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# DIARY OF EVENTS – DECEMBER/JANUARY

## MONDAYS

- 10:00am – 12 noon Multi Activity Group at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Dave Austin on 01763 272066.
- 10:30am – 12 noon Iyengar Yoga Classes at URC Hall – term time only. Contact Jen Harris on 01920 821288.
- 10:00 & 10:45am Stretch'n'Grow – 10:00am session for 18 months to 2 yrs; 10:45 for over 2s. At Seth Ward Community Centre. £2 per family. 01763 273008
- 1:30pm – 3:00pm Stay & Play at Jenyns First School, Braughing. £1 per family. 01763 273008.
- 1:30pm – 3:30pm Senior Citizens Club at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Bingo and an afternoon of socialising. For more information contact Jeanne Clark on 01763 274631.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Cougars Under 7s training, Norfolk Road. Andy on 07941 078069.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Shotokan Karate at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Peter Deacon on 01462 642922.
- 7:00pm Play Bridge for experienced players at Buntingford Bowls Club. £2.50 per session. Contact Gwen on 01763 272775 or Eddie on 07976 896718.
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm Pilates at Benson Hall. Contact Jacqui on 01763 274681.
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm Abs (body toning) session at Fit Together Gym, Buntingford. Contact Al on 07739 131694.
- 7:30pm – 9:00pm Buntingford Community Choir at Edwinstree School, Bowling Green Lane. No need to read music, no auditions, just bring your enthusiasm! For more details call 07814 912595 or email [buntingfordchoir@gmail.com](mailto:buntingfordchoir@gmail.com).
- 7:30pm – 9:45pm Buntingford & District Youth Club for young people aged 13–19 years, held at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Contact Nick Howell on 07789 92764 or email [nick.howell@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:nick.howell@hertscc.gov.uk).
- 8:00pm – 9:30pm BALFF 6-week course (started 17 Sept), 'Exploring Cambridge', at the Community Centre, Luynes Rise. For further details phone Julia on 01763 272584 or Joan on 01763 273341.
- 8:15pm Circuit Training at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact 01920 823677.

## TUESDAYS

- 9:15am – 10:15am Badminton at Seth Ward CC, £2.50 per session. 01763 273712.
- 9:30am – 11:00am Tuesday Toddlers at URC Hall, Baldock Road. £1.50 includes drink and snack. Term time.
- 10:00am – 11:00am Under 1s Group at Buntingford Bowls Club. £1 per family. 01763 273008.
- 11:15am – 12:15pm Musical Minis at Seth Ward Community Centre. £2 per family. 01763 273008
- 1:30pm – 2:30pm Musical Minis at Seth Ward Community Centre. £2 per family. 01763 273008
- 3:30pm – 9:00pm Buntingford Dancing School – Dance classes at Freman College. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Cougars Under 12s Blues training, Norfolk Road. Shaun on 07836 214129.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Cougars Under 14s training, Norfolk Road. Frank on 07768 078167.
- 7:00pm – 8:15pm Grade 5 Ballet Lessons, Layston School. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
- 7.30pm Buntingford Karate Club, Edwinstree School Gym. Contact Bill Hooper 01763 273123.

# WHAT'S ON

## WEDNESDAYS

- 9:30 – 11:15am Hornead Baby and Toddler Group at Hornead Village Hall. Term time only. From birth to 4 years. Lots of toys, activities, arts and crafts and singing. £1.50 per child, includes a drink and snack; 50p for additional children. Contact Liz Pickup on 01763 289446, or just turn up.
- 10:00am – 11:00am Story Sacks at Jenyns First School, Braughing. £1 per child. 01763 273008.
- 10:30am BALFF 10-week course (started 26 Sept), 'Volcanoes & Vikings: Introducing Iceland', at the Community Centre, Luynes Rise. For further details see page 33 or phone Julia on 01763 272584 or Joan on 01763 273341.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Cougars Under 10s training, Norfolk Road. Martin on 07834 318518.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm Circuit Training for 50+ at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Cougars Under 11s training, Norfolk Road. Sean on 07860 365681
- 6:00pm – 8:00pm Shinto Judo Club. Two 1-hour sessions for Juniors: 6:00–7:00pm & 7:00–8:00pm. Now at the Howard Carter Centre, Freman College. Contact Mark Teal 07974 458127 or Gavin Shand 07958 797005. Email: shintojudoclub@gmail.com. Or visit www.shintojudo.co.uk.
- 7:30pm – 8:30pm Body Circuit classes at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm Boxercise/Tae Bo session at Fit Together Gym, Buntingford. Contact Al on 07739 131694.
- 8:00pm – 9:00pm Cougars Under 16s training, Norfolk Road. Mike 01763 271750.
- 8:00pm Horizon Divers at Freman Pool. Contact 01920 823955.

## THURSDAYS

- 9:30am – 11:00am Anstey Toddlers at the Old School House, Anstey. Activities for toddlers and babies with their carers. Arts and crafts, free play and singing. £1 per family. Term time only.
- 9:45am – 11:00am Jumping Jacks Stay & Play, Herts County Guide Headquarters, Cottered. £1 per family. 01763 273008.
- 10:00am – 12:00pm Carpet Bowls at The Bowls Club, Wyddial Road. Julia 01763 272584.
- 11:00am – 12:00pm Fitness for 50+ at Seth Ward Community Centre. £4 per person per class. Contact Eileen Dixon 01763 257474 or 07966 222272, or email: eileensaerobics@hotmail.com
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm Baby classes run by the Best Start Club at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane. Magical Musical Playdays, for 1 to 3 years olds, start at 1:00pm; followed by Baby Signing classes, for 0 to 16 months, at 2:00pm. Contact Laura Sheriff on 07801 796334. Email: laura@thebeststartclub.com.
- 4:30pm – 6:30pm Drama workshops for 15 to 18 year olds with Stagefrights Theatre at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Dave on 01438 232181 or email stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk
- 5:00pm – 6:00pm Cougars Under 9s training at Norfolk Road. Kevin 07930 192079.
- 5:30pm – 10:00pm Buntingford Swimming Club at Ward Freman Pool. Contact Adelaide Boon on 07710 550050.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm Cougars Under 8s training at Norfolk Road. Matt 07814 838460.

... Continued

# DIARY OF EVENTS – DECEMBER/JANUARY

## THURS (cont.)

- 6:15pm – 7:00pm Jazzercise Class at Seth Ward Community Centre.
- 7.30pm Buntingford Karate Club, Edwinstree School Gym. Contact Bill Hooper 01763 273123.
- 7:45pm – 9:45pm Buntingford Badminton Club at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Liz James on 01763 274010.

## FRIDAYS

- 9:15am WeightWatchers at Benson Hall (see page 26–7).
- 9:30am – 10:30am Badminton at Seth Ward Community Centre – term time only.
- 9:45am & 11:00am Baby & toddler 'Rhyme Time' at Seth Ward. £1 first child, 50p for additional children to include tea & coffee. Contact Bramble Hill 01763 273008.
- 11:00am – 12:00 Drop-in Breastfeeding Support Group at Bramble Hill Children's Centre, Mill Close. Led by the health visiting team. 01763 273008.
- 3.30pm – 8:00pm Buntingford Dancing School – dance classes at Freman College. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
- 5:00pm – 6:00pm Cougars Under 15s training at Norfolk Road. Darren 07764 573696.
- 5:30pm – 8:00pm Friday Project, Buntingford & District Youth Club for young people aged 13–19. A range of activities, held at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Contact Nick Howell on 07789 92764 or email [nick.howell@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:nick.howell@hertscc.gov.uk).
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm Cougars Under 10s Stripes training at Norfolk Rd. Dave 07836 231915.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Cougars Under 12s Whites training at Norfolk Rd. Dave 07786 933963.

## SATURDAYS

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

## MON–FRI

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

If you would like to have your event in the Diary of Events pages, please contact **Christine Noble** 01763 273095  
email: [Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## DEC 2012

- Sat 1<sup>st</sup> 7:00 for 7:30pm The Lynsey Iverson Trust Christmas Quiz (see page 13)
- Sat 1<sup>st</sup> 7:30pm Instant Sunshine at St Mary's Church, Braughing (see page 16)
- Sat 1<sup>st</sup> & Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> 11:00am–5:00pm Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity Church, Meldreth. Entry Free. Also Advent Service 5:30pm Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> (see page 13)
- Sat 1<sup>st</sup> & Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:30am–4:30pm Christmas Time at Gravelly Barn. Exhibition and Charity sale (see page 16)
- Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.00am–4.00pm Antiques & Vintage Fair at Barkway Village Hall, SG8 8BS. Entry £1. Homemade cakes & refreshments. All enquires Rosei Frost 07912322538 or email [info@flapperfortunes.co.uk](mailto:info@flapperfortunes.co.uk)
- Tue 4<sup>th</sup> 5:00–9.00pm Christmas Shopping Evening at The March Hare Tea Room and Boutique, Hare Street (see page 41)
- Tue 4<sup>th</sup> 8:00pm Buntingford & District Cage Bird Society 'Bring & Buy' at Benson Hall (see page 39)
- Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Buntingford Gardeners Club, members' Christmas Party (see page 11)
- 5<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm onwards, except Sunday from 5:00pm, Santa Run (see page 15)
- Sat 8<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – Bingo at Benson Hall
- Sat 8<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm Braughing Music Hall special charity event (see page 16)
- Wed 12<sup>th</sup> 10:30–12.00noon BALA Coffee Morning at Benson Hall.
- Thur 13<sup>th</sup> 7:45pm Buntingford W.I. at URC Hall (see page 47).
- Tue 18<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm Carols by Candlelight at St Mary's Church Aspenden (see page 18)
- Fri 21<sup>st</sup> 8:00pm Buntingford Railway & Local History Society at the Crown PH. Alan Charles – Railways 'Miscellaneous'.

## JAN 2013

- Thur 10<sup>th</sup> Buntingford W.I. members' New Year Party (see page 47).
- Sat 12<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – Bingo at Benson Hall.
- Wed 16<sup>th</sup> 10:30–12.00noon BALA Coffee Morning at Benson Hall.
- Fri 18<sup>th</sup> 8:00pm Buntingford Railway & Local History Society AGM at the Crown.
- Wed 30<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – Bingo at Benson Hall.

