

Christmas Services at St Mary's Church Standon

On Sunday 17 December, join us at 3pm for the traditional and beautiful candlelit Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. This service includes carols for all and some sung by our benefice choir together with readings from the Bible.

On Sunday 24 December (Christmas Eve) at 4.30pm, is the very popular Christingle service. Christingles are made from an orange decorated with red tape, sweets and a candle. Each piece of the Christingle holds special symbolism to help children understand the importance of Jesus and the Gospel, and its relevance at Christmas time. There will be carols for all and Christingles will be lit during the service.

Later on Christmas Eve, at 11.30pm, come and celebrate the first Communion of Christmas at our Midnight Communion Service. (Also candlelit).

On Christmas Day itself, Sunday 25 December at 10.45am, come and celebrate Jesus' birthday at our 10.45am Christmas Family Worship service.

Christmas Services at All Saints Little Munden and St Catherine's Sacombe

Sunday 17 December at 11am, 'Walking Nativity - live!' at Roger de Clare School at 3pm, Candlelit Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary's Standon at 6.30pm, Candlelit Carol Service at All Saints Little Munden.

Sunday 24 (Christmas Eve) at 3pm, Christingle service at All Saints Little Munden at 4.30pm, Christingle service at St Mary's Standon at 7.30pm, Candlelit Carol Service at St Catherine's Sacombe at 11.30pm, Midnight Communion at St Mary's Standon

Monday 25 (Christmas Day) at 9.15am, Christmas Family Worship (with Communion) at All Saints Little Munden at 10.45am, Christmas Family Worship at St Mary's Standon

Catholic Parishes of Old Hall Green & Puckeridge and Buntingford.

Christmas Services:

4th Sunday of Advent: Saturday 23 December 6pm, St Thomas of Canterbury Church, High Street, Puckeridge

Sunday 24 December 9.15am Buntingford, 11.15am, St Edmund Church Old Hall Green, 6pm Buntingford Children's Christmas Liturgy Mass

Monday 25 December 9.30am, St Richard of Chichester Church, Station Road, Buntingford, 11.15am Old Hall Green

Let it 'Nestle'

During a late October walk enjoying the bright sunshine, blue skies and calm weather, after days of stormy wind and rain, it struck me how beautiful our villages look as they 'nestle' in the bottom of the valley.

I know we need lots of new houses and other development; I know the planners, councillors and other decision makers are pushed this way and that trying to reconcile conflicting rules and requirements; and I know there are beautiful exceptions – hill towns in Tuscany and villages in the Weald of Sussex for example. But our bit of the world has its own special beauty. Bring on the new houses but long may they 'nestle'.

John Phillpott

Do you have difficulty reading PS News?

If so try the online edition at www.psnews.org.uk/latest.pdf you can increase the size of the print on your tablet, computer, etc.

(Thanks to Monica Giles for suggesting this).

Something missing? Fill the space in your home and your heart and foster with us.

As students across the county pack their bags for the start of the new term or for far-flung shores, Hertfordshire County Council is calling on their parents to consider whether fostering might be the way to fill the extra space in their homes and their hearts.

Research suggests that every year as youngsters fly the nest, there is a significant increase in the number of people coming forward to enquire about fostering and thinking that now might be the right time to do something new and different in their own family lives and being a foster carer might well fit with the changes happening at home

In Hertfordshire there are just over 800 children and young people in care and many live with Hertfordshire's foster carers - each month, we receive an average of 40 requests for new foster placements, with more requests to place older children (aged 10+), sibling groups and those with complex needs.

Empty nesters potentially make great foster carers because they've already got the skills and experience needed to look after children and teenagers whether this is for a short term or longer term period

Janet has been fostering Hertfordshire children for 20 years. She said: "It's a very rewarding and lovely job to do. It's very fulfilling to teach children life skills and see them progressing and developing into young people."

If you are interested in fostering with Hertfordshire County Council, they'll be there to guide you through the process, every step of the way. For more information visit <http://bit.ly/2fLkJGH>

Carols Round the Tree

In Standon High Street, on Tuesday 19 December at 6.30pm. Refreshments afterwards at the Church.

All welcome.

Aviation Society is Spreading their Wings

Braughing Aviation Society, which this year notched up 20 years, is to change its name. From January the Society adopts the new title East Hertfordshire Aviation Society.

"It's not that we are turning our back on the village," said long-time Society member and Braughing resident, Vic Flintham. "We shall continue to hold our meetings there. Rather, the change of name recognises that our audiences now come from much further afield, not just from the Braughing/Puckeridge/Standon district, which they did when we started."

Because of the success of the Society in getting experts in various aspects of aviation to give presentations, audiences now comprise regularly those who come from the Buntingford and Royston areas and from as far afield as Cambridge, Potters Bar and Hertford. "It says much for the reputation of the Society and the quality of our speakers that people are prepared to travel a considerable distance to come and listen," added Flintham.

Society meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month, January-May and September-December, at the Axe & Compasses, Braughing. Many meet from 18.30 onwards for a chat over supper and a pint before the meeting proper at 20.00.

The 2018 talks programme begins Wednesday, 3 January, when James Stringer (from Standon Green End), will describe taking part in the US National Air Races at Reno, Nevada, in September. From then on the programme until the summer break is:

7 February: 'My Uncle, the Battle of Britain VC', an oral portrait of Eric James Brindley Nicolson (also the only Fighter Command pilot to win the VC in World War 2) by his nephew, James Nicolson.

7 March: 'Moving animals by air', in which Ken Hemming (from Standon) will describe the idiosyncrasies and peculiarities of flying livestock and all manner of beasts – often reluctant passengers – around the globe.

4 April: 'Bolt from the Blue' by Richard Norris, who will relate the story of the supersonic Lightning fighter that served with the RAF from 1960 until 1988 and the work of the Lightning Preservation Group in maintaining some of those that remain.

2 May: 'British Aircraft Development in the 1930s', in which Terry McCarthy, of the Peterborough U3A aviation group, will describe what came off the drawing boards in the decade leading up to the outbreak of World War 2.

The East Hertfordshire Aviation Society (as it is soon to be) welcomes anyone and everyone with an interest in aviation to its meetings. There is no joining or membership fee, simply a £3 charge

when attending that goes towards Society expenses.

To find out more email either Ray Hankin (rayhankin@hotmail.co.uk) or Vic Flintham (vf@flintham.org) and to be put on a distribution list that will keep you updated about our programme of meetings.

Braughing Local History Society Programme

Sunday 28 January, 2.45pm – 5pm, St Mary's Church Hall, Braughing

Talk & Teas: speaker Mark Landon on Braughing Archaeology

Mark will give an update on the recent work of Braughing Archaeology Group. This will be followed by tea & and homemade cakes.

£3 members; £5 guests

Thursday 22 February 12 pm – 2pm St Mary's Church Hall, Braughing
'Good Housekeeping' Soup Lunch accompanied by a slide show.

£3 members; £5 guests

Thursday 26 Apr (new date, not 22 March as previously advertised)
8.15 pm St Mary's Church Hall, Braughing - AGM followed by a short quiz

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Braughing Village Walks

Braughing Parish Paths Group lead a walk on the first Sunday of every month. Walks usually last about 2 hours (5-6 miles) and are mostly on footpaths across farmland and woodland in the parish. Everyone is welcome to join us including well-behaved dogs and children who can manage the distance.

Please ensure you wear walking boots or wellies and dress for the weather! (We are not deterred by a bit of rain!)

We meet in Braughing Village Square (opposite Axe and Compass) ready to depart promptly.

December and January walks will start at 1.30pm because of the early dusk

February to November walks start at 2.00pm

Forthcoming dates:-

- Sunday 3 December 1.30
- Sunday 7 January 1.30
- Sunday 4 February 2.00pm
- Sunday 4 March 2.00pm

For more information please contact Paul or Paula 01920 822748

paulaandpaul@btinternet.com

Many thanks from Sheila Williams

Sheila would like to thank the kind people that sent cards on the occasion of her 90th birthday: 70cards!! Too many to thank personally, they were very much appreciated. The afternoon was spent enjoying afternoon tea at Something Lovely tea rooms with family and friends.

Friends of St Mary's, Standon

Saturday, 9 December - Christmas Wreath making in the village hall, Standon.

There will be two sessions: 10-12 and 1-3pm. The price is £30 and includes mulled wine and mince pies plus all the materials for you to take home a beautiful Christmas Wreath. Tickets from Diana Dale on 01920 821691.

Saturday, 27 January - Quiz night in the Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre.

7:30 arrivals for an 8pm start. Teams of up to eight people. Ploughman's included and bar available. Tickets are £10 per person to be booked with Caroline Franks on 01920 822723.

Standon MayDay

The Standon MayDay Committee are pleased to announce that we made a small profit in 2017. Donations have been made to Martyn's Lights, the First Responders and the 2nd Standon and Puckeridge Brownies.

Next year Standon MayDay is on Monday 7 May.

Could you help?

We are in desperate need of physically able volunteers to help on the day. I'm sure the community would be 'up in arms' if May Day couldn't happen, so why not help us keep this wonderful tradition running? Specifically we need people to: sell programmes in 1hr slots 12noon - 4pm, put out the road signs, manage the traffic and help with the end of day clean-up. The current committee of 8 people simply can't do everything needed alone. The alternative is to put up

the entrance fee and stallholder prices, so we can cover the cost of hiring in staff to complete these tasks.

Please come and help us on the day!!

Contact via info@standonmayday.org or through our Facebook page if you want more information.

Home-Start Royston

Are looking for Home-Visiting and Family Group Volunteers for the Buntingford area

Home Visiting - A home visiting volunteer would normally be a parent or have parenting experience with an understanding of the problems and pleasures of family life. We link this well-supported and trained volunteer to the most suitable family referred, offering home visits, usually for 2-3 hours a week.

Family Group - These volunteers help set up the equipment and activities and spend time with both the children and parents offering practical and emotional support at our family support group.

Home visiting and family group volunteers are required to attend the Home-Start preparation course which will take place from 9.30—2.30pm on the following dates:

Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 January
Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 February
Break for half-term
Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 February
Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 February
Tuesday 6 March

If you are interested and would like further details please call the Home-Start office on 01763 262262 or email admin@hsrsc.org.uk

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Agnes & Team raise more money for Cancer



Day's Dollydonuts team are back raising money for two important Cancer charities, once again Agnes and her team Dollydonuts from the local bakery at Standon and Buntingford had a lot fun and a colourful day at Chestnut Park raising money in Bubble Rush for Isabell Hospice. We raised great amount of money £125.05.

I also decided to do something out of my comfort zone 😊 swim 5km in Letchworth

outdoor swimming pool for McMillan Cancer (I need to add that I can't swim) as always I managed to persuade Heidi Wagstaff, Abby Friend and my son Denis to swim with me. I had only 4 weeks to learn and I must say we did well we finished under 30 min 😊! We raised an amazing amount of money £227.00 and we are looking forward to next year.

As always I would love to thank all our great customers and families for all the great support, without you guys we won't be able to do this, so a BIG THANK You. From me and all staff at Days of Standon and Buntingford we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year see you all in 2018.

Agnes & the girls.



Do you (or someone you know) suffer from Dementia and get nuisance or scam calls?

The Department of Culture Media & Sport provided funding to the National Trading Standards Scams Team for call blockers to tackle the issue of nuisance calls. The current focus is on protection of consumers with dementia.

Free call blockers are available to any person living with dementia that is currently receiving scam or nuisance calls.

To get a FREE call blocking device YES should be answered to the following:

1. Do you or the person you are applying for receive nuisance and scam calls?
2. Does the person who would like the call blocker have dementia?

If you answered yes to the above then please apply at www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/callblocker

The units available are trueCall Secure units and more information about the units can be found at <https://www.truecall.co.uk/product-p/tcs.htm>



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New Government Figures Undermine Airport Claims on Expansion Need

Claims by Stansted bosses that the airport's growth potential over the next decade is being severely limited by the present cap on numbers at 35 million passengers per annum (mppa) are being called into question by Stop Stansted Expansion following the publication of new Government figures.

While the airport's owners, Manchester Airports Group (MAG), predict that Stansted will be bursting at the seams by 2023 and needs an increase to be able to accommodate 43 million passengers in 2028, the long-awaited UK Aviation Forecasts, published by the Government at the end of October, reveal this to be a gross misrepresentation of the reality.

The Government's central forecast for Stansted is that it should expect to handle just 31 million passengers annually by 2030, and 35 million by 2033, rather than the inflated figures touted by the airport this year as it talks up the need for further growth in anticipation of its application for planning permission from Uttlesford District Council in early 2018.

The lower expectations of demand at Stansted take full account of the fact that the Government expects Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton and London City Airports all to be 100% full by 2030, based on no additional runways and current planning caps being in place.

Furthermore, if, as planned, a third runway is built at Heathrow in the next 10 years, the Government projects that demand at Stansted would actually decline, from 24mppa in 2016 to 22mppa in 2030, and that even by 2040 the airport would still only be handling 32mppa, i.e. less than the present cap, which would not be reached until 2043.

According to the new forecasts, therefore, it is clear that needless

damage would be inflicted on the local environment by the building of additional aircraft stands and new taxiways at Stansted when these won't be needed for at least another quarter of a century and, potentially, never needed: a second Gatwick runway, for example, would reduce the demand for more capacity at Stansted still further, while concerns about climate change, pressure from oil prices, and security concerns could also weaken demand.

Commenting on the findings, SSE Chairman Peter Sanders said: "MAG's overstatement of potential demand to secure support for expansion is nothing more than an opportunistic ploy. It is designed to take advantage of a lull during Government consultations on the future of aviation and to try to rush through permissions that might otherwise be restricted once the new aviation policy emerges."

Continuing, he added: "MAG has presented its case as if failure to concede a further tranche of expansion would somehow compromise the rights of the travelling public as well as the UK economy, when the Government's own figures show this to be far from the truth."

The new Government forecasts also show that Ryanair's dominance at Stansted has further increased in recent years with the Irish airline carrying 82% of all passengers in 2016 compared to 64% in 2011. Over the past five years all the other Stansted airlines have declined by a total of 1.4m passengers, shrinking from 5.8m in 2011 to 4.4m in 2016.

Community Cafe:

The Community Cafe at the Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre will be held on the following Wednesdays 8.45-11.30am

- 6 December: With an opportunity to purchase some Christmas goodies with Lucy Carr Ceramics, The Tudor Chutney Co, Phoenix Cards & Tropic Skin Care
- 10 January
- 7 February
- 7 March - supporting Cancer Research - UK's Britain's Biggest Breakfast with stalls and a raffle

Join us for a drink and a chat. All ages welcome, pre-schoolers to pensioners!

For more now formation contact Alison on 01920 822872

A big thank you to those who supported our Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning at the October Cafe. We raised and donated an amazing £136.20 to Macmillan Cancer Support.

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St Mary's Church, Standon – How did we do it?

We are delighted that the building work on our beautiful ancient building is complete! We re-opened in September, with a new kitchen and disabled access toilet, improved heating, a reinstated side chapel, and a new nave platform to facilitate easier leading of our services. The glass doors at the west end of the church mean that the view from outside, right up through the church to the highest point, at the east end, is unhindered. We hope that you have come or will come and see for yourself.

It has taken many years since we first wanted to update our facilities and make our church fit for the 21st century. Discussions were necessary with the Church of England and with Historic England (formerly English Heritage). Permissions had to be sought and won; drawings had to be submitted, adapted and resubmitted. And, of course, funds had to be found.

The work has cost more than £200,000. The only money we have at St Mary's is what we have been given by our members and those in the local community who want to support our work. Our normal income from those who give week by week is just about enough for us to be able to fulfil our role of ministry here in our community, but it certainly isn't enough to fund a project such as this. We knew that we had a task on our hands to find the funding.

The Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) is a fund raising organisation, independent of the church. FOSM raises money all the time, to help fund preservation and restoration projects. They raise around £13,000 each year, and without their efforts, we wouldn't be able to do much of the work that's necessary to keep our building from crumbling around us. But whilst being a substantial amount to raise each year, is somewhat insufficient when faced with a project this size.

From time to time, people leave us money in their wills. This last act of generosity is extremely important to us, as it is to many churches. (It has tax benefits too; any legacy to a charity eases the tax bill on the estate of the person who has died. There are leaflets in the church if you'd like to know more.) Here in Standon, we support the day to day work of our church from the regular giving of our congregation and friends, so that any legacies we receive can be used for projects we couldn't otherwise afford. Over those years, we have, sadly, lost a number of much loved members, but we will be able to remember them in a tangible way as we have applied their legacies to this project. One unusually large legacy received last year meant that we knew we would be able, with support from FOSM, to complete the entire project in one go. That, of course, saves disruption and costs, as the

builders have only had to come in once.

This has all been wonderful news, and we are thrilled that it has worked out as it has. But now our coffers are empty! We tend to try not to talk about money in the church. We don't want anyone to think that we're more interested in your money than in you. We're not! Of course, we want everyone to know God better, and to come to faith in Jesus. And part of our response to what He has done for us is to give back to Him, and we encourage our members to do so. We know, though, that there are some in our community who choose not to come to church, but who value the church building, for its historical importance, its architectural beauty, or simply for its presence at the heart of our community. If that's the case, and you would like to make a financial contribution to the further preservation and restoration of St Mary's, we invite you to be in touch.

