

THE BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL



The Lights of Love & Christmas Late Night Shopping was a great success, thanks to all who helped organise and helped on the night, and to all who came along to support our town.

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

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www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk

Buntingfordfoodhub@gmail.com | 07842 889 772



LETTER FROM

The Editor

Happy New Year! It's nice to be back feeling somewhat refreshed and rested after our winter break, and I hope that you have all had a lovely Christmas break too.

Most of our local groups and clubs that took a break in December are back up and running again now and full of ideas for things you can get involved in this year. The U3A have published a list of all their events for the year on p.14 and I'm delighted to see that the Community Choir have been saved by finding a new musical director to take the helm this year. Of course we also have the newest offering from the Drama Society to enjoy this month, with 4 performances of 'Out of Focus' to look forward to.

If you're looking to improve your health in 2025 then Attend2Health and Jacqui Smith both have lots of help at hand with everything from fitness to meditation, to breaking bad habits, to easing aches and pains, see p30/31 for details.

I'm sure that many of you will be delighted to read that Buntingford Live! are planning another Comedy Night in March and they continue to support our young musicians with a new event this year. In place of the much loved Battle of the Bands, there will be a Buntingford Live Music event in April for young musicians aged between 11-18. Applications are now open and close on Friday 14th February. See p43 for details.

Plenty to keep everyone busy through these chilly months, it won't be too long until springtime now!

Anne

BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 2025

EDITOR

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EDITORIAL DEADLINE

Editorial copy deadline for the next Journal is: **15th February.**

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

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

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

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

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ON THE COVER

Lights of Love and Late Night Shopping Event from November 2024



BUNTINGFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Graham Waite, Chairman

chairman@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Member of

CIVIC VOICE
talking civic sense

reg. Charity: 1014873

It has been 2 months since my last article, where did they go?

The Civic Society Executive Committee trust you had an enjoyable Christmas, and your batteries are re-charged for what promises to be a challenging year ahead. We know that some of you may not have had the break that you would have liked and our thoughts and best wishes for a better year to come are with you.

Here are some of the things to come this year that may interest you, especially our new residents. We are seeking to re-introduce the "Historic Town" walks. The last time we did this, was prior to the Covid pandemic and proved to be very well received by those that joined us. The walk normally takes about 2 hours and covers the High Street from St Peters Church to Vicarage Road, then up to Layston Church via "Coffin Walk", down the Causeway to the Ford and up Church Street. Along the way the many historic buildings in the High Street are identified with an explanation about a little bit of their History. We hope that these walks in June will coincide with "Civic Day", (date to be confirmed). For those of you that are interested there is a booklet available FOC from the Town Council offices at the Manor House, just pop in and ask for one.

We are also working with the Town Council on an event to mark the 80th Anniversary of the end of WWII. This end of the war was split between Victory in Europe (VE Day) 8th May 1945, and victory in Japan (VJ Day) 15th August 1945. Keep your eyes open for more news on this in the coming months.

As reported in the last issue of the Journal, the Development Management Committee of EHDC voted to refuse permission for the Taylor Wimpey application to build 200 dwellings and a new GP surgery on Hare

Street Road. We, like most of the people that commented on the application, have just received notification that the application is being re-visited by the DMC on 22nd February. We wait with bated breath to see the outcome of that meeting.

An interesting announcement from EHDC planning, is that permission has been granted for 10,000 new dwellings to be constructed in the "Gilston" area, just north of Harlow. If you would like to see more on this then visit the EHDC website.

We were recently advised that the Chairman of Civic Voice, Ian Harvey, will be stepping down in 2025 to take on a new role at the Institute of Place Management at Manchester Metropolitan University. In a statement by Martin Hamilton on behalf of the Civic Voice Trustees, he said,

"Ian's dedication, vision, and leadership have been instrumental in transforming Civic Voice from an idea into a respected national charity that advocates for communities across the country. His commitment to our "pride in place" mission has inspired civic societies nationwide, empowering communities to engage actively in shaping the places where they live and work. His contributions to the civic movement are immeasurable, and we are deeply grateful for his tireless commitment to making Civic Voice the influential body it has become".

Buntingford Civic Society extend our thanks and best wishes to Ian for his work with Civic Voice. A replacement will be announced by Civic Voice over the coming months.

Graham Waite

Chairman, Buntingford Civic Society



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

01763 272 222

clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk

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

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

The Senior's Christmas Lunch was a great success with 70 of our senior residents enjoying a Christmas dinner at the Woodman Inn in Nuthampstead. This event was funded by the Town Council and Councillor Jeff Jones through his Locality budget.

Once again Councillor Bonner and his team provided an excellent Christmas Light display and our thanks go to them for their hard work.

At the time of writing we have been informed that the decision to refuse the Taylor Wimpey application for 200 dwellings and a GP Surgery will be revisited by the Development Management Committee at East Herts Council. Once again our Town Council will robustly object to the proposals in line with the results of the public survey, which indicated the residents were not prepared to accept 200 new homes in exchange for a GP surgery.

The Town Council along with local churches and the Royal British Legion are planning an event to celebrate the 80th anniversary of D Day. This will be held on the 8th May on Market Hill and at the War

Memorial. Further details will follow but we are keen to hear from any residents who were in the town on D Day and are able to give an account of the day from a personal perspective.

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

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

Details of the February Council meetings below.

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

Jill Jones PSLCC Cert HE -Town Clerk

Town Council meetings for the months of February are:

- Thursday 6th February 7pm** Amenities Committee.
- Thursday 13th February 7pm** Planning and Resources Committee
- Thursday 27th February 7pm** Planning Committee and Full Council

All meetings held at The Manor House unless indicated otherwise.

NEWS FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Jeff Jones, Hertfordshire County Councillor, Buntingford
0300 123 7493 | jeff.jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk



HCC Budget - Integrated Plan (IP)

We have published our draft budget for the next financial year. The Integrated Plan outlines how we will spend more than £1.1 billion on public services that touch the lives of all residents at every milestone, while also working to protect people in Hertfordshire who need the most support.

The proposals for the coming budget year outline increased investment of £128 million compared to 2024/25 to protect, maintain and improve services.

Highlights from the proposed 2025/26 budget include:

- Nearly half a billion pounds will be spent supporting 30,000 adults to live well for longer, including an additional £30 million investment to support those providing care, ensuring that caring staff receive a living wage and to offset the increased National Insurance costs. £26m of additional investment will be spent to ensure that the council can meet the expected increase in demand from those requiring care.
- Just over quarter of a billion pounds will be spent on children's services, including £28m of additional investment to ensure we can continue to support Children Looked After and children with disabilities.
- A further £2.8m of funding on top of the previous £7m investment will be made towards our SEND improvement programme 'Making SEND Everyone's Business'.

- £100m will be spent on highways maintenance works to keep Hertfordshire moving, an increase of £6m from the previous year.
- Funding will be made available to improve flood protection and investigations.
- New Prevention and Health Inequalities Fund of £3.4m to support residents to stay healthy and well and address health inequalities in Hertfordshire over the next three years.
- Creating a new Carers Hub to allow carers to access greater levels of support.
- Further investment in a Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop to enhance support for people at medium and standard risk.

In common with councils across the country, the budget has been set in an extremely challenging financial context with increasing demand for services and costs likely to rise over the next twelve months if inflation continues its upward trend and the impact of the introduction of higher employer National Insurance contributions is felt.

To reduce the burden placed on taxpayers, we will continue to drive down our own internal costs with plans to deliver £42 million savings by the end of the 2025/26 financial year, which is on top of £46 million savings agreed last year.

Despite this, the current proposal presents a headline budget that requires

the use of £3m of reserves in addition to having to raise Council Tax by 4.99 per cent (including 2 per cent to support Adult Social Care) in April.

The draft budget is currently out for consultation with a closing date of 5th February '25.

<https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/Budget25/>

Local Government Reorganisation

The Government are proposing changes to two tier authorities which would see District and County Councils merging and replaced with a Unitary Authority with an elected Mayor. Two stages to the proposals include a fast-track process which would have seen the upcoming County Council Elections cancelled.

Hertfordshire County Council have opted for the second stage with discussion on Unitary being progressed in 2026 with an expected Unitary Hertfordshire Council being formed in 2028. Savings of £100 million per year are forecast for a new unitary authority. Further funding towards services would be made available by Government towards unitary authorities with an elected Mayor.

I believe residents would be in support of a unitary authority in Hertfordshire which would mean a Hertfordshire Unitary Councillor representing you at council and a single point of contact for service enquiries and concerns.

Doctors Surgery + 200 Homes

I was disappointed and surprised to receive notice that the planning application for the new doctors surgery and 200 new homes, outside the town at Hare St Road, is being brought back to DMC on 22nd January for further

consideration. In November DMC Committee Members voted to refuse this application despite a recommendation from planning officers to approve the application. Bringing an application that has already been decided by committee is unprecedented and indicates that East Herts District Council planners are hell bent on getting this application approved. I have challenged the legality of EHDC decision to hear the application again and to date have not had a response.

