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WHAT'S ON IN JULY/AUGUST 2012

MONDAYS

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

TUESDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

- 10:00am – 11:00am Story Sacks at Jenyns First School, Braughing. £1 per child. 01763 273008.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Cougars Under 10s training, Norfolk Road. Martin on 07834 318518.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm Circuit Training for 50+ at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Cougars Under 11s training, Norfolk Road. Sean on 07860 365681
- 7:00pm – 9:15pm Shinto Judo Club: under 16s 7:00 – 8:00pm; over 16s 8:00 – 9:15pm. At Buntingford & District Youth Club, Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Contact Mark Teal 07974 458127 or Gavin Shand 07958 797005, email gavin.shand@uk.verizonbusiness.com. Or visit www.shintojudo.co.uk.
- 7:30pm – 8:30pm Body Circuit classes at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm Boxercise/Tae Bo session at Fit Together Gym, Buntingford. Contact Al on 07739 131694.
- 8:00pm – 9:00pm Cougars Under 16s training, Norfolk Road. Mike 01763 271750.
- 8:00pm Horizon Divers at Freman Pool. Contact 01920 823955.

THURSDAYS

- 9:30am – 11:00am Anstey Toddlers at the Old School House, Anstey. Activities for toddlers and babies with their carers. £1 per family. Term time only.
- 9:45am – 11:00am Jumping Jacks Stay & Play, Herts County Guide Headquarters, Cottered. £1 per family. 01763 273008.
- 10:00am – 12:00pm Carpet Bowls at The Bowls Club, Wyddial Road. Julia 01763 272584.
- 11:00am – 12:00pm Fitness for 50+ at Seth Ward Community Centre. £4 per person per class. Contact Eileen Dixon 01763 257474 or 07966 222272, or email: eileensaerobics@hotmail.com
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm Baby classes run by the Best Start Club at the Scout Hut, Bowling Green Lane. Magical Musical Playdays, for 1 to 3 years olds, start at 1:00pm; followed by Baby Signing classes, for 0 to 16 months, at 2:00pm. Contact Laura Sheriff on 07801 796334. Email: laura@thebeststartclub.com.
- 4:30pm – 6:30pm Drama workshops for 15 to 18 year olds with Stagefrights Theatre at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Dave on 01438 232181 or email stagefrights2009@yahoo.co.uk
- 5:00pm – 6:00pm Cougars Under 9s training at Norfolk Road. Kevin 07930 192079.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Cougars reception age football fun. At Snells Mead Park (behind Co-op) . Call Wesley on 07968 629406.
- 5:30pm – 10:00pm Buntingford Swimming Club at Ward Freman Pool. Contact Adelaide Boon on 07710 550050.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm Cougars Under 8s training at Norfolk Road. Matt 07814 838460.
- 6:15pm – 7:00pm Jazzercise Class at Seth Ward Community Centre.
- 7.30pm Buntingford Karate Club, Edwinstree School Gym. Contact Bill Hooper 01763 273123.
- 7:45pm – 9:45pm Buntingford Badminton Club at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Liz James on 01763 274010.

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

WHAT'S ON IN JULY/AUGUST (CONT.)

FRIDAYS

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

SATURDAYS

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

SUNDAYS

- 2:45pm – 5:00pm Every Sunday till 14 Oct. Tea at St Mary the Virgin Church, Braughing (see page 21)
- 3:00pm – 5:30pm Sundays 15th July, 19th Aug, 16 Sept: cream teas and cakes at Ardeley village hall (see page 21)

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

JUNE 2012

- Fri 29th & Sat 30th 7:30. Buntingford Dramatic Society presents 'Trouble & Strife'. Tickets £12 from The Cellar (see page 27).
- Sat 30th 12:00–5:00pm. Braughing Fair & Wheelbarrow Race (see page 14)
- Sat 30th 4:00–6:00pm. Tea-time family concert with A10 Orchestra in St Mary's Church, Furneux Pelham (see page 17).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES (CONT.)

JULY 2012

- Sun 1st 10.00am–4.00pm. Antiques & Vintage Fair at Barkway Village Hall, SG8 8BS. Entry £1. Homemade cakes & refreshments. All enquires Rosei Frost 07912322538 or email info@flapperfortunes.co.uk.
- Wed 4th Buntingford Gardeners Club visit to garden of Edwina Robarts in Standon (see page 12).
- Wed 4th Wine and ... at The Cellar, Buntingford. In aid of the Herts Air Ambulance. Enter a photoquiz of landmarks as seen from the air. For more information call at the Cellar or contact Hannah Ashby, HAA Pr & Marketing Coordinator, on 01787 226118.
- Fri 6th 5:00–7:30pm. Millfield Summer Fair (see page 14).
- Fri 6th & Sat 7th 7:30. Buntingford Dramatic Society presents 'Trouble & Strife'. Tickets £12 from The Cellar (see page 27).
- Sat 7th 11:00am–1:00pm. Edwinstree Summer Fair (see page 14).
- Sat 7th 2:00–4:00pm. Children's Nearly New Sale (see page 27).
- Sat 7th & Sun 8th Open garden at the Pump House, Coles Park, Westmill. Proceeds from refreshments to the fund for Westmill Church roof. Contact Michael Thody 01763 271321 or see www.friendsofwestmillchurch.org.uk
- Sun 8th 1:00–5:00pm. Anstey Fair at Anstey Bury (see page 15)
- Sun 8th 12:30–3:30pm. Lunch in the garden at Queenbury, Church Lane, Reed. Two-course lunch and bar £10 (see page 39).
- Thur 12th 7:45pm. Buntingford W.I. at URC Hall (see page 47).
- Sat 14th 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – Bingo at Benson Hall.
- Wed 18th 10:30am–12:00noon. BALA coffee morning at Benson Hall.
- Fri 20th 8:00pm. Buntingford Railway & Local History at the Crown PH. Barry Gray– 'Walk in Hertford'.
- Sun 22nd Aspenden Village Fete & Dog Show (see page 15)
- Sun 22nd Muscle Help Foundation 10K & 5& run at Haileybury (see page 23).
- Wed 25th 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – Bingo at Benson Hall.
- ### AUGUST 2012
- Wed 1st Buntingford Gardeners Club evening show (see page 12).
- Sun 5th 10:30am. 22nd Royston Kite Festival, Therfield Heath (see page 15).
- Thur 9th 7:45pm. Buntingford W.I. at URC Hall (see page 47).
- Sat 11th 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – Bingo at Benson Hall.
- Fri 17th 10:30am. WI Coffee Morning at the Community Garden (see page 47).
- Wed 22nd 2:30–4:00pm. Cream teas in aid of Marie Curie at Benson Hall.
- Sun 26th & 27th 10:00am–5:00pm. Benington Chillii Festival (see page 16).
- Wed 29th 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – Bingo at Benson Hall.

USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

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

EDITOR'S LETTER

What a busy month it's been, with so many things going on to remind us all why Buntingford and its surrounding villages is such a great place to live. While putting the Journal together this month, with reports on the Jubilee Street Party and Buntylympics as well as our regular articles from local schools, I've been struck by how many times people have said 'We were so lucky with the weather!' And we were – given how much cold wet weather we have had, it's amazing how the sun has shone, or at least the rain has stopped, whenever there's been a special event. We are truly blessed. No wonder people want to build houses here.

As concern grows about the various proposed developments around Buntingford, and the effect that these could have on the town, more people than usual have felt moved to write in and contribute to the debate. The 'letters to the editor' this month stretch to an unprecedented 5 pages (8-12), and the opinion of the Civic Society is eloquently expressed by Derek Cooper on page 13. We also have an introduction to BARD – Buntingford Action for Responsible Development – on pages 24-25. This grassroots pressure group formed in reaction to Taylor Wimpey's proposals for land off Hare Street Road, but its greater aim is to try to ensure that all development proposals are properly scrutinised so that we get the *right* developments for Buntingford, not just ones that are thrust upon us. It seems to me that at the very least any potential developments should be considered within the framework of the yet-to-be-published East Herts District Plan. Because of the importance of this subject to all of us, I have held some items over for the next Journal (September) and have also had to cut down other pieces submitted this month or even leave them out altogether. Apologies to the contributors concerned.

Congratulations to Buntingford Football Club, who may not have had the best of seasons but nevertheless have won a very worthwhile trophy, being awarded the County League's sportsmanship trophy. In my book, it counts for a lot. They are also looking for a new Reserve Team Manager, so if you think you have what it takes why not get in touch. For full details see Chris Thurgill's end-of-season report on page 46. As ever, you will find lots of things going on in and around Buntingford advertised in the Journal this month. I hope you manage to get along to some of them and have a very enjoyable summer.

Christine Noble

Many thanks to Debbie Lemay for proofreading

**Editorial copy deadline for the September 2012 Journal is
12.00 noon on Tuesday 21st August 2012**

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

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

Letters to the Editor

Dear Christine

Things I value about living in Buntingford

Having lived here in 'Pig's Nose' since 1963, I've raised my family here, laughed and cried here. In 1968 we were flooded to a depth of 4ft, the height of the windowsill next to the river if you want to check. Once the waters had receded complete strangers, as well as friends, came and offered practical help. They scrubbed furniture, floors and walls of the mud and filth left behind, looked after my two very small children and fed myself and my husband as we attempted to re-create some sort of order.

I love the fact that inside five minutes brisk walk one can be in the depths of the country. I like the fact that for most of us there is nowhere in the town that can't be reached on foot, and I feel as safe walking home at midnight as at 4.00 in the afternoon. I like it when I know the names of the local police force, from the Sergeant to the PCSOs, and can exchange greetings and joke with them.

Public transport could be better – we always say Buntingford is 10 miles from everywhere and 12 from anywhere, but that is part of what gives it its charm. You don't have to know everyone's name, there are so many familiar faces you don't need to, we are a community, and as such we look after our own. Our list of clubs, societies and voluntary groups is second to none for a small town.

This is what has kept us here for the last 49 years! We can't preserve what we've got forever, but let change come gradually, so that we're not swamped.

Pat Webb, Pig's Nose, Riverside

Dear Christine

Please could you include the following information in the Journal in July.