We hope to welcome you to St Mary's very soon. Come and see what we've been able to do to make our building more user-friendly, more accessible and more appropriate for our regular worship. Come and try that worship for yourself. Come and see what all the fuss is about. It might just change your life!

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From the top: The new kitchen and toilet compliments the church architecture. New handrail to the chancel steps. Delivering the mortar for the North Aisle floor. (Right) The new raised platform still allows an uninterrupted view.



Isabel Hospice, Ware Group Fundraising News

Jumble Sales: September's Sale raised £575 on the day, with sales of other items, made a total £645 so far.

Jumble Sale dates for 2018: 20 Jan, 24 Mar, 19 May, 14 Jul, 15 Sep and 3 Nov, all at 2pm at Thundridge Hall. Admission 20p. Our sincere thanks for the support from donors of items and for the enormous help from our volunteers.

Can collections: We are finding the location of Isabel Hospice tins around the area and would particularly like to thank the very generous customers of The Star at Standon who have again raised so much money for the Hospice. This time the excellent amount of £154. Thanks too to the customers of J.A. Wren, Ware, and Theo, who have raised £151.75

An event at Thundridge Hall in aid of 3 Charities, including Isabel Hospice, has raised around £1,800. It was organised by Sara Matthews, well-known for her great support for local charities. It included a young band, singers, and established entertainers. Our thanks to Sara, her family and friends, for her enormous drive in organising such an enjoyable evening.

We wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. Ann Davey 01920 462992



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Standon Parish Council News

Parish Council vacancies:

We currently have two vacancies for Parish Councillors. If you feel that you would be able to make a contribution to the community by taking on the role of Councillor, please let me or a Councillor know. You would be most welcome to come along to a meeting to see what we do.

Councillors have found their roles to be rewarding and worthwhile. Whilst some time commitment is needed, it isn't excessive. We really need 'new blood' especially younger family representatives to bring forward actions which will bring benefit to the younger members of our community. The Clerk and Councillors are always ready to assist, and happy to accommodate family issues as they arise. Please do consider being part of this important organisation – whilst we are limited in the influence we have in the wider District and County, we are important in our patch. We need you to help us bring forward the issues and actions which are important to you!

New Role!

The Parish Council is considering an exciting initiative in the employment of a Parish Warden. This hands-on person would motivate a volunteer workforce of Parishioners to do improvements or repairs to assets within the Parish. The Warden would also assist in the day to day running of the Parish. We would like to make a "Village in Bloom" application in the future and hope the Warden and volunteers can assist us. Please let me know if you if you would like to be involved either as a Warden or as a volunteer.

Planning:

If you want to keep updated with current planning applications, please contact me and join the confidential email list which receives planning applications, agenda, minutes, road closures, and other items of interest.

Neighbourhood Plan:

By the time of publication it is hoped the Parish Council will have submitted the draft Neighbourhood Plan document to EHDC. EHDC will conduct a public consultation and it is vitally important that a good response is achieved. Can I please ask that you take the time to

respond to the public consultation when it is open.

Dog Fouling:

You are strongly urged to pick up after your dog in all public places, which includes the playing field, Burrs Meadow, and all footpaths and verges in the Parish. There are many dog bins available for use.

Litter

Please report anyone littering to East Herts District Council.

Parish Lights:

Standon Parish Council is still in the process of getting the lights upgraded but is having issues getting the contractor to commit! Watch this space.

Allotments:

If you would like to take on an allotment, please let me know.

Highways reporting:

You can report highways faults directly to Herts County Council by telephone on 0300 123 4047, or through the Herts Direct web site at <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/transtreets/highways/hhonlineservices/hft/>

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Parking in the parish:

Parking in the parish is very difficult because the village streets were not designed to take the number of cars that are now in the area. It would be really appreciated if you could park with care and consideration taking particular care not to obstruct turning circles, driveways, and footpaths. Parking on yellow lines is prohibited

Do you have something you want to raise?

If you do, please contact me and I will put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Belinda Irons, Clerk email:
clerk@standonparishcouncil.co.uk

Tel: 01763 838732 mobile: 07548 673472

Councillors: Richard Boxall (chairman), Graham Cowell, Sally Crook, Pat Foot, Tony Hall, Michael Marshall, Mary Wilkinson, Chris Leage.

Herts County Councillors:

David Andrews: Standon Ward
Jeff Jones: Puckeridge Ward

East Herts District Councillors:

David Andrews: Standon Ward
Peter Boylan: Puckeridge Ward

Meeting Dates:

Main Parish Council Meeting: 4th Thursday of the month excluding August and December in the Lankester Lounge, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre, Station Road, Puckeridge, commencing 7.30pm

Planning meetings: 2nd Tuesday of the month excluding August and December in the Lankester Lounge, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre, Station Road, Puckeridge, commencing 7.00pm

Standon Parish Council would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a peaceful and Happy New Year – we hope to see you at the next meeting!

Braughing W.I.

We enjoyed a very active 2017. As well as welcoming new members there have been excellent speakers during the year. The Monday craft class has continued with Anne Styles, outings have been well supported and members have attended several County and local events. Our treasurer hosted a cream tea in her garden on a beautiful afternoon in August raising £300 for The Herts Air Ambulance. During the summer we played Petanque followed by an evening meal. There was a full hall for the popular Soup Lunch in October. We had homemade cakes, tea and a raffle at each meeting. The year ended with a Christmas buffet meal and entertainment. We look forward to celebrating our 90th year in 2018.

Programme for 2018

Meetings Held in The Church Hall 7.30p.m.

- 18 January Craft Night
- 15 February Chocolate Making.
- 15 March Funny Guys: British Comedians
- 19 April Verse and Worse
- 17 May General Meeting

Secretary. Kate Fish 01920 822397



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Puckeridge WI

Our annual charity craft meeting was a great success. We sewed bandanas for dogs and made plaited dog pulls. These will be donated to The Dog's Trust for them to sell to raise money for their work in rehoming, campaigning and caring for dogs, as well as Battersea Dog's Home for them to use for their animals up for adoption. We will be arranging a group trip to Battersea in 2018 to present them to the Home.

In October we had a speaker who used slides, video and audio to illustrate her talk on Victoria Wood and Julie Walters. A group of us had a relaxed walk and lunch at Wimpole Hall, and we also managed to fit in a trip to the cinema to see Victoria and Abdul. Our November meeting was a crafty evening, and we made Christmas cards using a variety of creative techniques, and the film group saw Murder on the Orient Express.

Our December meeting will be a meal at a local pub for existing members, but we are open for new members again from January 2018.

We are a diverse group with different ages, jobs and interests, but a shared

wish to experience new things, build new skills, and play a role in our community.

- 9 January Speaker - Finishing the Camino
- 13 February Craft evening - Scrapbooking
- 13 March Craft evening - Easter

New members are welcome and your first meeting is free. For more information, please look at our website www.puckeridgewi.org, email us at info@puckeridgewi.org or contact us on Twitter or via our Facebook page.

WI Handmade Christmas Fair

Our annual Handmade Christmas Fair will take place on Sunday 3rd December from 11am-3pm at the Standon and Puckeridge Community Centre, Station Road, Puckeridge. We will be showcasing local designers, makers, crafters and food producers so you can do your Christmas shopping and get some unique Christmas presents. Entry is free and there will be a raffle for Hertford's Singing For The Brain, a project run by the Alzheimer's Society.



Puckeridge WI at Wimpole Hall

Alpha Course!

- Find out what the Christian faith is all about.
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Starts Wednesday 10 January 7.30pm-9.30pm for ten weeks at the Vicarage, Kents Lane.

Come ready to find out more or to refresh your faith. Evening starts with coffee and desserts.

For more information or to book a place, speak to Alan or Jill (01920 318864) mail: alancomfort11@googlemail.com

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Ralph Sadleir School

With not a lot of time for staff or pupils to catch up with each other's summer news, the Autumn Term has begun in earnest, with trips, visitors, and our extremely well attended open days.

Welcoming new pupils to the school always displays true 'Ralphie' spirit at its best with the whole school pulling together to help with settling in. We hope all of our new pupils enjoyed their first term as a Ralphie. We also welcomed new staff members, who would be the first to assure all new pupils that the first day at a new school is just a daunting when you are an adult! Our Year 6 team welcomes Dr Collins and Mr Whitehouse and our Science department is now looked after by Ms Campbell and Mrs McLean. Year 5 is now four form entry we needed a fourth tutor and we are lucky to have newly qualified teacher, Mr Verderame Jnr.

The first term is always a hub of activity. Whilst Year 5 were busy settling in, finding their way around and adjusting to their timetables all whilst doing tests to assess ability and knowledge in core subjects. Year 6 were only back for a couple of weeks before hopping on a coach for their week long residential trip. We hope their parents enjoyed the peace and quiet because once the pupils return, although very tired, they had loads of stories to tell about activities they have taken part in, fears or worries they overcame, and the new friends they made.

Our Year 8's also started another journey – their Business Enterprise project. This project lasts throughout the Autumn and Spring Term and teaches the pupils business acumen, team working and problem solving skills. Which, if sales follow projections and are strong, results in the pupils funding their own reward trip later on in the academic year.

The Business Enterprise project kicked off with an intense Business Week. For a second year running, we welcomed guest speakers from charity "Learn to Earn" who gave a day long workshop to our pupils, teaching them skills on how to budget, what they need to earn against what they can then afford to buy and interview skills. We also welcomed back Scott Saunders, who was a contestant on BBC's The Apprentice in 2015, and he encouraged the pupils to be brave in their ideas, be ambitious and hard working. This years' businesses range from selling cakes, brownies and cookies, to washing cars, selling homemade cards and running lucky dips. So far, business has been good!

Not to be left out, Year 7 pupils have enjoyed a workshop from our expert on all things Shakespeare, Anthony Glenn. His one man show helped support and engage pupils' understanding of The Tempest and as proven historically, he always has success with getting all pupils involved. Our annual STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) day took place in October. Year 7 pupils interviewed engineers, programmed a robot to follow a route

and made stable, strong structures out of cocktail sticks and jellybeans.

Well, it doesn't seem that long ago that we were all basking in the heat of a lovely hot summer. Now the darker evenings are with us and gloves and scarves are being dug out from storage and Christmas is just around the corner.

Midday Supervisor Assistant needed

If any of you are looking to earn a few extra pennies we have a vacancy for a Midday Supervisor Assistant, Monday to Friday, 12.25pm to 1.40pm, pay rate £8.35 per hour. If you are interested please contact Miss Hurren at the school (01920 821450).

Our Ralph Sadleir Association are also looking for volunteers to help raise money for the school. If you are able to spare some time please email: rsa@ralphsadleir.academy

We would like to take the opportunity to thank all of our parents for their ongoing support to the school and to their child's learning. It really is a team effort!

Open days

If you are interested in seeing our school in action, we have an open morning on 10 January, 10.30am to 12noon. If you have a child that would be due to enter Year 5 in September 2018, deadlines for applications close on 15 January.

We wish all Ralphies, past, present and future, and indeed the whole community, a very happy Christmas and here's to a happy, healthy and joyous start to 2018.



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 - Online – visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk
 - In person – drop-in to our offices in Bishop's Stortford, Hertford, Sawbridgeworth, Ware and Buntingford. No appointment needed.
- For opening hours please visit our website www.ehcas.org.uk or ring Adviceline

Slimming World

Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre, Station Road, SG11 1TF
 Every Tuesday @ 7.30pm Sophie 07855 079070



1st Standon and Puckeridge Guides

This term, the Guides have been working on their Active Response badges by learning a wide range of skills including using camp stoves, first aid with the Standon Community First Responders, water safety, and how to keep safe when out and about. Away from the badge work, we have made illuminated fabric garlands, participated in Parliament Week run by our Young Leaders, enjoyed a food preparation week organised by two of our Baden

Powell Award Guides, made Christmas crafts, had an evening on the new Guiding programme organised by our Duke of Edinburgh volunteer, and prepared for our Guides Got Talent evening.

Guides organise some of their own activities in patrols, and this term we have had Glamorama which included makeovers and making bath bombs, Five Senses with food tastings and cupcake making, Passion 4 Fashion with clothes made for toys and a biscuit charity fundraiser, Globalistic with shelters and

hand printing, and Animal Active with animal habitats and a visit from Humphrey the rescue hedgehog.

We also joined with local Scouting and Guiding for the Standon Remembrance Sunday service and parade, and ran a campfire evening for the Brownies which included hot chocolate and s'mores.

2nd Standon and Puckeridge (Roger de Clare) Brownies

Our innovative lunch club Brownie Pack is about to finish it's second term. We meet weekly as a 30 minute lunch club, offering a full Brownie programme to girls who would otherwise miss out on a place due to the long waiting lists for local units. We originally planned to limit the unit to 12 Brownies, but due to high demand, we have increased this to 16, and we have a waiting list of girls wanting to join.

This term, we enrolled a further 8 Brownies, and all the girls earned their Speaker badges which involved reading poems, doing a 2 minute presentation, and playing listening and story games. We have also made craft projects, played games, participated in Parliament Week and the existing Brownies have helped the new ones settle in.

Outside of the normal meeting times, we have joined with the evening Brownie Pack and Guides to have a camp fire evening and visited Hertford Museum to find out about the Romans. We have



Guides working on their Active Response badges

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also participated in the Remembrance Day service and parade in Standon. Thanks to a donation from the Standon May Day Committee, we have ordered a new unit flag, but as it wasn't ready in time, we were able to carry the Union flag at the head of the parade, and also provided a reader during the service.

Coming up, we will be joining Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from across the County for a Christmas activity day at Cottered Guide HQ, and attending the panto in Stevenage with the evening Brownies.

Next term we are welcoming even more girls to the unit, and are looking forward to more badges and the start of the new activity and badge programme which is rolling out throughout the whole of Girlguiding.

We still have more girls wanting to join our units than we have space for, so we could still benefit from opening other units in the area. To do this, we need volunteers. The units could be the traditional evening type, a Saturday morning once a month, an after school club in partnership with a school, or even another lunch club. For further information, please email louisejenkins7@yahoo.co.uk.

Standon & Puckeridge Tennis Club

We have 3 all-weather courts with floodlights so why not play tennis at the Community Centre.

Pay to Play

is available to all, if you just want to use the courts, £5 ph or £2.50 for juniors. Floodlights £4 ph. Contact Keith Bradshaw on 01920 821152.

Children's Group Coaching

Every Tuesday afterschool, Mini Red 5-8yrs from 4 - 5pm and

Juniors 9 yrs+ from 5 - 6pm.

For more information regarding coaching please contact Tracy Llewellyn on 07985 183796.

Adult Tennis for All

Wednesday morning from 10am and Friday afternoon from 2pm. Contact Keith Bradshaw 01920 821152.

Club Night

Tuesday 6.30, we have Ladies, Ladies 50+, Ladies 60+, Men's and Mixed teams in local leagues and are always looking for new players. Contact Diana Foster 07778 031430.

New members welcome

Special rates for parent/child/family membership, for details contact Sally Bradshaw 01920 821152.

Buntingford Adult Learning for Fun

Our 10-week course is on 'A History of London'

Our Tutor is the popular Honor Ridout. Starting 10.30am Wednesday 10 January

A History of London

How did London grow from its early days as Roman Londinium through successive waves of expansion to its present conurbation of around 8,000,000 people? The influences were many - geography, national events, land ownerships and economics - and some notable individuals played a part. Wren, Nash and Bazalgette all contributed in ways that we can enjoy today.

For a good part of its history it was 'the Metropolis', an expanding urban sprawl subject to a swarm of local authorities with no single guiding rule. It outgrew the ancient City and found no barriers to its spread until the twentieth century.

This course will look at all these aspects, and will be illustrated from contemporary sources, including chronicles and histories, diaries, royal proclamations, newspapers, art and of course maps.

Coffee from 10, lecture starts 10.30am

If anyone is interested in coming, just turn up, if you would like any more information please phone Julia Peacock on 01763-272584 or Joan Jones 01763-273341 if you turn up you will be made very welcome.



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Starlight Stars News

It's always busy at Starlight Stars and our classes grow every term. In June we held a High School Musical Jr 'Premiere Film Night' where the performers from our show at Hertford Theatre in April got to watch themselves on the big screen. Thank you to Paul at 119 Productions in Standon for making this event possible. In November, over 20 of our students aged 7-16yrs entertained a full audience with our very first Singing & Acting Recital. It was a delight to watch a variety of songs from stage and screen as well as an assortment of playscript scenes. Many of the students attend our private singing and acting lessons where they study to take exams with The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA).

