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

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE (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@hertscc.gov.uk.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm Cougars Under 10s Stripes training at Norfolk Rd. Dave 07836 231915.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Cougars Under 12s Whites training at Norfolk Rd. Dave 07786 933963.

SATURDAYS

- 8:30am – 2:45pm Buntingford Dancing School – dance classes at Layston School and United Reformed Church Hall, Buntingford. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
- 9:15am – 2:00pm Musical Theatre School for 4–14 year olds at Seth Ward Community Centre. New students needed. Call Anna 07545 788433 or email stage-door@brilliantmusicaltheatre.co.uk.
- 10:00am – 11:30am 3rd Sat in the month, Dad's/Male Carers Group at 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 Sunday Tea at St Mary the Virgin Church, Braughing, 6th May to 14th Oct (not 3rd June) (see page XX)

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

JUNE 2012

- Fri 1st 3:30–4:30pm. Oliver Heald MP surgery at the Manor House.
- Mon 4th Diamond Jubilee Street Party in Buntingford High Street.
- Wed 6th 7:45pm. Buntingford Gardener's Club at URC Hall (see page 47).
- Thurs 7th Buntingford Gardener's Club trip to Beth Chatto's Garden.
- Sat 9th 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – Bingo at Benson Hall.
- Sun 10th 10:00–4:00pm. Buntylympics 2012 at Seth Ward Recreation Field (see page 31).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES (CONT.)

JUNE 2012 (CONT.)

- Sun 10th 1:00pm. Highfields Reunion, Hare Street village (see page 16).
- Thurs 14th 7:45pm. Buntingford W.I. at URC Hall (see page 47).
- Fri 15th 8:00pm. Buntingford Railway & Local History at the Crown PH.
Steve Darlow – ‘Bombers against the V1.
- Sat 16th 7:30 for 8:00pm. Edwina Hayes in concert at Cottered Village Hall,
in aid of St Clare Hospice (see page 16).
- Tues 19th 4:00pm. Official Opening of Hare Street Road Wildlife Area.
- Wed 20th 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard’s Church – Bingo at Benson Hall.
- Sat 23rd Buntingford Carnival (see page 37).
- Wed 27th 10:30am–12:00noon. BALA coffee morning at Benson Hall.
- Wed 27th 7:30pm. Buntingford & District Flower Club – Open Gardens,
members only. At Benson Hall; parking at rear of hall, entrance
through Rib Way. Doors open 7:00pm.
- Sun 24th 10:00am–5:00pm. Cottered Village Festival (see page 12).
- Fri 29th 7:30. Buntingford Dramatic Society presents ‘Trouble & Strife’.
& Sat 30th Tickets £12 from The Cellar (see page 48).
- Sat 30th 12:00–5:00pm. Braughing Fair & Wheelbarrow Race (see page 12)
- Sat 30th 4:00–6:00pm. Tea-time family concert with A10 Orchestra in St
Mary’s Church, Furneux Pelham (see page 17).

JULY 2012

- 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.
- Fri 6th 5:00–7:30pm. Millfield Summer Fair (see page 13).
- Fri 6th 7:30. Buntingford Dramatic Society presents ‘Trouble & Strife’.
& Sat 7th Tickets £12 from The Cellar (see page 48).
- 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 23).
- Sat 7th Open garden at the Pump House, Coles Park, Westmill (see page
& Sun 8th 29).
- Sun 8th 1:00–5:00pm. Anstey Fair at Anstey Bury (see page 13)
- Sun 22nd Aspenden Village Fete & Dog Show (see page 13)

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

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

The Civic Society AGM was very well attended this year, which is perhaps not surprising given the size and significance of the recent development proposals put forward for Buntingford. East Herts Councillor Mike Carver's presentation on how planning works today was most enlightening. The district council (East Herts) is now the supreme authority on what will get built and where, and it seems to me that all the old rules have been torn up. His main message was – if you want to be heard then get involved. And plenty of people are doing just that. As I write, a meeting of local residents is being planned to discuss action against the proposals for the fields north of Hare Street Road. There is also strong opposition building to the proposals put forward for the Sainsbury's site. Whatever happened to the idea for a mixed development of housing and an industrial estate there? And is there any mileage in the idea of a more high-tech development of a science or business park?

Meanwhile, Buntingford Town Council have made the draft Town Plan to 2031 available on line at: www.buntingfordtownplan.co.uk. They are also seeking quotes for printing and an abridged hard-copy version will shortly be delivered to every household in Buntingford. I would urge everyone interested in the shape of Buntingford to come to take a look at this and feed back comments and suggestions to the Town Council.

You may have heard in the news recently that several Air Ambulance services have been grounded due to faults in their helicopters. I am pleased to report that this does not affect our own service as the faults were solely with Eurocopter helicopters and the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance fly MD902 Explorers.

Finally, to end on a lighter note, it may not feel like summer yet but we are entering the summer fair and festival season. You will find lots of events advertised in the Journal this month. They are all raising money for good causes and offer an enjoyable day out. To kick off the month in style we have the Diamond Jubilee Street Party and Market on the 4th, quickly followed by the Buntlympics, then the Carnival towards the end of the month. I hope everyone is up for having fun!

Christine Noble

Many thanks to Debbie Lemay for proofreading

**Editorial copy deadline for the July/August 2012 Journal is
12.00 noon on Tuesday 19th June 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

Having been invited to a special concert by the Buntingford Community Choir at Freman College I would just like to say what an honour and what an excellent concert it was. With an audience of about 200 and a repertoire of 22 songs over 2 hours it was a superb feat. My congratulations go to the 42 singers in the choir, but special thanks must go to Mandy Wilson, with a little help from husband Gareth, who founded the choir just over a year ago and is its Musical Director.

If you were not lucky enough to be there in person fear not, they will be performing again at Buntingford Carnival on 23rd June. Once again thanks and well done to all.

Ashley Cantor
49 Fairfield, Buntingford

Dear Christine

I wanted to write this month and thank Buntingford Choir as I have just returned from their evening rehearsal where they have presented me with an amazing sum of money they raised at a recent performance evening for family and friends.

On Saturday 28th April 2012 the choir held a performance evening at Freman College where several members of the Scout Group showed people to their tables and went round at the interval and collected money in collection tins. The total raised was £285 and the Choir have kindly increased this to an amazing £300. With this amount we have been able to purchase some much needed equipment in the form of lightweight pop-up tents for the Group. We were faced with having to attend a camp last weekend with tents which would have led to the children potentially getting wet (the weather we are experiencing is not expected at this time of year!), but with the money donated we have purchased new tents for the benefit of the whole Group.

We thank every member of the choir for their decision to support our charity and our Scout Group and we wish the choir continued success together.

Yours in Scouting
Jo McNamara, Group Scout Leader
3 Monks Walk, Buntingford, SG9 9EE

Dear Editor

I try to do a bit of topiary and I have what I think is a recognisable dinosaur in my front drive, right on the edge of Hare Street Road. Now, nobody walks a dog up Hare Street Road without a lead. And yet some dog has shat on my dinosaur. The owner must have known. That is really disgusting. No wonder the Council is banging on about dog poos these days. You know who you are and I hope you are thoroughly ashamed of yourself.

John Makin
68 Hare Street Road, Buntingford

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

RE. RECENT DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR BUNTINGFORD

Dear Christine

Unsure if anyone has noticed, but the fields that back on to the houses along Archers and proposed for development have huge mounds of soils placed across the field. It is either soil delivered or digging commencing, but I thought I would alert people that movement other than farming has taken place. I am sure in the long run compromise would be better practice than confrontation, but I am unsure if whilst things are quiet other ideas are afoot? Perhaps someone is able to consult and find out from the local authorities what is happening? I would have thought that this is bullish in practice to proceed and destroy a field full of crops when the proposal has not yet been sanctioned.

I feel helpless in a lighthouse overlooking impending problems but without the ability to do anything. These fields back on to the house and they give me so much energy and relaxation when I look across them. The fact that it is arable ground, where I suspect farming has taken place for centuries with very rich soil providing healthy crops each year is the biggest shame. I am even more surprised that these fields are apparently not even marked as green belt. If this is the case what is green belt? I am sure there are many areas of brown belt land around that could be used. I have written to Oliver Heald and he has offered encouragement. However, he may have his hands tied behind his back if the present Government want to overturn legislation to build on such fields.

Regards
John Whitaker

Note from the editor: I have heard that the piles of earth are to do with archaeological exploration, which would seem to indicate an intention to carry on with the Hare Stree Road plans. Perhaps someone who knows could confirm or deny this? Curiously, the council van parked at the site was from Northamptonshire County Council, rather than Hertfordshire.

