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# WHAT'S ON IN MAY 2012

## MONDAYS

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

## TUESDAYS

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

## WEDNESDAYS

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

## THURSDAYS

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

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

## WHAT'S ON IN MAY (CONT.)

### FRIDAYS

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

### SATURDAYS

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

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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

### MAY 2012

- Tues 1<sup>st</sup> 2:00–8:00pm. Exhibition of proposals to redevelop the Sainsbury's Distribution Depot. At Buntingford Football Club, The Bury.
- 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Beer Festival at the Fox, Aspenden (see page 37).
- Fri 4<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm. Gigspanner at Berden Church (see page 48)
- Sat 5<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm. Royal British Legion Quiz Night at Benson Hall. Tickets £10 – contact Di Bamford 01763 848481 (see page 10).
- Sun 6<sup>th</sup> 10:00am–4:00pm. Antiques & Vintage Fair at Barkway Village Hall. Entry £1. Homemade cakes and refreshments. All enquiries Rosei Frost 07912 322 538, or email [info@flapperfortunes.co.uk](mailto:info@flapperfortunes.co.uk).
- Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> 7:45pm. Buntingford WI meeting with bring-and-buy plant sale. URC Hall, Baldock Road (see page 47).



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES (CONT.)

### MAY 2012 (CONT.)

- Sat 12<sup>th</sup> 9:30–12noon. Aspenden Festival Committee Plant Sale (page 16).
- Sat 12<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – Bingo at Benson Hall.
- Sat 12<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm Quiz Night at Layston School (see page 29).
- Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Four Manors Sponsored Ride (see page 12).
- Sun 13<sup>th</sup> 14:00–17:00pm. Open Garden, Tea & Stalls at Great Munden House, Nr Ware. In aid of Isabel Hospice (see page 35).
- Wed 16<sup>th</sup> 12:00–1:00pm. BALA buffet lunch – £4.50 at Benson Hall. Followed by AGM at 1:30pm.
- Fri 18<sup>th</sup> 8:00pm. Buntingford Railway & Local History at the Crown PH. Richard Tremaine – 'Railway Miscellaneous'.
- Fri 18<sup>th</sup> to Sun 20<sup>th</sup> 10:30–5:00pm (Sun 10:30–4:00pm). 'Titles Don't Matter' Charity Art Exhibition at Gravelly Barn, Braughing (see page 9).
- Sat 26<sup>th</sup> 10:00am–12noon. Charity coffee morning and bric-a-brac sale for the Catholic Women's League at Benson Hall. Cake stall & raffle.
- Wed 30<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – Bingo at Benson Hall.
- Wed 30<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm. Buntingford & District Flower Club – Rayna Shiach presents 'Happy Holidays'. At Benson Hall; parking at rear of hall, entrance through Rib Way. Doors open 7:00pm.

### JUNE 2012

- Fri 1<sup>st</sup> 3:30–4:30pm. Oliver Heald MP surgery at the Manor House.
- Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Diamond Jubilee Street Party organised by Buntingford Chamber of Commerce
- Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> Buntingford Gardener's Club trip to Beth Chatto's Garden.
- Sun 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00–4:00pm. Buntlympics 2012 at Seth Ward Recreation Field (see page 22).
- Sun 10<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm. Highfields Reunion, Hare Street village (see page 14).
- Sat 16<sup>th</sup> 7:30 for 8:00pm. Edwina Hayes in concert at Cottered Village Hall, in aid of St Clare Hospice (see page 14)
- Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Buntingford Carnival (see page 13).
- Sun 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00–5:00pm. Cottered Village Festival (see page 11).
- Sat 30<sup>th</sup> 12:00–5:00pm. Braughing Fair & Wheelbarrow Race @ Braughing Ford

### JULY 2012

- Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Aspenden Village Fete

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

# USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

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

## EDITOR'S LETTER

Well, this has certainly been an eventful couple of weeks in Buntingford. Following weeks of rumour, developers Taylor-Wimpey finally unveiled their plans for the field north of Hare Street Road, backing onto Archers and Sunny Hill. The exhibition was very well attended, as was the Town Meeting the next evening. As a resident of Hare Street Road, living directly opposite the proposed development, I can't pretend to be pleased by the plans, and to judge by the general opinions expressed at the Town Meeting, I am not alone. Perhaps of greatest concern is the lack of an agreed town plan to guide future development, which it is strongly suspected leaves Buntingford vulnerable to speculative development nodded through by a district council keen to fulfil its new housing quota.

Not all voices were opposed, however. In fact, one person spoke with enthusiasm of potentially 1,000 new homes in Buntingford over the next decade or so. Surely, if that is what's in store then it must be properly planned for in terms of the provision of schools, doctors and other services. Another major cause for concern is the ever-rising level of traffic on the town's roads and the need for parking. Baldock and Hare Street roads barely cope with the amount of traffic that uses them today. In the longer term should something be done to divert east-west through-traffic from the town?

Still on the subject of development, coming up very shortly, on 1<sup>st</sup> May, is another public exhibition – this time concerning the old Sainsbury's site and proposals to redevelop it as a new distribution centre, potentially bringing more work opportunities into Buntingford. I do hope that putting this exhibition on at The Bury, rather than in the town centre, doesn't affect turnout, as the proposals will potentially affect us all. If you have an opinion on these or any other developments in and around Buntingford and the future shape of our town – and I'm sure most of you do – I would love to hear it. The letters page awaits your views.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who phoned or wrote to me this month updating the What's On and Diary sections. I do depend on readers to keep me straight on these – and indeed for everything else that goes into the Journal. So if you have an article, event, experience or opinion to share, please do get in touch.

**Christine Noble**

**Many thanks to Debbie Lemay for proofreading**

**Editorial copy deadline for the June 2012 Journal is  
12.00 noon on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

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

**Advertising enquiries:** Keith Edwards – 01763 272032  
**email: [Advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:Advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)**

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Christine

I very much enjoyed Rev'd Hill's sermon on Easter Sunday which reminded us all that in life there are many challenges that we must deal with in order to get to the path we are meant to tread. But it is my 5-year-old daughter's comments that I felt I had to share.

I was unable to persuade her to join in with Holy Communion and she decided to stay in her seat whilst I received the bread and wine. On my return I leaned over and said to her: "Are you sure you don't want a blessing – it keeps you safe?" Her exact words in reply, in a slow thoughtful voice were "Interesting smell!" – perhaps the wine was stronger than I had thought.

Yours sincerely  
Claire White

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

## Buntingford Quin Beaver Scouts

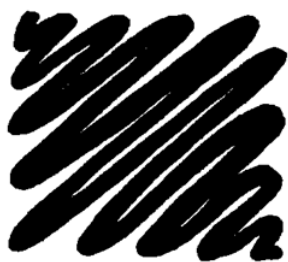
This term, the Quin Beaver Scouts will be working on their Outdoor Challenge badge, which includes activities such as designing and flying paper aeroplanes, learning a basic parachute jump landing and completing Olympic-style challenges.

May 14<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> is Scout Community week and the Quin Beavers are very honoured to be involved in the Hare Street Wildlife Area. The Beavers will be working in conjunction with Herts County Council and volunteers from the local community planting wild flowers and building homes for slowworms. Look out for updates on our progress, including an invitation to see what we have achieved.

Buntingford Scout Group will be representing the town in the annual St George's Day Parade in Ware and all sections of the Scout Group will be renewing their promise. Part of the Scout promise is 'to be kind and helpful', so if you have a project or a need that you think we might be able to fulfil or help out with then let us know.

Beaver Scouts is open to all children aged 6–8 years, but all the Scouting sections would especially love to have a few more adventurous girls on board to add that dynamic edge. If you have a young person interested in becoming a member of Scouting or would like to join our team of dedicated volunteers then please contact **Jo McNamara**, our Group Scout Leader, on **01763 273459** or myself **Claire White**, Quin Beavers Leader, on **01763 273019**.

charity@gravelly barn



## Titles Don't Matter

A 12-inch square for charity

An open exhibition for  
famous and aspiring artists

May 18-20, 2012, 10:30am-5:00pm (Sun 10.30am-4:00pm)

At Gravelly Barn, Gravelly Lane, Braughing SG11 2RD

Well-known and aspiring local artists have spent the past few months producing a wonderful collection of artworks using paint, crayons, ink, watercolour, collage and every conceivable medium. They will be displayed anonymously and offered for sale at **£45 each**. All the money raised will go to The Norma Adams Tribute Fund at Breakthrough Breast Cancer and Ataxia UK. A similar exhibition two years ago raised over £12,800 for charity. Come along and help us to raise even more this year.

Refreshments available on all three days

For further information and directions see our website

[www.gravellybarn.com](http://www.gravellybarn.com)

## **BRAUGHING FAIR & WHEELBARROW RACE**

**SAT 30TH JUNE**

**12 to 5pm**

**@ BRAUGHING FORD**





# Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)



## HAVE A VOICE – NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST

North, south, east and west – it doesn't matter where you look, there are speculative developments being championed by those who are not working to an agreed strategy for Buntingford's future.

The new planning regulations cry out for communities to participate in and influence the future of places where they live.

To date there is a lack of a clear expression from Buntingford to East Herts District Council on how we want the Town to grow into a community of which we can be proud.

Exhibitions by developers are not the vehicle to say 'this is how it's going to be' – developers' proposals are to meet their own commercial interests. We can see evidence of this in recent and current developments.

There has to be an informed and articulate champion in the Manor House who can make things happen and many Buntingford organisations, including your Civic Society, are willing to help.

