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WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY 2012

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

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

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY (CONT.)

FRIDAYS

- 9:30am – 10:30am Badminton at Seth Ward Community Centre – term time only.
- 10:00am – 11:00am Baby & toddler 'Rhyme Time' at Seth Ward Centre. £1 for first child, 50p for additional children to include tea & coffee. Contact Bramble Hill Children's Centre 01763 273008.
- 11:00am – 12:00 Drop-in Breastfeeding Support Group at Bramble Hill Children's Centre, Mill Close. Led by the health visiting team. 01763 273008.
- 3.30pm – 8:00pm Buntingford Dancing School – Dance classes at Layston School. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
- 5:00pm – 6:00pm Cougars Under 15s training at Norfolk Road. Darren 07764 573696.
- 5:30pm – 8:00pm Friday Project, Buntingford & District Youth Club for young people aged 13–19. A range of activities, held at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Contact Nick Howell on 07789 92764 or email nick.howell@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 Layston School and United Reformed Church Hall, Buntingford. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
- 9:15am – 2:00pm Musical Theatre School for 4–14 year olds at Seth Ward Community Centre. New students needed. Call Anna 07545 788433 or email stage-door@brilliantmusicaltheatre.co.uk.
- 10:00am – 11:30am 3rd Sat in the month, Dad's/Male Carers Group at Bunting's Nursery. £1 per child. 01763 273008.
- 2:15pm – 4:15pm Drama workshops for 6–15 year olds with Stagefrights Theatre at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Telephone Dave on 01438 232181 or email stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk.
- 2:00pm – 4:00pm Police Surgery at Buntingford Police Station, Baldock Road.

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

BUNTINGFORD & DISTRICT CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

The A.G.M. will be held on Tuesday 7th February at 8:00pm at the Benson Hall. If you would like to become a member then come along. The society meets on the first Tuesday of each month, 8:00pm at Benson Hall, Enquiries to:

Mr W Lodge, Secretary, 01920 438482

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

FEBRUARY 2012

- Wed 1st 7:45 for 8:00pm. Buntingford Gardeners Club at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Speaker Richard Thomas. Margaret Howard 07747 355017
- Fri 3rd – 8:00pm Buntingford Dramatic Society presents:
Sat 4th – 7:30pm 'PANTOstein' the Pantomime at Benson Hall.
Fri 10th – 8:00pm Adults £8 / children £5. Tickets from The Cellar off-licence.
Sat 11th – 2:30 & 7:30pm For more information contact Gill 01763 274250
- Tues 7th 8:00pm. Buntingford & District Caged Bird Society A.G.M. at Benson Hall. New members welcome. Enquiries Mr W Lodge 01920 438482.
- Thurs 9th 7:45pm. WI monthly meeting at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Speaker Fanny Kemble (aka Louise Reed).
- Wed 15th 12.00noon–1:30pm. BALA Lunch Break at Benson Hall – soup & bread roll £1.50.
- Sat 18th
& Wed 29th 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – Bingo at Benson Hall.
- Wed 29th 7:30pm. Buntingford & District Flower Club – Jan Law presents 'A Touch of Japan'. At Benson Hall; parking at rear of hall, entrance through Rib Way. Doors open 7:00pm.

MARCH 2012

- Fri 16th 5.00–6.30pm. Oliver Heald MP surgery at the Manor House, Buntingford.
- Sat 17th 11:30am–2:30pm. Ashfords & Carter Close – fund raiser in aid of Breast Cancer Research in Ashfords Lounge, Garden Road. Soup & roll lunch, raffle, cake stall, books and craft stall with Easter goodies.
- Sat 17th 7:15 for 7:30pm. Quiz night at Benson Hall, in aid of St Mary's Aspenden Restoration Fund. Tickets £8, to include Ploughman's (bring your own drink and glasses). Sheila Drage 01763 271256.

'SnifferDog Trainer'

An evening of anecdotes with ex-policeman **LEN LITTLE**

at **REED VILLAGE HALL**

Friday 3rd February at 7.30pm

Ploughmans Supper, Bar and Raffle

Tickets £8 – to reserve your place ring

Di on 01763 848 349

USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

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

EDITOR'S LETTER

Well that's Christmas over for another year. I hope that yours was a good one and that you have a very happy 2012. But as some of the articles this month remind us, the season of goodwill is not always a happy time for everyone. Please spare a thought for the many people who have lost family and friends at this time of year, casting a shadow of sadness over their future festive seasons. Let's hope that in years to come they may remember the happy times with loved ones, rather than the grief of loss.

The end of 2011 saw the demise of This-and-That, which inspired Teresa Bonner to pen a celebration in verse of the shops and services in Buntingford. It is a timely reminder to all of us to do what we can to support our local tradespeople and not to take for granted what we have here in our town. I still miss Buntingford Television, especially as my fridge has just gone pop, and barely a week goes by when I don't wish we still had Trudgetts.

Anyway, it doesn't do to dwell in the past and looking forward, 2012 promises to be an exciting year – especially the month of June. We have the Carnival on Saturday 23rd (see page 19) and this year it will be preceded on Monday 4th June by a street party to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, plus we have our very own version of the Olympics on Sunday 10th June – there's more on The Buntylympics and how to enter on page 43. And speaking of competitions, the CPRE are inviting entries for Hertfordshire Village of the Year 2012 – see page 11 if you think your village is a winner.

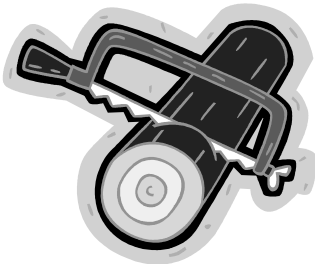
Christine Noble

Many thanks to Debbie Lemay for proofreading

**Copy deadline for the March 2012 Journal is
12.00 noon on Tuesday 21st February 2012**

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

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



LOGS FOR SALE

**Cut to size by request
Delivered to your home**

Please contact John on:

TEL: 01763 272516 MOBILE: 07773 845648

Letters to the Editor

Dear Buntingford

Thanks go to the droves of folk who visited Buntingford's ancient and traditional High Street on the evening of the Christmas Late Night Shopping, with the recently added seasonal market – it certainly added to the Lights of Love ceremony organised by the Town Council, which was held at the same time. Just like the Classic Event in September (the Car Show) and the Royal Wedding Street Party last year, the late shopping evening is organised by a few business people, local organisations and volunteers who give up days of their time, as well as money out of their own pockets, to make these events happen in order to bring the town alive.

Please continue to support our High Street, not only on the free special events that everyone enjoys, but also on normal days and especially during these dark winter days. The car park (behind Budgens) is free to use after 3.00pm on weekdays and all day at weekends. There are some great local traders who have given their all to improve the image of the town and invested heavily in the Buntingford dream. That's why the old buildings are well maintained and nicely presented for all of us to enjoy.

Let's keep our town alive. Let's keep Buntingford the 'Historic Market Town' that we all enjoy. If we don't support our High Street, it will die, and along with it the events, the Christmas lights, the community spirit and most of the things we like about our town and our way of life here.

Name and address supplied

Dear Christine

Firstly thank you for the Journal, I look forward to it most months, especially to read about Layston church. However, this month I feel I must write. The parcel scam reported in the article 'Parcel Scam – Don't be caught out' is in fact a hoax that was circulated by email on the internet. The origins of the hoax go back to a scam of 2005 and a 'service' that was shut down by the premium rate regulator at the end of that year. It is not physically possible for a premium rate number to charge you more than £1.50 a minute.

Symantec, Crimestoppers and other authorities never send out e-mails to warn people about specific scams. They have lists of what is true and what is real on their websites and people should be encouraged to check there if they receive an email like this one. You can find more information on this particular scam on the Crimestoppers website at: <http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/fraud/types-of-fraud/common-scams/postal-scam-email-from-parcel-delivery-service-65455465>

Kind regards
Dominic Hampton
Attend 2 IT Ltd

The editor responds: Many thanks for this correction, Dom. I received notification of the parcel scam through my Neighbourhood Watch email scheme and thought it would be a useful thing to warn people about, especially coming up to Christmas. As I had already heard of it from another source that I would also normally trust, I didn't check it further, but clearly should have. Hopefully, no harm done and a lesson learned.

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



8th January, 2012

Dear Christine

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the residents of Buntingford and the surrounding area for their support with all our fundraising efforts at the end of 2011.

From opening our new HQ and being able to use it from October, the Scout Group was full steam ahead and we raised almost £2,400 from the following events:

Annual raffle	£301.84
Santa run	£1,597.87
Chocolate Tombola	£290.98
Late Night Shopping	£205.08

We really appreciate everyone who comes along to support these events or buys that raffle ticket when we are selling them.

This year will be the first full year for the Scout Group in our new HQ and we are really looking forward to making the most of this wonderful resource. We would also like to offer others in the community that chance to make use of the facility for local events, parties and celebrations. If you would like further information on how to hire the Scout HQ please contact Ruth Vincent on 01763 271909 or at ruth.mcnamara@hotmail.co.uk.

Finally, we do have some spaces in several of our sections, so if you have a young person who may be interested in joining us please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to help. Thank you again.

