

# THE BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL



**9TH NOVEMBER:  
REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE MEETS AT THE RED HOUSE  
AT 10:30AM, SERVICE AT THE WAR MEMORIAL AT 10:45AM**

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

**November 2025** Volume 50 | Issue 9 **£1.25**



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# USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

## **POLICE STATION:**

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## **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:**

## **BUNTINGFORD FOOD SUPPORT**

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)

Bash volunteer drivers providing transport to medical  
appointments Tel: 07787 183 288

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](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/highwayfaults)

Tel: 0300 123 4047

**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](http://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](http://www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk)

[Buntingfordfoodhub@gmail.com](mailto:Buntingfordfoodhub@gmail.com) | 07842 889 772



LETTER FROM

# The Editor

It may be feeling decidedly autumnal out there now and summer is all but a distant memory, but there are still lots of things to look forward to in and around the town. I hope many of you will get together for our Remembrance Day Service on the 9th of the month and the Late Night Shopping and Lights of Love Ceremony on the 28th.

I was delighted to read about the huge success of our first Repair Cafe in the town. It is such a great scheme saving so much wastage (and money!) And if you can have a slice of cake and a cup of tea while you wait for your old treasurers to be revitalised, then what's not to love? I look forward to the next one in January p.8.

It's great to see that our Library signed up so many young readers to their summer reading challenge - smashing their targets and signing up over 300 children to the joy of reading. I hope that these habits last a lifetime and provide them with some respite from their mobile phones as they get older.

Our next issue will be our double Christmas issue for December and January. I can barely believe that we are very soon going to be thinking about Christmas already, but do get in touch if you have a local event to promote or a story to tell about our town. And we always welcome any festive photos that might make a good cover for the issue. The content deadline is 15th November. You can always contact me on [journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk) or [buntingfordjournal@gmail.com](mailto:buntingfordjournal@gmail.com).

Until then, enjoy this issue and the lovely rich colours of autumn that nature has put on display for us.

Anne

# BUNTINGFORD JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 2025

## **EDITOR**

Anne Wright

[journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

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[advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

## **EDITORIAL DEADLINE**

Editorial copy deadline for the next Journal is: **15th 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](mailto:membership@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)**

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## ON THE COVER

Remembrance Day Service from 2024



# BUNTINGFORD CIVIC SOCIETY

[www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk](http://www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

**Graham Waite**, Chairman

[chairman@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:chairman@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

Member of

**CIVIC VOICE**  
taking civic sense

reg. Charity: 1014873

By the time you read this article, we will be deep into Autumn, as the clocks will have gone back on the 26th October, signalling the end of British Summer Time and the coming of darker nights. However, there are some things to look forward to this month, Remembrance Sunday, Late Night Shopping and the Lights of Love Ceremony.

As most of our members may know, the Society has been a member of Civic Voice since its formation, but we received some worrying news from them a couple of weeks ago.

Civic Voice is tasked with representing civic societies in England at a national level. Given the current situation Civic Voice cannot claim to be truly representative of the civic movement. After seeking independent advice from financial advisers it has become clear that Civic Voice has no financial sustainability beyond 2026. The main reason behind this situation is that, as with most charitable institutions, there has been a steady decline in membership resulting in the reduction of working capital needed to sustain the organisation.

The Board of Civic Voice have identified 4 possible options for the future and they are,

Option 1 – Merge with another National Charity

Option 2 – Closure

Option 3 – Volunteer Led Survival

Option 4 – Clean Start

We have published the full report on our website [www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk](http://www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk). This report will be discussed at a Civic Voice meeting on 8 November in Birmingham, immediately prior to the AGM. There will be an online session on Wednesday 19 November at 2.30pm when the issue will be further discussed and reflect on the feedback from the 8th November meeting.

We are about to start putting together our next "member exclusive" Newsletter, planned for the February 2026 issue. If there is anything you feel we need to cover, or have any suggestions as to content, then please email me at [chairman@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:chairman@buntingfordcivic.org.uk).

If you are not a member, why not join the Civic Society. Membership is £10 per annum which guarantees a copy of the Journal delivered to your door, "you know it makes sense". Application forms are available for download on our website [www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk/resources/BCS%20Membership%20form%202024.pdf](http://www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk/resources/BCS%20Membership%20form%202024.pdf)

*Graham Waite*

Chairman, Buntingford Civic Society



# 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

**E**ast Herts District Council are currently consulting on proposed changes to car park charges.

The consultation runs until the 6th November and is available on the following link: <https://yourvoice.eastherts.gov.uk/parking-changes>

The proposed changes include reducing the free period from 1.5 hours to 30 minutes. Increasing the charging hours to 7.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Saturday and introducing an all-day charge on Sundays and Public Holidays. Also restricting Blue Badge parking to three hours.

If you are unable to access the link, written objections can be sent to: Parking Services, East Herts District Council, Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8EQ.

The Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch is now fully booked and we are taking names for the cancellation list. For those of you who have booked, please let us know if you are unable to make it as we have a queue of people waiting for a cancellation.

**The Late Night Shopping and Lights of Love Ceremony** will take place on **Friday 28th November**, the ceremony will commence at 5.50pm. Lights can be dedicated via the Isabel Hospice web site. [www.isabelhospice.org.uk/events/lights-of-love-buntingford-2/](http://www.isabelhospice.org.uk/events/lights-of-love-buntingford-2/)

Supported by the Town Council the annual **firework display** will take place at The Bury on **2nd November**, this event has proved to be very popular in the past.

We seem to have heard nothing but sad news recently with several long standing members of the community passing away including Marilyn Cantor, Ernie Brunning and Debbie Whybrow all of whom were known by many people. Our thoughts are with the families at this sad time.

The Manor House is licensed for Civil Ceremonies and many local residents have held their marriage ceremonies in the Grade II Listed Building. Ideal for small ceremonies of up to approximately 30 guests. All enquiries to the Clerk's office where we will be happy to show you around and answer any questions. The management of the Multi Games Area is now back with the Town Council. If you wish to hire the MUGA, please contact the Clerk's office and we will check availability.

Layston Cemetery is owned and managed by the Town Council, please call us if you have an enquiry.

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 6th November	7pm	Amenities Committee.
Thursday 13th November	7pm	Planning and 7.15pm Resources Committee
Thursday 27th November	7pm	Planning Committee and 7.15pm Full Council.

*All meetings held at The Manor House unless indicated otherwise.*

# BUNTINGFORD REPAIR CAFE

## First event a great success!!

**W**e held our first ever Buntingford Repair Café at Seth Ward Community on 27 September which was opened by our hugely supportive MP, Chris Hinchliff. He spent time learning how the café will help people retain their items rather than sending them to landfill and having to buy new.

We are immensely grateful to all our volunteers, including our dedicated and knowledgeable repairers who were able to mend electrical items ranging from kettles to vacuum cleaners as well as old items brought out of the loft and made fit for purpose again. Our skilful seamstresses put back together beloved clothing and our blade sharpener made tools as good as new. In all, we managed to fix twenty four items on the day and advise others whether a spare part was required or the item was indeed beyond repair.

A café wouldn't be a café without tea and cake, and there was plenty of delicious homemade cake available served by friendly volunteers. We extend our thanks to them as well as all our bakers.

All in all, it was a hugely enjoyable community event which brought people together and served a practical purpose. We are grateful to Buntingford Town Council for their generous initial grant that helped us set up our first event.

We will return to Seth Ward Community Centre on **24 January 2026** for our next Repair Café. So have a root around your home for those items you keep meaning to get fixed or were destined for landfill and bring them along.



Can't wait until then? Braughing Repair Café are hosting their next event on **Saturday 8 November**.

Visit [www.buytickets.at/braughingrepaircafe](http://www.buytickets.at/braughingrepaircafe) to book your items in for free or email [braughingrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:braughingrepaircafe@gmail.com)



If you are interested in volunteering at our next event or would like more information, contact us at [repaircafebuntingford@gmail.com](mailto:repaircafebuntingford@gmail.com). Visit our Buntingford Repair Cafe Facebook page for news and information.



# BUNTINGFORD LIBRARY NEWS

**Kathleen Beale**, Library Manager [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/)

## Summer Reading Challenge Update

We were so excited to have well over 300 children sign up to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge: Story Garden: Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors! We had 17 amazing volunteers who generously gave of their time to listen to children talk about their books and run the Maker Stations. We truly could not have done this without them.

## My First Library Adventure

Hertfordshire Libraries are currently running their My First Library Adventure. If your child is starting school, pop into the library and collect a My First Day at School Certificate. We also have certificates for My First Tooth, My First Birthday, My First Baby Rhyme Time and My First Storytime. Upon joining the library and receiving their first Library Card, your little one will also receive a commemorative certificate. Pop in and speak to a friendly staff member about our promotion and the benefits of Library membership.

## Winter Reads Challenge

The Winter Reads Challenge is back and begins on Saturday November 1st. Pick up a challenge card or bookmark from the library to take part. Then complete 6 fun challenges for your chance to win an iPad and other prizes.

Winter Reads is a great way to expand your reading over the winter months and discover new favourite books and authors. We also have a series of exciting author events and children's workshops, and a host of winter-themed activities taking place across the Library Service. For more information pop into the library or visit Winter Reads 2025 | Hertfordshire County Council.

## Slipper Swap

Old slippers often cause trips and falls, which can lead to unnecessary stays in hospital and loss of independence.

At our Slipper Swaps, residents who are older, have mobility difficulties or a disability can throw away their worn-out slippers and swap them for

a brand-new free pair of anti-slip ones - and find out more about keeping themselves safe and well by talking to an occupational therapist or one of our many other community partners.

No need to book. Just come along to Buntingford Library on **Thursday 13th November**, between 10am and 1pm.

Library staff will also be on hand to help, and introduce you to our services for older people such as social groups; activities; the Home Library Service; information, and the Carer's Library Card.

