

# BELLINGDON & ASHERIDGE

# Community News & Events

**FETE SATURDAY 27TH JUNE  
12.30 TO 4.30 PM**

## A great fun day out for the whole family!

A range of traditional game stalls - coconut shy, lucky dip, splat the rat and much more - plus welly wanging, tug of war, fun dog show and classic car display. Of course there will be the barbecue, bar, ice creams plus teas and cakes to keep you going through the afternoon.

Put the date in your diary and come along, bring your friends and family to support your community.

### Get involved!

We'd love your help on the day - if you can spare a few hours **email:**

[fete@bellingdon.com](mailto:fete@bellingdon.com)



### RAFFLE

Buy your 2026 fete raffle tickets online now and avoid having to fill out all those fiddly ticket stubs!

We have some amazing raffle prizes this year including a top notch food and

drink hamper, magnum of champagne, John Lewis voucher, fitness membership and Waterstones books, to name just a few. Just scan the QR code below to buy your tickets online and you won't have to write your name and address on endless ticket stubs - because we'll do it for you! If the QR code isn't an option, the website is



[https://  
go.eventgroovefundraising.com/  
bellandashfete](https://go.eventgroovefundraising.com/bellandashfete)

### DONATIONS WELCOME

We will be visiting all houses in the villages during our "door knock week" beginning Monday 15th June. Items gratefully received include bottles of wine, raffle and tombola prizes, goodie bags, good condition toys, board games, books and bric-a-brac.

**BAKERS** Please drop off your cakes in the hall before 11 on the day .

### SILENT AUCTION

Check out the Silent Auction while you're there!

You can bid for some really unique experiences including audience tickets for Taskmaster and the Masked Singer, concert tickets, fly fishing, a gong bath, glassmaking and many more!

[www.bellingdon.com/fete](http://www.bellingdon.com/fete)

or scan the QR code above

**Paul Muggeridge-Breene**  
[fete@bellingdon.com](mailto:fete@bellingdon.com)

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY!

Our little church was founded 125 years ago.

**The Bishop of Buckingham, the Rt. Revd. Dave Bull**, is going to come and help us mark our anniversary with a special service on Sunday 26 July at our usual time of 10:00am. We would love you to come and join us for this special celebration, but we need numbers in advance to help our planning. If you would like to come please let Tim Yates know on [rev.tim@cheshamparish.org](mailto:rev.tim@cheshamparish.org) by 12 July 2026.

## NEWS ON THE PUB

Although the time-line for The Bull re-opening has been badly affected by many things least of all Covid and the economic situation, nil desperandum! Things have been moving in the background to give us further hope of an eventual resurrection. The owner's stated aim was always to carry out the plans as passed by the local authority, which include the addition of a restaurant at the rear in as sustainable manner as possible. To this end I was invited to an open day at the Brickworks where I was shown the processes demonstrating how ecological sustainability is in the forefront of the brickworks' in making revolutionary new building blocks, "Strocks", using local clay. To this end the building components will be manufactured locally. The facing bricks, building and insulation blocks made at the Bellingdon brickworks plus the timber sourced and processed from the immediate locality. The work on this has been commenced. Matthews brickworks have recently completed the full restoration of a 100+ year old machine to produce beams and planks from local timber - using only Oak, Beech and Cherry in tribute to the Chilterns from which they are

sourced.

*This will be the main beam showing the width of the restaurant made from a complete Oak trunk.*



*The fully restored ancient logging machine complete with new electric motor.*



**Andrew Barratt**

## PLAYGROUND UPDATE

As many of you know, the Bellingdon and Asheridge Community Association (BAACA) has been fundraising for improvements to the playground since early 2025. The project was launched in response to feedback from our Community Survey.

We are delighted to let you know that we are now able to pay the deposit and book in the works. We are aiming for the work to take place over two weeks with September looking the most likely. We will, of course, keep everyone updated once confirmed.

The improvements will include new swing bars, Tina the play tractor, a seesaw and a range of other exciting additions designed to make the playground even more enjoyable for local children and families. We are really looking forward to seeing the plans come to life.

Fundraising has certainly been long but we are now around 90% of the way towards our target, thanks in large part to a National Lottery grant of £20,000. So, thank you to everyone who plays the Lotto!

We would also like to thank everyone who has supported

the project by attending community fundraising events, helping with grant applications and placing blue tokens in the Tesco voting boxes. We still have a little further to go, so if you are able to support us, please do keep an eye out for our green token collection at Waitrose. Any additional one-off donations through our fundraising page would also be very gratefully received.



We would like to say a huge thank you to the Parish Council for supporting the playground improvement project through the playground sub-committee, made up of local councillors Keith Muggeridge-Breene and Andy Savvides, alongside BAACA Chairman Alf and fellow trustee Debs. Thanks to their support, together with some wonderful pro bono drawings provided by a

local resident architect, we have recently received confirmation from the council that the project can go ahead without a costly and lengthy planning application.

We will be providing a further update on the fundraising position at the fête on Saturday 27 June. Looking forward to sharing more with you there!

