

the
Bellingdon & Asheridge

Newsletter

BAVH AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 9th July at 7.30 pm
 at The Village Hall

Every year we hold the AGM for the Charity that runs the Bellingdon and Asheridge village hall and recreation grounds. Here, the BAVH Charity committee will present their Report & Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013.

The current committee will resign and a new committee voted in. Please come along if you would like to be on the committee. All residents of Bellingdon and Asheridge 18 and over can vote at the meeting or stand for election. If there are any subjects you would like to have discussed at the meeting, please email, in advance, Julia Eyles, Secretary of the BAVH Management Committee at jules.eyles@tesco.net

Wine with Cheese and Biscuits, Coffees and Teas will be served after the meeting.



If you go down to the woods today...

In Bellingdon and Asheridge, we are extremely fortunate to have an amazing network of footpaths, which allows us to enjoy the beautiful countryside surrounding our homes. Unfortunately not everyone can access these paths comfortably as many find their way barred by awkward stiles and narrow kissing gates that they are physically unable to negotiate.

Joanie Lherbier, a local resident, found out that The Chiltern Society, in conjunction with the Rights of Way Department of Bucks County Council run a Donate-a-Gate scheme. This scheme replaces stiles and narrow gates with gates that are much easier to access. These gates are donated by members of the public or local councils.

Joanie is a member of our Parish Council and worked hard with them to open up one of our Bellingdon local paths in this way. A big challenge was to select a suitable path, and it took about a year to find a path supported by the relevant landowners in Bellingdon. John and Anka Taylor at Huge Farm and the Cox family gave tremendous support to this scheme, which runs through their land.

The path needed seven mobility-friendly gates. Five were donated by Chartridge Parish Council and two by the County Council. The path runs parallel to Chesham Road in Bellingdon, from the field on the Chesham side of Huge Farm, across Huge Farm's fields and behind the village hall to Two Gates Lane. It can be accessed from the road by a path opposite Johnson's Farm, a path next to Huge Farm and also through Two Gates Lane. It took 3 years from idea to reality and now that Summer is here, we hope that many of you will enjoy this path, the countryside around it and the deep views that it commands.

Save the Date! All at the Village Hall

Village Fete	BAVH AGM	Hort Soc Flower Show	Bellingdon Belles Social
Sat 29 June, 12.30-5pm	Tues 9 July, 7.30pm	Sat 14 Sept, 2.30pm	Fri 4 Oct, 7.30pm



Chairman's Chat



Welcome to the Summer Newsletter. I start with a reminder that the Village fete and Dog Show will be on **Saturday 29th June**. The Fete Committee is working hard to ensure that we have another very successful fete and we hope you will come along to enjoy yourself as well as helping us to raise much needed funds.

The fete is our major fund raising event of the year. The proceeds go towards maintaining and improving the hall facilities. Over the next 2 -3 years we are hoping to carry out major refurbishment of the hall. These are our plans:-

- Install a disabled toilet and upgrade the existing toilet facilities. Estimated cost £12k
- Upgrade sports changing facilities. Sport England have awarded £50k towards this project
- Upgrade the kitchen. Estimated cost £20k
- Replace the Fire Door and 3 windows
- Replace the heating system which is currently very noisy

Where possible we will be applying for any grants available. To qualify, we have to demonstrate that we have also worked to raise funds towards any project. Whilst hire charges mostly cover running costs, we need to fund raise if we want to carry out these improvements. Two successful fund raising events this year have helped us to raise over £600. This was a fun music quiz and supper held in the hall and also the Beetle Drive, both of which got a great response from local villagers. Thank you to the Bellingdon Belles for organising these so well.

During the last year we have put in a new electric 3 phase distribution board in the hall, installed an additional storage container and purchased a Hayter mower.

Your support is vital and I ask you to support our fete by attending, purchasing raffle tickets and/or donating your time to help. We will be carrying out the door knock for any donations on Friday 21st June. Please do join us that evening - email fete@bellingdon.com to let us know you are coming along.

The Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Hall AGM will be on Tuesday 9th July at 7.30pm in the hall. This is your chance to hear about what the trustees have been up to this year and to raise any matters that you wish to discuss with the committee. Also, a new committee is appointed. We need volunteers to the hall charity to assist with running this wonderful facility, so if you feel you could be of service to your community, and be part of the charity committee, please come along to the AGM, to discuss with us what this entails and possibly put yourself up for election to the committee. Voting happens on the evening of the 9th July so any prospective committee members – please do attend that evening. Remember – the village hall and grounds have been bequeathed to YOU as a member of this community.

Let's hope the weather is kind to us on Fete day. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible joining in the fun.



**Another Successful Belles Event in the Village Hall:
Music Quiz Evening**



The Litter Pickers: Pictures by Buckinghamshire Examiner



Litter Picking

In April, a willing bunch of about 15 country-conscious locals donned the appropriate outfits and met to help with the Bellingdon Litter Pick. They were joined by Tricia Birchley, our County councilor, and together they all managed to collect about 20 bags of rubbish from the village.

Lulu Stephen kindly provided bacon rolls and coffees and teas afterwards as welcome sustenance after a fun and successful morning.

