PS News

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December 2026 | Articles or advertising queries to john@walkinginengland.co.uk | Issue 199

A Traditional Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight

St Mary's Church, Standon

Sunday 20 December at 4pm (Please note change of time)

Come and enjoy carols old and new, some sung by the choir and others for all to join in. Listen again to the story and message of Christmas told through traditional bible readings.

Details from Michael Smith 821281 music@ubsms.org.uk

S & P Village Lunch

Wednesdays - what special days they are! We are so lucky in the villages to have a daytime community activity for every Wednesday in the month The 3rd Wednesday of course is when about 50 villagers congregate in the Village Hall in Standon to enjoy the good food and friendly company of the Village Lunch.

We'd like to acknowledge the great band of local helpers who have made that lunch so enjoyable: clever cooks and skilled bakers for the tasty soup and homemade cakes, and tireless helpers who set up, serve the food, and stay until the seemingly endless washing up, cleaning and tidying is done. Well done all and thank you!

We would especially thank Maria at The Steam Team for ironing the tablecloths beautifully, and Sue Spalding and the May Day team for supporting us.

Last but not least, thank you to the guests for coming along and making it all worthwhile.

The first three lunches in 2027 are: Wed 20 Jan, 17 Feb and 17 Mar.

If you live in Standon or Puckeridge and would like to come along, or know someone who might, then please contact us. Booking essential.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Helena 07974 583832
Brenda 01920 822293

Step up for Isabel Hospice



This January, local people are being encouraged to put their best foot forward for Isabel Hospice by taking part in the charity's Step Up challenge. The fundraiser invites participants to walk 8,000 steps a day throughout January, helping to raise vital funds for hospice care across eastern Hertfordshire.

The hospice's clinical teams inspire the challenge. They take thousands of steps each day while delivering compassionate care to local people and families. Whether visiting patients in their own homes through Hospice at Home or providing specialist care on the In-Patient Unit, the teams are constantly on the move supporting patients and their loved ones when it matters most.

Many join to improve their well-being, spend more time outdoors or walk in memory of someone special.

A key part of the campaign is its dedicated WhatsApp community, where participants can share their progress, celebrate milestones and encourage one another throughout the month. The group creates a sense of connection and motivation, bringing together people from across the local area who are all stepping up for the same cause. Whether taking part solo or with friends, supporters can be part of a wider community working together to support local people and families who rely on Isabel Hospice's care.

To find out more about the challenge you can visit the www.isabelhospice.org.uk/stepup

Could you help deliver PS News?

We have lost a couple of our team members recently

Contact John Harris on 07740 306189

john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Puckeridge Allotments

We have grown lots of wonderful runner beans, French beans, and courgettes, loads of tomatoes, enormous cucumbers and delicious sweetcorn. We have many new members, including Pete and Tracey, Alexandra and David, Caron, Ben and Chloe and they have excelled themselves walking home with armfuls of fresh veg. So despite the very dry summer and having to water our plants constantly this has been a very successful season for Puckeridge Allotments.

If you would like a plot to grow some fresh vegetables, please ring me on 07718734898, or Gerald@geraldrdale.co.uk.
Allotment Manager

Braughing Parish Paths Group

In December and January we start our walks at 1.30 because of the shorter days. We meet in Braughing Square (by the pump). Walks last approx. 2 hours and are usually followed by tea and cake in Marion's Green Shed. Winter is upon us. It is likely the paths will get muddier and more slippery as the season goes on so please make sure you wear walking boots or wellies.

Everyone is welcome to join us including well-behaved dogs.

Dates for our walks are:-

- Sun 6 December 1.30pm
- Sun 3 January 1.30pm
- Sun 7 February 2.00pm
- Sun 7 March 2.00pm

For more information please contact Paula or Paul (paulaandpaul@btinternet.com)

Standon Mayday 2027

Standon MayDay will take place on Monday 3 May, our planning has already started and we would love to hear from anyone who feels they can help us in any way and we hope that all those invaluable people that volunteered and have come forward since, will again be up to the task. Our special thanks go to entry staff, stallholders and our early morning teams, which are a mainstay and really set us up for the day. Our team is small but extremely enthusiastic and efficient with a solid wish to see Standon MayDay continue.

We hope to have the usual attractions including the Fun Dog Show, Mr Marvel and children's displays in the Arena. Stalls will be available for booking from February 2027 and we would love to recruit some new groups to display in the arena, please get in touch via our email or Facebook Page @Standon MayDay.

Mayday is run by volunteers and every spare penny goes to very local charities and groups. This year the Committee have approved donations to Ward Freeman Swimming Pool Fund, St Thomas of Canterbury School, Roger de Clare School and Ralph Sadlier School.

We are avidly looking for land close to the High Street to hire for the day for car parking and would supply security to manage it, litter pick etc. even small areas would help so much. Also due to the advent of Martyn's Law in early 2027 we will have enhanced security measures in place next year, we will explain further in the March edition.

We will be recruiting specifically for a team to clear up the High Street from 4.30 to 6.30 pm please get in touch if you could help us. Many thanks.

Sue Spalding
standonmayday@outlook.com

Standon & Puckeridge Tennis Club - Celebrating 75 years

We have three all-weather courts and new members are always welcome.

PAY TO PLAY is available to all if you just want to book a court. £8 per hour for adults or £5 for under 16's. We even have availability at weekends. Contact Sally Bradshaw on 01920 821152.

Chairman's Cup: This was held as a Dutch Doubles competition and the winners were Kieron Debnam, Pauline John and M Beckley

COACHING: Full details of our junior and adult sessions, including holiday camps can be found at Clubspark.lta.org.uk/cliffdevonshiretennis or contact Cliff at cliffdevonshiretennis@gmail.com

ADULT TENNIS: Wednesday morning 10 – 12 and Friday afternoon from 1.45pm. Contact Sally Bradshaw on 01920 821152. These sessions usually attract around eight players of varying ability. We play doubles and change round regularly which gives an opportunity to play with different people. We play throughout the year, weather permitting.

CLUB NIGHT: Tuesday 6pm also Sunday morning from 10am. All members are welcome. There is a WhatsApp group to ensure there will be players there.

TEAMS: In the winter we have a Men's and Ladies Team in the Essex Small Clubs League, a Mixed Team in the East Herts League and an over 60's Ladies Team in the Hertfordshire League.

Contact Diana Foster 07778 031430 for more information on any of these.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME: Special rates for parent/child/family memberships, for details contact Sally Bradshaw 01920 821152.

Follow us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/standonpuckeridgeltc or check out our website: standon-ltc.co.uk

Canasta



We are a group of Canasta players who meet weekly each Tuesday in Braughing for 2 hours (or thereabouts) for an afternoon of playing cards in a very relaxed, friendly, informal and fun way.

The group has grown in popularity over the last year which prompted us to move from fortnightly to weekly. It doesn't matter whether you are a seasoned Canasta player or whether you are an absolute beginner – everyone is welcome and if you have never played before, you will soon pick it up! It also doesn't matter if you can't come every week.

Each session is £3 pp which covers the cost of coffee and biscuits and hopefully a Christmas lunch around the festive season!

If you are interested in finding out more and would like to join a really fun and enjoyable social group, please contact me on 07506066080 or email me on Shelagh.disney@gmail.com

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Standon Parish Council

Parish Council meetings usually take place on the 4th Thursday of each month, except August and December These are held in the Lankester Lounge, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre usually commencing 7.30pm and are open to the public. Please ensure you review the website for any changes.

Contact with Standon Parish Council should only be via the Clerk. She is available on mobile 07854 916404, email clerk@standonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

WEBSITE

The website https://www.standonparishcouncil.gov.uk/ is the official Parish Council information distribution point.

Do you have something you want to raise?

If so, please contact the Clerk, clerk@standonparishcouncil.gov.uk or Tel: 07854 916404 and it will be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

STANDON PARISH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK / RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER AND CHARITY ADMINISTRATOR

Salary within grade LC3 (LC 33 – £23.60 to LC 45 £30.59 per hour depending on experience) Part-time (20 hours per week)

If you have a genuine interest in helping our forward thinking and energetic Council develop and deliver timely, quality and innovative services to the local community, this post is ideal.

You will ensure that all legal, statutory, financial and other governing provisions relating to the Council are observed, all Council meetings are properly administered and decisions effectively implemented whilst developing healthy working partnerships with key local and regional bodies. The Parish Council is the sole Trustee of the Recreation Ground Charity. The Charity Administrator role requires compliance with Charity legislation including financial management and reporting, plus day to day management of the Community Centre and supporting Trustees, staff and hirers.

Suitably qualified (ideally with or be willing to obtain CiLCA – the Certificate in Local Council Administration), highly motivated, enthusiastic and community focused, you will bring sound leadership, staff management, administrative, communication, IT, financial and organisational skills and be flexible in approach and able to meet deadlines.

We offer excellent nationally based terms and conditions of employment for this post which may involve working evenings and weekends.

Please call the Clerk on 07854 916404 or email clerk@standonparishcouncil.gov.uk recruitment pack and an application form.

Closing date for applications: 20 December 2026

Standon Parish Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

Care for a Cuppa

Jenny Vincent and Helena Spencer ran a Fundraising event for Isabel Hospice in September: "Care for a Cuppa".

We were delighted and so grateful for the help and support received in baking cakes, setting up, serving and washing up. Many visitors were welcomed, bought crafts, raffle and plant tombola tickets, consumed amazing quantities of tea and cake and shared experiences of our wonderful hospice.

In all we raised £1300 which, combined with the amount of fun and laughter that took place, showed that it was a hugely successful event. We hope to see you all again soon.

With love and thanks Jenny, Helena and the Isabel Hospice

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Friends of St Marys – FOSM

FOSM is the registered charity that raises funds for the preservation and restoration of the fabric, inside and out, of St Mary's our ancient grade one listed parish church in Standon.

Everyone enjoyed the Candlelit Supper in the church in October. Sincere thanks to those who gave their time to produce memorable entertainment and a delicious meal.

Our next two events are: Christmas Market Saturday 5 December 11am to 2pm

In St. Mary's Church, Standon. With twelve stalls from local makers and crafters offering Books Bric a Brac Cakes, Cards, Decorations, knitwear, Jewellery, Wood turned items, Chocolates, cordials. Come along to find that perfect Christmas gift for that "hard to buy for" Great Aunt!

To sustain you in your browsing there will be Tea, Coffee, mince pies and Light lunches of delicious homemade Soup and Sandwiches.

Do come along and support these local crafters and makers and help raise funds for the preservation and renovation of the Church building.

Christmas Cracker – Concert 10 December

We will also be supporting Standon Sing, the Rib Singers and the benefice choir at their Christmas Cracker concert offering warming mulled wine and mince pies in the interval.

Full programme of events for 2027

Our full programme of events for 2027 are set out below. Make a note in your diary and look out for notices on social media ad around the village.

FOSM Quiz Night Saturday 30 January

Puckeridge Community Centre. After the delights and excesses of the Christmas season why not get a team together to exercise those "little grey cells" and challenge for the coveted trophy (and the bottle of wine prize!)

Arrive for 7:00 for a 7:30pm quiz start. Cost is £15 per person to include a delicious ploughman's supper. Teams of no more than eight. A licensed bar to help kick-start those "little grey cells" and extensive prize raffle. Please contact Caroline Franks on 07973 195759 for tickets.

Afternoon Tea and Talk – p.m. Friday 9 April

The Lordship Standon. Enjoy a talk from Dr Nicholas Bell, Librarian at Trinity College Cambridge, about the life of Ralph Sadleir. Followed by a delicious cream tea and scones at The Lordship in Standon (tickets for this event will be limited).

May Day – Monday 3 May

Teas Coffees and Cakes - Standon Village Hall. Come for refreshing tea, coffee, and homemade cakes during the Village May Day Celebrations.

Standon and Puckeridge Open Gardens - Saturday 12 June.

Enjoy the variety of Open Gardens, lunches in the church and tea, coffee and cake in the Village Hall.

Safari Supper – Friday 16 July – Evening - Standon.

Experience your Starter, Main Course and Desert at three different houses within Standon a lovely experience on a summer evening.

Candlelit Supper – Friday 1 October – 7.30

St Mary's Standon. Experience the magical atmosphere of supper by candlelight in the church with the bonus of licensed bar and light entertainment.

Christmas Market – Saturday 4 December – 11am tile 2pm

St Mary's Standon. Stalls from local makers and crafters for that perfect Christmas gift.

Thank you to all who attend our fundraising activities, the work could not continue without the funds raised at events that you support.

We always welcome additional help and support, if you are interested in getting involved and supporting our fund raising to continue work on this historic building please contact David Goldstraw at silverhay@aol.com or Caroline Franks at caroline.franks@rf152.co.uk

A new exhibition at Hertford Museum

Paint the Town



Discover our fabulous collection of paintings of Hertford and the diverse ways in which local artists have depicted our beautiful town over the last 200 years! The exhibition is open until Sunday14 March.

The museum is open Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm and Sunday 12pm - 4.pm

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Christmas Greetings from Westmill Garden Centre

As the days grow shorter and we begin to think about Christmas, we look forward to welcoming customers old and new to Westmill Garden Centre for a little festive cheer.

Our Christmas trees will be arriving at the end of November, ready to bring that wonderful Christmas feeling into your home. We'll also be holding a Christmas wreath-making workshops, where you can enjoy a little creativity and festive fun, alongside a beautiful selection of ready-made wreaths to brighten up your front door.

Even in the colder months, there's plenty to enjoy in the garden. Our winter bedding plants and winter baskets are a lovely way to add colour and life to your pots, borders and doorways.

Over the coming weeks, we'll also be offering coffee and hot chocolate, giving you another reason to pop in, take a little break and enjoy a warm drink while browsing our seasonal displays.

Alongside our Christmas favourites, we'll continue to stock all our usual garden centre essentials, plants, pots, compost, coal and much more.

We're very pleased about the continued support from the local community. Whether you're visiting for a Christmas tree, choosing a wreath, picking up a few plants or simply popping in for a warm drink and a browse, you'll always receive a friendly welcome at Westmill Garden Centre.

From all of us at Westmill Garden Centre, we wish our customers, friends and neighbours a very happy and peaceful Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Ware & District Photographic Society

We hosted our Annual Exhibition on Saturday 10 October at Thundridge Village Hall. The exhibition featured a display of embroidery from the Standon Embroidery Group and Hertford U3A. If you didn't manage to come along but are interested in photography why not pop along to one of our regular meetings on Wednesdays from 8.00pm to 10.00pm in Thundridge Village Hall. The first 3 evenings are free and further details are on the website. The Society will be closing on 2 December for the Christmas break and recommences with a ZOOM presentation on 6 January. If you are interested in hand embroidery the Standon Group meets on the second afternoon in Standon Village Hall.

Further information can be obtained from Barbara Norris on 01920 822104.

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Braughing Village Hall and Old Boys School secured for community use with a 35-year lease

Braughing Old Boys School Community Trust (BOBS) has secured the future of the village's historic halls by signing a 35-year peppercorn lease with the Church of England.

This agreement puts the Village Hall and Old Boys School in the hands of the charity for the next generation, avoiding the risk of development. It follows a packed public meeting at St Mary's Church on 18 May 2022, when villagers backed keeping the buildings for community use.

