

the
Bellingdon & Asheridge

Newsletter

Chairman's Chat



Welcome to the Spring Newsletter. By now, we are all fed up with the thoroughly wet winter so hopefully we will move to a drier, warmer spring. The constant wet weather has caused a postponement of football activities resulting in a loss of income to the Charity. Hopefully some of this will be recouped with re-arrange fixtures later in the season. At least as a village on a hill we have been better off than some parts of the country.

As I write, we are awaiting a decision from Chiltern District Council with regards to our **planning application**. Hopefully when this is approved, the new annex can begin to take shape. The benefits to hall users have been a long time in coming but will make a huge difference. Our plan is also to make further hall improvements by installing new toilet facilities. This is part of our ongoing commitment to ensure the hall is fit for years to come. The recent redecoration has really brightened the hall, giving it a more modern look and feel.

The Bellingdon Belles recently held a **Whist Drive** on 28th February with a Fish & Chip supper, raising further funds for the BAVH Charity. Their next event is a **Barn Dance** on 17th May. So come along with your family and friends for a good night out.

This year's **Bellingdon and Asheridge Fete** is on Saturday 28th June. More volunteers are required as many hands make light work. We would particularly welcome someone from Asheridge to join our team. If you can offer a few hours on the day, or would like to be part of the planning committee, please let us know by emailing contact@bellingdon.com. Your help will be appreciated and you will be most welcome. The first couple of planning meetings took place in February and further details of activities will be advised in due course. This is a major fund raising event and a fun community day for adults and children alike, so please support us in any way you can.

Alf Field, Chairman
Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Hall Committee (BAVH)

Diesel Langeveld, proud owner of Susan and Derek Langeveld of Bellingdon. A spectacular 22 month old Rhodesian Ridgeback, recently seen gallivanting in the sunshine in the fields and footpaths down Two Gates Lane.

www.bellingdon.com
 your local village website

Save the Date!

Annual Litter Pick

Sun 30 March

Hort Soc AGM

**3 April
7.30pm**

Hort Soc Plant Sale

**Sat 17 May
10am-noon**

Barn Dance

**Sat 17 May
7.30pm**

Village Fete

**Sat 28 June
12.30-5pm**



The Thrifty Gardener



As a keen gardener, I like to know I am doing my bit to save the planet (and some money). Here are some of the things I re-use or re-cycle in my garden...

EGG BOXES

Put seed potatoes in the base of the box with the “eyes” pointing upwards to allow them to sprout, before planting at Easter (weather permitting)

2L PLASTIC DRINK BOTTLES

Cut into 3 sections. Use the base as a pot tray. The middle section makes an excellent physical barrier around young plants, when planted out, against slug/rabbit attacks – especially good for Runner Beans or Sweet Peas. The top (with lid removed) can either be used as a mini cloche over pots or small plants in the garden OR part bury next to tomato, cucumber or other veg plants and use as a water reservoir to take water down to roots where it is most needed.

PLASTIC SUPERMARKET BAKERY CONTAINERS

Make great mini propagators for your seeds. Don't forget to make holes in the base for drainage and removed the lid once they have germinated.

If you have any thrifty gardening tips, please email them to me at tryan9605@hotmail.com and we will try to use them in future articles. Happy Gardening!

Tracey Ryan, Horticultural Society

*PS: Don't Forget these Hort Soc Dates: Our AGM is on the 3rd April, in the Hall, from 7.30pm. And we have a wonderful **Plant Sale** at Sancrists, (the Chesham side of Bellingdon) on 17th May from 10am until Noon.*

Activities at the Village Hall

Art Class

Thursday mornings. For further information or to join contact Berry Gidman on 01494 758532

Horticultural Society

For further information contact Rachel Watts on 01494 785322

Table Tennis Group

For further information call Richard Beckett on 01494 864164

Ladies Club

Wed afternoons 2pm to 4pm (not 1st Wed in month). For more information contact Irene Roberts on 01494 758165

Bellingdon Short Mat Bowls Club

Provides both competitive and social bowling. New players always welcome. Club nights are Mondays (7.30-10pm) and Wednesday mornings (10am to midday). Contact Brian Latham on 01494 784155

Archery Club

Archery takes place on the field at the Village Hall on Saturday mornings 10am to 1pm. If you are interested in joining, contact Nick Ellender on 01494 785495

Pilates

Tuesdays and Fridays Contact: Paula Hurd 01494 758557 or 07890 725152

Aerobics

Fri 9.50am (Term times) Contact: Paula Hurd 01494 758557 or 07890 725152

For further information on whats going on in the hall and Fields, you can access the diary at:
www.bellingdon.com/villagehall/booking.html

Local Business Profile: County Interior Design

Jon Harding, of County Interior Design has been an interiors specialist since 1985, initially in Berkhamsted and now from his home in Bellingdon. He has done a number of show houses, including ones at the Ideal Home show at Earls Court and has transformed many cottages, houses and apartments into impressive and welcoming homes.

