

### Post Office Opening Times

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9am - 1pm and  
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Weds: 9am - 1pm

Sat: 9am - 12.30pm

### Library Opening Times

Tues, Thurs: 2 - 5pm (Tues Story time  
2.15pm – 2.45pm Term time only -  
free and no need to book, just drop  
in.)

Fri: 2pm - 7pm

Sat: 10am - 1pm

### Mobile Library (Alternate Tuesdays)

Yardley Ave Health Centre:

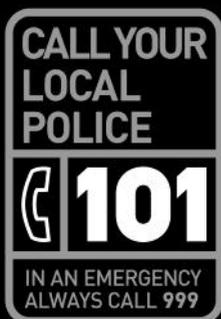
2.40pm - 3.15pm

The Crescent: 3.20pm - 4.10pm

### Figgy's Fish & Chip Van

**Thurs** - Maud Jane's Close (5pm), Ivinghoe  
Church (5.20pm), Glebe Close (7.15pm), The  
Crescent (8pm), Yardley Ave (8.20pm) then  
onto Marsworth

**Sat** - Maud Jane's Close (12.45pm), Iv Church  
(1.15pm), R Furlong (2.15pm), Glebe Cl  
(2.40pm), The Crescent (3pm), Yardley Ave  
(3.30pm) then onto Marsworth



**101 coming to your force**

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four times a year. Many thanks to them all: Sheila Stevens, Annie Stack, Fiona Thompson, Barbara Jacob, Norah Parkins, Tracy Stone, Linda Thompson, Sue Nicholls, Vanita Patel, Isobel Robinson, Gillian Arney, Sarah Smith, Louise Pope, Alison Sturgess, Mike Clayton, Nikki Matthey, Norma Leighton, Kathryn Cooper, Linda Martin, Olive West, Vanessa Swan, Sally Kapadia, Julie Mead, Jacqui Gardiner, Terry Gardiner, Lynn Fountain, Louise Weatherill, Dawn Eaglesham, Linda Willmont, Kathy Brassington, Alison Hawkins. If you would like to help with the distribution then please contact **Klaus Ginda** on 01296 668911

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For details see page 80 or above

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Please send contributions to [pppeditor@pitstone.co.uk](mailto:pppeditor@pitstone.co.uk)

### MISSION STATEMENT

The content of PPP is intended to inform and enhance the lives of the people of Pitstone.

Front cover by Ruth Wallington from Pitstone  
[www.imaginephotowords.co.uk](http://www.imaginephotowords.co.uk)



FREE Entry

# DIAMOND JUBILEE PARTY

1pm-6pm Sunday 3 June 2012, Pitstone Recreation Ground

Live Music Beer Festival BBQ Skate Park Fun for all ages

Live music throughout the afternoon from a variety of local bands, culminating in our very own "Last Night of the Proms"!

So bring your picnics, meet up with your friends and neighbours and enjoy the best "street party" in Pitstone



Skate Park



Sports Cage and Sumo Suits



This is also your chance to comment on the latest village development plans and help us design a skate park for Pitstone!

## + the Find a Cure for Frankie Fun Day 3



Raffle & Tombola



Games



Bouncy Castle



Face Painting



Please try and walk to our Jubilee Party. The bottom section of Vicarage Road will be closed to traffic throughout the afternoon. Limited disabled parking only will be available at the hall. Some car parking will be available at Pitstone Green Farm.



See pages 5 & 6 for Diamond Jubilee Weekend events  
Fun for all your family and friends—come and join us!

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN, PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL



Parish Council business goes on as usual with the ordinary everyday chores of trying to make this the best place to be. One item that has moved on a pace is that of the Youth café. As we are approaching a 12 month period, it is evident that this was much needed and long over due. Having started with 45+ attendees we now have 120 registered young people. Not all of them turn up all the time and on average we get 60 to 70 per week. Aylesbury Vale 'Youth For Christ' movement has been paramount in its success in engaging young people and moving forwards. We are also very fortunate to have the blessing and encouragement of Staff and Governors of Brookmead School who have pledged the use of their premises for the future. However we are totally reliant upon a dedicated band of volunteers, without whom it would be unworkable. With this number of young people we need at least 10 or 12 additional volunteers each week to continue the success. We are struggling at times, so it is with a heartfelt plea that I urge parents, friends and other interested parties to consider volunteering for a couple of 2 hour periods per month. Please contact myself or the Clerk to the Parish Council.

As we go to print, many of you will have seen the extension and alteration of the speed limits around our village. This has taken nearly 3 years and well worth waiting for. It's not ideal but it is a step in the right direction.

Now to the Jubilee Celebrations. A sub committee has been formed from various bodies including the Parish Council. The variety of interests and activities of this enthusiastic sub committee will create what we hope is going to be a fantastic Jubilee celebration on June 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>. You will have had a flier through your door and a full weekend of family entertainment has been planned. This has been funded partly by the Parish Council but mainly by generous donations from businesses in the area.

Sad as it is that The Bell public house has closed, and there is no longer a pub in the village, are you aware that the Social Club in the Memorial Hall is open at weekends? It has become a social meeting place as well as providing valuable income for the upkeep and refurbishment of the Memorial Hall. Please consider using this local amenity.

**Bob Saintey.**

## NEWS

### DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

By Avril Davies, District and County Councillor, Ivinghoe Division

#### Speed Limit Review

I have received copies of all the legal documents required for the speed limit changes and works are scheduled to commence on

the various sites Monday 26 March 2012 and are planned to be completed by April 13<sup>th</sup>. At the time of writing I have unfortunately seen no evidence of this, but I hope that by the time you read it everything will be in place!!? After an implementation period the new limits are formally reviewed again to assess their effectiveness, all as part of the due process, but I don't know when this will be. This review was first proposed in 2003, and begun



about 2007.

### **‘Why take the trip to the tip’**

AVDC have sent a leaflet to every house about the new non statutory service for garden waste. (only household waste, not garden waste, has to be collected, by law) Previously people have been obliged to purchase designated green plastic bags from the council, or get the car out and go to the household waste recycling site, which not everyone is able to do. And, to most people’s distress, those green bags were not collected separately and composted, but thrown in with the general landfill. The contents of the new brown bins will be properly composted.

Our area is one of the last to be implemented, and will happen in JUNE.

This is a paid-for service at £36 a year, for a fortnightly collection from February to the end of November.

To get your bin call 01296 585510 or visit: [www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/gardenwaste](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/gardenwaste)

Sign up before 8 May 2012 to ensure you are included on the first collection date in June.

A whole new system of waste collections is to be implemented in SEPTEMBER with a weekly collection of food waste and alternate weekly collection for the brown bins, above, and new recycling bins for cardboard, plastic, plastic bags, paper etc. AVDC hopes to remedy the dire state its’ recycling has got itself into with a 60% increase in its recycling rate from 20% to 80%. This can be done now as after many years there are many places who buy and sort recycleable materials, and AVDC recyclables will be

going to Oxfordshire. .

### **New arrangements at the household waste recycling site**

Bucks County Council has awarded a new contract to operate these sites, with some changes.

From 1st April the sites will open an hour later and have fixed summer and winter opening hours. From 1 April – 30 September summer opening times will be in place and all the sites will operate from 9am – 6pm. From the 1 October – 31 March, winter opening hours will be in place and the sites will operate from 9am – 5pm.

The second change which will be introduced on-site is an improved reuse service, which is going to be phased in over the coming months from April 2012 – July 2012. This will include a shop at the Aston Clinton site. Materials suitable for reuse will be collected from the county’s recycling centres and sold. These details are being finalised by the contractor and their partnering charity organisation and will be publicised as soon as completed.

The new contract will also provide enhanced customer experience with ‘meet and greet’ attendants available to help customers unload waste to ensure items are recycled and reused. Users of the site will also notice new signage and improved layouts of recycling containers.

### **Bucks introduces more charging for home to school transport**

The County will introduce from September transport charges for any pupil not attending their nearest ‘appropriate’ school. This does not mean school which you have chosen or

been selected for, but a school which is capable of delivering you the required educational attainment. All upper schools are considered able to provide an education to a grammar school qualified pupil. (A grammar however is not deemed suitable for anyone who has not qualified).

In effect unless you need a special school, and live more than three miles from your nearest school, Bucks will only pay for you to go to your nearest upper school within the county boundary. Tring School and one or two others currently attended outside the county boundary are included in this arrangement, so those getting free transport to Tring already will continue to do so.

Last year far more draconian and inconsistent charges were proposed and withdrawn, except for sixth formers and out-of-catchment pupils who are currently paying large fares. This level of charging for younger pupils was reconsidered as a result of responses to those proposals, and some loud objections from people such as myself, but it is now proposed to phase in the charges, at a much reduced rate. Charges will be introduced at £10 per week to pupils about to start secondary this September, and £2 a week administration charge for pupils in years above already with travel places to schools not their nearest.

More on Avril Davies' council web page <http://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/davies>

### **All BCC Committees now live web-cast**

This has been happening for some time, and has an amazing number of viewers. More than 500 for a scrutiny meeting. The recordings are available on the Bucks website, and helpfully can be viewed by member, or by agenda topic. <http://www.buckscc-public->

[i.tv/core/](http://i.tv/core/)

## **PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations – 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

We have some fantastic events lined up to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee in Pitstone and Ivingshoe



### **SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2012 1pm-6pm – “Party in the Park” on Pitstone Recreation Ground**

Come to our very own Party in the Park. We will have live bands all afternoon, culminating in our own last night of the Proms, a beer festival with local real ales, a BBQ and stalls.

We will be providing entertainment for children of all ages as well.

For younger children there will be face painting, a bouncy castle and lots of games. This will all be provided by volunteers from the *Retts Syndrome Research Trust* who are raising money to 'Find a cure for Frankie' which has become an Annual event.

For older children we will have Sumo wrestling, a skate park and the sports cage.

It will be a fantastic day, and it is free to attend. Please try to walk though as we are expecting it to be very busy and there will be limited parking near the Recreation Ground on the day.

*(Continued on page 6)*

(Continued from page 5)

Sunday 3rd 11am-6pm

Monday 4th 11am-6pm

## 8pm-11pm - Family Disco at Pitstone Memorial Hall

If you still have some energy left after the afternoon fun, come along to our family disco at the Memorial Hall in the evening.

## MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> June

### 6pm Family Celebration Service, St Mary the Virgin Church, Ivinghoe

A special service will be held at the Church for the Diamond Jubilee in the evening.

### from 7.30pm Lighting Ivinghoe Beacon, Pitstone Memorial Hall

Thousands of Beacons will be lit around the World to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. National Trust, Natural England and English Heritage have granted permission for Ivinghoe Beacon to be one of those lit on the evening of 4<sup>th</sup> June. Come along for a drink to Pitstone Memorial Hall beforehand and we will lead a walk to the footpath behind Pitstone allotments prior to the Beacon being lit. This footpath provides a perfect vantage point to see the Beacon lit. This will happen at approximately **10.00pm-10.30pm**.