PCC (Parochial Church Council) treasurer Duncan Welberry said: "The signing of the lease will be marked with 'passing of the peppercorn', a legal tradition and public celebration of paying a peppercorn rent each year in lieu of money."

BOBS chairman Paul Currie added: "It has been a long and complicated process, but we have finally made it. The trustees and management team have an ambitious plan to work with the whole community in modernising and refurbishing these buildings for the 21st century and beyond. There is hard work ahead, and significant funds to raise, but the prize is huge: these halls are saved for everyone. They provide an invaluable and irreplaceable community facility bringing people together and helping to prevent social isolation. The alternative was losing them forever."



Renamed Braughing Village Hall, the buildings already serve all ages, hosting scouts, mobility and fitness classes, coffee mornings, Braughing Get Together events, Bridge Club, East Herts Aviation Society, Parish Council meetings, comedy nights, private functions and so much more.

Over the next five years, BOBS plans to transform the halls by redecorating, replacing the main hall doors and windows, modernizing the kitchen, upgrading the toilets and stage, re-roofing and insulating, and adding a state-of-the-art entertainment system. High-speed Wi-Fi and modern infrared heating are already in place, and Braughing Parish Council has awarded a grant towards the new doors and windows.

Fundraising starts with the return of Sunday teas on the third Sunday of each month, giving people a chance to support the halls and come together.

BOBS is looking for grants, donations and volunteers to help improve the buildings, from clearing and maintaining outdoor spaces to sorting, repairing and decorating. To help, please email braughingvillagehall@gmail.com



Spins Pre-School

We welcomed many new families into our setting in September and we are pleased to say the children have settled in well.

The Autumn Term gifted an abundance of change. Change to our cohort, change of colour, change of our outside environment and a change of our snack menu.

The children saw how the leaves on the trees and bushes were changing from green to browns oranges reds and golds, which inspired colour mixing with Mrs Cole to create their interpretation of what the outside now looks like.

As always, the children collected nature related trinkets of sticks, cones and conkers and used them in most of their activities, in ways that demonstrated lateral thinking for such young minds.

We have to mention Pearces Farm Shop for their generosity of Pumpkins and amazing colourful gourds, which came in so many different forms and shapes which intrigued the children. Naturally, the children's curiosity was sparked essentially by how they looked and felt and by the many varieties from the sweet dumpling squash to the funny looking Pattypan squash.

We studied the pumpkin closely by dissecting it carefully to smell and feel it in its raw state, taking care not to overlook the pumpkins magical seeds! The seeds were re sown in soil, placed back into the pumpkins shell and after a week, the tiny seeds were given new life, which was a valuable hands-on life-cycle lesson.

We cooked a whole pumpkin and the children were amazed to see how the density and texture had changed once cooked.

Together, we made a wholesome pumpkin soup, offered as a warm snack alternative.

With so many activities based around the magnificent pumpkin the children learned that this versatile fruit isn't just for Halloween, after which is just discarded by many, but a reasonably price fruit which makes a tasty soup and when served with warm crusty bread makes a nutritious family meal.

Spins pre-school feels that introducing sustainability in toddlerhood, will strengthen a natural and lifelong value, for the environment, during this critical phase of brain development.

Next term brings many exciting opportunities for the children. To view the pre-school, visits are by strict appointment only. Email: spins.nursery@outlook.com or Tel: 07881 533339

BALFF

(Buntingford Adult Learning For Fun)

Our new lecture starts Wednesday 13 January

Do Russians interpret music differently?

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You don't need to understand music theory. Just relax and enjoy!

Lectures start at 10.30am at Buntingford Community Centre

Coffee is served before the meeting from 10am. Any further information phone Julia 01763 272584 or Joan Jones 01763 273341

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Dowsetts Farm restore 1km of the River Rib

Chalk Streams are one of the worlds rarest habitats with around 85% found in England.

A Hertfordshire farmer has played a key role in breathing new life into a rare chalk stream, dedicating farmland to an ambitious project that has created 300 metres of new, winding river channel along the River Rib.

The restoration, led by the Wild Trout Trust in collaboration with the Environment Agency, Affinity Water and Dowsetts Farm, has revitalised a one-kilometre stretch of river that was straightened more than a century ago.

Creating new habitats for wildlife
The restoration work was completed in less than seven weeks, between May and July, and has significantly improved the river's natural features and surrounding landscape.
A new 300-metre channel has been created alongside the original river route, allowing the waterway to meander more naturally through the countryside. The scheme has also established a more diverse floodplain, incorporating wetland areas, shallow ponds and scrapes between the former and newly created channels.

These changes give the river greater freedom to move naturally while providing a wider range of habitats for local wildlife.

Gravel riffles, bars and other natural river features have also been introduced to improve water movement, tackle sediment build-up and encourage native chalk stream vegetation to return.

The newly established gravel-rich riverbed is designed to recreate the conditions found in healthy chalk streams, offering improved spawning and breeding opportunities for species including brown trout.

Farmer's commitment makes a bigger project possible

The scheme was made possible in large part thanks to Dowsetts Farm owner Jeffrey Pearman, who took forward the restoration concept after receiving guidance from the Wild Trout Trust.

By making additional land available from his 560-acre farm, Jeffrey enabled the project partners to go beyond their original plans. Rather than simply improving the existing river channel, the team was able to establish a completely new, meandering route through the landscape.

The restored stretch sits within the wider River Rib catchment, upstream of where the river joins the River Lea at Hertford.

Jeffrey Pearman, landowner at Dowsetts Farm, said:

"I want to leave the land in the best possible condition for the generations that come after me. When we started talking about what could be achieved here, my view was that if we were going to do it, we should do it properly through a bold partnership. Giving the river more space meant giving up more land, but it has allowed everyone involved to be much more ambitious about the restoration and what that means for the river's future."

Materials excavated during construction were also put to good use. Approximately 1,845 tonnes of gravel, combined with additional material from a nearby quarry, was used to raise sections of the riverbed. This has helped address the effects of historic dredging, bringing back natural variations in depth and flow through the creation of gravel bars, riffles and other river features.

Timber recovered from the site was incorporated into the restoration too, helping to create more varied water flows and additional habitats for fish, aquatic plants, insects and other wildlife.

Supporting a healthier and more resilient chalk stream

The work comes at an important time for the region, with ongoing drought conditions highlighting the vulnerability of England's internationally rare chalk streams.

Despite the prolonged dry weather, water continues to flow through the

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restored section of the River Rib. The project demonstrates how giving rivers more space and restoring their natural characteristics can contribute to healthier waterways and more resilient landscapes.

Rob Mungovan, Conservation Officer and Project Lead at the Wild Trout Trust, said:

"Chalk streams are incredibly special habitats, and projects like this are about giving rivers the space and natural features they need to function properly. Jeffrey's ambition as a landowner allowed us to push what was possible here. Rather than being constrained by the existing channel, we were able to create something much more ambitious for the River Rib and the wildlife that depends on it."

The restoration has also been a hands-on effort, with Jeffrey and the Dowsetts Farm team working alongside specialist contractors. Their practical understanding of the farmland, its soils and the surrounding landscape has helped inform the work throughout construction.

Elizabeth Walden, the Environment Agency's Chalk Catchment Coordinator, said:

"We are delighted to have worked in partnership with the Wild Trout Trust, Affinity Water and the landowner to restore the River Rib, one of England's rare and precious chalk streams. This project has created and restored vital habitat, improved the river's natural function and resilience, supporting our shared vision for thriving chalk streams and will deliver lasting benefits for people and wildlife."

We are delighted to share that, after 20 years, water voles have returned to our river. This is a wonderful milestone and a sign that the restoration work is beginning to make a real difference.

We are now asking everyone to help protect this fragile environment while nature recovers.

Please do not bring dogs to the river during this period of restoration. Flea treatments commonly used on dogs can be highly toxic to aquatic wildlife, and even small amounts entering the water can have a harmful impact. Dogs can also disturb wildlife that is only just beginning to return.

We ask everyone to respect the countryside, give nature the space it needs and help us protect this precious habitat.

Let's give our wildlife the best possible chance to thrive.
This is just the beginning. Watch this space for more updates as the restoration continues!

Follow us on Instagram and TikTok for updates:
@hertfordshirechalkstream

Rib Valley Gymnastics is expanding!

Now working under the Affinity Academy umbrella, led by founder Jen Page, we are looking forward to an exciting new chapter for the club.

Jen and Andrea have been friends for over 20 years and live locally. By joining forces, we can build on everything Rib Valley has achieved, introduce new opportunities and secure the club's long-term future.

New classes are on the horizon!
We plan to expand our programme to include:

- Parkour (freestyle gymnastics)
- Preschool Gymnastics
- Adult Gymnastics

We excited about the development of the new sports centre at Edwinstree School, Buntingford, which will give us twice our current space for gymnastics. This means we can introduce additional equipment, including bars and beams, and offer an even wider range of activities.

Rib Valley now welcomes over 100 members each week. We are incredibly proud of what we have achieved and excited about the future.

Would you like to hear more?

If you are interested in our new classes or would like to join our mailing list for updates, please email:

Hello@affinityacademy.co.uk

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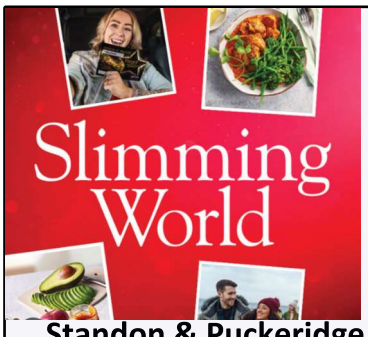


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Hertfordshire Holly

We got the winter season off to a promising start with two new members and several bookings.

We joined the village hall centenary celebrations at Wareside. Once upon a time that was our regular practice hall and it was nice to be back.



We will be at Ware Dickensian evening on 4 December, near the library, and are hoping for a little less rain than last year.

New Year's Day will be celebrated in the usual manner at The Wonder in Enfield with other dance sides, all guests of Etcetera Morris men.

We are a mixed clog morris side performing dances traditionally from the North-West of England.

Practice nights are at High Cross village Hall on Thursday evenings from 8 - 10pm and we welcome new members, men and women

For more information have a look at the Hertfordshire Holly website: hertfordshireholly.org.uk.

Or contact Mary 01920 822905 mideeks@yahoo.co.uk

News from Braughing Parish Council

The developers for the new site at Ford Street Farm have asked us for suggestions for a road name for the new development. In keeping with our practice of using the old field names, we have suggested Griggs Close

After many years of stable Allotment fees, BPC has decided on a modest increase this year so that the income raised is sufficient to cover the council's costs for maintenance, water etc. There are still a few plots available for rent. If you would like to take on an allotment (full, half or quarter) please contact the Clerk

Councillors agreed to install a bench in Pentlows Meadow by the interpretation board at the top gate. After requests from parishioners to provide somewhere to sit and enjoy the Meadow, especially for those who are older or less mobile. The cost and installation of the bench has been kindly donated. BPC is aware that Pentlows residents worry that the bench could be misused. If anyone sees anything untoward please let the clerk know (with as many details as possible) and if appropriate inform the police.

BPC are grateful to Braughing Get-together for the donation of 4 native water lily plants which are now in the pond in Pentlows Meadow.

Autumn maintenance has been carried out in the Meadow.We operate a 3-year rotation regarding cut and collect – this year we have cut the top section and the paths. The 3 faulty planks on the boardwalk have been replaced

Having finally got HCC to replace four streetlight bulbs, BPC is aware that a number of other streetlights are broken. We have reported these to HCC and have asked them to replace the faulty lamps asap as the evenings are now getting darker

BPC agreed to fund the public liability insurance for the Parish Paths Group as the group undertake statutory duties on behalf of BPC.

There have been discussions about BPC's position on the infilling of the railway bridge. BPC supports a sympathetic repair maintaining the view if at all feasible but we appreciate that this issue is also time sensitive. We will be holding further discussions with National Highways who manage the Historical Railways Estate and The HRE Group.

The change to Unitary Authorities in Hertfordshire is currently on hold. There will be elections next year for Parish and District Councils

Carols round the tree will be held on Wednesday 16 December at 7pm with mulled wine, hot chocolate and a visit from Father Christmas.

Next Meetings (all 8pm, Old Boys School):

- No meeting in December
- Thursday 14 January
- Thursday 11 February

Contact clerk@braughing.org.uk

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Attend2Health Celebrates 19 Years in Buntingford

By Louise Hampton, Owner of Attend2Health



At the end of October, Attend2Health will have been part of the Buntingford community for 19 years. When I first started the clinic, I had no idea how much it would grow or how important the clinic, its team and its patients would become to me.

What began as a small chiropractic clinic has grown into a multi-disciplinary health centre, bringing together a fantastic team of healthcare professionals under one roof.

Today, we offer a wide range of services, including chiropractic, osteopathy, physiotherapy, sports massage, podiatry, audiology, counselling, acupuncture, nutrition, speech therapy, Pilates, mental health first aid and more. We support people at all stages of life, from babies and children to older adults, athletes and those simply wanting to stay active and move more comfortably or helping people with their mental health as well.

Our aim has always been to make accessing healthcare easier. You don't have to know which professional you need before contacting us, which is why we offer a free 15-minute chat to discuss your concerns and explore whether someone in our team may be able to help.

People make the difference

I am incredibly proud of our team, many of whom have worked with us for years. Their knowledge, experience and genuine care for patients are what make Attend2Health special.

Having different professionals working together also allows us to take a broader view of people's needs and, where appropriate, draw on each others expertise. We want everyone to feel listened to and receive professional, friendly and individualised care.

Being part of Buntingford is equally important to me. Over the years, we have supported local charities, community events and sporting organisations. I am also passionate about supporting our High Street businesses, which is one of the reasons I became involved with the Buntingford Chamber of Commerce. I believe our town is stronger when local businesses work together.

We have received some wonderful recognition along the way, including being named the British Chiropractic Association's Clinic of the Year in 2023. However, the greatest reward is still hearing that we have helped someone return to an activity they love, whether that is playing sport, walking the dog, picking up their grandchildren or simply enjoying everyday life more comfortably.

Thank you, Buntingford

Attend2Health would not be where it is today without our patients, our team and the local community.

Thank you to everyone who has trusted us with their health, to every member of our team, past and present, and to Buntingford for welcoming us all those years ago.

I am incredibly proud of how far we have come and excited about what lies ahead.

Here's to 20 years – and to whatever comes next!

Louise Hampton
Owner and Chiropractor,
Attend2Health
27 High Street, Buntingford

01763 87 80 87

Puckeridge Karate Club

As we come to the end of another year, I'd like to thank all the clubs students and their families for their continued support, the club has had a good year and is continuing to flourish.

The next round of gradings will be taking place during November and if everything goes to plan, there will be two new black belts, and several students in a position to take theirs next year. Good luck to everyone who's grading.

During the last year a couple of our brown belt students have been helping to teach the juniors as a way to complete the volunteering portion of their Duke of Edinburgh Gold awards. Their help has been extremely useful as this has meant that with more instructors, we've been able to teach smaller groups which has been very beneficial for the juniors. Many thanks to all the Junior Instructors for their help it is much appreciated.

With January just around the corner, it's time to start planning your New Year resolutions, so if you want to try something different and get fit at the same time, come and give Karate a go. First lesson is free.

