

Bellingdon & Asheridge Community Newsletter



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Newly published book by Bellingdon Dad/ Daughter

Winter is fast approaching and by the amount of rain we've had in the last few weeks hopefully the aquifer will be filling up again, making hosepipe bans less likely next year. However difficult it may be to remember those long sunny summer days.

All residents of B&A should by now have received their invites to the Christmas celebrations at the village hall - for children on

Saturday 7th and Seniors on Sunday 8th. Please note both these events are limited to those who normally reside in the villages only. We regret we are unable to accommodate visiting grandchildren, for example.

St John's has a packed programme of Christmas events, including family crafts on the 20th, Nine lessons and carols on the 22nd, Carols at Huge Farm on

the 24th and a Christmas Day service at 10am on the big day.

There's not much happening in January/February in the villages, but perhaps this is the time for us to start some events up to stave off those long winter nights.

Please feel free to fill in our village hall survey (see BAACA News p3) to tell us what events would be popular.

DECEMBER

- 7th:** Children's Christmas Party
- 8th:** Seniors' Christmas Lunch
- 20th:** St John's Christmas Crafts
- 20th:** Pub Night [Cancelled]
- 22nd:** Service of nine lessons and carols (St John's)
- 24th:** Carols (Huge Farm)
- 25th:** Christmas Day Communion (St John's)

JANUARY

- 24th:** Pub night

FEBRUARY

- 21st:** Pub night

Community news

Horticultural Society



The Bellingdon Asheridge & District Committee would like to extend many thanks to all those that supported the 2019 Hort Soc Annual Show in September (photo above).

Not only did we have a record number of villagers in attendance in the afternoon but the entries for the children's classes reached a record high of 45! Well done to all who entered. The generally high standard gave the judges a very difficult job in choosing winners.

Likewise in the adult classes the standard of the entries was very high and some first time exhibitors won prizes, which we hope will encourage them to enter again next year.

It's not all green fingers and watering regimes, though. We held a very successful 50s themed social and quiz night in October at the village hall (see photo).

As you will no doubt by now be aware plans are going ahead to merge with Chesham Hort Soc in 2020 but it is likely that the Annual Show and some other events will still be taking place in your Village Hall, so please look out for details of upcoming events in this newsletter and also on the Hort Soc page of the village website www.bellingdon.com.

Tracey Ryan



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

St John's Church

Upcoming events

Friday December 20th 3.00 – 4.30pm

Welcome to Bethlehem - Family crafts for Christmas

Sunday December 22nd 10.00am

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Tuesday December 24th 4.00pm

Carols at Huge Farm (if you have a young person who would like to read a lesson, please contact ankataylor@hotmail.com)

Wednesday December 25th 10.00

Christmas Day Communion

Jane Edmunds



BAACA News

Don Baker retires from trusteeship

One of our longest standing trustees has decided to take a well-earned break from March 2020. Don Baker was officially Treasurer but unofficially has been plumber, electrician, decorator and emergency response team among many other things: in short the “go-to” man for all things Village Hall for the best part of a decade. The Trustees (and those who use the hall) would like to thank Don for his many years of service to the hall and wish him well in the future.

His departure will leave a big hole in our committee. Are you a **qualified accountant** who could spare a few hours a month? We’re also looking for someone to **help with maintenance** and checking the hall after hires? Our **playground needs a supervisor** to do a monthly check (20 minutes a month).

Do you value your village hall?

We’ve compiled a **short survey** to find out what people want (if anything) from the village hall. This will help us to plan what we prioritise in the future. We can’t promise to take every suggestion on board but we will consider them all.

Please take this opportunity to make your voice heard. It won't take much of your time.

The survey is also online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/F9T566Y> or there are hard copies in the village hall foyer. If you can't get there we can send you a hard copy or pdf, please phone 758901 or email helenvaivona@gmail.com

Playground opened up

Recent visitors to the hall will have noticed that the large conifers in the playground have gone. This was partly because of the huge cost of maintaining them in order to keep them safe for children to climb on and also the damage they were doing to the playground equipment.

Pub Nights

Pub nights continue to be extremely popular. We held an extremely well attended quiz at the November pub night, this will most likely be repeated a few times a year so look out for our adverts in all the usual places.

We’ve decided to cancel the pub night scheduled for 20th December as there are so many other competing Christmassy entertainments available. So the next few dates are:

24th January

21st February

We look forward to seeing you at one of the pub nights in the new year!

