

THE BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

The
Buntingford
Journal

3p.

January 1976



A magazine of events in and
around Buntingford.

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WITH YOU FOR
50 YEARS!
READ ALL ABOUT
THE HISTORY OF THE
JOURNAL ON P.24**

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

February 2026 Volume 51 | Issue 1

£1.25



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www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk

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LETTER FROM

The Editor

Happy New Year and welcome to our landmark 50th Anniversary issue of the Buntingford Journal!

Launched in 1976 by the Civic Society after the previous local magazine run by the Parish Church had to fold due to rising costs; it was the vision of our first editor Shelia Clark to produce not just a one page newsletter but a proper magazine covering local clubs, news and events. Originally with 300 copies printed off and stapled together in the home of one very helpful resident and his family, it went on sale for 3p. By the end of the year the magazine had proved to be a huge success going from 300 to 600 copies and from 12 to 24 pages.

It's a great privilege to be involved in producing the Journal in largely the same format 50 years later. We now print 80 pages full of articles, events, news and adverts for local businesses and trades.

Carol Emery has written a brilliant history of the Journal throughout the years for the History Society especially for our anniversary which you can read on p.24.

Elsewhere in this issue - our clubs and societies are back with busy programmes of talks and events to keep you entertained throughout the chilly winter days ahead, including a full programme of events for the year ahead from Buntingford Live! on p.42 and a run down of Film Club movies taking us right into spring.

Make a cup of tea, grab your diary and enjoy!

Anne

BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 2026

EDITOR

Anne Wright

journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

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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

The original front cover of the Journal from January 1976



BUNTINGFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Graham Waite, Chairman

chairman@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Member of

CIVIC VOICE
talking civic sense

reg. Charity: 1014873

The BCS Executive Committee hope you all had a great Christmas, and we wish all Members and readers of the Journal a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2026.

As has been previously mentioned, this year the Journal celebrates its 50th Anniversary and as promised, all Members will receive a souvenir copy of the first Journal that was published in January 1976. Carol Emery of the Local History Group has written an extremely comprehensive and informative article on the history of the Journal which you can read on p.24, and we would like to thank her for her and the groups continued support of the Civic Society.

One of a number of editors in its history was Debbie Lemay who sadly passed away on Sunday 4th January, Debbie was a staunch supporter of the Society along with her husband Brian. She served as a Councillor on the Town Council for 29 years from 1987 to 2016 and in that year, she was awarded the freedom of Buntingford for her service to the town after she decided to step down from Council Duties. When full details of her funeral are confirmed, we will publish them on our Facebook page. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this sad time.

We have mentioned a lot about the changes to Civic Voice which is now a voluntary organisation but still doing great work. They have published a response to the UK Governments proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework which will be the cornerstone of Planning for the coming future, no date yet for formal publication as far as can be seen. Full information will be published on our website when we have filtered the many iterations of the document/s. There is a consultation ongoing at present which ends on 10th March 2026, and we will be submitting our comments on the proposed changes to Civic Voice sometime during mid-February.

We say this every Journal issue, but if you are not a MEMBER of the Society and buy your Journal from one of our retail outlet partners, we would remind you that Society membership is £10 per annum, which includes delivery of the Journal to your door by one of our dedicated distributors. Our grateful thanks go to these distributors.

Finally, we would wish all of our readers a Happy New Year and we hope the Souvenir issue of the first Journal brings back some memories.

Graham Waite

Chairman, Buntingford Civic Society

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



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

01763 272 222

clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk

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

 @buntingfordtc  @BuntingfordTC

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

On behalf of the Town Councillors and Council staff, we would like to wish residents a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Look out for our January newsletter which outlines what the Town Council achieved during 2025. If you don't receive a copy, drop us an email and we'll post one out to you.

It seems a long time ago but worth noting the success of the Late Night Shopping, Lights of Love Ceremony and the Town's Christmas lights. Our grateful thanks to those who helped with these events. Another great success was the Annual Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch. The Town Council, Relief in Need Charity and the Buntingford Memorial Charity pooled resources to take 70 of our senior residents to Whitehill's Golf Club for a wonderful Christmas lunch. Our thanks To Amanda at the golf club for her help in making this such a successful event. Diners were also treated to a take home bag consisting of gloves, hat, blanket and other cold weather items, this was arranged by ex-Councillor Jeff Jones via the Little Acts of Kindness charity.

As a result of a Town Council commissioned wildlife survey, the Town Council is currently working on plans to upgrade the wildlife area, working on recommendations from the survey. One of the recommendations highlighted the amount of fly tipping of garden waste into the wildlife area. This is not only an eye sore, but acts in

contaminating the land by introducing domestic plants and chemicals.

You may have noticed the missing gates to Layston Court Gardens. The existing gate posts, which were very old had perished and were not safely supporting the gates. The new posts and gates had to be custom made, hence the delay in replacement. Hopefully these will be in situ very soon.

The newly decorated Council Chamber at the Manor House is an ideal place to hold your civil ceremony. We are happy to show you around if you are considering this.

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.

The Town Council owns and manages all of the recreation areas, parks and playgrounds in the town. Please report any problems with these to us at the number above.

Details of the February Council meetings are 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 month of February are:

Thursday 5th February 7pm Amenities Committee.

Thursday 12th February 7pm Planning and 7.15pm Resources Committee

Thursday 26th February 7pm Planning Committee and 7.15pm Full Council.

All meetings held at The Manor House unless indicated otherwise.

BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY NEWS

Kathleen Beale, Library Manager www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/

Happy New Year from Buntingford Library! We have been busy planning some wonderful events that we will run throughout 2026. We have made some small changes and introduced some new regular sessions.

Lego Club will move to every second Thursday of the month and in its former spot of every Friday afternoon, we will be running The Friday Club, a crafting and making session for children aged 3 and over. This is a great end of week activity for the children after school.

Page One, a book group for children aged 7-11 years is now running in blocks of four sessions on Monday afternoons. Page One is run by our wonderful My Voice volunteers assisted by our team member, Elliot.

Warm Space

It's cold out there...Buntingford Library is a designated Warm Space. Pop in to warm up and chill out. Have a warm cuppa, a biscuit and a chat. You can browse our books, read a magazine, read newspapers on our tablets or have a go at the communal jigsaw puzzle. All are welcome to enjoy your warm library!

Page One

Introducing Page One, a book group for children aged 7-11 years. Page One is a series of four sessions based around books we love. This series of four sessions we will be exploring bookish realms by working together on activities and challenges inspired by our favourite books and authors.

- 4pm-5pm
- Children aged 7-11 years
- Ticket price: £2.75 per session
- Book online or in the library
- **Monday 2 February:**
Red Queen's Castle
- **Monday 9 February:**
Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory

The Friday Club

Introducing The Friday Club, a one hour making, crafting and creative session for children aged 3 years and over. Each week we will be making a different creation for you to take home. These will be guided sessions with all materials provided. Sessions will include rock painting, crafty creatures, junk nature, pet portraits and book crafts.

- Fridays: 4pm-5pm
- Children aged 3-11
- Price £4.40 per child
- Book in the library
- Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Lego Club

Lego Club has moved to a new day and will now run every second Thursday of the month. Join us for a fun hour of Big Building and letting your imagination soar!

- **Thursday 12th February**
- 4pm-5pm
- Children aged 5-8
- Price: £4.40 per child
- Tickets available in the library or online
- Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult and children below the age of 5 will not be able to attend this session.

Library Lovers Afternoon Tea

Buntingford Library
Thursday 12 February

2.00-3.00pm

Pop in for a cuppa, a sweet treat,
Blind Date with a Book and more...

Tickets free, donations welcome
Drop in, no need to book

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries



Half term Drop in Craft Activities

Buntingford Library
Monday 16 February -
Saturday 21 February
11.00am - 4.00pm

We will be making all things woolly,
including Wool wrapping letters,
Friendship bracelets, Pom Poms,
Crocheting, Turtles with wool and sticks

Ticket price: £1 per activity
Drop in, no need to book

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries



Library Lover's Afternoon Tea

Following on from last year's successful Library Lover's Afternoon Tea, we will once again be sharing the Library Love! Pop in for a cuppa, a sweet treat and a chat.

- **Thursday 12 February 2026**
- 2pm-3:30pm
- Free, donations welcome
- Drop in, no need to book

Dreamcatchers

Discuss dreams and Native American dream catchers. Work together to create your own dream catcher. Children must be accompanied by a parent or carer.

- **Thursday 19 February 2026**
- 11am-12:0pm
- Ages 5-11
- Ticket price: £4.40 per child, book online or in the library

Print & Prosecco

Enjoy unleashing your creativity in the library, learning to make and design unique prints using Gelli plates while



unwinding with a glass of prosecco or soft drink. This event is suitable for all abilities and ages. Ticket price includes refreshments and all materials.

- **Saturday 28th February**
- 6pm-8pm
- Adult (18+)
- Price: £15
- Tickets available in the library or online.

A friend has suddenly fallen ill, which has made me think about getting my affairs in order. I've heard of setting up a lasting power of attorney, but I don't really know where to begin, or if I really need to, as I'm not very old.

The first thing to know is that anyone can make a lasting power of attorney; it's not something purely for older people to consider.

Appointing a lasting power of attorney (LPA) means nominating someone such as a trusted friend or relative to act on your behalf and manage your finances, care or medical treatment, if you ever lose mental capacity. This could be because you're diagnosed with a health condition that prevents you from doing so, or something happens to you, such as an accident.