The Puckeridge club was started in 1994 by the late Hanshi Mike Billman 9th Dan when he was a

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resident of Puckeridge and has continued to grow in strength and experience ever since.

Sensei Clive Bowen 6th Dan now looks after the running of the club and will strive to maintain the high standards that Hanshi Mike instilled in the club.

Puckeridge Karate Club has a great instructor: student ratio and a huge depth of knowledge that the black belts are keen to pass on to the other students. If you would like to try something different and get fit at the same time, contact us to see if we have any spaces available.

The club is a traditional Shotokan club and focuses on discipline, fitness, and technique.

Clive is supported at the club by:

- Alex Matthews 5th Dan
- Lewis Matthews 5th Dan
- Tracy Gardner 4th Dan
- Dana Bowen 3rd Dan

Training times are:

Mondays: 20:00 – 21:00 Seniors - Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre

Thursdays: 19:00 – 19:55 Juniors - Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre

Thursdays: 20:00 – 21:00 Seniors - Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre

email: puckeridge.karate@ntlworld.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PuckeridgeKC

For further information contact Clive Bowen: 07395 404396

Lastly, we'd like to wish all our past, present, and future students a very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sadleir Drama Club NEEDS YOUR HELP!



A bit of history…

Over 80 years ago, in 1944, the Second World War was still raging and many of the young men from the villages of Standon and Puckeridge were far from home, engaged in military activities. However, for the women left behind a little light relief from the privations of wartime life was needed, so they came up with the idea of doing some amateur dramatics – and SADLEIR DRAMA CLUB came into being. After the War, the returning men joined in, and the club really took off.

We are proud to say that we have managed to present one or two productions every year since 1944. Our last production was in April this year BUT we are really struggling and have not been able to commit to a production for November 2026 or Spring 2027.

Why do we need help?

To stage our productions, we need:

Venue - Standon Village Hall has been the Club's home since the beginning. It is not the easiest of venues as there is no permanent stage, so we need to build the stage before each production.

Backstage crew – set design and build, lights, sound, props, costumes are all key elements of the shows we put on.

Front of house – people to meet & greet our audience, serve them drinks and food.

Director – the visionary responsible for producing each play.

Cast – to get on stage and play those roles

The problem is…. we have a declining membership of increasing age and all the items listed above are being fulfilled by a small number of (exhausted) people.

We love acting in Standon Village Hall, it has been our home since the beginning and, by continuing to perform our plays here, we feel we are very much part of the local community. We need more people, to build, to create, to help, to direct, to act!

Can you help?

We are a friendly bunch and would love to welcome more members of our local community to get involved. Sadly, we have reached the 'use it or lose it' stage! Unless we can find more people, who are committed to keeping Sadleir Drama Club afloat, in 2027, the curtain will be coming down on over 80 years of village history.

So please help us to keep going! It's fun whether you are on stage, behind the scenes, operating the lights and sound, or just providing the muscle to build the stage! We are ready to welcome new members who share our enthusiasm for keeping a village institution alive. If you would like to have a chat or find out more, please contact us by phone or email before it's too late.

https://sadleirdrama.wixsite.com/sadleir-drama-club

Liz Pickup
Secretary, Sadleir Drama Club

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A message for Advent

As you read this, we will have entered the season of Advent, the time in the Church's year when we look forward; a time of waiting.

We're all waiting in one way or another. Some of us are waiting for medical appointments, tests or procedures. Some are waiting for the birth of a new baby. Some are waiting for some other important life event. As I write this, we in this benefice are waiting for a new Rector to be appointed and to come and join us.

But the waiting of Advent is a different kind of waiting. We remember the centuries of God's people waiting for God to send his promised Messiah. We remember the faith of the Old Testament figures, who waited all their lives, never doubting that it would happen, even if not in their lifetimes, passing on that confidence to the generations below them.

And it did happen. God did send his Messiah, and in a few short weeks we will celebrate that event in our Christmas services. We'll exchange gifts to remind ourselves of the greatest gift of all, the gift God gave to us. He sent his only Son to be born into an ordinary family, to live here on earth with us, to be tried and condemned although he was innocent and to be executed for our failings and wrongdoing.

But that's not the end of the story. At Easter, we remember that Jesus conquered death and all that's evil. He rose again from the grave and he promised that he will return one day. On that day, all that is wrong in this world will be swept away; everything will be made right, perfect, as God always intended it to be. In Advent, we remember that promise. We look forward to Christmas, yes, but we look forward beyond that, to something much more exciting. We look forward to the time Christians all over the world are waiting for, when Jesus returns and we will live with him in his perfect Kingdom forever. In that Kingdom there will be nothing that hurts or damages; no death or pain; no sadness or suffering of any sort. No-one will be hungry, or cold, or afraid.

We don't know when that time will be, and Jesus himself said that we're not supposed to be able to work it out. But, like those Old Testament characters waiting for the Messiah to come, we know that it will come. It may not be in our lifetime, but we will pass on that confidence to our own children and grandchildren, because we know that God keeps his promises and one day it will happen.

As you wait for Christmas to come, and as the excitement rises in your homes, we invite you to join us at our services, at Christmas, of course, as we celebrate the coming of the baby who has saved the world, but also as we look forward to an even more exciting day, when we will see him coming again to take his rightful place as our King.

As ever, lists of all our services can be found on our website or on the church noticeboards. We would love to welcome you at any or all of them.

Caroline Franks
Reader (Licensed Lay Minister)
The United Benefice of Standon and The Mundens with Sacombe

Midweek Music at St Mary's

This popular monthly community event at St Mary's Church, Standon continues on the fourth Wednesday of each month, except for December.

It has now been running for four years and we are extremely grateful for the generous and loyal support of those who perform, those who attend and all who provide and serve the refreshments. We hope it will entertain audiences and encourage local musicians for many years to come.

Light refreshments are served from 11.30 along with tea and coffee giving everyone a chance to catch up with friends and make new ones.

At 12.30 there is a short concert to enjoy, given by a variety of local musicians and school students. We have had an eclectic mix of genres and performers over the years, all of whom give freely of their time and talents.

There is no charge, but there is a chance to donate towards the work of all three churches in our Benefice if you would like to: St Mary's Standon, All Saints Little Munden and St Catherine's Sacombe.

Do come and join us - you are assured of a very warm welcome.

Upcoming dates are:

Wednesday 25th November Huw Jenkins (Organ)

No concert in December

Wednesday 27th January, 24th February and 24th March

For more information or if you would be interested in performing in one of the concerts, please email: music@ubsms.org.uk

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News from St Mary's, Braughing

Our usual pattern of services continues foremost of the year but there are some variations around Christmas

1st Sunday 10.30 All Age service followed by refreshments, 11.30 short Holy Communion, Braughing

2nd Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion Braughing

3rd Sunday 9.30 Café Church Furneux Pelham

4th Sunday 10.30 Holy Communion Furneux Pelham

5th Sunday 10.30 Informal Communion Stocking Pelham

December

- Sun 6 December All Age Service with Baptism for the 2nd Sunday in Advent at 10.30 followed by refreshment break then a short communion at 11.30 for those who wish
- Thurs 10 Benefice Quiet Day, Albury number strictly limited: please contact Rev Lynn for more information
- Sat 12 December Children, come along and help us decorate our Christmas tree! 10-12 in church. Tea/squash and biscuits for all helpers
- Thurs 17 December 6.00pm Furneux – a service aimed at those who find Christmas difficult
- Sunday 13 December: Holy Communion for 3rd Sunday in Advent 10.30
- Sunday 20 December Carol Service 7.00pm with pop-up choir (see separate advert)
- Wednesday 23 December Nativity Practice 2pm – come along for costume fittings and rehearsal (especially if you want a main part) but all welcome
- Thursday 24 December Nativity Service 3pm
- Thursday 24 December Midnight Communion 11.30pm
- Friday 25 Christmas morning service at Stocking Pelham Church at 10.00
- Tues 5 Jan Twelfth Night Carol Service 7.30 Braughing

Advent

This year's theme is "The gift of Christmas" – look out for activities in church throughout advent

Pop-up Choir

Once again, Miles Knapman has agreed to be our Choirmaster for this year's Carol Service (Sunday 20 December at 7pm).

We would love you to come along and join our pop-up choir. No auditions, everyone is very welcome especially male voices! So if you enjoy singing carols do come along. We will be holding rehearsals in church on the following dates:-

Thursdays 3, 10 & 17 Dec

Rehearsals 6.45-8.00pm. Ideally you need to be able to attend on at least 2 of the 4 dates.

Standon Sing

In September Standon Sing proudly participated in the Arts in East Herts showcase event, by inviting everyone living locally to an open rehearsal. Thirty-four new people joined the choir to enjoy a session with this exciting and successful community choir. We were able to demonstrate how valuable a contribution the choir makes to the wellbeing of its members. We are happy to have several new members following the event.

Standon Sing is working hard towards a number of Christmas events. Christmas Crackers will be 10 December, 7pm at St. Mary's Church. This will be the fifth Christmas Crackers concert given by Standon Sing, the Benefice Choir and Rib





Singers. It will feature each choir individually and together, and loads of audience participation.

Please join us to sing carols around the Christmas tree in Standon High Street on Wednesday December 16 at 6.30, with warming refreshments at St. Mary's Church afterwards.

The Star in Standon High Street will be hosting a Christmas party on 23 December – an abundance of family entertainment, music, food and Christmas cheer. Father Christmas will be there, as will Standon Sing.

All these events will be raising funds for Young Carers in Herts.

Standon Sing meets each Wednesday evening at 7.30 in St. Mary's Church. We always welcome new members, especially those who have little or no experience of singing in a choir. Simply turn up or email David Ranford (ranfordd@gmail.com).

Parndon Mill, Harlow

We are delighted to welcome an exciting collection of guest artists this year for a festive celebration of creativity, craftsmanship and, affordable art.

With Christmas in mind, this is a wonderful opportunity to discover something truly individual. From beautiful handmade jewellery and colourful silk paintings to glass, ceramics and vibrant mixed-media artwork, there is something for everyone.

Our guest artists include The Essex Silk Painters, a vibrant and inclusive group based in Toot Hill, specialising in silk painting. Contemporary jewellery artist Abby Hook will bring her distinctive, handcrafted silver and copper creations, while Hertfordshire-based Kevin Lewis will showcase his bold, colourful mixed-media compositions.

We are also delighted to welcome Anna-Maria Aurich, whose work explores the fascinating techniques of kiln-formed and hand-blown glass, and potter Sarah Hollis, who creates beautiful functional stoneware with graduated glazes and vibrant decorative finishes. Abigail Zawadi, a deaf artist who celebrates her Maasai heritage, completes our guest artist collection with expressive abstracted landscapes, rich textures and bold colour.

Joining them will be our talented Parndon Mill resident artists: Yuki Kokai, Rachael Hones, Muna Zuberi, Liz Boast, Gemma Smale, Fiona Bennett, Ann Beatty, Teresa Chlapowski, Liz Loveless, Sue Chapman and Dawn Easby.

With such a wonderful variety of original artwork and handmade creations, this promises to be a festive and inspiring show, with plenty of opportunities to find unique gifts of original art.

Parndon Mill, Harlow CM20 2HP

Braughing Birdwatching Group

We are a small but keen group who enjoy watching birds around our local area and local nature reserves.

In winter, we hold indoor meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at The Golden Fleece. 7.45 for 8.00. Everyone is very welcome to come – although mainly bird-based, we have excellent speakers enjoyed by birders and non-birders alike. There is no charge to come to our meetings (but please buy a drink or two as we have free use of their restaurant).

This is our programme for 2027

- January 12 – "Birds of the River Blackwater" Steve Grimwade. We are very fortunate that Steve has agreed to come and speak to us. He is the founder and owner of Swallow Birding, a small specialist birdwatching tour company and one of the country's foremost birdwatchers. He is also an excellent photographer and speaker so do come along and hear him.
- February 9 - "Hummingbirds of the world" on-line presentation supplemented by our own experiences
- March 9 – "Bird ringing – how I started and what is involved" Jan Butchers

Please see local noticeboards or our Facebook page (Braughing Birding Group) for latest news.

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A 'New You' – Seven Secrets of Slimming Success!

January is famous for New Year's resolutions. There is something so motivating about pressing the 'reset' button and starting a new year with a fresh set of goals. For many of us, becoming slimmer, fitter and healthier will be at the top of the list of our New Year's resolutions for 2027. Spending more time indoors, often coupled with more indulgent food choices and alcohol can mean we feel sluggish and unhappy. If you're ready to make 2027 the year that you take control, lose weight, get fitter and gain confidence, read on. Here are seven secrets of success – all backed up by the latest research into weight loss and behaviour change from Slimming World.

1 Don't go hungry

To lose weight you have to eat less, right? Well, no! What you're eating is much more important than how much. Swapping high calorie, unsatisfying foods (think chocolate, alcohol, pastries) for foods that are lower in calories and more bulky, so they fill you up for longer, is key to losing weight in a way that's easy to live with. By basing your diet on low energy dense foods, like fruit and veg, and foods that are most filling like lean meat, fish, eggs, pasta and potatoes, you can actually eat a larger amount of food and feel more satisfied while losing weight.

"We might think we need to be overly strict with ourselves when we're losing weight – counting and measuring all our food and reducing portion sizes right down – but this type of restrictive approach ultimately leaves us feeling more hungry and deprived," says Slimming World's Head of Research.

Some quick and easy changes include using less fat when you cook, so you boil or dry fry instead of frying in oil, swapping full fat dairy products for low fat or fat free, ditching sugary drinks in favour of low calorie drinks and adding more fruit and veg to your daily meals.

2 It's OK to walk before you run!

If it's your goal to get fitter, remember you don't have to become a professional athlete to get active - just making a commitment to moving more all adds up. Many people make the mistake of joining a gym, overdoing it in week one and quickly giving up, thinking 'exercise isn't for me'. Finding an enjoyable, achievable, and sustainable way of building new active habits into your routine is key – anything that gets you moving more, from heavy gardening or vigorous housework to brisk walking, dancing, cycling, or playing frisbee in the park, counts. What's most important is making it a regular habit – as natural to your day as brushing your teeth. 'In our local groups we encourage each other to get more active, and we've even got online videos for members so they can easily get started at home.'

3 Be kind to yourself

We all start January with great intentions, but it's all too easy to go off track. It's what you do next that matters most – and the most important thing is not to beat yourself up about it. A Slimming World survey of 1,700 slimmers showed that when they did have a slip up, being self-critical was more likely to lead to comfort eating and giving up completely. However, when they were kinder to themselves (imagine how you'd talk to a friend who's had a setback), they more quickly got back to healthy eating, lost weight and they kept it off. So, cut yourself some slack!

4 Set a goal

It's hard to achieve a goal if you don't set it out clearly in the first place! And when you're thinking about your dream weight, don't be afraid to be ambitious. Research from Slimming World shows that slimmers who set ambitious targets lose twice as much weight as those who try to be 'realistic'. Shoot for the moon – you never know where you might land! 'As well as setting an overall weight loss target, all my members set a weekly mini goal – to lose weight, to get more active, to plan ahead or to try something new – making that commitment to a goal helps them achieve more.'