Please do not attempt to go to the Beacon itself on the evening as it will be closed off.

### Between SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> June and MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> June - Art, Flower and Music Festival, Pitstone Church

The church will be open for the festival at the following times:

Saturday 2nd 2pm-6pm

In addition, there will be a special Festival Evensong Service at 7.30pm on Sunday 3rd June.

Please note that Vicarage Road will be **closed** at the Memorial Hall end during the Party in the Park on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, so access to Pitstone Church will be via the top end of Vicarage Road on that day.

We hope you all enjoy the Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday events and that the Sun will be shining on us!

## Playground Accessibility

Every year the parish council conducts a risk and benefit appraisal of all three of our play areas (Hever Close, Windsor Road and Vicarage Road) to ensure that they are safe and accessible places where all children and young people can play and socialise; that the value of the open space to the community is maximised and that the recreational opportunities reflect the needs and interests of our community.

We have considerable redevelopment plans for the Vicarage Road site to ensure that the above objectives are met and we would encourage everyone to attend our consultation event which will be held at the Diamond Jubilee Party on Sunday 3 June 2012.

An essential feature of our play strategy is to ensure it promotes inclusion and access for disadvantaged and disabled children. Our play areas feature multi-purpose equipment with tunnels, slides, rocking equipment, roundabouts and springers, that can be enjoyed by the majority of children and all sites are fully accessible. Should you have experienced any problems or feel there are additional features that your dis-

abled child may benefit from, please contact the parish clerk.

## Annual Report from the Parish Council

For the Parish Council's annual report, please see the centre pages. This was shared with the Parish at the May Annual Assembly, to which every household was invited.

## Speed limit changes in village



You will have noticed that we are now benefitting from a reduction to the maximum speed of 30 mph along the complete length of Cheddington Road

and the housed length of Vicarage Road, plus a reduction to 40mph as you enter the village along Marsworth Road past the pavilion. The parish council will be issuing all properties within the new 30 mph limits with wheelie bin stickers to reinforce the message.

With any luck, there will also be improved signage by Cooks Wharf to deter left hand turns out of the very sharp junction onto Marsworth Road from the far side of the railway bridge, plus a series of new signage to the business park which should reduce lorry movements through the village.

We would urge all parishioners to set a good example and stay well within the new limits, and speed enforcement by our neighbourhood police officers will be happening.

## Hosepipe Ban came into effect on 5 April 2012

Following the driest 18 month period in more than a century, Anglian Water, along with seven other water companies, announced a hosepipe ban for all customers with effect from 5 April.

This measure has been taken in the hope that it will mean that more drastic measures, such as introducing standpipes or reducing water pressure, won't have to be taken later in the summer.

Please do all you can to conserve water – remember you can be fined £1,000 if caught breaching the ban. The restrictions apply whether residents are on a water meter or not. There are some exceptions - for instance, if the water use is for health and safety reasons. People with mobility problems may also be able to use hosepipes in specified circumstances.

For more information, please see the Anglian Water web site:

<http://www.anglianwater.co.uk>

## Dog Fouling – bag it, bin it!



Disgustingly there has been a huge increase in the amount of dog fouling occurring in and around our village, and across our extensive footpath network. Aside

from the health risk this poses to all of us, a small minority of dog owners no doubt seem to think that this is acceptable.

The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 allows the local authority to prosecute irresponsibly

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ble dog owners, if they do not clear up after their dog, after allowing it to foul in a designated area. Owners can be fined up to £1,000 if they fail to comply.

### Designated areas include:

- all carriageways with a speed limit of 40 miles an hour or less, and adjoining footpaths and verges
- all parks, recreation grounds, sports grounds/pitches and open spaces owned, maintained and/or controlled by the district, town or parish councils
- open grassed areas located adjacent to areas of residential housing
- public rights of way
- canal towpaths and reservoir footpaths
- church yards and cemeteries
- allotments
- public car parks and pedestrianised areas
- plus a number of specially designated areas across the Vale.

A plastic bag such as an old carrier bag or a nappy sack can be used to pick up any dog's mess. There are three easy steps for cleaning up after your dog:

1. Grab it - using a plastic bag over your hand.
2. Bag it - turn the bag inside out and tie.
3. Bin it - put the bag into a dog bin or take it home if one is not available.

**There is no excuse** – please bag it and bin it – and show some respect for the rest of us who have to endure this in our village.

To make a report of dog fouling, please email [envhealth@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:envhealth@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk) or telephone 01296 585605 or report via the AVDC website [www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk) who will take enforcement action, with appropriate evidence.

### Litter

Our dedicated team of litter pickers spend a huge amount of time keeping our village looking nice. Recently however there is an increasing amount of litter being dropped all around the village – the play areas, the woodland path and the streets.

Pitstone Parish Council provides numerous litter and dog bins around the village. Your council tax has paid the associated cost of over £6,500 in this year alone to pick up your litter and empty the refuse and dog bins – please take pride in our village, set an example to children and young people and make sure you bin it or take it home! Thank you.

### Summer Holiday Family Fun Days & Skate Park

The District Council has withdrawn funding for the popular *Play Around the Parishes* scheme so Pitstone Parish Council has decided to fund the cost of three Family Fun Days. On the following dates you will be able to take advantage of free fun for your children, including: crafts, toys, giant games, face painting, bouncy castle, outdoor sports and the skate park! Please do come along and support these activities on the Recreation Ground (or in the Memorial Hall if it rains).

10am to 3pm on Friday 27 July  
 10am to 3pm on Monday 13 August  
 10am to 3pm on Friday 24 August

## Do join us for these other celebratory events too !



Still got some energy on Sunday?

Come to the family disco in Pitstone Memorial Hall from 8pm-11pm on Sunday 3 June 2012.

## A beacon on Ivinghoe Beacon

Thousands of beacons will be lit around the world to commemorate Her Majesty the Queen's 60 year reign over the UK and as head of the Commonwealth. We are delighted that National Trust, Natural England and English Heritage have granted permission for Ivinghoe Beacon to be included.



Join us for live family entertainment in Pitstone Memorial Hall from 7.30pm on Monday 4 June. There will be an escorted walk to the perfect vantage point in the fields behind Pitstone allotments in time for this historic beacon lighting between 10pm-10.30pm.

The nominated lighting time will be advised by the Queen's Pageant Master closer to the date. Please note that for health and safety reasons the beacon itself will be closed off, so please do **NOT** attempt to drive or walk to Ivinghoe Beacon. There is also no access to the vantage point from within the Pitstone allotments, so please keep to the designated path.

It is hoped that the bells at St Mary the Virgin Church in Ivinghoe will ring out at the same time as the beacon lighting as part of the national church celebrations. You can also enjoy a Family Celebration Service at the church at 6pm on Monday 4 June.

## Art, Flower and Music Festival



Pitstone Redundant Church

2pm-6pm on Saturday 2 June

11am-6pm on Sunday 3 June

11am-6pm on Monday 4 June

Plus a Festival Evensong service at 7.30pm on Sunday 3 June

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*(Continued from page 8)*

## **Proposed Cycle and Pedestrian Path along Northfield Road**

Do you walk or cycle along Northfield Road to Tring Station?

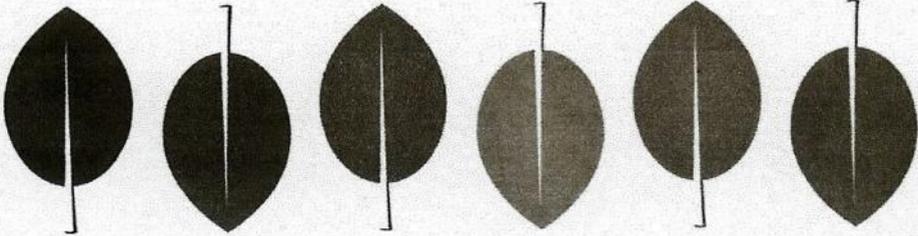
Would you walk or cycle along this road if there was a proper cycle path and footpath?

Have you been involved in an accident whilst walking or cycling along Northfield Road?

As part of the agreement with Taylor Wimpey to build the current phase of housing on Castlemead, a section 106 contribution of £100,000 towards the installation of a pedestrian/cycleway along Northfield Road was determined. The parish council anticipates that these funds should be transferred imminently.

The road actually lies outside our county boundary. Therefore, the funds will be passed from Bucks County Council to Herts County Council (HCC). It is a complicated project (as some sections aren't wide enough) and a long road (£100k is unlikely to fund the entire length). The parish council is trying to work with HCC to scope this project, and ensure it is delivered in a timely fashion. It would be very helpful to us, if we knew the size of the de-

*(Continued on page 14)*



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mand for the cycle/foot path and the extent of any incidents along the road.

Please email [parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk) with your contact details (name, address, email) and let us know if you do use it/would use it, how often you use/would use it, and whether you have been involved in any incidents. Thank you.

### **Skate Park for Pitstone**

Pitstone Parish Council has recently resolved to enter into discussions to provide a plaza style landscaped skate park on the recreation ground. This opportunity has recently become attainable due to the possible future redevelopment of some other parcels of land in the village, which mean that both the cricket practice nets and the current basketball square would have to be relocated. Some of the children's play equipment will be moved from its current site into the newly vacated area and the skate park will be installed where the toddler equipment is at the moment.

There is a huge demand in Pitstone for a wheeled sport area that is suitable for scooters, skateboards, BMX bikes and rollerblades. The tender process is currently in the early stages to identify a suitable contractor that can provide such a facility that would appeal to all levels of user, whilst maintaining a high level of landscaping so that families can also enjoy the site and the visual amenity.

A skate park committee has been formed which will have a number of our local young people on. They will help the parish council and our advisors shape the likely park, apply for grants and planning permission and undertake some fundraising. Please do all you can to support their activities. There will be plenty of opportunities for everyone to comment on the proposals as they develop and we welcome your input. The first event will be at our Jubilee Party on Sunday 3 June, so do make sure you come along and let us know your views.

We look forward to developing and installing this highly sought after project, which has been awaited for many years.

### **Proposals to Extend London-Luton Airport**

By Sally Kapadia, Beacon Villages Society

As you may be aware there are 2 separate proposals to extend Luton Airport. The airport is owned by Luton Borough Council under the name Luton Airport Limited but is being leased for 30 years to a Spanish company called Abertis. As there is too much information in these plans to detail here I suggest that anyone who would like to know more should search for further information on the websites mentioned below.