Walking Football

Buntingford Town Walking Football are keen to attract new members at our Saturday morning sessions at the MUGA, Norfolk Road Playing Fields. If you are over 50, keen to stay active, and enjoy playing the "beautiful game", come along at 10am Saturday mornings and give it a try. The first session is free and then £3 for future sessions. There is a mixture of ages and abilities, ranging from 50 years to our oldest member, 73 years. Come along and "give it a try".

Councillor Surgery

If you would like to discuss any County Council issues in person, please contact me for an appointment. I am always available by phone or email on the contact details above.

LETTERS & EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

Write to us at: journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Buntingford Dramatic Society were delighted to take part in the wonderful Christmas tree festival at St Mary's Church, Aspenden. Our tree featured non-food items urgently needed by Buntingford Food Support to help local families at this challenging time of year.

We would like to thank all of our members and friends for their generous donations. The tree was certainly unconventional and proved to be somewhat of a talking point! The feedback ranged from "inspired" to "inappropriate" but most importantly it highlighted the wonderful work of Buntingford Food Support.

Many thanks to all involved.

Buntingford Dramatic Society



The Buntingford Chamber of Commerce was delighted to see so many people in town for Late Night Shopping at the end of November. (See cover photo.) Supporting local businesses is our top priority, and we're excited to announce plans for monthly networking events to strengthen our community connections, the next one being the **13th February at 7.30pm** at The Fox and Duck in Buntingford for Members of the Chamber of Commerce.

Events like Late Night Shopping and the Car Show require significant effort to organise, and we'd greatly appreciate help from volunteers. If you're able to spare some time to support these initiatives, we'd love to hear from you. Together, we can make a big difference! www.buntingfordchamberofcommerce.co.uk



Christmas Tree Festival - U3A's Gill at work



WARD FREMAN

COMMUNITY POOL
GROUP

Joanne Willett, Trustee
jwillett@wardfremanpool.org

www.wardfremanpool.org

 WardFremanPool

Over the festive period we reached the first anniversary of the Ward Freman swimming pool closure. Whilst at this stage in our journey we would have loved to be sharing with you positive news of when the pool will reopen, we are not there yet. Last year we were disappointed that the change in Government meant the closure of the Community Ownership Fund, from which we had hoped to secure a grant of £800,000. In April though, the Ward Freman Community Pool Group charity will have been registered for a year and this will make us eligible to apply for other charitable funding.

We still do not have definitive quotes for the work that needs to be completed, but we are thinking that £450,000 will enable us to get the doors open again. Further investment will still then be needed to reduce running costs and update the changing rooms.

East Herts District Council is still pledging £200,000 towards getting the pool reopen, in addition to a historical £16,000 S106 funding for the pool. We will be approaching Buntingford Town Council to request if they would consider making a significant grant from unallocated reserves.

December was a busy month of fundraising with £2,325 being raised in total: £530 Table top sale, £230 Twelve Ducks of Christmas competition, £965 Selling 'Shop local, Swim local' bags at the Coop on Christmas Eve, £600 Selling refreshments at the Buntingford 10 running event.

In total we have raised £16,500 to date.

We are extremely proud that local businesses are supporting our charity and are thankful to the 14 who made it onto our 'Shop Local, Swim Local' bag. The



production costs of these bags has been met by those businesses so for every bag that is purchased at £5, every penny goes towards helping get the pool open. Trustees and volunteers had a great day on Christmas Eve selling these bags at the Coop and they can still be purchased at Mark Doel Butchers, The Buntingford Coffee Shop or at our fundraising events.

Volunteer knitters have been making 'Bill – the duck who couldn't swim' and you may have seen these ducks during December in local businesses supporting our 12 ducks of Christmas competition. We hope to have more duck themed fundraising events this year including a duck race in the river. If you have any experience or just enthusiasm and could help organise this or other events please get in touch.

In closing may I say a big thank you for all the support the community has shown so far and hope that you can continue to support us as we try and make 2025 the year we start our countdown to reopening.

Damp and mould has built up in our home over the winter. It started around the windows but now it's spread. I've been chasing our letting agency, who say they'll speak to our landlord but there's been no action and I'm really worried about how this might affect our health. Our tenancy agreement isn't up for six months, what can I do?

You've done the right thing by reporting the issue to your letting agency. It's not always easy to work out the cause of damp and mould, and your landlord might suggest that something you're doing is contributing to it. However, your landlord will be responsible for the issue if it's being caused by structural problems or disrepair such as a leaking roof or bad insulation.

Damp is when an area of your property doesn't dry out, often because it's cold. Damp can lead to mould, which is a fungus that grows in areas where warm damp air condenses on cold surfaces, like window frames. On our website you can find information which will help you work out what type of damp you have, who is responsible and what you can do about it. You should also check your tenancy agreement for mentions of repairs and damp.

Your landlord is responsible for fixing a damp problem if it's making your home unsafe to live in. For example,

this could be if it's affecting your health or the health of someone living in the property with you. Your landlord will also be responsible if the damp is related to repairs they should have carried out, for example if the roof is damaged. They would also have to cover the cost of repairs to any items damaged by the damp, including carpets and furniture.

One of the things that can contribute to damp and mould is condensation. One of the best ways to prevent condensation is to keep homes well-heated and ventilated, but high heating costs and cold weather can make this difficult for lots of us. If you're finding it hard to insulate and heat your home, check our website to see if you're eligible for support.

There are steps you can take to make sure you're not contributing to a damp problem, and making it worse. Our website has advice on what to avoid, like drying clothes on heaters, blocking air vents, or using portable gas heaters. However, showering, cooking, and laundry are the kinds of things everyone expects to be able to do in their homes. If the property can't be heated and ventilated adequately to cope with normal day-to-day living activities, then it's the property that's the problem, not your behaviour.

If your landlord is responsible for the damp in your home but doesn't do anything about it, there are steps you can take, like reporting them to the

local authority. And as a private renter, if you've got evidence from a health professional that damp is making you ill, you may be able to get free legal advice through Legal Aid.

As a last resort, you might decide you just want to leave the property but getting out of a tenancy agreement early can be difficult. There's information on our website about how to go about this but remember this can be hard and there might be things you haven't tried yet.

If you need advice, the quickest way is to call our Message Line:

01920 459 944

Mon – Thurs

Or visit our website:

www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk.

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



**BUNTINGFORD ACTION
FOR SOCIAL HELP**

**Volunteer Hospital
Driver Service**

BASH HAS CHANGED NUMBER !!

To get the usual efficient, friendly driver to the doctor's surgery, a dentist, one of the hospitals within our area or, occasionally, to visit a sick relative, you will now need to ring a new phone number.

In future you will need to phone:

07787 183 288

where you will reach one of our friendly committee members, or you can leave a message and someone will return your call.

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

The Buntingford Journal can also be purchased from:

THE CO-OP, BUDGENS/POST OFFICE
LOCKS, STOCK & MORE, MARK DOEL
BUTCHERS, THE CHEESE PLATE, KIM
on the CARD STALL

St Mary's Church, Aspenden organised its first Christmas Tree Festival in December and our u3a took part. Many items were made by the They Matter, Pottery and Crafty Chat Groups and depicted some of our 31+ groups. The tree itself was then decorated by Gill Alderton (see photo on page 10). The two day weekend event was open free to the public who

then voted for their favourite tree. First place went to the Army Cadets who made a tree of food parcels (subsequently delivered), 2nd the Gardening Club with a bean cane wigwam decorated with horticultural bits and bobs and 3rd was a small hand knitted tree made by Lil Foster, a member of St. Peter's Church.

Our Speakers for the rest of 2025 are:

Date	Speaker & Title
February 10th	Clare Mulley an English biographer of notable women: "Agent ZO" - the untold Story of Fearless WW2 resistance Fighter Elzbieta Zawacka.
March 10th	Simon Keable-Elliot: "Robert Keable - Utterly immoral WW1 Chaplain" - an extraordinary tale, highly recommended by other u3a groups.
April 14th	Charles Garland: "Dad's Army" - A fascinating insight into the making of this very popular Television Sitcom.
May 12th	Charlie Haylock: "The History of Spoken English pt 2" - we welcome Charlie again for this fascinating talk, language developed from the Tudors and Stuarts.
June 9th	Mike Barbakoff: "Bletchley Park WW2 History" - Mike, a volunteer Guide will tell us about the Code Breakers.
July 14th	Lee Baddock: "Buntingford Dramatic Society" - the History of the society's past, present and future productions.
August	NO MEETING
September 8th	Becky Moore, zoo educator: "Hertfordshire Zoo (formerly Paradise Wildlife Park)" - its history, recent developments and future.
October 13th	AGM
November 10th	Richard Thomas: "Flanders Fields to the Tower" - a topical talk Around Remembrance Day
December 8th	An a cappella choir: "Christmas themed a cappella" - a short history of a Cappella, before they perform their music

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

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

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

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



Paul Webster

After months of anguish and worry, I can finally announce that the Choir has found a new Musical Director. Carole Bowerman has agreed to take charge from Monday 13th January.