The kinds of illness which might prevent you from making decisions for yourself include: dementia, mental health problems, a brain injury, alcohol or drug misuse or the side-effects of medical treatment. Setting up an LPA doesn't mean you're expecting anything to happen, it's something you might want to do in case something happens in the future.

There are two types of LPA, property and financial affairs and health and welfare. You don't have to make both types at the same time but you must make an LPA while you are still capable of making decisions for yourself. This is called having mental capacity. Both types must be registered before they can be used and you should choose who manages your affairs for you, if you're no longer able to, very carefully.

A property and financial affairs LPA gives someone the authority to deal with and make decisions about things like buying or selling property, bank, building society and other financial accounts, welfare benefits

and debts. You can give someone power of attorney to deal with all of those affairs, or only certain things. If you want to make an LPA which only deals with certain matters, you should make sure that it's drawn up very carefully.

A health and welfare LPA gives someone the authority to deal with and make decisions about things like where you live, your day-to-day care, and your healthcare treatment - either for all aspects of your personal welfare, or only certain things. It's not possible to use a health and welfare LPA until the person who made it has lost their mental capacity.

There are two ways you can make an LPA - either online at gov.uk or by downloading the forms from gov.uk. There is one form for property and affairs and one for health and welfare. If you want someone to look after both aspects, you'll need two separate LPAs.

Once completed, you'll need to register the LPA by sending the forms to the Office of the Public Guardian. If you need to pay a registration fee, you'll need to send that too. If the form has been correctly completed and there are no objections after people have been notified, the Public Guardian must register it. This can take around 20 weeks.

The Public Guardian must notify you and your attorneys that they have registered the LPA, and it can then be used. You can find lots of information on LPAs and other shorter term power of attorneys by visiting the Citizens Advice website.

Citizens Advice East Herts is here to help you; if you need advice, call our Message Line 01920 459 944 or visit citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk for our advice options. Or you can come and see us on Mondays between 10am and 12.30pm at the Manor House, High Street, Buntingford – we will find out more about your problem and help you find a way forward.



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WOW 2025 has been an amazing year. With 2 new staff members joining the team, booked up well-being workshops that sell out within 2 days... we must be doing something right

What we have planned so far for 2026

Move, Meditate & Relax 2 hour Workshops in February, May, July & October with a contribution donation to Community Initiative Charity

HAPPY Children's Camps 2nd & 9th April for children aged 5-12 year olds funded by Department of Education & Herts County Council. There are FREE places for eligible children on funded school dinners and subsidised places for all other children, funded by Community Initiative Charity

Our Ware Priory 4 hour workshops with breakfast and lunch all finished off with Sound Baths

March (Fully Booked) spaces available for May, July & December

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

In 2026, don't chase perfection—build consistency. Stay fit, keep healthy, and

let every small choice become a vote for the life you want.

There are not only Physical benefits of exercise, there are

Mental & Emotional Benefits

- Reduces stress and anxiety – releases endorphins (“feel-good” hormones)
- Improves mood – helps manage depression and boosts self-confidence
- Enhances brain health – improves memory, focus, and cognitive function
- Increases energy levels – reduces fatigue over time

Long-Term & Lifestyle Benefits

- Promotes longevity – supports a longer, healthier life
- Improves quality of life – better mobility, independence, and daily functioning
- Encourages healthy habits – often leads to better nutrition and routine

So why not come along to one of our local classes? Monday Dance Fit 10:30am / Seated Pilates 11:15am & Seated Strength & Balance Wednesday 11am Ware Drill Hall.

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



1984 - 2024



Celebrating 40 Years of Animal Rescue

Anjuli Cooper

www.rats-animalrescue.co.uk

A Christmas and New Year to remember at RATS Animal Rescue

The festive season at RATS Animal Rescue was, as always, a time of hard work, hope and heart-warming moments. Rescue never pauses for Christmas or New Year, and the weeks leading into 2026 were some of the busiest the charity had seen - but they were also filled with kindness, generosity and a few very special surprises.

One of the highlights of December was the return of MasterChef Champion and RATS Ambassador Dhruv Baker, who once again generously gave his time and talent to support RATS and the dogs still waiting patiently for their forever homes. A year on from his first visit, Dhruv remained deeply moved by the charity's work and prepared a festive Christmas dinner for the dogs in their care.

The meal was about far more than festive treats. It was a reminder that every dog at RATS is safe, loved and valued while they wait for the families they deserve. Alongside the joy of turkey and all the trimmings, the event helped raise vital funds that allowed RATS to continue its life-saving work - from urgent veterinary treatment to daily care for dogs arriving with nothing but their trust.

Supporters were able to treat a dog to a festive experience for just £5, which provided a lovingly prepared Christmas dinner, a stocking filled with tasty treats



and a festive pooch pudding. At a time when RATS faced rising veterinary bills, increasing food and heating costs - and continued work towards an essential kennels redevelopment project, this support made a genuine difference. Every penny raised went directly back into caring for the animals and improving their comfort, warmth and safety.

The Christmas lunch even attracted wider attention, with a television crew visiting the kennels to film the event for ITV East Anglia News, helping shine a spotlight on the vital work RATS carries out every single day.

Christmas itself was incredibly busy. Volunteers kindly gave up their own festive time to ensure every dog enjoyed walks, fuss and companionship. The dogs were also thoroughly spoiled by Inga, one of our wonderful volunteers, who arrived as Santa with arms full of presents and treats - a moment that brought smiles all round.

The weeks surrounding Christmas saw the usual mix of arrivals and happy departures. New dogs Molly, Reggie and Pudding arrived just before the big day, while Tinkerbelle and Gracie were lucky enough to spend Christmas settled into their new homes. Shortly afterwards, Nera, Holly, Bert and Ernie also headed off to start new chapters with their families. While it was joyful to see so many dogs rehomed, it was also a reminder that there are always more dogs in need of help.

The New Year arrived with a sharp cold snap. Donated coats and jumpers were quickly put to good use, and staff worked tirelessly through frozen pipes, cold corridors and endless washing. New radiators were installed to help keep the kennels warm, while the tumble dryer seemed to run constantly. Despite the challenges, the team remained focused on keeping every dog comfortable and well cared for.

Through it all, the spirit of RATS shone brightly - in the dedication of staff and volunteers, in the generosity of supporters and in the resilience of the dogs themselves. As the days slowly begin to lengthen, there is a shared sense of hope as the team looks ahead to the new year - determined to keep moving forward and continue giving every dog the chance of a brighter future.

The work of rescuing and rehoming unwanted dogs never stops, but thanks to compassion and community support, RATS continues to give every dog the care, security and love they deserve - not just at Christmas, but all year round.

Visit our website to learn more about our work and how you can support RATS:
www.rats-animalrescue.co.uk





Many kerbside recycling collections will not accept these polypropylene tubs, so Tub2Pub is a recycling solution that stops them ending in landfill. The scheme is run by Greene King pubs raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. It has been going for five years but I have never heard of it before.

In 2025, 240,000 tubs were collected, weighing-in at a record-breaking 27,990kg of plastic – more than previous years combined.

Since Tub2Pub launched, over 470,000 tubs have been diverted from landfills with the proceeds from the recycling going to the Macmillan Cancer Support raising £34,000 so far.

This year the collections runs from 1st January to 15th February 2026 and includes Biscuit Tub (NOT TINS) and Cracker Plastic Boxes.

We collected 22 tubs at our u3a January Monthly Meeting but for those who weren't able to bring theirs, we have invited them to leave them on the porch of 2 Layston Meadow, SG9 9JD where they will be collected by Madela Baddock and taken to the Feathers, Wadesmill.

The u3a would like to extend this to any Buntingford Journal Reader.

Our forthcoming meetings are:

Monday 9th February, Will Pascoe 'Alzheimer's UK' - a remarkable insight into this worthy organisation on their research to find a cure for Alzheimer's. Donations will be greatly appreciated.

Monday 9th March, Malcolm Wells MBE, 'So Far So Good' - covering topics on his time in the army (Gulf War), receiving his MBE and training assisted dogs.

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.**

Buntingford choir have been in existence since February 2011. However we may be forced to disband, as we have not been able to find someone to run the choir practice on Monday evenings.

If you are in a position to help please contact me at:

info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk

It's only for two hours a week and we are willing to pay for your time.

It will be a great shame if we have to fold,

Rehearsals are at;

Millfield School
Monks Walk
Buntingford SG9 9DT

We start at 7:30pm and we normally finish at around 9:15pm.

For more information go to our website.

www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk

WARE CHORAL SOCIETY

Kate Hurst



New Year, new you!

If you've sung before but stopped, or if you've thought about joining a choir but not got round to it - why not give Ware Choral a try?

We are always keen to welcome new singers - there are no auditions - and the first two rehearsals are free.

We have an open rehearsal at 10am on **7th February 2026**, at the Riverside Hall in Ware. There will be coffee and cakes as well as singing - a great opportunity to meet the choir. We love to share our joy in singing - and we'd love you to join us, so do come along!

More information and contact details here: **<https://warechoral.org.uk/join-ware-choral-society/>**

Barbara Norris

Happy New Year!

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.

Unfortunately, storm Goretti in January meant that we were a bit depleted in numbers for our traditional New Year Party but those members who braved the elements enjoyed a delicious selection of finger food, secret Santa gifts, a table quiz and plenty of chat. Our President highlighted the five Resolutions which will be put forward at the National WI Annual Meeting. The majority of members favoured the resolution relating to accessible public toilets - - which is particularly pertinent for us in view of the fact that the toilets in the Car Park are out of action and not likely to be repaired in the foreseeable future.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday 12th 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 Simon Rice who will tell us about 'The Amazing World of Honeybees and their cousins'. 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.

