

Bellingdon & Asheridge Community Newsletter



The hall was packed for the Big Coronation Picnic lunch on 8th May

IN THIS ISSUE

Community news

St John's Church

Hort Soc/CVGS

Parish Council

Curvaceous Cook

Nature project at the hall

Welcome to the summer issue of the Bellingdon & Asheridge community newsletter. Jam packed with info about what's been going on in our villages, as well as future dates and exciting events.



Community news

Fete 24th June 1-5pm

Bring yourself, your family, friends and even (especially!) the dog to the ever popular Bellingdon & Asheridge traditional village fete.

It returns again this year promising an afternoon of fun, refreshments and light hearted competition.

Bar, BBQ, Raffle and Tombola, Fun Dog Show, Classic Cars, Tea and Cakes, Hemel Hempstead Band, tug of war, books, kids corner and lots

lots more. Supporting the local community and charities.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with Set up and Set Down (Friday and Saturday slots) and to run stalls. Please get in touch if you can spare a few hours.

If you would like a stand at the fete, we have a few spaces still available.

Find out more at www.bellingdon.com

Entry Fee: £1 Kids Free.

Get in touch at fete@bellingdon.com

JUNE

7th: Meeting Point (St John's)

24th: Village Fete & Dog Show & Classic Cars

25th: British Dalmatian Welfare Fun Day

JULY

2nd: Trad. Common Prayer service at St John's 4pm

5th: Meeting Point (St John's)

7th: Pub Night

12th: BAACA AGM

AUGUST

2nd: Meeting Point (St John's)

9th: Rumble free community event

18th: Pub Night

SEPTEMBER

2nd: CVGS Autumn Show

6th: Meeting Point (St John's)

BAACA AGM

BAACA, the organisation that runs the village hall, is having its AGM on Wednesday 12th July. This is the annual opportunity for residents of Bellingdon & Asheridge to meet the management committee and trustees and to ask any questions they may have about the hall and grounds. All adult residents are entitled to vote at the meeting.

BELLINGDON & ASHERIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Charity No 1087494

This is formal notice to all inhabitants 18 and upwards that the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held at the Village Hall

on Wednesday 12th July 2023 8.00pm

Please notify any items for the agenda to contact@bellingdon.com by 30th June 2023.

Coronation Big Lunch

The hall was packed (see front photo) for a weatherproof “picnic” with some hastily assembled indoor games that were a huge hit with the kids. Huge thanks to the the organisers Kirsty, Helen and Antonia for ensuring we did our bit to celebrate the King’s coronation, despite the weather.

Litter Pick thanks

A big thank you to all volunteers who covered the entire village, including stalwarts of many village clearances, Colin & Laura from South Bellingdon and Jenny & Chris from Bank Green. We know many residents litter pick all year round.

The team collected about 15 bags plus TV, carpeting & 2 Estate Agents boards. Whilst Antonia collected the cutest item - a smurfette - the prize went to Jenny & Chris recognising many years of collection and doing both Saturday & Sunday this year. Their collection included many items including ‘fitted carpeting’.

Thanks to Helen G for rewarding everyone with tasty bacon rolls at the end.

Rumble

As Villagers are aware, annually the Village Hall and fields play host to a music and movement festival know as ‘Rumble’ (previously incarnations have also been termed ‘Forro’). Following the success of the community night last year where local families were invited to an evening of entertainment the decision has been made to run the event again in 2023 on Wednesday August 9th. The event is free to locals, see the poster below.

Organiser Julia says “Come and join us at Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Hall, where we’ll welcome you to meet us and each other, dance and eat yummy food..



Everyone welcome - kids too! This event is FREE for the local community!

We will serve a veggy dinner from 7pm at a small cost, and there'll be hot and cold drinks and sweet snacks available too.

We will offer a programme of dance that you can join as an introduction to the kinds of activities available at Rumble festival, which will be happening both weekends either side of this event. (Subject to change)

Please see www.rumblefestival.co.uk for more info about the weekend events”

<https://buytickets.at/dancelondon/925898>

Hugh Griffiths

St John's Church

We are looking forward to meeting many people at the village fete and shall have some activities for the children to do. We continue to have our morning service every Sunday at 10:00. Other events are a service at 16:00 on Sunday 2nd July, which will be a traditional Common Prayer service.

Meeting Point, the chance to catch up over a cup of tea, continues to take place at the church on the first Wednesday of every month from 14:30 until 16:00. It may well be at a different venue in July - do contact me on j.edmunds@sky.com if you would like further information.

In October we plan to have a harvest tea at Meeting Point on 4th October. We shall also have a harvest theme in our Harvest Festival which we shall celebrate at 10:00 and also at 16:00 on Sunday 1st October. You are most welcome to join us at these events - we would love to see you!

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

Jane Edmunds

Chesham Vale Gardeners' Society (Hort Soc)

Chesham Vale Gardeners Society held their AGM & Spring Flower Show on 1st April 2023 for the first time at The Methodist Church Hall in Chesham and what a lovely afternoon it was. More than 40 members were in attendance and the meeting was followed by a delicious homemade afternoon tea. The exhibits were of the usual very high standard.

