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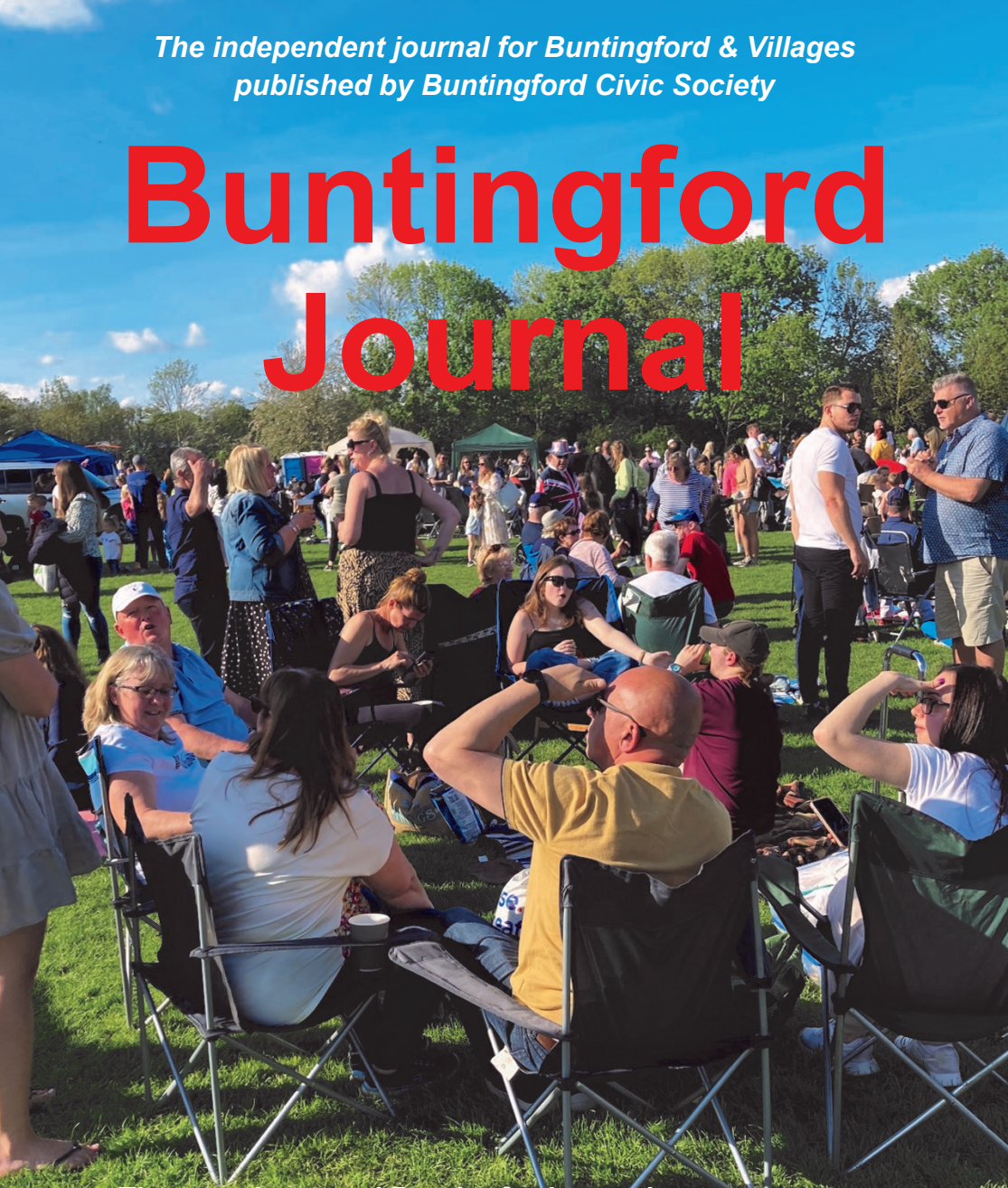
Buntingford Journal



The sun shone and Buntingford turned out en masse on Sunday 7th May to celebrate the Coronation of Charles III.

70p

June 2023
Volume 48, No.5

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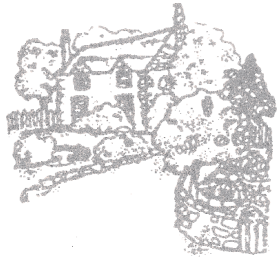

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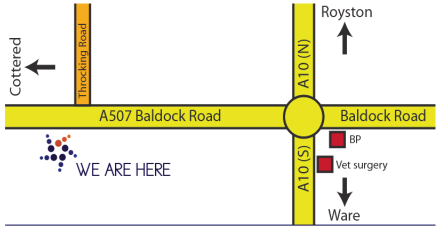

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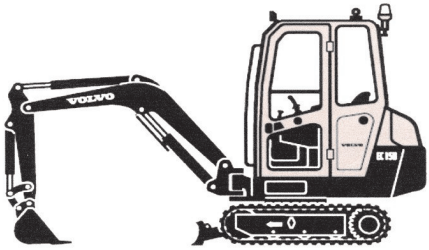

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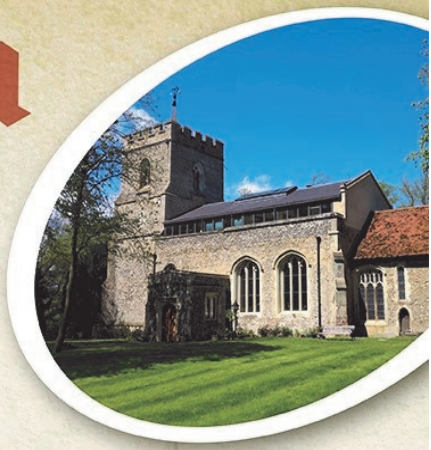

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The Buntingford Journal is published by, but is editorially independent of, the Buntingford Civic Society. For information on how to join the Society and have the Journal delivered to your door, please email:
membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Editor's Letter

As I was putting some finishing touches to the Journal yesterday, it suddenly struck home to me that this is the last one I will ever produce, so I am delighted that it is a bit of a party one, full of celebrations and achievements. Thank you to everyone who sent in photos recording several events that came to fruition in recent weeks. First, of course, there was the small matter of a Coronation and Buntingford's Fun Day, which the weather gods blessed with the first and so far only day this year that resembled summer, and as you will see that wasn't the only party of the weekend (page 22-25).

One week earlier, Buntingford's long-awaited Pump Track on Norfolk Road Playing Fields was officially opened to great enthusiasm (page 17), and the project to rejuvenate the Rib reached a major milestone with the planting of 2,500 chalk stream plants on the river's central stretch from the Ford to the Tannery bridge (page 8-9). Among all the photos, one face pops up time and again – our Town Mayor, Duncan Wallace, who must surely have set a record for most photos in a single Journal! Which reflects the fact that he is out and about so much on behalf of the town, whether it is presenting prizes, helping on the Rib, or representing the Town Council in establishing a Community Lunch initiative with The Woodman Inn (page 15). And in all of them he looks like he's having the time of his life!

Another extraordinary achievement that I must mention was by the three Green Party candidates in the local election, now our new District Councillors (page 6-7). Who saw that coming? I certainly didn't, I thought this area was Tory through and through, so for me this speaks of a willingness to try something new, as well as reflecting people's growing concern with climate change and optimism that something can be done about it. I suspect the long-standing disruption from the roadworks on London Road may have had something to do with the result, yet in the long-run I think the new multi-purpose path will turn out to be a good thing – it's certainly an improvement on the crumbling footpath it replaces. (Gosh, an opinion from the editor, whatever next – it must be time to move on!)

A new editor takes the reins next month. Her name is Anne Wright and she is a graphic designer with editing experience who already produces the Little Hadham monthly journal, so she knows what she is doing (which is more than I did when I started!). I think she is planning to give the Journal a facelift, probably long overdue, and I'm looking forward to seeing it. But REMEMBER, the Buntingford Journal is all about you – the readers, contributors and advertisers who send in the material that fills these pages. It's been a pleasure each month seeing what comes in – thank you and best wishes to you all. Long may Buntingford thrive and the Journal continue!

Christine Noble

Editorial copy deadline for the July/August 2023 Journal is Saturday 17th June 2023

Editorial submissions: Anne Wright – C/O Buntingford Civic Society, C/O The Manor House, 21 High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AB
email: Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

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

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

Letters & Emails to the Editor

Dear Christine

The pen is mightier than the sword

I have often used the metonymic phrase or adage to add significance to a certain form of words or expression which might perhaps give more credence to a particular point I am making. But when reading of our editor's update that she will be leaving the Journal and moving to pastures new, I could not help but think of the articles that she has overseen for these many years and can be best measured by the words of the heading above.

Therefore I feel that we have to offer our sincere thanks for all the talented effort that you. Chris, have put into the Buntingford Journal and its excellent presentation and inclusive content that serves as a good source of current events and many other useful tips. Indeed it is not only a report on many of the activities and upcoming events that fill the pages, it is also a very useful directory of businesses in the town that can help find someone to assist at times when a professional is very much in demand.

I am pleased to say that a great deal of content lifts the Journal from being just a handy guide to a publication that promotes, informs and questions things that are relevant in the minds of many local inhabitants. News of the various activities, clubs and groups in town, along with school reporting is excellent. Indeed the artwork/photography, layout, poetry and story writing is of high quality. From my own point of view I am grateful for the opportunity to offer some observations interspersed with humour within my scribblings which have been accepted over a number of years.

We will miss you Chris very much and wish you every success and happiness going forward when you eventually up sticks and venture north. Very best regards,

Vyse

Thank you so much, Vyse, for those generous words, although I really can't take any credit for the directory aspect of the Journal. For that we must thank Keith Edwards and all our Journal advertisers – Christine

Hi Christine

Whether you are for or against the dual cycle way/footpath, it is interesting to note the outcome of the 2021 survey.

Out of a population of about 7,500 people in Buntingford, they had 292 replies of which 156 were in favour of the scheme. That figure is 54% of the people who voted, but 2% of the Buntingford population! Even that figure is distorted high because some of the 'fors' were from outside Buntingford – Hertford, Watford and St Albans to name a few.

Doesn't say much for local democracy, does it? Possibly the decision was already made.

