

Bellingdon & Asheridge Community Newsletter



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3.10.41 - 8.10.18

In this Spring issue of our newsletter we feature news from near and far: we remember a dear friend and village stalwart and have news of one villager's life-changing trip to help install water supplies in rural Nepal (photo above).

As always, community is everything and ours continues to go from strength to strength.

From the ladies' club to the monthly pub night to the Hort Soc and St John's Church, we have a vast array of goings on for all ages.

But these things do not happen by magic, and with the annual fête coming up we urge everyone to pitch in and do their bit for this amazing place we call home. It doesn't take much to make a big difference.

The pub night, in particular, is in need of some new helpers, and the community association is looking for a **Secretary** and a **bookings coordinator** for the hall. Just a few hours of your time each week can make a big difference - please get in touch if you can help in any way at all.

contact@bellingdon.com

MARCH

14th: Village fête planning

15th: Hort Soc AGM

22nd: Community Pub Night

APRIL

7th: Litter Pick 10am

24th: Community Pub Night

MAY

18th: Hort Soc plant sale

26th: Community Pub Night

Community news

Village fête

Believe it or not, it's time to start planning for our annual fête, this year on **Saturday June 29th**. A number of our regular committee members are unable to be involved this year so any offers of help, however small, will be greatly appreciated.

We are meeting on 14th March at 8pm in the Village Hall annex, so please do come along and see where you can lend a hand.

Litter pick - Sun 7th April 10am-12noon

Not the most glamorous of our events but we can all help to give our little corner of the world a tidy up before the grass grows too long.

Meet at the Village Hall to pick up litter sacks and grabbers, then small groups go off around the villages to pick up as much litter as we can. In association with the Great British Spring Clean.

Please do join us - wear sensible clothing and footwear and high visibility outerwear if you have it. All welcome! Bacon sandwiches and tea/coffee available back in the hall.

Horticultural Society

Hort Soc tribute to Bryan How

"Bryan was a stalwart of the Horticultural Society for many years, his infallible sense of humour, enthusiasm and charm carried us all through days of hard work and fun. We never tired of listening to his tales of village life and the antics of his erstwhile neighbours, complete with candid impressions!

He was a great grower, winning numerous prizes for his cabbages, beans and the amazing Howgate Wonder apples but he was always modest and generous to the last.

In recent years his post as Chief Raffle Officer rewarded us with great returns, no-one was immune to his attentions and it's how many will remember him, happily sitting at his table, ensconced with tea and cake, his raffle tickets at the ready, surrounded by

his many friends and neighbours from the village where he grew up."

Our next events are:

- AGM - 15th March 2019, 7 pm
- Plant Sale - 18th May 2019, 10am

Tracey Ryan

St John's Church

The theme for this year's "summer weekend" at St John's, on July 6th and 7th, will be "Our Beautiful World". More information will follow later, but we would love to exhibit art, photography, craft etc. Do get crafting so we can have a wide range of things in the exhibition!

Also, we are holding our usual 10am morning service (to which everyone is always welcome) with an Easter theme on Easter Day, April 21st.

Jane Edmunds

Ladies' Club

The Ladies' Club continues to meet every Wednesday of the month (except the first week) at 2pm in the village hall. Contact Irene Roberts for more details.

Irene Roberts

New gate to replace broken stile

A new gate has been installed in the footpath between Great Meadow and Woodlands in Bellingdon. This has been financed by the Chess Valley U3A Walkers Groups 2 and 3.

Jules Eyles



Village goes dotty for Dalmatians again

British Dalmatian Welfare will be hosting their Annual Fun Day at the Village Hall on Sunday 30th June, the day after the village fête. Everyone is welcome – people, children and dogs – any breed. Entry is free and activities start at 10.45 and include a Fun Dog Show, a chance to try agility equipment with your dogs, an egg and spoon race and many other activities. Food is served all day including bacon butties for the early birds.

Last year we had a professional photographer taking animal and family pictures and a chance to enter your dog for the Kennel Club Good Citizens' award at Bronze level and hope to offer these again. For up-to-date news on the Fun Day go to dalmatianwelfare.co.uk or follow us on Facebook.

Anne Gurnsey

Raleigh trek to Nepal

It's 5am and pitch black on day seven of our 19-day trek through the Ruby Valley, Nepal. It's my seventh week in this fascinating country, where I am volunteering for Raleigh International for three months.

I have a dual role as a medic for all of our volunteers and as a volunteer manager/leader for small groups on the trek and in the community.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

We are lucky to have two candidates for Parish Councillor for Bellingdon, both will attend the next meeting and one will be chosen.