Yours in Scouting
Jo McNamara
Group Scout Leader
3 Monks Walk, Buntingford, SG9 9EE
Jo.mcnamara@yahoo.co.uk

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

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



Have a Voice – It will soon be now or never

We are very pleased to report that the national body 'Civic Voice' has had major input to the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee report on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The select committee concludes that :

- There is no conclusive evidence that the planning system is a barrier to economic development.
- Local Plans should be the centrepiece of the planning system.
- Sustainable development should embrace the needs of people, the economy and the environment in equal measure.
- Development should be guided by the principles of brownfield and town centre sites first and in exceptional cases there should be absolute protection for some town centres from out-of-town development.
- Local Authorities should include an allowance for 'windfall sites' when allocating land for housing development – including an allowance for these usually brownfield sites which cannot be planned for but which contribute significantly to housing land supply.

The Government is expected to publish the final NPPF in February 2012 and has promised it by the end of March. Buntingford Civic Society will be working to the above conclusions in our discussions with EHC Planning and with developers' representatives. Very shortly we will be meeting representatives engaged to develop the Sainsbury site. We understand that public meetings will also be held and we strongly recommend that Civic Society members and non-members alike take an active part in these events.

EHC have stated that the 'core strategy' for East Herts will be out for consultation by March. As we see from the Select Committee conclusions that local plans should be the centrepiece of planning, this gives a greater sense of urgency to the completion of the Town Plan. The aim should be bottom-up, not top-down!

Finally, it was a real joy to witness the Freman College Awards evening. A full house, enthusiastic and highly competent young people, a very entertaining speaker and the pleasure of seeing Chris Davies receive the Civic Society award for Community Service. Freman College is an outstanding asset to Buntingford.

Derek K Cooper
Chairman

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

CPRE Hertfordshire Village of the Year 2012: Could it be yours?

Hertfordshire's Village of the Year competition is in its 13th year and the organisers, CPRE Hertfordshire, hope it will be lucky for some as they celebrate and encourage village life. Entry packages go out at the beginning of February and the deadline for entry is Thursday 3rd May. Each entering village completes a form and receives a visit from the judges, which this year will be at the end of May.

Sponsored by Hertfordshire Community Foundation in association with Hertfordshire County Council, Hertfordshire Life and the Hertfordshire Mercury, the competition offers cash prizes and trophies for the Hertfordshire Villages of the Year East, North and West, with a total of £500 going to the overall CPRE Hertfordshire Village of the Year.

There are category prizes, too, for Environment and Community Life, and the judges give special awards to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to village life – the Peterkin Rosebowl for adults and the Dorothy Abel Smith Pewter Bowl for young people aged 11 to 18. There is also a prize – the Hertfordshire Mercury Rosebowl – for an outstanding Small Village.

'With 186 Hertfordshire villages of all shapes and sizes – each with its own unique character – it's a pity that more don't enter the competition', says organiser Jo Simson. 'The villages which do seem to get such a buzz out of it'.

Take Hunsdon, the CPRE Hertfordshire Village of the Year in 2011. Writing in Hertfordshire Life's September 2011 issue, David Gibbs, Chairman of Hunsdon Parish Council, said: 'I would recommend those villages which have never entered the CPRE Hertfordshire competition to seriously consider doing so. But ... you have to start with a community which loves its village.'

The 2011 Village of the Year North winner was Pirton. This was the first major award for the village which has been entering since the competition began in 2000 to celebrate the Millennium. Organiser Dick Woodward says: 'The award is an acknowledgement of the time and energy contributed by many Pirton people who give of themselves for the benefit of the village. It's a village of just 1,300 residents, but over 40 organisations – all run by village people – are listed in St. Mary's Pirton Magazine. Entering the competition was a way of letting the world know what a wonderful village Pirton is.'

Standon & Puckeridge joined forces in 2011 to make their very first entry. Cllr Mark Axford was not keen at first: 'I was against it on the grounds it was all flower tubs and hanging baskets – but nothing was done to make the village look different from what it is day to day.' Because nothing needed to be done and the joint entrants were delighted to receive the Environment category award. They used the £150 prize money for a trophy cabinet for the villages!

Hertfordshire Village of the Year 2012 – it could be yours.

For more information and/or an entry package, visit www.cpreherts.org.uk.

Or contact **Jo Simson** on **01438 717587**.

IN MEMORY OF



Peter Graham Knight

1944 – 2011

I was very sorry to hear about the sudden death at Christmas of Peter Knight, who I got to know when I went to work in the Red House which Peter owned and also when I did a Profile of him in 2003.

He was born on the 4th February 1944 in Bishop's Stortford, where his parents ran the King's Arms pub. He played in the pub's darts team at the age of 8 and was also responsible for cooking Sunday lunch. His speciality was apple crumble and his father eventually said that if he did apple crumble one more time he would throw it at him!

Peter loved swimming and was the county diving champion at the age of 14. He joined the cubs and then the scouts and at the age of 18 he became the youngest qualified cub scout master. When he saw that the Boy Scouts of America organisation was offering opportunities for people to go to America and run their scout camps he applied and spent about four or five months there as a paid scout master for Chicago Scouts and teaching scout masters in New Mexico.

Soon after he returned from America he qualified as a quantity surveyor, working first for Herts County Council in Hertford. He subsequently qualified as a chartered loss adjuster and was accepted into the Academy of Experts. After working for others for a number of years, Peter decided to set up his own company, Knight & Co. He used to drive through Buntingford on his way to his office in Bedford and one day he noticed a 'For Sale' sign upon the impressive looking building known as The Red House in Buntingford High Street, parts of which date back to 1710. The building was fairly run down but Knight & Co. moved in in 1985. Peter organised some redecoration and refurbishment and installed an American pool table on the top floor (a vital piece of office equipment!).

Peter became well known in Buntingford. He said he must have 'let slip' that he had been involved in scouting and was soon snapped up by Buntingford Scouts and became Group Scout Master. This involved endless meetings, fundraising and organising camps for the boys. In 1996 Peter helped to set up a one-off family camp in the grounds of Little Court which was enjoyed not only by the local scouts but also by their parents.

He was encouraged to stand for the local Town Council and became a Councillor in 1995, where he served for 3 years, becoming Deputy Mayor at the end of his term. Whilst on the Council, he lent support to the small team of enthusiasts who were trying to set up the Buntingford Heritage Centre. When Peter stood down from the Council he was asked

by John Warren to become involved in the formation of the Buntingford Town Centre Management Team and was its Chairman for the inaugural year. The Team's slogan was: 'We don't mind who gets the credit as long as the job gets done!'

As if he didn't have enough to do, Peter decided to re-launch Lowestoft Porcelain in 2000. He had moved to Lowestoft with his family in 1995 and wanted to create jobs for talented local people, as well as resurrect a company that had existed some 200 years ago. Everything is hand-made and hand-painted and I treasure a beautiful little vase which Peter gave to me on my 60th birthday.

During the course of his working life Peter became an associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute and president of Bedford Insurance Institute on three occasions, as well as vice-president of the National Body. He was also president of the National Insurance Charities, gained Freedom of the City of London over 30 years ago and was Liveryman of three Worshipful Companies. He went on to become Master of the Worshipful Company of Constructors. Peter also supported the East London Charity 'Arts for All' as a trustee and involved supporter, as it was very dear to his heart.

The Red House has now been sold but Peter could still be seen occasionally walking up and down the High Street with his little dog, Luca. From the time he arrived in Buntingford he quickly became involved with the community and he generously gave his time to many groups and associations. His kindness, warmth and friendly smile will be remembered and missed by many.

Val Hume

Alan Bowell

Head Coach, Buntingford Swimming Club

It is with great sadness, but much honour, that I have been given the task of telling you all of the death of our Head Coach, Alan Bowell. After a long and brave battle with cancer, Alan passed away just before Christmas, leaving his wife Rita, son Ed, daughter Sue and five grandchildren.

Over a period of more than 40 years Alan gave of his time, freely and enthusiastically, to four Hertfordshire swimming clubs: Hoddesdon, Broxbourne, Ware and Buntingford, where he inspired at least two generations of children to train and compete at all levels.

Competitive swimming requires a lot of pool time. Alan gave up many hours of his time, both on the poolside and in official capacities at all levels. He was a coach, time-keeper, judge, served on many committees and was President of the Hertfordshire Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) on two occasions, in 1985 and 1993. Nothing is as precious as our time and time given to children is the most precious of all, and Alan gave an abundance of it to young people.

Alan was one of life's big characters both on and off the poolside. He was not someone who could easily be ignored and certainly not someone to take no for an answer when confronted with a challenge or officialdom! He will be remembered fondly by the many hundreds of swimmers, young and old, who have joked with him, been cajoled by him, and were inspired by him to swim.

Richard Moody
Chairman, Buntingford Swimming Club

Could you adopt a lucky black cat from Great Amwell and District Cats Protection?

