

BELLINGDON & ASHERIDGE

Community News & Events



Remember last years fun

Village fete - can you help?

We're already planning our 2025 village fete (Saturday 28th June, 12:30-4:30pm) and we'd love your support in making it even better than last year's.

Please let us know if you're able to help in any way - your contribution makes all the difference, no matter how big or small.

Just email fete@bellingdon.com or call 07425652724.

Thank you!

From Paul and the whole fete team

Your Invitation to Afternoon Tea

Join us for a delightful **Spring Community Afternoon Tea** at the village hall on **Sunday 16th March 3-5pm**, featuring delicious homemade cakes from the **Belles**.

Enjoy a warm, friendly atmosphere while indulging in a selection of freshly baked treats, tea, and coffee. All proceeds from the event will go to support the **British Heart Foundation**, making your attendance not only enjoyable but also meaningful.

Your support is greatly appreciated and will help make a difference. We look forward to welcoming you—bring your friends and family for a lovely afternoon!

See you there!



1st day of Spring
in Bellingdon this
weekend.

MARCH

Wed 5th Meeting Point Tea & Chat
St John's 2.30pm

Sunday 16th Afternoon Tea
Village Hall 3-5pm

Wed 19th Knit & Natter, Craft &
Chatter St John's 2.30-4pm

Sat 22nd History & Culture Club
St John's 11.30am

APRIL

Sat 5th CVGS Spring Flower Show, AGM & Afternoon Tea at Chesham
Methodist Church Bellingdon Road
2.30-4.30pm

Wed 9th Meeting Point Tea & Chat
St John's 2.30pm

Wed 23th Knit & Natter, Craft &
Chatter St John's 2.30-4pm

MAY

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

Friday 16th Pub & Race Night
Village Hall 6.30 - 10.30pm

Sat 17th CVGS Plant Sale 9am-1pm
United Reform Church, Chesham

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

VILLAGE HALL IN DANCING ON ICE !

Those of you who watch Dancing on Ice may have spotted Bellingdon Village Hall in a little snippet where The Only Way is Essex star Dan Edgar with his dancing partner Vanessa James, were being taught some Barn Dance steps. The theme this week was musicals and they had chosen Oklahoma - hence the barn dance link. The producer had not found any Barn Dance groups locally but did get in touch with me as a leader of a local Scottish Dance group to see if we could supply some 'students' to join Dan and Vanessa. The producer mentioned she was looking for a village hall in the area so I suggested Bellingdon Village Hall and she liked it. The photograph shows the team from the Scottish Dancing group along with Dan and Vanessa; 4th from



left is Lisa Haywood, a Barn Dance expert. I, and my wife Marjorie, are 2nd and 3rd from the left. Wearing the cowboy hats was obligatory! Needless to say there was a lot of repetition of 'learning' figures and steps and I don't think much of it ended up in the actual dance routine. We spent about an hour being filmed but only about 60 seconds ended up being used - it is about 28 minutes into the programme if you

want to have a look.

If anyone is interested in learning Scottish Dancing the club in Berkhamsted runs classes for new dancers - it is great exercise with a social side - do check it out at

www.berkhamstedreelclub.org or get in touch with me.

UPDATE ON THE FUTURE OF OUR VILLAGE HALL

Would the village hall be missed if it weren't there? Does the community still want it? These are important questions the Trustees ask as we plan for the next five years.

While a recent survey sent to all households received a low response, the feedback was positive, with offers of support for grant applications, website management and building maintenance, along with help at village events.

Suggestions for new activities included exercise classes, quizzes, a book club and an art group. In response, we successfully organised a well-supported quiz night alongside the pub night in January. We welcome volunteers with ideas and enthusiasm to help organise and run more of the activities suggested.

We have also been successful in securing a grant, thanks to the application submitted by one of our trustees, to **resurface and**

improve the car park—goodbye potholes! Additionally, the playground team, with the help of a resident, is applying for funding to **update and add new equipment**.

Community engagement and continuous improvement are key to keeping the hall a valued space. If you have ideas, time, or skills to contribute, we'd love to hear from you. Let's work together to ensure the hall remains a vibrant hub for all!

