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DIARY OF EVENTS – SEPTEMBER

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 enthusiasms! 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@hertscc.gov.uk.
- 8:15pm Circuit Training at Seth Ward Community Centre. Contact 01920 823677.

TUESDAYS

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

WHAT'S ON & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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.
- 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 – SEPTEMBER

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@hertsc.gov.uk.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm Cougars Under 10s Stripes training at Norfolk Rd. Dave 07836 231915.
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Cougars Under 12s Whites training at Norfolk Rd. Dave 07786 933963.

SATURDAYS

- 8:30am – 2:45pm Buntingford Dancing School – dance classes at Layston School and United Reformed Church Hall, Buntingford. Contact Philippa on 01763 271010.
- 9:15am – 2:00pm Musical Theatre School for 4–14 year olds at Seth Ward Community Centre. New students needed. Call Anna 07545 788433 or email stage-door@brilliantmusicaltheatre.co.uk.
- 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 Every Sunday till 14th Oct. Tea at St Mary the Virgin Church, Braughing (see page 11).
- 3:00pm – 5:30pm Sunday 16th Sept. Cream teas and cakes at Ardeley village hall (see page 11).

MON–FRI

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

WHAT'S ON & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPT 2012

- Sat 1st &
Sun 2nd Wilkestock Charity Festival 2012 (see page 16).
- Sat 1st 11:00am–4.00pm. The 12th Buntingford Classic Event (see page 9).
- Sun 2nd 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
- Wed 5th 7:45pm. Buntingford Gardeners Club at URC Hall (see page 45).
- Sat 8th 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – Bingo at Benson Hall.
- Sun 9th 9:30, 10:00 & 10:30am. Bridge the Gap Charity Walk (see page 15).
- Wed 12th 2:30-4:00pm. Cream teas in aid of BALA minibus at Benson Hall – £4 (see page 44).
- Mon 17th 8:00–9:30pm. Start of new BALFF 6-week course on 'Volcanoes and Vikings: Introducing Iceland' (see page 39).
- Thurs 13th 7:45pm. Buntingford W.I. at URC Hall (see page 47).
- Wed 26th 10:30am. Start of new BALFF 10-week course on 'Exploring Cambridge' (see page 39).
- Fri 21st 8:00pm. Buntingford Railway & Local History at the Crown PH. George Howe – 'Hitchin Station Diaries'.
- Wed 26th 2:00pm for 2:30pm St Richard's Church – Bingo at Benson Hall.
- Wed 26th 7:30pm. Buntingford & District Flower Club – Lisa Howard presents 'Drifting and Dreaming'. Members only. At Benson Hall; parking at rear of hall, entrance through Rib Way. Doors open 7:00pm.
- Thurs 27th to
Sun 30th Royston Arts Festival (see page 48).

OCT 2012

- Sat 13th 7:30pm. Singing for Pleasure Community Choir – concert in aid of Friends of Westmill Church roof appeal (see page 32).
- Sat 20th 7:30 for 8:00pm. Layston School PTA Quiz Night (see page 32).

NOV 2012

- Sat 3rd 10:00am–3:00pm. Friends of Orchard Surgery Annual Craft Fair (see page 16).

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

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

Welcome back and I hope you have all enjoyed a summer break. Summer did arrive eventually – on cue for the Olympics, in fact – but as I write this it looks set to disappear again for the Bank Holiday. Typical! But we all enjoy a good moan about the weather and this month Vyse shares his whimsical thoughts on the subject.

Sandra makes another appearance this month, this time with her memories of growing up in Buckland in the 1950s and 60s. I hope you enjoy reading her article as much as I did. My childhood was in the hills of Northumberland, but her rural reminiscences certainly struck a chord with me. Also in literary vein, this month Teresa Bonner, our regular poet, is joined by two others inspired to pen some lines in verse. We have poems from former editor Val Hume and a contribution from a gentleman in Norfolk with fond memories of the area and the Buntingford Branch Line.

The debate about developments rumbles on. The expected planning application for the field off Hare Street Road did not materialise over the summer, but the application for redevelopment of the Sainsbury's site did. Although it was not made clear at the public exhibition, it appears that Sainsbury's themselves are the intended clients for the site. Judging from the noise, work on demolition has already started, but there are still several important issues to be resolved before any permission to rebuild is granted – not least the sheer size of the proposed new warehouse and the proposal for a multi-storey car park with its entrance on the London Road. The Civic Society and BARD continue to be active in pressing for responsible development.

Finally, after months of waiting for the promised town gateway, we were all rather underwhelmed by what Barratts delivered. The Mercury hit the nail on the head with its front-page headline, 'Is that it?'. Let's hope that future developments in Buntingford have a happier outcome for all concerned.

Christine Noble

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

Many thanks to Debbie Lemay for proofreading

**Editorial copy deadline for the October 2012 Journal is
12.00 noon on Tuesday 18th September 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

New Group Support Service

I have been living and working in Buntingford for three years now, offering counselling support to individuals, and thought that some of your readers might be interested in a new group support service that I am starting up from 5th October with my colleague, Lydia Collins. We have worked together running group support sessions for carers before with great success, and now intend to offer a similar service in Buntingford. We will be offering an ongoing weekly group, meeting for 90-minute sessions, which will give people the opportunity to share their personal concerns in a safe and confidential environment.

Both Lydia and I are fully qualified and accredited members of the BACP (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy). We share a passion for working with groups – how the support they offer can empower people and change lives for the better. We hope to continue that work in Buntingford. Anyone interested in finding out more about our new support group can phone me in complete confidence on 01763 272904, email me at Suzanne@counsellingconnects.co.uk take a look at my website www.counsellingconnects.co.uk. Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Hoy

Dear Christine Noble

I don't know whether you publish poetry in the Buntingford Journal but I am enclosing with this letter a poem entitled 'Last Train to Buntingford' which was a recent entry to the Ware Poetry Competition. I have fond memories of travelling on this vanished branch line (in 1961 and the summer of 1964). The line was a victim of the Beeching cuts and closed in November 1964. From 1965 to 1970 I was a pupil at St Edmunds College, Old Hall Green, near Puckeridge and have fond memories of the Hertfordshire countryside around Levens Green and Dane End. I look forward to hearing from you. Alas I do not have an email address, preferring snail mail instead, but if you log on to Google and type in my name examples of my work as a poet can be read by all and sundry. Yours sincerely,

Steve Glason
115 Victoria Road, Diss, Norfolk

Editor's note: Steve's poem is reproduced on page 27.

Dear Christine

Many years ago I was one of those responsible for extending the Round Table movement from Ware to Buntingford. For many years thereafter the Buntingford Round Table engaged in fund-raising and community service ventures to the benefit of the local populace. Once over the age of 40, Tablers go on to the 41 Club to maintain the fellowship fostered in their earlier years. Sadly, I understand that both clubs have now ceased to exist in Buntingford. However, I know that there are ex-members still resident in and around the town and I would like to extend an invitation to come and join us at one of our meetings. I have attached an invitation in the hope that you may include it in a coming addition of your Journal. You can find out more about the 41Club at <http://www.41club.org>. Many thanks,

David Tomlin, Chairman

Editor's note: You can see David's full invitation on page 17.

The 12th Buntingford Classic Event



Saturday 1st September

The annual Buntingford Classic Event is rolling into town again with classic cars, bikes, tractors, trucks and even military vehicles, all adding up to a colourful spectacle along our historic high street. This year our thanks go to two major new sponsors of the event: Autofix of Buntingford and MJ Warner of Hare Street.

For classic vehicle owners the event offers the perfect opportunity to get the pride and joy out of the garage, wax the bodywork, polish the chrome and show off! For visitors it is a FREE opportunity to admire some fantastic vehicles in the nostalgic atmosphere of the High Street.



There will be plenty more going on apart from the vehicles. Barbecues and a hog roast will be on offer, as well as some fabulous live musicians to entertain you on every street corner. The shops will be open as usual, although access to them by car will obviously be restricted.

Event Timetable:

- 08.00 Road closure and diversions
- 09.30 Exhibitors arrive and park
- 11.00 Event opens to public
- 13.30 Judging of awards ends
- 15.15 Prize giving
- 16.00 Event ends
- 17.00 Roads re-open

Whatever you have planned for September 1st, make sure you include a visit to the High Street. For car enthusiasts it's an event not to be missed, and for everyone else it's a great day out. So come along and help make this the best Classic Event ever.



Buntingford Civic Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014873)



HAVE A VOICE

Reproduced below is the Civic Society response to the Prologis planning application to redevelop the old Sainsbury's site, sent to East Herts Council. In its present form this planning application has provoked widespread rejection, including by our Town Council and BARD. The real problem is the absence of a clear plan for Buntingford to 2031, which leaves a window of opportunity for developers endeavouring to take advantage of a transitional stage in planning regulations without any real regard for the community.

July 2012

FAO Elizabeth Aston
East Herts Council Planning Department
Wallfields
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG14 8EQ

Dear Ms Aston

Re: 3/12/1040/OP Old Sainsbury Site Buntingford

Buntingford Civic Society has considered the proposals put forward by Prologis Ltd and as a result has two main concerns:

- The impact on the landscape
- The impact of creating a new entrance for traffic on London Road.

Impact on the Landscape. The proposed single building at 17.5m high is a far wider building than the tall white 22.5m high building (which has for sometime now been a complete blot on the landscape spoiling views from many aspects) and is significantly higher than the other existing, and somewhat less obtrusive, 11m high buildings. We consider that the photomontages provided with the application do not fairly represent the true impact the proposed buildings will have on the landscape and that the range of viewpoints should be widened (e.g. from near Owles Farm). Further proposals for camouflaging should also be provided.