If you would like further information about Buntingford W.I. tel. Pat on 01763 271 305.



Ware DPS has now returned from its Christmas break. On **11 February** there is a lecture by Peter Milsom entitled "The Road to the Paralympics". Peter is a member of the Club and is well known for his paralympic sports photography. On 23rd February sees the Club compete in a three way battle with Stevenage and Harpenden and on the **25th** there is a presentation by David Steel entitled "Images of India". On Saturday 28th the Club will be competing in the St.Ives Inter-Print competition in the Church in St.Ives.

New members and visitors are warmly welcome to come along on Wednesday evenings 8pm - 10pm at Thundridge Village Hall. Further details are on the Club's website: www.wareps.co.uk

BUNTINGFORD SCHOOL OF DANCE



BUNTINGFORD
SCHOOL of DANCE

Zoë Eaglesfield www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk



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



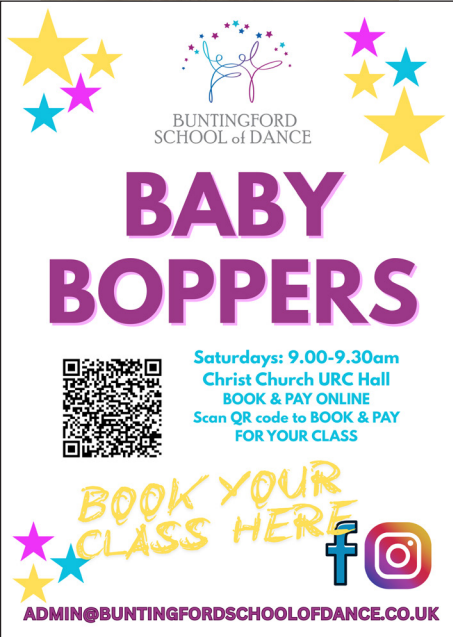
Our classes include Acro, Baby Boppers, Ballet, Contemporary, Commercial/Street, Modern/Jazz & Tap classes, with classes suitable for all ages from toddlers to adults. Contact us if you want more information regarding classes and booking a trial.

Pay As You Go Classes – Our Baby Boppers and Adult classes below are available on Pay As You Go – book & pay online via the website contact page any time before the class start time:

Baby Boppers: A class for toddlers to 3-year-olds and their parents: Saturdays 9 - 9:30am URC Hall

Adult Ballet & Tap Classes: These are non-syllabus classes for adults of all ages with the emphasis on fun and fitness while learning to dance. Classes are suitable for all ages & abilities evenings.


Tap: Tuesdays 7:30 - 8:30pm Barkway Village Hall; Ballet: Wednesdays 6:15 - 7:15pm URC Hall.





BUNTINGFORD
SCHOOL of DANCE

BABY BOPPERS

Saturdays: 9.00-9.30am
Christ Church URC Hall
BOOK & PAY ONLINE
Scan QR code to BOOK & PAY
FOR YOUR CLASS



BOOK YOUR CLASS HERE



ADMIN@BUNTINGFORDSCHOOLOFDANCE.CO.UK

BUNTINGFORD GARDENER'S CLUB

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 4th February

At: The URC Hall, Baldock Road

Doors open: 7:45pm for 8pm start

How about getting out in the New Year and join us and make new friends? Come and see what goes on– there is no upfront commitment.

I am pleased to say that our Christmas Tree entry came 1st in the Aspenden Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's Church – very well done to Linda and all involved.

For our first meeting of the New Year on Wednesday 4th February, Gwenda Kyd will be giving a talk on "Twelve Tremendous Trees", using 12 trees as examples, this talk explores the uses and links the extracted materials back to their role in the trees – it sounds fascinating!

We have speakers throughout the year, giving talks on relevant subjects, as well as demonstrations, outings and socials with



quizzes. With light refreshments served, we have the chance to catch up and help each other.

Our meetings are on the 1st Wednesday of every month (no meetings in January or August).

Annual membership costs £20 and visitors are also welcome at £3 per visit.

If you would like any more information, please contact our secretary, telephone 07757 259 689. Hope to see you there!

THE BUNTINGFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

Brian Jones



December members enjoyed a nice Christmas meal, thanks to outside caterers (Gill Williamon Cater Hire Kelshall Royston). We start the New Year. So why not come and make new friends at the Senior Citizens Club. we on every Monday (except Bank Holidays), 1:30pm for 2pm, at the United Reformed Church Hall, opposite the post Office, Baldock Road, Buntingford for general socialising tea coffee and Bingo.

For more information please call Val on : 01763 272 019.

BUNTINGFORD DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Paul Hutton

www.buntingforddrama.uk



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

Buntingford Dramatic Society

THIS  Anger Management

After the Fête  **THAT**

and the **OTHER**  Rambles on Radio

13 - 14 - 20 - 21 Feb 2026

Seth Ward Community Centre
Lynnes Rise, Buntingford

£18.00 (plus booking fee)
includes cold platter

www.buntingforddrama.org.uk

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



After the Fête

by Joan Greening,
directed by Kim Barker

It should have been so simple. A regular meeting of the village book club to review "On The Beach". However, when a straight-laced do-gooder tries to rally her book club friends to oust the scandalous vicar who's been caught kissing a married woman in the cake tent, hilarity ensues as her crusade backfires and she's forced to eat her words, but not before some seriously catty claws come out. No more tea for vicar.

Anger Management

by Robert Scott, directed by Jane Guy

How do you cope with the stresses and frustrations of modern life? Is it people, places, technology or relationships that could tip you over the edge in your otherwise mundane everyday life?

Do you think anger management therapy could be the answer? Is it good to talk? Think again....

Rambles on Radio

by Robert Scott, directed by Richard Wood

What should be a straightforward recording of a horror story in a studio becomes one for real for some of the actors, as nervous breakdowns and spats ensure this recording never makes it onto Radio 4. Take two; take three; take a break. And take your hands off my wife. This is a first outing as director for Richard; expect orchestrated chaos.

By the time you read this article, it will be less than two weeks before curtain up on Buntingford Dramatic Society's forthcoming production.

We wanted to keep things fresh and do something a little different once again, and perform a trio of plays on a common theme. We wanted a bit of this, a bit of that, and a bit of the other, so we have called it... "This, That, and the Other". Three short lighthearted plays by different writers, brought to the stage by three different directors. Two brief intervals, to allow you to reflect and refresh. One great chaotic evening in the hands of Buntingford's most talented actors.

Ticket price includes our celebrated cold buffet.

Tickets on sale now at our new website www.buntingforddrama.org.uk

BUNTINGFORD WRITER'S GROUP

Mary Godfrey

Dave

'Don't the Humans know, doesn't everybody know that I have a right to be here?

The Chairman actually carried me out, my paws facing front, my back against his body, showing my white fluffy underbelly for all to see, very undignified, it's just not good enough, I'm usually treated better than that!

This is my second home, but I have so many homes because I am a member of The U3A and Buntingford Drama, where I have helped with their scripts by laying across the pages to test them. This helps with learning lines. I have also appeared in several of their productions,

Also, the Balff Group. I love watching all the lectures. I sit myself on the projector cable, right in the middle of the floor, but I get a better view of the screen that way.

But the film club have turned me out, how very dare they!

But Buntingford Live does allow me in. I especially enjoy the drag shows, and the girls are such fun. I stretch myself out at the back of their stage. I love all that rock music, meow!!

I often join the badminton class, but I watch from a safe distance. Don't want to be hit by that shuttlecock thing that flies through the air.

I find that many people do like me, and some even dare to love me.

Email from the U3A chairman to the Manager of the Seth Ward Community Centre:

Dear Madam,

I am calling a meeting of all relevant parties and invite you to attend to discuss the problem of The Cat.

Yours sincerely,

The Chairman.

Ladies and gentlemen, and Group leaders. Thank you for attending this EGM.

We need to address the persistent problem of the cat that appears at several meetings here at the Centre. It treats the place as if it lives here; goodness knows where it lives. It is with some dismay that I have to report that the pesky cat continues to make its presence felt at our meetings and, probably, elsewhere within the Centre.

I'm sure it thinks it's Human.

My name is Dave. Everyone who knows me calls me Dave. I'm definitely not an it!

There seems to be a lot of coming and going at the Centre this evening. It's not Thursday, so it's not the drama group, and I'm going to check it out.

Wait a minute, the door is firmly closed, I'll show them I'll scratch at it until someone lets me in, I can't be shut out like this!

Meow! Meow!!

“What is that racket coming from the door there?”

All eyes are on the door.

They don’t think they can shut me out; I have as much right to be here as they do.

I’ll show them. Suddenly, the door opens, and a Human stands ready to confront me, but I have a plan.

It is then that we burst forward, my feline chums and I.

Bertie from Luynes Rise, Priscella from Fairfield, Charlie from Barleycroft and Puss from Oak End, along with Gerry from Meadow View.

“Goodness, whatever is that howling din?”

“It’s the cats, not only Dave, it’s brought its friends.”

The cats rush in, meowing and screeching, their tails swishing through the Humans’ legs.

Suddenly, the Humans all stand up, and some even smile at me; they can’t resist my charms, and some love me.

Some of them rush to greet me, but I won’t allow any stroking or patting.

The Chairman is a misguided fool; doesn’t he know “don’t upset Dave!”?

Presently, A show of hands decreed that I can stay in the community centre, but I muse only on my terms, no stroking me, I don’t hold with these Human shows of affection.