Carole has a fabulous musical background and has led a Community Choir in the past. The committee are delighted by the news and have every

confidence that she will be a perfect fit for our Choir.

We still meet on Monday evenings 7.30 at Millfield School in Buntingford for more information email.

info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk

Or for more information go to our website: www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk

BUNTINGFORD GARDENER'S CLUB

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 5th February

At: The URC Hall, Baldock Road

Doors open: 7:45pm for 8pm start

Gardening is good exercise both physically and mentally and enjoyment also comes from appreciation, without getting your hands dirty!

How about starting the New Year off by joining us and making new friends?

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

I am pleased to say that our unique Christmas Tree design came 2nd in the first ever Aspenden Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's Church – very well done to all those involved.

For our first meeting of the New Year on 5th February, Nic Wilson will be giving a talk on "Four and Twenty Blackbirds", which includes how to create a bird-friendly garden that sings in every season. Nic is a garden and nature writer who writes for BBC Gardeners' World magazine, features within the RSPB website and the RHS Garden magazine.



The club has monthly meetings on the 1st Wednesday of every month (no meetings in January or August).

We have speakers giving talks on a variety of subjects, as well as quizzes, demonstrations and outings.

Over a cup of tea or coffee, we catch up and help each other with gardening tips, whilst sharing common interests.

Annual membership costs just £20 and this time of year we offer a half-year membership costing only £10. Visitors are also welcome at £3.00 per visit.

For further information, please contact the Secretary telephone 01763 271885.

Hope to see you there.



I hope you all managed to go along to the Library during December to see the Christmas scene which was created by our talented craft ladies. If not, here it is!

In December we held our Christmas Celebration in Christ Church. The Church looked beautiful and it was lovely to see everyone who came. After carols and readings, we all moved into the Church Hall for mince pies and mulled wine. We reluctantly decided to cancel our traditional January party as the awful weather combined with illness meant that too many members were not able to come.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 13th February** at the United Reformed Church Hall in Baldock Road (opposite Budgens and the Post Office) at 7.15 for 7.30 start. Our guest speaker is Kate Hufton and she

will tell us all about the wonderful work of the Hertfordshire Air Ambulance. We welcome visitors to all our meetings and would love to see you if you are new to Buntingford (and even if you're not!) – just turn up on the night and come to see what Buntingford W.I. is all about.

During lockdown a group of us started to meet in the garden of Pigs Nose Cottage, calling ourselves Friday Friends, and this was so popular that it has now become a regular monthly event, except we now meet in the URC Hall. Friday Friends now meet on the first Friday of the month from 10.30 till midday to enjoy coffee and chat. If anyone would like to come and meet us we would be pleased to see you.

If you would like further information about Buntingford W.I. telephone our Secretary, Pat, on 01763 271 305.

REED GARDEN CLUB

Sue Huggins

February 12th 2-4pm

This months speaker

Kerry Austen "Plants for winter interest"

Reed village hall, £3 entrance tea/coffee

STANDON & PUCKERIDGE TENNIS CLUB

Diana Foster

www.standon-ltc.co.uk

We have three all weather courts and new members are always welcome.

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

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

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

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

TEAMS: This summer the Men's First Team won Division 1 of Hertfordshire Hot Rackets and have been promoted to the Premier Division, that is an amazing achievement for a small village club.

In the winter we have a Mixed, Men's and Ladies Team in the Essex Small Clubs League as well as an over 60's Ladies Team in the Hertfordshire League and a Mixed Team in the East Herts League. This winter, for the first time, we have entered 6 junior teams in the Hertfordshire League.

Contact Diana Foster on 07778 031 430 for more information on the adult teams and Cliff Devonshire on 07709 355 655 for the juniors

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

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

BUNTINGFORD SCHOOL OF DANCE



Zoë Eaglesfield www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk

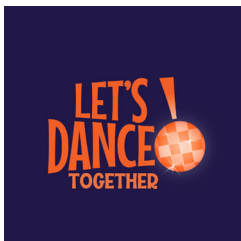
Buntingford School of Dance | [buntingfordschoolofdance](https://www.instagram.com/buntingfordschoolofdance)

It was lovely to meet so many people at our stall at Late Night Shopping at the end of November and have welcomed new pupils to our classes this term.

Preparations are under way for our show in June. Pupils will start learning dances in classes later this term, so they are well prepared to perform to family and friends at showtime. Tickets will be on sale via the venue nearer the time so if you want to come along and see what we do, keep an eye out for more information over the coming months.

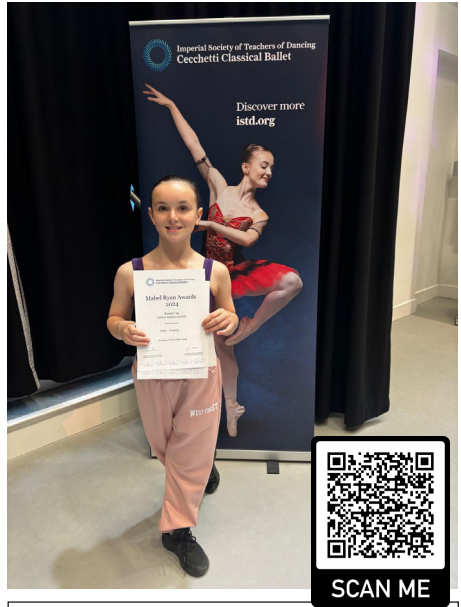
There is still time to enrol in classes for this term, so if you know a budding dancer who would like to join classes and be a part of our show do get in touch for more details. We hold classes in the centre of Buntingford for all ages from toddlers to adults and offer Baby Boppers, Ballet, Commercial/Street, Modern/Jazz and Tap.

Pupils of all ages and abilities are welcome, whether you have done any kind of dance before or not. Buntingford Classes are at the URC Hall, Baldock Road; our adult tap class is as at Barkway Village Hall.



In March we are planning to support LET'S DANCE! 2025 by inviting friends and family to join pupils in classes. Let's Dance! is a national campaign,

spearheaded by Angela Rippon CBE, to inspire everyone in the UK to embrace dance as a way to improve their health, connect with others and have fun.



BUNTINGFORD SCHOOL of DANCE

BALLET
MODERN/JAZZ
TAP
STREET/
COMMERCIAL

enROLLING NOW!

ADMIN@BUNTINGFORDSCHOOLOFDANCE.CO.UK

CONGRATUALATIONS! To BSD pupil Chloe who was Runner Up in her section at the Cecchetti Mabel Ryan Awards in mid-November. Following her success Chloe has been awarded a full tuition scholarship for a place on a One Day Ballet Intensive at Central School of Ballet.

If you wish to trial/register for classes, want more information or to join our mailing list please use the QR code and state class type you are interested in, email us or visit our website contact page.

THE BUNTINGFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

New year and we're back so why not come in out of the cold and join us for a social afternoon of tea or coffee and Bingo.

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

For more information please call Val on: 01763 27 2019.

BRAUGHING GET TOGETHER

Following our highly successful Winter Supper and Beetle Drive events, we continue with:

Friday 7th February 2025 - FILM NIGHT & Supper

We are presenting The Miracle Club.

There's just one dream for the women of Ballygar, to taste freedom and win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes.

Maggie Smith, Laura Linney and Kathy Bates star in this comedy drama which became Maggie Smith's last film.

Entry is £7.50 to cover a Chilli supper and hall hire with doors open at 7:00pm (advance booking essential).

Monday 17th February 2025 - Coach trip to the Royal Opera House for a Tea Dance.

Tango, waltz and quickstep along to the world famous Royal Opera House Dance Band, in the stunning Paul Hamlyn Hall.

The dance band stops at 2.30pm, giving ample time for looking around the Opera House, its interesting photo gallery, refreshments in the cafe afterwards and of course, retail therapy in the shop.

Richmond Coaches will pick us up from The Square at 9.50am and leave London at 4pm.

Booking is essential. Price is £60pp to include entrance and coach journeys.

March 2025 - MURDER MYSTERY

Once again we will offer our ever popular Murder Mystery evening.

Date and time to be advised nearer the time.

For more information or to book your place for any of the above events, contact Cynthia Matthews or Marion Saunders.

Email: cynthia.matthews44@gmail.com / Telephone: 01920 822 230 or 07933 202 547

Email: marionjsaunders@gmail.com / Telephone 07887 915 215

BUNTINGFORD DRAMATIC SOCIETY

www.buntingforddrama.uk



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

Hello my lovelies!

