

the
Bellingdon & Asheridge

Newsletter



A big Welcome
 to the new
 residents of
 Bloomfield
 Cottages

The new homes in Bloomfield Cottages have finally been completed. They were developed as a result of a long, ten year project led by Peter Brown, Chairman of the Chartridge Parish Council. The idea behind the cottages was to provide affordable housing for locals, with tenants selected on the basis of being residents, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren or family of current village residents, with the aim of maintaining a village community for parishioners.

The new cottages were finished in mid August, with the build having started in March. The first tenants moved in at the beginning of September. The new residents include Christina Field, Mark Offlow & Hayley Lewis, Rosie Danecker & Simon Bowles, Debbie Keen, Amanda Lloyd-Buckingham. Welcome to the village!

Peter Brown shared that "We as the parish council are elated as to the quality of the build, the lovely inhabitants of the properties and the plans for the wooded area that are awaiting CDC approval. It shows that the Parish Council listens to the wishes of the majority of the people to turn the dreams of a few into reality. We only wish we could have built more as the demand was there for it."

The woodland area next to the cottages is subject to a 5 year plan, sponsored by Paradigm housing, to create a Nature Reserve with bat boxes, bird boxes and the opening up of the woodland canopy to invite wildlife in.

If anyone is interested in becoming a tenant in the future (when a vacancy opens up), a waitlist is held at Bucks Housing at Chiltern District Council.

Save the Date!

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| 24 Dec. 4pm. Xmas Carols. Huge Farm. | 17 Feb. 8pm. Fete Planning Meeting. | 26 March. 7.30pm. Hort Soc AGM |
| 16 May. 10am-noon. Plant Sale. Hort Soc | 16 May 7.30pm Belle's Music Night | Saturday 27 June Village Fete |



Belles' Beatle Drive

The Bellingdon Belles are a group of local ladies who enjoy socialising and putting on events in the Village Hall. If you would like to join our friendly and fun group, you would be made very welcome to join our planning evenings. Our evenings usually have a similar format of bringing your own drink and glasses. Our main aim is to have fun whilst raising money for the Village Hall.

The latest event, a Beatle Drive, was held on Fri 21st November and was another great success. A light supper of Italian meatballs and spaghetti was served and our engaging compere, Chris Warren, did a fantastic job of organising a rather lively bunch of players. The Raffle and the "Sock Game" also resulted in prizes for a lucky few locals.

Look out for future events on the blue notice boards in the village or via Grapevine and the newsletter:- Sat 16th May 7.30pm - Music night. If you would like to be a "Belle", please email newsletter@bellingdon.com



Hort Soc Social Evening

The Hort Soc Committee decided on a War Theme for this year's Horticultural Society Social Evening, in honour of the WW1 Centenary, which proved a great success.

The Village Hall was decorated with red, white & blue bunting and replica Wartime posters and some of those in attendance even sported fancy dress or brought along wartime memorabilia such as ration books or evacuee labels. We would like to think that the "rations" on offer were of a slightly better standard than could have been provided during the War but the desserts, including Jelly & Ice Cream and Rice Pudding, had a distinctly retro feel. The quiz also had a wartime theme and the music section saw some of our members breaking into song! Many thanks to all who came along and made it such an enjoyable evening. Next year its a 60's theme...so better get your Beetles suit out of mothballs!"



Stella Evans, Tracey Ryan, Rachel Watts, Maureen East, Nicola Parkes, Lynn Magennis. Photo: T. Ryan

Short Mat Bowls Wins Again

Bellingdon Short Mat Bowls Club has had another very good year. There are two teams at the club and both play in various league and cup competitions.

Bellingdon B were successful in the 2013/14 season winning the Winter league for the second year running after an exciting play-off against Haddenham at the neutral venue of Holmer Green. A combined A and B team ended fourth in the summer league having won the league the year before. A combined team has also played in the South Bucks Two Mat league for the last two seasons and at the halfway point in the season are currently near the top of the league.

The club is well represented at county level having five players who regularly play for the county. We are also delighted that our youngest member, Nick Pollard, is now in the Under 21 England squad. Bellingdon players are currently involved in county trials to represent Bucks at the Nationals in April 2015. Good Luck to everyone concerned.

The club meets every Monday evening and Wednesday morning and welcomes all standards, whether for competition, or just socially. For further information, see <https://sites.google.com/site/bellingdonsmbc/>



Joan Northcott being presented with the trophy by Bob Day, Chairman of the Bucks Single Short Mat League.



Finals Players, L to Right: Val Latham, Brian Latham, Doug Owen, Irene Roberts, Joan Northcott, and Jill Owen Photos: I. Roberts

Curvaceous Cook: Christmas Stuffings

As I write this, I am trawling through my Christmas records trying to decide what to cook this year, and what I can get ahead with. We try to have a bit of variance in the stuffings as everything else is pretty much the same every year.

