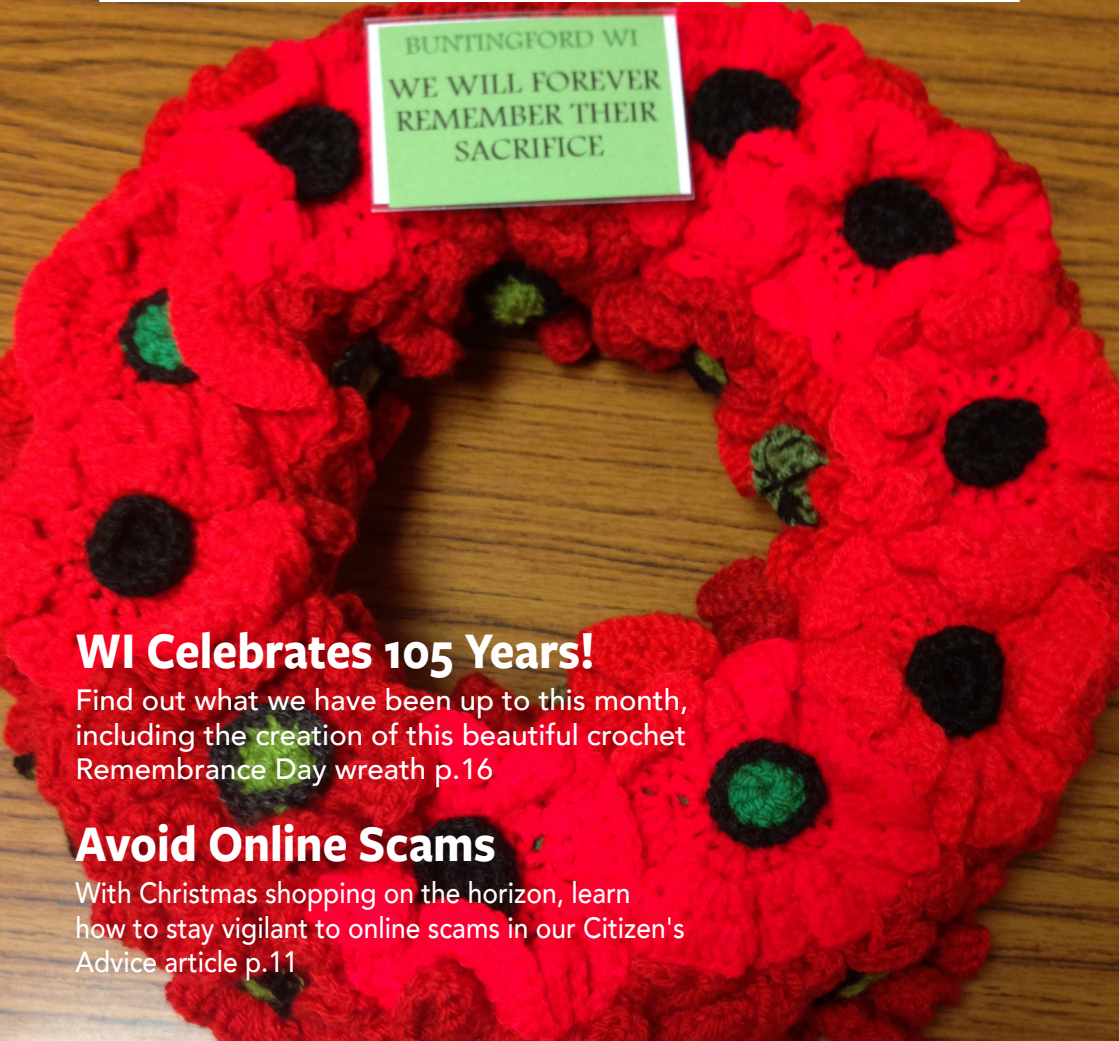


THE BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL



BUNTINGFORD WI
WE WILL FOREVER
REMEMBER THEIR
SACRIFICE

WI Celebrates 105 Years!

Find out what we have been up to this month, including the creation of this beautiful crochet Remembrance Day wreath p.16

Avoid Online Scams

With Christmas shopping on the horizon, learn how to stay vigilant to online scams in our Citizen's Advice article p.11

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

November 2023 Volume 48 | Issue 9 **£1.00**





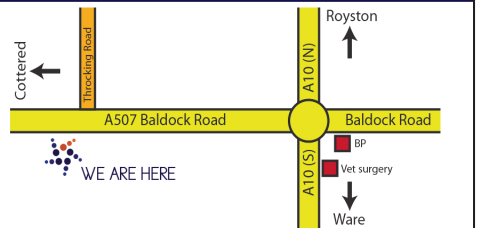
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USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

POLICE STATION:

Baldock Road, Buntingford

GAS

ELECTRICITY

WATER (Veolia)

WATER (Affinity Water)

SEWERAGE (Thames Water)

FLOODLINE

DOCTORS:

Buntingford Medical Centre,
White Hart Close

B A S H (Buntingford Action
for Social Help):

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,
RAPE, RACE or HATE CRIME**

LOCAL COUNCILS

BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY

77 High Street, Buntingford,
SG9 9AE | 01763 274 608

CITIZENS ADVICE EAST HERTS:

Non-emergency telephone: 101
In emergencies dial 999

Emergency (gas leaks) – Freephone 0800 111 999

Emergency (power loss) – Freephone 0800 7838 838

Emergency – Freephone 0800 376 5325

Emergency – 0345 357 2407

Emergency – Telephone 0800 316 9800

Emergency – 0345 988 1188 or 0845 988 1188

Environment Agency Incident Line: 0800 80 70 60

Tel: 01763 271362 (24 hours)

Providing transport for hospital and doctors appointments.
Tel: Colin Horgan 07733 091 731

Confidential Information Helpline: 01992 554 440
(in emergency, dial 999)

Buntingford Town Council: 01763 272 222

East Herts District Council: 01279 655 261

Housing – 01279 714 714

Benefits – Freephone 0800 373 852

FOR EMERGENCIES out of office hours:
01279 655 261

Adult Care Services: 0300 123 4042

Children's Services: 0300 123 4043

Hertfordshire Highways: Report faults online:
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/highwayfaults

Tel: 01763 272 396

Opening times: Mon, Tue, Thur 10:00 – 17:30

Fri 14:00 – 17:30 **Sat** 9:00 – 13:00

Telephone enquiries – 0300 123 4049

Option 1 – Renewals 3:00 – 23:45 every day

Option 2 – All other enquiries Mon–Fri 8:00 – 20:00,
Sat 9:00 – 18:00.

More info: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

Call the CAB Message Line on 01920 459 944 at
anytime and they will call you back. They aim to return
calls within 24 hours (except at weekends).

www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk



LETTER FROM

The Editor

It always delights me to see so many new initiatives cropping up locally, or even finding out about not so new ones that I have not come across before. We really are lucky that we have so many wonderful people in the local community who give up their free time to provide services to others. This month I have discovered the wonderful 'Braughing Shed Group' who spend every Wednesday afternoon up-cycling and selling items to raise money for charity, see p.14 for details, there is also mention of cake! What a lovely way to spend the afternoon, and of course great for the planet too!

I also had a message from a lovely lady called Leigh who runs a *Chatter & Natter* table here in Buntingford every Wednesday morning where you can meet up for a chin wag over a nice cup of tea and make new friends, many of whom go on to meet up outside of chatter & natter too. See p.15 for details.

If you fancy doing some volunteering this winter, Isabel's Hospice are looking for people to help with their Christmas Tree recycling scheme, either collecting trees or just dropping off leaflets, details are on p.22.

It's important to keep fit and healthy as the evenings draw in and the days get colder. It's easy to stagnate indoors once the sunshine disappears, but autumn is a lovely month for walks through the autumn leaves. And there are plenty of ideas in this month's journal for healthy indoor pursuits and distractions too.

Anne

BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 2023

EDITOR

Anne Wright

journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

FAO Buntingford Civic Society
Journal Contributions
C/O The Manor House, 21 High Street
Buntingford, Herts, SG9 9AB

ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

Keith Edwards

01763 272 032

advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

EDITORIAL DEADLINE

Editorial copy deadline for the next Journal is: **12th NOVEMBER.**

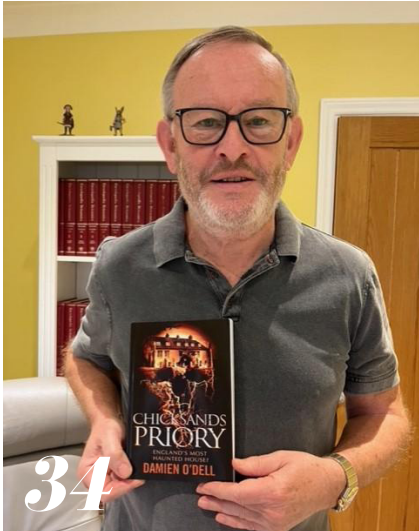
Please send all contributions to the editor on the email address above.

The editor reserves the right to edit copy received, and add or omit pictures where necessary.

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

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



WHAT'S ON

- 8 Buntingford Live Events
- 12 Film Club
- 14 Family Race Night
- 34 Homestart Events
- 39 Buntingford & Stortford Hybrid Studio
- 42 What's on Roundup
- 44 BALA

FEATURES

- 14 Braughing Shed Group
- 15 Chatter & Natter Group
- 21 Royston Choral Society
- 28 Short Story from the Writer's Group
- 30 Buntingford Local History Group
- 36 Hundred Parishes: Poppyheads

REGULAR ARTICLES

- 4 Buntingford Civic Society
- 5 Buntingford Town Council
- 6 News from your County Councillor
- 10 Friends of Rib & Quin
- 11 Citizen's Advice
- 16 WI
- 17 Photographic Society
- 17 Gardening Club
- 18 Buntingford School of Dance
- 19 Community Choir
- 19 Braughing Get Together
- 29 Senior Citizen's Club
- 20 U3A
- 24 Church News
- 38 Attend2Health News
- 40 Schools News

ON THE COVER

WI Remembrance Day Wreath



BUNTINGFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Graham Waite, Chairman
chairman@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Member of

CIVIC VOICE
making civic sense

reg. Charity: 1014873

The recent Buntingford Local History Group, "History of the High Street" exhibition at the Manor House on Saturday 30th September and Sunday 1st October was a great success with many residents visiting to see the many exhibits. I did notice that the displays prompted many conversations like "Do you remember Trudgetts" or "Do you remember Bormans, the Toy Shop" or "What was that building before it was the Library". I remember before I moved here in 1971, I was a service engineer for a private telephone company, and I covered all over East and North Herts. One of my many customers was the Marmet Pram company, based in Letchworth, and they had a satellite operation here in Buntingford, in the building that is now Direct Carpets at the northern end of the High Street.