Luton Borough Council wants to increase profits by raising the number of passengers from around 10.5 million to 18 million per year. It has produced a consultation plan but the final date for comments on this was 26th March. Details of this plan can be found at

*(Continued on page 19)*

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Friday	9.45 am	Wilstone Village Hall

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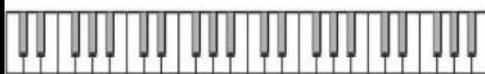
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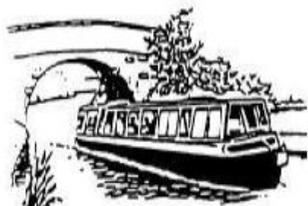
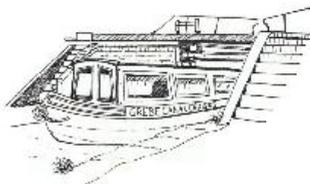
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[www.futureLuToN.co.uk](http://www.futureLuToN.co.uk).

Albertis has produced a separate consultation plan in which it is proposing to increase capacity to 15-16 million passengers by 2030. A masterplan video of the proposals can be viewed at [www.london-luton.co.uk](http://www.london-luton.co.uk). The 6-week consultation period ends on April 26th. Comments can be emailed to [londonslocalairport@ltn.aero](mailto:londonslocalairport@ltn.aero) or posted to:

Project LLA Consultation, London Luton Airport Operations Ltd, Navigation House, Airport Way, Luton, LU2 9LY

Neither proposal is suggesting building a further runway so it is of concern that flying hours could be extended in order to cope with the increased capacity. The night noise policy at Heathrow, Stansted and Gatwick is controlled by The Department of Transport but Luton Airport determines its own. It is likely that our villages will be affected by increased flight noise.

An organisation called *Hertfordshire Against Luton Expansion* has produced a good website with further information and points to make in objecting to this consultation plan. Further details at [www.hale.net.uk](http://www.hale.net.uk).

At present these are only consultation plans but we must assume that either one or two

(Continued from page 19)

proper planning applications will follow at a later date.



## PITSTONE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

There is a well-known saying: If you want a job done then ask a busy woman. If you were to ask Michelle Lee (pictured left) to do one single thing more though, she might find it impossible. Michelle is the new *Pitstone Volunteer of the Year 2011/2012*, an award she richly deserves for her services to our villages.

Michelle started volunteering at Cubs when her young brother wanted to join, and the local group in Tring needed help. A mere 20 Years has passed since then and she is still involved in scouting. When Michelle and Martin moved to Pitstone in 1993 it seemed natural to get involved with the Ivinghoe and Pitstone Group. "Working in Scouts, although it can be hard work, is rewarding", she said. "I have made many friends among the leaders and parents; it's like an extended family, although I would like to thank, Jakki, Keith and Brian for being great sports during the years whilst working together on Beaver evenings."

Having a home, with two teenage children and a dog, you would think that leading 2 Beavers Colonies and being Group Scout Leader would be enough. It seems Michelle has always helped in some way within Village life whether this was chairing Pre-school and play-groups and later, being on the PTA at Brookmead School. Michelle now works as a teaching assistant and at the same time has achieved two degrees in her "spare time". She would like to do a PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate of Education) in the future. While studying for her degree Michelle's mum passed away causing a lot of stress. She now cares for her Nan as well as everything else!

Michelle's special interest, and the focus of her studies, is working with children with Special Needs. At the school where she works she has set up a group called Move-to- Learn, where she helps children strengthen all their muscles especially their core muscles. "For many children sitting at a desk is quite tricky as they find it hard to sit up and concentrate" she says, "They don't necessarily have Special Educational Needs but they can benefit greatly from attending the group".

This year her son is studying for his GCSEs. Michelle has pushed herself to study alongside him and has told him that he will be rewarded if he gets better grades than she does. "It was harder than the degree," she tells me, "with the degree I was learning what interested me but studying Maths now that was challenging!"

Michelle has lots of support from her family; her husband Martin does most if not all the cooking at home, even so, she seems to have boundless energy and determination. Her

award is very well deserved and we offer our congratulations and thanks to her for all she has done.

## BEACON VILLAGES COMMUNITY LIBRARY – SAVE THE DATE!



Ivinghoe library will relaunch on **2nd June 2012** as the Beacon Villages Community Library, run by the community for the commu-

nity. The change follows fifteen months of work by supporters to secure the future of the library and ensure it remains open.

A new look, including internal improvements and new signage, will be revealed at a special event in the library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to mark the opening.

Residents from across Ivinghoe, Pitstone, Marsworth, Cheddington, Slapton and the surrounding area are invited to come along to celebrate the opening and get involved. There will be activities for children and members will have the option of swapping their library card for a new BVCL design card that can be used at BCVL and other libraries across Bucks.

Under the new arrangements, library manager Michelle West will be supported by a rota of volunteers to issue books and help library members. The new service will focus on providing books, information and entertainment and on supporting the community across the Beacon Villages. This will include working with other community groups across the Beacon Villages.

The library will be managed by the BVCL Management Committee, a charitable organisation, and funding has kindly been offered by the parish councils in Pitstone, Ivinghoe and Slapton. Bucks County Council is providing a grant and further support.

Further details about the event on 2nd June 2012 will be available soon in the library and on village notice boards. If you would like to volunteer in the library, get involved with fundraising, publicity, our website or if you would like to find out more, or suggest library improvements, please email [ivinghoelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:ivinghoelibrary@gmail.com).

Emma Huxley, Secretary, Friends of Ivinghoe Library (FOIL)

## CHILDREN'S CORNER

### Ivinghoe and Pitstone Sure Start Children's Centre

Over a year since launch, Ivinghoe and Pitstone Sure Start Children's Centre is proving to be a valued service within the local community. Situated on the Brookmead School site, it can be accessed along the footpath to the right of the school entrance. The Children's Centre is run by Barnardo's, in partnership with Buckinghamshire County Council, providing a one stop shop to local services that inform and support parents within the community. Some services are for everyone and others have a more particular focus, like a group for school transitions. We also provide support for families within their own home.

Since our opening, the Centre has been very well attended with an excellent response from families in the local community and

*(Continued on page 23)*

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(Continued from page 21)

wider area. Our reach area comprises the villages of Ivinghoe, Pitstone, Cheddington, Marsworth, Edlesborough, Slapton, Dagnall, Northall and Ivinghoe Aston. Priority will be given to parents from these areas when attending sessions and booking courses. We are also supported by the health teams from the Little Rothschild Surgery and Village Health Centre in Pitstone who run the health clinics from the Centre on Thursday and Friday mornings respectively, along with postnatal groups and the baby café.

The Children's Centre offers a variety of fun and interactive sessions to support parenting and children's learning and development. Timetables are produced regularly with information about the different sessions that are available and are posted onto our website [www.barnardos.org.uk/buckschildrenscentres](http://www.barnardos.org.uk/buckschildrenscentres), in local stores and other venues in the area and can also be collected from us at the Centre at any time.

We also work in partnership with other agencies such as the National Child Minding Association, Jobcentre Plus and Bucks Family Information Service providing a wide range of information and links to a whole range of services available to you.

Our Centre welcomes all families with their babies and children up to their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. We promote the inclusion of all children, their families and their carers, and seek to create a safe and nurturing environment for you all.

Come and meet the Children's Centre staff, we are open from 9am to 5 pm: Judith Attridge the Centre Manager, Katie Grocock our Play Leader and new Senior Play Leader, Sara Tingle. We can be contacted on 01296 662363 or via e-mail –[judith.attridge@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:judith.attridge@barnardos.org.uk) or [katie.grocock@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:katie.grocock@barnardos.org.uk)

### **Pitstone and Ivinghoe Toddler Group**



Our group runs every Wednesday during term time between 1.15 – 3.00pm in the Pitstone Memorial Hall, £1.50 per family per session.

Wow, what a busy term we have had with lots of fun activities: we enjoyed making lanterns for Chinese New Year, daffodils for St. David's day, planting sunflowers and pancake racing. We held a special event for World Book day and were joined by Michelle from Ivinghoe library who gave out book start packs and provided a wonderful story time to round off the session. The ladies were pampered with manicures, massages and cakes for Mother's day. The term ended with our Easter party where all the children took part in egg hunts, bunny races and other Easter games: Tracey the vicar finished the session off by telling the Easter story to all

(Continued on page 24)

the little ones.

Some things to look forward to this term include, May Day celebrations, with a tractor ride to the windmill – a favourite with all the children. A jubilee party and a buggy float in the local fete, flag and crown making and biscuit decorating. A full calendar is available on our website.

On January 25<sup>th</sup> we held a bring and buy sale; this raised £57 for the group and enabled us to buy some new toys. We are keen to replenish our toys and would like toy cars, space toys, books, toy animals and duplo. If you have anything, you would like to donate, please bring it along to a session or contact our Secretary, Rachel on 668733.

We have supported the church in their fundraising for Bucks Young Carers and our members raised £12.15 for the charity- thank you for your support. One of our members held a charity cake sale for Pop'n'Grow, a charity that provides specialized baby grows for babies in intensive care at Luton and Dunstable hospital - £29.50 was raised.

The baby and toddler group is an integral part of life in the village and offers a wonderful opportunity for parents, grandparents and carers to meet and enjoy a cuppa together. There have been some good friendships formed amongst both the parents and our younger members. Many of the children form friendships with those they later go to pre-school and then school with therefore helping them settle into their new environments happily.

Each week we offer art and craft activities which allow the children to express themselves creatively whilst keeping their home mess free! Our toddlers have access to a range of toys and activities such as dressing up, train tracks, slides, trikes, trampolines etc. We are able to alternate these toys to keep everyone happy and entertained.

There is a safe soft area with a wide variety of toys for babies to explore and have fun with until they are ready to venture out into the larger area of the hall. A snack and drink is provided for the children and tea, coffee and biscuits, (sometimes cake!) for the adults at no extra cost. The sessions either end with a story time or sing along session, which the children really love.

Throughout the year, we welcome visits from local organisations and enterprises with products such as books, cosmetics and jewellery to name but a few. This offers great retail opportunities for parents and local entrepreneurs and as 10% of all sales come back to the group, it is a great way to support the group. If you or anyone you know would like to run a stall or give a demonstration at a session please contact our Chair, Rob on 663615.

Facebook and our Website are brilliant ways of keeping up to date with what is happening each week at Toddlers. The website contains general information and is updated termly with newsletters and a programme.