They know that!

When do the Humans meet for their AGM? Lots of nice titbits there.

I’m off to the Manor House tomorrow. The Town Clerk always welcomes me; she is a very kind Human.

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 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.



**Royston, Buntingford
& South Cambridgeshire**

Angie Ward

angie.ward@hsrsc.org.uk
www.hsrsc.org.uk

Make a Difference in 2026 Volunteer with Home-Start!

Want to change lives in your community?

We're looking for passionate people to join us in three vital roles:

- **Family Support Volunteers**
Offer a helping hand and a listening ear to local families.
- **Fundraising Volunteers**
Help us raise the funds that keep families thriving.
- **Trustee Volunteers**
Shape the future of Home-Start with your skills and experience.

Our next Family Support Volunteer training begins this February – your chance to make a real difference!

Be the support a family needs to thrive, and discover how helping others can transform your own life too.

To find out more or to sign up to our course you can visit our website:

<https://www.hsrsc.org.uk/home-start-volunteer/>

Alternatively feel free to email: admin@hsrsc.org.uk or call: 01763 262262

We would love to hear from you!



WARD FREMAN

COMMUNITY POOL
GROUP

Frazer Willett

fwillett@wardfremanpool.org

www.wardfremanpool.org

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

The big news from the beginning of the year is that the Crowdfunder campaign to raise money for the pool tile repairs was a roaring success! With the help of many generous contributors, we exceeded our target and thereby secured the match funding award granted by Sport England. We must also mention those fantastic volunteers who delivered over 7000 leaflets publicising the Crowdfunder to Buntingford and surrounding villages.

It now seems unlikely that we will be able to gain access to the building before the freehold transfer is completed, but we hope this will be done by the end of February. As soon as we get the keys the work on the tiles, filtration and plant room can begin!

The pool will be owned and operated by the charity for the long term benefit of our community and the tiling and other repairs are just the first step in our vision to create a facility we can all be proud of. Until we have the pool open and a regular income, we really need the help of volunteers to continue fundraising with us and help out with some of the practical jobs.

We need people to help deep clean the changing rooms, paint the window frames and cut back vegetation. We potentially want to do a little bit of remodelling in the kitchen, so if any builders / carpenters / kitchen fitters or skilled DIYers would be willing to help out please also get in touch.

We will be looking to recruit paid and volunteer staff: managers, lifeguards, and swimming teachers whilst hoping to recruit regular volunteers to support the reception and cleaning roles. If you are interested in any of these roles we can discuss help to fund the necessary qualifications like National Pool Lifeguard Qualifications or Accredited Pool Plant Operator. Don't think you have to be young and fit to be a lifeguard, just able to swim and confident in the water!

So once again, thank you to everyone who has baked a cake, delivered leaflets, donated money or helped in any other way in 2025. We are deeply grateful and are really looking forward to opening in 2026!

Frazer Willett

fwillett@wardfremanpool.org

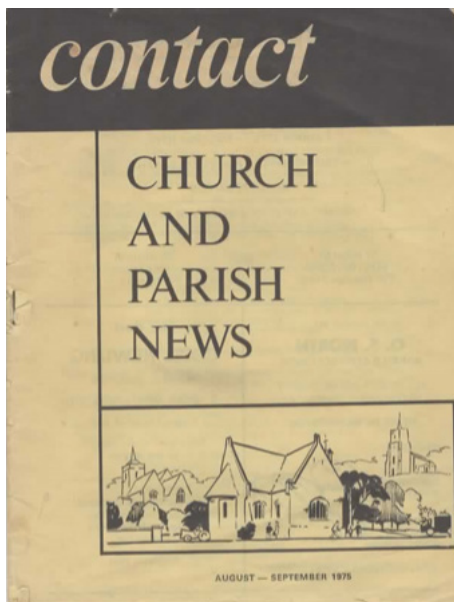
BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Carol Emery

buntingfordlocalhistorygroup@hotmail.com

Prior to radio and TV, news both local, national and international had to be gleaned from newspapers. One of Hertfordshire's first newspapers was the Recorder printed in 1834 by Stephen Austin; it cost 7d in pre decimal money which was out of reach of most people. It wasn't until about 1923 that Buntingford had its own paper, The Buntingford and North East Herts Advertiser, owned and printed by Robert Wilkerson, helped by Bert Thody and George Hill. It ceased to trade in about 1940 and so the town was left with no place to read local news on events and meetings in the town.

In 1966, St Peters Church in Buntingford and St Marys Church in Aspenden joined forces and produced a church and parish magazine called Contact. It was delivered free to every household in the town and village. Although it was predominately about events at the 2 churches it did carry reports on local clubs and schools. Bert Thody was a regular contributor writing articles under the guise of "TEB" on local history. The magazine contained adverts from local shops and businesses which helped pay for the printing costs. A contentious writer was "Alexander Pew" who would stir up readers with his articles. No one knew who he was. By August 1975 the cost of producing the magazine had risen and the churches felt that they could no longer subsidise it so that was the final edition. Included in the church news was the baptism of the following children, Louise Jane Mahon, Ian Keith Jordan, Christopher Ian Baker, Neil John Forrest, and Nicola Jane Johnson. Alexander Pew had the last word suggesting that perhaps some other people in the community could produce a more sophisticated magazine.



The Buntingford Civic Society decided to launch a magazine called the Buntingford Journal and asked Shelia Clark to be the editor. They thought a single A4 sheet of paper with articles could be delivered free to all households in Buntingford. Shelia had other ideas, she felt the town deserved better than that and refused to act as editor unless she was given carte blanche to produce a proper magazine filled with information on up coming events so that people would know what was going on in the town. She set about writing articles herself as to start with the only person to write anything was Vic Tott who as ex gardener of Layston Court Gardens would write a piece each month on what jobs to do in your garden.

Mike Stevens helped to get the journal up and running, he had the print department where he worked run off copies in their spare time, then his family would

The Buntingford Journal

3p.
January 1976



A magazine of events in and around Buntingford.

collate the pages and staple them into a magazine. The first copies went on sale in January 1976 at a cost of 3p. The run of 300 copies soon sold out. It contained just 12 pages of articles and 4 pages printed on blue paper of adverts and a cover with a drawing of the town clock.

A cartoon of a hairy little man, modelled on Dick Rye, appeared in the first edition. He was called Bunta and symbolised the spirit of Buntingford, he illustrated the editorial comments and was drawn by Ian Downing a 6th former at Ward Freman School. The name Bunta was found in a book called place names of Hertfordshire, where it was said the name Buntingford came from "A Ford of the People of Bunta". There appears to be no evidence to suggest that was how the town got its name, but Bunta was here to stay for the time being.

Within months it was obvious the journal was a hit with each month more and more being sold. By the end of 1976 600 copies a month were being sold and advertising revenue increasing monthly. The 12 pages had doubled to 24 pages of news and events.

In February 1977 a story about 8 year old David Whitby was printed. He had written to Jimmy Saville asking "Jim to Fix it"



BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP CONT...

for an increase in his pocket money. He was taken to see Dennis Healy the then chancellor of the exchequer. His ploy must have worked as his pocket money did increase.

Shelia had to retire in July 1978 as her husband's job moved to Norfolk, and a new editor Madaleine Foreman took over the reins.

After Madeline's stint of 2 years, she was followed in the role by Maureen Doherty and Sue Herbert, Miranda Norris, the late Debbie Lemay (3 times editor), Barbara Brabazon, Penny O'Dell, Jean Cook, Mike and Polly Sharkey and Val Hume. Each editor added their own individual stamp on the journal although the ideals of the content stayed pretty much the same.

Val saw the job of editor advertised and was interviewed by the late Charles Purvis and Jenny Dingley, asked what she would bring to the job, she said she would like to do profiles on Buntingford residents. She got the job and her first edition went out in May 1994. She was given a typewriter and a stack of A5 sheets of paper on which to type up the articles. Once that was done Val spread the sheets of paper on her dining room table and she would move them around like a jigsaw puzzle until she was satisfied with the end result. Things became slightly easier when a computer could be used and Robin Southgate gave Val a crash course on Page Plus a desktop publishing application.

Val's favourite contributor was Philip Plumb who could always be guaranteed to provide a neatly typed article complete with pictures which Robin Southgate would digitise for her. Val's biggest problem was getting people to interview for her profiles. She interviewed Minnie Vandome but before she could get the article printed Minnie died. Not wanting

to lose all the history she had learnt from Minnie she approached her family and asked if she could still use the profile. They were so delighted with the article they used it as the eulogy for her funeral.

In 1984 during Debbie Lemay's tenure the journal was entered into a competition for the best journal in Hertfordshire. In 2002 during Val's time the journal was again entered into a competition run by Cambridge Evening News. The journal was entered along with 66 others from Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Essex and Buntingford's came 2nd, winning a plaque and generous cash prize.

As well as the editor there were a willing bunch of helpers, one of the most important was the proof reader. Val's proof reader was Eileen Platt. Her role was crucial and on one occasion when she wasn't available the computer spell check changed Eunice Wood's name to Eunuch Wood's.

There has always been someone in charge of advertising, and a band of delivery people who deliver the journal to members come rain or shine.

Regular contributors included Philip Plumb's articles on the history of the town which I often use as a reference when researching my articles. "Walter Meadows" who was actually Jean Hayes wrote about the local countryside. Local clubs and schools wrote about their activities, and recipes, poems, and gardening tips have all graced the pages over the years.

One regular was "Esme Crampton" who wrote "Worms Eye View". This always stirred up plenty of letters to the editor usually in disgust at what she had written. No one knows who Esme was perhaps she will reveal herself after all these years.