Ashley Cantor

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

THE CO-OP • LOCKS, STOCK & MORE • MARK DOEL BUTCHERS
McCOLL'S • KIM on the CARD STALL at Buntingford Market

At the recent AGM of the Civic Society, Graham Bonner, who has fulfilled the role of chairman for some 7 years decided to step down from this role but he remains an active member of the Society. Our heartfelt thanks go to Graham for his leadership during his time as chairman. The new chairman is me, Graham Waite – yes, another Graham, and I hope to bring to the role the same enthusiasm and wisdom as Graham Bonner. The executive committee was voted back in by members en-bloc to continue for a further year but, ideally, we would like at least two more committee members. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday in the month and are quite painless, so if you are interested, please contact our Secretary, Carol Noble, at **secretary@buntingfordcivic.org.uk**.

The AGM was held in the Bunters Suite at the Seth Ward Community Centre on 18th April and following the main business of the meeting we were treated to a very informative and engaging talk by local PCSO Glen Stanway entitled **'My Life on Screen – reality takes over'**. Glen (left) has been involved in the film industry for many years, working on films such as Harry Potter, *Deathly Hallows* and *Guardians of the Galaxy,* and on many TV series including *Silent Witness, Eastenders, Luther* and *New Tricks*. He entertained the audience with anecdotes about his experiences in the industry and the different actors he has worked with. The evening was rounded off with a glass of wine and snacks. My personal thanks to all who took the time to attend, the society is nothing without its members.

So far May has been a very busy month, what with local elections and the coronation of King Charles III. We would like to pass on our congratulations to the three new District Councillors. Our best wishes to them in their new roles which we are sure will be interesting and hopefully rewarding. It is hoped that the new District Councillors will carry on helping local residents with the many private unreported issues that our previous District Councillors did on a daily basis. We in the Society look forward to receiving the same help and support as in the past.

On Sunday 7th May Buntingford celebrated the coronation with a Family Fun Day organised by the Town Council. It was a great success and thanks go to the many volunteers, including Civic Society members, who not only helped plan the event but also gave huge support on the day by litter picking, stewarding and helping people in general.

As you all know, Christine Noble, who has been editing the Journal for almost 12 years, has decided to move back to her roots in Northumberland. As a committee we have known about this for some time and hoped it would go away, but it didn't, and this June issue of the Journal (out at the end of May) will be her last. It has been extremely difficult to find a replacement for Christine as her skill set covered many aspects of the Journal production, but we have been lucky to secure the services of Anne Wright, who will be taking on the Journal from the July/August issue. We look forward to this new chapter in the Journal's history. We wish Christine the very best for her move.

(Continued)

For a few years now we have seen a gradual decline in both Journal sales and Civic Society membership and the executive committee has had many discussions about the future, both of the Society and the Journal. An example of this is the cost of producing 10 journals per year. At the present level of sales, it is costing us approximately £1.50 per copy to produce and we sell it in the shops for 70p – not economic sense. Therefore, reluctantly and with some trepidation, we have decided that with effect from the July/ August issue we will be raising the cover price of the Journal in the shops to £1, which will go some way to redressing the balance. We sincerely hope that this price increase does not deter non-members from buying the Journal. BCS members will still get their Journal delivered to their door for the membership fee of £10 per annum.

Well, that's it for now and we hope you all enjoy the up-coming summer, maybe not as hot as last year.

Graham Waite – Chairman, Buntingford Civic Society
Email: chairman@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

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

The Greening of Buntingford

On 4th May 2023, our town went from being 100% Conservative to 100% Green! A seismic shift and a massive opportunity to change the way we do politics in Buntingford. THANK YOU to all the voters of Buntingford who honoured us with their votes: we feel humbled by your confidence in us – and not a little nervous of the expectations you must now have of us. Thank you, too, to Madela Baddock, who is not a Councillor but who should take a big share of the credit for starting us off on our Green Journey with Buntingford in Transition and BACCS. Thanks also to our wonderful volunteers who helped us with leafleting the town and surrounding villages: this is your success as much as ours. Finally, we must pay tribute to our Conservative predecessors: Stan Bull, one of the world's longest serving councillors, who remains with us on East Herts District Council serving Braughing ward; and Jeff Jones, who earned a reputation as one of the hardest-working EHDC councillors and remains Buntingford's County Councillor. We look forward to working with – and learning from – both of them, as we start our 4-year terms.

We want to change the way our Town is managed. For it is clearly bonkers that the County is putting five (or is it seven?) new Zebra crossings on London Road – and yet is unable to instal the one crossing that citizens have been demanding for years: the one that would provide a safe crossing for our children across Bowling Green Lane to Edwinstree School from Norfolk Road. Likewise, residents of Neale Drive have been begging the District Council to sort out the exit to the bypass, with a weight and speed restriction so that heavy trucks and farm vehicles can't use their road as a short-cut. That's called a permanent Traffic Regulation Order – and it beggars belief that this is still not sorted out after so many years of meetings and bickering. Also, our once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to impact the refurbishment of our library has been squandered as Buntingford residents were not allowed the chance to view the plans until after the work had started! Likewise, did anyone actually beg the Council for a cycle path down London Road? And how many people really wanted the B-Cat Bus? (I've never seen it with a

(Continued)

Victorious Green Councillors Vicky Burt, David Woollcombe and Sue Nicholls – bleary-eyed but happy after the all-night count on 4th May.

passenger!) And did any one ask for that cycle rack that appeared then disappeared at the top of Church Street? This 'Mummy-know-best' attitude of previous administrations seemed to assume that Buntingford residents would welcome any madcap, boondoggle scheme that they could get central Government money for. Canvassing the streets and villages of our Ward showed us that this is NOT the case: residents want to be listened to and have councillors who respond to their concerns and needs, rather than pursuing their own pet projects and passions which, as we've seen, are all too often misguided.

So we Greens are resolved to be your 'Listening Councillors'. Our votes are NOT whipped, so we can vote as we feel *you* would wish us to – not as some party mandarins order us to. We have already set up a Buntingford Greens Facebook page at **https://www.facebook.com/groups/234700685776126** where you can raise and discuss your concerns. And we have Green Drinks at the Crown Pub every 2nd Thursday of the month where you can talk to us in person. We're also going to set up a morning session once a month at the Coffee Shop – think of these as a monthly Town Meeting where your Listening Councillors will be there to Listen, agree a course of action with you, and then lobby, pester, cajole and protest to make it happen! But PLEASE REMEMBER, District Councillors are only responsible for Planning. Schools, Libraries and Highways are the responsibility of the County Council where the Conservatives have a 14-seat majority until 2025. So though, as Councillors, we are in a better position to access officers and lobby for residents' concerns, especially if we can get the support of the Town Council, many of those concerns are ruled upon by the Conservative-led County Council, not us.

The winds of change are clearly blowing through Buntingford. It is our hope that the votes you cast on 4th May 2023 will help to ensure that Buntingford in 2050 will be a better place than it would have been otherwise. We continue in our day jobs, which for David means working with schools on UN Environmental Governance issues through Peace Child International. In this capacity, he will be at **Edwinstree School** on **12th July** when the school hosts another Intergenerational Dialogue with the students looking at climate, food and biodiversity issues. In the evening, they will discuss what they have learned with their parents, peers and outside experts. Please come along if you can and join the discussion. Although these students don't vote yet, as members of the Green Party we see it as our duty to address their concerns. We're building a sustainable Buntingford for them as much as for the rest of us.

Whether you voted for us or not, our duty is to serve everyone who has the privilege, like us, of living in the town of Buntingford or its surrounding villages. Like our recently crowned King, it is our passion to serve you all and to address, and hopefully resolve, your concerns. Thanks again for electing us!

Vicky Burt, Sue Nicholls and David Woollcombe

Bringing Buntingford's Rib Back to Life

As I reported back in February the River Rib through the town has been dredged of silt and habitat features known as 'berms' have been built into the riverbed. This has created a corridor for wildlife in the centre of our town. I do hope the ducks appreciate their improved home!

From the funds donated – mainly by The Environment Agency – the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) purchased native chalk-stream plug plants to enhance the berms. They provided us with about 13 plant varieties including marsh marigolds, water forget-me-knots, lesser & greater pond sedge, gipsywort, brooklime, lesser spearwort, water mint, flag iris and starwort.

Over two days, 27th and 28th April, about 20 local volunteers gathered to plant up the berms. The photos show them hard at work. They did an incredible job, planting 2,500 plants in the berms stretching from River Green to near the Tannery Bridge. In fact they ran out of plants and there are still berms to be planted up below the bridge. Once everything settles down there may be more work possible in the future, depending on obtaining the necessary funding. A local gardening group is growing chalk-stream plants and these will be used later in the year to supplement those already planted or to replace any plants that are lost.

Once again I would like to thank Buntingford Town Council for the original funding for the project and their ongoing support, and also HMWT for their expertise and the 'know how' to raise funds to pay for the work. Also our thanks must go to all the volunteers who did the planting in April and the small group that are dedicated to on-going river maintenance.

I would like to dedicate the planting and river works to the late David Edwards, who played an important role on the River Rib Steering Group for several years.

Brian Lemay
brianlemay@btinternet.com

Huge crowds descended on Standon for the village's annual May Day Bank Holiday celebrations and Friends of the Rib & Quin were able to be part of the day.

Thanks to the generosity of The Star we were again located in their car park and were able to talk to lots of visitors who came to see the Vintage Car Show in the pub grounds. Young and old were entertained by riverfly larvae that had been collected from the River Rib earlier in the day and placed in water-filled trays so people could view them under the microscope (right). Others discussed with great engagement the issues that our chalk streams are facing.

FORQ Chairman, Mark, spent a great day at Roger de Clare First School & Nursery in Puckeridge to share the story of chalk streams. In the morning session at the school, the children learned how chalk streams are formed and why they are so special. They learned about some of the spectacular wildlife that lives in our valleys close to and in the river, including the mayfly, trout, lamprey, damselflies, glow worms and, hopefully, soon to be re-introduced water-voles that rely on clean natural river and water meadow habitats for their survival.

After meeting Cerys, our model of a Cased Caddisfly Larvae, and learning about river flies and riverfly monitoring, the first group of students walked down to the river at Standon to take a closer look at the river and some of the creatures living there. A riverfly sample was taken and the children then identified larvae, placed them in sample trays and looked at them under the microscope. After lunch the second class went down to the river and a fresh sample of river invertebrates was taken.

It was fantastic to see the joy and fascination spreading across the group as bullheads, freshwater shrimp, olives and even a cased caddis were found and identified (Cerys must have put in a good word!). In all, 48 children from Year 4 joined us on the day and we hope gained a greater knowledge of their local chalk stream – we hope that this day will be the first of many and the beginning of a long-term relationship between the Friends of the Rib & Quin and Roger de Clare School.