Our Performing Arts and Musical Theatre classes are currently preparing Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies for two performances at the Community Centre on Sunday 18 March. This hysterical show is a riotous romp through the medieval mayhem of Merry England, splattered with shocks and surprises, crazy characters and comic capers. With a score full of catchy, show-stopping songs and a wonderfully witty script as sharp as an arrow, this musical

comedy is on target to send you all a-quiver! Although we are slightly restricted on seating, local families are very welcome to come along to the performances. For more ticket details please email info@starlightstars.co.uk

Starlight Stars now teach Performance and Communication Classes at many schools in the local area, including St Edmund's College & Prep School, Anstey School, Sandon JMI School, Knight's Templar School, Simon Balle and The Stephen Perse Foundation. Every student is offered the opportunity to be entered for LAMDA exams in Verse & Prose, Acting, Devised Acting, Musical Theatre and Public Speaking. Our staff have also been invited to teach Performing Arts sessions in Puller Memorial, Albury and Jenyns School with regular performances to the rest of the school and parents. We've also prepared over 50 children at Weston Primary School for a 'Dance Your



High School Musical Jr Film Premier

Classroom Topic' performance for their school fete. We are looking forward to working with their wonderful children again next term. If you think your child's school would like to add performing arts and dance to their extra-curricular activity programme or offer their student's the opportunity to prepare for LAMDA Examinations in Performance and Communication we would be delighted to hear from them. Please contact lamda@starlightstars.co.uk for more information.

On Friday 15 December we will be

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getting into the festive mood as we take a coach of students and their families to see Nativity the Musical in London. Future theatre trips include Wicked, Annie and Stomp so if you would like to join us please use our new email address trips@starlightstars.co.uk or call our office on 01763 287691 to be added to our theatre trip database. You do not have to be a member of Starlight Stars to join our trips.

We continue to be grateful to the committee at the Community Centre and WASPS after-school club for their support with our classes. For further details of any of our classes please visit www.starlightstars.co.uk or call us on 01763 287691. Our doors are always open to new students who would like to come and watch or have a trial session with us.

Currently Rest(ing) in Peace

The Braughing Drama Group 1963 - 2017

This is the last stage call for any new blood to come forward by the end of the year to breathe fresh life into resurrecting the Group.

Otherwise it will be final curtains.

So if you think you could help revamp the Group, and take it into the next life, please contact sandy.varley@btinternet.com.

Every morning, we get a chance to be different

A chance to change, a chance to be better. Your past is your past. Leave it there.

What you read below are how members feel about our amazing Puckeridge and Standon Slimming World group.

'Non- judgemental - whatever your circumstances are.'

'Everyone we have met during our journey with you all at group can be said in one word...INSPIRATIONAL!'

'Like an extension of your family, the genuine care you feel, and friendships made.'

'Group means helping each other.'

'At a yearly asthma check up, I was offered a 12 week free course by my Doctor. As I had also been told to lose weight before the surgeons would carry out a knee operation, I decided to go for it!! After losing around 3 stone, I was delighted to hear I was asthma free, and soon after, was also taken off the diabetes register. Oh, and I had my knee op!!!!'

'Before I started my journey, I felt really low. I knew I needed to lose weight but I kept putting it to the back of my mind. Then one day, I became focussed, and that was the day I walked into the meeting at Slimming World. It was the best day of my life! This was the new beginning for me. Now, over 5 stone lighter in 4 months, I have started to feel good about myself. I'm

motivated, and proud. I'm beginning to stop hiding behind clothes, and wear outfits that show off the new me!'

'Before I started with the group, I felt fat and very much demotivated to do anything at all. I had also lost a lot of confidence and drive to go out and exercise. I really noticed my passion for cycling had pretty much deteriorated and my bikes were left hanging up in the garage gathering dust. Since coming to group, not only have I lost around 1 stone and a half, I have started running, and cycling (again). I feel a lot more confident and motivated. I have signed up already for charity rides that last year, I could only have dreamed of, but this is only through the support and welcoming attitude of the whole group. I have my life back now to enjoy with my two small children, an now live by the motto of follow the plan, not the mood.'

If anything you have read, hits home, makes sense, resonates a little truth in you, please come along, and make a change.

The door is always open.
Consultant; Sophie
Venue; Puckeridge Community Centre, Station Road,
SG11 1TF
Time/Day; 7.30pm every Tuesday.
Contact details; 07855079070.

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Post Natal Recovery

Baby Massage & Yoga in Herts

I meet many mums who have received little information about post-natal recovery, what helps, what exercise to do and when, many have not had someone show them how to examine their abdomen to see if they have diastasis recti (where the linea alba that connects to our abdominal muscles in the centre of our body has been unnaturally extended).

Below is a rough idea of what to do and when. Please remember everyone is different and many factors will play a part, for example, the type of labour you had, the length of time you breastfeed etc. Always listen to your own body and emotions.

It is totally understandable to want to get back to your 'old' self, get back into shape, restart sports that you enjoyed previously but I hope the information below will make you understand patience sometimes is required and results in better long term health.

In my Baby massage courses we discuss post-natal recovery and my Birthlight Baby yoga includes exercises to help the body recover such as spine re-alignment, breathing, pelvic floor, posture awareness, stretches and relaxation. If you are pregnant, you will notice some of which I discuss is equally important in pregnancy and pregnancy yoga has been shown to speed up post-natal recovery.

Rough Guidelines what to do Post-Natally

0-3 weeks postnatal

- Walking: Gentle Post-natal abdominal reverse breathing
- Pelvic floor exercises
- Posture awareness
- Deep breathing (diaphragmatic breathing/full yogic breath/three part breathing)
- Re-align the spine
- Open the chest (without flaring)
- Gentle stretches to help post-natal aches and pains for example around the neck and shoulders and lower back from feeding and carrying the baby
- Bond with your baby and rest

3-8 weeks postnatal

It is recommended you wait until your six-week postnatal check before starting a group exercise program or going back to the gym

- All of the above and start more post-natal recovery exercises (as done in Birthlight Baby yoga)
- Postnatal classes
- Swimming and low intensity water aerobics (once bleeding has stopped)

8-16 weeks postnatal

- Follow the guidelines for 0-8 weeks,
- Low intensity gym program, light weights and no breath holding (if less than 2 fingers in Diastasis Recti test as shown in my post-natal classes or at GP's at part of post-natal check-up)

After 16 weeks postnatal

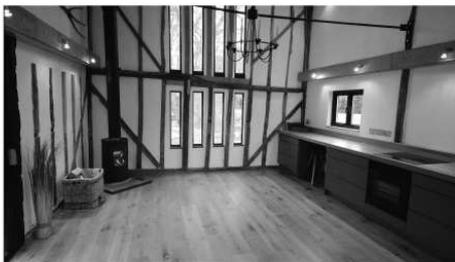
- You can return to previous activity levels provided your pelvic floor muscles have returned to normal and you are not experiencing any back pain, vaginal heaviness, or urine loss during or after exercise.
- Ensure your abdominals and pelvic floor are ready and also be aware if you are breast feeding that relaxin is still in the body softening the ligaments of your joints so be wary about doing high-impact exercises, running and strenuous sports.
- Seek further advice from a health professional if your symptoms persist.

Some Basic Don'ts for the first few months

- Take it too quick and do too much.
- Stand wide, it is easy to destabilise the pelvic joints due to relaxin
- High impact, or weight bearing or running due to relaxin which softens all joints (which is in the body for a while post-natally and continues if breastfeeding). In addition a weak pelvic floor could lead to urinary incontinence and prolapsed wombs. A weak stomach could lead to back pain.
- Avoid sit-ups, crunchies and planks it could make the situation worse
- Don't ignore the hormonal and emotional changes; there is nothing wrong with crying and sharing your feelings.
- Don't tuck your tailbone underneath you and clench or grip your buttocks.

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Instead let go and let your backside curve out in the neutral spine. Your pelvic floor needs to function at its full length to be strong.

- Suck in your stomach continually. Forcefully holding or pulling in your tummy is not 'engaging your core' - it simply displaces pressure inside your abdomen and exerts even more pressure down onto your pelvic floor. It also can lead to back pain.

For more information or to sign up to Pregnancy yoga, Baby Massage or Baby yoga (which includes post-natal recovery) please email

penny@babymassageherts.co.uk <https://www.babymassageherts.co.uk> <https://www.facebook.com/babymassageherts/>

Chimney Fire Safety

There are 6,000 chimney fires a year in England but most are preventable.

An open fire is an ideal way to keep warm in the winter, but without proper maintenance a chimney can become dangerous. To keep you and your family safe you should have your chimney swept regularly, before the colder winter months and you use your fire again.

Fit a Smoke alarm

If the worst should happen, a smoke alarm can give you the extra time you need to escape in a house fire – make sure you test yours regularly.

To book a free Safe & Well visit please call 0300 123 4046

Protect Your Pension

If you are contacted out of the blue with offers of 'free pension reviews', 'government initiatives', 'guaranteed rates of return', 'access to cash before age 55', or couriers who will help you complete the forms, then please beware that these are common signs of a pension scam. Impressive company literature, smart websites, knowledgeable representatives and professional looking marketing materials are also no guarantee of a firm's authenticity.

TPAS (The Pensions Advisory Service) www.thepensionsadvisoryservice.org.uk provides independent and impartial information and guidance about pensions, free of charge, to members of the public.

We help with all pension matters covering workplace, personal and stakeholder schemes. We answer general questions, help with specific queries and offer guidance for people with complaints about their private pension scheme.

If you'd like to talk to TPAS about an offer you have received or think you may already be being scammed, please call 0300 123 1047. TPAS is there to help you with any pension related question. Produced by Hertfordshire Constabulary's Crime Reduction and Community Safety Department

Stop Stansted Expansion Community Calendars

The 2018 Community Calendar from Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) is now available by mail order and at outlets across the region. A regular favourite, the calendar once again highlights many stunning locations in the shadow of Stansted Airport's operations which would be impacted by expansion plans.

Locations this year include:

Ashdon, Berden, Bishop's Stortford, Ickleton, Linton, Little Bardfield, Long Melford, Matching Green, Roydon, Saffron Walden, Waltham Abbey and Ware

The A3 format calendar makes an important contribution to SSE's fundraising efforts, as well as raising and maintaining awareness of the special quality of the region. Priced at just £7, it is available from SSE's volunteer sales team.

In the meantime, mail order and gift copies (including for overseas addresses), as well as in-person collection, can be arranged by contacting SSE at info@stopstanstedexpansion.com or on 01279 870558. See also www.stopstanstedexpansion.com.

You can buy the calendars from:

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The Hundred Parishes Society

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We are in an age of texts and emails but I'm sure we all use the local post box from time to time. What a lovely sight those bright red boxes are.

Britain's first roadside pillar boxes were installed in 1852 in St Helier in the Channel Islands following a recommendation by Anthony Trollope, then clerk to the surveyor of the South West District of the Post Office. Since then there have been many different styles. Wall boxes were introduced in 1857 and boxes attached to lamps in 1896 to serve more rural communities.

Queen Victoria was the first monarch to have her royal cipher, VR, displayed and each monarch since has had their own design. Even during the brief reign of Edward VIII, 161 pillar boxes were cast. Many are still in use but, as far as I'm aware, there are no ER VIII boxes in the Hundred Parishes.

At least fifteen VRs are still in service around the Hundred Parishes, all in our Essex parishes. As far as I know, we have no round, standalone Victorian pillar boxes. All are wall boxes, built into a wall, including a tiny one at Roast Green, Clavering (see picture).

Following the 2012 Olympics, pillar boxes in the home towns and villages of gold medal winners were repainted



in gold, the first occasion in modern times when the colour of a "live" box changed from the traditional red. In Elsenham, an EIIR pillar box, dating from our present monarch, celebrates the show jumping gold medal won by Ben Maher.

When you are out and about, I encourage you to see how many different types you can spot. And do leave feedback on our website if you find a VR or ER VIII that I was not aware of.

Ken McDonald
Secretary

The pleasures of country life

One of the many pleasures of country living is getting out on the mower.

This year the grass didn't stop growing at all so we could keep roaring up and down our lawns drowning out the birds singing, the sheep bleating, the cows mooing, the children playing right up to the time we can all get out our leaf blowers.

What bliss, every day more leaves fall and I can rush out again and blow them into a corner, and the next day they have all blown back again and some more have fallen from the trees which means I can blow for longer and this can go on for a couple of months at least.

Pure heaven, and I am sure the neighbours all love me for doing it, they wouldn't want to sit out in their gardens and listen to birds or quietly meditate on the meaning of life, when they can shut themselves indoors, draw the curtains and try not to hear the din I am making.

An anonymous rant from the edge of the Parish!

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Prepayment Meters

I am behind on my energy bills and my energy company wants to install a prepayment meter.

Suppliers may try to install a prepayment meter if you are falling behind on your bills, so you can pay by topping up your meter, and don't get into debt.

You can refuse to have a prepayment meter if an illness or disability means you'd be harmed if your electricity or gas was cut off. You can also refuse if you couldn't get to or use your meter.

Ofgem the energy regulator's rules mean your supplier can't make you have a prepayment meter if:

- you don't agree that you owe them money, and you've told them this - for example if the debt came from a previous tenant
- they haven't offered you other ways to repay money you owe - for example a repayment plan or payments through your benefits

- they come to your home to install a prepayment meter without giving you notice - at least 7 days for gas and 7 working days for electricity
- they haven't given you at least 28 days to repay your debt before writing to say they will install the meter

Tell your supplier if any of these apply. If they still want to install a prepayment meter, you should complain to get them to change their mind.

If none of the above apply but you don't want the meter, contact your supplier to tell them you are struggling with your bills. They should help you agree a repayment plan. If you are already on a plan but can't afford it, see if you can make a new arrangement.

Also discuss with your supplier the costs of the different meters and tariffs. Once you've agreed to pay back your

debts, your supplier won't install a prepayment meter if you don't want one.

Other steps you can take to help you with your bills: You may be eligible for the Warm Home Discount, which could reduce your energy bill by £140, or a one off Government Cold Weather Payment.

Some energy companies also offer grants to their customers to pay off fuel debts, while other companies and charities have grants which are open to anyone.

For further help on negotiating with your supplier or applying for benefits, contact Citizens Advice.

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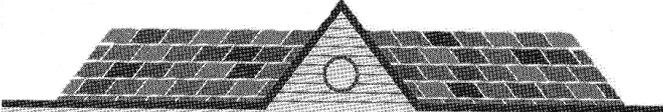
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Puckeridge Karate Club



Sensei Billman with Bronze medallist
Charlotte Hope

During October Sensei Michael Billman 8th Dan, President of the English Karate Federation, attended the Under 21, Junior and Cadet Karate World Championships in Tenerife in his role of Secretary to the World Karate Federation Technical Commission.

The England Squad that competed in Tenerife came home with three medals, one Silver and two Bronze,

an excellent result for such a young squad. They also had three others placed in the top ten in 9th, 7th, and 5th positions.

During November Puckeridge Karate Club will be having a return visit from Sensei Jonathan Mottram 5th Dan the current English Karate Federation Senior National Kata Coach.

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

Training times are:

Tuesday: 20.30-21.30 Higher Grades (Brown Belt and above)

Thursdays:
19.00-20.00 Juniors All grades
20.00-21.00 Seniors All grades

Email: puckeridge.karate@ntlworld.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/PuckeridgeKC

For further information, contact Clive Bowen on: 01763 231132

Sadleir Drama Club

The Sadleir Drama Club Autumn Production is taking place until Saturday 2 December so please come along and support us!

Sally Laws-Robinson has kindly agreed to direct a production of "Neighbourhood Watch" by Alan Ayckbourn.

Brother and sister Martin and Hilda Massie live together, leading a quiet, Christian existence in the confines of the Bluebell Hill Development. Just as they are preparing for a housewarming gathering, their peace is shattered by a young trespasser in their garden. The Massies' neighbours congregate in their living room and together they agree to form a neighbourhood watch group to safeguard against further incidents. But after the Massies' beloved garden gnome Monty is thrown through their window, matters swiftly escalate, complicated by Martin's burgeoning romance with Amy, wife of Gareth, who was formerly involved with Luther, husband of Magda... What begins as a well-intentioned scheme for a safer community ends in violence and acrimony.



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The cast of eight are ready and raring to entertain you and tickets will be available as usual from Standon Post Office.

In the New Year plans for the Spring Production will start taking shape. We plan to put on a 1 Act Play followed by Supper as this has been a popular format in recent years. The dates for your diary are 18-20 April.

If you are someone who likes to come along to our plays perhaps you might like to join our 'Supporters List'. Once you are on this list, we will let you know, in plenty of time, about our productions, when and where to buy tickets and generally keep in touch. If you would like to be included on this list, please contact me, and let me know your address or, preferably, your email address.

Liz Pickup, Secretary, Sadleir Drama Club. 01763 289446 or pickup1@btinternet.com

Hertford Symphony Orchestra Concerts

Merry Christmas!

Sunday 10 December Drill Hall, Ware, 3pm

Get in the festive mood with our truly spectacular family-friendly Christmas concert featuring Simon Balle School Choir. The programme includes festive orchestral and choral music, Christmas carols with audience participation and a specially orchestrated and narrated Christmas story guaranteed to enchant children of all ages!

Guest conductor: Jonathan Mann

Tickets: £14 adults, £6 children/students, £34 family ticket

All at Sea! The Robert Kiln Concerts for Children

Sunday 28 January Hertford Theatre, 2.30pm and 4.15pm.

All aboard for this short but enchanting

concert especially devised to appeal to our younger audience members! Audience participation guaranteed! Feel free to wear sea-themed fancy dress!