Jon describes what he does as “hand holding” and gently guides his clients through the myriad of choices and options to create a comfortable environment which will pass the test of time, using quality products at reasonable prices.

Clients are welcome to call at any time, and Jon will visit, usually free of charge, to discuss your needs and the way forward. He supplies and installs all types of floorings, soft furnishings and many other things, and his workrooms will even make-up your own fabrics.

So if you just need a new carpet, curtains or blinds or would like to redecorate your whole home, call Jon on 01494 757220. He is offering a 10% Discount to all readers he meets for a consultation from March – May 2014. For more information, have a look at www.countyinteriordesign.co.uk



Curvaceous Cook: Moroccan Lamb Tagine



On my birthday train to Marrakech trip we ate a lot of tagines, and a friend made this delicious and authentic version for us at New Year. There are a lot of ingredients, but it is worth the effort. It is quite spicy, so tone down the peppers if you prefer “less hot” food. You need to start the day before, and it cooks wonderfully in a slow cooker

Day One: In a small bowl, mix: 1 tsp cayenne pepper + 2tsp ground black pepper + 1tbs paprika + 1tbs ground ginger (or fresh grated ginger) + 1tbs turmeric + 2 tsp ground cinnamon.

Cut 1.1kg (2 ½ lb) 2” chunks of lamb from the shoulder in a large bowl, and toss in half of the spice mix. Cover and leave overnight in the fridge

Next day, gently fry in olive oil: 2 large onions (grated) + the remaining spice mix for about 10 mins till soft, but not brown. Add 3 cloves of garlic, either whole or crushed.

In a second pan, with approx 2 tbs olive oil, brown the lamb chunks and put in a casserole (I would fry them in the casserole to save washing up!)

Add : 570 ml tomato juice + 2 X 400g tins whole tomatoes and their juice + 115g dried and halved apricots + 55g dates (halved) + 55g sultanas + 85g flaked almonds + 1 tsp saffron stamens soaked in cold water (not essential, but authentic) + 1 tbs clear honey + up to 600ml lamb or vegetable stock. I would start with half and add more if you need it, but a lot of juice comes off the meat and onions, and you want it to be naturally thick.

Bring to the boil, then either slow cook in slow cooker for at least 6 hours on low, or into oven on 150/300/ Gas 2, (2 – 2 ½ hours) or bottom oven of the Aga(4-6 hours). It will sit patiently until you are ready to eat without any problem.

Garnish with 2tbs each of coriander and parsley. We had it with a mix of mashed potato and sweet potato, which was delicious, but you could have cous cous or rice, or anything else that takes your fancy!

This recipe is meant to be for 4 hungry people!! It freezes well, and would make a good party food for large numbers, maybe with garlic bread or baguette.

Get on your Dancing Boots



The last Barn Dance the Bellingdon Belles arranged was such a success, that they decided to do another one. So put a note in your diary now. Tickets are only available in advance as there will be a limited number available, so get yours now.

Barn Dance Sat 17th May 2014

At the Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Hall. From 7.30pm
 Tickets are £15 and include Supper (It is bring your own glasses and drinks).
 Call: 01494 757069 or 07714238271 to buy your tickets.

This is a great opportunity to meet new neighbours, catch up with old friends and have a hoe down fine time. So grab your family, grab some friends and make sure you are there.

Friends of Bellingdon

The 'Friends of Bellingdon' and the BAVH committee members met up on Sunday the 23rd Feb to spruce up the hall. They washed windows, touched up paint, treated the floor and cleared the changing rooms of rubbish.

More people are needed to help maintain the hall which is a valuable asset for Bellingdon and the surrounding community. So can you find some time to volunteer for a few hours now and then. The next opportunity will be Sunday the 30th of March at 9.30am for a Village Litter Pick. Meet at the Village Hall, refreshments afterwards.

Want further info? Email contact@bellingdon.com



Plan a Party, Hire the Hall

Why not hire the village hall for your special occasion? It has been used for Engagement Parties, Wedding Receptions, Anniversary Parties, Christenings, Baptisms, Holy Communions, Birthday Parties, Fund Raising Events and Information Meetings.

BAVH facilities aren't just the hall they also include

- Access to a large kitchen area with a serving hatch, two fridges and a freezer as well as tea and coffee making facilities and an oven.
- A separate room next to the kitchen with another large serving hatch that could be used as a bar
- A fantastic children's playground immediately adjacent to and accessible from the hall
- Ability to install a small bouncy castle in the hall or a larger bouncy castle in the playground
- Use of a section of the village green/recreation ground (eg: for a children's football match)

Availability and "how to book" can be viewed by accessing the bellingdon.com website

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.