared deeply about their town: its appearance, its trade, its reputation and its future.

In their own words and actions, they ensured that Buntingford was never a ghost town — but a community determined to thrive.

It is wonderful to look back at how the Buntingford Chamber of Commerce began, and to see that the organisation is still working hard today to support businesses in the town. Through meetings with key stakeholders and representation at partnership meetings with the County Council and District Council, the Chamber continues to give local businesses a collective voice.

Feedback from businesses is always valued, and the Chamber is keen to see as many traders and business owners as possible at its meetings — just as those original members gathered back in March 1955 with a shared commitment to the future of Buntingford.

This has been put together with many thanks to Chris Kell for all her hard work in typing up all the early minutes so they can be preserved for the future.

**Louise Hampton**  
*Current Chair of The Buntingford Chamber of Commerce.*



# BUNTINGFORD CINEMA

*Bringing Cinema back to Buntingford*

**David Woolcombe**



**Buntingford Cinema presents:**

## **THE CHORAL**

**Saturday 11th April at 7.30pm at the Community Centre**

This witty, homespun, 1st World War, English drama is a classic from the Alan Bennett National Treasure chest! Ralph Fiennes plays an inspirational choir master who brings everyone in a country village together in a performance of Elgar's Dream of Gerontius. But his "peculiarities" and his long years spent training in Germany make him suspicious to a community rich in English oddballs – beautifully played by the likes of Roger Allam, Alun Armstrong, Emily Fair and others. Of all the films we have shown this season, this film comes with the highest number of local recommendations! Don't miss it!

All Tickets: £9.00 (to include a glass of wine, soft drinks + crisps) at: [www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordfilmclub](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordfilmclub)

or in person at: Jonathan Hunt, 8 High St. Buntingford SG9 9AG



## **NUREMBERG**

**Saturday 9th May at 7.30pm at the Community Centre**

Nuremberg is a handsomely crafted historical drama about U.S. Army psychiatrist, Douglas Kelley (Rami Malek) as he monitors the mental status of Hermann Göring (Russell Crowe) and others to prevent their suicides before and during the Nuremberg trials. Reviews have hailed Crowe's performance as "masterly" – "his best ever..." and called the film, "Important, thought-provoking and entertaining." The soundtrack is particularly spectacular: in the cinema, it makes you FEEL the historic weight and contemporary echoes of the events the film explores. You walk out with a pit in your stomach. "An incredibly good film about an incredibly important moment in history."

**Buntingford Cinema is also proud to present**



**Friday 17th April @ 7:30pm at Benson Hall, Station Road (opposite the Co-op)**

The National Emergency Briefing (NEB) last November brought together 1200 delegates including 100 MPs, Peers, environmental experts and academics + activists and journalists for a 3-hour, fact-based briefing about the state of our planet and the policies we need to secure its survival and prosperity for our own, and future, generations. Now the NEB has produced a 50-minute People’s Emergency Briefing film to start community conversations on the Climate & Nature Crisis. This Buntingford Screening, organised in partnership with Peace Child International, is one of 600 the NEB has already planned across the UK. Our national security is dependent upon a healthy planet so the Discussion Afterwards is an opportunity for you to question leading experts and elected officials on how we can work together to create a more resilient community and to ensure that our different levels of government act in our best interest.

Tickets are FREE - so book your place HERE now:

<https://buytickets.at/buntingfordactiononclimatechangeandsustainability/2116220>

**Buntingford Cinema Annual General Meeting**

Friday 12th June at 6.30 pm at the Stables, 57 Wyddial Road, Buntingford SG9 9AX.

Come help us choose films for our 2026 / 27 Season. Drinks and Refreshments will be served.



**ERMINE STREET ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION**

**E**ver fancied growing your own veg? Now could be your chance and when better than in Spring!

Ermine Street Allotments are situated next to Freman College at the end of Bowling Green Lane and have vacancies for new plot holders. We are a friendly bunch, happy to share our knowledge so if you are beginner, there will always be someone there to help and advise. Some have been allotmenters for years and are still learning. Every year is different.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact us at **committee.esaa@gmail.com**

We look forward to welcoming you.

**B**untingford Live believes that **Variety is the Spice of Life!**

As you will see from our double spread of posters, we have a busy time ahead! I think these posters vividly illustrate how Buntingford Live is offering a diverse range of entertainment to our community!