Dear Christine

The proposed developments at Hare Street Road and the Sainsbury's site are part of a general attack on Buntingford by developers. For those wishing to object to the proposals, it is not enough to say simply 'I don't like it'. The following points may help to inform the preparation of effective objections:

- follow the EHC website regarding the Local Plan and SLAA;
- ask Hertfordshire Highways to quantify the increase in traffic movements and car ownership, damage to road fabric, forecast accidents, noise levels and specific impact on residents;
- pursue other options, e.g. a business park/science park with higher grade jobs;
- what are the infrastructure consequences, e.g. for healthcare, education, public transport, policing, water supply and sewerage?
- what is the impact on the landscape of the town?
- respond to the Town Plan and seek a Neighbourhood Plan which could influence East Herts Council;
- keep Buntingford Council informed, but work with EHC where decisions are made;
- keep Oliver Heald MP informed.

Yours
Derek Cooper

ALMHOUSE VACANCY

The Trustees of the Bishop Seth Ward Almshouses have a vacancy in one of their Almshouses. Applicants should be over 60 and in good health and able to look after themselves. The property is unfurnished and has stairs to the upper floor. Preference will be given to those resident in Buntingford.

Please send for an application form to: Mr. Glyn Jones
Secretary, 1 Aspenden House, Aspenden, Herts. SG9 9PG

Dear Editor

The Medical Centre Car Park

We recently published a questionnaire which we sent to all the members of our patient participation group. It was also placed on our website. At present we are compiling the results and the one of the key issues raised appears to be ease of parking. We do have a reasonably large private car park at the rear of the surgery, but since the introduction of parking charges in the town centre car park it has become increasingly difficult for patients to find a space.

We do know that residents of nearby streets use the car park overnight and we are quite happy for them to do this but it is vital that the vehicles are moved before 8:30am. We would like to thank all the residents who respect this request. We would also like to make a plea for anyone who has been using spaces in the car park for anything other than to keep an appointment at the surgery, to please park elsewhere. It is difficult for elderly or infirm patients to walk very far and a space in the car park makes their life a little easier.

Dr D Black & Sally Taylor (practice manager)

Hi Christine,

May I through the Buntingford Journal send out a plea to the residents of Buntingford? The Journal has helped me before in a search for information on my grandfather Sidney Daniels who was, going by his obituary, a high profile member of the community during his few years in Buntingford from 1925. He died there in 1932. I never knew him.

I was able to obtain a copy of Mr Philip Plumb's book *Pocket Images of Buntingford* and in it are school class photos of my aunts Joan and Elsie Daniels. They are the only photos I have of them, as all our photos that we brought out from England in 1954 were destroyed by fire. I have searched through websites of many Buntingford institutions and came across early photos of schoolchildren from Layston School, of which I believe Mr E.E. Dennis was Headmaster at the time. Mr Dennis was my grandfather's friend, more than likely due to their interest in music. Through the Journal could I ask the residents of Buntingford if they have any old school photos from around 1925 to the 1930s? (I don't know how long my grandmother stayed in Buntingford after the death of my grandfather) and in particular those that may have the names of the children on them? The names I am looking for are Sydney Daniels (my father), Joan, Elsie & John Daniels (aunts & uncle). Thank you for your assistance.

Regards,

Keith Daniells, Australia

Email: beedan@ozemail.com.au

(Note: The spelling difference in my surname was due to a birth certificate error.)



Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)



Against the background of Buntingford Council's draft Town Plan being made generally available, it is considered appropriate and helpful in appraising that plan to reprint the BCS vision of how Buntingford will develop by 2031. The BCS vision statement built on one proposed by East Herts Council and was originally produced by the Civic Society Executive Committee in November 2010 as part of its response to East Herts Council's Consultation on its 'Core Strategy Issues and Options Document'. The results of that consultation should influence the emerging East Herts Plan for the district.

CIVIC SOCIETY VISION FOR BUNTINGFORD TO 2031

'Buntingford will function as a vibrant rural service centre and market town meeting the day-to-day needs of its residents and those living within the large rural hinterland of the northern part of East Herts. Accessibility to neighbouring towns and villages will have been improved.

The town centre will have been protected and enhanced, especially its range of small shops and the amount of open space increased. The former Sainsbury's Depot will have been redeveloped providing a mix of housing, employment and community uses.

Additional housing will be well connected to the town and encourage walking and cycling and have been provided to help meet the needs of local people and families wishing to move to the town. Growth will have been accommodated without compromising the setting of the town within the wider landscape.

New housing development will have been achieved that provides a mix of housing densities suiting the aspirations of a broad socio-economic group of people who will also be actively involved in determining the town's future development. Sufficient environmentally enhancing green space will have been allowed between new and established housing to avoid overcrowding and to help with the integration of new arrivals

In line with the above, a sports facility serving all ages within the town and the northern part of East Herts will have been developed on the Sainsbury site. Sufficient green space for allotments and burial ground will have been retained.

Planning for the area will be the responsibility of a district council that, on the basis of an agreed and approved local planning framework, upholds the vision against the pressure of developers.'

Derek K Cooper, Chairman

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

Summer Festivals, Fairs and Fetes

COTTERED VILLAGE FESTIVAL

Sunday 24th June 2012 – 10:00am to 5:00pm

There are some vacant £15 plots for stalls, games and displays. If you are interested in a plot or would like further details, please ring **Roger Hayes** on **01763 281 484**

Friends of Cottered Church will be running several stalls at the Village festival including Tombola, Greeting Cards, Bric-a-Brac, Books, Produce, 'Spat the Rat' and will also be providing teas in the Village Hall.



BRAUGHING FAIR & WHEELBARROW RACE

@ BRAUGHING FORD

SAT 30TH JUNE, 12:00 to 5:00pm



Plans for this year's Fair and Wheelbarrow Race are really gathering pace. We have got some great attractions and fantastic stallholders on board, and we are counting down the days until the Wheelbarrow Race enrolment opens.

There is still time to book a stall or run a game on the day. It is a great way to raise funds for your organisation or a charity. Please contact us if you are interested as we have lots of ideas for traditional games and some of the equipment needed to run them. We are also looking for people who may be able to offer some of their time on the day to assist in the marshalling – high-viz jackets provided!

With your support this will be an event that Braughing can be proud of. For further information and to obtain Wheelbarrow Race entrance forms please contact us at braughingwheelbarrowrace@mail.com or through our facebook page.

Looking forward to hearing from you – and seeing you on the day!

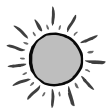
Simon Webb, Lesley Purse, Emma Waite, Mark Hallett
Event Organisation Team

Millfield Summer Fair

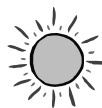
Friday 6th July 5.00-7.30pm

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

Featuring in 2012: The Great Millfield Bake-Off!



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



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!

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 prizes
Coconut shy
Tombola & BBQ



Come along and support
Buntingford's middle school



EDWINSTREE SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION

Registered charity no.1015729

Edwinstree Middle School
Voluntary Controlled (C of E)

Designed by Marketing Zone



BUNTINGFORD SCOUT GROUP AGM AND PRESENTATION EVENING

On Friday 11th May 2012 we held our first AGM at our new HQ. The evening was well attended by members of the Scout Group, their families and District leaders and we were pleased to welcome Mrs Eunice Woods and Mr Derek Cooper to celebrate the achievements of the Group and individuals. After such an eventful year all the Group leaders presented reports and we have put copies in the library for anyone who would like to read about what we have achieved as a Scout Group.

One of the best parts of the evening is when we recognise the achievements of the young people in the Group and present them with awards for 5 main categories: Teamwork, Participation, Attendance, Presentation and Badgework. Each section nominates young



Buntingford Scouts: Taurus and Phoenix

people from within their section, and this year each winner was presented with a head torch (Beavers and Scouts) or a roll mat (Cubs), as well as a certificate and badge to mark their achievements. Congratulations to this year's winners from each section, who are pictured here (left).



Buntingford Cub Scouts: Griffins and Hawks

We also presented on the evening the Peter Smart Trophy which recognises the achievement of one person in particular within the Group over the previous year. This year I am please to announce it was awarded to Harry Bonfield, an Explorer and Young Leader from Buntingford who continually goes over and above within his role and we wanted to recognise his dedication to Scouting.



Buntingford Beavers: Quin and Rib Colony

Finally, we had the David Lynch Trophy, which is presented to a section which is judged to have achieved and moved forward in the part year. Congratulations go to Claire White and Daisy Pizey who accepted the Trophy on behalf of Quin Beavers, who have had an amazing year in 2011 with all they have achieved.

Well done to everyone

Jo McNamara
Group Scout Leader

EDWINA HAYES

is coming to sing at

Cottered Village Hall on Saturday 16th June

in aid of **St Clare Hospice** (near Harlow)

Doors open 7:30pm; Show starts 8:00pm

Tickets £10 / £8 concessions. There will be a bar.