## FEB 2013

- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> It's pantomime time! Buntingford Dramatic Society presents 'Old Mother Hubbard' (see page 39)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>–24<sup>th</sup> 12:00–4:00pm Snowdrops at Benington Lordship Gardens (see page 9).
- Wed 6<sup>th</sup> 7:45 for 8:00pm Buntingford Gardeners Club at URC Hall (see page 11).
- 15<sup>th</sup>&16<sup>th</sup> Buntingford Dancing School Show at Broxbourne Civic Hall. Tickets available in January via <http://www.buntingforddancingschool.co.uk/>

# USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

- POLICE STATION:** Baldock Road, Buntingford  
Non-emergency telephone: 101
- Saturday Police surgeries:** Every Saturday, 2:00pm – 4:00pm at Buntingford Police Station
- GAS:** Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999
- ELECTRICITY:** Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838
- WATER (Veolia):** Emergency – Freephone 0800 376 5325
- SEWERAGE (Thames Water):** Emergency – Telephone 0845 920 0800
- DOCTORS:** **The Medical Centre** – White Hart Close  
Telephone 01763 271362 (24 hours)  
**Orchard Surgery** – Baldock Road  
Telephone 01763 272410 & 272411 (after hours)
- B A S H (Buntingford Action For Social Help):** Providing transport for hospital/doctors appointments, telephone Jane Winter 01763 271484
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, RACE, HATE or RAPE CRIME:** Confidential Information Help-line: 01992 554440 (in an emergency, dial 999)
- LOCAL COUNCIL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:** **East Herts District Council** – 01279 655261  
Housing – 01279 714714  
Benefits – Freephone 0800 373852  
**Buntingford Town Council** – 01763 272222  
**Hertfordshire Highways** – 01438 737320
- BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY:** All enquiries including renewals call 0300 123 4049  
Select option 1 (renewals) 03:00–23:45 every day  
Select option 2 (all other enquiries) Mon–Fri 08:00–20:00, Sat 09:00– 6:00
- Mondays: 09:00 – 18:00  
Tuesdays: 14:00 – 18:00  
Wednesdays: CLOSED ALL DAY  
Thursdays: 09:00 – 18:00  
Fridays: 14:00 – 18:00  
Saturdays: 09:00 – 13:00  
Sundays: CLOSED ALL DAY
- CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU:** The Manor House, Market Hill, Buntingford
- Mondays: 10:00am – 4:00pm  
Tuesdays: 10:00am – 1:00pm  
Wednesdays: 10:00am – 1:00pm
- Telephone advice available Monday to Friday  
10:00am – 4:00pm on 08444 111 444
- HOUSEHOLD WASTE & RECYCLING SITE:** Watermill Industrial Estate, Aspenden Road
- Open: Mondays – Fridays 5:00pm – 8:00pm  
Saturday & Sunday 10:00am – 1:00pm

## EDITOR'S LETTER

By the time this edition of the Journal reaches the shops, the Buntingford Christmas Lights will be about to be switched on, marking the end of the Lights of Love Ceremony at the Manor House. I went last year for the first time and will be there again this year, joining other people from around the town in remembering loved ones lost and singing the first carols of the season.



Of course, switching on the Christmas lights also launches the Late Night Shopping event, because let's not forget what Christmas is really all about – shopping! I'm sure that lots of fun things have been arranged for our delight, so let's get out there and support our local shops. And speaking of local shops, this month we have an article on Toby and The Cheese Plate, already celebrating a whole year on the High Street (see page 14). You'll also find some information on The March Hare, a new tea room and boutique which has opened in Hare Street (page 41).

Many thanks to Jill at the Manor House for organising the Open Day in November, giving us all a chance to have a say on aspects of the draft Town Plan. The New Year seems certain to bring change to the shape of Buntingford, but hopefully we can have some influence over where and how much. Wheatley Homes are the latest to pitch in with development proposals for more houses in Buntingford – I bet they're not the last.

On a happier note, I am delighted to hear that Westmill Church has reached it's target for repair work to the church roof. Altogether, through fundraising and grants, £171,000 has been raised in just two years. Congratulations to the good people of Westmill and to everyone else who has had a hand in this amazing achievement. You can read a message of thanks from the churchwardens and from the chairman of the Friends of Westmill Church on page 33.

I have a very welcome month off now, as the next issue of the Journal is February 2013. All that remains is for me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and very Happy New Year.



**Christine Noble**

**Many thanks to Debbie Lemay for proofreading**

**Editorial copy deadline for February 2013  
Journal is 12.00 noon on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

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

**Advertising enquiries:** Keith Edwards – 01763 272032  
**email:** [Advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:Advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Christine

## **Open weekend for sports and other activities**

I would like to respond to the letter from Ashley Cantor in the October Journal, suggesting an open weekend when sports clubs and other organisations allow all those living in Buntingford and local villages to come along and have a go. I think this is an excellent idea and we as a dance school would very much like to take part. Whilst dance is not an Olympic Sport (yet!), it is a great disciplined fitness phenomenon suitable for all ages. If you have any more feedback, or if a volunteer coordinator comes forward, I would be delighted if you could pass on my email/mobile number to them.

Julie McPartland, Buntingford Dancing School

Dear Christine

## **Friends of Orchard Surgery Craft Fair**

I just wanted to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who came along to our Craft Fair and helped to make it a very successful day. Many thanks also to all those who gave us items to sell. We all enjoy what we do and everyone makes such an effort, although we were very tired by the end of the day. But it does feel worthwhile when we hand over the money raised to our charities. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Kind regards  
June Fairbrother (on behalf of all the 'Friends')

Dear Christine

## **Wheatley Homes proposals**

Living in Layston Meadow I was not pleased to receive the Wheatley homes information, even though it does not directly impact on us yet! There has been quite a bit of activity in the field behind us and Snells Mead – hole boring and geophys surveying – which to my mind would indicate Wheatley homes are not going to stop at their current proposals but intend to continue all the way to Owles Lane. Perhaps as many as 400 houses in total?

While Buntingford will expand, the proposed developments are far too much on top of what has recently been built in the town. If we include the Barratt estate, the development behind Greenways, Longmead, the Railway pub site, plus the proposed Hare Street Road plan and now Wheatley homes, it all adds up to a huge growth in population and car use in what is still a small town. A conservative estimate might be 600 homes. This could mean a population increase of 1,500-plus, perhaps an additional 1,000 cars and further strain on what resources and facilities the town has to offer. I would urge all Buntingford residents to get involved now. It should not simply be left to those directly affected, as if these large-scale developments go ahead they will have an impact on the whole town.

Yours sincerely  
Richard Pike

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

Dear Christine

### Stop the poster blight!

I fear the time has come to have a bit of a moan. At a time when it seems everyone is up in arms about the prospect of our town being 'blighted' by multiple large developments, may I suggest we start on a smaller scale to improve the overall appearance of the town?

I have noticed a large increase in the number of posters advertising all sorts of events not just on notice boards but also on lamp posts, telegraph poles, railings, bus stops and fences. While I have no problem with organisations promoting their events, I do take issue with the fact that posters are then left for weeks, sometimes months, becoming faded and grotty and rotting away. Why can't the committees organising these events be as proactive in delegating people to remove posters after the event as they are in getting them up beforehand? I am now going to name and shame a few offenders that I have noticed (this is only those that I have noticed recently and is by no means a definitive list):

- Buntingford Amateur Dramatics – posters left it seems until the next production
- BARD – posters for 'OBJECT' meeting in October are still all over town
- Buntingford Twinning Association – quiz night posters rotting away on Station Road
- Furneux Food Festival – wasn't this in September??? Posters still up
- Freman College – posters for The Overtures gig were up for months

So come on Buntingford, let's keep our town a picturesque location worth defending against the developers. Take down your advertising after your event and dispose of it.

Ruth Vincent

\* \* \* \* \*

**SNOWDROPS**

**AT BENINGTON LORDSHIP GARDENS**

Visit the historic garden at Benington Lordship to see the spectacular display of snowdrops in the dry moat and around the castle ruins. This stunning setting has over one hundred varieties of snowdrops, as well as hellebores and winter flowering shrubs.

Hot soup, tea & cakes. Free parking.

**Open daily 2–24 February 2013 inclusive, 12–4pm**

Admission £5 (conc £4 but not Sundays). Under 12s free.

For more information ring 01438 869668 or visit

**[www.beningtonlordship.co.uk](http://www.beningtonlordship.co.uk)**

Entrance off Benington village green, 3 miles east of Stevenage.

\* \* \* \* \*



# Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)



## Have a Voice – Here's How!

Ages ago on the Civic Society page I made it quite clear that Buntingford was being targeted by a number of developers. It's not surprising – it's their job!

My piece, if I recall correctly, was headed 'North, East, South and West' to capture what was happening or about to happen. Well, now we know. South, Barratts and Prologis; North, Ermine Street housing and what else to come; East, Taylor Wimpey and 160 houses and flats, and now also the ambitions of Wheatley Homes leading off Snells Mead. The West is relatively quiet, unless you live in Longmead or perhaps Greenways – almost forgot there is a lot of infilling, so don't discount it!

If those in authority (elected or officers) cared at all about fulfilling the obligations contained in the 'Localism Bill' and 'National Planning Policy Framework', Buntingford would not be subject to such opportunistic development. In the absence of an agreed District Plan there is no certainty that essential infrastructure will be put in place, the need for sustainability will be ignored. There should not be any approvals until the District Plan has been subject to consultation and agreed.

A challenge to you all: inform yourself on the planning process. Google the Civic Voice website which will give you top quality information. Explore the links on Buntingford Civic Society website [www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk](http://www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk).

Make a point of reviewing planning applications and make your specific objections known to East Herts Council Planning and Buntingford Town Council. Your objections must be based on specific aspects of the application in question, but there is nothing wrong in commenting on how it contradicts your vision of Buntingford and those of your family.

There is nothing inappropriate in being called a nimby, for if you don't care about your home town you can be sure nobody else will. Readers who are not members of the Civic Society, now is the time to join. Members, this is a call to become highly active, so get in touch – there's a job to be done.

Best wishes to all for the Christmas celebrations and to a positive New Year for Buntingford and surrounding villages.

Derek K Cooper  
Chairman

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

*Footnote:* The Executive Panel is set to discuss the East Herts District Plan at a meeting on 28 November. To read more on a wide range of items related to the District Plan discussed at that meeting go to:

[www.eastherts.gov.uk/districtplanpart1](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/districtplanpart1)

**Are you a resident of Buntingford and District?  
Would you like a voice on major issues concerning  
the Buntingford area?**

Join Buntingford Civic Society and as part of your subscription all ten issues of the Buntingford Journal will be delivered to your door throughout the year.

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

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I / We\* enclose £7 door delivery subscription / £18 postal (UK) subscription\*  
(Please make cheques payable to Buntingford Civic Society)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Chris Eagle (Membership Secretary)  
5 Monks Walk, Buntingford, Herts SG9 9EE \*delete as appropriate

**BUNTINGFORD GARDENERS CLUB**

November is the month when we host an Inter Club Quiz with Reed Garden Club. So with pens poised and brains honed we got down to the rigours of another lively but enjoyable evening. Our compiler and Quizmaster, Myra Gravett, sets a varied and often amusing set of questions which can be frustrating for us 'Quizzees', but her efforts are much appreciated by her fellow committee and garden club members. With food, wine and soft drinks flowing, the laughter and noise level increased as the evening progressed. The quiz culminated in a dead heat between two of the six teams, so a tie-break question decided that Reed were the overall winners. They were duly presented with a certificate, and for the rest of us there is always next year.



This month, on 5th December, is the members' Christmas party. So from all at BGC, we wish all Journal readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

There is no club meeting in January. Our next meeting will be on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2013, when the talk will be on 'Triangle Nursery'. The meeting starts at 7.45 for 8pm at URC Church Hall. Hope to see you there.

Heather Pope

**Club enquiries to Janet Murrells, Chairwoman, 01763 274341**

# **Buntingford Action for Responsible Development**

**Even MORE  
houses proposed  
for Buntingford**

**Wheatley Homes have responded to the recent Taylor Wimpey / DLP application for 160 houses on land north of Hare Street Road with their own bid for 100 more houses on land south of Hare Street Road!**

In their leaflet for Buntingford residents, Wheatley are open about the fact that they had intended to wait for the District Plan, expected in 2013, which will set out recommendations for the appropriate development of Buntingford in the coming years.