Derek K Cooper  
Chairman

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

## The Royal British Legion QUIZ NIGHT

At Benson Hall on  
Saturday May 5th at 7:30pm

Fish / Chicken / Chips \* Licensed Bar \* Raffle

Tickets £10 from Di Bamford 01763 848481

All proceeds to The Poppy Appeal



The Royal British Legion  
is in its  
91st year of raising  
money to support  
our ex-servicemen

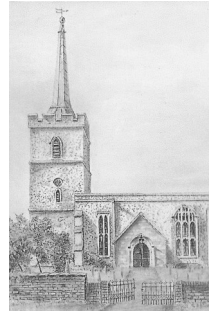
# COTTERED VILLAGE FESTIVAL

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2012 – 10:00am to 5:00pm**

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

## **Friends of Cottered Church**

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



**Volunteer Centre**  
Broxbourne & East Herts

Silverline House  
1-3 Albury Grove Road  
Cheshunt, Herts EN8 8NS  
Tel: 01992 638633  
Fax: 01992 638644  
[admin@vcbroxbourne.org.uk](mailto:admin@vcbroxbourne.org.uk)

Volunteer Centre Broxbourne & East Herts offers a whole range of services to support people who are unemployed, looking to change their career, at risk of being made redundant, or who simply want to get out and do something new and exciting.

It's not just about volunteering, as our name implies, although we do think this is a great way to get work experience, meet people and have fun. We offer the new National Careers Service to help you make decisions about work and training. We offer training days which include:

- Confidence Building
- Team Working
- Stress Awareness
- Communication Skills
- Producing a CV
- Completing Successful Job Applications
- Interview Skills

We are also offering, until October, one-to-one Coaching & Mentoring.

We will do our best to help you. We will treat you as an individual. Our service is confidential and impartial. *All our staff are qualified to give Information, Advice and Guidance, offer training and Coaching & Mentoring.*

If you would like to know more give us a call on: **01992 638633**

**[www.vcbroxbourne.org.uk](http://www.vcbroxbourne.org.uk)**



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

Being a parent is one of the most difficult jobs in the world! We are here to support you – see the Journal's 'What's On' section for details of our regular weekly activities.

Does it sometimes feel that your child does things just to annoy you? Do you sometimes wish you had handled a situation differently? We are running a 6-week course on handling children's behaviour, starting on 17<sup>th</sup> May and meeting weekly from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at the Bramble Hill Children's Centre in Mill Close. The dates of the course are 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June. Please call us for further information or to book a free place. Crèche facilities can be provided for pre-school children.

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

**[bramblehill@ymcacentralherts.org.uk](mailto:bramblehill@ymcacentralherts.org.uk)**

Please keep an eye on our website for further information:

**[www.bramblehillchildrenscentre.org.uk](http://www.bramblehillchildrenscentre.org.uk)**

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

## **The Four Manors Sponsored Ride**

### **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

The Herts and Essex Borders group of the Riding for the Disabled Association is organising a **sponsored ride and barbecue** from Benington Lordship Farm to raise money towards the annual running costs of about £8,000. This enables over 70 children to take part in riding lessons and a summer picnic ride during the year.

Join the sponsored ride to help this very worthwhile cause and ride across the beautiful and historic countryside of the Four Manors of Benington Lordship, Benington Park, Walkernbury and Walkern Hall.  
3 mile, 5 mile or 10 mile route with rosettes for all participants.

For details ring Pep Brookbanks on 01279 843218,  
or email **[pepbrookbanks@hotmail.com](mailto:pepbrookbanks@hotmail.com)**  
or visit **[www.horsedates.co.uk](http://www.horsedates.co.uk)** for a schedule and entry form





★ ★ ★  
BUNTINGFORD  
CARNIVAL COMMITTEE



# Buntingford Carnival

## Saturday, 23rd June 2012

The new theme for this year's Carnival is

## CELEBRATING BRITAIN 2012

The change is all down to objections from the Olympic Organising Committee.

But are we down hearted? – no we are not!! We will still be encompassing the **Olympics** and the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee**, but also the many other anniversaries that are happening this year, be it an event or something related to a famous person.

Think **Charles Dickens, James Bond, Titanic, Addenbrooks Hospital, Michelangelo, Disneyland Paris, Telstar, 1812 Overture, Marilyn Monroe, Bram Stoker, Spencer Perceval and Alan Turing**. And there are plenty more if you think about it.

Some of the entertainment you will see on the day will include: **Layston and Millfield Schools, The Edwinstree Samba Band and The Buntingford Choir**.

We also have **Phase 5 Steel Band, Sambuka Samba Band and Laramani Pan Pipes**.

There are displays of **Model Railways, Heritage and Photography**, and for the children we have **Fairground Rides, a Party Bus and Raptors**.

**On the day make sure you come to the Control Stall so that you are in with a chance to WIN an official OLYMPIC MASCOT.**

Also make sure you catch up with **Captain Jack Sparrow** as he wanders around so you can have your photograph taken with him. He may not be **Johnny Depp** but he is the next best thing – his film stand in!

Other speciality acts will be announced next month, so order your June Journal now. All the hard work is behind us and it is now just a matter of tying up the many loose ends to make the day go without a hitch – or at least not ones you will notice!

Ashley Cantor  
Chairman, Buntingford Carnival Committee

# EDWINA HAYES

is coming to sing at

**Cottered Village Hall on Saturday 16th June**

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

**Doors open 7:30pm; Showtime 8:00pm**

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

**Edwina Hayes** has opened numerous shows for Jools Holland and Van Morrison. The title track of her album *Pour Me A Drink* was covered by Nanci Griffith, who calls her 'the sweetest voice in England'. Edwina's cover of the Randy Newman song *Feels Like Home* featured in the Cameron Diaz film *My Sister's Keeper* and has since had over 2 million plays on YouTube. To find out more, go to her website, [www.edwinahayes.com](http://www.edwinahayes.com), or have a look at her on YouTube. This is an event NOT to be missed!

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

If you would like tickets or more information, call Alison on 01763 281576 or 0777 350 4806, or email [joeytickle02@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joeytickle02@yahoo.co.uk)

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

## **The Friends of Highfields Reunion**

**Sunday 10th June 2012, from 1:00pm**

A reunion for all dogs homed by us from Highfields with their owners, R.A.T.S. friends, volunteers and dog-walkers. We will also be delighted to welcome any local people who would like to see what we do here and the improvements we have made. Activities will include a dog parade, fun and games with prizes, plus stalls, a tombola and homemade refreshments. There will be a BBQ cooked by our famous chefs Digger & Speedy.

If you would like more information, or want to place an order for BBQ, please contact **Sue Greaves on 01767 222545**, or email her at [geoffgreaves56@hotmail.com](mailto:geoffgreaves56@hotmail.com). The BBQ costs £3.00 and includes a burger & sausage in a roll, with accompaniments (there will be a vegetarian option). The deadline for BBQ orders is 31st May.

For anyone who has never been to Highfields before, we are at the Hare Street end of Hare Street Road, on the right as you approach the village from Buntingford. We look forward to welcoming you to Highfields.

# NEW – Shinto Judo Club

A new Shinto Judo Club opened in Buntingford in April. The club itself has a 40-year history and was formerly based in Enfield, where it was started by Alf Leatherdale, its former Sensei and a 6th Dan black belt. During its life, the club has produced many black belts and National Champions. For the last 20 years it has been run by Mark Teal, a 4th Dan black belt, who started aged 7 with Sensei Alf. Mark is supported in running the club by Gavin Shand, a 3rd Dan, Danny Teal, a 2nd Dan, and Steven Mills, a 1st Dan, all of whom started at an early age with Alf. All the club instructors have coaching and first aid qualifications and are CRB checked.

Shinto Judo can help you become physically and mentally stronger, build self-confidence, learn respect for yourself and others, and develop disciplined fighting and defence skills. The Club offers the chance to compete for awards and titles, but above all to have fun.

The first lesson is FREE, then second lesson £10 registration, which includes temporary insurance and mat fee. Thereafter, lessons are £3.50 for under 16s, £4.00 over 16.

Classes are on **Wednesdays** at Buntingford & District Youth Club, Technical Institute, Baldock Road, Buntingford SG9 9AA. **Under 16s** 7:00–8:00pm, **over 16s** 8:00–9:15pm.

If you would like further information contact Mark Teal on 07974 458127, or Gavin Shand on 07958 797005. Email us at [gavin.shand@uk.verizonbusiness.com](mailto:gavin.shand@uk.verizonbusiness.com), visit our website [www.shintojudo.co.uk](http://www.shintojudo.co.uk). Or simply come along and join us on Wednesday nights.

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

- Tues 1<sup>st</sup>** Morning, High Cross, 5½ miles. Leader Mike 01763 274679
- Sun 6<sup>th</sup>** Horseheath, 9½ miles. Leader Alan 07884 081715
- Tues 8<sup>th</sup>** Barley, 3 miles. Leader Mike 01763 274679
- Thur 10<sup>th</sup>** Morning, Wandlebury, 6 miles. Leader Jane 01763 261565
- Sun 13<sup>th</sup>** Thaxted, morning 6 miles, afternoon 4 miles. Leader Robert 01799 523857
- Tues 15<sup>th</sup>** Morning, Bartlow, 5 miles. Leader Judy 01223 835126
- Wed 16<sup>th</sup>** Great Chishill, 3 miles. Leader Jenny 01763 245969
- Sun 20<sup>th</sup>** Buntingford, 10 miles. Leader Mike 01763 274679
- Tues 22<sup>nd</sup>** Morning, Ashdon, Camps End, Water End, 6 miles. Alan 01223 840963
- Thur 24<sup>th</sup>** Stockbridge Meadows, Melbourn, 3 miles. Leader Liz 01763 263107
- Sun 27<sup>th</sup>** Coach outing to north Norfolk coast. **Must be pre-booked.**  
Leader David 01763 242677 for details and availability of places.
- Thur 31<sup>st</sup>** Morning walk Graveley, 6½ miles. Leader Ed 01438 226590

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

[www.ramblers-herts-northmiddlesex.org.uk](http://www.ramblers-herts-northmiddlesex.org.uk)

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



# CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH BALDOCK ROAD BUNTINGFORD

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

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

## MORNING WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:00AM

May	6	Morning Worship	Dr Janet Bottoms
	13	Holy Communion	Rev Duncan Goldie
	20	Morning Worship	Dr Jeffrey Barham
	27	Morning Worship	Rev Duncan Goldie
June	3	Morning Worship	Mrs Faith Paulding

**Churches Together** will be holding a **Bible Study meeting in Christ Church hall on the second Wednesday of each month from 12:30pm**. The format is that lunch will be from 12.30pm (*bring your own lunch – tea & coffee will be provided*) and the Bible Study will commence at 1:00pm and finish prompt at 2:00pm. The subject will be 'The Bible in the news'. The idea is that everyone brings a recent newspaper and we will discuss how the Bible relates to an article in the newspaper.

