

# Bellingdon & Asheridge Community Newsletter



*Sunflowers at the Matthews' field*

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## BAACA News

It's been a busy summer as people have caught up with all the activities that Covid had put a stop to. It's also been a very dry summer with a hosepipe ban imminent.

Our **Jubilee Tea** in early June was extremely well attended, as was the **Village Fete** — as with many other local events attendance was up on pre-Covid years showing how much people had missed them. Welly wanging was a popular addition this year. We would like to thank the hard working committee and all

the volunteers who made the fete possible once more.

The Community Association held its **AGM** in the hall in early July - your annual opportunity to find out what BAACA has been up to during the year, and to ask questions. It is also when the management committee is voted in for the year.

The committee reported that the Hall continues to be extremely popular, and the income from hall hire plus events such as the fete will be used to improve the car park and the hall roof over the year, as well as to redecorate the inside, refresh the lighting and refurbish the floor.

This year two trustees stepped down - Peter Watson, from the position of Treasurer, and Helen Valvona. We would like to thank them for their service and wish them well.

We are running a pub night on 9 September and the usual Christmas parties for seniors and juniors will take place on the first weekend of December.

**Bellingdon & Asheridge Community Association**

### SEPT

**3 Sept:** Hort Soc/CVGS Autumn Show

**9 Sept:** Pub night

**24 Sept:** Away day with Hope Church, Village Hall

### OCT-NOV

**2 Oct:** Harvest service at St John's

**14 Oct:** Hort Soc Social - James Bond Theme, Village Hall

### DEC

**3 Dec:** Children's Christmas Party

**4 Dec:** Seniors' Christmas Party

**24 Dec:** Carols at Huge Farm (TBC)

## St John's Church

We continue to meet at 10 am every Sunday at St. John's. As always, you would be most welcome to join us! You may, for example, be interested in attending our harvest service on 2 October.

We are also going to have an 'Away Day' with Hope Church in the Village Hall on Saturday 24 September. During that weekend there will, exceptionally, be no morning service at St. John's, as we shall be meeting with Hope Church at their church.

Looking forward, we are hoping that we shall be able to hold more of our pre-Covid activities later this year.

[www.bellingdon.com/st-johns-church-bellingdon/](https://www.bellingdon.com/st-johns-church-bellingdon/)

## Chesham Vale Gardeners' Society (Hort Soc)

### Dates for your diary

- Autumn Show – Saturday 3rd September. Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall.
- Allotment Group Cream Tea/Heritage Open Event – Sunday 11th September 3pm to 5pm. Cameron Road Allotments Focal Point – organised by the Allotment Group. All welcome.
- October James Bond Themed Social – Friday 14th October 7pm till late. Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall. (See below)
- Allotment Group Autumn Social (possibly quiz) - Saturday 15th October 7.30pm. Chesham Town Hall.

Please contact [cheshamvalegs@gmail.com](mailto:cheshamvalegs@gmail.com) if you would like to receive email updates or to join the society - just £2 per household per year!

### October Social - Shaken, not stirred!

He's charismatic, charming, adored by his many women, hated by countless super-villains, and drives an amazing car! Code name "007", the spy that never loved me, James Bond is our theme for our October Social. For a golden £10 you can delve into the world of MI6's most famous employee, with a licence to thrill three-course meal, music, dancing, and a "Spectre" – acular quiz that'll make "Q" scratch his head. Whether it be Dr No, Ernst Blofeld, Vesper Lynd, Pussy Galore, or the hero himself, why not join us at the Casino Royale by dressing

as your favourite "Bond" character. Bring your own alcoholic drinks.

To reserve you place, please send or hand cheques (made out to Chesham Vale Gardeners' Society) to Nicola or Adrian. Book early to avoid disappointment as places will be limited.

Adrian 07718609719 or Nicola 07973558675

Adrian Norris, Chairman

<https://www.bellingdon.com/chesham-vale-gardeners-society/>

## Community Speedwatch

The Bellingdon and Asheridge Speedwatch group has so far monitored traffic in the villages on six occasions in June and July, recording speeds above the legal limit in 99 cases in the morning sessions in Bellingdon and 37 cases in the afternoons and 26 cases in Asheridge where, so far, only morning sessions have been held.

The details are passed to the Thames Valley Police who maintain the records and letters will be sent to those vehicle owners explaining that a further recording will result in action being taken.

Andrew Barratt

## Parish Council

The Parish Council still has a vacancy for a Bellingdon councillor. If you are interested in this community and you live in Bellingdon, do consider applying! Meetings are roughly only every 6 weeks, they are interesting, friendly and sometimes even amusing. The input of everyone who wishes to speak is listened too and valued, it is important and rewarding to have that opportunity. If you are interested please contact [clerk@chartridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@chartridgeparishcouncil.org.uk) We hope to hear from you.

Joanie Lherbier

## Broadband project

According to Openreach the implementation of the 'Fibre to the Premises' (FTTP) Broadband programme which has been delayed by a couple of months as a result of a lack of capacity at the central exchange is currently scheduled to go live during August. The official line from Openreach is:

"Due to some unforeseen issues we now expect to complete your scheme on 15/8/22. Once completed we

will test and commission the scheme and send emails to the community shortly afterwards inviting them to place orders to upgrade their service.”

Your current broadband provider should contact you if they are able to offer this new FTTP Broadband and you can compare prices on offer from them and other providers and select your package.

