

OCTOBER CONTENTS

Almshouse Vacancy	10
Ashfords and Carters Close Christmas Bazaar	16
BALA Minibus Trips	44
BALFF – New courses	33
Bramble Hill Children’s Centre	23
Braughing Music Society & Braughing Drama Group	48
Buntingford Civic Society – Have a Voice	10
Buntingford Classic Cars 2012	14
Buntingford Cougars & Fun Quiz Night	40
Buntingford & District Cage Bird Society Annual Show	11
Buntingford Gardeners Club	45
Buntingford In Old Photographs	8
Buntingford Social Club	38
Buntingford Town Council	22
Buntingford Town Football Club	46
Buntingford Twinning Association – The Big Autumn Quiz	45
Buntingford WI	47
Church Services	18
Curwens – Is Your Job Safe?	28
Diary of Events – October	2–5
East Herts Citizens Advice Bureau – The Benefit Cap	29
Editor’s Letter	7
Edwinstree Middle School	20
Francesi String Quartet – Concert in Reed	21
Friends of Orchard Surgery – Annual Craft Fair	16
Friends of Westmill Church – Concert by Welwyn Community Choir	30
Guy Bush Flies Solo at 16	17
Hertfordshire Constabulary	47
Herts Air Ambulance	39
I Was Just a Happy Kid! – Memories of Buckland Village Life (Part 2)	26
Isabel Hospice	31
Layston C of E First School & Quiz Night	32
Letters to the Editor	8
Martin & Mandy – Elephants	24
Millfield First and Nursery School	34
Oliver Heald MP – surgery for constituents at the Manor House	11
Profile of Steve Hall	12
Quiz Nights	11, 16, 33, 41, 45
Reed Autumn Quiz 2012	16
Royal British Legion Quiz Night – Poppy Appeal 2012	11
Royston and District Ramblers – Walks for October	30
Something to Treasure	37
Teresa Bonner – Mr Snappy	27
Useful Local Information	6
U3A Buntingford	36
Vyse – ‘I will put you through...’ Arrghhh!!!!	42

DIARY OF EVENTS – OCTOBER

MONDAYS

- 10:00am – 12 noon Multi Activity Group at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Dave Austin on 01763 272066.
- 10:30am – 12 noon Iyengar Yoga Classes at URC Hall – term time only. Contact Jen Harris on 01920 821288.
- 10:00 & 10:45am Stretch'n'Grow – 10:00am session for 18 months to 2 yrs; 10:45 for over 2s. At Seth Ward Community Centre. £2 per family. 01763 273008
- 1:30pm – 3:00pm Stay & Play at Jenyns First School, Braughing. £1 per family. 01763 273008.
- 1:30pm – 3:30pm Senior Citizens Club at URC Hall, Baldock Road. Bingo and an afternoon of socialising. For more information contact Jeanne Clark on 01763 274631.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Cougars Under 7s training, Norfolk Road. Andy on 07941 078069.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Shotokan Karate at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Peter Deacon on 01462 642922.
- 7:00pm Play Bridge for experienced players at Buntingford Bowls Club. £2.50 per session. Contact Gwen on 01763 272775 or Eddie on 07976 896718.
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm Pilates at Benson Hall. Contact Jacqui on 01763 274681.
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm Abs (body toning) session at Fit Together Gym, Buntingford. Contact Al on 07739 131694.
- 7:30pm – 9:00pm Buntingford Community Choir at Edwinstree School, Bowling Green Lane. No need to read music, no auditions, just bring your enthusiasm! For more details call 07814 912595 or email buntingfordchoir@gmail.com.
- 7:30pm – 9:45pm Buntingford & District Youth Club for young people aged 13–19 years, held at the Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Contact Nick Howell on 07789 92764 or email nick.howell@hertsc.gov.uk.
- 8:00pm – 9:30pm BALFF 6-week course (started 17 Sept), 'Exploring Cambridge', at the Community Centre, Luynes Rise. For further details phone Julia on 01763 272584 or Joan on 01763 273341.
- 8:15pm Circuit Training at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact 01920 823677.

TUESDAYS

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

WHAT'S ON

WEDNESDAYS

- 9:30 – 11:15am Hornead Baby and Toddler Group at Hornead Village Hall. Term time only. From birth to 4 years. Lots of toys, activities, arts and crafts and singing. £1.50 per child, includes a drink and snack; 50p for additional children. Contact Liz Pickup on 01763 289446, or just turn up.
- 10:00am – 11:00am Story Sacks at Jenyns First School, Braughing. £1 per child. 01763 273008.
- 10:30am BALFF 10-week course (started 26 Sept), 'Volcanoes & Vikings: Introducing Iceland', at the Community Centre, Luynes Rise. For further details see page 33 or phone Julia on 01763 272584 or Joan on 01763 273341.
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm Cougars Under 10s training, Norfolk Road. Martin on 07834 318518.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm Circuit Training for 50+ at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Cougars Under 11s training, Norfolk Road. Sean on 07860 365681
- 7:00pm – 9:15pm Shinto Judo Club: under 16s 7:00 – 8:00pm; over 16s 8:00 – 9:15pm. At Buntingford & District Youth Club, Technical Institute, Baldock Road. Contact Mark Teal 07974 458127 or Gavin Shand 07958 797005, email gavin.shand@uk.verizonbusiness.com. Or visit www.shintojudo.co.uk.
- 7:30pm – 8:30pm Body Circuit classes at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Rita on 07957 558782.
- 7:30pm – 8:15pm Boxercise/Tae Bo session at Fit Together Gym, Buntingford. Contact Al on 07739 131694.
- 8:00pm – 9:00pm Cougars Under 16s training, Norfolk Road. Mike 01763 271750.
- 8:00pm Horizon Divers at Freman Pool. Contact 01920 823955.

THURSDAYS

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

... Continued

DIARY OF EVENTS – OCTOBER

THURS (cont.)

- 6:15pm – 7:00pm Jazzercise Class at Seth Ward Community Centre.
- 7.30pm Buntingford Karate Club, Edwinstree School Gym. Contact Bill Hooper 01763 273123.
- 7:45pm – 9:45pm Buntingford Badminton Club at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact Liz James on 01763 274010.

FRIDAYS

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

SATURDAYS

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

SUNDAYS

- 2:45pm – 5:00pm Until 14th Oct. Tea at St Mary the Virgin Church, Braughing (see page 18).

MON–FRI

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

If you would like to have your event in the Diary of Events pages, please contact **Christine Noble** 01763 273095
email: Journal@buntingfordcivic.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPT 2012

To Sun 30th Royston Arts Festival. See website for details: roystonartsfestival.org

OCT 2012

- Tues 2nd 8:00pm. Buntingford & District Cage Bird Society at Benson Hall.
- Wed 3rd 7:30pm. Buntingford Gardeners Club at URC Hall (see page 45).
- Sun 7th 10.00am–4.00pm. Antiques & Vintage Fair at Barkway Village Hall, SG8 8BS. Entry £1. Homemade cakes & refreshments. All enquires Rosei Frost 07912322538 or email info@flapperfortunes.co.uk
- Thurs 11th 7:45pm. Buntingford W.I. at URC Hall (see page 47).
- Sat 13th 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – Bingo at Benson Hall.
- Sat 13th 7:30pm. Welwyn 'Singing for Pleasure' Community Choir – in aid of Friends of Westmill Church roof appeal (see page 30).
- Sat 13th 7:00 for 7:30pm. Buntingford Twinning Association Big Autumn Quiz at Benson Hall (see page 45).
- Sat 13th 7:30pm. Buntingford Cougars Fun Quiz Night at the Bury (see page 41).
- Sun 14th Buntingford Railway & Local History Society – walking the Buntingford Track Bed.
- Wed 17th 10:30–12:00noon. BALA coffee morning at Benson Hall (see page 44).
- Fri 19th 8:00pm. Buntingford Railway & Local History Society at the Crown PH. John Blaxhill – 'The History of Wickhams of Ware'.
- Sat 20th 7:30pm. The Francesi String Quartet in concert at St Mary's Church, Reed (see page 21).
- Sat 20th 7:30 for 8:00pm start. Layston School PTA Quiz Night (see page 33).
- Fri 26th 5:00–6:30pm. Oliver Heald MP surgery at the Manor House
- Sat 27th 1:00–4:30pm. Buntingford & District Cage Bird Annual Show at Benson Hall (see page 11).
- Sat 27th 8:00pm. Royal British Legion Quiz Night at Benson Hall. All profits to the Poppy Appeal 2012 (see page 11).
- Wed 31st 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – Bingo at Benson Hall.
- Wed 31st 7:30pm. Buntingford & District Flower Club – Carole Johnston presents 'Curves, Lines and Shapes'. At Benson Hall; parking at rear of hall, entrance through Rib Way. Visitors welcome. Doors open 7:00pm.

Nov 2012

- Sat 3rd 10:00am–3:00pm. Friends of Orchard Surgery Annual Craft Fair (page 16).
- Fri 9th Reed Autumn Quiz (see page 16)
- Sat 10th 11:00am–2:00pm. Ashford & Carters Close Christmas Bazaar (page 16).

USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION

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

EDITOR'S LETTER

Autumn is suddenly upon us. Personally I love it – and so does my dog, Toby, for whom summer can be too hot to have fun. What I do miss are the light evenings, but at least I don't have to commute in the dark any more. It's hard to believe but it is almost a year since I took over as Journal editor and more than a year since I was made redundant from my job in London. This month the article from Curwens offers some useful information for anyone facing the prospect of redundancy. I would very much support their statement that redundancy is not the end of the world. It can be a new beginning.

Someone else features in the Journal this month who might also back that up – Steve Hall. Steve has been one of the most helpful, kind and well-known residents of the town for more than 30 years, but sadly for Buntingford Steve and his wife Hilary are shortly leaving us to move up to Yorkshire. So I sent my new roving reporter (aka my husband John Makin!) to interview Steve and you can read his story on pages 12–13. As it happens, Steve and Hilary are our neighbours, so John didn't have to go far, but if you know someone who you think should be the subject of a Journal profile, why not get in touch? John would be very happy to come along and have a chat.

Also this month, we have the second instalment of Sandra's memories of her childhood, but that's not the end of the story! I have received some feedback from her brother, Colin, and next month you can read what he has to say about Sandra's version of events.