This year's **Churches Together Unity Service and Picnic** will be on **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May at St Mary's Church, Aspenden**. The picnic will start at 12:30 pm (*bring your own – tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided*) followed by the service at 2:00 pm.

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

**Visit our website at [www.buntingfordurc.freeseve.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordurc.freeseve.co.uk)**

## Aspenden Festival Committee

### ANNUAL PLANT SALE

**Saturday 12th May, 9:30am– 12:00noon**

**Outside St Peter's Church, Buntingford**

**Annuals • Perennials • Vegetables • Cakes & Preserves • Coffee & Scones**



## United Benefice of

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



**Reverend Ian Hill – Telephone 01763 274072**

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

*Everyone is welcome at any of the churches*

### Services for May

Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:30am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	10:00am	St. Mary, Aspenden	Family Service
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St. Mary, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	St. Mary, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Morning Worship
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion

### ST. RICHARD OF CHICHESTER Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford Telephone 01763 271471

**Parish Priest: Father Ian Dickie**

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

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

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

Saturdays at 6:00pm at Furneux Pelham

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



### CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

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

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



# Edwinstree Middle School

Before breaking up from school for their Easter break, pupils enjoyed a wide range of events. The Year 8 educational visit to France was a great success, helped by four days of gorgeous sunny spring weather. Pupils visited The Battle of Normandy and the Arromanches Embarkation museums, the British and American World War Two cemeteries, Pointe du Hoc and Omaha beach. Isigny market and caramel factory, and the pretty town of Honfleur were also on the itinerary, and the pupils got the chance to use their French language skills.



**Year 8 pupils visit the Allied World War Two cemeteries in Normandy, France**

While Year 8 were in France the rest of the school took part in an Easter service at St John the Baptist Church, Royston. Among the hymns that were sung were *I, The Lord of Sea and Sky*, *God so Loved the World* and *Amani Utupe*.



**Easter Service at St John the Baptist Church, Royston**

Readings were given by members of staff and 'The Resurrection' was enacted in dance by the ASK group.

The Year 7 educational visit to Boulogne also went well, again complemented by a beautiful spring day. Pupils enjoyed the engineering experience of the QE2 bridge, Dartford Tunnel and the Shuttle. They also had the opportunity to use their French in buying pancakes and



**Year 7: the triumphant six-a-side football squad (above) and enjoying a spring day outing in Boulogne (below)**

ice-creams in the old cobbled streets of Boulogne and were impeccably behaved.

Many congratulations to our Year 7 boys who became the Bishops Stortford and District 6-a-side football champions at Birchwood recently, beating Ralph Sadleir in the finals 2-0. Year 7 boys also represented the school in the North Herts County Shield rugby finals at St Albans playing against Marlborough school.

Our under 13 girls' football team were runners-up in the North East Herts 11-a-side tournament after wins against Roysia and Ralph Sadleir. And the same year group played in the regional girls' rugby finals at Bishops Stortford, competing against teams from six other counties.



**Diane George**



# BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

*A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL*

We have received numerous complaints regarding dog fouling, not only on the recreation fields but also on the pavements. This really is becoming a problem and we need your help to put it right. If you see anyone not clearing up after their dogs, please let us have a location, time, brief description of the person and dog. We will give these details to the District Council and they will endeavour to serve a Fixed Penalty Notice.

The Buntlympics event draws nearer and is promising to be a very successful day. Even if you're not entering a team, come along and cheer people on and take advantage of the many attractions on offer.

The interpretation boards are almost ready for the Wildlife Area and work has now started to the Multi Games Area.

The month of May will see the first marriage ceremony at The Manor House, as we are now licensed for marriages, civil partnerships and naming ceremonies. We are the only venue within the town boundary to be licensed for such events, so if you would like to hold your important ceremony right in the heart of the town, please call in and see us.

**Jill Jones MILCM Cert HE**  
Town Clerk

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

**Tel: 01763 272222**

**email: [btc.manorhouse@btclick.com](mailto:btc.manorhouse@btclick.com)**

**website: [www.buntingfordtowncouncil.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordtowncouncil.co.uk)**

## **Town Council meetings for May 2012**

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7:30pm – Amenities Committee
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Resources Committee
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup>	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Full Council

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

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

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



# EAST HERTS COUNCIL

## Community Grants Programme for 2012

The purpose of the Council's Community Grant Programme is to promote environmental, economic and social wellbeing for people living, working and visiting in East Hertfordshire. Successful projects will make a difference to people's lives and help take forward the Council's priorities, as well as the priorities in the Sustainable Strategy for East Herts 'Everyone Matters'. To see the full document, go to the website on:

**[www.eastherts.gov.uk/lsp](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/lsp)**

**Community Capital Large Grants** – The aim of this programme is to support improvements/enhancements to community buildings/sports facilities or green spaces. Match funding of 50% is required with awards from £2,001 up to £8,000. **Deadline Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012.**

**Community Capital Small Grants** is for items of equipment or building works that help to improve community facilities or services. Grants are between £300 and £2,000. No match funding is required. Contact Claire Pullen, Community Engagement and Partnerships Officer, on 01992/531459 or email [claire.pullen@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:claire.pullen@eastherts.gov.uk) to discuss your project. **Deadline is Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012.**

**Performance to Excellence (Arts & Sports)** is geared toward helping 11 to 18 year olds in the District achieve sporting or artistic excellence. Contact Valdis Belinis for an application form on 01992 531605 or [valdis.belinis@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:valdis.belinis@eastherts.gov.uk). Applications are accepted any time.

**The Local Environmental Action Fund (LEAF)** supports environmental improvement projects. The fund may provide up to 50% of eligible costs with awards up to £500. Schools can also apply. Applications are accepted any time. Contact David Thorogood on 01992 531621 or [david.thoroughgood@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:david.thoroughgood@eastherts.gov.uk) for more information.

**The Eastern Plateau – Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE)** offers funding for farmers, foresters, rural businesses or community groups within the rural villages of Uttlesford and those in North Herts and East Herts. Funding is available until December 2013. Contact Kari Hall, Project Manager, on 08448 546994 or [www.easternplateau.org.uk](http://www.easternplateau.org.uk)

**Historic Buildings Grants** support owners of listed property in the district to pay for the cost of repairs and restoration work only. The scheme may provide up to 25% of eligible repair costs with awards from £500 to £1,000. Applications are accepted any time.

**Community grants will be available where no other funding is available.** Where grants are available from Town and Parish Councils as a result of new house building (New Homes Bonus) then it will be expected that this source of funding will be used first rather than a community grant from East Herts Council. **First priority will be given to rural areas where no or very limited New Homes Bonus is available.**

*Please visit the East Herts Council website for further details about each of these programmes at:*

**[www.eastherts.gov.uk/grants](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/grants)**

# The BUNTYLYMPICS 2012

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

**At  
Seth Ward  
Recreation Field,  
Luynes Rise**

**A Free  
and Fabulous  
Fun-Filled  
Family event**

The deadline for entries to Buntingford's very own mini games - where the emphasis is on FUN - is the end of April. But if you missed the deadline, it still may not be too late - just ring 01763 272222.

All entrants to the games will receive a commemorative medal and there will be Bronze, Silver & Gold medals for every race. There will be plenty of room for families to have a picnic, and a Hog Roast, Burgers and a Beer Tent will be available on site.

Do come along and enjoy the fun as a competitor or spectator. Just the thing to get you in the mood for the London Olympics in July & August.

***Diamond Jubilee  
STREET PARTY  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June***



# Friends of Westmill Church



Following the splendid news (as reported in the Journal last month) of the £99,000 grant made to the Churchwardens by English Heritage towards the cost of the Church roof repair, we **Friends of Westmill Church** are now more than ever determined to raise extra funds during this current year so that the repair work can start next Spring. To this end we are organising a number of events and hope that you will make a note of the various dates and support us when you can.

**May 5<sup>th</sup>** The Revd Ian Hill will be abseiling down a Water Tower on the outskirts of Harlow. Please sponsor him.

**June 12<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup>** Kevin Foskett and a friend will cycle 274 miles along the Normandy Coast in France. They will be visiting a number of the well-known Second World War beaches, and would appreciate your sponsorship for this ride.

**July 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>** We will be providing all the refreshments at the National Garden Schemes Open Gardens weekend at The Pump House, Coles Park Westmill. Do try and visit these beautiful gardens of Lord & Lady Carter. **Also in July** we will be repeating our Local Photo competition to enable us to compile a 2013 Calendar.

**September 9<sup>th</sup>** On Sunday afternoon Hilary & David House have kindly agreed for us to hold a Brass Band Concert in their Garden at Tillers End Farm, Westmill.

**October 21<sup>st</sup>** ‘Singing for Pleasure’ Choir from Welwyn are holding a Concert in St Mary the Virgin Church, Westmill.

**Our Monthly Lottery** is still attracting an average of 170 members each month and we are paying out £170 in draw prizes each month. New lottery members most welcome. Our website is frequently updated, so it’s worth keeping an eye on events there. Go to: **[www.friendsofwestmillchurch.org.uk](http://www.friendsofwestmillchurch.org.uk)** and click on ‘forthcoming events’.

