

BELLINGDON & ASHERIDGE

Community News & Events

VILLAGE FETE 2024



The 2024 Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Fete was a great success, **raising £6,017 for the Village Hall and Chiltern Food Bank**. This amount is significantly higher than in previous years, and is entirely down to our amazing volunteers. A huge thanks to everyone who gave their time and energy on the day and throughout the year. There wouldn't be a fete without you all!

We want to make the 2025 fete even better, so if you have any thoughts or ideas please send them to fete@bellingdon.com. And don't forget to put Saturday 28th June 2025 in your diaries.

Paul Muggeridge-Breene, Fete Organiser

CHESHAM VALE GARDENERS' SOCIETY

A Successful Autumn Show

Once again our Autumn Show was held in the village hall on Saturday 7th September. Despite the unpredictable weather this summer with a prolonged dry spell many members turned up with their exhibits in the various horticultural classes of vegetables, fruit and flowers, giving a colourful display throughout the hall. We also had a mouth watering selection of cakes, scones, jams, pickles etc.



to be judged in the domestic classes and some amazing items in the various handicraft and needlework sections.

Thank you to all exhibitors and those who supported us in the afternoon.

Unfortunately due to poor tickets sales the **October Social** event has been cancelled.

We are hoping more residents from both Bellingdon and Asheridge will support our society by becoming members so we can continue to hold a variety of events in the village hall. We would also welcome anyone from the two villages to join our committee so these communities can continue to be represented.

February Potato Sales Early, salad, early main and maincrop seed potatoes, onion and shallot setts have now been ordered and will be available to purchase to members at our trading cabin on the Cameron Road Allotments, Chesham every Saturday in February 2025, 9.30am to noon until stock runs out.

For more information and to join please visit our website cheshamvalegardeners.co.uk or email us at cheshamvalegs@gmail.com



OCTOBER

Wed 2nd Meeting Point Tea & Chat
St John's 2.30pm

Sun 13th AUTUMN AFTERNOON TEA
Village Hall 3-5pm

Wed 16th Knit & Natter, Craft & Chatter
St John's 2.30-4pm

NOVEMBER

Wed 6th Meeting Point Tea & Chat
St John's 2.30pm

Wed 20th Knit & Natter, Craft & Chatter
St John's 2.30-4pm

Sat 23rd History & Culture Club
St John's 11.30am

DECEMBER

Wed 4th Meeting Point Tea & Chat
St John's 2.30pm

Sat 7th CHILDRENs CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sun 8th SENIORS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Wed 18th Knit & Natter, Craft & Chatter
St John's 2.30-4pm

BELLINGDON AND ASHERIDGE VILLAGE HALL (BAACA)

At the AGM in July the Treasurer reported the positive news that the Association which is responsible for running the hall is in a strong financial position.

The Chairman confirmed the importance of annual events which are key to provide for the maintenance of the hall and recreation ground for Community use. In addition, Rumble and Forro Fest along with a new cycling event raise funds that enable us to maintain, improve and update the facilities and grounds.

In the coming year the focus is on the exterior, checking the roof, repairing the entrance to the car park and extending the tarmac to the whole area to achieve maximum capacity.

An area around the playing field and in front of the hall has been set aside for rewilding to improve wildlife diversity, while new benches have been installed in the playground with another sited on the playing field. Plans are in hand to add some additional

equipment for the older children to broaden its appeal.

Events will continue into the Winter including an afternoon tea in October and the very popular Childrens and Seniors Christmas parties in December.

The Chairman closed by thanking the previous Editor of the newsletter Helen Valvona for her commitment in editing and producing it – the baton has now been handed onto Jo Askew; the Bookings Secretary Jo Richardson in ensuring bookings remain healthy and that hall is hired to a wide range of groups and finally the committee, Don Baker as Honorary Treasurer, Kirsty Fiddes, Hugh Griffiths, Helen Harding and Gary Woodley while welcoming Paul Muggerridge-Breene as new member.

The hall and facilities continue to remain one of best locally, achieved by the teamwork and support of a small and dedicated group. **The Bellingdon & Asheridge Community Association**

DID YOU KNOW – ON YOUR DOORSTEP

Many would have seen the Hawker Hunter parked at the Halton Village road junction when travelling about and are aware not only of the RAF base, but also of its many facilities. However did you know:

- It is one of the largest RAF stations housing over 2,100 personnel with 2,300 graduating each year from Basic Training. The base houses:
- An rehab unit serving 20,000 personnel.
- The Counter Intelligence Capability –Threat Team
- The Joint Information Activities Group—a small team providing comms and intelligence which can be deployed within 12 hours to anywhere in the world.