- We respect Wheatley Homes' original intention and urge them to stick to it by delaying their application.
- We believe that large housing applications should be considered on the basis of the upcoming District Plan, especially where they conflict with planning policies, and not on the basis of an escalation in commercial interests.

## **Who will be affected?**

People from Snells Mead are likely to be most immediately affected by the development, with all traffic from the 100 new houses coming and going through Snells Mead. But we know that there are people from London Road, Station Road, Hare Street Road and other areas with major concerns.

## **What can you do to have a say?**

You may already have responded to the Wheatley Homes 'public consultation' via their recent leaflet, but your response to the proposal need not end there:

**Share your views with your District Councillors, Stan Bull and Surjit Basra, and your Town Councillors:**

**Email:** [btc.manorhouse@btclick.com](mailto:btc.manorhouse@btclick.com)

**Phone:** 01763 272222

**Or write to:** The Manor House, 21 High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AB

## Keep up to date on developer and community activities

The BARD website gives you updates on major developments around Buntingford. You can also join BARD to get updates on community activities and ways that we can respond to new developments. Visit [www.bard-group.org.uk](http://www.bard-group.org.uk)

### What is BARD?

Buntingford Action for Responsible Development (BARD) is a grass roots response to rapid development in the town. BARD members are all residents of Buntingford. We accept that new developments are important to sustain every thriving town, but we encourage strict scrutiny on the impact of such developments on the existing residents and the infrastructure of Buntingford. Further information on BARD and its action on local developments is posted at [www.bard-group.org.uk](http://www.bard-group.org.uk). Or you can contact us at [info@bard-group.org.uk](mailto:info@bard-group.org.uk) or phone 07969 835 877.



## **CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT**

**1st DEC - 7.00 for 7.30 PM START**

**AT THE NEW SCOUT HUT, BUNTINGFORD**

**TICKETS £7.50 INCLUDES PLOUGHMANS**

**LICENCED BAR, MINCE PIES & MULLED WINE!!!**

**CALL 01763 271878**

**Please support us in raising money to send children with life-threatening illnesses on special family holidays to Centre Parcs, where they can create long lasting memories.**

Reg Charity No.1003404

## ***CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL***

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH MELDRETH**

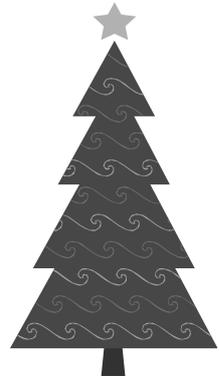
**SAT 1<sup>ST</sup> and SUN 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER**

**11:00am to 5:00pm Free Entry**

**SPECIAL APPEARANCE by NOAH THE  
DONKEY and SHETLAND PONY**

***ADVENT SERVICE***

**5.30pm SUNDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DEC**



# **The Cheese Plate**

## ***Celebrating one year on the High Street***

When Toby Archer opened his cheese shop in Buntingford High Street, I for one seriously doubted whether our small town could support such a venture. Yet just a year later, the Cheese Plate is thriving and has been classed 'highly recommended' in the 2012 British Cheese Awards. How nice to be proved wrong!

Toby is a local man, having lived in Cattered for 12 years, and before that in Westmill. He started his working life in the family injection-moulding business, but left the company with no idea what he really wanted to do. Then, out walking the dog one day with his daughter Hope, he had a 'eureka' moment and thought he would open a cheese shop. Just like that. So he studied his subject on courses, did his homework, and qualified with a diploma as an 'affineur'. He is a member of the Guild of Fine Food, and was invited to be a judge at the World Cheese Awards at the NEC in Birmingham (the 'cheese Oscars') where his choice came 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 2,500 different cheeses

His shop was fitted out using local craftsmen such as the Tile Shop, and designed with a view not only to retail sales, but also to evening functions and events. His cheese nights are now booked up weeks in advance and sometimes used for birthday celebrations – the youngest guest was 3 months old and the oldest 96 years old, although she fell asleep by the time the blue cheeses came around!

He enjoys support not only from the town but from the surrounding villages, and has a healthy wholesale business with pubs and restaurants as far afield as Islington. He carries over 200 different cheeses sourced from Europe to the Azores, and is happy for his customers to taste something different from their usual fare, or to buy just small portions of something new.

He also gives talks to the local schools, in which he tends to emphasize the aspects of geography, language and even the mathematics of his business. And the Cheese Plate was a clue in the Treasure Hunt run by Three Counties Radio, hidden in the phrase 'grate crockery crossing flags' (beats me...!).

Recently, Toby found out that in 1860-1880ish his mother's great-grandparents ran a cheese shop in London. You could say he has cheese in his blood!

John Makin

## **Oliver Heald MP**

**will be hosting a surgery for his constituents at**

**The Manor House, Buntingford, on**

**Friday, 11th January 2013**

**5:00 to 6:30pm**

# Santa Claus is coming to town!



**5th to 13th  
December**

**Santa will  
hopefully set off  
from 6.00pm**



Raising money for the Buntingford Scout Group

**WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup>**

Paddock Road  
The Causeway  
Church Street  
Archers  
Dell Spring  
Riverside  
Bridewell Close  
Wyddial Road  
Norfolk Road  
High Street

**Saturday  
8th December  
Santa is resting**

**WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup>**

London Road  
Layston Meadow  
Owles Lane

**THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup>**

Bowling Green Lane  
Bowlers Mead  
White Hart Close  
Tylers Close  
Greenways  
The Pyghtle

**SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>  
(STARTS 5PM)**

Freman Drive  
Chequers Close  
Vicarage Road  
Honey Lane  
Bridge End  
Porters Close  
Wood Close

**FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup>**

Bovis estate  
Nutslip

**MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup>**

Market Hill  
Rib Way  
Snells Mead  
Hare Street Road  
The Tannery  
Sunny Hill

**TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup>**

Baldock Road North  
Monks Walk  
Longmeads  
The Folly

**THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

Fairfield  
Downhall Ley  
Station Road

High Street  
St Francis Court  
Olvega Drive  
Crouch Gardens

**Christmastime @ Gravelly Barn in Braughing**  
**10.30am–4.30pm on Friday 30th November,**  
**Saturday 1st December & Sunday 2nd December**

An exhibition and sale of paintings, textiles, ceramics, jewellery, glass and festive refreshments, raising money for Mesothelioma UK in memory of Ann Smith and for Breakthrough Breast Cancer in memory of Norma Adams. Contact J Davalle or G Bainbridge for further information: 0790 5184619  
[www.gravellybarn.com](http://www.gravellybarn.com)

**Instant Sunshine**

A cabaret evening of music and comedy

**Sat 1st Dec 2012, 7.30pm, at St Mary's Church, Braughing**

Tickets Prices £15, £12 or £10. Children free.

Box Office: 01763 289073 / [bookings@braughingmusicsociety.co.uk](mailto:bookings@braughingmusicsociety.co.uk)

[www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk](http://www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk)

**A special charity event in aid of the**  
**Stephanie Knight Rehabilitation Fund**

Stephanie has been suffering with a rare form of cancer (Ewings Sarcoma) for 3 years. To save her life it has been necessary to remove part of her pelvis and consequently a perfectly healthy leg. One can hardly imagine how difficult this has been for Steph and her family, but the good news is that this radical surgery has given Steph the possibility of a cancer-free life. To help with her rehabilitation at home she needs all sorts of equipment, not all of which is available on the NHS, and this is going to cost in the region of £8000. Please help us raise this money by coming to:

**BRAUGHING DRAMA GROUP'S (almost) WORLD-FAMOUS**

**\*\*\* MUSIC HALL \*\*\***

on **SAT 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER** in **BRAUGHING VILLAGE HALL**

**Doors open 7.30 curtain up 8.00pm**

**Tickets £15.00 from: Lesley Purse - 01920 822150**

including cottage pie supper, mince pies, bar & raffle

# Buntingford Dancing School

September saw us arrive at Freman College for some of our classes. The transition went very smoothly with all of the children (and adults!) arriving for their classes on time. So it was full steam ahead into the new term.

**Dance Show:** All the children are now working very hard on their show dances and are very excited about performing at Broxbourne Civic Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2013. This show will also help to mark the 10-year anniversary of the school this September. Tickets will be available from Buntingford Dancing School from early January. Please keep an eye on our website for details. Music, choreography and costume preparations are well under way. We are lucky to have a wonderful group of parents who volunteer to help make costumes, fund-raise and generally be 'all hands on deck'. We are very grateful for their support in helping us put on the show.



Chloe Hatton,  
medal-winner

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**Duke of Edinburgh Award:** A number of our Year 10 students have been carrying out their work experience volunteer requirements for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze

Award they are taking via Freman College. They have all done a wonderful job and have been a great help to us (so much so that we have failed to release them!).

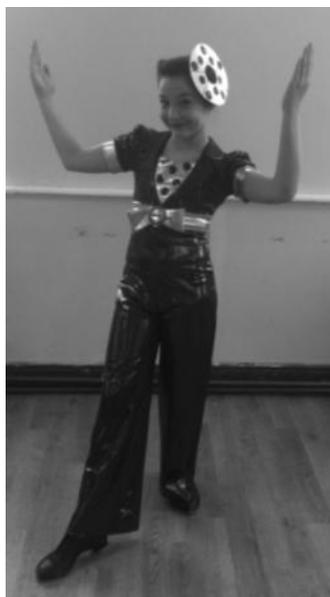
**Royston Dance Festival** Our entrants into this dance festival put in fantastic performances:

Chloe Hatton, Kelsey Mitchell, Sienna Smith, Elyse Brogden, Holly McPartland, Heidi Emes, Leah Pugh, Emma Briffett and Josie McMeechan. Congratulations to Josie and Kelsey who have qualified for the **All England Dance Competition** semi-finals in May 2013.

**Ballet Exams:** Some children took their ballet exams in October – we are still eagerly awaiting the results.

Our term will finish on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December and we return to classes on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January. Wishing all Journal readers a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!

*Julie McPartland, Vice-Principal  
Buntingford Dancing School*



Josie McMeechan,  
tap solo semi-finalist

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Sienna Smith in action

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# CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH BALDOCK ROAD BUNTINGFORD

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

## MORNING WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:00AM

December	2	Morning Worship	Rev Prof D M Thompson
	9	Holy Communion	Rev Duncan Goldie
	16	Children's Service	Junior Church
		<b>6pm</b> Carol Service	Rev Duncan Goldie
	23	Morning Worship	Rev Duncan Goldie
	25	<b>10am</b> Christmas Day Service	Faith Paulding
	30	Morning Worship	Rev Dr Janet Tollington
January	6	Morning Worship	Dr Jeffrey Barham
	13	Holy Communion	Rev Duncan Goldie
	20	Morning Worship	TBC
	27	Morning Worship	Rev Duncan Goldie
February	3	Morning Worship	TBC

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

**Visit our website at [www.buntingfordurc.freeserve.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordurc.freeserve.co.uk)**

## St. Mary's Church Aspenden Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2012

At 7:30PM for 7:45PM

Tickets FREE but must be obtained in advance from  
Mrs Jean Pitts 01763 272109





## United Benefice of

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



**Reverend Ian Hill – Telephone 01763 274072**

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

*Everyone is welcome at any of the churches.*

### Services for December

Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	10:00am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Family Service
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
	6:30pm	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Carol Service
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Carols by Candlelight
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup>	2:30pm	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Carols round the Crib
CHRISTMAS	4:00pm	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Carols round the Crib
EVE	5:30pm	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Nativity Service
	11:00pm	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Midnight Communion
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Family Communion
CHRISTMAS DAY			
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup>	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship

## ST. RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford Telephone 01763 271471

**Parish Priest: Father Ian Dickie**

**HOLY MASS** is celebrated each Sunday at 9:30am and 6:30pm

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

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

Saturdays at 6:00pm at Furneux Pelham

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





# Edwinstree Middle School

Our annual fundraising week for Action Aid ended with the Year 7 fete. The pupils enjoyed a variety of stalls: face painting, apple bobbing, football shoot out, cake bakes, nail painting and many others. The fete raised £774.97 and together with non-uniform donations and Year 6 cake bake sales, this meant a magnificent total of £1375.24 was collected. The money will go a long way towards the education of our two sponsored children, 11 year old Seema and 6 year old Susmita who live in India.