The running and future of the hall is entrusted to the Community Association (BAACA) who are very much aware its **'Your Hall, Your Community'** - **sharing your thoughts enables us to shape the future of our village hall together.**

The Trustees BAACA
baacasecretary@gmail.com

DID YOU KNOW – BLUE PLAQUE IN BELLINGDON



It is on Bellingdon Farm Cottage No.1 & is where D.H. Lawrence lived from August 1914 to January 1915 with his wife Frieda. During his time here he wrote *Rainbow* and a *Study on Thomas Hardy*. They then moved down to Sussex, overcome by the cold and damp of the cottage. Certainly Lawrence always

suffered with frail health.

His wife Frieda, was the daughter of Baron von Richthoven (an engineer in the Imperial German Army) and a distant cousin of

the "Red Baron". They were harassed by police and ostracized by the local citizens in Cornwall because of her nationality and his burgeoning reputation as a banned writer. At one point they were even suspected of signalling to German submarines using the items on the washing line! They left Cornwall in 1917 to spend the rest of the war in London and Derbyshire.



SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

The Winter League season is coming to a conclusion:

Single Mat League - we are 3rd out of 8 teams but still have 3 more matches.

Two Mat League - we are 4th out of 7 teams but we have 4 more

matches to play, others have nearly completed their matches. So all to play for!

We would welcome anybody interested to just have a look to come to Bellingdon Village Hall when there are practice sessions. Monday evenings 7.30pm and Wednesday mornings 10.00am

Don Baker

CHESHAM VALE GARDENERS' SOCIETY

Membership to the Gardeners' Society is only £3 a year. With it comes some considerable benefits and a chance to enter the annual society show held in Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall.

Membership benefits include:

- * **Discounts** at Suttons & Dobbies plus local garden centres;

Shepherds Nursery	Chartridge
Hildreths Garden Centre	Prestwood
Peterley Manor Farm	Prestwood
The Plant Specialist	Great Missenden

 Also JPS Stationers of Chesham
- * **Trading Cabin** for supplies of onion and shallot sets, seed potatoes, fertilisers, canes & other gardening requisites – all at very favourable prices!
- * **Annual Plant Sales** in May in Chesham Town Centre
- * **Social Events** throughout the year including supper and quiz garden visits. The next event is:

SPRING FLOWER SHOW

SAT 5TH APRIL - AGM & AFTERNOON TEA

CHESHAM METHODIST CHURCH, BELLINGDON ROAD

CHESHAM AT 2.30 - 4.30PM



Photos from Feb 25. (Left) Potato, Onion & Shallot Sale outside the United Reform Church, Chesham. (Right) Visit to view many snowdrop varieties at a garden in Wendover.

Adrain Norris—Chair

CURVACEOUS COOK – STICKY JAMAICAN GINGER CAKE

Happy New Year to you all. Every year I make a gingerbread stuffing for the turkey, and this year was unable to find that stalwart Jamaican ginger cake in the green packet anywhere, so I searched the internet and found this one on the Hodmedod site. If you don't know of them, they grow lentils, chickpeas and lots of other pulses and some amazing grain for flour, all in East Anglia! Well worth a look. This based on the recipe by Amy Oboussier. I had all the ingredients as I make my own bread, but they are readily available in supermarkets. The quantity I am using made a 9" x 6" x 2" cake. I didn't bother with the glaze and it stayed sticky and delicious for 10 days.

INGREDIENTS

- 115 g brown sugar (I used dark brown)
- 115 g butter
- 100 g molasses (you could use treacle, but this is less sweet and gives a rounder flavour)
- 1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

- 1.5 teaspoon ground ginger (you could use less)
- 85 g rye flour (I used light rye bread flour from M&S)
- 85 g malted wheat flour
- Pinch of salt
- 105 ml milk
- 1 egg

METHOD

Line your tin with greaseproof paper and set oven to 160 degrees fan. Melt sugar, molasses and butter in largish pan, whisking till no grains of sugar are felt. Cool slightly. Weigh remainder and add into the cooled wet mix. I added chopped preserved ginger at this point as I love it...up to you. Bake for 45-50 minutes until just coming away from the sides, and a toothpick in the middle comes out clean. If you are going to use the glaze, melt together 40ml water, 40ml white sugar and 2 slices fresh ginger. Bring to the boil then glaze onto hot cake. This would make a great winter pudding with custard or cream.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Spring is finally on its way, and if you look at the small flower bed to the right of the entrance to the church you will see snowdrops and small daffodils. The snowdrops remind us of Grace Martin, and the daffodils of Molly Edmunds, both of whom were faithful members of St. John's. You may have known one or both of them.