Some members of the Civic Society were in attendance for both days and we are pleased to say that we now have 17 new members, a warm welcome to you all.

Well done to Carol Emery and her team of helpers who put together the many displays that attracted the interest of so many visitors, a lot of hard work, time and effort went into the research and production of the displays.

Well, Autumn is now upon us, the nights are drawing in and it is getting chillier and by the time you read this the clocks will be going back, Saturday 28th October or will have already done so. Even so there are still things to look forward to in the coming months. Remembrance Sunday 11th November at the War Memorial, "Lights of Love" and Late-Night Shopping, Friday 1st December.

My wife and I are keen gardeners and have been hard at work recently, clearing out our summer bedding in anticipation of planting the Winter bedding. I must say this year has been a bit erratic with the weather but the plants seem to have not only survived but thrived, mainly due to the installation of 3 water butts that supplied us with rainwater for the driest days.

Just a reminder that we are still looking for Executive Committee Members.

We meet once a month on the second Monday in the month at the Manor House and if you are interested, please contact our hard working secretary. Carol Noble by email secretary@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

Graham Waite

Chairman, Buntingford Civic Society

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



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

www.buntingford-tc.gov.uk

01763 272 222

clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk

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

@buntingfordtc @BuntingfordTC

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

The recent survey conducted by the Town Council regarding the proposed surgery on land north of Hare Street Road closed at the end of September. 89% of respondents stated that they did not wish to see a surgery in that location with the prospect of a further 200 dwellings. This response will guide our response to any planning applications that are submitted for the proposals. Many thanks to all of those residents who completed the survey, also those who attended the public meeting called to discuss the issue. At the time of writing, an application has not been submitted.

Arrangements for **Remembrance Sunday** are unchanged from last year with a parade leaving the Red House at 10.45am and a Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 10.50am. This year also marks the centenary of the Buntingford branch of the Royal British

Legion and a commemorative stone will be laid at the War Memorial to mark this occasion.

The Lights of Love Ceremony will be held on Friday 1st December 2023 at 6pm at The Manor House. This is the same evening as the Chamber of Commerce Late Night Shopping event.

The popular Chatter Table continues on the first and third Monday of the month at The Manor House 10am to 11.45am.

Details of the November Council meetings below.

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

Jill Jones PSLCC Cert HE -Town Clerk

Town Council meetings for the month of November are:

- Thursday 2nd November 7pm** Amenities Committee.
- Thursday 9th November 7pm** Planning and Resources Committee
- Thursday 30th November 7pm** Planning Committee and Full Council

All meetings held at The Manor House.

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

THE CO-OP , LOCKS, STOCK & MORE , MARK DOEL BUTCHERS, THE CHEESE PLATE, BUDGENS/POST OFFICE, KIM on the CARD STALL

NEWS FROM YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Jeff Jones, Hertfordshire County Councillor, Buntingford
0300 123 7493 | jeff.jones@hertfordshire.gov.uk



Highways Winter Service Schedule

Hertfordshire County Council's fleet of over 58 gritters are on standby, ready to spring into action and salt the county's roads when freezing weather approaches.

Gritter crews and decision makers from the highways team will be ready around the clock to cover nearly half of Hertfordshire's entire road network – that's more than 1,500 miles.

October is the beginning of the winter season, and they make sure the gritters are ready, the salt stocks in the depots are high and that the county's 1,000-plus salt bins are topped up before freezing weather arrives. The crews will be on standby 24 hours a day until the end of April, ready to deal with whatever the weather throws at us.

We don't know how much, if any, snow and ice we'll see this winter, but they are confident that the highways teams are ready and will do everything they can to keep the county's roads open and safe, whatever the weather."

Gritters are sent out when road surface temperatures are forecast to be 0.5°C, or below.

They will, where practical and accessible, grit roads to schools, care homes, doctor's surgeries, key pharmacies, and libraries, as well as all the county's A and B roads, bus routes (including school bus routes), roads with a 10% gradient or steeper and

importantly at least one route into every village. You can do your bit by parking sensibly and not blocking roads.

Salt is supplied to schools if requested, to help them stay open during icy weather. They also supply district, borough, parish and town councils on request, so they can use their

local knowledge to identify exactly where best to use the salt during severe weather. They are also providing hand spreaders to schools to help them make best use of the salt that is being provided.

Community groups and residents associations can also access free gritting salt, and so far this year over 300 local groups have placed orders with HCC.

Application forms can be found at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/applyforsalt and must be received by the county council by Tuesday 31 October.

This year, QR codes have been added to 58 new salt bins across the county and will be added to existing bins as they are topped up, giving residents easy access to information on how to use the salt provided to clear snow.

Green Recovery Project - UKPN

The scheme aims to support the green economy and address climate change by kickstarting shovel-ready green energy infrastructure projects. UKPN are making strategic investments in the electricity network to create new capacity that will significantly reduce the cost of connecting green infrastructure projects. The successful delivery of these projects requires close collaboration with local authorities, statutory bodies and other 3rd parties to ensure that the delivery of these schemes is complete by the end of 2023.

Mandated by the Government (primarily Department of Transport and OZEV) and energy regulator Ofgem, the industry has undertaken an assessment for strategic electricity network investment to support a Green Recovery. Howe Green (Buntingford) has been identified as a strategic investment where there was a lack of local network capacity thus restricting development that will facilitate more people adopting low carbon technologies.

The works will require the installation of a large cable network across the town. We have explored at length with UK Power Networks as to whether there was an alternative route that could be taken to avoid London Road following the recent ATF. Unfortunately, due to various factors no other viable route was suitable. We recognise that the delivery of these works may cause a degree of frustration and we have therefore committed UK Power Networks to ensure any excavation works on London Road will be full width reinstated, like for like, meaning what they dig up must be put back to the required spec.

In addition, we have worked extensively with UK Power Networks to agree traffic management and a programme delivery that will minimise disruption to the town as much as possible. All works will therefore be delivered under temporary traffic signals, with signals being manually controlled during peak hours on key routes or removed during peak hours wherever possible. Works will be delivered as below:

Greenways:	2nd – 15th Oct
Baldock Road:	11th – 20th Oct
Oak End:	16th – 29th Oct
Monks Walk:	18th – 21st Oct
London Road junction with Aspenden Road:	30th Oct – 11th Nov
Luyens Rise:	15th Nov – 19th Dec
London Road:	22nd Nov – 30th Nov

UK Power Networks will be working weekends on the likes of Baldock Road, Aspenden Road & London Road to expedite completion. All impacted businesses and residents should receive a letter similar to the one attached. We will be monitored their works closely through on-site inspections and regular progress meetings. Affected residents will have received a letter drop informing them of the works in their area.

Bus Service Improvements

The Integrated Transport Unit at the County Council are currently finalising bus service improvements for 2023/2024 for those services which require developer contributions for funding.

I recently approved s106 funding towards improvements to enhance local bus services 331 towards evening/Sunday service and an increase in daytime provision on the 386. I am hoping these additions to the service will take affect very soon.

Walking Football

Buntingford Town Walking Football are keen to attract new members at our Saturday morning sessions at the MUGA, Norfolk Road Playing Fields. If you are over 50, keen to stay active, and enjoy playing the “beautiful game”, come along at 10am Saturday mornings and give it a try. The first session is free and then £3 for future sessions. There is a mixture of ages and abilities, ranging from 50 years to our oldest member 73 years. Come along and “give it a try”.

Councillor Advice

I receive many requests for help and advice on County Council matters. I now hold monthly Councillor Surgeries for face-to-face informal meetings. With a Town Councillor present this gives residents the opportunity to discuss, informally, any concerns you may have in the town. These surgeries are by appointment and are available by calling the Town Council on 01763 272 222 where full details will be given. I am always available by phone or email on the contact details above.

BUNTINGFORD LIVE!

Christine Stuart-Taylor, support@buntingfordlive.org

BUNTINGFORD LIVE!

Whose wine is it anyway?

Seth Ward Community Centre
Saturday December 9th
8.00pm

Wine tasting with a difference!

Listen to our 'experts' describing six different wines

Who's bluffing? Guess correctly and earn points!

No expertise required, just a sense of fun and a love of quality wine!

Over 18s only

For tickets and more details please visit

buntingfordlive.org
enabling creative events

Tickets
£20
Includes a FREE tasting glass to take home

Battle of the Bands 2024

We are just finalising the details for next year's BOTBs. As we said last month, it would be fantastic if we had a winner from our own home town. Past winners have been from Tring and Watford. People travel a long way to enter this competition as the prize gives the winners the amazing opportunity to perform at the Standon Calling festival.

Please encourage any young musicians you know to start composing and practicing now and get ready to enter the BOTBs competition as the launch details/poster will be 'coming very soon.'



Friends of Reed Church are holding their Christmas Supper with the Royston Town Band in Reed Village Hall on Saturday 2nd December from 7pm. There will be carol singing, Hot Supper and Licensed Bar.

Admission: £15 per person and children under 12 free

To book please contact either:

Liz Jakeman - elizabethjakeman@live.co.uk - 01763 848398

Mike Howes - howes.michael@btinternet.com - 01763 848029



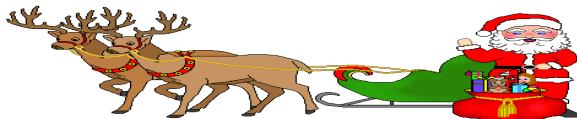
Occasional & regularly hire now available at
The Buntingford Scout Hut!

Minimum 3 hours rental at £18.00 per hour, plus a £25 cleaning fee.

Thereafter rate of hire is
£15 per hour.

Regularly hires to please contact us for more details and pricing.

