

BELLINGDON & ASHERIDGE

Community News & Events

* STOP PRESS *

The Future of our Village Hall?
(see back page)

Braziers End Pond

Village Bowls Wins

Memories of Derek Keen

FETE VOLUNTEERS

29 JUNE



Your Village Needs YOU !

LETTER FROM YOUR NEW EDITOR

I am amazed to see how very busy we are as a village from numerous conservation projects to the many community events held in the village.

Research shows that people with strong social connections live longer and healthier lives. Community builds social connections and

gives a sense of purpose. Last month I attended the first meeting of the 2024 Fete Committee. Such a lovely vibrant & friendly group, who clearly do so much for the Village.

The Village Hall is a hub. It's future in part depends on funds raised at the Village Fete. The fete is well supported by visitors but we need new volunteers. Be it helping on the cake stall for

a couple of hours, setting up or turning a few sausages on the barbeque. An important aspect is providing entertaining stalls, especially for children from the Coconut Shy to Wellie Wanging.

If you can you spare some time for your community on Saturday 29th June at the Fete please contact me.

Jo Askew

newsletter@bellington.com

MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<div>Wed 6th Meeting Point Tea & Chat (St John's) 2.30pm</div> <div>Sun 17th Afternoon Tea with homemade cakes at Village Hall 3-5pm</div> <div>Wed 20th Knit & Natter Craft & Chatter St John's 2.30-4pm</div>	<div>Wed 3rd Meeting Point Tea & Chat (St John's) 2.30pm</div> <div>Wed 17th Knit & Natter Craft & Chatter St John's 2.30-4pm</div> <div>Sat 27th History & Culture Club at St John's 11.30am</div>	<div>Wed 1st Meeting Point Tea & Chat (St John's) 2.30pm</div> <div>Sat 11th CVGS Plant Sale Village Hall 2.30-4.30pm</div> <div>Wed 15th Knit & Natter Craft & Chatter St John's 2.30-4pm</div> <div>Fri 17th Community Pub Night at the Village Hall 6-10pm</div>	<div>Wed 5th Meeting Point W/e 7-9th & 14-16th Moving Connections (see back page)</div> <div>Wed 19th Knit & Natter Craft & Chatter St John's 2.30-4pm</div> <div>W/e 22-23rd Cycling the Chilterns (see back page)</div> <div>Sat 29th Annual Village Fete 12-5pm at Village Hall & Grounds</div> <div>Sun 30th Dalmatian Dog Show</div>

BRAZIERS END POND

In January we saw the first community day organised by the Chiltern Society with funding from the 'Chess Smarter Water Catchment'. With plenty of



volunteers and a lot of enthusiasm a good start was made on clearing the banks and invasive plants. In addition there was some dredging of the pond which produced some interesting finds including the ubiquitous traffic cone and road sign PLUS a safe! Unfortunately, the safe was empty.

Tree works commenced on 12th Feb to remove trees with ash dieback and pollarding to some of the mature trees to maintain their health. The work will allow more light to the pond and remove invasive non-native species. Next steps include investigation into water quality and examining the types of species that already call the pond and surrounding land home. Thanks go

to Buckinghamshire Council (Landowners), Chartridge Parish Council and the Chiltern Society for their support on the community day, as well as the kind volunteers. Further community days will be planned later in the year. For further information please go to

www.chesssmarterwatercatchment.org

Next issue - News On Captains Wood



REWILDING PROJECT

Information signs were added where the planting will take place to explain the project. The gully by the hall was filled with compost and a mix of herbs and wildflowers added - these will provide early nectar and shelter - frogs have already been found hiding where we planted. Two new water butts were added - thanks to BAACA chairman Alf and these will be essential during the summer droughts. The grant also paid for a new recycled plastic bench

Spring flowering native cowslips & over 2000 crocus bulbs were planted by local scouts groups in November in the grass section by the road hedge. Four native trees were sourced from a local plant nursery in Chartridge and planted to provide berries in winter, blossom in spring and shade - a rowan, hawthorn and 2 flowering cherry blossoms. A big thank you to Paul Muggeridge-Breene & family for helping me to plant them.