London Road Entrance. We have been unable to find any meaningful information in the traffic analysis of the impact of traffic using the London Road entrance at shift changeover times (suggested as 6am, 2pm, 10pm). With up to 200 people entering and 200 people leaving at these times through the proposed London Road entrance one can anticipate significant queuing occurring and noise being generated as cars climb the

multi-storey car park. The current design is flawed and unacceptable as it introduces noise, vibration and vehicle and other lighting into neighbouring homes. The impact of the queuing on the junction with Olvega Drive has also been ignored.

We therefore recommend that outline planning permission be refused until these matters have been examined in more detail and satisfactory solutions found.

We would also like to see more consideration given to the measures that will be put in place to prevent HGVs from approaching the new site by routes other than the A10.

Yours sincerely,

Derek K Cooper, Chairman

Joyce Jackson (Mrs.), Secretary

BUNTINGFORD TOWN PLAN

The Civic Society has commissioned a professional evaluation of the Buntingford Town Plan from a professional environmental planner, Jed Griffiths. He will be presenting his findings, together with advice on how to turn the Town Plan into a Neighbourhood Plan, to Buntingford Town Council, the BCS committee and members of BARD at a meeting in the Manor House on **Monday 10 September, from 7:30pm**. Members of the Civic Society are welcome to attend.

www.buntingfordcivic.org.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.

An invitation to Ardeley

3.00 to 5.30 pm on Sunday 16th Sept

Come and treat yourselves to a delicious cream tea and home-made cakes in our village hall, then wander across the road to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of our beautiful 13th century church.

Proceeds in aid of St Lawrence Church funds.

For further information contact Wendy Waygood on 01438 861260

Buntingford Action for Responsible Development

BARD brings townspeople together to question new building developments. Here we invite you to take a look at two proposed developments that are concerning us.

1. Taylor Wimpey and their agents DLP

160 houses on farm land and allotments off Hare Street Road, East Buntingford



How will this affect the local community?

- Pressure on schools, police and health services, and town centre facilities
- More parking problems, increased traffic and use of 'rat runs'
- Landscape lost by eastward spread of town into open countryside

This development may not even meet the housing needs of local people, as it is being discussed in advance of the new East Herts District Plan, which is not due out until 2013.

What can I do about it?

- Look out for the formal planning application from Taylor Wimpey / DLP
- Look out for an invitation to a Public Meeting so you can make your response count
- Check **www.bard-group.org.uk** for updates
- Speak to your Town Councillor

2. Prologis

Expansion of the Sainsbury's distribution centre, London Road, South Buntingford

How will this affect the local community?

- Hi risk of visual impact of the larger building
- Increase in light and noise pollution from the site
- Increased traffic density in Buntingford and congestion around site entrances

We asked local residents what they thought. Here are a couple of the responses we received:

'The biggest worry is the effect the current proposal would have on our quality of life – our main reason for moving to Buntingford. The proposed level of additional lorries and commuter traffic would have a huge impact, not just on us but on residents throughout Buntingford and beyond and visitors to the town. We would all have to put up with huge increases in noise, traffic and pollution throughout the town – on a scale of which I think most Buntingford residents are completely unaware.'

Mrs Dieguez, Kingfisher Park

'We have lived in Windmill Hill for the past 35 years and have brought up 3 sons who attended the local schools. We feel that the planned re-development will make it unbearable for us to live here for our remaining years. When this application goes to the planning committee, we hope that they will support the Buntingford Town Council and reject the current plans.'

Den and Carole Wright, Windmill Hill

What can I do about it?

- Go to **www.bard-group.org.uk** to view the Prologis planning application (via a link to the East Herts District Council site) and for updates
- Contact Elizabeth Aston at EHDC: Elizabeth.Aston@eastherts.gov.uk

What is BARD?

Buntingford Action for Responsible Development (BARD) is a new way for the Buntingford community to provide their opinions on building development in their town. BARD members all live in or around Buntingford. We accept that new developments are part of the lifecycle of every thriving town, but we encourage strict scrutiny on the impact of such developments on the existing residents and the infrastructure of Buntingford. Further information on BARD and its actions concerning local developments is posted at **www.bard-group.org.uk**. Or you can contact us at:

info@bard-group.org.uk or phone 07969 835 877



★ ★ ★
BUNTINGFORD
CARNIVAL COMMITTEE



Buntingford Carnival 2012

Well Buntingford Carnival has come and gone and it only seems like yesterday that the committee sat down to start to organise it nearly two years ago.

The weather was good to us and people turned out in their thousands to see and hear the entertainment we had on offer and to peruse the stalls that turned out in force. We think the entertainment was some of the best we have had. From the reaction we have had from people you seem to think so as well.

Our thanks go to the judges of the carnival procession who were: Oliver Heald MP, Councillor Stan Bull and Mercury Editor Gary Matthews. The winners were:

Best Childrens – **Layston School**
Best Adults – **Buntingford W.I.**
Best Trade – **Herts Air Ambulance**
Best Pre-school – **Buntings Nursery**
and Best Family/Individual went to **Jasper Eaglesfield..**
Well done to all!

I would also like to thank all the many unpaid and unsung heroes and helpers on the day, without them Buntingford Carnival would not be possible. Also, thanks must go to all the businesses who put their hands in their pockets to help finance the day. Again, without them no carnival.

For a small committee of eight it is a lot of work to put on this event. Unfortunately two of our committee are standing down after many years of hard work. Therefore my thanks go out to Jean Devenish and Steve Hall for all their dedication, commitment and long hours in helping to put on what many people think is one of the best one-day events in Hertfordshire. They will be missed.

But on the bright side the other six are staying on to help organise the next Buntingford Carnival, which if all goes to plan will be held on Saturday 21st June 2014. If anyone out there would like to help in the run up to the carnival or on the day please let me know.

As I have said before, the carnival is expensive to put on and again we made a loss on the day, which is why we have to fund-raise to make our books balance. So look out for our fund-raiser next year and watch this space!

Ashley Cantor Chairman Buntingford Carnival Committee

49 Fairfield, Buntingford, Herts SG9 9NY / Tel: 01763 272177

Bridge the Gap Charity Walk

Sunday 9th September 2012

Start times 9.30, 10.00 & 10.30am

Jesus Green, Cambridge

The Bridge the Gap annual charity walk gives everyone the opportunity to take a stroll through rarely seen parts of Cambridge colleges – all for a good cause. The 2012 walk will be raising money for two local charities: the Arthur Rank Hospice and Press Relief – the News Community Fund. This is our 11th year and we wish to continue making it a very special event. We would like to include as many people as possible and to raise as much money as we can!

The event starts at 9.30am on Jesus Green. The route will take you through a number of colleges and this year walkers will also have the opportunity to see the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. There are tourist guides on hand to talk about the colleges and other places of interest on the route.

It is not a race and is for young and old, able and not so able. For participants aged 18 and over, the entrance fee is £15. Entrance for under 18s is free, but they do need to be accompanied by a paying adult. Due to the generous sponsorship of The Cambridge Building Society, the TTP Group and Cambridge Assessment, all of the registration fees will go directly to the two charities. We also ask that you help us raise as much money as you can through sponsorship or donations. We have prizes for the highest fundraiser in various categories, either as an individual or as a team.

For more information go to **www.bridgethegapwalk.org** where you can register online. Or you can pick up a registration form from any branch of The Cambridge Building Society, or call us on 01223 434378.

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

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

Wilkestock Charity Festival 2012

This ever-popular Music Festival is taking place near
Aston/Watton-at-Stone on:

31st August & 1st/2nd September

A full three-day festival on your doorstep with family camping and
activities, cinema, 360 bar and top artists including:

- **Bastille • Chas and His Band • New Groove Formation •**
- **Maddox • Trouble with Tuesday • The Zarrs •**
- **Mice With Glasses • Wideboy Generation •**
- **Slipmatt • 2 Bad Mice! •**

This year the organisers hope to raise over £10,000 for two worthy
charities: Leukaemia Research and Keswick Mountain Rescue.
Some tickets are available for sale on the gate, so why not join us
and help us to reach our target. Visit **www.wilkestock.com** for
more information, or just come along for a great weekend!

The Wilkestock site is off Frogmore Hill and is signposted from the
Walkern to Watton Road and from the A602 at Hooks Cross.

AVAILABLE TO HIRE

BUNTINGFORD SCOUT HQ

for Parties, Classes, Events etc.

Large air-conditioned hall, tables & chairs, and fully equipped kitchen.

Toilet facilities include disabled access and baby changing.

Alcohol licenses available. Option to hire POPCORN machine.

Discounts available to parents of children in the Scout Group

For more information contact: **Ruth Vincent 07870 638480**



41 Club
EX-ROUND TABLERS

*Ware and District 41 Club
welcome ex-Round Tablers and
41 Club members residing in the
Buntingford area to join in the
activities of our Club.*

*We are a purely social Club
promoting fellowship amongst
members of the Round Table
family of Clubs.*

*Our monthly meeting is held at
the White Horse in High Cross
on the 3rd Wednesday in each
month (7.30 for 8.00pm).*

Speaker meetings/trips/walks/meals/golf

Book in by the Monday prior to meeting.

