

Post Office Opening Times

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9am - 1pm and
2pm - 5.30pm

Weds: 9am - 1pm

Sat: 9am - 12.30pm

Library Opening Times (BVCL)

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 Marsworth.



101 coming to your force

Your PPP would not reach your door without the sterling efforts of the volunteer editor, band of distributors and their organiser, Klaus Ginda. Each distributor posts between 16 and 70 magazines

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

Editor—Cllr Ben Blunt - Tel: 01296 660702

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Advertising Manager—Cllr Klaus Ginda

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**Deadline for articles for the
May edition is 7th April 2013.**

**Please send contributions to
pppeditor@pitstone.co.uk**

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Cover photo: John Timbrell



FROM THE CHAIRMAN, PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Bob Saintey

If it's not too late may, I wish everyone a healthy and peaceful New Year. Not much goes on in the dead of winter and it's pretty much business as usual.

Our two new litter pickers have settled it to their individual roles with ease and continue to make the village look as it should; and I am sure if you spot them doing their rounds they'll only be too pleased to hear from you as to what a good job they are doing.

The Parish Council has suffered a procurement setback in progressing the skate park, but things are moving forward and we are aiming to minimise the delay as much as possible. The new proposed play area is progressing and a supplier has now been selected, we are just dealing with some minor issues. This has been very frustrating to the Councillors and other individuals who are working so hard to make these projects happen, as well as the users who have waited so long for these facilities.

It is proposed to emulate the success of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in the form of a Party in the Park to take place in July. This event has the backing of Pitstone Parish Council and is to serve both Parishes and the whole Community. This event will continue to support the chosen charity of The Retts Syndrome and Pitstone Memorial Hall through the Social Club. Details will follow elsewhere and we look forward to your support, and some fine weather!



NEWS

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

By Avril Davies, District and County Councillor, Ivinghoe Division

January will be long gone when you read this, but at the time of writing New Year's Resolutions are still fresh in mind. My first resolution was to set up this website independent of the County Council at <http://avrildavies.mycouncillor.org.uk/> (done) and write something every week as well as carry on tweeting @avrilpitstone.

The down side of new year is reviewing the list of 2012 unfinished business. The cycleway to Tring Station looks like being set to hang around for a while longer I think, but still very much a live issue on this side of the County boundary. And the cost of travel to school remains a bone of contention with me and many parents. By perseverance, using formal channels of the scrutiny committee, getting the views of head teachers, and with the help of others I have secured the promise of a complete review of the policy early this year, but I need reassurance it is going to really happen.

New year, new plans. Luton airport have submitted their expansion plans to their owners, Luton Borough Council, and can be

found on www.eplan.luton.gov.uk application number 12/01400/FUL. The consultation is open until February 18th. Both the County and District Councils will be submitting responses, including the views of councillors and residents.

It's a bad time of year for potholes. Early in December I spent a morning with the County Council highways technician reviewing all the roads in the Division to prioritise planned maintenance for the next financial year. Since then a lot of unplanned maintenance, i.e. potholes, created by early frosts and relentless rain, not to mention heavy badly loaded vehicles, poor reinstatement by gas and electric work, and inadequate maintenance in the past, has totally changed the appearance of local roads.

You can report a pothole, see where the gritters are, and all highway information at the Roadworks Centre <http://www.transportforbucks.net/Roadworks-Centre.aspx>. Or follow @tfbalerts and see when the gritters are going out or where there are roadworks.

There is good news. The Beacon road was repaired in 2012, and the Travellers Rest roundabout and B488 are priorities for next year. The County, jointly with Herts, has also achieved funding for a high speed broadband programme. Ivinghoe Library, now the Beacon Community Library, has agreed its funding with Bucks County Council. Ivinghoe Village Centre has done a deal also on very favourable terms with the County Council which has enabled it to successfully apply for a big lottery grant to look after the fabric, money the County Council could neither afford, or gain access to. The Freight Quality Partnership Beacon FQP persuaded the cabinet member for transportation that having a strategy for the movement of freight on the roads was a

good idea, and has been acted on.

The Great Brickhill, Wing and Ivinghoe Local Area Forum of which I am joint Chair has been very successful in 2012. The priorities workshop brought people from all the parishes together to join together on projects to reduce speeding, improve footpaths, and facilities for young people. Innovative ways have been found to achieve projects, very often using pooled resources and money from several council services and outside grant giving bodies. The community speedwatch has taken off thanks to dedicated volunteers and shown that as well as speed restrictions, other road safety measures are essential.

There are some speeding and danger hotspots, for example in Wing and in Edlesborough, which the speed limit review failed to address. In 2012 the Local Area Forum is going to tackle these matters through the speeding sub group, and footpaths and cycleways through another working group.

This year I will continue to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee and the Economy and Business Development Scrutiny Committee at Aylesbury Vale District Council where I am deputy group leader and shadow spokesperson for economic development; and on the County on both the Scrutiny Commissioning Committee and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee where I am also deputy group leader and shadow spokesperson for Health and Wellbeing. At the County all meetings are webcast, and each member's contribution can be searched for here <http://www.buckscc.public-i.tv/core/>

Best wishes for 2013.

Avril Davies

PARISH COUNCIL

New play space and skate park for the recreation ground

The Parish Council is yet to appoint a company to provide a new skate park. For a variety of reasons and despite everyone's best attempts the initial tender process did not achieve the desired outcome for the community.

It remains the Parish Council's intent to source a skate park that is both challenging and exciting for the local BMX, skateboard and scooter riders, landscaped into the previously defined space on the recreation ground that is illuminated via timer-controlled floodlights.

To gain additional support, the Parish Council intends to enter into an agreement with Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) to manage the procurement and installation exercise on our behalf. We hope this will benefit the project given they have their own in-house team of engineers, landscape architects, legal professionals (including procurement experts), and a dedicated Leisure Department that have experience of successfully procuring sport and play facilities and services. We consider that AVDC will be far better placed to ensure that Pitstone Parish benefits from a well designed and competitively procured facility.

