

# BELLINGDON & ASHERIDGE



# Community News & Events

## IT'S YOUR VILLAGE HALL TO LOVE..... OR LET IT GO!

It is becoming challenging to keep the hall going, perhaps the face and needs of the community has changed over the decades. The committee continues to run teas, pub nights etc but attendance is dwindling. We had to cancel the children's Christmas Party as there were only 7 acceptances compared to 30 last year!

We tried to address this with the survey (results are on the next page) to decide its future. Whilst replies were positive only 10% of households responded. It will take more than a small number of committee members to keep the ship afloat.

**Therefore we would like to hear from more of you with your views.**



Please email [baacasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:baacasecretary@gmail.com)



**And join us for our first event of 2025 at the Pub Night & Quiz on 24th January where you can talk and share your views with the Trustees on the future the Village Hall.**

**Home cooked food and a warm welcome awaits to shake off those January blues.**

### DECEMBER

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

**Sun 22nd Carol Service**  
St John's 10am

**Tues 24th VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE** Huge Farm 4pm

### JANUARY

**Wed 1st Meeting Point Tea & Chat**  
St John's 2.30pm

**Wed 15th Knit & Natter, Craft & Chatter** St John's 2.30-4pm

**FRI 24th PUB NIGHT & QUIZ** Village Hall 6.30-10.30pm

### FEBRUARY

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

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



## VILLAGE HALL SURVEY RESULTS

Responses were positive but few - only 18 out of 187 houses. Replies confirmed unanimously that we needed the hall, playground and recreation ground - they would be missed. The playground was very important with suggestions of more equipment for younger children.

Other suggestions included communication being key to create greater awareness of events across all channels of to drive support and involvement. There

were suggestions to encourage villagers to attend more activities/events, from quizzes, social meetings, fitness classes, book and hobby clubs to a café and grocery store. Activities outside the village were gym across all ages, family history, dog training, art, music and yoga – all of which the hall can accommodate.

We also received good offers of help. However, a few did not provide contact details. If this is you please email: [baacasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:baacasecretary@gmail.com)

## DID YOU KNOW ?

### Famous Residents of Asheridge

**Aneurin “Nye” Bevan**—the founder of the National Health under the Clement Attlee Government after the Second World War, lived at Asheridge Farm and his favourite place to spend time was over a pint at the Blue Ball Public House chatting to locals. He spoke at Bellingdon Village Hall in January 1955 when he explained that he left London because “it is absolutely essential to have some time for reading, some escape, or you become used-up.”

Not so well known is that his wife **Jennie Lee, Baroness Lee of Asheridge** was also a Labour MP. Most notably she was the Minister for Arts under Harold Wilson’s Government playing the leading role in the foundation of the Open University.

When she was first elected as an MP in 1929 not only was she the first woman to hold a Scottish seat at Westminster but also the youngest female MP at the age of only 25. A considerable



feat when one considers that only women over the age of 30 could vote. Although she was not known as a feminist she would walk out of dinner parties if the women were asked to leave the room whilst the men took their port!

A local resident has childhood memories of her in Chesham. As lads they would run along beside her to carry her shopping. The lucky one would always be given half a crown (13p in new money) for their labours!

**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](mailto:newsletter@bellingdon.com)

## CHESHAM VALE GARDENERS’ SOCIETY

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Sadly, due to moves away from Chesham, we have recently lost a number of our long-standing committee members and are in need of more of our members volunteering their time to join our committee so we can maintain holding regular events.

In particular we have vacancies for a Secretary, Membership Secretary, Website and Catering Co-ordinator. We would also welcome more residents from

both Bellingdon and Asheridge supporting our society by becoming members so we can continue to hold a variety of our events in the village hall. We would also welcome anyone from the two villages to join our committee to act as liaison with the Village Association. Please email

[cheshamvalegs@gmail.com](mailto:cheshamvalegs@gmail.com)

A warm welcome awaits. Website:

[cheshamvalegardeners.co.uk](http://cheshamvalegardeners.co.uk)

**Visit to Cedar House Gardens in Wendover** – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 1.30 to 4.30pm. Fabulous for snowdrops. Car Sharing. £5 entry, £5 warm drink and cake. More details to follow.

**1st Potato Saturday** – 1<sup>st</sup> February; **2nd Potato Saturday** – 8th February; **3rd Potato Saturday** – 15th February. 9.30am to noon. Trading Cabin Plot 37C next to Focal Point, Cameron Road Allotments, Chesham.