I attended Jed Griffith's presentation on the Buntingford Town Plan at the Manor House, which was very interesting stuff – you can read a little more about it in the BCS article on page 10 and read the whole thing on the BCS website. What came out of it above all was that if we want to have an influence on future development then it's vital to agree as a town on what it is we actually want. Doing nothing is not an option!

Finally, as I was walking back up Hare Street Road the other day, I was struck, not for the first time, by what a good job the builders made of updating the Old Vicarage on the corner next to the Co-op. They turned a run-down (almost falling down!) old house into three beautiful new homes. I don't know who the builders are (perhaps someone could enlighten me?), but well done to them!

Christine Noble

Many thanks to Debbie Lemay for proofreading

**Editorial copy deadline for the November 2012 Journal is
12.00 noon on Tuesday 16th October 2012**

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

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

Letters to the Editor

Dear Christine

I would like to draw your attention, and that of Journal readers, to a Facebook page I have set up in order to upload the collection of old Buntingford photographs my late father, Philip W Plumb, had amassed. Anyone with internet access can view the photographs, they don't need to be a Facebook member. Simply go to:

www.facebook.com/BuntingfordInOldPhotographs

There is still a large number of photographs to be uploaded, so the site will be updated regularly. I hope Journal readers will have a look and remember to check back every so often to see the latest additions.

Best wishes, Alison Piano



Editor's Note: I can wholeheartedly recommend Alison's Facebook site to anyone interested in the history of Buntingford and the surrounding villages. It is a fascinating and varied collection of photographs of people and places down through the years, from the earliest days of photography to more recent times. The image above particularly caught my eye, showing an atmospheric Market Hill on an autumn day in the 1950s.

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

CONGRATULATIONS & WELL DONE!

to REED VILLAGE CRICKET CLUB on winning
this year's Yorkshire Tea NATIONAL VILLAGE CUP
in a final played at Lord's, the home of cricket.

Dear Christine

May I use the letters column to say just how grateful I am to the good people who organised the Classic Car Show. How it has grown from relatively humble beginnings to the major event it is today, bringing exciting vehicles from near and far! This year's was the best yet in my book, and my favourite amongst the excellent Buntingford events of this busy year. So thanks once again for a great day.

Yours sincerely,
John Makin

Dear Christine

With a great summer of Olympics and Paralympics now sadly over, the motto 'INSPIRE A GENERATION' must live on. So why not let Buntingford take the lead?

I am asking ALL sports clubs and organisations in Buntingford to have an open weekend/week and allow everybody to come along to try a sport. The clubs should co-ordinate their openings so that all sports clubs are open at the same time. A mass feature in the press and possibly on radio/TV to inform the world would surely put Buntingford on the map. I would also hope that the Buntingford Schools and the Buntingford Town Council could get involved and allow their facilities to be made available to be used by all. This cannot be hard to organise. We must make sport a priority for young and old alike to keep the nation healthy and encourage future winners. We have the facilities – let's use them.

Yours,
Ashley Cantor
49 Fairfield, Buntingford

Hi All

Firstly if I have already spoken to you about my climb of Ben Bevis on 29th September in aid of Breast Cancer Care and you have made a donation thank you very much for supporting me. Apologies if you have received this request twice, but I would ask you, please, to take the time to continue reading and hopefully to help me achieve my fundraising target of £500. Most of us have friends or family members who have been touched by this dreadful disease and can appreciate the fantastic work and support that Breast Cancer Care provide. Would you consider helping me to raise funds for this worthy cause? You can make a donation through my justgiving page – www.justgiving.com/leighwood1 – or if you prefer you can donate in cash and I will pay that money into the justgiving page on your behalf. You can contact me at: 4 Whatbarns Cottages, Westmill, Herts SG9 9NJ. Thank you very much for taking the time to read this.

Very best regards,
Leigh Wood

Editor's note: This request came to me by email. I hope Journal readers do not mind my reproducing Leigh's plea here – it's in a good cause.



Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)



HAVE A VOICE – A PROFESSIONAL ONE

The presentation on the Town Plan by Jed Griffiths, MA DipTP FRTPLI, at the Manor House was an outstanding success and more than fulfilled the Civic Society's objective of meeting the Town Council's request for feedback on the recently published Town Plan. Attendees included Mayor Stan Bull, Cllr. John Warren, Jill Jones Town Clerk, representatives of BARD, the BCS Executive Committee and numerous townfolk with an interest in the future of Buntingford.

The presentation is too long to reproduce here but can be viewed on the Civic Society website and it is well worthwhile downloading it for future reference and use.

There are three recommendations in the paper which are summarised below. The situation is that at this stage a Neighbourhood Plan is not the first choice for action, but that the third recommendation should be promptly taken up in order to establish an agreed strategy and objectives against which to appraise the East Herts Council plan for Buntingford. The lead on this must come from Manor House and our elected representatives.

Recommendation 1: That the Town Council, together with the Civic Society and other local organisations should debate whether or not a formal Neighbourhood Plan is appropriate for Buntingford.

Recommendation 2: That, should the decision be made to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan, the Town Council should discuss with other organisations and neighbouring parishes the extent of the area to be designated.

Recommendation 3: That, in the immediate future, the Town Council, together with the Civic Society and other local organisations, should scrutinise the emerging policies and proposals in the East Herts District and formulate a clear view on an appropriate strategy for the future planning of Buntingford.

Derek K Cooper, Chairman.

www.buntingfordcivic.org.uk

ALMSHOUSE VACANCY

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

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

Oliver Heald MP

will be hosting a surgery for his constituents at
**The Manor House, Buntingford, on
Friday, 26th October 2012
5:00 to 6:30pm**

The Royal British Legion Buntingford Branch QUIZ NIGHT

**Saturday October 27th 2012
at Benson Hall 8.00pm**

Fish / Chicken & Chips / Licensed Bar / Raffle

Tickets £10

All profits to The RBL Poppy Appeal

**Please contact Di Bamford Hon Sec after
Oct 9th (I am away until then) on 01763 848481**



**POPPY
APPEAL
2012**

BUNTINGFORD & DISTRICT CAGE BIRD SOCIETY 1956-2012

ANNUAL CAGE BIRD SHOW

Saturday 27th October

At Benson Hall, Buntingford, 1:00 to 4:30pm

ENTRY FREE / TEAS / RAFFLE / BIRDS FOR SALE

Thank you for your support

The club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at Benson Hall at 8:00pm.
New members welcome. Enquires to the Secretary, Mr W Lodge, on 01920 438482.

A Profile of Steve Hall

Buntingford will shortly be losing one of its more prominent citizens, Steve Hall, who with his wife Hilary is moving to Yorkshire to be closer to their daughter and granddaughter. Steve has done so much for and in the town we could not let him go without the tribute of a Journal profile.

Steve was born in 1947 and grew up in Hoddesdon, where he went to Rye Park Junior, Hazelwood, and Hoddesdon Secondary schools. His favourite subjects were art and carpentry, although he had to drop the carpentry in fifth form as it was not considered 'academic' enough. He also joined the Cubs and Scouts, an association which has followed him throughout his life. One day, while he was dreaming out of the window in the geography class, the teacher asked him to explain himself; Steve replied that he was deciding his future career and wanted to see all the places the teacher had been talking about. And so he joined the Royal Navy.

In September 1964 he left home and joined the RN Fleet Air Arm as an aircraft handler, and trained in rescue from crashed jet fighters. Tough training: one exercise involved jumping into a large vat of blazing aircraft fuel to rescue a dummy, after which Steve, aflame, had to be 'extinguished' himself, of course wearing a flameproof suit. He spent three years on the carrier HMS *Victorious* and three years at HMS *Heron*, RNAS Yeovilton in Somerset.

While his ship was in Portsmouth he met Hilary, a children's nurse in Gosport. They saw each other four times before *Victorious* sailed for the Far East, and he was away for the next 14 months. Three months after his return they got engaged, and they married in Salisbury in 1968.

In 1968 Steve was also 'on stage' at the Royal Tournament. Initially he was part of a field gun crew, but a broken wrist meant a transfer to the Naval Display Team. Owing to navy cutbacks, in 1970 Steve was made redundant and the young couple moved back to live in Hoddesdon, until an opportunity arose in 1971 to move to a maisonette in the Tannery in Buntingford. The day they arrived, the shops were all shut by the time they had moved in. Desperate for a cuppa, Steve went on a hunt for milk and managed to beg a pint from the landlord of the Jolly Sailors – one of the few times that a first pint at the Sailors was milk! Later, in 1975, they moved to Hare Street Road, where they have lived ever since.



Hilary and Steve – 44 years together and counting.

Steve soon took over the running of the Buntingford and District bar billiards club; in those days there were tables in the Railway, the Crown and the Jolly Sailors as well as in pubs

in the surrounding villages and Hertford. Alas, the tables were not owned by the pubs, but rented, and when the owners tried to hike the rental prices most pubs let the tables go and the club folded.

Steve was also the mainstay of the Red Cross Centre in Bridgefoot House, training juniors in first aid which he had learnt in the Navy. This went well for six months and was approved by a Red Cross inspector who, however, insisted that Steve should wear their uniform, which he felt unable to do as he was not an official member of the Red Cross. So they closed the whole thing down!

At this time he was working for an advertising agency with a manufacturing arm, which moved into the Manor House on Market Hill. It folded in 1976 and Steve joined Group 4 security at Rank Radio in Ware. Then a year later he joined Allen and Hanbury pharmaceuticals, also in Ware, again in security, and over 27 years and many mergers, he eventually became Security Manager at Glaxo Smith Kline in Stevenage.

During this time Steve and Hilary's daughter Katie was born in 1979 and son Richard in 1984. Over the same period Steve part-timed as a Retained Fire Fighter in Buntingford, dealing with A10 traffic accidents, which were on the increase, field fires – in those days farmers still burned stubble – and the odd chimney fire when the hose *usually* went down the right chimney, but there was the odd mishap when a neighbour's fireplace got flooded! Steve was also on the Buntingford Heritage Committee, putting on displays of Buntingford interest in the Manor House. In 1991 son Richard joined Buntingford Cubs, and Steve joined too as assistant leader, a post he has just relinquished after 21 years.