Booking Team -
scouthutbooking4u@gmail.com



SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN

Saturday 9th December 2023 from 4pm

Paddock Road, Sunny Hill, Hare Street Road, Pipkin Drive, Aldridge way, Spencer Close, Miles way, Warboys Close, Sunny Hill (2nd Entrance) Riverside, Union Terrace, Market Hill, High Street, Norfolk Road

Sunday 10th December 2023 from 4pm

Fremar Drive Chequers Close Vicarage Road, Honey Lane, Porters Close, Wyddial Road, Bridewell Close, Ermine Court, Church Street

Tuesday 12th December 2023 from 6pm

Station Road, Rib Way, Downhall Ley, Snells Mead, Dray Gardens, London Road, Layston Meadows, St Francis Close, Olvega Drive, Crouch Gardens

Wednesday 13th December 2023 from 6pm

Bowling Green Lane, White Hart Close, Bowlers Mead, Monks Walk, Longmead Greenways, The Willows, Skipp's Meadow, The Folly, The Pyghtle, Baldock Road

Friday 15th December 2023 from 6pm

Redrow Estate- Norris Way, The Maples, Mayes Drive, Seymour Road (6pm)
The Village (7.30pm)

Sunday 17th December 2023 from 4pm

Luyne's Rise, Mill close, Barleycroft, Knights Close, Peasmead, Campbell Close, Meadow View, Oak End, Fairfield

Due to the size of Buntingford, we are unable to include every single street name in the lists above, you should be able to tell the geographical areas we are visiting each evening around the town.

We will be posting on local Facebook sites our tracker each evening so you can easily come and find us!

Please remember we are all volunteers taking time to make this special event happen, children will have collection pots so you can donate to support Buntingford Scout Group.

We thank you for your support during 2023 and wish you a Happy New Year for 2024

Charity number: 275294

Donate: [paypal.me/ Buntingford scouts](https://www.paypal.me/Buntingfordscouts)

Riverfly Monitoring will be taking a pause over the winter months at many of our sites. We know that at least one of the sites in Braughing is close to a trout redd (breeding ground) and the recommendation is not to conduct Riverfly Monitoring near redds in the winter so that they are not disturbed. This is also the case for the site used on the Rib in Standon.

In Buntingford we don't believe any of the Riverfly Monitoring site we use are near any redds, so when there is sufficient flow Riverfly Monitoring will continue through the winter. We have already reduced our monitoring in Buntingford due to the low water flow. We will continue to monitor the state of the river and monitor as and when we can.

Members of the FORQ Riverfly Monitoring team attended a Riverfly Open Day, held at Box Moor Trust, near Hemel Hempstead and organised by Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust's (HMWT). It was interesting to hear about their plans for a new portal for result reporting and the analysis they hope to be able to do on the data provided. There was also discussion about "Extended Riverfly Monitoring" which looks at 33 different invertebrate species (currently they look for just eight species), this won't really affect our Riverfly Monitoring as we get reasonable scores anyway. The extended monitoring, as well as the Urban Riverfly Monitoring programme that is being developed, are more designed for town rivers or rivers where water flow is minimal, and the river quality is very poor. Both schemes will help in picking up pollution issues.

Members of the FORQ's Riverfly Monitoring team also attended the Quarterly Steering Group meeting, where more detail was given on the above-mentioned schemes. One of the pleasing things that came out of this meeting was that more training courses will be offered shortly, as the number of trainers has been increased. If anybody is interested in working with us as a Riverfly Monitor please do get in touch, via our website.

We are sure that many of you will have received an email from Affinity Water regarding their INNS (Invasive Non-Native Species) Out Scheme, for which applications are now open. The scheme enables local organisations, community groups or individuals to take action on INNS across catchments in which Affinity Water operates to prevent their introduction and spread. INNS includes plant species such as Himalayan Balsam, Japanese knotweed and Giant Hogweed and animal species such as mink. FORQ are too small to take on projects, but we would encourage any land owners who may have any of these species on their land to apply for a grant via the Affinity Water website.





Citizens Advice East Herts operates a unique Messageline service. Call 01920 459 944 at anytime and leave a message (we aim to return calls within 24 hours, except at weekends) or visit www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk for our other advice options.

do most of my shopping online. I am always on the lookout for a bargain, especially with the festive season coming up but I'm worried about scammers. What should I look for, to avoid getting caught out?

You're not alone, lots of people do their shopping online these days, it's convenient and can save you time. But as more and more of us move online, so are scammers, with their tactics becoming more sophisticated all the time.

While scams can be tricky to recognise there are always things you can look out for and steps you can take to protect yourself from falling foul to a scammer.

The golden rule to remember is that if it seems too good to be true then it probably is. This goes for products which are 'must-haves', are sold out at major retailers, or are heavily discounted.

If you're buying from a site you haven't used before, do some research before hitting buy.

Find the company's return and refund policies so you know your rights if something goes wrong with your purchase. You should also look up the company's address, this can normally be found in the website's 'contact us' section and should have a street name, not just a post office box.

Also take some time to see what other people have said about the website. Start with an internet search and look at different review websites, don't rely on reviews the

company has put on its own website.

Be very wary of people contacting you out of the blue on social media or via text and email offering an item for sale or deal on something. And scammers will often ask you to pay in unusual ways, or put you under pressure to buy very quickly. For example, they'll ask you to send money through a transfer service like MoneyGram or Western Union or pay via vouchers.

If you do fall victim to a scam, firstly don't feel embarrassed or ashamed. Scammers are clever and regularly adapt their methods making them harder to spot. Anyone can get scammed.

Secondly, do report it, this alerts authorities to scammers' techniques and prevents others from being taken advantage of. You can report a scam to Citizens Advice or Action Fraud.

If you've transferred money in the last 24 hours contact the police via the non-emergency number 101, however if you feel unsafe use 999. Also contact your bank to let them know you've transferred money, you should still do this if 24 hours have passed.

If you need advice, the quickest way is to call our Message Line 01920 459 944 anytime (we aim to return calls within 24 hours, except weekends) or visit www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk for our advice options.

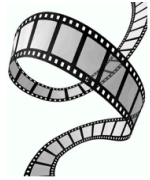
If you don't have phone or email or need extra support our Citizens Advice Contact Centre is open at the Manor House, Buntingford every Monday 11am to 1pm where our friendly staff will listen to what's happening and help you work out what to do next.



BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB

Bringing Cinema back to Buntingford

David Woollcombe



INDIANA JONES and the Dial of Destiny

Saturday 4th November

at 7.30pm at the Community Centre

After the blistering, car-crashing hysteria of *The Blues Brothers* on our Big Screen at the Community Centre in October – truly a Great Evening of Cinema - you have to come along on the first Saturday of November and see what will almost certainly be another Great Evening!! We're showing the latest Indiana Jones romp and those hair-raising chases and special effects are just that much more fun when seen on a Big Screen, with a glass of wine or beer in your hand, and a Buntingford audience at your side!

Harrison Ford (80) and Phoebe Waller Bridge (37 - *Fleabag*) make an odd pairing but audiences loved them in this quest to find the Dial of Destiny – a powerful artifact that can control the weather. The Nazis also want it for the victory of the Third Reich! Indiana Jones must race against time to find the Dial and stop the Nazis from using it to control the world.

Along the way, they face dangers from Nazi assassins to ancient curses, demanding that Jones uses all his skills, knowledge and cunning to save us all. It may be the last Indiana Jones but audience reviews suggest it is one of the best, calling it –

“an unforgettable adventure packed with thrills and intrigue;”

“an absolute masterpiece filled with pulse-pounding excitement, death-defying stunts, and breathtaking special effects.”

“A triumphant return to form for the beloved franchise”

“A thrilling rollercoaster ride that will leave audiences breathless, reminding us all why we fell in love with Indiana Jones in the first place.”

Coming Up:

Saturday 2nd December

Little Mermaid – Live Action Feature

Our Special Christmas FAMILY Screening at the EARLIER Time of

5.30pm at the Community Centre

Tickets: £8 Adults; £5 Children; £20 Family (2 Adults + 2 Children)

(to include online commission + soft drinks & Refreshments)

On Saturday 6th January 2024

Barbie

at 7.30pm at the Community Centre

All Tickets £8.00 (to include glass of wine or beer & snacks) at: www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordfilmclub/

or in person at: SANCTUARY, 42 High St., Buntingford

BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB
presents
Harrison Ford in



Indiana Jones
and the Dial of Destiny
Saturday 4th November
at 7.30pm - Community Centre
Luyes Rise, Buntingford SG9 9SG

Tickets: £8.00 (to include online commission + glass of wine or beer + snacks)
at: www.tickettailor.com/events/buntingfordfilmclub

or in person at: KEITH IAN 42 High St

THE BRAUGHING SHED GROUP



jacquithorne@mail.com

We are looking for new members!

Who are we?: Men and women who get together to use existing skills, and learn new ones, to make and repair things while socialising over a cup of tea (and maybe a slice of cake!). There is no upper age requirement or specific skills required but you must be over 18. We were part funded by Braughing Parish Council as part of its overall wellbeing strategy and we received a grant from East Herts District Council.

Where we do it?: We meet on Wednesdays in a barn at Brook Cottage Farm Riding School, Furneux Pelham, SG9 0LL, from noon until 4pm, although you can come and go within these core hours as you please, to fit in with your life.

Our aim: We provide a venue for local people to work and share ideas to make and repair items for sale, for charity, or to support residents or village community associations to build and mend items for themselves with help as required. We do this through up-cycling using donated

and reclaimed wood, pallets and other materials for projects. We may work with new materials as required. We sell the items we make in order to be self-funding whilst making financial donations to local charities. We make hedgehog houses, bat boxes, bird tables, bird feeders, bug hotels, wooden storage crates and garden planters. At this year's Braughing Wheelbarrow Race and Fair our stall was very well supported and we raised over £160 for Riding for the Disabled (RDA).

What do you need?: Not a lot. You do not need to have any specialist skills but if you have any, they would be welcomed or you can come along and learn new skills. We use pretty basic tools, which we provide ourselves but will buy tools if required.

What does it cost?: Hardly anything. All we ask is a couple of quid a week to go towards materials, such as nails, screws and tools and of course refreshments (and cake!).

