

# BELLINGDON & ASHERIDGE



## Community News & Events

### DAVID LAWRENCE MELLET HAWKES 1962– 2025 A PILLAR OF OUR COMMUNITY

David was born at Amersham Hospital on 2 May 1962 and started his early years growing up at The Golden Bull Pub in Chesham. He then moved to Peppetts Green in Bellingdon with his mother, Pauline and father, Mick. His younger brother Peter soon followed and then the twins Sarah and Julie. They had an idyllic childhood playing freely in the fields around the house surrounded by numerous horses, dogs, cows and many other animals

The work ethic was instilled in them all from an early age through Mick and Pauline running the family local paper delivery business. They had to go out from when they could walk to help in all weathers making sure the local community received their papers, eggs and milk. This work ethic continued throughout David's life

David went to St Leonards and Hawridge Primary schools and then onto Chesham Secondary School. After school he worked with Stuart Brown stacking hay bales whenever he could for pocket money and as a young teenager went out every evening selling the Evening Newspaper, standing at the bottom of Gore Hill in Amersham with Nolan Herring and Dave Scott, to catch the evening commuters. On leaving school he worked at H G Matthews brickyard and did overtime in the evenings with his brother, Peter, for extra money doing whatever was needed. He also helped Keith Woodley with any building work whenever he had the time.

He opened his own fruit and vegetable shop in Chalfont St Giles and after many years he decided to follow Peter into the business of Block Paving Driveways, often travelling into London & working long hours although he did hate the commute into London away from his beloved home in the Hilltop villages



In 2000 the family moved to Autumn Farm Cottage in Arrewig Lane and David's father, Mick offered him the family delivery business. An opportunity he jumped at and never looked back. Mick died in 2009 and so Pauline and David moved to Cherry Tree Cottage at Buckland Common and continued the business together for many years. In the later years Pauline stayed in the background doing the books and David continued on his own with the help of some dedicated friends who didn't mind getting up early either!

David adored the business. He never minded getting up before 4am and the most important thing to him was his customers, many becoming close friends. The cups of tea, cakes and bacon rolls made the early starts & bad weather all worthwhile. It was everything to him and he continued serving people for 25 years in all weathers, 7 days a week.

His other love was horse racing, particularly jump racing at Cheltenham. This was the only time he would take a holiday and loved his time there with his friends, especially during the

festival week in March. One of his trainer friends has said he will name a Filly after him and it will be called 'Hawksy', he was so happy when he heard this and we hope she does well in her racing career carrying on David's nickname.

His wishes are that his ashes are to be scattered at the racecourse and his partner is looking at placing some ashes in the Columbarium Wall at the racecourse where there will be a plaque with his name on and he will remain at his beloved Cheltenham for ever

He will be terribly missed, but we will never forget his strong character, sense of humour and utter devotion to delivering to his customers

Ali Morris

#### DECEMBER

**Wed 3rd Meeting Point Tea & Chat**  
St John's 2.30pm

**Sat 6th History & Culture Club** Christmas Traditions St John's 11.30 am

**Sat 6th The Childrens 'Party from 2pm at the Village Hall**

**Sun 7th The Seniors Christmas Party from 12.30pm**

**Wed 17th Knit & Natter** St John's 2.30pm

**Sun 21st Carol Service** St John's 10am

**Christmas Eve Wed 24th Carol Concert**  
Huge Farm 4pm

**Christmas Day Thurs 25th Holy Communion** St John's 10am

#### JANUARY

**Wed 7th Meeting Point Tea & Chat**  
St John's 2.30pm

**Wed 21st Knit & Natter, Craft & Chatter**  
St John's 2.30pm



**PUB & QUIZ NIGHT**  
**FRIDAY 27 FEBRUARY**  
ALL PROCEEDS IN AID OF THE  
PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
**HOMEMADE FOOD**  
LOCAL BEER, AND ALCOHOLIC  
& NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS  
**FAMILY FRIENDLY**  
**RAFFLE!**

## GREAT NEWS !

**Our Bellingdon playground project has been shortlisted for the Tesco Stronger Starts Vote 🇬🇧**

From mid-January to the end of March 2026, you can support us by voting in the following stores:

Amersham Superstore	HP7 0HA
Chesham Express	HP5 3ED
Amersham Hill Avenue Express	HP6 5BQ
Little Chalfont Express	HP7 9PH

If we win first place, we'll receive £1,500 toward our £50,000 goal to improve the playground for local children.