What is **not** widely known is that there is an interesting **museum** on the RAF base, opened in June 1999 by the then Viscount



Trenchard. It was his grandfather, known as 'The Father of the Royal Air Force' who founded the apprentice scheme which was based at Halton. This included all trades in support of the RAF and still today all basic training for the RAF is carried out at Halton. The museum includes displays of the various trades as well as a Folland Gnat ex Red Arrows, guns, engines PLUS a supervised flight simulator.

The museum is run entirely by volunteers. It is free to enter but visits must be booked in advance at

www.trenchardmuseum.org.uk

I am there usually Wednesday afternoons and a Saturday per month, but there are experienced volunteers at all times.

Don Baker

SPEEDWATCH VOLUNTEERS

CALL FOR Community Speedwatch. Several people have previously expressed interest but fell off the radar after being contacted and learning that there is a small amount of simple online training. It's rather like 'Watch with Mother', but with police officers instead, nothing difficult.

We are desperate for more operators. We are beginning to detect a fall in the average speeds though the high extremes remain horrifying. I can envisage the whole project falling apart in our area for want of operators, just when we can notice its effect. This concerns each one of us and our families; even an hour a week would help. We hope to hear from you on joan.lherbier@chartridgeparishcouncil.org

BERRY GIDMAN (1945 – 2024)

In memory of his wife, Paul Mathews has donated two of her paintings for the village hall where they now on display. The paintings are watercolours of Cornfields across Asheridge and a landscape. As a proficient painter and



ceramicist, Berry taught all her working life. As a resident of Bellingdon for 38 years, she held an Art Class in our Village Hall for over 20 years. The full version of the tribute to Berry can be found on www.bellingdon.com/village-newsletter/

NEW TO THE VILLAGES ?

Have you recently moved to Bellingdon & Asheridge? If so please do contact Jane Edmunds on j.edmunds@sky.com. She can then pop round with a Welcome Pack and introduce herself.

EDITOR'S REQUEST

If you have something interesting you would like to share about the area, do send them in for the new column **Did you Know....** newsletter@bellingdon.com

A survey on the Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall is included in this issue. We do ask that you take 10 mins to complete it and return it to the village hall. Thank-you.

CURVACEOUS COOK – STUFFED AUBERGINES

I buy a lot of aubergines now, but was put off for many years because of having to salt them and fry them in copious oil. These days I griddle with a light spray of oil rather than frying. I was given some fresh ricotta by a neighbour and came up with this dish that worked really well. It could be prepared well ahead and is also delicious cold the next day.

To cook the aubergines I simply sprayed the slices lightly with olive oil, sprinkled salt and pepper and popped on the BBQ. It took about 5 minutes to get them nicely soft and a bit brown, but could just as easily have been pan fried or used a griddle pan

All ingredients are a guide only, add or subtract to suit your taste. Bring sauce to boil, then simmer gently to thicken slightly whilst you make your rolls. Take each piece of aubergine, starting at the thinner end, place a good helping of filling and simply roll up. Place in a dish which will hold them all quite tightly, having covered the bottom with a little sauce. They can sit like this for ages, when ready to cook, warm through the sauce, pour over the rolls and grill under medium heat till bubbling, or put in the oven. You could sprinkle some more cheese on top. I serve with French beans or a salad, but just a crunchy loaf would be delicious.

For a generous 2 servings

1 large straight aubergine, sliced lengthwise about 1 cm thick—cover with cling film when cooked as this makes them softer and easier to roll
Olive oil and salt and pepper

The Filling

1 cup ricotta, if using from a pot, let it drain a bit
¾ cup grated parmesan, or any other strong cheese
½ cup breadcrumbs (not dried in a packet, just whizz up some crusts)
½ cup basil leaves, chopped
Good tsp. of lemon zest
1 ½ tbs lemon juice
Mix all together well and season to taste

The Sauce

Olive oil, warmed with
3 cloves garlic (or to taste) grated or minced
Add 1 tsp chopped fresh oregano, or ½ tsp dry oregano
1 tsp pul biber (red pepper flakes)
Jar passata (or whizz up a couple of tins of tomatoes)
Pinch of sugar

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

The recent garden party hosted by Jill and Chris Wright and their family was most enjoyable. This replaced the monthly Meeting Point usually held in the church on 1st Wed of the month at 2:30-4pm. Usually in these meetings we have a short talk or an activity followed by refreshments. Sometimes, we simply chat!

Knit and Natter continues on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2:30 - 4pm, plus our **weekly services** at 10:00 am every Sunday.

The theme for sermons in September is the book of James, and from 13th October to 17th November, the book of Hebrews. Our harvest service will be on 6th October & our Remembrance service will be on 10th November. Look out for details of our Christmas services nearer to the time.

All are welcome & we would love to see you!

Jane Edmunds

SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

We had a tricky start to the Summer League season, losing the first 2 matches. With a steady recovery we finished third in a small league of 6 behind Haddenham & Chinnor.