We are able to receive donations through the BT Mydonate website. Or if you would like further information on any of the above events please do contact me, Michael Thody, Fundraising Chairman, on **01763271321**.

# Last Bit of the Roof

Martin & Mandy – Part 29

Now we have the roof sorted we need to set about rebuilding the covering. The first thing that goes on is oak sarking boards. St John's in Cottered has this kind of roof treatment and it looks a million times better than roofing felt, besides which the last time I looked felt had not been invented in the 1600s. Next we have a layer of WBP – WBP stands for Weather & Boil Proof – I don't think there's much chance of it boiling up there but there's certainly plenty of weather! This does not look as nice as the oak sarking but protects us from the elements. Next we need counter batons to hold it all together; these run up and down the roof and produce an air gap between the sarking and the next layer, which is a mad space age insulation material. This has the same insulation properties as the fibre wool in your loft, but instead of being 250mm thick this stuff is only 10mm. Then we have another layer of counter batons and a layer of good old roofing felt. Finally the last batons go on which are horizontal ones and give us something to hang those tiles on that have been sitting on the scaffold all this time.



Oak sarking rather than felt

So we now have a roof in place and we have fab insulation and two air gaps that bats can snooze in and six bat holes



Tiles and battens

that let them go all the way through from the outside world to the bell chamber roof. In one of the air gaps we have a 25mm plastic tube that allows me to get a cable from the bell chamber to the top of the roof and then up into the Hertfordshire spike – the idea here is to get a CCTV camera into the weathervane. The spike really was rotten through and through, so this has been rebuilt in oak, wrapped in sarking then had a plate put on the very top of it for the weathervane. After the lead theft we put a camera up at the top of the scaffold so we could see what was going on day and night, and one thing we discovered is that roofers are a mysterious lot – they turn up and wander around for hours on end looking as though they are doing nothing at all, just looking at things and measuring stuff. Then there's a burst of activity and if you happen to miss it you look back at the camera and half the roof has been finished off! The lead workers are even more fascinating – they spend hours banging away with the leadwork, but when you visit at the weekend and go and look at their handiwork it really is a craft worth attention. One weekend when

I visited, the top of the roof was just about finished but nothing had been done to the spike and you could see all the different layers of materials that had been used to complete the work. The following Monday there was lots of discussion between all the builders about how to transition from the roof to the spike and make the leadwork blend across that part of the roof. The end result that you can now see from the ground is certainly worth all the effort, but it's not a quick process.



Layers on the roof, from the oak post to lead

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Anyway, we have a new weathervane design which has now gone through listed building consent. This is the same kind of size as the original Friends of Layston one, but has a ball below the vane itself, just like the one on St Richard's Church in Buntingford. Inside that ball is a high-tech bit of CCTV technology which will allow us to do some heavy duty wildlife photography and some nifty burglar recognition!



Gold leaf and technology at the top

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The top of the weathervane has a beekeeper and a beehive along with a cat, all perched along the top. Mandy has been instrumental in choosing and tweaking the design for the weathervane along with doing all the gilding. I'm afraid that Alan's cap from his can of Cossack hair spray from the 80s that has spent years keeping the water off the bearing at the top of the old weathervane has had to go! It was very difficult to get the metalwork and the technology to play nicely together. I nearly gave up on it as I was trying to get the whole lot mounted on top of the spike whilst connecting the CCTV camera to the cables. The camera is quite tricky, it has a zoom lens on it and a motor drive that lets us move it around at will. It can track movement and see at night – I hope it never goes wrong because getting to it will be a nightmare!

The last thing to happen before the bank holiday weekend and the removal of the scaffold was a coat of 'Smart Water' for all the metal on the tower. This seeps into any metal it's painted on and leaves a DNA fingerprint behind – the idea here is that the lead is much easier to trace in the case of theft, and with signs up thieves should be deterred. Let's hope it does the trick.

**For more history and information related to St Bartholomew's, visit:  
[www.layston-church.org.uk](http://www.layston-church.org.uk)**

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

## THE BANK OF MUM AND DAD

**With the property market in turmoil, many buyers, particularly first-time buyers, are turning to their family for financial assistance.** Whilst property prices have fallen, or remained fairly static, over the last few years so have salaries, and banks are increasingly concerned about lending large sums of money. This leaves many people finding it hard to raise sufficient funds to get on the property ladder.

One particular problem is raising the **cash deposit** needed, as the banks no longer offer 95 per cent loan-to-value mortgages (\*see below). First-time buyers are often left with no option but to ask their parents to lend them this cash deposit, and often parents readily agree. Unfortunately, this is sometimes done in a casual fashion with no proper consideration of if, and when, those monies should be repaid. More importantly, if the son or daughter buys jointly with a partner, who repays the loan if the couple split up? And how much do the parents get back if the property is sold?

If there is no formal documentation on the loan, the property will usually be registered with the **Land Registry** as being held legally in the joint names of the child and their partner. There will be no mention of the parents, or the money they put in. This means the parents would not necessarily be aware if the child and partner decided to sell, or remortgage for a higher sum. This puts the parents in a precarious position. Further, if the child and partner separate, there may well be a presumption that the net proceeds should be divided equally between them. The child is then left with the sole burden of repaying the 'loan' to his or her parents if their ex-partner maintains it was a gift.

Matters become much clearer if the intention of everyone at the time the property is purchased is set out for everyone to see. The easiest and safest way to do this is for all the relevant parties to enter into a **declaration of trust**. This does not need to be a long document, or cost a lot of money. It should simply clarify the main points:

- Whose name(s) will be on the land registry records as the legal owner(s)?
- Should there be a restriction entered on the Land Registry records to protect any other party who has an interest in the property?
- Set out who contributed what sums to the purchase price of the property and specifically state whether it is a loan or gift, and whether any interest is payable.
- Clarify how the net sale proceeds are to be divided if the property is sold.

This simple document can save months of distress and thousands of pounds in legal costs if there is a dispute. If you have invested money into your child's property, or are about to do so, and would like some advice please contact our STUART HIGHERS on 01763 241261 or email at [stuart.hughes@curwens.co.uk](mailto:stuart.hughes@curwens.co.uk).

\* The Government has just launched '**Newbuy**' – a scheme to help more people buy their own house or flat. You can now access up to 95 per cent loan-to-value mortgages if you are purchasing a new-build property in England, constructed by a builder who is in the scheme, for less than £500,000 to be used as your main home.

[www.curwens.co.uk](http://www.curwens.co.uk)

## EAST HERTS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Manor House, Buntingford

### Drop-in:

Monday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

### Telephone:

08444 111 444

Monday – Friday

10:00am – 4:00pm



## Tax Credit Changes

**My husband works in a local newsagent 14 hours a week and I work eight hours a week in a local nursery, bringing our joint number of hours to 22. We have one child. We have both tried to increase our hours with our respective employers, but they have no more hours available. Are we correct in thinking that if we don't pick up extra hours from somewhere that we will lose our Working Tax Credit?**

Quite possibly, yes. Since 6 April, couples who have at least one child and get Working Tax Credit will normally have to work at least 24 hours a week between them, instead of just 16 hours required previously, to qualify for any payment. One of you must also work at least 16 hours a week. However, there are exceptions to the new 24-hour requirement. For example, if you or your partner are disabled in certain circumstances, are in hospital or over 60, you do not have to work 24 hours between you. Other changes that came into effect on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2012 include the following:

- If your income goes down by £2,500 or less in a tax year, this will not be taken into account until the next tax year. If it goes down by more than £2,500, HMRC will re-calculate your tax credits but will ignore the first £2,500. You will still have to wait till the next tax year for any extra tax credits that you might be due as a result of your income going down. However, you should always tell HMRC about any changes in your income straightaway.
- If you make a new claim, or have a change in your circumstances which would mean your payments should go up, the extra money you'll get will only be backdated by one month instead of three months.
- The '50 plus element' of Working Tax Credit has ceased. Nobody will be able to claim this after 6 April 2012.

These changes mean you may stop getting your tax credits if your income is too high, or you may have to work extra hours to continue getting the tax credits. However, if you have a change in your circumstances that means you may get extra tax credits – for example, if your income goes down by more than £2,500 in the new tax year, or if you have a new baby – you should tell HMRC straightaway. This may mean you could still get your tax credits after 6 April.

You'll find more about the changes on the Directgov website at [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) or go to [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk) where you can also get contact details of your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau.

'Copyright Citizens Advice'. For the most up-to-date version of this article, please visit their Adviceguide website at: [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk)



# LAYSTON C OF E FIRST SCHOOL

During the last couple of weeks of the spring term before the Easter holiday we really made the most of the beautiful weather. The children had the opportunity to enjoy new additions to their outdoor play area. A Big Lottery Grant has enabled us to build an amphitheatre on the field for the children to create plays and performances. We have also invested in some bright, rainbow-coloured benches and picnic tables where children can relax and chat. In addition, the 'Living Willow' company has, with the children's help, created a wonderful twisting willow tunnel for the children to enjoy. This has been very generously funded by our PTA.



**Creating the 'living willow' tunnel in Layston school grounds**

Our lovely grounds were also the setting for our Maths Trail on the last Wednesday of term. The children worked together in small 'family' groups to meet a variety of maths challenges. These ranged from finding shapes and patterns to measuring and problem solving. Everyone had a brilliant morning – only made possible by the great support we had from parents who came along to join in.



**Layston pupils and parents enjoying Spring sunshine and the challenges of the outdoor maths trail**





We celebrated Easter in traditional Layston fashion, beginning with an Easter Egg Tombola and Easter Hat and Mask Competition. The competition was judged by Rev Ian Hill and our Chair of Governors, Clive Alexander, before a special assembly. The children had the opportunity to show off their wonderful creations in the Easter Parade which followed.

