

the
Bellingdon & Asheridge

Newsletter

Many hands make fete work?

Village fete under threat due to lack of volunteers

One of the highlights of summer, the village fete brings together people (and dogs!) from our two villages, and further afield, in a day of tea, scones, canine antics, beer, burgers, bric-a-brac and tug-o-war – to mention a few.

Run entirely by volunteers, an immense amount of work goes into organising the event, which is held for the benefit of the village hall and a local charity.

In recent years, the centrepiece and highlight of the fete has been the “fun dog show” with recent donations going to Battersea Dogs and Cats home and the Chilterns Dog Rescue.

So far, the committee has been unable to find anyone to run the

dog show this year, and there have been no new volunteers for the committee itself. Several committee members have stepped down, and the result is that the fete itself is under threat.

Unless someone comes forward to run the dog show, the fete will have to be much smaller, if it happens at all.

Could you help? Some of the roles available are listed overleaf, but really, any help would be very welcome.

The next planning meeting is on **22nd March at The Blue Ball pub, 8pm**. Please come along – let us know on fete@bellingdon.com



Save the date!

March

18th - Pub night
 31st – Hort soc
 AGM

April

3rd – Litter pick
 15th – Pub night

May

13th – Pub night
 21st – Treasure hunt

Your fete needs you!

If you could help with any of the following at the fete please contact

fete@bellingdon.com asap or come to the next meeting on **22nd March, 8pm at The Blue Ball.**

- Organising the dog show
- Running or helping on a stall on the day (bric-a-brac, tombola, raffle, bar, ice cream, welly wanging, beat the goalie etc.)
- Car parking/entrance
- Marketing/communications
- The programme/advertising
- Planning the fete layout
- Keeping track of finances
- Health and safety
- The door knock
- Selling raffle tickets
- Donating raffle prizes

It needn't take huge amounts of your time and you'd be helping us to keep a valuable community event going.

Belles Games Night

The Bellingdon Belles organised a games night on Friday 5th February. There was a variety of pub-style and more "home made" games on offer, including giant jenga, "feel the sock" (we're assured the socks were clean) and several quizzes.

Watch this space for details of the next event – a family treasure hunt in May.



Clubs and societies

Short mat bowls

Bellingdon Short Mat Bowls club, which meets twice a week in the village hall, is having another successful winter season. Two teams play in the two Single Mat leagues and the season is just coming to an end. A team of 6 is selected from each squad and they play a singles match, doubles and a triples match.

One team has already won their league with a game in hand and the other, whilst leading their league, have a final key match to play with second-placed Haddenham on 3rd March. Both teams have Bellingdon residents as part of their squads, although members do come from surrounding areas as well.

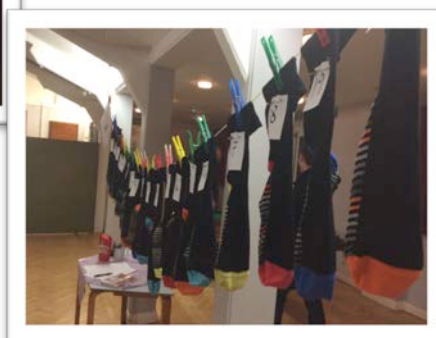
The club as a whole plays in the Two Mat League, which consists of 1 team of 12 players playing 4 triples matches only and is currently second in their league.

Community pub/social evenings

A terrific way to meet your neighbours, the pub/social evenings are gaining in popularity with 35-40 people attending the most recent one.

With a selection of drinks and home-cooked food on offer, plus traditional pub games, snacks and witty banter (possibly) – what's not to like?

The next few dates are: 18th March, 15th April and 13th May, from 6:30pm-11:30pm. See you there!

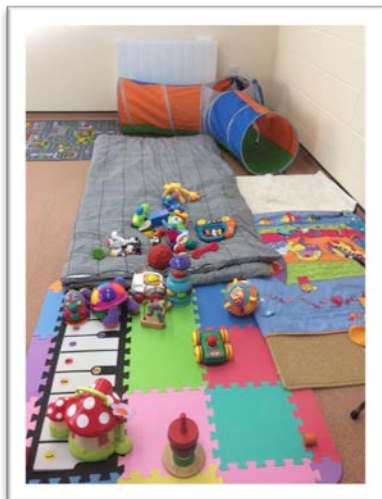


Kids' corner

Friday playgroup

Since January we have been running a small, friendly, weekly playgroup for babies and toddlers in the Annex. We meet on Fridays during term time from 10:00-11:30. There are toys and snacks for the children plus tea, coffee, cake and chat for parents and carers of young children.

