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# Bellingdon & Asheridge

## Newsletter

### Summer's here

The last three months have seen some fantastic community events – the Hort Soc AGM and spring flower show, a St Patrick's Day themed pub night among others and of course ongoing preparation for our annual fete, on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

We really look forward to welcoming everyone to the fete – our major annual event – and this year have a really exciting programme once again.

The Fun Dog Show, including classes such as "Waggiest tail" and "Dog most like owner" is sure to be a hit, and will support the wonderful Medical Detection Dogs charity.

You can read more about them in the programme that will be delivered to every house in the two villages as part of the pre-fete "Doorknock" which will take place on and after Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

For the uninitiated, the doorknock involves a group of villagers going house to house collecting donations (toys, plants, bric a brac, wine etc) and selling raffle tickets. Flyers are coming out shortly.

We cannot stress enough how reliant this event is on volunteers, so if you can spare an hour – or more – on the day, please do get in touch.  
[fete@bellingdon.com](mailto:fete@bellingdon.com)

The all-important Village Hall AGM will be held this year on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July. The future survival of this crucial village amenity is very much in the spotlight – many of the current

trustees have served for 5-10 years (and some even longer) and new trustees are needed.

The hall is a community facility, run by volunteers but unless additional people are prepared to help, its very future may have to be considered.

On a more positive note, we are delighted once again to welcome Julia Samel and her Forró Fest Brazilian dancing festival to Bellingdon over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

More details will be available on the village website nearer the time but we very much hope the community will get involved and attend one of the free sessions.



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### Diary Dates

#### June

Thu 15<sup>th</sup> Doorknock for fete  
Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Village Fete  
Sun 25<sup>th</sup> British Dalmatian  
Welfare Fun Day

#### July

Sat 8<sup>th</sup>-Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Craft exhibition  
at St John's Church  
Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> BAVH AGM  
Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Pub night from 6:30pm

#### August

Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Pub night from 6:30pm  
Fri 25<sup>th</sup>-Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Forró Fest

Anyone interested in running the  
community pub night in  
September contact  
[donbaker@rocketmail.com](mailto:donbaker@rocketmail.com)

### Keep in touch!

W: [bellingdon.com](http://bellingdon.com)

T: @bellandash

F: [facebook.com/bavhall](https://facebook.com/bavhall)

## From the Village Hall



**Online booking:** Unfortunately Hallmaster did not work with our requirements so we're trialling a built in form on our website. All being well this will go live during the summer and should help streamline the bookings process.

**Kitchen upgrade:** We've now submitted the funding application and eagerly await the results. Our first priority is to provide a new cooker in time for Forró Fest in August.

**Electronic entry system:** The current system of multiple keys is not fit for purpose and requires a huge time commitment from a small number of volunteers. We are therefore looking into an electronic entry system. We'd be delighted to hear from any villager with expertise in this area.

**Defibrillator:** The community defibrillator is up and running and located near the entrance to the hall. The cabinet has an extremely loud alarm when opened, which should discourage tampering. We will be running training courses soon: please let us know if you'd be interested on [contact@bellingdon.com](mailto:contact@bellingdon.com). Many thanks to those who have already shown interest. We will be in touch asap.

**Zip Wire:** Regular playground users will notice that the zip wire has now been replaced. Many thanks to all those who made this happen.

**Book swap:** Judging by the number of books that are no longer in the bookcases, this has been a popular initiative! The bookcases will be topped up after the fete.

**Taking care of our villages:** Despite a disappointing turnout, a small band of hardy souls braved a chilly March morning to collect some eight bags of rubbish to clean up our villages a bit.

BELLINGDON AND ASHERIDGE VILLAGE HALL  
AND RECREATION GROUND (BAVH)  
Charity No 1087494

**Notice of Annual General Meeting**  
at The Village Hall

**Thursday 20th July 2017 at 7.30 pm**

At the meeting the committee will present their Report & Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2017. The current committee will resign and a new committee will be voted in.

An opportunity to meet your neighbours and discuss your views on the future of the village hall and recreation grounds.

Have a look at recent improvements to the facilities.

All residents of Bellingdon and Asheridge who are 18 and over may vote at the meeting.

If you would like any particular topic to be addressed at the meeting, please contact the Secretary, Jules Eyles, in advance on 01494 757150 or [jules.eyles@tesco.net](mailto:jules.eyles@tesco.net)

Refreshments will be available.



## Community News

### Your Hort Soc needs you!

The Bellingdon, Asheridge & District Horticultural Society is friendly, informal and looking for new members just like YOU. We are open to anyone, without age restriction or residential qualification for the princely sum of £2 per annum (£1 per annum for Over 70's).

We have a full programme of events, including coach trips to local and national gardens, and activities are as much social as horticultural.

This year's coach trip will be to RHS Wisley for their 25<sup>th</sup> Flower Show on 5<sup>th</sup> September. Tickets are £20 per person. Please contact Rachel Watts to book.

