

Bellingdon & Asheridge Community Newsletter



Can you do better than Roxy's can or Will, Isabelle and Lexie's chair on your litter pick? Join us on 26th March; most unusual find wins a prize!

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Community news

There's a sniff of spring in the air; snowdrops are in full flower and a few hardy daffodils are making their way out of hibernation.

We're beginning to look forward to longer days and warmer weather, and there is a full programme (see below) of events at the hall and church, starting in early March with another of our very popular **afternoon tea events**.

Originally this date was reserved for a celebration of the **Hall's 75th Anniversary**, but on reflection it

was felt that would be better celebrated nearer the actual date - so please put **12th November** in your diaries for afternoon tea, 40s music and an exhibition of village and hall history.

Monday 8th May will see the hall host a "**Big Coronation Picnic Lunch**", a bring-your-own picnic/rug/chairs event with some informal games for anyone who wishes to join in (think children's sports day) to round off the Coronation weekend. The hall will be available if it is wet.

Looking even further ahead the annual **Village Fete (24th June)** is approaching with some speed.

Anyone who would like to help out/ have a stall/bake a cake/donate a raffle prize please email fete@bellingdon.com

The Parish Council is looking for ideas suggestions and ideas for Bellingdon following improvements it has made in Chartridge, while there's news about Asheridge's Neighbourhood Watch and our joint Community Speedwatch venture.

Read on for information about community events, clubs, a bread recipe from our own Curvaceous Cook and a plea to keep dogs under control, particularly during the upcoming lambing season.

MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p>12th: Tea & cakes at the hall 3-5pm</p> <p>26th: Big Village Litter Pick</p>	<p>2nd: Palm Sunday Service at St John's</p> <p>9th: Easter Sunday Service</p> <p>21st: Pub Night 6:30-10:30pm</p>	<p>8th: Big Coronation Picnic Lunch & games</p> <p>13th: Hort Soc Plant Sale</p>	<p>24th: Village Fete & Dog Show</p> <p>25th: British Dalmatian Welfare Fun Day</p>

Annual Litter Pick

Sunday 26th March 2023 10.00- 12 noon, meet at the Village Hall. Anybody interested in helping would be welcome. Please wear **hi vis** and good **boots** and **gloves**. Bags and litter pickers will be provided.

Refreshments will be available at 12 noon. If you want to let me know if you are coming please feel free to email: donbaker@rocketmail.com or text: 07885 752406

Bellingdon Short Mat Bowls Club

Looking for new members!

Any age can play, we have had members from teenagers to over 90s. We meet at Bellingdon Village Hall for two hour sessions:

- Every Monday evening 7.30pm
- Every Wednesday morning 10.00am

If you are interested just come along and have a look or try it out. Equipment and help will be provided. If you want to ask anything contact me on donbaker@rocketmail.com or 07885 752406.

Some members of the club play in matches against other villages. Last summer Bellingdon won the Summer league. Currently we are playing in Winter leagues. We are currently third in both leagues which finish soon.

Don Baker

St John's Church

As you may have read on the village website there is now a monthly meeting at St John's Church from 2.30 to 4pm on the first Wednesday of each month, where people come in for a cuppa and a chat.

Last month it was very well-attended, and I learned quite a lot of village history! The next few dates are March 1st, April 5th and May 3rd.

Our morning services continue at 10 am every Sunday, and we also have occasional services on Sunday afternoons, the next one being at 4pm on Palm Sunday, April 2nd.

You would be most welcome to join us!

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

Chesham Vale Gardeners' Society (Hort Soc)

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/

Parish Council

Following the successful application for funds to install a "Trim Trail" for teenagers and adults in Chartridge [see *Winter 2022 newsletter - Ed*], the Parish Council would like to invite members of the community to offer ideas for additions or improvements that could be made in Bellingdon, with a particular focus on older children/teenagers. The PC will then work with BAACA to assess the ideas and apply for funding from the Buckinghamshire Communities Board, which has funded the trim trail. Please send any ideas to andy.savvides@chartridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

Andy Savvides

Asheridge Neighbourhood Watch & Community Speedwatch

That's a lot of watching! But it's the sort that involves watching out for each other, doing our best to keep our villages as safe as possible in different ways.

Asheridge Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp group started in December 2020, and we'd like to thank our administrator Kim Wigfield. It now has 31 members and we communicate on a range of subjects that are relevant to the village: sinister loiterers, suspicious vehicles, escaped horses loose on the road, as well as road closures and obstructions when County Council omit to inform us or get the signage wrong!

Messages go throughout the village in an instant and comments are added "live". It's very friendly, efficient and effective and we would recommend the use of this system to any Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Spring is on its way and as the days are getting lighter Community Speedwatch will soon be back at the roadside.

Speed is a major problem on our narrow roads and Bellingdon has been marked by the Police as a rural blackspot, I know I've said that before but we can't repeat it often enough as very many people are still taking no notice!

Don't be mistaken and think that Speedwatch is just a random group of people who like playing with a speedgun. It is a Police project and their speedgun, they see all our results and take the relevant action, ranging from warning letters to speeding drivers finding themselves in Court.

If you are interested in joining either of these groups please contact me on maryland@btopenworld.com (sorry, the WhatsApp group is Asheridge residents only but Community Speedwatch welcomes everyone!)

Joanie Lherbier

Colour Wheel

The brightly lit hall is silent, heads are bent over tables. You could hear a pin drop except for the tap, tap, tap which resonates around the room. Suddenly there's a break in the deep concentration as a few people break out with infectious laughter. Someone gets up to get another cup of tea and a custard cream.