Reminder: Your voucher confirmation required you to subscribe to a download speed which is double the speed of your current broadband service as declared by BT. Recently, this requirement has been modified to "double current download speed or 100Mbps whichever is lower". However the auditing of this process is unclear and we do not believe that there will be any penalty should any individual not wish to follow this guidance precisely.

Tony Orr & Hugh Griffiths  
On behalf of BAACA

## Avoiding scam calls

It is almost a year since most of the main banks introduced a single phone number – **159** – for direct contact with your bank if you experience scams that could affect your bank account.

However, this number still doesn't seem to be widely recognised.

So, if you think someone is trying to trick you into handing over money or personal details...

...**Stop, hang up and call 159** to speak directly to your bank.

Last year, criminal gangs stole over £470m by pretending to be your bank or other service provider. **159** is the memorable, secure number that connects you directly to your bank if you think you're being scammed.

**159** works in the same way as 101 for the police or 111 for the NHS. It's the number you can trust to get you through to your bank, every time.

**159 will never call you.** Only a fraudster will object to you calling 159 to check.

When should I call 159?

Call 159 if:

- Someone contacts you saying they're from your bank – even if they are not suspicious
- You receive a call asking you to transfer money or make a payment – even if it seems genuine
- You receive a call about a financial matter and it seems suspicious

Remember, 159 will never call you. But you can rely on 159 to get you through to your bank.

Alan Page, Bellingdon Neighbourhood Watch

## Ukrainian guests

Local residents may well be greatly surprised by the large number of Ukrainian national (well over 100 families) finding temporary sanctuary in this area of The Chilterns.

Bucks County Council was one of the first regional authorities to recognise the urgent need for housing for these unfortunate people, forced to flee their own homes in the face of the present conflict.

The Council's request for offers of accommodation and its sterling work in assisting with all the necessary arrangements to allow swift transit to these refugees, together with the extraordinary response from our local communities, have ensured their ability to live as normal lives as possible.

Residents offer accommodation for the first six months and whilst some are able to offer an extended period, others cannot make this commitment and for many of these refugees the future is very uncertain since they will need further offers of housing when their six months are up. Financial assistance is available both to the refugees and hosts.

Two such families have settled in our own village. Sergey and Olena with their daughter Dasha have been offered accommodation with David Dennis and Lesley Paton in Oak Lane and Peter Brown in Ramscote Lane is host to Anna, her brother's wife Svetlana and her niece Katia and nephew Bohdan.

Given the desperate need for ongoing support, David and Lesley are very happy to chat through what is involved with anyone who thinks they may be able to offer any help. They can be contacted on: ddennis48@outlook.com

Arriving from their home city of Kharkiv and speaking a little English, Sergey and Olena and their daughter Dasha (9) found their refuge via a Ukrainian website, Opora, that was set up to find solutions to the refugee crisis. They attend daily group sessions to learn English at Chiltern Hills Academy and elsewhere and their daughter has been given a place at Hawridge and Cholesbury School where, despite the obvious challenges, she is settling in well.

Dasha loves modern dance and for the past three years has also been learning rhythmic gymnastics in her home country, already reaching an excellent standard. Sergey had his own manufacturing company employing 30 workers all of whom have had to make separate

arrangements for their security and future, whilst Olena employed 5 out-workers, making maternity wear.

Both parents are keen runners, regularly taking part in half marathons at home and here in the Chilterns they are enjoying exploring the local countryside on bikes kindly provided by the community.

Anna and family, from Kyiv, arrived in Ramscote Lane following an enquiry from Peter to a Chesham facebook page for information on hosting refugees. A friend of Anna's lives in Amersham and was organising aid for her compatriots and was able to unite them with Peter.

All of the family already had some English and the adults are attending language classes whilst Katia, (14) attends Chiltern Hills Academy and Bohdan (9) Chartridge School.

At home in Ukraine Anna worked for a bank whilst Svetlana is a child psychologist and both hope to find employment in the UK whilst they are here. Anna is a keen folk dancer and likes to get involved in amateur dramatics.

Seeking an understanding of what motivates the response of our community to this crisis, I came across the words of American sociologist W E B duBois:

*"I believe in Liberty for all men: the space to stretch their arms and their souls, the right to breathe and the right to vote, the freedom to choose their friends, enjoy the sunshine, and ride on the railroads, uncursed by color; thinking, dreaming, working as they will in a kingdom of beauty and love".*

In closing, a few heartfelt words in Ukrainian and English from Sergey and Olena that bring home the enormity of their situation:

*«24 лютого ми прокинулися від звуку снарядів, які падають навколо нашої квартири в Україні. Той день розділив наше життя на «до» і «після».*

*Нас так дружньо зустріли тут, у Чілтернах, і щодня ми дуже дякуємо Девіду та Леслі за їх допомогу, підтримку та наш спокійний сон».*

'On February 24th we woke to the sound of shells falling around our apartment in Ukraine. That day divided our life into "before" and "after".

We have received such a friendly welcome here in the Chilterns, and every day we thank so much David and Lesley for their help, support and our peaceful sleep.'



**Sergey, Lesley, Dasha, Olena and David**



**Anna, Katia, Svetlana, Bohdan and Peter**

## Curvaceous Cook...

...is on the website owing to space constraints.

[www.bellingdon.com](http://www.bellingdon.com) to read about Miso aubergine and really easy flatbreads - as well as a host of other local news.

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

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