FORQ are very keen to develop relationships with all schools across the catchment, whatever age group they cater for. As well as education and awareness days like the one described here, we have lots of exciting educational ideas and projects, including plans to bring trout and possibly even river flies into the classroom to inspire as many local pupils as possible. However, it isn't possible without funding and FORQ are a small and entirely volunteer-run organisation. In that light we would love to hear from local charities and businesses who might be in a position to contribute to our work with schools.

It was a great honour and pleasure to be asked to deliver this year's AGM talk to the Hertford & Ware National Trust Association. The title and subject of the talk was **'The Good, the Bad & the Ugly – Introducing Hertfordshire's Chalk Streams and the uncertain future they face'**. It was a welcome opportunity to share with another attentive audience the special nature of our rare Hertfordshire chalk streams and some details of the challenges they endure from abstraction and pollution.

(Continued)

With the recent release of data on raw sewage spills, the presentation was able to include some rather astounding numbers of special concern to us in the east of the county. It was a shock to the audience to discover that apparently 90% of raw sewage spills take in place in the Lea Catchment, and that approaching 50% of the spills are in Sir Oliver Heald's North-East Hertfordshire constituency. Our thanks to Hertford & Ware National Trust Association for the opportunity to speak at the AGM and for their kind donation.

Pauline Ayres, Communications FORQ

forqcomms@gmail.com **https://friendsoftherib.wordpress.com/**

Summer Events in Reed

Saturday 17th June, 2–5pm: ***Summer Fayre*** **in St Mary's Churchyard.** Cream teas with live music from The Reed Tea Time Trio. There will be games and a licensed bar. Free entry. *Please join us for what we hope will be a very sociable and convivial occasion.*

Sunday 18th June, 6.30pm: ***'Music for a Summer's Evening'*** **with Reed Choir in St Mary's Churchyard.** Enjoy a wide range of music and a cheese and charcuterie supper, served at your table. Licensed bar. **Tickets:** £15 adult, £5 children aged 10-17, under 10s free. Please contact **lizkershaw@hotmail.co.uk** to reserve places – advance booking is required for catering purposes, but payment can be made on the night via cash, cheque, or card. BACS payments also accepted, details can be provided. *Any profits from this event will go to St Mary's Church and Reed Choir.*

Friday 23rd June, 12–2pm: ***Soup Lunch*** **in Reed Village Hall.** *All very welcome.*

Sunday 23rd July, 12–4pm: ***Jazz in the Garden*** **at Reed First School.** Enjoy a lavish buffet lunch whilst you listen to the music of Dave Rance and The Rockin' Chair Band. **Tickets:** £25 adult, £10 age 10-17, under 10s free. Contact: **Liz Jakeman on 01763 848 398** or **Alison at harrisonac@btinternet.com**

Reed Garden Club in Reed Village Hall

Wednesday 14th June, 2–4pm

This month's speaker is Tom Doig, local historian. £2 entrance

United Benefice of Aspenden, Buntingford and Westmill

United Benefice of Aspenden, Buntingford & Westmill

Reverend Kirsty Wainwright

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7839/benefice/32-012BK/

Email: admin@unitedbenefice.org.uk

Telephone: 01763 271552 or 07484 345027

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

Our Services for June 2023

Sun 4th	9.30am	All Age Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9.30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 11th	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9.30am	All Age Holy Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11.00am	All Age Holy Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 18th	9.30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sun 25th	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	11.00am	Morning Worship	St Peter's Buntingford
	7.00pm	Praise Evening	St Peters, Buntingford

Our Social Media links now include:

https://Instagram.com/unitededbnenefice

https://www.facebook.com/UnitedBeneficeABW

And you can scan the QR code to reach our website

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

PRAISE EVENING

Calling all Christians!

Come and praise the Lord at St Peter's Church, Buntingford, on Sunday 25th June between 7pm and 8pm.

Our Worship Group will be leading us in contemporary songs of worship. It will be an opportunity to come together to worship God and learn new worship songs. **If you are interested in the Christian faith, you are also most welcome to come and join us**. Refreshments will be served at 8pm.

The United Reformed Church

Christ Church

Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9AA

Minister: Rev. Sue Fender
Sue is unavailable until 24th July as she is on sabbatical

Secretary: Peter Godbert
buntingford.urc@talktalk.net
Tel: 01763 281359

Services at 11am / Junior Church in the Hall at 11am

June	4	Holy Communion	Rev Dr Rick Mearkle
	11	Morning Worship	Richard Lewney
	18	Morning Worship	Rev Allen Morton
	25	Morning Worship	Penny Flynn
July	2	Holy Communion	Rev Elizabeth Caswell

CHURCHES TOGETHER – Regular Events

'Lunch, Laughter & Light'

Topical discussion group meets on the first Wednesday of each month in the hall. Lunch 12.30pm – *bring you own lunch,* hot drinks will be provided. Discussion 1–2pm.

Morning Prayers every Tuesday and Thursday

9–9.30am at St Peter's Church – *all are welcome*

Coffee and Company meets every Thursday, 10.30am to 12.30pm, in the URC Hall. If you're elderly, living alone, new to the area, perhaps working from home, and would like some company, come along to share Coffee, Cake, Company and Chat. *All are welcome* – just turn up and give a small donation for refreshments.

Website: www.buntingfordurc.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/URCBuntingford

ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford. Telephone 01763 271471

Parish Priest: Reverend Father Cyril Chiaha

VIGIL MASS for Sundays is at 6pm every Saturday

SUNDAY MASS is at 9.15am and 11am every Sunday

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES, SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES & OTHER PARISH NEWS are available on the parish website: **https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/buntingford/**

All Masses will take place at St Richard of Chichester in Buntingford until the works on the parish church of St Edmund of Canterbury & English Martyrs, Old Hall Green, and St Thomas of Canterbury, Puckeridge, have been completed.

St Mary's Church in Aspenden

Will be open from 2 to 4pm on the following Saturdays:

3rd June, 1st July & 5th August

Come and see this beautiful church at the end of the lane in Aspenden!

Danielle and Janice – Snowdon Trek

Janice Penman, a Clinical Nurse Specialist with the Isabel Hospice, set herself the challenge of climbing 12 mountains in 12 months to raise money for the charity. Before climbing Snowdon in April, she asked permission from Danielle Scripps to dedicate the climb to the memory of Danielle's husband Andrew, who Janice had helped care for until he died in August last year aged 41. Andrew (left), a well-known painter and decorator, lived in Buntingford with Danielle and their two young daughters, Scarlett, 5, and Poppy, 2. He was diagnosed with cancer after experiencing unusual pains around his heart one evening after work. By the time he had a scan, it had already spread to his lymph nodes and stomach. Immunotherapy and chemo-therapy followed, until the palliative care team at Lister Hospital put them in touch with Isabel Hospice.

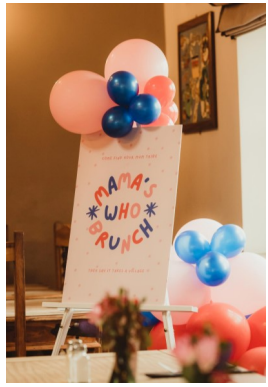
"Janice messaged me on Christmas Day to explain what she was doing," said Danielle, "... my immediate thought was that I wanted to do it with her. I didn't have time to go out walking, so I didn't do any training at all to prepare, but after everything Andrew went through, what is climbing a mountain in comparison?"

The two women set off on the climb at 9am and in three hours reached the top of Snowdon. Here they are at the summit, sharing a toast to Andrew with a little bottle of Prosecco! "The visibility on our way up got worse and worse," said Danielle, "but as we reached the summit all the clouds parted and the sun came out. It looked like something out of a movie! … There was a real sense of achievement and I think Andrew would be really proud of me, as it's not something I'd usually do. But now I want to do more … Doing things like the climb with Janice helps keep his memory alive."

She added: "The Hospice made us feel safe and secure … [and] helped us all to enjoy the time we had left together ... And the care hasn't stopped. I go regularly for counselling and I speak to them about the children. There is no end to the care and it will go on for as long as I want or need it."

Building Our Community – one table at a time

The Woodman Inn and Three 9 Eight Coffee Barn in Nuthampstead are hosting a series of Community events aimed at bringing local people together by providing a hub to meet and make use of its facilities.



Mamas Who Brunch offers the opportunity for all local mums, new mums and mums-to-be to meet others within the area, to enjoy a meal together and socialise. The group was started by Barley mum Katie Linard: "The idea came about when I moved to Barley from London over 18 months ago with a one-year-old, being pregnant and not knowing anyone in the area. I wanted to create an event in our villages to allow mums to meet each other, as it was a daunting experience for me and I imagine there are other mums within our beautiful villages who are in a similar position." The group next meets on 9th June when, says Katie, "We will have two very special guests … a baby sleep consultant and [a] financial educator who will be focusing on earning, saving and investing money whilst on maternity leave." The group will meet from 10am to midday at the Three 9 Eight Coffee Barn in Nuthampstead.

The Coffee Barn has also registered to be part of the **Chatty Cafe Scheme**, a national programme intended to help build personal connections and encourage social interaction. On the second Monday of each month, a volunteer will host a coffee table. Those wanting to attend either book a place in advance or just turn up at 10am to join the table. Dogs are welcome, so bring yours along.

Partnering with Buntingford Town Council, The Woodman Inn are hosting a Community Lunch Table (right) every two months starting in July. Guests join a group lunch table to enjoy a £10 menu that includes hot drinks and cake. This is simply a chance for light conversation and to make new friends. Everyone is welcome and you can catch a ride there on the Buntingford Community Area Transport bus.

To find out more, please contact The Woodman Inn on **01763 848328**

Mamas Who Brunch – please visit the Facebook Page of the same name.

Community Lunch Table and the **Chatty Café Scheme** – contact Zoe at **three9eight@nutwoodpubs.com**

BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council Coronation event held on Sunday 7th May was a huge success (see pages 22-23). For just one day summer arrived and the sun shone. The all local band line-up provided fantastic entertainment and the free fun fair gave non-stop entertainment for the children. The spectacular laser show rounded off the event and I think everyone went home happy. The Town Council would like to thank the many volunteers who gave their time and worked tirelessly throughout the day – the event could not have taken place without you. Also the Mayor is indebted to the Councillors who have worked on this event since the beginning of the year to make sure everything went smoothly.

The Town Council welcomes new Councillors Karl Harrington and Louis Melton. A further three Councillors will be co-opted at the Annual Council meeting. Grateful thanks to those Councillors who stood down in May, your hard work in previous years is appreciated.