The Great Amwell and District Branch of Cats Protection, which last year rescued and re-homed 200 cats and kittens in the area, has around 10 black cats and kittens in its care at any one time. Currently these include fun-loving Zak (6 months old) and Ursula (7 months, pictured), who both love cuddles and have bags of personality. There is playful Josie (6 months) and her brother Jimmy, who are very affectionate and would like to be re-homed together. Other 'lucky charms' looking for a new home this New Year include Arty and Lisa. Stephanie Adams, a Branch Volunteer, said: 'We always have a high proportion of black as well as black-and-white cats, but we are finding they are staying with us for longer than ever before. New Year provides the perfect opportunity to find your ideal feline companion – and because black cats are usually considered lucky, giving one a second chance might bring good fortune to you both!'



If you can offer a special black cat a second chance in life, or would like to find out more about the work of this cat protection branch and how you might help, visit www.greatamwell.cats.org.uk, email us at greatamwellcats@gmail.com, find us on facebook, or call us on **0845 371 2736**.

Cats Protection Great Amwell and District is part of a national network of 257 volunteer-run branches and 30 adoption centres that together help over 230,000 cats and kittens each year. It is involved in helping to rescue and re-home cats and kittens in the towns and villages surrounding Ware, Hertford, Stanstead Abbots, Broxbourne, Hoddesdon and Buntingford.

Janet's Watercolour Painting Classes

6-week courses

Beginners from Monday 20th February

Improvers from Tuesday 21st February

10:00am – 12:30pm

Only £65 for the course
with all materials provided

Japanese Garden
Cottered, Nr Buntingford, SG9 9PZ



Places limited. Tel: Janet Westerman 01763 281316 (evenings)

Buntingford Dramatic Society

Presents

PANTOstein

by

David Lovesy, Steve Clark, David Pibworth, Mark Niel
at the Benson Hall, Buntingford

Friday 3rd Feb 8.00 pm

Saturday 4th Feb 7.30 pm

Friday 10th Feb 8.00 pm

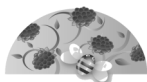
Saturday 11th Feb 2.30 & 7.30 pm

Tickets available from 'The Cellar' Off Licence

www.buntingforddrama.org

Tickets £8 adults, £5 children

For more information contact Gill on 01763 274250



Bramble Hill

Children's centre

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.

The Children's Centre took over the running of **Anstey Toddler Group** last September. The group meets on Thursdays during term time from 9.30 to 11.00am in the Village Hall. A variety of activities are available at each

session for children from 0-5 years. Refreshments are provided for children and adults and the cost is £1 per family. The **Breastfeeding Support Group** is held every Friday from 11.00am to 12noon in the Children's Centre. It's an informal opportunity to share your experiences of breastfeeding with other mums and have a cuppa! A health visitor is on hand for any queries. There is no charge for this session.

If you would like to be included on our mailing list for regular updates from the Children's Centre please call on **01763 273008** or email bramblehill@ymcacentralherts.org.uk.

Please also keep an eye on our website for information regarding our school holiday activities – www.bramblehillchildrenscentre.org.uk – or give us a call.

We look forward to seeing you.



CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH BALDOCK ROAD BUNTINGFORD

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

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

MORNING WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:00AM

February	5	Morning Worship	Dr Janet Tollington
	12	Holy Communion	Rev Duncan Goldie
	19	Morning Worship	Rev Derek Newton
	26	Morning Worship	Rev Duncan Goldie
March	4	Morning Worship	Dr Jeffrey Barham

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 visiting speakers – meets on alternate Tuesday afternoons at 2:30pm in the Church Hall.

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

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

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

ST. RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford

Telephone 01763 271471

Parish Priest: Father Ian Dickie

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

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

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

Saturdays at Furneux Pelham at 6:00pm

CONFESSIONS each Saturday from 10:30am – 11.15am





United Benefice of

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



Reverend Ian Hill – Telephone 01763 274072

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

Everyone is welcome at any of the churches

Services for February

Sun 5 th	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	10:00am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Family Service
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
Wed 8 th	9:30am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion, Book of Common Prayer
Sun 12 th	9:30am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 19 th	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
ASH WEDNESDAY			
Wed 22 nd	7:00pm	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Service of Ashing
Sun 26 th	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Morning Worship
	9:30am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion

St Mary's Aspenden Restoration Fund

QUIZ NIGHT

at Benson Hall, Buntingford

Saturday 17th March 2012 – 7:15 for 7:30pm

Tickets £8 to include Ploughman's supper

Bring your own drink and glasses

For tickets please phone Sheila Drage on 01763 271256



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

Record numbers attended the very moving annual Lights of Love Ceremony at The Manor House, and thankfully the weather was much better than last year. Once again Buntingford's Chamber of Commerce organised a hugely successful Late Night Shopping event and the Town Council thanks James Oliver Radley and his team for their hard work on the event and also for the much admired Christmas lights.

You may have seen recent press coverage of the New Homes Bonus coming to Buntingford. We will shortly receive £19,400 and expect to receive similar amounts annually for the next four years. If the number of new homes built increases, then the bonus will increase also. The question is, what do we spend this money on? There are no restrictions, providing it benefits the community in some way. We could let the funds accumulate or spend it annually. We have sent a questionnaire to every household in the town asking for suggestions. Please complete and return this questionnaire, or email us with your ideas on **btc.manorhouse @btclick.com**.

After a huge fact-finding exercise, a tender process and interviews with prospective contractors, we are almost ready to commission the much awaited refurbishment of the Multi Games Area. Hopefully, work will start on 10th April and be completed in 6–8 weeks.

There are still funds left in the Town Council grant budget. If you run a local organisation and are looking to make a capital expenditure then please apply. Applications are considered by the Resources Committee on a monthly basis. Application forms are available from the Council web-site or from the Council offices.

The end of January sees the Town Council setting its budget for 2012/13. It is likely that budget figures will see a decrease on last year.

Jill Jones MILCM Cert HE
Town Clerk

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

Tel: 01763 272222

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

Town Council meetings for February

Thursday 2nd Feb

7:30pm – Amenities Committee

Thursday 9th Feb

7:30pm – Planning Committee

8:00pm – Resources Committee

Thursday 23rd Feb

7:30pm – Planning Committee

8:00pm – Full Council

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



★ ★
★ BUNTINGFORD ★
★ CARNIVAL COMMITTEE ★



Buntingford Carnival

Saturday, 23rd June 2012

To all Journal readers – a belated Happy New Year!

The carnival organisation is well under way, a lot of the work has been completed already and it is now just a matter of tying up the loose ends – and booking good weather.

A lot of entertainment has been booked for this year – most of it new to Buntingford, but a few returns by public demand.

As you should all know by now, the theme for this year is:

OLYMPIC BRITAIN 2012

So let your brains start to conjure up some magical and inspiring floats and outfits for carnival day. Remember, you don't have to take part in the procession to dress up. Just turn up on the day and help to make the High Street full of colour and fun.

Who cares if you make a fool of yourself – if we all do it, it will put a smile on everyone's faces.

**We need helpers on the day – any offers?
The more the merrier.**

**Ashley Cantor
Chairman
Buntingford Carnival Committee**



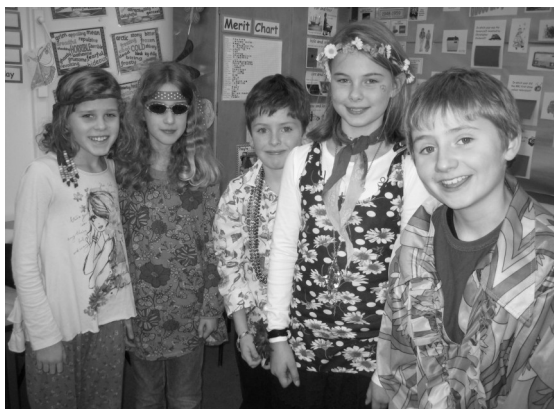
Edwinstree Middle School

Edwinstree had an exceptionally busy winter term with a diversity of events. Tutor group 6G gave a seasonal collective worship asking us to reflect on other ways of giving that don't involve cost, for example the giving of time, helpfulness and love. Year 5 visited Millfield and Layston schools to see their Christmas plays, *Cinderella* and *Mr Humbug Sees the Light*, and Miss Silveston's Spanish club sent Christmas cards to Virgen de Olmacedo, a school in Olvega, Buntingford's twin town in Spain. Every tutor group brought in items to put into their handmade hampers. These were then distributed in the last week of term, some going to the Bramble Hill Children's Centre in Luynes Rise and the remainder to residents in Buntingford and the surrounding area.

Our 'Celebration of Christmas' was a heart-warming occasion, reflecting the joy of Christ's birth and the fellowship of friends and family. More than 100 performers, staff as well as pupils, presented a varied and entertaining programme, supported as always by parents, grandparents and friends. Refreshments with a European Christmas flavour were served and members of the audience were presented with a favour containing a chocolate, satsuma and nut, representing the contents of Christmas stockings in days gone by.

Year 5 tutors devised a Sixties Day for pupils. They learnt about Nelson Mandela and Rosa Parks and the Civil Rights Movement. Rockets and satellites were made after an introduction about the Space Race between the Americans and Russians. A music quiz with songs from the Beatles and Rolling Stones featured, with many pupils identifying the

correct answers. A superb replica of the iconic album cover for *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* was made and put on display. Psychedelic patterns, T-shirt tie-dyeing and an Andy Warhol workshop were amongst other events taking place. Class members really enjoyed the day, many dressing in Sixties-style clothes.