Secretary: Melvyn Cousins 01920 420197

Further details from david.tomlin419@btinternet.com



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	2	Morning Worship	Dr Jeffrey Barham
	9	Holy Communion	Rev Duncan Goldie
	16	Harvest Festival	Rev Derek Newton
	23	Morning Worship	Rev Duncan Goldie
	30	Morning Worship	Rev Duncan Goldie
October	7	Morning Worship	Dr Janet Bottoms

Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire Historic Churches Trust will be holding their annual **Sponsored Bike 'n' Hike on Saturday 8th September** when some 500 churches across the counties will be open.

Churches Together are holding a **Bible Study meeting in Christ Church Hall** on Wednesday 12th September from 12:30pm and every second Wednesday of the month thereafter.

Christ Church is holding a **Bible study evening** on the second Wednesday of the month starting at 7:30pm. Contact the Rev Duncan Goldie as the venue varies.

A Link get-together is planned for Sunday 23rd September at Wimpole Hall. It will start with lunch from 1:00pm (*you will need to bring your own food*) and from 2:00pm onwards planned activities will be available. **Note:** The car park is free to National Trust members.

Churches Together Harvest Lunch will take place on Sunday 30th September at Benson Hall starting from 12:30pm.

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.

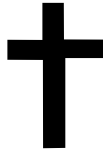
Lunches organised by Christian Aid are held in the Church Hall from 12:30 to 2:00pm on the first Friday of the month.

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



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 September

Sun 2 nd	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	10.00am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Family Service
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
Wed 5 th	9:30am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Sun 9 th	9:30am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 16 th	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Sung Eucharist
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Family Worship
Sun 23 rd	9:30am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Holy Communion
	9:30am	St. Mary the Virgin, Westmill	Morning Worship
	11:00am	St. Peter's, Buntingford	Holy Communion
Sun 30 th	9:30am	St. Mary's, Aspenden	Family Communion
	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

The last few weeks of the summer term were, as usual, extremely busy ones. We had two brilliant collective worships from 5T and 6B. Year fives gave a very professional performance of 'The Pied Piper of Hamlyn', showing the importance of keeping your promises. 6B told us of the sometimes forgotten fourth emergency service – the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. They finished with the hymn 'Lord of the Sea and Sky'.

Year 5 had a very enjoyable educational visit to Kew Gardens, learning about the different species of plants in the Palm House, enjoying rainforest food and, a special favourite, the 18m-high Xstrata Treetop Walkway.

To commemorate this being Olympic year, sports day was held at Wodson Park, where pupils experienced competing on an athletics track. The inclement weather of wind and rain did nothing to dampen their enthusiasm and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. Two previous school records were broken by Cameron Hoskins in the 600m race for Year 6 and Jake Willis in the 150m for Year 5. Pupils were given an ice cream to celebrate our recent 'Outstanding' award in the Ofsted inspection. Thanks to everyone who came along and supported this event.

Our School Association held a successful Summer Fair with music from the school orchestra together with ex-pupils 'Kept in the Dark' and 'The Folk'. Money raised is going towards new sound equipment and staging. Thanks to the Co-Op who kindly allowed us to sell raffle tickets; we are pleased to say that one of these tickets won the second prize of a luxury hamper.



A day out in Kew Gardens for Year 5

Olympic torch bearer Mandy Jinkerson came into school and shared her once-in-a-lifetime experience of being part of the torch relay.

We said goodbye to Year 8 with a Celebration Evening in their honour. Films were shown together with music, dance and performance poetry. The audience were also treated to a performance from our very own supergroup 'The Wilted'. Everyone leaving us received a commemorative scroll together with a book of photographs and messages from staff. End-of-term prizes were awarded in a final assembly of the school year. We wish all our leavers good luck in their further education.

We look forward to welcoming our new intake of Year 5 pupils in September and hope that they will enjoy their time at Edwinstree.

Diane George



On stage live at Edwinstree: The Wilted



Sports Day and the chance to try out a real athletics track



BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

A QUALITY TOWN COUNCIL

Our brand new Multi Games facility is now up and running and has been used during the summer months for tennis. There have been suggestions that this facility be left unlocked for general use. The Amenities Committee did consider this option but was mindful that the refurbishment cost in excess of £100,000 and that this asset must be protected as much as possible. The facility has a keypad lock and hirers can call the Council office to make a booking and obtain the key code. This code is to be changed on a regular basis.

Late July saw the arrival of the plans for the new distribution depot on the Sainsbury's site. The Council held a special meeting to discuss these plans. Concerns centred around the size of the proposed building, the creation of a multistorey car park fronting London Road and the access to the proposed car park. All of these concerns have been passed on to the District Council and it is hoped that these concerns are taken into account when any decisions are made.

We have now held two marriage ceremonies at the Manor House, both of which were very successful. Both couples agreed that it was perfect holding the ceremony in their home town. If you are getting married why not consider making use of the Manor House for your ceremony?

The Youth Council, in conjunction with East Herts Council, held a garden tea party for the Senior Citizens. This was during the very wet spell we had and as the event was held in the marquee, guests did get a little damp. Despite this a good time was had by all.

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 September 2012

Thursday 6th 7:30pm – Amenities Committee

Thursday 13th 7:30pm – Planning Committee
8:00pm – Resources Committee

Thursday 27th 7:30pm – Planning Committee
8:00pm – Full Council

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

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



J. Oliver Radley Opticians have celebrated their 8th anniversary in Buntingford High Street

On 1st August, J. Oliver Radley Opticians chalked up eight years of trading on Buntingford High Street. Customers were happy to help the celebrations at the practice go with a swing, joining the team for a drink and a cupcake to mark the occasion.

How it all began ...

After gaining experience working in smaller practices and in manufacturing, practice owner James decided that he wanted to create his own independent practice in an atmosphere where he could enjoy coming to work.

The location, the premises and the needs of the local community in Buntingford determined what style, feel and product mix to stock. And to have a comfortable working environment he needed a friendly team of staff around him with the all-important experience, knowledge and expertise. After years of planning and an extensive re-fit of the premises – which was formerly Buntingford Television – J. Oliver Radley Opticians opened for business in Buntingford on 1st August 2004.

From the start the practice aimed to provide an excellent service tailored to individual optical needs. It welcomes both Private and NHS patients, whatever your visual requirements for fashion, sports, style, UV protection and budget may be.

During its eight years of existence, the practice has adapted and evolved. There are now two consulting rooms, which is great news for customers as it means the practice can offer more choice of appointments, and the extra capacity means there is less waiting time to get an appointment. The practice always strives to keep standards high and the premises immaculately presented.

James Radley expressed his thanks to all concerned, saying: 'Thank you to all of our customers for their support over the past eight years. And thanks to our team of staff for their hard work. Here's to another 8 years and more!'

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.

The Birds & the Bees, But Mostly Just Bees

Mandy – Part 32

Now that we are beginning to make the church look better, rather than just creating mess, we are getting more people coming along to see what we're up to. We finally took down the scaffolding around the tower to reveal a not too scrubbed-up version. When we took on this project we looked at a lot of churches that had been 'restored' in the area and didn't like the ones that had been made to look brand new, so we chose to try to make our church just look like it had been looked after throughout its history. Now that the scaffolding is down and the weathervane is up, people can see the improvement from a distance, and they come to see us.



The new weather vane on top of the church tower

The main question I have had is 'Why have you put a Beekeeper up there on the weathervane?'. Well, we did not want the building to advertise itself as a church any more, as it no longer is one, so we wanted something a little bit different to the traditional cockerel, and a little more personal. Which is where I come in. One of my hobbies is beekeeping (others include scrabble and cake decorating – but I won't bore you with a list), and this seemed to me to be a good subject for a weathervane. Once I've explained this to people they then go on to ask how I became a beekeeper, so here's the story.

For many years we lived in a house with a postage stamp garden – enough room for a bit of decking, some gravel and two small flowerbeds – but then we moved to a place which had been left empty for over a year. This had an impossibly large garden with

6-foot tall nettles across the whole of it, and I have to say that, after clearing that lot, I hate nettles with a passion! You would think you'd build up a resistance to something after being stung by it repeatedly – but I can assure you that the last sting of very many was just as painful (and itchy) as the first. Having cleared this vast area I realised that it was possible to take up this hobby I had been fascinated by for so long, so off to the local beekeeping association I went. You'd think I would have had enough of being stung wouldn't you? Quite obviously a glutton for punishment.

I can recommend a visit to a local apiary to anyone as a good start in beekeeping – they will lend you a bee suit and allow you to take a peek inside a hive, with experienced people around you. This is a really sensible thing to do, as I realise now that you have no idea how you might react to this amazing insect society when you disturb it. When you pull a colony's home apart they tend to get a little cross, and this can be quite unnerving for a novice. One of two things tends to happen: you either back off, saying 'Thanks for having me – but I've just suddenly remembered some urgent business that I really have to attend to', or you become hooked on the fascinating spectacle before you ... for me it was the latter. So, I spent a few months working with the experts in the association, but soon I wanted to take on my own bees, and the wait for a swarm began.

Collecting swarms is something that a new beekeeper should only tackle with an experienced beekeeper, but it's the most fascinating experience. Bees swarm to increase the number of nests, so an old Queen will produce lots of new young Queens and leave the nest with most of the workers just before those new Queens hatch. Obviously beekeepers don't want this to happen, as that means all our honey producers go, so we try to stop them from swarming, but bees are determined women and, as you know, there's no stopping that sort.

So I soon got a call from one of my beekeeping mentors to tell me that I was going to be collecting my swarm with him, and I gathered up my bee suit, gloves and wellies and set off. When we arrived there was a rather nervous householder pointing from inside his patio doors to a large clump of bees hanging from the tree outside, so we set to work.