By now you will have noticed hedge cutting through the village particularly on corners and opposite the Village Hall. Through Asheridge the hill has been trimmed, and at the top end down from Asheridge Farm and up past Bank Farm. This is the Parish Council spending your money in our villages. Chiltern District Council pay nothing towards this and very little towards the verge cutting that parish council has taken on board under devolved services; this way we dictate timing of cuts and have secured deal with a local contractor to cut verges in late May and again in September. Unlike before, there will be no verge cutting during the growing season then two cuts in October/November when there is no need.

As always any questions contact your local councillor or go to our website, www.chartridgeparishcouncil.org.uk.

Derek Keen

Following almost four weeks of training and preparation, we have three 19-day phases. Two phases in small communities where we help get water supply to the villages as well as provide education on basic hygiene and the Ruby valley trek.

The trek was challenging, but so beautiful and peaceful. Team work and resilience was required to get us all through each day.

In one community, we managed to get direct water supply to 100 of the 110 homes and the other 10 were set to get theirs. What a great achievement.

Our young adults learned about self-reliance, team work and adapting to the situation. They developed leadership skills and the ability to swing a pickaxe!

Many thanks to everyone of you supported my fundraising. It's good to be home!

Liz Warren

Bryan How

3.10.41 - 8.10.18

Bryan never married, but last October at his wake in the sunshine at the Blue Ball pub the warmth and affection from his very large extended family was palpable.

Bryan always lived in Ramscote Lane, Bellingdon. His mum was from a local family and brought up at The Bull. As a lad his father Jack came from London with his family to live at The Pheasantries. Their only other relative locally was an eccentric inventor Uncle and Aunt who lived in the "posh end" of Chesham. Jack and Gladys built their bungalow on land formerly belonging to The Pheasantries. In his 40's Jack developed rheumatoid arthritis, as did Bryan.

School for Bryan was the crowded bus to Newtown Infants, then White Hill Boys where he passed his 11+ to Dr Challoner's Grammar School. He followed his older brother Mervyn who excelled, became Head Boy, and went on to University and a career in Science. Bryan often spoke with wry humour of how the teachers would compare them unfavourably. Bryan left school at 16 and took a correspondence course in surveying. He moved from an estate agents in Chesham to Brown & Merry later becoming a partner. Houses, property and people always remained an interest of his. In later life he had a complete change and worked for Tring Auctions until retirement. This he thoroughly enjoyed having had a long interest in Fine Arts, anything with a history and collecting china. Bryan also collected and treasured good friends wherever he worked.

Bryan liked things to stay as they always had been. He took pleasure in the memories around him for example the Shepherd's Hut in the garden which came from The Bull. His grandfather came to live with them in their bungalow in the 1940's but slept in the Hut (now back at The Bull) parked alongside. The worn patch in his lawn still visible (to him) reminded him of practising cricket with his brother as boys.

Sport was a big part of Bryan's life and his garden cricket training stood him in good stead as he opened the bowling for Bellingdon & Asheridge Cricket Club, bamboozling the opposing batsmen with his own particular style of bowling!



Bryan was a constant member of the village table tennis team who were all Bellingdon people. The ex sports players at the table in the window at The Blue Ball will miss him at their regular dinners.

Brother Mervyn often visited with his family for village and family events. Bryan was proud of his nephew and niece and enjoyed showing photos of his five great nephews and nieces.

The Horticultural Society has lost an irreplaceable friend. He enjoyed the seasonal activities at the Hort Soc and church. At St John's he is fondly

remembered for his local history stories prompted by a history quiz at a Harvest Supper, particularly about his mum being warned to keep away from the actress and literary types at the windmill and Mr D H Lawrence in Hawridge Lane. He remembered the church being used for social village meetings before the hall was built. He liked to recall his early memories of going to church in Cholesbury as a child...the bus to Braziers End, walking down Ray's Hill, across the common and to Cholesbury Church where Great Uncle Tom rang the bell and afterwards playing with his cousins in Great Aunt Sally's garden.

Bryan strove to be independent in his own way. It was a great blow when he was no longer able to drive and particularly when unable to get to the Blue Ball for meals and to see friends. But the Blue Ball meals sometimes came to him! Or, friends from both villages and further afield took him there. Table tennis team member and good friend Jim was elevated to chief chauffeur for hospital appointments, for which Bryan was very grateful. Some local family friends go back through generations. Bryan was aware of this with Grace who lived next to the church and he loyally visited her every Thursday afternoon until her 98th year. He could not have managed without lifelong friends Dick and Maggie at the end of the lane.

I suspect that quite a few of us, since October, thought about popping in to see Bryan or asking him about something he is sure to know the answer to from his fount of local and general knowledge only to remember that he's not there...we do miss you Bryan.

Jill Wright

Details of clubs, events and village news, including hall bookings: www.bellingdon.com
Please send comments, questions and ideas for future articles to the Editor at newsletter@bellingdon.com
The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity or length.