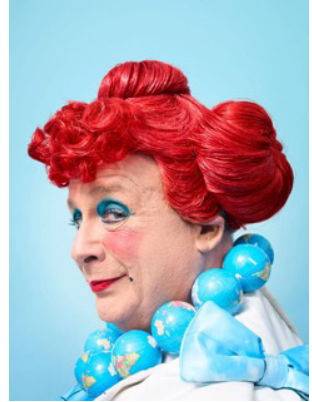
I am back and I know just how much you've all been gagging for a little bit more from me, given my innate ability to dig deep and get under the covers. I know I've tempted you with titbits in previous publications of this magnificent journal, but here is a little more.

I can let you into a little bit of a secret... no, I can, really. I popped down to the Seth Ward Community Centre to watch the rehearsals for "Out Of Focus", the latest light-hearted production from the Buntingford Dramatic Society. It is being staged on the 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th Feb at what I euphemistically refer to as "The Seth".

Well, the poor things called me in a tizz and asked for some help and some rousing words, and well, while I was there, I spied some new faces in the cast. I mean - bless them - the existing players ARE looking a little long in the tooth, but these new faces were a breath of fresh air. Of course, I was able to give them some uplifting advice thanks to my vast wide ranging experience working under many prominent people, coupled with my enviable bone structure. But I tell you this, the show isn't half bad. I laughed like a drain - and that was only at rehearsals when they got their lines in a twist and the fuse blew.

Trust me, get online and get booking at www.buntingforddrama.uk! Or that FOMO or Fear Of Missing Out will haunt you and leave you with an empty hollow in your stomach forever more. Get down to see the show. There is a bar as usual with table service, so you can watch the play or give into the soothing power of their renowned Prosecco and get quietly sloshed... or in my case, not so quietly. I'll see you there.

Lots of love and kisses on the bottom, Gladis Aman



Buntingford Dramatic Society

OUT OF FOCUS

a comedy by Peter Gordon

7th 8th 14th 15th February 2025

Seth Ward Community Centre, Buntingford

Evening	19.15 for 20:00	£17.00 (with cold platter)
Matinée	13.30 for 14:00	£12.00

Table service and licensed bar

Tickets on sale from www.buntingforddrama.uk

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

RIVERWATCH BUNTINGFORD

The turn of the year is always a good time to reflect on how far we have come and what lies ahead. Its at least 6 years ago when Buntingford Town Council (aka Graham Waite) invited residents and the local wildlife trust (aka Sarah Perry) to an open meeting at the council offices to discuss what might be done to restore the River Rib to its former chalk stream glory. I had absolutely no idea, but did know from walking my grandchildren round to Leyston Gardens it wasn't supposed to threaten to overflow its banks in winter then turn black and dry up completely in the summer. And where were the dragonflies and mayflies, not to mention the minnows and trout, characteristic of healthy chalk streams?

Fast forward 6 years and where are we? Well the stretch between the Causeway Ford and High street bridge has been re-engineered with islands ('berms') of native planting and S-shaped bends of faster water to keep the gravels clean of suffocating silts, awaiting re-population by aquatic insects to feed the birds ducks and fish. RiverWatch volunteers aided by Affinity Water staff spent 4 years pulling up those 6 foot tall pretty pink but 'invasive non-native' Himalayan Balsam flowers that seed and suffocate all the native species, attracting all the bees away from your garden flowers. We're on track to eradicate the invasive Giant Hogweed (8 feet tall with a sting 1000x more dangerous than a nettle) found among the balsam. With Buntingford pretty well sorted the 'INNS eradication' effort followed the Rib downstream to the south side of Aspenden, last year down to Puckerage, and this year on to Standon, which remains heavily infested.

Dr Derrick Guy

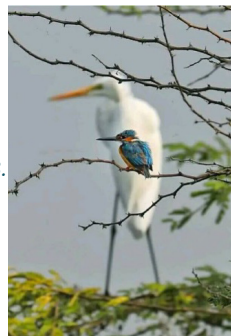
Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust,
- Living Rivers Champion
love.your.chalk.stream@gmail.com

Apart from those opportunities to get involved, government sponsored training of volunteers in 'citizen science' projects is now being rolled out nationwide, starting with a pilot scheme (CaSTCo) on six river catchments across the country. The Rib is not specifically included but our nearest neighbour the River Beane is, managed by our own advisers from the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust (see Sarah Perry earlier). Our policy is to avail ourselves of all and any opportunity for free training. We are very fortunate that Sarah and Nicola at the HMWT can make sure we are kindly included in meetings and training sessions. Currently activities include regular sampling of aquatic insects (aka Riverfly Monitoring), Nitrate and Phosphate testing, and training in various other environmental assessments of the health of a river, such as sediment loads etc. Not forgetting the eDNA sampling I mentioned on these pages last month. If you are looking to get involved in something 'completely different' that's not too demanding but very rewarding, you are very welcome to join us, contact details below:

Join us on WhatsApp and Facebook (closed private groups – so no spam etc.) search for "RiverWatch – Buntingford"

Contact me via email: love.your.chalk.stream@gmail.com

Large Egret & Kingfisher – source : FB.
Lets aspire to replace photo with our own Little Egret & Kingfisher on the Rib?



BUNTINGFORD WRITER'S GROUP

Mary Godfrey

Mona Lisa in Blue Jeans

A romantic tale for Valentine's Day.

Liam felt exasperated; here was another day in prospect when he must begin interviewing these unsuitable young aspiring actresses again. Why did the agency send all these hopeless candidates? Was this the best they could offer him?

It's time to change agencies, he thought to himself.

What was he to say to these young hopefuls? How do we let them down gently? How do we destroy their hopes? Goodness, he had been there himself a lifetime ago.

Now, he was on the other side of the Camera, and it had been a hard-fought journey. He muttered, "I've been in this business too long." That morning, as he had peered into his bathroom mirror, he had considered the newly discovered greying hair at his temples. Perhaps his time had passed; should he doubt himself? He firmly believed he could make this happen; the time was right.

He knew what he wanted; why was that so difficult for Teresa at the agency to interpret? He had made it clear, hadn't he?

This was Liam's dream, a remake of *Gone with the Wind*.

He was going to make it happen and felt convinced it would be a success.

He believed passionately that there would be a new young audience, too young to have seen the original motion picture with the glorious Vivien Leigh but ready for the romance of his interpretation of the story.

He had cast all the main characters, and filming would begin in one month, but where was his *Scarlet O'Hara*? Blonde or brunette, if she is right, that wouldn't matter; perhaps it would even enhance the role. His thoughts were interrupted, and his assistant Penny tentatively tapped his door. She knew his moods were unpredictable at this time, and everyone around Liam was feeling the stress.

"Liam, this is Lisa; the agency has sent her."

"Come in, come in." Liam was studying the current rewrite of scene two and didn't look up from his desk at first. "Ok, let's hear you. Have you brought your script?"

"Excuse me, there must be some mistake. I don't have a script."

"Then what the blazes are you doing here? Don't waste my time."

Exasperated, Liam raised his eyes and met her steely gaze.

Suddenly, to him, it felt like the moon and the stars had collided. The effect was breathtaking, and now he was lost for words.

Her glorious cascade of auburn hair and her body was curvaceous

beneath her Gypsy-style blouse, and her blue denim jeans clearly showed her shapely legs and the rounded curve of her hips.

What a beauty! He couldn't take his eyes away from her. She was stunning, and her blazing grey eyes appraised him.

She stood defiantly, with her hands on her hips, her eyes defiant with indignation. "The Catering agency sent me to take your order for the reception on Friday evening."

Her eyes were indignant with anger. Lisa wasn't prepared to be spoken to like that; throwing the menu across his desk and turning, she made for the door.

'Stop! I'm sorry I didn't mean to be rude. I thought you were from the theatrical agency; let's start again. I'm Liam; hello, Lisa."

Lisa stared hard at this attractive man. She noticed he appeared to be in his mid-40s, and the way he was looking at her made her feel as if she was the most beautiful woman in the world.

She hesitated, unsure of herself. Liam held her gaze.

She was no Scarlet O' Hara; Lisa was so much more!

Neither one of them noticed; as his assistant Penny left the room, the door closed with a soft click.

We always welcome new members to Buntingford Writers group. There is no membership fee, and no demand except to join in and contribute. In the summer we meet at Mill End Garden Centre and in the winter in each other's homes.

About three times a year the Writers Group meets in the back room of Buntingford library to write together for a couple of hours. As writing can be a solitary activity, getting together with laptops, paper and pens, checking in to see how we're doing every now and again, can be a treat. It usually results in a whole lot of writing getting done.

We've now added Author Talks to our activities. Some of you may have heard Lucy Lewis last summer talking about Lighting the Fuse and Phillipa Sage talking about Jeremy Clarkson at Seth Ward Community Centre, both excellent speakers and an opportunity to hear published authors speak about their work.

Contact Chris Kell at **chriskell37@gmail.com** if you think you might be interested in attending a Writers Group meeting. We'd love to meet you.