Please vote every time you shop — and share with friends and family so they can vote too! 🍀💚

## PLAYGROUND UPDATE

Good news from the playground! We recently secured a £3,000 grant from the Mobbs Memorial Trust and the Parish Council has really stepped up to support us in practical ways.

Local Bellingdon councillors Andy Savvides and Keith Muggeridge-Breene have joined forces with Alf Field and Debs Caen from the Community Association to form a Parish Council sub-committee focused on renewing the playground. We hope to be able to make the improvements under *Permitted Development* rather than having to submit a full planning application, which would save a lot of time and expense.

We're also very grateful to local resident David, who is kindly using his professional architect skills to draw up the plans for the Permitted Development process free of charge – just as he did back in 2011 when the playground was first built. A big thank you to David for his long term support!

While these are great steps forward, we still have at least £20,000

more to raise, and costs keep rising. We're applying for grants every week, but it's a tough process and the available funding has reduced. If you know of any possible funding sources or if your employer offers matched fundraising, please get in touch with Debs at [playground@bellingdon.com](mailto:playground@bellingdon.com)

Thank you for your continued support. The playground is open to everyone, every day of the year, and we know from feedback that it's a well-used.



### Donate now!

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

## CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

### Meetings for December and January

The next meeting of the season is on **Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> December** when we will have a new talk by one of our regulars, **Stephen Barker**, author, presenter and expert on the Civil War and WW1. His talk this time is - **Women in the First World War**. Women played many roles in the First World War, including in the military, on the home front, and in factories. This talk aims to highlight these well-trodden paths, but also some lesser-known themes.

The meeting will be at St Leonards Parish Hall and doors open at 7.15pm, with the talk starting at 7.45pm.

Tea/coffee and biscuits will be served from 7.15pm, providing an opportunity to meet and talk with members and visitors.

Looking ahead to the New Year, our January meeting will be on Zoom on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January** when our speaker will be **James Wright**, academic historian, archaeology project leader and researcher of medieval castles and building architecture. He returns to talk to us about how cathedrals were built in his talk **"From Quarry to Cathedral"**.

Membership of the Local History Group is great value at £12 for the 2025-26 season, providing free access to all meetings. The fee for attending a single meeting is £5.

For further details see [www.Cholesbury.com](http://www.Cholesbury.com).

**Chris Brown 01494 758890**

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, HISTORY SOCIETY & CLUBS

We held our harvest service and tea in early October. As usual, we admired the lovely harvest loaf which Fionnagh Yates made. She told us that she made each sheaf of corn separately, and she also made a little bread mouse which she placed among the sheaves of corn.

In November, we broke with tradition by attending the Remembrance service at St. John's Church in Ashley Green instead of holding one in Bellingdon. This was to give the air a chance to clear after the woodworm treatment which took place in our church in

Bellingdon a few days beforehand. We shall also go to Ashley Green on 30 November – we have started to join with St. John's in Ashley Green when there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in a month – sometimes in Ashley Green and sometimes in Bellingdon. Tim Yates looks after both churches, so this gives us the chance to get to know each other.

Our carol service in church will take place at 10:00 on 21st December, the village carol service at Huge Farm at 16:00 on 24



December, and there will be a Holy Communion service at St. John's at 10:00 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. We continue to hold a weekly service in the church every Sunday at 10:00.

Our social events continue with our 'knit and natter' group on the third Wednesday of each month at 14:30, Meeting Point on the first Wednesday of every month at 14:30, and our History and Culture Club, which meets four times a year on a Saturday morning at 11:30.

Our most recent meeting was an excellent talk by the local poet Ben Batten on his poetry, and the next meeting will be on 6 December and will be about Christmas traditions. It will include a quiz and fun facts about Christmas. All these events take place in our lovely village church.