In 2004, after being made redundant by GSK, Steve decided on a complete change of direction and became a cycling instructor for Herts County Council road safety department, but first he had to go out and buy a bike! Having had no real training in the job, he was assured that someone would be with him on his first appointment at Roundhay School in Stevenage. Nobody turned up, so he ran the Level 1 playground course using his wits and a book. Since then he has trained several thousand Hertfordshire schoolchildren in Level 2 bikeability.

In 2006 he took on the job of caretaker at Layston First School and in 2007 became caretaker at Millfield School, too. He says this is the best job he has ever had and that it's the kids who make it so enjoyable. Of course, many of them are his Cubs, too. Does this make him the most recognised face in Buntingford? He has, naturally, run cycling courses for the children at both schools, and also devised a scooter training course for the younger children at Millfield – quite possibly a first in our region if not the nation!

In his spare time he has been on the committee of the Buntingford Memorial Charity, the Alms House Trust and the Carnival Committee, and he also runs the Do Your Own Art group at the Community Centre, open to all who would just like to get out of the house for a bit and practice whatever their preferred art form may be. For devising a programme of talks to schools on aspects of fire safety, which markedly reduced the number of minor fire incidents, Steve received a Fire Service commendation. He also received a commendation for services to scouting from Peter Duncan, Chief Scout.

Sadly, the only permanence in life is change, and in October Steve and Hilary are making a big change in their lives by moving to Ripon in Yorkshire, where they will be near their daughter and granddaughter Bess. Richard has no current plans to leave Buntingford, however, so we can be sure of seeing Steve and Hilary on return visits from time to time, and of course at some of the Buntingford events. We wish them every happiness in their new home, and thank Steve for all he has done for our town.

Buntingford Classic Cars 2012

This year two new sponsors, Autofix of Buntingford and MJ Warner of Hare Street, helped the Classic to go with a bang and achieve its biggest turn out yet. Once again we were treated to the sights and sounds of hundreds of interesting vehicles descending upon our quiet corner of Hertfordshire. Cars, bikes, tractors, even a Green Goddess fire engine – the range and scale of vehicles was truly amazing and there was not a single area that was not packed to capacity. The crowd that turned out was a sight to behold – surely the Town has never been so busy. And the weather was kind yet again – we have been so lucky this year with all our events.

There was certainly enough on show for the crowds to talk about in between listening to the many bands providing musical entertainment on the day. We even had belly dancers as an added attraction! Food and drink were plentiful from barbecues, hog roasts and street vendors, and all in all the day was a tremendous success. Every available space for vehicles was used –

the whole of the High Street, Market Hill and the Manor House car park were full and much of the pavement area was filled with a huge variety of motorbikes.



Above and left: John eyeing up the bikes!



The front garden of the old Grammar School was home to a superb display of vintage vehicles courtesy of local enthusiast Iain Thomas and his band of NUTS (the Nostalgic and Unusual Transport Society). The north end of the High Street was as usual filled with an impressive array of American cars and trucks and the obligatory Harley Davidsons. The Manor House car park housed the Green Goddess fire engine along with an impressive



My personal favourite of the NUTS Vintage cars! Ed.

array of farm vehicles. The Royal British Legion had their stand here again and raised £450 for Help for Heroes – a tremendous amount for a tremendous cause.

The Bluesmobile (from the Blues Brothers film) made its noisy entrance and proceeded to the Church Street stage where it proved a perfect foil for the Fremantle All Stars set. A more sedate but thoroughly entertaining performance was given by the Buntingford Choir.

Thanks must go to all the people who brought along their special vehicles to share them and their enthusiasm with us. Thanks also to everyone who came to support the event – there was not one single incident that marred what was a very special day. And special thanks to our two new sponsors – Autofix and MJ Warner. Their participation enabled the event to be just that bit more special this year.

There was the usual prize-giving towards the end of the day with the awards going to:

AUTOFIX Award for best car – Glenn Klein, Chevrolet Impala, presented by Simon Druce of Autofix

Dickie Burrell Award for best bike – John Hutchin, Jaguar trike, presented by Poppy Burrell

MJ Warner Award for best paintwork – Jonathan Smith, Dax Cobra, presented by Rob Walker of M J Warner

J Oliver Radley Award for the vehicle most liked to drive home in – Daniel Smith and his Dax Cobra

MY Computer Services Award for most interesting vehicle – John Dynes and his Mini Pickup

Brian Juniper Chairman's Choice Award – David Fitch and his D Type Jaguar

Final thanks must go to the organising committee and helpers without whom this event would be impossible to run. The organising committee look forward to welcoming everybody back next year. Put the date in your diary now – Saturday 7th September.

Graham Bonner



The world-famous Bluesmobile



One of several very special Jaguars on display!

Photo: Jeff Jones

Friends of Orchard Surgery

ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 3rd November, 2012

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

At Benson Hall, Buntingford

* Crafts * Bric-a-Brac * Cakes * Cards * Refreshments *
* Tombola * Raffle * Entrance FREE

REED AUTUMN QUIZ 2012

In Reed Village Hall on Friday 9th November

Bar and Raffle

**Fish and Chips £10.00 – ring Di to reserve your
supper (essential) 01763 848481**

ASHFORDS AND CARTERS CLOSE

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday

November 10th

11am until 2pm

Entrance in Garden Road

**SOUP AND A ROLL NEW AND NEARLY NEW
CAKE STALL TOMBOLA RAFFLE REFRESHMENTS**



GUY BUSH FLIES SOLO AT JUST 16

Guy Bush from Buntingford made his first solo glider flight on his 16th birthday. Guy, who is a Year E student at Freman College, joined Cambridge Gliding Centre's cadet scheme in June 2011. After taking lessons in dual-control gliders with the club's expert instructors for 15 months, he reached the minimum age to fly on his own on Friday 7th September.

He was given the day off school specially for his first solo. After a couple of final check flights, CGC instructor Julian Bane confirmed that Guy was ready to fly on his own. Guy then made two short solo flights, watched by his whole family. When he came down, Guy had this to say: 'That was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I'm over the moon. It's been my life dream to become a pilot, so it's unbelievable that I've actually gone solo on my 16th birthday. I'd like to thank everyone who's helped me achieve this.'

Julian Bane said: 'Guy's flying is well above the standard required for a solo flight. It's a delight to see him enjoying the freedom and responsibility of flying a glider on his own.' Cambridge Gliding Club Chairman Paul Ruskin commented: 'Our sport is open to both adults and youngsters, and with the proper training many young people safely fly solo before they can legally drive a car. The club welcomes anyone who would like to become a pilot, whether they have previous experience or not.'

The cadet scheme, which enabled Guy to learn to fly, is open to boys and girls between 14 and 18 years of age. Cadet membership is subsidised, and costs £70 per year. Flying charges are also reduced for cadet members. The club operates from Gransden Lodge Airfield, Longstowe Road, Little Gransden, Beds SG19 3EB. For more information check out the Cambridge Gliding Centre website, or contact Paul Ruskin (paul@ruskin.me.uk, 07768 615278) or Andrew Watson (awatson@cantab.net, 07710 469624).



Instructor Julian Bane congratulates Guy Bush after his first solo flight

Photo: Andy Butterworth



CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH BALDOCK ROAD BUNTINGFORD

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

MORNING WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY AT 11:00AM

September	30	Morning Worship	Rev Duncan Goldie
October	7	Morning Worship	Dr Janet Bottoms
	14	Holy Communion	Rev Duncan Goldie
	21	Morning Worship	Rev Prof D M Thompson
	28	Morning Worship	Rev Duncan Goldie
November	4	Morning Worship	Dr Jeffrey Barham

The next Christ Church, Church meeting, will be held on Sunday 28th October following the morning service. This will take the form of a bring and share lunch with the meeting itself being held after the meal.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

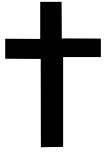
Visit our website at www.buntingfordurc.freeserve.co.uk

St Mary the Virgin Church, Braughing

Every Sunday until 14th October from 2:45 until 5:00pm

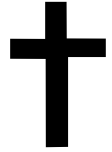
you are welcome at the Church Rooms in Braughing for **Sunday Tea**.

All our cakes are home-made locally. You may also be able to buy home-made jams and marmalade and Braughing Friars Honey from our Country Stall.



United Benefice of

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



Reverend Ian Hill – Telephone 01763 274072

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

Services for October

Wed 3 rd	9:30am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Sun 7 th	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	10:00am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Family Service – Harvest Festival
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 14 th	9:30am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
Sun 21 st	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 28 th	9:30am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Morning Worship
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship

ST. RICHARD OF CHICHESTER

Catholic Church

3 Station Road, Buntingford Telephone 01763 271471

Parish Priest: Father Ian Dickie

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

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

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

Saturdays at 6:00pm at Furneux Pelham

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





Edwinstree Middle School

September saw the start of a new school year and the return of pupils and staff, together with the arrival of our new Year 5. They very quickly settled in, getting used to their new surroundings and making new friends.

We were delighted to see how well our ex-pupils have done in their GCSE and A level exams. We wish them well in their further studies whether at Freman or University, and also would like to send our best wishes to those either taking a gap year undertaking voluntary work or starting a career.

To celebrate Edwinstree's 40th Anniversary, the whole school will be attending a special service in St Albans Cathedral on Thursday October 18th. A commemorative stained glass window, designed by pupils, will be officially unveiled in the afternoon. If anyone who was at Edwinstree in 1972 would like to join us, you would be most welcome – please telephone the school office on 01763 271446.

Looking ahead, Year 6 are going on a 5-day residential visit to Shropshire, where they will take part in a variety of activities: abseiling, high ropes, blind trail and BMX riding. They will also fit in a tour of the Blists Hill Victorian Town in Telford to complement their Humanities studies. Here they will discover Victorian shops, cottages and workplaces.

Inspired by the 'Immortality' exhibition staged at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, all members of the school community are making a terracotta statue of themselves, 500 in all! We look forward to completing the project by the end of term.



New Boys: Members of Year 5, 2012 (above).



And New Girls: Year 5 pupils working on their terracotta statues (above and below).



Our Open Evening this term is on Thursday 4th October at 6.45pm. For those unable to attend on that date, we also have an Open Morning on Wednesday 17th October, 10.30am–12.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Diane George



Sorry guys – we got your band's name wrong last month. As you, your friends and your fans all know, you are, of course, 'Kept in the Dark'.

The Francesi String Quartet

In concert

At St Mary's Church, Reed

Saturday 20th October 2012 at 7.30pm

Tickets: £10.00 to include a glass of wine

Licensed Bar

Programme to include Mendelssohn's String Quartet and Mozart's Clarinet Quintet.