Pet Owners of Buntingford – Please be warned

Our cat was savagely attacked by a stray dog on Sunday 17th June. The dog was a terrier, a Jack Russell-cross, with grey and white wiry hair. It chased our cat and managed to corner it before picking it up in its mouth to toss it around. It pinned the cat to the ground and would not let go, even when we shouted and tried to get our cat away. We eventually managed to free our cat and picked him up, but still the dog tried to snatch at him and followed us back to the house, again trying to get the cat.

This dog is vicious so please be extra vigilant with your animals. Our neighbour said he has seen the dog around, so it is obviously local. Our cat needed veterinary treatment, but was relatively lucky because of his long fur and because we were quick off the mark. Next time a pet might not be so lucky. Please be warned and keep you pets safe.

Thank you
Jenny Dingley, 199 Monks Walk

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

Dear Christine

Proposed development in Buntingford

May I add my thoughts to the debate on proposed developments in Buntingford. I believe the issues may be far greater than has already been reported.

The following is a list sites submitted in the East Herts District Council [EHDC] 'Call for Sites' which I think better indicates the development pressure Buntingford may be under in the foreseeable future:

1. Land South of Owles Lane
2. Land to the rear of Snells Mead
3. Land off Longmead/Baldock Road (*planning permission already granted*)
4. Land to the East between the B1038 (Hare Street Road) and The Causeway (*Taylor Wimpey have approached Buntingford Town Council [BTC] with a proposal*)
5. Land to the West between Monks Walk and the bypass
6. Land on Aspenden Road opposite Watermill Industrial Estate
7. Former Sainsbury's Depot (*identified as part industrial/part residential*)
8. Land West of London Road
9. Land at Corneybury Farm (*a developer has approached the BTC with a proposal*)

All told some 90+ hectares. I believe EHDC planning policy was 40 houses per hectare so it would radically alter the town if only half of these were developed. Apparently details of sites are available from our Town Clerk, with site references and plans of area.

The proposed **Hare Street Road development** of 160 houses does seem to demonstrate some of the future pressures we could be under. This site alone could generate:

TRAFFIC – say two cars per household, each using Hare Street Road once a day, there and back, would generate 640 movements daily or 4,500 weekly or 230,000 annually.

CHILDREN – say two children per household could put another 340 children into our local schools. A recent report in The Mercury says that Freman College forecasts a shortfall of two form entries (FE) or 60 children, Edwinstree a shortfall of 0.5 FE (15 children) and Layston, Millfield & Ardley St Lawrence schools combined there is one FE available. Schools can be expanded but this takes time. What impact would this have on the education of our children already in the system?

There is also healthcare, public transport, policing, water and sewerage capacity to consider, and all this for a development of just 160 houses! Multiply that up by the available development land and you can see the potential issues we could be facing.

What can we do? Those attending the Civic Society AGM in April would have heard a presentation by Councillor Mike Carver who is responsible for strategic planning at EHDC. He appreciated the planning pressure Buntingford would be under and part of his advice was for BTC to publish a Town Plan and to take on expert professional help to formulate acceptable objections to development. He said that emotive objections such as '*we don't want it here*' would be disregarded by EHDC planning officers.

At last the Town Plan is coming together but pressure must be maintained to see that it is completed and presented to EHDC as soon as possible. The Town Council believes they

have enough experience in planning matters but have agreed to seek advice from an EHDC planning officer. With the possible volume of future planning applications I would suggest that the Chairman/Town Clerk can only do so much in addition to their other duties. Surely under the current circumstances it would do no harm for BTC to retain a planner who would be called on to advise as needed? Costs that could not be met out of contingency in annual budgets could come from council reserves, and therefore have no impact on the precept.

The Mercury reports that there is a local resident, Steve Baker, who is a planning manager for the Campaign to Protect Rural England. He is pressing BTC to take on professional planning advice. He is concerned that BTC seems intent on 'muddling along doing their own thing'. If the Town Council will not take his advice on board then I would suggest the Civic Society and Buntingford Action for Responsible Development (BARD) get together and consider employing an expert. Perhaps funded by the Civic Society and/or local fundraising? The Civic Society could then advise residents as to how they should word individual objections so these are accepted by EHDC planning officers as admissible objections.

Undoubtedly there is a need for more houses, but will these houses be affordable for the needy? I do appreciate that towns must develop but to be a healthy successful town we must have controlled development that keeps pace with the expansion of our infrastructure. If we are always playing catch-up then Buntingford will be a less pleasant place to live.

Regards
Brian Lemay, Monks Walk

Dear Editor

The problem with parking

With all the new residents that are going to be driving their cars around Buntingford, I fear that parking is going to be even more of a problem in the future than it is now, with potentially serious consequences for access to existing streets.

Last weekend the bin men were in the Paddock Road, Archers, Sunny Hill area. The bin lorries can go in straight lines and round easy corners, no problem. What they can't do is back round a corner when there are vehicles parked across the top of a junction or right up to the junction. The residents in Garden Road couldn't get their bins emptied until last Tuesday. The roadway is so congested that ambulances have difficulty getting through to Ashfords, and heaven help the local residents if there is ever a fire at Pig's Nose — there isn't room for one fire engine to get through, let alone the other three or four that have to attend a thatched house fire.

Understandably, everyone who has a car wants to park outside their own home. The problem is that they want to park exactly outside their own home and often there just isn't room, especially when the vehicle concerned is a van or a pick-up or even a small lorry. It is actually illegal to park on the pavement or too close up to a junction, and it is also illegal to park and obstruct other motorists' view of oncoming traffic.

Perhaps in all these plans that are being put forward for houses to be built in and around Buntingford, space — realistic space — could be built in for car parks, before there is an explosion of parking rage from the put-upon existing residents of our small streets.

Name & address supplied

Note from the editor: Some of you will have seen a letter in the Mercury recently from Buntingford resident Keith White. He was asked by that paper's editor to cut his letter by half, so for those who would like to read the whole thing, it is reproduced in full below.

Dear Editor

More developments than Kodak!

The joyous celebrations just past, acknowledging our Queen's unique reign have conveniently distracted us all from more parochial matters which if pursued to the desired conclusion will have an irreversible effect on all our lives beyond the next sixty years. I refer, of course, to the unseemly feeding frenzy by carpetbaggers to take advantage of the government's desperate last-stand attempt to build its way out of the recession.

However if one looks at the bigger picture one can see that building our way out of trouble and pandering to developers and speculators is blatantly wrong. Take a look at the empty towns in Ireland and Spain and the irresponsible lending by banks to developers with encouragement by the EEC to see what can happen if we go with that idea.

This is not just some Luddite or NIMBY rant, as any right-minded person will acknowledge that as Britain has become a magnet for people seeking a new life here subsidised on many levels and they all need housing! Not to mention schools, hospitals, roads, etc. Exacerbated yet further by modern approaches and so-called lifestyle choices now affecting the family unit, we are a soft touch which is being exploited with the connivance of woolly headed idealists and preyed upon by the ever-expanding legal profession who see 'Human Rights' as a cash cow .

This is all very praiseworthy as an affirmation of our national trait to welcome all-comers and protect the vulnerable. But somewhere along the way we seem to have overlooked common sense in as much as we have succumbed to the siren call of the lobbyists who whisper in the politician's ear and promise to line the landowner's and speculator's pockets with gold.

Here, in what I think is arguably one of the most beautiful areas of the British Isles, we will undoubtedly need housing for our new generation and essential workers and indeed those that aspire to owning their own home. But this will only be achieved properly by careful development instead of the carpet-bombing approach currently encouraged by central government and followed lemming-like by our district and county councils who pathetically wring their hands and forget they are here to represent us. What are they afraid of? Not getting a gong or being left off the list for a Buck House tea party? Have some gumption please and stand up to the central government bully boys.

If we are to maintain the unique character of East Herts then we should be considering building in a more sensible manner which would retain and reinforce the villages, their shops, primary schools, pubs etc with the obvious benefits to all communities. Moreover we should give preference to people who have been born and brought up in the district that have strong links to the area and not be hoodwinked by housing association's interpretation of what are 'locals'.

Let us take a breath and time for reflection on what I conclude are ill-conceived and myopic ideas. We must not make the same irreversible decisions that have been made

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

in the past just to achieve some short-term goal, like the railway network that was lost. Let the people of the area make the final decision and not just go through the usual 'consultation' process only to find that 'they', i.e. the developers, will have their way whatever! A boast they are not afraid to voice, comforted in the knowledge that they will win appeals if referred to 'the Minister', like a spoilt child threatening 'I'll tell my mum!'.

This is not the time for politicians and jobsworth council planning officers hiding behind spurious laws, 'guidelines', regulations and the eternal whine 'following orders'. Let the people speak, otherwise all the many words uttered recently about our 'Britishness' will be just so many hollow sounds lost irrevocably in the winds of time.

Our forefathers and forces today fought and died for us to be free to decide our own destiny and independence in a land of outstanding beauty. Let us not succumb to the pen-pushers and opportunists whose slogan is 'Greed Not Need'.

K.W.V.White, Bridgefoot, Buntingford

Dear Christine

Buntylympics 2012 – A grand day out

On behalf of ourselves and family we should like to congratulate all those who organised, helped out and took part in the Buntylympics for a job well done. Good fun, well organised and a good day out. We really enjoyed it. Here's to next year.

Brenda and David Blanks

Hi Christine,

Edwina Hayes Charity Gig in Cottered Village Hall

I hope you enjoyed the evening on Saturday. I thought Edwina was fantastic!!

The total funds raised from the evening that I will be donating to St Clare's Hospice come to £1,700. It's just amazing! That was from ticket sales, a donation from Cottered football team, a percentage of the bar profits and half of the proceeds from Edwina's CD sales that evening, which she donated as we didn't have a raffle. Amazing! Thank you for putting this in the Journal and a big thank you to everyone who came along and made the gig a sell-out success. See you at the next one!

Alison Campaniello

BUNTINGFORD GARDENERS CLUB

Hello Everyone

At our meeting in June, Kathy Stangaard, gave a lively and interesting talk on Constance Spry, a founder of flower arranging for everyone. The following day the club went on a trip to the Beth Chatto gardens, which was very much enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting, on **July 4th**, is a visit to Standon to the garden of Edwina Robarts, area co-ordinator for Hearts National Gardens scheme, cost £8. Our **August 1st** meeting is our evening show.