Another regular was Vyse who wrote rather tongue in cheek articles at first about his childhood exploits then later on about his adventures with his 2 friends Chicken Cleggy and Photo Foggy. He illustrated his pieces with lovely drawings.

This one illustrated his reminiscing's on his shed building as a child.



In August 2008 Val retired from the post after 148 editions, a figure never beaten. Aliya Chowney took over from Val and her first edition was the first one to be sent to the printers in electronic format, which continues today. Aliya stepped down in October 2011 to be replaced by Christine Noble. Christine had worked for the Readers Digest and took to editing like a duck to water. In December 2014 the cover of the journal was produced in colour, followed in February 2015 by pictures and adverts inside which were also in colour.

Disaster struck in 2020 when Covid hit the population. Whilst Christine managed to produce February, March and April's editions, clubs had to stop meeting, the editions in May, June, July/August didn't happen. A much thinner edition was produced in September but how Christine managed this as her husband John Makin died during this period. Christine

remained in post until June 2023 when she returned to her home county of Northumberland. She was replaced by Anne Wright who is our current editor.

Advertising is key to the survival of the journal. The first edition contained 36 adverts, December 2025 had 76 adverts so a significant rise. Jennie Keeling used the adverts from all of the journals to work out what shops were in the High Street during each period making a list of the date the advert appeared then disappeared. We used this information in our exhibition of the High Street.

Today 550 copies are printed every month, some are distributed to shops who sell the journals, the rest are delivered to members who buy a yearly subscription. It takes 7 days from sending the copy to the printer to receipt of the finished item.

So, January 2026 marks 50 years of the journal, it still contains information on clubs, events, advertising of local services and so much more. Who would have thought that Shelia Clark's vision would have been kept to all this time.

If you currently buy the journal monthly why not change to a yearly subscription, it costs just £10 for the 10 editions if you can claim gift aid as a tax payer. If you join now and pay the £10 you will receive the journal from the next edition all the way through to the end of April 2027. If you want to do this please email membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk This offer only applies to people living in Buntingford and Aspenden.

Our next meeting is on the **10th February at 2pm** in the United Reformed Church. It's £2 per person which includes tea or coffee.
The talk is on the towns utilities.

THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Ken McDonald, Secretary



The walk descriptions that can be downloaded from The Hundred Parishes website refer to many interesting buildings along each route. Some of the larger and more ancient homes are described as hall houses, having been constructed as a communal hall with one or two wings at the side. The hall would have been heated by a log fire in the centre of the room, its smoke drifting upwards through vents in the roof.

The hall house design fell out of favour, mainly during the period 1550 to 1650 AD, when it became fashionable to install a fireplace against a wall, complete with a flue or chimney which took away the smoke and also provided an upward draft to encourage the fire to burn.

Where the flue or chimney breached the roofline, it often continued upwards as a chimney pot. In grander houses, these became fashionable accessories and a good number survive today.

During the 19th century, more and more houses had fires and now they tended to be fuelled by coal. Chimneys became narrower and their pots were less ornate. Fireplaces would be installed in multiple rooms, so houses might have several chimneys.

From mid-20th century, open fires were largely replaced by various forms of central heating and chimney pots

are not usually required on new houses. Older pots are sometimes removed before they need maintenance.

You are encouraged to look up at our surviving chimney pots, especially those from long ago. Here are some of the wonderful local examples: Badynghams at Great Waltham; Tudor House in Newport; Cable Cottage in Puckeridge; Brook House at North End, Felsted and Stansted Hall in Stansted Mountfitchet. Not so easy to find, but on various walk routes: Moyns Park in Steeple Bumpstead, Broadoaks in Wimbish, and Dynes Cottage in Finchingfield.

Happy spotting!





Tudor House, Newport



Cable Cottage, Puckeridge



Brook House at North End, Felsted



Stansted Hall in Stansted Mountfitchet



Moyns Park, Steeple Bumpstead



Broadoaks, Wimbish



Badyngams, Great Waltham



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

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



OUR SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday 1st	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion Service	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 8th	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 15th		No Service	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Wednesday 18th	10:00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Ash Wednesday	7:00pm	Imposition of Ashes	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
Thursday 19th held weekly to 26th March	7:30pm – 8:30pm	Enquirers Lent Course	The Vicarage
Sunday 22nd	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	11:00am	Morning Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford

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

Direct links to our 3 church Service and Event pages:

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

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

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

REGULAR EVENTS AT OUR CHURCHES



Little Lambs at St Mary the Virgin Westmill

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

Please note that there will be no Little Lambs on Wednesday 18th February.



Morning Prayer

9am Every Tuesday at **St Peter's Buntingford**, Wednesday at **St Mary the Virgin Westmill** and

Thursday at St Mary's Aspenden mornings.

We pray together using the Church of England Daily Prayer book, with bible readings, a reflection and a psalm. It is a quiet, gentle gathering to prepare for the day ahead. Please contact us for the link.



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

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

Pancake Day Event

Tuesday 17th February

4pm

St Peter's Church

Calling all children and their parents/grandparents/carers

To register please scan the QR code

Ash Wednesday Holy Communion

As we prepare for our Lenten journey, we begin with the imposition of ashes, the sign of the cross.

This will be a service with Bible readings and a short homily.

18th February

10am

St Peter's Buntingford

7pm

St Mary the Virgin Westmill



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

CHRIST CHURCH

Baldock Road, Buntingford. SG9 9AA
www.buntingfordurc.org.uk

 URCbuntingford

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

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

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

February	1	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender
	8	Morning Worship	Peter Godbert
	15	Morning Worship	Peter Godbert
	22	Morning Worship	Penny Flynn
March	1	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender

REGULAR EVENTS

LENT COURSE

We are holding an Ecumenical Course on the **28th February 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th March.**

We meet for lunch from 12:30pm

Bring your own lunch.
Tea & coffee will be provided

The Lent Course will run from 1pm – 2pm.

COFFEE & COMPANY

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

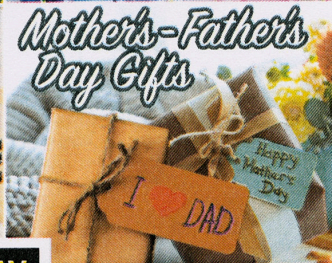
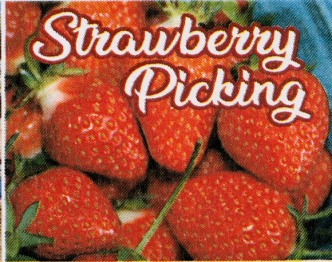
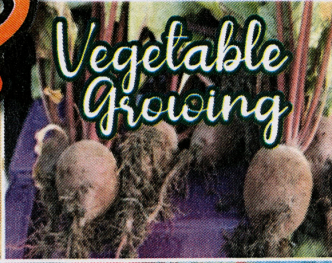
 **Buntingford
United
Reformed
Church**

LENT COURSE
We are holding an Ecumenical Course
on the 28th February, 4th, 11th, 18th
& 25th March

Lunch at 12.30pm
*Bring your own lunch
Tea & coffee will be provided*

Course 1.00 - 2.00pm

URC YOUTH GROUP



WE MEET EVERY SUNDAY
AT UNITED REFORM CHURCH, BALDOCK ROAD, BUNTINGFORD
11.00 - 12.00

LENT REFLECTIONS ON POWER

David Woollcombe



Weekly conversations for people of all faiths & none on issues that affect our lives.

8pm to 9:30pm every Tuesday in Lent (coffee and biscuits from 7:30pm) at the home of the Woollcombes, The Stables, 57 Wyddial Road, Buntingford SG9 9AX

If you have mobility issues or need directions, call: 07798 665 202 or email: david@peacechild.org

Last year's theme was HOPE, which we carry forward as we explore this year's theme of POWER – where it sits and how it might be better managed? Please join us as we question 6 excellent speakers on how / if? there are better ways of managing and benefiting from the many different facets of power that affect our lives. The speakers in this, our 11th year of running these conversations, are -

Tuesday 24th February – Power: an introduction. Richard Beazley MBE worked for Mobil Oil as a lawyer, economist and chief executive, living and working around the world. He was then Chair of East and North Herts hospital Trust and the University of Hertfordshire, and a Vice Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire.

- **Tuesday 3rd March – The Power of Faith.** Rosanna Cole grew up in Hertfordshire - one of the Woollcombe family. She was asked recently: 'Why are you a Christian?'

and, in this talk, Rosanna will share her reflections on this question and the many surprising directions her Christian journey has taken her.

- **Tuesday 10th March – Power in Local Government & Policing.** Duncan Wallace – for 31 years, Duncan policed Buntingford's roads and neighbourhoods before becoming our much-loved Town Mayor in 2022.
- **Tuesday 17th March – Power of Art & Imagination.** Lee Baddock – author, actor, writer, father, husband, back-bone of the Buntingford Drama Society – reflects on human beings' extraordinary superpower: our creativity.
- **Tuesday 24th March – Power in the Church of England.** Rev. Sarah Bagnall: in the month we install a new Archbishop of Canterbury, Buntingford Curate, Sarah, will explore where power sits in the Church of England and how it can be harnessed to deliver Christ's message and God's love in local communities.
- **Tuesday 31st March – Power in Westminster.** Chris Hinchliff MP: before his election as North East Herts MP in July 2024, Chris was a Royston Councillor & Campaigns manager for CPRE. In Westminster, he has championed farming & environmental issues, losing the Labour whip for 4 months for some of the stands he took on those issues.

