

the
Bellingdon & Asheridge

Newsletter

Chairman's Chat

As the leaves turn to red and gold and the autumn winds blow them down, we are waiting to see what winter will bring. The mild conditions mean that we have to mow later into the year and this has applied to the recreation ground and playground.

Football has re-started with Chesham United Ladies on Saturday and a men's team on some Sundays. With renewed interest in Ladies football on the international front we are pleased to be able to support a new younger team (under 13s) who play 9x9. If you have children who are interested, then contact them directly. This important source of income is used to maintain the community recreation ground.

Hiring and the club activities in the hall remains busy and this again is a source of income which pays for the upkeep of the premises, which are not supported by councils for the operating costs incurred.

The Belles ran an enjoyable evening at a Whist Drive in October. They are planning new events in 2016 so keep an eye out for their posters and information on the website. Helen Harding has agreed to progress the kitchen renovation project and I would like to thank Chiltern District Council who have provided £1,200 from their community fund towards this project. We have now managed to raise just over £5,500 for a new kitchen and we will continue to seek funding from outside sources.

After Christmas we will start planning for the 2016 Village Fete. Book it in your diary now: 25 June 2016. We would welcome new members to the fete management team. This would take a small amount of time and helpers enjoy the day. The more the merrier.

We are pleased to welcome Lynne Priest and Helen Valvona as new members of the Village Hall committee. Helen will be helping by keeping a watch on the playground area. We still have places for those who would also like to join the BAVH team.

Thanks to Hugh Griffiths for organising a new fence behind the new annex. This will prevent children from running into the car park. Please still take care driving into the grounds as children use the gate which leads onto the internal roadway.

If you would like to get involved or have comments or ideas, please email contact@bellingdon.com or phone our secretary Jules Eyles on 01494 757150.

Finally, on behalf of the committee, I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Alf Field. Chairman: Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Hall Committee



**Pub Night
 is a Go!**

In spite of clashing with the first England Rugby World Cup match with Fiji on the 18th September, many residents enjoyed a great evening at the very first Pub Night at the village hall in Bellingdon. A full range of drinks was provided, including Tring Draught beer. For the hungry, Helen Griffiths and Barbara Baker provided homemade pizzas, which were very much enjoyed by those who partook.

Darts, pool and table tennis added further entertainment and fun to the evening. The event was such a success that people asked for it to be repeated! So, wishes do come true... Come along with friends and family to future Pub Nights. They are planned for one Friday each month.

Put these dates in your diary now: 20th November, 18th December, 22nd January, 19th February, 18th March. Doors open 6.30pm.



Save the Date!

Pub Night
 18 December
 Village Hall

Xmas Carols
 24 December, 4pm
 Huge Farm



**Belles' Game
 Night** 5 February
 Village Hall

New Committee Members

BAVH have recently appointed two new committee members. Please join us in welcoming them to these important community roles.



Helen Valvona

Helen Valvona is the new Playground Manager and key contact. She has lived in Bellingdon for two years, although previously lived here with her parents from 1986-2003. Since then she has been living and working in London, first in publishing then in corporate communications. She has two children aged 4 and 16 months, who use the village hall playground frequently. She says she "was pleased to be asked to be the contact person for the playground. I'll be responsible for ensuring the necessary safety checks are carried out and that the playground is kept tidy and well maintained. I'm also keen to see the playground used more, and am going to be running an informal playgroup for under 5s and their carers from January so local families can have an opportunity to use the hall facilities more." If you have any thoughts or ideas for Helen on the management of the playground, please contact her on helenvalvona@gmail.com



Lynn Priest

Lynne Priest has recently been elected as the newest member of BAVH, the Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Hall Committee. Lynne has lived in Bellingdon for many years, bringing up her children here and is regularly seen riding her horse in the village. She is delighted to now be part of the team that provides social and sport facilities for local villagers.

New for 2016 – Under 5's Playgroup!

From the beginning of 2016, a new informal playgroup for under 5's and their carers - mums, dads, grandparents etc will be running in the hall annex. There will be tea and coffee, an opportunity to chat to your neighbours and toys for the little ones to play with. All are welcome, particularly those from Bellingdon, Asheridge and surrounding villages. Please do come along, especially if you don't know many people locally with children. Once the weather improves in the spring we'll be able to make use of the wonderful outside space as well as having a cup of tea and a natter. Just £2 per family to cover costs.

Contact helenvalvona@gmail.com for more information.



Belles' 2016 Events

Get your diaries out - the Belles planning committee has been hard at work coming up with ideas for fun social get-togethers next year. So far, we have secured two events, the first being a Games Night on Friday 5th February at 7.30pm. February is quite a dreary month, so do join in and bring some fun to February. In the Spring, we are looking to head outdoors with a Treasure Hunt and BBQ. Book Sat 21st May in your diary now – time still to be confirmed.

Look out for more details in future newsletters and the Notices around the Village. We welcome old friends and new faces so do come along.



Goodbye to Marigolds and Backache



That was the vision back in 2011 when a group of ladies from the village formed the Bellingdon Belles, organising fun social events, usually with supper included. Their aim was to use the village hall to bring the community together for social events ranging from beetle drives to barn dances. Key to these events was great home cooked food – they love their food and are passionate cooks. But there was a big BUT- it always had to be prepared away from the hall kitchen and then shipped in (as was the case for other groups who hire the hall and want to feed their guests). So the Belles were unanimous that any profit made at these events would be put towards the refurbishment of the kitchen - with priority for a commercial dishwasher and cooker. As anyone who has helped with washing up in the hall kitchen will know - the pain of backache from the height of the sinks and preparation table is not great. As for the water heater that runs out just as you are getting to the seriously dirty dishes!!