We finished our term with an Easter Service at St Peter's Church led by Rev Ian Hill with contributions from all the children. It is always a lovely way to remember the true meaning of Easter alongside all the fun of Easter eggs and Easter bonnets.

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

[www.layston.herts.sch.uk](http://www.layston.herts.sch.uk)

Or contact us on 01763 271235 to arrange a visit.

**Gill Langley,  
Headteacher**



**Easter hats and masks**

# **QUIZ NIGHT**

**SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012**

**AT LAYSTON FIRST SCHOOL**

**THE CAUSEWAY, BUNTINGFORD**

**DOORS OPEN 7.30PM FOR 8.00PM START**

**£8 A TICKET, INCLUDING PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER  
LICENSED BAR**

**MAXIMUM 8 PERSONS A TEAM**

**PRIZE FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE WINNING TEAM**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM DEBBIE AND MATT**

**TEL: 01763 272398**

# Global Travels

## Koh Samui – ‘Heaven On Earth’

Backpackers discovered **Koh Samui** in the early 1970s, when the island was simply called ‘heaven on earth’. The place has such an rich variety of beaches, bays and coves that it can seem like several islands in one. **Koh Samui** is an island in the Gulf of Thailand, some 700km and one hour’s flight time south of Bangkok and about 80km from the eastern coastline of Southern Thailand. It is the third largest island in Thailand after Phuket and Koh Chang.



Samrong Bay in the north of Koh Samui

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Over the last 20 years, the main industries of coconut farming and fishing have given way to tourism and many of the small cheap beach huts favoured by backpackers have been replaced by luxury resorts. Fortunately, local regulations limit the height of resorts on the beach, so there are none of the high rise hotels that are seen in Phuket or Pattaya. The primary beaches of Lamai and Chaweng boast stunning white sand, luxury resorts, spas, water sports and restaurants to suit every budget.

Although the island is famous for its beaches, inland you can discover rain forest, dramatic waterfalls and beautiful mountains with spectacular views. An elephant trek through the jungle is one way of visiting the interior, or zip-wiring across the forest canopy is a must for the more adventurous visitor. The best way to see the island in its entirety is by small motorbike. For £6 a day you can circumnavigate the island in a couple of hours.

Wat Phra Yai is Samui’s ‘Temple of the Big Buddha’, with a 12-metre-tall Buddha image. Built in 1972, this iconic temple sits on a little island connected to the main island by a small bridge. The temple grounds house a centre for meditation, another draw for more spiritual visitors to Koh Samui. When visiting any temple in Thailand, it’s important to follow the standard rules of dress and etiquette: wear long trousers and sleeves, remove your shoes before entering the actual temple, and definitely no beachwear.

It’s still easy to find quiet, unspoilt beaches in Koh Samui. We stayed at Samrong Bay in the north of the island and had the beach virtually to ourselves. This really was one of Koh Samui’s hidden gems. We rented a four bedrooomed villa, as there were eight of us. The spacious Thai style villa had en-suite facilities in all bedrooms, with a central lounge/ diner and kitchen, a daily maid service and of course our own pool. The management company had an on-site office, which could service all our needs. If we didn’t feel like cooking, they would happily provide ‘room service’ or even our own chef to prepare a tasty Thai meal or barbecue. We were a 15-minute taxi ride from evening entertainment

in Chaweng or Lamai, and for the shoppers amongst us nearby Fisherman's Village was the ideal place to try out haggling skills. A vast array of clothes, souvenirs, crafts and of course copy-designer items were on offer, so if your bargaining skills are good enough you can dress head to toe in 'designer' labels for a small price.

Dining out in Koh Samui is an experience in itself. Thai curries are in abundance and some of the finest seafood in the world is available at very reasonable prices. Cliff-top restaurants with views across the Gulf of Thailand can be found, or a romantic candlelit dinner by the lapping sea is not just a dream. We had the most sumptuous seafood set meal on the beach at Fisherman's Village with fresh lobster and huge tiger prawns for only £10 per head. Beware the cost of wine, however, which is imported and therefore expensive. Far better to stick to the local beer or colourful cocktails.

Samui's weather patterns are a little different from the rest of Thailand. In April through September, when most of the country has its monsoon, Samui stays fairly dry, but from October to December it is wet in Samui and drier elsewhere. The driest season is January through March. Diving is spectacular around Koh Samui. The main dive shops are located in Chaweng and trips to Koh Tao or the amazing Ang Thong archipelago dive sites are available. Koh Samui's location is also ideal for 'island hopping', whether on a



Enjoying an elephant trek

day trip to the small picturesque islands nearby or overnight to Krabi, Phi Phi, famous for filming *The Beach* starring Leonardo DiCaprio, or Ko Pha Ngan. The latter is renowned for its 'Full Moon' parties. The young-at-heart can take a 30-minute speedboat trip from Bophut to Ko Pha Ngan, then dance the night away to the sounds of garage and rock music, returning as the sun rises.

Flights to Koh Samui from London are via Bangkok. You can break the journey in the city for a couple of days to visit magnificent

temples or to sample the great shopping on offer. Koh Samui Airport offers one of the most pleasant airport experiences you will ever have. The open-air thatched terminal building is honestly a pleasure to pass through with that typical friendly Thai smile to welcome you. The departure lounge supplies complimentary refreshments and pastries for all passengers, not just those who have paid for an airport VIP lounge.

A typical flight and 7-night 4-star hotel package from Heathrow costs from £950 per person based on two persons sharing a double room including breakfast. Some fantastic offers are available including free night stays, room upgrades and meal options. For more information please contact **Jeff at Global Travel Buntingford on 01763 273344** or visit **[www.globaltravelbuntingford.com](http://www.globaltravelbuntingford.com)** for an up to date quotation.

**Jeff Jones**



# Millfield First and Nursery School



The end of the Spring Term was, as usual, very busy at Millfield. The School Council Talent Show on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> was a great success. The children enjoyed watching the acts and the performers did really well. We appreciated the help of Mrs Bonner, one of our Governors, and Mr Hall who joined Mrs Willett and Luke Richmond, the Chair of the School Council, on the judging panel. The event raised £50.60 for Sports Relief.

Our Year 3 children enjoyed their recent visit to Edwinstree to take part in a science lesson. They were excited to see the range of equipment and some science experiments. We arrange these visits as a way of preparing the children for the move to Edwinstree at the end of Year 4.



**The School Council Talent Show  
in a very sunny school hall**

Our Easter Assembly was on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March and the children from each Key Stage made a contribution. We were pleased that so many of our parents were able to come along and enjoy the occasion. The School Council collected for Sports Relief at the end of the assembly, bringing the grand total to £140.19. On the same day the PTA held their Easter Bazaar at the end of the school day and the children enjoyed their annual Easter Egg hunt.



**Easter Assembly at Millfield**

During the Easter holiday we had the remainder of the old window walling in the classrooms and kitchen replaced. This has greatly improved the appearance and security of the school and will also reduce our energy consumption.

In the term ahead we are planning activities around both the Olympics and Diamond Jubilee. We will be celebrating the Queen's Diamond

Jubilee with a 'Garden Party' in the grounds of the school on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May. The children will come to school in their party clothes and there will be a picnic and games on the school field. We will also be having a hat competition. Our Sports Day on July 11<sup>th</sup> will have an Olympic theme, with each class representing a participating country.

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

**Kathy Willett, Head Teacher**

# Buntingford Dancing School

Our last update was in November which seems like such a long time ago now! After Christmas we were delighted to welcome many new starters to Ballet, Modern Jazz, Tap and Musical Theatre classes and they have settled in very well indeed.

The ISTD Cecchetti Ballet exams were already taken in December and so in January it was full steam ahead in preparing for the Modern Jazz and Freestyle Medal Exams. These were taken at the beginning of March and all students passed with outstanding results. They all achieved Highly Commended and Honours marks with the IDTA and the results demonstrate just how hard the children worked. We now look forward to the tap exams which take place at the end of April, fingers crossed for continued success.

## Student News:

**Kelsey Mitchell** won her first gold cup at the Sudbury Dance Festival in February for her ballet solo. The standard is extremely high at these festivals and this is a great result.

**Olivia Dedmen** entered the Cecchetti Classical Ballet Choreographic Competition, which takes place annually at Cecil Sharp House in London. She had a clean sweep in her section winning both the Musicality and Own Choreography medals in her category, a great achievement!

Going forward, the classes will enjoy some free work mixed with technique in preparing them for the next grades and medals, and after the tap exams we will be working towards our next show. This will be held in Broxbourne in February 2013. Some children have been taking part over Easter in local productions of *Pinocchio* and *The Wizard of Oz*, gaining lots of performance experience.