Want to find out more?: Contact Jacqui Thorne at jacquithorne@mail.com or 07557 966 526

FAMILY RACE NIGHT



at Layston School, 18th Nov
Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start

Ticket prices

Family Group (2 adults and up to 3 children) £25

Additional Adult - £12.50

Additional child - £2.50

Includes Ploughman's supper

Bar and tuck shop available

Book online

**[https://buyticketsat/
buntingfordscoutgroup/1011512](https://buyticketsat/buntingfordscoutgroup/1011512)**

CHATTER & NATTER TABLE



Maybe you'd like to consider becoming a volunteer or if you are a venue you might like to join the scheme.

The Woodman Inn in Nuthampstead have signed up but haven't got a volunteer to host a weekly table but maybe someone would be willing to give it a go?

My photo is above, so you know who to look for when you arrive at the coffee shop as it can be daunting to arrive on your own and a number of our chatters have confessed to walking past the coffee shop several times before gaining the courage to cross the threshold. So if you are nervous, you are not alone.

Hello my name is Leigh and I'd like to introduce you to our very own Buntingford Chatter & Natter Table.

As part of the Chatty Cafe Scheme (www.thechattycafescheme.co.uk) I host a weekly table in **The Buntingford Coffee Shop every Wednesday between 10-11am.**

My first Chatter & Natter table was in November 2022 and for many weeks it was just me & John but along with Spring came a few extra chatters and since then I've welcomed over 15 new members. The gang are mainly female, between the ages of 27 - 75 but we welcome anyone to join our chat and we're very relaxed that you don't need to come along every week, just when you're free and fancy a chat. We just ask that you grab a drink (to support the coffee shop) and take a seat.

The conversation remains light with no particular agenda and often goes from local news, memories of childhood, pets, holidays and anything else that makes us smile. Some of the gang are quite content to sit back and just enjoy being part of the group. It has been wonderful to see strangers becoming friends over the weeks.

We've even organised a Chatty & Natter Christmas lunch at The Woodman Inn, Nuthampstead and some of the gang are off to see Abba Voyage with Richmond Coaches in Jan 2024.

From left to right : Julia, Julie, Sandra & Kate all met at the Chatter & Natter and I'm told this is the first of many trips they intend to make.



"For me, Chatter & Natter has been a lifeline and having made so many genuine & lovely friends. I feel other people in my situation, at the time I found the group, can only benefit by there being more of the friendship groups. It has become an important part of my week".

- Julie, who recently moved to Buntingford from the Isle of Wight

Firstly **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!**

Buntingford WI has been going strong for 105 years!

We had a spooky evening in October when Damien O'Dell talked about his 'Adventures of a Ghosthunter'. He had his first encounter with the paranormal when he was 10 and he went on to found the Anglia Paranormal Investigation Society. We heard about various local hauntings in Hertfordshire, including some in Buntingford, and Damien said that he regularly runs 'Ghost Walks' in Royston. He has written a book on Paranormal Hertfordshire which is fascinating.

Also at the meeting we had the opportunity to buy 'Save the Children' Christmas Cards.

Our craft ladies have been busy over the past few weeks and the result is this beautiful wreath (see picture) which will be placed on the War Memorial at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. We are now working on our traditional Christmas Display which will be in the Library in time for Late Night Shopping.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday November 9th at the URC Hall in Baldock Road at 7.30 p.m.** Our speaker is Louise Reed who will talk about life after WW1 when the feeling was 'Things Can Only Get Better'! If you are new to Buntingford (and even if you're not!) just

turn up on the night and come to see what Buntingford W.I. is all about.

Finally, a date for your Diary – our **Christmas Celebration with Carols and seasonal refreshments will be on December 14th at Christ Church in Baldock Road** and everyone is welcome to come.

If you would like further information about us you can telephone our Secretary, Pat, on 01763 271305.



WARE & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Barbara Norris www.wareps.org.uk

The Society has now commenced its new season so why not come along and see what we have to offer to enhance your photography. Remember the first 3 evenings are free!

Annual Exhibition - Our Annual Exhibition of the club's work will be on **Saturday 18 November at Thundridge Village Hall from 10.00am - 4.00pm**. There will also be an exhibition of hand embroideries by 2 groups. Admission is free. Tea/Coffee and Cakes will be available to purchase.

Sixtieth Anniversary. Make a note in your diary for 2024 for **Sunday 14 April** when the club will be celebrating its 60th anniversary at Ware Drill Hall with a lecture by Charlie Waite FRPS, one of the world's leading landscape photographers. Tickets which cost £10 are now available from tickets@wareps.org.uk

For further information contact Barbara Norris on 01920 822104

BUNTINGFORD GARDENER'S CLUB

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 1 November
At: The URC Hall, Baldock Road
Doors open: 7:45pm for 8pm start

Did you know – according to the RHS, Autumn is the best season for gardening!

The cooler weather has plenty of benefits for plants as the soil is still warm and moist.

We are certainly kept busy raking up all those leaves!

This month we have a talk entitled "Bees" (part 2) given by Simon Rice, a returning local beekeeper, who was very popular with his first talk.

If you like the sound of this, please come along – even bring a friend?

We currently have over 40 members and over a cup of tea or coffee, we catch up and help each other with gardening tips, whilst sharing common interests. We have speakers giving talks on a variety of



subjects, quizzes, outings and the annual show held in September.

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

Annual membership costs just £17.50, with visitors only £3.00 per visit.

Hope to see you there.

For any more information, please contact the Secretary telephone 01763 271 885.

BUNTINGFORD SCHOOL OF DANCE



Zoë Eaglesfield www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk

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


Buntingford School of Dance offers ISTD syllabus classes in Ballet, Tap & Modern/Jazz and recreational classes in Commercial Dance. We also offer Tap & Ballet for adults for fun and fitness.

We are really excited that we are moving our Saturday classes for toddlers – 6 year olds to the URC Hall Buntingford from Saturday 4th November.

Our Saturday classes at the URC Hall will begin with Baby Boppers at 9am followed by ballet classes for pupils age 3 years – 11 years finishing off with our Pointe Strengthening and Stretch class.

Baby Boppers (Toddlers – 3 yrs) & Dance Mash (from 4 yrs) – these are our own introductory classes for younger dancers. Baby Boppers is a parent and child class for toddlers/confident walkers – 3 years and Dance Mash is our introductory class for 4 – 7 year olds wishing to progress to Tap, Modern/Jazz or Commercial.

We can take new pupils after half term or put them on our waiting list for January. Use the QR code to register. For more information on all our classes look at our website.



BUNTINGFORD SCHOOL of DANCE

'BabyBoppers'

A dance class for 2 – 3 year olds accompanied by a parent or carer

A
FUN
CREATIVE
introduction to
DANCE
MOVEMENT
and
MUSIC

for young children and an adult to enjoy together

For more information, including prices please contact us
Website: www.buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk
Email: admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk

Summer has now passed and once again we are experiencing the shortening of the days and the cooler weather of autumn. Summer holidays are just a memory and the garden can look after itself for the next six months. Which gives us all more time to get fitter, learn a foreign language or maybe join a choir?

Buntingford Choir have been singing together since 2011 and welcome anyone (over 16 years old) to come and join us on a Monday evening at Millfield School

in Buntingford. We start at 7:30 and finish around 9:30 with a tea break in the middle.

If you are interested in joining our Choir, why not come along for a free trial evening. Its then only £4.00 a week. For more information please contact us via E-Mail at:

info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk

Or for more information go to our website: **www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk**

BRAUGHING GET TOGETHER

24th November 2023: OUTING TO BLETCHLEY PARK

We have organised a trip to the once top-secret home of the World War Two Code-breakers; a place of exceptional importance.

Coach will leave at 9:30am and return for approx. 6:00pm.

The cost is £40 for coach and entry. We have limited places.

Booking is essential by 5th November.

8th December 2023: WINTER SUPPER

Come and join us for our annual Winter Supper.

Once again Gill from Cater-Hire will be cooking us a delicious dinner to get us in the Festive mood.

More details of this event to come, but in the meantime put the date in your diaries.

Booking is essential.

To book your places of further information contact Cynthia Matthews:

email: cynthia.matthews44@gmail.com

phone: 01920 822 230 or 07933 202 547



Celebrate the 'original' Santa at
**SAINT NICHOLAS
 FESTIVE FAIR**

St Nicholas' Church
 Horseshoe Lane, Great Horstead
 Buntingford SG9 0NH

Sunday 10th December 2023
11.00am - 4.00pm

Now over 40 festive stalls for Christmas gifts and refreshments. All in aid of St Nicholas' Church.

www.quintetchurches.com

FREE ENTRY

The AGM was well attended. Two long-serving members of the committee were stepping down after several years service – Lesley Lowers had been the Speaker Secretary and then Secretary; Val Reedman had been Membership Secretary. Chairman Martin Gray thanked them both for all that they had done for Buntingford u3a. **The new committee members taking their places are Susan Peters, Lesley Stevens and Tim Marks.**

Last month a new group started – Line Dancing – and the hall was full for the first session.

Our speaker for **Monday 13th November** is Oliver Everett 'Windsor Castle, its history and royal occupants, 1080 to present day. Oliver Everett is a Librarian Emeritus of the Royal Library, Windsor Castle. He was Librarian there from 1985 to 2002. He wrote the official guidebook to Windsor Castle, taught a course on its history and was an advisor for a television programme. He also helped with several books about the Royal Collection of art. He was in the British Diplomatic Service, 1967-1978, including postings in India and Spain. He was Assistant Private Secretary to the Prince of Wales, 1978-80; and Private Secretary to Diana, Princess of Wales, 1981-83.



Membership of the u3a is open to anyone not in full time occupation.

We meet at the Seth Ward Community Centre on the Second Monday of the month
- doors open 1.30pm.

Please visit our website for news and details of all our groups.

www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford

New members are always welcome.

ROYSTON CHORAL SOCIETY

www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk

Royston Choral Society Celebrates its Golden Jubilee Year with a performance of J.S.Bach's B Minor Mass

The Autumn term of 1972 witnessed the formation of Royston Choral Society. In those days the society was - if my memory is correct - funded by Hertfordshire Education as part of the night-school and adult education programme. It was based in Meridian School in Royston and the first musical director was Andrew Nurse who was Head of Music at the school. The post of Musical director came with the teaching job!