First of all a sheet is laid on the ground and a basket is held just below the swarm by one beekeeper whilst the other gives the branch a sharp bash so the clump of bees falls into the basket. This is then placed upside down in the middle of the sheet with a small block of wood holding up one side so the bees are not trapped in there. Here's the good bit – if you've managed to get the queen in that clump of bees in the basket, then all the bees that are flying about will go and join her. This can also be the bad bit, because if you've missed her and she's still up on that branch, then all the bees in the basket will fly out and reform the clump and you have to start again.

If you've got the good result then after about 30-60 minutes most of the bees will be in that basket, so you then wrap the sheet around the basket and take the swarm away. In my case I got in the car with a bag of bees on my lap and a worried expression on my face and querulously asked the beekeeper sitting next to me 'Are you sure this is right?!'

It is indeed right (apparently!) and we set off to introduce the bees to their new home. I had a hive ready which had a piece of wood against the entrance acting as a ramp – I tipped all the bees out on to the ramp and within about 30 seconds one or two had discovered the hive and started calling their sisters up to join them, and the whole swarm turned into a neat little procession up the ramp with the bossy girls at the entranceway fanning the stragglers in with their wings. I was now officially a beekeeper!



Mandy in full bee-keeping suit

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

www.layston-church.org.uk

How many men does it take to mend a tap? *

We had a little plumbing job - nothing major, thank the Lord,
It shouldn't take too long to fix and luckily we are insured.

The plumber turned up promptly and was a very pleasant chap.
He went outside to turn the water off, but found a faulty tap.

He said: "You'll have to phone Veolia, mending taps is what they do."

Veolia said: "In about 10 days we'll get a man out to you."

A fortnight later a white van turned up, a man got out and then,
He sprayed a blue ring on the pavement and off he drove again.

Ten days later another van, with a trailer and two men.

They dug a hole, repaired the tap, then they drove off again.

Next day a big white lorry came with two different men, I guess.

They got to work and filled the hole then swept up all the mess.

Two more lorries then turned up, with tarmac, tools and spade.

Two men spread tarmac on the hole and soon it was neatly laid.

They then drove off, the work all done - hooray, give me high five.

But wait, they've left their barrier - it was sitting on our drive.

Then yet another lorry came and a different man got out.

He stood a notice on the tarmac patch - what was this all about?

He then got out a camera and took a photo of the site,

Picked up the barrier and notice and drove off into the night!

*ANSWER: 10 including our plumber, 2 vans, a trailer and 4 lorries!

Val Hume

The Eggcellent Tillie Ups Her Game!!!

I was a woman on a mission with a paintbrush in my hand
when the Tesco man came calling with my shopping, brand by brand.
I carried it to the kitchen and put it all away,
End of that for another week till same time next Tuesday.

BUT, all was far too quiet, I became all too aware,
so to check on 10-month Tillie, I quickly travelled up the stair.
As I came onto the landing, to a clear view under our bed,
where an empty space should be, EGGS were there instead!!!

One, two, three were whole, but where were all the rest???
And then I saw the egg box still in Tillie's jaws,
holding it very daintily between her two white paws.
Eggs shells surrounded her and the yolks pooled very thickly
In a puddle on our carpet the glutenous mess soaked in quickly!!!

I should have been more angry ... I should have been so wild,
but the image of her in my head, just like a naughty child!!!
Anger gave way to laughter, as I pictured her so sneaky ...
I never heard a sound, and our stairs are quite creaky!!!

Good job, quite pre-arranged, the carpet cleaner was due next day.
And the moral of my tale? Make sure I've put the eggs away!

Teresa Bonner

Last Train to Buntingford

Come citizens who live in Ware, fond memories I'd like to share
A sleepy branch line - here no more. Beeching closure, by the score.

Stanstead Abbots - caught the train. Up to Mardock, then on again
Through Hadham, Standon - lovely ride. True Arcady on either side.

Track bed succumbed to grassy seed, Braughing full of rampant weed.
Puckeridge - cars slowing down, bypass relief for this little town.

Peaceful lanes around Westmill and rural idylls - canvas fill
Nature painting spring to mind, vanished stations hard to find.

Our journeys end is Buntingford, the very place now strikes a chord.
Delightful name - to me at least - impossible from Hertford East.

Steve Glason, Diss, Norfolk - June 2012

I Was Just a Happy Kid!

Memories of Buckland Village Life – Part 1

I was born in Buckland and spent my first four years in The White Horse public house where my grandfather was publican. He died in 1949, which resulted in us moving to Therfield whilst the latest stage of council houses were built in Whitely Lane, Buckland.

A brand new house, flush toilet and bathroom – now that's posh!

By the time that we moved back to Buckland I had not started school. I remember being sat on the draining board with my feet in the sink so that I could see from the kitchen window when the other residents moved in.

My Dad and two brothers started digging the garden to get a crop of potatoes planted, but the garden was filled with roots from the huge lime tree on the border of the property. I can still see in my mind's eye my dad using a mattock and a pick axe to cut the roots out – what a pile there was to dispose of. They were neatly stacked to dry out for us to burn on our open fire ... central heating – what was that? Not yet invented. We had just the one fire to heat the whole house and to provide hot water.

My little room faced north and was extremely cold in the winter, even frosting my sheets. My window didn't seem to thaw all winter, but in the summer it was cosy and the housemartins built their nest on the corner of the window frame. It was delightful to watch the parents bringing food to the young who were a bit noisy when calling for more food.

'The Good Life'

We rented half an acre from the local farmer and started a smallholding with chickens, geese, ducks, rabbits, racing pigeons, cats, dogs, and of course pigs. The chickens came to us as day-old chicks and were kept in an incubator which was filled with sawdust and had a light that stayed on 24/7 to keep them warm. The little chicks were gorgeous and occasionally I was allowed to pick one up. Great care had to be taken as the tiny wee things were prey to cats and the occasional rat ... urrrrrgh.

When the chicks were large enough they were put in the hen run with the geese and ducks and were kept free range. It was sometimes my job to collect the eggs ... BEWARE the old gander who was vicious and would peck at my legs.

Dad used the ferrets to catch rabbits for the pot and rabbit pie was enjoyed by all – mind you, we had no choice. So soon after the war food and materials were in short supply so we did actually live 'The Good Life'. The previous tenant for the half acre was a Mr Hudson who owned a pony and trap and I can just remember having a ride in it.

Such excitement, the piglets were on their way, but Dad hadn't reckoned on the fact that the sow would smother them. The 8 (I think) tiny piglets were brought into the house in a box by the fire and we all took turns to feed them on milk with teated milk bottles. (No fitted carpets and posh furniture to worry about.) Oh my! Kids of today have missed so much fun and the connection with nature which we took for granted.

Friends and neighbours

Village life in those days was full of fun and neighbourliness. Doors always remained open and all you had to do was call out 'cooee it's only me' to be presented with a cuppa and a friendly chat. In the 50s and 60s a neighbour was never called just by her Christian name, she was known as 'Aunt so and so'. My dear old mum was Aunt Frances to most

of the villagers and she was always there to lend a helping hand when needed. As children we were taught respect, obedience and the need to care for those less fortunate, but of course we were no angels, just happy kids.

At least once a year we had a village concert which was organised by Aunt Min, my friend Margaret's Mum. It was a very exciting time and on the night we were all over-excited yet nervous. I remember playing a piano duet with my friend Shirley who lived next door. We went to music lessons in Royston together every Saturday and we both took several exams. It is such a shame that I no longer play, but I do appreciate good music when I hear it.

Back to the concert ... There were three other girls my age in the village and we all played together and of course we all performed together. I can see Margaret on stage dancing the Highland Fling in her kilt, (Aunt Min was from Scotland). I can also remember all of us dancing dressed entirely in crepe paper outfits, I blush to think of it.

There were quite a few boys in the village who sang and played the fool. One image that springs to mind is of Alan (known as 'Crab') singing a Tommy Steele number – he was extremely good. The older boys performed an operation behind a well lit white sheet which only cast shadows. One lad laid on a long table and the others were surgeons removing nuts, bolts, sausages, fishing rods – I'm sure you get the picture! Naturally Aunt Min used to sing at the concert and several other grown-ups played their part, and a good time was had by all.

One of the lads was named Philip ('Radish' to us) and though I would have been in big bother if I had been caught we spent a whole afternoon shooting his air gun at targets pinned up in Dad's lean-to garage. Phew! ... being now a Mum and Nan I really can't believe I did that. I was about 13 at the time. I told you I was no angel ... just a happy kid.

To be continued next month ...

Sandra



Such a lot has happened since I last wrote in the Journal. I am starting sixth form, which I am very excited about! I will be studying Art, ICT (computer technology, such as word processing and web design), History and English Literature. I am really excited to be studying only a small variety of subjects, especially spending more time on art, and as a bonus I get to wear my own clothes!

I have just been on holiday to Florida in the summer holidays and as a treat my parents organised for me to go swimming with dolphins! It was so amazing and relaxing, being that close to an animal such as that was surreal. I've loved dolphins since I was little; I still have a collection of dolphin ornaments that I collected over the years and I used to sponsor a dolphin that I called Rainbow. So a big Thank You to my parents. I felt like a little child again!

Tasha Morrison

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.

Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)

Powers of attorney have long been widely recognised as useful documents to use if you are temporarily unable to manage your affairs – for example, if you get stranded abroad, or cannot get out of the house when recovering after an illness or operation. However, when the law was changed a few years ago, it made these previously simple documents a bit more complex. This change was done to protect people, but because of the less approachable paperwork, and unfortunately higher costs associated with preparing them, they are less often used. This is a shame as they are still a very useful tool.