Tickets from Liz Jakeman, 848398



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

The Multi Games Area is now being used in the evenings by a variety of local football clubs. There are currently two free slots: 7.30pm to 8.30pm Mondays and 7.30pm onwards on a Friday. If your club is interested in hiring the facility, please call on the number below.

The Town Council allocates a grant budget every year to assist local clubs and organisations. There has been great demand on these funds this year and to date we have helped The Fire Station, Community Garden, Charity Football Match, Horizon Divers, Town Football Club, Senior Citizens Club, Edwinstree School, Buntingford Cougars, the Twinning Association and the Chamber of Commerce for the Jubilee Street Party and Classic Car Day. Funds were also given to our local Police for a bicycle for the PCSO. In addition the Council agreed to allocate some of the New Homes Bonus to refurbish the Christmas lights and assist with the running costs.

The Youth Council will once again be running the successful Soldiers Boxes Campaign. Details of what to put in the boxes will be published shortly.

Jill Jones MILCM Cert HE

Town Clerk

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

Tel: 01763 272222

email: btc.manorhouse@btclick.com

website: www.buntingfordtowncouncil.co.uk

Town Council meetings for October 2012

Thursday 4 th	7:30pm – Amenities Committee
Thursday 11 th	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Resources Committee
Thursday 25 th	7:30pm – Planning Committee 8:00pm – Full Council
<p>All meetings will be held at The Manor House unless indicated otherwise. Members of the public are welcome to attend.</p>	

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



Bramble Hill
Children's Centre

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

Are you looking for good quality children's clothes and toys at reasonable prices? Do you need to clear some space and make some money? Then come along to our **Children's Nearly New Sale** on **Thursday 29th November 2012** from **1:00– 3:00pm** at the Seth Ward Community Centre, Luynes Rise, Buntingford. Tables for sellers will be £5 and the sellers keep all of their proceeds. There is a 50p entrance fee for buyers. Hot and cold drinks, cakes and biscuits will be available to buy on the day. Please call us on 01763 273008 if you would like to book a table.

Mobile pottery painting company Crazy Ceramics will be coming along to our Under Ones and Rhyme Time sessions in November. If you're feeling creative, children or adults can paint a piece of pottery on the day. These make lovely presents for family members and prices start from £3. They will be at our Under Ones Group on Tuesday 20th November from 10:00–11:00am and at our Rhyme Time sessions on Friday 23rd November from 9:45am–12:00noon. No need to book, please just turn up.

Bramble Hill are currently looking for local volunteers to help out at our sessions. If this is something you may be interested in please contact us.

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

bramblehill@ymcentralherts.org.uk

Lead Agency



We look forward to
seeing you 😊



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

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

Elephants

Martin & Mandy – Part 33

You know the old joke which goes: 'How do you get four elephants into a mini?' To which the obvious answer, as any school boy knows, is: 'Two in the front and two in the back!' Well, slightly more complicated is how you do get 3 ton of staircase into a church nave and the answer to this one is: with a great deal of trouble, and through the roof with a rather large crane.

Agos ago we were looking round for a staircase company to build the stairs to get you from the floor of the Nave to the bedrooms up in the roof space, and we visited all sorts of people around quite a bit of the country. We'd set ourselves a reasonably difficult target, in that we wanted something that just hung in space, and basically had no visible supports holding it up. We also wanted something that was wood (to match in with the building) and glass, so that it did not get in the way of sight across the Nave.

Anyway, to cut a long story short, we ended up using a steel fabrication company in Little Hadham just down the road and a structural design company on the same industrial site. This got us a wild design and presented the problem of how to get the whole thing inside the Nave – to which the answer is, build it in two pieces and go hire a crane. So a few weeks ago an area next to the Chancel was covered in crushed concrete so we could park a crane on it, and we then hired a 40-ton Liebherr crane just like the one in the picture (right) but without the French writing down the side.



After an hour or so of manoeuvring we managed to get this huge crane up the Causeway and up the avenue of limes without knocking into any of them. A bit more jiggery pokery with the 4-wheel steering and the crane was parked next to the church. Now, as it happens we also need to lift the floor of the upper level into place, so there are a few bits and pieces that need to be shifted around, and most of them have been laid out in the churchyard the day before – they all weigh loads so I figured they are reasonably safe against theft, and they were still there in the morning so I was right on that count.

With quite a bit of mucking around the crane driver and the banksman (the crane driver's helper who signals movement directions) managed to get the main part of the stairs lifted out of the graveyard and into the Nave past all the scaffold and prep work that the builders have been doing for the past few weeks. The bits of the stairs only just fit through the hole that Vince and his scaffolders have left and at one point six people are pushing and shoving against this 2-ton piece of stairs that's hanging in the air, but, as planned, in it goes. Once the main part of the stairs are in they try the same trick with the curved part that joins onto it. The photo here (above right) shows the upper part next to the tower, so you can see the kind of size we are dealing with.

The rest of the steelwork consists of a grid of steels that make up the new floor in the roof space of the Nave; if we are cunning about it we can still maintain the space in the Nave and get a sensible number of rooms upstairs. They all sit on the walls of the Nave and on pad stones that have been cut into those walls. A pad stone is basically a lump of concrete with some steel in it and then there are four chemical bolts that hold the steel to the pad stones. Chemical bolts are just that: you drill a hole in the pad stone and squeeze some gloopy chemicals down the hole from a cunning applicator that mixes the two part gloop together as you squeeze, then you jam the threaded bar down the hole and wait half an hour and it sets rock hard; next you tighten the nut down with a washer in the way and there's no way it's going to move, ever, not even a little bit!

In the original spec from English Heritage it suggested that we would need a framework inside the Nave rather than rest anything on the walls, but after working out just how much weight we needed and looking closely at the condition of the walls and,

more to the point, the foundations, everybody concluded that using the walls would do the trick. This also means that we can hide all the sins of modern man connected with building, so from the Nave of the floor looking up none of the steelwork will be visible.

So for the time being the two parts of the main staircase are sitting on the floor of the Nave waiting for the rest of the structure above to be completed. Once this is finished then the steel company plan to winch the stairs into place on chain block and tackle, which I suspect is going to be an interesting day, but they are supremely confident that this will be very easy and who am I to argue.

The building has come on in leaps and bounds in the past few months and it's really great to see these fundamental parts of the plan coming together. While steel is being hoisted around the place we still have stonemasons chipping away and the plaster people have just finished stripping off the concrete from the tower staircase ready for a coat of lime plaster. The whole building feels like it's progressing and having new life breathed into it – and it's smiling back at us through the late summer sunshine.



For more history and information related to St Bartholomew's, visit:

www.layston-church.org.uk

I Was Just a Happy Kid!

Memories of Buckland Village Life – Part 2

My Dad and Mum both worked for the local farmer, Mr Bailey, who supplied Covent Garden with fruit and vegetables. My Mum started work once I started school and I had to be farmed out for school holidays, sometimes with aunts in Therfield and even a cousin in St Albans. I was well travelled. As I got older I could help in the fields during school holidays or at weekends, so I joined Mum 'spud bashing', pea picking or strawberry picking, the latter being done in the early hours of the morning to avoid the sun. We used to start at about 3 am and go home to bed about 10 am.

An unsung inventor

Mr Bailey was a very inventive man and was at the forefront of fresh produce presented in polythene packages. He demonstrated one of his inventions at The Ideal Home Exhibition in around 1959 to, say, 1962ish, showing that anything could be encased in polythene to keep it fresh. I seem to remember it was a square of thick polythene sandwiched between two frames and heated under a grill. The polythene softened and became stretchy like bubble gum. The item to preserve was passed through the frame taking with it a coat of polythene. Mr Bailey demonstrated an umbrella and a stalk of Brussels completely encased. He was a brilliant man but was no businessman and unfortunately for him he sold the patent. You might think of him in future when you buy your pre-packed vegetables – he was way ahead of his time.

Mr Bailey taught my brother many mechanical lessons which have held him in good stead throughout his working life. Colin is a Mr Fixit, or some might say a Jack-of-all-trades. Mr Bailey also rented out space at the back of his yard to Todjero, a well-known racing car driver and mechanic. They produced a few three-wheeler invalid cars (Mr Bailey was disabled) and a car which enthusiasts may remember was named THE BUCKLAND. Wow, this is getting to be a history lesson. Such a shame that I can't sometimes think what I did yesterday or even what day it is!

Our large family

Both my brothers played football for Therfield and it was the norm on a Saturday to watch them play. We went out as a family and I was not allowed to stay at home. Our Saturday treat for tea was kipper fillets on toast. This may sound strange but we did not have a freezer and frozen food was on sale at the shop in Therfield (our little shop had not got into the frozen food lines yet). I suppose kids today would prefer pizza or burgers.

My father's family hailed from Therfield and I can honestly say that on one particular Saturday nine of the team members were from our family. Can you beat that? I have traced the family tree back to the 1600s. Prolific I think is the right word – my Dad was the 13th child, like his father before him. Three of my uncles were killed in the First World War, one came home minus a leg and one died later from his shrapnel wounds. My poor Grandmother must have suffered terribly at their loss. Sadly she died before I was born.

Colourful village 'characters'

Just as the women in the village were all known as 'Aunt so and so', the men were all called 'Uncle' and many of them were real characters:

'Uncle Ern', for whom Shirley collected beer from the pub, was a nice old chap who was very quiet and lived on his own.

'Uncle Put' (Rupert) ran a smallholding of a few fields. His harvesting was done in the old way with a binder creating shocks of wheat which were stacked in the field awaiting collection by the old tractor and trailer. Both my brothers Keith and Colin helped Uncle Put in the fields and I can remember riding on the back of the trailer taking the harvested shocks to Put's yard. The shocks were tossed up the stack manually with pitchforks. While the older kids helped Uncle Put, Shirley and I liked to visit the calves or the chickens. Shirley's Grandfather Albert worked for Uncle Put for years and used to drive a horse and cart. The old horse's name was Nancy – you could hear Albert shouting 'wooper Nance'. What a character he was in his corduroy trousers and old leather gaiters.

'Uncle Bob' was Mr Law who had had a stroke and was bedridden. He had his bed in what was originally their front room. Every time I went by I used to go up to the window and wave to him. Sometimes I got a smile. His daughter told us all that he enjoyed the kids going to wave to him.

