

The

Bellingdon and Asheridge

newsletter

Chairman's greetings

The **Bellingdon and Asheridge village hall** is probably the best value venue in the Chilterns for holding parties: an excellent room, good facilities including kitchen and bar area if required and ample parking. We are also able to offer the use of the playing fields and new playground for adding value to your children's parties. Booking availability and costs can be checked via our web site or by contacting our bookings secretary – see details on back page.

Inside this edition is the story of our new children's playground and we are sure that this will become a well-used asset to the village.

Below are details of the annual **Carol concert at Huge farm**. Those of you who have been before will know what a lovely service of carols and readings this is, served with mince pies and mulled wine, and we hope you and your families will be free to join us there **on Christmas Eve**.

In closing, on behalf of myself and my fellow trustees, may I wish you all a very happy Christmas and every success in 2012.

Alf Field Chairman BAVH



It's party time!

showing what can be done at the village hall
(pictures courtesy of Sarah Masters)



DATE TO NOTE

Christmas Eve
CAROL CONCERT

Huge Farm Bellingdon 4 p.m.

Everyone welcome

with thanks to John and Anka Taylor and Family



The Children's Playground

My Playground diary

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

MARGARET MEAD

March 2009

I first got involved with the playground project way back in March 2009 due to the powers of persuasion by Lulu Stephens, Sue Bourne and Helen Griffiths. They had secured £4,000 from the village hall committee which represented money raised over the years. This and a promise from the committee to donate more if the 2009 fete was successful, convinced me to join the team.

We set about designing a play space with the help of local landscaper Alby Russell with a view to display our plan at the 2009 fete in order to encourage locals to donate to the project. The fete was a roaring success and a further £2000 was added to the playground fund.

Now modern play equipment is expensive, it was £10K for a basic climbing frame so we needed to source other types of funding. This proved difficult as the smaller grants that were available were not enough to properly develop the playground that we had in mind.

December 2009

We were lucky that Peter Brown of our Parish Council, Nick Rose and David Gardner from Chiltern District Council kept us in the loop on potential award opportunities. As we passed the "Lehman's moment" and the economy went off a cliff we heard of the Playbuilder Fund 2010. £100K had been allocated to C.D.C. to fund two play space projects in the District.

February 2010

On the 16th February, I attended a Playbuilder workshop and realised the huge amount of work we would have to do as a community to stand any chance of meeting the stringent criteria needed to secure this award. However I had the utmost belief this could be achieved. The following weekend, in the freezing cold and rain, I enlisted Greg (my husband) and our kids to post a notice to every house in Asheridge and Bellingdon asking for the local children to design their vision of what 'their' playground would be like. The children were not given too much time to complete the task but the response was unbelievable, making all of the grownups on the project realize just how much our children wanted and needed this play space.

During most of this time we lived in Barbados so the use of Skype, email and UK visits were key, as was the support from Alistair Wills from Outdoor Culture.



June 2010 – Village Fete

We were delighted to announce that we had the grant!

July 2010

We lost the grant. The new government axed the Playbuilder project and budgets returned to Whitehall. From that moment on I emailed and talked to everyone who would listen ... the Parish Council, the County Council, the District Council and finally emailing our M.P. Cheryl Gillan and the local media (newspapers and radio) on numerous occasions, It took a number of months and became a national campaign: many playgrounds across the country being axed.

October – December 2010

Finally Michael Gove handed back the Playbuilder funds for 2010 to children's services locally. But we still had to petition for the return of the funds to our project as our allocation of funding was not automatic. Not an easy task but finally with the support of Nick Rose we achieved our goal in December 2010 and so the onus was back on our community to meet the required criteria to actually realise the funding.

January – March 2011

We ran workshops to find out what the children really wanted. A zip wire seemed to be on the top of every wish list, along with climbing frames and a swing and somewhere to build dens! The final design was drawn up by the talented team of Alby Russell (Heritage Landscapes), Caroline May (Garden Designs) and our very own David Duckworth (Scurr Architects), supported by myself, Helen Griffiths, Sue Bourne, Andy Davies and Nick Ellender. It was circulated to you and submitted to the District Council for planning permission. The plan sailed through the planning process in March – a very short time, an unheard of feat of genius – made possible by David Duckworth's attention to detail and me constantly 'phoning and visiting the planning Dept!!!

March – July 2011

In true bureaucratic style this did not mean that the funding was transferred to our account: could I have been more frustrated? Not then! It took another few months to finally transfer all the funds into our village hall playground fund and finally order the equipment.

August 2011 and beyond

I should like to thank all the people I have mentioned for all their amazing efforts and I would like to thank the community for supporting this project – this has been a monumental achievement and I hope you will all continue to support the efforts to improve our community facilities.

Eanne Russell – November 2011

Thames Valley goes live with 101

Thames Valley Police is due to go live with 101, the new national single non-emergency number on 14th November 2011, which will replace the 0845 8 505 505 number. Both numbers will run side-by-side until the end of March, but if demand for the 0845 8 505 505 number drops it may be discontinued earlier.

Calls to 101 (from both landlines and mobile networks) cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day the call is made, or the duration of the call.

Everyone calling the police for non-emergency matters will now know exactly how much a call will cost them and can be assured of equal access whether they are on a pay-as-you-go mobile or a home landline.

The routing will be based on the same system as 999 calls. If a caller is using a landline the routing will be based on the caller's postcode and the call will be directed to that area's force. If a caller is using a mobile phone, the call will route using the mast that the phone is transmitting from.

If a call is made to 101 within a force area that has not yet gone live, the caller will hear a recorded message telling them to redial using the relevant non-emergency number.

The Curvaceous cook

My late Scottish great Aunt-in-Law shared this shortbread recipe with me which has been handed down through her family and I have made hundreds of times for the WI markets and local competitions (often winning!). Really easy and less crisp than the usual biscuits.

4 ozs butter, ideally unsalted

2 ozs castor sugar

2 ozs cornflower

4 ozs plain flour

I bung everything in the food processor and whizz until just holding like pastry then finish by kneading on a board. By hand, cream the butter and sugar and then add the flour.

Press into a tin about $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick and bake in a warm oven until just starting to colour, Gas mark 3 (170C) for 30 minutes.

WWW.BELLINGDON.COM

Village Hall bookings: Chris or Julie Hood

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This newsletter is produced on behalf of the trustees of the Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Hall (BAVH)

Reg. Charity No.1087494

A very happy Christmas to all our readers