Things we would welcome help with: organising the bar (purchasing stock, making a rota of people), organising the food (you don't have to cook it all yourself!), setting up and clearing up.

Parish Council News

In the context of the climate, biodiversity and resource crises, the Parish Council are starting to explore opportunities for our Parish to become more sustainable and welcome any ideas for how our community can play its part in reducing our negative impact and hopefully increasing our positive impact on the environment.

Please send your thoughts and ideas to: chartridgepc@yahoo.com with the title Sustainability.

Next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for 8pm on 4th December at St John's Church, Bellingdon, as always, parishioners are welcome to come and raise any issues to be discussed.

Tim Corvin

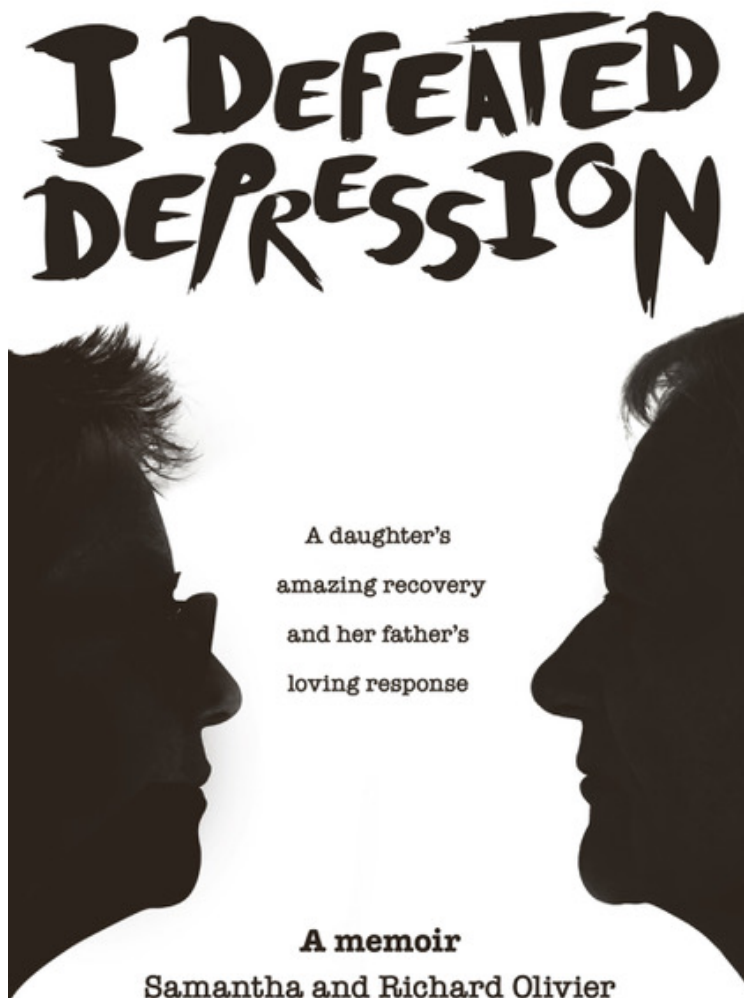
Bellingdon dad publishes personal memoir with daughter

The subject of mental health is never far from the headlines these days, and it affects many families in different ways. So it's good to find one local family who have come through the experience and have, quite literally, lived to tell the tale.

Bellingdon resident Richard Olivier has co-written a highly personal and uplifting memoir of his daughter Samantha's 30-year journey through anxiety and depression. Having finally beaten the condition Sammie started writing the story of her rollercoaster life, and when her Dad read the first chapter he decided to write how he and his wife responded to the situation, chapter by chapter.

Having been bullied at school after coming out, through a series of unsuccessful relationships and an inability to hold down office jobs, Sammie describes in painful detail her time in a clinic, her suicide attempts and her move to America to start a new life. The amazing story includes jamming with Genesis, attending a photo shoot with Paul McCartney, writing to President Obama and receiving a personal reply!

Despite having lived in our village for almost 15 years, you won't recognise the authors' names because they decided to use pseudonyms for themselves and other people mentioned. The highlight of the book is in the last chapters, when Sammie explains how she finally conquered this insidious disease and Richard responds with how he and his wife tried to help her throughout.



The final Q & A between father and daughter is both emotional and uplifting, leaving the reader with confidence that with the right treatment and support, this condition can be overcome.

I Defeated Depression is published by Mirador Publishing and is available now on Amazon, Kindle and by ordering in bookshops.

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.