The District Council will work closely with the Parish Council and a representative of the skate park user group to ensure they prepare a well defined initial brief for the tender. The work that has already gone into the project, including the commissioned geotechnical and topographical reports, will also become part of that documentation. At the start of 2013, AVDC intend to advertise

for expressions of interest for the skate park and anticipate this to be installed during the course of the year.

Whilst we appreciate that the delay is frustrating, we hope you will agree that as this project is costing in excess of £100,000 that it is vital that the right facility is procured for the most economically advantageous price.

In the meantime, the Parish Council hope to progress with removing the old playground equipment and installing the new play space, leaving the skate park site prepared and available when the procurement exercise is complete.

Flashing Speeding Signs (mVAS)

Our mobile vehicle activated sign is on order, the County Council has carried out the necessary road surveys and we are in the process of confirming the exact positions and logistics of moving the equipment around each month. The ground anchors will be installed first, at each of the four locations (Marsworth Road, Westfield Road, Cheddington Road and Vicarage Road) and then we hope to get the scheme up and running as soon as possible.

Bus Shelters for Westfield Road

We hope that you are finding the new bus stops along Westfield Road convenient. Neither Arriva nor the County Council provide bus shelters to support the bus service, so the parish council intends to purchase shelters to match the existing ones within the village for these stops. Each shelter costs approximately £5,000 to purchase and install, so the cost will be borne over several years and is subject to securing

the necessary permissions.

The first two, on the housing side of Westfield Road (ie travelling towards Tring and Aylesbury), for both the Warwick Road and Harlech Road stops, will hopefully be installed by March/April this year. These stops appear more popular than the ones on the industrial side, travelling towards Luton, and will have the added benefit that the senior school children will be able to shelter from the wind & rain whilst waiting for the morning school bus.

Pitstone What's On Guide

The bi-annual What's On guide is due to be reprinted this year. It includes details of all the local venues, clubs and activities. If your information has changed, or you've started a new club/group, or you've changed your telephone number please let us know so that your information is accurate when the book is republished.

Email: parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk.

Dog bins

Please note that the dog bins are for use only by dog walkers clearing up whilst out on their dog walks. Other dog waste from home should be appropriately wrapped and placed in the general waste bin (green one) for disposal by the fortnightly refuse collection.

A small minority of dog owners appear to be stockpiling their animal's weekly/monthly faecal output and placing it either in or near the dog bins, causing them to overflow. This presents a hygiene and an environmental risk for everyone else, as well as being very unpleasant to all who have to live near or walk by it.

Please refrain from doing so and if you see anyone "fly tipping" their dog waste in this way please contact the Parish Council who will take necessary action.

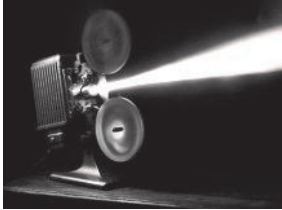
Dog mess



Whilst on the matter of dog waste there remains a minority of dog walkers who appear to think it acceptable to not clear up at all after their dogs. This situation is getting worse and it is difficult to effectively police, beyond ongoing appeals to people's general standards of public decency. If you see someone not clearing up after their dog please report it. Please help to keep pride in our village and do not just turn a blind eye – it is frankly disgusting to not clear up after your dog, whatever the circumstances – just because it is dark or early in the

morning and you can't see anyone looking, it doesn't mean you should just leave it – you know who you are!

Pitstone Community Film Club Update



Following the announcement of the Film Club in the last issue of the magazine lots of things have been going on in the back-

ground but, unfortunately, everything has taken a bit longer than we'd hoped.

We are now signed up to an organisation that will allow us to properly licence films for screening, and we have built and tested a 5.5 metre wide screen that can be taken apart and assembled when required. Our projection surface is a huge piece of Lycra (enough to clothe about 35 cyclists). To give some idea of scale the screen is almost as wide as the Memorial Hall stage.

We are now waiting for the final piece of the jigsaw puzzle, a film to show! Our plan is to start off by showing recent releases and, due to all the studios pushing out their DVD's in time for Christmas, we decided to wait for a new year release that people are less likely to have seen.

As soon as we find something good we'll be advertising around the village and on the website.

If you would like to get involved with the club, or if you've got any ideas for films we could show, please contact Dave Nicholls, Tel: 01296 661910.

Email: dave@djnsolutions.co.uk

Street lights

In December 2012 the Parish Council were informed by Transport for Bucks who maintain the street lights in Marsworth Road and the Lower Icknield Way that the lantern or luminaire which hovers over the middle of the roundabout has come to the end of its natural life. Also due to two underground cable faults the 'Keep Left' signs on the roundabout had been 'dark' for a number of weeks. These faults, if they have not already been, are due to be repaired soon.

A number of traffic bollards along this stretch of road have been attacked, in recent months, which has seen them detached from their base and either left lying pole-axed in the road or carried off as a trophy. Interfering with a bollard turns it into a hazard rather than a road safety feature. Shame on those responsible, who put their and others lives at risk and waste every resource needed to repair their stupidity on what is a busy route through the village.

Party in the Park: Saturday 13th July 2013

Following the fantastic success and the huge number of positive comments from people after the Diamond Jubilee Party in the Park on Pitstone Recreation Ground last year, the organising committee has decided to hold another Party in The Park in 2013.

Unfortunately, we have no Diamond Jubilee this year, but the event will keep the same format as last year – and hopefully the Sun will have its hat on this time!

We will have live music from musicians and bands all day, a real ale festival with quality

beers, a selection of food, children's games and activities, and stalls selling a selection of local goods.

Once again this year, we will also be helping to raise funds for the Rett Syndrome Charity throughout the day.

So put the date in your diaries and bring your family and friends.

The Party in The Park will be on SATURDAY 13th JULY 2013 from 1pm onwards on Pitstone Recreation Ground and will be free admission for everyone.

We will be providing more information nearer the date, but in the meantime if you would like to volunteer to help on the day, or you play in a local band and would like take part, or if you want to have a stall at the event please get in touch with Steve at stevemattey@gmail.com or 01296 662691.