If you've not joined us on Face book yet please do! We are beginning to use this as our main

form of weekly communication to keep us all up to date with the planned activities, crafts and visitors coming to see us. Face book is also the perfect place for your ideas for future activities to be posted. Keep an eye out for our posters advertising our special events. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Website: [www.pitstoneandivinghoetoddlers.btck.co.uk](http://www.pitstoneandivinghoetoddlers.btck.co.uk)

Facebook: **Pitstone and Ivinghoe baby and toddler group**

Rachel McGuire - Secretary

## CHURCH NEWS – ST MARY’S, IVINGHOE



St. Mary's, Ivinghoe

Dear Reader,

A few weeks ago I had the privilege of showing Bishop John; the Bishop of Oxford; around our villages and Brookmead School. He was very impressed with the amount of activities that we as a church provide; and was very grateful to all those who give of their time freely to make these events possible. During our visit to the school year 1 children told him enthusiastically about their experiences at the forest school and year 6 were having great fun in the hall trying their hand at African drumming, in which Bishop John wasted no time in having a go too! A big thank you must go to Miss Douglas for allowing us to disturb the school's afternoon activities.

I was very proud to be able to tell Bishop John about our church families and the outreach programmes that we have in place; but as always we as a church family always feel that we could do more, or perhaps try out a different way of doing things. For this reason over the next few months all three church families will be looking at what we do well as well as what we could do better together with the challenges we face in serving our village communities.

We will be looking to talk to as many people from all the villages as possible, and inviting their ideas at events such as cheese and wine evenings; in an attempt to provide what our communities feel they need from their church.

*(Continued on page 28)*

The views expressed in the PPP do not necessarily represent the views of the Parish Council or those of the Editor.



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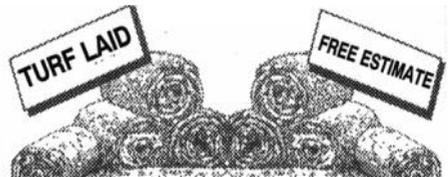
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*(Continued from page 25)*

Perhaps we will not be able to provide everything that comes forward, but with your help we will be able to identify the things that people value most.

Look out for details of these events which will be coming soon; in the meantime, if you have any suggestions that you would like to put forward or would just like to talk over an idea; please feel free to contact me or any member of the church family.

Remember; our churches belong to everyone; they are open daily for your use. Our services and activities are for all to enjoy no matter your age or denomination.

God bless, Rev Tracey

### **Bible study groups**

Our evening study meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month at 1 Queen Street Pitstone at 8pm; our daytime study is on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month at 5 Windmill Close, Ivinghoe, at 10am. Everyone is welcome no matter what age or stage you are on your Christian journey.

### **Not Sunday, Not School**

These sessions are held fortnightly from 3.30pm – 5pm. The children will be provided with refreshments and the sessions generally include stories, songs, craft activities, games and cooking. This club is for children aged 3-11 years. Parents why not come along relax and have a cuppa and a chat while your children enjoy themselves under friendly supervision.

During this term we will also have our activity afternoon for the Bucks young carers when we hope to be presenting a large cheque to one of their representatives. We shall also begin our preparations of the float for the fete in June. More details of these events will be given nearer the time.

If you would like to know more information please contact Tracey on 668260.

### **Summer schemes and Messy mornings**

We shall be running messy mornings on Thursday mornings throughout the summer holiday and two summer fun days on 25<sup>th</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> August. More details and booking forms coming soon.

### **Men's Group**

The men's group have enjoyed some excellent events over the winter as well as helping out with some work in the church yards. The events for the summer and early autumn were agreed at the April get together (over a pint) but too late for this month's magazine. Forthcoming events will be:

May: Trip to the Shuttleworth collection

Detailed information on events is circulated by email; please contact [mick.doyle@virgin.net](mailto:mick.doyle@virgin.net) to be included in the circulation. New members and new ideas are always welcome. Please ring Mick on 01296 668260.

## Reel Issues

Reel Issues is a film club which aims to draw out themes and ideas from the films we watch. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month; 7.30pm at the vicarage. The idea is to watch the film together on the first evening and then to discuss it the following week. It is open to everyone. If you want to know more contact Rev Tracey on 668260

## Sister Act

This is a regular women's group which meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month in St. Mary's church Ivinghoe at 8pm and is based around crafts and chat. It is a time of relaxation and fun while enjoying trying out a new craft. Our next one will be held on May 1st. If you think you may be interested contact Tracey on 668260 for more details or just turn up and have some fun.

## Funerals

Please pray for the families of: Ben Neil Wesley whose ashes were buried in St Mary's Pitstone on 7<sup>th</sup> April

## Weddings

Congratulations and blessings to: Samuel Peter Gurney Talbot-Rice and Charlotte Emma Scott Foster who were married at St Mary's Ivinghoe on 31<sup>st</sup> March

## Good Friday workshops

I would like to send a big thank you to all the volunteers who made the Good Friday workshops possible. I'll be on the lookout for help for the summer schemes and messy mornings soon so watch out!

## Important notice

**Wednesday Morning 9.15am Holy Communions are back at St Mary's church Ivinghoe**

	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
Marsworth	8 am Holy Com- munion	6pm BCP Even- song	10am Holy Commun- ion	10am Worship- ping to- gether	10.30 am * Benefice H/ C
Ivinghoe	9.15 am Worship- ping to-	9.15 am Holy Com- munion	9.15 Morning Praise	9.15 am Holy Com- munion	10.30 am * Benefice H/ C
Slapton	10.30am Morning Praise	10.30am Holy Com- munion	10.30am Worship- ping to- gether	10.30am Holy Com- munion	10.30 am * Benefice H/ C

\* \*Benefice service rotating round the three parishes

## 'Caring Kids' – an update



An event organised by St. Mary's Church, Ivinghoe, All Saints, Marsworth and Holy Cross, Slapton'.

The response we have received from local organisations has been brilliant and the Committee have been amazed by the variety of ways that money is being raised. By the end of April, events will have taken place in Slapton, Ivinghoe, Pitstone and Marsworth through the sale of glitter tattoos, a pamper evening, guess the name of the teddy, coin collection, a sponsored toddle, the sale of refreshments at a local football game, cake sale, non uniform day, and the very popular Souper Lunches. There will also be money coming in over the year from the WI who has chosen Young Carers as their Charity of the Year.

A big thank you to everyone who has raised money for Young Carers Bucks, and to those of you that have supported these events. In celebration of the fund raising achievements of our local children for Young Carers Bucks, on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May, all organisations taking part will be invited to a fun afternoon, short service of Thanksgiving and presentation of a cheque to the Young Carers Bucks.

It is still not too late to help raise money for this very worthwhile local Charity, you can keep an eye on Village notice boards and support any of the events that are still to happen in the Villages, look out for the Young Carers Bucks collecting boxes around the Villages or perhaps hold a fund raising event of your own? If you need any further information, please contact Sandra Green on 01296 668648.

## Bucks Historic Churches Trust – Ride & Stride 2012

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September, sponsored cyclists and walkers all over the country will be visiting as many beautiful churches and chapels as they can between 10am and 6pm to raise money for the repair and restoration of these lovely buildings.

Half the money raised will go to a chosen church or chapel and the other half will go into a fund that the Bucks Historic Churches Trust (an organisation run largely by volunteers) is able to distribute to churches and chapels of any Christian denomination that need help.

Everyone will have seen the scaffolding covering Ivinghoe Church over the last few months, but do you know that over the last 15 years, Bucks Historic Churches Trust has helped Ivinghoe Church four times with restoration projects, the latest being a financial donation towards the work just carried out on the nave roof.

The Trust has also helped in three phases of work at Holy Cross Church, Slapton. In 2007, it provided a donation to have Phase I of the church restoration carried out with repairs on

the stonework to the tower. The Trust then contributed to Phase 2, repairs to the South side clerestory, including the roof, window and walls. Phase 3, the North side clerestory, has just been completed. There are still Phase 4 works to be carried out which may well require a further donation.

Every year we have been lucky enough to have volunteers walk or ride on behalf of our local churches. We are now on the lookout for people who could take part in this sponsored event this year and raise money for our churches and for the Bucks Historic Churches Trust.

As this is a country-wide event, churches in neighbouring Herts and Beds will be open and information on these churches can be found on-line at [www.bedshertshct.org.uk](http://www.bedshertshct.org.uk). Many of the manned churches offer refreshments, toilets and information about the church. If you don't fancy cycling or walking but can spare an hour of your time on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September, we also need volunteers to welcome people to our local churches and offer refreshments.

If you would like to cycle, walk or volunteer your time to help in a church, please contact the relevant person below: For Ivinghoe Church: Izzy Robinson on 01296 660724; Alex Wynne on 01296 668336; or Mary Cook on 01296 662530. For Slapton Church: Bridget Lewis on 01525 220790.



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## BEACON COMMUNITY CHOIR



## Daffodils in St Mary's

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March was a beautiful spring day and as we gathered in the Church in the early evening, the sunshine was still streaming through the recently cleaned windows of our lovely Church, now thankfully free from scaffolding at last. The choir members were dressed in an array of blues and greens reinforcing the spring like feel as they took us on a musical journey based around the words of the famous Wordsworth poem.

The evening was an eclectic mix of songs, readings, poems and musical pieces. Judith and the choir performed numbers ranging from "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay" through to "It was a Lover and His Lass" and the ever popular "Dancing Queen", ending with audience participation in the wartime classic "With a song in my heart".



Our own local "Songbird" – Amanda (pictured) – gave a beautiful rendition of the Eva Cassidy classic while Charles's alteration to the words of "Oh what a beau-

tiful morning" had members of the audience muttering "what's a Herdwick" and "did he mention Wainwright" (terms of course familiar to devotees of the Lake District).



Paul Bingley-Hall's innocently titled comedy song "Spring is here" was a hit with the younger members of the audience whilst those a little older enjoyed John Byrom's reading of the famous Joyce Grenfell sketch, "Nursery School – Flowers". We were treated to a sample of Julian Mann's own inimitable talent as he sang the words of the famous poem to his own music. There were various poetry readings including Emma's reading of two of her own works, written specially for the occasion. The choir were, once again, ably supported by a host of talented musicians.

Light refreshments were served at the end of the concert and Barbara Cummings superb sausage rolls disappeared so fast that it only remains for me to say that the catering team obviously need to provide more next time. Well done to all the members of the Beacon Community Choir and friends who took part.

Elaine Thorogood

# RICHARD J. HARRIS

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*(Continued from page 32)*

## OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS

### Ivinghoe & Pitstone Scout Group

It is always amazing to hear from each section and what they manage to fit into their programme each term. The group is blessed in having dedicated leaders who want to see that each child is receiving the most out of scouting as they possibly can.

This term the Cubs will have their summer camp in May – let's hope it is sunny for them, the Scouts will be away various weekends, too. The Scouts' main aim is to raise funds for them to go to Iceland next year, so when you spot them with a stall at a fete...please remember it's all for a good cause!

As for Beavers they are also out and about, they have been to the Buddhist Temple in Milton Keynes, the Beavers are also planning to go to the fire station, bowling and much much more!