Anyone requiring more information can contact me on 01763 274341.

Janet Murrells, Chairwoman



Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)



HAVE A VOICE – IT IS REALLY HAPPENING!

There has to be a prod, a stimulus, an issue beyond commonplace, a cause which makes busy Buntingford residents stop and say "it's not right, it shouldn't be like this and we will do something about it".

A grassroots initiative has sprung to life in the Town involving young people, families, retirees, in fact right across the spectrum of our community, all with a common aim which is to have responsible development in Buntingford, not opportunistic profiteering by developers with a total lack of interest in the Town's future.

The grassroots initiative is BARD – Buntingford Action for Responsible Development. It is important to recognise that BARD is not against development; indeed it welcomes development which will increase economic and social gains for the Town.

Buntingford Civic Society is an active supporter of BARD and shares the values expressed by its participants, many of whom are longstanding members of the Civic Society. To keep in touch with BARD go to their website:

www.bard-group.org.uk

This piece cannot be closed without warm congratulations to Cllr. Graham Bonner and the Chamber of Commerce for an outstanding event on Jubilee Day and the High Street party. If anything demonstrates some of the special richness of Buntingford it was the way we all got together in spite of the rain and celebrated. We even made it onto TV news and had excellent coverage in the Mercury.

Journal readers who are not members, why not join the Civic Society? We have a large constituency and welcome new active members to confront the challenges ahead and to protect the best of Buntingford.

Our Membership Secretary is Chris Eagle – **christophereagle@btinternet.com** – and the annual subscription is £7.00. This includes free membership of the national organisation Civic Voice, which is influential at the highest level of government, among other benefits – not least the Buntingford Journal delivered to your door.

Derek K Cooper
Chairman, Buntingford Civic Society

Check out our website at: <http://www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk>

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

Summer Festivals, Fairs and Fetes

BRAUGHING FAIR & WHEELBARROW RACE



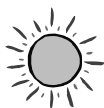
**@ BRAUGHING FORD
SAT 30TH JUNE, 12:00 TO 5:00pm**

Millfield Summer Fair

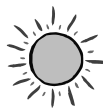
Friday 6th July 5.00-7.30pm

Country Dancing, Entertainment, Bouncy Castles,
BBQ, Bar, Cakes and Teas, Plant Stall, Games, Raffle,
Tombolas, Face Painting . . . and lots more!

Featuring The Great Millfield Bake-Off!



The PTA and the school really appreciate all your
support and look forward to seeing you there!



Edwinstree Summer Fair

SATURDAY 7 JULY

11am - 1pm

Edwinstree Middle School,
Norfolk Road, Buntingford,
Herts, SG9 9AW

- Beat the goalie • Cake stall • Sunglasses stall • Raffle •
- Coconut shy • Tombola & BBQ •

Come along and support Buntingford's Middle School

Anstey Fair 2012

1PM TO 5PM on 8TH JULY at ANSTEY BURY, SG9 0DF

A Traditional Country Fair with great fun for all ages.

Lots to do and see, including live entertainment, clog dancing, games, crafts & produce, refreshments

Free Parking / Entrance: Adults £1, Children Free

All funds raised will go to Anstey church or to the village school and pre-school.

For more information see: www.ansteyfair.org

or email ansteyfair@gmail.com

ASPENDEN VILLAGE FETE

SUNDAY 22nd JULY from 1pm to 5pm

**DOG SHOW / STEAM ENGINE RIDES / CLOWN / BOUNCY CASTLE
TOMBOLA / BRIC-A-BRAC / BEAT THE GOALIE / LOTS OF GAMES
LIVE MUSIC / BAR / TEAS / BBQ / ICE CREAM / MEXICAN FOOD**

**RAFFLE: 1st Prize £100 / 2nd Prize £50 / 3rd Prize Classic Car Ride
4th Hamper / 5th Meal for two at Sword in Hand / 6th Meal for two
at The Fox / Plus many, many other prizes.**

DO COME ALONG AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

22nd ROYSTON KITE FESTIVAL

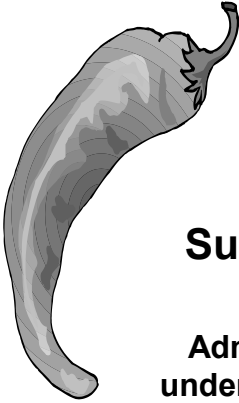
On **Sunday August 5th** at **Therfield Heath** expert kite flyers from across the Eastern Region will be entertaining people at the 22nd Royston Kite Festival. Star performers include **Bryan Cantle of Dark Star**, the spectacular **Team Spectrum** and the **Great Ouse Kite Flyers**, plus the local Royston Power Kites, Bruno Kopperschmitt of French Connection and, especially for the children, the **Teddy Bear Drop**.

There will also be puppet shows, a mini funfair and a range of stalls.

Start 10.30am, admission £2, under 14s free.

The main beneficiary of this Rotary Club charity event will be 'mothers 2 mothers', a charity aimed at preventing the passing of HIV from mothers to children, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa.

www.roystonkitefestival.com



BENINGTON CHILLI FESTIVAL 2012

**Sunday 26 & Monday 27 August
10:00am to 5:00pm**

**Admission: adults £7.50, under-16s £2.50,
under-12s free. Free parking. Sorry, no dogs.**

Chilli plants & chilli products, hot & spicy food cooked on site and, of course, cold beers. Mariachi band and chilli eating competition.

A fabulously enjoyable family event now in its 7th year. Set in the historic castle courtyard and picturesque gardens of Benington Lordship, SG2 7BS, 4 miles east of Stevenage.

Follow signs in the village of Benington for ample free parking.

**For more information phone 01438 869668 or visit
www.beningtonlordship.co.uk**

Wilkestock Charity Festival 2012

This ever-popular Music Festival will take place near Aston/Watton on
31st August & 1st/2nd September

If you thought last year was good, check this year out – a full 3-day festival with family camping and activities, cinema, 360 bar and top artists including:

- **Bastille • Chas and His Band • New Groove Formation •**
- **Maddox • Trouble with Tuesday • The Zarrs • Mice With Glasses •**
- **Wideboy Generation • Slipmatt • 2 Bad Mice! •**

The event is in aid of two worthy charities, Keswick Mountain Rescue and Leukaemia Research, and we hope to raise over £10,000. Please help us to reach this target!! Tickets are available @ www.wilkestock.com/tickets

Wilkestock is also looking for some new forms of entertainment and stalls to feature alongside the music stages – anything from street entertainment to cake stalls, face painting to fire breathing! We would love to get the local community involved, so if you have a talent you would like to share please contact: info@wilkestock.com

AVAILABLE TO HIRE

BUNTINGFORD SCOUT HQ

for Parties, Classes, Events etc.

Large air-conditioned hall, tables & chairs, and fully equipped kitchen.
Toilet facilities include disabled access and baby changing.
All facilities clean and well-kept. Alcohol licenses available.
Option to hire POPCORN machine

Discounts available to parents of children in the Scout Group
For more information and booking forms please contact:

Ruth Vincent 07870 638480



A Plea for Help from a Kind Gardener!

Is there someone out there in our community with budding green fingers who can spare some time to help maintain our small garden area at the Scout HQ? We have a small patch of grass that needs cutting and the general area needs to be kept tidy and free of weeds. We hope that this would not take up too much of someone's time and we could provide equipment if this is needed. Our scout leaders do an amazing job but to expect them to take on this as well would be asking too much. Hopefully there is someone out there who is willing to volunteer to help the Group in another way and can do this for us!



If you would be able to help please contact me on
01763 273459 or at jo.mcnamara@yahoo.co.uk

Yours in Scouting
Jo McNamara, Group Scout Leader



A10 ORCHESTRA



A tea-time family concert at

St. Mary's Church, Furneux Pelham

4:00pm • Sat 30 June • Adults £5 • Under 16s free

Contact Fliss Sandell on 01763 272111 or flissandell@hotmail.com

DIAMOND JUBILEE

Memories of 4th June



The day dawned dull but the forecast was not too bad – certainly better than was expected after the appalling weather of the day before – and 7.00am saw the team of volunteers arrive to start their tasks. The street began to take shape and by 11.00 the tables and chairs were all in place, the tables resplendent with their Union Jack decorations. And then it rained!!

Thankfully the rain lasted only for a short time and everything began to fall into place. The market was up and running with 15 stalls along Market Hill selling a variety of goods and produce. In Layston Gardens the Swords of Chivalry were ready to start their skirmishes. The Scouts had all the games ready to roll – including the stocks which awaited the Mayor Councillor Stan Bull!!!!

And the crowds began to arrive. They arrived in droves – surely the Town has never seen so many people for an event. The music began and local group The Folk showed us just why they seen as ones to watch for the future. The Buntingford Choir regaled us, and Dance Design Theatre Arts showed us all some stunning dance routines. By about 2.00pm it looked as if every one of the 300 or so seats along the High Street was taken – and the party was in full swing.



The rain can't dampen the party spirit on the High Street

Back in Layston Court Gardens the Mayor Stan Bull and Deputy Mayor Jon Ling had both been in the stocks and both emerged looking suitably drenched. The Swords of Chivalry continued to batter each other and budding Robin Hoods were trying their hand at the archery display. BBC Look East arrived and recorded our 15 seconds of TV fame!



The Swords of Chivalry battle it out

As the afternoon wore on the Sun came out and what was already a very good day became perfection. The Freman All Stars Big Band performed a tremendous Blues Bothers finale and suddenly it was time to start winding down.

As usual the residents of Buntingford did the Town and the event organisers proud, turning out in force to celebrate a very special occasion. Young and old – and everyone in-between – partied together and, as ever, all were impeccably well behaved. Not a single unsavoury incident occurred to spoil this historic day.



The Freman All Stars Big Band bring the day to a close in glorious sunshine

And so yet another Buntingford celebration came to an end, leaving people to depart and reflect upon their memories of the day and, of course, on our Queen's tremendous achievement. Thanks must go to Buntingford Town Council, Herts County Council, East Herts District Council, Buntingford Civic Society and to The Co-op for their generous donations without which the event would not have been possible. Thanks also to the many volunteers for their time and effort in making Buntingford's Diamond Jubilee celebration a day to remember.

