

# BELLINGDON & ASHERIDGE

# Community News & Events

## VILLAGE FETE 2025

The 2025 Bellingdon & Ashridge village fete was the most successful we've ever held, raising over £7,500 and bringing the community together for a great day out.

The money raised was up 25% on 2024, which was already an extremely high amount, and this is despite the extremely hot weather on the day. The community association will use the money to go towards the playground and car park projects, plus the day-to-day running costs of the village hall and recreation

ground. There will also be a donation to the Chiltern Food Bank charity.

The volunteers who make the fete happen are an incredible group, and this year's amazing outcome is entirely down to their hard work and commitment. I can't thank them enough for contributing their time and energy throughout the year, as well as making it such a fun experience!

**Paul Muggeridge-Breene,  
Fete Organiser**



## CVGS ANNUAL SHOW



**6TH SEPT 3–4.30 PM**



This is a great fun event being held at our Village Hall. It is for all ages including kids. There is an enormous array of classes for gardeners and non-gardeners alike. All winners get medals plus there are over 20 cups and shields to win !

The choice of classes are quite incredible ranging from the fruit, flowers and vegetables through to Novice classes for those who have never won a class before. Group Class from our previous Summer Show - this is great fun to enter, whether you're a gardener or not.

For those with other hobbies, there are plenty of other categories - **baking, preserves, handicrafts, needlecraft & photography**. I am particularly looking forward to seeing entries for the "**Men's only**" **Brownie baking class and Flowers In a Beer Can !**

There are nine varied classes for children too, so do encourage your children and grandchildren to enter something. It could be a great way to entertain them during that last week of the summer

holidays! In all I have counted over 150 classes so have a good look at the classes on <https://cheshamvalegardeners.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/autumn-show-schedule-2025.pdf>. Entry forms can be download from <https://cheshamvalegardeners.co.uk/news-events/> or requested from [cheshamvalegs@gmail.com](mailto:cheshamvalegs@gmail.com).

Lets make the Show another great and well supported Bellingdon & Ashridge event. You can join on the day - membership is only £3 for the year which includes the benefit of discounts on Sutton Seeds and many local garden centres.

Refreshments with homemade cakes will be on sale and there will be our usual raffle. Two new trophies will be presented this year for the first time - for the fuchsia and begonia classes.

For more information and to join please visit our website [cheshamvalegardeners.co.uk](https://cheshamvalegardeners.co.uk) or email us at [cheshamvalegs@gmail.com](mailto:cheshamvalegs@gmail.com)

## OCTOBER

**Wed 1st Meeting Point Tea & Chat**

St John's 2.30pm

**Sat 13th History & Culture Club**  
**11.30am St John's Church**

**Wed 15th Knit & Natter, Craft & Chatter**

St John's 2.30-4pm

## NOVEMBER

**Wed 5th Meeting Point Tea & Chat**

St John's 2.30pm

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

## DECEMBER

**Wed 3rd Meeting Point Tea & Chat**

St John's 2.30pm

**Wed 17th Knit & Natter, Craft & Chatter**  
St John's 2.30-4pm

## BELLINGDON AND ASHERIDGE VILLAGE HALL (BAACA)

### NEW TRUSTEES

We're delighted to welcome two new trustees to the Bellingdon & Ashridge Community Association.

Debs Caen of Bellingdon and Christopher Wood MBE of Ashridge were elected at our Annual General Meeting in July, along with our existing trustees: myself (Alf Field), Kirsty Fiddes, Hugh Griffiths, Helen Harding, Paul Muggeridge-Breene and Gary Woodley.

Debs has already been helping raise funds for the project to renew our playground and Chris has been a key volunteer at our annual fete, so it's great that they are joining our committee.

We're always keen to find new people to help us manage our community association, so please do get in touch if you'd like to volunteer!

### NEW CAR PARK

The village hall will soon have a fantastic new car park, thanks to the money raised at community events like the village fete plus a generous donation from the National Lottery Community Fund.

The work will see the whole car park area resurfaced, along with the entrance area next to the road. The current surfaces are old and damaged, and the lower half of the car park has no surface at all, so the improvements will be dramatic!

White lines will also be painted to mark out individual spaces, which will help increase capacity and alleviate the shortages experienced during busy times.

The new car park should be complete by the middle of October.

**Chairman: Alf Field**

## PLAYGROUND UPDATE

In July, Alf (Chairman) and Debs (our new Trustee) attended the Parish Council meeting to present our plans for the playground and ask for their support. The project was warmly received, and councillors – including Bucks county councillors – offered some really helpful advice and insight.

We are now busy preparing our planning application (yes, we need one!). We're very grateful to local resident David, who is kindly giving his time and professional expertise pro bono – he also drew up the plans for the 2011 playground project. Submitting the application does involve some significant costs, so we're looking at ways to keep those as low as possible.