On death, you have the assurance that the executors chosen in your will have the authority to deal with your estate. However, if you become mentally incapable of managing your affairs, your next of kin may not be able to simply access your income and assets for you. The Court of Protection is there to assist in such an unexpected situation, but applications to the court can be time-consuming and expensive. There are two types of Powers of Attorney and so you can limit what power you are giving to your nominated attorney:

(1) Property & Financial Affairs LPA

- appoint someone you trust to manage your property and finances;
- it must be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian to be effective;
- the attorney's powers can be used as soon as the document is registered.

(2) Health & Welfare LPA

- allows your attorney to make decisions about where you live, what medical treatment you receive, etc.;
- it can only be used once you are mentally incapable – regardless of when it is registered.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- you can appoint more than one attorney – to act jointly or jointly and severally;
- you can set restrictions on their powers;
- you can amend or revoke the document at any time whilst mentally capable;
- when registering the document, the attorney must tell up to 5 friends or relatives, so they have the opportunity to raise any concerns;
- the attorney has to comply with the principles set out in the Mental Capacity Act 2005, such as:
 - presuming you have capacity unless proven otherwise;
 - giving you all practicable help to do things for yourself;
 - acting in your best interests at all times;
 - acting in the least restrictive way to maintain your basic rights and freedoms.

We recommend that all important documents such as a Power of Attorney need to be reviewed periodically – we would usually advise every five years.

If you would like to more information on Power of Attorney you can phone our James Blakemore on 01763 255120 or email him at james.blakemore@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



Help with School Uniforms

My children are starting at a new school this September and since the recession our finances have been squeezed almost to breaking point already. Is there any help available for things like buying school uniforms?

Citizens Advice's Adding Up campaign was set up to challenge schools to help families by following these simple recession-busting tips:

1. If you feel your child's school isn't doing enough to keep costs down, raise the issue with the school management team. Draw their attention to the Schools Admissions Code, and keep copies of all correspondence.
2. If you're not happy with the response, approach the school's governing body. They should have a complaints procedure in place which will deal with issues such as complaints about uniform policies.
3. You can also raise the issue with the Schools Admissions Forum in your area. Your local authority should be able to give you details.
4. If your school has an exclusive contract with a uniform supplier which prevents you from buying 'off the peg' items at a cheaper rate, ask them to review this.
5. If they refuse to change this policy then they may be subject to enforcement action by the Office of Fair Trading: **www.of.gov.uk**
6. If you are concerned that excessive school costs are affecting your decision to send your child to a particular school then you can object to the Schools Adjudicator: **www.schoolsadjudicator.gov.uk**
7. Suggestions you can make to your child's school for how to keep costs fair and low:
 - Making sure uniform is available from a range of outlets
 - Providing sew-on or iron-on badges that can be put on plain clothing
 - Encourage secondhand uniform sales or swap schemes
 - Providing budgets for the year in September so parents can plan ahead
 - Being transparent about which contributions are voluntary
8. If you are really struggling with buying school uniform or PE kit for your child(ren), apply to your local authority for a School Uniform Grant.
9. If you have difficulties with any of the above steps your local Citizens Advice Bureau can help. Many bureaux are already trying to influence the work of local Schools Admissions Forums as part of our Adding Up campaign.
10. For more information visit: **<http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/addingupcampaign>**

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

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

Friends of Westmill Church

Choir will sing to help mend the Roof

The very popular 'Singing for Pleasure' Community Choir from Welwyn will be holding a concert on **SATURDAY 13th OCTOBER** at 7:30 pm in **St Mary the Virgin Church, Westmill**, to help raise funds for the Friends of Westmill Church roof fund appeal

This concert, like last year's given by the Hertfordshire Police Choir, is expected to be a sellout long before the Concert date.

Over the years, the 'Singing for Pleasure' Choir has helped to raise thousands of pounds for various charities in Hertfordshire and the surrounding areas.

Tickets for the concert are available now at £10 (to include a glass of wine during the interval). Please ring 01763 272217 to book your seat.

You are strongly advised to book early



Isabel Hospice is celebrating
its **30th Anniversary** year.
Thank you to all our supporters.

Care 4 a Cuppa – Individuals or groups are invited to hold tea parties throughout the summer, from June to September, in aid of Isabel Hospice. For details contact Maria Alexander on 01707 382500.

SEPTEMBER 2012

Tues 11th Sept – 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 11th Sept – ANNUAL MEETING 19:30

Once again the Isabel Hospice Annual Meeting will be at the Van Hage Garden Centre.

Sat 15th Sept – JUMBLE SALE 14:30–16:30

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

Sun 16th Sept – CHAIN WALK 09:00–16:00

The annual Chain Walk is a series of 17 simultaneous walks, from 5 to 20 miles. All are circular, with a stop for lunch at a local pub, led by an experienced walk leader. A lovely way to spend a Sunday morning and raise funds for the Hospice. To find out more, call Maria Alexander on 01707 382500. We are also looking for marshals for the event.

Thur 20th Sept – NETWORKING LUNCH 12:30–14:00

At Grill 55, 55 South Street, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2AL. A monthly networking lunch run by Isabel Hospice Corporate Relationship Manager, Emma Lippiatt, in association with Marketing Kinetics. We welcome companies from all over Herts and Essex. Cost £15, which includes buffet, glass of wine, soft drinks, tea and coffee. Would you like to sponsor a 3rd Thursday lunch? Sponsorship of £100 includes promotion on our website and email invites, display of literature and banners at the event and a 10-minute presentation. For more details call 01707 382500.

Thur 27th Sept – THE HERTFORD & WARE BUSINESS EXHIBITION 10:00–16:00

To be held at The Roebuck Hotel, Baldock Street, Ware SG12 9DR. Organised by SR Events and sponsored by Ashbourne Insurance. Isabel Hospice will be attending. Free entry for visitors. A low-cost way to promote your business and generate new leads, meet potential customers and new contacts, demonstrate new products and services, view stands and attend seminars. To exhibit contact SR Events on 01799 544905.

www.isabelhospice.org.uk

Garden notes from Church Farm Growers

Intercropping vegetables

Intercropping – that is, combining different plants in the same bed – is a good practice to adopt generally to make efficient use of space, but if you have a small garden it can help to get surprisingly good aggregate yields per square metre. Certain crops, such as purple sprouting broccoli or Brussels sprouts, are slow growers but demand a lot of space, whereas others – such as lettuce, spinach, spring onions and beetroot – mature quickly and can be grown more densely. Thus it makes good sense to exploit the space between those space-hogging slowcoaches by planting some of the fast-growing crops, which will mature and be harvested long before their hardy bedfellows get too bullish.



Lately we've been harvesting the first of our beetroot at Church Farm. Much underrated by some, beetroot is one of our favourites. Perhaps some people dislike it because they've only encountered it in jars, sliced and pickled. But fresh out of the ground it really is delicious boiled or roasted, or made into that remarkable eastern European soup, borscht. It has a unique and subtle earthy sweetness which is enhanced by cooking and, of course, that remarkable deep red colour. Beetroot can also be used fresh, raw and grated. Combined with grated carrot it makes an eye-catching combination in the salad bowl. The leaves are edible, too – steamed for just a couple of

minutes they make a strong-tasting alternative to spinach. In addition to the common red-rooted varieties, you can grow golden beetroot (preferred by some as it doesn't produce that staining red juice) and 'Chioggia' types, which have striking concentric pink and white rings when sliced horizontally.

Beetroot derives from wild sea beet, which grows near coastlines from India to Ireland. It is still unusually tolerant of salty soil conditions. Its botanical name is *Beta vulgaris*; Swiss chard, leaf beet and sugar beet are variants of the same species. Originally beetroot had a small, carrot shaped root; the familiar globe-shaped root emerged through cultivation in the 16th century. Nutritionally it is a good source of vitamin C and folic acid, and has other health benefits such as helping to cleanse the liver and to lower blood pressure.

At Church Farm, some of our beetroot is intercropped with calabrese, better known to most people as broccoli. Calabrese – named after Calabria in southern Italy – is distinct from the hardier sprouting broccoli. It is a summer annual, maturing in the same year it is planted, whereas traditional sprouting broccoli is a biennial, cropping the following year. However, the latest cultivars of broccoli allow us to harvest those delicious spears much sooner. Sprouting broccoli is more suited to growing in northern Europe. The edible part of both plants is the immature flower head; in the case of calabrese, the familiar tree-like structure capped with tight, unopened flower buds. After the main head has been cut, the plant will produce a succession of side-shoots of smaller heads. These are no poorer in quality – indeed, they tend to be more flavoursome – so the harvest period can be prolonged and the yield increased if the plants are regularly cropped. Once the flower heads are allowed to open, the plant will finish and no more will be obtained from it.

The broccolis are members of the cabbage family, derived from wild *Brassica oleracea* by human cultivation in the Mediterranean about six centuries BC. Broccoli has been a uniquely valued food in Italy since Roman times. This high regard has been confirmed by recent research, which reveals broccoli to be highly nutritious, containing important vitamins, minerals and compounds that support the immune system and help prevent cancer. When cooking, to retain as much as possible of those healthful qualities, steam or stir-fry the florets rather than boiling them, or even try them raw in salads or with dips.

You're welcome to come and see some examples of our intercropping at Church Farm. We're open seven days a week, and both entry and parking are free.