Chilterns Tourism Network is ready to grow the local visitor economy

With the increased awareness of England as a holiday destination due to the fantastic success of the 2012 Olympic Games and local links with the Paralympic Games, a group of over 100 Chilterns-based tourism businesses are working together to grow and build the local visitor economy.

Nearly 2.7 billion visits were made to English countryside, coast and open spaces last year with an estimated £20 billion spent during visits to the natural environment in 2011/12 with one in 12 jobs directly or indirectly supported by tourism.

The Chilterns Tourism Network is proud to announce the launch of the first tourism

website for the Chilterns, www.VisitChilterns.co.uk has recently launched. With over 52 million day visits a year, local tourism suppliers want to encourage a greater number of overnight stays and put the Chilterns firmly in the minds of potential visitors as a short break holiday destination.

The website will have inspirational information and ideas on what to see and do locally, based around a number of themes, but also a new free to use 'Sense-of-Place' marketing toolkit, aimed at local businesses to help them with their own marketing and communications.

These two projects were made possible through a Chilterns Leader grant and Nick Phillips the Chilterns Leader Programme Manager says: "The Chilterns is a brand known and loved by those who live, work and holiday here. This project will give these tourist businesses the opportunity to work collectively to share the common brand and help others recognise a wonderful holiday destination."

LETTERS

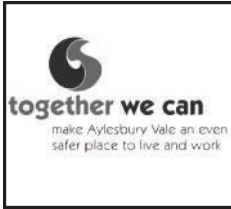
Dr Alison Woodward

As many of you are aware in early December we lost a very special person from our community. Alison Woodward was not only a local GP but a wonderful friend to many of us. She was a caring, generous person who treated everyone with the same respect, a wonderful trait that both Kate and Nick have inherited. She would be very proud.

Alison will be so greatly missed by us all, a true friend.

Karen and Jo Groom and families.

OTHER NEWS



Here's a new year resolution that is easy: Join Thames Valley Alert!

To hear information on crime issues related to your area, Thames Valley Alert (previously know as Community Messaging/Thames Valley Alert) provides free alerts to your inbox or telephone.

By joining you will receive information about crimes and crime reduction advice, appeals for witnesses, police information and meetings all specific to the neighbourhood in which you live or work. You can choose to receive this by email, fax, text or by voice message to your mobile or landline telephone.

Messages come from the Police, Community Safety departments of local authorities and other voluntary organisations. For more information on Thames Valley Alert and to sign up visit:

www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

Could you give a child their best days?



What makes your best day? A call from a friend, someone to come home to ... its true it's the small things that make a big difference in our lives. It's the same for our children; baking a cake, someone to pick them up from school, a room of their own.

There are approximately 390 children and young people in care across Buckinghamshire and we urgently need more foster carers to look after them.

Children come into foster care for all sorts of reasons when their birth families are unable to look after them. We are looking for Bucks carers for Bucks children; local foster carers are critical to the welfare of Buckinghamshire's most vulnerable children and young people, as it enables them to stay close to their communities so they can maintain vital links with family and friends, and remain in their school.

Of course fostering a child is not a decision to be taken lightly, but there are many myths surrounding fostering and this often puts extremely good prospective parents off the idea of making enquiries. Anyone can foster, regardless of your race, religion, culture, class, gender, age or marital status, all you need is a spare room and a big heart.

As foster carers Maria & Haffiz testify fostering can be very rewarding for the carers as well

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PLEASE CONTACT

NIKKI MATTEY

(Dip Mus, BA (Hons) Open Music

For more information and availability

on 01296 662691 or at

nikkimattey@hotmail.com



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.

Meeting at Ivinghoe 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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as the children. "It is the best thing we did and we're going to do it until we're old and grey and can't do it anymore!" Our carers tell you what's its really like in our YouTube video at youtube.com/buckinghamshirecc

Could you make space in your heart and your home for a child in need? Join the conversation. Just talking about fostering with your friends and family will help spread the word – you never know who may be interested and what a difference it can make to everyone involved.

Help us do the small things that make a big difference and give our children their best days. If you are interested in becoming a foster carer contact us on 0800 160 1900 or fostering@buckscc.gov.uk or find out more at www.buckscc.gov.uk/fostering.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Pitstone and Ivinghoe Babies and Toddler Group

Pitstone
&
Ivinghoe



Baby
&
Toddler
Group

Our group runs every Wednesday during term time between 1.15 – 3.00pm in the Pitstone Memorial Hall, £2 per family per session.

Termly round up

We have enjoyed such a busy term, with firework fun at Diwali and fancy dress at Halloween. The Autumn term was rounded off with a great Christmas party where all the children received a present from Father Christmas.

We are delighted that so many new families have joined toddlers over the year, our group is really growing and each week the hall is full of busy, happy children and families. Of course, as the group grows so does the workload for the volunteers who run the group, we are always keen to recruit new members onto the committee, or for people to come early and help set up or stay and clear away. If you feel you could help in anyway however big or small please let us know.

Coming up

We have been busy planning activities for the coming weeks and have plenty of craft, messy play and fun activities ready to engage the little ones, with some special afternoons planned for Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day.

Fundraising and toy donations

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising events last term, we held a bring and

(Continued on page 13)

WILLIAMSON TRUST

ISSUE OF GRANTS IN 2013
FOR THOSE AGED 65 AND OVER

Residents of the parish aged **65 and over** receive a grant distributed by the Williamson Trust on an annual basis. In 2012 individual grants were maintained at the same level as in the previous year. (£45 paid for a couple in the same household or £35 for someone qualifying singly.) The amount to be awarded in 2013 is likely to be of a similar amount. The trustees, anticipate sending out this year's award during the last week of March.

As a point of interest when the charity was established in the 1970's it was stipulated that individuals grants should not exceed £50.

If you are currently 64 years of age your birthday has to fall before the 1st April 2013 for you to qualify this year.

If you know someone of 65+ living in the parish, please discuss this grant with them. Anyone who has previously declined an award can alert us if they want to change their mind.