Welcome to an art class at Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall



It's a Tuesday and in this morning's class the students are practising some mark-making before attacking the main task of the day. We've had a potted history of Monet and been shown slides of his beautiful painting of the bridge over the water lily pond. 'It's all about light' says Jo. Jo is our wonderful tutor, a talented artist in her own right and, more importantly a brilliant communicator and teacher. Usually it's Jo that starts the laughter!

Today's class is using soft pastels to create 'sunset landscapes', last week we used watercolour pencils to create 'vintage blue china'; magnificent peacocks, and fuschia flowerheads on a circular pencil drawing, replicating a plate.

Next week it's elephants with watercolour paints...how to and how not to use them to best effect. Every week is different, every term is different.

We explore different media and different methods of using them including acrylics, watercolour inks, charcoal and more. The classes are relaxed and fun and are aimed at both beginners and those with more experience. We supply all materials and equipment, you just bring yourself and maybe an old shirt as it can get messy!

We start a new, 14 week term after Easter on Tuesday 18th April. We have two classes a day 9.30 – 12.30 and 1.30 – 4.30. Come and join us!

For more information please go to our website:

<https://colourwheelartclass.co.uk/product/art-classes-chesham>

or call Stacey on 07881 681891

Curvaceous Cook

Scandinavian style bread

I was quietly kneading my weekly loaf and wondering what to do for this recipe with my post Christmas and post covid foggy brain, and I realised that I haven't done a bread recipe for a while, so here is the one I follow most weeks.

I like my bread to be brown and nutty, and I mix and match the ingredients weekly, but this is the base recipe.

- 100g strong white flour. Not strictly necessary, but it does lighten it a bit
- 400g strong wholemeal flour. I like to use one with multigrains and bits. At the moment I am using Eight Grain by Matthews Cotswold, which I get from Waitrose
- A good 2 heaped tbs mixed seeds (and nuts if you like, or dried fruit) I use Omega mix from Grape tree

- 2 tbs milk powder.
- 1 tbs olive oil
- 1 level tbs salt
- 200 ml cold water mixed with 100ml just boiled water
- 25 g fresh yeast or about 9 g dried. Sainsbury's used to give away fresh yeast from their bakeries, round here they have recently stopped, but I am lucky enough to have a local delivery. It freezes beautifully in portioned bags
- 1 tbs malt extract if you can get it, or black treacle, or honey or even sugar

Mix the waters, stir in the malt extract then drop in the yeast, still frozen if that is how you have it. Stir and leave a while till you hear a gentle popping and bubbles rising. Stir every few minutes if using fresh.

Mix all dry ingredients, plus oil, and turn on the mixer with dough hook, or make a well and pour in the yeasty water. Knead until all the water is absorbed, you may need a tiny bit more depending on the weather and the temperature and humidity in your kitchen. It should be able to make a ball and not stick to your fingers, but not dry. Cover with a bath hat or cling film or damp tea towel, and leave until double in size. Again, timings will depend on all of the above.

Lightly spray a 2 lb bread tin and shake flour round the inside, tipping excess onto work surface.

Turn dough out onto the flour and gently form the shape you want, tucking in the ends. Drop into your tin and i make 3 cuts across the top. Cover and leave until a good inch above the top of the tin.

Oven onto 200 fan, and I only preheat for about 5 minutes then put the tin in.

Cook for 20 minutes, tip out of the tin and return to the oven for another 20 minutes, turning oven down to 180. The bread is done when the bottom sounds hollow when tapped. Try and resist cutting into it until cold!

Long recipe, but actually only about 10 minutes work, and so worth it for the flavour and to have no preservatives and other rubbish that is put into so many loaves these days. It will go mouldy after a few days, so I freeze half the loaf as soon as it is cold, either as slices or as a whole.

The hills are alive ...

...with the sound of Grapeviners* searching for their errant dogs.

It seems that hardly a week goes by these days without another plea for sightings of missing dogs.

Now, this can only mean one of two things.

Either the animal has escaped from what was thought to be a safe compound or it has been let off the lead whilst being exercised and has not responded to its owner's command to return to heel.

The latter is clearly favourite which means that there are far too many owners who are not only not in full control of their pets but simply don't recognise the dangers that dogs pose to wildlife.

I'm so glad to hear that your dog is safe back
And that our local wildlife's now safe from attack.
Please remember you're in the countryside now
Where Chelsea tractors are no use with a plough.

Our beautiful landscape's not an urban play park
Where your pet can run riot - just for a lark.
(For larks are ground-nesters and won't raise their young
Where Fido cavorts - "oh, he's just having fun!")

We'd all be the poorer without the wildlife living here
The hares and the rabbits, Muntjac and Roe Deer.
This is their land that we should respect
And control of our pets we should never neglect.

"Oh my Fido's a good boy, he won't hurt a fly"
Tell that to the sheep as your dog passes by
On t'other side of the fence - you may think that true
But his barking will frighten a pregnant Ewe.

I've seen it myself, a thick welt round the crow
Where, pushing in panic through barbed wire it tore
As the terrified animal tried hard to flee
The threat from the pet that "wouldn't harm a flea".

So remember the code, keep your dog on a lead
Unless you are CERTAIN to your command he'll accede.

A Countryman

*[*The Grapevine is a local email news group, centring on the villages of Hawridge and Cholesbury. Residents with an HP5 2 postcode are allowed to join - Ed]*

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.