Last year the favourite was a black pudding one, even by those who don't like black pudding. We always have a skirlie, in memory of my Scottish father in law, and a non meat one for family members who don't eat meat.



Pecan, apple & celery from Sarah Raven

4 chopped shallots, sweated in a little olive oil until translucent, then cooled.

4 chopped celery sticks, 2 large peeled and chopped Bramleys,

175g pecans, or walnuts, roasted for a couple of minutes, then chopped.

In a large bowl mix:- 150g breadcrumbs; 2 large bunches parsley, chopped, 25g fresh thyme, chopped; ½ tsp ground cloves; ½ tsp ground cinnamon; zest & juice of 2 oranges; 3 finely chopped cloves of garlic; plus all the vegetables and nuts. Season well. Stir in 110g melted butter and use to stuff the bird, or make into a loaf or rolls. If not using to stuff the bird, make a much smaller quantity. Lovely cold.

Black Pudding Stuffing

Roughly chop:-100g streaky bacon, 125g black pudding, ½ onion, 125g tart eating apple. Gently fry until golden in a little butter. Mix with 100g freshish breadcrumbs, leaves from 4 sprigs of thyme and 1 egg. Leave to cool. Use to stuff the bird or to make a loaf or balls.

Skirlie

Melt 1 cup of suet (or really good dripping) in a very hot pan. Throw in 2 finely chopped medium onions and lightly brown them. Stir in 2 cups medium oatmeal. Makes a fairly thick mix over gentle heat - about 5 minutes. Season.

Very basic, and obviously calorie and fat free, but really good with all poultry or rolled into balls and dropped into scotch broth as a dumpling.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL, and please keep the e-mails coming.

Tennis Court for the Villagers?

The BAVH committee discussed with interest the suggestion in the Autumn Newsletter about building a community tennis court in the hall grounds. The committee welcome new ideas and support the use of the community facilities for both existing and new activities/sports. The only drawback is the lack of resource to generate funding and plans for the tennis court. If there is anyone in the village who would like to lead and be the driving force behind the proposal, the committee would welcome working with them.

The following are some of the areas to consider for planning: a) location of the tennis court; b) generating the funding; c) managing the build of the tennis court; d) future running and maintenance of the facility

If anyone in the community would like to lead this project, the committee would welcome their involvement. Please contact the secretary, Jules Eyles on 01494 757150 if this might be you.



Photo: P. Matthews

Our Pet Pheasant

Have you seen this little guy? A number of households in Bellingdon have claimed him as their own personal pet as he is so very friendly and engaging, and will join you as you do the gardening. He used to have a mate, but now appears to be living a single life. Please drive carefully through the village as he is not very car savvy and we don't want to lose him.



Photo: J.Eyles

Chairman's Chat

Welcome to the winter newsletter.

After many years in the planning, we have at last completed a major project - the building of the hall annex. I must thank Don Baker for all his efforts and hard work (including decorating) in getting this project completed. An official opening of the annex will be held in March.

Looking back over the year, we have also painted the exterior of the hall, installed children's swings plus done a number of general repairs. None of this would have been possible without your support at the fete and the Bellingdon Belles' fund raising events. So on behalf of the committee, can I thank you all for your continued and loyal support.

A 2015 fete planning meeting will be held on 17th February at 8pm. We are a small but dedicated bunch and would welcome new members joining our team. Next year's fete will be on Saturday 27th June 2015.

The Carol Concert will be on 24th December at 4.00pm. This will be held in the barn at Huge Farm and I hope to see many of you there.

I hope you all enjoy the festive season and on behalf of the committee, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Alf Field
Chairman of the BAVH Committee

Annex Completed

The new annex to the hall was completed on 30th November 2014.

From December, Sports Field hirers will be able to use the new toilet facilities and will no longer need to interrupt any events in the hall. Also in the annex is also the official's changing room and a separate meeting area.

We would like to thank all of those who helped with this project and in particular Glen Bryant, the builder, who will also be doing the hall toilet upgrade. We also recognise the support of Sport England who provided the major part of the funding for this development.

Our next project is the upgrade of the hall toilets, planned to start in January 2015. We thank Paradigm Foundation for their funding support for this project.

One year Offer: Free use of the Annex Meeting Room

The committee has agreed to provide the use of the new annex, which incorporates a small hall/meeting area (about 15 sq metres) with kitchenette and toilets to any resident of Bellingdon and Asheridge, for no charge to the end of 2015. There will be a nominal charge for users from outside the village community. All users are merely asked to fully clean the space after use, and if they wish to make a donation towards running costs that would be appreciated. Contact the booking secretary on bookings@bellingdon.com if you wish to take up this amazing community benefit.

Don Baker, BAVH

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.



**Merry Xmas
to you**