Singer-songwriter **Edwina Hayes** has played at the Royal Albert Hall and Glastonbury and opened shows for Jools Holland, Van Morrison and Nanci Griffith, who calls her 'the sweetest voice in England' and covered the title track of her album *Pour Me A Drink*. Edwina's version of the Randy Newman song *Feels Like Home* featured in the Cameron Diaz film *My Sister's Keeper* and has had more than 2 million plays on YouTube. To find out more, visit www.edwinahayes.com, or look her up on YouTube. This opportunity to see Edwina perform for charity in a small local venue is NOT to be missed!

St Clare is a small hospice which is only 24 per cent funded by the NHS – all the rest of the funding is generated through charity fundraising and legacies.

PLEASE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT US

For tickets or more information, call **Alison** on:

01763 281576 or **0777 350 4806**, or email joeytickle02@yahoo.co.uk

AN INVITATION TO AN OPEN DAY AT R.A.T.S.

The Friends of Highfields Reunion

Sunday 10th June 2012, from 1:00pm

A reunion for all dogs homed by us from Highfields, with their owners, R.A.T.S. friends, volunteers, dog-walkers and any local people who would like to come along to see what we do here and the improvements we have made. The afternoon's activities will include a dog parade, fun and games with prizes, plus stalls, tombola and homemade refreshments. There will be a BBQ cooked by our famous chefs Digger & Speedy.

For more information, or to place an order for BBQ, please contact **Sue Greaves** on **01767 222545**, or email her at geoffgreaves56@hotmail.com. The BBQ costs £3.00 and includes a burger & sausage in a roll, with accompaniments; there will also be a vegetarian option. Orders for BBQ must be received by 31st May.

Highfields is at the Hare Street end of Hare Street Road, on the right as you approach the village from Buntingford. We look forward to welcoming you to Highfields.

Get more out of walking with the Ramblers
Royston and District Group
Walks for June 2012

- Fri 1st** Buckland, Chipping 3 ¾ miles. Leader David 01763 242677
Sun 3rd Sandon, Chipping 8½ miles. Leader David 01763 242677
Mon 4th Anstey, Meesden 3 miles. Leader David 01763 242677
Tue 5th Morning walk, Widdington, 6 miles. Leader Martin 01763 838190
Sun 10th Great Hornead, Furneux Pelham 9½ miles. Leader Tricia 01438 880553
Tue 12th Cottered, 4 miles. Leaders Roger & Mary 01763 281368
Thur 14th Morning walk, Bassingbourn 6 miles. Leader Margaret 01763 256788
Sun 17th Watton at Stone, 9½ miles. Leader Maz 01992 500169
Wed 20th Therfield, 3 miles. Leader Eric 01763 848576
Thur 21st Morning walk, Langley (Essex), 5 miles. Leader Eric 01763 848576
Sun 24th Arkesden, Elmdon, 13 miles. Leader Paul 01763 244038
Tue 26th Morning walk, Coopers End, nr Arkesden, 6 miles.
Leader Paul 01763 244038
Thur 28th Barley, 3 miles. Leaders Lesley & John 01763 241525

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.



A10 ORCHESTRA

A tea-time family concert at

St. Mary's Church, Furneux Pelham

4:00pm on Saturday 30th June

Adults £5 Under 16s free

A lively programme of light music * Refreshments available

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



CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH BALDOCK ROAD BUNTINGFORD

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

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

MORNING WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:00 AM

June	3	Morning Worship	Faith Paulding
	10	Holy Communion	Rev Duncan Goldie
	17	Morning Worship	Stephen Hampson
	24	Morning Worship	Dr Janet Tollington
July	1	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 June

Sun 3 rd	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	10:00am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Family Service
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
Wed 6 th	9:30am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Sun 10 th	9:30am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 17 th	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
Sun 24 th	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

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 from 6th May until 14th October 2012 (excluding 3rd June)

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Charity Coffee Morning / Bric-a-Brac / Cake Stall / Raffle

BENSON HALL, SATURDAY 26TH MAY, 10:00AM TO 12:00NOON



Edwinstree Middle School

Although it is officially the summer term, the weather doesn't seem to agree with the school calendar! The Olympic reading challenge was launched, encouraging pupils to read. They have until September to read books written by authors from A-Z.

Ten of our year 7 and 8 students had the fantastic experience of going to the Aquatic Centre at the newly opened Olympic Park in Stratford, East London, for the finals of the school games.

We would like to congratulate Jamie Philpott who took part in the London mini-marathon and the Royston 3km fun run, coming in with a time of just over 10 minutes, the fastest recorded for this event. He also recently broke the year 8 boys' 1800-metre record.



All set for the Olympic reading challenge

The unseasonal weather has forced the cancellation of several of our sports department matches, but we have competed in two Hertfordshire County athletic league events.

We had two informative collective worships with class 7J performing the story of King Midas and the relevance of being careful what you wish for. Class 6C told us about the importance of getting enough sleep in order to be able to concentrate at school. We learnt that giraffes are the shortest sleepers of all the world's animal, needing only 2 hours sleep, while nine-year-olds ideally need 10 hours.



The stained glass window project

To commemorate Edwinstree's 40 years as a Church of England school we are hoping to install a special stained glass window in the clock tower window. A group of our students with a talent for arts and crafts, together with a professional glass artist, gathered in the art department to start working on ideas for this amazing project.

Year 5 are visiting Kew Gardens at the end of this month as part of their humanities studies.

To celebrate this being Olympic year, we are going to Wodson Park in Ware



The cautionary tale of King Midas (above) and all about sleep (below)



for our annual sports day which will be held on July 18th. Pupils will have the experience of running on a real athletics track.

Our school association are busy planning the summer fair for Saturday July 7th, from 11am to 1pm. Please see page 14 for more details. They also held a successful fundraising disco which was enjoyed by 170 pupils, a few of whom are pictured here (right).



Diane George



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

Final preparations are underway for the Buntylympics to be held at the Seth Ward Community Centre on the 10th June. Please come along and support the competitors and enjoy the many side stalls and attractions.

The Wildlife Area will be officially opened towards the end of June. Grateful thanks to Heidi from The Countryside Management Service and, of course, to the Big Lottery Fund.

We have received complaints regarding unsupervised children and dogs in Layston Court Gardens. Please ensure you keep your dogs on a lead and your eye on your children whilst in the gardens. Many of the flower beds are being churned up, which is spoiling the gardens for those who use them.

Pitch maintenance has commenced at the Community Centre. Unfortunately the wet weather has made the area very muddy, for which we apologise, but the maintenance had to be done as it was deferred last year because of dry weather.

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 June 2012

Thursday 7 th	7:30pm – Amenities Committee
Thursday 14 th	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Resources Committee
Thursday 28 th	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Full Council
All meetings will be held at The Manor House unless indicated otherwise. All members of the public are welcome to attend.	

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

Community Grants Programme for 2012

The purpose of the Community Grants Programme is to promote environmental, economic and social wellbeing for people living, working or visiting in East Herts. Various grants are available for community buildings and sports facilities; for items of equipment or works to improve facilities and services; to promote sporting and artistic achievement; for environmental projects; and for farmers and businesses in rural villages. For further details on the grants available, how to apply and deadlines for applications, see the East Herts Council website:

www.eastherts.gov.uk/grants

Ermine Street Allotment Association

Members managed to find a dry morning to clear the rubbish left from last Autumn's tidy-up and erect the new communal shed. We now have a bolt-hole from the hailstones and heavy rain which have been very common this Spring. We would like to thank Buntingford Town Council for their grant towards the shed, it is a great asset which will be well used over the coming years. If you would like to add your name to our waiting list, phone **Tony 01763 271829**.



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, Luynes Rise, Buntingford. Tables for sellers will be £5 and the sellers keep all of their proceeds. There is a 50p entrance fee for buyers. 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 😊

BUNTINGFORD HERITAGE CENTRE

VISIT US IN THE MANOR HOUSE



**A display depicting a slice of
Buntingford's history**

CURRENT DISPLAY



Buntingford Carnival Queens (Where are they now?)

Birds and the Bees (and the Bats!)

Martin & Mandy – Part 30

We have mentioned the bats a couple of times in our last articles about the tower roof. We've had a lot of help from Southern Ecological Solutions regarding the bats – you may yet see them and the Causeway on the telly, as there was a film crew there from 'Britain's Empty Homes' doing a piece on how easy it is to work with an ecologist or bat inspector.



A Pipistrelle (top) and a Brown long-eared bat
Courtesy of www.richardlewington.co.uk

Well, anyone who has spoken to us about our experiences with bat inspectors will know that our original bat inspector (let's call him Mr Smith) was a complete nightmare. Mr Smith was difficult to contact, would not share information, lacked basic social skills like the ability to be polite, and treated us like the enemy, when all we wanted to do was learn about bats so that we could do the best job of ensuring that our new home was still able to be their home too. So, we had to replace Mr Smith for the sake of our sanity!