In 1976 Andrew Nurse left Meridian and his successor, Richard Prince, became MD of the choir. In the 1980's the choir became an independent organisation as night-school classes were being cut back. Other MD's have been Adrian Jacobs and David Boarder. The present holder of the post is Andrew O'Brien - Director of Music at St Edmund's College and during his time with the choir it has grown and now numbers nearly 90 members.

During its 50 year life the choir has sung a large variety of choral works dating from the C16 to the present day. Major choral works have included Handel's Messiah, works by J. S. Bach, including cantatas,

The Christmas Oratorio and The St. John Passion, Beethoven's Missa.

Solemnis, Mozart's Requiem Mass as well as works by Vaughan Williams, Tippett, Carl Orff and other composers. A recent concert featured Will Todd's Mass in Blue - a Jazz piece.

The first concert in our 50th year will be Bach's B Minor Mass and it will be performed in St John's Church, Royston, on **Saturday November 25th**. This superb work was originally scheduled for performance in 2020 but the covid lockdown restrictions were brought in about a week before so it had to be cancelled.

The choir meets regularly in the newly restored Parish church in Royston on a Tuesday night in term time.

Do come and hear this fantastic work performed by soloists, choir and orchestra in St. John's Church, Royston, on Saturday 25th November at 7-30pm.

Tickets are available from www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk

Telephone bookings: 01920 822 723 and at the door.

Ticket prices are £17 and under 18's £1

REED GARDEN CLUB

Sue Huggins

November 8th 2pm | Reed Village Hall | Speaker - Nigel Start

"Sustainable Fruit and Vegetables "

£2 entrance. tea and coffee.

TWO WAYS TO GIVE YOUR TIME THIS CHRISTMAS

Do you have a van? Help us collect
Christmas Trees and drop them off to
our recycle volunteers!

Or help to post leaflets and posters
through letterboxes and around the
community!

Last year we raised **£17,000** which helped us to continue
providing vital care and support to people in eastern
Hertfordshire affected by life limiting illness.

If you can help please contact:
jac.squire@isabelshospice.org.uk
or on 01717 954 850

Following on from our article last month announcing the launch of the Citizen's Advice Contact Centre in Buntingford which will run every Monday from 16th October at the Manor House, High Street from 11am to 1pm.

Nikki, one of the supervisors who will run the sessions, answers some key questions below about how the Citizens Advice Contact Centre will work and what help we offer there. We could only fit in half the questions last month so here is a full set:

Q: What is it for?

A: While most people can contact us by calling our message line on 01920 459 944 or sending an email, we know that some people may not have internet access or be confident on the phone. The Contact Centres are for any one who needs a bit of extra help to get the advice they need.

Q: How do they work?

A: It's a bit like a triage service at a hospital where you are assessed to see if you need a Doctor or a Nurse. I'll listen to you, so I can work out what help you need. I can talk you through the options for this, set you up on our system, arrange for an adviser to call you back for an advice session, arrange a face to face appointment or point you in the right direction for any additional help.

Q: Why don't you give full advice at these sessions?

A: An advice session can take 20-40 minutes and often we ask for extra paper work or documents so there isn't time to do that as a drop in. The Contact Centres

are there to help you get in our system, if you can't contact us by phone, email or need a bit of extra help.

Q: What if I want face to face advice?

A: We can arrange that, if it's the best way to help you. We had a client come to a Contact Centre in Hertford who was deaf and didn't have a phone. We arranged a face to face meeting for him as well as scanning his documents and setting him up on our system.

Q: What kinds of issues do people come to you with?

A: At our Contact Centres in Hertford and Bishop's Stortford, we've seen over 300 people with a massive range of issues from problem debt, housing problems, child access issues to consumer issues.

Q: What should I do if I have an urgent problem?

A: The Message Line on 01920 459 944 is always the fastest way to get in touch. We try to get back to messages within 24 hours, although we are closed at weekends. If you miss our call back, our advisers will try two more times to get in touch, we really want to make sure you get the help you need.

Citizens Advice East Herts is a registered charity. Visit www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk for our advice options.



United Benefice of
Aspenden, Buntingford
and Westmill

UNITED BENEFICE OF ASPENDEN, BUNTINGFORD & WESTMILL



Reverend Kirsty Wainwright

CONTACT DETAILS

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

email: unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com | 07484 345 027

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

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

OUR SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2023

Sunday 5th	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 12th	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
Remembrance	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
Sunday	11:15am	Churches Together All Age Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 19th		No Service	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	St Peter's, Buntingford
Sunday 26th	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	No Service	St Mary's Aspenden
	11:00am	Morning Worship	St Peter's, Buntingford

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

Direct links to our 3 church Service and Event pages:

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

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

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

Thank you for all your Support

QUIZ NIGHT

Raised £681.30

All proceeds go towards the running costs of our 3 churches
St Mary's Aspenden, St Peter's Buntingford & St Mary the Virgin Westmill

Churches Together United Reformed Church

All Age Remembrance Service

This will follow today's Act of Remembrance
11:15am
St Peter's Church



Service of Memories

A simple service to reflect on the passing of our loved ones, to share their memory and celebrate their lives

Sunday 5th November
3pm
St Mary the Virgin Westmill
with Reverend Kirsty Wainwright

You are welcome to bring a flower for each person you would like to remember.

Christmas
CAKES & CAROLS
Saturday 16th December
4:00pm

**St Peter's Church,
Buntingford**

REGULAR EVENTS HELD AT ST PETER'S CHURCH



Morning Prayer

9am Tuesday & Thursday at St Peter's Church Buntingford

Every Tuesday and Thursday mornings, we pray together

using the Church of England Daily Prayer book, with bible readings, a reflection and a psalm.

It is a quiet, gentle gathering to prepare for the day ahead.

www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/32-012BK/service-and-events/



Prayer for Buntingford

Held weekly every Friday 8:15am – 8:45am at St Peter's Church Buntingford

A time of open, informal prayer for the town and local community.

Monthly Cake Stall



Held the 1st Monday of the Month (except Bank holidays) 10am – 12pm @ St Peter's Church Buntingford

Treat yourself to homemade cakes, whether you fancy a slice or two or a whole cake.

Dates for the rest of the year – 6th November & 4th December.

**St Peter's Church
Carol Singalong**
Outside St Peter's Church.

Take a break and come and see us on
Saturday 9th December
between
11.30am and 1.00pm
for some
festive Carol Singing.
Come and sing with us, no experience necessary.

Refreshments available:
Coffee, Tea, Mince Pies and Christmas Cake.

Donations gratefully received to St Peter's Church Funds.

(Event may be subject to the weather (permitted))



Monday Morning Coffee

Held weekly, every Monday (except Bank holidays) 10am – 12pm

@ St Peter's Church Buntingford.

A chance to meet up with old friends and meet new ones. All ages welcome.



The
United
Reformed
Church

CHRIST CHURCH

Baldock Road, Buntingford. SG9 9AA

www.buntingfordurc.org.uk

 URCbuntingford

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

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

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

November	5	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender
	12	Remembrance Sunday	At St Peter's
	19	Morning Worship	Rev Allen Morton
	26	Morning Worship	Rev Dr Janet Tollington

December	3	Children's Service	Rev Sue Fender
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CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BUNTINGFORD

An Advent Course (*Names for the Messiah*) Will be held in our Church Hall on Wednesdays 29th November, 6, 13 & 20th December

Lunch 12.30pm – bring your own Lunch – tea & coffee will be provided
Course 1.00pm - 2.00pm.

Regular Events

'Lunch, Laughter & Light' - Topical discussion group **There will be no meetings in November & December**

Morning Prayers, every Tuesday and Thursday at St Peters
9am to 9.30am – all are welcome

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

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BUNTINGFORD

Stir up Sunday, this year is the 26th December and it is the traditional time for making your Christmas pudding. This comes for the special prayer for this day as the last Sunday before the beginning of Advent.

'Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people;
That they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
May by you be plenteously rewarded;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.'

I love the imagery of this stirring up our wills as well as the many ingredients to make a pudding. There is the tradition of including everyone in the household, giving the pudding a stir and making a prayer or wish whilst stirring. It's another example of how our thoughts, words and actions come together.

If you are making a Christmas pudding, you can use these ideas as starting points for prayer or reflection. Even if pudding making is not on your agenda, you can use your imagination as we consider the fruits and ingredients in our own lives.

- **Sultanas, currants and raisins.** What fruits of the spirit are being developed in your life? Are these reliable store cupboard ingredients you have within you? What are the gifts in you that you so easily take for granted? What years of sunshine and rain helped to grow the vines on which the fruit grew?
- **Cooking Apple.** Are there new fruits developing from this season of life?
- **Orange and lemon zest.** On their own these flavours taste bitter, but within the mixture they bring depth to the rich flavour of the pudding. Is there a transformation from bitterness to richness in you?
- **Candied peel.** Preserved and sweetened. What has been preserved and protected? Sometimes it can be overwhelming to remember, particularly in times of great strain, but the life and flavour of this ingredient is powerful.
- **Shredded suet.** Almost a hidden ingredient but one that binds the whole.



What hidden elements, people or gifts are in your life that have bound you together.

- **Self raising flour.** So many grains of wheat ground to become flour. What tiny and many small acts of kindness have you received? What additional raising agent can give someone that boost or lift they need!
- **Cinnamon, nutmeg and mixed spice.** Rich, warm flavours and yet only a little is needed. What are the rich elements in your life that warm you up?
- **Brown sugar.** Sweetness and flavour. Be thankful for the sweet, joyful ingredients in your life. Even though we can't live and develop by being fed on sugar alone, the sweetness of life are in moments of joy.
- **Chopped nuts.** Tasty and giving texture to the whole. What different experiences could you do or imagine that would give texture to your or another's life?
- **Eggs.** Versatile and used in so many foods. What gifts in you are versatile and reliable?
- **Brandy, rum or stout.** For Christians, we share the cup of wine to remember the new promise God has with us. We remember with thanks, all of those we have shared the cup of Christ with through our lives.
- **Breadcrumbs.** Again, a powerful reminder to those who follow Christ. We come together, to break bread and share it together in communion, and in this, we remember we are the Body of Christ. God's heart is one of welcome and hospitality. How do we extend that same welcome and share his gift of life, life in abundance? Amen.