For a full list of events please contact the CVGS on the email or number below. We've listed events held at our village hall only, owing to space constraints. For those interested in entering exhibits in our upcoming Summer or Autumn shows, a schedule and entry form can be obtained by emailing cheshamvalegs@gmail.com. Or ring Adrian on 07718 609719

2023 diary dates (at B&A Village Hall)

- **Autumn Show** – Saturday 2nd September, 3-4:30pm
- **October Social** – Friday 13th October 7pm till late.
Optional fancy dress, theme "Fright Night"

Adrian Norris, Chairman

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

Curvaceous Cook

Apple Strudel

I am starting to make room for this year's bounty in my pantry, and have 2 year old jars of bottled apples that I prepare in Italy and bring back with me as the best way to preserve and transport them. I use them as they are, or use them to make chutney and jam throughout the winter, but 2 years ago we had so many that I ran out of ideas and need to get them used! I am not a lover of sweet things, and usually forget to make a pud, but it is Easter lunch as I write this, so this seemed a good celebration, whilst being really easy to make, and also used up some left over from Christmas filo pastry, and stale bread! It is a simple party pud too, this should feed 8-10 people.

- 225 g filo pastry
- 700g cooking apples, peeled, cored and sliced, or from a jar of bottled apples with the juice drained off
- 50 g currants
- 50 g sultanas
- 3 level tbs caster sugar (I don't use any as I bottle them in slightly sugared water)
- 2 tsp mixed spice, we like it spicy, use less if you don't
- 40 g melted butter
- 125 g fresh breadcrumbs
- 25 g flaked almonds and icing sugar and cinnamon to decorate

Mix together the apples, dried fruit, spices and sugar if using and leave to steep for a bit.

Lay out a layer of filo on a clean t-towel and brush with melted butter. Repeat with a second layer on top of the first.

Sprinkle the breadcrumbs all over, leaving a margin at the edges of a couple of inches. These will absorb some of the apple juice and stop it getting soggy.

Lay the fruit mix over the top, again leaving a margin at the edges.

Fold the sides of the filo over the fruit, then roll up, using the t-towel so you have a long sausage, with the edges enclosed. Place on baking tray, traditionally in a horse shoe shape.

Brush with melted butter and bake on 190/ mk 5 for about 40 minutes until golden brown and crispy.

Sprinkle over the almonds for the last 5 minutes if using

Dredge with a mix of icing sugar and cinnamon (if you like it, but fine without) and serve warm or cold with custard or cream

Exciting new nature project at the Village Hall

Did you know that the term “lawn” referring to a managed grass space, dates back to the 16th century. With suburban expansion, the lawn became culturally ingrained as a desired household aesthetic. However, awareness of the negative environmental impact of this ideal is growing.

Did you also know that we are experiencing catastrophic insect and wildlife decline? British garden birds have declined by 48% in just 5 years and flying insects by 60% and this is linked to loss of habitats and food sources and climate change.

How can we all help? Insects have adapted to feed and live on native plants and wildflowers are perfectly adapted to be the best sources of food and shelter. Some valuable wildflowers have unfortunately become known by the term ‘weed’ which simply means ‘a plant that is not valued where it is growing’. By simply relaxing our maintenance regimes and allowing natural flowers to bloom, we will help insects and birds and mammals.

In addition, every time we cut the lawn, we not only destroy a little bit of nature, but we put more carbon dioxide into the air from the mower and we reduce the carbon capture ability of longer grass. We also create a lot of unnecessary noise pollution – have you ever sat outside on a lovely sunny day just to be plagued by the sound of mowers and strimmers and, worst of all, leaf blowers?

With all this in mind, BAACA, the fantastic charity looking after the management of the Bellingdon & Asheridge village hall site, has agreed to a project to help nature. The project will be run by myself and will receive expert advice from Chesham Environmental Group member, Trevor Brawn. I have secured a grant for the project (thanks to Piers from the Chiltern Society who has been our contact through the River Chess Smarter Water Catchment initiative) and we will start to allow nature to regenerate round the edges of the playing fields. This will not affect the football pitches which will be mown as usual.

We will monitor the natural species that arrive and then add local plants in sections. This increased biodiversity

will bring colour, scent and attract many more insects and butterflies, birds and mammals.

In addition, the grant will allow us to add some extra blossom trees – valuable for early pollinator food, and for the public, picnic tables and benches. There will be projects for local children and scouts and guides, such as building bug hotels and bee banks and bee scrapes.

Thanks to Alf Field, BACCA chairman, the mowing regime has already changed and 2 water butts have been fitted – this rainwater will be used for any new trees and additional planting.

The project will run for up to 2 years and we will see how the site develops and record and monitor the additional fauna and flora. In the meantime – everyone can help fight the terrible decline of nature by simply relaxing more and allowing nature to thrive.

Antonia Savvides

British Dalmatian Welfare
 ★★ **FUN DAY** ★★

Sunday 25th June from 10.30am
 Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall, Bellingdon,
 Chesham, Bucks HP5 2XU

Free Entry
All breeds welcome

Join us for a day of entertainment for all the family

- ★ A mixture of fun classes, games, tombola, tea & home made cakes, barbecue, prizes, awards, sale of Dalmatian items and much, much more...
- ★ Don your fastest running shoes for our hilarious **Egg, (Dog) & Spoon race**
- ★ **Fancy Dress** Delve into your dream characters to create your fancy dress outfit for you and your dog
- ★ **Musical Sits** - How fast can your dog sit?
- ★ **Best Trick**
- ★ **Agility**
- ★ **Carriage Dog Display**

SAVE THE DATE

BRITISH DALMATIAN WELFARE




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.