Getting into the swing of it on Sixties Day

Pupils took part in a willow sculpture workshop with Greenwood artist Spencer Jenkins, making life-size models of Mary and Joseph for our Christmas crib. Using the 'Birds Nest' weaving technique they also made some supersized rabbits.

Our sports department have had an active term with cross-country, rugby, football and table tennis events. Congratulations to Jamie Philpott who became the Bishops Stortford cross-country under 13s champion. Our Year 7 and 8 rugby teams won the North East Herts competition and face the North Herts winners this month. Edwinstree pupils Harry Ewins, Joe Earl and Josh Dawodu were part of the North East Herts team who won the County seven-a-side football competition and will now compete in the regional finals. Congratulations also go to Syd Arnold who became North East Herts under 13 table tennis district champion.



Pupils deliver Christmas cheer along with a hamper to a Buntingford resident



Freddie Jewitt receives a cheque from headteacher, Mrs Michael

We said goodbye to Ken Jones who has been a member of the Governing Body for 20 years. Ken's four children all attended Edwinstree and Ken had been a member of the school association for a number of years. Mrs Brook also stepped down from her role as chair of Governors and we would like to thank them both for their many years of service.

Freddie Jewitt came back to Edwinstree to share memories of his time here and to thank pupils for contributing to the charity that he is involved with. He told of his experience as a volunteer helping to build a school in Ecuador and was presented with a cheque to go towards further projects at the South American school.

In the coming months Year 8 tutor groups will visit Tate Modern in London and are also going to Normandy for a residential visit to support their French and Humanities studies. Year 7 are going to Boulogne for a day next month to practise their language skills.

We would like to thank the volunteers from the Buntingford community and the many parents who come into school to support students with their reading.

Diane George



Tutor group 6G offer smiles and goodwill in the seasonal collective worship

‘Captain Morgan was a Pirate Dude’

Mandy & Martin – Part 26

This is a line from one of Martin’s favourite songs – he makes me listen to all sorts of weird music, so I’m sitting here with noise-cancelling headphones on trying to block it out so I can concentrate! Anyway, the link here is that we have a Captain in our records of the history of the church, although sadly not a pirate, but then you can’t have everything. His name was Captain Roger Hale, who is recorded in nice neat writing as having been buried in the nave of Layston church in 1749. He was a very interesting character. Most people of that time would not have ventured much further than the next village, but our Captain sailed all round the world. He also lived in London, and this tells us two things about Captain Hale: firstly, he must have been quite a well-off individual, and secondly, there must be some history to tie him to this area.

So let’s start with what we know of his life. We know he was born around 1685, as he is said to have been 64 years old when he died in June 1749, but his baptism is not registered in St Bartholomew’s and I can find very little about his early life. It’s not until 1725 that we meet up with him, by which time he is Chief Mate on the *Heathcote*, a ship with the East India Company (the picture below shows a typical East Indiaman).

The British East India Company – so named to distinguish it from British trade in the West Indies – was founded in 1599, mainly to counter Portuguese domination of the spice trade. As soon as the British set up trading settlements in India, however, they were impressed by the quality of the textiles they found there. These had normally been used as goods for barter with the spice producers of Indonesia. The painted and printed cottons, known as chintzes, were especially admired, as they had fast, bright colours superior to anything produced in Europe at that time. It was textiles, therefore, rather than spices which came to dominate trade between India and Britain.

The East India Company traded in many things – including spices, textiles, porcelain, furniture and tea – and Roger’s home would have been filled with unusual items brought back from his travels. The ladies of Roger’s acquaintance would no doubt have put the



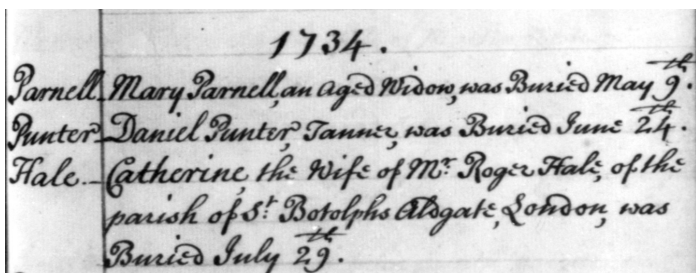
fine silks, brocades and muslins that were brought back to good use by having them made into beautiful clothes to wear.

The East India Company also set up factories to produce goods to bring back to the UK. The import of such items prompted an article in the *London Chronicle* which complained that 'the East India Company should be laid under some immediate and salutary restraints, as nothing can justify our allowing any set of adventurers an exclusive right to prejudice any manufacture of the kingdom'. Clearly, the import of so many manufactured items – like this finely painted lady (right) – was threatening the livelihoods of workers back in Britain. Indeed imported china and porcelain were becoming so fashionable and accessible that 'the veriest tradesman's wife within the weekly bills, would look down upon herself a downright Tramontane, unless she had an urn or a Mandarin on her chimney-piece'. I have to say that 'Tramontane' threw me, as the definition of the time is obscure. From research, I think it means 'Barbarian', so without such things within the home, one would be considered uncivilised! How different their world is to mine.



Up until now, while building his career as a mariner, Roger probably had not had much time to devote to finding a wife to build such a home with. It's not until he's in his forties that he marries the widow Catherine Henthorne two days after his return from India in December 1726. I'm guessing she was left to do most of the preparation for the wedding.

Almost immediately, Roger set sail again for the east. He was now on another ship, the *Prince William*, still as Chief Mate. This vessel was rated as 460-480 tons, with a crew of 92-115 men and 30 guns. By 1731 he had been transferred to another East India ship, the *Grantham*. The journal of the voyages of the *Grantham* was recorded by none other than the chief mate – our Roger Hale.



Although he returned home at intervals in the following years, it appears that he spent most of his married life at sea. It is sad to think that is where he may have been when he received word that his wife had passed away. Catherine was buried at St Bartholomew's Church, Layston, on the 29th July 1734, when the parish records (above) report her to be the wife of Mr Roger Hale of St Botolph's, Aldgate. Yet another link to Layston, when obviously they were London residents. Next month find out what became of our Captain – and why he ended up back in St Bartholomew's with his first wife, Catherine.

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

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

DID YOU HAVE A FAMILY CHRISTMAS?

Many of us will have spent much of the festive period visiting friends and family, particularly those with children. However, for some grandparents Christmas is an unwelcome reminder that they do not get to spend quality time with their grandchildren.

Losing contact with a grandchild causes great heartbreak for a grandparent. And sadly, almost 1 million grandparents are now in this position through no fault of their own. It may be that a child's parents have divorced or separated and the parent left with the main responsibility for childcare is not prepared to allow contact with the ex-spouse's or ex-partner's parents. Sometimes it may be that the grandparent's own child may be unable to arrange contact because they are physically or mentally incapable, or in the worst case scenario have died.

Whilst most of us recognise the important role played by grandparents in childcare, English law is more equivocal and does not confer an automatic right on a grandparent to have contact with their grandchild. The grandparent therefore relies heavily on the goodwill of the parent with care of the child to be allowed to see them. Otherwise they can be shut out of their grandchild's life. In such circumstances their only remedy may lie in going to Court which can be expensive not just in terms of money, but also time and heartache.

However, there are alternatives. The first step is for the grandparent to make contact with the parent caring for the child – either by speaking to them directly, or by writing a brief polite letter. They could make a number of important points:

- How much they miss seeing the grandchild – and that the grandchild will also miss seeing them.
- How valuable a grandparent can be as an emotional and practical resource – even as a free and trustworthy babysitter.
- The grandchild is being prevented from having a relationship with the family members representing half of their genetic origin. This is particularly important where there are language or cultural differences between the two sides of the child's family.
- Grandparents provide an additional source of affection and entertainment, particularly when the child is young.

It is important for contact to be established and retained – even if it is indirect contact, such as sending the grandchild brief letters, greetings cards, small presents and the occasional photograph. Sometimes it may help if a trusted relative, family friend, or perhaps a minister of religion acts as an intermediary. Sometimes it can help to discuss the situation with a specialist mediator or collaboratively trained lawyer. If you have difficulties like those described and would like to discuss them with Curwens, contact Maria Pilikos on 01992 631461 or email maria.pilikos@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



Mortgage Problems

I'm in deep trouble with my mortgage. Recently I saw an ad about exchange with delayed completion arrangements, which I thought could help, but my wife is worried it may cause us more problems than it solves. What should we do?

An **exchange with delayed completion** (EDC) arrangement may seem to offer a way out if you're in mortgage arrears, but you should think carefully before entering into something like this, as there could be risks involved.

An EDC arrangement is where you agree a sale price for your home with a prospective buyer. Contracts are exchanged and the prospective buyer typically pays you an agreed deposit at that time. Completion of the sale is then delayed, often for a few years.

The buyer may offer to take over payment of your mortgage, but the mortgage stays in your name until the sale completes. The buyer may also offer to take over insurance costs and to pay for any repairs to the property.

If you move out of your home and the buyer or their tenant moves in, the arrangement is not regulated by the FSA (Financial Services Authority). There may be a number of risks involved that you should be aware of. Your home could be at risk and you won't have access to complaints and compensation procedures if things go wrong.