Tickets at £15 are still available for our very popular **Comedy Night on Friday 10th April at 7.30pm.**

Tom Toal, our genial host will be welcoming three new comedians. Markus Birdman, Erich McElroy and Alastair Barrie, all experienced professional performers on the London Comedy Scene, the Edinburgh Fringe as well as many venues in Europe and further afield. So we look forward to welcoming them to our town where they'll give us a relaxed evening of much needed humour and laughter in these somewhat troubled times!

In complete contrast at the end of the month on **Friday 24th April at 7.30pm,** we are delighted that Andrew O'Brien, the Musical Director at St. Edmund's College returns to the church in nearby village Westmill, bringing many of his multi-talented young students to delight us with a varied programme of music. Tickets are only £5 on our website. A licensed bar is available. Please bring cash for this, as at the moment, the WIFI (& thus our Sumup device) in the church is unreliable. We hope to fill the church with an appreciative audience.

On **Friday 29th May** the doors open at 7pm to herald another Drag Night. This time it's being held in the Main Hall at Seth Ward to accommodate a larger



crowd of enthusiasts for the genre! Tickets are £15 and already selling well. Put on your glad rags and bring your friends. We will keep the Prosecco flowing all night!

Again on **Wednesday 3rd June at 7.30pm** we are offering a very different event in Westmill Church. Come and experience a first rate evening of chamber music featuring the highly acclaimed Alvor Trio. Tickets £16.

They will be playing a variety of pieces from Mozart, Debussy, Bax, Ibert, Pickard and Vaughan Williams.

Next, on **Sunday 7th June from 1pm-3.30pm,** returning by popular demand, Peter Rudeforth, yet another well-known and experienced professional musician and his Jazz Band will be delighting us with an afternoon of toe-tapping jazz, blues and swing in the beautiful garden of The Stables in the heart of our town. Tickets £15. Licensed Bar open

**BUNTINGFORD LIVE!**

Music for an **April Evening**

St. Mary The Virgin  
Westmill SG9 9LN

**Friday  
April 24th  
7.30pm**

**TICKETS £5**

Scan the code or visit [buntingfordlive.org](http://buntingfordlive.org)  
Also available through Buntingford library.

**LICENSED BAR 18**

Please bring cash to purchase drinks as WiFi in the church is unreliable.

Featuring students from **St. Edmund's College**

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.




**BUNTINGFORD LIVE!**

**Drag Night**

A fabulous evening of cabaret, vocal performance and a whole lot of fun... with space for dancing!

**Friday May 29th**

Come along from 7pm  
Showtime is 8pm

Campbell Hall, Seth Ward  
Community Centre  
SG9 9SG

**TICKETS £15**

**LICENSED BAR 18**

Scan the code or visit [buntingfordlive.org](http://buntingfordlive.org)  
Also available through Buntingford library. The staff will be happy to talk you through the ordering process and even print your tickets for you.

Registered Charity Number: 121162




**BUNTINGFORD LIVE!**

*the* **ALVOR TRIO**

Wednesday  
3rd June  
7.30pm

St Mary The Virgin  
Church  
Westmill SG9 9LJ

Join us for an extraordinary evening of chamber music with the highly-acclaimed trio, featuring:

Sarah Newbold (Flute)  
Martin Outram (Viola)  
Imogen Barford (Harp)

**TICKETS £16**

Scan the code or visit [buntingfordlive.org](http://buntingfordlive.org)  
Also available through Buntingford library, ask staff for details.

**LICENSED BAR 18**

Please bring cash to purchase drinks as the WiFi in the church is unreliable.

We recommend bringing a cushion for your comfort.




**BUNTINGFORD LIVE!**

Peter Rudeforth's **JAZZ BAND**

Back by popular demand!

**SUNDAY 7th JUNE**  
1pm - 3.30pm  
Bar open from 12.30pm!

**The Stables Garden  
Buntingford SG9 9AS**  
(Enter via gate on Church Street)

**TICKETS £15**

Scan the code or visit [buntingfordlive.org](http://buntingfordlive.org)  
Also available through Buntingford library, ask staff for details.

A fun afternoon of toe-tapping jazz, blues and swing!

Bring a picnic, chairs and rugs, but we kindly ask you to purchase your drinks from our competitively-priced, fully licensed bar.

**LICENSED BAR 18**




from 12.30pm. Please support our bar but bring a picnic, chairs & rugs and enjoy what hopefully will be a super summer event in the sunshine!