Fundraising remains our biggest focus. Debs has been working hard on grant applications, but competition is tough, with fewer funds available nationally and locally. That said, our [GoFundMe](#) page is still open, and we would love more local residents to get involved. Remember, if you donate and tick Gift Aid, every £1 you

give is worth £1.25 to us and you may even benefit from tax relief yourself.

Thanks to the amazing support of the Bellingdon and Ashridge Community Association, who have pledged £25,000 in matched funding, we're already halfway there but we still need to raise the other half to reach our £50,000 target. Every contribution, big or small, makes a real difference to getting this exciting project over the line!



**Donate now!**

 [gofund.me/80b362ca](https://gofund.me/80b362ca)

Some of us have been known to venture out of Bellingdon to the

## CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

**Friday, 3rd October** Adam Smith, a historian and lecturer on county houses and estates. His talk this time is **The Rothschilds and The Vale of Aylesbury**. A chance to hear why this powerful family of bankers moved to the area and about the unique group of seven country houses they built?

**Friday, 7th November** we have a return visit by **Wendy Morrison**, Heritage and Archaeology Manager at Chilterns National Landscape. Her talk is- **A River Runs Through It - Water and Human Settlement in the Chilterns**. Her last talk in March on the Chilterns attracted a huge audience from near and far!

**Friday 5th December** we have a new talk by one of our regulars,

author, presenter and expert on the Civil War and WW1 **Stephen Barker**. His talk is **Women in WW1**. who played many roles. This talk aims to highlight well-trodden paths, but also some lesser-known themes.

Meetings are held at St Leonards Parish Hall. Doors open at 7.15pm & tea/coffee and biscuits are served providing an opportunity to meet the speakers and members. Membership is great value at £12 a year, providing free access to all 8 meetings, a Newsletter and invitation to our Summer Outing. The fee for a single meeting is £5.

Fees can be paid by Bank Transfer or a cheque via the post. Please contact Richard Leat, Treasurer in advance for bank details or email: [leatrj@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:leatrj@yahoo.co.uk) or call 07881 501 844 for an address. Payment by cheque or cash can be made on the night at the door, do allow for a little extra time when arriving before the start of the meeting.

**Chris Brown 01494 758890**

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

I am now sending out monthly updates by email. If you would like to start receiving

ing these please provide your email details to [news-letter@bellingdon.com](mailto:news-letter@bellingdon.com). If you have any news you would like to share please contact me at the same.

Jo Askew

## HISTORY & CULTURE CLUB

This month we are fortunate to have Ben Batten, the well known Chesham poet, coming to talk to us. For many years Ben was head of English at Dr Challoner's and is one of the judges of the annual Chesham Poetry Competition. He runs a poetry group in Chesham and has made a series of 8 podcasts for Chesham Literary Festival on how to write a poem. He has donated the proceeds from the sale of his books to a number of charities. A review from his published book of poetry stated "This is a beautiful set of poems from

a versatile and accomplished poet who often focuses on the small, precious moments in life and captures them with humour and delicacy".

Ben is going to read and talk about some of his poetry. The meeting will take place at 11:30am on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September at St John's Church.



## CURVACEOUS COOK - Avgolemono

I have made this delicious Greek soup many times using a complicated recipe, but came across this version by Sarah Raven which is much simpler and just as tasty. It's good on those autumnal days when you want something warming but are not ready for a full on stew. It is a soup, but actually makes a lovely light lunch. Unusually for me, this does not freeze, and can't really be made ahead, but it doesn't take long to prepare.

For 4 people

2 good chicken breasts, ideally free range or organic

1 litre good chicken stock. This can be home made or bought, but stock cubes don't really cut it here

50 g long grain white rice

2 egg yolks

4 tbs lemon juice

1 tbs fresh tarragon or chives. Personally I prefer chives here

Plenty of flat leaved parsley, roughly chopped

- Cut the chicken into bite sized pieces and simmer gently for 5 minutes in just enough stock to cover it.
- Add the washed rice and the rest of the stock, and cook until the rice is soft. There should still be enough stock to make it soupy. Set aside until lukewarm
- In a large bowl whisk the egg yolks and add the lemon juice. Carefully whisk in some of the tepid soup.
- Continue adding and stirring to equalise the temperature of the two liquids, then pour all back into the pan.
- Very gently heat again until it thickens slightly. If you boil it you will make the eggs clump.
- Take it off the heat, add the herbs and taste. You may wish to adjust the seasoning and add more lemon juice.
- Ladle into bowls and garnish with the parsley and more chives.

Eat pronto and enjoy!