I contacted Stuart and Matt at Southern Ecological Solutions and they couldn't have been more different. Stuart has advised us in the build of the garage to ensure that we are providing some alternative snoozing sites for the bats while all this commotion is going on – and for the future. He has also helped us with the design and construction of the tower roof to ensure that the cute little chaps have somewhere to stay. We don't have any rare bats on site, but even the common bats are protected so we need to make sure our little Pipistrelles and Brown long-eared bats are looked after. (The picture of the bats above was drawn by Richard Lewington, who kindly allowed us to use the picture for this article.)

So in the new garage there are specialised 'bat access tiles' which allow them to get into the roof space, roosting boxes in that roof space, 'bat bricks' which provide them with somewhere to hibernate. Also on the south gable end you will see something that's about the size of a small dustbin – this is also a roosting box (made out of a sort of concrete material – it was entertaining getting that up there). Because of Southern Ecological Solutions we will certainly have more bat roosting sites when we've finished than we did when we started!

They have also helped us with siting some interesting bird boxes which we're hoping will get populated. Stuart, who in an alternative life likes tree climbing, even managed to get an owl box near to the top of one of the trees in the northwest corner of the plot. It's right in the line of sight of the cctv camera in the weathervane and on full zoom the entrance to

the owl box is full screen in the picture, so we hope to be able to put some impressive pictures up on the website if we're lucky enough to attract an appropriate resident.

The owl box is huge in comparison to the little bird boxes put up elsewhere on the site, and has caused much interest to our feathered friends. I have been most amused by the little blue tits eyeing it up as a potential home – a little ambitious perhaps!



Lesser spotted woodpecker

We have run into a whole pile of feathered inhabitants on the site whilst we've been working there, but a couple of really quite cool ones have been noticed. I had to look both of them up, but Mandy assured me that we had had one of them in our garden at home – then had to eat her words when she saw it: we have 'Great spotted woodpeckers' in our garden, but there is a 'Lesser spotted woodpecker' at St Bartholomew's. Apparently this is the smallest and least common of the three woodpeckers we have in England, and there's estimated to be less than 3000 breeding pairs in the whole of the country, so having seen Mrs Woodpecker we're keen to know if there's a Mr Woodpecker around too.

The other bird we've spotted is apparently much more common, but neither of us had ever seen one before – a 'Tree creeper'. This is a very small bird, very active and lively, with quite a piping song. The name must come from its habit of creeping up the trunk of the tree looking for insects in the bark, which it picks out with its tiny curved beak.

We are looking forward to receiving the final report from Southern Ecological Solutions – they have promised to include advice on how to look after and improve the site for the benefit of all the local wildlife, not just our lovely little bats. Mind you, bats don't have the prettiest faces in some people's view – someone I showed a picture to responded with 'Cor dear, only a mother could love that!'

Finally this month – a personal request – could you have a dig through your old family photographs to see if you have any of the church hidden away? We have a few that people have kindly let us make copies of theirs – including one of a wedding that took place on a snowy day at St Bartholomew's – but we would love to see more, so get up in the loft and take a little trip down memory lane.



Tree creeper

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

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

Nine Reasons to Make a Will

A large percentage of the population do not have a legally-binding will. Given the relatively low cost of having one professionally prepared, there really is no excuse not to have one. Here is a reminder of the reasons why we all need to make a will:

1. **So you get to choose who benefits from your estate**
 - without a will, the intestacy rules apply
 - if couples die together, there is a presumption that the younger survived the elder, so if the couple have no children everything goes to the younger's relatives
 - without a will there is no provision for unmarried partners (i.e. cohabitants)
2. **To ensure your wishes are binding**
 - the executors dealing with your will are required to comply with certain rules
 - home-made wills need to be regarded with caution
3. **To make sure the funeral arrangements you want are clear**
 - if you have never spoken about these arrangements it is still important to make your next of kin aware of your wishes as the funeral may have taken place before the will is even found and read
4. **To have your say about your children**
 - you can appoint formal, legal guardians
 - if you want someone to care for your children who would not usually be considered next of kin (i.e. not the surviving parent), you can explain your reasons
5. **To safeguard your business**
 - you need to consider in advance tax points such as IHT (Inheritance Tax) relief
 - you can decide who to leave as the majority shareholder – although this would need to also be in accordance with any shareholders agreement
6. **So you can give to charity**
 - many charities rely heavily on bequests
 - these gifts are free of IHT
7. **To enable you to make minor bequests**
 - the intestacy rules simply split your entire estate into percentages
 - you may prefer to make individual bequests of personal items (e.g. jewellery)
8. **So you can choose your own executors**
 - you can save money with less professional involvement if you appoint friends or relatives as your executors
 - by naming your executors, it ensures that those you trust are left in charge of your estate
 - you can avoid overburdening your next of kin (particularly if elderly, or if left with children to care for) as there is a presumption they will deal with the estate if no will
9. **To take advantage of some tax planning**
 - getting professional advice on a will includes reviewing your IHT position
 - you can consider making provision for paying the IHT

If you would like to make a will, please contact our James Blakemore on 01763 255120 or email him at james.blakemore@curwens.co.uk



Garden notes

from Church Farm Growers

Sunflowers can play a spectacular role in any garden, whether in a herbaceous border or vegetable plot. There are many varieties to choose from; aside from those with colossal heads atop 12-foot stems that are commonly grown, there are others of more diminutive stature, but offering a more interesting range of colour.

The sunflower is an annual plant, native to many parts of the Americas. Its name derives from the huge sun-shaped blooms it carries. It was once said that the heads of sunflowers turn slowly to track the sun during the passage of the day, but this is a misconception. Only the young plant can do this, the mature flower head generally faces east. However,

the belief in this feature yielded the name given to the sunflower in some European languages, such as *tournesol* in French, or *girasole* in Italian.

The head of a sunflower is not a single bloom, but rather an inflorescence of many individual flowers. Each flower will produce a single seed following pollination. The flowers and seeds are arranged in a complex pattern of intersecting spirals, which provides the most efficient possible grouping. Sunflowers most commonly grow to about 5–12ft (1.5–4m) in height, but some examples of 26ft (8m) have been recorded.

Originally cultivated in Central America more than 4000 years ago, where they often represented native sun-gods, sunflowers became widely grown in other parts of North America, before being brought back to Europe by explorers in the early 16th century. Apart from their ornamental qualities, they are grown for their nutritious seeds, which can also be pressed to produce a high-quality culinary oil. Lesser-known uses include tapping the sap to yield latex and using fibres from the stem to make paper, while the leaves make a good cattle fodder. The oil can be processed to make biodiesel, even after it has been used for cooking.

To grow sunflowers, it is best to sow the seeds indoors in 3-inch pots in April and May, though late sowings into June will do well also. Alternatively sow directly where they are to grow, once the risk of frost has passed, about 2 inches (5cm) deep, spaced according to the variety chosen. Sow or plant in fertile, well-drained soil in full sun. Keep watered and in a fortnight or so, the seeds should germinate. Protect from slugs and cold with bottle cloches until established, provide support for tall cultivars, and stand back to admire that stunning display in late summer and autumn. Once the flowers have faded you can harvest the seeds by cutting the head, hanging it in a dry place until fully ripened, then carefully rub the seeds out. These can be grown next year, or toasted for a tasty addition to salads and stir-frys. A great plant for children to grow and learn by.

We're growing sunflowers here at Church Farm, Ardeley, and hoping to enjoy the seeds later in the year. If you'd like to get a closer look at the work we do on the farm, our horticulture team are out in the fields every day, there is free parking and the paths are always free to walk. Visit www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk for more information.



LAYSTON C OF E FIRST SCHOOL

We have dived into summer this term, despite the very unseasonable weather, with our new Olympic inspired topic 'Get Set Go!' We began our topic with a sports-themed Art Week. Each class developed their own ideas.

Reception children designed special trainers to enhance an athlete's performance. Some thought that the addition of springs would be much appreciated by basketball players!

Both Year 1 and Year 4 work was inspired by two great artists – Henri Matisse and David Hockney – whilst Year 2 used sculpture and film clips to convey movement.

Year 3 are currently learning about Ancient Greece and the early Olympic Games. They looked at how sports were depicted then on pottery and created modern versions for today's games.

The artwork was of such a high standard that we wanted to share it. We decided to hold an Art Exhibition in the hall with every child's work exhibited. It was a great success and everyone – children and parents alike – was very impressed by what had been achieved.

Year 4 enjoyed a morning with Peter Meredith from Setpoint, taking part in the K'Nex Challenge. This is a project aimed at introducing children to 'the exciting world of engineering and technology'. The class worked in pairs to design and make a buggy which could transport a shoe and a rubber safely down a slope. Great fun was had by all and we ended up with a great variety of solutions to the challenge. The winning design, created by Elouise and Max, will go forward to the next stage of the competition. Well done to them both!

