

**Bellingdon & Ashridge Community Association (Charity No 1087494)**  
**Chair's Message at AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**April 2024-March 2025**

Welcome to the Bellingdon & Ashridge Community Association AGM – I hope you have enjoyed using these fantastic community facilities once again during the year.

As you may know, the annual village fête is one of our major fundraising events, and enables us to maintain the hall and recreation ground for community use. In 2024 the fete raised £ 6017, which was a great achievement in the extreme heat- thank you to all who supported the fete, but particularly to the organising committee. We have just held our 2025 fete which looks to have been more successful than last year at around £7,000.

People often ask where the money we raise goes. In short, we use this money to maintain, improve and update the hall facilities and grounds.

We would welcome members of the community joining the committee to make the decisions regarding the use of the funds in the charity.

This year we will be focussing on repairing the entrance to the car park along with extending tarmac to the whole area, marking it out to ensure maximum capacity as the hall gets busier. We have already moved the storagecontainers in preparation for this.

Sadly, this year the Christmas party for the children was cancelled due to insufficient numbers. However, the Seniors Christmas Lunch was well attended and a good time was had by all. We have also held pub nights and afternoon teas. Most of these were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. My thanks to Helen Harding, Gary Woodley, Hugh Griffiths and Helen Valvona who successfully organised these. Hopefully these events demonstrate that we aim to cater for all so there should be something for the whole community to enjoy.

In the playground we have started our fund raising as we are going to add some additional playground equipment to make it more inclusive for all. We are also looking to obtaining some additional funding along with donations from local people so please donate if you can. New signs have been put up showing how we expect the new playground to look.

I would like to thank our Newsletter Editor (Jo Askew) for all her hard work of this year writing and producing it. As you have all seen this now has a new look and feel.

Thanks also to our Bookings Secretary Jo Richardson, who had to stand down this year. Fortunately, the role has been taken over by Grace Hemson. They have both done a fantastic job of making sure the hall is booked out to a huge array of groups, families and festivals. Bookings remain healthy and our facilities are still recognised as one of the best locally.

I would like to take this opportunity also to thank all the committee members (Helen Harding, Gary Woodley, Hugh Griffiths, Paul Muggeridge-Breene and Kirsty Fiddes) and Don

Baker as Honorary Treasurer, who throughout the year have donated their time and energy, to work with me in order to maintain and manage these facilities and achieve all the above.

Finally, I would like to finish by say a huge Thank You to Don Baker who is standing down as Hon Treasurer. Through his tireless efforts and stewardship, he leaves us in an excellent financial position for which we are extremely grateful. Don has worked tirelessly over the years fixing and sorting out hall issues in the background. On behalf of the committee and all users of this facility, I would like to personally thank him for this help and support. Don hands over to Paul Muggeridge-Breene who has kindly taken on this important role.

As you can see, we are a small team but without the support and teamwork none of this would have been achievable. I look forward to continuing to work with you and any new members during the forthcoming year.

Alf Field