So when will this vision become reality?

The project is gaining pace. Preliminary designs and quotes have already been gathered and developed by the Village Hall Committee in readiness for the next stage of applying for grants to support these.

In September we had our first success, being awarded a £1200 grant from Chiltern District Council Grant Aid Scheme. A good step towards getting that dishwasher. Our next application is planned to the Big Lottery Fund – Awards for All England. This will be followed by applications to other appropriate funding providers. If we can raise enough funds we will get a kitchen that brings our hall in line with the standards of other village halls in the area and make it more attractive as a fabulous venue for parties, weddings and other events. It is said that the kitchen is the 'heart of a home' and it is no different for the village hall kitchen where it is the 'heart of our community'.

If there is anyone in the community who has experience of applying for grants, would like to help, or has suggestions of organisations that we should apply to, please contact h.harding@onebillinternet.co.uk. We would be delighted to have your input and support.

Bon Appetit!

Curvaceous Cook : Lime and Basil Trout



We have been trying hard to eat much less meat, but this is a challenge with a husband who doesn't like poultry or fish unless it is in batter! Last Christmas I made Jamie Oliver's recipe for beetroot cured salmon. It was wonderful, and so easy, I really recommend giving it a go <http://www.jamieoliver.com/recipes/fish-recipes/home-cured-beetroot-gravadlax>

We had some real foodies for lunch this summer and I wanted to do something special with the lovely trout that is widely available from farms in Umbria...we have one at the bottom of our mountain. We also had really good home grown basil this year, so that is how this evolved.

For 6 people I used 2 fat trout fillets, (salmon would be fine, tail end if possible, it needs to be flat) 2 tbs sugar (I used brown) and 2 tbs free running table salt (not the flakes). I put both into a pestle and mortar and added the rind and juice of a plump lime (lemon would be fine), the juice of a second lime, and a big bunch of chopped basil. Grind the whole lot together, then rub well into the fish on both sides.

Lay one fillet skin down, press any remaining mix into it then lay the other fillet on top. This needs to be weighted down quite firmly. I have an oblong dish that a small baking tray fits into perfectly. Wrap the fish sandwich in cling film and lay in your dish. Put the tray on top and weigh down as best you can. I used my marble pestle and mortar with a tin of baked beans in it! Leave for at least 24 hours (preferably a bit longer) in a cool place.

Wipe off as much as you can of the rub. Some liquid will have accumulated - throw this away. With a very sharp flat knife, make long very thin slices. I found it easiest to grab the tail skin and slice the fatter end. You are aiming for decent sized, paper thin slices.

This looks longwinded, but is actually about 10 minutes work including the slicing, and it will keep in the fridge for a few days so can be made well ahead. I served it with a mixed leaf salad and a squirt of balsamic glaze, a horseradish and quark dip and some fresh focaccia, and it was a huge success.

First Bonfire Night

The Village gathered on Friday 6th November for its first ever bonfire night at the hall grounds. The bonfire was lit at 7pm and the fireworks started at 7.30pm. Rob Bourne kindly agreed to control the pyrotechnics on the night. Everyone who attended brought along a firework, which Rob then put into the dazzling display. All agreed it was a Cracking Success!

Food was provided by the Bellingdon Belles and drinks were organized by Don Baker. Chilli, jacket potatoes and beans were on the menu – perfect Guy Fawkes fayre. As you can see from the photo, there was much chopping in a number of Belles' kitchens. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this evening happen, including car park marshals, responsible adults to watch the bonfire and those who helped to tidy the hall afterwards.



Hey Kids! Huge Farm Barn is looking for a brave someone to do a reading on Xmas Carol Evening. If you can read or talk and would like to do it, email ankataylor@hotmail.com HoHoHo



Superfast Broadband is live – get yours in time for Xmas

Bellingdon & Asheridge is on the map - Superfast Broadband has arrived! Following the announcement in the last newsletter that 'Superfast Broadband was coming soon, the cabinet in Bank Green serving Bellingdon and Asheridge finally went live on October 1st. This means that villagers can now request an upgraded internet service from their service provider. If you are with BT you can order BT Infinity (speeds up to 30Mbit/sec) or BT infinity 2 (speeds up to 80Mbits/sec) depending upon how far you live from the cabinet. Availability and the maximum speed available can be checked at: <https://www.dslchecker.bt.com/> and typing in your full telephone number.

To order the service, if BT are your provider, just dial 150 and request 'Superfast broadband', or 'Upgrade' at the automatic audio message and follow the instructions. You will be sent email confirmation details and a new router (which is free) in the post to connect up. You will also be given a date, usually within 14 days, when the new service will be available to you on the new router. It is important to note that if you don't arrange for this new router to be fitted, you will not receive Superfast Broadband. Other providers should also now be making the service available. We have the Superfast Broadband Group (based in Cholesbury and led by Chris Brown of Rays Hill) to thank for this development. See www.cholesbury.com for more details.

Enjoy the faster surfing!



Details of clubs, events and village news, including hall bookings: www.bellingdon.com
Do send comments, questions and ideas for future articles to the Editor at newsletter@bellingdon.com.