## Late Night Shopping & Christmas Market

Buntingford Library will be open until 8.00pm for Late Night Shopping on **Friday 28th November**. From 4pm we will have our popular festive drop-in Craft Station. Your little ones can listen to **Christmas Stories with two Storytime sessions** running at 5.30pm and 6.30pm. And don't forget to browse our Booksale for some great bargain reads!

## Lego Club Update

Our popular Lego Club is back!

Lego Club is fantastic for building STEM skills, creative thinking and problem solving.

Lego Club runs every Friday from 4.00pm-5.00pm during Term Time. Ages 5 and over.

£4.40 per child and book in the Library.



# Winter Reads

**Adult Challenge**      **Children's Challenge**



**Discover new favourite books and authors this winter by taking on our Winter Reads challenge!**

# Winter Reads

**Complete your free Winter Reads challenge for a chance to win an iPad!**

Open to all ages  
You set the challenges. You set the pace.

**Starts: Saturday 1 November**  
**Ends: Saturday 31 January**

Join the challenge at your local library



Scan the QR code to check out our exciting programme of events.

**OverDrive**  
**Borrow Box**      [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/WinterReads](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/WinterReads)      Hertfordshire

## Slipper Swaps

Prevent slips and trips by picking up FREE slippers and get lots of advice about staying safe and well in your home.

**Buntingford Library**  
**Thursday 13 November**  
**10am to 1pm**

No booking needed. Come for a cuppa and a chat!  
FREE event but donations for refreshments welcomed

For more information visit  
[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/slipperswap](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/slipperswap)  
or call 0300 123 4049



## Club for children

### Buntingford Library

#### Fridays

#### 4pm-5pm

Places limited - please book at the library

LEGO builds STEM skills!  
Come along for fun challenges which build problem solving, spatial awareness and creative thinking



Suitable for children ages 5+  
Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult

Note - children below the age of 5 will not be able to attend this session

#HertsLibraryLEGO

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/legoclubs](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/legoclubs)      Hertfordshire



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**N**ot long and before we know it... Christmas will be here.

There is no need to stop exercise and healthy eating over this time. It can be done.

### Keep Moving

- Short workouts: Even 15–20 minutes of bodyweight exercises (squats, push-ups, planks, burpees) can keep you on track.
- Make it social: Go for walks with family or play active games.
- Morning movement: Get it done early before the day gets busy.

### Smarter Eating

- Balance your plate: Half veggies, quarter protein, quarter carbs.
- Mindful indulgence: Enjoy your favourite holiday foods, but savour them slowly instead of overeating.
- Stay hydrated: Drink plenty of water — thirst often feels like hunger.

### Mindset

- Don't aim for perfection: Focus on consistency, not restriction.

- Plan ahead: If you know a big meal is coming, eat lighter earlier.
- Healthy swaps: Try roasted veggies, lean meats, and fruit-based desserts alongside the treats.

### Recovery

- Prioritize sleep: Helps with cravings and energy.
- Stress management: Deep breathing or stretching to avoid "stress eating."

**The key is balance** — enjoy the festive season without guilt, but keep small healthy habits ticking over so you don't feel like you're "starting from scratch" in January.

We will be running our usual Christmas Zoom 2 week Package as our classes will be closed as many of the halls are closed. Please look it up on the jacqui-smith.net website below.

Spaces will be open soon for the Christmas Children's HAPPY Camps which book up very quickly, so sign up to the newsletter via the website below or follow our page on facebook.

I am now planning our 2026 timetable and some new Charity workshops in the pipeline.

**Want to come to an Exercise Class or fancy one of our FREE workshops then contact me on: 07956 647 806**

*Jacqui Smith Personal Trainer & Chair of Community Initiative Charity*

[www.communityinitiativecharity.com](http://www.communityinitiativecharity.com) | [www.jacqui-smith.net](http://www.jacqui-smith.net)



**A**fter last winter, I'm really worried about falling behind on my energy bills again as we head into the colder months. We're careful about what we use but with small children it's hard. What can I do if I'm struggling to keep up with payments?

It's understandable to feel anxious about energy bills at this time of year. If you're struggling to afford your bills, it's important to act quickly; support is available and there are things you can do to ensure you're not overpaying.

The first thing is to contact your energy supplier - they're responsible for helping you come to a solution, like setting up an affordable repayment plan if you've fallen behind.

Energy bills can go up and down for many reasons, and if you think your bills don't look right, you should check to see if they're based on accurate readings. You might be getting estimated bills if your smart meter has stopped automatically sending readings, or if you have a non-smart meter and haven't sent a reading for a while.

If you see the word "estimated" or the letter "E" next to the readings on your latest bill, that means it's estimated. If this is the case, submit an up-to-date reading to get an accurate bill. A working smart meter does this for you, so if you have one and suspect it's not automatically sending readings, or if you'd like to get one installed, then speak to your supplier.

To help make your home easier and cheaper to heat, you might be able to apply for support with the cost of energy efficiency upgrades like insulation, a new boiler or a heat pump. Schemes like the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme or Great British Insulation Scheme (GBIS) are run by energy suppliers and local councils. There are details of schemes available locally on the East Herts Council website at [www.eastherts.gov.uk/community-and-health/environmental-sustainability/home-and-business-grants-schemes-and-advice](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/community-and-health/environmental-sustainability/home-and-business-grants-schemes-and-advice)

We can help with vouchers and grants to help you pay your energy bills. These are usually for emergency situations, like if you've lost your job and can't afford to top up your meter. We can then help you to find a long-term solution such as increasing your income, reducing costs, or resolving debt issues. If you're behind on your energy bills, there are grants available and you'll need to work with us to get advice on your overall debt situation in order to access these.

There is more information on the Citizens Advice website at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-help-paying-your-bills/grants-and-benefits-to-help-you-pay-your-energy-bills/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-help-paying-your-bills/grants-and-benefits-to-help-you-pay-your-energy-bills/).

If you need extra non-financial help - for example, because you're disabled or of state pension age - you can apply for support from your supplier through the Priority Services Register (PSR). Being on the register means your supplier can take readings for you if you struggle with this and there's no one else who can do it for you, and ensures your bills are in a format you can understand. The supplier will also be more sympathetic if you get behind with your energy bills. See the full list of eligibility criteria and how to sign up on the PSR website here [www.thepsr.co.uk/](http://www.thepsr.co.uk/).

Remember, you don't have to face this alone. If you're struggling to afford your energy bills, take a look at our East Herts website at [www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/utility-bills-warm-homes/](http://www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/utility-bills-warm-homes/) and download our Cost Saving Tips from [www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/documents/CAEH-Cost-Saving-Tips-v8.pdf](http://www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk/documents/CAEH-Cost-Saving-Tips-v8.pdf) for ideas on how to save money and improve your home's energy efficiency.

For energy support or any other advice, call our Message Line 01920 459 944 or visit [www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk](http://www.citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk) for our advice options. Or you can come and see us on Mondays from 10-12.30 at the Manor House, High Street, Buntingford where our friendly advisers will help you find a way forward.



Mike Murfitt, Susan Peters, Julia Bush, Martin Gray (Chairman), Tim Marks, Sue Batchelor, Fran Feek. (Not in photo Lesley Stevens, Caroline Nash)

In late September we held a Tea & Cake Afternoon at the Seth Ward Community Centre for members to have the chance to meet together and have a chat. But this time we combined it with the Macmillan Coffee Morning national fund raising appeal albeit changing the coffee morning to a tea afternoon. And we opened it up to everyone. Over a hundred people came and £545.45 was raised.

October was the AGM when our new committee was elected – see photo.

Our Speaker for **Monday 10th November** is Richard Thomas “Flanders Fields to the Tower” – a topical talk around Remembrance Day.

On **Monday 8th December** an “A Cappella Choir” will perform Christmas songs and we will have a short history of “A Cappella” singing.

**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 - 1.30pm

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

**www.u3asites.org.uk/  
buntingford - New members  
always welcome.**

**Macmillan Afternoon Tea, Seth Ward Community Centre  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2025 – Money Raised : £545.45**



Raffle Tickets



Cake Table



Book Table



Tea Ladies



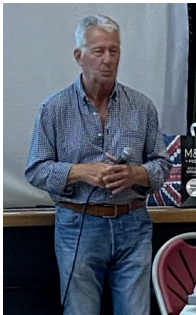
**The Hall**

**Quiz**

Tim Marks,  
Vice Chairman,  
whose idea it was  
to have the  
Macmillan Afternoon Tea.

**Raffle Draw**

Mayor Duncan Wallace  
and u3a Treasurer,  
Mike Murfitt.



**Firstly HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!**  
**Buntingford WI has been going strong for 107 years!**

**O**ur October meeting was a bit different and Joan Hathaway gave us a taste of Mexico, with some delicious wedding sweet rolls and proper chocolate to drink, some Mexican crafts to try and lots of information about Mexico dotted around the room. Who knew that its official name is Estados Unidos Mexicanos (the United Mexican States) and it has the world's smallest volcano at 43ft high. We ended the evening playing the traditional game of Pinata which was filled with sweets. All good fun!

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday November 13th** at the URC Hall in Baldock Road at 7.15 for 7.30 p.m. Maggie Aldridge will be coming along to show us some Christmas Crafts for us to make. 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 11th** 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 271 305.*



**Zoë Eaglesfield**

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



Buntingford School of Dance



[buntingfordschoolofdance](https://www.instagram.com/buntingfordschoolofdance)

**T**his term saw the introduction of our new Acro dance classes, an exciting addition to our timetable.

Acro is one of the most popular dance genres, with more choreographers integrating basic Acro skills into Jazz, Modern, Contemporary and Neo-Classical choreography. As such, we are excited to offer this as an additional class to complement our current dance genres. We are offering this to pupils age 5 years and over, so do get in touch if you want to book your child for a trial class. Acro Classes are Saturdays between 11.55am - 1.25pm at the Scout Hut in Buntingford

## Late Night Shopping Friday 28th November

We hope to have a stall at the Buntingford Late Night Shopping Event, so do come along and see us if you would like to meet us and have any questions about what we have to offer.