Graham Bonner



CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH BALDOCK ROAD BUNTINGFORD

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

MORNING WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:00AM

July	1	Morning Worship	Dr Jeffrey Barham
	8	Holy Communion	Rev Duncan Goldie
	15	Morning Worship	Rev Derek Newton
	22	Morning Worship	Rev Duncan Goldie
	29	Morning Worship	Mrs Maureen Kendal
August	5	Morning Worship	Mrs Rosemary Scarrow
	12	Holy Communion	Rev Duncan Goldie
	19	Morning Worship	Rev David Viles
	26	Morning Worship	Mr Arthur Brignall
September	2	Morning Worship	Dr Jeffrey Barham

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

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

ST. RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford Telephone 01763 271471

Parish Priest: Father Ian Dickie

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

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

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

Saturdays at 6:00pm at Furneux Pelham

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





United Benefice of

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



Reverend Ian Hill – Telephone 01763 274072

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

Services for July

Sun 1 st	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
Wed 4 th	9:30am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion (Book of Common Pray)
Sun 8 th	9:30am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 22 nd	9:30am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Morning Worship
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 29 th	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship

St Mary the Virgin Church, Braughing

Each Sunday afternoon, from **2:45 until 5:00pm**, you are welcome at the Church Rooms in Braughing for our **Sunday Teas**. All our cakes are home-made locally. You may also be able to buy home-made jams and marmalades or Braughing Friars Honey from our Country Stall.

Every Sunday until 14th October

An invitation to Ardeley

Come and treat yourselves to a delicious cream tea and homemade cakes in our village hall then wander across the road to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of our beautiful 13th century church. Proceeds in aid of St Lawrence Church funds.

3.00 to 5.30 pm on Sundays 15th July, 19th Aug & 16th Sept

For further information contact Wendy Waygood on 01438 861260



Edwinstree Middle School

To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, Mrs Chipperfield, head of our Art department, invited all pupils to take part in a national competition to design a portrait of Queen Elizabeth. Choosing two winners from each year group proved to be extremely difficult as the designs were outstanding. The winning portraits have now been sent off to be judged.

Tutor group 7MB gave us a wonderful collective worship with a samba and prayer dedicated to the Queen. We also had a non-uniform day with everyone encouraged to wear red, white and blue, or dress as a King, Queen, Prince or Princess. The result was an array of colourful costumes and money raised will go to World Aids Charity. Year 5 pupils flew jubilee kites that they made with Mr Lyons in Design and Technology. A time capsule to be opened in sixty years time is also being planned. It will include a film entitled 'Class of 2012' where all pupils and staff will have the opportunity to record a message for the children of the future, maybe some of our present pupils' grandchildren!



Tutor group 7MB ready to samba for the Queen



Author Moira Young and her winning novel

The final event of the Rib Valley Book Award took place at Freman College. Sixteen of our Year 8 students read the five chosen books together with pupils from Ralph Sadleir School. They then voted for their top three and the winner was 'Blood Red Road' by Moira Young. The author had been invited to the event and was thrilled to be declared overall winner. She gave a short talk on being a writer and signed copies of her book.

Year 7 were lucky enough to have glorious weather when they went to the Peak District on a Geography field visit. They took in the sights of Chatsworth House, where the weeping tree was a great favourite, and also Bakewell, Matlock, the Great Rutland Cavern, Nestus mine and Heights of Abraham cable cars.

We look forward to welcoming our new Year 5 who are due to join us in September when they come for their transition day on July 12th. Our present Year 8 will go to Freman College on the same day to familiarise themselves with their new surroundings, classmates and tutors. Parents have received their invitations to the Year 8 celebration evening in July where every pupil will receive a commemorative scroll.

We would like to congratulate Year 6 pupils Harry Draper and Chloe Lence who have been chosen to represent Herts county at swimming. Edwinstree hosted the First Schools Cross Country, with almost 400 pupils from Millfield, Layston, Anstey and Ardeley schools competing.



One of the portraits by Edwinstree pupils: the original, of course, is in red, white and blue

We had a visit from Ofsted inspectors who were impressed with the conduct of the pupils. The results of the inspection are expected before the end of term. After such a busy few weeks, everyone enjoyed their well deserved half term break.

Diane George

**RUN
FOR THEIR
LIVES**

THE MUSCLE HELP FOUNDATION

SUNDAY 22 JULY AT HAILEYBURY

This Buntingford family charity is holding its annual *Muscle Warrior 10K & 5K RUN* in the beautiful grounds at Haileybury, Hertford Heath, together with a **1K Family Superhero Torchbearer Toddle** and a **1K Wheelchair Circuit** through the quad – all in aid

of *Muscle Dreams*, a programme delivering amazing experiences for children and young people suffering from the muscle-wasting disease Muscular Dystrophy. The event is a fantastic opportunity for runners of all abilities, made extra special this year as it celebrates the one-week countdown to London 2012! Our sought-after *Muscle Warrior* t-shirts (£10) and STRONGER TOGETHER wristbands (£2) will be on sale. Do come along and support us.

ENTRY FOR 10K & 5K RACE: IN ADVANCE per runner £13.00 (affiliated), £15.00 (unaffiliated). ON THE DAY £17.00. Other races are FREE.

REGISTRATION from 09.00am; WARM-UP 10.15am; RACE STARTS 10.30am
1K Family Toddle & Wheelchair Circuit will be held after the main event.

TO REGISTER AND FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, visit:

www.musclehelp.com and click on the *Muscle Warrior* HOTSPOT

Buntingford Action for Responsible Development

BARD brings townspeople together to question new building developments – top of the list is the 160 house development proposed off Hare St Road.

MAJOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT OFF HARE STREET ROAD, BUNTINGFORD

**This major
development
will affect
YOU....**

**160 houses =
+ 320 more cars
+ 500 more people**

this is only the beginning!

In May dozens of Buntingford residents came together to discuss the creeping progress of building development in Buntingford. Out of our meeting came a resolution to come together under one banner – Buntingford Action for Responsible Development, or BARD for short.

Poorly-planned development will change the dynamic of the whole town:

- It would lead to extra pressure on schools, medical services and utilities (water, electricity, etc.).
- It would affect traffic congestion and road safety.
- It would not even meet local needs.
- It would change the very character of Buntingford.

So everyone who lives in and around Buntingford is affected.

BARD is a new way for the Buntingford community to make their opinions heard.

Many of us have lived in the town for generations; many have young families. We all love Buntingford. We have found that, with the combination of our experience of Buntingford and our various professional backgrounds, BARD is greater than the sum of its parts.

Our first task is to challenge the rushed, commercially driven actions of developers Taylor Wimpey, via their contracted agents DLP Planning, to develop 160 houses just off the Hare Street Road. This development is in the wrong place at the wrong time.

In a matter of weeks we have already had an overwhelming response from the community on this proposed project, and would like to thank our fellow residents, local organisations, and the members of the Town Council who have shown their support.



Just a few of the Buntingford residents involved with BARD, in the crop field where developers Taylor Wimpey propose to build 160 houses

Our mission is to keep Buntingford a thriving, safe town to be enjoyed by all its residents and visitors.

It is early days, but our fundamental principles are simple to understand:

- We accept that new housing and commercial development is part of the lifecycle of every thriving town.
- We believe that every such large development must be scrutinized by independent qualified professionals and be subject to full consultation with the people of Buntingford.
- We call on the key town 'stakeholders' and planning decision-makers to have the courage to do the right thing for the sustainability of a safe, thriving community.

So stay alert for developments that may affect you.

And if you want to have a say in the future of your town, speak to your town councillors (visit www.buntingfordtowncouncil.co.uk for more information) and tell them what you think, as well as the councillors representing Buntingford at East Herts Council (www.eastherts.gov.uk), who will decide which developments will go ahead.

We also invite you to get in touch with us to find out more, contribute your insights, and help us keep Buntingford special. Visit www.bard-group.org.uk or contact us by email at info@bard-group.org.uk or by phone **07969 835 877**.

**Neil Greig
Chair, on behalf of BARD and its members**



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

The Buntlympics held on the 10th June was a great success and nobody can quite believe the beautiful weather we had on the day. Details of winners can be found in the article by Jean Cook on page 34. A child's jacket was handed in on the day, so if this belongs to one of your children, please call in at The Manor House to collect it. Most of the logistical planning for the event was undertaken by Eddie Plume and I'd like to pass on a big thank-you to Eddie from all at the Town Council.

By the time you read this the Multi Games Area should be finished and hopefully being used by the Tennis Club for the remainder of the summer. The football teams have already booked their slots for the winter evenings.

We have had our first wedding at The Manor House, with another booked for August. If you are considering a civil ceremony why not hold it locally at The Manor House? Further details can be found on our website.

Jill Jones MILCM Cert HE
Town Clerk

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

Tel: 01763 272222

email: btc.manorhouse@btclick.com

website: www.buntingfordtowncouncil.co.uk

Town Council meetings for July/August 2012

JULY

Thursday 5th

7:30pm – Amenities Committee

Thursday 12th

7:30pm – Planning Committee
8:00pm – Resources Committee

Thursday 26th

7:30pm – Planning Committee
8:00pm – Full Council

AUGUST

Thursday 9th

7:30pm – Planning Committee

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

The Buntingford Journal is published by, but is editorially independent of, the Buntingford Civic Society. It is delivered free to members of the Civic Society or it can be purchased from:

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



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

Are you looking for good quality children's clothes and toys at reasonable prices? Do you need to clear some space and make some money? Then come to our **Children's Nearly New Sale** on **Saturday 7th July 2012** from **2:00- 4:00pm** at the Seth Ward Community Centre, Buntingford. Tables for sellers will be £5 and the sellers keep all of their proceeds. There is a 50p entrance fee for buyers. Hot and cold drinks, cakes and biscuits will be available to buy on the day. Mobile pottery painting company Crazy Ceramics will be there – if you're feeling creative, children or adults can paint a piece of pottery on the day. These make lovely presents and prices start from £3. Please call us on 01763 273008 if you would like to book a table.