Tickets: £8 adults, £5 children (includes £1 Theatre booking fee)

English Gems

Saturday 17 March, Hertford Theatre, 7.45pm

- Parry Lady Radnor's Suite
- Haydn Trumpet Concerto
- Soloist: Ellie Lovegrove
- Elgar Symphony No. 2

Tickets: £18 adults, £15 concessions, £6 children/students (includes £1 Theatre booking fee)

Inspired by Love

Saturday 12 May Hertford Theatre, 7.45pm

- Mendelssohn Overture 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'
- Brahms Concerto for Violin and Cello

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HSO at the Movies

Saturday 7 July Hertford Theatre, 6pm

Featuring the music of John Williams along with classic scores from seven decades of the 'big screen!'

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Vive la revolution

It is here at last an answer to the world's biggest and most pressing problem, all we need is the commitment of enlightened people to bring it to fruition. The problem? What do I ever go on about, what could be the biggest problem facing humanity, the next Trump Tweet? More Brexit bad news? Bake Off? No Climate Change, 'Oh here he goes again rattling on about dodgy

weather, unprecedented flooding, record temperatures, drought, melting Tundra, we've heard it all before, we are not interested, Trump says there is no problem so there probably isn't.'

Sorry everyone, you don't have to read it, you don't have to do anything, but if we don't collectively do something there will be serious repercussions.

The answer... reduce carbon dioxide emissions, ok you have heard that before I know, pretty basic stuff, but how? I mean spending money you will recoup over the next few years, so really an investment in your own financial future as well as the future of our planet.

Every day enough energy to heat, cool, run our transport systems, run our factories etc., falls on the earth and we are only exploiting the minutest fraction of that energy, that big round reactor in the sky which has been doing it's thing for quite a long while now, very reliably every day radiating all that energy. What do we do? We pump oil and gas, dig coal out of the ground and set fire to it to free up all that carbon into the atmosphere.

Someone said that technology would solve our dilemma and this is now being proved right. Photovoltaics - oh but they only produce energy when the sun is out, you say, yes, but coupled with new battery technology twenty four hour energy is now a reality. This would involve spending quite a bit of cash admittedly but isn't our future worth investing in?

We have been picking a lot of litter lately, bags of it, (I can't find instructions on McDonalds wrappers or drinks containers to throw them out the car window when used).

I am stumped really, why would any normal thinking person throw anything out the car window, where does the compulsion come from, perhaps it's something they put in the 'food' (?) Perhaps it is just basic rebellion 'I know I shouldn't so I will' just to prove how hard and cool I am.

It's not only McDonalds of course the next most common items are Red Bull cans, about eighty percent of the cans I pick up are Red Bull, again there are no explicit instructions to tell drinkers to do them out the window, but do they do, I suppose all the caffeine gets them hyped up and they have to do something, having drunk it, not much else you can do in a car just sit there all jittery tidying up the car dobbing stuff out the window.

Quite often all the collected rubbish is all carefully collected together, put in a plastic bag, carefully knotted and then given air time, perhaps the world lived in is just in that car, everything outside it is alien and hostile somewhere to deposit rubbish.

I must say though that it is very satisfying looking at a tidy section of road, completely clear of plastic, paper bags and aluminium, the trouble is it doesn't stay that way long.

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It has been a busy start to the new academic year at Roger de Clare. As well as welcoming a number of new families to Roger de Clare, we have been fortunate to have many visitors in.

At the start of term we had two sessions with Ian Rose, Judo Paralympian. Ian's story of success compliments our school focus on growth mindset and what can be achieved with effort and practise because, as Ian says, "practise makes progress."

Early Years and Year 1 received pedestrian skills training from Hertfordshire's safe travel team. The messages of where and how to cross roads have been supported by our safe driving and parking pledge initiative to which many families have signed up.

We have been overwhelmed with our response to parent helper training. We have 23 parents and community residents who will be supporting across the school following their safeguarding training and DBS checks.

In October we were thrilled to open our doors to the Riding for the Disabled Association. The ponied and fabulous volunteers came to showcase their important work with some of our pupils by riding out in the field. Visitors were

also treated to a welcoming performance by our choir and some delicious refreshments all provided by the organisation.

As we moved into November we have welcomed Reverend Alan Comfort and Caroline Franks from St. Mary's Church and Pastor Bill from the Puckeridge Congregational Church as well as Pudsey Bear to help us raise money for Children in Need. St. Mary's at the school has also continued and a successful breakfast meeting was held recently to welcome the ex-footballer Linvoy Primus.

Throughout the term we have continued with our community lunches initiative for local residents. Miss Graham has been serving up fabulous feasts including our special wartime lunch (fitting in with Remembrance Day).

December is approaching and we are very much looking forward to sharing our annual Christmas concerts and Church Service with parents, carers and grandparents as well as opening our doors to the community for our Christmas Fair on 9 December – an ideal opportunity to come and see our school.

Merry Christmas everyone!

If you are interested in joining the Roger de Clare family, please contact the school to arrange a tour. Full details can be found on our website – www.rogerdeclare.herts.sch.uk

St Mary's at the School - Breakfast with Linvoy Primus



Linvoy Primus meets guests Amie and Macey.

Around 80 people filled Roger de Clare School's hall on Saturday 4 November to enjoy a delicious cooked breakfast and refreshments prepared by school caterers Annette and Sharon and a team from St Mary's at the School.

Guest speaker, ex-Premiership footballer Linvoy Primus, spoke from the heart about his successful football career with Charlton, Barnet and Portsmouth but how he found true peace and fulfilment when he accepted Jesus into his life. His



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Portsmouth team mates were so struck by the positive change in Linvoy that nine of the first team accepted Jesus too. When asked on one occasion by a reporter where the players were, Harry Redknapp replied that they were "probably in a prayer meeting"!

St. Mary's at the School is an informal church for all ages that meets at Roger de Clare on Sundays at 4.45pm. With modern Christian music, videos, refreshments and fun 'Messy Church' activities for children, our aim is to help people discover for themselves how faith makes a real difference in today's challenging world.



Sunday 17 December...11 am...
Roger de Clare School
"The best Nativity play ever" was one comment last year.

Join us for festive fun as we walk together through the Nativity story with homegrown actors, live animals, carols and refreshments.

Come and discover how 'Strictly' and a certain football team fit into the Christmas story Christmas in our new script for 2017.

Free of charge, donations at your discretion.

Another community event hosted by **St Mary's at the School**

News from Isabel Hospice

Forthcoming Events

Isabel Hospice Lights of Love

2 December

- Hertford Castle 4pm
- Cheshunt – The Halsey Masonic Centre 4pm

3 December

- Bishop's Stortford Market Square 4pm

This festive season Isabel Hospice are warmly inviting local people to celebrate the life of someone special and make a dedication in their memory at one of their 8 Lights of Love remembrance ceremonies.

Each ceremony has a Christmas tree adorned with bright lights, which are symbolic of the lives that will be celebrated. Following the service of remembrance and carol singing, the ceremony will end with the switching on of the lights.

Laura Pigott, Community Fundraiser for the Hospice said "There is no cost to attend Lights of Love but as a small charity, Isabel Hospice rely on the generosity and goodwill of our local community to help us bring light and hope to families dealing with terminal illness."

Richard Bellerby (58) attended the Isabel Hospice Living Well sessions in Thorley, Bishop's Stortford. Following his death in May 2016, his wife Katy and her children Florence (12) and Felix (10) attended the Hospice's Lights of Love ceremony in Bishop's Stortford.

Katy said "Richard was very sceptical about attending the Isabel Living Well sessions at the Barnabas Centre in Thorley, but with a bit of gentle persuasion he went along. Over the course of a few

weeks he settled into a Thursday routine. If he was feeling poorly and couldn't attend you could really notice a dip in his mood. I usually stayed for a coffee, initially just to make sure Richard was OK, but after a while I too was looking forward to Thursdays and the group jigsaw puzzle!

"I could see Richard was really benefiting from attending – the nurses, the exercise group, complimentary therapists, the art group, the other patients and the wonderful volunteers.

"Some weeks Richard was very tired but he was happy just to sit and drink tea and eat some lovely homemade cake. Richard loved art and painted a beautiful picture of a Tibetan temple adorned with prayer flags with the help of some very talented artists. He also started on a childhood memory of a day at the horse races which sadly he was unable to finish. Richard became very poorly very quickly, one week we were at Isabel sessions and the next week he was in St Clare's Hospice and wasn't coming home. Sadly Richard died very shortly afterwards.

"I was drawn back to the Isabel sessions at the Barnabas Centre and decided to put on a brave face and visit everyone - I was welcomed like an old friend. Our 2 children Florence and Felix loved to hear what their daddy had been up to on Thursdays so I decided to take the children on a visit too.

Everyone loved seeing the children, and knew all about them from Richard - they have now visited several times. Another visitor who came with me was our new puppy Woody Banjo who has now been to the Barnabas Centre on a few occasions. We hope to train her as a

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pet therapy dog over the coming months as she has started to calm down!

Richard was happy a few days before attending Isabel Hospice on a Thursday in anticipation of going and he was happy whilst he was there, and happy a few days afterwards. The Isabel sessions gave Richard a reason for keeping going and we all have some wonderful memories of his time at the hospice. We were very fortunate to have the artwork of the horse race finished by some of the volunteers. It is a lasting memory of Richard for me and the children.

It sounds like a cliché but I don't know what we would have done without Isabel Hospice. "

You can make a dedication to enable Isabel Hospice to carry on caring for local people at www.isabelhospice.org.uk/bookoflove or by calling Fundraising on 01707 382500.

Pop Up Cinema in aid of Isabel Hospice - Elf. 16 December 5pm The Old Library, Hertford
Cinema Night in a special location at The Old Library in Hertford!

The perfect evening to share with a group of friends or partners to get you into the Christmas spirit. Ticket are £10 per person which includes one drink and sweetie cone.

Children to be accompanied by an adult at all times. Doors open at 4:45pm for the film to start at 5pm. ONE SHOWING ONLY AND LIMITED PLACES!

Contact Laura Blight on 07703 538255

to book your tickets.

Pop Up Cinema in aid of Isabel Hospice- Grease. 16 December Doors open 7.45pm film starts at 8pm The Old Library, Hertford
Cinema Night in a special location - The Old Library in Hertford

The evening can be anything you wish, a group of friends, a girlie night or couples, entirely up to you. Dressing up in Grease outfits is an option to get you in the mood, it would be great to see a few Sandy's and Danny's come along. Please see details below, we have limited seating to act quickly if you wish to come to avoid disappointment. £20 per ticket which includes two drinks (wine or beer) ONE SHOWING ONLY AND LIMITED PLACES SO PLEASE CONTACT Laura Blight 07703 538255.

Carols in the Chapel for Isabel Hospice 19 December
Haileybury Chapel, Hertford Heath 7pm and 9:30pm

Join us for a wonderful evening of carols in the beautiful candlelit chapel at the prestigious Haileybury, the perfect way to celebrate the festive season. This year, the Braughing Sing will be performing and we will be inviting the audience to sing along to their favourite Christmas Carols. Tickets are £20, and this price will include festive refreshments and entry into our draw to win a luxury Christmas Hamper with the lucky winner to be announced on the night. For more information please contact Beth on 01707 382535 or at www.isabelhospice.org.uk

Buntingford U3A

The U3A is a self-help learning organisation for people who are no longer in full employment. We are different from most other adult learning organisations in that we encourage members to share their knowledge and talents. Because of this, all U3As are different reflecting the individual wishes of their members – but they all deliver a life-enhancing experience.

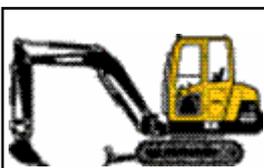
Buntingford U3A has over 430 members and there is a monthly meeting with a Speaker at the Seth Ward Community Centre at 1.30pm on the second Monday of the month (no meeting in August).

There are 35 Groups at the moment - including 4 walking groups for different abilities, French, Spanish and Ukulele! Our subs are £11 a year reduced to £7.50 if you already belong to another U3A.

Our forthcoming monthly meetings are on Mondays:

- 11 Dec Martin Sirot Smith - 'Tudor Christmas'
- 8 Jan Pat Ides - Medical Detection Dogs
- 12 Feb Sue Price - Wimpole Hall"
- 12 March Damien O'Dell Adventures of a Ghost Hunter

Please visit our new website at www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford for an application form and more information.



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From the Vicar

For many years now, the Alpha Course has been well used by most church denominations. This helpful introduction to the Christian faith contains several humorous stories told by Nicky Gumbel, the founder of the course. Let me share one with you from the very first talk regarding friends of his who had an au pair. He sets the scene by telling us the au pair was struggling to learn the English language and hadn't quite mastered all the English idioms. He continued: 'One time there was an argument going on between the children in a room upstairs. The au pair rushed upstairs and what she meant to say was, "What on earth are you doing?" but what she actually said was, "What are you doing on earth?"' A funny mistake but a good question he suggests: what are we doing on earth? (Why not try the Alpha Course for yourself - see the advert in this edition of PS starting Wednesday 10 January 7.30pm at the Vicarage)

This is not an everyday question of course, as most of us are simply surviving the relentless rush of life, but occasionally we pause long enough to wonder. If I asked you what the purpose of your life is, I wonder what your answer would be? Many of us immediately refer to family. Our eldest son Henry has returned home to live after four years away. It's great having someone else to talk football with! My

niece Lillie has just had a baby daughter named Rose. I remember her singing pop songs and dancing for all the family in what seems like only yesterday, but time moves very quickly. Others may say their work. Rob Parsons in his book 'The Sixty Minute Father' said this: 'No-one was ever heard to say on their death bed, "I wish I'd spent more time at the office" and yet so often that's how we live'. I wonder what your answer would be? I'm sure you can think of several alternatives, but the Christian message suggests that our ultimate purpose is found when we draw close to God.

Over these past months I have been reminded once again that God's ultimate purpose is not for Him to please me but for me to please Him. I get lost too easily in the idea that God has to keep me happy; so I can live where I want, be blessed and happy in all I do, successful in work, healthy, filled with joy. Yet, the Christian message seems to be less obsessed than me with my happiness and more focussed on my 'following of and becoming like Jesus'. As we get closer to God, it's amazing what happens. Whatever gifts we have, God can really use them if we are willing to offer them for use. I love the story of John Kirkby. With a small donation and big faith, he started a charity in 1996. He believed God was calling him to sacrifice his career in finance and use his knowledge of the industry to help the poor. In his

hometown of Bradford, John set off on the incredible journey of CAP, Christians Against Poverty. He used his expertise to negotiate with creditors, set up budgeting systems and offered a lifeline to those trapped in debt. John knew that people all over the country were struggling in the same way and he began looking to replicate the work across the UK. With the vital ingredients of a church to partner with, a passionate person to be trained as a debt counsellor and the faith that God would provide, four new CAP centres were opened at the end of 1998 and many more since. It started with just one person who wanted to share Jesus and help people.

Thinking of just one man, Christmas is now only weeks away. What is the purpose of Christmas? Gosh, there are so many answers to this one: family, fun, tradition, Santa, presents, love, children, memories, and happiness. We could go on. Yet, Christmas is not really about God pleasing us, it's about God loving us enough to save us. Jesus is a gift given and a sacrifice made, that through and because of Him we can draw near to God and ultimately please Him. I hope we will see you at one of our many beautiful Christmas Services at St. Mary's.

Reverend Alan Comfort - Rector of St. Mary's Standon, All Saints Little Munden and St. Catherine's Sacombe.

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Do you sell on line and use PayPal?

We have received several reports recently where local residents have lost items or money after they believed they had sold items online to purchasers using PayPal. The two most common scams were: The buyer sends money via PayPal but asks for item to be sent to a different address, such as their "work address" or a "gift address". The victim receives the payment and sends the item to the new address. The buyer then claims they did not receive the item and requests a refund. Because the seller sent the item to a different address, they are not covered by PayPal's seller protection, so the buyer receives their refund and the seller ends up with neither the items nor the money. The buyer tells the seller that they will pay by PayPal. The seller then receives an email (that looks like a normal PayPal email) confirming payment has been received. The seller then sends the item. However, the PayPal confirmation email was fraudulent and the payment was never made. Protect Your Money · Don't accept an email as proof of payment, always check your account to ensure monies have been received. Log in to your Paypal account via your app or browser, never via an emailed link. · Please bear in mind when selling items, PayPal's User Agreement includes: "A key eligibility requirement of the Seller Protection Programme is that, for tangible items, the seller must post the item to the address which appears on the transaction details page." · To view the PayPal User Agreement, visit www.paypal.com/uk and click on "Legal" in the bottom right hand corner of the page.

Police are urging people to guard against phone Scams.

Several methods have been used by fraudsters to try and con victims out of cash.

- A 53-year-old woman in the Buntingford area was contacted by a woman who claimed to be from BT and told the victim they had viruses on their computer. The victim was then transferred to a 'security expert' who accessed her computer remotely. The offender then became threatening and told the victim to go to Tesco and purchase £5,000 worth of iTunes vouchers. Officers intervened and no purchase was made.
- A 65-year-old man from Stevenage was contacted by a man claiming to be from HMRC who stated he owed taxes. The victim was told to purchase iTunes vouchers from outlets and read the codes over the phone. He then transferred money over to a Bitcoin account. He lost £11,500 to the fraudsters.
- Phone scams have been received in Hertsmere, offenders call victims and claim to be police officers investigating fraudulent activity on their bank accounts. They then ask the victims to hand cash or bank cards over to a courier as part of a false investigation. No money was lost on these occasions.