We have recently purchased lots of new information books for our school library. They are proving very popular and children like to take them on loan to read at home. Our Year 4 children are also looking forward to joining the summer term Book Club with



Get Set Go! Layston children of all ages got involved in the sport-themed Art Week





Above: Elouise and Max with the design that takes them into the next stage of the Young Engineers K'Nex Challenge'. Right: Enjoying a communal read in the school library.

students from Freman College. They are already enjoying books by Tom Gates and will take part in a special final event at Freman along with other local schools.

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

www.layston.herts.sch.uk

Or contact us on 01763 271235 to arrange a visit.

**Gill Langley,
Headteacher**



Friends of Westmill Church FORTHCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS

June 12th –16th Kevin Foskett and friend will cycle 274 miles along the Normandy Coast, visiting Second World War beaches. They would appreciate sponsorship.

July 7th & 8th We will be providing the refreshments at the National Garden Schemes Open Gardens weekend at **The Pump House, Coles Park, Westmill**. Do try and visit these beautiful gardens of Lord & Lady Carter.

In July we will be repeating our Local Photo competition to compile a 2013 Calendar.

See www.friendsofwestmillchurch.org.uk for more information on these and other forthcoming events, or contact Michael Thody, Fundraising Chairman, on **01763 271321**. Donations to the fund can be made through the BT Mydonate website.



DIAMOND JUBILEE

Medieval Street Party & Market

Plans are well advanced for celebrations to mark the auspicious event of our Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The residents of Buntingford are therefore cordially invited to attend, on **4th June**, a **Medieval Street Party and Royal Charter Market**. Festivities commence at **12.00 noon** and by then the High Street will be decked with bunting and flags and the stalls on Market Hill will be in full flow. Seating for 250 people will be provided along the High Street for a traditional street party. The tables will be dressed in a patriotic theme and each will have free soft drinks and snacks – our thanks to the Co-op for providing these.

There is a packed programme of entertainment planned for the day, the highlight of which will surely be the medieval re-enactment by **The Swords of Chivalry** which will take place in Layston Court Gardens.

There will be **live music** all day – starting at the Crown Public House on Market Hill and continuing all along the High Street to Brambles, which will be hosting a full programme of entertainment. The **main stage** will be in Church Street where among other things, there will be a performance by 'The Folk', an upcoming band of teenage girls all connected with Freman College. Freman College will also be providing a 15 piece set with The Blues Brothers as its theme. A dance group, who will be representing the UK at the upcoming World Dance Championships, will show us a selection from their repertoire.

Hog roasts, barbecues and sundry food will be available for those who wish to indulge – or why not bring your own picnic. The Town's sheltered housing residents will be treated to a free lunch with sandwiches, cakes and tea and coffee, which has been very kindly donated by Buntingford Civic Society.

There will be a host of **games in Layston Court Gardens** – arranged by the local Scout Group – including stocks where you can throw wet sponges at some of the Town luminaries!! Or you could try your hand at archery.

Face painting will be on offer and there will be a **painting competition** with entrants from all of the Town's lower schools. There will also be a **fancy dress competition** for ADULTS and CHILDREN with a Royal/Medieval theme.

This really does promise to be a tremendous event where you can relax with friends and neighbours, soak up the atmosphere and celebrate, along with the rest of the country, our Monarch's tremendous achievement.

SEE YOU ALL ON THE DAY



MEDIEVAL STREET PARTY & MARKET

Monday 4 June, 12– 6pm

Lower High Street

12– 6.00pm BBQ/Hog Roast
Residents street party

Upper High Street

12– 6.00pm DJ Wheelie Bag
Residents street party

Church Street Stage

1.00pm The Folk
2.00pm Community Choir
2.45pm Coup de Grass
3.30pm Dance Design Theatre Arts
5.30pm Freman College Big Band
Plus Erin Bonner

Layston Gardens

1.30pm Swords of Chivalry
Re-enactment 1
3.30pm Swords of Chivalry
Re-enactment 2

Plus family fun games, stocks,
apple bobbing and more

Market Hill

12– 6.00pm Royal Charter Market
From 12.30 Rustic Hog Roast
Plus The Kill Buljo Acoustic Fist

Times may vary

www.buntingfordjubilee.co.uk

THE BUNTYLYMPICS 2012

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

At
Seth Ward
Recreation
Field

A Free
Fun-Filled
Family
event

Gold, silver
and bronze
medals for
every race

Hog Roast
Burgers
Beer Tent



Millfield First and Nursery School



On Thursday 26th April all our KS2 pupils enjoyed a great day at the Hindu Centre near Watford. They all had a wonderful time listening to stories, eating curry and having a ride in a bullock cart, amongst many other things! This visit supports the work the Key Stage is undertaking on India and Hinduism this term.

On Friday 4th May the Eco-Action team held an Eco-Shop event where they sold a range of recycled and fair trade products. The children loved having the chance to buy items such as notebooks, pens and key-rings all made from recycled materials. Any profits from the event will be used to buy more environmental items for the school, such as bird boxes.

On Friday 11th May Key Stage 1 went on a walk around Buntingford looking for the important sites such as churches, dentists and doctors. This is part of work on 'Where we live'. The children are developing early map-reading skills and learning about the variety of places in the world. Later this term they are all off to the seaside!



**Learning what it's like to wear a sari
at the Hindu Centre near Watford**



Acting out Hindu stories

The School Council is planning a sponsored run which will raise funds for the school and for the East Anglia Children's Hospice. One of our dads, Mr Phipers, is about to cycle from Lands' End to John O'Groats to raise funds for this charity. The children are keen to support him and we will all run a mile in our school grounds in June. Any money raised for the school will be used to buy a playhouse for the playground.

On Thursday 17th May the Foundation Stage will be having a visit from Impeyan, a company, who will be bringing along a range

of reptiles for the children to see. On the same day all our KS1 and KS2 pupils will be taking part in the annual Cross Country Running Festival at Edwinstree School with other local schools.

Our plans to celebrate the Jubilee are progressing well. The children will be designing their own hats to wear to the lunchtime picnic on Thursday May 31st and the PTA have offered to come along and help out. All we will need is the sunshine!

If you would like to know more about our school please visit our website: www.millfield.herts.sch.uk or contact the school on 01763 271717.

Kathy Willett, Head Teacher

Millfield Little Stars

Millfield Little Stars is a pre-school for children aged between 2 and 4 years old. We offer flexible sessions from 9:00am to 3:00pm, 5 days a week, term time only, with the option to attend a Breakfast Club from 8:00am and an After-School club until 5:15pm. We pride ourselves on our facilities and the opportunity we offer for children to play, learn and develop freely with exceptionally well-qualified staff. We have recently been accepted onto the Government's two-year-old funding scheme, so for some families that meet the criteria, we may be able to offer up to 15 hours per week at the setting.



Little Stars in Hatfield Forest

In April we had a trip to Hatfield Forest with the children and their parents and carers. We had a lovely day out, undertaking our very own 'Spring Watch' looking at the changes in the trees and flowers and searching for various mini-beasts. Bramble Hill Children's Centre kindly lent us some jumbo magnifying glasses and digital cameras that the children really enjoyed using.

We have lots of exciting events coming up. We are looking forward to planting seeds with the children so we can encourage them to nurture and watch sunflowers, vegetables and herbs grow before their eyes!

We are now taking applications for September 2012. For further information, or to register your child to Little Stars, please visit our website www.millfield.herts.sch.uk or contact Sarah Yarrow, Daycare Manager, on 01763 271717.



St Albans Abbey – The First 1000 Years is the topic of our speaker at the monthly meeting on Monday 11th June. Doors open at 2:00pm at the Seth Ward Community Centre, Buntingford.

Guests are very welcome, £2 including refreshments. We will also be organising our leg of the Hertfordshire Way Walk, Hare Street to Royston, on 14th June. The walk is open to all U3A members – for more information phone 01763 271783. Our quiz team got off to a good start by winning their first event, but our first garden visit got rained off. We hope the Sun comes out on 9th June, when we plan to visit the Open Gardens in Standon.