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

bramblehill@ymcacentralherts.org.uk

Please keep an eye on our website for further information:

www.bramblehillchildrenscentre.org.uk

Or give us a call. We look forward to seeing you 😊

Trouble & Strife

Buntingford Dramatic Society

Presents a supper evening of THREE one-act comedies at the Benson Hall at 7:30 on:

Fridays: June 29th & July 6th

Saturdays: June 30th & July 7th

Chinamen by Michael Frayn

Gosforth's Fete by Alan Ayckbourn

What's for Pudding? by David Tristram

Tickets £12 from 'The Cellar', Buntingford

For more information contact: Clive 07081 842968

Or visit **www.buntingforddrama.org**

Clunch, Lime Plaster and Weathering Stones

Martin & Mandy – Part 31



So, Simon the stonemason and his team have been busy and they tend to bring friends to the party – they brought Jon along for starters – Jon knows a thing or two about lime plaster. When I first talked to Jon and asked him about reference sites he said ‘Windsor Castle and here’s my Royal Warrant’ – so our expectations were set pretty high.

The North and East wall of the Chancel had plaster and ‘stuff’ that was either just about to fall off, or was so rock hard that it did not move at all. This is what’s causing all the damp inside the Chancel, so it was clear that something had to be done. Jon and his chaps turned up to strip back all the loose plasterwork and the core of the problem became immediately obvious. The bottom metre of the plaster is actually concrete which has prevented the walls from ‘breathing’ over the years, and hence the damp. So a larger drill is deployed and the concrete is removed. Now that might sound easy but it’s not – the problem here is if you just attack the stuff then as the concrete pulls away it brings with it all the actual cobble infill and original plaster and that’s just what we don’t want to do, so that big drill needs to be used with extreme care!

You can see from the picture above of the southeast of the Chancel that the corner blockwork is just fine, the exposed rubble infill can be seen at the top, then at the bottom all the concrete before it was removed. Next came two layers of coarse lime plaster to bond to the rubble infill, and we are just letting that dry properly before applying the finishing layers.

In the picture to the right you can see the two layers of coarse plaster, but you can also see how the thin concrete layer has been carefully removed from the stonework window surround but left in the blank infill. This is because it’s just too firmly attached to risk removing it, as it will almost certainly do more damage than good if we try.

We are using these two walls as a test case but, judging by the results so far, it is a bit obvious why Jon has Royal approval for his work.





So whilst Jon is tinkering around with lime plaster, Simon has been busy manufacturing the outer stonework for the triple windows on the south of the Nave and over the next few weeks these will get replaced. These two windows were the most corroded windows in the whole building and although we got away with only changing one piece of stone in the entire tower, on these two windows, after a lot of consideration, consultation and planning, we decided to change all the outer stonework back to the window line.

The inside stonework will be de-frassed like the tower and then a number of coats of shelter coat applied, which means we will hang on to the look and feel from the inside. We are using these two windows as a dry run for the main event, which is what to do with the West window in the Tower.

We managed to remove the corroded feramenta (that's metalwork to you and me) and the frame did not fall to pieces, but it was a close call.

The picture above is new jambs on the scaffold for the Nave triple windows ready to be installed.

For the buttress on the southeastern corner of the Nave, we decided in the end to change the two sets of weathering stones and leave the rest alone. These are the stones that take the brunt of any water falling onto the buttress, so it's really a bit of a no brainer – with them leaking the buttress really suffers, but with them changed we help it survive and manage to hang onto all the tudor bricks at the bottom.

Bits of concrete fall off and I contain myself to NOT give the remaining concrete a helping hand, it's not like the wall on the chancel and everybody is panicking about what happens if you remove concrete and how much of the original building comes away with it, so a delicate touch is the order of the day. The last picture on the right is the top weathering stones in position on the buttress.



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



Garden notes

from Church Farm Growers

The Forest Garden

A forest garden is intended to mimic the structure of natural woodland, using 'layers' of plants of varying heights, all of which produce an edible harvest or other yield. The upper storey comprises full-size fruit and nut trees, with understoreys of shrubs, herbaceous plants and ground cover. The forest garden might also accommodate edible roots, and climbers such as vines or beans.

Forest gardens are an ecological and low maintenance method of producing high yields from small areas of land. In the modern era the technique was first adopted in the West by Robert Hart in the early 1960s, but it is probably the oldest form of land use, beginning with prehistoric communities adapting established forests to exploit their useful products. Much of the Amazon rainforest is not utterly wild but shaped partly by human design and management. It is a testament to the resilience of forest gardening that it is successfully practised all over the world today, mostly in the tropics, as in the 'family orchards' of Mexico and the 'home gardens' of Kerala in India. These examples of forest gardening or 'agroforestry' inspired Hart to adapt the concept for temperate climes. He was particularly impressed with the Keralan home gardens, as he writes in his book, *Forest Gardening*:

"[T]he Indian state of Kerala ... boasts no fewer than three and a half million forest gardens. As an example of the extraordinary productivity of some forest gardens, one plot of 0.12 hectares (0.3 acres) was found ... to have twenty-three young coconut palms, twelve cloves, fifty-six bananas, and forty-nine pineapples, with thirty pepper vines trained up its trees. In addition, the small-holder grew fodder for his house-cow."

The Seven-layer System

Robert Hart's pioneering system was derived from his observation that natural woodland can be divided into distinct levels. He used intercropping to develop a small orchard of apples and pears into an edible polyculture landscape consisting of the following layers:

1. 'Canopy layer' consisting of the original mature fruit trees.
2. 'Low-tree layer' of smaller nut and fruit trees on dwarfing root stocks.
3. 'Shrub layer' of fruit bushes such as currants and berries.
4. 'Herbaceous layer' of perennial vegetables and herbs.
5. 'Ground-cover layer' of edible plants that spread horizontally.
6. 'Rhizosphere' or 'underground' dimension of plants grown for their roots and tubers.
7. 'Vertical layer' of vines and climbers.

An important, perhaps revolutionary, feature of the seven-layer system was the plants Hart chose. Most traditional vegetable crops, such as carrots, are sun-loving and not well suited to the more shady forest system. So instead he elected shade-tolerant perennial vegetables, such as comfrey and beets, with strawberries among the ground cover.

The Church Farm Forest Garden is in an area between our Kitchen Garden and the main Beard's Oak vegetable field. It is still young and developing, but in years to come it will be an abundant source of food and a beautiful place for visitors to enjoy. Please do come down to the farm to take a look and see how productive a small space can be. You may be inspired for your garden. Visit www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk for more information.

EAST HERTS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Manor House, Buntingford

Drop-in:

Monday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Telephone:

08444 111 444

Monday – Friday

10:00am – 4:00pm



Employment and Support Allowance

I have been too ill to work for some time and have been living on a sickness benefit called Employment and Support Allowance, but I have heard this has been stopped. It's already a real struggle to get by and I'm in no state to go back to work. What can I do?

If you have been getting contributory Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) – the form of ESA you should be getting if you paid the right amount of National Insurance contributions before you were ill – you may be affected by recent changes.

From 1st May this year, anyone in what is known as the Work-related Activity Group can only get contributory ESA for a maximum period of one year. Time spent in the Work-related Activity Group before 1st May counts towards the year, so if you've already been getting it for a year and are in this Group, your contributory ESA will stop. Anyone in what is known as the Support Group, which is made up of people not expected to be able to work again at any time, is not affected by this change.

If you have a condition which is getting worse, you may be able to go into the Support Group instead of being in the Work-related Activity Group. You should get in touch with Jobcentre Plus and give them evidence of your condition. Also, if you are terminally ill or are undergoing, recovering from, or likely to undergo certain kinds of cancer treatment, you will be in the Support Group. If you're in the Support Group, your contributory ESA is not time-limited.

If your contributory ESA stops, you may be able to get income-based ESA instead. This will depend on your income and savings, and any income and savings of your partner, if you have one. If you were receiving both contributory ESA and income-based ESA, you will get more income-based ESA to replace the contributory part.

The Jobcentre will write to you before your benefit stops, telling you what's happening and asking if you want to be considered for income-based ESA. You will have to provide details of your and your partner's income and savings promptly, so that the Jobcentre can transfer you to income-based ESA straightaway, if you can get it. You won't have to make a new claim for ESA or have more medical assessments because of this change.

If your money goes down because of these changes, you might be able to get more from other benefits, such as Housing or Council Tax Benefit, Pension Credit or tax credits.

For more information about the ESA changes, go to the Directgov website at: **www.direct.gov.uk** Or get more detailed personal advice from CAB.

'Copyright Citizens Advice'. For the most up-to-date version of this article, please visit the Adviceguide website at **www.adviceguide.org.uk**



LAYSTON C OF E FIRST SCHOOL

As we draw towards the end of another very successful year at Layston School, we can look back at all the fun we have had this term in spite of the weather! It is a summer of celebrations with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the up-coming Olympics. We decided to combine both on one special day. We all dressed up in red, white and blue for the Jubilee and spent a happy morning making flags to wave, biscuits to eat and crowns to wear for our picnic lunch.

After lunch, Key Stage 1 children organised a Mini-Olympic competition for the whole school. They worked very hard beforehand – planning the events, sorting out all the different jobs that they would need to do, gathering equipment and making the medals. They divided the children into teams representing different countries complete with their national flag. Everyone had a great afternoon and enjoyed receiving their medals at the end. We were particularly impressed that they had included opening and closing ceremonies, with torches, music and dancing.

We have been lucky to have enjoyed a variety of sports this term. Our older children have been working on their cricket skills with the 'Chance to Shine' project, as well as having tennis lessons and taking part in a local inter-school competition. Our four most promising players reached the semi-finals in Royston. Well done to Noah, Hannah, Aaron and Elouise!



Above and below: Images from Layston's combined Jubilee and Olympic celebration



We are all looking forward to events coming up later in the term, including our Barbeque and Fun Night on 6th July from 6–8pm. Everyone is welcome. Our Year 4s are very excited about their residential trip to Hudnall Park and are busy making preparations for their special Leavers' Assembly in St Peter's Church. We will be very sorry to see them go and wish them all the very best in their new schools.

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

www.layston.herts.sch.uk

Or phone 01763 271235 to arrange a visit.

Gill Langley, Headteacher



Layston's budding tennis stars



Cambridge Airport – A Civilised Way to Fly



Blue Island's maiden flight from Jersey receives a traditional welcome at Cambridge Airport

Having Stansted so close to Buntingford is fabulous and highly practical for jetting off on a short break, but did you know that we have another airport on our doorstep?