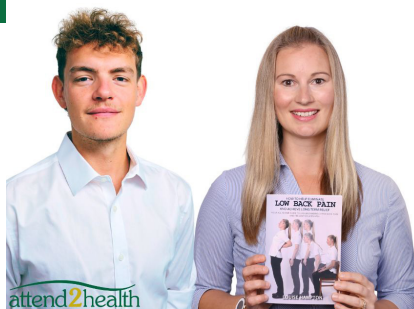
ALL WELCOME! – at no charge. Just rock up at the Stables and join the Conversation.

This year has been a busy and rewarding one for us, with lots to celebrate and plenty of reasons to say thank you to our local community. Over the past year, we have raised more than £327 for the Ward Freeman Community Pool Group, helping to support an important local facility which will hopefully re open this year. We were also proud to support the British Chiropractic Association in their fundraising efforts for the Darby Rimmer MND Foundation. We were delighted to recently learn that the £116 we raised has triggered an additional £500 bonus donation for the charity, which was wonderful news and made the effort even more worthwhile. The British Chiropractic Association gave 5 clinics the bonus donations and we were lucky enough to be one of them.

Alongside our fundraising, we are also celebrating the first anniversary of our Reformer Pilates classes. Over the past year, these classes have gone from strength to strength, with fantastic feedback from our clients. One recent 5-star review said:

“Sarah is a great Pilates Reformer instructor. I was a beginner nine months ago, but she helped me to understand and benefit from our weekly classes and I have progressed to intermediate level. I look forward to the weekly class and feel real improvements in both my core strength and flexibility.”

We pride ourselves on keeping our Reformer Pilates classes small, with just four people per class, and grouping participants by ability level. This means beginners start together, progress at the same pace, and everyone in the class is working on the same exercises, allowing for a supportive and tailored experience.



On Tuesday 17th February Chiropractors Louise Hampton and Sam Willis are holding a talk on Low Back Pain with tips and information on common myths and exercises to try. Book online at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/understanding-low-back-pain-tickets-1980192674595?aff=oddtcreator

Our next Emergency First Aid at Work Course is on Friday 13th February 9.30am-4.30pm. £150 for a Level 3 qualification which is valid for 3 years. Call 01763 87 80 87 to book.

Emergency First Aid at Work First Aid Course



Friday 13th February 9am-4.30pm



On Saturday 10th January some of the staff were out for our annual get together. It was great to spend some quality time together and celebrate our achievements.

For more information on any of our courses or treatments, call 01763 87 80 87.

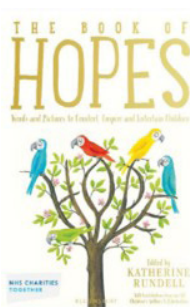


MILLFIELD FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL

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

Laura Kennedy-Weeks, Headteacher

It has been a delight to welcome everyone back for the Spring term. The children have settled into school routines very well and it has been lovely to see them so engaged, positive and happy to be back with their friends and staff.



In a recent assembly, the children shared the story of Hope-o-potamus. This inspiring story helped them explore the importance of motivation and perseverance, reminding them that even when things feel challenging, keeping

going and believing in themselves can help them achieve great things. This message links closely to our school values and the positive attitudes we encourage throughout the school day.

Alongside our core curriculum, we place great importance on providing a wide range of enrichment opportunities that deepen learning and spark curiosity. These experiences help bring classroom learning to life, support children's engagement and allow them to develop new interests, skills and confidence. Here are just a couple of the many enrichment opportunities our children have enjoyed this term.



Year 3 Roman Workshop

As part of our Spring Term learning, children took part in an exciting Ancient Rome workshop

led by *Those History People*. The day was designed to bring history to life through practical, hands-on activities.

In the morning, children explored Roman life through creative role play, learning about daily routines, social roles and traditions. The afternoon session focused on archaeology, with children investigating artefacts and discovering how evidence helps us understand the past.

Dressed in Roman-style costumes, children were fully immersed in the experience, which encouraged enthusiasm, curiosity and confidence. The workshop provided a memorable way to deepen historical understanding and sparked a genuine excitement for learning.

We are grateful to *Those History People* and Millfield staff for delivering such an engaging session and for helping our children experience history beyond the classroom.



Year 1 Kings & Queens Day

It was great to see the children engaging and enjoying the Year

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

We are incredibly proud of the way our children have approached every opportunity with enthusiasm and determination. They have shown high levels of engagement in their learning and a strong sense of resilience when faced with challenges. Most importantly, they have consistently demonstrated our school values through their kindness, respect, perseverance and willingness

to support one another. It has been a pleasure to see these values lived out each day, and we thank our families and staff for supporting our children so positively along the way.

If you would like to know more about our School, please visit our website www.millfield.herts.sch.uk or contact the School on 01763 271 717.

RBL
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
Buntingford Branch

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday March 14th
7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Seth Ward Community Centre
Luynes Rise SG9 9SG

Tickets £15

Fish & Chips or Pie & Chips included

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

Licensed Bar

Get your tickets now from
The Manor House, Market Hill, Buntingford
Or online at
<https://rblquiznight.eventbrite.com>



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.

Can you help us to support our most vulnerable students during their exam time in February and May? We have a growing number of students needing support with readers, scribes and/or extra time.

We are unable to staff this as a school as we are now looking at up to 30 individuals required.

As in previous years we have come to rely on the wonderful community volunteers, parents, grandparents etc to help us. Would you be willing to help?

We would provide training, and a member of staff will always be in the room to support you and the children.

The dates and times that we need support are:

9am till 11.30am

Mock SATs 02/02/2026 – 05/02/2026

Official SATs 11/05/2026S -14/05/2026

If you able to spare this time or just one day, please would you email admin@edwinstree.herts.sch.uk.



place at St Peters Church. It was lovely to welcome them to the school and we will miss the kind gifts of cakes and flowers that would appear on Monday morning!

However, it was lovely to take the school into the newly restored St Peters Church for our Christmas services. Students were excited to sing carols and hear about the joy in the Christmas story, and the true meaning of Christmas, that of giving.

Our year 5 students also took part in the Christingle service with Reverend Kirsty to mark the start of advent.



We have said goodbye to the congregation of St Peters who have been using the school on Sundays for their worship, while the restoration took



In the build up to Christmas we followed the advent calendar and the values of joy, hope, peace and love. We also spent time as tutor groups creating

and decorating Christmas hampers to distribute through the food bank to our vulnerable families. Mrs Marler worked hard to deliver these with a group of students over the last week of term.



As a school, we encourage our students to value courageous advocacy, the idea that you can make a difference. In December a year 6 pupil ran a Fullness Day to raise money for the Child Brain Injury Trust. She bravely informed the school of her own injuries and recovery. On the day she had arranged a guest speaker and with copious amounts of Hot chocolate on sale, were delighted that we were able to raise a total of £508.00

In early December, The Woodland Trust were in school to help us finally plant our avenue of trees to celebrate the coronation of the King! Yes, we know we are late! We are really excited about the next project which will see planting go in next year for a maze and a woodland close to the park border of the school. It is lovely to see students invest time, hope and energy in sustainable projects set to last and with a long-term objective.

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.



Club for children

Buntingford Library
Thursday 15th January 4-5pm
Thursday 12th February 4-5pm
Thursday 12th March 4-5pm

Places limited - please book at the library

LEGO builds STEM skills!
 Come along for fun challenges
 which build problem solving, spatial
 awareness and creative thinking

£4.40
 per
 session

Suitable for children ages 5-8
 Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult
 Note - children below the age of 5 will not be able to attend this session

#HertsLibraryLEGO

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/legoclubs



Half term Drop in Craft Activities

Buntingford Library
Monday 16 February -
Saturday 21 February
11.00am - 4.00pm

We will be making all things woolly,
 including Wool wrapping letters,
 Friendship bracelets, Pom Poms,
 Crocheting, Turtles with wool and sticks

Ticket price: £1 per activity
 Drop in, no need to book

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries



Our Christian Values:

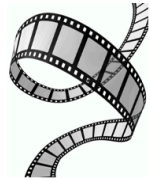
**Reverence, Wisdom, Thankfulness, Humility, Endurance, Service, Compassion,
 Trust, Peace, Forgiveness, Friendship, Justice, Hope, Creation, Community**



BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

Bringing Cinema back to Buntingford

David Woollcombe



Buntingford Cinema presents:



Noel Coward's

BRIEF ENCOUNTER

Saturday 7th February at 7:30pm at the Community Centre

BRIEF ENCOUNTER is the wartime classic of romantic cinema, driven by the surging passion of Rachmaninov's 2nd piano concerto and the oh-so-British tight-lipped romance of Howard and Johnson. It speaks of a long-gone era, telling the story of a perfect wife, Celia Johnson, led astray by the dashing handsome Trevor Howard when she gets a bit of grit in her eye in Carnforth Station Café. The film works because of Noel Coward's pitch perfect dialogue, David Lean's sensitive direction, Robert Krasker's moody black and the two extraordinary lead performances. Come and see it on the big screen and remember why it features in many people's top ten movies of all time!

F1 THE MOVIE

On Saturday 7th March at 7.30pm at the Community Centre

A fun action movie and the highest-grossing film of Brad Pitt's film career, F1 the Movie is about an aging veteran



driver (Pitt) returning to mentor a rookie (Damson Idris) in a struggling racing team. Filmed at real Grand Prix weekends with Lewis Hamilton as one of the F1 Racing advisers (- and co-producer), the movie has been described as a "high-octane, fun, and immersive experience that successfully captures the excitement of F1 racing." Brilliantly directed by Joseph Kosinski of Top Gun: Maverick fame, with stunning cinematography by Claudio Miranda, this is a film that has to be seen on the Big Screen!