We look forward to welcoming new starters after Easter and some of our current students will be trying out additional genres as their interest in exploring all forms of Dance and Musical Theatre grows. Even the adults are trying out the new 'pay as you go' Adult Ballet Class, which takes place on Wednesday evenings at the United Reformed Church Hall. We will be looking forward to taking part in a 'Taphathon' in November. This is a Nationwide World Record Tap Dancing Event which will raise funds for Children in Need. Information on all of our classes and details on how to contact us are at:

[www.buntingforddancingschool.co.uk](http://www.buntingforddancingschool.co.uk)

**Julie McPartland**

Vice-Principal, Buntingford Dancing School



Competition winners: Kelsey (above) and Olivia (below)



Ever thought about writing a novel? Author Leslie Tate will be telling us all about 'What Goes Into A Good Novel' at our next monthly meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May. Doors open 2pm at

the Seth Ward Community Centre, Buntingford. Guests are very welcome, £2 including refreshments. We have started two new groups: Garden Visits, and Quizzes (attending local quizzes as a team). We are also hoping to start Line Dancing for Beginners, Scrabble, and Knit & Natter. If you would like more details please phone:

**Christine Jeffries 01763 273466 or Jean Devenish 01763 271783**

First Monday Contact Hilary Curtis	Craft Group 01763 272323	2pm – 4pm Various crafts
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May Contact Carol McKimmie	Walking Group (2hours plus) 01763 271054	9:50am – 12:00noon TBA
Last Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> May Contact Dave Austin	Wine Appreciation £5 + 2 glasses 01763 272066	8pm – 10pm Seth Ward CC Bring a summer red to share
4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May Contact Hilary Curtis	Shorter walks (1hour plus) 01763 272323	10.30am TBA
Individual sessions Wednesdays Contact Colin Gibbons	Family History 01763 271398	In Buntingford
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> May Contact Alan Rumble	Computers (all levels) £3 01920 823608	2.00pm – 4-00pm Seth Ward Community Centre
2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> May Contact David Smith	Digital photography £2 01763 849023	Basic composition + comparing photographs
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays Contact Christine Jeffries	Singing for Pleasure 01763 273466	2:00pm – 4:00pm Wyddial
Every Tuesday Contact Alan Smith	Bridge (all levels) 01763 287657	10.00am – 12.00pm Homes
Various Contact Val Lohead	Out to Lunch 01279 658069	Various
Various Contact Evelyn Smith	Social Outings 01763 272241	Local theatres, meals out, quiz nights, outings etc
Mondays Contact Dave Austin	Keep Fit £2 01763 272066	10am – 11.30am Seth Ward Community Centre
Last Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> May Contact Anne Austin	Book club 01763 272066	2.30pm Fairfield
Every Friday (not school hols) Contact Rosemary Poulton	Pilates £20 for 6 sessions or £5 per session 01763 271598	1.30pm – 2.45pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every Wednesday Contact Dave Austin	Table Tennis £2 01763 272066	2pm – 3pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every Wednesday Contact Roy Ellard	Badminton £2 (list) 01763 271578	3.15–4.15pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Varies Contact Lyn Paynton	Art Appreciation 01920 821017	Varies
Every Monday Contact Vidyut Sharma	Yogic breathing £5 01763 271779	10 – 11.30am Monks Walk
Last Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> May Contact Mick Westwood	Strollers 01763 272594	2.30pm Forty Hall, Enfield
Various Contact Ron Brighten	Quizzes 01763 273175	Making up a team for local quizzes
TBA Contact Val Sievert	Scrabble 01763 272019	Buntingford

This year local charity Isabel Hospice celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> year of providing free, specialist end-of-life care to the people of eastern Hertfordshire. Founded by Welwyn Garden City resident Isabel Last, the Hospice provides care based on the idea that patients are ordinary people with physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs. The Hospice cares for local people with life-limiting illnesses and all those around them, including families and friends.

Chief Executive, Nigel Furlong said: “The breadth and depth of the services that we now provide have increased greatly since 1982... However, in all that time the underpinning ethos of treating the person not simply the illness remains the same.”

All Isabel Hospice services are free, from the 24-hour care at our In-Patient Unit, the specialist Community Nurses who visit patients in their homes (Macmillan does not provide any specialist community home nursing in eastern Hertfordshire), our Hospice at Home team, our Family Support Team and our Physios, OT and Lymphoedema Therapist. The cost of providing all this is budgeted at around £4.5 million this year, of which £3 million must be raised from charitable sources.

We have lots of fundraising events this year, with something to suit everybody. Ten cyclists are in training for a ‘Five Countries in Five Days’ 500-mile endurance challenge in June. Also in June is a Midnight Walk. Places are still available for a Sahara Trek in October, and in December our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball, organised by Life President Barbara Doherty MBE, will have a Dickensian Christmas theme. We would like to thank all of our supporters – we could not do it with out you! If you would like to hold a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event or find out more about any of these or the events below, please call 01707 382500.

**Tue 8<sup>th</sup> May – Coffee Morning 10:30–12:00**

At Markwell Pavilion, Bishop's Stortford. Enquiries 01279 755320.

**Sun 13<sup>th</sup> May – Open Garden, Tea and Stalls 14:00–17:00**

In the gardens of Great Munden House, Great Munden, Nr Ware SG11 1HU.

**Thu 17<sup>th</sup> May – NetWorking Lunch 12:30–14:00**

At Grill 55, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3AL. Contact Julie North 01707 382547.

**Sun 20<sup>th</sup> May – ‘On Your Bike’ sponsored cycle ride 09:30–16:00**

Now in its third year, open to teams, individuals and families. A circular route of 25km or 50km, starting and finishing at Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club. Registration starts 8:30am. The 50km ride starts 9:30am and 25km at 10:00am. Entry £12 adults, £5 children up to 14 years. Call Katie Robertson to register on 01707 382500.



Celebrating 30 years of good work in the East Herts community



# Buntingford Social Club

C I U affiliated

6 Church Street, Buntingford, Herts. SG9 9AS

Telephone 01763 271889

[www.thebuntingfordsocialclub.co.uk](http://www.thebuntingfordsocialclub.co.uk)



MEMBERS FREE, GUESTS £1.00 EVERY DAY  
MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY £12.00 PER ANNUM

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

## \* EVERY MONDAY BIG CASH BINGO \*

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

**ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS SHOWN (times permitting)  
HD TV AND 10ft HD screen**

**HAPPY HOUR PRICES: EVERY DAY FROM 5:30PM TO 6:30PM  
and FRIDAY 5:30PM TO CLOSE**

**Every Sunday is fun day where the pool table, snooker table  
and wii are FREE ALL DAY**

### FUTURE SATURDAY SPECIAL NIGHTS:

15<sup>th</sup> September - NOTOWN WITHOUT MOTOWN

24<sup>th</sup> November - MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE and PREMONITION DUO

### ENTERTAINMENT FOR MAY

- 5<sup>th</sup> May - MELODY BEATS - Club regular, middle-of-the-road
- 12<sup>th</sup> May - NO ENTERTAINMENT (free Juke Box, Pool, Snooker)
- 19<sup>th</sup> May - BJ HONEY and the COUNTRY BAND (new to club)
- 26<sup>th</sup> May - SKYLINERS - 60s & 70s Club favourite
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June - ABAKUS - a bit of Rock

Members free, Guests £4 when entertainment provided or £7 for a special night

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

[www.thebuntingfordsocialclub.co.uk](http://www.thebuntingfordsocialclub.co.uk)



# THE FOX, ASPENDEN

ANNUAL BEER FESTIVAL Fri 4<sup>TH</sup> – Mon 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY

Cask ales and ciders, live music and good food. Starting 5:00pm Friday and finishing with a Family Fun Day on Monday.

FREE  
ENTRY!

[www.thefoxaspenden.co.uk](http://www.thefoxaspenden.co.uk)

Tel: 01763  
271886

## Just a small boy

Ciaren, our grandson has just been to stay...  
and oh! we doooo miss him when he's gone away...  
BUT, while he is with us we need a long-range forecast  
'cos he arrives like a whirlwind ... with a howl and a blast!!!  
He never sits still ... he's like a bucket of worms,  
he likes to dig in the garden and get laden with germs.  
Winding the dogs up is a 'have to do' task,  
then to boy and two dogs: 'BE QUIET', I ask.  
He eats for England and loves tea and squash,  
as soon as he's drunk it, he's off ... bish bash bosh!!!  
Tom and Jerry, he just loves to view,  
with a bowl of 'must have' sweets to chew!  
All the time he's wriggling around ...  
ants in his pants could surely be found!  
But these are not faults, 'cos he's just a boy,  
he's nearly five and he is our joy.  
There will be Grandparents out there, I'm very sure,  
who could not love their Grandchildren more.  
Just they do wear you out so much quicker these days ...  
time marches on, I hear you all say.  
We thank God we have him, we know we are lucky ...  
he's so full of mischief and ever so plucky.  
We are having a rest now the whirlwind's away ...  
ready for the next time he blows in to stay!!!

**Teresa Bonner**



# BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

www.buntingfordtownfc.com



As the season draws to a close we have seen no change in our First Team's fortunes, the team glued to the foot of the table with no chance of escaping the bottom three; relegation back into Division One will surely be the outcome of the Herts Senior County League's AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> June. It has been a long hard campaign, and although at times it seemed that we were set up for a winning run, enough momentum to give the side the confidence and feel-good factor to do so was never generated. The Premier Division of the Herts County League has a number of very good clubs within it, some of which are well-financed, well-supported and able to attract very good players. It is not surprising that we have found it difficult to compete at times with our limited resources, but by and large I am proud of the efforts we have made. Our day will come sometime, I'm sure.

The Reserves, at the time of writing, need 3 points from their last match against Sarratt to escape the bottom three, although a win will not guarantee this as other results could put a spanner in our works. Whatever the outcome, I am very pleased with the performance of our second string this season, and for such a young squad to have coped so well with the rugged and experienced opponents found at this level bodes well for the future.

The Vets' up and down season has continued, but surely one of the highlights was the charity match against the Spurs Legends at the end of March. The match itself was highly entertaining, with Spurs taking an early lead (inside the first minute!), but Town dug in and equalised shortly after. Eventually, the superior skill of the visiting celebrities won the day, with the Lilywhites winning 5-3. But the real winners were Herts Air Ambulance. A cheque for £1800 was presented to the rescue service by the club and this was accompanied by a generous donation of £1500 from Barclays Bank. I should imagine that by the time the raffle, auctions and collection buckets are included, the total raised will be nudging £4000.



Spurs Legends line up with the Town's Vets and Herts Air Ambulance

None of this would have been possible without all those of you who helped to arrange and run the event, from both inside and outside of the club. The names are too many to mention, but you know who you are, and on behalf of BTFC and Herts Air Ambulance, thank you! And of course, let's not forget all of those generous people of Buntingford who turned up to enjoy a fine spring day and another chapter in our club's history. Buntingford is a great place to live and we should be proud of what we can achieve.