Visit our website [buntingfordlive.org](http://buntingfordlive.org) for these details as well as possible other events we may organise in July/August. Watch this space!

# WHAT'S ON - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## APRIL 2026

<b>Wednesday 1st</b>	Buntingford Gardener's Club: How we made our Garden p.15
<b>Thursday 2nd</b>	Library: Easter Storytime & Bonnet Making p.8
<b>7th -11th</b>	Library: Spring Crafts drop in p.9
<b>Wednesday 8th</b>	Reed Garden Club: Beetle Drive & Capel Manor Talk p.16
<b>Thursday 9th</b>	Library: Spring Storytime & Nest Making p.9
<b>Thursday 9th</b>	WI: Bayeux Tapestry p.16
<b>Friday 10th</b>	Buntingford Live! Comedy Night p.42
<b>Saturday 11th</b>	Buntingford Cinema: The Choral p.40
<b>Saturday 11th</b>	Buntingford Shorts: Youth Film Showcase p.19
<b>Monday 13th</b>	U3A: Neil Hanson. 'Inn and Out at the Top' - p14
<b>Tuesday 14th</b>	History Society: Utilities p.22
<b>Tuesday 14th</b>	Ward Freman Pool AGM p.21
<b>Friday 17th</b>	Buntingford Cinema: Planet in Need p.41
<b>Friday 17th</b>	BALA: Coffee Morning p.46
<b>Friday 17th</b>	Buntingford Railway & Local History Society: Phil Wood - Railway Slides, The Crown, Market Hill 8pm
<b>Saturday 18th</b>	Repair Cafe: in Braughing
<b>Monday 20th</b>	Buntingford Community Choir: Taster Evening p.15
<b>Tuesday 21st</b>	Civic Society AGM p.6
<b>Thursday 30th - 2nd May</b>	Murder at Ramar Mansion p.33
<b>Friday 24th</b>	Buntingford Live! St Eds Young Musicians p.42
<b>Saturday 25th</b>	Mayor's Annual Quiz p.7



## LOOKING AHEAD

<b>2nd May</b>	Friends of Reed Church: Murder Mystery Play p.32
<b>8/9th May</b>	Reed Book Sale p.21
<b>9th May</b>	Buntingford Cinema: Nuremberg p.40
<b>9th May</b>	Barkway Market p.34
<b>11th May</b>	U3A: Sue Thiedman, Nepal Adventures p.14
<b>15th May</b>	BALA: AGM Lunch p.46
<b>29th May</b>	Buntingford Live! Drag Night p.43
<b>30th/31st May</b>	Westmill Art Exhibition p.11
<b>3rd June</b>	Buntingford Live! Alvor Trio p.43
<b>7th June</b>	Buntingford Live! Jazz Band p.43
<b>12th June</b>	Buntingford Cinema: AGM p.41

# REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAYS:	TUESDAYS:	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS:	FRIDAYS:	WEEKENDS:
<b>From 8.30am:</b> Buntingford Market		<b>Buntingford Meditation</b> 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 - <a href="http://www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation">www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation</a> New meditators are welcome and guidance is given on how to meditate in the sessions.	<b>10.30am–12.30:</b> Coffee & Company in the URC Church Hall		<b>Sun, 9am:</b> Norfolk Road Playing Fields Junior Parkrun
<b>10–11.45am:</b> Chatter Table at the Manor House – 1st & 3rd Mondays			<b>2–3pm:</b> Mind & Music at Standon & Puckeridge CC		<b>Sat, 10am:</b> Walking Football at the MUGA, Norfolk Road Playing Fields
Morning Coffee 10-12 St Peter's					
EVENTS IN THE LIBRARY:					
<b>10.30–11am &amp; 11:30 -12pm:</b> Baby Rhyme Time (songs, rhymes, actions and puppets, for ages 6 weeks to 3 years)	<b>10.30–12.30:</b> Jigsaw & Cards club	<b>11am:</b> Chair Yoga with Kim	<b>10.30 – 11am:</b> Storytime ages 2-5 years  Lego Club (every second Thursday) age: 5-8	<b>4-5pm:</b> The Friday Club age: 3-11	
<b>11.45am–12.45pm:</b> Forever Cycling Community Centre -1st/3rd		<b>10-11am</b> Chatter & Natter, Buntingford Coffee Shop			
<b>1.30 for 2pm:</b> Buntingford Senior Citizens' Club at URC Hall		<b>12- 4pm</b> Braughing Shed Group, The Barn at Brook Cottage Farm Fernaux Pelham SG9 OLL Contact: <a href="mailto:jacquithorne664@gmail.com">jacquithorne664@gmail.com</a> or 07557 966 526			
<b>7.30–9:15pm:</b> Buntingford Community Choir at Millfield School					

