

the
Bellingdon & Asheridge

Newsletter



Chairman's Chat

Welcome to the winter edition of the newsletter. As our thoughts are turning to Christmas and the New Year, we have reflected on a great year for the Village Hall Committee with a wonderful fete, the winning of the grant from Sports England and great work from all the committee members to help keep the hall clean, safe and available to our local villagers.

We are progressing our planning application to the council for the extension to the hall. This will resolve some of our conflicts of interest between hall users and sports users by giving sports users separate toilet facilities. So no footballers traipsing through kiddies parties! As part of our improvement plan, we are also upgrading the hall toilets to incorporate disabled facilities. We will be writing to the parish council and our local councilor, Nick Rose, to request support for this project. It would be appreciated if you could also write to support this application to improve our village hall.

Can you spare a few hours a couple of times a year? If so, please do consider joining 'Friends of Bellingdon'. This no obligation group has been formed to assist in carrying out small tasks around the hall. Further details can be found inside this newsletter.

We are planning ahead and have booked a date for the fete next year. It will take place on Saturday 28th June 2014. Do put it in your diary now so you don't miss this fabulous annual event. We are looking for a Chairperson to head up the fete committee. This is a fun role with an important cause and a great way to support your community and get to know fellow villagers. If you are willing, interested and able, please email friends@bellingdon.com.

Currently we have spaces on the Village Hall committee for general committee members. Please consider serving your local community and join our small team on this worthy charity. We would really welcome the involvement and input of anyone from Asheridge, as well as Bellingdon. Our next meeting will be on 14th January at Betony Cottage (near Two Gates Lane), Bellingdon at 8.00pm. If you would like to come along and see what we do, please let us know by emailing friends@bellingdon.com

Finally, on behalf of the committee I would like to thank you all for your support this year.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Save the Date!

**Hort Soc
 Xmas
 Fayre**

**Sat 7 Dec
 10-12am**

**Xmas Carols
 at Huge Farm**

24 Dec, 4pm

**Friends of
 Bellingdon**

**Sun 23 Feb
 10am**

**Village
 Litter Pick**

**Sun 30 Mar
 9.30am**

Alf Field
Chairman
 Bellingdon & Asheridge
 Village Hall Committee





Hall Development Plans



The Village Hall committee, having secured funding earlier this year, are now in the planning application process for the additional new unit at the village hall. This proposal enhances the property by:

- a) Creating new toilets (including a disabled toilet), kitchenette, pitch marking store, official's changing room as well as a small hall for sports field hirers. The benefit of this is that the use of the toilets, kitchen and hall, in the main hall can be retained for sole use of the hall hirers without conflict (having to share) with the sports hirers.
- b) Improving the facilities for sports field hirers so maintaining its use and income.

The income for using the sport field comes mainly from football teams from the Chesham area. Currently the facilities do not comply with FA requirements so this needs to be remedied. We are also hoping that the use of the cricket square will be taken up by a club in the future. It is essential that the income from these sports is maintained since it pays for the upkeep of the recreation ground as a whole. We are in the process of getting tenders from local builders for this work. This is mainly being funded by Sport England, as reported earlier this year, and the process of matching the tenders to the funds available will be a key task in progressing this development.

Main Hall

At the same time we are looking to upgrade the toilets in the main hall. This will also include a proposal to create a disabled toilet. By taking the existing area for the gents' toilets we can build a disabled toilet and 2 gents WC toilets with the ladies toilets remaining unchanged in layout. At the same time all of the toilets will be upgraded with new sanitary ware and tiling.

Steady improvements have been made on the facilities over this year. These include new decoration, a number of new double glazed units in windows, new fire door and mains electrical distribution board. Work has already begun on a project for a major upgrade to the kitchen and this will be progressed with the aim of this following on the work outlined above.

If you have any comments regarding these improvements or would like to help or get involved in any way, please email contact@bellingdon.com

Volunteer Opportunity

The Friends of Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Hall is an initiative that was set up last year for residents who would like to get involved in the upkeep and maintenance of our village hall and grounds, but don't have the time to join the hall committee as a full member. Being a "friend" is a light and fun way of being involved, where you can be part of the local community and get to know your neighbours. The Hall is well used by various clubs, such as table tennis, short mat bowls, art classes, Pilates and aerobics. Private hirers at the weekend use the hall, usually for parties, and the children's playground is a popular addition to the facilities. The recreational fields are used by three different football clubs (including a ladies team) and the Archery Club.

So... lots of users means work needs to be done to keep the hall and grounds up to a good standard. We are inviting you to be a Friend and to help once a quarter with simple maintenance and cleaning jobs that need to be done. Things we may ask you to do may include window cleaning, floor washing, litter clearing, small paint jobs, small repair jobs and light gardening.

Some dates when we hope you will join us:-

- Sunday 23rd February from 10.00 am. You will be needed for a maximum of 2 hours during which tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.
- Sunday 30th March from 9.30am for the annual litter clearance day.