On a sad note the Beavers planted four blueberry bushes at the end of last year for part of their Global Challenge badge. Before and after Easter the bushes were slowly removed, leaving behind their holes. This is quite sad as the money for the plants came out of Beavers funds and the Beavers had to dig holes for themselves. If anyone knows where the bushes have disappeared to, the Beavers would love to see their return.

Dates to pop in your diary: the Group are holding their **annual Disco on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June 5.30-7pm**, in the marquee on Ivinghoe lawn, for the children of the village in Year 6 and under (those under 5 will need to have an adult with them).

The Groups AGM will be held at the Scout Hut on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30pm**, everyone is very welcome.

We are still looking for leaders in all the sections (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts), so if you are able to spare an hour and a half during an evening I would love to hear from you. Whether you would like to wear the uniform or not! You may be interested in being a member on the committee for the group, again please let me know, all details below.

Yours in Scouting

Michelle Lee

Group Scout Leader

01296 668467

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

## WINDMILL PRE-SCHOOL



Time is going very fast at Windmill Pre-School as we hurtle towards summer. Seven children 'graduated' from Pre-School at Easter and are taking the next step in their education. We held the graduation ceremony for them on the last day of term at an open morning where we invited all our parents and carers to come and visit. We held an Easter egg tombola, an Easter egg hunt and there were lots of Easter-themed crafts for the children to enjoy. Parents also had another opportunity to speak to their child's key worker and talk about their progress.

The Spring Term was a busy one with lots of fundraising activities. This included textile recycling and our big event, the Children's Valentine's Disco. The disco was a big hit again with almost 50 children attending with lots of dancing, games, crafts and a fancy dress competition. We gave out lots of prizes as there were so many amazing costumes and everyone had gone to a lot of effort.

The Summer Term is also presenting itself as a busy one with 15 new children starting at preschool giving us a record number of children on our register in recent times. So much so that we even having to source additional coat hooks for the new building to accommodate all the children!

The first day of the Summer Term will also see us welcome our temporary Pre-School Leader, Sharon Berry, who will be covering Lana's maternity leave. Lana is planning to leave us in the middle of May and Sharon will hold the fort until Lana returns and there will be a good handover period to ensure a smooth transition before Lana has her baby. Sharon joins us with a strong background in Pre-Schools and more recently managing a number of private nurseries. She is also studying for a Foundation degree in Early Years and Childcare.

We received some additional funding recently which meant we have been able to purchase over £1,000 worth of new toys and equipment. This includes new play kitchen units and equipment, story and singing sacks, a play farm, a medieval castle and figurines and new painting dryer stand and dressing up unit including mirror. We get really excited being able to purchase new toys and equipment as it all helps us to provide an even better quality provision.

Two big fundraising events planned for the Summer Term are a Silent Auction and a repeat of the successful Children's Fashion Show. The Silent Auction will invite bidders to place bids for donated items with the highest bidder at the set deadline winning the item. We are hoping to be able to offer great items including meals out, tickets to family days out, and many more and are writing to local businesses to donate items. If you are in a position to be able to offer an item for the auction then please contact us via [admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk)

*(Continued on page 36)*

The Children's Fashion Show is being planned for July following the success of the show last year. We will once again be inviting local children to model clothes and then exhibiting the clothes for sale with no obligation to purchase.

We have been working closely with Brookmead School and the Children's Centre to help ensure a seamless transition for the children leaving preschool and going up to the Foundation stage at school. We are currently putting together a joint program with school and the Children's Centre to address all the children's individual needs and to get them prepared for school in lots of different ways. More details will be given to the parents of the children who will be going up to school to invite them to join a pilot scheme.

If you have children of preschool age don't forget that all eligible 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours of free Pre-School provision every week in term time. And for the younger children we charge a small hourly fee and accept childcare vouchers from many different providers. If you would like to speak to us about a place for your child and to come for a visit please contact us via [admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk)

Katrina Blunt

Chair, Windmill Pre-School Voluntary Management Committee

## Give your child an outstanding start

Windmill Pre-School in Ivinghoe is rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted making us one of the top pre-schools nationally and highest rated locally



*"Children make excellent progress in all areas of their learning and development because staff plan an outstanding range of activities..."*

*"Children's behaviour is managed consistently by staff. They provide a positive role model to children and reward good behaviour..."*

*"Children have fun and are purposefully engaged in all areas of this dynamic setting. They make excellent progress as staff recognise them as unique individuals..."*

Source: Ofsted report June 2011

<b>Morning session:</b>	<b>9am-12pm</b>
<b>Lunch club:</b>	<b>12pm-1pm</b>
<b>Afternoon session:</b>	<b>1pm-3pm (Tues &amp; Thurs)</b>

We welcome all children between 2½ and 5 years from Pitstone, Ivinghoe & surrounding areas to our purpose-built premises behind Brookmead School

For further info and to arrange a visit for you and your child please contact us:  
**[admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk) or 01296 661031 (during sessions)**

**[www.windmillpreschool.co.uk](http://www.windmillpreschool.co.uk)**



## IVINGHOE ENTERTAINMENTS

The clocks have changed and Spring marches on!

### Summer Ball - Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2012

A local ball for local people, supporting local causes and a fantastic evening too! Tickets are **still** available for the Summer Ball. Unlike previous years this will be the only event of the festival weekend where fine dining and dancing are the order of the day!

Highlights:

- The return of "Choice" providing a fabulous mix of live music across the decades,
- Pre-selection of 3 options for your Starter & Main Course,
- Catering by Cuisine Excellence,
- Hosted in the marquee on Ivinghoe Lawn,
- Rose & Crown providing the bar, and
- Dancing until 1am

Tickets £55 are available from Penny 01296 668017

email: [enquiries@ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk)

### Comedy Night - Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012

*Get Stuffed* and the *Tringe Festival* are proud to present a thrilling line up for the 1st Laughter on the Lawn event. The *Tringe Festival* extends to Ivinghoe!

The evening will be compared by the brilliant Arthur Smith, who has become one of comedy's elder statesmen: an Edinburgh Fringe stalwart and a club compere since the early days of the alternative scene, he still uses many of the same gags today.

The headline act is Tony Law. He's like a rolling ball of funny with bits flying out of it, his infectious comedy will leave you stranded in a hilarious field of ideas. Half Canadian, half Trinidadian, Tony's laid back acid casual approach, combined with scorching jokes and incisive remarks, have endeared him to both live and TV audiences here and abroad.

Joining them is Logan Murray. He is also acknowledged as one of the best Comedy tutors in the world. Such prominent stars as Rhod Gilbert, Greg Davies, Eddie Izzard and Dominic Holland have been taught by Logan. He will be appearing as the monstrously bitter tired old showbiz hack Ronnie Rigsby.

Finally, in only her 1st year as a stand up, we welcome **Steph Peart**. This time last year, she trained and took part in the Tringe Festival Roving Comedy night, and was one of the stars

(Continued on page 41)



## 2011-12 Annual Report and Accounts for Pitstone Parish Council

You will be pleased to hear that the parish council froze their element of the council tax again for 2012/13 at £76,500. Unlike the district council, the parish council receives no government subsidy for doing this. This report shows what your household's 18p per day bought during the year and what the plans are for next year.

### Financial Position

	2011-12		Budget		Last Year	
<b>Income</b>	£	98,430	£	97,359	£	101,800
<b>Expenditure</b>	£	93,001	£	149,571	£	98,896

22% of all council expenditure was funded during the year from other sources, such as maintenance payments, rental income or grants.

At the close of the year the council holds £131,063. £80,158 is reserved for specific purposes or with restricted spending ability (like maintenance payments from Taylor Wimpey) leaving £50,906 of retained reserve. The council is financially independent with no loans, lease payments or debts. A total of £1,301 was owed to the parish council on 31/3/11 (mainly PPP advertising revenue) most of which has already been recovered.

### New Projects in 2011/12



£4,866 was invested in the creation of the youth cafe (£2,500 funded by the Local Area Forum) - which has been an amazing success, with over 100 local youths between 11-16 years now registered. Continued funding has been pledged for 2012/13.

Additional funds have started to be invested for the replacement of our aged aluminium street lighting columns. The works will be completed over a number of years on a rolling plan. New lights will feature the latest LED technology which provide better illumination, are better for the environment and cheaper to operate (like energy efficient light bulbs in your home).



A speed reduction initiative was implemented along the main through roads (Marsworth Road, Cheddington Road and Vicarage Road) including homes affected by the new speed limit reductions.

### Savings in 2011/12

The wet summer meant savings for the pavilion site of £8,135 on the previous year. £5,621 was saved between the council's two allotment sites, primarily as the old site needed no ground maintenance. The one-off £5,000 grant to Brookmead for the creation of an outdoor recreation area was not replicated (but you will be pleased to know that over £4,000 was still donated to local community groups). The recreation ground play equipment needed £2,500 worth of work during 2010/11 which didn't need replicating in 2011/12 and the funds to install two additional self-closing gates at the Windsor Road play area were funded from S106 maintenance payments.

### Free benefits !

Pitstone Hill is managed by the National Trust but the parish council is responsible for some of the car park upkeep. However this is funded from a compensation agreement, so the hill is yours to enjoy for free.



We also maintain several stretches of public footpath, the expenditure for which is currently reimbursed by Bucks County Council. Finally, you will all be familiar with Pitstone Parish Post, our quarterly newsletter. This magazine contains regular updates on what is happening within the village. This is funded from the advertising revenue it generates, so the magazine costs you nothing!

### Charities

The council acts as trustees for the Recreation Ground charity and the Pitstone Parish Charity. Neither of these charities hold any finances or generate any income at present.

### The Coming Year

2012/13 promises to be very exciting. The first phase of the village leisure development plans will commence with the creation of a skate park and multi-use games area on the recreation ground. Full consultation plans will be available during May and June, and we welcome your input.

The Diamond Jubilee Party will be held on Sunday 3 June to commemorate this wonderful occasion. We hope that everyone will come along and join in the celebrations which will also help raise vital funds for Pitstone Memorial Hall and the Rett Syndrome Research Trust.

**The council would like to thank all the volunteers and employees that contribute to the projects and work of the council. Pitstone wouldn't be the same without you! If you'd like to volunteer as well, the clerk would be delighted to hear from you.**

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*(Continued from page 37)*

of the evening. She has since gone on to gig up and down the country and gained a fantastic reputation wherever she has been.

Highlights:

- Fabulous evening of comedy entertainment – please note that this is likely to be targeted at the 16+ age group,
- Hosted in the marquee on Ivinghoe Lawn, and
- Rose & Crown providing the bar.