# BUNTINGFORD ACTION FOR THE LESS ABLE (BALA)

Registered Charity No. 1094426

## MINIBUS TRIPS APRIL/MAY 2026

DATE	TIME	DESTINATION	PRICE
<b>APRIL</b>			
Thurs 2nd	9.30-3	Southend	£13
Thurs 9th	9-2	Ely (market day)	£10.50
Tues 14th	9-1	Hitchin Market / Town Centre	£6.50
Wed 22nd	11.30	Pub Lunch	£5
Fri 24th	9.30-12	Van Hagues Garden Centre	£5
Wed 29th	9.30-3	Bury St Edmunds (Market Day)	£12.50
<b>MAY</b>			
Wed 6th	10-2.30	St Albans	£8
Mon 11th	10-2.30	St Ives	£8
Thurs 14th	10-2	Bickerdikes Garden Centre	£6
Tues 19th	10.30-2	Saffron Walden	£6
Wed 20th	11.30	Pub Lunch	£5
Mon 25th	9.30-3	Clacton on Sea	£13
Thurs 28th	10-3	Cambridge	£7.50

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

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**Friday 17th April, 10-11:30am**

(sausage rolls, cakes, raffle)

### **AGM LUNCH**

**Friday 15th May, 12-1:15pm**

at **URC Hall, Baldock Road**

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More information is available on page A26 or go to <https://buntingfordjournal.uk/>

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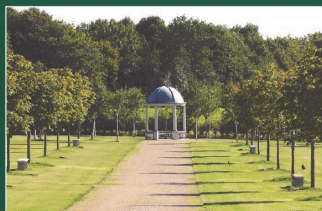
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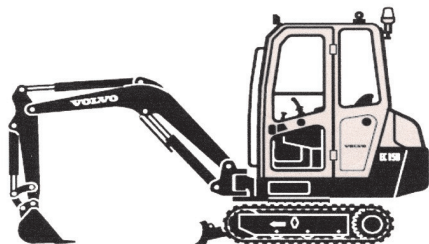


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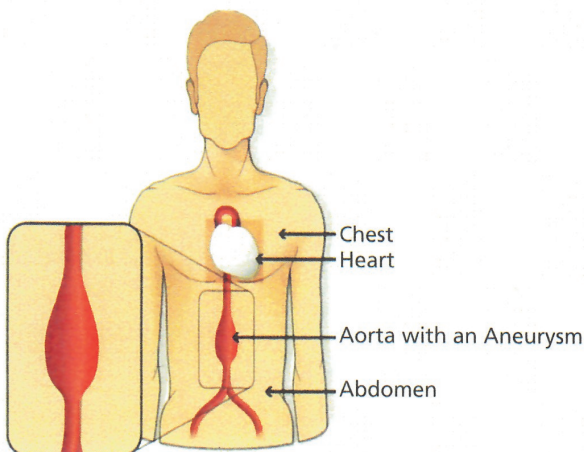
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## WHAT HAVE WE DONE AND CONTINUE TO DO?

### BCS have.....

- Introduced the Buntingford Journal in 1976.
- Restored the Town Pump twice and Town Cage once.
- Initiated erection of Christmas lights in the High Street and Market Hill.
- Presented an annual school civic award to Freman College.
- Updated the set of Town Trails with 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.
- Contributed financially to Freman College sports hall, Buntingford Film Club, Buntingford Carnivals and "Summer Arts in Buntingford 2022" weekend.
- Start-up financial contribution to the Friends of the Rib and Quin.
- Paid for the Local History Group competition prizes in 2023.
- Carried out River Rib and town litter picks.
- Fitted a sign in the Police Station Community Garden and paid for new plants there in 2019.
- Were actively involved in the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Arranged "Buntingford in Bloom" competitions.
- Updated the circular walks on local footpaths leaflet in 2017.
- Paid for roses and a plaque in memory of Queen Elizabeth II and for the Coronation of King Charles III at the new Layston Cemetery in 2024.
- Hosted three Civic Day Heritage walks around the conservation area.
- Been actively involved in recent town celebrations to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, the Coronation of King Charles III and the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day and VE Day.