Cambridge Airport, just three miles from Cambridge city centre, is owned and operated by the Marshall Group of Companies and is one of the UK's best-

equipped regional airports. Fed up with 3-hour check-ins, long queues and expensive car parking miles from the terminal? Then why not try another way to fly. Arrive one hour before departure, park outside the terminal, check-in and within 10 minutes you're at the gate and on your way with a full service airline. I was particularly impressed by the personal service that travellers receive at the airport, and all just a 30-minute drive from Buntingford. It's almost like having your own personal terminal.

This year, travellers can **fly direct from Cambridge to Jersey, Italy and France**. So, with three exciting destinations on your doorstep, why not fly in style from your regional airport? Contact me on **01763 273344** or visit **www.globaltravelbuntingford.com** for further information and to book your break from Cambridge Airport.

Jeff Jones, Global Travels, Buntingford



The BUNTYLYMPICS 2012

Eleven teams took part in the first ever Buntylympics at the Seth Ward Recreation Field. The event was opened by MP Oliver Heald, accompanied by his wife Christine and Deputy Mayor Jonathan Ling (right).

The teams, carrying their team flags, then paraded into the competition area led by four Youth Councillors carrying the Bunty Flag made by Jenifer Hornby. Christine & Oliver Heald judged the Team Flag competition, selecting Church Street Chariots as winners, with Saint Everage second and Monks and Vicars third.

With the emphasis firmly on family fun the three arenas were soon busy with the egg



and spoon race, throwing the javelin, throwing the wellie (lovely little pink ones – well done the boys for taking part!), running backwards, the boules challenge, the plate discus, hoola hoop challenge and stone, paper, scissors. During the lunch break, 11 ladies and 3 gentlemen of Buntingford U3A fitness group, led by Jacqui Smith, entertained

us with a Hoola Hoop demonstration. Then in the afternoon we had three-legged races – the photos show a children's race about to start (above) and an adults' race in full flight (right) – paper bag races, the tag relay and golf challenge.



Each race or event was sponsored by a local person or club, who presented the bronze, silver and gold competitors with their medals on the Buntlympics podium (right).

The closing ceremony saw all the teams parade once more, then each competitor received a commemorative medal. The Fair Play Cups were presented to: 1st Wallace's Wanderers; 2nd Bullocks; 3rd Saint Evenage. In the final Medals Table the winning team was Monks & Vicars (seen below celebrating their victory), followed by the Church Street Chariots, with Three Birch and a Maple in third place. Deputy Mayor Jonathan Ling brought the games to a close.

We would like to thank everyone who took part, all the sponsors, the ladies of the WI,



Jenifer Hornby, the stall holders, all the helpers both on the day and before. Above all, thanks go to Eddie Plume who was the driving force behind the project. Well done to him and his team (bottom left)!

Oh yes – and an extra special thank you to the Weather Man for giving us such good weather on the day! We hope you can see from the photographs what a good time was had by all.

Dave Austin, Caroll Bennett, Graham Bonner, Jean Cook, Jill Jones (and Eddie!)





Millfield First and Nursery School



Last half term was again a very busy time at Millfield. On Friday 25th May the PTA held a Games Evening for the children. They all had a great time playing a range of games on the school field and enjoyed a delicious meal of pizza and chips.

On Thursday 31st May we held our Jubilee Celebration on the school field. The children wore red, white and blue to school and made Jubilee hats. The weather was kind to us and the children all enjoyed their picnic lunch on the field.

Our Key Stage 2 pupils enjoyed a visit to Freman College to see their annual Art Exhibition. They came back very impressed with the quality of the work they saw.

All our Key Stage 1 and Reception pupils have enjoyed having training on safe use of their scooters from Mr Hall, our caretaker, who is also a qualified cycling instructor. Scooter use is very popular at our school so it is good to teach the children how to use them carefully. Later this term he will be leading cycle training for our Year 4 pupils.

On Thursday 14th June our Key Stage 1 pupils all went to Walton-on-the-Naze for the day. They had a wonderful time exploring the beach and for once the sun actually shone!

The school will be taking part in the Buntingford Carnival when our theme will be Sporting Britain. Our country dancers will also be dancing from 10:30am along with pupils from Layston School. The PTA are now busy planning for the Summer Fair on Friday 6th July, 5:00-7:30pm. Please keep an eye on the website about this important event. Everyone is welcome to come along; there will be a wide range of stalls, barbecue, drinks stall, raffle and a live band.



Millfield pupils enjoying their Jubilee picnic and wearing their Jubilee hats

As we move towards the end of term our Year 4 pupils are preparing for their residential visit to Cuffley Camp and will be visiting their new middle school.

If you would like to know more about our school please visit our website:

www.millfield.herts.sch.uk

Or contact us by telephone on 01763 271717.

Kathy Willett
Head Teacher



Key Stage 1 children on their day at the seaside

Buntingford Dancing School

In May we received our Tap results which were outstanding. Well done to all 89 children who took their Tap Grades; onwards and upwards to the next Grades now! It's been a very busy first half term and our new starters have settled in well. This second half term will also see some little ones joining the classes in Ballet and Jazz.

Moving on to September, we are very excited to announce that Buntingford Dancing School will have a new home. The classes currently held at Layston School will move to Freman College. Layston has been our home for many years and we will be very sad to leave, but our relationship has not ended completely as we hope to be able to use the school for smaller group classes/workshops from time to time. The classes currently held at the United Reformed Church will continue there.

PUPIL NEWS: *The Sound of Music* production at Gordon Craig Theatre this summer have cast **Henry Eaglesfield** to play Friedrich and **Kelsey Mitchell** to play Marta, two of the Von Trapp Family children. This will be Henry and Kelsey's first experience of main character roles and we are very proud of their achievement.

Over the last few weeks a number of our Ballet students have been auditioning for various ballet companies for Associate and Scholarship places. We wish them luck as they eagerly await the reply letters.

SUMMER HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS: These are open to **ALL** children aged 6-13 in Buntingford and villages, not just the Dancing School students. The workshops will be at Millfield School, Monks Walk, 10am-4pm. Dates are: **27th July** – Performing with Props; **2nd August** – A Walk in the West End; **30th August** – Dance Around the World. Further information can be requested from buntingforddance@btinternet.com. For non-BDS pupils a 10% discount is offered when mentioning this news article.

I look forward to updating you on our re-location in September and hope to report that all has gone smoothly – fingers crossed! I wish you an enjoyable Summer Holiday.

Julie McPartland, Vice-Principal, Buntingford Dancing School



Our next speaker is Robert Lowe, whose talk is titled 'Gilbert & Sullivan – A Hundred Years On'. Doors open at 2pm, on Monday 9th July, at the Seth Ward Community Centre Buntingford.

Guests are very welcome, £2 including refreshments. There won't be a meeting in August. Some of our groups will be meeting all summer, while others will close for August, so if you are new to a group please phone to confirm first. Membership is open to anyone over 50 not in full-time employment, and from 1st July fees will be £8 for the rest of this year. If you would like more details, please phone:

Christine Jeffries 01763 273466 or Jean Devenish 01763 271783

First Monday, 2 July, 6 Aug Contact Hilary Curtis	Knit & Crochet 01763 272323	2:00–4:00pm
3 rd Tuesday 17 July, 21 Aug Contact Carol McKimmie	Walking Group (2 hours plus) 01763 271054	9:50am –12:00noon TBA
Last Thursday 28 th June Contact Dave Austin	Wine Appreciation 01763 272066	26 July BBQ 30 Aug Seth Ward 8pm £5
4 th Wednesday 25 July, 22 Aug Contact Hilary Curtis	Shorter walks (1 hour plus) 01763 272323	10:30am TBA
Individual sessions Wednesdays Contact Colin Gibbons	Family History 01763 271398	In Buntingford
3 rd Thursday 19 July Contact Alan Rumble	Computers (all levels) £3 01920 823608	2:00–4:00pm Seth Ward Community Centre
2 nd Friday Contact Jeremy Burr	Digital photography £2 01920 823209	13 July Gibberd Gardens August holidays
2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays, 17 & Contact Christine Jeffries	Singing for Pleasure 01763 273466	2:00–4:00pm Wyddial August holidays
Every Tuesday Contact Alan Smith	Bridge 01763 287657	10.00am–12.00noon Homes
Contact Val Lohead	Out to Lunch 01279 658069	Various
8 July Anstey Fair Contact Evelyn Smith	Social Outings 01763 272241	Local theatres, meals out, quiz nights, outings etc
Mondays Contact Dave Austin	Keep Fit £2 01763 272066	10:00–11:30am Seth Ward Community Centre
Last Wednesday 25 July Contact Anne Austin	Book Club 01763 272066	2:30pm Fairfield
Every Friday (not August) Contact Rosemary Poulton	Pilates: £20 for 6 sessions or £5 per session 01763 271598	1:30–2:45pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every Wednesday Contact Dave Austin	Table Tennis £2 01763 272066	2:00–3:00pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every Wednesday Contact Roy Ellard	Badminton £2 (list) 01763 271578	3:15–4:15pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every Monday Contact Vidyut Sharma	Yogic breathing £5 01763 271779	10:00–11:30am Monks Walk
Last Tuesday Contact Mick Westwood	Strollers 01763 272594	None July 28 August Roydon 2:30pm
7 July Bassingbourn Contact Ron Brighton	Quizzes 01763 273175	Making up a team for local quizzes
Various Jean Devenish	Garden Visits 01763 271783	Dassels Bury 15 July 1:30-5pm £4. 20 acres of garden/meadow
18 July Contact Anne Smith	Wednesday lunches 01763 271565	<i>New group</i>

Care 4 a Cuppa – Individuals or groups are invited to hold tea parties throughout the summer, from June to September, in aid of Isabel Hospice. For details contact Maria Alexander on 01707 382500

JULY & AUGUST

Thur 5th July & Thur 2nd Aug – NETWORKING LUNCH 12:30–14:00

At LUSSMANN'S, 42 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1BY. For details contact Julie North 01707 382547.