'Uncle Joe' (Shirley's uncle) lived next door to us and I can remember his coat pocket blowing up on bonfire night whilst we were enjoying our huge bonfire on the piece of land Dad rented. We placed loads of potatoes in the fire and Oh my goodness the spud covered in butter and ash tasted the best ever.

Friends for life

Village life gave me lifelong friends. In a small community we helped and supported each other. I still think of my friends and peers by their nicknames. I won't tell you mine! There is still that bond with old friends after, dare I say it, over 60 years. I grew up in Buckland and was married in Buckland like my parents before me and it will always be special to me. At a later date I may relate what problems deep snow can bring to a village.

Sandra



Mr Snappy

Some are brass and long and slim, others are chrome, neat with a rim.

Some lie across and others stand tall, some homes don't have one at all -
they have a box out on the wall, or just a doorbell on which to call!

Delivering leaflets for car show 'bunk' ... important stuff, not common junk,
I came upon a 'Mr Snappy', a letterbox that wasn't happy!

In went the leaflet, my hand following, on it's retreat, I was left hollering!

It ate my finger - cut, blood and gore - I shan't be leafleting any more!!!

If any up the High Street got a bloodied form, please forgive me - it's not
my norm.

Spare a thought for our posties, please, and make sure your letterbox
opens with ease!

(My own included!!)

Teresa Bonner

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

Is Your Job Safe?

When times are hard and finances are tight, one of the first things employers will look at is the size of their wage bill. You may well find yourself on the receiving end of a redundancy notice and then involved in the consultation process where in effect you have to prove yourself more useful to the company than other employees. This can be an extremely difficult situation as you are in effect having to fight for your job against fellow workers.

Your employer is under a duty to make this process open, honest and fair. The problem comes when, like now, there are ongoing economic problems and employers have to act quickly. Sometimes the process can be difficult for an employer as they are under pressure and it may only be a small firm, but you still have a right to be consulted and to make your own comments. If there are several potential candidates for redundancy you should go through a scoring process assessing the skills you have for the job. You don't have the right to see everybody else's scores, but you do have the right to be fully informed about your own position. Large scale redundancies are often carried out in conjunction with a Union or ACAS and some employers will help with re-locating or re-training.

As to compensation, there is a minimum amount payable, set by the Government, depending on age and length of service. There is an online calculator at www.direct.gov.uk/redundancy.dsb but the main points to remember are:

- You must have worked for your employer for 2 complete years to qualify for a redundancy payment
- The maximum length of service that can be claimed is 20 years
- Those aged 41 and over are entitled to receive 1½ weeks' salary for every complete year of service
- Those aged 22 and over, but under 41, will receive one week's salary for each complete year of service
- Those aged under 22 receive ½ a week's salary for every complete year of service
- The weekly salary is capped to a maximum amount – currently £430

These statutory minimum rates may change slightly from year to year, but some employers, particularly larger companies, may offer higher rates.

Being made redundant can be extremely traumatic, particularly if you have been with an employer for some time, but when times are bad employers sometimes have to make tough decisions. If it is any consolation, we can tell you that from our experience, redundancy is not the end of the world and more often than not people soon find a new job, or use the opportunity to do something new – like start their own business. So if it is happening to you, please do bear that in mind.

At Curwens, we are always happy to have an initial chat on the telephone if you have any questions, so just give Joe Reeves a ring on **0208 363 4444** or check out our website at www.curwens.co.uk

EAST HERTS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Manor House, Buntingford

Drop-in:

Monday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Telephone:

08444 111 444

Monday – Friday

10:00am – 4:00pm



The Benefit Cap

I have just had an official letter telling me my benefits might be capped. I'm really worried about how I'll manage if they cut our money – we can only just afford the rent and other bills now. What is happening and what should I do?

From April next year, there will be a limit on how much money you can get from some benefits. This is called the Benefit Cap. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is writing to people who might be affected to tell them about the changes.

You are only likely to be worse off than before if you're getting Housing Benefit. This is because your Housing Benefit will be cut if you're getting some benefits that, together with your Housing Benefit, take you over the cap. The cap is expected to be:

- £500 a week if you're in a couple, or a single person, and you have dependent children;
- £350 a week if you're single and don't have children or have children who don't live with you.

You won't be affected at all if you qualify for one of the following:

- Working Tax Credit;
- Disability Living Allowance or Attendance Allowance;
- Employment and Support Allowance, if paid with the support component;
- Industrial Injuries Benefits;
- War Widow's or Widower's Pension.

There are also some benefits which won't be counted when working out whether you're over the cap. These are:

- Council Tax Support, which replaces Council Tax Benefit from April 2013;
- Pension Credit;
- State Retirement Pension
- one-off payments, for example, Social Fund loans;
- non-cash benefits, for example, free school meals.

It's important that you find out now if you might be worse off after the cap starts next year, so you can plan how to deal with it. You can get more information about the Benefit Cap on the Citizens Advice website www.adviceguide.org.uk or the government website www.direct.gov.uk.

'Copyright Citizens Advice'. For the most up-to-date version of this article, please visit their Adviceguide website at www.adviceguide.org.uk

Friends of Westmill Church

Saturday 13th October at 7:30pm

**The Welwyn 'Singing for Pleasure'
Community Choir are in concert at
St Mary the Virgin Church, Westmill, to
raise funds for the Church roof appeal.**

Tickets £10

(includes a glass of wine during the interval)

**Ring 01763 272217 to book your seat
You are strongly advised to book early**



Royston and District Ramblers Group Walks for October 2012

- Sun 30th Sep** Balsham, Burrough Green, 15 miles. Leader Paul 01763 244038
- Tues 2nd Oct** Morning walk, Newport, 6 miles. Leader Mick 01763 247579
- Thurs 4th** Morning walk, Balsham, 6 miles. Leader Alan 01223 840963
- Sun 7th** Elmdon, Littlebury Green, Duddenhoe End, 11 miles.
Leader Steve 07929 962647
- Tues 9th** Morning walk, Weston, 6 miles. Leader David 01763 247572
- Thurs 11th** Morning walk, Barkway, Reed, 6 miles. Leader David 01763 242677
- Sun 14th** Ardeley, Benington, Haultwick, Wood End, 11 miles.
Leader Christine 01462 734298
- Tues 16th** Morning walk, Ickleton, 6 miles. Leader Marion 01223 871524
- Thurs 18th** Morning walk, Rushden, Cottered, 6 miles. Leader David 01763 247572
- Sun 21st** Godmanchester, Hemingfords, St Ives, Houghton, River Ouse, 10 miles.
Leader Steve 01354 650285
- Tues 23rd** Morning walk, Standon, 5 miles. Leader Tricia 01438 880553
- Thurs 25th** Morning walk, Much Hadham, 5 miles. Leader Tricia 01438 880553
- Sun 28th** Much Hadham, 11½ miles. Leader Paul 01763 244038
- Tues 30th** Morning walk, Benington, 5½ miles. Leader George 01763 242281

For meeting points and starting times, contact the walk leader or visit the website:

www.ramblers-herts-northmiddlesex.org.uk

OCTOBER 2012

Thur 4th Oct – NETWORKING LUNCH 12:30–14:00

To be held at LUSSMANN'S, 42 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1BY. A monthly networking lunch run by Isabel Hospice working in association with Marketing Kinetics and Lussmanns. We welcome companies from all over Herts & Essex. Cost £15 includes buffet, glass of wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee. Would you like to sponsor a 1st Thursday lunch (or 3rd Thursday, see below)? £100 sponsorship includes promotion on website and email invites, display of literature & banners at the event and a 10 minute presentation. For more details contact Fundraising 01707 382500.

Tues 9th Oct – COFFEE MORNING 10:30–12:00

Held on the second Tuesday of the month at Markwell Pavilion, Bishop's Stortford. All welcome. Enquiries 01279 755320.

Tues 9th Oct – 30TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCH AT BROCKET HALL 12:15–15:00

Thanks to Jan Leggetter for organising this lunch to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Isabel Hospice. Call Fundraising on 01707 382500 for tickets and more information.

Sat 13th Oct – THREE VALLEYS MALE VOICE CHOIR

A concert performance at All Saints Church, Hertford SG13 8AE. For times and ticket information call Fundraising on 01707 382500

Thur 18th Oct – NETWORKING LUNCH 12:30–14:00

To be held at Grill 55, 55 South Street, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3AL. This month's meeting is kindly sponsored by Heather Nesbitt private investigators. For more details contact Fundraising 01707 382500.

Thur 25th Oct – BROCKET HALL CHARITY GOLF DAY 08:00–18:30

Entry fee £500 for a fourball. This includes coffee and bacon baguettes on arrival. Shotgun Start with a Team Stableford Competition, followed by a meal, prizegiving and auction. To book your place or for more information call Fundraising on 01707 382500

Sat 27th Oct – JUMBLE SALE 14:30–16:30

Thundridge Village Hall. Entry 20p. Contact 01920 462992.

Sat 27th Oct – SOCIAL DANCE EVENING 19:30–23:15

To be held at Newgate Street Village Hall, Newgate Street, Herts SG13 8RA. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Contact John Hankins on 01707 873894

NOVEMBER 2012

Sat 10th Nov – CHRISTMAS MARKET AT HATFIELD HOUSE

The event will be taking place in the Riding School, adjacent to the licensed restaurant and gift shop. 50% of proceeds go to Isabel Hospice. More information to follow.

www.isabelhospice.org.uk



LAYSTON C OF E FIRST SCHOOL



Some of our new pupils settling in

A new year begins and we welcome back all our families for another action-packed autumn term. We extend a special welcome to all the new children who have joined us – especially our Reception Class. As last year, all Reception children have started together this September. They are settling in well and the sunny start to the term has enabled them to thoroughly explore our lovely outdoor environment and Wild Wood.

We have much to be excited about already. We have celebrated our Friday Walking Bus' third birthday with a special visit from Buster the Dinosaur. The children love to meet him and those who join the Walking Bus got a birthday goody bag to enjoy. We hope his visit will encourage more children to catch the bus instead of coming to school by car.



Buster and the Walking Bus

We are also delighted to have achieved a silver award in the new School Games Kitemark. We are proud of our commitment to sport and we are especially inspired after the wonderful summer of sporting achievements. We are looking forward to starting this term with tag rugby coaching, swimming lessons and a Rounders Festival with local schools.