**Bellingdon and Asheridge Community Association**

## C.V.G.S

### Invitation to Chesham Vale Gardeners' Association Autumn Show

**Saturday 5th September 3—4.30 pm at  
Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall**

**Refreshments will be available**

A fabulous display of plants, flowers and vegetables for judging, even craft and photographic sections.

Open for all to enter and become a member on the day.

For further detail and how to enter:  
<https://cheshamvalegardeners.co.uk/>

**Adrian Norris, Chairman**

## REWILDING PROJECT



The cowslips reappeared in the unmown strip by the hedges and the 2 new trees at back of field are doing well but one succumbed to drought and deer damage so will need to be replaced. Lots of interesting plants and flowers are growing in the playground verge and by the hall - great for pollinators and such an improvement on the bare soil and grass before.

**Antonia Savvides**

## CURVACEOUS COOK

### STUFFED AUBERGINE

This is a lovely quick recipe that I found when in Italy, looking for a recipe for the wonderful local aubergine. I follow Italian food blogger, Isabella Simone (Piovine Ricetta) who has a wealth of simple delicious recipes and this is one of them. It is as good cold as hot and would be good as part of a buffet. We had it as a main dish with salad, but using small aubergines would be a delicious starter. Enough for 2 as a main dish.

1 largish aubergine

1 small red onion, finely chopped

150 g cherry tomatoes, quartered

75g strachiatella, burrata or other creamy cheese

25 g freshly grated parmesan

Parsley, basil and pine nuts

- Slice aubergine in half lengthwise
- Cut down almost to the skin in a diamond pattern, rub in a little oil and a twist of salt. Bake for 20 minutes on 180.
- Gently fry the onion in a little olive oil until tender, then add the tomatoes and cook until soft, then cool.
- Remove and scoop out the aubergine flesh leaving skin intact, easier than it sounds, and add to the pan.
- Season well then add in the cheese and lots of parsley and basil, although I think mint would also be delicious instead of the basil.
- Return to the shell, sprinkle pine nuts if you like them, and a little splash of olive oil on top, and cook for about 10 minutes on 180.
- Let them cool slightly before serving

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

**Sunday services at 10:00**

**Meeting Point** on the first  
Wednesday of the month at 14:30,  
**Knit and Natter** on the third  
Wednesday of each month, also at  
14:30,

You are most welcome to join us.

**Jane Edmunds**



## HISTORY & CULTURE CLUB

**Saturday 6 June, 11:30am at St John's** and will be a talk on a visit to Georgia, Armenia and Uzbekistan.

A bit like *Race Around the World* but without the racing!

### NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

If you would like to receive these please send an email to [email@bellington.com](mailto:email@bellington.com)

## VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Sat 27th Jun  
12.30—4.30 pm

**Summer Fete**  
A great fun day out for  
the whole family!

Wed 15th Jul  
7.30pm

**BAACA AGM**  
Come see how we are doing.  
Tell us what you'd like to see. Maybe  
you would like to be a trustee?

Sat 5th Sept  
3—4.30 pm

**CVGA Autumn Show**  
Details on previous page

Fri 11th Sept  
6.30pm onwards

**End of Summer BBQ**  
Drinks, food and games

Fri 13th Nov  
6.30pm onwards

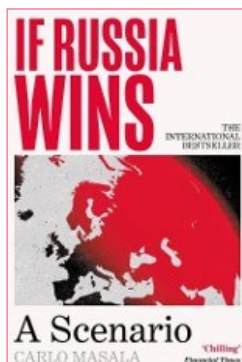
**Pub Quiz Night**  
Drinks, food and a quiz

## THE VILLAGE BOOK MARK

**If Russia Wins** Carlo Masala . Non Fiction . 128 pages . 2025

This is neither fiction or non-fiction – it is a scenario. The 128 pages pack a lot in. Carlo Masala is a military expert and a professor of international relations at the University of Munich. He puts forward a scenario which is hard to dismiss & one that has no doubt been played out in war rooms of the west. For that reason it is a work of fiction, but as the reader will understand this could be in the morning papers, it is that plausible.

It asks the question; would NATO really care about a small town in Estonia. Does Article 5, the cornerstone of the alliance (an attack on one is an attack on all) mean anything anymore. The only time this was invoked was 9/11. Putin's little military special manoeuvres do not end well. The geopolitics is changing and being tested by the day. How can the west hold their own?



**The Sixteen Trees of the Somme** Lars Mytting . Fiction . Pages 416 . 2018

Book covers are there to lure you in. However, I would never have picked this book up, even if it was thrown at me, then a friend did exactly that, followed by a threat! The novel is set between Norway where the main character Edvard grows up, and Gwen from the Shetland Islands. The story moves between the present day, and events linked to both world wars. Rural Norway is wonderfully described as is Shetland, but it is the scarred landscape that really excels and pulls the reader in. It is a tale of a family disagreement and the conflict-ridden toll of war. But it is also about the love of wood and finding your own self. There is more chemistry between Edvard and Gwen than the periodic table. Personally, I could not put it down. So metaphorically, I am throwing this book at you.



**Christopher Wood**

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.