Please put those dates in your diary and reply to friends@bellingdon.com if you can join our group. We would love to see new and old faces.

Local Business Profile: Old Amersham Cycle Workshop

♪ “If you go down to the Lane today,
you’re sure of a big surprise...
a Penny Farthing there on the right,
a new cycle workshop just for your bike...” ♪

Rob Bourne, recently retired from defending our country at the MoD, has retrained through CyTech, achieving the UK’s leading cycle mechanic training qualification. He can now source, set up, service and mend any bike you may have –road, mountain, uni, tandem....

A fully equipped, dedicated workshop down Hawridge lane now caters for all your cycling needs and even offers a small range of accessories, (lights, saddles, puncture repair kits, tyres, inner tubes etc).

Are you thinking of buying a bike this Xmas? Rob can help you source it, usually at a discounted price. Need it professionally built and set up for your size and requirements? Rob can get this done for you. Pop in, or call for an appointment (07748 835048). Alternatively take advantage of his free pick up/drop off service if you live in Bellingdon or Asheridge.

Find out more at www.oacycleworkshop.com
10% discount if you quote: “newsletter:



Photo: Jenny Goodall

Curvaceous Cook: Umbrian Buffet

When I got the reminder message for the Christmas recipe, I was still sitting in the sun in Italy. I had just had a wonderful Umbrian meal with my Italian neighbours, and I thought I would pinch their ideas as they would go well on a buffet table of Christmas goodies. They can all be done ahead, leaving precious time to spend with guests and family. Serve these as part of an antipasto extravaganza, with lots of fresh white bread.



Very Garlic Tomatoes. Get a handful of very dry sundried tomatoes. Cover with water and a splash of wine vinegar and gently bring to a simmer for about 30 minutes. Dry them on paper towel and lay on a lipped dish. Sprinkle on a good amount of dried oregano; lots of roughly chopped garlic (to 10 tomatoes we used 5 cloves!); salt and pepper, and then cover with olive oil.

Marsala Mushrooms. Roughly chop or slice a big frying pan full of mixed mushrooms. We used dried porcini that had been soaked for 20 minutes; small chestnut; and some fancy supermarket ones.. Have the pan hot, add the mushrooms with salt and pepper and a splash of oil, put the lid on and reduce the heat so they fry in their own juices for about 5 minutes. Let the juices cook off without the lid and then splash in some marsala. If you are brave put a match to it and flame off the alcohol. Throw in lots of freshly chopped parsley and chives.

Pepperonata Gently fry in some olive oil, a thinly sliced onion, and when soft throw in a big yellow and a big red pepper, also sliced. Turn and cook gently for about 40 minutes till really soft, adding a teaspoon of sugar to bring out the sweetness. All of the moisture they create will have cooked off, and you will be left with a jolly bowl of red and yellow unctuous goodness.

In all my recipes I try to reduce the fat sugar and salt levels as much as possible, so you can use a lot or a little, as you please.

Horticultural Society

Coffee Morning and Christmas Fayre

The Horticultural Society will be holding a Coffee Social & Christmas Fayre at the Village Hall on Saturday 7th December from 10am to 12 noon.

Stalls include Christmas Cards, Pampered Chef, Decorative Foliage (holly, mistletoe), Cakes and many more. A nominal £1 entrance fee includes a cup of tea or coffee and a festive mince pie.

Come along and get your Christmas shopping done all in one place!

If you have goods to sell and are interested in hiring a table for just £5, please contact Rachel Watts on 01494 785322.



Bellingdon Belles Reindeer Racing Deferred

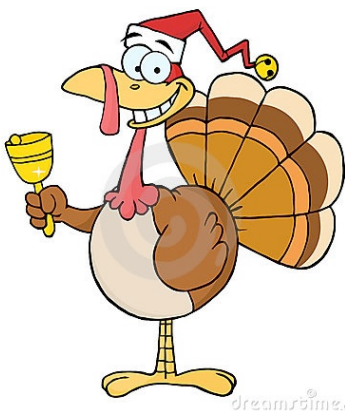
Sadly the Bellingdon Belles are not able to host the planned Reindeer Racing evening on 7th Dec. Father Christmas was unable to let the reindeers off their Christmas duties.

It seems to be all paws on deck this year. However it is hoped that the planned evening will take place in the early months of next year. We might have to call on some bunnies instead of the reindeer to do the racing. Look out for our next event in 2014.



Did you know?

“The village hall was built around 1948 using a 'standard hut' provided by the National Council for Social Service on land given by Miss Marian Thompson, the first W.I. President. Together with the adjoining playing fields, it is shared with the people of the nearby hamlet of Asheridge.” (Wikipedia)



Turkey Time

Support your local businesses this Christmas and head to Hazeldene Farm in Asheridge, who are taking orders now for Xmas Turkeys. They are selling the much acclaimed, locally reared Bronze Free Range Turkeys. (www.hazeldenefarm.com)

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@bellingdon.com.