Visit www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk for more information.

Is the Green Deal the Right Deal for You?

The government's Green Deal scheme is expected to go live this autumn with the aim of helping more homeowners to refurbish their homes by spreading the costs over future energy bills. But is it the right deal for you?

Under the 'Golden Rule' of the scheme any technologies installed must be so energy efficient that loan repayments should be less or at most equal to the money saved. So, for example, a 30% more efficient boiler could be installed. It delivers the same heat using 30% less fuel, so you are then saving money on heating your house. Under the scheme this saving is used to repay the loan for the boiler. You get a new boiler, the house heats up faster, it's more comfortable and you aren't out of pocket.

So, what's the catch? Well firstly, the sums aren't that simple. For example, as energy suppliers charge more for the first block of units, a 30% reduction in gas usage does not



Mark Brown of High Wycombe, one of some 40 SuperHomes who are opening their doors to the public this September

Photo courtesy of www.superhomes.org.uk

equate to a 30% reduction in bills. Secondly, basic loft and cavity wall insulation are unlikely to remain cheap or free under the scheme. Thirdly, the interest payable on the loan might be as high as 6 or 7%. If you have money and expect to stay in your home, you may get a better return paying for work yourself.

If you are unsure, why not talk to someone who has already greened their home. Super-Homes host free Open Days in spring and September. They can explain both the benefits and challenges of eco-renovation. See the SuperHomes website to book a visit, or to check out the latest on the Green Deal.

Gordon Glass
Sustainable Energy Academy

www.superhomes.org.uk/greendeal

Buntingford Dancing School

Our term ended mid-July and on our last Saturday afternoon we visited Freman College. Parents and pupils were invited to join us on a tour and were shown where our classes will take place from September. The Musical Theatre class took the opportunity to perform some of the work they had been learning this term. The group and solo pieces were outstanding and enjoyed by all.

Summer Holiday Workshops: The first two workshops have already taken place at Millfield School. 'Dancing with Props' and 'A Walk in the West End' were both very well attended with approximately 22 children singing, dancing and acting at each. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and they worked very hard indeed, especially in the heat wave! The last course, 'Dance Around the World', takes place on 30th August.



Dancing with Props: Getting to grips with hats, canes and umbrellas

Pupil news:

Charlotte Hurry has been offered a Junior Associate place for the third year running at The Royal Ballet School, Covent Garden. She will be joined by **Leah Pugh** who has been offered a place for the first time. Both girls will attend classes in London on a Saturday.

Olivia Dedmen has been offered a Scholarship place for a second year with the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) Cecchetti Society. Olivia performed with the other 11 Scholars in her class at the Royal Ballet School to mark the end of her first year. She will also attend classes every Saturday in London.

Leah Pugh, Hannah Tokely, Kelsey Mitchell and **Emma Briffett** have been offered Associate Scheme places with the ISTD Cecchetti Society and will attend classes three times a term on Sundays in Twickenham.

Chloe Freer had a successful audition for Hertford Theatre and will appear in their Pantomime, 'Dick Whittington and his Cat'. This is Chloe's second year with them and we very much look forward to her performance.

Heidi Emes, Leah Pugh and Emma Briffett won second prize for their Trio entry at the 3-day Colchester Festival of Dance. About 20 dances were chosen from the festival for the Gala Evening Performance and prizes were awarded on the night.

These children are up against very tough competition when they attend auditions and the number of applicants increases every year. Well done to them all.



Heidi, Leah and Emma in costume for their prize-winning Trio performance

Buntingford Dancing School will mark its 10-year anniversary this September and when we return to classes we will begin preparing for our show in February. Watch this space for updates.

Julie McPartland, Vice-Principal, Buntingford Dancing School

Royston and District Ramblers Group Walks for September 2012

- Sun 2nd** Coach Outing to Monsal Head, Derbyshire. Leader George 01763 242281.
Must be pre-booked. For availability of places contact David 01763 242677.
- Tues 4th** Morning walk, Chrishall, 6 miles. Leader Angela 01223 843964
- Thurs 6th** Morning walk, Great Chishill, 6 miles. Leader Jenny 01763 245969
- Sun 9th** Whitwell, Ayot St Lawrence, 10½ miles. Leaders Linda & Roger 01462 453752
- Tues 11th** Morning walk, Burrough Green, 5 miles. Leader Bob 01763 246988
- Thurs 13th** Morning walk, Wrestlingworth, 6 miles. Leader Alan 07884 081715
- Sun 16th** Albury, Patmore Heath, Furneux Pelham, 9 miles. Leader David 01763 242677
- Tues 18th** Morning walk, Bassingbourn, 6 miles. Leader Margaret 01763 256788
- Thurs 20th** Morning walk, Cambourne, 6 miles. Leader Alan 07884 081715
- Sun 23rd** Weston, Graveley, Halls Green, Figure of eight walk, 7 miles + 4 miles. Leader David 01763 247572
- Tues 25th** Morning walk, Orwell, 6 miles. Leader Ian 01223 872243
- Thurs 27th** Morning walk, Shepreth, 5½ miles. Leader Rama 01763 260565
- Sun 30th** Balsham, Burrough Green, 15 miles. Leader Paul 01763 244038

For meeting points and starting times, contact the walk leader or visit the website:
www.ramblers-herts-northmiddlesex.org.uk

Our meeting on 10th September is entitled 'Passports, Assassins, Traitors & Spies', with Martin Lowe. Intrigued? Then come along and find out more.

Meetings are at Seth Ward Community Centre, Buntingford, SG9 9SG, doors open 2pm, visitors £2. Membership £6.25 to cover to end of year.

Christine Jeffries 01763 273466 or Jean Devenish 01763 271783

First Monday, 3 Sept Contact Hilary Curtis	Knit & Crochet 01763 272323	2:00–4:00pm
3 rd Tuesday 18 Sept Contact Carol McKimmie	Walking Group (2 hours plus) 01763 271054	9:50am –12:00noon TBA
Last Thursday 20 Sept Contact Dave Austin	Wine Appreciation 01763 272066	8:00pm at Seth Ward CC £5pp, bring 2 glasses each
4 th Wednesday 26 Sept 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 20 Sept Contact Alan Rumble	Computers (all levels) £3 01920 823608	2:00–4:00pm Seth Ward Community Centre
2 nd Friday, 14 Sept Contact Jeremy Burr	Digital photography £2 01920 823209	Bob Norris will be giving a talk
25 Sept, then 2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays Contact Christine Jeffries	Singing for Pleasure 01763 273466	2:00–4:00pm Wyddial
Every Tuesday Contact Alan Smith	Bridge 01763 287657	10.00am–12.00noon Homes
Various Contact Val Lohead	Out to Lunch 01279 658069	Various
16 Sept, Bring & Share Tea Contact Evelyn Smith	Social Outings 01763 272241	Quiz 13 Oct; Sunday Lunch 4 Nov; Panto Dec
Mondays Contact Dave Austin	Keep Fit £2 01763 272066	10:00–11:30am Seth Ward Community Centre
Last Wednesday 26 Sept Contact Anne Austin	Book Club 01763 272066	2:30pm Fairfield
Every Friday, restarts 31 Aug 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 Viduyt Sharma	Yogic breathing £5 01763 271779	10:00–11:30am Monks Walk
Last Tuesday Contact Mick Westwood	Strollers 01763 272594	25 Sept Fanhams Hall
Contact Ron Brighton	Quizzes 01763 273175	Making up a team for local quizzes
Every Tues, starting 11 Sept NEW GROUP	Seated Exercises £3.50 01763 271783	Standon Village Hall 10:30am, includes tea
Contact Anne Smith	Wednesday lunches 01763 271565	TBA
Contact Jean Devenish NEW GROUP	Social Cycling 01763 271783	TBA

**BALFF – OUR 10-WEEK COURSE IS
VOLCANOES AND VIKINGS: INTRODUCING ICELAND**

Tutor: Dr Rosemary Williams

Start date: Wednesday 26th September 2012 – 10.30am

What is the course about? Iceland, situated half-way (literally) between Europe and America, is geologically one of the youngest territories in the world, and its violent origins have given rise to one of the world's most dramatic landscapes. Its inhabitants, descendants of the original ninth-century settlers (many of whom went there from the British Isles), are proud of their ancient traditions and speak a language which has changed little since the Viking age. This course will survey aspects of this fascinating island – geological, geographical, cultural and social – from its first emergence from the Atlantic to the recent turbulence in the Icelandic economy and society.

This course is for everyone and will cover:

- The making of the Icelandic landscape
- The settlement of Iceland by Vikings, starting in the ninth century
- Medieval Iceland
- The Viking discovery of North America
- More recent Icelandic history
- The Icelandic language
- The Icelandic sagas
- Halldor Laxness, Iceland's Nobel laureate
- Fishing, whaling and cod wars
- Iceland today: a society in crisis?

Dr Williams will be using slides, audio, video, pictures, books, maps, hand-outs and rocks to help you follow and develop her points. There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion, and if you have visited Iceland, you will be invited to share your experiences.

**BALFF – OUR 6-WEEK COURSE IS
EXPLORING CAMBRIDGE**

Tutor: Honor Ridout

Start date: Monday 17th September 2012 – 8.00 to 9.30pm

This world-famous city has riches of architecture and history that most people are aware of, but also gardens, riverside, museums and many curiosities that are easily missed. The six sessions of this course will explore different aspects.