Please do pop along if you'd like to meet some local mums. Dads/grandparents are most welcome, too. We make a small charge of £2 per family to cover costs. More details from helenvavona@gmail.com



Playground update

Regular users of the playground may have noticed a new fence and gate, level with the end of the Annex. This means that the playground is now completely enclosed and little ones can explore the nature area freely and safely.

Huge thanks must go to the villagers who participated in a working party to clear the area to the side of the hall, and to the BAVH committee for organising and funding the fencing and gate. Please do remember to shut all gates behind you to ensure the safety of children using the playground, and to take your litter home.

Curvaceous Cook **Carpaccio of Beetroot**

2 tbs approx. lemon or orange juice. I love orange with beetroot, so that is what I used.

Handful of walnuts
1 tbs chopped parsley
salt and pepper
2 slices soft goats cheese
handful of rocket

Serves 2 people



Easily my favourite foods of Christmas were the salted caramel sauce and cappuccino pavlova (separately!) from Nigella, and the New Year's Eve roast rib of traditional Hereford beef from Hazeldene Farm with home-grown horseradish sauce. If you are like me, the spring is a time for cutting back on the rich stuff and looking for satisfying but lighter food.

I was lucky enough to be given a bag of beetroots, straight out of the ground in the new year, and I made this recipe, the idea for which came from an Italian Vegetarian hotel Restaurant, Country House Montali. It could be a light lunch with some warm chunky bread or a very pretty starter.

Peel and slice the beetroot really thinly. If you have a mandolin that is perfect, or maybe a cheese slice or just a really sharp knife. You should be able to almost see through it. Lay these slices on 2 plates, fanning them out so they cover it. Drizzle with the juice and lots of freshly ground black pepper. Lay on the rocket, and dot blobs of the cheese all over it. Sprinkle with the walnuts. You could also splash a little really good olive oil on top.

I hated beetroot as a child, but now love it, especially raw in salads. I grow it to use the small leaves in salads, and at the end of the year I have the beets in white sauce, and will definitely be doing this again.



Hort Soc AGM

New Members Welcome

The Hort Soc AGM will be held at the Village Hall at 7.30pm on 31st March. Whether you are already a keen gardener or an aspiring beginner in need of advice or inspiration, why not come along and see what we are all about with no obligation.

There will be complimentary cheese & wine on offer and the Spring Flower Show will be taking place, which is always an impressive spectacle!

If you do decide to join us the membership fee is £2 per annum and we have a full itinerary of events throughout the year, details of which will be available on the night.

For more information or a Show schedule contact Rachel Watts on 01494 785322. We look forward to seeing you there.

In brief

Check your sheds

After a recent spate of burglaries, residents are advised to make sure garden sheds and outbuildings are secure, especially if they are located some distance from the house.

At the time of writing, at least four houses have had garden tools stolen over a two week period. All crime should be reported to the local police on 101 (unless you suspect a burglary to be taking place, in which case use 999).

Annual Bellingdon litter pick

We will be meeting at the village hall on Sunday 3rd April at 9.30 am to carry out the annual clear up in the village and around the village hall and grounds.

Bacon rolls and coffee/tea will be provided to helpers at 11.30 am. All are welcome - the more the merrier.

Potholes

Yet again the roads are in a terrible state as the constant freeze-thaw of winter has enlarged many potholes and created new ones. If you spot a pothole, please do report it, as this may enable anyone who subsequently damages a vehicle as a result of it to claim compensation.

Sites like www.fixmystreet.com enable you to report potholes quickly and easily. Claiming compensation from the council, however, is another matter. Drive safely!

Hall heater move

To resolve the long-standing noise issue, the committee is working to move the hot air heater from the kitchen to the rear store room. This should happen in May 2016, and will cost approximately £6,000. Many thanks to Don Baker for seeing this project through.

Details of clubs, events and village news, including hall bookings: www.bellingdon.com

Please send your comments, questions and ideas for future articles to the Editor at newsletter@bellingdon.com

Special thanks to Guest Editor Helen Valvona, for stepping in at our hour of need.