## Places available for the Autumn Term

To register for classes please do so via the QR code or visit our website contact or Join US page. We take pupils from toddlers upwards and have classes for all ages. Our two-week trial period for £15 gives pupils the opportunity to try a variety of suitable classes to see what they like.

Our classes include Baby Boppers, Ballet, Contemporary, Commercial/Street, Modern/Jazz & Tap classes, with classes suitable for all ages from toddlers to adults. Contact us if you want more information.

## Pay As You Go

**Baby Boppers:** A class for toddlers to 3-year-olds and their parents is available on a pay as you go basis, see website for booking details

**Adult Ballet & Tap Classes:** These are non-syllabus classes for adults of all ages with the emphasis on fun and fitness while learning to dance. Classes are suitable for all abilities and can be booked weekly or termly via the website.



# BUNTINGFORD GARDENER'S CLUB

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 5th November

**At:** The URC Hall, Baldock Road

**Doors open:** 7:45pm for 8pm start

**R**aise your garden pots enough to allow to drain, so not to get water logged. It's time to rake up any fallen leaves, plant your spring flowering bulbs and dead head or remove the last remaining flowers. Remember winter can be a tough time for birds so fill your bird feeder now to help the local birds survive the winter months.

With Halloween now behind us, we are now all turning our thoughts to Christmas!

This month we are fortunate to have a wreath making demonstration given by one of our members who is a qualified florist. We anticipate this being a popular event and as spaces are limited at £5 per head, we ask all visitors to book early. Members have no need to book.

Visitors, please phone Rose on: 07757 259 689 or email: [rosie.austin@icloud.com](mailto:rosie.austin@icloud.com)

If you enjoy spending time in the garden, allotment or merely visiting gardens, then put a note in your calendar to come and join us one evening?

Our meetings are monthly and always on the 1st Wednesday of the month, (Except January and August).



We have speakers throughout the year, giving talks on relevant subjects, as well as demonstrations, outings and socials with quizzes. With light refreshments served, we have the chance to catch up and help each other and make new friends.

Annual membership costs £20 and visitors are also welcome at £5.00 per visit.

If you would like any more information, please contact our secretary, telephone 07757 259689.

Hope to see you there.

# BUNTINGFORD RAILWAY & LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**Stephen Ruff**, Treasurer

**T**he Buntingford Railway and Local History Society would like to thank the Buntingford Town Council for the use of The Manor House, all local business's who kindly displayed posters, the local newsletters, magazines and newspapers who gave us publicity and finally to everyone who attended to support the event and made it such a success.

# BUNTINGFORD DRAMATIC SOCIETY

[www.buntingforddrama.uk](http://www.buntingforddrama.uk)



[buntingforddramaticsociety](https://www.instagram.com/buntingforddramaticsociety)



# THIS



# THAT

and the

# OTHER



**T**hank you to everyone who came to see - and take an active part in - our July performances of "The Last Quiz Night on Earth", written by Alison Carr. The play told a story of an impending meteor on a certain collision course with planet Earth, and how local people faced up to the inevitability of such a catastrophic event. Needless to say, in the face of extreme adversity, some people headed to the pub. Because... that's where you go.

As Kathy said;

"This place, Bobby. It's like being a ringmaster of all human experience. It's amazing. It's an honour. Had a baby - go for a drink. Got a promotion - go for a drink. Lost your job - go for a drink. Had a good day, had a bad day. Your team lost, your team won. You got dumped, you dumped somebody. Your friends are here, your friends aren't here. It's cold - there's a fire. It's hot - there's a beer garden. You just don't want to be on your own - go for a drink."

Never a truer word said.

## THE BUNTINGFORD SENIOR CITIZENS' CLUB

### Brian Jones

In September we welcomed three new members to the club. In October all members enjoyed our yearly fish and chip lunch, all very nice. So if you have got some free time Monday afternoon, why not come and join us for tea coffee and Bingo every Monday (except Bank Holidays) 1:30pm for 2pm in Church Hall opposite the Post office in Baldock Road.

For more information please call Val on : 01763 272 019.



**Paul Webster**

**T**he choir was started in February 2011 and has been meeting on a Monday evening ever since. We mainly sing just for fun but we do also like to sing in public in and around Buntingford. Hopefully next year we will be able to book in some performances.

As always we are looking for new people to join us. Rehearsals are at;

Millfield School  
Monks Walk  
Buntingford SG9 9DT

We start at 7.30 and we normally finish at around 9.15.

Subscriptions are £5 per week, new starters get a try-out week for free.

Our only stipulation is that you must be over 16 years old.

There are no auditions and no requirement to read music. Anyone who wants to sing is welcome to come along. We have a wide range of music, from musicals to popular artists old and new.

It's all very relaxed and sociable, so if you are interested please email me at this address: **info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk**

Or you can just come along on a Monday evening and join in.

For more information go to our website. **www.buntingfordchoir.co.uk**

## **BRAUGHING GET TOGETHER**

### **Andy Ayres**

**I**n September, Braughing Get Together had to cancel its "Back to School" event due to multiple truancies.

No-one sent in sick notes or asked permission; our Headmistress is investigating.

In October, there was a very successful, light-hearted Bingo evening, where we welcomed some newcomers.

On **Friday 7th November**, BGT is holding a "Gunpowder Plot" evening when we will show a docu-drama - Exploding the Legend.

Was Guy Fawkes' plan doomed or could it have worked; did he have enough gunpowder?

Of course Bangers & Mash (or veggie option) will be included, as well as a fun table quiz.

Cost is £8 per person and booking is essential.

**Friday 5th December** is our annual Winter Supper, where we can Get Together with good friends, have a lovely meal and just chat.

Gill will once again will be tempting our palettes with her culinary expertise.

The price is held at £27.50 and early booking is advised as it is an extremely popular event.

Braughing Get Together events are in the Braughing Church Hall and doors open at 7pm.

**To reserve you places contact Cynthia Matthews: email: [cynthia.matthews44@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.matthews44@gmail.com) phone: 01920 822 230 or 07933 202 547**

# BUNTINGFORD SHORTS

Paul Hutton



## 2026 Short Film Festival Now Open for Submissions

It's that time again!

Buntingford Shorts is a festival founded in 2017 by Jake Andrews as a way of passionately promoting student film making across Hertfordshire and around the world. The festival is organised into two events; one to showcase local film and the other to celebrate international film.

Year on year we are amazed and delighted by the creative talent of young film makers worldwide. Last year there were over 50 films submitted to the "Local" category and in excess of 1600 films in the "International" category from over 120 countries ranging from Argentina to Zambia.

Buntingford Shorts encourages students to submit films up to fifteen minutes long in any of six genres: animation, comedy, documentary, drama, horror, and music and sound. Students are welcome to submit school/university coursework or any of their other creations.

Submissions for the 2026 festival opened on 1st October 2025. Shortlisting will take place in January and the local and international events will be held in April 2026. There will be prizes for winning films in each category.

For more information and to submit go to [www.buntingfordshorts.com](http://www.buntingfordshorts.com)

**BUNTINGFORD FILM CLUB**

**DOWNTON ABBEY**  
— THE GRAND FINALE —

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December**  
at 7.30pm - Community Centre  
Luynes Rise, Buntingford SG9 9SG

Tickets: **£9.00** (to include a glass of wine or beer & snacks!)



# BUNTINGFORD BOWLS CLUB

Dave Murphy

**B**untingford Bowls Club wrapped up the 2025 season on a high.

The women's team played in their first final for many years, unfortunately losing in a close fought game. The Ladies continue to improve year on year and the future looks good, with many new ladies joining in the last few years.



The men ended the season winning the County League championship for the second time running and a record seventh time, beating local rivals Baldock, in the final.

The last major day of the season saw the club finals played. There was a great turn out of spectators, who certainly helped make a great atmosphere.

Results (winners listed first)

## Ladies Championship

Claire White 21 Eileen Cunningham 12

## Men's Championship

Garry Warrender 21 Mark Plume 8

## New Bowlers Competition

Emma Vater 14 Paul Vater 12

## Ladies 2 Wood Pairs

Claire White and Debbie Marks 17 Sharon

Thurbon and Rosanne Bantick 8

Gibbs Moules Zony 2 sets

Arnie Manning 1 set

## Mixed Triples

Jeff Pigg, Jenny Newington, Ray Watkins 25

Terry Cooper, Isobel Burt, Paul Mills 12

## Mens Handicap

Brian Bushell 21 Ross Murphy 19

## Ladies Handicap

Hazel Penton 21 Roxana Clifton 7

## Bert Bradley Plate

Mark Plume 14 Richard Foster 12

## Dandara Trophy

Phil Joslin 1 1/2 Dave Murphy 1/2

## Williams Trophy

Gary Higgins 21 Bobby White 13

## Mens 2 wood pairs

Jeff Pigg Richard Penton 16

Geoff West Matthew Murphy 9



## Boniwell Trophy

Paul Mills 21 Brian Bushell 6

## Mens 4 wood pairs

Phil Joslin Dave Baxter 22

Martin Tuck and Zony 9

Congratulations to all the winners. It's great to see so many newer bowlers winning.

The green is now closed for the year, re-opening the first bank holiday weekend of April/May 2026, when we will be holding our annual open days.

Look out for the posters and we hope to see some readers trying out this great sport.

*Dave Murphy, Chairman/coach  
Buntingford Bowls Club*



**WARD FREMAN**

COMMUNITY POOL  
GROUP

**Joanne Willett**, Trustee

[jwillett@wardfremanpool.org](mailto:jwillett@wardfremanpool.org)

[www.wardfremanpool.org](http://www.wardfremanpool.org)



WardFremanPool

Things are flowing slowly at Ward Freman Community Pool Group HQ. We have finally met with officers from Hertfordshire County Council and whilst not granting us the lease of the pool they are proposing to release the freehold. A slight ripple in our plans but obtaining the freehold will still allow us to apply for more grant funding and could also be used as collateral against a loan if required. We are not riding high on the crest of a wave just yet but are beginning to feel the swell. Enough of the water metaphors, everything we mentioned in the last edition of the Journal still stands in terms of how the pool will look when we open and our request for anyone with relevant skills and tools to get in touch remains!