### BCS will continue to.....

- Publish the Buntingford Journal.
- Monitor future planning applications and work with local organisations for the benefit of the Community
- Play an active role in the River Rib Improvement Project.
- Source a replacement plaque for The Cage .
- Host future Civic Day Heritage walks around the conservation area.
- Arrange future "Buntingford in Bloom" competitions.
- Present an annual civic award to Freman College.
- Pay for the maintenance of the Town Gateway Planters.

**To join the Society download a Membership Form from [www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk](http://www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk)  
or collect one from the Manor House on Market Hill**

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Contact us to arrange a visit. Application Forms available on our website.

Email : [laystonpreschoolandnursery@gmail.com](mailto:laystonpreschoolandnursery@gmail.com)  
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# *carers in Hertfordshire*

## *Support Hub*

### **Buntingford 2026**

**Where:** Buntingford Town Council (The Manor House),  
High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AB

**When:** Last Tuesday of each month,  
10.30am-12.30pm

*A community for unpaid carers*

Come along and meet other family and friend carers, share your views, and find out what help is available locally.

27th Jan	24th Feb	24th Mar	28th Apr	26th May	30th Jun
28th Jul	25th Aug	29th Sept	27th Oct	24th 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.**

**To contact us:**

**Call: 01992 58 69 69**

**Email: [contact@carersinherts.org.uk](mailto:contact@carersinherts.org.uk)**

**Visit: [www.carersinherts.org.uk](http://www.carersinherts.org.uk)**



*making carers count*

# Advertising in the Buntingford Journal

Your advert can be full colour, black and white or plain text. We can accept most common file formats including png, jpeg, pdf, doc, docx or plain text. There is no additional charge for updating or changing your advert. If you do not have any suitable advertising copy then we can usually produce something for you based on a sketch or business card.

Advert size is a multiple of a  $\frac{1}{8}$  page, where a  $\frac{1}{8}$  page is 6.4 cm wide by 4.75 cm high.

The current cost is £6.00 per  $\frac{1}{8}$  page per issue  
e.g. one half page for a year (10 issues) =  $4 \times \frac{1}{8}$  pages @ £6 x 10 issues = £240.

Most advertisers take a full year but shorter periods are available with costs on a pro rata basis.

For a small additional charge, your advert can be placed on the Civic Society and Buntingford Journal websites with a link to your website.

For more information call Keith Edwards on 01763 272 032 or email [advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

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

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K M | Daughter of Resident | Dec 25

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\*carehome.co.uk score correct as at 12.03.2026.

**9.7**

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*Check out our reviews on facebook & trip advisor*

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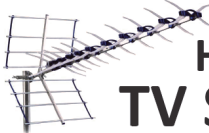
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Tuesday 10am / Wednesday 6:30pm / Thursday 10am via ZOOM  
Monday 7:15pm Layston School, Buntingford (with Cardio HIIT £10)  
Wednesday 7:15pm Layston School (£6 or with strength HIIT £10)  
Friday 10am The Scout Hut (£6 or with Full Body Workout £10)

A class that increases muscular balance and strength, improve posture, core and back strength

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*For a full colour brochure contact :*

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

*Or email : [clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk) Telephone: 01763 272 222*

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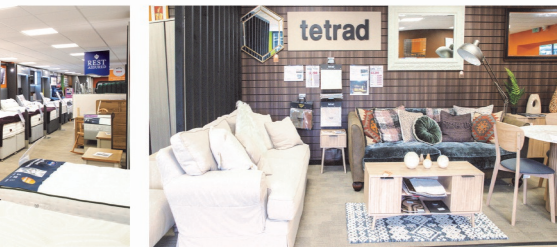
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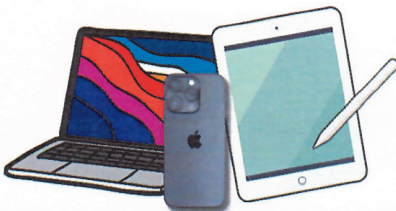
## Location:

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

**Every Second Monday**  
**10:30am to 12:00pm**

*\*No session in August 2026*

12<sup>th</sup> January, 9<sup>th</sup> February,  
9<sup>th</sup> March, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> May,  
8<sup>th</sup> June, 13<sup>th</sup> July, 14<sup>th</sup> September,  
12<sup>th</sup> October, 9<sup>th</sup> November &  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2026



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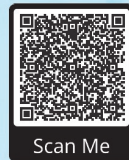
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