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

This year our Harvest Festival will take place at our usual service time of 10:00 on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September. I always think this is a special service in our rural community. We are looking at the book of Nehemiah in our latest sermon series in our weekly services, following our series on the Nicene Creed.

At Meeting Point, our social group, we held our annual garden party in July. Many thanks for Jill Wright and her family for hosting this yet again! It was a lovely opportunity to get together and to enjoy the garden and afternoon tea. We did not hold a meeting in August because of the holidays, but we usually meet on the first Wednesday of every month in the church at 14:30.

Knit and Natter continues to be a popular meeting on the third Wednesday of every month at 14:30 in the church. The next meetings are on September 17<sup>th</sup>, October 15<sup>th</sup> and November 19<sup>th</sup>.

We are continuing to upgrade the fabric of our church – our next challenge is to have the woodworm treated....

As always, we extend a warm welcome to you to attend our activities and services.

[Jane Edmunds](#)

## SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Having just finished the Summer league we were beaten again by Chinnor into second place. Although we won the same number of matches they scored better so came top of the league. We will be playing in 2 leagues during the Winter which starts in October.

On Monday evenings 7.30pm and Wednesday mornings 10.00am we practice and would welcome anybody who might be interested either want to watch or have a go. Sessions are held at Bellingdon Village Hall. These are social sessions so no equipment or previous experience is necessary, just turn up!

[Don Baker](#)

## NEW TO THE VILLAGES ?

Have you recently moved to Bellingdon & Ashridge? 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.

## CHARTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

## HAWRIDGE LANE

The Chartridge Parish Council met with the Cholesbury Parish Council on 13 August, together with Mayor and Local Councillor Fulford, to review the condition of Hawridge Lane. The lane has required maintenance for several years and remains a valued route for walkers, horse riders, and local residents accessing the Velo Café and surrounding areas.

Our aim is to see Hawridge Lane repaired, as it is currently only passable with considerable effort and at some risk to users. We may, in due course, seek wider support through a petition to strengthen our case for its restoration.

In the meantime, we await Councillor Fulford's progress in raising this matter at the local authority level. Should you wish to express your support, please feel free to contact me at

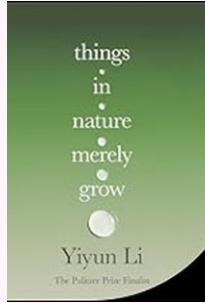
[andy.savvides@chartridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:andy.savvides@chartridgeparishcouncil.org.uk)

## THE VILLAGE BOOK MARK

## Things in Nature Merely Grow by Yiyun Li.

## Non-Fiction 172 pages

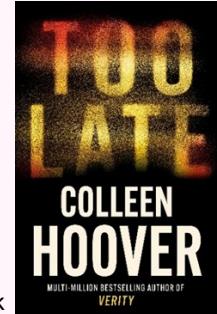
This wonderful book of reflections is by a mother who lost both of her teenage sons to suicide. Li is not seeking any readers sympathy or even tears, it is an example of courage and resilience in the face of despair. It is full of wonderful language as you would expect from a writer with so many accolades in literature and writing. The opening line is "There is no good way to say this", said by the police officer charged with informing her. It is not difficult to be entranced by her love and loss; she writes so eloquently. Read this book slowly and with thought, I can never walk in her shoes, but I felt the footsteps: "Vincent was and is and will always be Vincent. James was and is and will always be James. We were and are and will always be their parents. There is no now and then, now and later; only now and now and now and now." This and many other lines will live with me long into the future.



## Too Late by Colleen Hoover

## Fiction. 381 Pages

A fan of said author recently posted a picture on social media, it showed young adults sunbathing around a beach resort, everyone in the image was reading a Colleen Hoover book – or CoHo as her fans call her. She has sold over 30 million books worldwide, so no flash in the pan. Up until this year I had only read 'It Ends With Us', then a friend told me to read this novel by CoHo (when in Rome!). This is not her normal romantic hallmark chick lit, this is a dark thriller and she does a good job with it – even though as she reveals it was only supposed to be a side project. It still has that element of romance, Sloan and Carter being the protagonists in this story, but it twists the way a good psychological thriller should. Sloan has an obsessive boyfriend/pimp who would scare the bejesus out of most of us. All in all a good page turner from one of those marmite authors. I hate marmite, but I did like this story.



Christopher Wood MBE

**BUS SERVICE** This is probably something that probably passes many of you by. However since it has been mentioned before in the B&A Monthly Email Newsletter it seemed important to point out that the service through Bellingdon will change with

effect from 31st August. The 149 will be replaced by the 55B which will run twice a day from Aylesbury via Wendover to Chesham. Please visit the Red Rose Bus website for the new timetable.



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.