Tues 10th July & Tues 14th August – COFFEE MORNING 10:30–12:00

Held on the second Tuesday of the month at Markwell Pavilion, Bishop's Stortford. All welcome. Enquiries 01279 755320

Wed 11th July – TALK ON OLYMPIC GAMES by Stuart Storey 20:00–22:00

Stuart will be talking about **London 2012** and his 10th Olympic Games at The Roebuck Hotel, Baldock Street, Ware. Tickets £5. Contact Shirley or Stuart 01920 467194

Sun 15th July – TEAS IN GARDENS 14:00–17:30

Thank you to Kate Slack of Dassels Bury, Dassels, Nr Braughing, Herts SG11 2RW, for opening her traditional country house garden as part of the National Gardens Scheme, with proceeds going to Isabel Hospice. For details contact Renee Friend 01279 755320.

Thur 19th July & Thur 16th August – NETWORKING LUNCH 12:30–14:00

At Grill 55, 55 South Street, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3AL. For details contact Julie North 01707 382547

Sat 21st July – JUMBLE SALE 14:30–16:30

Thundridge Village Hall. Entry 20p. Contact 01920 462992

Sat 21st July – A SUMMER SUPPER DANCE WITH OPUS ONE 19:30–23:00

At Wodson Park, Ware SG12 0UQ, in aid of Isabel Hospice and Help the Heroes. Tickets £25. Contact Shirley Storey on 01920 467194

Sat 18th August – COOPERS COUNTRY SHOW 12:00–16:00

Coopers of Stortford are once again supporting Isabel Hospice with this great day. More details to follow. Keep an eye on our website: www.isabelhospice.org.uk

LUNCH IN THE GARDEN

QUEENBURY, CHURCH LANE REED

Sunday 8th July, 12.30– 3.30pm

2 course lunch and bar £10.00

To reserve your lunch please ring Lucinda 01763 848 353



Buntingford Social Club

C I U affiliated

6 Church Street, Buntingford, Herts. SG9 9AS

Telephone 01763 271889

www.thebuntingfordsocialclub.co.uk



MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY £12.00 PER ANNUM

Come in for a visit and let us show you what we have to offer, including the cheapest pint in town!!!

*** EVERY MONDAY BIG CASH BINGO ***

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

ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS SHOWN (times permitting)

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

HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY FROM 5:30PM TO 6:30PM

Every SUNDAY is FUNDAY - pool, snooker & wii are FREE

GOLF DAYS: Breakfast at 9.00, tee-off at 10.00, 18 holes then presentation at club (all enquiries to club Chairman)

Fri 3rd Aug - Abbotsley

Fri 14th Sept - Cambridge Meridian

Fri 5th Oct - East Herts

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 13th July - Dog Racing on the big screen - place your bets!

Sun 12th Aug - Mini darts competition

Sun 14th Oct - DARTS OPEN with Cash Prizes

ENTERTAINMENT FOR JULY & AUGUST

7th July - 2FBs - New to club and lots of fun!!!

14th July - NO ENTERTAINMENT (free Juke Box, Pool, Snooker)

21st July - PHASE - from Country to Rock

28th July - KARAOKE DISCO - Your turn to entertain us

4th Aug - BAZOOKA JOE - Five-piece rock covers band, from Foo's to Coldplay

11th Aug - NO ENTERTAINMENT (free Juke Box, Pool, Snooker)

18th Aug - ROCKOLA - a bit of rock and roll and more

25th Aug - PREMONITION DUO - Local due with fantastic vocals

MEMBERS FREE / GUESTS £1

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

**Get more out of walking with the Ramblers
Royston and District Group
Walks for July & August 2012**

JULY

- Sun 1st** Debden, 11 miles. Leader Mick Lee 01763 247579
- Thur 5th** Morning walk, Walkern, 5½ miles. Leader Michele 01462 637874
- Fri 6th** Buckland, Chipping, 3 miles. Leader Eric 01763 848576
- Sun 8th** Manuden, 11 miles. Leader George 01763 242281
- Mon 9th** Buntingford, 3 miles. Leader Bob 01763 271170
- Tues 10th** Morning walk, Hemingford Abbots, 6 miles. Leader Lesley 01763 241525
- Sun 15th** Church End, Tempsford-Great Barford-Roxton, 10 miles. Leaders Roger & Lin 01763 261405
- Tues 17th** Sutton, Potton, 5 miles. Leaders Roger & Lin 01763 261405
- Thur 19th** Morning walk, Barkway, 6 miles. Leader Jenny 01763 245969
- Sun 22nd** Bassingbourn, Steeple Morden, 11 miles. Leader Vince 01763 241092
- Tues 24th** Morning walk, Brent Pelham, 5 miles. Leader Eric 01763 848576
- Wed 25th** Brent Pelham, 3 miles. Leader David 01763 242677
- Sun 29th** Offley, 11 miles. Leader Paul 01763 244038
- Tues 31st** Morning walk, Standon, 6 miles. Leader John 01763 241525

AUGUST

- Thur 2nd** Royston, 3 miles. Leader Anne 01763 244138
- Sun 5th** Bassingbourn, Croydon, 14½ miles. Leaders Linda & Roger 01462 453752
- Thur 9th** Morning walk, Preston, 5½ miles. Leader David 01462 679047
- Fri 10th** Nuthampstead, 3 miles. Leader David 01763 242677
- Sun 12th** Royston, Therfield, Buckland, Barkway, Royston, 13 miles. Leader David 01763 242677
- Mon 13th** Therfield Heath, 3 miles. Leader Christine 01462 734298
- Tues 14th** Morning walk, Saffron Walden, 6 miles. Leader Margaret 01763 848576
- Sun 19th** Arkesden, figure-of-eight: morning 6 miles, afternoon 5 miles. Leader David 01763 247572
- Tues 21st** Elmdon, 3½ miles. Leader Mick 01763 247579
- Thur 23rd** Morning walk, Bartlow, Ashdon, 6 miles. Leaders John & Hilary 01223 871244
- Sun 26th** Little Hadham, Patmore Heath, 12 miles. Leader Paul 01763 244038
- Tues 28th** Morning walk, Arrington, 6 miles. Leader Gerry 01223 870403
- Wed 29th** Shepreth, 3 miles + optional supper £6 if pre-booked. Leader Rama 01763 260565

For information on meeting points and starting times of walks, contact the walk leader or visit the Ramblers website at:

www.ramblers-herts-northmiddlesex.org.uk

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



Tattoo YOU

Stop the world! I think I want to get off. I have been accused of many things in my life but I have always applauded individuality in its many forms. In fact some might say I've made a career out of being outside the herd, which can be fraught with hazards at times, so where have all the eccentrics and characters gone?

I suppose with all the instant communications at our fingertips today one shouldn't be surprised that we are becoming one humongous great lump of humanity where individuality has disappeared and any attempt to plough a lone furrow is soon overtaken by the need to be the same as all the others.

This came home to me today whilst taking advantage of a ten pound discount voucher at one of Tessa Cohen's corner shops. (Well, it would have been churlish to refuse). I was waiting for my purchases to be scanned by a human being (I avoid self-scanning be it in a super market, at the doctors, airport check-in or restaurant, after all why pay for a dog and bark your self?).

In front of me was this young man with an educated voice collecting up his Jaffa cakes and own-brand rice crispies and my eye was drawn towards his ears. At first I thought he was sporting a set of those head phones that people wear these days whilst going about their various and varied activities. But no, somehow he had lodged what appeared to be a tin lid in his ear lobe which caused it to sag like some great dewlap. Moreover his arms and neck were covered with tattoos of every hue and to top it off he had a comprehensive assortment of nails, bolts and what appeared to be stuff from my odds and sods box in the garage driven through various parts of his face.

It caused me to reflect on the slide shows we sat through in school geography lessons way back when and the fascinating adornments displayed by African lovelies. Once we had got past the sniggers at bare-chested damsels, the plates, brass rings and other pieces of ironmongery about their person intrigued and gave them that special piece of individuality. Not to mention the effect it all had on teenage hormones.

But it doesn't stop there does it? I once was fascinated by the painted men of the sea, Queequeg of Moby Dick fame and Long John Silver, sporting tattoos that were most attractive on a thrusting corsair about the Spanish Maine. Early would-be Hells Angels made tattooing de rigueur and the odd so-called primitives sported it when about their business in far-flung climes. But not in Tesco's on a Tuesday!

I feel sure that this habit of sticking needles and other bits of detritus into one's person and painting every part of your skin is not very British is it? It is bad enough when a drunken young herbert out on the town of a Friday gets the legend 'Big Elsie is mine Forever!' pricked onto his chest to his lasting regret. But in my view I have yet to see even the plainest of sisters benefit from one of these Technicolor motifs, and looking around these days those who do partake in this sort of decoration seem as often as not to be regulars at WeightWatchers and therefore are more likely to add 3D and Cinemascope to the effect.

Indeed it reminds me of that now 'non-PC' exponent of mirth, the late Benny Hill when he sung of a girl who along with being curvaceous and a trifle overweight had a splendid display of the tattooist's art. He boasted that he had 'warmth in the winter, shade in the summer and moving pictures all year round'.

So why do people feel the need to pay what I understand to be a king's ransom for somebody to stick nails in them? Do they do it out of some need to conform to the herd? Or some expression of self-worth? I must admit the designs are very well executed and it is an art that has its origins in history, but is this where we are in the ascent of man?

There seems to be an increase in this type of adornment and no doubt it is encouraged by the endorsement of so-called celebrities who by definition are outside the herd and presumably move in circles that accept the odd, strange and unique. I have also noticed that since those crazy days that we called the 'sixties', each successive decade has seen an erosion of the British personality, with the young (and now a lot of older people who should know better), impressionable and plain stupid adopting affectations from other cultures all egged on by a manipulating media, cynical big business and disillusioned politicians hell bent on what they call multiculturalism.

But wait! Perhaps I have it wrong (not unusual according to senior management, who has the unenviable task of keeping me on the straight and narrow). Is it that we have been on a long journey and are now reverting to type?

If one considers the difficult and tempestuous history of this land, our forefathers and mothers did once themselves decorate their bodies and it was only the intervention of the Roman invasion with their penchant for baths, central heating, shaving and straight roads that led us down the cul de sac of civilised behaviour. It probably explains why there is some inbuilt desire for certain parts of the population to don strange garb and paint themselves and dye their hair, then go on a drunken rampage every weekend and two weeks in the summer when they feel the need to bring the Briton's culture to other parts of the globe. Johnny foreigner should thank themselves lucky we are exporting the Briton's way of life when we pillage away along the Costas!