We have been in contact with Freman College to keep them abreast of developments and to highlight implications for the site when refurbishment starts. They are certainly keen to get their students, as we are to get students from all the local schools, back swimming as soon as possible. To that end, the Rib Valley schools will be holding a joint non-uniform fund raising day for us

on 19th June 2026. This shows how deep the desire is in all the schools to get the life saving (and fun) skill that is swimming back on the curriculum. This fundraiser will appropriately coincide with RLSS Drowning Prevention week. We sadly heard again this summer of too many young people getting into difficulty in open water during the hot weather.

The date for the **table top sale** and **Christmas jumper swap shop** has been confirmed as **16th November** at Seth Ward Community Centre. Pop along from 10am with your jumper (shirts, tops, Pjs also accepted) to swap and gain early access to the sale! Refreshments will be available in aid of the pool too, so if you could see your way clear to donating a tasty treat please email **[jwillett@wardfremanpool.org](mailto:jwillett@wardfremanpool.org)**. We also hope to be at the **Christmas Market** on the High St on **28th November**, planning is underway for a Race Night and we have again offered to provide refreshments at the Buntingford 10 event at New Year, so watch this space for details!

## Trouble at the Vicarage

October's meeting was about a court case brought against the vicar of Buntingford in 1882.

We started with a brief history of the churches of Layston. The original church was St Bartholomew's which was situated at the end of The Causeway. As the town moved down the hill to its current location, getting to church became a problem especially in the winter when people had to cross the Rib to reach

This vicarage was certainly used by the vicars that followed on after Strange's death, but ceased to be used after 1860 and was rented out to various tenants and then left to decay. It was eventually purchased and redeveloped into 3 houses next to the Co-op.

By 1790 the Corneybury estate was sold to William Butt who not only owned many of the buildings and land within Buntingford, he also had what is called



the church. There was a chapel of ease in the town, which was near to the site of the current St Peters but this fell into disrepair in the 16th century. Alexander Strange became the vicar of the parish on the 16th April 1604 and decided to build a new church so set about raising funds to do this. He raised £418 13s 8d and work started in 1614. There is a dedication stone in the east transept wall above the window which states "Domus Orationis 1614 (House of Prayer).

Where Alexander Strange lived during his time as vicar isn't clear. Philip Plumb stated that there was a vicarage south of St Bartholomew's so it may have been there that he lived. A vicarage was built possibly in the late 16th century or early 17th century on Hare Street Road so he may have used that but he died in 1650 so it is unlikely.



*Photo of the vicarage taken from Buntingford in Old Photo's Facebook page.*

the advowson of the parish church. That entitled him to nominate to the diocesan bishop a vicar for the parish church.

On 1st March 1791 Mr Butt nominated Richard Carr to the post of vicar. When Rev. Carr resigned Mr Butt nominated William Young as the replacement on the 28th April 1800. Mr Butt died in 1806, and the estate passed to his son also called William Butt. When he died in 1841 the estate passed to yet another William Butt (grandson of the original William Butt). On the death of Rev Young Mr Butt nominated William Coulard as the new vicar. Rev Coulard died in 1853 and Mr Butt nominated his son John Henry Butt to the post of vicar. He became the vicar on 23rd August 1853.

John Henry Butt was the second son of William Butt and his wife Elizabeth, born on the 7th March 1828. He had 9 siblings, Elizabeth, William, Richard, Sophia, Edward, Ann, Frederick, Philip and Louisa. According to the 1841 census the family were all living at 1 Northwick Terrace,

Marylebone, London. By 1851 John was studying divinity whilst his elder brother William was studying law.

On the 19th January 1858 he married Frances Mary Dewe, daughter of a vicar; at Rochester, Kent. They had 3 children Henry, William and Cecil all born in Buntingford. The 1861 census stated the family were living at "The Cottage" in the parish of Wyddial but this was most likely the property later to be known as the vicarage at the northern end of the High St in Buntingford. The vicarage in Hare Street Road was near to the Tannery and also a maltings which stood on the current site of the Co-op. It was also opposite the workhouse so not the most salubrious place to live and not fit for someone bought up in a wealthy family. The new vicarage had been built on land owned by the Corneybury estate and had up until the late 1840's been lived in by Ann and Jane Butt, John Henry's aunts. The property stretched from the High Street almost to the River Rib and had a long carriage drive.



*The front view of the vicarage taken from Buntingford in Old Photo's Facebook page.*

## BUNTINGFORD LOCAL HISTORY GROUP CONT...

Whilst looking for a newspaper article for a previous talk I had come across "Alleged misconduct of a Hertfordshire Vicar". This immediately raised my interest especially when on reading it stated that John Henry Butt vicar of Layston had been accused of being intoxicated on numerous occasions and had been using improper, profane and indecent language.

The bishop of St Albans had appointed a committee consisting of Sir Edmund Beckett, William Baker of Bayfordbury, Rev Gordon, vicar of barley and rural dean and William Booty lawyer from Gray's Inn. The hearing took place at the assembly room of the George Inn. The bishop was represented by Mr Jeune and Rev Butt was represented by Mr Bund both barristers.

Mr Jeune outlined the case against Rev Butt which was that on a number of occasions he was seen by various people coming out of the following pubs; The Chequers, The George, The Railway, The Fox and Duck and the Adam and Eve all in Buntingford, The White Hart in Puckeridge, The Green Man, The Falcon and the Bull in Royston. He would remain in these pubs for quite some time more than was "his honest necessity", and using language that was profane and indecent to the highest degree both of which was against ecclesiastical law.

The first witness called was Mr Spencer who was looking after his horse outside the station. He said that he saw the Rev. coming out of the station and he wasn't walking straight, but he refused to state whether the Rev was drunk, just the worst for drink. However, Mr Bolton groom for Dr Fox said on the night of Standon fair in 1880 he had seen Rev Butt come out from the train intoxicated. He had followed him as far as the bridge and he didn't walk 2 yards in a straight line. Over the last 2

years he had seen Butt in the bar of the George. Francis Chambers, step son of the rector of Throcking said that on the night of Standon Fair he had watched Rev Butt being helped into his carriage on the train. The Rev had spent the journey with his head down and was helped off the train by a young man. He couldn't say whether Butt was intoxicated or not.

The next witness was Howard Bray aged 24 who lived with his parents above the chemist/post office on Market Hill. His father was the chemist and postmaster. He said he had seen Rev Butt on the day of Standon Fair in the bar of the White Hart in Puckeridge drinking some spirits. He was very intoxicated. On another occasion in April 1881, he had seen the Rev come out of the Chequers staggering from doorway to doorway. He had followed him to the gates of the vicarage at about 11pm. He produced a notebook in which he had kept a record of all the times he had seen the Rev in different pubs. On the 23rd September he had seen Rev Butt in the George drinking with other people. Conversation had turned to the death of Mr Battiscombe of Barkway. Butt had said "Ah he was a d\*\*\*\* old b\*\*\*\*\*, they ought to have buried him face down so he couldn't scratch his way out, and they ought to have put him in a second hand coffin as a new one was too good for him." He also said "Ah there is that Adams of Throcking, another old b\*\*\*\*\* wonder where he stole all his money from." Adams was the vicar of Throcking. This brought laughter from those watching in court.

The next day Mr Bray was again giving evidence, he said that in the George, Rev Butt insulted him whilst drunk, he had confronted him later in the Railway Inn and Rev Butt had denied knowing anything about it. Mr Bray said that Rev Butt was a disreputable and disgraceful

blackguard, and he was a disgrace to the church and the town, and no respectable person would be seen with him. As a result of this Mr Bray had written to Rev Butt and the letter was read out in court. In the letter he outlined the incident where Rev Butt had insulted him and demanded a public apology. Rev Butt's reply was also read out he said he paid no attention to what Mr Bray had said in the pub or on any other occasion and he suggested that Mr Bray got himself respectable employment and mend his idle, dissipated habits. It ended with " don't write threatening letters for which you may be punished." These letters caused much amusement in the court. Mr Bund cross examined Mr Bray saying he obviously had a vendetta against the Rev. Mr Bray denied this saying he had been asked by the bishop's secretary and the vicar of Westmill to give evidence today.

The next witness was Mr Mickley who amongst other things said both he and Rev Butt were governors of the grammar school. Meetings usually took place in the afternoons but he and the other governors had decided to change the time to the morning as Rev Butt was more likely to be less intoxicated. He recounted several incidents when he had seen the Rev drunk. He was also often there when Butt swore and in one instance, he had called the Rector of Wyddial a d\*\*\*\* s\*\*\*\*fool. He refused at one point to recount out loud another incident instead writing down it and passing it to the commissioner on the understanding it wouldn't be shown to the barristers. More witnesses were called, then on Friday the defence called their 17 witnesses. Most of their witnesses were local tradespeople, business men and the licensees of the Chequers, The George and the White Hart. The landlady of the George said he did come into the pub maybe twice

a week but never had a drink. All the witnesses confirmed Rev Butt was never drunk or used bad language.

Following the barristers gave closing speeches, the commissioners adjourned for 20 minutes then said that in their opinion Rev Butt did have a case to answer and they would report back to the bishop.

On the 28th April 1882 a case of perjury was brought against Mr Howard Bray stating he had given false evidence against Rev Butt. The perjury case was brought by the Rev Butts brother, William Butt. The court decided that as the bishop's case hadn't been finalised, they couldn't hear the perjury case. In December 1882 Mr Bray was back in court asking for the perjury case to be heard, again the magistrates said that the bishop's case was still outstanding so they couldn't hear the case. At this point Rev Ewing said this wasn't true and conferred with the magistrates who told Mr Bray would have to wait until he was called upon to answer the case and he should take fresh legal advice.