Last months meeting, the first of 2025 was all about the builders of Buntingford. This talk came about after I found an old ledger in amongst the Heritage collection of items.

The book was started on the 7th May 1870 and was a record of the men who worked as builders for an unnamed company. It showed the jobs they had undertaken, how many hours they had worked each day and who the customers had been. The final entry had been on 23rd November 1872. As there was no clue in the ledger as to who these men had been employed by, I decided to try to trace the company.

I began by looking to see who the main builders in the town were, so I started with the earliest Pigott's directory (sort of early yellow pages). The first one I could find was 1825 which showed the main builder as being William Bray, however further research showed he had died in 1836 so that ruled him out. I then looked at the 1841 census which showed Nathan Warren as living with his family in the High Street. Whilst it didn't give an exact address, I could narrow it down to being on the east side of the High Street possibly around 28, now Days bakers. 28 had for many years been a building company, many of you may remember it being Handy's property.

Further research showed that Nathan Warren had indeed been a builder but then became a farmer at Little Hormead Bury and had sold his building business to William Gibbons on 28th June 1855.

The census results for 1861 showed William as living at 28 High Street with his wife and employing 32 men and 4

boys as builders. William had been born in Needham Market, Suffolk, and his wife was from Headcorn in Kent, so neither of them were locals. However, William soon established himself as a builder of some repute. He was employed in a lot of restoration work in local churches, he had built many of the buildings for the new Buntingford Railway Station, and had worked for many of the local land and property owners in the area. In addition to providing building services William owned his own brick and tile making business, and also lime burning, as lime was widely used in the building trade. Examples of Williams bricks have been found each carries a mark of WG on them.

In the census for 1871 William was employing 60 men, so by far the biggest local employer. The Gibbons had no children, but lodging with them was Thomas Nevett working as a building clerk.

Thomas was to become well known and respected in Buntingford and on William's death in 1879, Thomas bought the business and continued with the same kind of work as William had undertaken. He restored many churches, and is responsible for designing the cover on the font at Aspenden church. He also undertook building many new buildings, his style was red brick base with timber upper floors, rendered with mortar. One example is the Technical Institute which he built for £750. Thomas married Elizabeth Coleman, daughter of George Coleman of Throcking Hall. The wedding took place in Throcking church on 20th September 1883.

Like William he continued to produce his own bricks now marked with an N and presumably still burning lime for use in his business.

Thomas became fully immersed in the life of Buntingford. He became chairman of Layston parish council, vice chairman of Buntingford district council, chairman of Buntingford Gas Company, and a member of the local board of guardians, who looked after the running of the workhouse. His wife, also supported local charities especially the nursing fund.



Thomas and Elizabeth had a house built in what was at the time called Back Lane, they called it Bowling Green House as there was at one time a bowling green on the site. The house stood in large grounds which were eventually sold off and houses built on the land becoming Bowlers Mead.

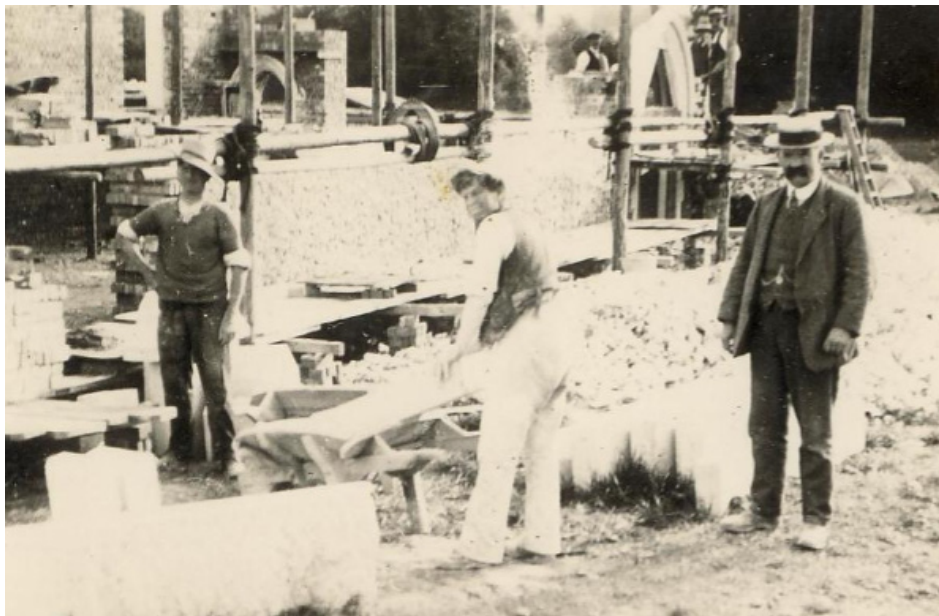


Whilst this photo courtesy of *Buntingford in Old Photo's* Facebook page, shows G Handy's name on the sign, this was the place also used by Nevett and Gibbons, and maybe even Nathan Warren. The date it was built is not known but buildings in the yard which ran behind this building; when demolished contained bricks with the initials WG. The yard extended into Church Street, and this was where the main entrance was for the yard.

The impressive house still remains. Thomas sold his business to Jacklin and Co of Royston in about 1910. Unfortunately, in October 1914 he became quite ill, he died on 14th June 1915. The funeral took place at Throcking church attended by large numbers of locals, other businessmen and most of his old staff, his grave is next to his wife's parents. Elizabeth died on 2nd March 1941.

Jacklin's like the previous builders to occupy the site, continued to work in the local area. One of their big projects was the building of St Richards church. Although they had a manager living at 28 High Street, by the name of Alfred Mann, George Handy oversaw the work on the church. Because of a lack of funds, only the nave, sanctuary, and sacristy were built with other parts added at a later date.

BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP CONT...



This picture shows works on the church; the man on the right is George Handy.

George was born in Worcestershire in 1876 and married Dora Good in 1899. By 1914 maybe before that date he was working for Jacklin. On the 1921 census he stated he was the building manager for Jacklin and living at 28 High Street. George and Dora had 5 sons Colin, Fred, Harry, Roy and John. By the mid 1920's George must have bought the business from Jacklin, and as his sons became old enough, they followed their father into the family business. Handy's built the tower and porch at St Richards, they did restoration work on Layston Church and renovated many local properties. Like many builders they undertook funerals and this picture shows the mortuary and the gates to the yard.



In December 1983 the business closed, with developers buying the site and demolishing all the buildings within the yard and the buildings at 28 High Street. Mrs Handy offered the Cage which Handy's owned to the Civic Society to be preserved for the townsfolk. However, the developers argued that the land on which the Cage sat was part of the land they had purchased, it being land referred

to as Town Hall land. This was a piece of land originally donated by Mrs Campbell to build a "public hall" on. After much arguing the developers said that if they were allowed to build on the "town hall land" they would give the land the Cage sat on to the civic society. The "town hall land" became Dell Springs, and Handy's old yard was built on and became, Ermine Court, Bakehouse Court, a new shop at 28 High Street, now Days Bakery.

The next major builder was Charlie Harris, born in 1904, he and his parents moved to a cottage in the Folly in 1907, later moving to a cottage in Baldock Road. When he left school he got a job as a builder in London, commuting daily by train to work. He met his wife on the daily commute and married her in 1928. They had 3 children, Charlie, Olive and Maurice. During the war years Olive and the children moved back to Buntingford from London and when Charlie was demobbed, he decided they should stay in Buntingford. They purchased a shop at 30 High Street, now Peppermill, which his wife ran selling hardware and building supplies. Charlie started a building business and as soon as Charlie junior and Maurice were old enough, they joined their father in the work. They soon sold the shop and moved the building business to the Folly where they had bought some land. Charlie specialised in buying old properties and renovating them. He bought many shops in the High Street when they became vacant, refurbished them then either sold them on or rented them out. In addition to that he purchased all the cottages in the Folly originally known as Flint Cottages and converted them into 4 larger cottages. He built a house for him and his family at the end of the row of cottages. Charlie refurbished the George and Dragon public house

converting the many parts into 2 shops and several houses and flats. All his children helped in the business, Olive doing the accounts and the sons helping with the building work, when Charlie died in 1981, they continued to run the business until they all retired.

Other local builders were Berry and Game, Cyril Berry married June Hagger and her twin sister, Dorothy, married Nobby Game. They bought the cottages opposite Aspenden Cricket ground which they later refurbished.

Another building firm was Arthur Reynolds and Son, the son being John, whom many of you will remember. John joined the business in 1947 after leaving school. They purchased the old Tyneholme School at 10 High Street in 1960 and split it into 2 properties. They rented out 10a, which after a while became Chinatown run by John's mother. 10 became a builder's merchant. Again, they specialised in purchasing properties and refurbishing them.

At next month's meeting I will reveal who the ledger belonged to and some of the stories behind the entries in it.

The meeting will be on the **11th February 2025 at 2pm in the library**. Entry is £2 per person which includes tea or coffee.

