

the

Bellingdon & Asheridge

Newsletter

Village Hall News

We're beginning to see the first signs of a long awaited spring, which should herald another fantastic year for our villages. The Trustees have been working hard over the winter and we hope to introduce some exciting new developments to our village hall over the coming year.

We had planned to call a community meeting in late March to present the opportunity to change the status of the BAVH charity from to the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation and in the process create a new community association.

However, on reflection the Trustees feel that the question of the broader future of the hall should be addressed at the same time and more preparation time is needed. We will present our ideas and elicit feedback at the AGM on July 20th.

We have some fantastic community events in our hall – for example the monthly pub nights and the recent Frog racing evening – but the hall has the potential to be used even more. Please do feel free to approach the trustees if you would like to run a community event such as a film night, food festival or social group.

Have you considered booking the hall, annex or recreation ground for your next event? Did you know that currently only around 5% of all hirers for private events are village residents?

As you'll read in this Spring edition of the newsletter, we're working on many projects such as the community defibrillator, trialling a new online booking system, refurbishing the kitchen, making improvements to the audiovisual provision and repairing the zip wire.

In the meantime we look forward to planning and delivering this year's Village Fete, on 24th June – put it in your diary now!



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Diary Dates

March

Thurs 16th Fete planning 8pm
 Fri 17th Pub night 6:30pm
 Sun 19th Litter pick 9:30am

April

Thurs 6th Hort Soc AGM & flower show
 Fri 28th Pub night 6:30pm

May

Fri 19th Pub night 6:30pm
 Sat 20th Hort Soc plant sale

Keep in touch!

W: bellingdon.com

T: @bellandash

F: facebook.com/bavfete

Village Hall Developments

Online booking: We're trialling Hallmaster, an online booking facility designed specifically for village halls and community venues.

We hope that Hallmaster will simplify and streamline the bookings process for all concerned.

Kitchen upgrade: We're close to submitting an application for funding to assist in the purchase of some large appliances for the new kitchen.

Audiovisual: we're considering purchasing a screen and projector as well as installing a speaker system.

Defibrillator: The community defibrillator should be up and running soon. We will be running training courses soon: please let us know if you'd be interested on contact@bellington.com. Many thanks to those who have already shown interest. We will be in touch asap.

Zip Wire: The Zip Wire in the playground will be re-built this spring. The original installers have agreed a beneficial cost price, taking in to account that we have had five years' use, and the aim is that this work will happen during March/April.

The new one will have Post Protectors at ground level so that the wood chippings that form the safety surface will not be in contact with the new supports, which seems to have been what caused the original problem.

Funds for this work were allocated in last year's accounts and we believe our costs will fall within that budget.

Book swap: We've sourced some bookcases and the book swap should be making its debut at the March community pub night. After that, books will be available for hall users to borrow.

Taking care of our villages: We will be taking part in the "Great British Spring Clean", following on from the success of 2016s "Clean for the Queen".

Of course, 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.



Community News

Horticultural Society Programme

Here are the Hort Soc dates for 2017 (news of a coach trip to follow):

AGM & spring flower show	Thursday 6 th April	7.30pm
Plant sale	Saturday 20 th May	10am to 12 noon
Annual Show	Saturday 9 th September	2.30pm
Social supper and quiz night	Friday 13 th October	7.30pm



We need your help, please contact us!

The Bellingdon Belles need your help to find out if there is an appetite for a 'get together' at the Village Hall for any resident of Bellingdon and Asheridge, who lives alone, is a carer, is house bound, finds it difficult to get out or would just like to meet up with their neighbours and other residents of the village.

We are very happy to collect people to take them to and return them home after the event.

Our thoughts were for these 'get togethers' to be in the format of a coffee morning, lunch or afternoon tea – all with home cooked food.

Please let us know if you are, or know of anyone local who would welcome the idea; if so what format would be the most enjoyable and should entertainment be included – e.g. music or singing, a talk, bingo, cards etc., or just a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours.

If you are or know of someone who might be interested, please ring Helen Harding on 01494 757221 or 07901 824700 or email h.harding@onebillinternet.co.uk.

It would be lovely to hear from you, any ideas and thoughts would be very welcome and much appreciated.

Village Fete planning

The first meeting about the fete was held on a cold night in February when coconut shies and tugs-o-war in the sunshine seem like a distant dream. All the major elements seem to be in place now so watch this space.

Many people have already signed up to help on the day but there's always room for more – please let one of the committee know if you're interested in helping – fete@bellingdon.com or 757150.

Alternatively, feel free to join us at the next planning meeting which will be held at The Blue Ball, Asheridge on 16th March from 8pm.

Curvaceous Cook

I think it is always useful to have some chocolate sauce in the freezer, so that poured over vanilla ice cream, or a brownie, or any slightly stale chocolate cake that you microwave for a few moments to soften, you have an instant indulgent pud!

This freezes really well, and for some reason never goes solid (I am sure you scientists could explain that!) so you can spoon out the amount you need without having to thaw it all when you only need a tablespoon.

It takes moments to make, and this does make a goodly bowlful.

CHOCOLATE SAUCE

- 100 g caster sugar
- 100 g soft brown sugar
- 75 g cocoa powder
- 5 ml vanilla essence
- 10 ml cornflour
- 300 ml milk
- 50 g chocolate, at least 70% cocoa solids
- 25 g butter, ideally unsalted

Blend the cornflour with a little of the milk.

Add the mix to all but the choc and butter in a saucepan, and gently warm to boiling, whilst stirring.

Once boiling, boil without stirring for 2 mins, but keep an eye on it. I find on the slow plate of the Aga it needs no more than a minute. Stop if it starts to clot.

Take off the heat and whisk in the choc and butter

Done.





Parish Council News

Chartridge Parish Council is promoting “**Love my village**”, a scheme which encourages residents to look after their patch, including picking up litter outside their property and exposing any overgrown road signs – all small things to keep our village tidy.

The Parish Council is taking on the grass verge/hedge trimming as part of CDC devolved services. Having this done by local contractors we feel we can provide a better job as this was done so poorly in the past. The Parish Council will need to increase the precept to cover costs but will ensure money is spent locally.

Other things under review are our own speed posts similar to the ones in Wigginton. For more information go to the Chartridge Parish Council web site.

There is still a vacancy for a councillor to represent the Bellingdon ward. If you live in Bellingdon, have a genuine interest in the local community and how it is serviced, and can dedicate one evening each month to meet plus a small amount of your spare

time to considering a range of issues (planning, highway maintenance, footpaths and bridleways, county and district council consultations to name but a few) please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

Chartridge Parish Council has agreed to undertake a **Housing Needs Survey** in order to identify if there are any local people in need of affordable homes. In addition, the survey will help us to gauge resident support for development of affordable homes for local people.

The survey will be carried out by Arlene Kersley, the Rural Housing Enabler at the Community Council for Berkshire (CCB). Survey forms are being delivered to all households in Chartridge, Asheridge and Bellingdon during early February.

The survey can also be completed online: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Chart ridge>. Your views are important, please make sure you respond by 6th March.

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.