**Cameron Road Trading Cabin Open as well as a Town Centre Stall to sell off any remaining stock of Seed Potatoes, Onion & Shallot setts** – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 10am to Noon. At front of United Reformed Church, The Broadway, Chesham.

**Spring Flower Show, AGM and Afternoon Tea** – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2.30 to 4.30pm. Chesham Methodist Church, Bellingdon Road, Chesham.

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

October began with our harvest service and a harvest tea at Meeting Point, our monthly meeting where we have a chat and a cup of tea. (We sometimes also have a short talk or an activity like sharing our favourite poem.) We held our Remembrance Day service in November, remembering by name the villagers who died in the two World Wars and also in the air crash in the fields between Bellingdon and Asheridge. In the church we have a permanent small display about those who died.



*The beautiful Harvest Loaf was kindly baked by Fionnagh Yates.*

As usual, we hold a weekly service in the church every Sunday at 10am. Our 'knit and natter' group continues to meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 2:30pm, Meeting Point is on the first Wednesday of every month at 2:30pm. All these events take place in our lovely village church. We would love to welcome you to our services and events. If you have any questions do get in touch with Tim Yates on [rev.tim@cheshamparish.org](mailto:rev.tim@cheshamparish.org)

All are welcome & we would love to see you!

Jane Edmunds

## CAROLS CHRISTMAS EVE

### 4PM AT HUGE FARM

Our Carol Service will take place at 10am on 22 December, the Village Carol service at Huge Farm at 4pm on 24 December.



There will be a Holy Communion service at St. John's at 10am on Christmas Day.

**DO GET IN TOUCH IF YOU, OR ANY CHILDREN IN YOUR FAMILY, WOULD LIKE TO DO A READING IN THE HUGE FARM SERVICE.**

## HISTORY & CULTURE CLUB

The next meeting will be on 22 March 2025 and will be about the culture of Mongolia, with a particular focus on the Nadaam Festival. It may just whet your appetite for travel to a faraway destination [j.edmunds@sky.com](mailto:j.edmunds@sky.com)

## CURVACEOUS COOK – BISCOFFI CHEESECAKE

Unusually for me, this is a very indulgent pud, but it is Christmas after all...it serves 12, can be made up to 3 days ahead (it's much better for at least 24 hours ahead) and can be frozen up to the last stage, so a good one for a party. I made it for my 70th party, especially for my grandson who, like his father before him, does not react well to chocolate, but loves full on puds. He very much approved!

**Base:** 200 g Biscoff biscuits( though I used Lidl's own brand)  
80 g unsalted butter, just melted

**Cheesecake layer:** 300 ml double cream  
400 g full fat cream cheese (actually worth using Philadelphia here as it is so creamy)  
200 g Biscoff spread. Up to you smooth or crunchy.  
Smooth is neater, but crunchy is, well, crunchier!

**To finish:** 150 g Biscoff spread  
50 g crushed Biscoff biscuits

For the base, smash the biscuits and add just melted butter.

Press into 7 or 8 inch spring form tin, smoothing with the back of a spoon. Into fridge to firm up.

Whisk the cream and cream cheese together until very thick. Smooth onto the base....I actually added little blobs of crunchy spread into this...Put into the fridge for minimum of 3 hours, but better overnight and can wait happily for 3 days. If you want to freeze it this is the time to do it.

Melt the spread on very gentle heat so it is pourable but not even warm. Pour it over the cold cheesecake and smooth with the back of a spoon.

Crush the biscuits quite finely and sprinkle round the edge.

Back to the fridge for at least an hour to facilitate neat cutting.

To serve, run a hot knife round the inside of the tin and slide onto a plate. It is very rich, but although the recipe says serves 12, I would say more like 8-10!

**Merry Christmas from Curvaceous Cook**

## SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

### WINTER SEASON

In the 2 mat league having played just 3 matches all drawn, compared with 5 or 7 matches for other teams, we are placed in the middle of the table. However in the single mat league we have played 5 matches. We are top of the league having won 4 and lost 1.

The aim of the club is to ensure that those who want to play in the league are included in the team. Those who do not wish to play competitive matches can just enjoy the club roll up sessions. 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**



# CHARTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

**Tim Covin** On behalf of the Parish Council and the community, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Tim for his dedicated service over the past five years. His commitment, insight, and hard work have greatly served our parish, and we are deeply grateful for all he has contributed. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

**Jubilee Gate(s)** The Parish Council has replaced the style for a kissing gate near the cottage, making it easier to enjoy the countryside. Many thanks to the owners for permission of replacement.