The trustees are currently writing to the Charity Commission to add Peter Loose and Mark Robinson, who recently joined the Pitstone Town Lands Charity, to the board of the Williamson Trust.

Newly qualified residents and those 65+ that have moved to Pitstone, in the last twelve months, should make themselves known to a trustee. Grants are not means tested we require only your name, address and date of birth.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	POSITION
Mary Saintey	2 Albion Road	668633	Chairperson
Kate Smethers	41 Albion Road	661499	Treasurer
Gill Lowe	21 Rushendon Furlong	668809	Secretary
Sue Gregory	4 The Crescent	661609	Trustee
Klaus Ginda	7 Chequers Close	668911	Trustee

**TO ADVERTISE IN THIS MAGAZINE SEE
CONTACT DETAILS ON PAGE 1**

(Continued from page 11)

buy sale, and received commission from the traders who attended the group, over £150 was raised, this will be spent on updating and increasing our stock of toys, offering even more variety to the children.

About us

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, craft and messy play 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 Ashley: ashleylavis1988@Gmail.com

Get in touch

Face book 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 have 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

Face book: Pitstone and Ivinghoe baby and toddler group

Rachel McGuire – Secretary



Windmill Pre-School

Firstly, a very a Happy New Year from Windmill Pre-School. We have now welcomed back all the children as well as opened the doors to new pre-schoolers and their parents and carers.

This term, as before, brings the opportunity for parents to get involved with their pre-schoolers' early education. We've got a couple of fundraising events planned to help raise funds for toys, equipment, games and crafts so we hope parents, friends and family members as well as the local community will continue to support us.

Changes to opening hours

We are very pleased to say that due to the increase in demand for places, Windmill Pre-School is now open for four full days. We are now open Monday to Thursday from 9.00am until 3.00pm, and open on Friday mornings 9.00am-1pm. Because we now welcome children from the age of two, we recommend that you put your child on the waiting list well in advance of wanting a place – even if you don't plan to enrol your child until they become funded (the term after they turn three). It is never too early and places fill up fast!

Staff update

We would like to congratulate Claire Hose, our Administrator on the arrival of her new baby boy. Claire is now on Maternity Leave and during this time, Lara Rutherford will be taking over the administrative responsibilities. After being a parent volunteer for quite some time, we are pleased to announce that Kerry Flanagan has also joined our team of staff. Many parents know Kerry as she has been our Voluntary Management Committee Secretary.

Open Morning

After the success of our previous Open Morning back in October, we will be holding another session on Saturday, 2nd February from 10am until midday. This gives parents of children approaching pre-school age, or those that may have moved to the area, or simply those of the community that don't know the pre-school exists in the village, the opportunity to come in and look around our purpose build premises, meet the staff and chat to the members of the Voluntary Management Committee.

If you would like to arrange a visit to the setting or would like to register your child's name

(Continued on page 19)

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..."

Source: Ofsted report June 2011

"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..."

Morning session: 9am-12pm
Lunch club: 12pm-1pm
Afternoon session: 1pm-3pm

We welcome all children between 2 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 or 01296 661031 (during sessions)

www.windmillpreschool.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1032380



SOUPEL LUNCHES 2013

Churches Together Souper Lunches will be back in Lent 2013

Valentine's Day Thursday 14th February at Pitstone Memorial Hall
 Thursday 14th March at Ivinghoe Town Hall

Both will be held from 12.00-1.30pm

Cost of tickets:- £5.00 adults, and £2.50 children

BOOK YOUR TICKETS IN GOOD TIME AND BRING YOUR

FRIENDS

AS THESE LUNCHES ARE VERY POPULAR.

Raffle prizes would be very welcome and so would anyone who would like to join the team to make or serve the home made soups.

The Local Charities this year are:-

Iain Rennie Hospice at Home, Save the Children, Home Start and Bucks. Young Carers. Last Year we raised £1009.60 , thanks to the generosity of all our supporters.

Tickets and enquiries from: Margaret Cole (668005); Vanita Patel (661968); Margaret Witherden (668004) Alex Wynne (668336)

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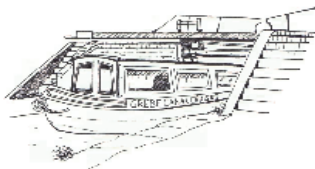
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Held In November raised £135 for the
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**At Ivinghoe Town Hall
On Friday, 22nd March, 7.30pm**

**Tickets £10 per person in advance.
Teams of 8 max.**

Includes a *pre-ordered* supper.

Bring your own liquid refreshments.

**Further details from Windmill Pre-School
admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk**

(Continued from page 14)

on the waiting list, please email Lara Rutherford at admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk

Getting involved

Part of our success as a pre-school is the role the parents play within the setting. We currently have a very small number of enthusiastic volunteers that come in and help out. This can involve helping with crafts and messy play, reading stories, baking or helping with tidying and clearing up at the end of a session. We would like to invite members of the local community (you don't have to be a parent of a child currently attending, but you would need to undergo a CRB check), who is able to spare a couple of hours – either on a regular basis or an ad hoc basis, to get in touch by emailing admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk

We particularly welcome dads, or people with interesting jobs to come in and get involved. So if you are good at sport, or are a fire fighter or you work in the police, maybe even a gardener, doctor, nurse or dentist and could spare some time to come in and talk about your job the children would love to meet you so please do get in touch.

Can you help?

Due to the technological age that we find ourselves in, the children are showing more and more interest in the computers we have set up at pre-school. We therefore find ourselves looking to increase our IT learning resources, and would like to hear from anyone – an individual or local business - who is in a position to donate equipment. We would ideally like one or two computers, iPods or tablets so that we can keep up with the changing world of technology! If you are able to help us, please get in contact.

Join the team

Windmill Pre-School is run by a voluntary Management Committee, mainly consisting of parents of Windmill pre-schoolers, but also members of the local community. Members of the elected Committee are the Trustees of the Charity who are responsible for all decision making relating to the running of the Pre-school. Some of the activities we are involved in include strategic management of the setting, e.g. staffing, premises, equipment and hours of opening, grant applications, funding, marketing, PR and administration. Without this dedicated team, our pre-school would not be able to run.

