

Bellingdon & Asheridge Community Newsletter



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New Bucks Council

The first signs of Spring are finally appearing, hampered at every turn by ferocious storms bringing high winds and rain with the inevitable damage to trees, fences and one of the village hall goalposts - surely Mother Nature's way of reminding us who is really in charge.

Way above average rainfall for the season means that the River Chess

is flowing once more along stretches that were dry as recently as last November. This is fantastic news for our globally rare chalk streams but our area still has the highest per capital water usage in the country, much of which is abstracted from the chalk aquifer, so it may not be flowing for long.

This issue looks both back and forwards: back to the 75th

anniversaries of VE Day and, more locally, the plane that came down in an Asheridge Field, as well as forward to the many community events that are being planned for the coming months - church, hort soc and community association.

As ever, please get in touch if you'd like to be involved in any of these events.

Helen Valvona, Editor

MARCH

- 6th:** Memorial for 75th Anniversary of Aeroplane Crash
- 20th:** Pub Night
- 29th:** Great British Spring Clean Litter Pick (10-12noon)

APRIL

- 3rd:** Hort Soc AGM and Spring Show (7:30pm)
- 5th:** Palm Sunday Holy Communion (St John's, 10am)
- 12th:** Easter Sunday Holy Communion (St John's, 10am)
- 24th:** Pub and quiz night

MAY

- 8th:** Tea, Cakes and Bunting for VE Day 75 (2-4pm)
- 9th:** Hort Soc Annual Plant Sale (10-12)

Community news

75th Anniversary of the Lancaster Bomber crash PB475 in Asheridge

A small ceremony to be held at the Blue Ball pub 3-5pm on Friday 6th March. Please help keep this memory alive. Email jbradshaw@buckscc.gov.uk if you're planning to attend.



Announcements

We're sad to announce that Eirlys Noreen Morwena Tyler passed away on 31st January 2020. Eirlys was born on 19th July 1940 and had lived in Bellingdon for as long as anyone can remember. Her husband Gordon died some years ago, she is survived by daughter Alison and son Philip. Her funeral was held at St Leonard's Church, where Eirlys had been a longstanding member of the congregation. She will be greatly missed.

Horticultural Society

The Hort Soc AGM and Spring Flower Show will be on **Friday 3rd April** from 7:30pm (setup for Spring Flower Show entries from 7pm). There's also the annual plant sale on **Saturday 9th May** at the village hall from 10am-12 noon.

In addition the newly combined Chesham Horticultural Society and Bellingdon, Asheridge & District Horticultural Society (name for the new society yet to be agreed) are opening their Trading Hut, Plot 3, Cameron Road Allotments, again.

The Trading Hut will be open every Saturday from 7th March 10 am to 11.30 am until further notice. It can be opened at other times by prior appointment with Adrian on 07718609719.

Please see the Hort Soc pages on bellingdon.com for a list of what will be for sale, or speak to Tracey.

Adrian Norris & 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

Our key event before Easter is on 29th March Sunday 3.30 – 5.00pm - Getting ready for Spring and for Easter - Games and crafts for all - in church.

Jane Edmunds

Great British Spring Clean

This year we will once again be taking part in the Great British Spring Clean, on 29th March. We gather at the Village Hall annex at 10 am to collect grabbers and sacks and take sections of the village to litter pick. Refreshments will be available in the hall annex on our return.

Pub Nights

Pub nights continue to be extremely popular. The next few dates are:

- March 20th
- April 24th (with quiz)
- May - see below for VE Day 75 celebration
- June - no pub night because of the fete (27th)
- July - see below for Village "Olympics"

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.

VE Day 75

We'll be commemorating the 75th Anniversary of VE Day with Tea, Cakes and Bunting in the hall. As ever, all contributions of cakes and offers of assistance in the kitchen are extremely welcome, please contact helenvalvona@gmail.com



Friday Night Football

We're starting up the extremely popular Friday night football for U14s again after May half term. Our thanks goes to Gary Woodley, our FA qualified coach, for running these sessions. All participants must come with appropriate clothing, shin pads and water bottles. Sessions will run from 5pm-6pm from Friday 5th June unless otherwise advertised.

B&A Alternative "Olympics"

To coincide with the start of the Olympic games we're thinking of running an afternoon/evening of silly games (think sack race, egg and spoon, dressing up etc) and a BBQ on Friday 24th July. If you'd like to be involved in any capacity please do get in touch.

Village Hall Playground

A safety inspection has highlighted that some of the timbers are rotting in the ground. Repairs were carried out three years ago but the zip wire is 10 years old

and we have taken the decision to replace the structure.

We were fortunate and grateful to get a small grant from Chiltern District Council which will enable us to replace the zip wire. The work will take place during the week of 16th March and that section of the playground will be closed for about a week.

Village Survey Results

There were 38 responses to our survey, which was available both online and in printed format. This approximates to 10% of households in Bellingdon & Asheridge.

Fuller analysis of the results is available on bellingdon.com but in brief:

- 50% of respondents had used the hall only 1-5 times in the previous year.
- The most popular event in the previous 12 months was the village fete, followed by the monthly pub nights, then using the playground.
- Of the hypothetical events that were suggested, over 50% of respondents (19) were supportive of film screenings.
- The main hall and kitchen were broadly considered to be "excellent", while the car park received the most negative comments.
- Approximately half of respondents would use the hall more if, for example, improvements were made to the car park.
- Some additional comments we received:
 - Voluntary opportunities need to be better advertised. [*We often ask for volunteers in this newsletter as well as on the monthly email and via the Grapevine. If you're interested in volunteering please let us know on contact@bellingdon.com and we'll be in touch - Ed.*]
 - Requests to improve the recreation ground with benches etc [*Brian How's memorial bench will be installed imminently - Ed.*]

Your council is changing



On 1 April your council will change. The new Buckinghamshire Council will replace all five of the district and county councils in Buckinghamshire, and over the coming weeks and months you'll start to see some changes as you come across the new look council.

What does the new council mean for me?

- **The same services, better together.** For most people there will be no change to the day-to-day services you use. This includes bin collections, looking after our elderly and young people, libraries and parking. The focus for the future will be on improving these services as a new council together.
- **One council.** Getting in touch with the council will be simpler because you'll only need to contact one council for all the services currently provided by the county and district councils.
- **Face-to-face advice, support and information** from your council through a network of 17 local Council Access Points based at the heart of your local community – in current council offices and

libraries across the county. The five council offices in Aylesbury (Walton Street and The Gateway), High Wycombe, Amersham and Denham will be 'access plus' points, geared up to handle more complex enquiries.

- **Stronger links with local communities.** Buckinghamshire Council councillors will work closely with local people and community organisations to understand and respond to the key issues affecting their local area through 16 Community Boards.

Who will be my local councillor on the new council?

There will be 147 councillors elected to Buckinghamshire Council. Elections for the new council will take place on 7 May 2020. Until these newly elected councillors take up their posts, your current elected members from the five existing councils will continue to serve your communities.

How can I find out more?

For regular news and updates, follow us on Twitter and Facebook @BucksCouncil or find out more on our website at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



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.