In the church we have just finished our sermon series on parts Corinthians, and we are now embarking on the gospel of Luke followed by Isaiah in April. Our services are at 10 am every Sunday morning. The first Sunday of each month is a service of Holy Communion.

Cont'd

REWILDING PROJECT

All the trees we added are doing very well. Look out for the tulips and spring bulbs. The rewilded edge is growing nicely and is evidently being used by wildlife. The drought tolerant planting next to the hall is well established and more shrubs will continue to be added to the verge by the playground - all in all a success.

Antonia Savvides

Cont'd

Our social events continue, and we recently held a tea party at Meeting Point, which takes place on the first Wednesday of each month at 14:30. Knit and Natter also continues to run on the third Wednesday of each month, again at 14:30. As always, you are most welcome to join us. We would love to see you!

Jane Edmunds

VILLAGE PUB NIGHTS

January welcomed the first pub night of 2025 at Village Hall. It was a very successful and well supported pub night, bringing the community together for an evening of fun and laughter. Locals gathered to enjoy homecooked food, freshly prepared by volunteers, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The highlight was the entertaining quiz, expertly run by Gary Woodley which saw teams competing enthusiastically, testing their knowledge across various topics, sparking friendly competition and plenty of laughter. The hall buzzed as teams battled in true community spirit

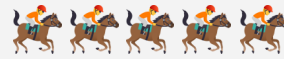
Join us for the next event

Friday 16th May

Pub Night & Race Evening

6.30 - 10.30pm

Starters Order at 8.30 pm !



HISTORY & CULTURE CLUB

The next talk in our History and Culture Club will be on Saturday 22nd March at 11:30 in the morning (after the shopping and before lunch!). I shall be doing a talk on my visit to Mongolia last summer. It may just tempt you to go there in person or in your dreams!

Jane Edmunds

UPCOMING EVENTS



Chiltern Cycling Sportiv is May 23/24/25th and includes a music event on the Saturday night to which locals are invited. More information will be provided later in the year here and on the website www.bellingdon.com

Moving Connections is on 13th/14th/15th June and 20th/21st/22nd June

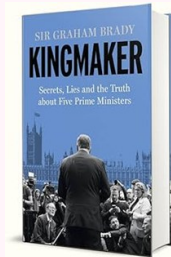


THE VILLAGE BOOK MARK

Kingmaker by Sir Graham Brady

Non-Fiction 293 Pages:2024

You do not have to belong to any political tribe to enjoy reading this. The whole country went through the revolving door of Prime Ministers at No 10, I met most of them as a campaigner (except Truss). The role of chairman of the 1922 committee before the carnage was largely unheard of, let alone thrust into the public eye - as Brady clearly was. Let's face it, if we look back on the political farce he had much to deal with, at first hand he witnessed what the Tories do best, which is backstabbing each other. Nevertheless, Brady depicts himself as a calm person amidst the turmoil of a political party effectively hung by their own petard. If you add to that a Coalition, Brexit, Partygate and a culture of delusional invincibility there is a lot to cover. But he manages to do this well in a readable account without too much character assassination, but in between the lines he does pull some punches and clearly demonises Boris, but he does it - as you would expect from a Kingmaker - in a very diplomatic way. But we all know!



Neverwhere by Neil Gaiman

Fiction 448 Pages:1996

As a rule I do not read fantasy, so when this was selected by one of our book club members I made my resting unhappy face. The reason for starting the Our Chesham Book Club was to be taken out of my comfort zone, so this was way out in the ether for me. But I really enjoyed it. As I was about to embark on a lot of driving I listened on Audible, there is no doubt for me it made the story come more to life. The fact that it was set in the familiar territory of London made it perhaps easier, albeit under the streets of London. But with so many familiar landmarks you do not need to be a black cab driver to read this. I loved the idea that there are Angels at the Angel Islington, an Earl at Earls Court and a load of Shepherds at Shepherds Bush. So I recommend submerging yourself



in this fantasy, succumb to the story and the wonderful characters Gaiman introduces us too, all done without the use of recreational chemistry!

Christopher Wood MBE

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.