As the mortgage remains in your name, you're still responsible for your home and the mortgage even if the prospective buyer takes over payments to the lender. If the buyer gets into financial difficulties, you'll be responsible for any debts or missed payments and you could lose your home. You could be breaking the terms of your mortgage agreement if you need your lender's permission first before going ahead with this type of arrangement. You could also be charged unreasonable fees that are not made clear at the outset.

Before going down the EDC road, get independent advice and explore other possible options for dealing with your mortgage problems that could be better for you and your family. For more information on how to sort out mortgage problems, and for contact details of your nearest CAB, see the Citizens Advice website www.adviceguide.org.uk.

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LAYSTON C OF E FIRST SCHOOL



Visiting storyteller Charlie Wilson gets the children involved in his telling of the tale

Our Spring Term has got off to a great start with our new topic of 'Stories'. We began last week with a visiting storyteller, Charlie Wilson. He spent the day with us, sharing stories and songs with each key stage in turn. The children got involved with acting out scenes and joining in with instruments.

Charlie proved an excellent role model for our storytellers. Year 4 have been creating stories in class and enjoyed sharing them with Reception and Year 1 children. They made story maps to help them to remember the story structure and the details.



Year 4 pupils pass on their own stories to younger children in Year 1 and Reception

We have also had fun with a visiting dancer who taught us some street dance moves. We were able to use what we learned when choreographing dances for our Christmas production, *Mr Humbug Sees the Light*. Year 3 performed a robot dance in the 'school of the future'.

We would like to say a big thank you to our PTA who have raised so much money for us over the past year. Our Christmas Fair was a huge success raising nearly £2,000 for the school. Their fund-raising has enabled us to buy 16 netbooks and a trolley for the children to use in class.

If you would like to find out more about our school, please take a look at our website at www.layston.herts.sch.uk or contact us on 01763 271235 to arrange a visit.

Gill Langley, Headteacher



Year 3 performing the 'robot dance' in Layston's Christmas production

BUNTINGFORD W.I.

Despite a last minute hitch, we held our Christmas Lunch at the Bowls Club early in December thanks mainly to the hard work (and sleepless nights) put in by Jackie and Jenny. Everyone agreed that the food was delicious. We've already reserved a date for next year's lunch and I hope it does not clash with a holiday which Jackie and Jenny might be tempted to book!

Ian Waller came along to our December meeting to tell us about Victorian Shopping. It was a surprise to find out that many of the big stores we know today started out as village stores in Victorian times: John Lewis and Debenhams, for instance, as well as the Co-op. The Great Exhibition of 1851 changed shopping, displaying imported goods and introducing new foods. This led to 'New Warehouses' springing up, as the department stores we have today were called, and gave rise to plate glass windows to display goods. The largest store in London in 1842 was Swan & Edgar at Piccadilly Circus and they instigated postal shopping (we now call it mail order).

In January we held our traditional New Year Party which followed the tried and tested format of lots of lovely food, quizzes and games.

Our next meeting is at 7:45pm at the United Reformed Church Hall on **Thursday 9th February**, when Fanny Kemble (aka Louise Reed) will be coming to meet us. Visitors are always welcome.

You don't know what you've got till it's gone!

We've many shops in Buntingford that deserve a mention.
So use them while they're there or lose them - spend your wage or pension.
Hemmingways and Damiens are our barbers two:
Take a seat Sir, just relax, a trim is what they'll do.
Coffee shops and cafes keep us all topped up
With sarnies, cakes and milk shakes and plenty of hot cups.
Try Autofix, Tokely or Nunn if your car needs engine work done.
If you need tyres or an MOT, go to Leka or Ken's place next to BP.
For VWs there's M G Warners - it's just in Hare Street, round a few corners.
Doggies are catered for by Gina and Doug, be it Boxer, Bitza, Lurcher or Pug.
Gift shops we have in Hall and Glory and Bell House Gallery completes that story.
James Oliver Radley, now there's a surprise, his choice of frames will open your eyes.
Shah and LLOYD or LLOYD and Shah will dispense all your needs, whatever they are.
With a choice cheese selection, the Cheese Plate is doing well for Toby our mate.
Jo Morden, Divas, Trends, Cut Above will give your hair 'a do' you'll be sure to love.
Country Flowers, Crazy Daisy, our florists in town, can make a bunch to lift a frown.
Friendly butchers Piggotts and Mark Doel have served us all well during this Noel.
Direct Carpets accomodate with pile, while Gary's shop nextdoor has many a tile.
There's Quiller books, the Wine Cellar and Kirkham's papers.
And now we have ladies undies - it's not quite Trudgetts drapers!
We've Tandoori Vice Royal, to which we are loyal.
Brunels, Effi's and two Chinese - there's plenty here to eat and please.
Fox and Duck, Crown, Black Bull, and don't forget Brambles.
The Jolly Sailors and Aspenden's Fox - just right for Sunday rambles.
There's the Social Club and wine bar, whatever your tipples there's no need to go far.
Three dentists, a bank and building society, Budgens, the Co-op and Baz's variety.
The Library is a place you need to look for DVDs, magazines or a good book.
If your cat needs litter or dog needs kibble go to Hessa's and see the rabbits nibble
And now there's a jewellers and Attend to Health, there's lots to choose from
whatever your wealth.
Oh! and don't forget Fit Together, A Touch of Glamour and Skin Deep.
Whatever the weather they'll make you feel better and help you fall asleep!
Need some decor or a wall made over? Hire FCB or Eveleigh and you'll be in clover!
Going out for the night? Need a taxi to book? Riverside and Del's are places to look.
There's really no need to go out of town, we have it all here - we wear the crown.
Tesco or Sainsbury's may have it all in one place, but you can't beat a friendly face.
And if I've forgotten a business in here, please, please forgive me and have a
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

Teresa Bonner



Millfield First and Nursery School



Returning after the Christmas holiday we have welcomed lots of new faces into our Nursery Class at Millfield. The children seem to be settling in well and we hope they will be really happy with us.

Our popular After School Clubs have begun and there is a lot of choice with Basketball, Art & Craft and Sewing, Football, Creative Memories (the designing of our school photo album) and Adventure Camp all on offer.

Pupils in both Key Stages are starting a new topic entitled 'Before our time'. KS1 are focusing on the Victorian Period. They are looking forward to a visit from 'History off the Page' and will be dressing up as Victorian children for the day. The pupils in KS2 are looking at the Second World War. When 'History off the Page' visit our school in February the pupils will be dressed as wartime evacuees and will experience life in a Second World War classroom, amongst other experiences.

We are continuing to develop the ICT we offer to our pupils. We have recently bought a new maths computer program to help the children practise and develop their mathematical skills working at their own pace with an individualised maths program.

Following a very successful Autumn term, when a lot of money was raised for the school, the PTA is planning a number of events for this term including a Children's Disco and our very popular Easter Egg Hunt and Bazaar.



Millfield pupils, working on Netbooks in small groups, get to grips with a new maths program

Little Stars welcomed some new children this term and they are settling well. Our **Breakfast Club** (from 8:00am Mon-Fri) and our **After School Fun Club** (3:15-5:15pm Mon-Thurs; 3:15-4:15pm Fri) are also proving popular.

If you would like to know more about Millfield School (or about Little Stars), please visit our website:

www.millfield.herts.sch.uk

Or contact the school on 01763 271717.

Kathy Willett
Head Teacher

Freman

COLLEGE

The lead-up to Christmas was certainly a busy one here at Freman College. I was so impressed on many occasions by the talent and dedication of so many at the college – both students and staff.

There can be few schools where 450 students take part in the House

Cross Country run. Well done to everyone involved and also to those who took part in other House sports competitions during the autumn term. With the introduction of House Colours to recognise the contribution of students to House competitions, I suspect that we may see even more students than ever taking part.



The Freman College House Drama (above) and some of the students taking part in the production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* (below)



I want to congratulate all the students who gave us such an excellent evening's entertainment in House Drama back in October. I was particularly impressed by some outstanding individual performances and it was great to see a good number of A Year students getting involved. More recently, the production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* was fantastic. With an orchestra and rock band numbering 30 on the stage and 50 in the cast, Miss Stott and her team really did justice to this very ambitious rock opera.

A big thank you also to staff who have organised recent trips and visits for students – these offer a great mixture of both fun and educational opportunities, with theatre trips, tutor group outings and Sixth Form Business Studies and German visits abroad. Before Christmas our tutor groups excelled themselves with their Christmas Hamper creations. The giant Christingle, reindeer and penguins among other festive delights were delivered around the community for our older residents to enjoy.

We got off to a great start with Prizegiving at the beginning of term. Our Guest of Honour was comedian and campaigner Mark Thomas, who magnanimously agreed to come along and hand over the world record for the most protests made in 24 hours, which he formerly held and which our Amnesty International group took off him in 2010.

However, the event was also tinged with sadness as a new prize, the Tom Swain Trophy for Photography, was awarded for the first time. Tom, a former student and Buntingford Youth Councillor was a successful photo-journalist. He died this summer at the age of 22 in a tragic accident and the Trophy was designed by the Youth Council and presented by Tom's parents in his memory.