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5 Don't opt for a quick fix
It's no secret that many people find losing weight far easier than keeping it off long-term. To avoid becoming trapped in a yo-yo diet cycle, it's important to approach weight loss as a permanent change to your lifestyle – and focus on developing new healthy habits that are sustainable for life, as well as getting support to make those changes. Slimming World's Head of Research, says: 'A group support approach is tried and tested - research shows that the more regularly Slimming World members attend, the more successful they are. Based on their weight-loss over a year, the top 10,000 slimmers who attended their weekly weight-loss group regularly lost 30% of their body weight – around 5st each. In our groups, members are equipped with all the tools they need to stay slim for life, so that they can be confident that the changes they're making are sustainable forever.'

6 Strike a balance
An all-or-nothing approach is rarely effective when it comes to weight loss. Restricting yourself when it comes to food and drink might work in the short-term, but pretty soon you'll be fed up, hungry and giving up completely. A little bit of what you fancy is key! That might be a Saturday night glass of wine or a bit of chocolate in the evenings. Whatever it is for you, having a flexible approach and a balanced mindset is much more likely to deliver long-term success.

7 You don't have to go it alone
The principles of losing weight are quite simple. Studies show that embarking on your weight loss journey alongside other slimmers brings more success than going it alone – sharing the ups and down, having cheerleaders who are on your side, and sharing advice and tips. And not only that - recent research revealed that people who are supported to lose weight in a group increase their mental toughness: developing more control, embracing challenges and growing in confidence and go on to lose more weight than those who don't have the support of a Slimming World group. "The power the group members give one another is what sets Slimming World apart. Our members become part of a community, which helps them realise that they are not alone in the challenges they face. That's combined with our group support session which helps every member discover more about themselves as a slimmer, identify their own pitfalls and danger zones, and create practical plans to overcome them."

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New Year, New Purpose: Give the Gift of Time with Isabel Hospice



Isabel Hospice is launching its third annual 'Gift of Time' volunteering campaign, encouraging people to make a difference in 2027.

In 2025/26, 592 volunteers contributed 93,056 hours, saving the hospice an estimated £1,136,214, based on the National Living Wage. Their contribution is vital to supporting local patients and families.

Running throughout December and January, the campaign celebrates volunteers and encourages more people to get involved. However, opportunities are available all year round, and Isabel Hospice is always looking for new volunteers.

Volunteering is for everyone, whatever their age or experience. Non-clinical volunteers can join from age 16, while clinical roles are open to those aged 18 and over. There is no upper age limit, provided volunteers can carry out their chosen role.

For young people, volunteering offers real-world experience, helps build a CV and provides opportunities to put course skills into practice. For others, it's a chance to meet new people, build confidence, learn skills, stay active and give somethign back.

Isabel Hospice urgently needs retail volunteers across its 17 shops in Hertfordshire. Roles include welcoming customers, sorting donations and helping shops run smoothly. Other opportunities include eBay and Vinted listing, Inpatient Unit hospitality and reception, administration, fundraising and bereavement support.

To find out more, visit the Isabel Hospice website, email volunteer.office@isabelhospice.org.uk or call 01707 382500 (option 4).

You don't have to wait for the New Year - Isabel Hospice welcomes volunteers all year round. Now is the time to give the Gift of Time!

Buntingford School of Dance

Movie Magic - 2 May @ The Gordon Craig Theatre Stevenage.



The excitement is already starting to build as Buntingford School of Dance starts preparing to take to the stage once again for its much-anticipated biennial show.

Bringing together talented performers of all ages from across the local area, the show promises entertainment, creativity and inspiration for audiences of all ages.

Featuring a vibrant mix of dance styles including ballet, tap, modern, contemporary, jazz, musical theatre and acro, the production will showcase the dedication, hard work and achievements of students who have already started preparing for this special event.

From the youngest dancers taking their first steps on stage to more experienced performers delivering impressive routines, the show

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celebrates the passion and confidence that dance helps to develop.

More than just a performance, the annual show is a celebration of the arts and the positive impact they



have on young people. Through dance, students learn valuable life skills such as discipline, teamwork, resilience and self-expression, while building friendships and memories that last a lifetime.

Parents, families and members of the local community are invited to come along and support these talented young performers as they bring energy, creativity and enthusiasm to the stage. Audiences can look forward to colourful costumes, uplifting music and a programme full of exciting performances that highlight the incredible talent within our community.

For ticket information and further details, please check our website and social media channels in the New Year.

So, save the date for what promises to a truly spectacular celebration of dance.

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Please use the QR code to take you to the CONTACT page of our website to register or book a Pay as you Go class, alternatively email us at admin@buntingfordschoolofdance.co.uk for more information.

Two-week trials available first two weeks of January and from mid-May

Pay as You Go classes can be booked at any time

SCAN ME

Standon & Puckeridge Community Cafe

It has been great to see everyone at the Community Cafe over the past months, and we look forward to seeing you over the Winter months and throughout the New Year.

We are open 9.30am to 11.30am on the first Wednesday of every month, in the Lankester Lounge at the Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Our last cafe of 2026 is on the 3rd December. Cafe dates for 2027 are as follows: 6 January, 3 February, 3 March, 7 April, 5 May, 2 June, 7 July, 4 August, 1 September, 6 October, 3 and 1 December.

If you haven't been along before, please pop in for a cuppa and a chat. All ages are welcome, from pre-schoolers to pensioners. We even have a box of toys to keep toddlers amused!

As those who come along to the Community Cafe regularly will know, we hold several Cafes each year in support of various charities.

In October, we had our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning, with a raffle and plant sale. We raised an amazing £221.

Thank you so much to everyone who supports the charity fundraising cafes. Our donations make such a difference to the charities we support.

In December, we will be supporting Alzheimer's UK, and in February, we will be supporting World Cancer Day, with donations going to Cancer Research UK. There will be a raffle at both Cafes. Please do come along and give your support.

There will be a 'Recycling for Good Causes' Box at each Cafe, for old jewellery; coins & currency and stamps; mobile phones; cameras and gadgets. Proceeds donated to Cancer Research UK.

BUT PLEASE, NO CABLES OR PLUGS, CASES OR BOXES, AND PLEASE, NO USED BATTERIES. THANK YOU

We also have a separate box for recycling your old printer cartridges, so please bring those along too.

We look forward to seeing you in the coming months and we'd like to thank the volunteers who lend a hand when any member of the team is unable to attend.

For more details contact Alison on 07813 702375.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy festive season.

Alison, Helena, Jenny and Lorraine

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The Hundred Parishes Society

www.hundredparishes.org.uk



I hope readers are already familiar with the What's On page on our website, www.hundredparishes.org.uk. There, you can find information about forthcoming concerts, fetes, open gardens, walks and much more. Our webmaster, Dave Plummer, does an excellent job of including activities that fit with our aim to encourage awareness and enjoyment of the local area. I am pleased to report that Dave was recently appointed as a trustee of the society.

With Christmas approaching, I encourage you to check out What's On where you will find details of Christmas markets and fairs and the first Christmas tree festival to be held in Debden Church – from 11 – 13 December.

Father Christmas's sleigh will see him put in several personal appearances locally including a visit to Stansted Mountfitchet's windmill on 12 December.

Nancy May, our local soprano, will be leading a Christmas Celebration concert on 6 December at St. Andrews Church, Shalford, starting at 3pm. This is a lovely church where a brass war memorial includes the name of artist Eric Ravilious. He lived in Shalford for two years before his death in 1942, on active service as a war artist. One of his woodcuts is the Hundred Parishes Society's logo.

What's On includes a number of walks organised by local groups – and if you want to do your own thing you can always download a description of one of the Hundred Parishes routes.

At any time, if you know of a suitable activity that could be included on our What's On page, please email us at hundredparishes@btinternet.com.

Happy Christmas.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

Cold, Mould > Handy Tips.

Mould and damp issues are often a case of the need to see where the issue has derived from to understand the next steps.

Much like flooding, it is a case of Source, Pathway, and Receptor.

Source> Do you have blocked air-bricks? I see this all the time when I go out to see clients and investigate damp issues. Handy tip. Don't build or create a raised flowerbed up to anywhere near the air brick or damp-course.

Pathway> Don't build patios/walls right up to an old house else it will likely create what is known as a 'damp-bridge' which means exactly that. If you have, we can 'undo' this for you and make-good. Have you checked the levels of your gutter outfalls, congested downpipes? Sadly you have to do this in daylight when it's raining. Gutter runs can often become unstable and twist, so they don't operate effectively. This means damp can ingress the building, Same with Conservatories that have not been cleaned/managed.

Receptor> Sometimes damp can be just a case of better management.

If you see mould, wipe it down with a water/bleach mix and dry off with kitchen roll. This helps prevent inhalation of mould spores.

If like me, you live in an old property, there is always a battle with damp and cold, but for me the joy of living in an old house is its character. It is truly, like a 'hug' when I come home. But there are always jobs to do.

Another handy hint for you. When hot meets cold (windows/doorways) the consequence often results in condensation. So I made a worthwhile and easy investment. I had my curtains inter-lined with thermal material. I have a great seamstress and she did this in a day. It makes a huge draught-free difference!

That and having secondary removable glazing panels. What a difference this makes. Not difficult, not expensive and easy to remove and store away from March to end of October. If you have sash, Crittal or old draughty windows these are game changing. We can supply and fit these.

With energy bills ever hitting our bank balance, just try to live in an environment that is 'live-able' and put on a few extra layers rather that walk around as if you are in the West Indies

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The Sustainable Living Club (SLC), Braughing

The Repair Café

November saw the seventh of our repair cafés, repairing, mending. sharpening, and advising: giving new life to hundreds of items that might otherwise have been added to landfill. Alongside our seven volunteer repairers sewing, sharpening, adjusting and fixing, the café was enjoyed by visitors while they watched the magic and met friends. This latest repair café was also attended by Herts Community Energy offering help tackling energy costs, and advice on solar energy.

Solar Panel survey

Around 1.7 million UK homes have solar panels. Demand increased with the January rise in fuel prices; inevitably interest in solar panels has made a further leap this year. We surveyed some Braughing owners of solar panels fitted in the last decade and this is what we learnt:

The ideal siting for panels is on a south-facing roof with no surrounding trees or other buildings that can put the panels in shade for some of the day. The reasons residents decided to fit solar panels varied from "free electricity" to becoming "more energy self-sufficient". There was a general recognition that it felt like the right thing to do, and there was confidence that, even if the investment hadn't had time to pay for itself yet, it would do. Fitting usually takes a day or two, but this depends on how much kit is being installed. The ideal is to benefit from free use of solar energy, while getting a good price from the energy supplier for the surplus sent to the grid.

The more installed at the same time provides more integration and control. A battery can help cut costs further by storing the surplus energy generated during the day for use after dark, or even for the next rainy day. The most recent solar installation included a battery and a 'gateway' unit that was clever enough to weigh up the level of solar power with the levels of battery charge, and the home's electricity demand, so that it can intelligently direct the solar power to them in the optimum way, either individually, or between both. Once the demand is satisfied and the battery is fully charged, the surplus is sent to the grid. This new installation can also deliver solar energy to the home during a power cut (older systems are not necessarily equipped).

There is common agreement between solar users that they have adopted a different mind-set about using their appliances. With the benefit of seeing the power being generated through the day, users can optimise how and when it's used. Now that heatwaves are more common, more residents are thinking about having air conditioning, and it seems to me that solar panels are the ideal pairing! Owners are aware that solar can be just the start of their progress to being energy self-sufficient. It's good to see so much positivity.

Are Plug-in Solar Panels right for me?

I'm doing everything I can to save money on my energy bills, and I've recently heard about new plug-in solar panels. I can't get traditional panels installed because I rent a flat, plus they're very expensive. Are plug-in solar panels a suitable alternative for people like me?

Plug-in solar panels are designed to sit outside on a balcony or in a garden, and plug directly into your mains electricity to generate power. Like traditional panels, they can help cut your energy bills by generating electricity you can use in your home. Though they produce less power, plug-in kits are cheaper upfront and more accessible to renters or flat-dwellers with outdoor space, as they don't require roof access or professional installation.

There are a few things to consider before you buy. Firstly, you'll need to make sure it's right for you and your home. You'll need an unshaded outdoor space that ideally faces south, though east or west will still catch some sun for part of the day. The government estimates you could save up to £110 a year on your

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energy bills with a plug-in solar kit, but your actual savings will depend on things like where your panels are located and if you have the flexibility to use appliances during the day.

One big difference to be aware of is that unlike traditional panels, you must use or lose the power you generate. Current rules mean most people won't be able to store electricity in a battery, and you can't get paid for any unused power generated by your kit.

It's important to check if you need permission before you make a purchase. Read the government's official online guidance to see if you need approval firsthttps://energysavingtrust.org.uk/plug-in-solar-panel-checklist. The key thing to know is that if you rent or live in a leasehold property, you should speak to your landlord or freeholder. And if your home is a listed building or in an area with planning restrictions, you should speak to your local council.

Follow the government's safety rules, included in the online guidance, before plugging in a new kit. Key rules include plugging your kit into a safe wall socket (never an extension lead) and sticking to the strict limit of one kit per household.

To ensure your kit is compliant with UK regulations, only purchase an all-in-one kit that features a 3-pin UK plug and a UKCA (UK Conformity Assessed) mark. If you've already bought one that doesn't meet these criteria, see if you can return it, or contact Citizens Advice consumer helpline: 0808 223 1133 for advice.

Finally, you'll need to register your kit with your electricity network company. Your electricity network company provides the wires to your home and is different from the company you pay your bills to. You can find your network company via your electricity bill or by visiting the Energy Networks Association (ENA) website: https://www.energynetworks.org/.

Do you have an oil heating system?

If so, and you are struggling financially or are on a low income, you may be eligible for support. Contact Citizens Advice East Herts – see our contact details below.

Whatever your situation, you don't have to face this alone - get in touch with us and we can help. Our advice is free and we won't judge you – most people are two to three pay packets away from crisis. Our advisers can help to check if you're eligible for any benefits or financial support, and explore all the options for dealing with your debts. Call our Message Line 01920 459944 or visit citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk for our advice options. Or you can come and see us on Mondays between 10 and 12.30 at The Manor House, High Street, Buntingford, SG99AB.

Fun Quiz

1. Carrots nowadays are orange, but what colour were they originally?.

2. Why does an apple float in water?

3. Seeds of what refreshing fruit were found on Tutankhamun's tomb?

4. What was the first food ever grown in space?

5. What do Barn Owls, Bumble Bees, Puffin and hedgehogs all have in common?

Answers on page 24

Report Fraud alert: More than £86,000 stolen by fraudsters posing as Amazon

Criminals are impersonating Amazon and contacting customers out of the blue claiming suspicious activity has occurred on their account, new data shows.

Over a nine-day period, between 5-14 October 2026, criminals stole £86,837 from victims, a daily average of over £9,600 while purporting to be representatives from Amazon.

We are urging the public about an emerging trend of Amazon impersonation after it was identified in reports made to the service. Within the nine-day period, Report Fraud received 110 reports where Amazon impersonation had been identified, with people aged between

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50 to 79 most impacted, accounting for 60 per cent of reports.

Analysis of Report Fraud data identified an emerging trend in reporting which involves a victim being contacted by the criminal claiming to be from Amazon who informs them of alleged suspicious activity on their Amazon account.