So it's not hooliganism after all! We have been getting these folk wrong; they are 'expressing' their ethnic diversity, with shades of Boadicea. (They may even get a grant from EHC or the lottery fund, or a reality TV programme – 'Big Fat Beowulf' perhaps?). And as these hordes lay waste to town centres across the land, our boys in blue ('evening all') could keep the ordinary folk like myself off the streets, explaining that the young lady throwing up in the gutter and the knife-wielding thug (sorry, ethnic flag bearer, red cross of course) are exercising their historic rights to self-expression and we should feel very lucky that we pay rates to support such patriotic pride.



So that's where the lost Iceni tribe went! Mind you, if 'call me Dave' finds out, he could levy another charge, a tax – Woad Tax perhaps? Makes you feel proud to be British don't it? Holding back a tear, trembling bottom lip, cue 'Land of Hope and Glory'!

Vyse

B A L A

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus trips June 2012

			Cost
JULY			
Thurs 5 th	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£4
Fri 6 th	10:30am – 2:30pm	Van Hage Garden Centre	£5
Tues 10 th	10:30am – 3:00pm	Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge – highlights include tomb treasures from Han Dynasties, Print Collection, George Shaw & Michael Landy Sculpture Promenade outside	£7
Thurs 12 th	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Tues 17 th	10:30am – 3:00pm	Welwyn Garden City – John Lewis, M&S, Debenhams, WHSmith, Boots etc.	£6
Thurs 19 th	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£4
Mon 23 rd	10:30pm – 2:30pm	Letchworth – drop off at Morrisons	£5
Thurs 26 th	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Fri 27 th	2:30pm – 4:30pm	Pearce's Farm Shop & Café – and strawberries	£3
Mon 30 th	10:00am – 3:00pm	Scotsdales Garden Centre & more	£7
AUGUST			
Thurs 2 nd	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£4
Tues 14 th	9:30am – 4:00pm	Woburn Safari Park – Adult £19.99, OAP £17.99, plus Bus £10	See left
Sat 18 th	2:30pm	'The Sound of Music' at Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage	£17 + Bus £4

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

B.A.L.A. Coffee Morning

at Benson Hall, Buntingford

Wednesday 18th July – 10:30 to 12:00noon

Cakes / New Stall / Bric-a-Brac / Raffle / Marmalade

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

From our regular poet, some words inspired by Jubilee Day and images of the Queen standing alone in the Diamond Jubilee Pageant.

The Lonely Climb (the Queen Alone)

Stepping out of the car St. Pauls doth beckon, to be here alone I did not reckon.
The steps in front of me look so steep ... the feelings I have to myself I keep.
This special day, here to rejoice, suddenly alone ... an absence of voice.
You should be by my side this day, but how quickly ill-health can come to stay.
My dear, I hope you soon feel better... not much time to call or write a letter.
Sixty five years of being together, to sharing that barge in such foul weather!
And you, my rock, are not here with me ... I'm a little girl lost... I don't want to be.
I must be strong, as one is expected, till you are here ... once again protected.

Teresa Bonner



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

Meet your local PCSOs

**Buntingford – Charlotte Creedon
and Adam Frame
Villages – Amanda Higham**

Charlotte or Adam will be available in Buntingford on:

2nd July, 23rd July & 6th Aug, 10:30–11:30, at St Peter's Church

19th July, 26th July, 23rd Aug & 30th Aug, 10:30–11:30, at the United Reformed Church

Amanda will be available in the following villages on:

30th June, 13:00–17:00pm – Braughing, at the Family Fair

4th July, 10:30–10:30am – Furneux Pelham; 10:35–11:00am – Brent Pelham

25th July, 17:30–18:00pm – Great Horstead

(Times are subject to change at short notice)

As Euro 2012 has now kicked off can I take this opportunity to remind all supporters to be mindful of residents when supporting a team at this or other sporting events televised in local pubs. Everyone appreciates that loudly cheering when your team scores – or disappointed groans when the ball goes in the wrong net – is to be expected, but taking this behaviour down residential roads late at night after a match is not acceptable. Buntingford has a lot of young families and retired people who like a quiet life so can everyone be mindful how we behave in public. And please drink responsibly.

Adam Frame, PCSO

Visit the website **www.herts.police.uk** for more information

Telephone 101 for non-emergencies



BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

www.buntingfordtownfc.com



On 13th June I attended the Herts Senior County League's AGM, where it was confirmed that for the 2012/13 season our First Team will be playing in Senior Section Division One and our second in Reserve Section Division Two. As usual, some clubs have left and others joined, resulting in 16 teams in Senior Section Premier Division, 17 in Senior Section Division One, 12 in Reserve Section Division One and 10 in Reserve Section Division Two. The Chairman of the HSCL, Brian Smith, has stepped down and will be replaced by Ted Collie; the League's Secretary Bob Brown has accepted a position at the Herts FA and will be replaced by Scott White. I would like to thank both Brian and Bob for their help over the years and wish Ted and Scott the best of luck in their new roles.

Next season our First Team will be playing in the Aubrey Cup and Herts FA Intermediate Cup, and the Reserves in the Reserve Cup and Herts FA Junior Cup. One interesting rule change is that for both the Intermediate and Junior cups Herts FA are introducing a roll-on, roll-off substitute rule, whereby (I believe) up to 5 substitutes may be used in a game and anyone substituted may re-enter the pitch later in the match. Interesting times!

Also at the HSCL AGM the club received a nice surprise, being awarded the County League's sportsmanship trophy. At the end of every season all the clubs in the League vote for the club which '*in the opinion of the member clubs has the best conduct record in league matches*'. It is an award we have won just once before, for the 2005/06 season. I am not totally convinced that we met the criteria, but we should all be proud that we have a good reputation amongst our peers. The accompanying cheque will come in handy too!

After much soul-searching First Team Manager Barry Tokely has stepped down, which was not a surprising decision considering the difficulties in putting out a consistent side last season. Barry is to be commended for his tenacity during a tough time, and I would like to thank him for his commitment to the club, not only for last season but for the full 3 years he has been in charge. I will be sorry to see him go. The post was subsequently advertised on our website and Laurence Salmon emerged as the best candidate. Having been Reserve Team Manager for 4 seasons he has a good knowledge of what being a club official in the County League involves and I have no doubt that he relishes the challenge. Laurence has the backing of the whole committee and we wish him well in his new role. Of course, this means that we need a new Reserve Team Manager, so if you think you have the qualities to manage a side in the County League please get in touch.

On 18th June we had our own AGM and I would like to welcome 2 new members to our committee, Steve Hutchings and Phil West. Steve played for the club in the days when even I used to turn out on a Saturday and he has been a supporter in recent years, as has Phil. The committee now comprises: Chris Thurgill (Chairman, Secretary), Steve Hume (Treasurer, Vice-Chairman), Dean Howard (Fixture Secretary), Graham Bonner (Commercial Manager), Steve Blackaby (Club Chaplain), with Richard Morris, Laurence Salmon, Phil West and Steve Hutchings as Committee Members.

If you would like to join us, either as a player or committee member, please do get in touch. Similarly if you would like to sponsor a team or advertise on our website we would be pleased to hear from you! Finally, a couple of dates to remember: pre-season training commences on 3rd July, and the season kicks off on 18th August. Come on Town!

Chris Thurgill, Chairman, Buntingford Town FC

BUNTINGFORD W.I.

Tim Turner of Sworders Auctioneers came along to our June meeting and spoke on the subject of 'Fakes and Forgeries'. He began by telling us that Sworders have been operating since 1782, one of the oldest auctioneer houses in Hertfordshire, then went on to say that people have been making fakes and forgeries for 2000 years.

Rembrandt was always a favourite to imitate and the Rembrandt Research Project was formed to authenticate his paintings. The problem is that Rembrandt had so many commissions he could not fulfil them all personally, so he would supervise some pictures while the donkey work was done by his pupils and assistants. Some modern artists resented the fact that works by the likes of Rembrandt, Constable or Turner could command thousands, even millions, of pounds. One such artist was Tom Keating, who decided to show the art establishment that he could paint just as well. He produced many fakes, set them in old frames and fooled people for years. Now, Tom Keating has become collectable in his own right and people are faking his paintings. Tim also told us of some elaborate fakes in the last 10 years. One family fooled experts with a rare Egyptian sculpture and also a terracotta statue of a fawn which they passed off as a Gauguin – it sold to an art institute in Chicago for £100,000.

Forgeries are still being produced, some of it with the help of modern technology – the colour photocopier has been an invaluable aid! Tim showed us a tapestry sampler which was displayed in a glass frame – we were just admiring the intricate stitching when he told us it was a colour photocopy of some wrapping paper!

Our next meeting is on **Thursday July 12th** at URC Hall at 7.45pm, when Mary Ellis will be talking about 'Sheets and Sausages'. The August meeting is on **Thursday 9th** – also 7.45pm – and Judy Howlett will be talking about the Air Ambulance. Visitors are very welcome. We also hope to see as many of you as possible at our **Coffee Morning on Friday 17th August** at the Community Garden, Baldock Road (in front of the Police Station) at 10.30am. Proceeds to Herts Air Ambulance.

Val Hume

Long-distance Bike Ride in Aid of the East Anglia Children's Hospice – EACH

In June Buntingford dad Jason Phypers, with Paula Reynolds, Phill Waite and Maurice Warner, set off to cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise money for the East Anglia Children's Hospice. Aiming to cover around 100 miles a day, the team were supported by Jason's father Ron, driving a vehicle donated for the trip by Kris Pringle of KAP Accountancy Services, Ware. The vehicle was maintained by Hare Street VW dealership M J Warner and the signage to publicise the event was donated by Roger Tongue of Urban Sign Solutions, Cambridge. If you would like to make a donation to Jason's sponsorship fund, visit his page on the 'Just Giving' website at: <https://www.justgiving.com/-JASONPHYPER>



To find out more about EACH, or to make a direct donation, visit: www.each.org.uk



*And finally ...
images of
Buntingford
Carnival 2012*