The official opening of the pump track (right) was held on 29th April and was very well attended. Early reports indicate that it will be very popular amongst all age groups.

This year the Town Council will hold the Civic Reception on the 30th June. This event is to thank the organisations in the town who arrange clubs and classes. Invitations will be sent out shortly – if your organisation does not receive an invitation, please let us know.

The popular Chatter Table continues on the first and third Monday of the month at The Manor House, 10am to 11.45am. Details of the June Council meetings are below.

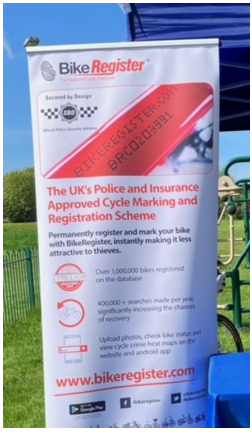
Jill Jones, Town Clerk

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

Office hours: Monday–Thursday 9am–5pm; closed Friday
The Manor House, High Street, Buntingford SG9 9AB
Tel: 01763 272222 Email: clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk
Twitter: @buntingfordtc Facebook.com/BuntingfordTC
Website: www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

Town Council meetings for June 2023	
Thurs 1st June	**7pm – Amenities Committee**
Thurs 8th June	**7pm – Planning Committee and Resources Committee**
Thurs 29th June	**7pm – Planning Committee and Full Council**
All meetings are in the Council Chamber at The Manor House, unless otherwise stated. Members of the public are welcome to attend.	

Buntingford's New Pump Track: Riders came from far and wide for the grand opening sponsored by the Royston Rockets (centre) and including British BMX star Quillan Isidore (far right, centre). Dave Austin and Mayor Duncan Wallace performed the opening honours (top) and everyone had a go including Paul, one of our local PCSOs (bottom).


BikeRegister
The National Cycle Database
Secured by Design
BIKEREGISTER.COM
BRC0123981
The UK's Police and Insurance Approved Cycle Marking and Registration Scheme
Permanently register and mark your bike with BikeRegister, instantly making it less attractive to thieves.
Over 1,000,000 bikes registered on the database
400,000 + searches made per year, significantly increasing the chances of recovery
Upload photos, check bike status and view cycle crime heat maps on the website and android app
www.bikeregister.com
bikeregister

April saw the reopening of Buntingford Library after a period of closure for refurbishment. Our reopening was a huge success with lots of visitors, old and new faces, and a very positive feeling has been felt in the library since.

The main library has benefitted from a complete reconfiguration, including new flooring, ceiling, frontage, lighting, heating and ventilation, new and enhanced technology, with brand-new shelving which can be moved, so that the space can be multiple-use. We now have more PCs, space and power points for laptop working, comfortable new furniture, and a dramatically improved children's library. In terms of stock, we have gained more books and have lots of new titles for you to borrow.

(Continued)

In addition, our meeting room has seen considerable improvement, with complete redecoration, new flooring and ceiling, and much-needed heating and extra power points!

Our first reopening event was a 'Family Fun Coding Day' which was a resounding success, seeing families bonding and working together while playing with our coding toys. Next up was our 'Special Storytime' for under 5s and, soon after, the 'Teddybear Sleepover' (right), which was also very popular and the children thoroughly enjoyed seeing what their teddies and other furry friends got up to when left in the library overnight!

We hosted the first poetry event in the library for many years, an event which was also well-received. Local poet Chris Burleigh gave a witty and thought-provoking talk on the stories and processes behind his work. We now have plans to work with Chris again in the autumn to launch a Poetry Competition.

May saw the return of our new and improved social group, previously known as 'Jigsaw & Chat' and now re-named 'Chatter Table'. There are still plenty of jigsaws to occupy yourself with, but we now have additional areas for relaxing and reading magazines, as well as lovely new sofas and armchairs to sit on, in our freshly refurbished meeting room. This is a wonderfully welcoming group for those who may be experiencing loneliness or just fancy meeting friends, old and new.

'Baby Rhyme Time', 'Story Time' and 'Lego Club' will shortly be starting at the library too, all of the details will be announced on our social media channels, website and posters within the library. In the near future, we also have plans to launch an After-school Art Club and a Teen Group, as well as our fantastic one-off events dotted throughout the calendar. The library is so valuable to the High Street and we would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their continued support. See you soon.

Chloe Russell, Library Manager

Events at Buntingford Library

Every Monday 10.30-11am – **Baby Rhyme Time**. Suitable for children aged from roughly 6 weeks to 3 years.

Every Tuesday 10.30-12.30 – **Chatter Table** (previously 'Jigsaw & Chat'). Enjoy a jigsaw, relax with a magazine, or chat over a cuppa. Free entry and refreshments.

Every Thursday (starting 8th June) 10.30-11am – **Story Time**. Suitable for children aged roughly from 2 to 5 years.

27th May to 3rd June (during library opening hours) – **Local History Scavenger Hunt**. Free family event – pop into the Library to pick up a pack.

17th June 10-11.30am – **'Draw Your Dad'** for Father's Day. Free children's art event.

Buntingford W.I.

We've had so many nice comments about our decorations for the King's Coronation. This time we included the Millennium Clock (right) and the Town Sign (opposite, top) as well as the Victorian Pump (below) and we are planning to keep the decorations up for a little while. Thanks go to our very talented craft ladies and also to Nick Wilson for creating the Orb inside the Pump.

We held our Annual Meeting in May and we now have a new President, Jen Cresswell. Our outgoing President, Veronica Easley, gave a short report and also gave out novelty gifts to the committee members.

We were joined by Pam Kershaw, a W.I. Adviser – she had an eventful journey to get here, battling through flooding in Harpenden, negotiating a sink hole, and then being confronted with our road works in London

Road! She talked us through this year's W.I. Resolution which relates to clean rivers for people and wildlife.

We are planning an Afternoon Tea in June as part of our celebrations for the Coronation and we're also already getting busy making poppies for the War Memorial in November.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 8th June** at 7.15 for 7.30pm at the URC Hall in Baldock Road (opposite McColls) and our guest will be Joy Hall who will take us (virtually) to Buckingham Palace. Quite topical! Visitors are welcome at all our meetings so if you are new to Buntingford (and even if you're not!) just turn up on the night and come to see what Buntingford W.I. is all about.

If you would like further information about us, please contact Pat on 01763 271305.

Val Hume

Buntingford Gardeners' Club

Next Meeting: Wednesday 7th June

At: The URC Hall, Baldock Road

Doors open: 7.45 for 8pm start

Now that the better weather is here – do you enjoy getting out in the garden? Why not come and join us for our June meeting where we have Anup Devlia, a volunteer from the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, coming along to give a talk entitled "A Wilder Future for Herts & Middlesex". The talk will include how we can help nature survive very successfully in urban areas. The Trust has set some goals and Anup will discuss how, with our involvement, these can be achieved.

We also have monthly club competitions for members. The competition for June is a single rose, so remember to bring yours along!

On **Wednesday 21st June** we are having a coach trip to Barnsdale Gardens in Rutland, created and made famous by the late Geoff Hamilton from *Gardener's World*. These trips are always very popular and, space permitting, are open to non-members.

At our July meeting Roger Hance will be talking about "The Secret Life of the Wood", pointing out what can be found there, some of which is not always visible … Intriguing!

Our meetings are on the 1st Wednesday of every month (no meeting in August or January). Annual membership costs just £17.50, visitors pay £3 per meeting. It's a nice way to meet others who share common interests, so please come and join us.

For any more information, please contact the Club Secretary on **01763 271885**.

THE KINGS

Coronation Celebrations!

What a fantastic day was had by all who attended the Coronation Family Fun Day at the Community Centre on Sunday 7th May. The event was officially opened at 2pm by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Emma Robarts, along with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Buntingford, Councillors Duncan Wallace and Pat Furness – seen below presenting prizes for the fancy dress competition. Appropriately the sun came out and remained with us for the rest of the day. Within minutes of the opening, children were fully occupied with the free fairground rides and the face painter was under siege!

The food stalls did a roaring trade and the licensed bar – The King's Head, of course – was also very popular. Live music was soon underway, all provided by local bands and artists, and this continued until the closing laser light show. A rousing rendition of *Land of Hope and Glory* and *God Save the King*, with full audience participation, brought the curtain down on what had been a truly memorable day.

Thanks must go to the army of stewards whose tireless efforts made the day go without a hitch. And a final thank you to Buntingford Town Council for organising and funding the event, providing our community with memories that will last for many years.

Fairfield Coronation Party

In addition to being involved with the Coronation Fun Day at the Community Centre, I helped organise the street party in Fairfield and I just wondered if Journal readers might like to see some of the photos taken on the day? The event took place on Monday 8th May and although the weather wasn't great, there were happy smiling faces all round. Live music was supplied by Beans 'n' Biscuits, a (very) local band headed up by Fairfield residents, Stuart and Kim Campbell.

There were children's games and we played 'Housey Housey' (Bingo using house numbers). We also held a Big Raffle raising money for the Motor Neurone Disease charity. A Fairfield resident has been severely affected by this cruel disease and we are pleased to say we raised over £300 to donate.

Left: It's a hard job but someone has to do it – judging the Bake-Off. The prize went to Glenys Jaycock.

(Continued)

The prize for Best Decorated Home went to Ashley and Marilyn Cantor, here (below) being given their prize by Mayor Duncan Wallace. I hope you all enjoyed the Coronation weekend as much as we did!

Dave Austin

Above: Meeting the King! *Below:* Dave Austin with Town Mayor Duncan Wallace and Deputy Mayor Pat Furness.

Buntingford Community Choir

I must begin with saying a big thank you to Christine for editing the Journal for such a long time. On behalf of the Buntingford Community Choir, I would like to wish you every happiness in the future, Christine. I also offer a warm welcome to Anne who is taking over.

May was a strange month for our members as there were so many Bank Holidays which coincided with our usual Monday get-togethers. We are now looking forward to singing our hearts out through to August.

We are always looking for new members. There are no auditions for the Community Choir, and you don't need to be able to read music. Anyone over 16, with or without singing experience, will be made welcome. We meet on a Monday evening from 7.30pm at Millfield School. If you are interested in joining us or would like to come for a free trial evening please email us at **info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk** Or for more information see our website: **www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk**

Paul Webster

Fart Food

Food and Art Exhibition

23-25 June

With just weeks to go, the Gravelly Barn team are almost ready to tempt your tastebuds with an amazing combination of food and art at their Fart Exhibition. The three-day show promises a fascinating fusion of visual art and culinary creations, prepared for your delectation and to raise money for charity. It will feature work by some of our best local artists – photography, painting, drawing, ceramics, printing and 3-D work – with something for all tastes, literally.

