

Bellingdon & Asheridge Community Newsletter



Hort Soc Annual Show

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This Winter newsletter is jam packed full of local goings on - the Church, Hort Soc and Speedwatch have all been very busy and, at the hall we've continued our programme of improvements to the facilities, notably with the refurbishment of the floor.

We're looking forward to being able to host the usual Christmas celebrations at the hall this year - Saturday 3rd for the children, Sunday 4th at lunchtime for Seniors.

While we're on the subject of the season of goodwill, you'll find an article from David Dennis and Lesley Payton about what the future holds for the Ukrainian guests in our midst. If anyone is thinking that they might be able to offer a home to a displaced individual or family, do see the poster for details or get in touch with David for a chat.

Looking ahead to the new year, there's lots planned, with the 75th anniversary of the hall itself to celebrate as well as the King's coronation and much more.

**Bellingdon & Asheridge
Community Association**

Obituary: Brenda Thomas

Brenda and Alan Thomas lived for 35 years at Myrnong (now Woodlands) next to Bellingdon Village Hall, their wonderful garden and woods being the perfect playground for their grandchildren.

She will be especially remembered locally for her bowls skills. She was tiny, but managed to win the All England Ladies title in 2008, and then in 2010 they emigrated to Australia to be near their daughter, Helen. What a brave move in their retirement, but one which brought

DECEMBER

3rd: Children's Christmas Party (2-4:30)

4th: Seniors' Christmas Party

18th: Carols at St John's

24th: Carols at Huge Farm, 4pm

2023

20th January: Pub night

12th March: 75th Anniversary of the Hall and commemorative tree planting in memory of the Queen

13th May: Hort Soc Plant Sale

6th June: King's Coronation event



them great happiness, swapping the Chiltern Hills for a sea view.

It is there that Brenda recently died, a few weeks after her 82nd birthday. She was very peaceful and surrounded by her family, after a challenging 5 years with illness and dementia taking its hold.

Within a day her great grandson, Sonny, was born to Jess and her husband.

Her beautiful funeral service is available online, please contact me if interested.

Lulu Stephen bellingtonm@hotmail.com

St John's Church

This year we have been getting back to normal after so many weeks of online services, distancing and limited numbers. In recent weeks we've celebrated Harvest and Remembrance Sunday. We had a weekend with Hope Church (Hivings Free Church as was) with the Saturday at the Village Hall and Sunday at Hope Church.

Now we're starting to get ready for Christmas with an Advent Service at church on 27th November at 4.00pm and then our carols on 18th December before the village carols at Huge Farm on Christmas Eve (4.00pm). You're welcome to join us for any of these or on any Sunday at 10.00.

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

Chesham Vale Gardeners' Society (Hort Soc)

On the 3rd September Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Hall was busy with contestants entering our Autumn Show. The hall was alive with people displaying their bounty of vegetables, colourful flowers, eye-catching photographs, amazing artwork, and tasty domestic entries on the long tables, ready for the judges' arrival after 1pm. The afternoon was filled with people wandering around admiring the many exhibits, including the newly created category of "Ugliest Vegetable", which had several brave entrants.

The afternoon was complete with guests tucking into refreshments of tea and cake, whilst enjoying the opportunity of winning a raffle prize! Finally, trophies, cups and shields were awarded according to the allotted scoring criteria for each award.

Congratulation to **Adrian Norris** for gaining most points in the horticultural classes at both the Summer and Autumn Show and thus being awarded the prestigious **Geary Challenge Cup**, given to the society by the then Urban District Council of Chesham and first awarded in 1948. It was a joy to see the classes for children being won by the next generation of keen gardeners too. Congratulations to **Marion Raper** for winning **Best In Class** and **Best In Show** for her stunning hand-made earrings!



A big thank you to all exhibitors, helpers and visitors who made the show the success it was.

2023 diary dates (at B&A village hall)

- **Plant Sale** – Saturday 13th May 2.30 to 4.30pm.
- **Autumn Show** – Saturday 2nd September.
- **October Social** – Friday 13th October 7pm till late.

Other activities, including Garden Outings will be announced in future newsletters and member email updates. Please contact cheshamvalegs@gmail.com if you would like to receive email updates or to join the society - just £2 per household per year!

Adrian Norris, Chairman

www.bellingdon.com/chesham-vale-gardeners-society/

Community Speedwatch

What is Community Speedwatch?

Community Speedwatch is a national initiative where, in partnership with the police, members of communities use detection devices to monitor local vehicle speeds. Local police surveys have demonstrated that speeding motorists are seen as the most common example of law breaking locally. To combat, this a local Speedwatch group was set up earlier in 2022 to encourage drivers to reduce their speed through the villages of Chartridge, Asheridge, Bellingdon, Hawridge & Cholesbury. It now comprises a team of 11 locals who, after a short online training process, volunteer to measure the speed of vehicles.

What can I do to help reduce speeding locally?

We are always keen to recruit more volunteers to our team. The online training/quiz is straightforward and takes less than an hour. After this you can volunteer with others at a time suitable to you to measure traffic speed at local roadside sites.

Does it make a difference?

So far this year 216 vehicles have been measured locally exceeding the limit and as a result the owners have received letters from Thames Valley Police. Across the whole Thames Valley region this number is over 30,000 this year. Reoffenders can receive visits and be penalised by the Police. The good news is that the reoffending rate has been measured as less than 4% year to date demonstrating that it makes a difference.

