

Bellingdon & Asheridge Community Newsletter



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newsletter@bellingdon.com

Community Association

BAACA (Bellingdon & Asheridge Community Association) meets monthly via Zoom.

Recently we've arranged for repairs to the roof of the porch area where it has been leaking, installed a new picnic bench for the playground area, arranged for a new kitchen work surface after damage by a hirer and we're planning to freshen up the paintwork in the hall itself which was last done several years ago.

The outside of the hall has been completely repainted, wifi improved and added to the annexe. 2022 will see the floor being cleaned and resealed, new curtains for the hall and we're

planning to purchase audio/visual equipment that will allow us to run film nights.

Our amazing trustee Gary Woodley has been playing "whack-a-mole" with the various recurring issues with the hall toilets. Gary has also installed infrared sensors to all the flushes to help reduce contact/touchpoints. We're extremely grateful for his time and expertise.

We're sad to say that Paula Hurd has decided not to return to the hall with her Pilates classes but we're excited that we have several new classes on offer: Barre Sculpt (Tues 8pm), Zumba (Mondays 10am) and Tappy Toes (children's dance, Sat am) and Glass Art (Thurs pm). Please contact the individual providers if you wish to

join any of these classes - more details will be available shortly on the website.

www.bellingdon.com

[If you'd like to get involved by being a trustee, helping out at a working party, assisting with social media, the website or newsletter we'd love to hear from you! contact@bellingdon.com - Ed]

DECEMBER

11th: Children's Christmas Party

11th: Rotary Santa from 4:30

12th: Seniors' Christmas Party

19th: Carols @ St John's

24th: Christmas Eve at Huge Farm (outside, wrap up warm!)

Chartridge Parish Council

Derek Keen's retirement

Derek Keen became a member of Chartridge Parish Council in 1987 and retired from the Council in August this year. During that time, and following in his father's footsteps, he became Chairman of the Council and held that position from 1992 to 1999.

His presence on the Council is already sorely missed. Not only his record thirty four years as a Parish Councillor, but also his dedication and hard work make him the councillor who, over the years, has done the most for our beautiful Chiltern parish.

Derek grew up in Asheridge and later moved to Bellingdon, where he still lives. He knows every inch of the parish and very many of the residents. People would approach him while he was working as a farm manager and a gardener and put to him their problems relating to the roads, boundaries and other Council business; he always took the time to listen and to have those problems discussed at Council meetings so that solutions could be found. Derek rarely missed a meeting and even when the pandemic forced the meetings to become virtual he quickly learnt how to get on board and Zoom along with the rest of us!

As one Asheridge resident put it: "There aren't many people left on this planet who are like Derek Keen!"

Thank you Derek, and we wish you and your wife Doris a long and happy retirement.

Joanie Lherbier

Community Speedwatch

As many of you are aware we often have a problem with speeding through Bellingdon and Asheridge. Cllr Joan Lherbier initiated the process of getting us set up on Community Speedwatch following quite a few months of delay we finally had a meeting with the Lee Turnham, the Police Officer responsible for Community Speedwatch (CSW) for Thames Valley Police. The good news is in the intervening months the online CSW system has been developed significantly and the Parish Council now has a handheld speed camera in its possession.

The CSW system is designed to help educate drivers to keep to speed limits and increase safety. Letters are

sent to those who exceed the speed limit, but fines are not issued. However, the evidence gathered can be used by the police and in court cases regarding other offences.

As you would expect there are strict protocols in how speed checking sessions are set up to be safe locations, protect the operators, drivers and those who may be found to be travelling at excess speeds.

You can find more information

here: www.communityspeedwatch.org.uk

We already have a few people who have volunteered, but we will need more as each session requires 3 operators and we also need some people to co-ordinate. If you're up for either being an operator or co-ordinator please could you email Joan Lherbier on: maryland@btopenworld.com

Joanie Lherbier

Fibre Broadband - South Bellingdon

Following the success of the Superfast Broadband application for the more rural parts of Bellingdon, Cllr Tim Corvin made an application to Openreach for a similar scheme to connect the 59 houses along Chesham Road after Savcroft Farm up to and including Greencroft Cottages.

Unfortunately this section of the village does not qualify for a rural broadband grant and Openreach have responded as follows:

"We've now carried out some preliminary work so we can give you an idea of the likely costs to bring Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) to your area, which would give download speeds of up to 1Gbps.

Through this co-funded approach, we'll cover all costs for this project that fall within our own commercial threshold. This means that the figures estimated below represent the remaining cost that your community would need to contribute to enable us to deliver an FTTP network:

- Core community – 59 Premises Initial Estimate – £36,966
- Cost Per Premise – £626.54

Once you've had the opportunity to discuss these initial estimates with your community please let me know so I

can understand your preferred way forward and give you help as need be”.

We're planning to apply to the community board for a grant, but even if this is successful it will still leave at least 2/3 of the costs to raise. Could anyone who would like to help with this project to bring this part of Bellingdon into the 21st century please get in touch with Tim Corvin on tim.corvin@talk21.com

St John's Church

At St. John's Church we continue to meet on Sunday mornings at 10 am.

We recently had our Remembrance Day service in which we remembered by name villagers who had lost their lives in the two World Wars, as well as the airmen who were killed in the fields near Bellingdon.

We also celebrated Harvest, a special service in our rural community, and Fionnagh made a harvest loaf with not one but two harvest mice trying to nibble at the wheat!