There will be displays by chef Clive Marshall demonstrating how food presentation can be seen as art in its own right. And to make it a feast for all the senses, there will be music – from the Ware Ukulele Group on Saturday afternoon, plus a live performance by the Razed Roof Inclusive Performance Arts Group from Harlow, again on the theme of food.

Tea, coffee, cakes and other refreshments will be available. There is free parking opposite Gravelly Barn, with disabled parking on site.

All the money raised will be going to Haematology Cancer Care at University College London Hospital, a charity supporting patients and research, the latest of which is the ground-breaking CAR T-cell therapy which harnesses the patient's own immune system.

Fri & Sat 23rd & 24th June (10am-5pm) & Sun 25th (10am-4pm)

EJD STUDIO, Gravelly Barn, Braughing SG11 2RD

For further information please see our website: **www.gravellybarn.com**

BUNTINGFORD ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY (BACCS)

The tide is turning

Well, what can I say … Since writing for the Journal last month there has been a definite wave of enthusiasm and commitment from people standing up for what they believe in – a fairer, cleaner world for us all to enjoy. From the 60,000-plus demonstrators at *The Big One* in London, comprising people from over 200 organisations and with speakers including Chris Packham (can you spot him in the photo?) …

… to Buntingford residents voting with their feet to achieve the election of all three Green Party candidates to be our new District Councillors. The Green Party had amazing results nationwide but East Herts had the fourth largest gain – an incredible, uplifting result.

More and more people are realising that we only have one planet to sustain us and we need to look after it. If you would like to join in discussions on local or global issues, don't forget that BACCS hosts a Green Drinks event every month where there will be an opportunity to meet your new Councillors in a relaxed environment.

Come and meet us in the Crown pub on Market Hill, every second Thursday of the month. Our next get-together is on Thursday 8th June at 7pm.

Come and see what is happening locally, make some suggestions or air your views. Learn more about the world we live in and how you can live more sustainably via books and DVDs available to borrow through our "Green Library". Everyone is welcome.

Madela and the BACCS team

Facebook: **@BACCSBuntingford** Email: **baccsbuntingford@gmail.com**

BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB NEWS

The Film Club is winding down for the Summer. A BIG THANK YOU to all our patrons who have supported us through a brilliant 2022/23 season of great films and full houses in our new home in the Campbell Hall at the Seth Ward Community Centre.

The only date in our June diary is our **Annual General Meeting** at 7pm on **Wednesday 7th June** at the Crown Pub, Market Hill, Buntingford. Do come along and help us discuss how we can improve our Club, and suggest films for the 2023/24 season. Also, we have just heard that Ian Stephens will be standing down as Chair at this meeting, and we need your help to elect new officers. Ian has overseen a particularly successful period for the Club, managing the difficult move from Benson Hall to the Community Centre, as well as a significant upgrade in the quality of the Film Club's kit with a new projector and outdoor screen. He also pretty much single-handedly solved our equipment storage challenge by creating storage space beneath the Campbell Hall stage. He will be a hard act to follow but he has promised to stay involved – which is good news for all of us.

The next date in our diary is **Friday 19th August** when we shall be showing *snatch* starring Brad Pitt at our Annual Open Air Film Show at the Sword Inn Hand, Westmill. The screening will start at 7pm. Watch this space for further details.

Thereafter, the 2023/24 season will kick off on or around Friday 1st September with our annual car-themed movie. Come to our AGM and help choose what you think Buntingford would like – or ought! – to see.

Calling all Senior Citizens of Buntingford and surrounding villages! Have you heard of THE BUNTINGFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB? If not, you are really missing out!

The Club meets every Monday afternoon (except Bank Holidays) at the URC Hall in Baldock Road (opposite Mc Colls) from 1.30 for 2pm start, for Bingo, chat, coffee/tea, outings, treats and more.

Why not join us? Come and give us a try – we won't bite and you might enjoy getting together with some like-minded Senior Citizens!.

More info from Val on 01763 272019

A Word from The Director

When we were looking for a play to do for our next production, we wanted something that would lift people's spirits and make people smile, especially after the incredible success of *Calendar Girls*. Ideas were explored, but nothing seemed to fit exactly. Hang on … where had I experienced this dilemma before? I recalled a lively comedy that I had been in a few years before I came to Buntingford – *Trivial Pursuits* by Frank Vickery, about an amateur dramatic musical society trying to decide on their next production.

The society members all meet on a summer evening at Nick's house, the musical director. It gradually unfolds that each member has their own agenda for wanting their particular musical to be staged – and Nick has promised a different show and the plum roles to four different people.

Teddy, always in touch with his emotions, feels that by next year he will be getting too old to fulfil his dream of playing Curly. Joyce, ever spirited, has a lot to prove after messing up last year's production. Pearl, the pragmatist, wants something low budget as the company is in financial difficulty. Roz, Nick's wife, just wants to keep the peace. Derek wants to win back his wife's love and will go to any lengths to make that happen… whether she likes it or not!

What ensues is each society member battling to convince Nick that their show is the right choice, with farcical happenings and laugh out loud moments. The perfect play to make people smile.

Claire Beechey
Buntingford Dramatic Society

7th 8th 14th 15th July 2023

Seth Ward Community Centre Luynes Rise SG9 9SG

Matinée Performance
£10.00
Doors open 13:30 for 14:00

Evening Performance
£15.00 (with cold platter)
Doors open 19:15 for 20:00
Licenced bar
Table Service

Tickets available from www.buntingforddrama.uk
and
Keith Ian Estate Agents

We're supporting mind for better mental health

Enquiries: 07526 748838

Buntingford Local History Group

Project High Street

Our group has now moved back to the newly refurbished library, and we now have the luxury of decent heating and air conditioning which will make things much more comfortable during the winter and summer months.

The main topic of last month's meeting was all about trying to sort out a plan showing the properties in the High Street during the 1840s. We have to amalgamate several different maps filling in the gaps on the Layston map, which shows the most properties, with the portions in the parishes of Aspenden and Wyddial. Hopefully this will be completed in time for our next meeting and we can then concentrate on other tasks that we need to do.

We have now been through all the photos that Philip Plumb amassed both in his book and among those now available on The Buntingford in Old Photos Facebook page, plus some from other sources. It looks like we have at least one photo of each shop and public house from the late 1800s through to the 1950s. However, we do not have that many photos from the 1950s onwards. **If anyone has any photos that show any of the shops or pubs from around this date, the 1950s, onwards and would be willing to allow us to copy them, we would be extremely grateful.** We are hoping to make a comprehensive record of our changing High Street. We have photos of the current businesses, but we lack ones for the last 50 years or so. If you can help, please email us at **Buntingfordlocalhistorygroup@hotmail.com** or phone **07944 265753** so we can make arrangements to see your photos and, if possible, take copies of them.

Whilst looking through old newspapers for adverts for our local shops I got side-tracked, which isn't unusual, and came across some very funny adverts for different products. This one (right) was in a paper dated 1859. I am at a loss as to what perfume you would add to marrow oil to make it "nicely scented", and wouldn't flies and other insects find the oil a food source?

TOILET REQUISITES.

BROWN'S

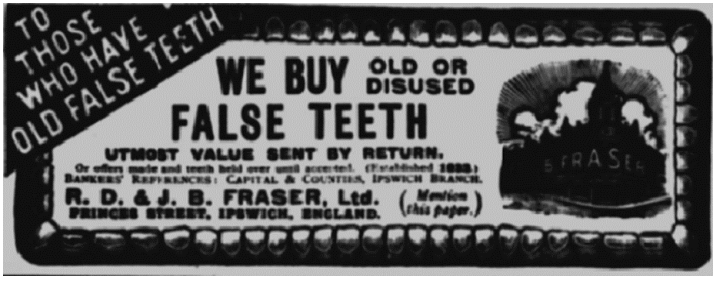
Nicely Scented MARROW OIL

for beautifying and strengthening the hair.—One Shilling per bottle.

BROWN'S

Infallible HAIR WASH,

effectually removes Scurf, Dandriff, &c., and will be found a most refreshing and agreeable application.—In half-pint bottles, 1s.



Then there was this advert (left) which was in the Royston Crow in June 1906. I wonder how many people responded to it and how much they were paid for their old false teeth? Not a practice I would think caught on but it does show that recycling was the order of the day even back in 1906!

(Continued)

LOCKYER'S SULPHUR HAIR RESTORER instantly stops Hair from turning Grey, and so long as the Wash is occasionally used Greyness is impossible. Even at a comparatively early period of life the hair will fade at the parting, temples, or wherever it is thin or becoming so, thus making the wearer appear much older than is really the case.

THE Sulphur HAIR-RESTORER alters this in 48 hours, invariably bringing back the colour in harmony with that not changed.

LOCKYER'S Sulphur HAIR-RESTORER. If the Hair is actually Grey, the Sulphur Restorer in six or seven days will effect a great alteration. By a gradual action, scarcely perceptable even to watchful observers, several darker shades will be attained. In a period of three weeks a complete change will occur, and a colour exactly resembling that which had been lost will become manifest.

The e remarks apply equally to the Beard and Whiskers, although a longer time is required to effect the change.

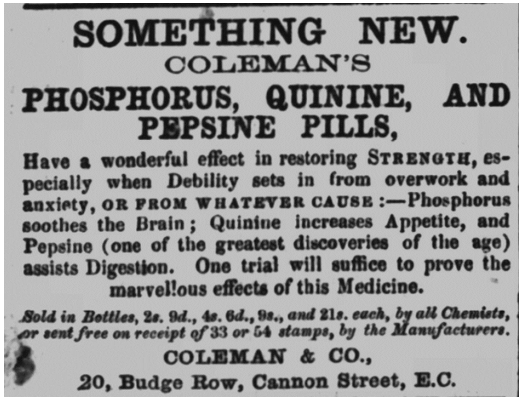
When the original colour is produced only occasional use of the Restorer is necessary.

Large Bottles, price 1s. 6d., are sold by nearly every Chemist, Hairdresser, or Perfumer.

The two adverts on this page set out claims of restorative properties for the chemical elements of sulphur and phosphorus. This advert (left), claiming that sulphur can restore hair colour, appeared in the Royston Crow in January 1880. If banishing grey hair within a week sounds too good to be true, that's probably because it was! But what a bargain at 1 shilling and 6 pence (about 8p in today's money) for a large bottle.