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Tricia Moxey, Trustee



Enjoying a winter stroll along any of the described walks within the Hundred Parishes provides an opportunity to view the landscape features visible from various vantage points. Much of this countryside has been farmed by many successive generations as these custodians of the land have raised livestock and garnered variable harvests of grain. The spring of 2024 was rather wet, and this resulted in poor establishment of autumn-sown cereals. This, combined with the inclement conditions during harvesting, resulted in disappointingly low yields.

However, it seems that with dry weather in the autumn of 2024, the sown wheat, barley and oats have germinated well, with most fields now covered with fresh green shoots. Many farmers have decided to cut back on growing oil seed rape, and they may choose to plant alternative niche crops such as sunflowers or borage once the weather is warmer.

These farmed landscapes have traditionally supported assorted wildlife including skylarks, rooks, ladybirds, bumble bees, butterflies, badgers and foxes. In addition, well-maintained soils contain not just beneficial fungi, but a variety of earthworms and beetles which in turn provide food for many other creatures. Sadly, other less-welcome creatures such as slugs and root-eating beetle or fly larvae are also present. Seeing a sizeable flock of birds following a plough demonstrates this plethora of food!

Recent concerns about the loss of insect life, especially pollinators or those that eat aphids, is encouraging farmers to find ways of enhancing habitats for insects by leaving marginal strips round fields for wildflowers, planting new hedges or creating beetle banks within their fields. These features may be visible from footpaths during the winter months so make a note of where they are and plan return visits during the summer to observe them full of flowers and other wildlife.



Hatfield Broad Oak



Langley



Manuden



Stansted Mountfitchet

Move into the New Year strong with Attend2Health!

Whether your goal is to get fitter through classes like Reformer Pilates, lose weight or quit smoking with Hypnotherapy, or ease aches and pains with the expertise of our Osteopaths, Chiropractors, and Physiotherapists, we're here to help.

We have some availability in reformer classes on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the day.

Our Hypnotherapist Amanda is at the clinic on a Monday and our



Chiropractors, Osteopaths and Physiotherapists are available 6 days a week.



Hypnotherapy

Hypnotherapist Amanda Lonergan can help with a number of problems:



- Pain Relief
- Stop Smoking
- Confidence
- Stress & Anxiety
- Weight Loss
- Fears & Phobias
- Sleep Difficulties

Call Attend2Health today on 01763 87 80 87 and make this year your healthiest yet!



Teaching fitness since 1998

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WWW.JACQUI-SMITH.NET

07956 647806

January and into February always starts with a bang! All our classes are open to all levels, as we always offer different levels of intensity, progression or give regression options to help people build up their fitness at their own pace.

Dance Fit

Thursday 9.30am

Seth Ward Centre

Pilates

Monday 7:15pm

Wednesday 7:15pm

Layston First School

Friday 10am Scout Hut

Full Body Workouts

Monday 6.30pm Cardio HIIT

Layston First School

Wednesday 6:30pm Strength HIIT

Layston First School

Friday 11am Scout Hut – a different class each week

I have been planning our next batch of FREE or subsidised workshops and can proudly announce:

Online FREE Breath & Mediate sessions (1 per month)

Move Meditate & Relax dates are set for 2025

Ware Priory - 17th May, 6th September & 20th December: 9.30am-1.30pm

Includes entry drinks and danishes and a cold buffet lunch

£30 opening offer

Please do refer to community initiative website below for more information

So, let's get more people fit and healthy during 2025

www.communityinitiativecharity.com

www.jacqui-smith.net

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

Jacqui Smith Personal Trainer & Chair of Community Initiative Charity

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





EDWINSTREE MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

Jo Gant, Headteacher | www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk

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

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

As in previous years we are looking for volunteers from the community to support us with our SATs in May, in particular readers to help read the questions to students needing additional support. Training will be given on what to do and there will be an experienced member of staff in each room with a maximum of 8 students.

We are unable to staff this and therefore rely on volunteers to come into school from 9am till 11.30am on Monday 12th to Thursday 15th of May. If you are able to spare this time or just one day, please would you email **admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk**.

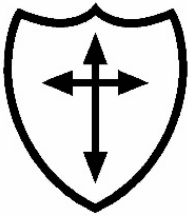
A huge thank you to Reverend Kirsty Wainwright and St Peters Church who hosted and led our Christmas service. Students were excited to sing carols and hear about the joy in the Christmas story, and the true meaning of Christmas. Our year 5 students also took part in the Christingle service to mark the start of advent.

In the build up to Christmas we followed the advent calendar and the values of joy, hope, peace and love. Students were reminded and engaged with the joy of giving; this took shape in the form of our choir visiting Lister hospital to sing to the

patients. We also spent time as tutor groups creating and decorating Christmas hampers to distribute through the food bank to the community, delivered by some of our students with Mrs Marler.

During December you could hear Feliz Navidad being played everywhere around school, as each tutor group entered the Christmas dance competition. Students competed together to learn a new dance and perform this in the last week of term. Congratulations to the winning tutor groups who will be awarded an afternoon to celebrate in style with a film and popcorn, a games afternoon, or a trip to the park.

We look forward to sharing our stories this year of Living life in all its Fullness and helping our students to Flourish. For now, we wish you a successful and peaceful new year.



LAYSTON C of E FIRST SCHOOL

Loving to Learn, Learning to Love, For every child a chance to shine!

www.layston.herts.sch.uk

Mrs Adele McMurrough, Headteacher

Continuing with this half term's value of 'Community' we have been reflecting upon how we as a community can look after God's world for future generations to enjoy and cherish. We have also given thanks for the harvest.

We start the new spring term exploring the value of Courage and Resilience. Many Christians believe that God asks us to offer our skills, talents and abilities in the face of adversity, and that he will use that courageousness to achieve great things. The word 'courage' comes from the Latin word 'cor' = heart.

With the New Year ringing in our ears we have cause to celebrate the two superb drama productions that took place at Layston just before Christmas.

First we had 'Aladdin', our years 1 to 4 pantomime production. Under spotlights, against an extravagantly painted backdrop, with handmade costumes and make up, the children demonstrated great courage and performed with imagination, flair and total commitment to the absolute delight of packed audiences over three performances.

This was followed by the Reception Class production of 'Whoops a Daisy Angel', (a musical Nativity). The Nativity performance by Reception children remains a unique aspect of the preparations for Christmas at Layston and this year was no exception...the children were amazing.

The Layston choir also showed courage, confidence and compassion when they performed Christmas carols for the residents of Layston Grove.



We send a New Year wish of health and prosperity to our local community. We are a friendly Church of England First School and welcome visits.

For information call 01763 271 235 or at www.layston.herts.sch.uk.



United Benefice of
Aspenden, Buntingford
and Westmill

UNITED BENEFICE OF ASPENDEN, BUNTINGFORD & WESTMILL

Reverend Kirsty Wainwright



CONTACT DETAILS

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

email: unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com | 07484 345 027

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

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

OUR SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2025

Sunday 2nd	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 9th	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	All Age Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 16th		No Service	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 23rd	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
		No Service	St Mary's Aspenden
	11:00am	Morning Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford



Start Course – If you're looking for answers then maybe it's time to make a Start. We run a Start course, in small groups of about 6 to 10 people, each session involves video clips, group discussion and time for reflection. Each session lasts about an hour and is free to attend.

Our Start course begins Thursday 20th February for 5 consecutive weeks. For further information please contact Kirsty at vicarabw@gmail.com

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

Direct links to our 3 church Service and Event pages:

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

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

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

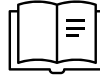
Regular Events held at St Peter's Church



Prayer for Buntingford

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

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



Morning Prayer

9am Tuesday & Thursday at St Peter's Church Buntingford

Every Tuesday and Thursday mornings, we pray together using the Church of England Daily Prayer book, with bible readings, a reflection and a psalm. It is a quiet, gentle gathering to prepare for the day ahead.

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



Monday Morning Coffee

Held weekly, every Monday (expect Bank holidays)

10am – 12pm
@ St Peter's Church Buntingford.

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

Pancake Day Event

Tuesday 4th March

4pm

St Peter's Church



Calling all children and their parents/grandparents/carers



To register please scan the QR code

St Mary's Aspenden

Christmas Tree Festival

Thanks to your generosity, our 1st Christmas Tree Festival was a truly joyful event.

Our huge thanks to the creators of the 26 wonderful trees. Over 400 people visited over the two days and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. We are planning our next Tree Festival for this coming December and hope to see you then!