We currently have vacancies for general committee members - enthusiastic individuals, who are able to spare a little time each month. Being a member of the Committee is an extremely worthwhile activity, enabling parents to have some influence over their child's early years' education, and also allows local people the opportunity to get involved in a focal point within the community. Both have a real and positive impact on the way in which Pre-school is run. We are a friendly group and we meet the first Tuesday of each month at 8pm and

(Continued on page 20)

we also have regular staff and Committee social events! If you are interested in joining our team, please get in contact.

Fundraising and Events

Our first fundraising event of the academic year took place in November with a Quiz Town Night at Ivinghoe Hall. It certainly proved to be a very successful event and everyone enjoyed the evening. We are looking at running another Quiz in March, so watch out for posters around the village for more information. November also saw our first Parents Evening take place. This gave parents and carers the opportunity to make an appointment and speak to the Key Workers about their child's progress at pre-school. This was very well attended, and we will be looking to hold another similar later this year.

In December we held our festive Nativity. A big 'thank you' to Miss Douglas at Brookmead, who gave us permission to hold the play in the Brookmead School Hall, where we were able to welcome lots more parents, carers, family and friends. The event was really well attended and we thank everyone for their support.

On March the 7th, we will be collecting unwanted textiles for recycling. Have a good old clear out of your wardrobes and drawers, bag them up and bring them up to the pre-school building by 9.00am. The bags will be taken away and weighed, and then the total weight will be converted in to cash. It all adds up to toys, crafts and equipment for our pre-schoolers to enjoy, so please donate any fabric shoes, bags, sheets and clothes – in fact almost anything made of textile.

Gail Dodsworth, Chair, Voluntary Management Committee



Happy New Year 2013 from Ivinghoe SOS!

I quote Big Lottery's press release:

LOTTERY SOS REVIVES HEART OF IVINGHOE VILLAGE COMMUNITY HUB:

'Residents in the village of Ivinghoe will today be celebrating thanks to a £49,780 Big Lottery Fund award for a project to breathe new life into a vital community hub.

The project is one of four awards totalling over £166,000 made today across the South East under BIG's Village SOS scheme, which aims to help country communities that may be struggling with issues such as isolation and the closure of local amenities, through supporting them to run community enterprises.

Save Our School SOS Ivinghoe - Old School Community Hub will use today's funding to develop their new community hub within the village's old Victorian school. The completed project will provide a multi-purpose activities room, kitchen and cafe area, and an IT room for start-up businesses and IT training. Opening up valuable opportunities for skills learning such as IT training and business start-up facilities, the scheme will also include mum and baby groups, yoga, lunch clubs for older residents and a theatre club, providing a wide range of training in stagecraft and

(Continued on page 22)

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(Continued from page 20)

production.

The scheme will also generate an income through rental of the activity space, cafe area, and charges for use of the IT room to enable the enterprise to become self-sustainable.

Carol Tarrant, Chair of Ivinghoe SOS said: "The award from the Big Lottery Fund is an enabler and a confidence booster, as it will triumphantly kick start our Community led refurbishment and equipping of Ivinghoe's Old Victorian School building into our vibrant new Community Hub - a place to halve our isolation and double our happiness! Simply congregating in our new cafe and taking part in activities for all generations, wherein we explore creating new communication channels for ourselves - building resilience to keep us more hopeful well into the future!"

Village SOS, grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 have been awarded to help rural communities with less than 3,000 people develop plans for enterprising projects that will answer a local need or improve services for local people.



LOTTERY FUNDED

Big Lottery Fund Head of South East region Sacha Rose-Smith said: "These fantastic projects show what can be achieved when a community pulls together towards a single goal. With the rural way of life under threat from various factors, Village SOS has provided vital support for all sorts of community-run social enterprises." "

So there you have it ...this article has started to circulate the local press, and we are now free to shout from the rooftops, celebrate and plan for our refurbishment work and future within the Old School. Local builders of the right size and capacity have been invited to meet with us in the Old school building in order to price up the work and send in their estimates. By the time this article has gone to press we will be choosing a local builder whose costed plans fit best with our community pocket and will have commissioned them to quickly and thoroughly complete the refurbishment from the topmost roof chimneys, inside insulation and decoration to lowest under floor drains, inside and out windows and doors refurbishment – electricity wiring and sub metering, water pipes, heaters and gas heating throughout! For all this work, we have been busy with more grant applications meanwhileand of course have some final work for volunteers to take us into being ready for final touches and our welcoming open day in the Spring of 2013!

All this has been achieved by a series of skilled villagers giving their skills and time to support us in turn at a 'relay' of informative subcommittee meetings over the last nineteen months....and without whose help none of this would have been possible. These local diverse skills, including also the many 'people persons' who kept the project gossip open and positively informative and inclusive, have got us where we are now, thank you every one!

SOS Ivinghoe is now a voluntary community Trustee group, in charge of a 25 year Lease through Community Asset Transfer from BCC of our Community Old School building to use for our communities 'not for private profit' additional community hub with activities

voted for by yourselves, and provided and run by our local theatre Business 'Flametree Community Ltd' run by Liz Raba and Joley Roberts, next to the affordable and welcoming community café - open most hours- 'CuriosiTea Rooms' run by local mum Hayley Wesley.

Hayley is registering the domain www.curiositearooms.co.uk (subject to confirmation at the time of writing), meanwhile her email: hayleywesley79@gmail.co.uk and her mobile is 07775 831153.

More information about Flametree Community Ltd is in the article below.

These two rents will keep us sustainable and provide the majority of what we have voted for as 'most needed' - topped up with the start-up IT services and meeting room, plus Community room for parties and auction sales added on by the Trustee group. So with all the profits being ploughed back into community use, we pledge to be fully transparent in our financial and community affairs and will post up our actions on our website www.ivinghoeoldschool.com, as well as in Beacon Villages Community Library, Ivinghoe - with links to other relevant websites like the new parish council one also.