Fundraising for Action Aid

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We had an emotive Collective Worship on the British Legion on the Friday before Remembrance Sunday.

Mr Fuller told us how moved he had been when visiting the Normandy cemeteries with Year 8 earlier in the year, finding war graves of soldiers only five or six years older than some of our pupils. The Collective Worship ended with our Year 6 pupil Jasper Eaglesfield playing the Last Post. Many of our pupils marched in the Remembrance Sunday procession to St Peters Church on the 11<sup>th</sup> November and laid a wreath at the War Memorial there.



Edwinstree's bugler, Jasper Eaglesfield, playing the Last Post, and pupils paying their respect at the War Memorial (right)

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Mrs Michael was delighted to receive an email from Gemma Spriggs, a former Edwinstree pupil who is spending her gap year volunteering at a hospital in Tanzania. As well as spending her time fundraising to pay for her trip, Gemma had also found time to be an Olympic Games Maker.

Our sports department have had a brilliant start to the new school year. Our U13 cross country teams took part in the Bishops Stortford and District Championships, with both boys and girls performing well. Congratulations to our U11 mixed Basketball players who played in the North East Herts competition, the 'A' team just losing out to Greneway in the final, while the 'B' team won their group. An outstanding display in North East Herts Table Tennis Championships saw both our boys and girls teams qualifying for the County finals at Queens School in Watford. Our Speedstacking Year 5 and 6 teams also became champions in the North East Herts tournament.



Former Edwinstree girl Gemma Spriggs at the St Elizabeth's Hospital in Tanzania

Rehearsals are well under way for our 'Celebration of Christmas' with the school orchestra and choirs practising seasonal songs and hymns. The event takes place on the 18th and 19th of December.

**Diane George**

## **BUNTINGFORD MEMORIAL CHARITY**

The Buntingford Memorial Charity has certain funds available to it for distribution to suitable bodies and organisations within the town. It is a term of the Charity that 'the Trustees shall apply the income of the Charity in, or towards, such charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of Buntingford as the Trustees, from time to time, think fit'.

Applications for grants are now invited by the Trustees from any interested body or organisation who would qualify within the terms and definitions given. It would be appreciated if all applications could set out, as fully as possible, the nature and background of the body or organisation applying, its objectives and activities, and the purpose for which the grant is sought, together with an indication as to the degree of financial support that is hoped for. The acceptance of any application and/or the amount of grant that might be made by the Charity is entirely at the discretion of the Trustees. The closing date for applications this year is **31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012**.

Anyone who is interested in applying for a grant should ensure that their application is received by me, at the following address, by the date given.

**Val Reedman**  
**Chairman, Buntingford Memorial Charity**  
**16 Mill Close**  
**Buntingford, Herts SG9 9SZ**



# BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

*A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL*

The Annual Service of Remembrance was attended by record numbers this year. Our grateful thanks go to the British Legion for organising such a meaningful event.

The Boxes for Soldiers Campaign has been very successful, with in excess of 70 boxes collected at the time of going to print.

For those of you who missed the 'Have Your Say' event at the Manor House, a small display has been retained in the reception area giving you a final opportunity to give us your thoughts on the future of Buntingford.

As in previous years we have to thank Graham Bonner, John Warren and their team for creating a magnificent Christmas Lights display and for arranging the popular Late Night Shopping event.

The Town Council now Tweets via Twitter, please follow us on **@buntingfordtc**.

**Jill Jones MILCM Cert HE**  
Town Clerk

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

**Tel: 01763 272222**

**email: [btc.manorhouse@btclick.com](mailto:btc.manorhouse@btclick.com)**

**website: [www.buntingfordtowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordtowncouncil.co.uk)**

## **Town Council meetings for December 2012 & January 2013**

Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7:30pm – Amenities Committee
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Resources Committee
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	7:30pm – Amenities Committee
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Resources Committee
Thurs 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Full Council

All meetings will be held at The Manor House unless indicated otherwise.  
Members of the public are welcome to attend.

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

## Buntingford Relief in Need Charity

A vacancy has arisen for a new Trustee for the above Charity.

Applicants must have lived in Buntingford or Aspenden for at least 10 years. A reference will be required.

Please apply to the Chairman, Eunice Woods, on 01763 271974.

## BUNTINGFORD HERITAGE CENTRE



COME AND VISIT US IN THE  
MANOR HOUSE FOYER

And see a display depicting a  
slice of Buntingford's history

CURRENT DISPLAY



**Buntingford's Lost Pubs (where are they now?)**



Bramble Hill Children's Centre is based in Mill Close in Buntingford and our main purpose is to offer access to services for children under 5 and their families.

Our **Dad's/Male Carers Group**, held on the third Saturday of each month, has a new venue. The group now meets at The Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane, Buntingford. Dad's and male carers are very welcome to come along with their under 5s between 10.00am and 11.30am to enjoy a cuppa and a bacon sandwich. £1 per child.

The **Drop-In Breastfeeding Group** is every Friday from 11.00am to 12.00 at the Children's Centre in Mill Close. It's an informal opportunity to share experiences of breastfeeding with other mums over a cuppa! A health visitor is on hand for queries. There is no charge. Please note the group will not meet on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> December.

If you would like to be included on our mailing list and receive regular updates from the Children's Centre please call us on 01763 273008 or email us at:

**[bramblehill@ymcacentralherts.org.uk](mailto:bramblehill@ymcacentralherts.org.uk)**

*On behalf of Mandy, Lynn, Sam & Debs at the Children's Centre, we'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year ☺*

# Green Men – But Not Ones From Mars

## Martin & Mandy – Part 35

So I've never run into green men before, but a bit of hunting around in the internet is a dangerous thing. It comes to pass that the tradition of a green men actually goes back many years into pagan times – as far back as the 2nd century where you can find carvings of a man's head with leaves growing out of it. They started as stone and wooden carvings on memorials to rich citizens, but by the 4th century they had made their way onto Christian tombs. By the 6th century they had managed to enter into church buildings – most notably by Bishop Nicetius of Trier who took some of these carvings and included them in his cathedral there. For hundreds of years these carvings were on prominent view, until the 11th century when, in a process of restoration, they were hidden behind brickwork. These days it's rare to find green men prominently displayed in churches (although I'm told one can be found in the screen at Kinnersley Church in Herefordshire), but they are often hiding. They are in the undercroft at Wells Cathedral and in the Black Princes Chantry at Canterbury Cathedral. In fact normally there's one in every cathedral somewhere.



The Green Man in Canterbury Cathedral

In the 19th century a character called 'Jack in the Green' appeared in the May Day celebrations. The character became particularly associated with chimney sweeps and other household trades who would dress up and blacken their faces and entertain the crowds by dancing around a Jack-in-the-Green to improvised music. The Jack was a conical wicker framework, covered in leaves, with a small hole through which the man inside could look out – very similar to green man carvings.

Pagan cultures have considered the green man as a symbol of life, death and rebirth. His luxuriant foliage is said to represent both fertility and regeneration, but other faiths have held different views over the years. Medieval Christian churches originally considered the image to represent the nearness of death, but they too adopted the cycle of birth, life and rebirth. Ironically, in today's time The Green Man is one of the most common pub names, so he really is a man of history, recording the ways of the times.

It's reasonably clear that the Green Man has a long history, from paganism right up to modern-day Christianity – but why am I rattling on about this in an article about Layston Church? Well many years ago, in the mid-1950s, a collection of work was undertaken by a Buntingford building firm called Handy, and a chap called Colin Handy worked on the project. They did many things including re-laying the chancel floor, some repair work to the walls of the Nave, and they installed drains in the Nave to prevent it flooding after they had removed the roof and pews. A wonderfully lucky find of ours on ebay was a builder's



The Layston alabaster

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report regarding all this, which we bought for £5. This itemised all the work and commented on the woodworm in the pews and the holes in the roof.

In the process of this work they uncovered a small alabaster carving which is now in Hertford Museum. It came out of the walls in a fair number of pieces, but if you visit the museum and ask nicely they will let you see it in their store room. We hope one day to be able to display it in the church during one of our open days.

Now it comes to pass that I'm walking up and down the High Street at the recent classic car show, and I get introduced to this chap who's been wanting to bump into me for some time. Anyway, we spark up a conversation about all sorts of things and eventually we get onto woodwork in Layston Church and what we are planning on doing. By the end of the conversation he tells me he has something he would like Mandy & I to have to put back in the church that sat in the Handy workshops for years after the work they did in the church in 1953. A few days later he arrives with a Green Man which looks fabulous. It's a wooden carving which apparently came out of the roof in 1953 and rather than being burnt with the rest of the roof it got put to one side. Now our plans did not have a Green Man identified and it came as a shot out of the blue to have him re-appear, so this gave us a bit of a problem, but after a bit of a wander round the site we found the perfect place for our man to live – he's just the right size to go underneath the main cross beam of the bell chamber roof, it's like the space was made for him, and so that's going to be his home from now on.



Our returning Green Man

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We have no real idea where he came from originally, or how old he is, but like a homing pigeon he's returned

(which makes me suspect that Layston is where he started), so it's great to be able to accommodate him in our restoration and include him in the re-birth of the building, which is after all what Green Men are all about.

**For more history and information related to St Bartholomew's, visit:**

**[www.layston-church.org.uk](http://www.layston-church.org.uk)**

# My Weight Loss Story



Mel dressed in size 12 for the 50th Rugby Ball

Now where do I begin! Oh yes, my name is Mel Hudd, I am 37 and live in Buntingford with my husband, two wonderful children, one dog and one cat. I am now a happy size 12, but it was not always this way – I know what it's like to struggle with weight. I was always a chubby child, told from a young age I had to eat everything on my plate before I could get down from the table. I was active enough, with ballet, karate, swimming and generally running around with other kids, but as I got older I found it difficult to fit everything around school work and my weight went up. I was often teased and called names, such as 'Mrs Blobby' and 'fatty', but I just laughed it off – what else could I do. I became the life and soul of the party. The louder the better! But I was eating more and more.

I first tried to tackle my weight when I was 14. I joined a diet club – or 'fat club' as we called it – but struggled to stick to the diet. As I got older my weight yo-yoed, changing with my lifestyle. Then I met my future husband. After a short dating period we moved in together and for the first time I was truly happy. But weight was still an issue – for both of us. We went out for meals and ate lots of takeaways. When we got engaged we decided to lose weight and joined WeightWatchers online. It worked – we looked happy and healthy on our wedding day. But we soon fell back into our old eating habits.