For more information please see the Hort Soc page of the village website: [www.bellingdon.com](http://www.bellingdon.com) or telephone either

- Rachel Watts (Secretary) 01494 785322 or
- Tracey Ryan (Membership) 01494 775568.

We look forward to meeting you!

Here are the remaining Hort Soc dates for 2017:

<b>Coach trip to Wisley</b>	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	All day
<b>Annual Show</b>	Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	2.30pm
<b>Social supper and quiz night</b>	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	7.30pm

*Tracey Ryan, Bellingdon, Asheridge & District Horticultural Society*

### Craft exhibition at St John's Church

Two weeks after the village fete, on July 8th and 9th, we are holding a craft exhibition at St John's Church in Bellingdon. We would love to have contributions from local people, especially those who live in Bellingdon and Asheridge.

It is not intended that people sell crafts, but exhibitors would be welcome to have cards or information sheets available for people to pick up. Are you a photographer, do you paint, do you embroider or make corn dollies or pottery?

Or could you provide any background music (though people will probably be chatting over a cup of tea...)? If you would like to exhibit something or would like any more information do get in touch with me on [j.edmunds@sky.com](mailto:j.edmunds@sky.com)

*Jane Edmunds*

### Bellingdon goes black and white again

British Dalmatian Welfare will once again be holding their annual Fun Day at the Village Hall and playing field on Sunday 25th June from 10.45 to around 3pm.



Everyone is welcome with or without their dogs. There is a Fun Dog show with a fancy dress class for dogs and humans plus egg-and-spoon races. There is also a chance to try out agility equipment or to enter the test for Kennel Club "Good Citizens" qualification at Bronze level.

For both adults and children there is a chance to meet LOTS of Dalmatians although there is no guarantee there will be 101...

Entry is free although we hope you enjoy lunch or tea and cake, buy raffle tickets or home baked dog biscuits and dog cakes. For more information see [www.dalmatianwelfare.co.uk](http://www.dalmatianwelfare.co.uk) or follow British Dalmatian Welfare on Facebook or @britdalwelfare on Twitter.

*Anne Gurnsey*

### Bellingdon Ladies' club

The club meets each Wednesday afternoon 2pm – 4pm (except for the first Wednesday in the month). Members play table tennis, scrabble, cards and have a cup of tea and a chat. It's an informal meeting giving villagers a chance to meet up for a friendly get-together. Everyone welcome.

*Irene Roberts*



## Curvaceous Cook

For the last couple of years I have prepared mixed antipasti when entertaining for lots of reasons...they can be prepared well in advance; the choice can be enjoyed by meat and non meat eaters; they are a good ice breaker if you have people who do not know each other (or speak the same language!!!).

We have large slate platters which look good, but any board or long plate would be fine, or even lots of smaller plates, but the effect is not as modern.

Some examples of morsels that I have made in the last couple of years include:

- Slivers of pate (I used rough French pate de campagne) with a slice of cornichon on top
- Very thinly sliced beetroot, raw or cooked, in little heaps with goats cheese crumbled over the top, then walnuts or toasted hazelnuts and a drizzle of a garlicky dressing
- Cheesy bread with thin slices of salami and some hard boiled egg on top (classic Umbrian Easter breakfast)
- Bits of biltong...now made by a South African in Chesham!
- Balls of melon with prosciutto wrapped round held in place by a toothpick
- Thinly sliced smoked salmon wrapped round a spoonful of taramasalata (these are best refrigerated for a couple of hours to firm them up)
- Home cured trout or salmon as in earlier recipe
- Thinly sliced raw courgette, soaked in lemon juice and a splash of good oil, rolled up with a toothpick through. Either just as they are or round some soft cheese with herbs chopped in
- A good aged pecorino or parmesan cheese, small chunks with a drizzle of honey on top
- If you have some truffle oil, just sprinkle a tiny bit on slices of prosciutto and scrunch them up in little heaps. You can also put this whole pile on a piece of toast or French bread as a bruschetta, spreading with a soft cheese if you want to
- If you have those little Chinese soup spoons you can put little blobs of anything delicious on them...very trendy...or just gently cook some really ripe tomatoes with a splash of salt, sugar and pepper, then strain through muslin to get an almost clear broth that has an intense tomato flavour, garnishing with a tiny sprig of basil...the black basil looks especially good on these
- Sprinkle freshly cut chives over the whole lot for prettiness, including the flowers if possible.

Hope these have given you some ideas for summer entertaining. Buon Appetito!

*[The Curvaceous Cook is, sadly for us, moving away, but has very kindly agreed to keep contributing to our newsletter, which I know will be much appreciated by our readers - Ed]*

Details of clubs, events and village news, including hall bookings: [www.bellingdon.com](http://www.bellingdon.com)  
Please send comments, questions and ideas for future articles to the Editor at [newsletter@bellingdon.com](mailto:newsletter@bellingdon.com)  
The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity or length.