As always, 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) **Jane Edmunds**

## THE CURVACEOUS COOK

### Real Scottish Shortbread

I am lucky enough to have Scottish in-laws, and many years ago, when producing weekly for the WI stall at Berkhamstead market, I was asked to make shortbread for Christmas. I continued to make it every week for about 15 years! This is the recipe that I was given by the Stonehaven aunt. The trick is to be brave and take it out of the oven before it colours, but it really won't ruin it if you don't.

250 g soft unsalted butter

250 g plain flour

125 g corn flour

100 g caster sugar

25 g icing sugar

The easiest method is to put everything in a food processor and whizz till just starting to clump. You can do it in a mixer, or even by hand. Don't over mix.

Tip out onto a board floured with a mixture of plain flour and

rice flour ( or semolina) and form a smooth ball.

Roll out to about 5 mm and use cutters to make shapes.

If you want traditional thick fingers, just press into a pan with your knuckles and prick all over. Mark out the fingers before baking.

If you are making a mould, flour it very well, ideally with rice flour or semolina, then gently press in. I used a gentle roll from a rolling pin , but it does take practise. Luckily it can all be re-rolled like pastry.

Oven on 160, the cookie shapes and moulds will take about 15 minutes, but check after 10. The fingers will take nearer 30 minutes.

Let them settle for a few minutes then cool on a rack.

To get the shape out of the mould, I used to bang it firmly on the bottom, then roll the sides and pray as I turned it onto a rack. I don't make them any more!

Sprinkle with caster sugar if you want to when cooling.

You can now buy rolling pins with shapes in them, and these would make very pretty cookies.

Happy Christmas and a healthy new year to you all.

## EMAIL NEWSLETTER

I am are now sending out monthly updates by email. If you would like to start receiving these please provide your email details to [newsletter@bellingdon.com](mailto:newsletter@bellingdon.com). If you have any news you would like to share please contact me at the same. **Jo Askew**

## 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.

THE VILLAGE BOOK MARK

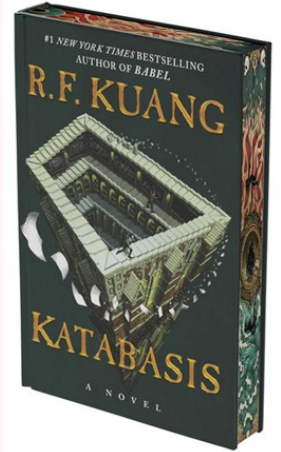
**Freedom: Non-Fiction 720 pages:2025 – Angela Merkel**

I have always admired Angela Merkel, I guess her longevity and her presence on the world political stage has always been in my orbit. There is no denying this was a challenging read, wading through some of the German political system (and acronyms) was a chore. Nevertheless, it was worth hanging on in there, the history of German reunification was fascinating, she had no direct role but she clearly played a part, then becoming the first chancellor of Germany from the GDR. Her admission that Germany will always carry the guilt of WWII and it will always hang in the air is telling. Merkel has a fear of dogs, Putin brought his Labrador to a press conference in 2007, he said he did not know of her fear (yeah right!), Merkel observed "I understand why he has to do this – to prove he's a man. ... He's afraid of his own weakness" – AMEN.



**Katabasis: Fiction 560 Pages:2025 – R F Kuang**

Confession: I am one of the authors disciples, The Poppy Wars Trilogy, Yellowface and of course the award-winning Babel are all wonderful. The R is for Rebecca and she does not disappoint us with Katabasis; I brought it on the day of release and consumed it in a matter of days. There are plenty of reviews analysing the detail and academia references in the story. Babel was set in Oxford, for this she swapped sides and went to Cambridge. As students Alice and Peter descend into the 'Eight Courts of Hell' to save their professor, it will come as no surprise the references to Dante's Inferno are aplenty, so much so that I dipped into Dante on occasion. As she did so brilliantly with Babel, the author seems to be able to mix fact and fiction with ease. I loved all the characters. It is indeed a journey through hell; so prepare yourself for one hell of a journey!.



Christopher Wood MBE

Pilates class at Bellingdon Village Hall Every Wednesday 2pm - 3pm For More Info text/call Mireille 07891 735190

£10.00 per Session

**NEW** adult ballet and tap class!

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 BALLET 10:30-11:30 £8  
 TAP 11:30-12:00 £5

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