Christine Jeffries 01763 273466 or Jean Devenish 01763 271783

First Monday Contact Hilary Curtis	Craft Group 01763 272323	2:00–4:00pm Various crafts
3 rd Tuesday 19 th June 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	Wareside Wines
4 th Wednesday 27 rd June 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 21 st June Contact Alan Rumble	Computers (all levels) £3 01920 823608	2:00–4:00pm Seth Ward Community Centre
2 nd Friday 8 th June Contact David Smith	Digital photography £2 01763 849023	Layers & mounting
2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays Contact Christine Jeffries	Singing for Pleasure 01763 273466	2:00–4:00pm Wyddial
Every Tuesday Contact Alan Smith	Bridge 01763 287657	10.00am–12.00noon Homes
Contact Val Lohead	Out to Lunch 01279 658069	Various
Various Contact Evelyn Smith	Social Outings 01763 272241	Local theatres, meals out, quiz nights, outings etc
Mondays Contact Dave Austin	Keep Fit £2 01763 272066	10:00–11:30am Seth Ward Community Centre
Last Wednesday 27 th June Contact Anne Austin	Book Club 01763 272066	2:30pm Fairfield
Every Friday (not school hols) Contact Rosemary Poulton	Pilates £20 for 6 sessions or £5 per session 01763 271598	1:30–2:45pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every Wednesday Contact Dave Austin	Table Tennis £2 01763 272066	2:00–3:00pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every 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 26 th June Contact Mick Westwood	Strollers 01763 272594	2:30pm Granchester
Various Contact Ron Brighten	Quizzes 01763 273175	Making up a team for local quizzes
TBA Contact Val Sievert	Scrabble 01763 272019	Buntingford
Various Jean Devenish	Garden Visits 01763 271783	11:00am Sat 9 th June Standon/ Puckeridge Open Gardens

The Isabel Hospice was founded in 1982 by Welwyn Garden City resident Isabel Last, so this year the charity celebrates its 30th year of providing free, specialist, end-of-life care to the people of eastern Hertfordshire. We would like to thank all of our supporters – we could not do it without you! If you would like to hold a 30th Anniversary event or find out more about any of these or the events below, please call 01707 382500.

JUNE, JULY & AUGUST 2012

Care 4 a Cuppa

Individuals or groups are invited to hold tea or coffee parties in aid of Isabel Hospice throughout the summer months from June to September. We have a handy information and fundraising pack that is full of ideas. Its a lovely way to meet up with friends or stop for a break at work and still raise money! For more details contact Maria Alexander on 01707 382500

JUNE

Sat 2nd – Jumble Sale, Thundridge 14:30–16:30

At Thundridge Village Hall. 20p entry. Come and grab some bargains. Contact details 01920 462992

Sun 10th – Mary Gethins Walk 10:30

This is a very enjoyable walk around Furneux Pelham in aid of Isabel Hospice. The walk starts at 10.30am at The Brewery Tap in Furneux Pelham. There will be a Hog Roast available to purchase afterwards in the pub garden. If you would like more information and a sponsor form please contact Mary on 01279 777610

Tue 12th – Coffee Morning for Isabel Hospice 10:30–12:00

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

Thur 21st – Net Working Lunch 'The 3rd Thursday' 12:30–14:00

To be held at Grill 55, 55 South Street, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3AL. A monthly networking lunch run by Isabel Hospice Corporate Relationship Manager, Julie North, working in association with Marketing Kinetics. We welcome companies from all over Herts & Essex offering an opportunity to network both inside and outside your own areas. Cost £15 includes buffet, glass of wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee. Would you like to sponsor a 3rd Thursday? £100 sponsorship includes promotion on website and email invites, display of literature & banners at the event and a 10 minute presentation. For more details contact Julie North 01707 382547

Sat 23rd Midnight Walk – new Ware start venue! 23:55

Join us for our annual 10k Midnight Walk with our Awesome 80s theme. Come on and grab those legwarmers, deely-boppers and glow sticks and help us to make this a night to remember. The Walk will start at Fanshawe Pool and Gym, Ware (SG12 0DP), at the stroke of Midnight. Help us to break our record for the longest Conga Line. Entry £15 adults, £12 for children, which includes a free tee-shirt on entry. Deelys, glow items and BBQ on sale. For more information please contact Katie Robertson on 01707 382500 or sign up on line at www.isabelhospice.org.uk



Buntingford Social Club

C I U affiliated

6 Church Street, Buntingford, Herts. SG9 9AS

Telephone 01763 271889

www.thebuntingfordsocialclub.co.uk



*** EVERY MONDAY BIG CASH BINGO ***

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

ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS SHOWN (times permitting)

Live entertainment on Saturdays except 2nd Saturday in the month (unless otherwise announced). And don't forget we sell the **CHEAPEST PINT** in Buntingford.

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

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

CARNIVAL DAY, June 23rd, ALL WELCOME ALL DAY

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

28th July - KARAOKE

14th October - OPEN DARTS COMPETITION (CASH PRIZES)

FUTURE SATURDAY SPECIAL NIGHTS:

15th September - NOTOWN WITHOUT MOTOWN

24th November - MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE and PREMONITION DUO



ENTERTAINMENT FOR JUNE

2nd June - ABAKUS—ROCK BAND (fantastic musicians)

9th June - NO ENTERTAINMENT (free Juke Box, Pool, Snooker)

16th June - RELOAD (Club favourite)

23rd June - PRIME NUMBERS - Come and join us after the Carnival

30th June - TITAN FAMILY DISCO - Bring the kids for a family night

MEMBERS FREE / GUESTS £1 - MEMBERSHIP JUST £12 PER ANNUM

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

www.thebuntingfordsocialclub.co.uk



★ ★ ★ ★
BUNTINGFORD
CARNIVAL COMMITTEE



Buntingford Carnival

Saturday, 23rd June, 2012

CELEBRATING BRITAIN 2012

With only weeks to go, it is now full steam ahead for this year's Buntingford Carnival.

Apart from what has already been announced, other entertainment you will see this year are **TWO** – yes **TWO** – big marching bands strutting their stuff along the High Street. One is **The Haverettes Marching Band** and the other is the **Trans-Siberian Marching Band**.

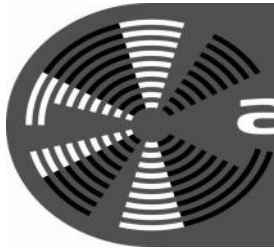
Watch, listen and be thrilled.

You will also be amazed when you see **Hazel and Henry** and astonished when you watch **The Bantu Kids**. Laugh at the **Jolly Jester** and don't forget to meet and be photographed with **Captain Jack Sparrow** – he is just like the real one! And to be in with a chance to win an **Olympic Mascot** come to the Control Stall at the top of Church Street.

As you wander along the High Street not only can you enjoy all the entertainment that will be taking place, but you can also enjoy the fruits of nearly 100 stalls. We also have a good array of shops, so look in them as well – you might find things there that you didn't know we had in Buntingford. If you reach the Carpet and Tile shops, you will see cars and bikes on display and be able to listen to music and enjoy a bar-b-que.

Dress up, enjoy yourself and have a great day.

Ashley Cantor
Chairman, Buntingford Carnival Committee



HERTS
airambulance
FLIGHT FOR LIFE
REGISTERED CHARITY 1108989

Health Heroes Award live on TV

In May, Laurie Phillipson, a critical care paramedic with Essex & Herts Air Ambulance, was presented with a Health Heroes Award by Dr Hilary from ITV's Daybreak. In a week of surprising people with his Health Heroes Awards, which recognise and celebrate our unsung heroes of the health community, Dr Hilary burst into the crew room at the Air Base in Earls Colne where Laurie and the on-duty doctor and pilot were having their morning briefing. With him were Laurie's family and friends, several colleagues from the East of England Ambulance Service Trust, including the Medical Director Dr Pamela Chrispin, and two airlifted patients, 14-year-old Danny Williams and Jim Cox, whose lives have been touched by Laurie and the Air Ambulance Crew.

Jane Gurney, CEO of the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust (EHAAT), who nominated Laurie, said: 'On behalf of everyone at EHAAT I nominated Laurie for outstanding service as an Air Ambulance Paramedic and ... in his local community. Laurie has over 10 years of continuous service with EHAAT, flying well over 1,000 missions in Essex and Hertfordshire, and has touched the lives of many individuals, helping hundreds of people when they needed it most. He has often gone over and above by supporting many fundraising activities, helping the charity to raise much-needed funds. A father and husband to a young family, he still finds time to teach clinicians the life-saving skills he has developed. We are all so proud of Laurie and all of our dedicated Air Crew who help save lives every day.' Doctor Pamela Chrispin, Medical Director for the East of England Ambulance Service (EEAST) said: 'Our Trust is very proud indeed of Laurie and he thoroughly deserves this recognition ... Well done.'

Speaking of his award, Laurie himself said: 'Up until Dr Hilary led me into the hangar and I saw all my family and friends I thought it was a wind-up and it's all still sinking in! I feel



Laurie receiving his award from Dr Hilary

very honoured to have received the award. The Essex & Herts Air Ambulances provide a first-class critical care service and every member of the medical and charity team works extremely hard to keep the aircraft flying and making a difference to countless lives across the region. I've been very lucky to have played a small part in that service for such a long time; a privilege that few paramedics get to enjoy. I would like to thank all my colleagues for their support and the kind nomination.'

Buntingford Resident Scoops Superdraw Jackpot!