A group of our Year 4 pupils enjoyed a conference at St Albans Cathedral for Gifted and Talented Pupils in RE in September. They had the opportunity to meet, and work with, children from other church schools in the diocese. The conference was led by Lat Blatlock, RE advisor and editor of RE Today. He is also an inspirational teacher and, through the day's programme of activities, challenged the children to think, speculate and discuss important questions.



Time for sport

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

www.layston.herts.sch.uk

Or phone 01763 271235 to arrange a visit.

Gill Langley, Headteacher

LAYSTON SCHOOL PTA QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2012

7.30 FOR 8.00pm START

LICENSED BAR • PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER • RAFFLE

TICKETS £8 EACH (INCLUDES SUPPER)

MAX 8 PEOPLE PER TEAM

**For tickets please contact JULIA NICHOLAS
by email at: laystonquiz@yahoo.co.uk**

BALFF 10-WEEK COURSE

VOLCANOES AND VIKINGS: INTRODUCING ICELAND

Tutor: Dr Rosemary Williams

Started: Wednesday 26th September 2012 – 10.30am

Dr Williams will be using slides, audio, video, pictures, books, maps, hand-outs and rocks to introduce Iceland – geologically one of the youngest territories in the world – and its inhabitants. The course will survey all aspects of the island – geological, geographical, cultural and social – from its first emergence from the Atlantic to the recent turbulence in the Icelandic economy and society. There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion, and if you have visited Iceland, you will be invited to share your experiences.

BALFF 6-WEEK COURSE

EXPLORING CAMBRIDGE

Tutor: Honor Ridout

Started: Monday 17th September 2012 – 8.00 to 9.30pm

The venue for both courses is Buntingford Community Centre, Luynes Rise. We have coffee before the sessions start. Everyone will be made very welcome. If you would like any further details please phone Julia on 01763 272584 or Joan on 01763 273341.



Millfield First and Nursery School



During the summer holidays a number of improvements were made to the school. The car park was resurfaced and automated gates were installed to increase security. In the Reception Class changes were made with the installation of a concertina divider so that two separate classroom areas can be created when needed. The room was also re-carpeted and new wet area flooring was laid.

It is great to see how quickly our new pupils are settling into school. We have two reception classes this year as there has been huge demand for places. It is great to be so popular!

This half term our theme is 'Long Long Ago' and KS2 are looking at life in the time of the Ancient Greeks. They will be learning about a range of topics including the original Olympic Games, clothing, houses and myths. They will be visiting the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge to study the Ancient Greek artefacts there. In PE the children have begun a course in Tag Rugby with a rugby coach.

KS1 are going to focus on 'Dinosaurs' and will be studying this very popular subject starting with a Dinosaur Show to be staged in a large inflatable dome, which will be set up in the school hall.

At the beginning of the school year we elect all the new representatives



Above and below: new Reception Class pupils



for our various pupil voice groups. We have four different groups. The new **School Council** will be meeting soon to arrange some charity events and decide how they can best help the school. **Reading Rockets** are a group of pupils who work to promote reading throughout the school. The **Eco-Action Team** help promote an awareness of environmental issues. Finally the six members of the **Assembly Committee** help to organise our Friday Celebration Assembly each week. All the newly chosen pupils are delighted to have this opportunity to take a very active part in the life of the school.

We have arranged for the Travelling Book Fair to visit our school in October. The children and their parents will have the opportunity to buy books from a fantastic range at the end of the school day.

Our Harvest Assembly is taking place on Thursday 18th October at 9:00am in the School Hall and everyone is welcome to come along.

As part of our Eco work we are having a clothing collection from school on Tuesday 6th November. If you have any clothing you no longer require please bring it to the school on this day in a plastic sack.

On Friday 28th September we say a fond farewell to Steve Hall, our caretaker. Steve has been involved in the life of Millfield School for many years and has given so much. The Governors, PTA, staff, parents and children are all so grateful to Steve for the contribution he has made. We will really miss him but wish him well as he moves on to a new life in Yorkshire with his wife Hilary.

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

Kathy Willett
Head Teacher

Millfield First & Nursery School is looking for a Community Governor

As a school governor you'll have the opportunity to develop new skills and to strengthen existing ones with training. You will gain an idea of how schools are run and how the education system works as a whole. You will have the personal satisfaction and sense of achievement that comes from working to improve our school and a chance to use your skills for the good of the local community. As part of our Governing Body you would help decide on the direction, focus and ethos of Millfield First & Nursery School.

If you are interested in the position of Community Governor, or would like to find out more, we look forward to hearing from you. Please contact the Chair of Governors or the Clerk to the Governing Body at Millfield School on 01763 271717. Alternatively you can e-mail us at: admin@millfield.herts.sch.uk

Please note that parents of children attending Millfield School cannot become Community Governors.



Our AGM is on Monday 8th October, 2pm at Seth Ward Community Centre. This will be a social afternoon with wine, soft drinks and nibbles. Come

along and find out more about how joining U3A can enhance your life. **Also, can you help?** We have a number of keen would-be line dancers who need to learn the basic steps but I haven't been able to find a suitable instructor. Could you fill that gap? Enquiries to **Christine Jeffries 01763 273466** or **Jean Devenish 01763 271783**

3 rd Tuesday, 16 Oct Contact Carol McKimmie	Walking Group (2 hours plus) 01763 271054	9:50am –12:00noon TBA
Last Thursday, 25 Oct Contact Dave Austin	Wine Appreciation 01763 272066	8:00pm at Seth Ward CC £5pp, bring 2 glasses each
4 th Wednesday, 24 Oct Contact Hilary Curtis	Shorter walks (1 hour plus) 01763 272323	10:30am TBA
Individual sessions Wednesdays Contact Colin Gibbons	Family History 01763 271398	In Buntingford
3 rd Thursday, 18 Oct Contact Alan Rumble	Computers (all levels) £3 01920 823608	2:00–4:00pm Seth Ward Community Centre
2 nd Friday, 12 Oct Contact Jeremy Burr	Digital photography £2 01920 823209	2:00–4:00pm URC Hall, Buntingford
2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays, 9 & 23 Oct Contact Christine Jeffries	Singing for Pleasure 01763 273466	2:00–4:00pm Wyddial
Every Tuesday Contact Alan Smith May start a new Beginners' class	Bridge 01763 287657 Phone him if you're interested	10.00am–12.00noon Homes
Various Contact Val Lohead	Out to Lunch 01279 658069	Various
Varies Contact Evelyn Smith	Social Outings 01763 272241	13 Oct – Quiz; 4 Nov – Sunday Lunch; Dec – Panto
Mondays Contact Dave Austin	Keep Fit £2 01763 272066	10:00–11:30am Seth Ward Community Centre
Last Wednesday Contact Anne Austin	Book Club 01763 272066	2:30pm Fairfield
Every Friday Contact Rosemary Poulton	Pilates: £20 for 6 sessions or £5 per session 01763 271598	1:30–2:45pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every Wednesday Contact Dave Austin	Table Tennis £2 01763 272066	2:00–3:00pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every Wednesday Contact Roy Ellard	Badminton £2 01763 271578	3:15–4:15pm Seth Ward Community Centre
Every Monday Contact Vidyut Sharma	Yogic breathing £5 01763 271779	10:00–11:30am Monks Walk
Last Tuesday Contact Mick Westwood Contact Ron Brighten	Strollers 01763 272594 Quizzes 01763 273175	Depends on weather – phone for details Teams for local quizzes – 2 or 3 planned for Autumn
Every Tues NEW GROUP Contact Anne Smith	Seated Exercises £3.50 01763 271783 Wednesday lunches 01763 271565	Standon Village Hall 10:00am, includes tea TBA
Restarting in October Contact Julia Peacock	Carpet Bowls 01763 272584	Possible Thursday 10:00am, to be confirmed



Something-
To-Treasure

Something-To-Treasure

is a Buntingford-based business specialising in personalised keepsakes, individually made to order, to capture those special memories, whether it is a new baby, a birthday, Christmas or just as a treat.

Silver charms are crafted to include a child's fingerprint, hand or footprint, or even a child's drawing. They can be made in the shape of your choice, and include the name, date or message relevant to the occasion. Charms can

be attached to your favourite bracelet, necklace or keyring. Each charm is made to be different, individual and personal to you. Prints can be taken in person or by post and turnaround of orders is usually 14 days. Prices start from £40. Gift vouchers are available.

Pottery painting and prints are also now available, either individually or as part of a birthday party. Painting can be done on mugs, plates, tiles or even clocks, to produce a unique gift. Prices from just £7. 3D hand/foot casts, stone outprints, and ceramic hand prints will also be available soon. Please contact us for more details.

Email us at: **Karen@something-to-treasure.com**.

Visit us at **www.something-to-treasure.com**

Or follow us on **facebook - [something-to-treasure](https://www.facebook.com/something-to-treasure)**

If you have a business in or around Buntingford, why not share your news with the readers of the Journal? It's a great way to inform existing and potential customers of your successes, challenges and new initiatives. If you have a story to tell, email the editor, Christine Noble, at **Journal@buntingfordcivic.org**, or give her a ring on 01763 273095.



Buntingford Social Club

C I U affiliated

6 Church Street, Buntingford, Herts. SG9 9AS

Telephone 01763 271889

www.thebuntingfordsocialclub.co.uk



MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY £12.00 PER ANNUM

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

* EVERY MONDAY BIG CASH BINGO *

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

ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS SHOWN (times permitting)

We have Club Knockouts for Darts, Crib, Pool and Snooker

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

when drinks are even cheaper!

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

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME

LAPSED MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO REJOIN AT ANY TIME

GOLF DAY: Fri 5th Oct - East Herts. Breakfast at 9.00, tee off at 10.00, 18 holes then presentation at club (all enquiries to club Chairman)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sun 14th Oct - **DARTS OPEN** Cash Prizes. Call club for entrance form or turn up 10.45 on the day: £5 pre-book or £6 on day

27th Oct - **HALLOWEEN SPECIAL DISCO** - fancy dress optional, but **PRIZES** for best dressed adult, child, couple and family



ENTERTAINMENT FOR OCTOBER

Oct 6th - **PHASE** - From country to rock

13th - **NO ENTERTAINMENT** (Free Juke Box, Pool, Snooker)

20th - **THE RAIDERS** - Club favourite

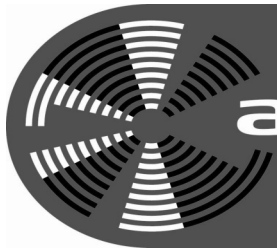
27th - **HALLOWEEN SPECIAL** - Fancy Dress Optional

Nov 3rd - **NITE FLYTE** - includes a Blues Brothers tribute set

MEMBERS FREE / GUESTS £1

Don't forget to check out our page on facebook.