All that is left to say now is that we wish to thank you for all your support and invite you to be some of the first through the door in the spring to help us make the opening a triumph and then be part of the on-going use for ever more!

Carol Tarrant /Corn Ivinghoe SOS chair....now 'Ivinghoe Old School community Hub' Trustee chair! HURRAH!

Flametree Community – website: www.flametreecommunity.org mobile numbers: Liz Raba 07946 494919 / Joley Roberts 07795 026038.

Other projects who received awards outside of our area

An historical building in the village of Combe Oxfordshire will soon be opening its doors to a host of new community activities thanks to a £50,000 award. Combe Coffee House project will restore a community space that will provide new facilities such as a cafe, an internet point, a small shop selling locally grown produce to generate income, and an exhibition area where people can learn about the heritage of the area. The scheme will also provide a workshop area for teaching new skills including crafts and furniture recycling.

Roger Pursell, Trustee Combe Reading Room said: "The trustees of Combe Reading Room are delighted to have received this generous award of £50,000 from such a prestigious programme as Village SOS. These funds provide a splendid start to our project and will hopefully lead to our securing the balance which will enable us to complete the work on behalf of the villagers of Combe."

Also awarded today are East Sussex project, Ripe Village Stores Community Shop and Post

(Continued on page 24)

Office with £43,460 to fit out and establish a community run shop taking over the building of the previous commercial shop. The enterprise which will provide a much needed facility and central hub for the community will also generate income through sales of a range of products.

While Cafe on the Rec enterprise in Drayton Parslow, Buckinghamshire receives over £23,000 for a project to renovate the kitchen area of the local sports club and set up a community cafe to give the village community a social venue to meet up and enjoy a coffee and a chat. The enterprise will generate funds for self sustainability through sales of coffee shop products

Flametree Community Ltd



Liz Raba and Joley Brindle formed Flametree back in 2009, and since then have run bespoke projects across Herts, Beds & Bucks. The emphasis has always been about engaging with people in a creative environment.

The projects that have been run over the past 3 years have spanned all generations, and include theatre production (such as Billy Elliot at the Court Theatre last year), recycled arts, film projects, and exhibitions.

2013 is shaping up to be a very exciting year where Flametree will move into The Old School in Ivinghoe, along with a café and a business hub. This will give Flametree Community the opportunity to work along-side both the residents and visitors to Ivinghoe, to bring their fresh and exciting ideas, and their combined 25 years' experience to nurture a thriving venue, where all are welcome.

During the first few months of 2013 Flametree Community will be running a wide variety of taster projects for you to get involved in, and welcome your ideas to help shape the future of your new creative space. From inspirational making and craft afternoons, after school projects and over 50s fitness, to an alternative education centre for home educated and flexi-schooled children and a place for teenagers to develop their own projects – there truly will be something for everyone. To get involved in your community space log on to www.flametreecommunity.org

The Beacon Community Choir



Many carols were sung by the choir in the approach to Christmas this year. Not only did we sing, by special invitation, at the Christmas party at Ascott House (accompanied by the Salvation Army band, and fortified by glasses of mulled wine and hog roast, all of which helped the singing no end) but we also sang at the Rose and Crown in Ivinghoe and at the Village Swan in Ivinghoe Aston.



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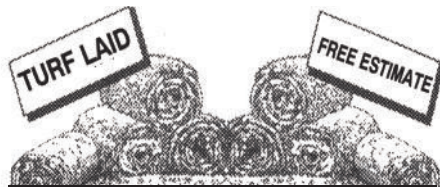
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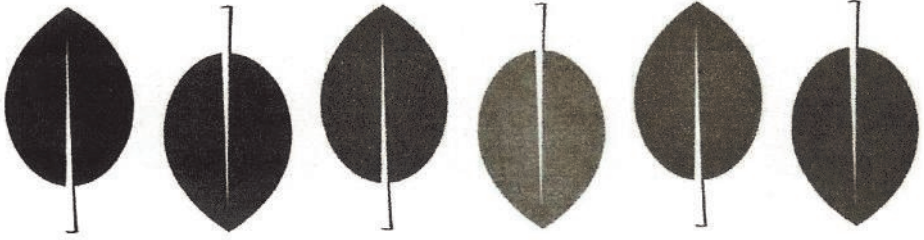


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Both of these events were well attended, to the extent that we had difficulty cramming ourselves in, and it was almost impossible to move your arms in order to see your music copy; many pints were consumed, and people were even heard to join in with the singing. Possibly the highlight was standing in front of the snow machine outside the Village Swan, which produced such an abundance of “snow” that certain members of the choir looked as if they were emerging from an avalanche.

With luck our “audience” enjoyed it as much as we did, and we hope to be invited back next year. If anyone is thinking of joining us, and would like to know what we do the rest of the year, please contact me at philcummings@btinternet.com.

Barbara Cummings

IVINGHOE ENTERTAINMENTS

Welcome to the New Year – we hope it will be a good one! I am pleased to announce the details for the Ivinghoe Festival 2013.

Summer Ball Friday 21 June 2013

A local ball, supporting local good causes and a fantastic evening too!

The sale of tickets for the Summer Ball will be on Saturday 09-March from 09:30 at the Town Hall, Ivinghoe. A booking form can be downloaded from <http://ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk/> Summer Festival page (and will be available in the Town Hall on-the-day).

The Summer Ball offers fantastic value at just £60. As in previous years, we are offering the opportunity to spread the cost of the event an initial (non-refundable) deposit (£20) payable upon booking the tickets the balance (£40) payable by mid-May.

After maintaining the price for the last four years we have been unable to absorb further the increased costs of providing this prestige event but have been able to restrict the increase to only £5. Over the last few years we have made significant improvements: larger easier access bar, premium sound and lighting, multiple selections for your starter and main courses, and quality entertainment resulting in what we hope you'll still agree is great value for money and a great night out ... with for most – no taxi costs!