The Flight for Life Lottery Team at Herts Air Ambulance is delighted to announce that Mr Alan Calver from Buntingford has won £10,478 in the Superdraw! Mr Calver and his wife were invited to the Herts Air Ambulance Airbase at North Weald to meet the Air Crew and see the helicopter up close and, of course, be presented with their cheque!

Alan joined the Flight for Life Lottery in January 2011 after receiving a visit from one of the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance canvassers, who promote the lottery door-to-door to gain new members. Speaking about his win, Alan said: 'I didn't know we had our own local Air Ambulance until the canvasser knocked on our door ... The Herts Air Ambulance is an essential service; I hope I never have to call on it but it's comforting to know it's there, it's like having insurance. We will have a holiday next year in Lake Garda with my brother and his wife and we have already treated our children and grandchildren.'

Janice Flower, Lottery Manager for the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust, said: 'We are delighted for Mr Calver ... Our canvassers are actively promoting the lottery all over the county, so look out for them and if you get a knock at the door, please join [up] to support your local Air Ambulance and you could be our next winner! Playing the Flight for Life Lottery is one of the best ways to support the charity and keep the Air Ambulance flying ... and by helping save somebody's life, you could change your own ..., I would like to thank all of our current lottery members for their continued support.'

To join, visit www.FlightForLifeLottery.uk.com, or call the Flight for Life Lottery Team on **0845 2417 688**. Give it a whirl and help to keep us airborne!

For more information on these articles, or on any of our other activities, please contact Hannah Ashby, PR & Marketing Coordinator on **01787 226118**.



Mr & Mrs Carver with the helicopter and crew they help to keep flying

we can't **fly**
without **you!**

If you would like to find out more about the Herts Air Ambulance or are thinking about fundraising or volunteering for us, contact the Fundraising Team on 0845 504 0055.

Dancing in the Streets – Then and Now

Curly edged sandwiches and runny trifle! Who remembers the street parties of the Coronation 60 years ago? We were looking through the large box of family photographs from 1952 and we came across some from that famous day. One thing struck me (apart from the senior executive's hand after remarking 'who was that girl?') was the fact that all the photographs were completely devoid of men.

Delving deeper through the pile back to the V.E. Day street party, once again no men. Obviously there was a reason then, as many chaps were still away fighting in other theatres across the world, but where were they in 1952? The fact was in our case they were off building a land fit for heroes (so called) and my father, recently returned from the fray, was trying to hold down two jobs to put food on the table for his growing family. So once again it was left to the ladies, who as always rose to the challenge.



Of course, in the way that children are, we were not aware of the planning and struggle to give us a party like everybody else. As I recall, the weather was not brilliant and the actual day of the Coronation was interspersed with rain (well what should we expect? after all it was June). Nonetheless, in that 'can do' spirit, dining room tables and chairs were dragged onto the street from our recently built council houses. There was little danger of traffic, unless you counted Dixie Dean the milkman with his horse and cart, or Mr Pallet the baker in his tiny van. Bed sheets were brought into service as table cloths, and no doubt there were some critical remarks as to the crispness and whiteness of Mrs So-and-So's laundry techniques. 'She's a stranger to Sunlight', delivered in that manner so captured by the late Les Dawson.

The pride these women had in their homes was amazing, not like today where the latest kitchen and bathroom is *de riguer* and a life-style choice, but the external appearance of the home as very few people were invited into each others' houses. Every day the steps were washed and the paths swept with a stiff broom, then windows polished with newspaper (no special products then). Each week or so the red Cardinal paint/polish came out and the steps and window ledges were brought back to a bright red lustre.

The surrounding gardens were testament to the husband's horticultural prowess. (*Wives and husbands?* There's an old concept – where did that go?) All the gardens had box or privet hedges clipped sharp and the front lawns were surrounded by patriotic coloured flowers, red salvias and geraniums, blue lobelia and white alyssum.

Meanwhile bunting, now much used and rather tatty, was strung across the street, hoisted on high and tied by older boys who had shinned up the lamp posts ('Elf and Safety look away now).

As the afternoon lurched forward the mothers, aunts and grandmothers began to pile the long line of tables up the middle of the road with all sorts of delights, and occasionally the crack of hand on ear could be heard accompanied by 'I told you not to touch until later!'

Eventually the temptation was too great and the host of children converged on the tables, some in their Sunday best clothes and some in the remnants of the fancy dress left over from the morning's celebrations.

A lot of shuffling round was taking place to ensure you sat with your best mate, whilst babies were ushered out in their prams like a Marmet and Siver Cross wagon train. Other tots were put into high chairs and every effort by the harassed mothers (stress hadn't been invented) was brought into play to avoid them climbing out. Those that did succeed in the escape crawled out onto the tables and helped themselves to a tempting cake or two. This brought yells from the children, 'Mum! The litt'un is at the trifle!'

Like a plague of locusts the gathered host demolished the entire supply of food in a short time, then they all sang 'God Save Our Queen' and were presented with a mug to commemorate the occasion. Many mugs failed to survive the day, but I am pleased to say that mine still holds pride of place in the shed alongside my old Davy Crocket hat.

Another thing I noticed about those old photographs is that both my wife's and mine show us both sitting at the end where the photograph was taken although we were at parties 50 miles apart. Was that just luck or did all the children move round so the photographer could sell a memory to cash strapped families?

Years passed and at the time of the Silver Jubilee our own children were treated to the same street party experience with all the families taking part in the organisation, this time the dads getting involved. We even had a float in the town carnival with all taking part in the spirit. Mugs and commemorative coins were distributed and a good time was had by all. I seem to remember the weather was a bit wet and windy again!

By the time of the Golden Jubilee we had it cracked and another road party was organised by the householders. This time the weather was brilliant and the now essential Bar-B-Q style blow-out was enjoyed together with live music.

So what will this Diamond celebration bring? Let us hope for a good time, lovely weather and wonderful memories for the children and for our Queen. Long May She Reign. Three Cheers!!!

Vyse

B A L A

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus trips June 2012

JUNE			Cost
Thurs 7 th	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£4
Fri 8 th	10:30am – 2:30pm	Letchworth – drop off at Morrisons	£5
Tues 12 th	10:30am – 2:30pm	Hitchin – Market Day	£5.50
Thurs 14 th	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Fri 15 th	10:30am – 3:00pm	Brookfield Centre – Boots, Argos, M&S, Next, Tesco etc.	£6
Sat 16 th	2:30pm	'War Horse'. Film at Gordon Craig	£5.25 + Bus £4
Mon 18 th	9:30am – 12ish	Welwyn Garden City – John Lewis, M&S, Debenhams, WHSmith, Boots etc.	£6
Tues 19 th	10:30pm – 2:30pm	Country Gardens and Bury Lane Farm Shop, Melbourn – Cotton Traders, Edinburgh Woollen Mills, Pavers Shoes, The Works, Plants, Deli etc.	£4.40
Thurs 21 st	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£4
Mon 25 th	10:00am – 3:00om	Scotsdales Garden Centre & more	£7
Thurs 28 th	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Fri 29 th	2:30pm – 4:00pm	Pearce's Farm Shop & Cafe	£3
AUGUST			
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 20th June – 10:30 to 12:00noon

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

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

God's Tears

When I was a child Mum said to me, when rain fell down as fat as can be,
"Don't worry – it's just God being sad, depressed, disappointed, feeling bad.
He's looked at the world and thought what a mess, so much evil and
badness – why is anyone's guess."

And when there was thunder, Mum said to me, "It's God moving furniture
from A to B."

Well, for the last few weeks God must have felt bad. He's cried so many
tears, he's been terribly sad.

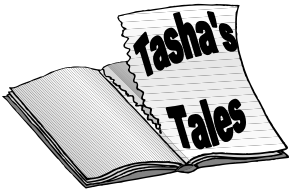
Disappointment so great, He's thundered and hailed, against evil and greed
He's angered and railed.

The rain of tears has been so great, a new Noah would be seen as a mate.
With floods this great we need a boat, so upon His tears we all can float.

Perhaps if evil away would go, the tears of God would cease to flow.

So hear, mankind, be kind, good and true, and God may smile and send
sunshine to you.

Teresa Bonner



One of my good friends has made a film to raise money for charity work to be done this summer in Tanzania. She will be selling the film on DVD for £5 and is selling to the general public via *facebook* and email. The film summary:

Ryan is an amateur film-maker, and his favourite subject matter is his best friend Victoria, who he has known since they were young. He films Victoria whenever he gets the chance, and throughout the story we grow to realise that he does this because he has stronger feelings for her than just best friendship. Ryan documents Victoria's life and we see her lose everything she loves whilst Ryan battles to protect her from her own personal demons as she reaches the end of the line. It's a story about love, friendship and how these have an effect on human stability.