As ever the term ahead is full of things to look forward to. The ski trip is off to Italy, with other groups visiting Ghana and Germany. We also have House Music and the Spring Concert to look forward to, to mention but a few highlights.

Young Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to sixth former Tom Stone who was nominated with 11 others in Hertfordshire as Young Volunteers of the Year. Tom enjoyed the awards evening which was hosted by Radio 5 Live presenter David Croft at the University of Hertfordshire, where Tom had the opportunity of meeting Sporting Stars from Herts including 19-year-old Nick Hamilton, brother of Lewis, who is now also following a career in motor racing.

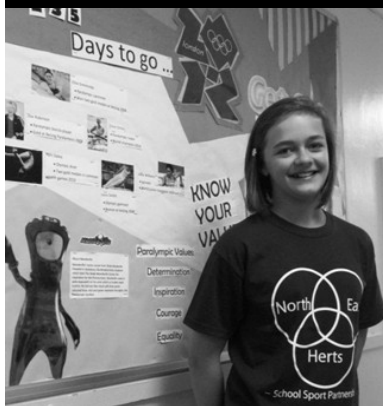
Herts School Games

On 8th December, Tilly Reader (in the A Year) joined other young people from around the Sports Partnership schools to form a Boccia team to compete at the county competition held at the University of Hertfordshire. Boccia is a Paralympic Sport that will feature in the 2012 Games.

Helen Loughran, Headteacher



Tom Stone, with Nick Hamilton (above), and Tilly Reader (below)



On February 13th our talk will be given by Richard Revels on the 'Fantastic Falklands'. Doors open at 2:00pm at the Seth Ward Community Centre; visitors £2. Yearly membership of Buntingford U3A costs £12.50, giving access to more than 20 interest groups. Membership is open to over 50s who are not in full-time employment. Don't be put off by our title – the emphasis is on fun and friendship. For further details phone Christine on 01763 273466 or Jean 01763 271783.

Christine Jeffries membership 01763 273466
Jean Devenish interest groups 01763 271783

First Monday , 6 th Feb Contact Hilary Curtis	Craft Group 01763 272323	2pm – 4pm Various crafts
3 rd Tuesday, 21 st Feb Contact Carol McKimmie	Walking Group (2 hours plus) 01763 271054	9:50am – 12:00noon TBA
Last Thursday, 23 rd Feb Contact Dave Austin	Wine Appreciation £5 01763 272066	8pm – 10pm Seth Ward CC Please take 2 glasses
4 th Wednesday, 22 nd Feb Contact Hilary Curtis	Walkers Group 2 (1 hour plus) 01763 272323	10.30am TBA
Individual sessions Contact Colin Gibbons	Family History 01763 271398	In Buntingford
3 rd Thursday, 16 th Feb Contact Alan Rumble	Computers (all levels) £3 01920 823608	2.00pm – 4:00pm Seth Ward Community Centre
2 nd Friday, 10 th Feb Contact David Smith	Digital photography £3 01763 849023	2.00pm – 4.00pm URCH
2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays Contact Christine Jeffries	Singing for Pleasure 01763 273466	2:00pm – 4:00pm Wyddial
Every Tuesday Contact Alan Smith	Bridge (all levels) 01763 287657	10.00am – 12.00pm Homes £3
Various Contact Val Lohead	Out to Lunch 01279 658069	Various
Various Contact Evelyn Smith	Social Outings 01763 272241	Local theatres, meals out, quiz nights, outings, etc.
Mondays Contact Dave Austin	Keep Fit £2 01763 272066	10am – 11.30am Seth Ward Community Centre
Last Wednesday, 29 th Feb Contact Anne Austin	Book club 01763 272066	2.30pm Fairfield
Every Friday (not school hols) Contact Rosemary Poulton	Pilates £20 for 6 or £5 per session 01763 271598	1.30pm – 2.30pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every Wednesday Contact Dave Austin	Table Tennis £2 01763 272066	2pm – 3pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every Wednesday Contact Roy Ellard	Badminton £2 01763 271578	3.15–4.15pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every Thursday Contact Julia Peacock	Carpet Bowls £2 01763 272584	10am – 12noon Bowls Club, Wyddial Road
Various Contact Lyn Paynton	Art Appreciation 01920 821017	Various
Every Monday Contact Vidyut Sharma	Yogic breathing £5 01763 271779	10am – 11.30am Monks Walk
Every Thurs from 16 th Feb Contact Jean Devenish	Gentle exercising 01763 271783	10am – 11.30am Monks Walk



FEBRUARY 2012

Thurs 2th Feb – NetWorking Lunch 12:30–14:00

To be held at LUSSMANN'S, 42 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1BY. A monthly networking lunch run by Isabel Hospice Corporate Relationship Manager, Julie North, in association with Marketing Kinetics and Lussmanns, welcoming companies from all over Herts & Essex. A similar event has been running in Bishop's Stortford for the last 8 months. Cost £15 includes buffet, glass of wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee. Would you like to sponsor a 1st or 3rd Thursday (see 16th Feb below)? £100 sponsorship includes promotion on website and email invites, display of literature and banners at the event and a 10-minute presentation. For more details contact Julie North 01707 382547.

Tues 14th Feb – Coffee Morning 10:30–12:00

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

Thurs 16th Feb – NetWorking Lunch 12:30–14:00

To be held at Grill 55, 55 South Street, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3AL. For more details, see 2nd Feb above and contact Julie North 01707 382547.

Sat 18 Feb – Jumble Sale, Thundridge Village Hall 14:30–16:30

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

MARCH 2012

Thu 1st Mar – NetWorking Lunch 12:30–14:00

To be held at LUSSMANN'S, 42 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1BY. See above.

Sat 3rd Mar – Civic Dinner 19:30–23:00

Hosted by the Mayor of Bishop's Stortford at The Rhodes Arts Complex, Southmill Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3JG. Entertainment by Jacqui Ison School of Dancing. Tickets £40. Enquiries to Renee Friend 01279 755320, email: renee_friend@msn.com

Sat 17th Mar & Sun 18th Mar – Midnight Swim, from 20:00

Isabel Hospice second annual MIDNIGHT swim! Further details to follow. For more information, email Katie Robertson or call our Fundraising team on 01707 382500.

FUTURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS IN AID OF ISABEL HOSPICE

Fri 20th Apr – Golf Day

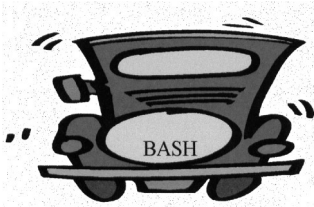
22 teams will compete for The Marquess of Salisbury Challenge Trophy at Hatfield London Country Club, Essendon. The day starts with coffee and bacon rolls and ends with a Gala Dinner, Charity Auction and Prize-giving. Entry £500 per team. For more information contact John Hopley on 01707 325808.

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

For information contact Julie North on 01707 382547.

April 2012 – Coast to Coast Walk: from St Bees to Robin Hood's Bay

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



BUNTINGFORD ACTION FOR SOCIAL HELP

Volunteer Hospital Driver Service

Do you have a little spare time?

Bash is a local organisation which provides hospital transport for people who use the Buntingford doctors and who have no other way of getting to appointments.

We are currently looking for **volunteer drivers** who may have time to take a person to a hospital appointment, to the surgery, or to visit a sick relative.

We cover the cost of petrol and are grateful for any help, even if you can only do the occasional trip. If you feel you can help us **please contact**:

Jane Winter on 01763 271484 for more details

We would like to thank Buntingford Social Club for their very generous donation to our funds. This has enabled us to keep the costs down for the people who need us.

attend2health

Attend 2 Health's charity morning on 17th December collected more than £250 in donations in return for half-price massage, reflexology and chiropractic treatments.

The money was used to buy presents for children at the Lister Hospital and on 23rd December chiropractor Louise Hampton, with her two children Toby and Zara, delivered the presents to the hospital. Marilyn Goodhew, one of the play therapists in the children's ward there, was extremely grateful for the gifts explaining that they had a full ward for Christmas Day this year.

Louise said: 'I was really pleased the presents were so well received and made a difference. Thank you so much to all the patients who supported our Christmas charity morning and helped us to raise the money. It was lovely to give something back to the community.'



**A pile of presents for the
Lister children's ward**



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Meet your local Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

Buntingford – Charlotte Creedon and Adam Frame
Villages – Amanda Higham

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

Charlotte or Adam will be available in Buntingford on:

30th January, 10:30–11:30am – at St Peters Church

2nd February, 10:30–11:30am – at the United Reformed Church, Baldock Road

6th February, 10:30–11:30am – at St Peters Church, Buntingford

13th February, 10:30–11:30am – at St Peters Church, Buntingford

Amanda will be in the following villages on:

5th February, 11:00–11:45am – Great Horstead Village

11th February, 11.30–12:00 noon – Anstey, outside the church

23rd February, 10:00–10.30am – Wyddial, outside the church

29th February, at 11.30–12:00 noon – Braughing, Malting Lane

(Times are subject to change at short notice)

Just before Christmas the Buntingford Safer Neighbourhood Team conducted a mini traffic operation in the town on a Friday afternoon targeting drivers/passengers not wearing seatbelts and drivers using their mobile phones while driving. On this occasion, the drivers that were spoken to were given strong words of advice. Can I remind drivers to take extra care in the current weather conditions and always wear your seatbelt.