Join the Conversation. The Village Hall Charity Committee raises funds each year to ensure the upkeep of your village resource – the hall, playing grounds and fields. Do you have any great ideas on how to develop the hall – thoughts you may have on what could be done to make it more accessible to you as villagers. Email Newsletter@bellingdon.com if you have any ideas you would like to share.

Curvaceous Cook

Masala Chicken with Baby Spinach

Last year I catered for a party who requested chicken curry, so I contacted my friend Kumud Gandhi who runs The Cooking Academy in Rickmansworth. My son and I spent a very happy day with her, learning about spices and Indian cookery and healthy, really fresh tasting Indian food. I can highly recommend a day with her, on one of her courses: www.thecookingacademy.co.uk

When The Bellingdon Belles put on a quiz night with a curry this month I used the recipe again. Many people asked for it, so, with permission from Kumud, I repeat it here. Really quick, fresh tasting, and the herbs and spices are readily available in supermarkets and Indian food shops, though I suggest getting them from her...they taste completely different! Feeds 4 hungry people with rice on the side.

METHOD

Heat the oil in a deep wide based pan. Sizzle the whole red chillies, cloves, cardamoms, bay leaves and cinnamon sticks. Add the onions and fry until soft and light brown. Add the garlic and ginger and allow the flavours to bind into the onion. Add the chicken pieces and sauté for a few minutes to seal, before adding the red chilli powder, salt, ground cumin and coriander, turmeric and fresh coriander. Sauté for a few minutes then add the copped tomatoes. Stir well and cook for a minute. Add 50 ml water, bring to the boil and simmer gently for 15 minutes until the chicken is cooked.

Prepare the spinach by heating 10 ml of oil. Add the garlic, sauté until the garlic turns brown. Add salt and then the spinach. Cook until the spinach wilts and then add to the chicken dish. Stir in and allow the flavours to blend for a further 3 minutes. Serve with Rice.



INGREDIENTS

- 500g Chicken thigh or breast pieces
- 3 TBsp vegetable oil
- 200 g onions finely chopped
- 200g chopped tomatoes
- SPICES: 2 whole red chillies dried, 4 cloves, 2 black cardamom pods, 3 green cardamoms, 2 large cinnamon sticks, 2 bay leaves, ½ tsp red chilli powder, ¼ tsp turmeric, 1 tsp salt, 1 tsp ground coriander, 2 tsp ground cumin, 2 tsp garlic, 2 tsp ginger
- Large handful fresh coriander for cooking and garnish.

SPINACH

- 250g baby spinach
- 10ml vegetable oil
- 1 tsp garlic

Horticultural Society

At the Hort Soc AGM in April our Chairwoman, Anne Gurnsey, announced that she was stepping down after over 10 years loyal service. The Committee and Members would like to offer our thanks to Anne for her dedication and enthusiasm and our best wishes for the future. Nicola Parkes, our longest serving Committee member, has agreed to take over as Chairwoman with immediate effect. This leaves a vacancy on the Committee, so if you are interested in joining, please contact [Rachel Watts on 01494 785322](mailto:Rachel.Watts@bellington.com). There are only a few meetings a year, which are very sociable and not too time consuming.

Dates for your Diary:

Wed 19 June	1.30pm	Gypsy House, Great Missenden. Meet at Village Hall
Sat 22 June	10am	Blenheim Palace Flower Show. Coach from Village Hall
Sat 29 June	12.30pm	Plant stall at Village Fete
Sat 14 Sept	2.30pm	Annual Flower Show

Garden Project

Hanging Basket Recipe

The plants are just suggestions, feel free to substitute others that you prefer and as long as the ratio of upright to trailing stays roughly the same it should still work. Play around with colours too, but above all have fun with it!

Equipment: 12" Basket, Basket Liner, Multi-purpose Compost, Water Retaining Gel, Food Granules
Plants for Sunny Position: (see picture) 1x upright Geranium, 1x upright Petunia, 2x trailing Geranium, 2x Trailing Petunia, 1x Helichrysum (variegated), 4x Lobelia
Plants for Shade: 1x upright Fuchsia, 1x Coleus, 2x trailing Begonia, 2x trailing Fuchsia, 1x Ivy (variegated), 4x Bacopa

1. Place basket on bucket whilst planting up to keep it stable. Put liner inside.
2. Fill with compost to 1/3, add gel and food granules and mix. Then water. By doing this at this stage you will ensure that when the gel swells with water it doesn't push the plants up & out of basket! While waiting, trim liner to fit, if necessary.
3. Cut 4 slits in the liner around the sides for Lobelia/Bacopa. Wrap them in newspaper and insert into slits. Remove paper & put some more compost in to cover roots.
4. Put rest of plants in top of basket with upright plants in middle and others arranged round them.
5. Fill in between with compost and firm down.
6. Keep well watered, even in wet weather as baskets dry out more quickly than pots because of circulation of air.

Happy Summer!!



Details of clubs, events and village news, including hall bookings: www.bellingdon.com
 Please send your comments, submissions and ideas for future articles to the Editor at newsletter@bellington.com.