The criminals then claim that unauthorised items have been added to the victim's Amazon basket. To make the fraud appear genuine, they provide delivery addresses that do not belong to the victim and claim that someone is attempting to purchase the items using the victim's bank details.

The criminal then tells the victim that the transactions can be stopped and their account secured, but only if they follow specific instructions including:

• Victims asked to share their screen through messaging platforms as part of a resolution process and download money transfer apps. Criminals then use these apps to move money into accounts they control.

• Victims told to provide legitimate documents, such as a passport or driving licence, for "verification" purposes. Criminals use this information to facilitate the fraud and transfer money.

• Victims persuaded to download remote access software, allowing criminals to take control of the device and carry out transactions on the victim's behalf to steal funds without their knowledge.

• Victims are told that gift cards have been added to their Amazon basket without permission. Criminals then claim urgent action is needed to stop the purchases and trick victims into authorising payments, which are instead sent to accounts under the criminals' control.

How to protect yourself?

Remember that genuine service providers, banks and the police will never call asking you to transfer money, share personal financial details or hand over remote control of your computer, phone or other device.

If you've received a call that doesn't feel right, STOP!

• Hang up.

• Check if it's genuine: contact the organisation directly using contact details you know are correct, such as those on an official website or app, or by calling 159 if you need to contact your bank.

• Don't trust the Caller ID display on your phone – it's not proof of ID.

• Report it by sending a text to 7726 with the word 'Call' followed by the scam caller's number.

If you believe you are a victim of fraud, you should tell Report Fraud online or by calling 0300 123 2040.

Warning as burglars target rural homes

Burglars have been targeting larger, detached homes, in rural and semi-rural parts of the county.

In many instances, they have managed to gain entry to homes via upstairs windows, which are often left unlocked.

Making your home more secure is a good way to deter burglars and good home security begins outside the home.

Secure your garden

- Ensure rear fencing is in good condition to prevent easy access points.
- Ensure fencing is facing the correct way (Nice side facing out) as this prevents a climbing aid.
- Increase fence height if possible or install trellis.
- Plant defensive spiky plants along garden boundary (such as prickly hawthorn, pyracantha or berberis)
- Secure rear gates with high-quality locks and ensure they cannot be lifted off their hinges.
- Consider dusk to dawn lighting covering the property, side access routes and garden areas.
- Position CCTV cameras to cover rear gardens, patio doors, side gates and any areas offenders may use to gain access.
- Remove or secure ladders when not in use.
- Store bins away from walls and windows.
- Avoid leaving garden furniture beneath windows or balconies.

Secure your home

- Inside the home there's plenty of ways to make life difficult for burglars.
- Residents should consider the following tips:
- Ensure first-floor windows are locked, even if slightly open.
- Adding defensive materials/anti-climb paint on flat roofs/ drainpipes
- Install monitored alarm/CCTV systems or smart alarms with mobile phone notifications.
- Install a video doorbells camera
- Ask trusted neighbours to keep an eye on the property.
- Avoid advertising holidays or periods away on social media.

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- Use timers on lighting to create the impression of occupancy when away.
- Smart lighting can provide a more realistic occupancy pattern.
- Keep jewellery and valuables out of sight.
- Do not keep large amounts of cash at home.

For more home security advice visit: www.herts.police.uk/protectyourhome.

More than £2.2 million lost to fraud in Hertfordshire: How to protect yourself

More than £2.2 million was lost by Hertfordshire victims of fraud during 2026, with over 1,000 reports of email and social media account hacking and banking fraud.

Fraudsters are constantly looking for ways to access people's personal information and money. By taking a few simple steps, you can help protect yourself and your accounts.

Protect your email account

Your email account often contains personal, financial and sensitive information. If a criminal gains access to it, they may be able to reset passwords for your other online accounts and lock you out.

1. Use strong passwords or passkeys

• Use passkeys where available. Passkeys use your device's security features, such as Face ID, fingerprint recognition or a PIN, and are more secure than traditional passwords.

• Make sure your email password is unique and not used for any other account.

• Create strong passwords using three random words that are memorable to you but difficult for others to guess.

• Avoid using personal information such as names, birthdays or pet names.

Find out more about passkeys at: www.ncsc.gov.uk/passkeys

2. Turn on Two-Step Verification (2SV)

Two-Step Verification provides an extra layer of security by requiring a code sent to your phone when signing in on a new device or making changes to your account.

Even if someone obtains your password, 2SV can help prevent them from accessing your account.

Stay safe when using cash machines

Criminals may try to steal card details or PIN numbers at ATMs.

When using a cash machine:

- Cover your PIN while entering it.
- Stand close to the machine.
- Shield the keypad with your hand and body.
- Avoid machines where people appear to be loitering nearby.
- Do not use a machine if it looks damaged, unusual or has signs of tampering.
- If a cash machine retains your card, contact your bank/card provider immediately, ideally while you are still at the machine.
- Shopping online? Protect yourself
- When buying goods online:
- Use reputable retailers.
- Be wary of links in unexpected emails, text messages or social media posts.
- Access websites through a search engine or saved bookmark rather than clicking unsolicited links.
- Consider using PayPal or a credit card for additional fraud protection.
- Avoid saving your card details on websites unless necessary.

Report fraud

If you believe you have been a victim of fraud, report it online at www.reportfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

For more advice on protecting yourself from fraud, visit:

• www.gov.uk/stopthinkfraud

• www.herts.police.uk/cyber-fraud

Quiz Answers

1 Purple
2 Because 25% of it is air
3 Watermelon
4 Spring onion
5 They will all feature on UK Bank Notes, as chosen following Public consultation

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Christmas Market

St Mary's Church, Standon

Saturday 5th December 2026

11am to 2.00pm - Free Entry

12 stalls from local makers offering Cakes, Cards, Decorations, Knitwear, Jewellery, Wood Turned Items and Chocolates

Tea, Coffees, Mince Pies and Light Lunches of Soup and Sandwiches will be available

All funds raised for Friends of St Mary's

Friends of St Mary's Standon

www.quintetchurches.com

Celebrate the 'original' Santa at

SAINT NICHOLAS' FESTIVE FAIR

FREE ENTRY

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

Sunday 6th December 2026

11.00am - 3.30pm

Back on Sunday. New selection of over 35 festive stalls.
Perfect for original Christmas gifts. Delicious refreshments.
All in aid of St Nicholas' Church.

Advertising in PS News works!

3,000 copies are distributed to Puckeridge, Standon, Colliers End, The Mundens and Westmill

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Westmill Farm, SG12 0ES

Web: www.westmillgardencentre.co.uk

Tel: 01992 924422

Newly renovated. Winter bedding, quality soft fruit and vegetables. Gorgeous hanging baskets, perennials, shrubs, herbs, composts, fertilisers, garden tools, seeds, wild bird food, salt tablets, irrigation systems, logs and coal.

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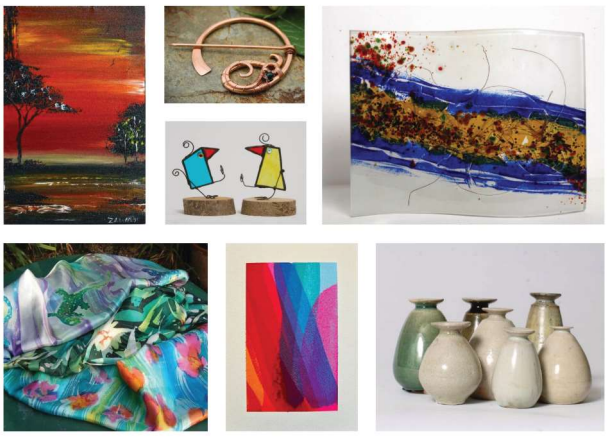
Puckeridge : Gerald Dale 07718 734898, Gerald@geraldrdale.co.uk

Braughing: Alice Lawrence clerk@braughing.org.uk

THE GALLERY PARNDON MILL

PRESENT ARTS

Paintings Drawings Prints Sculpture Glass
Textiles Metal Wood Jewellery Ceramics Cards



Artists & Craftspeople from here and further afield offer their unique and affordable works for sale in this exhibition designed for giving to others, or even oneself!

8th November - 20th December

Tuesday - Friday 10.30 - 4.30 Saturday & Sunday 2 - 4

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Contact John Harris on 07740 306189 or

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The Buntingford Railway and Local History Society

18 December Richard Tremaine - Railway Films

at The Crown, Market Hill, Buntingford, 8pm.

Apple Blossom Pre-School & Day Care

Braughing Community Centre
Green Lane, SG11 2QL

Enrolling now for September, offering 2 and 3 year funding
Now open 8am - 4pm Monday - Friday
Open 48 weeks of the year
Funding Available for children from 22 months - 4 years

Little Blossoms (Stay + Play) Every Tuesday 1.30-3pm

Call 07432 793008 to book

BUNTINGFORD FESTIVAL CHOIR

Ready for a new musical challenge in 2027?

We invite new singers to our Open Rehearsals this New Year, every Thursday throughout January and February 2027

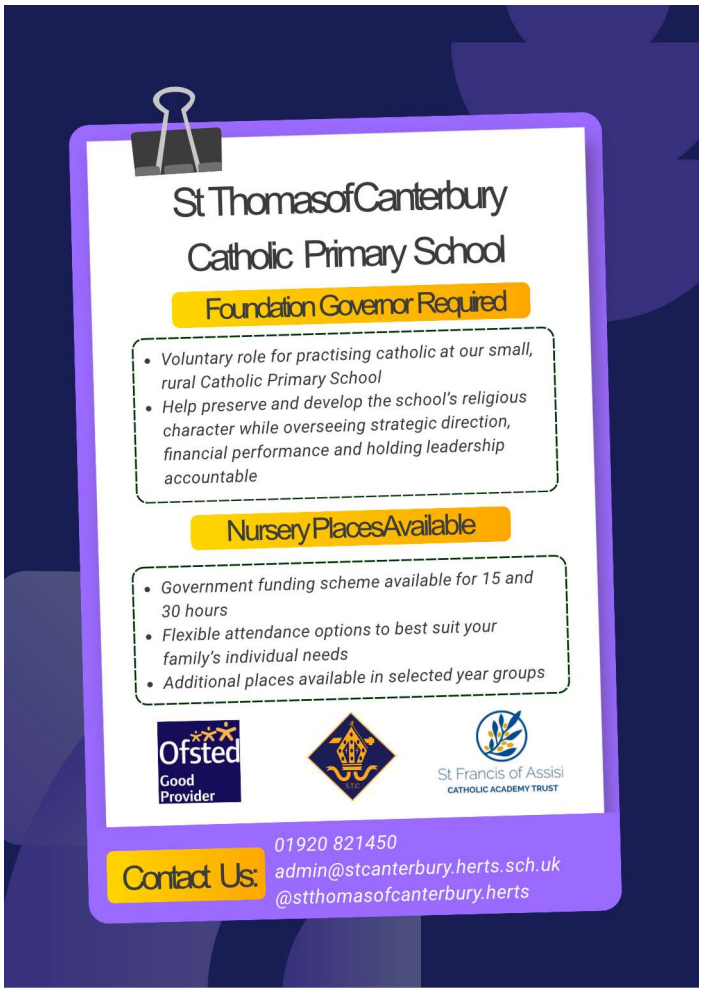
We pride ourselves on performing challenging music to a high standard, requiring focus and dedication.

However, our environment is completely supportive: there are no auditions, and you will never be required to sing on your own.

sing@buntingfordfestivalchoir.org
buntingfordfestivalchoir.org

Contact Us







Westmill nursery learning through play

Visits welcome

Westmill Village Hall
SG9 9LG

Offering nurturing environment for children from 22 mths to 4 years.

Open Monday to Friday, 9.20am - 2.20pm, term time.
Tel: 01763 273005

Email: westmillnursery@btinternet.com
www.westmillnursery.co.uk

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SPINS PRE-SCHOOL

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SPINS is a safe and caring environment where your child can learn, grow and develop.

Open Mon – Fri Term Time, 9.15am - 12.15pm (or 2.15pm lunch club)

Visits Welcome. Tel: 07881 533339
Spins.nursery@outlook.com

PULLER MEMORIAL HIGH CROSS

Would you like toe best possible education for your child?

Village School - Excellent Nursery Facility
Smaller Classes - High Academic Achievement
Good Results (SATS)

A caring friendly, stimulating environment - Good parental support. The ethos of a church school

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High Cross, Ware SG11 1AZ

Phone 01920 463178 for further information

www.puller.herts.sch.uk

6

Are you looking for a challenging and fulfilling volunteer role?

Volunteer Adviser Training Programme
Wednesdays starting January 14th, 2026
¼The Manor House, Buntingford

If you can offer one day a week, we'd love to hear from you! No experience needed - Just bring:
An appetite for learning
Competent IT skills

Training includes:
12 classroom sessions, one per week, in Buntingford
Shadowing experienced advisers
Supporting clients by phone or in person
Learning how to help with housing, employment, benefits, debt, and more

Interested?
Email training@citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk before end of December to join the course, or call 01920 459944and leave a message for a call back.

citizens advice East Herts

BUNTINGFORD RAILWAY & LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY
together with
THE FRIENDS OF WIDFORD CHURCH
present

The Buntingford Branch Line

6th & 7th February 2027 | 10am – 4pm | Free Entry



Join us for this unmissable weekendexhibition featuring:

Original Station Signs • Historic Photographs & Documents
Fascinating Artefacts • N Gauge Model Railway Layout
Archive Film of the Line

Children's books on sale by local railway author Pauline Hazelwood

VENUE
Widford Village Hall
Bell Lane SG128SH

Enjoy lunch or afternoon refreshments in the ticket office tearoom (licensed bar)

PARKING
Widford Playing Field
Bell Lane SG128SH

Interests and activities for all the family

6

Are you looking for a challenging and fulfilling volunteer role?

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Interested?
Email training@citizensadviceeastherts.org.uk before end of December to join the course, or call 01920 459944and leave a message for a call back.

citizens advice East Herts

STANDON MAYDAY VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITES

7 -10am Set out road cones, signage and equipment
4 – 6pm Collect road cones, signage and equipment

11 – 3pm 1 hour slots helping on pay desks

12 – 3pm Admin assistants for Dog Show

4 – 6pm Tidy the High Street

We do hope that by being specific with our volunteering needs people will help.
Time spent with us can be signed off for College Courses and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Thank You.
Contact us via Facebook or @
standonmayday@outlook.com

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Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline is a confidential, free, support and signposting service for anyone affected by domestic abuse

We are here to listen. Connect with us confidentially:

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Sarah Quartel · John Tavener · Frank Bridge · Philip Stopford · Richard Rodney Bennett

Tickets: £10

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER | 4PM
CHRIST CHURCH
Baldock Road, Buntingford

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER | 4PM
ST MARY'S CHURCH
High Street, Westmill

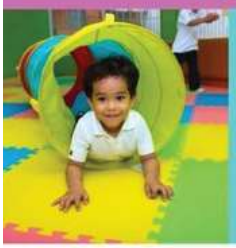
CHRIST CHURCH

ST MARY'S

FREE Toddler Group

for under 5s with their parents/carers

All welcome!