BUNTINGFORD WRITER'S GROUP

David Everett

'The Record'

In the summer of 1956, the world of popular music in the USA is dealt a serious blow with the arrival on the scene of a kid with smouldering good looks, sideburns and a street-wise attitude, from Tupelo, Mississippi. His name is Elvis Presley, his music, rock n' roll and his audience, the American teenager, a word, some say, coined specifically to coincide with this musical phenomenon.

Pretty soon, he's joined by other exponents of this unique new music, a blending of white Southern country and black rhythm and blues. And the hit parade of the time soon becomes home for people like Chuck Berry, Eddie Cochran, Carl Perkins, Fats Domino and Little Richard - to name but a few.

Gone are the days when folk like Frank Sinatra, Doris Day, Nat King Cole and Dean Martin ruled the musical airwaves. As John Lennon once said many years later, 'before rock n' roll there was nothing'.

Down in Lubbock, West Texas, four young local musicians would probably have agreed with him. They had, up until the mid '50s, been playing country and hillbilly music until the day Elvis came to town and then things started to change for them in a big way. Whilst they do not stop playing the country music they know their audience love and expect from their band, they also begin to gradually sneak songs like 'Ready Teddy' 'Maybelline' and 'Blue Suede Shoes' into their repertoire, to the delight of the younger members of their audiences.

They know however, that to make it big in the music business, you can't go on

performing other people's songs indefinitely, and to get a record contract, you have, not only to be good musicians, but be able to either write good material yourself or know someone with the experience to do it for you.

Undaunted however, they continue to write their own songs and gig around their home town, gaining major credibility when asked to support Elvis on one of his two concerts in Lubbock, as well as some of the major country artists of the time.

Taking a break from their writing activities one afternoon, they treat themselves to a trip to the cinema to see John Wayne in his latest film 'The Searchers'. The film, later to be cited as one of the best Westerns ever made, features Wayne as Ethan Edwards, an ex-captain in the Union cavalry following the American Civil War. On a visit to his brother and family in their home on the Plains one day, he finds they have been massacred by Comanche Indians, who have also kidnapped his niece.

Edwards then sets out with dogged determination with a group of volunteers to find her and embarks on a journey which takes him almost five years. When asked by the same travellers he repeatedly encounters along the way during this time, whether he will ever give up this seemingly fruitless search, his answer is always the same and becomes one of the standout features of the film.

And it's this answer, a simple catchphrase, which gives the band the title for their first record.

In a few days, they have crafted the words to a song which eventually sold in its millions all over the world, becoming a rock n' roll classic following its release in the summer of 1957. And it was also to

influence the musical aspirations of four young lads from Liverpool, who made it their very first recording in 1962, prior to ultimately making their own formidable imprint on the world of popular music.

The name of that record? "That'll Be The Day".

The band? Buddy Holly & The Crickets. And the rest as they say, is history.



WRITING MORNING

at Buntingford Library, 10.00
- 12.00 on Saturday 11
November 2023 with
Buntingford Writers Group.

Just bring your own laptop or
paper & pen, and £5 to cover
room hire and refreshments.

Contact **chriskell37@gmail.com** if you plan to attend or
have any questions.

BUNTINGFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

ARE YOU **NEW** TO BUNTINGFORD?

or even if you're not:

ARE YOU A SENIOR CITIZEN?

THEN THE BUNTINGFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB IS WHERE YOU SHOULD BE.

We meet every **Monday afternoon**
(**except Bank Holidays**)
1:30pm. for 2pm at The United
Reformed Church Hall, opposite The
Post Office.

We play Bingo, chat and drink tea
and coffee. We have been on a
couple of trips this year and by the
time you read this, members and
friends will have been to the seaside
before Winter arrives.

We have events planned before the
end of the year.

Do come and join us, you will be
warmly welcomed.

*Just turn up or if you prefer, call Val
on 01763 272 019*

BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Carol Emery

buntingfordlocalhistorygroup@hotmail.com

Firstly, I must thank all the members of our Local History Group who all worked so hard to put together the exhibition on Our High Street. We were amazed at how many people took the time to come to the Manor House and look at it, we think it was between 350-400 people in all. Everyone seemed to enjoy it and we were told many stories about the different shops and who worked there. We put a donation box out in the hopes that we could raise some money to buy plastic boxes with lids to store the archive material in the basement so that it will be there for future generations. IN all we raise over £348 so we will now buy the boxes and sort out the basement, and hopefully evict the spiders in the process. Thank you all so much, we are now looking at what to do with the information as lots of people said it should be published either on the internet or in a book format, we will be exploring the options open to us in the coming months.

Much over the years has been written about Ernest Thody who seemed to have a finger in every pie. Born in 1869 in Buntingford he soon made himself indispensable to the folk of the town. He was the chief fireman, town surveyor, inspector of nuisances, in charge of sanitation, organiser of the horticultural shows, and a keen gardener. He lived in the High St and had 6 children, twins Dorothy and Bertram born in 1895, Victoria born 1898, Herbert born 1902, Stanley born 1904 and finally Marion born 1907.

Many of the older residents may remember Bert, who like his father joined many committees in the town and was a

keen historian. Whilst going through some of the documents and artifacts in the basement of the Manor House, we found a large quantity of items that Berts family had donated to the Heritage Centre. Amongst these were a box of glass slides many of which must have belonged to Bert. We, also found many articles that he had written for various publications on the history of the town. One such group of papers were notes headed talk to the Women's Institute in February 1955.

After reading through them I thought they deserved to see the light of day once again and so all credit goes to Bert Thody for his insight into the town and its people.

Snuffy



The first slide shows a small raggedly dressed man and a cat, its entitled Snuffy. The notes lament the closing at Xmas of the town premier inn the George and Dragon Hotel. For many years it was kept by a dapper little man called Shain, he employed 2 barmaids to serve drinks whilst he chatted to customers. Hare, pheasants, and hams hung on hooks high up under the archway, so that people staying overnight could choose their dinner. Two broughams used to meet all the trains and Bert says that as a small boy he and his friends would often sit on the back axle and ride to the station. If they were spotted a cry of "whips behind" would be shouted and a sharp lash from the coachman's whip would dislodge them from their perch. Snuffy was the yard and boots boy who lived above the stables. He was poorly paid and people took pity on him giving him clothes, hence his appearance in the photo.

The second slide shows the ladies of the WI at their first annual general meeting. He goes on to say some of the members of the audience may recognise some of the faces in the picture. I doubt anyone would recognise and members now.



Duke of Yorks wedding

Slide three shows the Duke of Yorks wedding on the 6th July 1893, later to become George V and Queen Mary. It says the photo was taken by his father Ernest Thody whilst standing on scaffolding erected on Market Hill when Barclays Bank was being altered.



The ladies of the WI at their first annual general meeting

Continues >

BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP CONT...



Town bridge over the High Street

The fourth slide shows the town bridge over the High Street. The earliest records of a bridge date back to 1585, but at that time it was a wooden bridge. It is highly likely this wasn't the first bridge over the River Rib. There are details of repairs in 1682 which cost £2 16s 9d. On the bridge are 2 stone N.M and W.E. 1766. These refer to William Edwards and Nehemiah Mayes who built the brick bridge in 1766. The present bridge built about 20 years ago (in the 1930's) cost £8000. Bert who was a councillor relates a story, that he was sitting in the council offices that would have been in the old workhouse and seeing a lorry come down Hare St Road. He thought it was going too fast to make the turn into the High St and low and behold it hit the bridge. He had this slide made showing the damaged brickwork on the bridge.



General Election

The fifth slide is about the general election. According to his father, the polling booths used to be on Market Hill. Voters would come in from surrounding villages to cast their vote for either the Conservatives or the Liberal candidate. It wasn't illegal for the candidates or their agents to offer free drinks or presents to the voter in an effort to sway their vote. The pubs would remain open all day presumably to make this practice possible. Once the voter had consumed several drinks the party agent would lead him to the booth and wait for him to cast his vote, not very secret it would seem. The picture shows Guy Kindersley conservative candidate in 1929.



Funeral of Edward VI

The next slide shows a rather sad gathering on Market Hill. The picture was taken on 20th May 1910 the day of the funeral of Edward VII. The town band played Dead March from Saul. The shops closed for the day and the town bell over the gateway at the Angel in was rung at minute intervals.



Mr Postle

The next slide is my favourite story. Bert recounts Mr Postle a local butcher and one time chairman of the local council. He had a very fast trotting pony and trap that he used to attend Royston market every week. A keen local police constable summoned him for exceeding the speed limit and he was fined. Retribution came when Mr Postle caught the same constable stealing wood from one of his fields, John Postle summonsed him for theft. To mark the occasion John had some special bill heads printed and Bert kept possibly the only one still in existence. No wonder it says 25 miles per hour.



Town Fire Engine

The final slide shows the town fire engine. This was kept in a tumble down ivy clad shed at the rear of the Angel Inn. The firemen were keen to show off their engine and would frequently enter it and themselves in full regalia in local shows. This one was at Hoddesdon and shows the engine at its best with the full crew on board. The horses were hired every time there was a fire from the Railway Inn and sometimes in summer they had to be caught in the field before being harnessed up to the engine.

Our next meeting will be on the **14th November in the library at 2pm**. Everyone is welcome it cost just £2 per person which included tea or coffee.

This concluded Berts slide show which was a popular event and all credit must go to him as he had written the script and supplied the slides.



www.hsrsc.org.uk

events@hsrsc.org.uk | 01763 262 262

Tracy Aggett

Our next Literary Lunch will be held on Tuesday, 7th November, at The Old Bull Inn, Royston and meet Author and Paranormal Historian Damien O'Dell.

Damien has authored a series of paranormal books, including 'Ghostly Bedfordshire Reinvestigated', 'Paranormal Bedfordshire', 'Paranormal Cambridgeshire' and 'Paranormal Hertfordshire'. He will be talking about his latest book, 'Chicksands Priory, England's most haunted house'.