DS Jon Leak, who leads the investigation team, said: "We continue to bring offenders to justice. Convictions have already been secured, these

scams are still occurring using a variety of methods. Many people recognise them for what they are and refuse to part with any money. People are still falling prey to these fraudsters and lose thousands of pounds. You will never be asked by Police, Banks or HMRC, to purchase iTunes vouchers as payment. Police and Banks would never ask for your PIN or for you to hand cash and bank cards over to a courier.

Could you be a Special Constable?

We are asking ordinary people whether they could be extra-ordinary by signing up to become a Special Constable.

We currently have 230 Special Constables in Hertfordshire who volunteer their time to make a difference in their community.

Special Constables have full police powers, uniform and protective equipment and work alongside the regular force. They play a vital role in helping keep communities safe and can get involved in a range of policing activities from high visibility patrols, to being called to assist at the scenes of incidents such as road traffic collisions, burglaries or assaults.

So, do you or anyone you know have want to join us as a Special Constable?

For more information about the role and to apply, visit

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Puckeridge drummer offers free first lesson.

Did you know that there are drum lessons available in Puckeridge?

Hi, I'm Brandon, a 20 year old drummer from Puckeridge who has just completed a drumming performance course at the amazing ICMP (Institute of Contemporary Music Performance in Kilburn). I have soundproofed rehearsal and recording studios at my home, and have started offering one-to-one drum lessons to pupils of any age or ability, leading to drum grades or just for fun. I already teach pupils from Roger De Clare and Jenyns schools and have more slots available. I am an ex-pupil of Jenyns, Ralph Sadleir & Freman College.

I have an offer currently of a free 25 minute lesson, (one free per new pupil) plus a free pair of drumsticks and ear plugs with your first booking of 10+ lessons. I can offer flexible lesson plans, plus discounts for block bookings and customer referrals. I have an enhanced DBS (CRB) check, full public liability insurance and am also a member of the Musician Union.

Arcade Studio where I teach my lessons is on Buntingford Road, Puckeridge.

Whilst pupils are learning to play drums in the Practice Room, parents, guardians or partners can watch, relax with a tea or coffee and TV, or play in the adjacent arcade where there are a collection of pinball machines and video games.

I have been paid to gig since I was 16 and I have experience of playing on a live music show for a Sky TV channel. I'm very dedicated and reliable, have my own transport, and can also do sessions, or produce online drum tracks for local musicians.

I've very recently set up a You Tube channel ("Drumming Science") with weekly drum covers on and already have 130+ followers. I also have a website: drummingscience.co.uk & a Facebook page which is [Facebook.com/drummingscience](https://www.facebook.com/drummingscience). My email address is: drummingscience@gmail.com & my telephone number is 07510 528560.

So, are you thinking about drum lessons for yourself, or family member? Perhaps you are trying to find a Christmas present for someone who is hard to buy for? Maybe - you are a musician looking for online, (or studio based) sessions-in any musical style? If so, then please don't hesitate to contact me!

Thanks, Brandon

Puckeridge Congregational Church

Starting in Genesis all through the Old Testament there is an expectation, a promise, and many prophecies all pointing to a Messiah. Many, Many years of waiting, some people are still waiting for the Messiah.

Are you date driven? What I mean is this, are you looking forward to something on your calendar? I have spent a good portion of my life looking forward to something. Apparently when I was in the local nursery I tried to dig my way out it seems I did not like it, "I could not wait" to get out. When I was in primary school I thought things would be better when I reached secondary school, "I could not wait" to go to secondary school. In Wales you had to learn Welsh and being dyslexic I had enough problems with English. Where, were, ware and wear could never figure it out.

Unfortunately reaching secondary school things did not get any better. I always seemed to end up defending my friends against a group of bullies so I was often in trouble. The only subject I enjoyed was maths it seemed to make sense. My final interview the deputy

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Planning ahead for peace of mind

head told me I should try and get a job in the local steel works “doing manual work.” From all this you can probably guess “I could not wait” to leave school.

I was working in a public house while trying to decide what I was going to do with my future. I could not wait to get a real job. I thought of the forces tried the Navy and RAF and for both services I needed to wait until the next year, “I could not wait”, four months is a lifetime when you are 18. I eventually became a mechanic in the Army, there were still times of “I can’t wait” but mostly I enjoyed my time traveling the world. Twenty years later I was offered redundancy, I took it. After a brief spell of doing jobs because I needed to work I trained to become a pastor.

Why do I tell you this story? Do we spend our lives wishing them away I had up to that? The copy date for this month’s PS is 11th November, Armistice Day or Remembrance Day. After leaving the Army I had a hard time with the 11th, bad memories, but as a pastor it is a time when people expect you to be there. For once I was faced with the thought of “this time I can wait,” oh how I wished

Remembrance would go away.

Leading the services helped lay down some ghosts of the past but still there are memories. I often think of the people who are scarred by recent conflicts, wars, and troubles. What must they be going through? If you spend any time in that environment it changes you. Why do it? If like me you join the services because of the work situation. You won’t last unless you change. It becomes less about you and more about, firstly your mates, comrades, then the Regiment or Corps, then the country. There is a belief in what you have done and who you are. There is even an acceptance of sacrifice, for the greater good.

It is not easy remembering some things, but we must remember that is what the red poppy is all about. In some countries they have torn up their history books. How can we learn if we do that?

A date we are rushing towards is now December 25th it is the date we choose to remember the birth of Christ. I find this also a difficult date. Not because it is a date plucked out of the calendar but that Christ would leave His Father’s home and come to earth. He who had been there since time began, left His wonderful home to come and be born in

a stable. Not a palace, hospital or even a house but born in a stable and laid in a manger. The worst part is, He did it for me, oh and you who believe as well. He came knowing that He had to live a perfect life and then died a perfect death achieving what he set out to do.

How will you celebrate the Christmas? Will you remember the reason for the season? Will you like me remember with awe the implications of what He did? He came as prophesied by Isaiah Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isa 7:14)

As we remember we would like to take this opportunity to wish you a blessed time over this Christmas and hope to see you sometime in the near future.

Candle-lit Christmas Service

Would you like to come and join us for our Candle Lit Carol Service? It will be on 23 December at 5pm, there will be a chance to sing some of the old carols and indulge in mince pies and a drink of something warming. Also why not come and join us for the Christmas Eve Morning Service at 11am.

Pastor Bill Harrow The Manse 81, Station Road, Puckeridge, SG11 1TF, 1920 822192, 07960 773415 billharrowpcc@btinternet.com

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Expecting a delivery?

Scam "missed delivery" cards are being posted through letterboxes that look like they are from Royal Mail. Action Fraud have alerted us to 'something for you' cards arriving through letterboxes that look similar to the 'something for you' slips that are posted into homes by Royal Mail if a delivery can't be made. To arrange a redelivery, the scam cards urge recipients to call a 0208 number, which is not registered to Royal Mail. Recipients should consider whether they are expecting a delivery from the company named on the card, and if in doubt, do not call the number provided, or if you do, don't give out any personal details. You can arrange a redelivery by Royal Mail via their website, www.royalmail.com. Their enquiries number is 03457 740 740.

Alert for Students – Student Loan Fraud

Action Fraud are asking us to alert first-year and returning university students to a scam email that claims to be from The Student Loans Company. Victims are duped into entering personal information that is then being used to steal their identity, enabling the fraudsters to obtain documentation, goods or credit in their name.

The fraudulent email has come to light in the lead up to the new academic year. It claims that Student Loans Company accounts have been suspended due to incomplete student information. It urges the recipient to update their details via a web link which leads to a fake website designed to harvest personal details. The scam appears to target both new and current university students. However, some individuals who have never applied for student finance have also received the email.

Police advise that you should never click on emailed links or log into any organisation's website via an emailed link. Instead, you should type the organisation's correct web address into your browser.

Help us to help you' by making the right choice when contacting police.

Since the beginning of the year Hertfordshire Constabulary has received more than 62,000 999 calls and more than 165,000 non-emergency 101 calls.

However, picking up the phone is not the only way that the public is getting in touch with the police and we need people to help us to help you by choosing the most appropriate way to contact us.

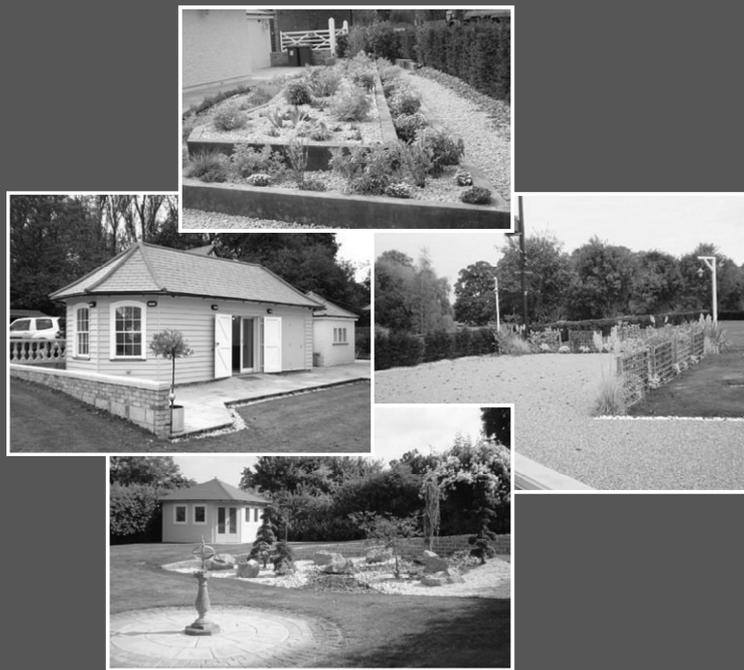
Hertfordshire Constabulary has a range of online options available including webchat for non-emergency situations and an online reporting portal, where people can report crime, provide information about suspicious activity, report non-injury road traffic collisions and anti-social driving.

Find out more about our online non-emergency contact options here http://www.herts.police.uk/contact_us/contacting_us.aspx

Always dial 999 if:

- Someone is injured, being threatened or is in danger.
- There is a risk of injury to someone or a risk of serious damage to property.
- A crime is in progress or you suspect a crime is in progress.
- There is a serious incident which needs immediate police attendance.
- Someone suspected of a crime is nearby.

When there is no immediate threat to life or property please call 101 or make use of our online options, which include a web chat facility to speak directly to a communications operator http://www.herts.police.uk/contact_us/contacting_us.aspx



The Other Room

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God of Creation

Lee Strobel was a very inquisitive youngster. One Christmas his parents bought him an electric train set. Around lunchtime his father found him in the garage pounding the railway engine against the concrete floor. In answer to his dad's frantic question, Lee replied, "I want to find out what makes this thing work!"

So, what does a boy with that kind of intense interest to get-inside-and-see-the-works grow up to be? A journalist, specialising in the Law, with a keen scientific interest! As he went through High School, Lee became convinced that God didn't exist. The hard evidence of science left no other conclusion. Everything in the universe can be explained by purely materialistic processes, the result of time, chance, and Darwin's evolutionary theories. He left college a totally convinced atheist.

Lee Strobel became the award-winning Legal Editor of the Chicago Tribune. Then in 1980, after he had been comfortably married for about five years, his wife, uncomfortably for Lee, became a Christian. The bit that really bothered him, though, was that she undeniably changed on the inside - she became a different, better-to-live-with,

person. A God he didn't believe in appeared to be able to change his wife for good! So, true to the boy with the train set, he decided to see what was really going on; to do some investigative journalism - to find out the truth. He had the sharp legal and journalistic training, the scientific knowledge, and the access to people with answers.

Not surprisingly, his search for truth began with science - which is, after all, the quest for truth based on evidence. Lawyers are obsessive about hard evidence. He talked with many leading scientists and scholars covering the fields of modern biology, physics, cosmology and astronomy. He didn't talk to Christians - he wanted to objectively assess the amassed knowledge of scientific evidence; did it point towards, or away from, a supernatural Creator?

In Lee's own words, "My road to atheism was paved by science... but, ironically, so was my later journey to God." His journey led from spiritual scepticism to a profound faith in the God who he now believes has etched His indelible signature upon every galaxy and every living cell.

Everyone believes in something. Lee

was an atheist; he believed that everything that he saw around him came from nothing by accident. The evidence he examined changed that belief, and, quite unexpectedly, he found the God of the Bible. He discovered that, while the science textbooks are regularly updated and re-written, not one conclusive fact has been found that requires the Bible to be amended. That's staggering!

Lee Strobel wrote a book called *The Case for the Creator*. There's even a documentary on YouTube. At the end of the day, every one of us has to make up our own mind, but a fresh look at some of the facts uncovered by one man's quest for truth is certainly worth considering. Maybe this Christmas could be a time to reflect on the meaning of this celebration of the birth of a baby 2,000 years ago to an insignificant Jewish family in the backwater of an enemy-occupied Middle East country. And how that one birth started a train of events that continues to this day to impact for good millions of people across the world.

May you be blessed with a truly peaceful Christmas.

Revs Colin & Teresa Marks
A10 Christian Mission. 821648



**Helping local projects to bridge the gap
Between neighbourliness & volunteering**





Are you affected by Parkinson's?
Did you know that there are Parkinson's support groups all over the country. Your local support group was set up 3 years ago by a wonderful man called John, suffering from Parkinson's. Now in his late 70s, he needs younger, more able people to get involved with the group.

Can you give a little time?
Just come along, last Friday in the month (1.30-3.30pm) to Valley Court, Piggotts lane in Bishops Stortford, where the group get together for tea, cake and support. You may have something really useful to talk to them about that will make them laugh or feel inspired. For example a musical talent or particular hobby you love to share about, or simply to offer a friendly ear and chat.

- Or help organise an event, an afternoon tea or an outing.
- Or if you like numbers, help them with the treasury duties.
- Or if you cycle or run, help raise awareness wearing a Parkinson's shirt
- Or offer a couple of hours respite care for their partners/families

So please get involved in any capacity you can, however small, as this is so appreciated by those with Parkinson's
Contact claire.uwins@mac.com

Or just sign up as a "CAREbanker" to be part of community care via theCAREbank.org or contact claire.uwins@mac.com 07595674241

Your details will never be passed on other than to the local organisations you choose to connect with. TheCAREbank.org supported by community initiative (Bishop's Stortford). Reg charity number 1100106

Tea Time Talks



*Talks followed by
tea and
homemade cakes.*

Saturday January 13th

Clouds - Fiction, Fact and Formations

The story of clouds in legend, art and literature, how they were named and classified and the different forms they take.

Sue Garside

Saturday February 10th

The Making of Hertford

The characteristics of our county town.

Peter Ruffles

Saturday March 10th

Local Farming

Modern farming in the local area.

Philip Smith

£5 - Pay on entrance

All talks at 3.00pm in Standon Village Hall

For more information contact Trish 01920 821069 or Helena 01920 822177

Purse dipping/ pickpocketing offences noticeably increased in Hertfordshire with around 80 Crimes for October 2017.

This increase is possibly the attractiveness of stolen contactless cards, and crimes have mostly taken place in shopping locations or near ATM machines.

The other concerning statistic is most of the victims have been vulnerable, elderly females. That's a lot of our mums, grans, aunts and neighbours.

Please be vigilant and spread the word about this problem, together with our advice:

DON'T GET DIPPED, KEEP YOUR BAG ZIPPED.

- Use a handbag that can be closed properly, make sure it is zipped up, so that it is more difficult for someone to open it and reach in to get your purse.
- Never leave it unattended or leave it in a shopping trolley.

- Be aware of people around you.

IS SOMEONE WATCHING YOU ?

- Always look after your Bank Card, never let it out of your sight.
- Always shield your PIN number when paying for items in shops or at cash machines.
- Never tell anyone your PIN number, it is only for you to use at Bank or Payment machines. Ensure your PIN number is not kept near your card.

More complaints about cold calls trying to sell loft insulation

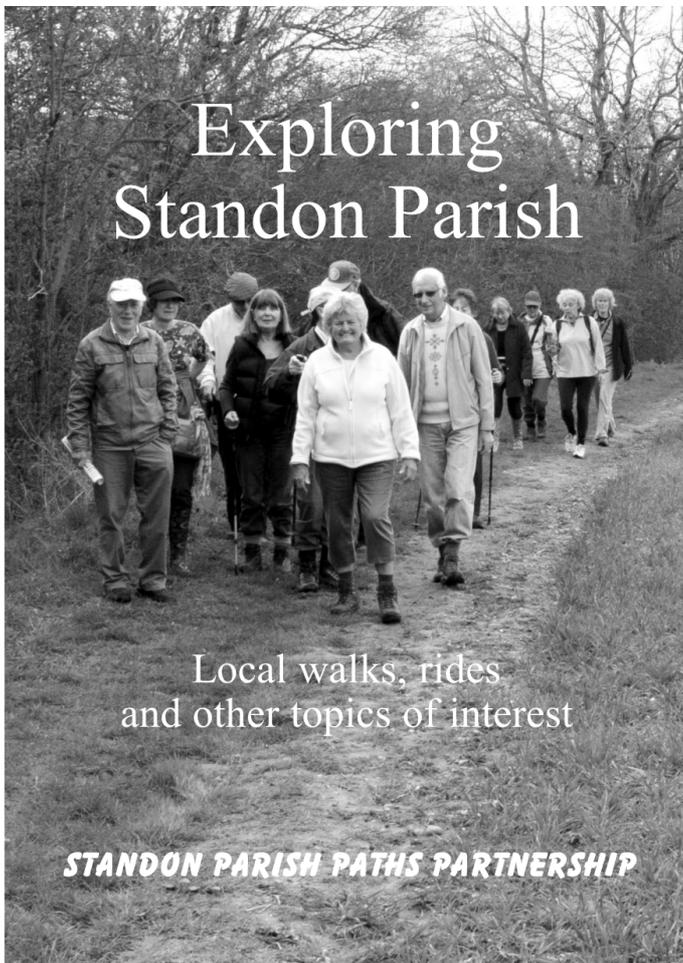
Warning: Don't sign up to these very expensive deals because they often aren't what they seem.