I have searched through numerous newspapers trying to find the results of both the bishop's case and the perjury case but no one seems to have reported on either case. A plaque in the church commemorates Rev Butt saying he served as vicar for 42 years which means he would have left in 1895, yet according to the 1891 census he and his wife were living in Kings Norton, Birmingham. A list of vicars of St Peters show the date he became a vicar but no information could be found for the date he left, just that the new vicar Alfred Howard took office in 1896. It will therefore remain a mystery as to what happened about the case.

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**Next month is our Xmas party on 11th November to which everyone is invited. It is at 2pm in the URC Hall, cost is £2 per person.**

# THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)

**Ken McDonald**, Secretary



**O**n a fine September day, I caught an early train to Ware before tackling the longest walk on the Society's website. Station Walk number 18 covers 17 miles (28 kilometres) between Ware Station and Stansted Mountfitchet Station. Although I walk regularly, it was some years since I last covered that distance in a day so I carried a mobile phone just in case.

An advantage of this route is that it heads north for several miles and then turns east, so for much of the way the sun is behind to give the best views.

After leaving Ware, the route is all in lovely countryside, passing through eight of our hundred parishes: Wareside, Standon, Thundridge, Braughing and Albury in Hertfordshire and then Farnham, Manuden and Stansted Mountfitchet in Essex.

Through these parishes, only Standon and Stansted contributed much more than the occasional farmhouse. They, along with Gravesend in Albury, also offered opportunities for refreshment.

The route follows a series of good paths and tracks, rising and falling between river valleys. It passes over the River Lea just after the start, spends several miles along the Rib valley, and crosses the Ash and the Stort.

The journey crosses the Greenwich Meridian, the original route of Roman

Stane Street and the former Buntingford railway line. It passes beside Barwick Ford, Standon Lordship, Patmore Heath and Stansted Windmill and there are sightings of distant churches, water towers and much more. But the best views are of unspoilt, rolling countryside and occasional wildlife.

I completed the walk, accompanied for the last 6 miles by my wife Janice after lunch in Gravesend. Altogether, a most enjoyable day – and the legs only ached a bit for the next few days! Having completed this challenge, I can return to the many shorter routes on our website.



*Stansted Mountfitchet windmill.*



Thundridge - ford and footbridge over the Rib



Stansted Mountfitchet - Hole Farm.



Knights Court in Standon.



Patmore Heath in Albury.



Near Latchford in Standon parish.



Harcamlow Way, north of Standon.



Chatter End, Farnham.



East of Patmore Heath, Albury.

We're delighted to share some exciting news with you – two fantastic new practitioners have joined the team at Attend2Health!



We're excited to announce our first ever Mental Health First Aid Course with Polly Joseph, an experienced Mental Health First Aider and Mental Health First Aid Trainer.

**Dates:** Friday 14th & 21st November

**Time:** 10am – 4pm

**Location:** Attend2Health, 27 High Street, Buntingford

**Price:** Just £150 for both days (this is an introductory offer)

This practical and supportive course will qualify you as a Mental Health First Aider (valid for three years) as well as giving you the tools and confidence to support both your own mental health and that of those around you - Be that at work and/or in your personal life.

### Topics include:

- What is mental health?
- Stigma & discrimination
- The mental health spectrum
- Recovery & wellness
- Stress & pressure
- Depression & anxiety
- Self-care & support strategies
- Listening & empathy skills
- Your role as a Mental Wellbeing First Aider
- How to use your A.C.T.I.O.N.S. plan

This training is fully aligned with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) 'Mental Health Conditions, Work and The Workplace' guidance.

For more information or to book your place, please contact the clinic on 01763 87 80 87.

We're also thrilled to welcome Anna Whitaker, a highly qualified Registered Dietitian, to our team.



Unlike many other nutrition titles, Registered Dietitians complete a rigorous training pathway. Anna holds a Master's degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from the University of Nottingham and has extensive experience across inpatient, outpatient, and sports settings.

Anna supports clients with a wide range of needs, including:

- Managing health conditions through diet
- Improving energy, performance, and recovery
- Achieving sustainable lifestyle changes with a food-first approach

She also continues to update her knowledge through research and ongoing training, ensuring her clients receive the most up-to-date, evidence-based care.

To find out more or book a consultation, you can email Anna directly at [annads@gmx.co.uk](mailto:annads@gmx.co.uk).

We're really excited to be expanding our services and can't wait for you to meet Polly and Anna.

**The Attend2Health Team**  
**27 High Street, Buntingford SG9 9AB**  
**01763 87 80 87**



The  
United  
Reformed  
Church

## CHRIST CHURCH

Baldock Road, Buntingford. SG9 9AA

[www.buntingfordurc.org.uk](http://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	2	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender
	9	Remembrance Service At St Peters	
	16	Morning Worship	Rev Allen Morton
	23	Morning Worship	Faith Paulding
	30	Morning Worship Rev	Dr Janet Tollington
December	7	Children's Service Rev	Sue Fender

## Regular Events

### MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY

We are holding an Ecumenical Bible Study usually on the first Wednesday of each month. We meet for lunch from 12:30 and our bible study will run from 1 – 2 pm.

Entitled Influential Women we will look at the stories of the women of the New Testament. Some only get a brief mention and we may not remember them, others have played a significant part in the life of the early church.

All of them have story to tell us.

The next meeting will be on the 5th November.

### COFFEE & COMPANY

**Meets every Thursday, 10:30am to 12:30pm, in the 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.



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/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/32-012BK/)

email: [unitedbeneficeabw@gmail.com](mailto: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 2025

Sunday 2nd	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Morning Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion Service	*Edwinstree Middle School
Sunday 9th (Remembrance Sunday)	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	All Age Worship	St Mary's, Aspenden
	<b>11:15am</b>	<b>All Age Worship</b>	<b>St Richards Roman Catholic</b>
Sunday 16th		No Service	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
	9:30am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Holy Communion	*Edwinstree Middle School / St Peters
Sunday 23rd	9:30am	Sung Eucharist	St Mary the Virgin, Westmill
		No Service	St Mary's, Aspenden
	11:00am	Morning Worship	*Edwinstree Middle School / St Peters
Sunday 30th	10:00am	Benefice Together Advent Holy Communion	*St Peter's, Buntingford

\*Please check our website for further details of St Peter's reopening

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/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7834/service-and-events/events-all/)

**St Peter's Buntingford:** [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7839/service-and-events/events-all/](http://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/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7851/service-and-events/events-all/)

# REGULAR EVENTS AT ST MARY'S, \*ST PETER'S & ST MARY THE VIRGIN



## Prayer for Buntingford Walk

A time of open, informal prayer for the town and local community. Held 8:15am – 8:45am weekly on Fridays.

Meeting at 8:15am outside St Peter's Church, join us for a Prayer Walk around Buntingford.



## Little Lambs at St Mary the Virgin Westmill

Every Wednesday in term time 10-11:30am for pre-school children and their grown-ups. Songs, a bible story and prayer along with activities and playtime. A very informal social and worship occasion for pre-school children and their carers. There is a short service with songs and prayer followed by a story and activities for the children including toys.



## Morning Prayer

9am Every Tuesday at St Mary the Virgin Westmill and Thursday at St Mary's Aspenden 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. Please contact us for the link.



## Monday Morning Coffee at The Crown Pub

10am – 12pm (except bank holidays). The Crown Pub has kindly offered St Peter's the space

to continue offering Tea, Coffee and biscuits whilst our restoration works are being carried out. All welcome.

**St Peter's Church**  
**Join us for**  
**Festive Refreshments**  
**and Our Gift Stall**  
**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November**  
**4:00pm - 7pm**

**JOIN US FOR OUR**  
**CHRISTMAS FAYRE**  
**SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER**  
**2:00PM - 4:00PM**  
**St Mary the Virgin Church**  
**Westmill**

Mulled Wine & Mince Pies  
 Craft Tombola and lots more Gifts

**St Mary's Aspenden**  
**Christmas Tree Festival**  
 We invite you to enter our Christmas Tree Festival 2025  
 Saturday 13th December - 10am to 4pm  
 Sunday 14th December - 11am to 4pm

People have always decorated their homes with Christmas trees. Why not have a go and see how you can be creative and make your own Christmas tree? Set your creativity and imagination free. Choose a theme that represents you or your organisation.

It is hoped that many groups, societies, businesses, charities schools and individuals will accept our invitation to take part. To register please scan the QR Code and submit your registration.

This includes all the information you need about this event, tree size, lights, when to set up and take down. There is no charge for entering your tree.

# BUNTINGFORD WRITER'S GROUP

David Everett

## The Diamond

'Diamonds' as the song goes 'are a girls best friend!'

Well, judging by the prices they're charging in our local jewellers nowadays, I'd say at the moment, by the current state of my bank account they're certainly not mine! Never having been engaged before, I just didn't realise just how expensive it can be.

Looks like I'm going to have to sell the old Francis Barnett motorbike that I've spent so much time renovating lately if I'm going to get anywhere near the amount of cash I'll need to buy a decent engagement ring.

Never mind, she's a lovely lass, so I want to do her proud, so it will be well worth it in the long run.

I get home and I'm telling Mum over tea about the cost of engagement rings, when she says "Come over to the sideboard lad, I've something to show you."

Now the sideboard is Mum's exclusive territory. Opening it with a key she keeps secreted in a special compartment her purse, she takes out little brown cardboard boxes of all sizes and shapes containing what she proudly calls 'Family Memorabilia' until she comes to one no bigger than a matchbox.

Carefully opening it up and removing the crumpled white tissue paper surrounding it, she reveals what turns out to be a beautiful diamond ring. One glance reveals

that this one is more beautiful and ornate than any of the ones I've seen this afternoon, each one priced at several hundred pounds."