This advert (right) was also in the Royston Crow, this time in March 1878. Although the claim that phosphorus can sooth the brain seems dubious, pepsin does aid digestion and I wonder how many people purchased these remedies? There was no NHS back in those times so perhaps these served a purpose for people who couldn't afford the doctor's fees.

Our next meeting is on 13th June in the Library at 2pm. Everyone is welcome to come along to join us and help with the High Street project.



SOMETHING NEW.

COLEMAN'S

PHOSPHORUS, QUININE, AND PEPSINE PILLS,

Have a wonderful effect in restoring STRENGTH, especially when Debility sets in from overwork and anxiety, OR FROM WHATEVER CAUSE:—Phosphorus soothes the Brain; Quinine increases Appetite, and Pepsine (one of the greatest discoveries of the age) assists Digestion. One trial will suffice to prove the marvellous effects of this Medicine.

Sold in Bottles, 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., 9s., and 21s. each, by all Chemists, or sent free on receipt of 33 or 54 stamps, by the Manufacturers.

COLEMAN & CO.,

20, Budge Row, Cannon Street, E.C.

Carol Emery, Buntingford Local History Group

Royston Kite Festival 2023 … then where next?

One of Royston's biggest events will this year be held on **Sunday 6th August**. However, 2023 may be the last year the Festival takes place on Therfield Heath, much of which is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Speaking on behalf of Royston Rotary Club, who have run the event for 30 years, Rotary President Peter Mitton said "it is unfortunate we have been unable to reach an agreement to stay on the Heath after this year ... However, we hope we can find another suitable site [and] are now reaching out to the local community to find suggestions for another location. It would preferably be within easy reach of Royston, with good access and parking, a large area for an arena and stalls, and an ideal setting for flying kites". Over the years the festival has raised around £100,000 for local charities.

The Hundred Parishes Society

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

The Hundred Parishes area has been home to many creative people. The People section of the Hundred Parishes website includes introductions to a number of artists, composers and authors with connections to the area. Of the authors, probably the best-known was H.G. Wells (1866–1946) who lived for 18 years in Little Easton at the 18th-century Easton Glebe (below). Wells is best remembered for his science-fiction novel *War of the Worlds*, written before he came to live here. A later novel, *Mr Britling Sees It Through,* was set in Little Easton.

The Hundred and One Dalmatians was written by Dodie Smith (1896–1990), who from 1934 lived near Finchingfield at The Barretts, a 16th-century thatched house (below) in the tiny hamlet of Howe Street. Her famous children's novel, written in 1956, was made into a highly successful Disney animated film. Her earlier novel, *I Captured the Castle* written in 1948, was made into a film in 2003. Smith's former home is marked by a blue plaque.

Another blue plaque identifies the former home of Henry de Vere Stacpoole (1863–1951), the 17th-century Rose Cottage in Stebbing (above). This prolific author lived here for about 10 years in the early 1900s and during that time completed his best-known novel, *The Blue Lagoon*, which has been made into a feature film several times.

Horham Hall in the parish of Thaxted (left) was the home of novelist Evelyn Anthony (1926–2018) from 1968 to 1976 and again from 1982 until her death. The upkeep of the Grade I-listed 16th-century Horham forced Evelyn and her husband to sell it, but they bought it back when her royalties increased. *The Tamarind Seed* was the best-known of her many novels, published in 1971 and made into a film in 1974, starring Julie Andrews and Omar Sharif.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

BRAUGHING FAIR AND WHEELBARROW RACE

The Wheelbarrow Race Entry Form is now live on our website at www.Braughingwheelbarrowrace.com

The 2023 Wheelbarrow Race categories, entry fees and prizes are:

Age Category	Entry fee online (per wheelbarrow)	Entry fee on the day (per wheelbarrow)	1st Prize	Prize for Best Dressed Wheelbarrow
6-12 years	£5.00	£7.00	2 x £10 Amazon vouchers	2 x Sweet Buckets
13-17 years	£8.00	10.00	2 x £15 Amazon vouchers	2 x £15 Amazon Vouchers
Adult and Child (child must be between 6 and 17 years old)	£10.00	£15.00	£40 cash	1 x bottle of Champagne 1 x £15 Amazon voucher
Adults (Men/ Mixed/Women)	£10 in advance	£15.00	£50 cash	2 x bottles of Champagne

Please read our Conditions and Rules of Entry for each category on our website.

To enter one or more races, simply complete the Eventbrite Form on the website. Remember – the price quoted is per wheelbarrow, not per person. We can't wait to receive your entries. Now get your thinking caps on for your fancy dress outfits and start working on your fitness! Check out our website and Facebook page for more information running up to the big day on **Saturday 8th July**.

Braughing Fair & Wheelbarrow Race Committee

A Summer Evening with Haileybury Students

Haileybury School has a long tradition of amazing choral music. In association with Buntingford Live, a group of 20 students will perform solo and ensemble works appropriate for a summer's evening against a backdrop of beautiful flowers in:

St. Mary the Virgin Church, Westmill

Friday 16th June 2023 at 7.30pm

Donations will go to St. Mary the Virgin Church and to Buntingford Live!

UKRAINIAN CULTURAL CELEBRATION

Saturday, 10th June
5 – 7 pm, free entrance

Licenced bar
Tea & coffee
Homemade cakes

Cash donations on the day for medical aid in Ukraine

Traditional craft workshops 5 – 5.30

Followed by

- Short film on Ukraine
- Live Folk music
- Join in the Folk dancing

Campbell Hall
Seth Ward
Community Centre
Buntingford SG9 9SG

BALA Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus Trips June 2023

JUNE	Time	Destination	Price
Wed 7th	10am-3pm	Letchworth	£6
Thurs 8th	10.30-2pm	Frost's Garden Centre, Willington	£7.50
Mon 12th	10-2.30pm	St Ives	£8
Tues 13th	9.30-3pm	Southend	£13
Wed 14th	11.30am	Pub Lunch	£5
Thurs 22nd	9.30-12.15	Harlow Garden Centre	£7
Mon 26th	10-1.30pm	Brookfield Centre	£6
Thurs 29th	9.30-3pm	Bury St Edmunds	£12.50
JULY			
Wed 5th	10-2.30pm	St Albans	£8
Tues 18th	9.30-3pm	Clacton on Sea	£13

All trips start from the Benson Hall car park unless otherwise agreed.
To book a seat or for more information ring 07870 638480
(please be prepared to leave a message)

BALA Coffee Morning

At the URC Hall, Baldock Road

Friday 16th June 2023, 10am–11.30am

Sausage rolls, cakes, raffle

The BCAT bus is running trips to Royston every Thursday.

10am pick-up at Market Hill bus stop, Buntingford, £2 return.

Stopping at M&S Foodhall/Aldi (approx.10.30–11.45am),
then at Tesco Extra (approx.11.45am–1.30pm).

There is Costa Coffee opposite Aldi and instore at Tesco.

Layston C of E First School

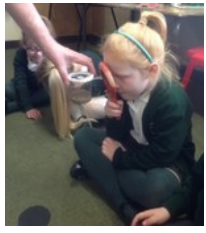
Loving to Learn, Learning to Love

For every child a chance to shine!

This half term we have been focussing in school on the value of LOVE. Love is a very important value to us as a school as it underpins everything that we do. It is very much 'the why' of who we are. Love is evident in our relationships with each other and in our actions to support our community and our world. We can grow and learn together because we know that God loves us.

We enjoyed celebrating the King's Coronation and the children took part in a variety of activities during the week leading up to this event. King Charles is quoted as once saying, "The greatest challenge we face is to reform our relationship with nature…" Here at Layston our pupils and their parents have seized their opportunities to enjoy and learn about nature: playing games, being creative, role-playing being a king or queen, building den palaces and generally having great fun! The seed bombs that were made and sent home with the children will help to spread wildflowers and to increase biodiversity in our part of the country, something the new King advocates. The children also enjoyed a teddy bear's coronation picnic.

Our Reception Year had a special delivery of caterpillars which the children have been observing and investigating as they learn all about caterpillars and their life cycle.



(Continued)

To find out more about Layston First School ,or if you might be interested in becoming a governor of our school, please visit our website at **www.layston.herts.sch.uk**.

From all of us here at Layston we would like to thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Adele McMurrough, Headteacher

BSD offers ISTD syllabus classes in Ballet, Tap & Modern, and recreational classes in Commercial Dance and Tap & Ballet for adults.

If you wish to register with us to join classes please use the QR code below or email us on admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk for more information.

All new pupils get a NO OBLIGATION TRIAL in the classes they wish to join.

BUNTINGFORD SCHOOL of DANCE

We had a fantastic turn out and some fabulous feedback for our ***'Take a Bow'*** show in May. All our pupils got a chance to rehearse and perform at the Gordon Craig Theatre in Stevenage, and here they are looking amazing. Many of our younger pupils were inspired by watching the older ones and are now keen to try out new genres of dance.

If you would like to sign up for classes and attend a trial class, please use the QR code to register or visit the contact page on our website. We take pupils from 2 years old in Baby Boppers, 3 years in Ballet, 4 in Dance Mash, 7 years for Tap, Modern/Jazz & Commercial Dance. Adult Classes from 18 years, all ages and abilities welcome. We have spaces to start either after May half term or in September.

Email: **admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk**
Website: **www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk**

Millfield First & Nursery School

www.millfield.herts.sch.uk

At Millfield, we have celebrated such a range of events and special moments that have enhanced our learning. It is a delight to be able to share here some of those memorable 'stand out' moments selected by Millfield children:

- "Paddle boarding on our Year 4 residential trip – we all fell in!"
- "Reading the Gruffalo in Nursery."
- "Winning the Art competition for my year and having my art learning displayed in the Art Gallery!"
- "The Disco was amazing. I loved dancing with my friends."
- "Dressing in our own clothes and raising money for Comic Relief."
- "Making royal arts and crafts for the King's Coronation."
- "Getting to watch Freman Big Band Play, they were great! I'm learning the ukulele and would like to play an electric guitar when I'm older."
- "Dressing up for World Book Day, I was Matilda!"

Millfield children have immersed themselves in their learning and have simply astounded staff with their engagement and motivation!

Coronation Celebrations

Our Coronation Celebrations at school were a real success! The school hall was transformed into Westminster Abbey where we crowned our very own King and Queen of Millfield (right). The children and staff looked fantastic wearing their crowns and waving flags and we even managed to have our planned playground party between the showers. The fun and games could be heard across the whole school.