THEN - COMING UP

THE CHORAL

Saturday 11th April

A charming collaboration between author, Alan Bennett, and director, Nicholas Hytner, with Ralph Fiennes playing an expert choir master hired by desperate locals in 1916, a time of loss and confusion. Fiennes' character spent many years in Germany but his unimpeachable talent quickly transforms the town, helping to provide hope to those sorely in



need. But his German background and “peculiarities” make him a risk at a time of intense nationalism and religiosity amid a community rich in oddballs – beautifully played by the likes of Roger Allam, Alun Armstrong, Emily Fairn and others. A cosy English treat to warm the heart after Easter.



NUREMBERG

Saturday 9th May

A handsomely crafted historical drama, driven by a commanding performance from Russell Crowe, based on the 2013 book *The Nazi and the Psychiatrist*. It follows U.S. Army psychiatrist, Douglas Kelley (Rami Malek) as he monitors

the mental status of Hermann Göring (Russell Crowe) and others to prevent their suicides before and during the Nuremberg trials.

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

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

Classic Film Season:



PARASITE

Tuesday 17th February @ 7:30pm

The second film in our Classic Film series at the Buntingford Bowls Club on Wyddial Road is the Korean thriller: *PARASITE*.

It tells the extraordinary story of an impoverished Korean family that hooks itself, parasitically, on to a wealthy household – with catastrophic results.

These classic films are NOT ticketed: just come along, bring your own drinks, give us the suggested donation of £5 and - as with Anora - you will enjoy an evening of very great, very unusual art cinema – with a discussion afterwards!

We are delighted to report that last year we organised 14 events at various locations with a combined audience of over 1000. We also became a charity whose objectives are:

'To promote and provide opportunities of education in, and appreciation of, creative and performing arts for the public benefit, primarily but not exclusively in Buntingford and its environs.'

We hope you agree that so far we have achieved these aims and our plans for 2026 already with 14 in the pipeline, will continue to offer our community a wide variety of events.

The last three of 2025 were all really successful and completely sold out.



First...on 21st November 'A Christmas Carol' with Guy Masterson. This was a great way to usher in the

Christmas season. The audience was riveted by his brilliant one man show. We are very much looking forward to his return at the end of the year on 4th December.



Next, on 29th November, 'Rhythm & Booze'. This event was an ABSOLUTE BLAST!! Sold out, fantastic

music that kept the party going all night and a bar choice that hit the spot. Our fantastic craft beers from Buntingford Brewery were a huge success. Great dancing, great vibes and an amazing atmosphere, it was truly enjoyed by all.

On Friday 12th December we held our 'Celebration of Christmas' at the St.Richard of



Chichester Church in the town, featuring the choir from St.Edmund's College under the

direction of Andrew O'Brien. There were sacred and secular readings and wonderful congregational carols that filled the church with Christmas cheer. Mulled wine and mince pies were served in Benson Hall and a collection of over £400 was raised for Home Start, a charity supporting local families. Thank you to all who attended this sold out event.

AND NOW FOR 2026!



Friday 20th March heralds our first **ACOUSTIC NIGHT....LIVE AT BUNTERS AT 7:30PM** .

TICKETS only £7.50. So book your tickets early to enjoy a great evening of music and a drink from the bar at our competitive prices.

Active on the East/North Herts music scene for over a decade, Buntingford resident Paul Booth is an exciting singer/songwriter both as a solo

performer & with his trio. Further information & biogs/photos of the great lineup of all participants will be included in the next issue. The next contrasting event is in Seth Ward Community Centre on **Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm**. Tickets are £15. It is a one woman show given by LIZ GRAND. She stars as Anne Hathaway in **'THE SECOND BEST BED'** written by Avril Rowland.

This nationally acclaimed one woman play is full of humour and pathos and explores what Anne Hathaway knew. Did Shakespeare write or not write the plays? She should know!

Intriguing! So do come along to unravel the plot!

Please make a note of further dates for your diary this year.

Friday 10th April 7:30pm Comedy Night in the Bunters Suite hosted once again by Tom Toal. Tickets £15

Friday 24th April 7.30pm St.Edmund's young musicians with Andrew O'Brien in Westmill Church Tickets £5

Friday 29th May 7.30pm Drag Night in Seth Ward Community Hall Tickets £15

Wednesday 3rd June 7.30pm Westmill Church Concert with the Alvor Trio (harp, flute & viola) Tickets £15

Thursday 4th June Alvor Trio Masterclass for music students at Freman College.

Sunday 7th June (afternoon) The Peter Rudeforth Jazz Band in The Stables Garden Tickets £15

Thursday 17th September 7.30pm Haileybury Music Students at Westmill Tickets £5

Saturday 26th September 7.30pm Seth Ward **Abba Angels** Tickets tba

Saturday 24th October 7.30pm Seth Ward **Sea Shanty. Folk & Country Night** Ticket tba

Saturday 21st November 7.30pm St.Peter's Church **Kenneth Wilson & Cello** Tickets £15

Friday 4th December 7.30pm Seth Ward Hall **Guy Masterson** Tickets £15

November/ December Celebration of Christmas (date & details to be confirmed)

BUNTINGFORD LIVE! **ACOUSTIC NIGHT**
Live at Bunters!

Friday
March 20th
Doors open
7.30pm

FEATURING
THE RACKETEERS
PAUL BOOTH TRIO
WHY NOT
LOYD CROWLEY
PETER CROSSLEY

TICKETS £7.50

Scan the code or visit buntingfordlive.org

Also available through Buntingford library. The staff will be happy to talk you through the ordering process and even print your tickets for you.

Bunters Suite
Seth Ward Community Centre
SG9 9SG
LICENSED BAR 18

Registered Charity Number 121042

BUNTINGFORD LIVE! **THE SECOND BEST BED**

BY AVRIL ROWLANDS
DIRECTED BY CHRIS JAEGER

Starring **Liz Grand**
as **Anne Hathaway**

TICKETS £15

Scan the Code or visit buntingfordlive.org

Tickets also available through Buntingford library. The staff will be happy to talk you through the ordering process and even print your tickets for you.

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 7.30PM
SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE SG9 9SG

This nationally acclaimed one woman play is full of humour and pathos and explores what Anne Hathaway knew. Did he or did he not write the plays? She should know!

"Lifts the lid on a Tudor can of worms... a showcase for the towering acting skills of Liz Grand". - Worcester News

LICENSED BAR 18

Registered Charity Number 121042

Please use our website:

buntingfordlive.org

For more details / information for 2026

WHAT'S ON - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY 2026

Monday 2nd	Library: Page One Club p.8
Wednesday 4th	Gardener's Club: Twelve Tremendous Trees p.18
Saturday 7th	Film Club: Brief Encounter p.40
Saturday 7th	Ware Choral Society: Open Rehearsal p.15
Monday 9th	U3A: Alzheimers UK p.14
Tuesday 10th	History Society: Town Utilities p.27
Wednesday 11th	WDPS: The Road to the Paralympics p.16
Thursday 12th	Library: Lego Club p.8
Thursday 12th	Library Lover's Afternoon Tea p.9
Thursday 12th	WI: The Amazing World of Honeybees p.16
Fri/Sat 13/14th	Buntingford Drama Society: This That and the Other p.19
Monday 16th	Library: Half Term Craft p.9
Tuesday 17th	Film Club Classics: Parasite p.41
Thursday 19th	Library: Dreamcatchers p.9
Friday 20th	Buntingford Railway & Local History Society: Buntingford Inns & Pubs - speaker Carol Emery. 8pm at The Crown Buntingford
Friday 20th	BALA: Coffee Morning p.46
Fri/Sat 20th/21st	Buntingford Drama Society: This That and the Other p.19
Saturday 21st	Library: Half Term Craft Events p.9
Wednesday 25th	WDPS: Images of India p.16
Saturday 28th	Library: Print & Prosecco p.9



LOOKING AHEAD

7th March	Film Club: F1 The Movie p.40
9th March	U3A: Malcolm Wells MBE: So Far So Good p.14
14th March	RBL: Quiz Night p.37
20th March	Buntingford Live!: Acoustic Night p.42
20th March	BALA Soup Lunch p.46
28th March	Buntingford Live! The Second Best Bed p.42
10th April	Buntingford Live! Comedy Night p.42
11th April	Film Club: The Choral p.46
24th April	Buntingford Live! St Edmunds Young Musicians p.42
9th May	Film Club: Nuremberg p.41

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAYS:	TUESDAYS:	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS:	FRIDAYS:	WEEKENDS:
From 8.30am: Buntingford Market		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 & Cards club	11am: Chair Yoga with Kim	10.30 – 11am: Storytime ages 2-5 years Lego Club (every second Thursday) age: 5-8	4-5pm: The Friday Club age: 3-11	
11.45am–12.45pm: Forever Cycling 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, The Barn at Brook Cottage Farm Fernaux Pelham SG9 OLL Contact: jacquithorne664@gmail.com or 07557 966 526			
7.30–9:15pm: Buntingford Community Choir at Millfield School					

BUNTINGFORD ACTION FOR THE LESS ABLE (BALA)