Typically, they start with a telephone call out of the blue, telling you that fibre glass insulation is due to be phased out by the government or that your existing insulation is too old to be of any use. They tell you that there is a new foam insulation product that will save you money on your heating bills, is eco-friendly and will give you more useable

space in your loft. They tell you that there just happens to be a surveyor in your area and they can visit you today to show you the benefits. Before you know it, you've been signed up to an expensive contract and the work to strip out the existing insulation agreed for the next day. Victims of this scam across the county have lost between £5000 and £9000 for this unnecessary work.

Trading Standards advice is that you don't let someone sell you a product as a result of a cold call. If it was any good, you could choose to buy it yourself after shopping around for the best deal. Just say no to any such call and hang up. If you receive lots of these nuisance calls, put your phone on answerphone if you have one and screen your calls.

If you are looking for a good trader to carry out work in your home, use family and friends to give you recommendations of good people they have used. If you still can't find anyone, please use the Hertfordshire Trading Standards good trader scheme run with Which? and look on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/goodtrader or call us on 01707 292429 for a good, local trader.



Book of local walks £5 from John Harris 01920 822887

We Need You!

To strengthen our local fundraising team, we are looking for volunteers in the Ware & Herford area who enjoy organising and/or helping out at local fundraising events.

Our team of volunteers help fund vital research which will find more cancer cures sooner.

Get in touch today, so that your skills can create more tomorrows for others.

Visit our website for more information:

www.cruw.org

Join us on facebook: CRUW

Follow us on Twitter: @CRUKWare

Or for an informal chat please call Rebecca Gray, Local Fundraising Manager on 07766 902004



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 two events clashing and spoiling the day.

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

Every Weekday

7.45-8.30am WASPS Breakfast Club at Standon and Puckeridge Community Centre (term time only). Trained staff currently take children to Roger de Clare, Ralph Sadleir and St Thomas of Canterbury Schools for registration. For further details please contact Nicola on 07904391133 or email on nicola.re@virgin.net.

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. Details 07881 533339.

3.15-6.15pm WASPS After School Club based at Standon and Puckeridge Community Centre (term time only). Trained staff currently collect children from Roger de Clare, Ralph Sadleir, St Thomas of Canterbury and Jenyns Schools. For further details please contact Nicola on 07904391133 or email on nicola.re@virgin.net.

Monday

9.30- 11.00 SPINS Toddler Group at Puckeridge & Standon Community Centre. Term time only. Details 07881 533339

10.00am - 11.30am Iyengar Yoga at Standon Village Hall, Hadham Road, Standon, SG11 1LE. Contact Sarah on 07427 596961 or visit www.TowardYoga.com for info.

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

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

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

4.30 Rib Valley Gymnastics and Trampoline Club. Classes for children aged 5 upwards, Monday evenings during term time. Freeman College: 4.30pm-8.30pm. Details Andrea Allen 07989 980038 email: ribvalleytc@live.co.uk website: www.ribvalleytc.co.uk

Starlight Stars:
Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre

3:45 Performing Arts Class 4-6yrs

4:45 Performing Arts Class 7-9yrs

5.45 Drama Class 10+yrs

6:15 Street Dance 11 - Adult

Call Alex 01763 287691

6pm 1st Standon & Puckeridge Brownies. Term

time in Standon. Details Naomi Divall 01920 822169

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

6.35 Zumba Fitness at Standon Village Hall. Details 07578 994221

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

7.15 4th Monday of the month: 7.15pm Ware District Trefoil Guild, St Mary's Church Hall, Ware. Guiding for adults. Details Alex Chapman 01920 465726

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

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

Tuesday

10am Nifty-Fifties Exercise Class for the over 50's. Standon Village Hall. Details Denise Sallows 01920 823072

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

Third Tuesday Colliers End Village Walks followed by refreshments. Details Suzanne Anderson 07896 699844

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- 11.15am Chair-Aside exercise. Standon Village Hall. Details Denise Sallows 01920 823072
- 11.30 Punchline Boxing (adults) at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Details Adam Davidson 07903 657146
- Standon & Puckeridge Tennis Club
4pm Mini Red (5-8 yrs).
5pm Mini Orange/Green (8-10 yrs)
6pm Junior Club night
7pm Senior Club night
Details Tracy Llewellyn 07985 183796
- Starlight Stars at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre
4pm Hip Hop 7-11 yrs
4.30 Advance Street Dance(UDO) 12+yrs
Call Alex 01763 287691
- 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, Angie Adamson 01763 849902
- 6pm Tap, Modern & Jazz at Braughing Community Centre: Kate Dutton - 07969 362224
- 6pm 2nd Buntingford Brownies. Term time in Buntingford. Email for details jill228374@hotmail.co.uk
- 6.30 Cubs - Puma Pack (8-10 years, Scouts), term-time only. Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Details Jackie Andrews 01763 247675
- 6.30 Cricket Club practice night, Colts and Adults. Details Kai Michael 01763 273127 or Dave Bantick 01763 273205
- 6.30 Tennis Club evening (continues under floodlights throughout the winter). Details Diana Foster 07778 031430
- 7.30 Bell Ringing Practice, St Mary's Church Tower, Standon. Interested? - Come along or: Details Trevor Chapman 01920 821341.
- 7.30 Embroidery Group. Second Tuesday in the month, Sergeant Room, Standon Village Hall. Details Barbara Norris 01920 822104
- 8 Puckeridge WI, Roundhay, Puckeridge. 2nd Tuesday of the month. Details info@puckeridgewi.org
- 8.30 Puckeridge Karate Club meets at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Details Clive Bowen 01763 231132
- Wednesday**
- 8.30 Under 1's Childrens' Group, Standon Village Hall. Details Kelly Brightman 01920 463949
- 9.30 Pilates at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Details Clare 07966 213880
- 9.30 (term time) Little Hadham Parents & Toddlers group. Held Little Hadham Village Hall
- 10am Standon & Puckeridge Tennis Club Adult Tennis. Details Keith Bradshaw 01920 821152
- 10am - 1pm CAB North Entrance, Manor House, 21 High Street, Buntingford. Tel: 0844 848 9700
- 11am Pilates Group Standon Village Hall. Details Judy Coward 01920 822812
- 11.30 Kettleball Exercise Classes, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Details Sue 07854 316628
- 12.30 Bramble Hill Children's Centre young parents group. (Term time). Details 01763 273008
- 2pm Second Wednesday of the month - Ware U3A, Wodson Park, (doors open 1.30pm). Pat Davidson, 01920 438309
- 2.15 - 4.30pm Little Munden Cafe at All Saints Church, Little Munden. April - October.
- 3pm Friendly club bowls game. New members and interested people welcome. Standon & Puckeridge Bowls Club, Station Road, Puckeridge. Details John Simmons 821282
- Dance JAM Academy - Standon Village Hall
4pm Baby Ballet (3+ Years)
4.30pm Prep/Primary Ballet (5-8 years)
5pm Grade 1 Ballet (8+ years)
5pm Prep/Primary Tap (5-8 years)
6pm Prep/Primary Freestyle (5-8 years)
julie@dancejamacademy.co.uk
- 4.15 Rib Valley Gymnastics and Trampoline Club. Classes for children aged 5 upwards, Wednesday evenings during term time. Edwinstree Middle School: 4.15-6.15pm. Details Andrea Allen 07989 980038 email: ribvalleytc@live.co.uk
- Starlight Stars at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre
3:30 Mini Street Dance 4-6 yrs
4pm Junior Street Dance 7-11 yrs
5pm Private Acting Lessons
Call Alex 01763 287691
- 6.15 Punchline Boxing (juniors) at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Details Adam Davidson 07903 657146
- 6.30 Cubs - Cheetah Pack (8-10 yrs, Scouts), term-time only. Braughing Church Hall. Details Derek Goodall 01763 273149.
- 6.30 Braughing Aviation Society meetings. First Wednesday of the month at the Axe and Compasses, Braughing. Details Ray Hankin 01920 832191
- 7pm Braughing Tennis Club night. Details Karen Gore 07860 484878
- 7pm Zumba classes, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Details Diana 01920 822667

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All enquiries hrstacey@enfieldsafety.co.uk

7.15 till 8.45pm Ranger Girl Guides (14+ years), Cottered Guide Centre, SG9 9QP. Details Rosanne Kenealy 01920 821304

7.30 Explorer Scouts (14-18 yrs) Bowling Green Lane, Buntingford. Meets throughout the year Details Christine Pestle 07711 506281

7.30pm 1st Standon & Puckeridge Guides. Term time in Braughing. Details Louise Jenkins 07971 800 443

7.45 Third Wednesday Ware and District 41 Club, The Robin Hood & Little John, Tonwell/The Axe & Compasses, Braughing. Book in with Peter Warren 01920 824099

8pm Kettleball Exercise Classes, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Details Sue 07854 316628

8pm Ware Photographic Society meets at The Arts Centre, Kibes Lane, Ware, SG12 7ED, September to May. Details: Barbara Norris 01920 822104 www.wareps.org.uk

8pm Last Wednesday of the month, Braughing Aviation Society meets in the Old Boys School, Braughing. Details Terry Gilroy 01920 822296

Thursday

Starlight Stars at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre

3:45 Performing Arts Class 4-6yrs

4:45 Performing Arts Class 7-9yrs

5:45 Singing Class 7-9yrs

5:45 Musical Theatre Class 10-14 yrs

6:45 Youth Theatre Class 14-18 yrs

7:45 Cheerobics Adults

Call Alex 01763 287691

4.45pm 1st Standon & Puckeridge Rainbows. Term time in Standon. Details Ros French 07717 857389 sandprainbows1@outlook.com

6 Cricket Club Practice Session. Details Kai Michael 01763 273127 or Dave Bantick 01763 273205.

Puckeridge Karate Club Juniors: 7-8pm, Adults 8-9.30pm, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Details 01763 231132 or at TG's Convenience Store.

7 Puckeridge Karate Club meets 7pm at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Details Clive Bowen 01763 231132

7 Church Choir meets at St Mary's Church, Standon. Details Michael Smith 01920 821281.

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

8 Hertfordshire Holly, Mixed Clog Morris Dance Side. High Cross Village Hall. New dancers and musicians welcome. Details Mary Deeks 01920 822905

8 Prayer and Life Group, A10 Christian Mission. Details 01920 821684.

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) Tel: 07808 969379



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We have a number of great opportunities here at the centre. Weekly roles or one off events, what about volunteering in one of our Charity shops?

For further information, please call 01279 843451 or visit our website:
www.stelizabeths.org.uk

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St Edmund's College & Prep School, Old Hall Green, Nr Ware, Herts, SG11 1DS
Tel: 01920 824335 or hr@stedmundscollege.org

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Friday

- 10am Third Friday Digital Photography for Beginners, Ware U3A Standon Village Hall. Details Barry Jackson 01920 821356
- 2pm Standon & Puckeridge Tennis Club Adult Tennis. Details Keith Bradshaw 01920 821152
- 6.30 Scout & Guide Band, Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Term times only. Details Garry Edwards 01920 823163
- 7:30 Scouts (10½ - 14½ years old), term-time only. Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Details Karl Adamson 01763 849902
- 7:30 Explorer Scouts (14- 18 years old), Christ Church, Ware. Meet throughout the year. Details Jim Campbell 01920 461134.
- 8 Ware Swimming Club Trials evening. All welcome. Training evenings are Monday and Friday. Details Mr Vanner 01920 464439.

Saturday

- Dance JAM Academy – Ralph Sadlier School
- 8.45am Grade 3 Tap
9.15am Grade 4 Freestyle
10.00am Grade 2 Tap
10.30am Grade 2 Freestyle
11.00am Choreography
11.30am Musical Theatre
julie@dancejamacademy.co.uk
- 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 Pilates at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Details Clare 07966 213880
- 12.30-2pm Contessa Vaulting Group training sessions and competition practice. All welcome. Details Tina Layton 01920 821792
- 6pm Evening Mass at Puckeridge Roman Catholic Church. Details 01763 271471.

Sunday

- Braughing, St Mary the Virgin Services:*
- 1st Sunday: 11am Holy Communion
- 2nd Sunday: 9.30am Family Service
- 3rd Sunday: 11am Holy Communion
- 4th Sunday 9.30am Family Communion with Junior Church
- 5th Sunday no service in Braughing - shared Holy Communion service 10.30am in Stocking Pelham.
- St. Mary's Church Standon: Please see the church notice board or service cards or the monthly church newsletter for up-to-date information. Details: Rev Alan Comfort 01920 318864
- 11.15 Mass at Old Hall Green Roman Catholic Church. Details 01763 271471.
- 11am Main service at The Methodist Church, Braughing. Details Revd David Mullins 01279 654475.
- 2.45 -5pm Braughing Sunday Teas. Every Sunday May - 14 October (excluding 3 June). Home-made cakes and teas in the Church



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4.45-6pm St Mary's at the School (with Messy Church), at Roger de Clare School during term time. 4th Sundays 10.45am at St Mary's Church. Details Rev Alan Comfort 01920 318864 and on our website: www.ubsms.org.uk

December

- 2 Christmas Wreath Making. Details: Diana Dale 01920 821691.
- 2 Isabel Hospice Lights of Love. Hertford Castle 4pm and Halsey Masonic Centre, Cheshunt at 4pm.
- 3 Isabel Hospice Lights of Love. Bishops Stortford Market Square at 4pm.
- 3 Puckeridge WI Handmade Christmas Fair. 11-3pm at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Details www.puckeridgewi.org
- 3 Braughing Guided Walk, meet opposite the Axe & Compasses, Braughing. 1.30pm. Details Paula or Paul 01920 822748.
- 6 Community Café at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre, 8.45-11.30am. Details Alison 01920 822872.

- 7 Christmas Party with Braughing WI. 7:30pm at Braughing Church Hall. Details Kate Fish 01920 822397
- 9 Christmas Wreath making in Standon Village Hall. 10-12 or 1-3pm. Tickets Diana Dale 01920 821691.
- 10 Hertford Symphony Orchestra Concert 'Merry Christmas' at The Drill Hall, Ware. 3pm. Tickets 01279 466653.
- 11 Tudor Christmas, a talk for Buntingford U3A. Details www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford
- 12 Christmas meal with Puckeridge WI. Details www.puckeridgewi.org
- 15 The Cambridge to Bedford Line, talk for Buntingford Railway & Local History Society at The Crown, Market Hill, Buntingford. 8pm. Details Stephen Ruff 01763 289516
- 17 Candlelit Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, St Mary's, Standon. 3pm and Candlelit Carol Service at All Saints, Little Munden at 6.30pm.

- 19 Isabel Hospice Carols in the Chapel at Haileybury Chapel, Hertford Heath, 7pm. Details Beth, 01707 382535.
- 23 Candle-lit Carol Service at Puckeridge Congregational Chapel, Station Road, Puckeridge. 5pm.
- 23 6pm, at St Thomas of Canterbury Church, High Street, Puckeridge. 4th Sunday of Advent.
- 24 9.15am Buntingford, 11.15am, St Edmund Church, Old Hall Green, 6pm Buntingford Children's Christmas Liturgy Mass
- 24 Christmas Eve Morning Service at Puckeridge Congregational Chapel, Station Road, Puckeridge. 11am.
- 24 4.30pm Christingle Service at All Saints, Little Munden and 7.30pm at St Mary's, Standon.
- 24 Candlelit Carol Service at All Saints Little Munden.
- 24 Midnight Communion Service at St Mary's, Standon.
- 25 9.30am, St Richard of Chichester Church, Station Road, Buntingford, 11.15am Old Hall Green
- 25 10.45am Christmas Family Worship at St Mary's, Standon

How much cash could you release from your home?

If you're a homeowner aged 55 or over then you could use an Equity Release plan to unlock some of the value tied up in your property.

Equity release may involve a lifetime mortgage or home reversion plan. To understand the features and risks, ask for a personal illustration.