When I fell pregnant, I told everyone I was eating for two and my weight grew and grew. I didn't lose weight after the birth, then after my second child was born I began comfort eating to stop feeling so down. I knew something had to be done, so with the support of a friend I started training for the 5K race for life. I struggled, but we ate a healthier diet and by the time I completed the race I had lost 2 stone. But then we stopped running and texting each other for support, and before I knew it the weight crept back on until after a year all 2 stone and more was back.

Then one Tuesday morning, in January 2009, I looked at myself in the mirror and was angry. I did NOT want to be like this any more. I wanted to do things with my children – the simplest tasks had become difficult – and I did not want them to have to face the same issues I did growing up. So I went back to Weight Watchers expecting to be told off for dropping out. To my delight the group leader, Kerry, welcomed me with a smile and said that I had taken the hardest step in coming back through the doors. She was full of support, explaining that we would make this journey together. I took out the Monthly plan as this was the cheapest option and I also had E-source (on computer) and an app for the I-phone, which put information at my fingertips, including recipes the whole family could enjoy. Kerry's 'getting started' talk gave me the confidence that I could do this and I started losing weight at a healthy rate of between half to 2lb per week. Every now and again I put a bit back on, but with Kerry's help I carried on losing overall.

After a year I felt so much better and I had started to run again, completing 5K, 10K, 5 mile and then 10 mile runs! Then one week I came to weigh in and had reached my GOAL and a healthy BMI. In total I had lost 52.5lb, or 4.5 stone. Choosing a dress to go to the 50<sup>th</sup> Rugby Ball I was no longer looking for a size 20-22, I was in size 12. I was so happy to be slim and healthy, I signed up for the Stevenage half-marathon.

Kerry now approached me about becoming a group leader. I had to complete a workshop course and have now been a leader for over a year. In that time I have helped many people on their weight loss journeys to achieving their weight goals and a healthy BMI. I am now opening a **new WeightWatchers meeting in Buntingford at Benson Hall on Friday mornings at 9:15**. Everyone is welcome to come along and meet with me and chat about their own weight loss experience, as well as where they would like to go with their weight loss. **This all starts on 30<sup>th</sup> November**. For more information on your local WeightWatchers group check out the website at [www.weightwatchers.co.uk](http://www.weightwatchers.co.uk), or text your postcode to 62223\* or call 08457123000. (\*Standard network charges apply.)

**Mel Hudd**

## attend2health

On Saturday 27th October, to mark the clinic's 5th birthday in Buntingford, **attend2health** held a half-price charity morning in aid of Jake's Journey. Jake Pike is a young friend of the clinic who has been fighting a brain tumour for nearly 2 years now. At just 13 years old, and having only just started at Fremam College, he has undergone surgery and radical proton therapy in America and is currently an outpatient at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge. Jake's Journey is a trust fund intended to cover the cost of future treatments, as well as travel and support for Jake as he encounters any side effects of his treatment.



Health practitioners and co-fundraisers  
Sam (far left) and Mike stand by as  
Louise (right) presents the cheque to Jake

Head chiropractor and practice owner Louise Hampton, along with osteopath Sam Bloomfield and physiotherapist Mike Varney, treated patients on the Saturday morning and donated all the money raised to the charity – a wonderful total of £463. The picture shows Louise presenting their cheque to Jake. Louise said: 'The day was a great success and it was lovely to be able to give something back to the local community. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event.'

BELOW IS THE LATEST IN AN OCCASIONAL SERIES OF ARTICLES DISCUSSING LEGAL ISSUES THAT AFFECT INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES, PROVIDED BY CURWENS, A LOCAL FIRM OF SOLICITORS WITH OFFICES IN ROYSTON, HODDESDON, CHESHUNT AND ENFIELD.

## **Alternative Methods of Resolving Family Disputes**

We probably all know someone who has been involved in a dispute with an ex-spouse, former cohabitee, or the other parent of their child. The parties could be arguing over money, how much time each has with the kids, or even who gets to keep the pet dog! When a relationship breaks down, all too often it can end in a long, expensive court battle. But this is by no means the only option – here are some other ways to consider.

### **MEDIATION**

The parties discuss their dispute face-to-face, with an independent mediator in attendance. The mediator assists by arranging the practicalities of where and when to meet, how to deal constructively with issues, and provides a concluding report (usually in writing) to confirm what has been agreed and how things will move forward. Sometimes the mediator has to admit that mediation is not a suitable means to resolve the dispute. The two parties usually share the fees of one mediator which keeps costs down – although often each party will take their own legal advice behind the scenes.

### **COLLABORATIVE APPROACH**

Each party instructs their own collaborative lawyer – usually a solicitor with specialist training. Each lawyer assesses their client to ensure they are suitable for using this process. The parties and their lawyers meet in a four-way meeting, where each party outlines why they want to use the process and what they expect to get out of it. All four sign up to a Participation Agreement – to confirm that whilst the process continues they will be open and honest and do their best to assist the process, and will not issue any court proceedings other than by agreement. If either party breaches this agreement, both parties have to find new lawyers and all offers on the table are cancelled, so once begun there is pressure to continue the process to its conclusion. Each party is responsible for their own lawyer's fees, so depending on how many meetings are needed it is not the cheapest option, but it can move things along quickly.

### **ARBITRATION**

An arbitrator is a solicitor, barrister or Judge who has undergone specialist training to become in effect a private judge. The parties avoid the formal court process by jointly choosing an arbitrator and agreeing with them how best to proceed – including deciding what, if any, evidence needs to be provided and how long any hearing should last. Usually, each party will need a legal adviser to assist them and to present their case to the arbitrator. The decision of the arbitrator is binding. Arbitration gives more flexibility to the parties as to how, when and where their dispute is adjudicated. However, instead of paying set court fees (often around £200–£300), they will have to jointly cover the costs of the arbitrator which could run to thousands of pounds.

All our family solicitors are members of Resolution – the national body of family advisers. Resolution's website provides lots of practical support and information for the public: [www.resolution.org.uk](http://www.resolution.org.uk)

If you have a family dispute and want to know more about alternatives to court, or just need some initial advice, please contact our Clare Pilsworth on **01763 255121** or email her at [clare.pilsworth@curwens.co.uk](mailto:clare.pilsworth@curwens.co.uk)

## EAST HERTS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Manor House, Buntingford

### Drop-in:

Monday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

### Telephone:

08444 111 444

Monday – Friday

10:00am – 4:00pm



## Saving on Fuel Bills

**Every winter I struggle to pay my fuel bills and this year, with prices going up, it is going to be even more difficult. Is there anything I can do?**

It is very important that you keep on top of your bills, by working out how much you spend on fuel, based on your previous bills, and then budgeting to cover these costs. Also, regularly read your own meter and check that the bill is correct, especially if it has been estimated.

Make sure that you are getting the best deal from your supplier. Many suppliers offer discounts if you:

- pay by direct debit;
- get both electricity and gas from them;
- manage your bills online and do not receive paper bills;
- receive certain benefits or are disabled, long-term sick or aged 60 or over.

You should also check if you can get cheaper gas and electricity from a different supplier. You can do this by contacting Consumer Direct on 0845 404 0506 or visit the Consumer Focus website at [www.consumerfocus.org.uk/energy/confidence-code](http://www.consumerfocus.org.uk/energy/confidence-code).

There are many small things you can do to save energy, such as using energy efficient light bulbs. More information can be obtained by phoning the Energy Saving Trust on 0800 512012 or visiting their website [www.est.org.uk](http://www.est.org.uk). You may be able to get grants and discounts for insulation, draught proofing and heating. Contact Warm Front on 0800 3162805 or visit [www.direct.gov.uk/warmfront](http://www.direct.gov.uk/warmfront). Information is also available on the Consumer Focus website at [www.consumerfocus.org.uk/energy/help-finder](http://www.consumerfocus.org.uk/energy/help-finder).

Check to ensure that you are getting all the benefits and tax credits you are entitled to. Most people aged 60 or over will automatically get Winter Fuel Payments and some people on benefits can get Cold Weather Payments if the temperature drops below a minimum for set number of days. Your local Citizen Advice Bureau can help you or visit [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk).

If you have views on any of the articles in the Journal, or on any issues affecting Buntingford, why not share them with other readers in the 'Letters to the Editor' pages? Send your comments by letter to **Christine Noble** at 68 Hare Street Road, Buntingford SG9 9HN. Or by email to: [Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

## Royston and District Ramblers Group Walks for December 2012 / January 2013

### DECEMBER 2012

- Sun 2<sup>nd</sup>** Weston, figure-of-eight walk 8 + 4 miles, led by David 01763 247572
- Tues 4<sup>th</sup>** Preston, Breachwood Green, 7 miles, led by Roger 01462 453752
- Thur 6<sup>th</sup>** Little Walden, 5 miles, led by Alan 01223 840963
- Sun 9<sup>th</sup>** Hitchin, 10 miles, led by Linda & Roger 01462 453752
- Tues 11<sup>th</sup>** Cottered, 5.5 miles, led by George 01763 242281
- Thur 13<sup>th</sup>** Anstey, Meesden, 6 miles, led by David 01763 242677
- Sat 15<sup>th</sup>** Xmas Party, 3 miles, morning walk led by Eric 01763 848576, followed by bring & share lunch (phone Tricia 01438 880553)
- Sun 16<sup>th</sup>** Manuden, 11 miles, led by George 01763 242281
- Tues 18<sup>th</sup>** Bassingbourn, 5 miles, led by Margaret 01763 256788
- Thur 20<sup>th</sup>** Weston, 5.5 miles, led by Chris 01462 890865, with possibility of Xmas lunch afterwards if pre-booked
- Sun 23<sup>rd</sup>** Buntingford, Dassels, Gt Hornead, 8 miles, led by David 01763 242677
- Tues 25<sup>th</sup>** Welwyn, 6.5 miles, led by Ed 01438 226590
- Thur 27<sup>th</sup>** High Cross, 5.5 miles, led by Lesley 07734 111225
- Sun 30<sup>th</sup>** Weston, 10 miles, led by Chris 01462 790865

### JANUARY 2013

- Thur 3<sup>rd</sup>** Therfield, 5 miles, led by Jenny 01763 245969
- Sun 6<sup>th</sup>** Wadesmill, 9.5 miles, led by Roger & Lin 01763 261405
- Tues 8<sup>th</sup>** Wadesmill, 5.5 miles, led by Roger 01763 281368
- Thur 10<sup>th</sup>** Bourn, 5.5 miles, led by Lesley 01763 241525
- Sun 13<sup>th</sup>** Sandon, 11 miles, led by Paul 01763 244038
- Tues 15<sup>th</sup>** Standon, 5.5 miles, led by John 01763 241525
- Thur 17<sup>th</sup>** Guilden Morden, 5.5 miles, led by Lorraine 01763 242054
- Sun 20<sup>th</sup>** Wrestlingworth, 10 miles, led by Lorraine 01763 242054
- Tues 22<sup>nd</sup>** Croydon, 5 miles, led by Pat 01223 872344
- Thur 24<sup>th</sup>** Meldreth, 5 miles, led by Rama 01763 260565
- Sun 27<sup>th</sup>** Bassingbourn, 11 miles, led by Vince 01763 241092
- Tues 29<sup>th</sup>** Great Chishill, 5.5 miles, led by Janet 01763 838300
- Thur 31<sup>st</sup>** Rickling Green, 6 miles, led by Eric 01763 848576

**Tuesday & Thursday are morning walks, Sunday walks are all day.**

For meeting points and starting times, contact the walk leader or visit the website:

**[www.ramblers-herts-northmiddlesex.org.uk](http://www.ramblers-herts-northmiddlesex.org.uk)**

Click on 'Groups' and then on 'Royston' to find full details

## DECEMBER 2012

### Sat 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> Care4aFestive Cuppa

You are invited to hold a Festive Christmas Tea Party in aid of the Hospice. If you would like help with your fundraising ideas please contact Maria Alexander on 01707 382500

### Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> – JINGLE BELLS & BOWS FUN RUN 9:30–13:30

At Stanborough Lakes (north side), Welwyn Garden City, sponsored by John Lewis. Everyone is welcome, including well-behaved dogs. Fancy dress optional, but every year we get wackier and more elaborate costumes – Christmas Trees, reindeer pulling Santa, Elves, Christmas Puddings and Shining Stars. The 5K run is at 11am with registration at 10am. The 4K walk is at midday with registration at 11am. Admission: adults £12, children under 16 £5, under 5s free.

### Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Dec – HOLLY FAIR

Holly Fair at St Michael's Church, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford, Herts CM23 2ND.

### Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Dec – COMMUNITY CAROL CONCERT 19:00

Salvation Army Carol Concert at The Methodist Church, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3AZ, followed by a collection in aid of Isabel Hospice.

### Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Dec – THE DICKENS CHRISTMAS BALL

At Capel Manor, Enfield. Champagne reception and three-course dinner with wine and entertainment. Fundraising auction and raffle. Victorian/Dickens costumes or evening dress. £125 per person. Ticket enquiries to Suzanne Coleman 01438 717406

### Tue 11<sup>th</sup> Dec – COFFEE MORNING 10:30–12:00

You are welcome to come to our fundraising coffee morning at Markwell Pavilion, Bishop's Stortford. All welcome. Enquiries 01279 755320.

### Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Dec – THE BOARS HEAD'S GOT TALENT 19:00–23:00

Fundraising Talent Show at The Boars Head, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2LX. DJ, Karaoke, Open Mic. £200 prize money for best act. Also a chance to win a brand new Ford KA. Strictly 18+. For more information please call 01279 503986

### Thur 20<sup>th</sup> – NETWORKING LUNCH 12:30–14:00

At Grill 55, 55 South Street, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3AL, in association with Marketing Kinetics. We welcome companies from all over Herts & Essex. Cost £15 includes buffet, glass of wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee. £100 sponsorship of monthly lunch includes promotion on website and email invites, display of literature & banners and a 10-minute presentation. For details contact Fundraising 01707 382500.

## JANUARY 2013

### Fri 18<sup>th</sup> – JAZZ NIGHT at Haileybury

A great night of Jazz with the Senior Jazz Band, Middle Band and the Chamber Choir. Tickets £25 to include a light buffet supper. Contact Maria Alexander on 01707 382500.



# LAYSTON C OF E FIRST SCHOOL



Above and below: Finding out 'How Nature Works'



Our children have all returned to school after the half term break full of enthusiasm for our new topic, 'How Does It Work?'.

We began by investigating how nature 'works'. Each class spent half a day in our Wild Wood. Based on the ideas promoted by 'Forest Schools', the children made their own decisions about what they wanted to find out. All kinds of exciting projects were soon under way, ranging from den building to exploring what lives in our pond during the winter, to making 'berry paint'.

We are all looking forward to our 'How Does It Work?' morning for parents later in the month, when we hope they will work with us on challenges and on solving problems.

Jane Wright from the **Road Safety Unit** visited us on a misty November morning to lead scooter training sessions for our Year 2, 3 and 4 pupils. Scooters are a very popular way of getting to school at Layston. Jane helped us to learn how to keep ourselves, and others, safe when scooting.

Our Eco-Warriors are very keen to encourage everyone to scoot, cycle or walk to school. They led an assembly reminding the children that exercise helps to keep us healthy and that it helps the environment when we cut down on car journeys. They introduced our new Golden Boot award which will be given each week to the class which has made the most scoot-cycle-walk journeys to school. Every class is trying hard to win.



Above: Scooting safely lesson  
Below: The Pirate Ship

We were lucky enough last year to win a Big Lottery Grant to improve our outdoor environment. At half term, the last part of the project was completed. Our very own pirate ship was installed on the field! This is already proving popular, especially with Year 1 children who have just enjoyed a 'Pirates' topic.

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

[www.layston.herts.sch.uk](http://www.layston.herts.sch.uk)

Or phone 01763 271235 to arrange a visit.

**Gill Langley, Headteacher**



## St Mary the Virgin Church, Westmill

We are delighted to announce that we have reached the target of £171,000 for repairs to the church roof. Two years ago it seemed a huge and daunting task, but it has now been completed! Very many congratulations to everyone here in Westmill and to all the other people involved. All our thanks for your support and generosity. We are very grateful to the 'Friends of Westmill Church' for the huge amount of hard work and effort they have put into fund-raising. Special thanks to Michael Thody, David McMullen and David Mills. Thanks also to Gerald Barrett our architect, to the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage and the other grant bodies for their generous sponsorship. We hope to start work in spring. Once again all our thanks to everyone, everywhere, who has helped us to preserve our beautiful Church for future generations.

### **Sue Phipps & Hilary Harding, Churchwardens**

Friends of Westmill Church was formed in January 2011 with the sole purpose of raising funds to repair our church roof. Since then FOWC has raised over £48,000 through donations and support for the various activities it has arranged. Westmill has a population of fewer than 300 and we have been amazed at the generosity of everyone. I believe that every single person in the village has contributed in some way to this fantastic grand total, and I feel sure that Westmill has become a more united village during the course of our efforts. It has at times been hard work, but very rewarding.

Following the advice of the medical profession I will be standing down as Chairman of FOWC at our AGM in January 2013. The Trustees will remain the same. Friends of Westmill Church has been built on a strong foundation with a committee that has proved capable of serious fund-raising. Targets have been met for now, but our Church will always be in need of funds and I therefore urge you all to support future activities. My very sincere thanks to you all for your support and encouragement. I now look forward to seeing the roof repair work commence.

**Michael Thody, FOWC Fund Raising Chairman 2012**

### **BALFF 10-WEEK COURSE**

## **BRITISH ART POTTERY 1870-1940**

**Tutor Virginia Brisco**

**Starts: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013 – 10.30am**

Do you watch all those antique shows on TV and wish you knew more? Do you wonder if that pot you inherited is an antique or worthless junk? Do you know Art Nouveau from Art Deco? This course will unravel some of these mysteries as we study the effects of the Arts and Crafts Movement and how it led to familiar companies such as Doulton and Moorcroft, as well as the innovative designs of Christopher Dresser and the 'Bizarre' creations of Clarice Cliff.

Wednesday Lectures start at 10.30am at The Community Centre. Coffee is served from 10.00am. For more information phone Julia Peacock on 01763-272584 or Joan Jones 01763-273341. Or just come along and you will be made very welcome.



# Millfield First and Nursery School



It is three years since we first gained the prestigious ICT Mark Award for our work with ICT (Information Communication Technology) across the school. Recently we have had to reapply for the award; Miss Young, our ICT Subject Leader, worked with all the staff to prepare our application and update the assessors on the improvements we have made in ICT since our last application. Earlier this month we were delighted to hear that we have been reaccredited with the award for a further three years.



KS1 pupils listening to a talk by Rev Ian Hill  
in St Peter's Church

In October we had a visit from our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner, Mrs Tracey Warner. We were delighted that she agreed with our assessment that the school continues to offer an 'Outstanding' education to our children with both progress and attainment well above the national figures.

We have once more taken part in the Operation Christmas Child appeal. Our pile of filled shoeboxes has been collected to be taken to some of the most needy areas of the world.

KS1 had a very informative visit to St Peter's Church. They were able to see all the different areas of the Church with Rev Hill, who and even persuaded Mrs Wagstaff to try on his robes!



KS2 get a taste for French food!

KS2 are learning about France this half term and enjoyed their French morning on Tuesday 13th November, when they sampled a range of foods, such as croissants and brie.

KS1 visited the war memorial to gain a better understanding of Remembrance Day. They saw the poppy wreaths that were laid at the memorial and were able to ask questions about the event.

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November we took part in the annual BBC 'Children in Need' Day, when the children were asked to bring a teddy bear to school in return

for a donation. The following Friday we held our annual non-uniform day and the children brought filled crackers into school for a stall at the PTA Christmas Fair, which takes place on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

Planning for Christmas is well under way. Foundation Stage is performing 'Ralph the Reindeer', whilst KS1 & KS2 are staging 'Hansel & Gretel'. We feel sure that all our parents will enjoy seeing their children take to the stage! In addition we will be holding our annual Carol Service and Year 4 will be visiting Nevetts Residential Home, the Day Care Centre and Dixon Place to sing carols.

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 271717.



KS1 children at the War Memorial

Kathy Willett, Head Teacher



## Millfield Little Stars

Our Little Stars pre-school is for children aged between 2 and 4 years. We offer flexible sessions from 9.00am to 3.00pm 5 days a week, term time only, with the option of a Breakfast Club from 8.00 am and an After-School Club until 5.15 pm.

In October we had a fire awareness week with a trip to Buntingford Fire Station and a 'Stay and Play' session which included toasting marshmallows on a fire pit (right)! Everyone enjoyed it and the children experienced how to stay safe but also have fun around fire.



During half-term, we held a 'Holiday Club' for two days at Millfield School. It was a huge success, with a variety of activities indoors and out. We are looking to offer this provision again in the February half-term 2013. We have lots of exciting events coming up in the next half term, including a 'Healthy Eating' week and a pyjama party to raise funds for Children in Need. We also have lots of Christmas activities planned.

For further information, or to register your child with Little Stars, please visit our website [www.millfield.herts.sch.uk](http://www.millfield.herts.sch.uk) or contact Natalie Ward, Daycare Manager, on 01763 271717.



Here we are at the end of another eventful, enjoyable and successful year. Next year promises more of the same and we also look

forward to the launch of our very own website. Monthly meetings are held at the Community Centre on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, doors open 2.00pm.

Our speaker on 14 January hasn't far to travel – Robin Webb will be telling the story of his home, 'Silk Purse to Pigs Nose' (the one with the 'rabbits' on the riverside walk). On 11 February we have Steve Lester talking on 'Insights, Auction House & Antique Roadshow'. Visitors welcome, £2. U3A membership is open to anyone over 50, retired or semi-retired, £12.50.

For more information phone Val Reedman (Membership) 01763 272135 or Dave Austin (Chairman) 01763 272066.