Tickets £15 are available from the usual outlets (Pitstone: Masons, Ivinghoe: Post Office, Rose & Crown, and Grooms) also from Penny 01296-668017 (email: [enquiries@ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk)). The Tringe Festival runs from 1-21st July - 3 weeks of the best stand-up comedy in the country on our doorstep in Tring. [www.tringefestival.co.uk](http://www.tringefestival.co.uk)

Graham Hollands

Chair – Ivinghoe Entertainments

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

### **A big thank you to all the Knitters!**

I collected an amazing number of BEAUTIFULLY knitted jumpers, blankets, hats, mittens, baby cardigans and teddies, again, this week. I have taken them on to the next leg of their journey.

SMILE donates the clothes to needy widows and children in Kosovo and Macedonia. They have established centres there and know to whom to give the items, so everything is gratefully received by someone who will appreciate the gift. We are not allowed to send the Teddies to or through a European country, (E. U. Rules).

The Teddies go to "HOPE for Children". HOPE sends them (courtesy of British Airways) to West Africa, mainly. There they help children recover from operations in hospital or comfort the orphans. AIDS is still a great scourge and many parents die very young leaving the children to cope as best they can. Both the Charities work in many countries and send the items to the most needy destination at the time. Your generosity, skill and hard work are GREATLY appreciated.

If you are looking for something to do during this cold winter time, perhaps joining a "Knit and Natter" group would help, I can supply patterns for teddies or jumpers.

Thank you all once again, and please keep knitting.

*(Continued on page 42)*

Alex 01296 668 336

This year you have knitted:-

- 134 hats, 32 sets of hat, gloves and scarf,
- 22 sets of hat and gloves, 47 scarves,
- 141 jumpers and cardigans and 78 baby's garments.
- 83 blankets and 203 teddies, many of them in bags.

### Ivinghoe and Pitstone W.I.



Our first meeting of 2012 got off to a flying start with nearly 100% attendance rate from our members. The programme for the year was revealed and as usual our organizers have done us proud. We didn't book a speaker for January just in case we were snowed in, instead we had a very informal social evening with members recalling their travel experiences. We discovered that we're a very much travelled group after hearing tales of holidays in China, the

foot hills of the Himalayas and Australia to name but a few.

The local Curate Carole Peters filled us with wonder with her tales of her life in TV at our February meeting. We heard stories of visiting war-torn countries and how she risked her life to bring reports back to the UK as we sat safely and comfortably in our homes watching the news on television. Life in Marworth must seem extremely quiet to her now.

The regional Director of The Samaritans, Jill, came along in March to tell us all about the wonderful work they do. They provide confidential emotional support 24/7 to those experiencing despair or distress. Many of us thought the evening would be depressing and traumatic, but it turned out to be quite uplifting. Jill had the most amazing soothing voice and I think most of us came home feeling a little calmer, less stressed-out and counting our own blessings.

Next month we are being entertained by "Rock and Roll and Rocking Chair", an evening of music and anecdotes delivered by a local Bass Guitarist. You can't say that we don't have a varied programme!

We have applied for tickets for a "Behind the Scenes at Ascot Racecourse", an organized tour of Hatfield House Gardens and for a number of Ramble and Supper evenings organized by the county.

We have also organized our own walk on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April followed by coffee and cakes to raise money for the Associated Country Women of the World. All WI's have been asked to walk on this day at 10 a.m. to promote the ACWW and to raise additional funds for its valuable work to highlight the fact that women around the world walk for all their needs, thou-

*(Continued on page 46)*



Pitstone parish council has chosen Rett Syndrome Research Trust UK as their charity partner for the Diamond

## Jubilee celebrations this June

In the summer of 2008, Rita & Gavin Ross' beautiful little girl Francesca was diagnosed with Rett Syndrome.

**Rett Syndrome** is a debilitating disorder which most often strikes previously healthy little girls just after they have learned to walk and say a few words and begins to drag their development backwards. As the cascade of Rett symptoms descends, girls lose acquired skills, normal movement and speech. Then begins the long regression that may leave her in a wheelchair, unable to communicate or use her hands. Extreme anxiety, disordered breathing, Parkinson-like tremors, orthopaedic problems, and seizures are common. Many children live into adulthood requiring total 24 hour care but all are at increased risk of sudden and unexplained death. There is no cure.

But in 2007, the symptoms of Rett Syndrome were unexpectedly and completely reversed in pre-clinical models of the disorder.

**Rett Syndrome Research Trust UK** has one goal; to speed the time it takes to translate these laboratory findings into treatments and cures for our girls living with Rett Syndrome today.

[Rett Syndrome Research Trust UK](http://www.reverserett.org.uk)

[www.reverserett.org.uk](http://www.reverserett.org.uk)

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*(Continued from page 42)*

sands of women in poorer regions of the world have to walk miles for clean drinking water or to visit a doctor.

W.I is not just jam and Jerusalem, well the Ivinghoe and Pitstone institute isn't. We'll be serving tea and cake at the Queens Jubilee party in Pitstone in June, why not come along and pay us a visit?

If you need any more details please call either myself on 668405 or Win on 660755.

Julie Haynes, President

### **Ivinghoe Town Hall**

Re-decoration update! As you read this article, the Hall has already been re-decorated and the Kitchen will have been completed at the end of April! Approximately 80+ people attended the popular combined Churches 'Souper Luncheon' on 29th March and were the first to enjoy the brighter surroundings.

The beautiful Period Sash Windows will be re-painted in the Autumn bringing to a close the last 18 months work by the Committee to keep the Hall up to scratch!

The Hall is run as a charity for the benefit of local people and is also available for hire by people from surrounding villages and afar.

The Beacon Villages Community Library will also be managed by the Town Hall Committee and is being run as part of the charity for the benefit of all surrounding villages. All are welcome to enjoy the Library, Hall and the excellent Post Office and Shop run by Seth & Ron.

If you would like to have a look around or book the hall for party, meeting or other event please contact our Booking Secretary, Carole Wesley on 01296 661094.

## **OTHER UPDATES**

### **Age Concern: SPRING INTO ACTION**



As the days become longer and the daffodils flower, the sun shines brightly into our rooms and, oh dear, just look at that

dust! Although the author Quentin Crisp is reputed to have said that dust gets no thicker after three years, most of us prefer not to test that theory.

We all have standards we like to maintain but sometimes we just can't physically manage the house and garden like we used to when we were younger. For anyone who wants a bit of extra help at home, you can ring Age UK Bucks and ask about the Help at Home service.

There are cleaners, shopping help, gardeners, handymen, and even hairdressers, computer tutors, therapeutic massage ladies, and the toe nail cutting team. All will visit at home, at a reasonable price, and at a day and time to suit.

Age UK Bucks will also help with welfare benefits advice, befriending visits, any information & advice needed by an older person, and rural day care.



Ring 01296 431911 Monday to Friday 9 – 4pm Age UK Bucks, 145 Meadowcroft, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 9HH. Registered charity no. 1139423

### **Love Food Hate Waste**

Love Food Hate Waste is a national campaign aimed at reducing the amount of food we as a society waste. We throw away 7.2 million tonnes of food and drink annually in the UK, costing us £12 billion. Much of this food could have been eaten – so bad for our pockets, and bad for the environment too.

Here are a couple of tips from their website. To freshen up bread that is a day or two old, hold it very briefly under the cold tap. Shake off the drops, and put it in a hot oven for about 10 minutes. It will be as soft and crusty as fresh-baked bread.

Bubble and squeak can be made from many tasty leftovers. Don't worry about what you throw in the frying pan (leftover potatoes and vegetables) as long as you soften a little onion in your pan first.

Their website, [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com), has many more tips and recipes for every season, so well worth a visit.

### **Tales from the Compost Heap, by Barbara Cummings**

Following on from the topic in the last issue

of the magazine – what can be put on a compost heap – another Frequently Asked Question concerns what to do with weeds.

Annual weeds are by and large an excellent compost ingredient; the weed seeds may survive in your somewhat tepid home heap, so if possible add the weeds before they have gone to seed. Should this not be possible, and your compost starts to sprout new weeds, simply hoe them off.

Perennial weeds are a slightly different matter, and need different treatment. The roots and leaves of perennial weeds contain a lot of valuable plant foods, so it makes good sense to recycle them. However, as those of you who have had to deal with them have doubtless already found out, many of them are able to re-grow from small pieces of root, stem or bulb. Couch grass, ground elder, bindweed, celandine, dandelions, thistles, nettle roots and docks are just some of the weeds you would be unhappy to see multiplying in your heap.

Apart from the option of a green waste collection run by the council, your home options are either to stuff the plants, roots and all, into a black plastic sack. Mix in grass mowings, or any other green material, tie the top of the sack, and leave in an obscure corner of your garden for about 6 months. When the weeds have turned into a black sludge, add to your compost heap. Alternatively you could create a separate “nasty weed” heap. Cover it well with black plastic, and add to your bin when all signs of the original plants have disappeared. Either way, there's satisfaction to be had in turning problem weeds into a good addition to your compost heap.

## SPORT

### P&IC UNITED - Winners of the Thomas Field Shield

P&IC United's persistence paid off with a 2-1 win in the Aylesbury and District Football League's Thomas Field Shield Final traditionally held on Good Friday with a 10.30 am kick off at Tring Athletic football ground. Their opponents were Aylesbury's Walton Court Wanderers who failed to improve on a one nil lead. Both teams deserve praise for a game played in a good spirit.

P&IC United management and players would like to dedicate this game to Ben Wesley who will be missed by all who knew him. For you, Ben.

Final Score: P&IC 2 - 1 Walton Court Wanderers

P&IC United would like to thank all its supporters for making these sorts of days happen. Also we would like to take this chance to ask if there are any people in the village who would like to get involved with the club as ball boy/girls. Please get in touch with the club via 07931 992947.

## OBITUARY

### Reg Jellis (1st February 1937 - 21st February 2012)



Reg Jellis  
1937 - 2012

The funeral of Reg Jellis took place at St. Mary's Ivinghoe on Monday 12th March 2012 where his granddaughter Tanya made the following tribute.

#### **My Grandad**

"Ever since I can remember, my main goal in life was to make my granddad proud. Everything I did, I can remember thinking, 'This would make my granddad happy, this would make him smile.'

I think everyone has that one person in their life, a person they aspire to be like, my granddad was mine.

From a little girl, I remember the way people looked at my granddad, what they said about him, and the affect he had on other people. He was truly amazing, and it made me proud to be his granddaughter, I can't express that in words. I wanted to be just like him.

*(Continued on page 56)*

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# Pitstone Car Scheme



**DO YOU have difficulty travelling to hospital or other healthcare appointments?**

**CAN WE help?**

Pitstone Community Car Scheme is a new scheme offering a service for residents who have difficulty travelling to healthcare appointments.

The scheme is run by volunteers who use their own cars to drive residents to local hospitals or other healthcare appointments (for example, the opticians, dentist or physiotherapist).