People's Choice Winners



1st Buntingford Army Cadets with their inspirational "Giving Tree" built with presents ready to be distributed



2nd Buntingford Garden Club "Blooming Christmas"



3rd Lilj Foster "All Creatures Great and Small"



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Reformed
Church

CHRIST CHURCH

Baldock Road, Buntingford. SG9 9AA

www.buntingfordurc.org.uk

 URCbuntingford

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

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

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

February	2	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender
	9	Morning Worship	Abigail Perrow
	16	Morning Worship	Rev Allen Morton
	23	Morning Worship	Rev Sue Fender
March	2	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BUNTINGFORD

Regular Events

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

BUNTINGFORD SHORTS



Since our last article, Buntingford Shorts has received nearly 1600 submissions to our ninth film festival from across the world. Over 150 films in six categories have been from within the United Kingdom, of which 25 films have been entered into the Local Category from places including London, Buckingham, Cambridge, Watford and Hatfield.

Entries to the local category remain open until Friday 21st February. We encourage films from all young film makers up to the age of 26.

The local showcase is a free event which takes place on Saturday 12th April at 19:30 at Christ Church URC on Baldock Road in Buntingford. This is an invaluable opportunity to watch the shortlisted local films and meet their directors. Each film is critiqued by a panel of judges and the directors are invited to share an insight into their production. Drinks and nibbles are provided.

The international event will be broadcast on YouTube on Sunday 13th April.

For more information and to submit go to www.buntingfordshorts.com/



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
Buntingford Branch



Saturday March 8th
7.00pm for 7.30pm start

The Seth Ward Community Centre
Lynes Rise SG9 9SG

Tickets
Only £15

Fish & Chips
or
Pie & Chips
included

Licensed
Bar

Bring along a team of up to eight or simply join a table on the night

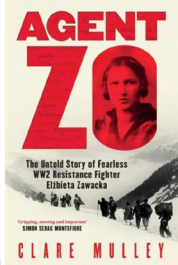
Get your tickets now from

The Manor House, Market Hill, Buntingford
Or online at <https://rblquiznight.eventbrite.com>

HOME-START EVENTS

Tracy Aggett,

tracy@hsrsc.org.uk | www.hsrsc.org.uk



Literary Lunch - Tuesday 25th February - The Old Bull, Royston, 12.15-2.15pm with author Clare Mulley, featuring her new book Agent Zo

AGENT Zo tells the incredible story of Second World War resistance fighter Elzbieta Zawacka, sometimes known as Elizabeth Watson but more often as 'Zo'. The only woman to reach London as an emissary of the Polish Home Army command, Zo became the only female member of the Polish elite Special Forces, the 'Silent Unseen', who were trained in the British countryside. In 1943, she also became the only woman to parachute to Nazi-occupied Poland. There, while being hunted by the Gestapo, she took a key role in the largest organised act of defiance against Nazi Germany, the Warsaw Uprising. After the war, the Soviet-backed communist regime not only imprisoned Zo, but also ensured that her remarkable story remained hidden for over forty years. Now, through new archival research and exclusive interviews with people who knew and fought alongside her, Clare Mulley brings this forgotten heroine back to life.

To book your ticket/s, £15 for a buffet lunch, please call 01763 262262, email events@hsrsc.org.uk or online at www.hsrsc.org.uk/events/

Home-Start Quiz Night with supper

Date: Saturday 22nd February

Venue: Seth Ward Community Centre, Buntingford

Time: 6:45pm for a 7:30pm start

Teams: of 6 welcome, bring a team along or come alone and we will include you in a team – please give your team a name.

Tickets: £13.50 to include your supper – fish, chicken, sausage or veggie option with chips – payment to be made when booking by cash, cheque, bacs or card payments over the phone.

There will be a licensed bar and a raffle will be held during the event.

To book please call 01763 262 262 or email events@hsrsc.org.uk.

HOME START
Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire

QUIZ Night
With Licensed Bar and Raffle

Saturday, 22nd February
arrive by 6:45 pm for a 7:30pm start at

Seth Ward Community Centre

Teams of up to 6 people welcome
(don't forget to give your team a quirky name!)

Can't get a team together but still want to join in the fun?
Contact us and we will include you in a team!

Tickets: £13.50 per person
(includes supper - fish, chicken, sausage or veggie option & chips)

Book your tickets by 10th February

Telephone 01763 262262 to book your tickets or email events@hsrsc.org.uk

Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire
Charity No. 1103885

MORE INFO
↓
QR CODE
SCAN ME

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- Become part of an amazing team



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- 😊 Volunteers say helping others **reduces stress**.
- 🕒 Volunteers give an average of **3 hours a week** to change lives.

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📞 **01763 262262**

🌐 **www.hsrsc.org.uk/become-home-start-volunteer**

✉️ **admin@hsrsc.org.uk**

SCAN FOR
MORE INFO



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BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

Bringing Cinema back to Buntingford

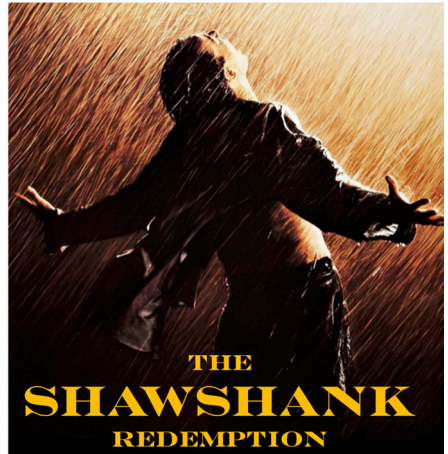


David Woollcombe

On **February 1st**, the Film Club is showing Tom Hanks as a grumpy old man in the Hollywood version of the Swedish classic, **A Man Called Otto**. Celebrated as one of Hanks' best performances since Forrest Gump, the film is a real crowd-pleaser with a touching happy ending.

Our film on **1st March** is the classic **Shawshank Redemption** starring Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman. Regularly featured in critics' Top Ten Films of All Times, the film is a fantastic, edge-of-your-seat thriller with many twists, turns and surprises. It also got two-time British Oscar winner, Sir Roger Deakins, the first of his 10 Oscar Nominations for Cinematography – so it will look brilliant on the Community Centre's brand new drop-down screen and sound equally brilliant with the Centre's new acoustic tiles. Though initially a bit of a box office flop, the film was re-released after getting 7 Oscar Nominations and, along with subsequent TV and DVD sales, it has become a major Box Office and critical success with a total of 21 Awards from 41 nominations.

Worth seeing for Morgan Freeman's deeply moving performance as the friend and sidekick of Tim Robbins central character. A classic!!



Our film on **5th April** is Ridley Scott's "hugely entertaining and spectacular" **Gladiator II**. Starring Paul Mescal and Denzel Washington, it is famous for the gladiators' Colosseum fights with actual Rhinos and – when they flood the arena – with live sharks! You have to wonder at the courage and resilience of 86-year old Ridley Scott who continues to turn out Box Office gold decades beyond when most of us retire! Gladiator II has already taken \$455 million which just about covers its \$300 million budget. So if you enjoyed the original 25 years ago, come see the new one: you won't even miss Russell Crowe (- who, as you may remember, died in the original.) Paul Mescal plays his son, Lucius – who follows a remarkably similar journey as his father did through Roman intrigues and corruption. Masses of fun. Come see it for a great night out in Buntingford.



All Films are at the Community Centre on Luynes Rise, starting at 7:30pm

All Tickets: £10 [to include a glass of wine or beer + snacks] - available online at: **www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordfilmclub/**

Or in person from: SANCTUARY, 42 High Street, Buntingford



BUNTINGFORD LIVE!

Christine Stuart-Taylor

support@buntingfordlive.org

Somewhat late... but nonetheless sincerely...the Buntingford Live Team wish you all a Very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Reflecting on the past year, Buntingford Live has organised and hosted more than 15 arts events for our town. These have catered for all ages and encompassed music, comedy, theatre, dance, literature and visual art.

It was a particularly fitting achievement to end our year by completing our colourful Buntingford Mosaic, designed by local artist Claire Costello, which was seen by so many of you on display at our Stall at the Christmas Market. Since then it has been on display in the Library.

We are delighted that we have secured a permanent site, mounted on the wall of 38 Church Street (by the bench).

It will be unveiled by our Mayor, Cllr Duncan Wallace on **Sunday February 2nd at 3pm**. So, if you're free please come along to witness this special moment in our history.

Review of the last event of 2024 on Saturday 30th November 4pm at St.Peter's Church (by Carolyn Pryor)

This church, in the heart of our town, was the perfect venue for this Classical Recital. The programme started with Corelli's Christmas Concerto Grosso with violin soloists Rhanwen Gold and Pia Jeppson and cello soloist Ed Gold. The final movement was the familiar Pastorale completing the seasonal atmosphere. Simon Williamson was the soloist for Max Bruch's Kol Nidrei before we were treated to Martin Outram playing Telemann's Viola Concerto. Jonathan Acton ended the first part of the recital with J.S. Bach's Violin Concerto BWV 10141 in A Minor.

More delights were to follow after the interval.

Sarah Williamson, (winner of the woodwind prize in the 2002 BBC Young Musician Competition), gave us a magical performance of Mozart's Clarinet concerto in A Major arranged by Michael Drapkin.