Why not join us? Email Joanie Lherbier (maryland@btopenworld.com) for more details.

The Speedwatch Team

Parish Council

The Parish Council has, at last, filled the Bellingdon vacancy and we welcome your new councillor, **Andy Savvides**.

Regarding the Jubilee work to repair and replace gates and stiles on Asheridge and Bellingdon footpaths, this has to involve the County Council and the Chiltern Society and there has been some hold up but we hope to make progress soon.

Most of you know that the Parish Council maintains a children's playground in Chartridge but it felt that we lack something for older youngsters and as part of the memorial of the Jubilee, a Trim Trail for teenagers (and indeed upwards from teen years!) will be installed in Franklin Fields in Chartridge. This project has been funded by the Chesham and Villages Community Board.

You may (as I did) ask what exactly is a Trim Trail; it's a sort of obstacle course built of challenging equipment, the equipment is made of wood and the 6 challenging items include log vaults and a horizontal ladder. We will notify residents when it is ready for use, with details such as times of access and we hope that it will provide fun and exercise to many of you as well as to teenagers.

Joanie Lherbier

Where next for our Ukrainian guests?

As one of the two families mentioned in Andrew Barratt's autumn article about hosting Ukrainian refugees, we are grateful for the opportunity to update the community on developments since then.

By Christmas, many local Ukrainian guests will have been with their families for a little over 6 months - the agreed time commitment. Whilst some hosts are happy to continue into 2023, many guests are already needing to look for more permanent accommodation. But will they manage it?

The private rental market is under huge pressure, particularly in our area. Talking the other day with a local estate agent, we discovered that almost every rental on offer is snapped up within days, if not hours, with landlords able to pick and choose from several possible tenants. Using criteria such as a good credit history and an established UK employment record, it is hard for recently arrived Ukrainians to be top of the list.

So, the poster overleaf is part of a campaign by our local support group, collaborating with Bucks Council, to find 'second wave' hosts to take over while guests continue to improve their English and establish themselves in

employment. Unless this happens, a potential crisis is looming. If Ukrainians are unable to secure a second host or find a suitable rental soon, then they will be declared homeless and offered only B&B accommodation or worse.

Our community has done a huge amount to welcome Ukrainian families made homeless by a horrific war. And, if we may add a personal note, the last few months have been a rewarding eye-opener for us both. We have learned about a different culture and been privileged to support some vulnerable people though the toughest time of their lives. We have also made three very good friends.

All our guests have already been through so much - it would be truly tragic for them to be made homeless again. Please consider whether you are able to offer a Ukrainian family a temporary refuge, either now or after Christmas. Even if it's a 'maybe', don't hesitate to get in touch with us to learn more, either at: ddennis48@outlook.com or by using the phone number on the poster – 07494 427355.

David Dennis and Lesley Paton

Could you offer a spare room at home?

Ukrainian families living in the Chilterns seek new hosts

Would you like to make a real difference to the lives of our Ukrainian guests? It can be hugely rewarding and sometimes even life changing. Some of the most resilient, brave women and children we've met now require new hosts with a stable, secure home in this local area.

Six months after the whole process began, you can now be part of the second wave of hosts covering up to the next 6 months. Our Ukrainian friends are highly skilled and need just a few more months to further improve their English so they can work and live independently in the UK.

This is how two current hosts describe their experiences:

"With the great local support networks we are proud that we have made a difference to one lovely family - giving them renewed hope for the future."

"We have been able to cushion the terrible situation facing our Ukrainian guests - and even share some of their joys and achievements."

Consider becoming a host today:

- Established community of hosts, volunteers and Ukrainian families
- Volunteer drivers to back up public transport
- Organised activities for hosts, volunteers and Ukrainian friends
- Monthly government payment

It's a unique opportunity to be part of a richly rewarding experience, learn about a great culture, and make new friends.



To register your initial interest and find out more at a presentation evening, please contact us on 07494 427355 or email huscchilterns@gmail.com



Curvaceous Cook

Shallot tatin

This is a really easy and slightly different tart that is great as an accompaniment or as the star of a meal. It uses up all those ends of cheese left over from the fancy cheese board we all buy at Christmas and rarely finish, and pastry from the freezer. Best served warm.

This is based on a Sarah Raven recipe, and she says you can use onion, but I really think worth getting shallots.

- 450g shallots
- 175 g any mix of cheese. Soft cheeses especially good
- 40 g butter
- 1-2 tbs olive oil (I use 1)
- 1 tbs soft brown sugar
- Salt and black pepper
- 500 g puff pastry. I really think it is worth getting the all butter one
- Oven to 200/6

Cut cheese into thickish slices. Add peeled whole shallots to boiling water and cook 5 mins if small, 8 mins if large, and drain.

Melt butter and oil in ovenproof pan, then sprinkle in the sugar and dissolve gently before adding shallots. Season well and cook to rich golden caramel. Remove from heat.

Roll out pastry to just bigger than pan. Spread cheese over shallots and lay pastry over the top, pressing down slightly round the edge. Bake for about 25 minutes until risen and golden. Allow to cool slightly then place big plate over the pan and invert quickly so pastry is underneath.

Serve warm.

[Sounds delicious, we will definitely be trying this - Ed.]

Details of clubs, events and village news, including hall bookings: www.bellingdon.com
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The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity or length.