3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, Dec 6, 28, Jan 15 Contact Carol McKimmie	Walking Group (2 hours plus) 01763 271054	9:50am –12:00noon TBA
Last Thursday, Not Dec, 24 Jan Contact Dave Austin	Wine Appreciation 01763 272066	8:00pm at Seth Ward CC £5pp, bring 2 glasses each
4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 23 Jan Contact Hilary Curtis	Shorter walks (1 hour plus) 01763 272323	10:30am TBA
Individual sessions Wednesdays Contact Colin Gibbons	Family History 01763 271398	In Buntingford
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 20 Dec, 17 Jan Contact Alan Rumble	Computers (all levels) £3 01920 823608	2:00–4:00pm Seth Ward Community Centre
2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday, 7 Dec (meal), 11 Jan Contact Jeremy Burr	Digital photography £2 01920 823209	Xmas meal, meeting Crown 2:00–4:00pm URC Hall Jan
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, 11 Dec, 8/22 Jan, Contact Christine Jeffries	Singing for Pleasure 01763 273466	2:00–4:00pm Wyddial
Every Tuesday Contact Alan Smith	Bridge 01763 287657	10.00am–12.00noon Various Homes
Varies Contact Evelyn Smith	Social Outings 01763 272241	Panto December
Mondays Contact Dave Austin	Keep Fit £2 01763 272066	10:00–11:30am Seth Ward Community Centre
Last Wednesday, Not Dec, 30 Jan, Contact Anne Austin	Book Club 01763 272066	2:30pm Fairfield
Every Friday (not school hols) Contact Rosemary Poulton	Pilates: £20 for 6 sessions or £5 per session 01763 271598	1:30–2:45pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every Wednesday Contact Dave Austin	Table Tennis £2 01763 272066	2:00–3:00pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every Monday Contact Vidyut Sharma	Yogic breathing £5 01763 271779	10:00–11:30am Monks Walk
Contact Ron Brighten	Quizzes 01763 273175	Teams for local quizzes. Phone for dates.
Contact Anne Smith	Wednesday lunches 01763 271565	TBA
Every Thursday 10am Contact Julia Peacock	Carpet Bowls 01763 272584	Bowls Club, Wyddial Road

# Freman

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## COLLEGE

It's been all-go, both academically and with extra-curricular activities. Freman students always find a way to shine and House Drama in October was no exception. Congratulations to all involved, both on-stage and back-stage – over 100 students who invested hours of effort to produce a wonderful night of entertainment to a packed audience. Well done to Moore House for taking the 2012 crown!



### Iceland trip

In October half-term, 28 Freman students and three members of staff packed their thickest socks and thermals and jetted off to Iceland for a five-day trip. The group, which included many geography students, toured the island to see spectacular waterfalls and geysers, basalt column cliffs and black lava

beaches, and scaled two volcanic craters. Highlights included climbing inside the snout of a glacier with an ethereal blue light all around and seeing the area directly affected by the Eyjafjallajökull volcanic eruption a few years ago. Of course, it wasn't all hard work, the group were lucky enough to squeeze in two visits to the Blue Lagoon to soak away their worries and swim outside in -3 degrees C. The group also got a taste of local culture in Reykjavik and Vik by visiting an Icelandic folk museum and trying local foods. Mr Shepherd, Head of Geography, said: 'Some of our lads were brave enough to try the Icelandic delicacy of fermented shark (left buried for three months then eaten) but they weren't old enough to have the schnapps to accompany it!'

### Remembrance assembly

At the beginning of November we joined in a Remembrance Assembly organised by Head of History, Mr Trapmore. He spoke passionately about the work and role of the Royal British Legion and his links with the charity organising trips to the Thiepval Memorial for our A Year students who have the opportunity to visit the graves of ancestors who died in battle. Students shared their stories and took time to reflect on ordinary people who have done extra-ordinary things to protect our freedom and way of life.

Thinking about others continues at Freman in the run up to Christmas as tutor groups compete for the coveted title of 'best hamper' to be distributed to elderly folk in the community.

Each year's offerings seems to be bigger and better so we are hoping for great things! May I take this opportunity to wish you a very merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



**Helen Loughran, Headteacher, and all the staff at Freman College**



# Buntingford Social Club

C I U affiliated

6 Church Street, Buntingford, Herts. SG9 9AS

Telephone 01763 271889

www.thebuntingfordsocialclub.co.uk



**WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**\* EVERY MONDAY \***

**\* BIG CASH BINGO \***

Guaranteed £150 minimum snowball prize.

ALL WELCOME. Start 8:00pm

**ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS SHOWN (times permitting)**

Live entertainment Saturdays, except 2nd Sat in month (unless otherwise announced). Plus Darts, Pool, Snooker, Wii console.

We have Club Knockouts for Darts, Crib, Pool and Snooker.

**WE ALSO HAVE HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY 5:30PM TO 6:30PM**

**FOR YOUR DIARY: Subs due in January**

**13<sup>th</sup> February - SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL:**

**TOM JONES TRIBUTE NIGHT plus THE BEATWOS**

## ENTERTAINMENT FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY

1st Dec - ABAKUS - Rock Band

8th - NO ENTERTAINMENT (free jukebox, pool, snooker)

15th - PREMONITION DUO DO CHRISTMAS - We love them!

22nd - MELODY BEATS - Playing Christmas hits, a bit of a party night

24th - TITAN FAMILY DISCO - Christmas Eve is family night

29th - NO ENTERTAINMENT (free jukebox, pool, snooker)

31st - RELOAD - New Year's Eve from 60s to present day

5th Jan - NO ENTERTAINMENT (free jukebox, pool, snooker)

12th - NO ENTERTAINMENT (free jukebox, pool, snooker)

19th - PHASE - A club favourite

**MEMBERS FREE / GUESTS £1 WHEN ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED**

**or £4 SPECIAL NIGHT**

Don't forget to check out our page on facebook.

## Buntingford Dramatic Society



Gladys Aman – Your  
Drama Correspondent

Yoo-hoo, it's only me again. As you know I like a good book. This month's recommendation is *Rusty Bed-Springs* by I.P. Knightly. A marvellous tome. Anyway, I wanted to update you on activities down at the Buntingford Dramatic Society. Well, rehearsals for *Old Mother Hubbard*, by Tony Nicholls, are well under way. Be sure to get your tickets early so that you can get a good seat and enjoy a masterclass in double entendres, because believe you me, I'd like to give you one!

**Tickets (£8 per adult and £5 per child)** go on sale at 'The Cellar' in Buntingford in the new year. I cannot wait darlings!

My sister Isobel – Izzie to her friend (yes, that is singular, dear reader) – wanted to be in the pantomime. I have always said that she has the perfect face for it – she would be ideal for the back end of a cow (no make-up required, you see)! I'm not saying that she is ugly, but when she was born, the midwife took one look at her and promptly smacked our mother. Shame!

So, have a lovely Christmas and New Year everyone and see you all on the **1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> February, 2013.**



Izzie Aman (the ugly one on the right)

Check out [www.buntingforddrama.org](http://www.buntingforddrama.org) for more details.

## Buntingford & District Cage Bird Society

The Annual Cage Bird Show on 27th October saw 200 birds exhibited. Several categories of awards were presented by John Bull, who had been a junior member of the club over 40 years ago and whose father was a founding member of the group in 1956. The raffle raised £73 for sufferers of Guillain Barre Syndrome, a condition that affects the peripheral nervous system. Our next meeting, on 4th December, 8.00pm at Benson Hall, will be a 'Bring & Buy'. New members welcome. We meet on the first Tuesday each month.

**Happy Christmas All**

Enquiries Mr W Lodge 01920 438482



## Buntingford Cougars Under 9s in a First Class Partnership



The Cougars are delighted with sponsorship deals that have kitted out the Under 9's in brand-new kit, jackets and bags. The town's Under 9s number over 20 players and aim to have three teams in the new year, so were thrilled when three local businesses agreed to sponsor the squad. Buntingford company First Class Business Solutions (FCBS), who are sponsoring the kit, are authorised resellers of the world's leading copier, printer and digital office equipment, certified by Sharp as a 'Centre of Excellence'. All their service engineers are qualified with the very latest office technology and maintain machines to the highest standard. Sponsorship for tracksuit tops came from Welwyn Garden Alarms, an NSI Gold security alarm installer. Buckland-based Knowles Interior Solutions, a contractor for suspended ceilings and dry lining, are sponsoring the sports bags.

Richard Daly, Cougars Under 9s manager, said: 'We never underestimate what this type of sponsorship does for a club like ours. It not only renews kit and allows the children to look and feel great, it also means the club saves on having to buy kit and that in turn helps us to keep membership fees affordable. I would like to say a personal thanks to all three companies – we are proud to be associated with successful local business that support community organisations such as ours. Before the deal with FCBS the team played in 'hand-me-down' kit, so to have their own is fantastic. I must say that they look very professional.' For more details on the Cougars call Richard Daly on 07944 237400.



**Pictured in their new kit, left to right:** Back row – Stuart, Max, Jimmy, Tom, Sam, Hayden, Evan, George, Jake, Max, Callum. Front Row – Kameron, Luke, Nathan, Archie, Josh, George, Brogan, Georgety. Not in picture – Robin, Josh, Shane, Ciaran.

# The March Hare



## Tea Room and Boutique

North End Farm, Hare Street, Hertfordshire

SG9 0DY

themarchharetearoom@ymail.com

### Opening hours:

**9am to 5pm Wednesday to Friday**

**10am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday**

A **new tea room** has opened at North End Farm in Hare Street. The March Hare Tea Room and Boutique has been set up by three local mums with a passion for good food, good coffee and top class service. They serve home-baked cakes, light meals using local produce, barista coffee and loose leaf tea. The tea room is holding a **Christmas shopping evening** from **5pm to 9pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December** so come along to see their gorgeous boutique, which stocks all sorts of goodies, including clothes, jewellery, toys and gifts. There will be free mulled wine and cheese tasting.

## Daddy's Light Fantastic

Working for the electric board, my Dad (with discount) had quite a hoard. At Christmas, our best lounge was a room of lights – like a fairyland scene, it became magic at night.

Lights with homemade shades were quite the norm and Dad made lights of all shapes and forms.

Fairy lights he bought ready made, but you should have seen his homemade shades!!

He became well known for his 'twinkling grotto', loooooong before i-phones and lotto.

Of all of these things I remember the most, going to school being able to boast:

'My Daddy has put up the best lights of all! My Daddy had me in his thrall. I miss him most at this time of year, but the memory of lights brings a happy tear.

Love you Dad. God Bless xxxx

**Teresa Bonner**

# Custard? Or course there will be custard!

Tis the season of festivals and fireside, fairy lights and fantasy. So we draw towards the end of another year and the Yule Tide.

Mind you, Christmas in our house starts about September when senior management starts one of her lists. We have lists all over the house written on the backs of envelopes, junk mail letters, empty cartons and on very rare occasions special note pads bought especially for the purpose usually received as presents. In fact it has always been a mystery to me why we don't use the note pads instead of all these bits of paper because yours truly is often guilty of throwing the vital notes and lists out with the recycling. I think it is something left over from the 'make do and mend' training we received from our parents in days of yore.

In our house we have taken this to extremes, as I am here to say I have had the same piece of wrapping paper around my Christmas present for ten years – in fact I really look forward to it as an old friend now. Another tradition left over from our parents is the re-use of boxes for gifts and our children, when young, were often mystified by opening up their Christmas present to be presented with a box illustrating a surgical support when Scalextric was on Santa's list. However, all turned out well in the end when the packaging was torn away.

So the lists begin and the Christmas cupboard comes into being, as it does every year. The Christmas cupboard is on a par with King Solomon's Mines and contains all the goodies ready for the Big Day. Biscuits, cakes, jars of various pickles, washing up liquid ... washing up liquid? Anyway, this secure area is equal to Fort Knox and holds many mysteries, some of which are so mysterious that they will never see the light of day until we are stuck for something for the school Tombola stall.