For you & your *little angels!*

LITTLE ANGELS



Fridays 9:30-11

St Mary's Church High Street, Standon SG11 1LA

Toys, Songs, Snacks, Crafts and Bible Stories for under 5's and their parents/carers

For more information, contact Cate: littleangels@ubsms.org.uk

Standon Village Hall

Keep Fit & Exercise Classes

Music Exercise (Seniors)	Mondays	1.30-2.30pm	Hannah 07714-378887
Yoga with Gurdeep. (Adults	Mondays	2.45-4.15pm	Gurdeep 07787-288803
Smart Group Training (Adults)	Tuesdays	9.00-10.00am	Richard 07980-910989
AVAILABILITY	DURING THE	WEEK FOR	EXTRA GROUPS
Tiger Cheerleaders (Children)	Tuesdays	4.30-6pm	Sophie 07847-380652
Iyengar Yoga (Adults)	Thursdays	6.30-8.00pm	Sharon 01279-508301
Line Dancing (Adults)	Fridays	9.15-10.45am	Sue 07930-302843
Slow-Flo Yoga (Adults)	Fridays	11.00-12.30	Diana 07786-713086
Reiki Drum Relaxing (ALL)	Fridays (Monthly)	7.00-8.45pm	Annette 07769-183286
Cheerleaders. (Children)	Saturdays	8.45-11.45am	Sophie(above)

The United Benefice of Standon and The Mundens with Sacombe

All Saints Church, Little Munden

Wednesdays(term time)

3.15 - 4.30pm

Church Café



Everyone welcome!



Something for all ages

Hot and cold drinks

Delicious homemade cakes

Bible stories and crafts

You are very welcome at any of these, as well as our regular 10.30 services. We look forward to seeing you!



For more information please contact RebeccaLeggbenefice.administrator@ubsms.org.uk

Village Diary

Club Secretaries: Please keep us up to date with any changes to your regular meeting days and events.

We will take details of events as far ahead as you like to try to stop events clashing.

NB Some activities will be seasonal or in term time only, please phone the contact to check before turning up.

Every Weekday

7:30-8:30am WASPS Breakfast Club at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre (term time only). For more details visit www.waspsclub.com or Nicola on 07904 391133 nicola@waspsclub.com

9.30 - 12.15 or 2.15 (lunch club). Term Time only SPINS Pre-School Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Fun and friendly atmosphere with qualified staff. Visits welcome. 07881 533339.

3:15-6:15pm WASPS After School Club Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre (term time only). www.waspsclub.com or Nicola on 07904 391133 nicola@waspsclub.com.

Monday

10am Standon Monday Walking Group, just turn up at The Star at 10am any Monday for an apx 5 mile walk.

10am - 11.30am Iyengar Yoga at Standon Village Hall,Road, Standon, SG11 1LE. Contact Sarah on 07427 596961 or www.TowardYoga.com.

10am – 4pm CAB North Entrance, Manor House, 21 High Street, Buntingford. Tel: 0844 848 9700.

1.30 - 2.30 Movement to Music for Over 60s, Standon Village Hall, Imagination Dance 07394 934911

2pm Second Monday of the month - Buntingford & District U3A, 2pm at the Seth Ward Community Centre, Buntingford.

Starlight Stars:

Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre

3.45 Twinkling Stars (4-6 yrs)

4.30 Shooting Stars (7-10 yrs)

5.30 Bright Stars (11-13 yrs)

6.30 Rising Stars (14-18 yrs)

Ali Latchford 01279 966 466

4 and 5.05pm Yoga-nastics @ Edwinstree School, Buntingford Andrea Allen 07989 980038 yoga-nastics@outlook.com www.yoga-nastics.co.uk

4.30 Move it Or Lose it - Braughing Community Centre, Natalie 07735 654828

5pm 1st Standon & Puckeridge Rainbows. Term time in Standon. sandprainbows1@outlook.com

7 Braughing Bridge Club, Old Boy's School, Braughing. Sue 01920 823692

7.15 Ware District Trefoil Guild, St Mary's Church Hall, Ware. Guiding for adults. Mandy Challis 07766 086 137 waredistricttrefoil@gmail.com

7.30 Braughing Bridge Club in the Old Boys School, Braughing. Sue 01920 823692

7.30 Dance JAM Academy – Standon Village Hall, Adult Tap (all levels) julie@dancejamacademy.co.uk Julie 07971 699615

8.00 First Monday of the month, East Herts Aviation Society meets at the Sword Inn Hand, Westmill, Buntingford (optional special pre-talk pub dinner menu from 6.30pm). Steve Morgan 07712 145146.

8.00 Puckeridge Karate Club meets at Standon and Puckeridge Community Centre. Clive Bowen 01763 231132

Tuesday

9am Traditional Flowing Ashtanga Yoga, Puckeridge Community Centre. Ian 07553 285453.

9.30am Holy Communion (BCP), St Catherine's Sacombe.

10am -Noon The Listening Place (a drop in centre for bereavement advice and support). Tuesdays at Leaside Church and Community Centre, High Street, Ware SG12 9BT. Alison 01763 232673.

10:00-11:00am Vinyasa Flow Yoga (for all) - Braughing Community Centre 11:15-12:15pm Postnatal Yoga - Braughing Community Centre

10am – 1pm CAB North Entrance, Manor House, 21 High Street, Buntingford. Tel: 0844 848 9700.

11 Accessible Yoga. Standon and Puckeridge community Centre. Penny Constantinou 07944 416572

11.30 Punchline Boxing (adults) at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Adam Davidson 07903 657146

12-2pm Citizens Advice Contact Centre at Bishops Stortford Methodist Church. Messageline 01920 459944

1.30 - 3pm Little Blossoms Stay & Play group 07508707153

2-4pm Second Tuesday of the month, Standon Hand Embroidery Group in Standon Village Hall. Barbara Norris 01920 822104.

4.30 -7.45 Ballet at Braughing Church Hall: Karen Howarth - 01279 651535

5.30 Beavers (6-8yrs Scouts) Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre, Term time only, contact.braughingscouts@gmail.com

6pm Tap, Modern & Jazz at Braughing Community Centre: Kate Dutton - 07969 362224

6pm 2nd Buntingford Brownies. Term time in Buntingford. Email jill228374@hotmail.co.uk

6.15 1st Standon & Puckeridge Brownies. Term time in Standon. Sarah Howitt 01920 822342

6.30 Cubs - (8-10½ years, Scouts), term-time only. Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. contact.braughingscouts@gmail.

Have you lost your partner?

New Seasons bereavement group is a group of men and women whose partners have passed away. We meet the third Thursday of each month 2 till 4pm in Puckeridge Community Centre. We have been going for 8 years and support each other through a difficult time but also enjoy a chat and a laugh over a cup of tea and cake. Whether you have been bereaved recently or many years ago you will be very welcome to join us. If you need transport please let me know.

Heather Jackson 07909065550

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Contact John Harris on 07740 306189 or john@walkinginengland.co.uk

com

6.30 Tennis Club evening (continues under floodlights throughout the winter). Diana Foster 07778 031430

7pm Slimming World at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Sophie 07855 079070.

7pm Yoga at Braughing Community Hall. info@annieknapmanyoga.co.uk

7.30 Bell Ringing Practice, St Mary's Church Tower, Standon. Interested? - Come along or Tracey Coley 01920 823886 .

7.30 Embroidery Group. Second Tuesday in the month, Sargeant Room, Standon Village Hall. Barbara Norris 01920 822104

Wednesday

8.30 Under 1's Childrens' Group, Standon Village Hall. Kelly Brightman 01920 463949

9.30 Worship and Bible Study at St Mary's Standon, followed by refreshments (No service in August)

9.30 Gentle Therapeutic Hatha Yoga, Braughing St Mary's Church Hall. Ian 07553 285453.

9.30 Pilates at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Clare 07966 213880

9:30-10:30am Vinyasa Flow Yoga (for all) - Furneux Pelham Village Hall

10am Standon & Puckeridge Tennis Club Adult Tennis. Sally Bradshaw 01920 821152

10am – 1pm CAB North Entrance, Manor House, 21 High Street, Buntingford. 0844 848 9700

11am Pilates Group Standon Village Hall. Judy Coward 01920 822812

11-1pm Citizens Advice Contact Centre at Hertford Sele Community Hub. Messageline 01920 459944

11.30 Kettleball Exercise Classes, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Sue 07854 316628

12 Noon Braughing Shed Club at Brook cottage Farm Riding school, Barleycroft End, Furneux Pelham Buntingford. 07547966526 or email jacquithorne664@gmail.com

12.30 Bramble Hill Children's Centre young parents group. (Term time). 01763 273008

2pm Second Wednesday of the month – Ware U3A, Wodson Park, (doors open 1.30pm). Pat Davidson, 01920 438309

3.15 - 4.30pm Little Munden Cafe at All Saints Church, Little Munden. term-time only.

4 - 8pm Dance JAM Academy - Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Ballet, Tap and Freestyle classes from age 3. Contact: julie@dancejamacademy.co.uk

4:15 - 7:25pm Gymnastics at Rib Valley @ Affinity Academy Contact Jen at Email: Hello@affinityacademy.co.uk WhatsApp: wa.me/447456696028

Starlight Stars:

Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre

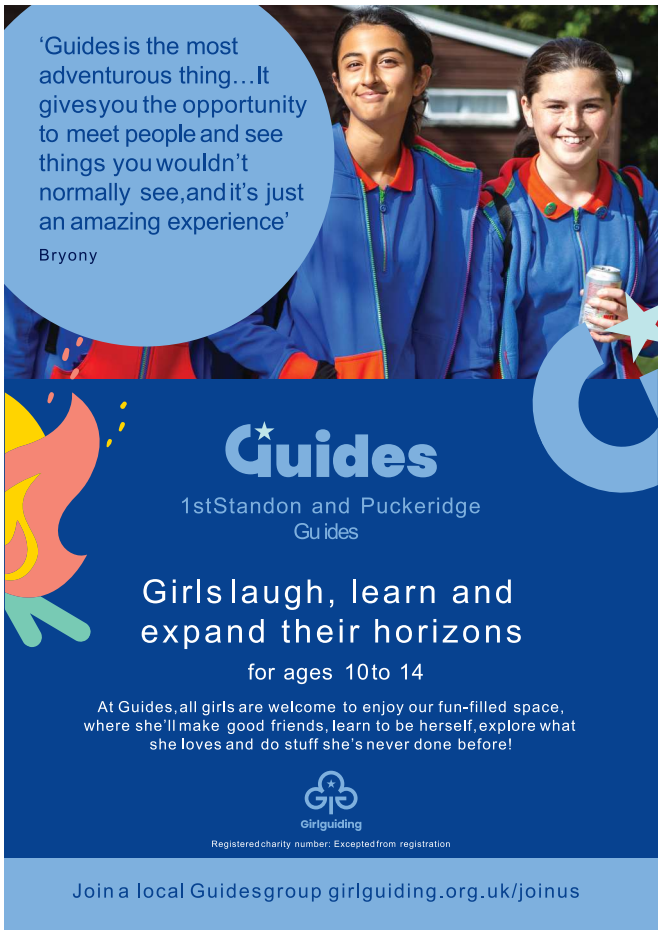
2pm Dance Fit (18yrs). Ali Latchford 01279 966 466

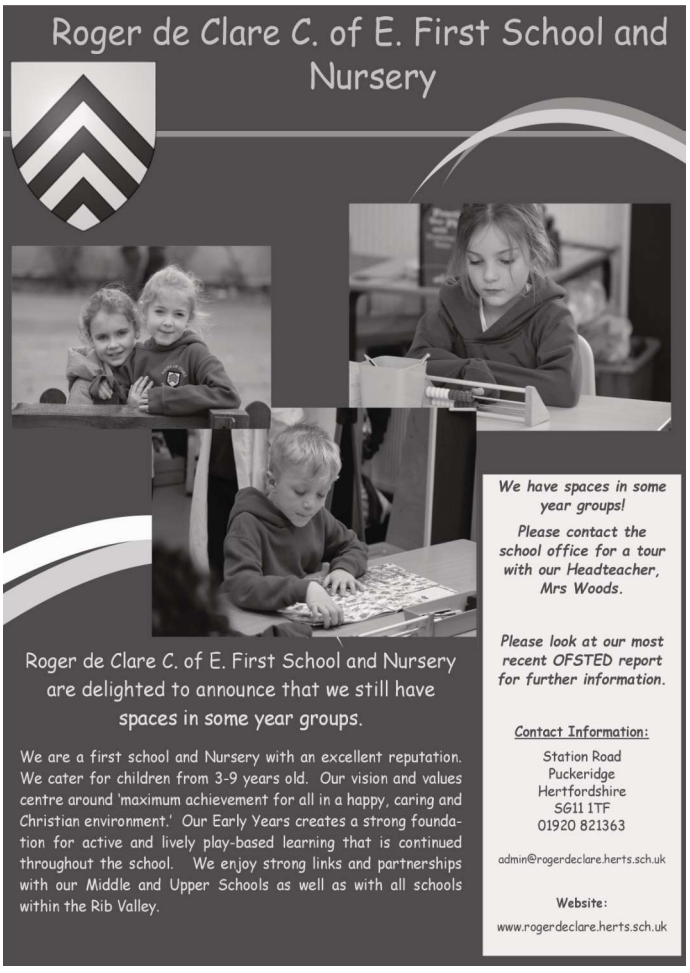
5.45-6.15pm Scout and Guide Band, Braughing Church Half-term time only..braughingscouts@gmail.com

6.15 Punchline Boxing (juniors) at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Adam Davidson 07903 657146

6:30 Scouts (10½ - 14½ years old), term-time only. Braughing Church Hall contact.braughingscouts@gmail.com

6.30 pm Third Wednesday. Ware and District 41Club meet alternately at the Star, Standon and The Golden Fleece. Braughing. Contact:-





david.tomlin419@btinternet.com
7pm Braughing Tennis Club night. Karen Gore 07860 484878
7pm Guides during term time in Braughing. Louise 07971 800443
7 Much Hadham Table Tennis Club details andyfurze@aol.com or 01279 842358.
7.15 till 8.45pm Ranger Girl Guides (14+ years), Cottered Guide Centre, SG9 9QP. Rosanne Kenealy 01920 821304
7.30 Explorer Scouts (14-18 yrs) Bowling Green Lane, Buntingford. Meets throughout the year Christine Pestle 07711 506281
7.30 Standon & Puckeridge Community Choir, details from ranfordd@gmail.com
8pm Ware Photographic Society meets at Thundridge Village Hall, September to May. Barbara Norris 01920 822104 www.wareps. org.uk
8pm First Wednesday of the month, East Herts Aviation Society meets at the The Sword Inn Hand, Westmill. Steve Morgan 07712 145146.
9pm Braughing Tennis Club Night at Braughing Community Hall. www.braughingtennisclub.co.uk/contact-us/

Thursday

2 Carpet Bowls at Braughing Community Centre Mikebennett12@aol.com
2 Mind & Music - Songs to Aid Memory at Northfields. David Ranford ranfordd@gmail.com
2 Standon & Puckeridge Tennis Club Ladies Tennis. Claudia 01920 821272
Starlight Stars:
Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre
3.45 Mini Movers (4-6 yrs)
4.15 Street Jazz Dance (7-11 yrs)
5 Freestyle Dance (11-14 yrs)
Ali Latchford 01279 966 466
6 Junior Table Tennis at Thundridge Details imrothg@talktalk.net
6.30 Standon & Puckeridge Tennis Club - Club night 6.30pm. Diana Foster 07778 031430.
Puckeridge Karate Club
Juniors: 7-8pm, Adults 8-9.30pm, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. 01763 231132.
7 Puckeridge Karate Club at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Clive Bowen 01763 231132
7 Table Tennis at Thundridge Details john@walkinginengland.co.uk
7 Keogafit at Braughing Community Hall. Details 07950 934024 .
7 Benefice Choir meets at St Mary's Church, Standon. Michael Smith 01920 821281
7 Punchline Boxing (adults) at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Adam Davidson 07903 657146
8 Hertfordshire Holly, Mixed Clog Morris Dance Side. High Cross Village Hall. New dancers and musicians welcome. Mary Deeks 01920 822905
8.30 Standon Morris practice nights, Standon Village Hall, Oct to Apr. Meet in The Star from 8pm - new male & female dancers & musicians welcome (aged 12 and over) 07808 969379

Friday

9.30 - 11am Little Angels Baby and Toddler Group at St Mary's Standon in term time
11 Traditional Flowing Ashtanga Yoga, Puckeridge Community Centre. Ian 07553 285453.
11.30 Senior Circuits - Braughing Old Boys Hall, Natalie 07735 654828
1.30 Move it Or Lose it - Natalie 07735 654828,Puckeridge Community



Centre

2pm Standon & Puckeridge Tennis Club Adult Tennis. Sally Bradshaw 01920 821152

3.30 Accessible Yoga at home (via Zoom) 3.30pm. Penny 07944 416572.

4:15 - 7:25pm Gymnastics at Rib Valley @ Affinity Academy Contact Jen at Email: Hello@affinityacademy.co.uk WhatsApp: wa.me/447456696028

7:30 Explorer Scouts (14 - 18 years old), Christ Church, Ware. Meet throughout the year. Jim Campbell 01920 461134.