**Chris Thurgill**, Chairman, Buntingford Town FC



The Herts Air Ambulance Fundraising Team recently moved offices from North Weald Airfield and are delighted with their new premises on the Park Farm Industrial Estate in Buntingford. They are quickly making their presence known around the town and would like to thank those who have already been kind enough to visit and welcome them.

The Herts Air Ambulance has been flying since November 2008 and on 12<sup>th</sup> April reached the impressive milestone of 1000 missions! Unlike NHS emergency services, the Herts Air Ambulance is a charity providing a free life-saving Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) for your county. The speed with which our Air Ambulance Doctors & Paramedics can reach a patient, identify and administer processes to slow, halt or even reverse the effects of life-threatening injury, is crucial in helping to save the patient and return them to full health. Minutes can make all the difference.

It costs in the region of £130,000 every month to cover all charitable costs and aircraft operations. We hope you or your loved ones never need us, but thanks to the generous support of the people and businesses of the county, our service remains operational.

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

The team would like to thank Buntingford Town Veterans and Buntingford Sports Club for kindly organising the extremely successful charity football match against the Spurs Legends. The match was very exciting and attracted hundreds of spectators, who were blessed with sun and clear skies all day. Unfortunately, the Air Ambulance was not able to land as planned due to a technical fault, but one of our Critical Care Paramedics was present throughout the day and the Essex crew were able to do a fly-over.

We are delighted to announce that the event raised over £2500.00 on the day, with an additional £1500.00 donated by Barclays through match funding. We are very grateful for the support we have received from the people of Buntingford and we are sure that this is just the first step to becoming an integral part of the community over the years to come.

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

# The Coming Tide

Chief Red Cloud sat astride his painted horse atop a ridge in the Black Hills and surveyed the land beneath; his enigmatic countenance did not betray his deep unease as he saw the large plume of wood smoke rising on the horizon from the iron horse. The virgin plain was being violated by the steel road as the white man pushed west into the sacred tribal lands. Already the hills had been infiltrated by men scratching in the dirt for the soft yellow stones and the treaties between his people and the white government were once again broken in a duplicity typical of these new invaders who were sweeping like locusts across the land that had survived untouched since the beginning of time. Red Cloud was beginning to learn the duplicity of the white men in suits, whose tongues were forked and whose smiles and reassurance were but masks. In his mind he could see that soon all the land would be lost to the great tide of humanity who came in search of riches and who, with the connivance of opportunistic businessmen and officials ready to line their own pockets or egos, were riding under the banner of progress and need to provide homes for a new population from across the oceans to the east.

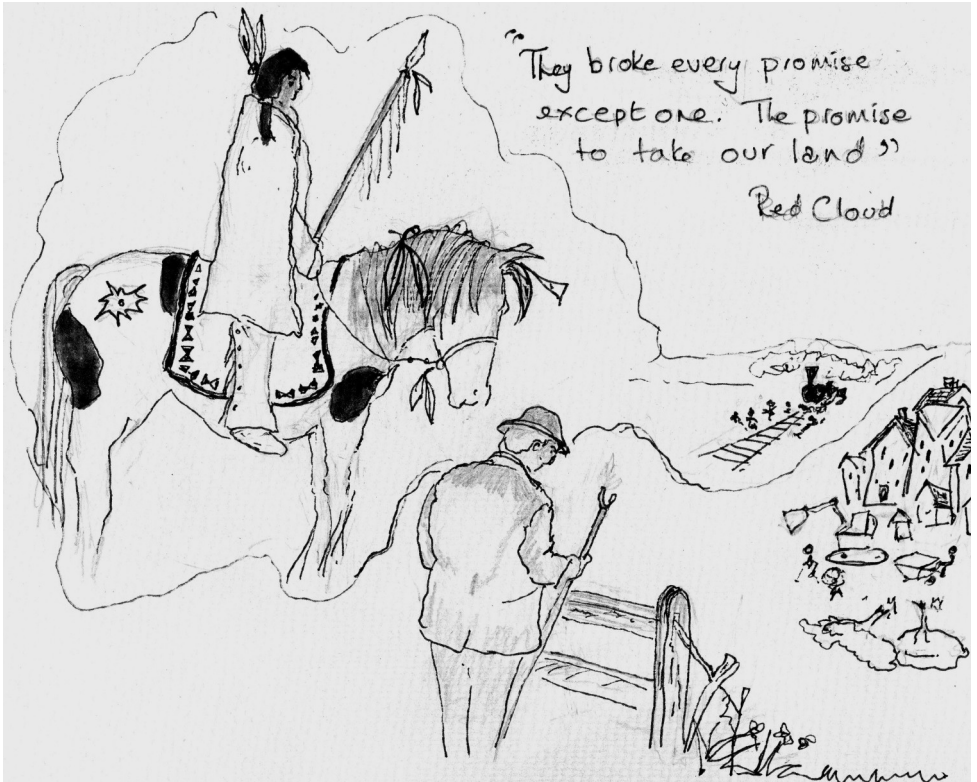
Sound familiar? It is said that there is nothing new under the sun and when I sat on the top of Windmill Hill above the town one evening recently I felt the same pangs of unease as the great war chief of the Lakota/Oglala Sioux must have felt. There beneath me, in the saucer-shaped valley that is our town, a so-called 'hidden gem', I could see evidence of a new wave of activity, as areas around the town were being 'cleared' ready to build more houses to provide necessary homes for people. But what people? Will these homes be for local families or essential workers, or just yet another expedient central government 'initiative' to kick start an ailing economy by succumbing to lobbyist pressure (pass the port Dave, just between friends this evening, nudge-nudge know what I mean?)?

After the last war the government then had a real and justifiable reason to build new homes for British people who had fought and suffered in their fight against another attempt to infiltrate our land and way of life. However, that early dream was short-lived when the so-called 'new towns' soon became sprawling masses of humanity with all the inbuilt problems that these enterprises attract.

Successive governments failed to revitalise the large urban areas, concentrating on special developments for the very rich with the effect that inner cities were abandoned to incomers from other lands enticed by the falsehood that here was a better life, where in fact corrupt landlords and inept local governments made matters worse causing the indigenous population to abandon the cities altogether and decamp to the suburbs or even further afield. This so-called 'doughnut' effect only served to draw in more people from foreign climes, accelerated by the expansion of the federalists' dream of a European state.

Now we have an edict from central government to provide more homes, but why and for whom? The County Council, aided and abetted by the EHDC and our own town council's lack of any real concrete (perhaps 'concrete' was a Freudian slip) plans, we are allowing our town to become just another dormitory and dumping ground for any body that the council has a problem with.

The much used and abused consultative process is a waste of time and effort. No real heed will be afforded to the local population's fears and opinions, whilst speculators,



comforted by the assurance that it is the government's will, grab and exploit any spare piece of land, brown field or green, and throw up houses in an orgy of greed not need. But they will not be around to see the damage they have caused, they will be a long way away on some sandy beach or tax haven caring not a jot for the people who have to cope with the extra demands such an explosion will wreak on the town. The warnings of the police will once again be ignored so the criminal damage and nuisance will grow exponentially as the town expands, not to mention the extra pressure placed on services and utilities.

Yes, there will be a PR campaign to say there will be a mixed integrated build plan but the developers, once having outline planning permission in their hot sticky hands, will reapply for a different mix of housing stock in the hope that less affordable builds will line their pockets, and anyway if all else fails the housing associations will always come up with the necessary. So the gravy train rolls on, just like the iron horse that Red Cloud watched but one hundred years ago and if anybody has witnessed what 'manifest destiny' can do to a land then they will know that Red Cloud's fears, like mine, were very real and very justified.

There will always be a need to provide homes for local people, built by local builders living and working in the community, but this unseemly and cynical government approach will only bring long-term problems for our grandchildren to either pay for or run from. Just a thought.

**Vyse**

# B A L A

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

## Minibus trips April 2012

			<b>Cost</b>
<b>MAY</b>			
Tues 1 <sup>st</sup>	10:00am – 3:00pm	Scott Antarctic Polar Exhibition, Cambridge	£7
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Thurs 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£4
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am – 3:00pm	Brookfield Centre – Boots, M&S, Argos, Next, Tesco etc.	£6
Tues 15 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am – 2:30pm	Country Gardens and Bury Lane Farm Shop – Cotton Traders, Edinburgh Woollen Mills, Pavers Shoes, The Works, Plants, Deli etc.	£4.50
Thurs 17 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup>	10:30pm – 3:00pm	Welwyn Garden City – John Lewis, M&S, Debenhams, WHSmith, Boots etc.	£6
Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£4
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup>	2:30pm – 4:00om	Pearce's Farm Shop & Cafe	£3
Tues 29 <sup>th</sup>	9:45am – 3:00pm	Bury St Edmund's – Historic town, shops	£14
Thurs 31 <sup>st</sup>	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
<b>JUNE</b>			
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£4
<b>AUGUST</b>			
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	2:30pm	'The Sound of Music' at Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage	£17 + Bus £4

To book a seat or for more information phone 01763 273623 or 01763 271909

## **B.A.L.A. Buffet Lunch – £4.50**

at Benson Hall, Buntingford

**Wednesday 16th May – 12:00noon to 1:00pm**

***To be followed by AGM at 1:30pm***



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

## **Meet your local PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers)**

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

If you have any issues to raise, or just want to say hello, please stop by at the dates, times and places given below.