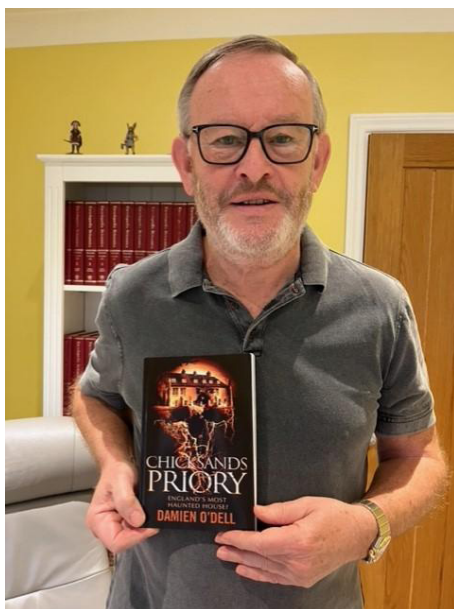
Tickets cost £15 per person, which includes a buffet lunch. To book your place, please call 01763 262262, email events@hsrsc.org.uk or book online at www.hsrsc.org.uk/events/

Please let us know of any dietary requirements when booking.

Come and join the fun at the Home-Start Fashion show on Tuesday 14th November - 7pm for 7.30pm - which will be hosted by Sally and Stef at Esse, Melbourn.

On arrival you will receive a glass of wine or soft drink and then you will be able to enjoy the fab fashion show where the models will be up close and personal, showing you the wonderful collection of clothes and accessories available.

After the fashion show, guests can try and buy - an ideal time to get Christmas gifts for family and friends and/or treat yourself.



Tickets are £12 and available by calling 01763 262262 or emailing events@hsrsc.org.uk or book online here www.hsrsc.org.uk/events/

Monday 20th November – 7.15pm – An evening of entertainment with Jude Simpson - Royston Bowling Club, 47 Green Drift, Royston

Come and be entertained by Home-Start's poet-in-residence – Jude is a magician of words and poetry and a wonderful supporter of Home-Start. She will be bringing to life some of her new material, and will be telling us about her journey as a writer/poet, about the book that she has just ghostwritten and the writing of a school nativity play.

Jude is also asking anyone who attends to bring their favourite piece of poetry along

which they can read out or Jude will read it out to everyone.

This event is free to attend, but at the end of the evening we will ask for donations – 50% go to Jude and 50% to Home-Start.

Refreshments will be available on arrival.

If you would like to come along, please call 01763 262262 or email events@hsrsc.org.uk

Come along and enjoy some 'you' time taking part in one of Home-Start's Christmas workshops to produce your own door decoration. The workshops take place at Foxton Village Hall on Wednesday 29th November - at 10.30am-1pm or 1.30-4.00pm.

Bring your friends along, enjoy a cuppa and a mince pie whilst you make your decoration. You will be supplied with everything you need to make your decoration.

£25 a ticket, if you would like to include flowers in your arrangement, these will be £3.50 extra and available in red or white, so please let us know which colour you would like when booking.

Call 01763 262262 or email events@hsrsc.org.uk to book your place.



Home-Start Christmas cards – are now available at our office at Unit 6, Valley Farm, Station Road, Meldreth, SG8 6JP - £3.95 for a pack of 10 cards, 2 designs, 5 of each. You can pay by cash, cheque or card. See below for the card designs.



THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Ken McDonald, Secretary



Before the 15th century, people attending a church service would stand or kneel. When benches or pews were introduced, they were sometimes decorated by skilled craftsmen. In particular, the top of the ends of some pews were carved with figures called finials or poppyheads.

The word poppyhead comes from Latin via Old French meaning the poop or figurehead of a ship. Poppyheads can be found in churches across the country and they are particularly prevalent in East Anglia. The Hundred Parishes has some fascinating examples.

The carved figures can represent almost anything. Some are of flowers or fruit or animals. Mythical creatures or demons were introduced to remind parishioners that if they led a sinful life they would go to hell. Saints and angels however meant that if you lived a good life you would go to heaven.

You will also find carved creatures depicting saints. In St. Mary's, Hatfield Broad Oak, 300-year-old poppyheads symbolize saints, with a lion for Mark, a bull for Luke and an eagle for John, while Matthew is represented by a 'divine man'.

Ickleton's parish church has some fine examples of medieval carved poppyheads. One shows St. Michael weighing souls of the dead and another features a dragon-like creature.

In Wendens Ambo parish church you will find a fearsome-looking beast which you may meet if your soul goes to hell!

Linton's church has a wide range of subjects including scribes resting their

books, one on the back of an angel and another on a dragon.

When you are out and about, I encourage you to seek out these wonderful examples of ancient craftsmanship. Please let us know of others on either the feedback page on our website, www.hundredparishes.org.uk or share a photo with the Hundred Parishes Group on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/562396892237665

Barley – acorns

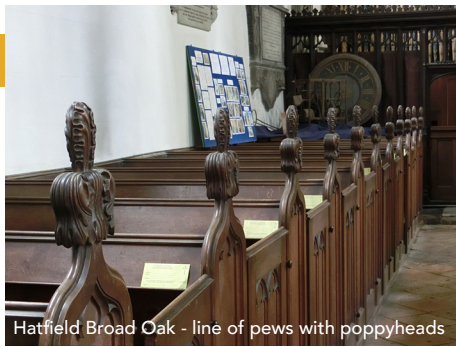


Wendens Ambo – beast





Hatfield Broad Oak – a bull representing St Luke



Hatfield Broad Oak - line of pews with poppyheads



Ickleton – St Michael weighing souls



Linton – scribe and angel



Much Hadham – lion



Widford – floral design

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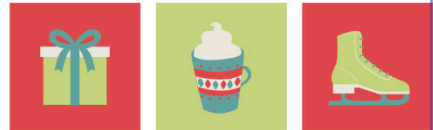
We have now finished our Move, Meditate & Relax workshops held in Bishop's Stortford & Buntingford. Next batch are being run in Ware. Workshops to follow in 2024 back in Buntingford.

Christmas Crafts
Design Candles & Holders

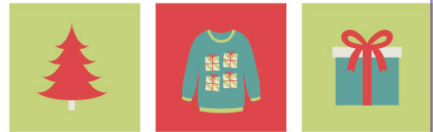
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1st December please book on 07956 647806

Christmas Class participants Drinks sessions. Come along for a social: **18th December** 11am or **20th December** 7pm

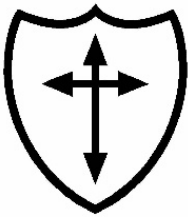
Christmas HAPpy Kids Camps will be held on **22nd & 29th December**, please message me for more information

Full Class Listings:



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Mrs Adele McMurrough, Headteacher

Continuing with this half term's value of 'Creation and Stewardship' we have been reflecting upon how we can look after God's world for future generations to enjoy and cherish. We have also given thanks for the harvest.

We celebrated Harvest Festival with a visit to St Peter's Church. The whole school walked down to the church where the children performed songs that they had been practising in their music sessions. Our Worship Group children worked with Reverend Kirsty to make a Harvest Sheaf. The children made a beautiful bread image of corn, bound with a plait, complete with a tiny harvest mouse. The corn represents the harvest provided by God's world. The mouse reminds us we share this world and its resources with other creatures and the plait represents it being held together by God's love. We have been collecting donations of food for the Buntingford Food Support as part of our Harvest Festival.

October is also Black History Month and the pupils have been exploring and celebrating the lives and achievements of some prominent Black men and women, such as Rosa Parks, Barak Obama, Marcus Rashford and Mary Seacole to name a few. We have also thoroughly enjoyed an African Dance Workshop funded by our Friends of Layton School (FOLS). As a church school, we are committed to inclusion and celebrating diversity.

To find out more about our school please visit our website at:

www.layston.herts.sch.uk





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WHAT'S ON - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 1st	Gardener's Club (p.17) "Bees part2"
Saturday 4th	Dinosaur Show at the Library
Tuesday 7th	Homestart Literary Lunch: "Adventures of a Ghost Hunter" (p.34)
Thursday 9th	Buntingford W.I. "Life After WW!"(p.16)
Saturday 11th	Writing Morning 10-12 (p.29)
Sunday 12th	Remembrance Sunday (p.4/5)
Monday 13th	u3a Monthly Meeting (p.20) "Windsor Castle Talk"
Monday 13th	Civic Soc Meeting (p.4)
Tuesday 14th	Homestart Fashion Show (p.34)
Tuesday 14th	History Soc, 2pm in the Library (p.33)
Friday 17th	BALA Coffee Morning (p.44)
Saturday 18th	Photography Soc: Annual Exhibition (p.17)
Saturday 18th	Family Race Night (p.14)
Monday 20th	Homestart Evening of Entertainment with Jude Simpson (p.34)
Friday 24th	Millfield School Open Day (p.41)
Saturday 25th	Royston Choral Society (p.21)
Wednesday 29th	Homestart Christmas Workshops (p.34)



LOOKING AHEAD

1st December	Buntingford Live! Late Night Shopping Evening (p.4/5)
9th December	Buntingford Live! "Whose Wine is it Anyway?"(p.11)
9th December	St Peter's Church Singalong (p.25)
14th December	WI Christmas Celebration with Carols (p.16)
16th December	Cakes & Carols St Peter's (p.25)

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAYS:	TUESDAYS:	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS:	FRIDAYS:	SATURDAYS:
From 8.30am: Buntingford Market on Market Hill	7.30–9pm: Braughing Sing Community Choir in Jenyn's School Hall	Buntingford Meditation We now meet online at 8 pm on a Wednesday evening, and once a month in Saint Peter's Church. If anyone is interested in joining the group the best way is to contact me via the website - www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation New meditators are welcome and guidance is given on how to meditate in the sessions.	10.30am–12.30: Coffee & Company in the URC Church Hall (p.26)		10am: Walking Football at the MUGA, Norfolk Road Playing Fields
10–11.45am: Chatter Table at the Manor House – 1st & 3rd Mondays (p.5)			2–3pm: Mind & Music at Standon & Puckeridge CC		
Morning Coffee 10-12 St Peter's					
EVENTS IN THE LIBRARY:					
10.30–11am: Baby Rhyme Time (songs, rhymes, actions and puppets, for ages 6 weeks to 3 years)	10.30–12.30: Chatter table (jigsaws, magazines, refreshments included)		10.30 – 11am: Story Time (storytelling with props, for ages 2-5 years)	4:00-5:00pm: LEGO club (£3 per child, ages 6-12)	
11.45am–12.45pm: Forever Cycling at the Community Centre -1st & 3rd		10-11am Chatter & Natter, Buntingford Coffee Shop			
1.30 for 2pm: Buntingford Senior Citizens' Club at URC Hall (p.19)		12- 4 Braughing Shed Group (p.14)			
7.30–9pm: Buntingford Community Choir at Millfield School (p.19)					