Various movements of this piece are often played on Classic FM so to hear the entire work played with complete



mastery and love was indeed the highlight of the afternoon.

Sarah and her family live in Buntingford, although her busy professional career takes her all over the world. Her young family of three children are all musical too as is her husband Simon who was soloist in the Bruch.

How fortunate we were to have the opportunity to have such gifted musicians entertain us. We hope for a return visit before long.

Friday 21st March 2025 Another popular Comedy Night

with host Tom Teal and three well-known Stand-up Comedians from the London Circuit. Shazia Mirza is already confirmed.

Once again this will be held in the Bunters Suite at Seth Ward. £15 tickets available now on our website. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Saturday 26th April 2025 Buntingford Music Live at Seth Ward

As many of you will know we've been running a BOTBS competition for young musicians over the last few years. We are offering a different approach in 2025.

Buntingford Live Music is providing a wonderful opportunity for young talent (aged 11-18) from Buntingford and its environs to perform on stage at a fantastic public event to be held at Seth Ward Community Centre.

Applications are now open, so don't miss this chance to shine! The closing date for submissions is midnight on Friday 14th February.

Solo artists or larger ensembles and bands can apply and all music genres are welcome. Submit via our website (scan

Calling all musicians and singers aged 11-18

Saturday 26th April 2025

BUNTINGFORD music LIVE!

A chance to perform alongside other local young talent and afterwards get a free recording session at Music Bunker studios in Braughing

Closing date for submissions Friday 14 February 2025

For more information and to apply, go to buntingfordlive.org/bml or scan the QR code

Full entry rules and application form are available on the website

The poster features silhouettes of a saxophone player, a singer, a trumpet player, and a bassist. A QR code is also present.

the QR code on poster) or click on our website link below

More information about buying tickets in the next issue.

We continue making plans

Works in Progress. Concerts from Haileybury and St. Edmund's /A possible 'Drag Night'/another Ghost Walk/ Author Talks/ Folk Evening/ Summer Jazz

and in December 2025

'A Christmas Carol 'with Guy Masterson! who thrilled us with his one man show of Under Milk Wood!

WATCH THIS SPACE for details SOON!

Please use our website: buntingfordlive.org

WHAT'S ON - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY 2025

- Saturday 1st** Film Club: A Man Called Otto p.40
- Sunday 2nd** Unveiling of Mosaic p.42
- Wednesday 5th** Gardener's Club: p.15
- Friday 7th** Braughing Get Together: Film Night & Supper p.19
- 7/8th & 14/15th** Buntingford Drama Group Present: Out of Focus p.20
- Monday 10th** U3A: Agent ZO p.14
- Tuesday 11th** History Society Meeting p.24
- Wednesday 12th** Reed Garden Club: Plants for winter interest p.17
- Thursday 13th** WI: Herts Air Ambulance p.16
- Thursday 13th** Chamber of Commerce Networking Event p10
- Monday 17th** Braughing Get Together: Coach Trip to the Royal Opera House for Tea Dance p.19
- Friday 21st** BALA Coffee Morning p.46
- Tuesday 25th** HomeStart Literary Lunch: Agent ZO p.38



LOOKING AHEAD

- 1st March** Film Club: The Shawshank Redemption p.40
- 8th March** Royal British Legion Quiz Night p.37
- 10th March** U3A: Simon Keable Elliot Talk p.14
- 11th March** BALA Soup Lunch p.46

REGULAR EVENTS

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

Minibus Trips February 2025

	TIME	DESTINATION	PRICE
NOVEMBER			
Tues 4th	10-1:30	Brookfield Centre	£6
Wed 12th	11:30	Pub Lunch	£5
Thurs 13th	9-2	Ely – Market Day. Or visit the Cathedral open 10-4, tickets (£14) need to be booked in advance www.elycathedral.org/events/visitor-tickets	£10.50
Mon 24th	10:30-2:30	Bury Lane / Dobbies	£5
Thurs 27th	10-1:30	Bishops Stortford (Tesco or Town Centre drop-off)	£5

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

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

Coffee Morning

Friday 21st February, 10-11:30am

(sausage rolls, cakes, raffle)

Soup Lunch

Friday 21st March, 12-1:15pm

(soup and a roll, cakes etc)

at **URC Hall, Baldock Road**

The Manor House



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

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

www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

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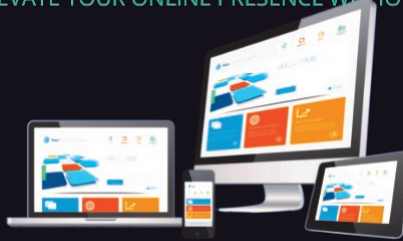


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After working as a solicitor for over 30 years, Kate Bennett now specialises in the writing of Wills and Powers of Attorney.



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kbennettlegal@gmail.com

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buntingfordfestivalchoir.org

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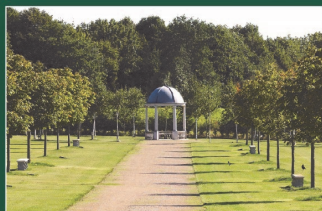
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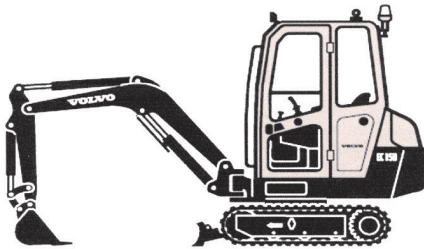
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Further information is available on the parish website: parish.rcdow.org.uk/buntingford/





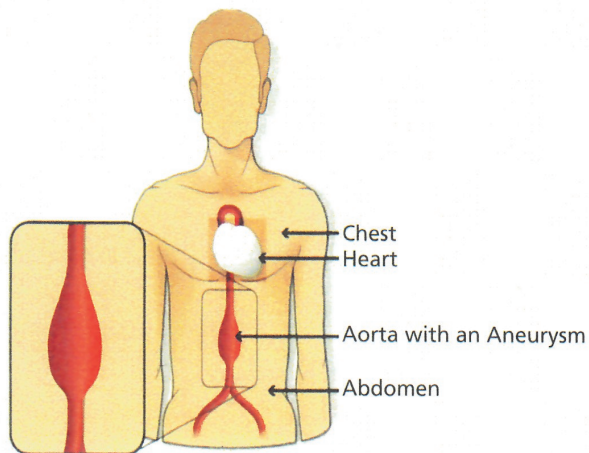
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Reg. Charity No. 1014873
<http://www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk>



WHO ARE WE?

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

We obtained charity status in 1993.

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

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

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

Publish the Buntingford Journal

Restored the town pump twice.

Previously restored the Town Cage

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

Present an annual school civic award

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

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

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

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

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

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

Paid for the Local History Group competition prizes in 2023

Done River Rib and town cleans

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

Were actively involved with the production of the Neighbourhood Plan

Arranged four Buntingford in Bloom competitions

Updated the circular walks on local footpaths leaflet in 2017

In 2024 have paid for roses in memory of Queen Elizabeth II at the new cemetery, with a plaque to follow

Hosted 2 annual Civic Day walks

WHAT ARE WE PLANNING TO DO?

Monitor future housing development and continue to work with local organisations for the benefit of Buntingford, including the River Rib Project. We are now sourcing a replacement plaque for The Cage, and a tidy up at the Community Garden at the Police Station

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Buntingford 2025

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When: Last Tuesday of each month,
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28th Jan	25th Feb	25th Mar	29th Apr	27th May	24th Jun
29th Jul	26th Aug	30th Sept	28th Oct	25th Nov	No meeting in Dec

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

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

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

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

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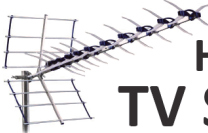
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**HOME
START**

Royston, Buntingford
& South Cambridgeshire



QUIZ Night



With Licensed Bar and Raffle

Saturday, 22nd February

arrive by 6:45 pm for a 7:30pm start

at

Seth Ward Community Centre



Teams of up to 6 people welcome

(don't forget to give your team a quirky name!)



**Can't get a team together but still want to join in the fun?
Contact us and we will include you in a team!**

Tickets: £13.50 per person

(includes supper - fish, chicken, sausage or veggie option & chips)

Book your tickets by 10th February

**Telephone [01763 262262](tel:01763262262) to book your tickets
or email events@hsrsc.org.uk**

Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire
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Community Alliance

BROXBOURNE & EAST HERTS

Digital Skills Group in Buntingford

Booking is essential!

Call 0300 123 1034 to join

Want to master your computer, tablet or phone?
Join our **FREE, friendly, and volunteer-led** group
to build your digital skills today!

Our Digital Champions will teach you how to do simple things such as:

- Navigate your devices with ease
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- Access virtual appointments
- Stay connected with friends & family

Location:

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

Mondays

10:30am to 12:00pm

13th January, 10th February,
10th March, 14th April, 12th
May, 9th June, 14th July, 8th
September, 13th October, 10th
November, 8th December 2025



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