On 28th December a possible distraction burglary was reported in Snells Mead. After thorough investigation, it turned out the gentleman in question was, in fact, a legitimate employee of Siemens. However, if you are ever unsure who is knocking at your door, always open it with the chain in place, or leave it shut and shout through the door: if the caller is genuine, they will be happy to shout back. Always check their identification and if they cannot provide any DO NOT let them in and call us straightaway.

Telephone 101 for non-emergencies



Buntingford Social Club

C I U affiliated

6 Church Street, Buntingford, Herts. SG9 9AS

Telephone 01763 271889

www.thebuntingfordsocialclub.co.uk



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE FOR 2012

* Every Monday BIG CASH BINGO *

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

ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS SHOWN – TIMES PERMITTING

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

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

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

AND ON FUNDAY SUNDAY THE POOL TABLE, SNOOKER
TABLE AND Wii ARE FREE ALL DAY

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: 25th Feb – FAMILY DISCO

7th Apr – KARAOKE

SATURDAY SPECIALS:

11th Feb – BOBBY LEE, comedian, magician and
all-round entertainer, plus DAZ AND CHAVE, a Chas and Dave tribute.

28th Apr – GLEE SPECIAL

15th Sep – NOTOWN WITHOUT MOWTOWN

24th Nov – MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE

ENTERTAINMENT FOR FEBRUARY

4th Feb – PREMONITION – a fantastic local duo

11th Feb – NO ENTERTAINMENT – free Pool, Snooker and Jukebox

18th Feb – SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL – see above

25th Feb – TITAN FAMILY DISCO – come and bring the kids

3rd Mar – THE BELIEVERS – our Beatles lookalike band

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

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

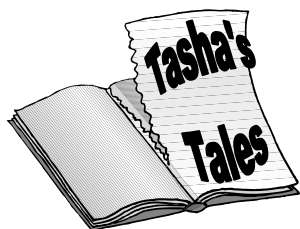
BUNTINGFORD GARDENERS CLUB

A Happy New Year to you all.

Our November and December meetings were excellent. In November Veronica Easley gave us a demonstration of flower arranging and also some associated anecdotes. December was our annual Christmas party which included food, wine, quizzes, secret Santa and a raffle. A busy evening.

Our February meeting will be at URC Hall in Baldock Road on **1 February, 7:45pm for 8:00pm**. Richard Thomas will be speaking about the River Stort. The competition is a Winter flower. We look forward to seeing members both old and new.

Margaret Howarth, Chairman
07747 355017



Happy New Year!

I hope this year is an amazing year for you all and I hope you had a wonderful Christmas to end last year. I always love Christmas. My family do well at spreading Christmas out as much as possible, with different people, at different places. We even started a new tradition this Christmas where every

sweet we eat from a Quality Street tin with a transparent wrapper we stick to our front window so that when either the sun shines through it or the Christmas lights sparkle it gives a really nice effect. Of course, no Christmas would be right without laughter and my family sure do well at providing that! As I have written before, my Grandad gets a lot of 'naff' presents as he calls them. He received a certificate to show that he had donated money to give a goat to a needy family in a foreign country one year, the next year a block of toilets. Each year we try and see who can top the funniest present to my Grandad; it is his own fault, as he always insists there is nothing he wants. This year my younger sister, Charlotte, won gold by making up, typing and printing out a certificate to say that he had sponsored a duck called Dorris. He lived in a big pond and he likes bread and butter pudding among various other hilarious characteristics! Now the race is on for next Christmas to see how to top it – maybe even something for his birthday!

Just before Christmas my parents took me and my sister to our first ever arena concert! It was to see Rihanna and it was amazing, and because we are Sky customers we got to go to a private Sky lounge while we waited and our seats were high but still seemed so close. Everybody was on their feet screaming and dancing along with this tiny figure on stage. DJ Calvin Harris was the opening act and he did a good job of making the foundations tremble with the bass of the music. It was just amazing. Thank you, Mum and Dad.

Tasha Morrison

Shop Till We Drop

There are some mysteries in this world that still elude me, like why does a 'good value' pack of cheese triangles cost more than two individual packs? Or three tins of tuna taped together as a 'bargain buy' cost a pound more than three separate tins? Or that mystery that confounds the best brains of the western world: why do sherbet fountains have a childproof top? But most of all why do people enjoy shopping??

So here we are, another new year and still paying off Christmas. Did we really eat all that in two days? Why do we always fall for the advertising and hype? In fact it all came home to me just a week or two before the Yuletide break when we went on a shopping 'expedition' to find that elusive present for one of our beloved offspring.

Now I am not one of those who buy into all that 'Shopping Experience' rubbish. I cannot think of a more hellish experience than walking round a shopping mall on a Saturday afternoon bashing into people, although I understand that some people actually enjoy going to the shops 'to get a few bits of a Saturday'. Indeed I recall my late in-laws saw this outing as a regular event and one not to be missed even in their retirement, when they could have gone anytime during the week and shopped hassle free, without getting in the way of people who worked all week and only had Saturdays to shop. Of course 24-hour, 7-day-a-week opening stopped that, but they still did it?!

But I digress. Senior management and my goodself accompanied by number one daughter began our search for an elusive perfume which had begun to take on all the mystery of some mythical fragrance from an exotic clime. Eventually, fresh in from the park-and-ride courtesy of our bus pass, we were strolling through the Grand Arcade in Cambridge. Our senses were assaulted with colours and noise emanating from every emporium as we searched for the purpose of our trek.

Soon we were told by our daughter-guide that we have reached the place we seek. However, it didn't look much like a shop at all. Frankly it was a bit of a let-down – I was expecting trumpets at least and possibly even a few sirens in diaphanous outfits luring me in to part with my hard-earned. What we saw before us was something resembling an outside loo. Well, perhaps that's a bit strong, but at least a tumbled down summer house, with no traditional windows displaying goods. Intrigued?

We were a bit hesitant as we entered what appeared to be a darkened cave. We negotiated the entrance, being careful not to trip over two tatty armchairs that to judge by their appearance seemed to be late of a charity shop and rejects at that. As we felt our way further into the gloom of the store, bumping into other customers stumbling around in the dark, we were overcome by a cacophony which almost burst our eardrums. The so-called 'mood' music sounded as though somebody was murdering the eponymous cat on a tin roof, which was rather apt as the ceiling appeared to be made of corrugated iron.

We clomped up a wooden, uncarpeted staircase in increasing darkness and each landing presented a corridor where garments were hung like so much discarded washing. On closer inspection it looked as though it had been many days since the items had seen an ironing board. Eventually we staggered out onto the top floor and were greeted by one of a number of young assistants who looked as though they had come from the village of the damned. No doubt the incessant noise and lack of sunlight had led to their gormless expression and terrible pallor.

We felt our way along a narrow corridor towards where our guide indicated in sign language from the shadows that we had arrived at the cosmetic section, which turned out to be a small table piled with what appeared to be tiny pilchard cans covered badly in old wallpaper. I picked up one of the items to ascertain the name of the product I had been told to acquire. Squinting in the dark to find a label and a price was an impossibility, so I engaged one of the 'assistants' lurking zombie-like in a darkened recess. By a system of convoluted sign language and exaggerated mouthing, of a type which I generally reserve for Johnny Foreigner when venturing beyond Dover, I established that this minuscule container held the elixir that was the object of my daughter's desire.

Further enquiry determined the price. Upon gaining this information I was compelled to ask if this was to purchase the store rather than the tiny offering in my hand. The assistant seemed somewhat affronted that I didn't appreciate the efficacious benefits of the perfume. Which only drove me to ask if the tiny phial for which I was about to pay a king's ransom was garnered from the tear ducts of a small rodent living in the high Andes and filtered through the wings of rare butterflies? The point was not appreciated by the waif and a sullen bony finger directed me towards the payment counter.

I found myself in a conga line of animated ladies and young men apparently all ecstatic at finding their rare purchases. As the line crawled towards the pay area I espied an odd-looking character, of indeterminate age, hovering behind the counter in the half dark. The craggy beard, cut-off shorts and shabby tee-shirt gave him the air of a world-weary vagrant. However, in a lackadaisical way he appeared to be directing the payment counter, so I accepted this as normal for the shop. I later learnt he was the manager. Moving along I noticed that the paying area, which was lit by a ten-watt bulb, seemed to sport several surfboards on the back wall, so I asked the aforesaid character if he was expecting a high tide on the Cam any time soon? This only invited a sharp dig in the ribs from the lady wife, who had appeared from nowhere clutching a tube of hand cream which judging by the price contained liquid gold at the very least and guaranteed everlasting life to the wearer.



The tiny purchases were dropped into a large bag pronouncing the name of the emporium over an image of two half naked youngsters engaged in some dubious erotic pose. Fellow shoppers flaunted the carrier like some major trophy as they made their way down the darkened staircase. Because we were concerned as to the safety of the staircase we located the lift which on shutting the doors took on the ambience of a slow, stuttering descent into the underworld.