Herbs and drought resistant pollinator friendly plants have been added to the grass verge by the playground with assorted spring bulbs including camasses and hyacinth which were

donated. Paul, Trevor and I built a scrape, a bee bank for nesting bees and a bug hotel.



More wildflowers have been purchased as plug plants and I am growing them on to strengthen them. These will be added to the grass areas on the edge of the playing fields to improve biodiversity:

White Clover, Red Clover, Forget-me-not, Geranium, Mallow, Red Campion, Betony, Bugle, Sweet Woodruff, Pulmonaria, Wood Sage, Sage, Thyme, Mint, Ice Plant, Marjoram, Lavender, Verbena, Hedge Bedstraw, Ladies Bedstraw.

If you have wildflowers plants you can donate or any of the following:

Knapweed, Self-Heal, Chickweed, Hebe, Purple Loosestrife, Yarrow, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Vipers Bugloss, Scabious, Evening Primrose, Hemp Agrimony, Dead Nettles, Rosemary, Perennial Cornflowers, Honeysuckle, Black Mullein, Ragged Robin, Teasels, Corncockle, Scabious, Echiums, Ox-eye Daisies, Hedge Woundwort, Foxgloves, Nettle-leaved Bellflower, Wood Sage, Honesty & hollyhocks.

They would be gratefully received. If you would like to come and help or would like more info - please email antonia.savvides@sky.com



Scouts planting bulbs in November, well done !

CHESHAM VALE GARDENERS' SOCIETY

The events held at the Village Hall are also listed on the front page of this newsletter, which we hope many of you will support.

Sat 6th April—CVGS Spring Flower Show, AGM and Afternoon Tea, Methodist Church, Bellingdon Road
2.30 to 4.30pm

Sat 11th May—CVGS Plant Sale, Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall 2.30 to 4.30pm

Sat 18th May—CVGS Plant Sale, Market Square, Chesham. 9.30am to 12pm **Adrian Norris, Chairman**

SUCCESS AT BELLINGDON SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

After 12 matches the club won the summer league albeit by 1 point over our main rivals, Chinnor. We are in 2 Winter leagues with just a few matches left. We are currently 2nd in the South Bucks League and leading the Single Mat League by a whisker over Chesham.

We welcome anybody to come and have a look at the club games which are played on a friendly basis at

Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall

Mondays - 7.30pm & Wednesdays - 10.00am

Don Baker

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Christmas seems a long time ago, and the carol service at Huge Farm was as always a popular event. In January we held one of our quarterly Sunday afternoon services, reflection by candlelight. Towards Lent we are taking passages from the Gospel of Mark for our sermon series in our **10am services each Sunday**.

Our **History and Culture Club** has had two meetings since the last newsletter – Tim Yates' talk on the history of Bellingdon, and a second meeting at which people brought and talked about something linked to the history of the village. Both were very interesting. The next will be a talk

with about an overland journey from Bellingdon to the Sahara Desert! If you would like to talk about something linked to history or culture at one of these meetings - for between 5 minutes and an hour - do let us know! (j.edmunds@sky.com)

The **Knit and Natter Group** is now well-established, renamed **Knit and Natter, Craft and Chatter** to reflect the variety of activities! It is most welcoming, with a lovely atmosphere. In addition, we run the monthly **Meeting Point**. **Dates for these events are on the front page.**

Jane Edmunds

DEREK KEEN 10th May 1945 – 28th December 2023

Derek was a Chilterns man; he was born at Inglenook (now Hunter's Oak), Asheridge, married at Cholesbury Church (1971), then lived and worked in Asheridge. He met his wife, Doris Fromming, at the Blue Ball and once married lived in the farmhouse at Asheridge. Derek started work as a farm labourer at Widmore Farm, Asheridge and by the age of 26 he was Farm Manager. When the farm was

sold they moved to Bellingdon with their son Peter (born 1974) and daughter Debbie (born 1976). From here Derek started his own business as a gardener.