7.30 Tai Chi and Qi Gong at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Details Sarah Baker 07740 701102

8 Ware Swimming Club Trials evening. All welcome. Training evenings are Monday and Friday. Mr Vanner 01920 464439.

8 The Braughing Get Together meets most months in the village hall on the second or third Friday. Marion Saunders 01920 821530.

Saturday

9am - 1pm at Jenyns School Braughing: Ballet: Karen Howarth - 01279 651535 & Tap, Modern & Jazz: Kate Dutton - 07969 362224

9.30 First Saturday of the month - help with work in Standon Churchyard.

9.30 HIIT with Jacqui Smith at Braughing Community Hall. 07956 647806

9.30 Pilates at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Clare 07966 213880

6pm Evening Mass at Puckeridge Roman Catholic Church. 01763 271471.

Sunday

10am Standon & Puckeridge Tennis Club - Club morning . Diana Foster 07778 031430.

Braughing, St Mary the Virgin Services:
1st and 2nd Sunday at 10.30am.

St. Mary's Church Standon: The United Benefice of St Mary's Standon, All Saints Little Munden and St Catherine's Sacombe:
1st Sunday: 8am Holy Communion (BCP), St Mary's Standon; 10.30am Morning Worship, All Saints Little Munden.
2nd Sunday: 10.30am Holy Communion, St Mary's Standon.
3rd Sunday: 8am Holy Communion (BCP), St Mary's Standon; 10.30am Holy Communion, All Saints Little Munden.
4th Sunday: 10.30am All Age Worship, St Mary's Standon; 6pm Choral Evensong, St Mary's, Standon..
5th Sunday: 10.30am Morning Worship, St Catherine's Sacombe.
Please see the benefice website, www.ubsms.org.uk for up-to-date information or email benefice.administrator@ubsms.org.uk

11.15 Mass at Old Hall Green Roman Catholic Church. 01763 271471.

December

2 Standon & Puckeridge Community Cafe, 9.30 - 11.30am in the Lankester Lounge, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre

4 Braughing get Together winter supper, booking Cynthia 07933 202547

5 Christmas Market at St Mary's, Standon. Details David Goldstraw silverhay@aol.com

6 Braughing Village Walk, 1.30pm at The Square

9 Brick Lane Music Hall visit with Braughing get Together , booking Cynthia 07933 202547

10 Standon Sing perform their 'Christmas Crackers' at St Mary's Church, Standon. Details David Ranford 07888 398336

16 Standon Village Lunch, at the Village Hall, contact Helena 07974 583832

16 Carols Round the Tree in Standon High Street

20 Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, 4pm at St Mary#s Church, Standon

January 2027

3 Braughing Village Walk, 1.30pm at The Square

6 Standon & Puckeridge Community Cafe, 9.30 - 11.30am in the Lankester Lounge, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre

12 'Birds of the River Blackwater' talk for Braughing Birdwatching Group at The Golden Fleece, 7.45 for 8pm

5 Quiz Night at Puckeridge Community Centre, 7pm. Details David Goldstraw silverhay@aol.com

13 BALFF lecture 'Do Russians interpret music differently?'. Details Julia 01763 272584

27 Midweek Music at St Mary's, Standon at 11.30. Details, music@usbms.org.uk

February

3 Standon & Puckeridge Community Cafe, 9.30 - 11.30am in the Lankester Lounge, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre

7 Braughing Village Walk, 2pm at The Square

9 'Hummingbirds of the World' talk for Braughing Birdwatching Group at The Golden Fleece, 7.45 for 8pm

24 Midweek Music at St Mary's, Standon at 11.30. Details, music@usbms.org.uk

March

3 Standon & Puckeridge Community Cafe, 9.30 - 11.30am in the Lankester Lounge, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre

7 Braughing Village Walk, 2pm at The Square

9 'Bird Ringing - how I started and what is involved' talk for Braughing Birdwatching Group at The Golden Fleece, 7.45 for 8pm

Defibrillators in the PS News area

Automated External Defibrillators are located at:

Furze Cottage, **Barwick**.
Phone box opp The Axe & Compasses, **Braughing**
The Golden Fleece, Green End, **Braughing**
Community Centre. Playing Fields, **Braughing**
KB Tyres, High Street, **Puckeridge**
Outside St Thomas School High Street, **Puckeridge**

Standon Village Hall,
Standon and Puckeridge Community Centre
Soon at the former telephone box at **Colliers End**
Village Hall Entrance, **Little Hadham**
In the former BT phone box just off the Village Green, **Westmill**

24 Midweek Music at St Mary's, Standon at 11.30. Details, music@usbms.org.uk

April

7 Standon & Puckeridge Community Cafe, 9.30 - 11.30am in the Lankester Lounge, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre

9 Afternoon Tea and Talk at Standon Lordship. Details David Goldstraw silverhay@aol.com

May

3 Standon Mayday

5 Standon & Puckeridge Community Cafe, 9.30 - 11.30am in the Lankester Lounge, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre

June

2 Standon & Puckeridge Community Cafe, 9.30 - 11.30am in the Lankester Lounge, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre

12 Standon & Puckeridge Open Gardens. Details David Goldstraw silverhay@aol.com

July

7 Standon & Puckeridge Community Cafe, 9.30 - 11.30am in the Lankester Lounge, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre

10 Braughing Wheelbarrow Race

16 FOSM Safari Supper. Details David Goldstraw silverhay@aol.com

October

1 Candlelit Supper at St Mary's, Standon. Details David Goldstraw silverhay@aol.com

December

4 Christmas Market at St Mary's Standon. Details David Goldstraw silverhay@aol.com

The United Benefice of St Mary's Standon and All Saints Little Munden with St Catherine's Sacombe

Dates for your Diary!

10th December 7.00pm Christmas Crackers Concert St Mary's Standon
13th December 4.00pm Carol Service All Saints Little Munden
20th December 4.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols St Mary's Standon
24th December 7.30pm Carols by Candlelight St Catherine's Sacombe
25th December 10.30am Christmas Morning Service All Saints Little Munden
25th December 10.30am Christmas Morning Worship St Mary's Standon

2027

30th January 7.30pm FOSM Quiz Night Community Centre

Keep an eye out for our Easter Services in March.

Wednesdays in termtime 3.15pm Café All Saints Little Munden
Fridays in termtime 9.30am Little Angels St Mary's Standon

For more details of services and activities please see our website: www.ubsms.org.uk

The United Reformed Church

CHRIST CHURCH

Baldock Road, Buntingford. SG9 9AA
Web site: www.buntingfordurc.org.com
Facebook:www.facebook.com/URCBbuntingford

Mnisterr: Rev Sue Fender revsuefender@gmail.com 01223 375588
Secretary: Peter Godbert buntingford.urc@talktalk.net 01763 281 359

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

December	6	Christingle Service	Rev Sue Fender
	13	Holy Communion	Rev David Tatum
	20	Carol Service	Rev Allen Morton
	25	Christmas Day Service At 10.00am	The Elders
	27	Morning Worship	Peter Godbert
January	3	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender
	10	Morning Worship	Rev Dr Janet Tollington
	17	Morning Worship	Rev Allen Morton
	24	Morning Worship	Penny Flynn
	31	Morning Worship	Graham Watson
February	7	Holy Communion	Rev Sue Fender
	14	Morning Worship	Richard Lewney
	21	Morning Worship	Rev Allen Morton
	28	Morning Worship	Rev Sue Fender
March	7	Mothering Sunday	Rev Sue Fender
	14	Holy Communion	Joyce Edeki
	21	Palm Sunday	Rev Allen Morton
	26	Good Fiday	Rev Sue Fender
	28	Easter Day	Rev Dr Janet Tollington
April	4	Morning Worship	Faith Paulding

Advent Bible Study

We are holding an Ecumenical Advent Bible Study course on the 2nd, 9th & 16th December..
We meet for lunch from 12.30
Bring your own lunch. Tea & coffee will be provided and our bible study will run from 1.00 – 2.00 pm.

DQR Wills & Probate

TRUSTED STANDON BASED WILL WRITER



- Will Writing & Trusts
- Lasting Power of Attorneys (LPA's)
- Probate Administration
- Inheritance Tax and Estate Planning

Providing a professional, friendly service, I offer free advice and will guide you through your options.

Member of The Society of Will Writers
Safe to do business with Code Compliant

www.dqrwillsandprobate.co.uk

01920 747208 | emma@dqrwillsandprobate.co.uk
See my recent reviews on Facebook @dqrwillsprobate

Hospital Transport Scheme needs Volunteer Drivers

- ★ Do you drive your own car?
- ★ *Can you spare one morning/afternoon a month?*
- ★ Do you live in the area bounded by High Cross, Dane End, Dassels and Little Hadham?
- ★ Then please consider being a volunteer driver for the local Hospital Transport Scheme.
- ★ (You are paid a mileage allowance)

Details from 07922 519174

The United Benefice of St Mary's Standon and All Saints Little Munden with St Catherine's Sacombe

Regular services in our Benefice

First Sunday each month
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) — St Mary's Standon
10.30am Morning Worship — All Saints Little Munden

Second Sunday each month
10.30am Holy Communion — St Mary's Standon

Third Sunday each month
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) — St Mary's Standon
10.30am Holy Communion — All Saints Little Munden

Fourth Sunday each month
10.30am Family Worship — St Mary's Standon
6.00pm Choral Evensong — St Mary's Standon

Any Fifth Sundays
10.30am Morning Worship — St Catherine's Sacombe

Every Tuesday
9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) — St Catherine's Sacombe

Every Wednesday
9.30am Worship and Bible study — St Mary's Standon

For more details of services and activities please see our website: www.ubsms.org.uk

The United Benefice of St Mary's Standon and All Saints Little Munden with St Catherine's Sacombe

Email: benefice.administrator@ubsms.org.uk

Christmas services in the Benefice 2026

Sunday 29th November		
	4.00pm Advent Carols	St Mary's Standon
Sunday 13th December		
	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's Standon
	4.00pm Carol Service	All Saints Little Munden
Tuesday 15th December		
	9.30am Holy Communion	St Catherine's Sacombe
Sunday 20th December		
	8.00am Holy Communion	St Mary's Standon
	10.30am Holy Communion	All Saints Little Munden
	4.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols	St Mary's Standon
Thursday 24th December		
(Christmas Eve)	3.00pm Crib Service	All Saints Little Munden
	4.30pm Crib Service	St Mary's Standon
	7.30pm Carols by Candlelight	St Catherine's Sacombe
	11.30pm Midnight Communion	St Mary's Standon
Friday 25th December		
(Christmas Day)	10.30am Christmas Worship & Communion	All Saints Little Munden
	10.30am Christmas Worship	St Mary's Standon

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Advertising in PS News works!
3,000 copies are distributed
Contact John Harris on 07740 306189 or
john@walkinginengland.co.uk

If you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us

We know that facing the end of life can leave you feeling isolated and alone. The Anne Robson Trust helpline volunteers are here to listen and support you.

Call us on
0808 801 0688

We're here for you, if you or a loved one are facing the end of life at home, in a hospital, care home or hospice.

To find out more, please visit
www.annerobsontrust.org.uk

Anne Robson Trust

Good listener? Empathetic? Reliable? Your strengths could change lives....

Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire are looking for people to join the Board of Trustees

Home-Start Trustees help guide our charity and support local families through challenging times. You don't need board experience, just a commitment to doing what's right and a desire to make a difference in your community.

What's involved?
Around 8 - 10 hours a month including 5 board meetings
Helping to shape strategy and support good governance
Championing kindness, inclusion and family support
Bringing your lived experience, ideas and experience

What you bring?
A warm, people-centred approach
Willingness to listen, learn and support
Reliability and curiosity
A passion for helping families thrive

Interested? Find out more: www.hsrsc.org.uk/become-a-trustee
Let's talk Or contact us on 01763 262262 to arrange an informal chat with one of our team

Home-Start Royston, Buntingford & South Cambridgeshire

Hertfordshire age UK ...Local Charity, Local Impact

Could you be our Next Volunteer?

Looking for friendly and caring volunteers to visit older people once a week.
To Find out more, please contact Age UK
07772 173659
visiting.eh@ageukherts.org.uk

Bulky Waste, abandoned vehicles & Flytipping

Contact East Herts Council on www.eastherts.gov.uk or phone 01279 655261.

Bulky waste details: One household item - £58.90 (for up to 3 items.)

The Council will remove **flytipping**: use the on-line form.

Report abandoned vehicles:
www.mysociety.org/wehelpyou/report-abandoned-vehicles-to-your-local-council

Car batteries, engine oil, Fridges and Freezers

All are recycled at:
Bishops Stortford Household Waste Site, Woodside Road (off Dunmow Road).

Ware Household Waste Site, Westmill Road.

Knitting wool

Unused wool which will be turned into baby clothes etc., for children in Uganda can be left in the collection box at the back of St Mary's Church, Standon.

Cameras & Photography Books

The Disabled Photographers Society always welcome good serviceable cameras to adapt for disabled persons use, also photography books.

Disabled Photographers Society: www.the-dps.co.uk/

Foreign Coins

Isabel Hospice collects foreign coins (and notes!) drop them in to their Charity Shop in Buntingford or Ware High Street.

Ink & toner cartridges

Local Recycling Centres.