It did give us the opportunity to visit 2 clubs in traditional village settings at Hardwick and Marsh Gibbon. We are just about to start the winter season in 2 leagues; two mat and single mat.

We would welcome anybody to come and have a look at the practice sessions held in the Village Hall, Mondays at 7.00pm and Wednesday at 10.00am. **Don Baker**

HISTORY & CULTURE CLUB

The next **History and Culture Club** will be a talk linked to the history of the area. This will take place on Saturday 23rd November starting at 11:30 am.

CHARTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Potholes continue to concern us. Where possible we would request that residents report potholes to Buckinghamshire Council via **FixMyStreet**.

We continue to monitor speeding using CPC's own Mvas cameras, a second camera having been installed permanently in Bellingdon. The data from this latest camera has highlighted the speeding issues particularly in Bellingdon. The promised camera for Chartridge Lane, funded by the Chesham and Villages Community Board,

has still not been installed by Buckinghamshire Council, so Asheridge and Chartridge continue to share a camera. Cllr Lherbier has been instrumental in the community speedwatch programme and regularly gives her time, with other volunteers, to monitoring and registering motorists speeding through the villages. CPC continues a Devolved Services agreement with Bucks CC which means that the cutting of the hedges and verges in 30 and 40 mph areas continues to be organised

by the PC. This year we look to clear out the roadside grips to aid with the removal of surface water from the roads, once we have been assured that our contractor won't be damaging recently laid fibre cables.

The Jubilee gates project is still ongoing; locations are still to be confirmed in Bellingdon and Asheridge.

We as councillors hope to continue to assist its residents in the queries and problems that may arise over the coming year.

joan.lherbier@chartridgeparishcouncil.org

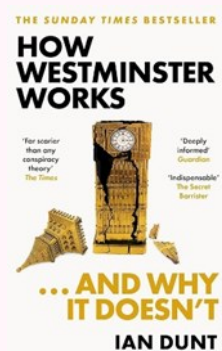
Cllr Tim Corvin

THE VILLAGE BOOK MARK

How Westminster Works...and Why It Doesn't

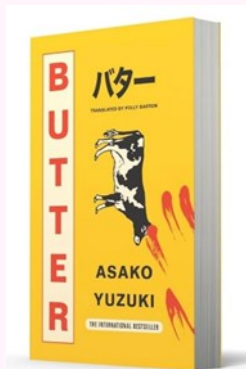
Non-Fiction 355 pages:2023 – Ian Dunt.

This is an insightful read as to the mechanics of our parliament. It opens in 2012 with Chris (Failing) Grayling as Justice Secretary who proceeded to privatise everything – that went well!!! My take was around ministers given briefs where they have no experience, something I am aware of as a campaigner. It's the House of Lords that was the biggest eye opener, it is here where the real work is done. This chamber is where much of the proposed legislation is scrutinised "the adults are in charge". The author advocates more cross benchers, upon reading this it makes perfect sense, the lords is largely an unpolitical space where great minds think without a tribe hovering over them. The Good, The Bad and the Unqualified!



Butter Fiction 464 Pages:2024 Asako Yuzuki

Everything tastes better with butter, doesn't it? This Japanese bestseller is about a female gourmet cook (*not sure if she is curvaceous*) and serial killer Manako Kajii, Rika is the journalist intent on cracking her case. Within the first 50 pages you are drooling over various delicacies only found in the land of the rising sun. TIP: have google to hand. The characters are brilliantly written and woven into what is based (loosely) on a true story, in a country where women largely take a back seat the misogyny is all too evident. This can make for uncomfortable reading, but there is romance and obsession. This is a full fat Michelin five star read that will leave you wanting more. No British kitchen is complete without a kettle, in Japan a rice cooker has the same significance - I now own a rice cooker!!



CHILTERN ENDURANCE WEEKEND



On the weekend of 22nd - 23rd June, ATW hosted the inaugural Chiltern Endurance Weekend at Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Hall, in partnership with Chiltern Velo cafe. The weekend included a 160km, 100km, 60km Cycle Sportif, and a 10km or

Half Marathon trail run.

On the Saturday evening, we were joined by singer/guitarist Paul Eaton who entertained those who had camped overnight as they relaxed under a starlit sky with a glass of local Tring Brewery beer.

The cyclists were joined on Sunday morning by Olympian Ed Clancy and Jesse Yates from CAMs Cycling, who posted the fastest time around the 160km cycle. We look forward to being back in 2025 for more exciting cycling and running events.



We would like to say a big thank you to Hugh Griffiths, the team at Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Hall, Rob with the team from the Chiltern Velo Café for all their support and eagerness. The facilities at the village hall were perfect and made for a hugely successful weekend.

Details of clubs, events and village news including hall bookings go to www.bellingdon.com

Please send comments, questions and ideas for articles to the editor at newsletter@bellingdon.com

The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity and length.