Registered Charity No. 1094426

MINIBUS TRIPS FEBRUARY 2026

DATE	TIME	DESTINATION	PRICE
FEBRUARY			
Tues 3rd	9.30-1.30	Harlow	£7
Mon 9th	10-2.30	St Ives (busy local market town)	£8
Wed 11th	11.30	Pub Lunch	£5
Tues 17th	9.30-12.30	Ware (shop the High Street? Supermarket? Grab a coffee?)	£5
Thurs 19th	10-3	Cambridge	£7.50
Mon 23rd	10-2	Bickerdikes	£6
MARCH			
Thurs 5th	10-2.30	St Neots	£8
Mon 9th	10.30-2	Scotsdales (Spring is on the way, the garden is waiting...)	£6.50

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 20th February, 10-11:30am

(sausage rolls, cakes, raffle)

SOUP LUNCH

Friday 20th March, 11:30-1:30pm

(enjoy choice of soup with bread roll and slice of cake £6)

at **URC Hall, Baldock Road**

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Apple Computer Specialist.....	A15	L aser Hair Removal.....	A23
A R Services.....	A9	Layston Grove Care Home.....	A27
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Andrew Coates Garden Design.....	A8	S .J.S.Plumbing & Heating.....	A31
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or call 01763 272 032

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

45 High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AD

Tel: Stenfield Solicitors - 01763 295099
RS Property Lawyers - 01763 295096

Email: nicola@stenfield.com
nicola@rspropertylawyers.com

Web: www.stenfield.com
www.rspropertylawyers.com
nicola@rspropertylawyers.com

S | STENFIELD
SOLICITORS

RS | PROPERTY
LAWYERS

Stenfield Solicitors and RS Property Lawyers are regulated multidisciplinary law firms, each offering specialist legal services tailored to client needs.

Stenfield Solicitors specialises in litigation, matrimonial, family law, company law, commercial property, employment, wills and probate.

RS Property Lawyers is dedicated exclusively to residential conveyancing.

Our key objective is to provide solid, reliable, and cost-effective legal advice delivered in an efficient and friendly manner.

Our Buntingford branch looks forward to welcoming you.

Church of Saint Richard of Chichester

St Richard of Chichester Catholic Church
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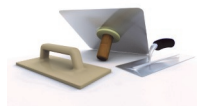
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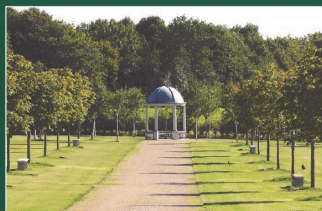
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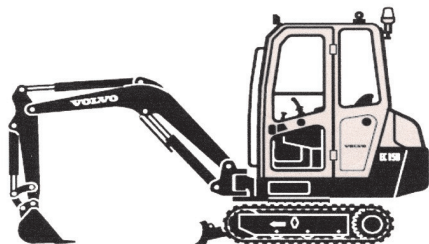


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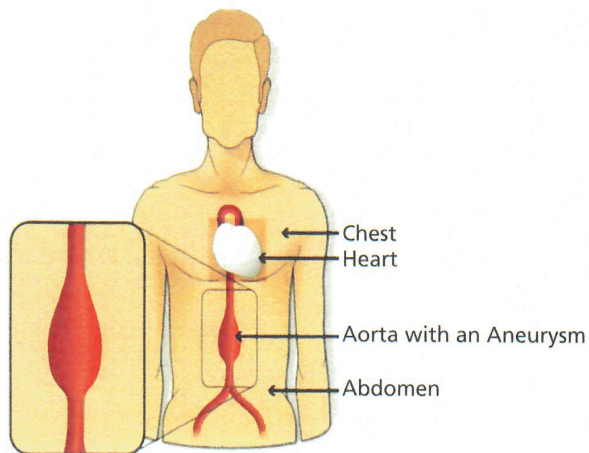
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WHO ARE WE?

We are your local amenity group, established in March 1971 initially as a conservation group covering the ancient parishes of Buntingford, Layston, Aspenden, Wyddial and Throcking. We obtained charity status in 1993. Our main aims are to secure the preservation, protection, development, 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 AND CONTINUE TO DO?

BCS have.....

- Introduced the Buntingford Journal in 1976.
- Restored the Town Pump twice and Town Cage once.
- Initiated erection of Christmas lights in the High Street and Market Hill.
- Presented an annual school civic award to Freman College.
- Updated the set of Town Trails with Discovering Buntingford booklet.
- Erected a Town Sign and replaced it on a like for like basis in 2018.
- Installed a seat on the hill to Layston Cemetery and paid for works at the Layston Cemetery.
- Erected Town Gateway signs complete with Planters.
- Contributed financially to Freman College sports hall, Buntingford Film Club, Buntingford Carnivals and "Summer Arts in Buntingford 2022" weekend.
- Start-up financial contribution to the Friends of the Rib and Quin.
- Paid for the Local History Group competition prizes in 2023.
- Carried out River Rib and town litter picks.
- Fitted a sign in the Police Station Community Garden and paid for new plants there in 2019.
- Were actively involved in the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Arranged "Buntingford in Bloom" competitions.
- Updated the circular walks on local footpaths leaflet in 2017.
- Paid for roses and a plaque in memory of Queen Elizabeth II and for the Coronation of King Charles III at the new Layston Cemetery in 2024.
- Hosted three Civic Day Heritage walks around the conservation area.
- Been actively involved in recent town celebrations to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, the Coronation of King Charles III and the 80th anniversary of D-Day and VE Day.

BCS will continue to.....

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

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Buntingford 2026

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Victims of domestic abuse in more rural areas are often unprotected and isolated from help. A 2019 report¹ into domestic abuse in Yorkshire highlighted a number of shocking facts, including that the more rural the setting, the higher the risk of harm to the victim.

If someone you know is causing you harm or distress – or if you are worried about a family member or friend – you can call or email us in confidence for help and advice on your options.

 **Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline**

08 088 088 088

hertsdomesticabusehelpline.org

Call freephone 08 088 088 088
 Monday to Friday: 9am-5pm Weekends: 9am-4pm
 Or confidential email: kim@malpurple.org

Follow us
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 #HDA_Helpline
 @hdahelp

Supported by charity no. 1040799 ¹ 'Gender and Control', commissioned by Julia McHugh, Chair of the National Rural Crime Network & Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire.

NEW!

Buntingford Men's Shed Group

NEW!

Tuesday 24 June
 2.00pm-4.00pm

The Manor House, Buntingford
 - then every Tuesday -

We are starting a **Men's Shed** in Buntingford. Whilst we are looking for a suitable venue we are going to hold regular weekly meet ups.

Come and join us to hear about our plans, share ideas for projects and meet other 'shedders'.

A Men's Shed encourages people to come together to make, repair and repurpose, supporting projects in their local communities.

UK Men's Sheds Association

Contact Phil for more information:

email: philricketts@btinternet.com
 phone: 07896 860769



part of
 The Buntingford Community Project



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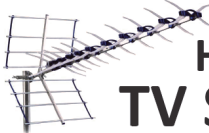
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Fitness Pilates

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

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

Variety Full Body Workouts

Cardio HIIT Mon 6:30pm Layston School (£6 / £10 with Pilates at 7:15)
HIIT Wednesday 6pm / Sunday 10am via ZOOM
Strength HIIT Wed 6:30pm Layston School (£6 or £10 with Pilates)
Full Body Friday 11am The Scout Hut (£6 or £10 with Pilates at 10am)

Cardio (non impact or impact), Strength, Toning & Balance, each week a different class

Dance Fit

Thursday 9:15am Seth Ward Community Centre (£6)

Dancing is great for losing weight, maintaining strong bones, improving posture & muscular strength, increases co-ordination and beats stress

All equipment provided, just bring yourself and water.

ZOOM classes available as payg £5 or £20 per month subscription

All venue classes are £6 pay as you go

Personal Training on a one to one basis using a variety of equipment in your Home. One to One Pilates also available.

Buntingford U3A -Monday Circuits 10:30am (spaces available) & Thursday Seated Full Body 1pm £4 with full membership

07956 647806 www.jacqui-smith.net theteam@jacqui-smith.net

FUN, FITNESS & FRIENDSHIP WITH ROYSTON RAMBLERS



Do you enjoy the outdoors and have recently found yourself with more time on your hands? How about joining the Royston Ramblers?

We are a friendly group who enjoy walking, making new friends, and seeing beautiful countryside and wildlife throughout Hertfordshire & Cambridgeshire.

Our year-round Tuesday and Thursday morning walks are 5- 7miles, while Sunday's range from 9-12 miles. During the summer we also organise shorter walks of 3-4 miles on Wednesday evenings.

Royston Group is led by a band of experienced leaders, so all you need to do as a member, is turn up at a set time and location, generally within 20 miles of Royston, and enjoy the walk.

If you are interested, come along and see how you get on, with no obligation to join. You can view our walks programme and contact the walk leader, at www.ramblers.org.uk/royston and they will be pleased to welcome you or tel: 07734 111225 for further details.

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There are ample photo opportunities outside the classic Georgian frontage, on the staircase, in the garden or in the stunning Layston Court Gardens across the road.

For a full colour brochure contact :

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

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

www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

Gareth White Electrical Services



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

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

Every one of our jobs are different, however, we always maintain the same very high standards ensuring reliability, quality workmanship and fair pricing allowing us to provide the best possible service.

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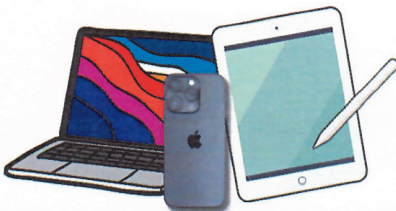
Location:

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

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

**No session in August 2026*

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



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