I recall a small tin of prunes (with a raffle ticket attached) that came from this box of delights once and every year one of our children won it and it went back in the cupboard until next year. Over ten years it had done more miles than Concorde! Still, they do say prunes get you going.

So the preparations are in place, cards written, tree hauled out of the loft, a bit more wobbly each year, lights still not working and the fairy which we have had for almost fifty years and looks her age. Next, who is coming for Christmas dinner?

Before we had children, many years ago pre-computers, pre-housing development consultations, pre-wind farms and Clare Balding on the tele, we used to take it in turns to visit our parents on alternate years. Then later, when we had our own family in tow, they came to us on alternate years, followed by years of diplomatic negotiations with the rest of the extended tribe, on who amongst the family was going to have the parents. 'Whose having dad this year?' Personally, I would have settled for a turkey – or even chips!

But now our children have grown and we looked forward to going to their homes where we would be feted and waited upon at their expense. But no, they still want to come to us, because they 'are all working and it would be a lot of extra worry getting it all ready and as you are retired with lots of time and an open fire with logs and mum's custard is the best in the world and it wouldn't be the same anywhere else!' Our son-in-laws both think the custard in our house has miracle properties and demand bucketloads of the elixir at every opportunity.

I am not sure if we should be flattered or what! So come Christmas Eve the cupboard of festive delights will have been unlocked and the contents brought out, even the festive washing up liquid. The senior engineer will have been in frantic production for weeks producing a most superb repast, as always, which would grace any celebration board.

As the eve of Christmas draws towards midnight with every tick of the clock on the mantle piece, and my good lady has gone to bed exhausted, surrounded by yet more lists of things to remember for the morrow, I put another log on the fire and pour another restorative mouthful of golden nectar into my favourite crystal glass. The lights from the tree now have at last decided to work and through the refracted light of the whisky tumbler even the fairy has lost her world-weary look.

I light a seasonal cigar and as the aroma mingles with the scent of the logs and I am now in the Christmas mood, my mind drifts with the smoke back to Christmases past, when I would don the red coat and white beard and deliver the parcels to three sleeping children now fast asleep.

I hope she likes the present I have got her and I mustn't forget to sort that turkey out before I go to bed, but for now just one more sip and a puff or two and know tomorrow will be a success, as usual, thanks to the good lady. And of course there will be Christmas pudding with custard, there will always be custard!!

Was that sleigh bells up the chimney? Happy Christmas to you all.

Vyse



# B A L A

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

## Minibus trips for December 2012

Tues 4 <sup>th</sup>	9:30–12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£4
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:45–3pm	Bury St Edmund's – historic town, shops	£14
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:30–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup>	10:30–2:15	Country Gardens and Bury Lane Farm Shop, Melbourn – Cotton Traders, Shoes, Edinburgh Woollen Mills, Plants, Deli etc.	£4.50
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	10:30–3pm	Welwyn Garden City – John Lewis, M&S, Debenhams, WHSmith, Boots etc.	£6
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup>	10:00–3pm	Scotsdales Garden Centre & much more	£7
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:30–2:30	Letchworth – drop off at Morrisons	£5
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:30–12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre – Market Day	£4
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:30–12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
<b>JAN 2013</b>			
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10:30 – 3pm	Welwyn Garden City – John Lewis, M&S, Debenhams, WHSmith, Boots etc.	£6
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:30 – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£4

For more dates in January, see the posters later in December

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

## ***B.A.L.A. Coffee Mornings***

at Benson Hall, Buntingford – 10.30am to 12:00noon

**Wednesday 12th December & 16th January**

Cakes / Bric-a-Brac / Raffle / Marmalade

**Proceeds for the B.A.L.A. MINIBUS**

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

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



**HERTFORDSHIRE  
CONSTABULARY**

With Christmas and the festive season fast approaching, there are a few things to keep in mind. We need to anticipate cold weather and icy conditions. If you know of a vulnerable or elderly person who needs some help which is

going to make things easier for them, such as gritting pathways or tidying up wet slippery leaves, could I encourage you to report this to Highways on 0300 123 4047. Let's try and make things easier for everyone in what can be challenging times for some people.

You will find us out and about on the High Street on Late Night Shopping Night – 30<sup>th</sup> November – when we are working with the Fire Brigade and setting up a road safety stall. A quiz and leaflets will be handed out with some friendly advice.

All **beat surgery** details can be found on our website: **[www.herts.police.uk](http://www.herts.police.uk)**.

Beat surgery dates for Buntingford during December and January are as follows:

- 6<sup>th</sup> December – URC Hall 10:30–11:30
- 13<sup>th</sup> December – URC Hall 10:30–11:30
- 24<sup>th</sup> December – St Peters Church 10:30–11:30
- 10<sup>th</sup> January – URC Hall 10:30–11:30
- 14<sup>th</sup> January – St Peters Church 10:30–11:30
- 17<sup>th</sup> January – URC Hall 10:30–11:30
- 28<sup>th</sup> January – St Peters Church 10:30–11:30

### **Driving around Christmastime and the end of the year**

Visibility is often reduced due to weather conditions at this time of year, so can we use our fog lights appropriately and remember to turn them off when no longer needed, as drivers of oncoming vehicles and vehicles behind can be blinded by the lights. Use full beam appropriately and make sure front and rear lights are working, including brake lights. And make sure you have clean number plates as driving with illegible plates is an offence!!! As this time of year brings lots of people onto the roads, visiting friends and family for example, allow extra time for travelling and leave extra distance for braking.

With the party season in full swing across Hertfordshire, the Constabulary is reminding people to drink sensibly and to make the right decisions to ensure a safe and great night out. Over this festive period, the Constabulary is highlighting to all Herts residents the potential consequences of excessive drinking — such as being arrested – the importance of getting home safely, and never drinking and driving. Also can I remind people to take a licensed taxi home, to stick with friends and never get in a stranger's car.

If you have to take the car, we strongly advise that you stick to non-alcoholic drinks rather than having that one glass of wine or pint of beer and hoping you'll be under the legal limit – you can't calculate your limit so don't try. Here are some tips for a safe night out:

- On nights out with friends, take it in turns to be the designated driver for the night.
- Leave the car at home and use public transport or take a licensed taxi – why not pre-book your taxi home with a reputable company before you go out.
- Stick to soft drinks – it's cheaper and you'll avoid that 'morning after' feeling.

**Adam Frame, Buntingford PCSO**

***Buntingford Town Safer Neighbourhood Team***

**Telephone 101 for non-emergencies**



# BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

[www.buntingfordtownfc.com](http://www.buntingfordtownfc.com)



Before I get into footballing matters I would like to take time out to thank everyone who supported our recent firework evening. Despite the dreadful weather on the day we still had a magnificent turnout and I hope that everyone enjoyed the display. I would also like to thank all of our stewards and helpers, the staff at The Bury, and Fox Firework Displays; without your help the event would not have been such a success.

Every year we try to let the whole community know of the firework event, using posters and mail drops throughout the town. We also advertised in this journal and were kindly given a mention in the Buntingford Cougars' newsletter; I'm sure this additional exposure helped to ensure a record crowd on the night – thank you! We hope to have another display next year, so watch this space...



Think of a funny caption – and you could win £20!  
See right for details.

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On the pitch things have been going well – although consistency is still not there, we are definitely moving in the right direction. The First Team put five past Lemsford at the end of October, only to be beaten 6-2 a week later by St Peters (Colney Heath). The scoring boots were re-discovered over the next two games, with victories over Old Parmiterians (4-2) and Kimpton Rovers (8-0). The match against Kimpton seemed to be progressing like any other, and at 2-0 up with 30 minutes to go the game was evenly balanced. Without warning, however, Buntingford suddenly stepped up another level and cut the opposition apart, with Louis Gilbert scoring 6 more goals for the home side! It really was surreal; let's hope we can continue this kind of form!

On the same day, Town's Reserves travelled to Evergreen who they faced for the first time this season. Judging by the result, it would be great to play them every week! The team returned to The Bury in victorious mood, having won the match 10-0, with hat-tricks from Darren Webb and Rufus Pratt, making it 4 hat-tricks between 3 players on the day. During November the team also progressed to Round 3 of the Herts FA's Junior Cup, beating Croxley C&H Reserves 4-1, and will now face Broxbourne Badger Reserves at The Bury on 1<sup>st</sup> December.

The club's Veteran's have been banging the goals in as well, although unfortunately they have also had a leaky defence. At the end of October they beat Therfield 6-4, with Lee Grinyer scoring a hat-trick, and two weeks later secured a 5-2 victory over Arlesey. But on 18<sup>th</sup> November the side went down 4-1 to Bengoe Vets who were indeed the better side, demonstrating composure on the ball and pace on the break.

### **And now for a Christmas treat!**

I have decided to hold a Christmas competition – the lucky winner will receive a crisp £20 note! To the left is an 'action' picture taken during the recent Junior Cup victory over Croxley C&H Reserves. All I am looking for is a suitable caption to describe it. The most humorous entry, as chosen by my committee, will win the prize! Please send your entries via e-mail to [sec@buntingfordtownfc.com](mailto:sec@buntingfordtownfc.com), with 'Caption Competition' as the subject, and your name and contact details. The final date for entries is **31<sup>st</sup> December 2012**, and we will choose the winning entry during our next committee meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Finally may I extend the season's greetings to all readers of the Journal and supporters of our club. It has been an eventful year but, there again, every year is! Happy Christmas to you all, and we look forward to seeing you during 2013.

Chris Thurgill  
**Chairman, Buntingford Town FC**

## **BUNTINGFORD W.I.**

In November Buntingford W.I. was 93 years old and we are still going strong! Our speaker was Lyn Croot and her talk was entitled 'I had a dream'. Her dream started when she was a child watching Jacques Cousteau on the TV and then Hans and Lotte Hass – she wanted to learn to scuba dive. She learned to swim at her local pool but her dream remained on hold until much later in life when she went on a cruise with her husband and visited the island of Tobago, where she was able to have her first introduction to scuba diving. Her training took about two years and she is now qualified to dive to 40 metres, although she said the deepest she has been is 37 metres.



Lyn fell in love with Tobago and has visited it 35 times. It is her favourite place for diving and she brought along loads of underwater photos she has taken of the exotic creatures she has seen. On one occasion she came face to face with a banded jaw fish – the males of which incubate the eggs in their mouth – and she regrets being unable to get a photo of it. As a mature lady, Lyn said that when she goes away on holiday with all her gear people assume it is her husband who is the diver. It just goes to show that however old you are you should never give up on your dreams!

Our meeting in December is on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.45pm at the United Reformed Church Hall, when we welcome the return of a previous speaker, Keith Baldwin, to talk on 'A Christmas Carol'. Visitors are welcome. Our traditional members' New Year Party is on Thursday January 10<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in joining us, just come along to one of our meetings or phone Pat on 01763 271305.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from everyone at BUNTINGFORD W.I.**

**Val Hume**

# LOCAL TREE SURGEON

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Stump Removal

Have you considered, just like the rest of your property, your trees may need some maintenance from time to time?

Are your trees too tall, unsafe or untidy? Are they blocking light from yours, or your neighbour's, property? Are your trees likely to affect your building's structure?

With 25 years of experience working with trees, I would be pleased to offer you free advice and a quotation.

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