Eventually, and very gratefully, we regained daylight with our ears ringing and pupils so enlarged we resembled a catatonic bush baby. About three days later, I took another look at the till receipt, which could have equalled the GNP of a small country. I resolved never, ever again. Shopping experience? Bah! Humbug!

Vyse

B A L A

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus trips for February 2012

			Cost
FEBRUARY			
Thurs 2 nd	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£4
Mon 6 th	10:30am – 3:00pm	Welwyn Garden City – John Lewis, M&S, Debenhams, WHSmith, Boots etc.	£6
Thurs 9 th	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford.	£4
Tues 14 th	10:30am – 3:00pm	Scott Polar Exhibition, Cambridge	£7
Thurs 16 th	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£4
Tues 21 st	5:00pm Perf.	Moscow State Circus at Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage	Tkts £18 Bus £4
Thurs 23 rd	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Fri 24 th	2:30 – 4:00pm	Pearce's Farm Shop & Cafe	£2
Tues 28 th	10:30am – 2:30pm	Letchworth – drop off at Morrisons	£5
MARCH			
Thurs 1 st	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£4
Tues 6 th	10:30am – 2:30pm	Country Homes & Gardens and Bury Lane Farm Shop, Melbourn – Cotton Traders, Pavers Shoes, Edinburgh Wollen Mills, Plants, Deli etc.	£4.50
Sat 10 th	2:30pm	'Kiss Me Kate' at Saffron Walden – ring for details	
Sat 24 th	2:30pm	'Orpheus in the Underworld' at the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage	Tkts £12.50 Bus £4

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

Lunch Break

Soup & Bread Roll – £1.50

at Benson Hall, Buntingford

Wednesday 15th February – 12:00noon to 1:30pm

Plus Savouries / Coffee / Cakes / Raffle / Marmalade

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



SuperHome Open Days to inspire energy-saving home improvements

If you are interested in making your home more environmentally friendly, SuperHome Open Days offer a chance to see what can be done and to talk to someone who has already done it. Pioneering owners of some of the UK's most energy efficient SuperHomes will be hosting free open days between Saturday 17th March and Sunday 25th March 2012.

SuperHomes are older houses that have been refurbished to the highest standards of energy efficiency, resulting in greater comfort, significantly lower running costs and a reduction in carbon emissions of at least 60 per cent. They showcase a range of home improvements likely to become increasingly popular after the launch of the Government's Green Deal in October 2012. Through this scheme – which is central to the Government's commitment to reduce the UK's carbon omissions by 80 per cent by 2050 – loans will be offered to undertake energy efficiency home improvements, with repayments coming later on a 'pay as you save' basis to help overcome upfront financial obstacles to making the improvements.

The majority of SuperHomes are super-insulated, so visitors with draughty old solid wall properties will discover some clever ways to make their homes warmer in winter. In many cases renewable energy heats water, provides electricity or contributes to space heating. Attending an open day provides the opportunity to speak to a homeowner who has already done the thinking, undertaken the work and lived with some major improvements. Who could be better qualified to help you make the right choices for your home?

SuperHomes will be open to the public on certain days in March and September, and at other times by appointment. For more information, to find properties nearest to you with particular features, or to book to attend an open day, visit www.superhomes.org.uk

Gordon Glass
Online Marketing Manager
Sustainable Energy Academy



SuperHomes: a window on low-energy refurbishment

The Sustainable Energy Academy promotes education and action to reduce the carbon footprint of buildings and communities. It is currently spearheading SuperHomes, a network of older homes which have been refurbished to the highest standard of energy efficiency. Currently there are 114 registered SuperHomes and over 50,000 people have already visited one; the aim is to create a network of 500 SuperHomes that are publicly accessible by 2020. The network includes a wide range of older property types including Victorian houses, a thatched cottage, an 18th century converted mill and some properties that produce more energy than they use.

Photo courtesy of www.superhomes.org.uk



BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

www.buntingfordtownfc.com



Towards the end of November it seemed that the First Team was finally turning a corner, earning a valuable 4 points with a 4-3 home win over St Peters, followed by a 4-4 away draw with the same team a week later. Unfortunately, we were unable to continue this good form against better sides and the last 2 matches of the year saw us lose 4-1 to Met Police Bushey in the League and 3-1 to Wormley Rovers in the Aubrey Cup. During the holiday period we also suffered a 4-1 defeat at Baldock Town. These results do not fully reflect the team performances, though. We are agonisingly close to reaching our potential and hopefully we will before the real threat of relegation appears firmly on the horizon.

The Reserves, jubilant following their Herts Intermediate Cup victory over Letchworth in November, then went on a 5-match losing run, going down 5-1 to Baldock Town, 3-1 to Sarratt in the Reserve Cup, 2-1 to Sandridge Rovers, 4-0 to Letchworth and, compounding the misery, a narrow 2-1 defeat in the next round of the Intermediate Cup to Leverstock Green. Like the First Team, the Reserves have been playing well but just don't seem to get the breaks, which is a shame as the squad works really hard for each other and the club. Hopefully they will soon be back to winning ways.

On a happier note, 2011 ended well for the Veterans with a terrific 4-0 win over Ashwell and then a memorable 1-0 home victory over Royston, who for so long have been our nemesis; as this result shows, Buntingford Vets are now a force to be reckoned with! The first two matches of 2012 saw a 3-2 win over Goldings and a 2-2 draw at Wormley Rovers. Plans for the next tour are already underway with the lads looking forward to another September weekend at the seaside; this year it's the turn of the residents of Weston-Super-Mare to cower behind net curtains.

Cash as always is tight and in order to help us finish the season with a surplus in our coffers we hope to be holding a 70s/80s music quiz at The Bury on 18th February. Keep your eyes out for posters around the Town which will provide more details.

As always, if you would like to sponsor the club, advertise on our website or in our matchday programme, please let me know. Likewise, if you would like to get involved with the club either as a committee member or as a supporter, then come along to The Bury on a Saturday afternoon. There is nearly always a First or Reserve Team match on, and every game provides plenty of talking points, good or bad!

Chris Thurgill – Chairman, Buntingford Town FC

Forthcoming Buntingford Town FC fixtures:

Sun 29 Jan	10:30	Vets	Enfield Vets	Home	Friendly
Sat 4 Feb	14:30	First Team	Mill End Sports	Home	League
	14:30	Reserves	Chipperfield Corinthians Res	Away	League
Sun 5 Feb	10:30	Vets	Standon & Puckeridge Vets	Home	Friendly
Sat 11 Feb	14:30	First Team	Cuffley	Away	League
	14:30	Reserves	Sandridge Rovers Res	Away	League
Sun 12 Feb	13:30	Vets	Litlington Vets	Away	Friendly

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

Bunty says
'On your marks,
get set, GO' for:



The BUNTYLYMPICS 2012

Seth Ward
Recreation Field,
Luyes Rise,
Buntingford
SG9 9SG

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

FREE
to
ENTER

Everyone can take part!!
Teams or individuals.
All ages, from 3 to 93!!
Lots of fun events to
enter. It will be a day to
remember in this very
special year, so get your
entry form NOW!!

Entry forms
available from

The Clerk's Office
Manor House, Buntingford
01763 272222

www.buntingfordtowncouncil.co.uk



An introduction to **Baby Sensory**

Parents and their babies (from birth to 13 months) can now enjoy award-winning Baby Sensory classes in Buntingford on Tuesday mornings with Louise Hughes. Louise took her son to the classes in Ware when he was just 6 weeks old. They both loved the classes so much Louise wanted to start running classes herself and share the experience with others.

Babies learn more in the first year of life than at any other time. Never again will there be such an extraordinary pace of development. They are totally attentive and fascinated by everything that they see, hear, touch, taste and smell. Baby Sensory doesn't waste a moment of this valuable time! The classes provide a myriad of colourful sensory experiences and sensations. Imagine taking your baby on a jungle, water or space adventure, to a winter wonderland or to a world of light and magic? Mums and Dads also find out how to settle and soothe their baby, how to perform simple massage techniques and a whole lot more. There are wonderful games and activities, and music therapy is another sensory delight that cannot be missed!

Every week is different and each activity is supported by learning information, so that parents know how to take their baby's learning forward. Parents are provided with hundreds of simple ideas for activities that they can do with their babies at home. Baby signing, for example, is a great way to develop speech and language, while movement activities can help with of sight and hand-eye co-ordination, so important for later reading and writing.

Baby Sensory classes provide an exploratory play area where parents can try out the equipment and materials, interact with others and gain ideas for home use. Then it's back to the sensory area for more activities, music and dancing that always ends with cuddles and big yawns from the babies. Not even a busy little baby can fight off sleep after so much activity! For parents the joy and sense of awe that arises from seeing baby learn and develop is well worth the effort of squeezing Baby Sensory into the weekly schedule.

Founded on over 30 years of university research and practical theory, Baby Sensory is a unique programme that promotes baby learning and development from the start. Ongoing research ensures that the programme is constantly reviewed and updated with new materials and techniques introduced to add variety and novelty. Baby Sensory is recognized by health professionals and approved by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists as a valuable extension of post-natal care.

With classes and parties now running in Buntingford, why not book a FREE taster class? Contact Louise on **07582 046194** or email **stevenage@babysensory.co.uk** or visit **www.babysensory.com**

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