There is a small charge for the service to cover the volunteer's petrol and car parking expenses. To make it easier, a set tariff has been worked out in advance for typical journeys to local hospitals. If you need to access healthcare in another town, eg Hemel Hempstead, the cost will be advised at the time of booking the trip.

Example costs (excluding car parking):

DESTINATION	MILES	ROUND TRIP	COST £
TRING	4	8	£2.40
STOKE MANDEVILLE	7	14	£4.20
CHESHAM	9	18	£5.40
L & D HOSPITAL	10	20	£6.00
AMERSHAM	12	24	£7.20
HIGH WYCOMBE	20	40	£12.00

So, for a return journey to attend an appointment at Stoke Mandeville hospital, the cost will be just £4.20 plus the car parking fee.

In some circumstances, we may be able to undertake hospital trips to the John Radcliffe or Nuffield hospitals. Please contact the number below if you are having difficulty accessing transport to these hospitals.

The volunteer will usually wait while the appointment is taking place, and then take the resident home. However, there may be circumstances where the return trip is much later or another day. In this case, each journey will be classed as return – as the volunteer will need to return to Pitstone using their own vehicle and petrol.

These charges are exceptionally good. The trips are being undertaken by volunteers so, at present, these cannot be extended to include appointments other than healthcare. Also, there is no guarantee of an available volunteer driver, but we will do all we can with the volunteer resources we have. Please give as much notice as you can.

If you have difficulty travelling and would like to use this service to help you get to a hospital or other healthcare appointment, please telephone

**Dave Clifford on 01296 668906.**

## SAVE OUR SCHOOL (SOS)

**Café and activities for all generations in Old School Ivinghoe, with your support - we hope!**



Some of you might not yet fully know that Ivinghoe Old School (that lovely single storey fully accessible building on the corner of Ivinghoe community lawn, next door to the safe play area) - has had some recent changes.

Despairing of a means to continue paying rental on a building no longer containing tenants, and the Post Office transferred by County across the road to the Town Hall, Ivinghoe Parish Council returned the keys to BCC who decommissioned it, preparing to sell it off.

The village community itself, however, then woke up to the loss and immediately declared it in no way 'excess to requirement'! They voted their supportive responses through a voluntary Ivinghoe Community Group 'Save Old School' Questionnaire, to rethink how to keep it open for the community as an open all-days, fully accessible social space for healthy, educational and purely fun

activities for all to share on a drop-in/join in basis.

Since last June a smallish Charity Group - Ivinghoe SOS, a not for private profit voluntary band of villagers, with a very much larger supportive section of the village looking on, have been hard at work non-stop - negotiating the building out of its redundant but marketable status, and into a fully worked up financially sustainable and fully transparent plan.

Two businesses, as our Community's tenants, plan to provide and run the much awaited village café and plethora of activities for local people as requested. These activities are designed specifically across all generations, from babes in arms through toddlers to children and youth up to eighteen; adults of all ages and especially those over sixty and in need of some more tailored services on their doorstep!

The new village café will provide what we 'vote with our feet' to support, but in the interim has been described as a place where anyone can drop-in for refreshments, and in the future has the possibility of lunch-clubs to round-off activities taking place in the building and maybe table top craft and game activities, too. The other activities during the day, before and after school, will be run by a Theatre Couple who will be bringing their evening Youth Theatre to our building which serves our own local youth by teaching all the areas of theatre practice, designing, making, directing, producing as well as the writing and acting of the plays, which we hope to then see performed in the Old Town Hall as well as the Court Theatre.

From Mum and Baby yoga to family gardening

groups, Start-up Business shared & equipped morning office hub to afternoon IT skills enhanced learning, Fitness dance to Fashion or Theatre costume/set design and make-up, Cinema to Film making and much, much more!



We in SOS Ivinghoe are of course focused on finally agreeing a Lease with BCC who have received our October, December submissions and have agreed to consider our final business plan ASAP, and this will then enable our Grant applications, especially our Big Lottery Village SOS bids to be finally sent off.

However, local fundraising is now kicking off with a Quiz Night/Skills Auction in the Rose & Crown Pub on 23<sup>rd</sup> May to which we hope you will come and offer skills or bid for other villager's helpful skills instead! 45 £10 tickets are available in the pub, which includes nibbles for nine tables of five and a fun night out. If you can't come, maybe you can run a fundraiser for SOS Ivinghoe?

Separately, two days later on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May, the SOS Ivinghoe group invite you to wander up to the Old School between 2.00pm & 5.30pm, and walk around the inside of the

Old School, ask questions and see a small exhibition of our journey and projected intentions, lists of activities and add your own suggestions. That evening we will hold an open meeting in the Old Town Hall (they have chairs and electricity for tea!) from 7.00pm till 8.30pm where you can hear from SOS, ask questions and have your own say. Volunteers are of course welcome at any point in this community plan, though we aim not to compete but complement the present provision and hope for your declared sup-



port in whatever way you wish to give it back to your own community.....because of course we are the community we make!

Thanks, Ivinghoe SOS.

Our website is now live –  
[www.ivinghoeoldschool.com](http://www.ivinghoeoldschool.com)  
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[info@ivinghoeoldschool.com](mailto:info@ivinghoeoldschool.com)

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## Pitstone Memorial Hall

## Hire Availability Notice

### Weekday and regular bookings now available

Pitstone Memorial Hall, in Vicarage Road, by the Recreation Ground, offers excellent facilities for events, parties, business functions, wedding receptions, classes, etc.

- **The Main Hall**, with large stage, seats 120, and has kitchen and bookable bar facilities.
- **The Millennium Room** is a smaller hall seating 60, and has its own kitchen and toilets.
- **The Meeting Room** can accommodate 50 for a lecture, or 25 at tables, and has whiteboard and flipchart.
- There is well-lit parking on site, with space for 60 cars.

Hire fees vary depending on venue and time. Please contact the booking clerk for more information.

Booking Clerk; **Mrs. S Gregory 01296 661609**

(Continued from page 48)

A major part of my admiration for my granddad was his work ethic, his success. I asked my granddad when I was little, what I should be when I grew up, what job made me the most amount of money? And his response was to be an accountant. So that's what I am, no ones advice or thoughts meant more to me than his. And since my first day of work, there has been a photo, on my desk of me, my nan and my granddad, in pride of place.

Granddad was the head of our family, he instilled in each of us, that loving and caring for your family was the most important thing of all, and together him and my nan did that everyday. There to help us all, no matter how big or small the problem.

When people told me to think about the happy times with my granddad, I didn't struggle to think of any, the thing is, every minute I spent with my granddad was a happy time. The only problem I keep thinking is that there won't be anymore happy times.

I would often be found not too far away from my nan and granddad at any given opportunity up the yard washing lorries, doing the crossword, or at the farm on the tractor rides. I always remember those Sundays at the farm, and normally being hungover - he'd always just look at me and laugh, followed by the phrase, '**An hour before midnight is worth two after Tanya!**'

Or the time I looked after him, when nanny went to visit my Uncle in Morocco, and we went shopping to Tesco, I'm pretty sure granddad had never been to Tesco before, and he let me buy anything I wanted. Needless to say, we spent that whole week living off tomatoes on toast!

I have many amazing memories of granddad, but most of the time we didn't have to be making memories, because we were just busy being together. Just spending an hour or two, or a whole day together doing something or nothing was all we needed.

That was the thing about me and granddad, I could tell what he was thinking, or how he was feeling just by looking at his face. I could tell every time he looked at me how much he loved me, every time I would leave, and give him a hug and a kiss, he would squeeze me tight, like he wasn't going to let go, and I knew how much he loved me.

I look at photos now of us together, and in everyone, he doesn't look at the camera, he's looking at me, and it makes me sad that I won't ever be able to look back at him again, and feel OK.

I'm not quite sure how things go on from here; being apart from your best friend is difficult to comprehend, and as everyday passes my heart breaks a bit more knowing I'll never see

him again. I can just hope and pray that I can be half the person my grandad was, and make him proud forever, wherever he is.”

## CRIMESTOPPERS



Giving out information just got easier with Crimestoppers.

Independent crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers is making it even easier and more accessible for people to give information about crime

through the launch of a mobile version of its website.

Over 40 per cent of all information being passed to Crimestoppers comes in via the anonymous online form on the charity’s website. In the two weeks following the soft launch of the mini mobile site on 23 February, the charity passed on just over 2,000 pieces of online information to the police, with nearly 12 per cent of this information coming from the mobile site.

The site allows users to access the charity’s secure online form, which has been optimised for mobile devices. Those who have passed on information are also able to make a donation to Crimestoppers via text message through Just Text Giving.

With events such as the public disorder last August generating a huge amount of information for the charity, this new site will allow the public to give information “on the go”. Once again, anonymity is guaranteed.

Lord Ashcroft, KCMG, Founder and Chair of Crimestoppers, said: “As the only crime-fighting charity in the UK allowing people to pass on information about crime anonymously, it is vital we make this process as easy as possible. Through our mobile website we want to encourage the public to give information to Crimestoppers 24/7 whether at home or on the move.

“With the public’s help, and our commitment to making Crimestoppers even more successful in the fight against crime, we can work together to make our communities a safer place.”

Thames Valley Crimestoppers’ Projects Coordinator, Julia Hughes said: “This is a huge step forward for Crimestoppers in making our site even more accessible for those that want to pass on information about crime, whether at home or out and about.

“One of the main reasons people contact Crimestoppers is the guarantee that their ano-

nymity will not be compromised, and this new site continues that promise, while allowing them to pass on information almost anywhere.

“I would encourage anyone with information about crime to visit the site and fill out the secure form at [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)- it only takes a few minutes and it could contribute to making your community safer.”

To pass on information about crime, Crimestoppers can be contacted through our new mobile site, through your computer online, or via our anonymous 0800 555 111 number. Whichever form of communication you choose, your anonymity is guaranteed.

## THE NATURE OF PITSTONE QUARRY I

By David Turnbull



At the end of Westfield Road, on the edge of Pitstone, is a rather insignificant looking area of grassland, formerly known as Quarry I. But this is chalk grassland, a natural treasure, which throughout the country, has a diverse range of our more interesting and rare, flora and fauna.

Take the footpath across the area on a summers day and you will hear Skylarks and Meadow Pipits as they soar in the sky, looking to nest undisturbed in

the grass, for them, an ever decreasing opportunity in an intensively farmed country.

Closer to the ground, Marbled White Butterflies are attracted to the Ox-eye Daisies and dazzling black and red Cinnabar and Burnet moths can be seen taking a clumsy flight before settling on grass stems.