Computers

Only fully working PCs. Please telephone first. www.computeraid.org Tel: 020 7281 0091

Another site worth checking is www.donateapc.org.uk

Postcards

Please save your postcards and take the to St Mary's Church, Standon or All Saints Church, Little Munden. They are collected for Church work in Sudan.

Furniture

Furniture Recycling Scheme for Hertfordshire):://www.fresch.org.uk/ or 01707 395635.

Stamps

- Puller Memorial School in High Cross collects used stamps to 'Save the Albatross'. Drop them into school.
- Standon Post Office collects stamps for Against Breast Cancer.
- Isabel Hospice collects used stamps, drop them in to their Charity Shop in Ware High Street or post them to the Hospice at Great Barmingham Lane, Luton LU3 3NT.

Mobile phones

Loads of charities recycle old mobile phones. Just search 'donating mobile phones'.

Sunglasses & Spectacles

The large chains of opticians, e.g. Specsavers will recycle old glasses for the developing world. Drop them in to any branch.

Report a Water Leak

www.affinitywater.co.uk/report-a-leak.aspx

Environment Agency

For reporting all environmental incidents relating to air, land and water: 0800 80 70 60.

Potholes & Faulty Traffic Lights

Go to Hertfordshire.gov.uk or call 0300 123 4047

Trading Standards

Citizensadvice.org.uk or call 0808 223 1133

Stop junk mail, phone calls and faxes

Register and junk mail and phone calls will miraculously reduce!

Mailing Preference Service
0207 291 3310
www.mpsonline.org.uk/mpsr/

Telephone Preference Service
0845 070 0707
www.tpsonline.org.uk/tps/number_type.html

These services are free (apart from the cost of the call). Do not respond to anyone asking for money

Waste Disposal

For further information, call WasteAware on 0300 1234 051

All Household Waste sites are closed on 25 & 26 Dec and 1 Jan.

Westmill Road, Ware SG12 0EL
Open: Every day: 10am - 6pm

Woodside Industrial Estate off Dunmow Road (A1250) Bishop's Stortford CM23 5RG
Open: Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 8am - 4pm.

Police Contacts:

Number for NON 999 calls: 101
Crimestoppers: crimestoppers-uk.org or call 0800 555111.
Please remember: ALWAYS DIAL 999 IN AN EMERGENCY.

www,herts.police.uk

Hertfordshire Police Authority, Freepost ANG 6281, Hertford SG13 8YS. Telephone: 01992 556600.

Puckeridge Health Centre

The Surgery, Station Road, Puckeridge SG11 1TF
Tel: 01920 823860 (inc out of hours).
Surgery is open:
Mon – Fri 8.30am – 6pm

Minor Injuries Unit

Herts and Essex Hospital, Haymeads Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5JH

Staffed Mon - Fri, 9am - 4.30pm. Ring 01279 655191 ext. 4298 to ensure that the unit can help.

NHS Non-emergency Number

If it is not a 999 emergency but you need medical help fast, Call 111.

Domestic Violence/Abuse Help Line

08 088 088 088 (Freephone)
Confidential helpline open 9-9 Mon-Fri, 9-4 Sat & Sun.

Victim support

0300 303 0165

Age UK Hertfordshire Information Line

Offers you information on a wide range of issues that are relevant to older people. We can also put you in touch with other organisations that can help you.

Information Line: 0300 345 3446

We listen...

InTouch is a team of 5 working within Age UK Hertfordshire.

We can support you emotionally and practically through whatever challenging situation you are facing. We don't judge or tell you what to do, we help by listening to your worries, pain, concerns and support you through it.

Call us on 01992 629358 and 01992 630623

Abandoned Vehicles

01992 655261

Herts Society for the Blind Sight Line

The Sight Line telephone number is: 01707 324680, Monday to Thursday between 10 - 1pm.

Power cut helpline

Text POWER and your postcode to 80876
ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut
0800 31 63 105
0333 32 32 105 (if calling from a mobile)

Animal Warden

To report incidents re: dog faeces, stray dogs and an identichipping service. 01279 655261

Trading Standards

03454 040506, 9am - 5pm Mon to Fri.

Traveline

0871 200 2233 www.traveline.co.uk

Post Office Times

Braughing, at The Golden Fleece. Wednesday and Saturday mornings.
Dane End
Mon - Sat 9.00 - 7.00
Sunday 9.00 - 8.00

Standon
Monday - Friday 9.00 - 5.30
Saturday 9.00 - 1.00

Aircraft noise

Stansted Airport Noise Unit.
0800 243 788 email:
stanstednoiseline@stanstedairport.com

Local Library Times

Home Library Service:
If you can't reach your local library because you are housebound, have a disability or care for someone at home this service will deliver books free of charge. Details 0300 123 4049

Bishop's Stortford Library:
Monday 10 -7pm
Tuesday - Friday 10-6pm
Saturday 10-5pm
Sunday 12-4pm

Buntingford Library:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10 - 5.30pm
Friday 2 - 5.30pm, Saturday 9-1pm

Ware Library:
Monday, Tuesday, Friday, 10-5.30pm, Wednesday 2-5.30pm.
Saturday 10-5pm

Parish Council Contacts:

Braughing
clerk@braughing.org.uk
Little Munden
Clerk: Geraldine Ward 01920 438145
clerk@littlemundenpc.org.uk

Standon
Clerk: Belinda Irons 01763 838732
clerk@standonparishcouncil.gov.uk

East Herts District Council

The Causeway, Bishop's Stortford or Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford. Both are open 9.00am - 5.00pm, Monday to Friday. Tel: 01279 655261. www.eastherts.gov.uk.

Herts County Council

Contact details:
Highways Fault Reporting

www.hertsdirect.org/highway-faults

Home Safety and Security Checks
0300 123 4046
hhss@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Trading Standards
0345 404 0506

report.fraud@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Waste Aware
0300 123 4051

General Enquiries
0300 123 4040

Textphone Users:
0300 123 4041

Other help and support hertshelp.net or
0300 123 4044

Halls for hire

- Braughing Church Hall and Old Boys School, (up to 120 with kitchen facilities) – contact sallyannehow @gmail.com 07824 446531
- Braughing Playing Field Association Community Hall - Contact Graham Frary grahamfrary @tiscali.co.uk
- Colliers End Village Hall (40 people comfortably, with kitchen) - Contact Sandra Chadwick 07976 254379
- Dane End Memorial Hall David Hart 01920 438976 dane-endhallbookings @Outlook.com
- High Cross Christine Bosson 01920 467996 hxvillagehall@gmail.com
- Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre - Contact clerk@standonparishcouncil.gov.uk
- Standon Village Hall, Hadham Road, Standon – Contact Denis or Beverly Olliver on 01279 842625
- Thundridge bookings@thundridge.org

Local Churches:

- The United Benefice of St Mary's Standon and All Saints Little Munden with St Catherine's Sacombe: Please see the benefice website, www.ubsms.org.uk for up-to-date information or benefice.administrator@ubsms.org.uk
- St Mary's Church, Braughing: Church Office - 01920 823832 www.achurchnearyou.com/braughing-st-mary-the-virgin/

MUCH HADHAM ART SOCIETY

Why not join us for...

Demonstration evenings, talks and workshops by artists and local arts organisations once a month

Practical painting afternoons to come and work on your latest art project alongside others, whilst enjoying a cup of tea and a chat

The opportunity to exhibit in our annual exhibition

Monthly newletters, and more

Membership is £20 per year
Membership forms can be found on our website

www.muchhadhamartsociety.co.uk

connecting our community through art

Much Hadham Art Society

LOCAL DIRECTORY

All numbers are 01920 unless otherwise shown

1st Braughing Scout Group boys and and girls (6 - 14 years old), contact.braughingscouts@gmail.com

Albury Seedlings Preschool & Albury Primary School: 01279 771253

Allotments:
Braughing: Ruth Fleetwood rfleetwood@braughing.org.uk
Gerald Dale 07718 734898

Baby-sitting Circle:
Sylvia Pinnington 822216

Bat Helpline 01992 581442

Bell Ringing: Braughing: Paul Currie 822026, Standon: Tracey Coley 823886.

Bowls Club: Andy Mansfield 07976 237050 or standonandpuckeridgebowlsclub @gmail.com

Braughing Bird Watching Group
Paula Moore 07983 326163
paulaandpaul@btinternet.com

Braughing Cricket Club & Colts: Peter Hobson 07874 868691 braughingcricketclub@yahoo.co.uk

Braughing Get Together: Marion Saunders 821530

Braughing Local History Society:
Sheila White chairbraughinglhs@outlook.com

Braughing Playing Field Association Trust: Graham Frary 07855 834862 grahamfrary@tiscali.co.uk

Braughing Tennis Club www.braughingtennis.uk denis.clough@btinternet.com

Braughing WI: Kate Fish 822397

Brownies: Register your daughter's interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk - general enquiries to: (Roger de Clare lunch club): Louise 07971 800443. (evening unit): firstsandpbrownies@gmail.com

Budding Babes: Tracy 01920 824041

Buntingford Bird Club: Tim Robinson, 01763 243143

Buntingford Choir:
info@buntingfordchoir.co.uk

Buntingford Heritage Centre:
Jenny Dingley 01763 273002

Carols Round the Tree (Standon):
Caroline Franks 822723

Carpet Bowls:
Mike Bennett Mikebennett12@aol.com

Church Choir Braughing: Church office 823832

Church Choir, Standon with the Mundens and Sacombe: Michael Smith 821281

Conservative Assn: 01462 684348

Dance Classes - Rhythm & Poise School of Dance: Ballet: Karen Howarth - 01279 651535 & Tap, Modern & Jazz: Kate Dutton - 07969 362224

Dance JAM Academy:
Julie McPartland 07971 699615
julie@dancejamacademy.co.uk

Dog Training: Jan Mann 823475

Dominoes: Axe & Compasses, Braughing - Graham Frary 821715

East Herts Aviation Society: Steve Morgan stevemorgan125@btinternet.com

East Herts Geology Club Secretary Diana Perkins 463755

Embroidery Group: Barbara Norris 822104

Folk Music Club:
Stortfolk 01279 656664

Friends of Braughing Church:
Clive Marshall Trustee:
chef@marshallclan.com

Golf Club (East Herts):
Secretary 821978

Guides: Register your interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk- general enquiries to Louise 07971 800443.

Hares Football Club:
www.haresyouth.com/

Health Centre: 823860

Hertford & Ware Railway Society:
Stuart Moye 467132

Hertfordshire Holly: Mixed Clog Morris: Mary Deeks 822905

Herts & Essex Architectural Research Society:
Kath Pollard 01708 473646

Hospital Transport for the Elderly:
Wendy Smith 07922 519174

Jenyns First School & Nursery: 821461

Karate Club: Clive 01763 231132

Kettlebell Exercise Classes: Sue Prior 07854 316628

Labour Party:
Jo Linney 07710 319928

Liberal Democrats:
Elaine Thatcher - elaine@broxlibdems.org.uk

Lipreading classes:
Louise Reed 821401

Little Hadham Primary School: 01279 771285

Mayday Committee:
Sue Spalding 821624

Mercury Correspondent: Braughing: Clive Marshall 822167

Much Hadham Table Tennis Club andyfurze@aol.com

Pantomime Group, Braughing: Peter Walsingham 823265

Parish Paths Partnership: Braughing - Paul Moore 07785 762748,Standon - John Harris 07740 306189

Penny Constantinou Accessible Yoga, Pre, Post Natal & Baby Yoga, Baby Massage. 07944 416572 penny@yogaforallherts.com

Pet Care: Mrs Harvey 822814

Pets TLC: 822705

Phoenix Moon Productions enquiries@phoenixmoonproductions.co.uk

Photographic Society (Ware): Barbara Norris 822104

Railway & Local History Society (Buntingford): Stephen Ruff 01763 289516

Rainbows: Register your interest at

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Almshouses become available from time to time for people with a connection to the Parishes of Standon and Thundridge. Each almshouse is a self contained one-bed-roomed unit with it's own kitchen, bathroom and living room.

Write to put your name on the waiting list to :
Helen Surridge , Clerk to Standon Charities,
clerk@standoncharities.org.uk
www.standoncharities.org.uk

Braughing Housing Association

The Braughing Housing Association was established in 1965 for elderly Braughing residents finding themselves in need of a home.

There are six flatlets consisting of bed/sitting room, kitchen and bathroom, suitable for single tenancy.

Enquiries can be made by emailing braughinghousingassociation@gmail.com

www.girlguiding.org.uk- enquiries to@outlook.com
Red Yoga: 07590 964016
Royal British Legion:
Standon: Ron Edwards 464218
Ralph Sadleir Assn:
sandie@sandibevents.co.uk
Ranger Girl Guides (14+ years), Wednesday, Rosanne Kenealy 821304
Rib Valley Gymnastics Club: Jen at hello@affinityacademy.co.uk WhatsApp wa/me/447456696028
Roger de Clare School Association: Sarah Gillingwater 823129 or Sam Risley 823477
Sadleir Drama Club:
Liz Pickup 01763 289446
Explorer Scouts: 14-18 year olds, Wednesday Buntingford Unit Christine Pestle 07711 506381, Friday Ware Unit: Jim Campbell 01920 461134
S.P.I.N.S. Pre-School: 07881 533339
St. Thomas of Canterbury Primary School PTA: C/o School 821450
Standon Morris: Catherine Ward 07808 969379
Standon & Puckeridge Health Centre: 823860
Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre: Contact clerk@standonparishcouncil.gov.uk
Standon Village Hall - Denis Olliver 01279 842625
Swimming Club (Buntingford):
David Carr 07966 508156
Tai Chi: Mrs A Manwaring 822041
Tennis Club:
Braughing:
denis.clough@btinternet.com
Standon:
Keith Bradshaw 01920 821152
Three Villages Eco Group:
Trish Street 821069
Thundridge Table Tennis club john@walkinginengland.co.uk
Twinning Assn (Buntingford):
Mary Deeks 822905
University of the 3rd Age:
Barbara Norris 822104
Veterans Football Club:
Paul Mayne 822615
Craig Gardner 823805
Ware and District 41 Club:
David Tomlin. David tomlin419 @btinternet.com
Ware Swimming Club:
Chris Buck 07947 322808
Ware District Trefoil Guild
Yvonne Nice (Chairman), WareDistrictTrefoil @gmail.com
07958 996879
Ware U3A:
Members @wareu3a.co.uk
WASPS Out of School Club Nicola English, 07904391133, nicola@waspsclub.com
Young Farmers :
Linda Watts 07831 894840

Did you enjoy playing table tennis?

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We mostly play doubles but there are opportunities for singles during the evening

Thundridge Village Hall, Ermine Street, Thundridge SG12 0SY

More information from

john@walkinginengland.co.uk

07740 306189

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Everyone is welcome to write, there is no charge for articles on any subject of interest to our communities.

PS is written and delivered by volunteers, it is paid for by the advertisers.

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Nasty	The Mundens	Old Hall Green
Wellpond Green	Haultwick	

and many of the houses in:
High Cross Little Hadham.

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June Issue	10 May
Sept Issue	10 Aug
Dec Issue	10 Nov

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If you would like an email reminder a couple of weeks before you need to get the article to me, just email me the request and it will happen.

Emailed articles, deliveries & advertising:
John Harris, 4 South Road, Puckeridge SG11 1TH.
Tel: 07740 306189

E-mail: john@walkinginengland.co.uk

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