Two sessions will look at Cambridge University's colleges – what's to see, how they work and how they have grown over the centuries. The river Cam will have a session to itself, since it's the reason that Cambridge exists, and it is still possible to trace its commercial past as well as its transformation to pleasure and leisure. Two sessions will investigate the city's past and some of the people who have lived there, and one session will examine the University and how it has grown to be among the best in the world. All sessions will be illustrated with pictures of Cambridge past and present.

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.



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 DAYS:

Breakfast at 9.00, tee off at 10.00,

18 holes then presentation at club

(all enquiries to club Chairman)

Fri 14th Sept - Cambridge Meridian

Fri 5th Oct - East Herts

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Sun 8th Sept - Mini in-house Pool
competition**

**Sun 14th Oct - DARTS OPEN with
Cash Prizes**

ENTERTAINMENT FOR SEPTEMBER

1st - PRIME NUMBERS - A little bit of Gold!!!

8th - NO ENTERTAINMENT (Free Juke Box, Pool, Snooker)

15th - SATURDAY SPECIAL - No town without Motown

22nd - BELIEVERS - Our Beatles lookalikes

29th - SKYLINERS - Club Favourite

MEMBERS FREE / GUESTS £1

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

Are you supporting National Air Ambulance Week?

Air Ambulance charities across the country are hoping to raise funds and awareness during National Air Ambulance Week (NAAW) which takes place between 24th and 30th September 2012. NAAW is an initiative put together by the Association of Air Ambulances ('AAA'), an organisation that unites not only Air Ambulance charities across the country, but also operators and ambulance services. The Association gives a national voice to a local service. By supporting your **LOCAL** Air Ambulance you can make a big difference. Every penny raised will go towards helping to save lives within your community.

Pam Withrington, Head of Fundraising & Marketing at Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Trust, said: *'We have been delighted by the response of the public in showing their support for Go Red, our initiative for NAAW. Many people have already got in touch to tell us their plans. Schools, businesses and local groups are getting involved by wearing red for the day or holding red-themed events. We would love even more people to come forward and support Go Red – check out our website for information.'*

It's not too late to get involved. There are initiatives already in place which are simple to implement and need very little pre-planning. Herts Air Ambulance fundraisers can provide all the support and encouragement you need, or you could make a donation. Whatever you decide to do, you can rest assured that all monies raised will stay local and help us to reach the £130,000 a month it costs to keep flying.

To register your event or to find out more, contact: Dawn Easby, Senior Fundraising Coordinator, Herts Air Ambulance, on 0845 504 0055 or by email at :

Hertsfundraiser2@ehaat.uk.com



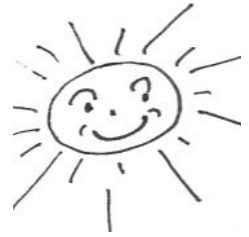
HAA fundraisers Dawn Easby and Talissa Fernanco gamely showed the way to Go Red by climbing into giant bath of tomato puree in Ware in August

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

With your help, in 2011 Herts Air Ambulance flew over 300 missions: 43% of all incidents flown were to road traffic accidents, 13% to falls and 25% to other medical emergencies.



WEATHER OR NOT



Often talked about, in fact every day, but I have yet to be convinced by any so-called expert where weather is concerned. Indeed we are now able to get updates 24/7 (as they say), yet without fail, it's wrong.

Most weather presenters on the television today are so-called 'celebrities' and experts at stating the blindingly obvious, sharing that dubious accolade with estate agents, politicians and the simpering financial experts and not forgetting councillors! Taking credit for any improvement or success and blaming everything and everybody else when they are wrong? Turn on your television set any time of the day and some dolly bird or young herbert is telling me if it isn't raining it will any time in the next ten days!

Being from a family of farm workers and growers, weather was always important and it was imperative to get the best possible advice, especially at certain times of the growing year. So every morning the radio went on at 6 o'clock, silence prevailed and God help any one who made a sound whilst Father was 'listening in'.

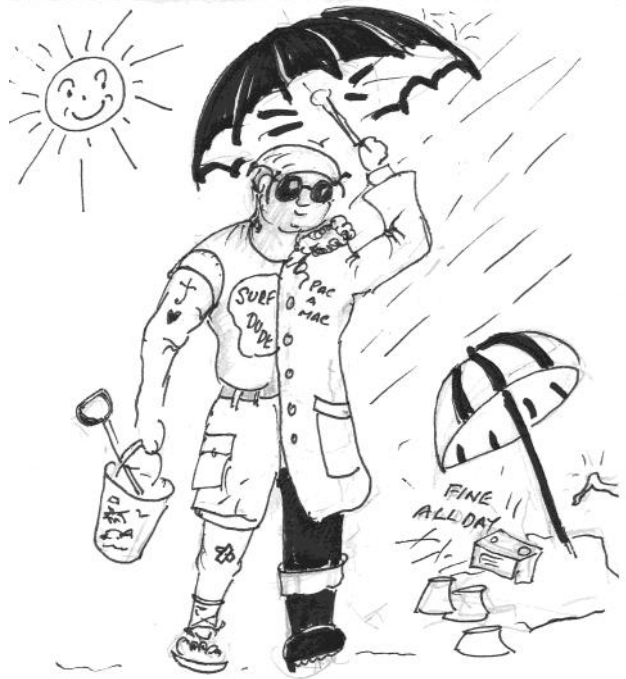
The same performance was repeated after tea time when once again silence descended and Father listened for that all important announcement 'Frost imminent', then we would have to stand back as he would go into action. Woe betide anybody who had the temerity to get in his way. In late spring, frost could be a problem in the orchards and we were all drawn into helping light the oil heaters in the avenues amongst the trees. Of course, tearing up and down the grass corridors in the dark lighting the oil drums was exciting for young lads. (I imagine 'elf and safety' might have had something to say about that today!)

Early in the year frost was a threat to young cucumbers and tomatoes, so father would cycle the couple of miles to the nursery (he had two or three jobs on the go at any one time to keep food on the table – no family credit or hand outs back then). He had twelve coal-fuelled boilers to keep stoked and maintained and that was on top of a full day's work. He kept this rate of work up until he was over 70 and only packed up smoking when the price went up to 2s6d a packet. Mind you if coughing was an Olympic sport he would get gold any day. Anyway, as he said, 'hard work never killed anyone, but it makes you bloody tired!' He lived to be 90 years old, so perhaps he was right.

Anyway now with apps (there goes that jargon again) I can find out that it is cloudy in Madrid, snowing in Moscow or hot in Hawaii, but despite the fact that I am standing in the middle of a downpour I am reassured by some metallic voice that 'some precipitation may be evident later'!

I suppose it was ever thus, as I seem to remember one old village sage who was a self-styled weather expert and told anybody who would listen his forecast for the next day, week, year. And he was full of 'useful' weather related sayings. 'Nar cast a clout till May is out' was one of his specialties and not wishing to tempt fate we walked around in winter vests (itchy) until the beginning of June. As a result we often came near to heat exhaustion in late spring when all other children were playing in streams cooling down whilst we sat on the bank in our Fairisle jumpers in the certain knowledge that the other kids would suffer some horrible malady in short time.

Dropping our guard we might mention to the old boy that we were going to the seaside for the day and he would warn 'I have seen the sparrows feeding late!'. This was an indication of inclement gusts over the Channel, apparently, so we packed enough rainwear to withstand a hurricane, only to haul all this kit around all day in stifling heat. On other occasions he would advise 'fine all day' and lemming-like we would set out in flimsy attire only to return home later soaked through. I am unsure why we listened to him. Perhaps some collective vicarious OCD? (But along with plaque on your teeth, cholesterol and allergies, we were but innocents in these matters back then.)



MAN FOR ALL SEASONS
(IN ONE DAY!)

4/12/2012

Still we continue to listen to the equivalent of this old chap only to get caught out. We look for increased berries on trees in autumn and buy in extra coal, chop enough logs to heat a small town, stock up with candles and powdered milk in the certain knowledge that when the big freeze comes at Christmas we will be set up. Then Christmas comes and goes with a heat wave in January, followed by three months of rain and we wish we had spent our money instead on a dinghy or new wellies at the very least!

But we are Brits and talking about the weather is part of our DNA, so we will probably be discussing this ever changing climate forever and complaining that it is 'too wet, too dry, too hot, too muggy, too cold'. After weeks of cold and rain this year it was only a couple of days before people were moaning that they couldn't sleep because of the heat and the dreaded weather forecasters warned of that increasing phenomena of hay fever. With the subtle advertising of the weather programme sponsors pushing some magical potion!!

So what to do? Perhaps we should put our trust in the so-called experts to one side and just enjoy whatever the weather has to offer. As somebody once said 'there is no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing'.

Meantime I will look at the barometer and give it a daily tap, check on the seaweed nailed to the shed and not forget to always take an extra jumper/umbrella/anorak/sou'wester/wellies/kagoul/woolly hat/ leggings/lifebelt! After all, you can't be too careful with the weather, can you?