#### **Charlotte or Adam will be available in Buntingford on:**

10<sup>th</sup> May, 10:30–11:30 at the United Reformed Church, Baldock Road

14<sup>th</sup> May, 10:30–11:30 at St Peter's Church, Buntingford

17<sup>th</sup> May, 10:30–11:30 at the United Reformed Church, Baldock Road

21<sup>st</sup> May, 10:30–11:30 at St Peter's Church, Buntingford

28<sup>th</sup> May, 10:30–11:30 at St Peter's Church, Buntingford

#### **Amanda will be in the following villages on:**

3<sup>rd</sup> May, 9:30–10:00am – Wyddial, outside the church

9<sup>th</sup> May, 11:30–12:00noon – Great Hormead village

20<sup>th</sup> May, 14:00–14:30pm – Braughing recreation ground

24<sup>th</sup> May, 20:00–21:00pm – PCSO Steve Whittaker will be at Standon & Puckeridge community centre

26<sup>th</sup> May, 12:00noon–12:30pm – Albury, outside the village hall

*(Times are subject to change at short notice)*

**Telephone 101 for non-emergencies**

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



## Cougars Soccer School Success

During the Easter holidays Buntingford Cougars hosted its first ever soccer school which was a rip-roaring success. Twenty children attended between the ages of five and eleven and enjoyed a fun-packed day of football.

Activities included coaching, games, penalty shoot-outs and a couple of keenly contested matches. The day was so much fun that the kids hardly noticed the five-minute downpour that had the coaches searching for their hoods! Mums and Dads came to collect their children at the end of the day and watched as their little footballers each received a certificate for their efforts before going home to tell their tales of foxy magic.

The four coaches for the day were volunteer coaches from within Cougars and therefore all FA qualified and CRB checked. After the day Cougars Chairman and Head Coach for the day Jason Rowley said: "Our first ever Soccer School was a great success. We raised some money for the club whilst the kids had a fantastic day. Mums and Dads were able to drop their children off knowing that they were in safe hands and were going to have an enjoyable experience with a club that they know and trust. I am confident that we will host a soccer school in future half terms and school holidays – so watch this space."

## Buntingford Cougars Under 8s Do Us Proud

Buntingford Cougars Under 8s enjoyed the warm sunshine away to Baldock in March and looked well organised and adventurous. In the first match Brogan Duxberry and George Hegarty's efforts were instrumental in keeping Baldock at bay, whilst George Godfrey up front was a livewire making the hosts' defence work hard. In the midfield Evan Howard and Remy Knowles made some great tackles to win the ball for the away side. Playing particularly well Luke Goodchild in goal did well, but the well deserved Man of The Match award went to the recent new signing Archie Vass-Smart after he played such a strong and intelligent match. Commenting on the performance Cougars Coach Dean Howard said: "Earlier in the season Baldock scored a few against us so today's performance and score shows how well organised and strong we are. The guys and girls did really well and I thought were quite unlucky not to get a couple of goals at least."

After Easter the Under 8s hosted Broadhall from Stevenage and played out a great 2–2 draw. Cougars created lots of chances with George Withey and Sam Daly working hard in the middle, but it was Broadhall who scored first before Haydon Whalley scored with a great long-range effort that looped over their goalkeeper's head. Soon after, the visitors scored again, but in reply George Godfrey hammered home a penalty that he had earned after being pushed in the penalty area. There was late drama when Man-of-the-Match Stuart Eariss in Buntingford's goal managed to save and hold the ball on the line, but the visitors thought it had crossed the line. Coach Richard Whalley was full of praise for his



team: "We were a match for a very strong side today and really deserved a draw. I am glad that Stu saved their effort right at the end, even though their supporters and coach thought it had crossed the line. Maybe we need goal line technology in mini soccer."

***Buntingford Cougars is a youth football club where children of all abilities can have fun. It's a safe environment where everyone is valued, respected and encouraged. All our volunteers, managers, coaches and referees are CRB checked. We're a trusted part of the local community. So if you are looking for a team that's right for your child, you'll find Cougars has a lot to offer. Any questions? Please call Richard Daly on 07944 237400.***

## Will the hosepipe ban make us water wise?

Hosepipe bans are now in force across the east and southeast of England. This follows the fifth driest March recorded since 1910. There is a risk of even greater restrictions this summer, but will this make us water wise?

If you are a gardener you'll understand the value of water. You may have connected a water butt to your roof guttering downpipe to collect rainwater. Perhaps you routinely water your garden in the evening and water plants at their base so less of the water evaporates. But when was the last time you thought to water your household plants with your used bath water? The Energy Saving Trust estimates UK households use on average 350 litres of water a day. Most of us could use less. We could, for example:

- Avoid leaving taps running when washing vegetables and dishes
- Install an aerating shower head (replacing ½ the water with air bubbles)
- Fit a graduated flush device to toilets (to stop flushing 7 litres each use)
- Fix a dripping tap and save up to 5500 litres of water a year



Rainwater can be used for more than just watering plants. SuperHomer Donnachadh McCarthy uses collected rainwater to flush the toilet.

Photo courtesy of [www.superhomes.org.uk](http://www.superhomes.org.uk)

Some homeowners take even more radical steps. This includes storing rainwater in 3500-litre underground tanks and using rainwater to feed loos and washing machines. They say that clothes washed in rainwater actually come out cleaner. You can quiz these eco pioneers to find out more at annual open home events in spring and September.

For more details visit:  
[www.superhomes.org.uk](http://www.superhomes.org.uk)

## M J WARNER HELPS FREMAN COLLEGE STUDENTS TO GET AROUND

Students at Freman College will be able to continue to enjoy events and activities such as theatre trips and sports fixtures thanks to minibus sponsorship by Hare Street VW Dealership, M J Warner. After speaking to Freman College and learning of the challenges they were faced in running the bus for events such as netball fixtures, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and sports partnership events, M J Warner proposed to sponsor the bus.

Sam Allan, Business Manager at Freman College, said: "This will be of great benefit to the students. Transport is essential due to the geographical location of the college and this sponsorship ensures that the students will be able to continue with their vast range of extra-curricular activities. Like many schools we are looking for ways to give our students as well-rounded an experience as possible and working with commercial organisations is an excellent way to do this in the current climate. We would encourage other firms to follow M J Warner's lead."

Steve Phillips, owner of M J Warner, said: "We have always been keen to involve ourselves in the local community and are happy to talk to groups and organisations that we may be able to benefit. Some of our employees went to Freman College and supporting the education of our future customers and employees is important to us. We believe our success is due to the fact that we are a friendly, local firm. Not only do we say that 'we care' but we are also prepared to commit to making a difference to our community."



The sponsored minibus with staff and students from M J Warner and Freman College

## BUNTINGFORD W.I.

Jacqueline Gray was the Speaker at our April meeting and she gave us a very lively, informal talk on millinery. She showed us the blocks she used and the material – called 'sinamay' – that could be dampened and stretched to form the hats. Apparently, sinamay comes in many different colours and patterns and can be bought by the yard, with the best suppliers in Luton, which was a centre for hat-making for more than a century.

Most people's heads measure 22" to 22.5" – (I wonder how many of you have measured yours to check this out!) – yet in most stores the hats are 23"!

Mrs Gray said she had discovered that her grandparents had been in the millinery business; her grandmother had been a feather curler and her grandfather a feather dyer. Members had great fun trying on the hats and fascinators she had brought with her and everyone agreed it was a very entertaining evening.

We are busy planning our carnival entry for this year and are also planning another coffee morning at the community garden – more details later.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May which will be our Resolutions Meeting, together with a bring-and-buy plant sale. Our meetings are held at the United Reformed Church Hall at 7:45pm and visitors are always welcome.

**Val Hume**

## MORETON ROMANIAN ORPHANS FUND

Registered Charity No: 1007688

Want to help an orphaned child and meet new friends doing it? Then please read on. On Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, a group of kids from some of the poorest parts of Romania will arrive in the UK for a two-week break courtesy of the Moreton Romanian Orphans Fund, a local charity that has been organising such visits for more than 20 years. Once again, we're looking for families in this area to accommodate and care for a child for the duration of the trip. The children are unlikely to have set foot outside Romania or experienced being part of a family group before, so for them it is a huge step.

As a host, you would provide them with food and accommodation, and possibly also a few items of basic clothing as the children often arrive in little more than what they are wearing. Other than that, the entire cost of the trip is funded by the charity, which also puts on a full programme of events for the children and their host families, such as discos, picnics, sports events and days at the seaside. If you are interested, please call hosting officer MROF **Barbara Saunders on 01279 832001**.

More information on the Moreton charity can be found on our website:

**[www.mrof.co.uk](http://www.mrof.co.uk)**

# Royston Open Secrets

Royston Open Secrets is an annual event held on Therfield common (The Heath), next to the Heath Sports Club. It is a fun day out for everyone, including fathers (this year it's to be held on Fathers Day), and has lots of activities and events to make it a really enjoyable day.



The Royston Open Secrets event in 2011

The event this year will continue to showcase local businesses and community groups within Royston and the SG8 postcode area. The mission of Royston Open Secrets is to raise

awareness of local businesses and community groups, thus encouraging increased use of our local trades and services, as well as attendances in local community groups

The event this year is on **17<sup>th</sup> June**, between **11:00am and 4:00pm**. So if you represent a community group or local business and would like to participate, please take a look at our website <http://www.open-secrets.co.uk> to find entry forms and more information. Or if you just want to pop along for an enjoyable day out, then you will be most welcome to join us at this free event.

## FRIENDS OF BERDEN CHURCH

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 7:30pm – in the Church

**GIGSPANNER** ... a trio consisting of ex-Steeleye Span violinist **Peter Knight** and two of his most musically talented friends.

Tickets £12.50, Children £10.00

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 8:00pm – in the Village Hall

**LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS**

with **SAFFRON WALDEN TOWN BAND** and **BERDEN CHOIR**

An outdoor picnic concert with Social Club bar and many surprises.

Tickets one price for all ages: £5.00

Tickets are available now and already selling! Contact John Burton on 01279 777674 or email: [JOHNBURTON@BERDEN.ORG.UK](mailto:JOHNBURTON@BERDEN.ORG.UK)