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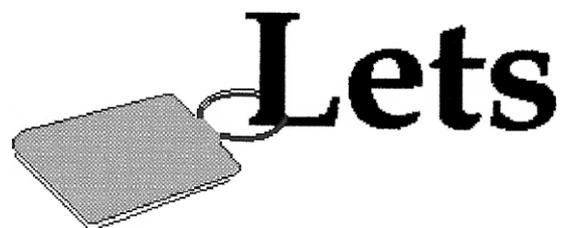
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Tel: 01920 469221
76-78 High Street, Ware SG12 9AT

January 2018

- 3 East Herts Aviation Society talk: Taking part in the US Air Races at Reno. 8pm at the Axe & Compasses, Braughing. Details Ray Hankin rayhankin@hotmail.co.uk
- 7 Braughing Guided Walk, meet opposite the Axe & Compasses, Braughing. 1.30pm. Details Paula or Paul 01920 822748.
- 8 Medical Detection Dogs, a talk for Buntingford U3A. Details www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford
- 9 Finishing the Camino, talk for Puckeridge WI, Roundhay Lodge, Roundhay, Puckeridge 8pm-10pm
- 10 Community Café at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre, 8.45-11.30am. Details Alison 01920 822872.
- 10 A History of London, 10-week course for Buntingford Adult Learning for Fun starts. 10am. Details Julia Peacock 01763 272584.
- 17 Board Games Morning at The Old Brewhouse, New Street Farm, Standon. 9.30am. Details Helena 01920 822177.

- 18 Craft Night with Braughing WI, The Church Hall, Braughing. 7.30pm. Details Kate Fish 01920 822397
- 19 Buntingford Railway & Local History Society AGM at The Crown, Market Hill, Buntingford. 8pm. Details Stephen Ruff 01763 289516
- 20 Isabel Hospice Jumble Sale, Thundridge Village Hall, 2pm. Details Ann Davey 01920 462992.
- 27 Quiz night at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre, 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from Caroline Franks 01920 822723
- 28 Braughing Local History Society talk on Local Archaeology. 2.45-5pm, St Mary's Church Hall, Braughing.
- 28 Hertford Symphony Orchestra Concert 'All at Sea' concert for children at Hertford Theatre. 2.30 and 4.25pm. Tickets 01992 531500.

- 7 Community Café at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre, 8.45-11.30am. Details Alison 01920 822872.
- 7 East Herts Aviation Society talk: My Uncle, the Battle of Britain VC. 8pm at the Axe & Compasses, Braughing. Details Ray Hankin rayhankin@hotmail.co.uk
- 12 Wimpole Hall, a talk for Buntingford U3A. Details www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford
- 13 Scrapbooking with Puckeridge WI, Roundhay Lodge, Roundhay, Puckeridge 8pm-10pm
- 14 Board Games Morning at The Old Brewhouse, New Street Farm, Standon. 9.30am. Details Helena 01920 822177.
- 15 Chocolate Making with Braughing WI, The Church Hall, Braughing. 7.30pm. Details Kate Fish 01920 822397
- 22 Braughing Local History Society talk on Good Housekeeping. 12-2pm, soup lunch, St Mary's Church Hall, Braughing.

February

- 4 Braughing Guided Walk, meet opposite the Axe & Compasses, Braughing. 1.30pm. Details Paula or Paul 01920 822748.



**Oliver
Minton**
Village & Rural Homes



**The ONLY estate agent actually based
in Puckeridge and dedicated to the
sale & letting
of rural & village property
in the A10/M11 corridor.**

With further offices in Stanstead Abbots
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**Call 01920 822999 for more information
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Independent Mortgage & Insurance Brokers

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- Whole of market with best rates available for all types of mortgage and insurance
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01920 821 333

email
enquiries@mandmm.co.uk

website
www.mandmm.co.uk

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management**

Mortgage & Money Management Ltd is directly authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority No. 452616.

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage or any other debt secured on it.

March

- 4 Braughing Guided Walk, meet opposite the Axe & Compasses, Braughing. 1.30pm. Details Paula or Paul 01920 822748.
- 7 Community Café at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre, 8.45-11.30am. Details Alison 01920 822872.
- 7 East Herts Aviation Society talk: Moving Animals by Air. 8pm at the Axe & Compasses, Braughing. Details Ray Hankin rayhankin@hotmail.co.uk
- 12 Adventures of a Ghost Hunter, a talk for Buntingford U3A. Details www.u3asites.org.uk/buntingford
- 13 Craft Evening with Puckeridge WI, Roundhay Lodge, Roundhay, Puckeridge 8pm-10pm Details Kate Fish 01920 822397
- 14 Board Games Morning at The Old Brewhouse, New Street Farm, Standon. 9.30am. Details Helena 01920 822177.
- 15 Funny Guys: British Comedians with Braughing WI, The Church Hall, Braughing. 7.30pm.
- 18 Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies at Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre. Tickets info@starlightstars.co.uk

- 28 Hertford Symphony Orchestra Concert 'English Gems' at Hertford Theatre. Tickets 01992 531500.
- 24 Isabel Hospice Jumble Sale, Thundridge Village Hall, 2pm. Details Ann Davey 01920 462992.

April

- 4 East Herts Aviation Society talk: Bolt from the Blue. 8pm at the Axe & Compasses, Braughing. Details Ray Hankin rayhankin@hotmail.co.uk
- 18-20 Sadleir Drama Club 1-Act play and supper. Details Liz Pickup 01763 289446
- 19 Verse and Worse with Braughing WI, The Church Hall, Braughing. 7.30pm. Details Kate Fish 01920 822397
- 26 Braughing Local History Society AGM and Quiz. 8.15pm, St Mary's Church Hall, Braughing.

May

- 2 East Herts Aviation Society talk: British Aircraft Development in the 1930s. 8pm at the Axe & Compasses, Braughing. Details Ray Hankin rayhankin@hotmail.co.uk

- 7 Standon MayDay
- 12 Hertford Symphony Orchestra Concert 'Inspired by Love' at Hertford Theatre. Tickets 01992 531500.
- 17 General Meeting with Braughing WI, The Church Hall, Braughing. 7.30pm. Details Kate Fish 01920 822397
- 19 Isabel Hospice Jumble Sale, Thundridge Village Hall, 2pm. Details Ann Davey 01920 462992.

July

- 7 Hertford Symphony Orchestra Concert 'At the Movies' at Hertford Theatre. Tickets 01992 531500.
- 14 Isabel Hospice Jumble Sale, Thundridge Village Hall, 2pm. Details Ann Davey 01920 462992.

September

- 15 Isabel Hospice Jumble Sale, Thundridge Village Hall, 2pm. Details Ann Davey 01920 462992.

November

- 3 Isabel Hospice Jumble Sale, Thundridge Village Hall, 2pm. Details Ann Davey 01920 462992.



Ralph Sadleir School

PROUD TO ACHIEVE

An Academy Trust for 9 - 13 year olds



THE SCHOOL IS A CALM AND ORDERLY COMMUNITY. PUPILS' BEHAVIOUR AND RELATIONSHIPS ARE EXCELLENT

OFSTED

Continued to be judged 'Good' by Ofsted, Ralph Sadleir School gives your child the opportunity to be part of a middle school community that offers specialist teaching facilities similar to that of a secondary school, but with smaller year groups, personalised learning and a supportive environment.



PUPILS ARE EXTREMELY WELL PREPARED FOR THEIR FUTURE STUDIES

OFSTED



We have spaces for 2017/18 in Year 5, 6 and 8.

THE PUPILS' PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING THEIR SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IS OUTSTANDING

OFSTED

www.ralphsadleir.herts.sch.uk



Roger de Clare First School & Nursery

Station Road, Puckeridge, SG11 1TF

A very successful friendly and caring village school with a Church School ethos.

OUTSTANDING in all 7 OFSTED categories (February 2007)
Experienced, happy and caring staff and supporting governors and parents.
High expectations of behaviour and achievement.
Happy and motivated pupils.
A well established outdoor area for the Foundation Stage.
A separate, exciting and recently developed outside learning area for the whole school.
Achieved Herts Quality Standards Award for excellent Early Years practice.
Investors in People and Healthy Schools accreditation.
Opportunities for Maypole Dancing at Standon May Day.
Meeting point for WASPS After School Club (3.15 - 6.30 p.m.)

Aim: Maximum achievement for all in a happy, caring and stimulating environment.

Visits warmly welcomed. Come and share the fun and join our family.
Headteacher Mrs. Laura Woods Telephone 01920 821363
www.rogerdeclare.herts.sch.uk e-mail admin@rogerdeclare.herts.sch.uk

RECYCLING INFORMATION

Bulky Waste, Unwanted / abandoned cars & Flytipping

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

Bulky waste details: One household item - £23.50 (£10.00 per item thereafter (maximum 4.)

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

Car batteries, engine oil, Fridges and Freezers

All are recycled at::

Bishops Stortford Household Waste Site, Woodside Road (off Dunmow Road).

Buntingford Household Waste Site, Aspenden Road.

Ware Household Waste Site, Westmill Road.

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/

Domestic Batteries

Standon Post Office & supermarkets

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

- Roger de Clare School is now recycling ink jet and toner cartridges, original manufacturers only, from printers, fax machines and photocopiers. They can be dropped off on any school day between 8.30 and 11.00 am
- Puller Memorial School - drop them in to the School.
- Isabel Hospice collects toner cartridges, drop them in to their Charity Shop in Ware High Street.

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 them to St Mary's Church, Standon or All Saints Church, Little Mundon. They are collected for Church work in Sudan.

Furniture

The Furniture Re-use Service in the county are listed at <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/envplan/waste/wasteaware/yrservices/furniture/furniture/>

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.

Stamps

- Gwen Duckett collects used stamps for the Leprosy Mission. Drop them in to 5 Vicarage Close, Standon.
- Puller Memorial School in High Cross collects used stamps to 'Save the Albatross'. Drop them into school or 32 Batchelors, Puckeridge.
- Standon Post Office collects stamps for Cancer Research UK.
- 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. Boots or 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.

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School
High Street, Puckeridge, Herts, SG11 1RZ
Tel: 01920 821450 www.stcanterbury.herts.sch.uk

"We learn, love, respect and accept our responsibilities through our faith in Jesus Christ"

- "An outstanding, caring school offering an excellent education and outstanding opportunities for pupils' personal development" Ofsted 2007
- Welcomes girls and boys from Nursery to Year 6
- Achieved Herts Quality Standards Award for excellent Early Years practice
- Experienced and dedicated staff and governors
- Promotes strong values and discipline offering a secure and stimulating learning environment
- Extensive fields and playground area

Visits warmly welcome – please contact the office on: 01920 821450 and visit our website

SPINS PRE-SCHOOL

(Community Centre, Puckeridge, SG11 1TF)
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



Would You like the 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

Puller Memorial C of E Primary School
High Cross, Ware, Hertfordshire, SG11 1AZ

Phone 01920 463178 for further information
www.puller.herts.sch.uk

Waste Disposal

For further information, call WasteAware on 0300 1234 051
All Household Waste sites are closed on 25 & 26 Dec and 1 Jan.
Aspenden Road, Buntingford.
Open: Mon - Fri 5pm - 8pm,
Sat & Sun 10am - 1pm.
Westmill Road, Ware
Open: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Saturday, Sunday
Oct 1 - Mar 31: 8am - 4pm,
Apr 1 - Sep 30: 10am - 6pm
Closed: Thursday and Friday

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 for these services.



"My Time" Drop in Tuesday 9 Jan then weekly

Come and find out about & get a taste of a brand new local Wellbeing group which will run **every Tuesday**

10am to 3pm from January 2018 at the Forge Museum, Much Hadham & include a lovely hot lunch and afternoon tea, all for £8 an hour (£40 per day) .

The group is being set up and run by two ladies with over 25 years of experience in our local Care Homes & communities and are fully trained to support those living with Dementia, Parkinsons and other conditions.

Their qualifications are:: NVQ level 1&2, Safe guarding adults, Basic first aid, Epilepsy, C.S.T training, Challenging behaviour, Fire safety, Dementia care, Parkinson's awareness, stroke training, Medication training, Diabetes awareness, Therapeutic activities, Skills for care

Activities will include:

Flower arranging, Musical Bingo, Chair Based Exercises, Sing Along & Music, Reminiscence Box, Word Wheel, Crossword, Quiz Art & Craft, Board games, Bingo Hall.

Contact: Janice, 07825 184930, janice.pettitt@hotmail.co.uk

Private Tutor 11+, KS1/KS2

1:1 tuition for Key Stage 2 SATs, 11+ and/or extra help for children aged 4 - 11 from a qualified Primary Teacher.

Collette Olive 01920 823128 or 07709 43 1404

Email colletteolive@btinternet.com



Much Hadham Pre-School



We offer a fun, stimulating, supportive, safe and caring environment for every child. We're Ofsted registered.

We have limited places available from April 2016 and there is funding available. It would be our pleasure to show you round. Please ring us on 01279 842614 between 8.45am and 12.15pm in term time and ask for Maria. Follow us on Facebook. Much Hadham Pre School, Oudle Lane, Much Hadham, SG10 6DQ

One to One Tutor

(I come to you)

Friendly, patient, very experienced and local.
Help & support for Key Stage 1 to G.C.S.E.

Ages 6 to 16

(SATs, 11+, 13+, Entrance Exams & GCSE, etc)

References, Enhanced CRB

07835 193854

Westmill Nursery

Offering a secure family-friendly environment for children from 2 to 5 years old. Open Monday to Friday during term time.
Tel: Sarah or Sandra 01763 273005 or 07934 195812
Email: westmillnursery@btinternet.com

ALBURY SEEDLINGS

Within the beautiful small setting of Albury School we are now able to offer "Albury Seedlings", caring for children from the age of two, developing young minds through play.

We have flexible sessions, 9 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday.
We are registered for funding for children aged 2 to 4 years.

If you would like to come for a visit or to find out what places we have available, please call 01279 771253.



Now permanently relocated to Ralph Sadleir & Roger de Clare Schools, Puckeridge & Braughing Playing Fields.

Providing football for boys & girls of all abilities.

ACADEMY – for boys & girls age 3 to 6 years at Roger De Clare School, every Thursday 4pm - 5.15pm starting on March 5th 2015, cost £3 per session.

Appropriate clothing for the weather & shin pads must be worn. Sessions will be run by an FA Level 2 qualified coach. Further information please contact Rob Cavill on 07816 215378.

Mixed teams from U7-U13, Girls & Boys teams from U14-U18 email HHFC2000@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Isabel Hospice Shop

We would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in helping to run our shops. Half a day a week is the usual volunteers' stint.

Please call the Shop Manager on the appropriate number: Buntingford 01763 274904, Hertford 01992 504401, Bishop's Stortford 01279 659551, Ware 01920 463959.

Our van driver also needs help with collections and deliveries 01707 395002.

Do you feel needed and valued?

Might you have some time to spare? Would you like to help other people maintain independence and dignity in their homes and communities, particularly in later life?

If so, call Pauline on 01992 552069 to find out about volunteering for the WRVS Good neighbours scheme locally."

Hospital Transport Scheme Age UK Volunteers needed 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: Robin Chalkley 01920 822156

Riding for the Disabled

We need help now!

Sessions held weekly, term-time only, at The Contessa Riding Centre, Colliers End.

- Mondays 2pm – 3pm
- Tuesdays 9.45am – 10.45am
- Tuesdays 10.45am – 11.45am
- Fridays 10am – 11.30am

For more information contact: Boo Williams – 01279 842805

Registered as a Charity No 244108

Age UK Hertfordshire is always on the look out for Volunteers to help support its many projects. A variety of interesting roles are available so no matter how much time you have available or what your level of skills and knowledge are, then we probably have something just right for you.

For further information please contact 01707 323 272 or e-mail: info@ageukherts.org.uk

Talking Newspaper for the Visually Impaired

Hear all about it!

Do you know someone who would like to keep in touch with local events?

www.bstalkingnewspaper.co.uk
01279 651270 or 651313



Something missing?
Fill the space in your home and your heart.

FOSTERWITHUS
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/fostering

 Hertfordshire

Do you want to play chess?

Hertford Chess Club is a small friendly club with players of all strengths and ages. We meet in the Hertford Club, Lombard House, Bull Plain, Hertford with oak beams and a private bar!

Contact Alan 01920 463698 or www.hertfordchessclub.com

Westmill Village Hall

Available to rent for functions

To enquire about costs and availability please contact:

Mike McRae on 01763 272147

or email mjmcrae@aol.com

Organising a Party?

Child's? (Up to 14 years), Anniversary? Xmas function? Retirement? Works get-together? Even a wedding?

Why not hire the lovely

Standon Village Hall for the event?

Very reasonable rates! (Maximum 80 persons)

Ring Denis on 01279-842625

For further details!

Standon Village Hall, Hadham Road, Standon SG11 1LE

www.standonvillagehall.org

Police Contacts:

Number for NON 999 calls: 101

Crimestoppers: 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

Drs. Partington, Foster and Nicolson.
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.

Traveline

0871 200 2233

www.traveline.co.uk

Victim support

0300 303 0165

Abandoned Vehicles

01992 655261

Herts Society for the Blind Sight Line

The Sight Line telephone number is: 01707 324680, Monday to Friday between 9:00am and 4:00pm

Age UK Hertfordshire Information Line

Offers you information on a wide range of issues that are relevant to older people. Our trained Information Workers provide information you can trust that will enable you to make the right choices and decisions for you. We can also put you in touch with other organisations that can help you.

Information Line: 0300 345 3446

CABx

Citizens Advice East Herts

www.ehcas.org.uk

03444 111 444

Free, confidential, impartial, and independent advice available at:

Bishops Stortford: 74 South Street

Buntingford: The Manor House, 21 High Street

Ware: Library Car Park, 85 High Street

Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline: 03454 04 05 06

www.adviceguide.org.uk

Trading Standards

03454 040506, 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday .

Post Office Times

Braughing

Mon - Fri 9.00 – 5.30

Thursday early closing 1.00pm.

Saturday closing 12.30pm

Standon

Monday - Friday 9.00 - 5.30

Saturday 9.00 - 1.00

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 10.00 - 19.00

Tuesday 10.00 - 18.00

Wednesday 10.00 - 18.00

Thursday 10.00 - 18.00

Friday 10.00 - 18.00

Saturday 10.00 - 17.00

Sunday 12.00 - 16.00

Buntingford Library:

Monday 10.00 - 17.30

Tuesday 10.00 - 17.30

Wednesday Closed

Thursday 10.00 - 17.30

Friday: 14.00 - 17.30

Saturday: 09.00-13.00

Ware Library:

Monday: 10.00 - 17.30

Tuesday: 10.00 - 17.30

Wednesday: 14.00 - 17.30

Thursday: Closed

Friday: 10.00 - 17.30

Saturday: 10.00 - 17.00

Aircraft noise

Stansted Airport Noise Unit.

0800 243 788 email:

stanstednoiseline@stanstedairport.com

Animal Warden

To report incidents re: dog faeces, stray dogs and an identicipping service.

01279 655261

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.

Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre

is now available for hire.

Meetings/Parties/Regular Bookings.

Call Sally on 07854 916404

Email: communitycentre@tesco.net

www.standonandpuckeridgecc.co.uk

GRANTS AVAILABLE

Standon Charities can offer grants (typically £50-100 for school trips, special equipment for a disabled person, etc) to meet the needs of individuals or groups in the ancient parish of Standon

(which includes Colliers End and Wadesmill).

If you think that you, or someone you know, could be eligible for a grant, write to the Clerk (including a phone number) John Harris on 01920 822887

Herts County Council

Contact details:

Adult Care Services 0300 123 4042
 Children, Schools & Families 0300 123 4043
 Fire Safety 0300 123 4046
 Highways Fault Reporting 0300 123 4047
www.hertsdirect.org/highwayfaults
 Trading Standards 0345 404 0506
 Waste Aware 0300 123 4051
 General Enquiries 0300 123 4040
 Textphone Users: 0300 123 4041

Halls for hire

- Braughing Church Hall and Old Boys School, (up to 120 with kitchen facilities) – contact Phil Firmin 01920 823120, email phil.firmin@outlook.com
- Braughing Playing Field Association Community Hall - Contact Sue Fox - suefox1@hotmail.co.uk
- Colliers End Village Hall (40 people

comfortably, with kitchen) - Contact Sandra Chadwick 07976 254379

- Dane End Memorial Hall
 Johanna Wheeler 01920 438875
dane-endhallbookings@Outlook.com
- Standon & Puckeridge Community Centre - Contact Sally Sperring 07854 916404 communitycentre@tesco.net
- Standon Village Hall, Hadham Road, Standon – Contact Denis or Beverly Olliver on 01279 842625
- Westmill Village Hall. Contact Mike McRae on 01763 272147 or email mjmcrae@aol.com

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)

Local Churches:

- A10 Christian Mission: Contact Revs Colin & Teresa Marks 01920 821684
- Methodist Church, Braughing: Minister The Revd. David Mullins 01279 654475
- Old Hall Green & Puckeridge Roman Catholic Churches: Fr. John White 01763 271471
- Puckeridge Chapel, Century Hall, Station Road. Pastor Bill Harrow 01920 821366
pastorbill@puckeridgecc.co.uk
www.puckeridgecc.co.uk/index.html
- St Mary's Church Standon: Rev Alan Comfort 01920 318864
alancomfort11@googlemail.com
www.ubsms.org.uk/
- St Mary's Church, Braughing: Rev. Julie Gawthrope 01920 823531
vicar@braughing.org.uk
www.achurchnearyou.com/braughing-st-mary-the-virgin/

Braughing Sing Choir

Braughing Sing welcomes new members, especially tenor and bass to a community choir for all ages and abilities covering a range of musical styles!

Come along on **Tuesday evenings** during term time at the **Jenyns School**, Braughing. 7.30pm - 9.00pm. *No audition required!*

Contact: **Elaine on 01763 289 738** or see our website – www.braughingsing.com or Facebook - "The Braughing Sing".

Shotokan Karate

Come and give it a try. Self defence and physical benefits for everyone from age 6 years upwards.

6.30 - 7.30pm every Monday
 Community Centre, Luynes Rise, Buntingford

Information: Mr P Deacon 01462 642922

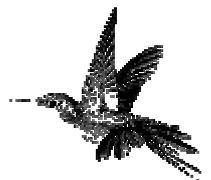
New Bellringers Welcome

COME ALONG
 AND LEARN THIS
 ANCIENT TRADITION

Phone Trevor Chapman
 on 01920 821341



Hummingbird



CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY WITH
 COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES

We meet on alternate Mondays 10:30am—1:30pm in the café area at the Rhodes Art Centre, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3JG.

For more information phone: 07510 178200

Email: hbirddropin@gmail.com

www.hummingbirdcancersupport.org

Disclaimer

PS News is written by many people from the villages who report for themselves or a club or society they represent.

The production team do not necessarily agree with the opinions aired in the articles printed here. We are always happy to print another point of view in the newsletter.

SUICIDAL?
 DEPRESSED?
 UNABLE TO COPE?

SAMARITANS

AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY
Whatever you're going through, we'll go through it with you

01920 464099

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

MEP's

Patrick O'Flynn (UKIP) email:
patrick.oflynn@europarl.europa.eu
00 322 284 5337

Vicky Ford (Conservative)
office@vickyford.org
01954 211 722 www.vickyford.org

Alex Mayer (Labour)
01353 644045 email:
contact@alexmayer.eu
www.alexmayer.eu

MP

Sir Oliver Heald QC MP, House of
Commons,
London SW1A 0AA
Phone 01462 486074
E-mail:
oliver.heald.mp@parliament.uk
www.oliverhealdmp.com

County Councillors

**Braughing, including Puckeridge
and Standon up to the A120**
Rose Cheswright 823742
rose.cheswright@hertfordshire.gov.uk

**Ware North (Standon from the
A120 into Ware))**
David Andrews 823836
Fax: 821194
david.andrews@hertfordshire.gov.uk

District Councillors

Braughing
Cllr Ben Harris-Quinney 01920 821446
ben.harris-quinney@eastherts.gov.uk

Little Hadham
Cllr Geoffrey Williamson 01279
771272
geoffrey.williamson@eastherts.gov.uk

Puckeridge
Peter Boylan 01920 822026
peter.boylan@eastherts.gov.uk

Standon
Cllr David Andrew 01920 823836
david.andrew@eastherts.gov.uk

Parish Council Meetings

Members of the public are welcome
and encouraged to attend. *Please check
local notice boards to confirm details.*

Braughing
Meetings: The Old Boys' Schoolroom,
Braughing, 8pm, second Thursday of
the month (for planning applications,
contact the Clerk).

Little Hadham
Meetings: Lt. Hadham Village Hall,
8pm, first Monday every month except
January & August.

Standon
Meetings: Standon & Puckeridge
Community Centre, fourth Thursday of
the month (except August &
December). Meetings start at 8pm.

Parish Councils

Braughing
Clerk:
Belinda Irons, 14 Crawley End,
Chrishall, Royston, SG8 8QL Tel:
01763-838732 email:
chrishall@uwclub.net

Chairman:
Peter Boylan 01920 822026
pboylan@braughing.org.uk
Web site: www.braughing.org.uk

Lt Hadham
Clerk:
Mr B M Evans 01279 842803
clerk.little.hadham@ntlworld.com

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

Chairman:
Richard Boxall 01920 822335
Web site: standonparishcouncil.co.uk

Westmill
Bernadette King 01763 273356.
Email:-
clerk@westmillparishcouncil.co.uk

Chairman:
Mike McRae 01763 272147
mjismcrae@aol.com



Your Scout Group needs You

**Braughing Scout group is looking for
more adult helpers in all sections.**

**If you can help out please contact:
braughingscouts@tiscali.co.uk or one of the
Scout, Cub or Beaver contacts on page 51 for
more details**

We need help now!

Sessions held weekly, term-time only, at
The Contessa Riding Centre,
Colliers End.

Mondays 2pm – 3pm, Tuesdays 9.45am – 10.45am
Tuesdays 10.45am – 11.45am, Fridays 10am – 11.30am

For more information contact:
Boo Williams – 01279 842805

A Member
Group of

RDA



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do that counts**

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LOCAL DIRECTORY

All phone No's are 01920 and clubs in Puckeridge or Standon unless shown otherwise

- Albury Acorns Preschool:
Sue/Kim on 07826 303560
- Allotments:
Braughing:
Tricia Lilley 01920 821700
Puckeridge: Brian Durrant 822331
- Aviation Society:
Vic Flintham 01763 289636
- Baby-sitting Circle:
Sylvia Pinnington 822216
- Bat Helpline 01992 581442
- Beavers: 6-8 years old,
Angie Adamson 01763 849902
- Bell Ringing:
Braughing: Peter Glazebrook
821554, Standon: Stephen Coley
823886.
- Bishop's Stortford Railway Society:
Barry Bridges 438586
- Bowls Club: Jean Maslin, 01920 423273
or Fred Barnard, 01920 821214
- Braughing Cricket Club: Peter Hobson
01920 438361
- Braughing Cricket Club Colts: 438361
07774 961829
- Braughing Local History Society:
Mary Cockburn
mary.cockburn@btopenworld.com
- Braughing Playing Field Association
Trust: Sue Fox -
suefox1@hotmail.co.uk
- Braughing Society:
Sandra Lynch 823500
- Braughing WI: Kate Fish 822397
- Bridge Clubs:
Sue Dailly 823692
- Brownies: Register your daughter's
interest at www.girlguiding.org.uk -
general enquiries to Naomi Divall
01920 822169
- Budding Babes: Tracy 01920 824041
- Buntingford Bird Club: Tim Robinson,
01763 243143
- Buntingford Choir:
Mandy or Gareth 0781 491 2595
- Buntingford Heritage Centre:
Jenny Dingley 01763 273002
- Carols Round the Tree (Standon):
Caroline Franks 822723
- Carpet Bowls:
Mick Brown 01763 274114
- Church Choir Braughing: Church office
823832
- Conservative Assn:
David Andrews 823836
- Cubs: Wednesday Cheetah pack Derek
Goodall 01763 273149,
Tuesday Puma Pack: Jackie
Andrews 01763 247675
- Dance Classes - Rhythm & Poise School
of Dance: Ballet: Karen Howarth -
01279 651535 & Tap, Modern &
Jazz: Kate Dutton - 07969 362224
- Dance JAM Academy:
Julie McPartland
01920 822488 or 07971699615
- Dog Training: Jan Mann 823475
- Dominoes: Brown Bear, Braughing -
Graham Fray 821715
Barbara Norris 822104
- East Herts Aviation Society: Ray
Hankin (rayhankin@hotmail.co.uk)
or Vic Flintham (vf@flintham.org)
- Folk Music Club:
Stortfolk 01279 656664
- Veterans Football Club (Braughing):
Keith Mardell 822133,
- Friends of Braughing Church:
Ned Dailly 01920 823692 or email:
nedailly@btinternet.com
- Golf Club (East Herts):
Secretary 821978
- Guides: Register your interest at
www.girlguiding.org.uk - general
enquiries to Louise Jenkins 07971
800443.
- 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
- Hormead Hares Football Club:
01763 848449
- Horticulture Society (Braughing):
Marion Saunders 821700
- Hospital Transport for the Elderly:
Robin Chalkley 822156
- Jenyns First School & Nursery: 821461
- Karate Club: Clive 01763 231132
- Kettlebell Exercise Classes: Sue Prior
07854 316628
- Labour Party:
Frederick Perkins 822454
- Liberal Democrats:
David Albinson 822640
- Lipreading classes:
Louise Reed 821401
- Little Hadham Primary School: 01279
771285
- Mayday Committee:
Sue Spalding 821624 or
Rachel Law
rachelaw79@yahoo.co.uk
- Mercury Correspondent: Braughing:
Clive Marshall 822167
- NSPCC: Alex Lang 822209
- Pantomime Group, Braughing: Peter
Walsingham 823265
- Parish Paths Partnership: Braughing -
Christine Flintham 01763 289636,
Standon - John Harris 822887
- Pet Care: Mrs Harvey 822814
- Petanque: Brown Bear, Braughing -
Graham Winter 821373
- Pets TLC: 822705
- Photographic Society (Ware): Barbara
Norris 822104
- Puckeridge WI: info@puckeridgewi.org

Low Cost, One Bedroomed, Centrally Heated Almshouses for Local People.

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-bedroomed unit with it's own kitchen, bathroom and living room.

Write for details and an application form to:
John Harris, Clerk to Standon Charities,
4 South Road, Puckeridge SG11 1TH.

www.standoncharities.org.uk

Braughing Housing Association

The Braughing Housing Association is responsible for seven flatlets at Orchard House, The Street, Braughing. Each property consists of kitchen, hallway, bathroom and bed/sitting room, suitable for singles tenancy only.

Enquiries concerning possible vacancies and tenancy should be directed, in writing, to The Chairman, Braughing Housing Association, East View, Hay Street, Braughing, Ware SG11 2RG

Should any become available, preference would be given to the elderly, most needy and those with a connection to Braughing.

- Friday Ware Unit: Jim Campbell
01920 461134
- Railway & Local History Society
(Buntingford): Stephen Ruff 01763
289516, (Bishop's Stortford) Barry
Bridges 438586, (Hertford & Ware)
Stuart Moye 467132
- Rainbows: Register your interest at
www.girlguiding.org.uk - enquiries
to Ros French 07717 857389
sandprainbows1@outlook.com
- Ramblers (Royston & Dist):
David Allard 01763 242677
- R.N.L.I.: Paul Howitt 822342
- Royal British Legion:
Standon: Ron Edwards 464218
- Ralph Sadleir Assn:
sandie@sandibevents.co.uk
- Ranger Girl Guides (14+ years),
Wednesday, Rosanne Kenealy
01920 821304
- Rib Valley Trampoline Club: Andrea
Allen 07989 980038
- 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,
- Scout & Guide Band:
Garry Edwards 01920 823163
- Scouts: 11-14 years old, Panther Troop
Karl Adamson 01763 849902,
Jaguar Troop Jackie Andrews 01763
247675
- SPNDP (Standon and Puckeridge
Neighbourhood Development Plan)
Belinda Irons 01763 838732
- 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:
Sally Sperring 07854 916404
- Swimming Club (Buntingford): David
Carr 07966 508156
- Tai Chi: Mrs A Manwaring 822041
- Tennis Club:
Braughing:
Karen Gore 07860 484878
Standon:
Keith Bradshaw 01920 821152
- Three Villages Eco Group:
Trish Street 01920 821069
- Trefoil Guild: Guiding for adults - Alex
Chapman 01920 465 726
- 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:
Peter Warren 01920 824099
- Ware Swimming Club:
Chris Buck 07947 322808
- Ware U3A:
Chris Beeton, Membership
Secretary 07952 066748
- Wasps Out of School Club:
Nicola Re 07904 391133
- Women's Institute:
Braughing: Kate Fish 822397
Puckeridge: info@puckeridgewi.org
- Yoga in Pregnancy, Baby massage and
Baby yoga: Penny Constantinou
07944 416572
- Young Countrysiders:
Linda Watts 821393

PS News - The idea

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.

3000 copies are distributed to every house in:

Puckeridge	Standon	Braughing
Colliers End	Nasty	The Mundens
Old Hall Green	Wellpond Green	Westmill

and many of the houses in:

High Cross Little Hadham, etc.

Copies available from local Pubs, Vintage Service Station and Westwood's in Puckeridge, The Raj Villa Restaurant in High Cross plus Standon and Braughing Post Offices.

Advertising in PS

The cost of advertising is:

- From £80 per year—details www.psnews.org.uk
- **You have to advertise for a year (4 issues) minimum and pay in advance. Cheques payable to PS News.**
- Advert design, logos and illustrations scanned, all free of charge.
- **Leaflet inserts** are £140 per leaflet. Contact me before getting them printed as we limit the number of inserts in each issue. Book early to ensure we can take your insert when you want it.

Copy dates

Copy dates are as shown below. If you want to advertise, contact John Harris: 01920 822887 or email john@walkinginengland.co.uk

	<i>typed or written</i>	<i>email</i>
March Issue	1 Feb	10 Feb
June Issue	1 May	10 May
Sept Issue	1 Aug	10 Aug
Dec Issue	1 Nov	10 Nov

Please send your articles and photographs by these dates.

Emailed articles, deliveries & advertising:

John Harris, 4 South Road, Puckeridge SG11 1TH. Tel: 01920 822887

E-mail: psnews@walkinginherts.co.uk

Hand written or typed articles for publication:

Jim King, 12 South Road, Puckeridge, Ware SG11 1TH.
Tel: 01920 821704

Website for the latest issue and advertising details:
www.psnews.org.uk

Delivery query?

If you would like to volunteer to deliver PS or for some reason you get missed please contact John.

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