Wyse

B A L A

Buntingford Action for the Less Able

Registered Charity No. 1094426

Minibus trips September 2012

SEPT			Cost
Wed 5 th	10:00am – 3:00pm	Imperial War Museum, Duxford	OAP £10.80 Bus £5.50
Thurs 6 th	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Tues 11 th	10:30am – 2:30pm	Hitchin – Market Day	£5.50
Thurs 13 th	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£4
Fri 14 th	10:30am – 3:00pm	Brookfield Centre – Boots, M&S, Argos, Next, Tesco etc.	£6
Mon 17 th	10:30am – 3:00pm	Welwyn Garden City – John Lewis, M&S, Debenhams, WHSmith, Boots etc.	£6
Thurs 20 th	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4
Fri 21 st	10:30pm – 2:30pm	Letchworth – drop off at Morrisons	£5
Tues 25 th	9.45am – 3:00pm	Bury St Edmund's – Historic town, shops	£14
Thurs 27 th	9:30am – 12ish	Bishop's Stortford Town Centre	£4
Fri 28 th	2:30pm – 4:30pm	Pearce's Farm Shop & Café	£3
OCTOBER			
Wed 3 rd	10:30am – 2:30om	Country Homes & Gardens and Bury Lane Farm Shop, Melbourn – Cotton Traders, Shoes, Edinburgh Woollen Mills, Bulbs, Plants, Deli etc.	£4.50
Thurs 4 th	9:30am – 12ish	Tesco at Bishop's Stortford	£4

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

B.A.L.A. Cream Teas

at Benson Hall, Buntingford

Wednesday 12th September – 2:30 to 4.00pm

Tea /Coffee, Scone & Cake £4

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

BUNTINGFORD GARDENERS CLUB

Hello Everyone

In July we did not have a meeting, instead we had an evening visit to Edwina Roberts' garden in Standon. Edwina is the area co-ordinator for the Herts Garden Scheme, and the visit was enjoyed by everyone who went.

In August we had our show, and I was very surprised by the amount of plants people brought along considering the weather we had been having. The best in show prize was shared by Roy Ellard and Alex Gatward.

Our next meeting, on 5th September, is a talk on Biodiversity in a Bottle. I have been told not to ask what it is about, just to turn up, so I am asking you to do the same!



Janet Murrells
Chairwoman, 01763 274341



Your local PCSOs will be holding Beat Surgeries at the following times:

Adam Frame will be available in **Buntingford** on:

10th Sept, 10:30–11:30am, at St Peter's Church

21st Sept, 20:00–20:30pm, at the Norfolk Road Playing Field

Amanda Higham will be available on:

2nd Sept, 10:00–10:30am, at **Albury** Village Hall

9th Sept, 11:30–12:00noon, in **Stocking Pelham**

Sam Jarvis will be available on:

4th Sept, 15:00–15:30pm, at **Cottered** Village Hall

(Times are subject to change at short notice)

Following an eventful summer with the Diamond Jubilee, Wimbledon and the Olympics, we are now going back to some normality. If I could remind everyone full details of beat surgeries in the East Herts area are on the Hertfordshire Constabulary Website.

Adam Frame, PCSO

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

Telephone 101 for non-emergencies



BUNTINGFORD TOWN FC

www.buntingfordtownfc.com



The summer seems to have flown by and the new season arrived in the blink of an eye with a home match against Herts Senior County League new boys Hatfield RBL. Prior to that game, thanks to a lot of hard work, the club managed to sign-on a full squad a couple of weeks before the season's start, which is always a hurdle we are pleased to cross.

Pitch availability during this wet summer was a problem, but I must thank the people at Bennington in particular who allowed us to play 3 friendlies there. The first, against Newport, resulted in a goalless draw, although Buntingford bossed the game for 80% of the match, camping extensively in the opposition's half. A 4-1 defeat at Knebworth followed, but confidence was restored with a creditable 3-3 draw against Bishops Stortford Swifts. The final friendly of pre-season saw a narrow defeat, 1-0, against Greenbury United.

So, back to the 18th August where we faced Hatfield RBL at The Bury. From the off it was clear that the newcomers to the league were a strong team, particularly in the air, and it was from a corner that they scored their first, with a header inside the six-yard box on 10 minutes. Town equalised some 10 minutes later, with Lee Ridings scoring the club's first of the season, but at the half time break Hatfield led 2-1 following a penalty strike. The second half was a pretty even affair but Hatfield seemed to cope with the oppressive heat, scoring their third of the match about 5 minutes from time. So a 3-1 defeat to start the season, but a good performance nevertheless from a young Buntingford side which will get better as the season progresses.

The Reserves, which will most likely have an average age even less than that of the First Team, start their campaign on 1st September, although at the time of writing no league fixtures have been confirmed. The Vets will have started their season by the time you read this article and thanks to stirring work during the close season by James Neill already have a full fixture list mapped out for 2012/13.

We have recently received help from a couple of new sponsors during the close season, with donations from J. Oliver Radley and Damian's Barber Shop, the former helping towards our FA Affiliation costs and the latter with training equipment. We really appreciate the help we receive from local businesses and it is very satisfying to know that even in these tough times there are people in our town who still support local voluntary organisations such as ours.

Another way in which we try to generate income is via advertising, and I would like to thank all those who have advertised this season both in our matchday programme and on our website www.buntingfordtownfc.com. Every penny we can raise in this way is put back into the club and it makes life so much easier for us. Our website contains details of forthcoming fixtures, the latest club news and various other items such as match reports, and, as we have been 'online' for over 10 years now, is also a great way of researching the club's recent history. The Herts County League fixtures and latest tables can be found on their new site which is hosted by the Football Association, at this not-so-pretty url: <http://fulltime.thefa.com/Index.do?league=20290514>

Well, with the season now underway, anything can happen. Watch this space!

Chris Thurgill, Chairman, Buntingford Town FC

BUNTINGFORD W.I.

Our non-synchronised swimmers had such fun on Carnival Day and it was an added bonus to win the cup again!

Unfortunately the speaker we had booked for our July meeting had to cancel because of an operation but we were extremely lucky that Barbara Burton was able to come instead. She spoke about a small Charity called the Kabifita Fund which works in Gambia helping to alleviate poverty through education and self-sufficiency projects. The Charity works mainly with women's groups helping them to set up small businesses and provides training in food preservation and hygiene, enabling them to feed their families during the rainy season.

Barbara graphically described the primitive living conditions which she encountered – people living in very basic accommodation with mud floors and straw mattresses and getting water from standpipes.

In August we had a talk about the Herts Air Ambulance Service which was launched in November 2008 and has since been called out on over 1,000 missions. They receive no funding from the Government and cannot apply for a Lottery grant, and therefore they rely entirely on public donations. They are desperate for volunteers to help with fundraising. Their slogan is: 'We need you today – you may need us tomorrow'. Every flying hour costs the Air Ambulance £150 in fuel – if they could recoup the 20% VAT, which they currently have to pay, this would make an enormous difference.

Coincidentally, one of our members saw at first hand the vital work that the Air Ambulance does when a helicopter landed behind her house. She captured the scene on camera for us to see.

The Coffee Morning in August was very well supported and we raised just over £200 for the Herts Air Ambulance Service. Thanks to everyone who came along that day.

Our next meeting will be at 7:45 pm on Thursday 13th September at the United Reformed Church Hall and Maureen Moody will be talking about 'Life as a Freelance Journalist'. Visitors are welcome at all our meetings.

Val Hume



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

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Royston Arts Festival

Thursday 27th September to
Sunday 30th September

An invasion of Daleks will be a highlight of this year's Royston Arts Festival. A group of Dr Who's deadly enemies will be at venues around the town – and will be staging their own version of the X Factor, the Ex-terminate Factor. Festival chairman Graham Palmer said: 'It certainly is something different and we believe it encapsulates [the] Festival theme of About Time. We hope to have the Daleks patrolling at different venues so everyone has the opportunity to meet them and, perhaps, some other characters from Dr Who.'

Mr Palmer was keen to point that there was more to the festival than Daleks: 'We have planned a programme which runs across the whole range of the arts. We have attempted to provide something for everyone, from drama to music and from workshops to exhibitions.' All in all more than 50 events are planned for the four-day Festival. The theme of 'About Time' runs through all them and as Graham Palmer put it: 'those taking part appear to have taken this up with a great deal of enthusiasm'.

The **Dalek control centre** will be at the Tannery Drift School on Saturday 29th, where apart from the **Ex-terminate Factor** performance there will be an opportunity to join in '**An Audience with the Daleks**' and question them about their life and times.

Music events will include a performance from husband-and-wife duo **Megson**, three times nominated in the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, in Royston Parish Church on Friday 28th. Megson will be supported by **Sarah Louise**, a singer-songwriter from Meldreth who reached the semi-final of last year's 'Live and Unsigned' national competition.

Classical pianists the **Cann Twins** will be playing a programme that includes music from *Swan Lake* and *Porgy and Bess* and an Olympic Fanfare at the Royston Catholic Church on Thursday 27th September. The **Royston Town Band** will be giving a '**Brass in the Park**' concert in the Priory Memorial Gardens on Sunday 30th September. And the now traditional Last Night of the Proms-style **Finale Concert** will bring the Festival to a close at Royston Parish Church. The concert includes performances from Royston schools, the Royston Youth Choir and Hertfordshire Music Service's Senior Windband@Stevenage.

This year's drama is provided by the Royston-based **Corvus Amateur Drama Society** with an ambitious production of *Return to the Forbidden Planet*, described as a sci-fi, Shakespeare and rock-and-roll mad-cap adventure. You can catch it on Thursday 27th or Friday 28th at The Meridian School. The poet **Wendy Cope**, who was voted by listeners to BBC Radio 4's *Poetry Please* as their choice for poet laureate, will be reading from her humorous and poignant works at Royston Methodist Church on Sunday 30th.

Exhibitions this year include the annual show by the Royston Arts Society at Royston Town Hall (Friday-Sunday) and a series of Royston Fringe events being run at the Royston Methodist Church during the weekend.

The full programme for this year's Royston Arts Festival can be seen on the website at:

roystonartsfestival.org