If you are interested in purchasing or you want to find out more information please search: 'Delilah Daze' on *facebook* or Email: **houghtonem@yahoo.com**

All the money that is made from sales of the DVDs goes towards the charity work. After June if there is still interest in the DVDs the money goes towards Women's Health.

Tasha Morrison



Buntingford's Under 8s Turn In a Whirlwind Performance

Buntingford Cougars Under 8s welcomed Stevenage Boro Tornados to The Bury and entertained a large crowd with lots of chances at both ends, as Max Young in the Cougars goal made some brave stops whilst at the other end George Withey, Sam Daly and George Godfrey all came close to scoring.

The second half saw a determined effort from the hosts led by Evan Howard, whose tackling and hard work was an example to everyone; it was his tackle that created the first goal of the match as he broke down the visitors' attack and cleared to Remy Knowles, who passed to Nathan Anderson. Cougar's midfielder Anderson shot from a tight angle and was delighted to see the ball hit the net off the post. Following their goal Cougars worked hard to keep their lead but couldn't and were punished by the visitors when a cross caused a handball in the penalty area and the Stevenage player stepped up confidently to score. After the match Cougars Coach Daryl Dean was delighted with his side's performance saying: 'I was really pleased, a draw was a fair result but it could have been 3 or 4 each because there were so many chances at both ends.'

Cougars & Hares Under 8s Play a Blinder in the Rain

Buntingford Cougars Under 8s played host to near neighbours Hornead Hares in a torrential downpour at the end of April. The two sides played remarkably well despite the rain making the going tough. Early on both teams looked evenly matched as the game ebbed and flowed, but the visitors were the first to score through Tom Wrigley. The home side kept working hard and deserved their equaliser when Hayden Whalley scored.

After some substitutions from both sides the away team took the lead through Jonny Parker before scoring more when Cougars tried to equalise in the latter stages thanks to Wrigley, Jack Roberts, Rollo Buckley and Harvey Hawkes. In the conditions, though, it was plain to see that both teams had a thoroughly enjoyable morning of football – although the umbrella-protected spectators may have wished it were a little drier!

Cougars Coach Richard Whalley said afterwards: 'We are so impressed with the boys and girls who continue to do so well, the improvement that we are seeing makes us very proud of all of the players.'

Cougars Under 8s Have a Blast with Boro's Hurricanes

The Under 8s welcomed Stevenage Boro Hurricanes to The Bury in May and put on a great display. Cougars started with some great tackling from George Hegerty and Luke Goodchild. Archie Vass-Smart and Heydon Whalley were creating some good moves in the middle, but it was George Withey who put a nice pass through to Nathan Anderson, who fell awkwardly resulting in a fractured wrist for the Cougars' skipper. Cougars found themselves a goal down, but showed their determination when Heydon Whalley won a ball in midfield and fed George Withey with an inch perfect pass and with Remy Knowles' intelligent movement off the ball Withey accelerated into the Hurricane's penalty area

then slotted a shot into the corner of the net. In the latter stages the visitors scored again from distance and from a corner to wrap up the result, but it could not take away from the fact that both sets of players put in a great performance. After the game Cougars goalkeeping coach Reece Voller was delighted with the goal saying: 'It was good to see the movement off the ball at this young age – especially as it is something we have been focusing on in training.'

Cougars Under 8s play their final match of the season, against Ashwell, at the Bury on 19th May.

Richard Daly



Buntingford Cougars Free Football Fun For Reception Age Children

Buntingford Cougars are starting coaching sessions for our youngest age group, so if your child turns six between 1st Sept 2012 and 31st Aug 2013 please come along. All your child needs is suitable footwear (trainers if dry, football boots if wet), shin pads and a still drink.

Sessions are on grass at Snells Mead Park (behind the Co-Op) on Thursdays at 5:30pm for one hour. Buntingford Cougars coaches are:

- ☺ Qualified FA Coaches
- ☺ CRB checked
- ☺ First aid trained

Any questions? Please Call Wesley on 07968 629406

Buntingford Cougars is a youth football club where children of all abilities can have fun in a safe environment and are valued, respected and encouraged. All our coaches are FA qualified and CRB checked.

We have been a trusted part of the local community since 1971.

For details visit www.buntingfordcougars.com

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BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

www.buntingfordtownfc.com



Well the season is finally over and unfortunately both of our County League sides have finished in relegation positions. With both sides achieving promotion last season it should come as no surprise that we have had a tough campaign. Looking back on the First Team's season I can now see that although we started full of optimism, injuries to key players early on saw the side immediately disadvantaged, and although the effort on the pitch was there, the quality was just not good enough to overcome the stronger sides in the Premier Division.

Following this poor start it was a disappointment to see a small number of senior players leave the club, rather than hang on in there; the team was further weakened and to be honest, by the time the New Year came we all knew that it was going to be a long hard haul. Those players who did stick with us to the end have my thanks for their support.

For so long, the Reserves looked as though they were going to hold on to a mid-table position, but alas, were unable to do so. Nevertheless, they have continued to improve. This squad of players has been together for a few years now and the benefits of a settled side are now becoming apparent. As far as I am concerned, the most pleasing aspect of this season has been the influx of younger players into the Reserve squad; indeed, some of these have even had outings for the First Team, and to see how they have performed in their first year at this level has been really encouraging. Their attitude has been excellent, their work-rate second to none and they have shown the kind of enthusiasm and commitment every club desires. Well done to them!

The Vets finished their season in good form with a 4-2 win over Ashwell and a 4-1 victory over Knebworth. Yet again the Vets have been a source of great entertainment, both on and off the pitch, and the lads will now enjoy a rest over the summer in preparation for their 2012 'tour' in Weston Super Mare. Manager Nick Savage is stepping down this season, due to other Sunday morning commitments, and I would like to express my thanks to him for running the side over the last few years.

The club will be holding its AGM during June; it is currently scheduled for the Monday 18th, but I would advise that you check our website just in case the date is moved. Anyone is welcome to attend, but you need to be a club member in order to vote. Of course we are always looking to strengthen our set-up, so if you want to get involved with your local football club, in any capacity (including Chairman if you like!), please let me or one of our committee members know; alternatively join us at the AGM. During the season the committee only meets once a month and we are always on the lookout for new members who will of course bring new ideas to the table!

Finally I would like to thank our players, managers, supporters, sponsors, advertisers and my committee for all their hard work during the last 12 months. It's not been the best season ever, but we have had worse seasons than this before, not only in recent times but also in days gone by. That is football I'm afraid.

I look forward to us bouncing back into form next season; I'm also looking forward to a few weeks rest before it all starts again!

Chris Thurgill
Chairman, Buntingford Town FC



BUNTINGFORD W.I.

June Smith came along to our May meeting and we talked about the resolution to be discussed at the National Annual General Meeting of the W.I. relating to the employment of more midwives. Members thought there were some loopholes in the wording of the resolution (which was proposed by a W.I. in Lancashire) but with one exception members voted in favour of it. Mrs Smith also gave a talk on the history of the W.I. and we held a bring and buy plant sale.

June will be a busy month for us. Apart from our usual meeting and games morning, we will be providing refreshments for the workers at the Buntlympics on the 10th and of course we will be at the Carnival on 23rd June. We look forward to seeing you at our stall and hopefully you can give us a wave as we 'float' by in the procession! We will also be celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by having a garden party for members.

Advance notification of a coffee morning on 17th August at 10:30am at the Community Garden outside the police station. All proceeds to Herts Air Ambulance. Put the date in your diary.

Our next meeting is on **Thursday June 14th** at 7:45 pm in the URC Hall on Baldock Road. Tim Turner from Sworders will be talking about Fakes and Forgeries. Visitors are welcome.

Val Hume

BUNTINGFORD GARDENERS CLUB

Hello Everyone – At our AGM in March, I was elected the new Chairwoman of the club. The meeting in April consisted of a quiz and social evening, which was enjoyed by all. Our May meeting was very interesting as our guest speaker, Nigel Stort, talked about growing vegetables, from sowing to harvesting and storing them.



I would like to invite old and new members alike to our club meetings, which are held on the first Wednesday of the month at URC Hall (opposite the Post Office) at 7:45pm. Our next meeting is on **June 6th**, when Kathy Stangaard from Capel Manor will be talking about Constance Spry. Anyone requiring more information can contact me on 01763 274341.

Janet Murrells

Chairwoman, Buntingford Gardeners Club

Buntingford Dramatic Society

Trouble & Strife

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

7:30 Friday June 29th

7:30 Saturday June 30th

7:30 Friday July 6th

7:30 Saturday 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**

Royston Open Secrets

17th June – Father's Day – 11:00am to 4:00pm

On Therfield Common (The Heath), next to the Heath Sports Club, a FREE fun day out with lots of enjoyable activities and events. For more information see our website:

<http://www.open-secrets.co.uk>. Or just pop along on the day.

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