Highlights of the event are:

- The return of “Choice” providing live music entertainment,
- Pre-selection of 3 options for your Starter & Main Course,
- Hosted in the marquee on Ivinghoe Lawn,

- Catering by Cuisine Excellence,
- Rose & Crown providing the bar, and
- Dancing until 1am

Laughter on the Lawn Saturday 22-June-2013

Following the fantastic success of 'Laughter on the Lawn' 2012 we are repeating the event with a different line up of comedians. We are pleased to say that our event will be associated with the "GET STUFFED Tring Comedy Festival (Tringe)" – the Tring Comedy Festival extends to Ivinghoe!

More information about the performers will be released nearer the event but we can guarantee a well-known compere, headline act and some up and coming stars of the future ... make sure you can say you saw them first in Ivinghoe! All that for just £15.00.

Highlights of the event are:

- An evening of comedy entertainment – please note that this is likely to be targeted at the 18+ age group,
- Hosted in the marquee on Ivinghoe Lawn, and
- Rose & Crown providing the bar

Our website <http://ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk/> will be updated with full details as they become available.

Fireworks November 2012

The bonfire and fireworks event last November was another fantastic success thank you for those that supported the event also those that provided feedback. The event raised over £1000 which will be distributed to local charities / good causes.

Supporting the Community 2012

This year we have supported the following organisations: Pitstone Skate Park User Group, Pitstone and Ivinghoe Baby and Toddler Group, and the United Benefice of Ivinghoe with Pitstone, Slapton & Marsworth Senior Citizens.

Graham Hollands

Chair – Ivinghoe Entertainments

ivinghoeentertainments@gmail.com

<http://ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk/>

IVINGHOE AND PITSTONE W.I.



I'll begin by wishing everyone a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2013. We held our Christmas party on Decem-

ber 13th, and were very well catered for by John Seaton's excellent company yet again. The food was varied and delicious and, (almost the best part), they took all the dirty dishes with them! Wonderful!

We were entertained, and I use the word advisedly, by members of the committee performing a version of the traditional Dick Whittington fable, re-written by "Dave Sivers in collaboration with Roald Dahl," (I promise you it got weirder)! This version was called Cat Whittington and his Dick, no rude comments please! I'm not sure whether the performance was hampered or enhanced by the varying amounts of alcohol that members of the cast may or may not have consumed with their meal, but I will say that I am pleased that Dave wasn't there to see it as I do hate to see grown men weep. However, those of us in the audience were howling with laughter by the end of the tale, (get it? Tale-cat, cat-tail)? never mind, let's move on.

The committee members have had their first meeting to assign duties and talk over plans for the year and it looks to be a very interesting one with everyone else's help of course. It doesn't matter what we arrange outside of the monthly meetings if members aren't interested in doing those things, so as well as the popular weekly Knit and Natter Club and the monthly Dining Club, both of which are very successful, we hope to have a variety of informal visits over the year to places of interest, e.g. nearby muse-

ums and exhibitions, National Trust properties and gardens, garden centres, etc .etc. and hopefully there will be something for everyone to enjoy, it will only cost you or two or three pounds towards the cost the driver's fuel, and whatever you decide to have to eat, because obviously, we won't go anywhere that doesn't have some sort of restaurant/tea-room attached or at least very nearby!

News of these events will of course be given out at monthly meetings.

Speaking of forthcoming events. Our speaker on February 14th will be Stephen Hearn from the Tring Auction Rooms, some of us have heard him speak before at a Beacon Group Meeting, so I think it will be an interesting and entertaining evening. March 14th brings us a talk about the department store John Lewis, in April Bob Jones will be talking about British Comedy Greats, and May will of course be the Resolutions evening, and on that evening we're hoping to have a Tea-party for our members to celebrate our 96th birthday.

Well, I think that's enough from me for now, it's nice to be back, and if you are new to the area and at a loose end on the 2nd Thursday of each month, and would like to learn something interesting, make new friends, or have laugh over a cup of tea (or all three), why not join us in Ivinghoe Town Hall?

The meetings start at 7.45pm and you can reach me on 01296 668644 or e-mail maggiewi@tiscali.co.uk, if you need any more information or would like a lift to your first meeting.

Maggie Halsey
President of Ivinghoe and Pitstone W.I.



St. Mary's, Ivinghoe

CHURCHES

Dear Reader,

I knew it wouldn't be long after Christmas before Easter would be in the shops and I was right! Hot x buns on sale in Sainsburys and no doubt the eggs are not far behind. But before we celebrate Easter we have to pass through Lent and as you will see we have groups to attend to help you on your journey through Lent.

This year we shall also be trying something a little different on Palm Sunday; as well as the regular Passion narrative reading by the adults; I am hoping that we can have a small pageant acted out by the children; depicting the Palm Sunday story.

January was a quiet month but now we are beginning to gather momentum with lots of new experiences on the horizon. We should never be afraid of trying something new and our churches are certainly going to have a go at finding new ways of worshipping and fellowship; again some of which you will find details of in this magazine. As this year unfolds look out for the new initiatives in the magazines and on the posters around the villages.

Don't be shy in trying out something new this year; you will always find a warm welcome from our church families. I pray that this year we will all make a decision to dedicate our lives to God's glory knowing that he will walk alongside us as we shed the old and embrace the new.

Happy New Year and God bless, Rev Tracey

Bible study groups

Our evening study meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 1 Queen Street Pitstone at 8pm; our daytime study is on the 1st and 3rd 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. If you would like to know more information please contact Tracey on 668260.

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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 will be:

February - Stephen Wooler - A visit to

The Times

March - Charles Thorogood - Bell

Foundry Tour

April - Stephen Wooler - coordinated

3 churchyard working parties fol-

lowed by a shared lunch (with ale)

May - Chris Hodson - Historical Ox-

ford

June - Gavin Merrylees - men's group

host a shared lunch at Marsworth

for the church families of all three

parishes

Detailed information on events is circu-

lated by email; please contact 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 2nd and 3rd 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

(Continued on page 33)

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(Continued from page 31)

meets on the 1st 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. The first one after Christmas will be on February 5th. If you think you may be interested contact Tracey on 668260 for more details or just turn up and have some fun.