During assembly, we focussed on King Charles' life, then at the end each child was given a special Coronation Medal from Millfield School as a keepsake. Millfield School Council worked together to create a card and write a letter to King Charles to mark the occasion and within the card we included a Millfield Coronation Medal for him to also have as a keepsake. Buntingford Town Council kindly gifted a commemorative badge to every child at Millfield to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles and the Buntingford Mayor visited us at school to deliver these lovely gifts. The badges were presented to the children, along with Millfield's own keepsake, during our assembly.

School Dogs

Blue, one of our school dogs, has been rapidly growing and learning, going from this (left) to this (right)! Blue is forming lovely relationships with the children and staff. He is a Golden Retriever and works alongside Tilly, Millfield's Black Labrador.

(Continued)

Keeping animals at school helps children's social and emotional learning, as well as teaching them how to consider and care for another being. We feel very fortunate to have had animals join our school – they are well looked after, cared for and loved by all. They bring so much joy to the staff and children they work with.

Governors – It was a pleasure to invite Millfield Governors into school for a Governor open morning. They were treated to a whole school tour to see the children and staff in action. They were impressed with how focussed the children were with their learning and were thrilled with discover how keen children were to share information about Millfield.

PTA Support – A huge thank you to the PTA and school staff for their efforts in organising and supporting the KS1 and KS2 PTA Movie Nights. These followed the PTA School Discos which were a real success with children (and staff!) thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Year 4 Residential – The Year 4 children had the opportunity to attend Hautbois Activity Centre in Norwich in May and both children and staff were full of exciting stories on their return! The staff who attended the school trip were immensely proud of every Year 4 child on the trip. The children took part in so many activities, many experiencing them for the first time. Thank you to all Millfield staff who made this trip possible.

Laura Kennedy-Weeks, Headteacher

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**.

As well as the exercise classes that our team run on a weekly basis, here are some of our other projects.

Our next **Move, Meditate & Relax** session (right) is on 13th June, with two more coming up on 18th July and 12th September. These 2-hour workshops are run under the Community Initiative and cost just £5 to attend. Our **Arts & Crafts Workshop** this summer will be a Candle Holder Making Session. Our **SUMMER HAPpy Kids Camps** are running throughout the summer holidays, 1 to 5pm on Thursdays. Our **monthly challenge for June** is all about tummies, **https://youtu.be/QE60rX_XCC8** which will be popping up in all our classes. You can see all our FREE workouts on the youtube page **https://www.youtube.com/jacquismith30**

Full Class Listings

theteam@jacqui-smith.net / 07956 647806

Jacqui Smith, Personal Trainer & Chair of Community Initiative Charity

u3a learn, laugh, live Buntingford

The Carpet Bowls Group meets at Buntingford Bowls Club throughout the winter months (October to April) and enjoyed an end of term lunch at East Herts Golf Club. One of the group tables is shown in the photo.

The Seated Exercise Group is now back at the United Reformed Church Hall (URCH, opposite the Post Office) and meets every Thursday at 1pm.

The Petanque Group has reconvened on Friday afternoons from 12noon onwards in the garden of the Crown pub in Market Hill, Buntingford.

We all like to go out for lunch and it's even more exciting to go somewhere new, which is what members of the **LETs Group** did when they went to The Clink Restaurant at HMP Brixton. The meal was prepared, cooked and served by prisoners on a training scheme offered to inmates nearing the end of their sentence to prepare them for life on the outside with a qualification to help get employment.

Of course, this was a restaurant with a difference! The Group members were only allowed to take a coat or jacket, a credit/debit card and photo ID with them inside the prison. Fortunately they had travelled by coach so they could leave everything else there, but they did get a shock when they had to empty their coat pockets of the mandatory tissue and put it in the bin! New tissues were available in the restaurant.

All those people who organise trips will know the worry of the morning coach journey and how much time to allow to meet the e.t.a. The group left Buntingford at 9am and encountered heavy traffic through Harlow and then on the M11 with a warning of delays further on, so their driver consulted Google and this took them over the QEII Bridge and then back into London. They arrived at Brixton at 11.20am and then had to go through airport-type security, but they did sit down on time. Relief!

(Continued)

Our next meeting is on **Monday 12th June** when our speaker is Andy Smith on 'Prosthetic Perils'. Andy is a double-amputee who has found that life with a disability, whilst often challenging, can have its lighter side! Since losing his lower right arm and leg in an accident three decades ago, he has had many adventures at home and abroad. During this presentation of pithy, entertaining poetry and commentary, Andy shares memories of childhood years when, in an extraordinary way, wartime recollections of a WW1 soldier and a WW2 fighter pilot helped to prepare him for personal trials to come.

I would just like to say a special goodbye to Christine, the editor of the Journal, and thank her for all her help during her term of office. We all wish her every happiness when she moves back to be with her family. Christine, you did a great job!

Jean Cook

The u3a is open to anyone not in full-time occupation. We meet monthly, at the Seth Ward Community Centre, on the second Monday of the month – doors open at 1.30pm. ***New members are always welcome.*** For news and details of all our groups, see:
www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford

attend2health

Attend2Health continues to add more practitioners to the clinic so we can offer a wider range of services. **Veronica Clark** is an Advanced Speech Therapist who helps adults with acquired swallowing and communication disorders. **Lucie Cockerton** is a nurse practitioner who offers bespoke non-surgical treatments for common skin problems and the effects of aging. **Louise Bliss** offers reflexology and Indian head massage treatments.

Louise Bliss
Reflexologist

Veronica Clark
Speech Therapist

Lucie Cockerton
Nurse Practitioner

These are just 3 of the 25 different practitioners we now have at attend2health. We offer a free 15-minute chat if you are unsure if a practitioner can help with a condition. We are open 7 days a week. For more information call 01763 87 80 87 or see our website **www.attend2health.co.uk**.

Louise Hampton

If you would like to advertise in the *Buntingford Journal*, please contact Keith Edwards on 01763 272032 or by email at: Advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

A.I. – Is it all about intelligence?

Back in the days BC – that's 'Before Computers', when life was a little simpler and straightforward, when we humans trod a steady furrow and were a tricky bunch when annoyed – the word intelligence was a reference only given on rare occasions. Indeed, us country lads thought intelligence was a term that only applied to 'our betters', rather than 'common sense' which was more to our liking, backed by logic and probability. "Not a lot people know that", so said the man.

There were many people of both genders (we only had two back then, although I think there were one or two in the village who were still making their minds up) who had a great deal of common sense and many people had no truck with the intelligence fraternity. This was reinforced by some important figures in my early life. My two grandfathers, my father, my father-in-law and my four uncles had all served their country with distinction in the ranks and on the home front, and all were hard working, what we called 'blue collar' men, who could create anything from scrap, stay solvent and keep their families safe, fed and secure, and showed us all how life should be lived. Their wives (for that was what they were called back then) were equal in every respect to the menfolk (woe betide any who thought differently) and the children knew how to behave properly with respect and courtesy. Despite being shot at, bombed and attacked in a variety of ways, they were never convinced by what they read and heard until they had all considered what the real message was that was being handed out.

As the times rolled by and things got ever faster, us country folk started to question the utterances of 'our betters'. The wireless kept us informed during the war and postwar years. Well, informed may be putting it a bit strong as we got what the government wanted us to believe: 'Don't panic'. The newspapers went with the owners' direction, in cahoots with the higher echelons, and then along came the start of the rot: television! Two of my grandfathers never got a set. Grandmothers eventually submitted to a twin-tub washer, a nod to modernity, which arrived in the 1950s along with basic electricity. But they drew the line at decimalisation, they thought this new currency was the same as was used by their just-past enemy and was the devil's work and a giant devaluation fiddle by the government. As usual common sense prevailed amongst senior ranks of our family and as it turned out, too late, they were right.

It was around this time when I heard my father talking to his pals in the mess room where he worked. They were discussing something that involved an intelligence officer and a couple of ladies of dubious repute ("they were bound to say that, weren't they?"). It was not long before the so-called intelligence sector was becoming hot news in the papers. (My father always recommended one should read at least three copies of the daily news and I was always up to date as from my early days I had two paper rounds and a lad could learn a lot from an early read before delivery. Health and Efficiency and Tit Bits and the News of the World was of special interest and taken by the types who wore bowler hats and went up to town on the 8.30am train.

It soon became apparent that all sorts of naughties were occurring amongst the so-called 'intelligence' sector, where some of the university types were doing well helping out the Russians. But we thought that's not for the likes of us, we will stick with our old reliable 'common sense'. (Mind you, at the time I thought that there was more excitement in this, especially as ex-intelligence officers such as Ian Fleming and Graham Green were writing books that made for better reading than Farmers Weekly!)

Just about then I was working in 'The City' (no bowler required!) when the large and world-wide esteemed organisation where I worked started to take an interest in computers, as they were known. These mighty beasts took up lots of room and only people in white coats, with

(Continued)

halitosis and spectacles, were allowed anywhere near them. Shortly afterwards I was invited to a purchasing meeting to discuss 'desk-top' computers which would solve all our problems, shed staff, never need replacing and be totally reliable! I swear the sales team were crossing their fingers when they uttered those words.

Needless to say my inner father took over and I started to ask awkward questions with regard to the claims of the salesmen. As is the way of things, I was given the task of bringing the system 'on line' (I was getting into the jargon by now). Working alongside me was a seconded boffin who said he knew about these pieces of kit. We became great friends as we spent many, many hours trying to sort out the 'software' (see, jargon again).

Eventually, after many months, we got as close as we could to making it work. I was hooked, but when I boasted to my father and father-in-law of how these new machines would save millions of pounds and do the work of many people, they didn't hold back:

"And what happens when these systems suddenly wake up their little chips, as you call them (jargon again!), and realise that the machines don't need humans?"

"You're talking rubbish. What if the power went off?"

"You'll be telling me next it will be called artificial intelligence – and we've seen what so-called intelligence gets us into!"

"You're telling me that these new gadgets will build cars and control trains, planes and boats, water supplies and war machines. If all will be computer controlled, where will it end? Financial institutions will be open to fiddles, banks will do away with cash, and who will be there to answer queries when everything is done 'on line' as you put it?"

I responded, more in panic than with logic, "We'll be able to shut it down if it goes rogue!" I was beginning to hear myself questioning my words against my elders' opinion.

"If these machines are that intelligent they will out think you." my father replied.

All this was in the 70s, pre Orwell's *1984*, where Big Brother is famously watching you. But that was never going happen, was it? Just how many CCTV cameras and home security systems have been installed since? We live in fear. Fear of what?