BAR STAFF REQUIRED Please call club for details



HERTS
air ambulance
FLIGHT FOR LIFE
REGISTERED CHARITY 1108989

'Go Red' Week: High Street Children's Quiz

There is still time – up until **Sunday 30th September** – for children to take part in a special quiz that the HAA Fundraising Team are running in conjunction with 12 shops on Buntingford High Street. The 12 shops are: **Budgens, Liberro, Lost Ark, Crazy Daisy, Mark Doel Butchers, Keith Ian Estate Agents, J. Radley Opticians, Animal Attraction, The Wine Cellar, Jo Morden Hair Design, The Cheese Plate and Ken Jack.**

Throughout 'Go Red' week, which ends on 30th September, each of the 12 shops will be displaying a Herts Air Ambulance 'fact' in their window. There are 12 different facts to be collected from the 12 shop windows. Children who collect them all will be able to complete the quiz, which can be bought for a £1 donation to HAA at any of the 'fact holding' shops. It's a fun way to learn more about what the county's live-saving helicopter does. Our thanks go to the 12 participating shops.

Buntingford Classic Car Day

HAA were delighted to welcome to their stand John Fuller, who was the Olympic torchbearer in Green Lanes, Enfield, on 25th July. John kindly offered his services for photographs, with his torch, in return for donations to HAA. Other fundraisers on the day included HAA Volunteer Maureen letting folk sit in her hubby's classic Porsche! Altogether it was a very successful day, with donations adding up to an impressive £493.33. A further £78.85 was raised by selling merchandise.



Olympic torchbearer John Fuller (centre) with HAA volunteers Jayne Shaw and Tony Newsome at the Buntingford Classic Car day

Herts Air Ambulance needs to raise £130,000 a month to keep flying and can only do that with your help. For information contact: Dawn Easby, Senior Fundraising Coordinator, on 0845 504 0055 or by email at Hertsfundraiser2@ehaat.uk.com

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

In 2011 Herts Air Ambulance flew over 300 missions: 43% of incidents were road traffic accidents, 13% were falls and 25% were to other medical emergencies.



Cougars and Spurs Legends Soccer School Announce New Partnership

Buntingford Cougars are delighted to announce a new partnership with Spurs Legends Soccer School to offer fun football sessions in school holidays run by ex-Spurs players.

The Spurs Legends have a wealth of football and coaching experience at the highest level. The coaches are FA qualified, CRB checked and first aid trained. Children love the soccer schools run by the Spurs Legends whose records are impressive. The coaches all played for successful Spurs teams in the 1980s and have since gone on to develop their love of the game through coaching and development of young players. The coaches in the Spurs Legends School include:

TONY GALVIN, a two-time FA Cup winner, UEFA Cup winner and Ireland international with 29 caps.

MARK FALCO, who won the UEFA Cup and a Scottish League winner with Rangers.

TERRY GIBSON, who won the FA Cup with Spurs before playing for Manchester United, later becoming Assistant Manager of Northern Ireland and Fulham.

GARRY BROOKE, with two FA Cup winners medals and a UEFA Cup winners medal.

JOHN LACY, an FA Cup finalist with Fulham before playing in 132 Spurs matches.

The Soccer Schools are for boys and girls between 5 and 14 years old. **This autumn, sessions will be in the half-term holidays from Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November, 9.30am–3.30pm, at The Bury in Buntingford (former Sainsburys Depot).** Cost per child is £75 for the full week or £20 per day, with siblings £60 for the week or £15 per day. All children receive a medal or memento from the Soccer School.

Places are limited so parents are advised to book early. Entry forms and more information can be found at: <http://www.spurslegendssoccerschool.co.uk/> Or call The Bury on 01763 271522 or Spurs Legends Soccer School on 07554 124773

Cougars Co-Chairman Darren Fitzgerald commented: 'I think this is great for the Cougars because it means our members, the children in our club, can benefit from some great coaching experience from some truly inspirational coaches. I have seen a couple of their days and I must say the children love them. Being a Spurs fan myself I enjoy engaging with the coaches who were and still are absolute heroes of mine.'

Co-Chairman Jason Rowley said: 'As a working dad I think the soccer schools are a real win-win for everyone. During the school holidays we are always trying to find enjoyable ways to keep our kids occupied and what better way than to see them enjoy themselves with their mates staying active and developing their skills in a safe environment. It is great value for money.'

Cougars Under 7s

The football season has kicked off in fabulous style for the Cougars under 7s. We have a new kit which we are proud to say has been sponsored by Gates Ford.

We enjoy training at the new Floodlit Multi Games Area on Thursdays at 5.30pm and our matches take place on Saturday mornings. We have a great team of FA qualified coaches who are CRB checked and first aid trained. We would welcome your child to come along and join the fun!

Our fun training sessions are not only great exercise for your child but will help develop their football and social skills too. Interested? Then call **Donna on 07545182255** or **Darren on 07764573696** and we will be happy to answer any questions.



Cougars Under 7s
in their new kit
sponsored by
Gates Ford.

Left to right:
Luca, Orran, Archie,
Joshua, Archie, Paul,
Finlay, Freddie



FUN QUIZ NIGHT

At The Bury Saturday 13th October

7.30 – 11pm Maximum teams of 8

*Categories include Film & TV, General Knowledge,
Sport, Music and Local Knowledge.*

Tickets £5 in advance or £6 on the door
(if still available). Bring your own nibbles.

For advance tickets call The Bury 01763 271522

Or buy from Country Properties 34 High Street

*All proceeds support Buntingford Cougars Youth Football Club
to keep membership fees affordable for everyone*



'I will put you through...' Arrghhh!!!!

I appreciate that all things must pass, but recently it seems most of what passes as progress has gone supersonic! It feels like only yesterday when Mr Mansfield, the man from the Pru, used to call on Friday evenings, park his bike against the front wall, place his cycle clips on the cross bar (that always impressed me) and drop in for a cup of tea and collect the coppers that passed for a premium for the meagre insurance Mum used to pay. He would sit at the table and make entries in the various books with an indelible pencil which he would keep moistening with his lips and the pencil would leave a mauve mark which would fascinate small boys.

Mother and Father would explain that these small contributions would help us in a time of disaster or accumulate as an investment over the years. Moreover it did, and these modest sums gradually grew with time to our benefit (although over 50 years we never made a claim!). Plus we had large copies of the 'policy' in beautiful copper plate to admire, which gave confidence in the reliability of the Company.

Sadly that level of confidence disappeared when so called experts destroyed all faith in what is now known as financial services. However, when my house and contents insurance reminder dropped on the doormat, my faith dropped another couple of points. Admittedly I wasn't expecting a visit from the man from the Pru, as we had changed affections when they seemed to lose interest in customers – around the time that the old boy hung up his bike clips and was replaced by an impersonal note once a year and any attempt to make contact was fielded, eventually, by Mrs Gupta at her desk in Calcutta.

Encouraged as one is nowadays to 'shop around' by the heaps of junk mail promising giant savings that arrive every day, I fired up the 'confuser' and input all the variables waiting for the promise of untold wealth! It was then that my research got interesting, as my current supplier was top of the list offering me a saving of £150 and did I want to change to them? What? I am already a customer and have been for some time?

There had to be a mistake so I tried to phone the company. Well, 40 minutes and pressing every button on the telephone later I managed to get through to a section leader, a small victory, as by now I had spoken to most of the company's employees. My question throughout was: 'Why am I paying you £150 more than a new customer?'

The waffle factor then went up a couple of notches until, feeling that I had her cornered, she responded with: 'Well, you are on one of the old policies and it gives peace of mind!' Her voice had taken on that irritating inflection that rises to a question at the end of every statement. 'So I don't get peace of mind if I buy your new customers product?' I pressed on, sensing a chink in her defence.

'Just hold the line, I will consult my line manager' (more music). We were now up to 1 hour on the clock. Eventually she returned and asked 'What other quotes have you received?' 'According to my computer about 68', I replied. 'All at least £60 cheaper than the one you say will give me peace of mind, although just now I am losing the will to live and my mind is not at all peaceful.'

'Just hold the line' (yet more music). Now 1 hour 10 minutes, when she burst back on the line triumphant: 'I think we can help you, same terms less excess, £60 cheaper than present product and £50 back after 90 days.' 'Does that include peace of mind?', I pressed on. 'Of course, sir, all our products give peace of mind.' Yess!!!



Boosted by my success, and after a cup of tea, a cream bun and a rub down with last week's Mercury, I was ready for the big one, British Gas, dual fuel contract (roll on the drums). Again, I am old enough to remember when there was only Eastern Gas and Eastern Electric. You went to one to buy your gas cooker and they supplied your gas (in fact, I seem to remember way back the cookers were heavily discounted?). There was a local showroom where you could look at all the various appliances (all British made) and they would deliver, fit and set you up with a meter that took shillings (5p). Job done! There were similar arrangements for electric and it didn't stop there – in these showrooms there were often demonstrations of cooking skills and how to get the best from your cooker.

But then some bright spark (forgive the pun) had the idea that what we want is competition to make prices less! Well, we never really saw the benefits and these industries that we owned were sold to mates of the government. They made thousands redundant, sold land to speculators and closed most of the British appliance manufacturers with attendant job losses, which encouraged foreign manufacturers supplying the UK on the back of heavy subsidies and breadline wages. So that worked out well for us then?

Anyway, I spent a couple of hours with a calculator and a large sheet of graph paper, listing all the usage for both gas and electric and costs for each, including dual fuel tariffs, price caps, etc. The way in which usage is calculated takes a Masters degree in maths, so I had to take a lot on faith, especially the ever-changing periods of measurement (I have never seen so many calculating periods in one year – I always thought it was months and/or quarters? But British Gas has changed the calendar somewhat.)

