

the Bellingdon and Asheridge newsletter



Firstly, apologies for the rather late appearance of this Autumn newsletter.

There has been a lot happening in Bellingdon this summer – the fete, the ‘Save the Bull’ campaign and the new children’s playground in particular have occupied both time and much effort, all ending in triumph (more info about them inside).

There have also been changes to the hall management committee with several members leaving after making huge contributions to the success of our ventures over the years and I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Bellingdon and Asheridge communities, to thank them for their hugely valuable efforts.

After very many years service to the community, our previous newsletter editor, **Irene Roberts**, is standing down for a very well earned rest (although she continues to organise the Ladies club – see note inside) and a measure of the amount of work she has done single-handedly is that she has been replaced by an editorial team.

Our Treasurer, **Allan Baker** has also handed over the reins both of the accounts and the Hall bookings that he has performed so diligently for so long and our secretary, Carmel **Botright**, has had to resign since her move to the U.S.A.

Children’s Playground

I must also give a very special mention to the team responsible for the wonderful new children’s playground, Principally led by **Eanne Russell and David Duckworth** and ably supported by **Sue Bourne, Helen Griffiths, Nick Ellender and Andy Davies** whose huge efforts on behalf of the villages have created a very special area in which we can all take enormous pride. You will be able to read more about their work in the next newsletter.

On behalf of the community, I should like to thank them for all their invaluable work, advice and, above all, support.

Our wonderful ‘curvaceous cook’, Lulu Stephen, has also stepped down after many years service to the committee and I am delighted that she has agreed to remain involved as our President so, instead of thinking that she can rest on her well-earned laurels, she will still be involved with our work and, knowing Lulu, making much valuable contribution to it.

Alf Field – Chairman.

www.bellingdon.com

You helped SAVE THE BULL !

At last – the news we have all be hoping for. Fortitude Investments, the owners of The Bull, our local, have finally been granted permission to modernise and extend the pub and thanks are in no small part due to the level of support shown by local people, over 130 of whom attended the two meetings in the village hall and 40 of whom took the trouble to contact the District Council to express their support – the importance of which was drawn attention to in the planning officer’s report where he stated that this was very important in establishing the ‘special circumstances’ needed for him to recommend the development.



Spare acres

The owners of The Bull have asked for ideas from residents of the village for ideas for community uses for the additional acres that adjoin the pub.

If you have any, please e-mail them to:

contact@bellingdon.com

The

Curvaceous Cook

Tomatoes in all their glory

Our lovely Italian neighbour gave me a load of his tomatoes as he was leaving for Rome, and I couldn’t bear to waste them, but was leaving the next day, so I made wonderful fresh tomato soup. I have to say that it was so delicious and rich that it could have been used as a jus or coulis or whatever the latest trendy thing is. I just ate it off the spoon!

Chop your tomatoes, and ideally these are the long Italian type and very ripe, but others would do, or a mix would be lovely.

Put in a pan with a few shakes of black pepper and a little salt. I also always add a little sugar when cooking tomatoes; it just takes off the tang.

Very gently leave with the lid off to simmer away till no free liquid on the top. This may sound odd, but you will know when you have got to this stage! It took about an hour for this with 2 lb tomatoes for me.

At this stage you could add fresh basil, some cooked onion and garlic, or really pretty much anything else that takes your fancy,

Rub through a sieve, or if you have an old fashioned “moulin” which are coming back into fashion, then put through one of those. I use a ladle to gently force the tomato through the sieve.

You will now have a very rich pot of tomato gloriousness to add to things, or to let down with a little cream or crème fraiche to make a soup. It is like the best passata you have ever tasted!

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Hort. Society: **Rachel Watts 785322**

Art Group: **Berry Gidman 758532**

Bowls: **Brian Latham 784155**

Hall Bookings: **Chris or Julie Hood**

Tel: 757028 or

e-mail: bookings@bellingdon.com

Horticultural Society Annual Show report

The hall was again filled with tables groaning under the weight of massive marrows and leeks! Our vegetable section was especially full of exhibits of a very high standard as a result of a very good growing season. Fruit entries particularly apples had increased because of the fine weather we had in April. Our Domestic section (baking) was less than normal so we would encourage any keen cooks in the village to enter next year!

The show was well supported by members of the public in the afternoon and we enjoyed providing ploughman's lunches for the cricketers using the playing field. The village hall was filled with noise and bustle – a typical English scene which has changed little in 60 years!

Should you want to enter or visit next year the Annual Show will be held **on Sat. 15th. September 2012.**

Bellingdon and Asheridge Horticultural Society

Social Supper Friday October 21st 7.00pm



At Bellingdon Village Hall

**Speaker: James Cuming on
“Dog Days- Working with Police Dogs”**

Tickets-£7.50 including 2 course meal and glass of wine
from Rachel Watts (01494 785322)
or Bryan How, Hawridge View, Ramscote Lane.

The Bellingdon Art Group

By now, the Bellingdon Art Group will be back in action in the village hall. The Art Group continues to flourish and we meet on most Thursday mornings during term times from 10a.m. until 12p.m.

Each week there is a set project or technique to try and the atmosphere, under the guidance of a qualified art teacher, is relaxed and non-competitive. Demonstrations of suggested techniques and step by step procedures are followed by individual tuition and sometimes members are asked to bring their own subjects to study. Most of the members are local and enjoy having this opportunity to improve on their various skill levels. Many examples of paintings and drawings, in a variety of media, were exhibited in the village Hall during the Summer fete, which showed the breadth of subjects that we cover over the course of a year.

If you are keen to have a go there are still a few places available so do pop in to see us at work or phone me for further details.

Berry: 758532

Bellingdon and Asheridge Ladies Club

The Ladies Club meets every Wednesday (except first Wednesdays in the month) at the Village Hall, between 2p.m. and 4p.m.

Come along and join us for a game of table tennis, scrabble or cards or just for a cuppa and a chat. **New members are always welcome.**

Irene Roberts



Some of the art work on display at the fete

Summer fete

2011 Chairman,
Hugh Griffiths reports:

The BAVH fete goes from strength to strength.

The four main highlights of this year's event were the opening by ex heavyweight boxing world champion and personality, **Frank Bruno OBE** the ever popular dog show, the beer festival and the prizewinning Chinnor and Distict silver band.

Proceeds will go towards village hall projects including the new playground.



As part of the work to provide the children's playground at the village hall, the committee are planning a nature trail through the grounds behind the hall.

Nature trail

This necessitates a great deal of basic ground clearance and a working party recently made a start by clearing and burning undergrowth and litter picking.

Bacon baps and hot drinks were provided and an excellent turn-out of willing volunteers made great progress.

There is a need for more work of this kind and more volunteers are always welcome.

If you are willing to lend us a Saturday or Sunday morning, please let us know by e-mailing

contact@bellingdon.com or tel. **Andrew Barratt on 758321**



A small group of the many willing helpers



Bellingdon Short Mat Bowls Club was formed in 2006 and currently has approximately 26 members. It is registered with the Bucks Short Mat Bowling Association and affiliated to the English Short Mat Bowling Association.

The club plays in the Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Hall and has space for 3 mats.

Club nights are on Mondays between 7.30 and 10 p.m. and there is a morning session on Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and midday.

Both Summer and Winter leagues are played on a Wednesday evening.

The club's aim is to promote the playing of bowls as a social and competitive sport and to this end has a team in the Summer and 2 teams in the Winter Bucks leagues as well as playing friendlies with other clubs.

New players are always welcome .

**Contact Brian Latham –
Tel. 784155**