"Now lad, I've something important to tell you."

"When you were just talking about getting engaged a few weeks ago, I invited your Molly round one afternoon when you were out and showed her this very ring and she immediately fell in love with it. She didn't need inviting to try it on and it fitted like a glove. Now you might remember it once belonged to your Grannie Parker and was her engagement ring.

"You don't need me to tell you, that she thought the world of you and your Molly. It was her dearest wish that when she passed on, it should have a new lease of life on Molly's hand, so that the love it represents continues within the family well into the future and hopefully beyond.

So you don't have to worry about buying a ring at the local jewellers, at some over-inflated price. You have the one that Molly really wants right here."

"Mum, I don't know what to say."

"Well here's a suggestion. Invite Molly round for her tea this Sunday and over a glass of bubbly, ask her to be your wife and pop this ring on her finger. I think I know what her answer will be.

And don't forget, like the song says 'Diamonds are forever'."

# BUNTINGFORD SCOUT GROUP SANTA RUN 2025

30<sup>TH</sup> NOV 430PM

FREMAN DRIVE  
CHEQUERS CLOSE  
VICARAGE ROAD  
HONEY LANE  
WYDDIAL ROAD  
BRIDEWELL CLOSE  
CHURCH STREET  
HIGH STREET  
NORFOLK ROAD

1ST DEC 6PM

HARE STREET ROAD  
SUNNY HILL  
PADDOCK ROAD  
PIPKIN DRIVE  
ALDRIDGE WAY  
SPENCER CLOSE  
WARBOYS

2ND DEC 6PM

LUYNES RISE  
FAIRFIELD  
ABRAHAMS  
DRIVE

3<sup>RD</sup> DEC 6PM

STATION ROAD  
SNELLS MEAD  
DRAY GARDENS

5TH DEC 6PM

REDROW  
WOODS WAY  
HUMMERSTON

6TH DEC 5PM

BOWLING GREEN LANE  
GREENWAYS  
WHITE HART CLOSE  
MONKS WALK  
LONGMEAD

7<sup>TH</sup> DEC 430PM

THE VILLAGE  
LONDON ROAD  
LAYSTON MEADOWS  
CROUCH GARDENS  
OLVEGA DRIVE

PLEASE DONATE  
[PAYPAL.ME/BUNTINGFORDSCOUTS](https://www.paypal.me/buntingfordscouts)



FOLLOW US ON OUR LIVE TRACKER  
EACH EVENING POSTED ON FACEBOOK





# MILLFIELD FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL

www.millfield.herts.sch.uk | 01763 271 717 | admin@millfield.herts.sch.uk

**Laura Kennedy-Weeks**, Headteacher

**A**s we start the second half of the Autumn term, we take the time to reflect on all the moments and events we have celebrated here at Millfield.



**'Hello Yellow Day' celebrating World Mental Health Day**



On Friday 10th October, we participated in 'Hello Yellow Day'. This was to celebrate 'World Mental Health Day'. We joined thousands of schools, offices and communities to raise awareness of the work of 'Young Minds'. Young Minds support young people to know that they are not alone with their mental health.

To support 'Hello Yellow' children and staff were invited to come to school wearing something yellow. The children took part in bite size mental health and wellbeing activities that promoted 'Young Minds'. It was great to view a sea of yellow, which brightened up everyone's day! Thank you to our school community for raising funds for such a worthwhile charity.



**Harvest Celebrations – A Time for Sharing and Gratitude**

Our Harvest celebrations reminded us of the importance of sharing with those who are less fortunate. We



are incredibly proud of our school community for their generous donations to the Buntingford Food Bank. The collection was gratefully received and deeply appreciated by the charity.

A special thank you goes to Tor, a volunteer from the Food Bank, who joined us during our celebrations. Tor shared the heartfelt story 'It's a No Money Day' by Kate Milner, which helped our children understand the value of appreciating what they have, the impact of community support and the joy that can be found in simple moments with family and friends.

We were also delighted to see our Year 4 children confidently perform their class assemblies to parents and carers; an inspiring way to round off our Harvest events.

Thank you again to everyone who contributed and supported such a meaningful cause.



**Enrichment Days**

It was wonderful to provide our Year 2 and Year 4 children with fantastic workshops delivered by History Off the Page and the Travelling Natural History Museum.



During a Great Fire of London Workshop our Year 2 children thoroughly enjoyed a fun factual day full of practical and investigating activities to find out more about the great disaster of 1666.

The Egyptian Workshop was a day full of hands-on activities. The children completed tasks in ancient Egyptian culture, including embalming, tomb painting and amulet making. The Year 4 children were keen to participate and were very engaged.



### **Buntingford Remembrance Service – A Time to Reflect Together**

It is always a real honour to see so many Millfield children and families,

alongside members of our wider Buntingford community, gathered for the Remembrance Service in town.

Remembrance is a powerful moment in our year; an opportunity to reflect on the sacrifices made by others, to remember those who served and to recognise the importance of peace, unity and gratitude. Sharing this occasion with our local community made it all the more meaningful.

We are incredibly proud of the children, who join Mrs Kennedy-Weeks in representing Millfield at this service. They lay a wreath at the war memorial on behalf of the school, showing great respect and maturity.

### **Sharing Our School with Prospective Families**

It's been an absolute delight to welcome prospective parents and carers into Millfield and share a glimpse of our school in action. One of the real highlights is hearing our children speak so confidently and proudly to visitors about life at Millfield.

From explaining our all-important school values 'Respectful, Determined, Proud' and our Positive Learning Powers, to sharing stories about extra-curricular clubs, playing with friends, and enjoying their learning, their enthusiasm shines through.

One comment that particularly stood out came from a child in Year 1 who recently shared:

"The classes get bigger as we get bigger, but there's still lots of help for our learning."

A simple yet powerful reflection of the support, care and growth that underpin everything we do at Millfield.



### **PTA Quiz Night – A Fantastic Success!**

The recent PTA Quiz Night was a fantastic success, filled with fun, friendly competition and great community spirit.

A huge thank you to the Millfield PTA for all the time, effort and energy they put into organising and running such a brilliant event.

We'd also like to extend our thanks to everyone from the Buntingford community who joined us on the night. Your support means so much and helps us continue to strengthen the wonderful partnership between our school and local community.

*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 271 717.*



# EDWINSTREE MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

Jo Gant, Headteacher | [www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk](http://www.edwinstree.herts.sch.uk)

*As a Christian school, we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone.*

*As a community, we support one another to flourish and live life in all its fullness.*

It was lovely to welcome our year 5 Students to the new school year on the 2nd of September, and then the rest of the school the following day. Students arrived a little nervous as was to be expected, but were soon caught up in the energy of the school and the joy of meeting up with friends. I am very grateful to my team of support staff who come in two weeks early each year to support our most anxious and vulnerable students to visit the school before we formally start, to familiarise themselves and allay any worries. This has real impact in ensuring all students return well.

Our first job in school is to introduce and/or remind students of the work of our Church of England School, and what makes it different and special? We begin with our biblical quote that drives all our work:

*“Live in me. Make your home in me, just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can’t bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can’t bear fruit unless you are joined with me.” — John 15:4–6*

This means our community lives and learns with God. As a Christian school, we recognise the unique and wonderful in everyone. As a community, we support one another to flourish, and live life in all its fullness.

At the school we use a vine tree metaphor from this quote to help us explain to our students the work we are doing. The vine trunk is our vision with four key words, unique, wonderful, flourish and fullness. In the first two weeks, we supported students to



understand that our role is to help them to find their “wonderfuls”. During the first week of October, we began with a talent show. We explain that as a school it is our role to help all of them so that by the end of year 8 they will be ready for their next stage of education, but to get there, we will treat them differently and individually. We use this slide to help them to understand equity:

Our students are given different levels of support at times when they need it over the four years, they are with us to ensure all are ready to leave us and are successful in their next stage of education.



The branches of our tree are Christian values which support our community, staff, students to flourish, our values

are displayed at the back of the hall on this cross.

Each value is explored over a half term and students visit these values at least twice in their life at the school. We have begun with the value of creation and are celebrating the joy and power of music

currently and how song and dance can help us shape, manage and change our thoughts and feelings.

Finally, we spend time with our student's exploring life in all its joys and sadness, this we believe is living life in it's Fullness. For joy this term we will explore a nature walk, hug a tree and a role down the Aspenden Hill, as we introduce and remind students of the National Trust's challenge to complete 50 things to do before you are 11¾. During our walk we will stop to spend time in Aspenden Church at a service to Thank God for our harvest and for the beauty that surrounds us in our parish and Buntingford as a whole.

In supporting our students to build strength and resilience in managing the sadness of Life in all it's Fullness, the last part of our Vine tree metaphor talks to students about the fruits that if we get this work correct, they will bear. These are what we consider to be our virtues, respect, empathy, commitment and lastly courageous advocacy. A group of Year 8 boys modelled courageous advocacy to our younger students on October the 1st when they launched our first Fullness Day, a day when we stop to learn about a charity, local and/or global challenge and the amazing people that are trying to help and how we can. We raised funds for this charity to support their work. The boys chose to support Cancer Research UK, they have personal stories of why and how this impacted on their lives, and beautifully showed students that we can do something to support the researchers.

After all this work, we were really pleased our Siam's inspection in July recognised that " Edwinstree Church of England Middle School is living up to its

foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths."

- Edwinstree's Christian vision is reflected throughout the school's work. As a result, students and adults **flourish** in this distinctively Christian community.
- Leaders, including governors, are deeply committed to ensuring that students (including the most vulnerable) and adults enjoy fullness of Life. **This results in a caring and cohesive school community.**
- The student led 'dynamic diversity group' (DDG) is highly influential in the life of the school. The curriculum and ethos reflect the valuable work of the group.
- **Collective worship is carefully planned** to make **the school's Christian values alive and relevant.**
- This means that students and adults see the **values as important pillars of their own spirituality.**
- Adults and students show a profound commitment to **equity that is born** of the school vision. This makes the school a vibrant and caring community in which students considered vulnerable are given appropriate and comprehensive support.