Derek was a very active member of the community serving as a Parish Councillor and a time as Chairman. He was also Chairman of our own Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall. He loved playing cricket on a Sunday and contributed to the running of the Club.

He was a good friend of Cholesbury church where his parents and sister are buried by the large Rhododendron. Every year the grave was planted with annual bedding and



kept well tended. Even when illness prevented Derek from doing this, he sent a gardener to turf the area. This was typical of his thoughtfulness and an example of his kindness which many have reported. His gardening work was appreciated by a great many grateful clients in the villages, being so reliable with a good plant knowledge. Derek was also an allotment holder at Buckland Common and with Doris they worked three allotments. They

were very generous in sharing with their many friends the invariable surplus.

Derek suffered ill health in later years which together with rheumatoid arthritis curtailed his activity. He caught Covid which his weakened body could not resist. His parents' headstone is inscribed "*At peace in God's garden*" – surely true for Derek.

His son, Peter, lives in Woodley, Berkshire where he has an aquatics business and his daughter, Debbie lives in Bellingdon where she is well known in the equestrian community.

UPCOMING VILLAGE HALL EVENTS



Two days of cycling starting from and organised by the Chiltern Velo Café

Overnight camping facilities at Bellingdon with evening entertainment, bar & catering for participants.

www.atwevents.co.uk



Weekend 1: June 7-9th
Weekend 2: June 14-16th

Contact: www.tickettailor.com

DO WE WANT OUR VILLAGE HALL TO CLOSE ?

Bellingdon & Asheridge Community Association Hall may have to close its doors for good unless we have a plan for its future.

Since COVID several longstanding volunteers have had to step back and the pool of volunteers continues to dwindle. Many regular hirers & community groups that used the hall have been disbanded. It is mostly used by people outside the village.

So what shall we do about it? We have ideas but would like to hear from you ! A survey asking for your thoughts will be winging its way to you soon. Please keep an eye out for it in your letterbox and fill it in.

We need to know what you think.

Thank-you, **Trustees of the BAACA**

LABNEH & CHEESE BISCUITS

I first discovered labneh when my husband was working in Kuwait. I then forgot it until I was left with a spare pot of Greek yoghurt that was just out of date after Christmas. It is so simple and tastes so fresh with just a few additions. As long as there isn't actually mould growing on the **yoghurt** you can use it, but it should be full fat Greek yogurt

Mix a little sea salt, stir, then tip onto a piece of muslin or a jelly bag, and tie it over a wooden spoon to hang over a bowl that it can drip into. You will be amazed how much liquid comes off after a few hours, or ideally overnight.

Next day, give it a stir and add in whatever flavours you want to, or just leave it plain for a more interesting cream cheese. I like to add finely **grated lemon rind and a mix of herbs, parsley, thyme and rosemary** is a good one. It can then be stored in a pot, covered with extra virgin olive oil, for a week or so. You can also roll it into balls, then roll it

in a herb mix, put them in a jar, cover with oil and eat as required. The best way is in a salad, on little gem lettuce leaves, on scoop shaped crisps or tortilla chips, or onto one of these really quick & easy

Cheese Biscuits

4 oz plain flour

4 oz softened butter

¼ tsp cayenne pepper

1 tsp dry mustard powder

4 oz mature cheese, or mix of cheeses

Whizz all in processor, mixer or by hand till it forms a clump. Into fridge for 30 minutes. Then roll out into whatever shapes you like. I usually make them bite size.

Cook for 5-8 minutes in a hottish oven. Cool on a rack so they firm up before eating, if you can wait that long as they are very Moorish !

Happy 2024! **Curvaceous Cook**

Details of clubs, events and village news including hall bookings go to www.bellingdon.com
Please send comments, question and ideas for articles to the editor at newsletter@bellingdon.com