**In Memory of Cllr Keen** The Parish Council held a tree planting ceremony to celebrate Derrick's hard work as a Councillor over the years. A cherry tree (*Prunus Accolade*) was planted at



Bellingdon Village Hall site with the kind permission of the BAACA committee.

Derrick's wife Doris and family attended with members of the Parish Council and Bellingdon and Asheridge Community Association. It was a fitting event as it was also their wedding anniversary.

**Grips and Ditches** The Parish Council has mapped out the Grips and Ditches



and a contractor has been hired to commence work in December.

## MATTERS OF HIGH CONCERN TO PARISHIONERS

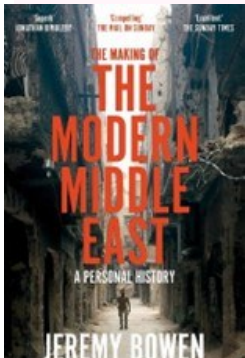
**The Blue Ball** has received a Council Enforcement order to remove the sited caravan that is home to the chef. This action puts the pub operation at risk of closure

**A commercial operation (Flybox)** has appeared in Braziers End and generating unpleasant smells that are causing local parishioners discomfort within their homes.

Please contact the Parish council if any of these matters are of concern:

[clerk@chartridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@chartridgeparishcouncil.org.uk)

## THE VILLAGE BOOK MARK

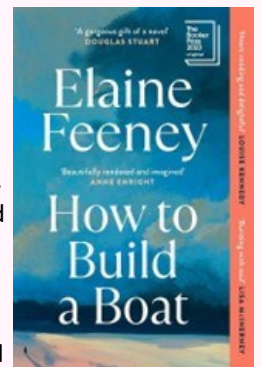


**The Modern Middle East by Jeremy Bowen**  
Non-Fiction 368 Pages.

I always find it rather strange that the most sacred place in the world, is also the most brutal, is heaven disguised as hell? Jeremy Bowen takes us through his time and observations as the BBC Middle East correspondent. I found it insightful and put some flesh on the bones of what I (thought) I already knew. I went to Israel in 2022, I found it friendly and a wonderful place to visit, but it did have an air of a tinderbox. The book is not an academic study which makes reading it so much better - a forensic study. Bowen inevitably does touch on the history, but only in bite size chunks to allow the reader to delve deeper on their own. This read filled in some personal knowledge holes, but what he does is offer a guide to the Modern Middle East, how it came to be and what the future may hold. The result for me was sadly more of the same: Religion, God (choose one), Oil, Political Power and Killing. I guess when the oil runs out there may be a shift in the conversation. I'll be on my Tesla horse by then.

**How to Build a Boat by Elaine Feeney**  
Fiction 304 Pages.

This has sat on my TBR pile for a while now, I wish I had read it earlier as this is now one of my favourite reads of the year. What I liked about this book is that it could have easily tipped into sentimentality, thankfully it does not. Jamie and Tess are the two main characters, they intertwine beautifully in this story, and yes, they build a boat. Jamie is neurodivergent (a subject seemingly on trend), he is at an Irish all boys catholic school run by a headmaster who clearly thinks Jamie is not a good fit for the school. Jamie is searching for his dead mother, meanwhile Tess is going through a breakup, as such they are drawn in together. Jamie's woodwork teacher Tadhg believes he can help Jamie by building a boat. I loved all the characters - although there is a hint the headmaster could be preying on boys. This is beautifully written and well composed, the narrative just glides along like the boat itself, with just a few ripples along the way.



**Christopher Wood MBE**

**NEW TO THE VILLAGES ?** Have you recently moved to Bellingdon & Asheridge? If so please do contact Jane Edmunds on [j.edmunds@sky.com](mailto:j.edmunds@sky.com). She can then pop round with a Welcome Pack and introduce herself.

Details of clubs, events and village news including hall bookings go to [www.bellingdon.com](http://www.bellingdon.com)

Please send comments, questions and ideas for articles to the editor at [newsletter@bellingdon.com](mailto:newsletter@bellingdon.com)

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

This letter is produced on behalf of the Trustees of Bellingdon & Asheridge Community Association (BAACA). Reg Charity No. 1087494

Printed by Orbitpress Ltd Chesham [www.orbitpress.co.uk](http://www.orbitpress.co.uk) Tel 01494 778053