We hope that the Buntingford community feels the pride we feel in our middle school and the beautiful children that pass through it. However tough times can be, we are so very grateful to be part of this community.

### **Our Christian Values:**

***Reverence, Wisdom, Thankfulness, Humility, Endurance, Service, Compassion, Trust, Peace, Forgiveness, Friendship, Justice, Hope, Creation, Community***



**Buntingford First School**  
Education for a changing world



# School **OPEN MORNINGS**

## **Looking for a Nursery or Reception place?**

We would be delighted to welcome you to visit our thriving school to see our high-quality nurturing education in action.

Tuesday 7th, 14th, 21st October 9.15am  
Tuesday 4th, 11th, 18th November 9.15am  
Tuesday 2nd, 9th December 9.15am

Book via our website [www.buntingfordfirstschool.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordfirstschool.co.uk)



Buntingford First School  
London Road  
Buntingford SG9 9HZ

tel: 01763 290350  
email: [admin@buntingfordfirstschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@buntingfordfirstschool.co.uk)  
[www.buntingfordfirstschool.co.uk](http://www.buntingfordfirstschool.co.uk)

# REED VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

## Quiz Night - Saturday 22nd November at 7pm

The days are growing cooler, the nights longer and the leaves are falling, so it must be time for Reed's Autumn Quiz Night.

As usual, Keith Taylor will be our quizmaster and a ploughman's supper and licensed bar will be laid on. We hope you can join us for this fun evening. Admission is just £15 per person.

To book, please contact Liz Jakeman  
[elizabethjakeman@live.co.uk](mailto:elizabethjakeman@live.co.uk)  
or 01763 848 398.

## Reed's Burns Night Supper - Saturday 17th January at 7pm

Chase away those January blues! Join us in Reed Village Hall for our Burns Night Supper in honour of the celebrated Scottish poet, Robbie Burns. Following tradition, we'll toast the haggis before tucking into a hot supper complemented by a licensed bar. Admission £20 per person.

To book, please contact Liz Jakeman  
[elizabethjakeman@live.co.uk](mailto:elizabethjakeman@live.co.uk) or 01763  
848 398.



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

*Celebrate the 'original' Santa at*

# SAINT NICHOLAS' FESTIVE FAIR

**FREE ENTRY**

**St Nicholas' Church**  
Horseshoe Lane, **Great Hormead**  
near **Buntingford** SG9 0NH

## Saturday 6th December 2025

### 10.00am - 3.30pm

**New day. Extended time. New selection of over 35 festive stalls.**  
Perfect for original Christmas gifts. Delicious refreshments.  
All in aid of St Nicholas' Church.



At our Comedy Night on 19th September, Michael Legge was our compere for the evening. A seasoned headliner, he has entertained across the globe. The Buntingford audience are a great crowd and always happy to provoke, respond and join in with the humour!

Nick Ellery provided a great start, with comedy related to his view of life in this country and the issues that growing old can bring.

Next up was Shazia Mirza. Shazia has done it all; The One Show, Jonathan Ross, Graham Norton, Loose Ends and the Infinite Monkey Cage. Unafraid to bare her soul and innermost thoughts, the audience immediately warmed towards her.

Last came Danny Ward. His observational humour is upbeat and well honed. Danny clicked with the audience and his brilliantly timed, slightly manic approach was supported by some great material. This was the perfect final act to round off an evening of wonderful entertainment here in Buntingford!

By complete contrast, on 25th September, St Mary's Church in Westmill provided a perfect tranquil setting for about 40 of Haileybury College's talented students to bring the capacity audience a most wonderful selection of music.

Under the guidance of the school's Director of Music, Richard Brain, Schola



Cantorum brought us a mix of repertoire from Haydn and Mozart to tunes by Queen and from the West End Shows. We also enjoyed solo pieces and clarinet and saxophone ensembles. This was a joyous celebration of youthful talent.

Another clear demonstration that we're bringing a wonderful range of creative events to our community, on the 11th October, we were delighted to welcome Miss Jones and her Jazz Band to give us a splendid evening of nostalgic numbers from the Great American Song Book Era.

Alex: vocals, John Elvin: Keys, Nigel Bailey: Bass, Geoff Byron: Drums and David Franklin: Sax swung us through the evening in great style with everyone in the hall toe-tapping and even a few taking to the floor to show off their dancing skills!

### **A Christmas Carol - Guy Masterson**

The wonderful Guy Masterson is coming back to Buntingford on **Friday 21st November 7:30pm** Seth Ward, Tickets £15, licensed bar (18)

Those of you who saw 'Under Milk Wood' will probably agree with The Times critic who wrote: This is the most fully realised performance of 'Under Milk Wood' that I have ever encountered. It was brilliant!

His rendering of 'A Christmas Carol' should be no less impressive.





If you love theatre, buy you tickets now!

**BUNTINGFORD LIVE!**  
Presents  
**RHYTHM AND BOOZE!**  
Featuring  
**THE BLUES REVIEW**  
PLUS HARMONICA PLAYER  
**KEITH PARKER**

**SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER**  
SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE  
Doors 7pm for an 8pm start  
The music will keep you groovin' till 11pm  
**OVER 18s ONLY**

**TICKETS £12**  
available from [buntingfordlive.org](http://buntingfordlive.org)  
or scan the code with your smart phone

LICENSED BAR AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

**BUNTINGFORD LIVE!**

**A Christmas Carol**  
performed by  
**Guy Masterson**

Guy returns to Buntingford with his critically acclaimed performance of Dickens' classic festive favourite.  
Adapted & Directed by Nick Hennegan  
Original Music by Robb Williams

7.30PM  
**FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER**  
SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE  
BUNTINGFORD SG9 9SG  
**TICKETS £15**

AVAILABLE ONLINE FROM  
[BUNTINGFORDLIVE.ORG](http://BUNTINGFORDLIVE.ORG)  
OR SCAN THE CODE

LICENSED BAR 18

Registered Charity Number: 121162





## Rhythm & Booze

**Saturday 29th November** 7pm for an 8pm start at Seth Ward, Tickets: £12, Licensed Bar (18)

This electrifying event brings together the soulful sounds of The Blues Review and master harmonica player Keith Parker, sharing the stage for a night of foot-stompin' soul-stirrin' blues!

### 'A Celebration of Christmas' at St. Richard of Chichester Church

**Friday 12th December**, 7pm, Tickets £3 to include wine and mince pie to be served in Benson Hall afterwards.

Donations will be welcomed for Homestart.

St. Edmund's School Choir with Andrew O'Brien carols, poems and audience participation.

For all our outline plans for 2026 please use our website: [buntingfordlive.org](http://buntingfordlive.org)

**BUNTINGFORD LIVE!**

A CELEBRATION OF  
**Christmas**

A selection of Christmas songs, carols and readings featuring pupils from St. Edmund's College

St. Richard of Chichester Church,  
Buntingford SG9 9HT  
Friday 12th December, 7pm





£3  
Price includes a glass of wine and mince pie, to be served in Benson Hall following the concert

Donations to Home-Start Buntingford will be gratefully received on the evening

**HOME START**  
Hertfordshire

Book online at [buntingfordlive.org](http://buntingfordlive.org) or scan the code

Registered Charity Number: 121162

# WHAT'S ON - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## NOVEMBER 2025

<b>Saturday 1st</b>	Film Club: Bridget Jones, Mad About the Boy
<b>Sunday 2nd</b>	Firework Night p.7
<b>Wednesday 5th</b>	Gardener's Club: Wreath Making p.18
<b>Saturday 8th</b>	Repair Cafe p.8
<b>Sunday 9th</b>	Remembrance Sunday
<b>Friday 17th</b>	Braughing Get Together: Gunpowder Plot p.20
<b>Thursday 13th</b>	WI: Christmas Crafts p.16
<b>Monday 10th</b>	U3A: Flanders Fields to the tower p.14
<b>Thursday 13th</b>	Library Slipper Swap p.10
<b>Saturday 15th</b>	Reed Church Honey Bees Talk
<b>Monday 16th</b>	Ward Freman Pool: Table Top Sale and Christmas Jumper Swap p.23
<b>Tuesday 11th</b>	History Society: Christmas Party p.24
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## LOOKING AHEAD

<b>5th Dec</b>	Buntingford Get Together: Winter Supper p.20
<b>6th Dec</b>	St Nicholas Festive Fair p.41
<b>6th Dec</b>	Film Club: Downton Abbey - The Grand Finale
<b>8th Dec</b>	U3A: Cappella Choir p.14
<b>11th Dec</b>	WI: Christmas Carols p.16
<b>12th Dec</b>	Buntingford Live!: A Celebration of Christmas p.42
<b>16th Dec</b>	Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch p.7
<b>17th Jan</b>	Reed Burns Night Supper p.41
<b>24th Jan</b>	Buntingford Repair Cafe p.8

# REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAYS:	TUESDAYS:	WEDNESDAYS	THURSDAYS:	FRIDAYS:	WEEKENDS:
<b>From 8.30am:</b> Buntingford Market	<b>7.30–9pm:</b> Braughing Sing Community Choir in Jenyn's School Hall	<b>Buntingford Meditation</b> Online at 8 pm and once a month in Saint Peter's Church. To join the group the best way is to contact me via the website - <a href="http://www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation">www.mindful-worklife.com/buntingford-meditation</a> New meditators are welcome and guidance is given on how to meditate in the sessions.	<b>10.30am–12.30:</b> Coffee & Company in the URC Church Hall		<b>Sun, 9am:</b> Norfolk Road Playing Fields Junior Parkrun
<b>10–11.45am:</b> Chatter Table at the Manor House – 1st & 3rd Mondays			<b>2–3pm:</b> Mind & Music at Standon & Puckeridge CC		<b>Sat, 10am:</b> Walking Football at the MUGA, Norfolk Road Playing Fields
Morning Coffee 10-12 St Peter's					
EVENTS IN THE LIBRARY:					
<b>10.30–11am &amp; 11:30 -12pm:</b> Baby Rhyme Time (songs, rhymes, actions and puppets, for ages 6 weeks to 3 years)	<b>10.30–12.30:</b> Jigsaw & Chat club	<b>11am:</b> Chair Yoga with Kim	<b>10.30 – 11am:</b> Storytime (storytelling with props, for ages 2-5 years)	<b>4-5pm:</b> Lego Club for children	
<b>11.45am–12.45pm:</b> Forever Cycling at the Community Centre -1st & 3rd		<b>10-11am</b> Chatter & Natter, Buntingford Coffee Shop			
<b>1.30 for 2pm:</b> Buntingford Senior Citizens' Club at URC Hall		<b>12- 4pm</b> Braughing Shed Group, The Barn at Brook Cottage Farm Fernaux Pelham SG9 0LL contact: <a href="mailto:jacquithorne664@gmail.com">jacquithorne664@gmail.com</a> or 07557 966 526			
<b>7.30–9:30pm:</b> Buntingford Community Choir at Millfield School					

# BUNTINGFORD ACTION FOR THE LESS ABLE (BALA)

Registered Charity No. 1094426

## MINIBUS TRIPS NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

DATE	TIME	DESTINATION	PRICE
<b>NOVEMBER</b>			
Wed 5th	10-2.30	Freeport Shopping Village, Braintree	£8
Tues 11th	9.30-1.30	Harlow	£7
Fri 14th	9.30-3	Bury St Edmunds	£12.50
Wed 19th	11.30	Pub Lunch	£5
Thurs 20th	10-3	Cambridge	£7.50
Wed 26th	9.30-3	Lakeside Shopping Centre, Thurrock (approx. journey time 1 hour)	£12
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
Mon 1st	10-2.30	St Ives	£8
Thurs 4th	10.30-2	Scotsdales Garden centre	£6.50
Wed 10th	9-3	Milton Keynes (approx. journey time 1 hr 15)	£13
Mon 15th	10.30-2.30	Bury Lane	£5
Wed 17th	11.30	Pub Lunch	£5

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

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

### COFFEE MORNING

**Friday 21st November, 10-11:30am**

(sausage rolls, cakes, raffle)

at **URC Hall, Baldock Road**

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More information is available on page A26 or go to <https://buntingfordjournal.uk/>

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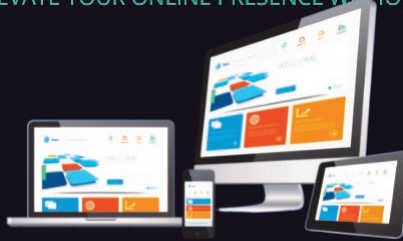
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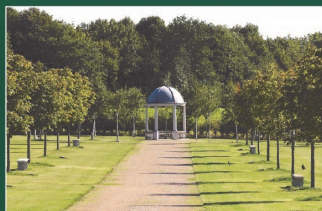
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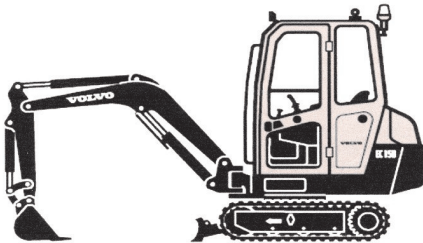


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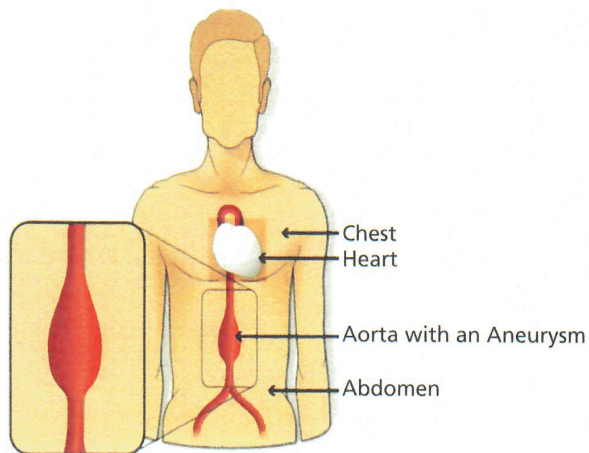
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# Buntingford Civic Society

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 and Town Cage once
- 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 Layston Cemetery and paid for works at the Layston Cemetery
- Erected Town Gateway signs complete with Planters and currently pay for the plants
- Contributed financially to the Fremam College sports hall, Buntingford Film Club, previous Buntingford Carnivals, Summer Arts in Buntingford 2022 weekend, and gave a grant to the Friends of the River Rib and Quin
- Paid for the Local History Group competition prizes in 2023
- Done River Rib and town cleans
- Fitted a sign in the Police Station Community Garden and paid for new plants there in 2019.
- Were actively involved with the production of the Neighbourhood Plan
- Arranged Buntingford in Bloom competitions
- Updated the circular walks on local footpaths leaflet in 2017
- In 2024 paid for roses and a plaque in memory of Queen Elizabeth II and for the Coronation of King Charles III at the new cemetery
- Hosted 2 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. Are now sourcing a replacement plaque for The Cage Are looking to host a third Civic Day Walk, arrange a fifth Buntingford in Bloom competition and be part of a D Day commemoration event in May

**TO JOIN PLEASE SEE THE MEMBERSHIP FORM ON OUR WEBSITE**  
**[www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk](http://www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk)**

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# Carers in Hertfordshire Support Hub

## Buntingford 2025

**Where:** Buntingford Town Council (The Manor House),  
High Street, Buntingford, SG9 9AB

**When:** Last Tuesday of each month,  
10.30am-12.30pm

*A community for unpaid carers*

Come along and meet other family and friend carers, share your views, and find out what help is available locally.

28th Jan	25th Feb	25th Mar	29th Apr	27th May	24th Jun
29th Jul	26th Aug	30th Sept	28th Oct	25th Nov	No meeting in Dec

One of our Carer Support Advisors will provide 1:1 appointments at some 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.**

**To contact us:**

**Call: 01992 58 69 69**

**Email: [contact@carersinherts.org.uk](mailto:contact@carersinherts.org.uk)**

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



*making carers count*

# Advertising in the Buntingford Journal

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

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

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

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

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

For more information call Keith Edwards on 01763 272 032 or email [advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk](mailto:advertising@buntingfordcivic.org.uk)

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

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CARE HOME

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### **Layston Grove offers:**

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For more information, please contact a member of our friendly team on **01763 580 069** or visit **[www.anchor.org.uk/LaystonGrove](http://www.anchor.org.uk/LaystonGrove)**



\*carehome.co.uk scores are based on independent reviews with a maximum score of 10. Rating correct as at 11/06/2025.



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[hertsdomesticabusehelpline.org](http://hertsdomesticabusehelpline.org)

Call freephone 08 088 088 088  
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 Or confidential email: [kim@malpurple.org](mailto:kim@malpurple.org)

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Supported by charity no. 1040799 <sup>1</sup> 'Rural and Connected' commissioned by Julia McHugh, Chair of the National Rural Crime Network & Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire.

**NEW!**

**Buntingford Men's Shed Group**

**NEW!**

Tuesday 24 June  
 2.00pm-4.00pm

The Manor House, Buntingford  
 - then every Tuesday -

We are starting a **Men's Shed** in Buntingford. Whilst we are looking for a suitable venue we are going to hold regular weekly meet ups.

Come and join us to hear about our plans, share ideas for projects and meet other 'shedders'.

*A Men's Shed encourages people to come together to make, repair and repurpose, supporting projects in their local communities.*

UK Men's Sheds Association

**Contact Phil for more information:**

email: [philricketts@btinternet.com](mailto:philricketts@btinternet.com)  
 phone: 07896 860769



part of  
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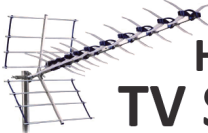
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### Fitness Pilates

Tuesday 10am / Wednesday 6:30pm / Thursday 10am via ZOOM  
Monday 7:15pm Layston School, Buntingford (with Cardio HIIT £10)  
Wednesday 7:15pm Layston School (£6 or with strength HIIT £10)  
Friday 10am The Scout Hut (£6 or with Full Body Workout £10)

A class that increases muscular balance and strength, improve posture, core and back strength

### Variety Full Body Workouts

Cardio HIIT Mon 6:30pm Layston School (£6 / £10 with Pilates at 7:15)  
HIIT Wednesday 6pm / Sunday 10am via ZOOM  
Strength HIIT Wed 6:30pm Layston School (£6 or £10 with Pilates)  
Full Body Friday 11am The Scout Hut (£6 or £10 with Pilates at 10am)

Cardio (non impact or impact), Strength, Toning & Balance, each week a different class

### Dance Fit

Thursday 9:15am Seth Ward Community Centre (£6)

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ZOOM classes available as pay £5 or £20 per month subscription  
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Royston Group is led by a band of experienced leaders, so all you need to do as a member, is turn up at a set time and location, generally within 20 miles of Royston, and enjoy the walk.

If you are interested, come along and see how you get on, with no obligation to join. You can view our walks programme and contact the walk leader, at [www.ramblers.org.uk/royston](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/royston) and they will be pleased to welcome you or tel: 07734 111225 for further details.

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*Jill Jones-Town Clerk, The Manor House, Buntingford, Herts., SG9 9AB.*

*Or email : [clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@buntingford-tc.gov.uk) Telephone: 01763 272 222*

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Our Digital Champions will teach you how to do simple things such as:

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- Access virtual appointments
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## **Location:**

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

## **Mondays**

**10:30am to 12:00pm**

13th January, 10th February,  
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