So I was now ready and looked forward to savings galore. Armed with a supply of pens, another cup of tea and a Hob Nob, I entered the fray. One hour later I was a broken man. I had reams of notes covered in biscuit crumbs and tea stains (or perhaps tear stains), but I had got the options down to four with the 'Plain and Simple' option being the most confusing. My brain by now was like marshmallow, so I took a time out.

A day or so later I returned to the figures, comparing all the options, then checking these against the 'competition'. To my astonishment I began to recognise a pattern amongst all these figures arrayed across the A3 page. They all came to the same result: the difference between the best and worst was a mere £17.68 a year!

Who is kidding who here? And where have all the so-called competition benefits we were promised gone? Sound familiar? When we look at it logically, all we have done over the past 20 years or so has smashed our manufacturing, increased imports and made thousands unemployed – and prices have kept rising. Competition? Yea, right!!

Vyse

B A L A

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus trips for October 2012

Wed 3 rd	10:30 – 2:30	Country Homes & Gardens and Bury Lane Farm Shop, Melbourn – Cotton Traders, Shoes, Edinburgh Woollen Mills, Bulbs, Plants, Deli etc.	£4.50
Thurs 4 th	9:30 – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Thurs 4 th	7:45pm	At Gordon Craig Theatre, 'Vienna Proms' concert	£19.50 Bus £4
Mon 8 th	10:30 – 3pm	Welwyn Garden City – John Lewis, M&S, Debenhams, WHSmith, Boots etc.	£6
Thurs 11 th	9:30 – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre – Market Day	£4
Fri 12 th	9:30 – 3pm	Knitting & Stitching Exhibition at Alexandra Palace	£14 Bus £8
Wed 17 th	9:30 – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Fri 19 th	10:30 – 2:30	Van Hage Garden Centre	£5
Sat 20 th	2:30pm	At Gordon Craig Theatre, 'Woman in Mind' by Alan Ayckbourn	£16 Bus £4
Thurs 25 th	9:30 – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre – Market Day	£4
Fri 26 th	10:30 – 3pm	Brookfield Centre – Boots, M&S, Argos, Next, Tesco etc.	£6
Tues 30 th	10am – 3pm	'Tomb Treasures of Han Dynasty' at Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, or Shopping	£7
NOVEMBER			
Thurs 1 st	9:30 – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Sat 10 th	2:30pm	Hertford, 'St Swithuns', Tickets – £11.50	Bus £4
Sat 24 th	3:00pm	Hertford, Agatha Christie's 'The Hollow' – £10	Bus £4

To book a seat or for more information phone 01763 273623 or 01763 271708

B.A.L.A. Coffee Morning

at Benson Hall, Buntingford

Wednesday 17th October – 10:30am to 12.00noon

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

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

Buntingford Twinning Association

LUYNES • BUNTINGFORD • OLVEGA

Presents: **THE BIG AUTUMN QUIZ**

Saturday 13th October

Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

At Benson Hall, Buntingford (opposite The Coop)

Either bring a Team of Six or join a Table on the Night

Tickets £8 (including Ploughmans) • *Licensed Bar*

Available from Ann Brunt on 01763 272961

Email: brunthome@onetel.com

BUNTINGFORD GARDENERS CLUB

The intriguing title of the topic for our September meeting was 'Biodiversity in a Bottle', but what was David Curry going to talk about? Was it perhaps the latest revolutionary washing powder that would change our lives? Or could it be a recipe for brewing an alcoholic drink? Or was it an alternative to the 'Open University'? No, it was none of these. Instead he gave us a most interesting talk on 'Saving Our Orchards'.



David, with twelve others, runs the Hertford Orchard Initiative (HOI) which encourages people to eat, plant and drink British Apples. There are over 100 apples that are synonymous with the Hertford area alone, which HOI promotes through talks etc., encouraging people to use these old varieties so that they are not lost for ever. Why not go along to the Farmers Markets or Apple Days where you can try and buy these flavoursome old varieties? And let's encourage the supermarkets to stock good home-grown apples and not apples that have come from the other side of the world.

We're looking forward to seeing old and new members at our next meeting on Wednesday 3rd October at 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church Hall. Our speaker will be Tim Waygood from Church Farm. The competition is 'An Autumn Flower'.

Heather Pope

Club enquiries to Janet Murrells, Chairwoman, 01763 274341



BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

www.buntingfordtownfc.com



The season is now well under way and, by and large, things are progressing well. Following their 3-1 defeat on the first day of the season, the First Team has recorded three good wins against Harvesters 2012 (2-1), AFC Hertford (4-1) and Bushey Rangers (5-3). Two narrow defeats against Evergreen (2-1) and Hertford Heath (3-2) have blotted the copybook somewhat and the side is sitting mid-table at the time of writing.

It appears that the strongest teams in the division are two of the newcomers, with Hatfield RBL and, in particular, Aslan at the top and it will be a tough job to overhaul them. But if the team shows the kind of fighting spirit exhibited in the 5-3 victory over Bushey Rangers, when Buntingford trailed 3-0 with 30 minutes to go, I would like to think that we could be well into the top half of the table by next May.

The Reserves, under new manager Martin Cox, started their campaign with a creditable 2-2 draw against Bedmond Sports & Social Club, but this was followed by a strangely subdued performance for the visit of Wormley Rovers who beat us 3-2.

The following Saturday, 16th September, we witnessed a most incredible result. Hatfield RBL Reserves came to The Bury with just 10 players; their manager made up the numbers to 11. Buntingford scored their first goal on 4 minutes, and their seventeenth – yes, seventeenth – five minutes from the end of the match. The final score of 17-2 could well be a club record, although I am not sure how I can check that. I am prepared to be corrected if anybody knows otherwise! During the game Jonathan Bowell and James Smith scored six goals apiece; two double hat-tricks is a statistic that is not often reported! I attend virtually every home match our First and Reserve teams play, but, and there is a law for this, I was away on tour with the Vets so missed all the action. Typical!

The Vets tour was in Weston-super-Mare and we travelled to the seaside knowing that we had failed to secure a victory in any of the five previous tours. But the Veterans are in great form this year with a 100% record, registering wins over Old Minchendonians (4-3), Littleton (5-0), and Goldings (3-2). Preparations for the match against Weston Pirates followed the usual pattern during the 48 hours before the Sunday 10:30 kick-off, with overindulgence on junk food and frequent visits to local hostelries being the order of the day. The obligatory visit to a local football match saw a 5-3 defeat for Bristol City at the hands of Blackburn Rovers; those of us who went to see Weston-super-Mare Rugby Football Club witnessed a 37-12 home win against local rivals Avonmouth.

So, with both of our County League sides having won on the Saturday, scoring 22 goals between them, the pressure was on. Surely the Vets would make it a full-house! Well, in what was probably their worst performance of the season, the team did indeed achieve that longed-for tour victory with a 3-0 win. It was not the best of matches, but the history books will show that we managed to get that 'never win on tour' monkey off our backs.

We were offered great hospitality and finished the afternoon in the clubhouse, playing the bizarre 'card on the head' card game, watching Spurs beat Reading and we even saw some action in the skittle alley! Thanks to Neill Radwell for organising the trip and Pete Ware for finding us a team to play, and congratulations to Gary Cropper for managing a winning side. The only question now is – where will we go next year?

Chris Thurgill, Chairman, Buntingford Town FC

BUNTINGFORD W.I.

The speaker at our September meeting was Maureen Moody talking about her life as a freelance magazine journalist. She had loads of magazines on display but could not have brought along every magazine that is published considering that she once counted some 400 magazines on news stands, plus there are a further 2,800 consumer magazines and over 5,000 business magazines.



When she first started out she used to be asked to write articles on things she knew nothing about, which meant a lot of time-consuming research, so she tended to stick to subjects that she knew. *The Writers' Handbook* was invaluable because it gave details of the sort of articles that the various editors were interested in publishing and the payment that could be expected (nothing in some cases, or the only payment would be a complimentary copy of the magazine). At question time, one member asked Maureen if there was a limit to the sort of subject she would tackle and she replied that she never wrote anything she would not want her mother-in-law to read!

Also in September we enjoyed a trip to Henley-on-Thames which included a visit to the rowing museum and a trip along the Regatta course.

We meet again at 7.45pm on Thursday 11th October when Richard Pople will talk about India – birds, people and the Taj Mahal. Visitors are welcome.

Val Hume



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

The theft of plant equipment and machinery has been on the increase in and around Buntingford. Could everyone be vigilant especially in 'out of hours' times. If you do witness something that is suspicious, or see equipment being transported late at night or in the early hours of the morning, please phone us with this information. Things to look out for: the colour of vehicle, the registration plate if they have one, make and model, any distinctive features, for example a cracked window, and the direction of travel.

Can I remind everyone that the non-emergency number is 101, but for crimes in progress do not hesitate to phone 999. As usual, details of beat surgeries are on the Hertfordshire Constabulary website.

Adam Frame, PCSO

Visit the website www.herts.police.uk for more information

Telephone 101 for non-emergencies

Braughing Music Society -

Instant Sunshine

comes to Braughing!

Saturday 1st December 2012 at 7.30pm

at St Mary's Church

The cabaret and comedy group Instant Sunshine will be best remembered for their many radio programmes on BBC, including a long association with the Radio 4 programme 'Stop the Week'. Famous for their unique and original humorous songs, they will brighten up the dullest day. Here's what some reviewers had to say:

'Their every second on stage is honed for comedy' – The Scotsman

'Intelligent and very funny ... a riot of harmony and humour' – Bermuda Gazette

'Expert comic timing – genuinely literate cabaret' – New York Times

'Joyous and original ... marvellous to behold' – Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2009

This will be an evening to remember.

Book your tickets at £15, £12 or £10. Children free.

Telephone Box Office : 01763 289073

www.braughingmusicsociety.co.uk

BRAUGHING DRAMA GROUP

Our new season of the **Braughing Music Hall Variety Show** starts on 23rd November, with what we expect to be a full-house audience, organised by Derek Goodall. But if you would like a ticket for a pre-Christmas show then please call Jean Pitts on 01763 272109, who is now selling tickets for **Saturday 24th November**. There will be four shows before Christmas and eight in the New Year. Most are booked out to local charities and organisations to help them raise funds. For other dates of shows this season and details of where to buy tickets please see the Braughing website at **www.braughing.org.uk**.

Looking forward to welcoming you.

Sandy Varley