

the
Bellingdon & Asheridge

Newsletter

Winter is upon us – Chairman's Chat

It hardly seems a week ago since we were lighting pumpkins and trudging round dressed as ghosts in search of goodies, but somehow Halloween is behind us and Christmas is nearly here.

Most of the hedges have now been cut back, making driving along narrow lanes a bit easier until the spring growth starts again. And the hum of leaf blowers will soon subside, as the frosts get harder.

Its been a busy few months in the hall – with the Hort Soc Annual show, Belles' frog racing (report on back page), Hort Soc social and the ever popular monthly pub night, as well as regular classes and societies. Now the mercury is falling, the true value of the new heater location is becoming apparent to all.

As our thoughts turn to more festive matters, it is wonderful to see that the now-traditional carol service on Christmas Eve will be going ahead, by kind permission of Anka and John Taylor. Any young people who would like to read a lesson should contact ankataylor@hotmail.com. Anka has also asked for anyone who is able to make a batch of mince pies for the event to contact her.

We've also got some timely advice on how to keep homes secure from would-be burglars now it's getting darker earlier.

But its not all doom and gloom – shortly after New Year we'll begin planning the village fete in June. Anyone interested in helping can contact fete@bellingdon.com.

BAVH is a community charity, and relies entirely on volunteer trustees and helpers. If you would like to become involved – even just for a

specific project – please do contact the Secretary Jules Eyles, on 01494 757150. If you have anything for the newsletter or website please let us know at newsletter@bellingdon.com



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What's on

December

Mon 12th Chesham Rotary Club Christmas float in Bellingdon/Asheridge

Fri 16th Pub night 6:30pm

Sat 24th Christmas Carols at Huge Farm, 4pm

January

Fri 20th Pub night 6:30pm

February

Fri 17th Pub night 6:30pm

Keep in touch!

W: bellingdon.com

T: [@bellandash](https://www.facebook.com/bellandash)

F: [facebook.com/bavfete](https://www.facebook.com/bavfete)

Bright ideas to keep your home safe in the dark evenings

This time of the year when the clocks have gone back means homes are in darkness early in the afternoon – a gift for opportunist burglars.

To avoid becoming a victim of burglary, Chiltern District Council and South Bucks District Councils Joint Community Safety team is encouraging householders to take some simple steps to protect their home:

- Use a timer switch to turn on lights and a radio to give the impression someone is home
- Keep valuables, and other electronic equipment such as iPads out of sight
- Security mark valuables with a UV pen and register them with www.immobilise.com
- Double lock UPVC doors or use deadlocks on solid doors. Keep all spare keys, including car keys, away from the front door out of sight to avoid them being 'fished' through the letter box
- Keep windows locked with the key and keep it out of sight
- Don't leave packaging of expensive items purchased on view as an advertisement to thieves
- If you intend to go away over the holiday period, ask a neighbour to park on your drive to make your home look occupied and do the same for others.

Neighbourhood Police Officers will be patrolling in residential areas and, if they believe a property is at risk of being burgled, they will pop a 'Here's a bright idea' card through the door along with contact details for further crime prevention advice.

Residents can follow their local police and pick up security advice from Twitter at: [@TVP_ChiltSBucks](https://twitter.com/TVP_ChiltSBucks). For regular updates on crime and disorder in your area you can sign up to [Thames Valley Alert](http://ThamesValleyAlert.com).

You can also contact Chiltern District Council and South Bucks District Council's Joint Community Safety team on 01494 586535 and for further crime reduction advice you can visit:

www.thamesvalley.police.uk/crprev

www.chiltern.gov.uk/crimereduction or

www.southbucks.gov.uk/crimereduction.

In brief

Defibrillator

The BAVH committee has applied for, and been granted, funding for a defibrillator to be located at the village hall. Part of our undertaking involves training the local community in its use: please let us know if you'd be interested in receiving training contact@bellingdon.com

Christmas festivities

The traditional Christmas Eve carol service at Huge Farm, by kind permission of Anka and John Taylor, will once again provide the opportunity for villagers to meet and celebrate Christmas together.

It will start at 4pm and includes refreshments. Offers of mince pies and/or young readers for lessons to ankataylor@hotmail.com

Looking forward

We will be taking part in the "Great British Spring Clean", following on from the success of 2016's "Clean for the Queen". We've been litter picking for longer than it's had a snazzy name – join us on Sunday 19th March from 9:30am. All welcome, refreshments provided.

Forro Fest

The hugely successful Brazilian Dance weekend, may well be back in 2017. There are even plans for a separate event with quieter music!

Book swap

We're considering starting up a book swap facility in the village hall. We'd need a bookcase on wheels (like they have in libraries) so if anyone could donate one, please get in touch.