Artificial Intelligence? Nothing artificial about it now, is there? We should have listened! So now, don't leave home without your smart phone, keep an eye on your smart meter, watch out for scammers, facilitators, influencers and the rest, especially the elephant in the room, the yellow peril and it's fellow travellers. No? Then who has been crashing the now indispensable systems that control everything. Covid was just the warning shot.

What have we given up? Freedom? Life itself, perhaps? Think about it.

Vyse

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What's On – Dates for Your Diary

JUNE

To Sat 3rd (from May 27th): **Local History Scavenger Hunt** from the Library (p.19)
Sat 3rd , 1st Jul, 5th Aug 2–4pm: **Open Church at St Mary's, Aspenden** (p.14)
Wed 7th 7pm: **Buntingford Film Club A.G.M.** at The Crown (p.28)
Wed 7th 7.45 for 8pm: **Buntingford Gardeners Club** at URC Hall (p.21)
Thur 8th 7pm: **Green Drinks with BACCS** at the Crown (p.27)
Thur 8th 7.15 for 7.30pm: **Buntingford W.I.** at URC Hall (p.20)
Fri 9th 10am–12noon: **Mamas Who Brunch** at the Woodman Inn (p.15)
Sat 10th 5–7pm: **Ukrainian Cultural Celebration** at the Community Centre (p.34)
Mon 12th 1.30 for 2pm: **u3a Monthly Meeting** at Seth Ward Community Centre (p.41)
Tue 13th 2pm: **Buntingford Local History Group** in the Library (p.31)
Wed 14th 2–4pm: **Reed Garden Club** in Reed Village Hall (p.11)
Sat 17th 10–11.30am: **'Draw Your Dad'** for Father's Day in the Library (p.19)
Sat 17th 2–5pm: **Summer Fayre** in Reed (p.11)
Sun 18th 6.30pm: **Music for a Summer's Evening** in Reed (p.11)
Fri 16th 10–11.30am: **BALA Coffee Morning** at the URC Hall (p.35)
Fri 16th 7.30pm: **A Summer Evening with Haileybury Students** in Westmill (p.33)
Wed 21st: **Barnsdale Gardens** trip with Buntingford Gardener's Club (p.21)
Fri 23rd 12–2pm: **Soup Lunch** in Reed Village Hall (p.11)
Fri 23rd–Sun 25th: **Food & Art Exhibition** at Gravelly Barn, Braughing (p.26)
Fri 30th: **Buntingford Town Council Civic Reception** at the Manor House (p.16)

LOOKING AHEAD

7th 8th 14th 15th July: **Buntingford Dramatic Society 'Trivial Pursuits'** (p.29)
8th July: **Braughing Fair & Wheelbarrow Race** (p.33)
23rd July: **Jazz in the Garden** in Reed (p.11)
6th Aug: **Royston Kite Festival** on Therfield Heath (p.31)
19th Aug: **Open Air Film Show** at the Sword Inn Hand, Westmill (p.28)

Mondays: From 8.30am: **Buntingford Market** on Market Hill
10am–12noon: **Coffee Morning** at St Peter's Church
10–11.45am: **Chatter Table** at the Manor House – 1st and 3rd Mondays
10.30–11am: **Baby Rhyme Time** in the Library (p.19)
11.45am–12.45pm: **Forever Cycling** at the Community Centre – 1st and 3rd Mondays
1.30 for 2pm: **Buntingford Senior Citizens' Club** at URC Hall (p.28)
7.30–9pm: **Buntingford Community Choir** at Millfield School (p.26)

Tuesdays: 7.30–9pm: **Braughing Sing Community Choir** in Jenyn's School Hall
10.30–12.30: **Chatter Table** (formerly Jigsaw & Chat) at the Library (p.19)

Wednesdays: 8–10pm: **Ware & District Photographic Society** in Thundridge Village Hall
Buntingford Meditation at St Peter's Church, except the 1st Wed in the month which is online: www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation

Thursdays: 10.30–11am: **Story Time** at the Library (starts 8th June) (p.19)
10.30am–12.30: **Coffee & Company** at the URC Hall (p.13)
2–3pm: **Mind & Music** at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre (p.43)

Saturdays: 10am: **Walking Football** at the MUGA, Norfolk Road Playing Fields

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WHO ARE WE?

We are your local amenity group, established in the early 1970's initially as a conservation group covering the ancient parishes of Buntingford, Layston, Aspenden, Wyddial and Throcking. We obtained charity status in 1993.

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

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

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

Publish the Buntingford Journal
Restored the town pump twice.
Restored the Town Cage
Initiated erection of Christmas lights in the High Street and Market Hill
Present an annual school civic award
Updated the set of Town Trails with the Discovering Buntingford booklet.
Erected a Town Sign and replaced it on a like for like basis in 2018
Installed a seat on the hill to and paid for works at the Layston Cemetary.
Erected Town Gateway signs complete with Planters and pay for the plants.
Contributed financially to the Freman College sports hall, Buntingford Film Club, previous Buntingford Carnivals, and to the planned Summer Arts in Buntingford 2022 weekend, and given a grant to the Friends of the River Rib and Quin
Done River Rib cleans
Fitted a sign in the Community gardens at the Police Station and paid for new plants there in 2019.
Were actively involved with the production of the Neighbourhood Plan
Arranged four Buntingford in Bloom competitions our fifth in 2020 cancelled due to the pandemic.
Updated the circular walks on local footpaths leaflet in 2017
Hosted annual Civic Day walks

WHAT ARE WE PLANNING TO DO?

Monitor future housing development and continue to work with local organisations for the benefit of Buntingford, including the River Rib Project.

TO JOIN PLEASE SEE THE MEMBERSHIP FORM ON OUR WEBSITE
www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk.

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Carers in Hertfordshire's Carers Support Hub Groups and Peer Led Groups

The main purpose of the groups is to bring carers together so they can offer each other practical and emotional support in a friendly and welcoming support setting.

If you would like to join in a group, we request that you book a place. If the group nearest the area you live is at a time you cannot make, you are welcome to enquire about booking a place at another meeting. Please note the meetings may be subject to change so please contact us to check details.

If you would like to join in a meeting, please email contact@carersinherts.org.uk or phone **01992 58 69 69** and let us know which group you are interested in. If you are booking by phone it would be useful if you could confirm your email address so that we can send you the relevant details or login information.

Carers in Hertfordshire Hub groups meeting face to face in community venues.

Please do not attend if you are feeling unwell (such as coughing or sneezing) or are displaying any Covid-19 symptoms.

Name of Group	When Meeting
Bishops Stortford	First Wednesday of the month, 10.30am - 12.30pm. Bishop's Stortford Baptist Church, Twyford Road, Bishop's Stortford, CM23 3LJ.
Buntingford	Last Tuesday of the month, 10.30am - 12.30pm. The Manor House, High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AB
Royston	First Thursday of the month, 10.30am – 12.30pm. Royston Town Hall (Heritage Hall), Melbourn Street, Royston, SG8 7DA.
For information regarding other groups in Hertfordshire, please contact Carers in Hertfordshire	

In addition to our Carer Support Hubs we have a couple of Peer Led Groups as follows:

- **Men's Carers Group**, which is meeting on Zoom on the **third Tuesday of the month, 10.30am – 11.30am.** Please contact us if you'd like to join the meeting.
- **Evening Carers Group**, which is meeting on Zoom on the **second Wednesday of the month, 7pm - 8pm.** Please contact us if you'd like to join the meeting.
- **Morning Carers Group** which is meeting on Zoom on the **second Friday of the month 10.30am – 11.30am.** Please contact us if you'd like to join the meeting.
- **Reading Carers Group** which is meeting on Zoom currently on the **Second Thursday of the month 10.30am and 11.30am** (The frequency of these meetings is still to be confirmed so please do contact us for more details if you would like to join this meeting.)
- **Our Carers' Camera Club** also meets monthly. The group has a mix of online and in person meetings, so please contact us for details.

Our Carer Support Advisors are available if you would like more information about various other groups that are meeting. You can contact them 9.30am – 5pm Monday to Thursday and 9am - 4pm on Fridays for advice or support related to your caring role.

To contact Carers in Hertfordshire:Call: 01992 58 69 69
Email: contact@carersinherts.org.uk
Visit: www.carersinherts.org.uk

Advertising in the Buntingford Journal

Your advert can be full colour, black and white or plain text. We can accept most common file formats including png. Jpeg, pdf, doc, docx or plain text. There is no additional charge for updating or changing your advert. If you do not have any suitable advertising copy then we can usually produce something for you based on a sketch or business card.

Advert size is a multiple of a $^{1}/_{8}$ page, where a $^{1}/_{8}$ page is 6.4 cm wide by 4.75 cm high.

The current cost is £6.00 per $^{1}/_{8}$ page per issue
e.g. one half page for a year (10 issues) = 4 x $^{1}/_{8}$ pages @ £6 x 10 issues = £240.

Most advertisers take a full year but shorter periods are available with costs on a pro rata basis.

For a small additional charge, your advert can be placed on the Civic Society and Buntingford Journal websites with a link to your website.

For more information call Keith Edwards on 01763 272 032 or email advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

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

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Our Digital Champions will show you how to do simple things online such as how to use your devices, online shop, access virtual appointments, and overall, stay better connected with your friends and family!

All you need are your charged devices!

Community Alliance
BROXBOURNE & EAST HERTS

Mondays from 10.30 to 12 noon
13/02, 13/03, 24/04, no session in May, 12/06, 10/07
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We currently need Champions in the following areas: Stanstead Abbotts, Sawbridgeworth and Buntingford

Scan using your phone's camera

Community Alliance
BROXBOURNE & EAST HERTS

To find out more head to: (QR code with Digital Champion Role description)
Call: 0300 123 1034
Email: claudia@communityalliancebeh.org.uk

Hearing Advisory Service

Do you wear NHS Hearing Aids? We run monthly local clinics for hearing aid maintenance and battery dispensing.

Call 01707 324582 or email info@hhas.org.uk to book an appointment

This is a free service available to NHS patients only. No service on Bank Holidays. Service may be affected by adverse weather conditions- please check before setting out during severe weather. Please note that our telephones are staffed Tuesdays to Thursdays (leave a message at other times and we will call you back). Hertfordshire Hearing Advisory Service is a registered charity no. 1063430 Leaflet/poster issued 20.07.2022

Scan the QR code, call 01707 324582 or email info@hhas.org.uk to find your nearest clinic.

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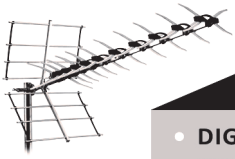

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