Our Carol Service will be in the church at 10 am on 19th December, and we shall also be celebrating Christmas with our usual service at Huge Farm at 4pm on Christmas Eve. This year, because of Covid, the Christmas Eve service will be outside - so wrap up warmly!

Please keep an eye on the village website where we shall post updates in case of bad weather. We look forward to welcoming you!

www.bellingdon.com/st-johns-church-bellingdon/

The Bull

Although there hasn't been any activity on site there has been a lot going on behind the scenes. We had an archaeological dig in the field behind the pub going on for most of the Spring/Summer and they used The Bull as their base. They found some very interesting things from the late Iron Age and I'm hoping that the archaeologist involved will do a talk about it all at the village hall at some point.

Actual pub build wise we have been planning to start work in September but following consultations with pub/restaurant designers we have decided to undertake some redesign work first but we feel that

ultimately this will be worth it as the delay will result in a better pub with better long term prospects.

As ever I can only say that we fully intend to bring The Bull back as a pub and restaurant, however when experienced experts in that industry offer advice as to the best way to proceed we would be mad not to take their advice even if, frustratingly, it leads to delays.

Jim Matthews

Curvaceous Cook

I can't believe that it is already time for a Christmas recipe or two, what a year!

I have gone for a really quick and easy and delicious vanilla ice cream that doesn't require any fancy equipment and can be made in a trice if you suddenly have extra people for a meal. I have also chosen a chicken recipe that is a bit different and would make a lovely Christmas lunch for those not needing, or unable to get, a turkey.

Simple vanilla ice cream

- 600ml whipping cream
- 200g condensed milk
- 1 tbsp vanilla paste or extract. The flavouring will not do here!

Whip the cream to soft peaks. Add the condensed milk and vanilla and whip again to soft peaks

If you wanted to add flavouring now you could. Drizzling through fruit coulis is good, or some chunks of chocolate, or anything else you fancy.

Pour into a freezer box and freeze. It will take at least 3 hours, or less in smaller containers. And that is that.

Do remove from the freezer at least 15 minutes before you want to use it or it can be a bit difficult to scoop.

Pot Roasted Nutmeg Chicken recipe... [is on the website! Ed.] A very Happy Christmas to you all, and do please send me ideas or requests on bellingdonm@hotmail.com

Echor Music – our new orchestra for The Chilterns

On a cold but dry Saturday evening in mid October Rays Hill Barn at Braziers End - a venue more used to hosting agricultural machinery and the occasional charity ball - hosted a unique and hopefully the first of many concerts by the newly formed local orchestra, Echor.

This exciting addition to the cultural life of The Chilterns came about when a chance conversation in a local pub led to the realisation that there were a large number of internationally renowned musicians living locally most of whom were unable to work or practise with their own orchestras during lockdown.

The barn provided a perfect venue with excellent acoustics and plenty of space for the large audience to sit safely distanced.

A programme of Nordic music created by one of the founders, Eva Thorarinsdottir, included work by the masters Greig and Sibelius along with those by lesser known Scandinavian composers. The hour's recital was further enhanced by the Echo Vocal Ensemble, another local group who, sitting anonymously amongst the audience, to our surprise rose and sang a beautiful rendition of Finlandia and other songs.

The second half of the concert was a traditional lively Irish folk session played in the round.

Outside the barn, a bar, mulled wine, and blazing braziers (highly appropriate, given the address!) added to the magic of what was a most memorable first event.

A chamber performance was given the following week in Hastoe Village Hall where the three Echor founders, joined by the cellist Clare Óconnell, played Grieg's string quartet No.1, the movements seamlessly and beautifully linked by a fifth member playing Scandinavian folk music on the unique Swedish Nyckelharpa, a stringed instrument similar to a violin but using keys in place of frets to alter the pitch.

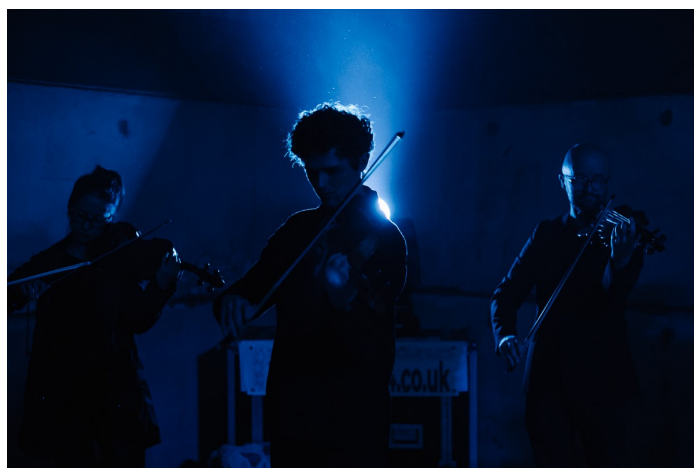


Photo © Echor Music

The intimacy of the venue combined with the beauty of the music and the vibrancy of the performance of this difficult piece made most memorable entertainment.

Echor have just announced that their Christmas concert will be held on Thursday 16th. December at another local venue, details of which can be found on their website.

The Echor 'Christmas Baroque' Concert will be held at St Mary's Church, Old Amersham on Thursday 16th December. Further details below:

www.echormusic.com

[youtube-echor music](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

USEFUL CONTACTS/INFO

Bellingdon & Asheridge Community Assoc

www.bellingdon.com

www.facebook.com/bavhall

www.twitter.com/bellandash

contact@bellingdon.com

Local Police Community Support Officer

CheshamNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

The New Grapevine:

<https://cholesbury.com/the-grapevine/>

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.