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Minibus Trips November/December 2023

All trips start from the Benson Hall car park unless otherwise agreed

	TIME	DESTINATION	PRICE
NOVEMBER			
Thu 9th	10.30-2	Scotsdales – Christmas is coming!!!	£6.50
Tue 14th	10 -3	Cambridge	£7.50
Wed 15th	11:30	Pub Lunch	£5
Tues 21st	9:30 - 1:30	Biggleswade Town Centre (market day)	£6.50
Tue 28th	9:30 -3	Bury St Edmunds	£12.50
DECEMBER			
Tues 5th	10:30-2	Saffron Walden (market day)	£6
Wed 6th	10-1	Van Hages	£5
Mon 11th	10-12:30	St Ives	£8
Wed 13th	11:30	Pub Lunch	£5
Tues 19th	9:30-12:30	Stevenage - Roaring Meg (TKMaxx/ Homesense, M7S, Costa, Hobbycraft plus Dunelm/The Range	£5
JANUARY			
Tues 9th	10-3	Cambridge - Hit the New Year Sales!!	£7.50
Thu 11th	10:45	PANTO – Cinderella at Milton Keynes 1pm matinee. (Front row, circle. Level access) Must book by 15/11/2	Bus £13 Ticket £32.50

To book a seat or for more information: 07870 638 480
(please be prepared to leave a message)

BALA COFFEE MORNINGS

Friday **17th November 2023** - 10 - 11.30

Friday **15th December 2023** - 10 - 11.30

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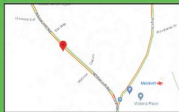
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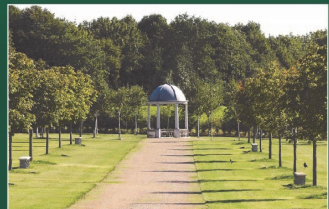
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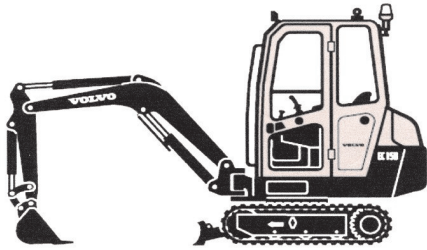


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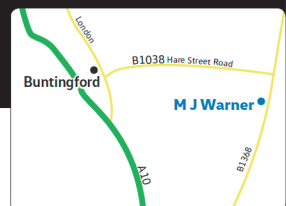
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The aims of our coaching club are to develop swimmers' skills and strokes and impart good practice and safety in the water. We meet weekly, with training split into 2 groups of 1 hour each on Thursday evenings between 7pm – 8pm and 8pm and 9pm, in term time only.

Coaching is provided by trained volunteers and older club swimmers help out with the younger ones.

New swimmers who would like to join us need to be at least Swim England Learn to Swim stage 7 or equivalent. For further information or to arrange a trial, please visit our website at www.buntingfordsc.co.uk and on the home page please click on the link "register for a trial" and we will be in touch.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.



Buntingford Civic Society

Reg. Charity No. 1014873
<http://www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk>



WHO ARE WE?

We are your local amenity group, established in March 1971 initially as a conservation group covering the ancient parishes of Buntingford, Layston, Aspenden, Wyddial and Throcking. We obtained charity status in 1993.

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

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

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

Publish the Buntingford Journal
Restored the town pump twice.
Restored the Town Cage

Initiated erection of Christmas lights in the High Street and Market Hill
Present an annual school civic award

Updated the set of Town Trails with the Discovering Buntingford booklet.

Erected a Town Sign and replaced it on a like for like basis in 2018

Installed a seat on the hill to and paid for works at the Layston Cemetary.

Erected Town Gateway signs complete with Planters and pay for the plants.

Contributed financially to the Freman College sports hall, Buntingford Film Club, previous Buntingford Carnivals, and to the Summer Arts in Buntingford 2022 weekend, and gave a grant to the Friends of the River Rib and Quin

Done River Rib and town cleans

Fitted a sign in the Community gardens at the Police Station and paid for new plants there in 2019.

Were actively involved with the production of the Neighbourhood Plan

Arranged four Buntingford in Bloom competitions our fifth in 2020 cancelled due to the pandemic.

Updated the circular walks on local footpaths leaflet in 2017
Hosted annual Civic Day walks

WHAT ARE WE PLANNING TO DO?

Monitor future housing development and continue to work with local organisations for the benefit of Buntingford, including the River Rib Project. We will also pay for a replacement Plaque for The Cage once the repairs to it get carried out

TO JOIN PLEASE SEE THE MEMBERSHIP FORM ON OUR WEBSITE
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Carers in Hertfordshire Support Hub

Buntingford 2023

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When: Last Tuesday of each month,
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31st Jan	28th Feb	28th Mar	25th Apr	30th May	27th Jun
25th Jul	29th Aug	26th Sept	31st Oct	28th Nov	No meeting in Dec

One of our Carer Support Advisors will provide 1:1 appointments at the February, May and September 2023 meetings.

A programme of speakers will be planned as requested - find out about these on the Carer Support Hubs page on our website or contact us.

There are also monthly groups in Ware (last Friday of the month) and Royston (first Thursday of the month) contact us for details.

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It is almost September, and we are very aware that the weather could start to take a downward turn very soon. We have been making the most of the last days of summer, getting outside as much as possible, basking in the sun and enjoying the world around us.

This month we took a leisurely stroll along the River Rib, it's a wonderful place to be, surrounded by the sights and smells of nature. Whilst walking we met a kind lady who gave us a bag of duck feed, it's been a while since any of us have fed the ducks, we'd forgotten how much fun it is. We enjoyed throwing the food, watching the ducks scramble to beat each other to it, it reminded us of park trips with our own children and grandchildren.

Once the ducks had finished their meal, we headed through Layston Gardens and took a meander along the High Street, ending our afternoon in a café where we sat back with a well-earned cup of tea and a slice of cake.

We arrive back at Layston Grove tired and happy; it really was a wonderful way to spend an afternoon.

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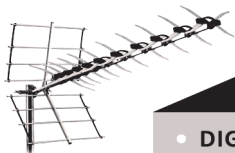
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INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

A 10 Pet Services.....	A7	J ournal Advertising.....	A25
Ace of Herts, Cumberlow Compost.....	A11	J P Services.....	A10
Andrew Coates - Garden Design.....	A7	Judkins Solicitors.....	A32
Apple Computer Specialist.....	A14		
A R Services.....	A8	John D K ilby & Co.....	A2
Attend2Health.....	A16		
Attend2Health.....	A22	L ayston Grove Care Home.....	A26
Austin's (Funerals & Memorials).....	A9	Layston Pre-School.....	A15
		Linden Flooring.....	A17
B & M Installations.....	A22	Locks Stock and More.....	A27
Buntingford Civic Society.....	A20	Deborah Loweth Chiroprapist.....	A14
Buntingford Dancing School.....	A10		
Buntingford Food Bank.....	A31	The M anor House.....	A35
Buntingford Heating.....	A23	Marketing Zone.....	A8
Buntingford Karate Club.....	A5	Meeting House Boarding Kennels.....	A3
Buntingford Swimming Club.....	A19	Morris Dancing.....	A31
The C age Barbers.....	A2	N ationwide Supplies.....	A6
Carers in Hertfordshire.....	A24	NCS Property Maintenance.....	A10
Cam Valley Orchards.....	A4		
Ceramic Tiler (Mark Addison).....	A35	O venClean.....	A17
Chiroprapist (Deborah Loweth).....	A14		
Church Lane Creative.....	A7	P aul Wainwright Painting, Decorating and Handyman....	A4
Andrew Coates Garden Design.....	A27	Personal Trainer (Jacqui Smith).....	A7
Collins Roofing Ltd.....	A23	Poulton's - Building Materials & Aggregates.....	A21
Complete Garden Service (Gregg Pettitt).....	A35		
Computer Services (Reboot IT Solutions).....	A12	R B Taxation Services.....	A35
Country Maids.....	A30	Reboot IT Solutions (Computer Services).....	A12
Crossfit Buntingford.....	A5	Reed First School.....	A5
Curwens Solicitors.....	A25	Reed First School.....	A18
		Riverside Taxis.....	A3
D eans Furnishers.....	A29	Rome Joinery Ltd.....	A22
Design Nation.....	A17	Rose Yoga—Jane Nunn.....	A11
Digital Champions - Community Alliance.....	A32		
Digital Skills Group Buntingford.....	A33	S .J.S.Plumbing & Heating.....	A30
DQR Wills and Probate.....	A12	Soggy Doggy Grooming.....	A17
The E arth's Richies.....	A28	T een Spirit Coaching.....	A14
East Herts Foot Health Clinic.....	A14	SJ Tokely Ltd, Mechanical Engineers.....	A13
Eileen's Fitness Classes.....	A11	Touch of Glamour.....	A28
P S Eveleigh, Plastering Contractor.....	A8		
		Philip W alker- Motor Vehicle Engineer.....	A22
H earing Advisory Service.....	A27	MJ Warner.....	A12
Hertford TV Service.....	A28	John Littleford - Web Designer.....	A5
Hormead Cars - Dean Bye.....	A14	Webb Scaffolding.....	A15
Anthony Howes - French Polishing.....	A30	Willow Landscapes.....	A13
Suzanne Hoy MBACP Counsellor.....	A5	Wills & Power of Attorney - Kate Bennett.....	A4
Humbleline Graphic Design.....	A15	Wood Bros Cabinet & Upholstery.....	A36
		Peter Worby, Antique Restoration and Cabinet Maker....	A28
I sabel Hospice.....	A4		

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