Ground level reveals numerous orchids spread across the area, but mainly around the margins. Common Spotted, Twayblade and Pyramidal, are the more noticeable together with the stunning, but more difficult to spot, Bee Orchid. Also in the Orchid family, three species of Helleborine, White, Broad Leaved and rare to the county, Green Flowered, can also be found.

Adders Tongue fern, the parasitic Broomrape and, local to our area, the Chiltern Gentian (pictured), add to the list of the more special plants.

It is possible to get a brief daytime glimpse of a Fox, or as the day is ending, the magical sighting of a Barn Owl, if you are very lucky.



Over twenty species of butterfly can be seen in the Quarry. Common Blue, Small Heath and Dingy Skippers are numerous while the diffi-

cult to see Green Hairstreak and recent to the list, the Grizzled Skipper, appear in smaller numbers.

But a closer look reveals the real gem of the Quarry. Measuring about an inch from wing tip to wing tip, and having the distinction of being our smallest Native butterfly, is the aptly named, Small Blue (*cupido minimus*). They vary in size with some no more than 15mm across and with their comparatively drab colouring, males charcoal grey with flecks of blue scales close to their body, females a drab brown, are difficult to follow after taking flight and should not be confused with the much larger, more noticeable and brightly coloured, Common Blue.

The numbers of Small Blues usually seen elsewhere, rarely reach double figures, but the conditions and abundance of their food plant in the Quarry means they can be seen in, hundreds, or even thousands in very good years. Because of the sparse and open vegetation and fortuitous management from a local farmer, its sole larval food plant, Kidney Vetch has proliferated. This, coupled with the high microclimates in the quarry

and suitable areas where it is able to seek shelter from the wind, has created the ideal habitat and make this to my mind, a Nationally important site for this species. Its life-style leads to its own precarious existence. Sedentary in nature, it seldom moves far from its place of hatching, thus making recolonisation of suitable sites, slow. This coupled with its sole dependency on Kidney Vetch, makes the majority of its surroundings unsuitable as Kidney Vetch dies out in the face of competition from other plants, or subsequent untimely grazing.

At the Quarry, the farmer cuts the area annually which keeps the scrub from invading and helps distribute the seeds from the flowers. The timing of this cut is crucial and seems to have suited this tiny butterfly and its larval food plant, causing it to reach these incredible numbers.

Nationally it is in decline and in many areas throughout the country management regimes are under way to try and help this butterfly.

So, when you are travelling past that insignificant looking area of grass, think again, but don't feel complacent about its future. It does not have the Site of Special Scientific Interest protection afforded to its neighbour across the road at College Lake Nature Reserve. Things can change very quickly. Remember the site is privately owned and it's with the goodwill of the owner that you venture unimpeded from the footpath. Treat the area and everything within it, with utmost respect.

I would love to think that one day it might receive better protection, or perhaps bequeathed to Butterfly Conservation and continue to be managed for us all to enjoy the plants, and in particular this charming, but very vulnerable butterfly.

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**Cubs:** Leader: Hattie Mackinder 01442 824358

**Windmill Pack:** Wednesday 6.30 - 8pm

**Watermill Pack:** Thursdays 6.30 - 8pm

Leader: Rob & Andrea Haddock 01296 663615  
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### Memories of Harry Saunders at Ivinghoe Primary School.

If you were a pupil of **Ivinghoe School** while **Harry Saunders** was Headmaster and you can bring to mind, your favourite lessons, school outings, games played at playtime, perhaps your special school friends, school in snowy weather - or any thing that would be interesting for pupils of today and the rest of us Moira Hegarty is hoping that you will write to her with your recollections of bygone school days at Ivinghoe..

Moira, plans to compile a permanent record of your memories which will be printed and issued in support of SOS. She needs the support of 'past pupils' to make this happen.

If you would like to contribute a memory of your school days at Ivinghoe Primary under Harry Saunders, or even if you have a tale going further back which will help complete it's history, please write to: **Moira Hegarty, 13 High Street, Ivinghoe, LU7 9EP.**

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## **Baby's First Café, Pitstone**

The Café is a meeting place for breast feeding mums to meet other mums and to chat about breast feeding problems with a trained advisor over coffee and biscuits.

**From Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, we will meet at the vinghoe and Pitstone Sure Start Children's Centre, Brookmead School, High Street, Ivinghoe at the new time of 9.30 – 11.00. (access by the path to the right of the school entrance).**

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# Summer Festival 2012

*Ivinghoe Lawn*

## *The Annual Summer Ball*

*Friday 22 June, tickets £55*

Three course dinner and Live band

*Laughter on the Lawn with Arthur Smith*

*Saturday 23 June, tickets £15*

An evening of stand-up comedy compered by comedy legend Arthur Smith, in association with tringe festival - The 7<sup>th</sup> Longest Comedy Festival in the World.

*Entertainment by the Community, for the Community!*

*[www.ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk](http://www.ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk)*





## Ivinghoe Town Hall

**Historic user-friendly Hall with  
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in the County**

Sited in the centre of the Village, the Town Hall provides modern facilities for local groups, parties and fundraising activities.

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Improved lighting, heating, and new upholstered chairs

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Stage with specialised lighting, curtains and dressing room

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**If you want to know more contact Carole Wesley; Tel: 01296 661094**



## **Cheddington Pre-School**

Cheddington Pre-School is registered with Ofsted and affiliated to the Pre School Learning Alliance. We operate from purpose built premises, which include our own designated secure outside play area within the grounds of Cheddington Combined School, providing early years care and education for children aged 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 years.

We deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum as set out by the Department for Education and Skills, where the emphasis is on learning through play in a safe, welcoming and supportive environment for all children.

For further information, please contact the Manager Michelle Andrews on 01296 662292, email [admissions@cheddingtonpreschool.co.uk](mailto:admissions@cheddingtonpreschool.co.uk) or visit: [www.cheddingtonpreschool.co.uk](http://www.cheddingtonpreschool.co.uk)

## Marsworth Pre School



Marsworth Pre-School, held at Marsworth Millennium Hall, is a very popular village pre-school with an outstanding reputation, attracting children from a wide area.

Sessions available for ages 2½ to 5 years, FULL or PART days:-

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Morning Session:- 9.00am - 11.30am

Lunch Club:- 11.30am - 12.30pm

Afternoon Session:- 12.30pm - 3.00pm

For further information, details of funding, session availability or to arrange a visit, please call 07506 179658 or visit our website

[www.marsworthpreschool.org.uk](http://www.marsworthpreschool.org.uk)

**New to the area with young children at home? Recently had a**



**baby and want to meet other parents in the village?**

**Why not come along to Pitstone Memorial Hall on Wednesdays (during term time) from 1.15 pm to 3pm.**

**You can be sure of a warm welcome and a cup of coffee, and for the little ones we offer a variety of activities**

**Music Sessions, arts and crafts, toys and games, story time**

**No need to book, just turn up on the day**

**For more information please visit**

[www.pitstoneandivinghoetoddlers.btck.co.uk](http://www.pitstoneandivinghoetoddlers.btck.co.uk)

**Facebook: Pitstone and Ivinghoe baby and toddler group**

 <p><b>Chairman, Cllr Robert Saintey</b> 2 Albion Road, LU7 9AY T: 668633 E: sainteypitstone@btinternet.com Chairman of the Council, Chairman of the Planning Committee, Chairman of the Pavilion Committee, Chairman of the Staffing Committee, Rep. on the Memorial Hall Committee, the Pitstone Development Area Working Party, Local Area Forum, Neighbourhood Planning</p>	 <p><b>Vice Chairman, Cllr Ben Blunt</b> 4 Ridgeway View, LU7 9AR T: 660702 E: ben@strategyhr.co.uk Vice Chairman of the Council, Rep. on the Pitstone Development Area Working Party, the Planning Committee, the Pavilion Committee, the Staffing Committee, Waste/Minerals, Rep. with Brookmead Governors, Acting PPP Editor, Local Area Forums, Recreation Ground &amp; Playground Inspections, Neighbourhood Planning, Pitstone 2020 rep.</p>
 <p><b>Cllr Gillian Arney</b> 63 Cheddington Road, LU7 9AQ T: 668123 E: gill.arney@tiscali.co.uk Pitstone Hill and Trees, Parish Paths, Pitstone Church Committee, Aylesbury Vale Transport Users Group, Recreation Ground &amp; Playground Inspections, Notice Board Manager.</p>	 <p><b>Cllr Annie Stack</b> 73 Old Farm, LU7 9RD T: 668020 E: stackja@btinternet.com Pitstone Hill and Trees, Allotment Rep. Rep. with the Chiltern Society, Chiltern Conservation Board &amp; other ecological issues, Pitstone Church Committee, Local Area Forums</p>
 <p><b>Cllr Brian Richardson</b> 55 Rushendon Furlong, LU7 9QX T: 662227 E: Bvrichardson@hotmail.com Representative on the Planning Committee, Representative on Pitstone Windmill Committee, Beacon Villages Society, Recreation Ground &amp; Playground Inspections.</p>	 <p><b>Cllr Alison Hawkins</b> 27 Rushendon Furlong, LU7 9QX T: 668144 E: Alisonhawkins22@hotmail.com Rep. on the Pitstone Development Area Working Party, the Planning Committee, the Pitstone Windmill Committee, Street Lighting, Recreation Ground &amp; Playground Inspections, Neighbourhood Planning</p>
 <p><b>Cllr Dave Nicholls</b> 64 Marsworth Road, LU7 9AS T: 661910 E: Dave@dnjsolutions.co.uk Representative on the Pitstone Development Area Working Party, Representative on the Planning Committee, Website.</p>	 <p><b>Cllr Steve Matthey</b> Fern Cottage, 13 Queen Street, LU7 9AU T: 662691, E: Steve.matthey@treelondon.com Allotments, youth cafe, Recreation Ground &amp; Playground Inspections</p>
 <p><b>Cllr Klaus Ginda</b> 7 Chequers Close, LU7 9AF, T: 668911 E: Klausginda@btinternet.com Rep. on the Pitstone Development Area Working Party, the Pavilion Committee, Street Lighting, PPP Advertising, VAHT, Police Issues, Pitstone 2020 Parish Plan.</p>	 <p><b>Cllr Mary Ann Monaghan</b> 103 Windsor Road, LU7 9GG T: 662412, E: mamonaghan59@aol.com PPC Communications, Castlemead Representative</p>
 <p><b>District and County Councillor: Avril Davies</b> The Old Bakehouse, Chequers Lane T: 668152 E: acdavies@buckscc.gov.uk Lib Dem spokesperson for Strategic Planning on AVDC; Adult Services on BCC. Special interests; environment and NHS</p>	 <p><b>Correspondence/Enquiries, the Clerk: Laurie Eagling,</b> 9 Warwick Road, LU7 9FE T: 660791 E: parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk Clerk to Parish Council, correspondence and enquiries</p>