Curvaceous Cook

Pumpkin and Sausage Risotto

I bought a couple of beautiful local pumpkins, because I couldn't resist them, but then didn't know quite what to do with them! I don't have a sweet tooth, so all those pumpkin pies were out of the question, and then a website I follow came up with this delicious and very pretty recipe. They cooked the pumpkin shell, and served the risotto in it, which looks amazing, but is not essential!

- Pumpkin, approx. 1 ½ lb. (you need 1 whole pumpkin to serve the risotto in if you want to)
- Rice, 14 oz. I use cannarolo, you can use Arborio or risotto rice
- Sausage of your choice 7 oz. I use a slightly spicy one, and Heck Italian Chicken ones are very good for this recipe
- Vegetable stock cube, 1
- Onion, 1
- Grated parmigiano reggiano, to sprinkle
- White wine, a dash
- I like sage with pumpkin, and add a few finely sliced leaves with the stock.

Cut the top off the pumpkin and scoop out the pulp, throwing away the seeds or feed them to your chickens...who love them! Cover the pumpkin and the top with tinfoil, then bake it in the oven for 1 hour. Cook the pumpkin's pulp in a pan with a little water for about 20 minutes, until softened, then mash it, reducing it into a puree. Remove the skin of the sausages and chop them into small chunks. Bring 2 pints of water to the boil, add the stock cube and make the stock. Chop the onion finely and stir fry it in a pan with up to 2 tablespoons of olive oil (as usual, I use Frylight or a splash of olive oil). Add the sausage and cook it for about 10 minutes, until it starts to brown. Add the washed rice, then simmer with the white wine until reduced and continue stirring for a couple of minutes. Add the pumpkin puree, salt and pepper, then slowly pour the stock into the risotto as it dries out. Cook for 15-18 minutes, remove the pan from the flame and add a knob of butter to make the risotto creamier. Serve the risotto in the warm carved pumpkin. Sprinkle it with grated Parmesan or pecorino, and I would add freshly chopped parsley because I love it, but no need to if you don't.

Based on recipe from: My Little Italian Kitchen: Alida Zamparini



Playground update

The Trustees of BAVH regret that the Zip Wire in the children's playground has been out of action during the summer period.

Following the ROSPA report earlier in the year, we were obliged to close this equipment due to that part of the wooden structural supports that had been concreted into the ground showing signs of rotting.

Your committee (which numbers 6 volunteers, but should be 12) has been working on finding a solution. This includes approaching the original suppliers, and we now know that there was only a 2-year guarantee on installation in 2011. We are communicating with them about whether there is a case of the installation being 'fit for purpose' and what is a reasonable expectation of the life of such equipment.

At the same time estimates for repair/ replacement are being obtained, but it would seem the likely cost would be £10,000 - £15,000. Clearly this is a significant 'out of the blue' cost and the volunteer Trustees have to find the opportunity to deal with this complex matter in their own time.

We will keep you up to date as the issue progresses and look forward to having the playground fully functional in the foreseeable future.

If a member of the community wishes to assist in managing this matter we would welcome their involvement, please contact

hall@bellingdon.com

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor / BAVH

Do you think it would be possible to put a gate in the hedge along the side of the village fields, towards the end that is nearest the Bull pub?

That stretch of road is pretty blind for cars and it would be safer for walkers, rambblers, dog walkers etc to be able to pop onto the field and walk along there rather than walk on that dangerous stretch of road.

Yours, in pursuit of safer pedestrian activity.

Concerned of Bellingdon



Villagers hop to it for frog racing

Early October saw a village first – frog racing in the village hall. [Not real frogs – Ed.] Some 40 residents of all ages tried their hand at the harder-than-it-looks art of wiggling a rope to make a frog “hop” along the floor.

A delicious, home cooked supper of ham hock and chicken pie followed by lemon and poppy seed cake complemented proceedings and there was much (loud) exhorting of friends and neighbours to win one of the five qualification races. Winners of those were invited back for the championship race, which was ably won by Ashley Morris.

The Bellingdon Belles, who organised the event, were extremely pleased with the evening and it raised £332 towards the kitchen

refurbishment fund. Thanks go to everyone who helped to produce such a great evening.

The Belles are planning their programme for next year, so all suggestions (or if you'd like to join) to belles@bellingdon.com.



Community meeting notice

Changing the status of your charity

Your charity – BAVH – which looks after the village hall and recreation ground is governed by a trust and a few residents volunteer to run the charity as Trustees.

In order to reduce the risk to Trustees and give more control to the charity, the government has introduced a new structure called a **CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION**

The current Trustees consider it to be in the community's interest to transfer the current charity to this new format.

At the same time we think that this would be a good opportunity to review how the community assets are used and maintained. For this purpose a community meeting will be held at the village hall on **Thursday 30th March 2017**.

More information will be provided with the Spring Newsletter. In the meantime, queries may be addressed to the Secretary, Jules Eyles, on 757150 or contact@bellingdon.com

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

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

The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity or length.