Food Bank

We have started a regular collection for the food bank. There is a box at the entrance of each church to place gifts of food. There will be a list of items that are needed for your guidance. Please give generously.

Lent Groups

Our Lent groups will begin on Monday 18th February with an evening group at 8pm at 1 Queen Street Pitstone; there will also be a group meeting on Thursday mornings at 10am at 5 Windmill Close Ivinghoe. Anyone is welcome to attend these courses. If you would like to know more details please speak to Rev Tracey on 01296 668260

Women's world day of prayer: 1st March

This year we shall be holding this event at Slapton church at 2pm. The service will be followed by refreshments. Each year the service is prepared by the women of a different country. Everyone is welcome.

Ash Wednesday: 13th February

We will be holding two services this year both Holy Communion with the imposition of ashes. Ivinghoe will have a said Communion at 9.15am and Slapton will hold the full Communion with the imposition of ashes at 8pm.

Messy sheep nativity trail

The winners were: Amelia and Amber Owen from Marsworth; Arron O'Dwyer from Slapton; Alice, Sam and Bethany Burnhams from Ivinghoe; Elly Osborne from Ivinghoe.

The runners up were: Luke Peisley; Christopher Aldhons-Grace; Amie; Pippa, Ben and Tom Every and Zoe.

(Continued on page 34)

(Continued from page 33)

Congratulations and well done to you all.

There were 27 sheep all around our villages;

Ivy – Mill Road Slapton; Mistletoe – Tornay Court Slapton; Molly and Patch - Rectory Close Slapton; Titch – Church Road Slapton; Minty – Slapton Church; Churchill – The Carpenters Arms Slapton; Madonna – Marsworth Church; Baaarnabas – Marsworth School; Caspar and Chops – Vicarage Road Marsworth; Olivia – Church Lane Marsworth; Balthazar – Marsworth Village Hall; Alibaabaa – Brookmead School; Baarbaara – The Kings Head; Isaiah – Windmill Pre-School; Minnie – Yardley Avenue Health Centre; Egnog – Masons shop; Fluff – Post Office; Melchior – Ivinghoe Church; Holly – Taylor Wimpey Showroom; Isaac – Pitstone Surgery; Thomas – Children’s Centre; Podge – The Library; Splat – Vision Hair Salon; Didymus – The Rose and Crown; Joseph – a car parked on the High Street!

I hope you all had fun!

(Continued on page 37)

WORLD PREMIERE

Beacon
community choir

“Beacon: A Celebration”

By

John Cameron

(Composer of films “Kes”, “A Touch of Class”; of Musicals “Spend, Spend, Spend”, “Hank”; orchestral arranger of “Les Miserables”, “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat”)

Saturday 20th April 2013

7.30pm

St Mary the Virgin, Ivinghoe

To celebrate five years of music-making, the Beacon Community Choir has commissioned a new work from Ivinghoe Aston composer, John Cameron, set to words by members of the choir and local poets.

“Beacon: A Celebration” brings to life our beautiful surroundings, our history and our songs. The performance will be followed by a drinks reception

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(Continued from page 34)

	1 st Sun-day	2 nd Sun-day	3 rd Sun-day	4 th Sun-day	5 th Sun-day
Marsworth	8 am BCP Holy Communion	6pm BCP Even-song	10am Holy Communion	10am Worshiping together family	10.30 am * Benefice H/C
Ivinghoe	9.15 am Worshiping together family	9.15 am Holy Communion	9.15am Morning Praise	9.15 am Holy Communion	10.30 am * Benefice H/C
Slapton	10.30am Morning Praise	10.30am Holy Communion	10am Messy church in the village	10.30am Holy Communion	10.30 am * Benefice H/C

* Benefice service rotating round the three parishes

Chapel Fellowship: New Year, New Venue!

Since the closure and sale of the Chapel in 2010 The Fellowship have continued to meet for worship on Sunday mornings at Yardley Lounge due to the kindness of Linda Taylor, the Manager, and VAHT.

2013 begins another eventful year with worship being moved to The Millennium Hall on a permanent basis. We have been very happy at the Lounge and wish to express our gratitude to Linda and VAHT for allowing us to the privilege of using the space.

If we are so happy there, why change the venue? Well, whilst we are still relatively small in number, our main focus is increase in size and step out into new areas of community activities. The Lounge does not allow for this sort of expansion, there are no facilities for Sunday School or families to attend and be properly accommodated. So the Trustees proposed to the membership that we change venue to the Millennium as a first step to widening the work and being more accessible for families to attend. Also, so that we are now situated at what will hopefully be the centre of the village of Pitstone and the Castlemead estate.

(Continued on page 38)

(Continued from page 37)

We had an excellent Community Carol Service with many new faces and contacts. Thanks go to Leighton-Linslade Concert Band who supported us with music for the occasion. I am sure that it was an enjoyable and in some cases a touching celebration of Christmas.

We offer a warm invitation to all to come and share in worship whether every Sunday or just now and again as the pressures of life allow. You'll always find a warm welcome, a loving fellowship and sound biblical teaching.

Service Time – 10.30a.m. Sunday morning. MILLENNIUM HALL FROM JANUARY 6TH 2013.

A Happy and Blessed New Year from the Fellowship.

Pastor Dave Clifford – 01296 668906

LOCAL THEATRE

Packed Houses for 'Mary!' Premiere

Sunday December 9 saw the barn at Pitstone Green Museum twice packed out for 'world premiere' performances of 'Mary! A Nativity Musical'.

Mary! was the latest in a series of 'barn nativities' raising funds for charity on behalf of the churches of Ivinghoe, Pitstone, Marsworth and Slapton, and was easily the most ambitious project to date.

The sell-out show, written by Dave Sivers and Judith Sheridan, presented a singing and dancing version of the Christmas story and combined the talents of the Beacon Theatre Company, St Mary's Choir and Friends and St Mary's Music Group.

Mary and Joseph were perfectly played by Amanda Comley and Toby Payne, making his acting debut, and other strong solo singing performances were supplied by Charles Thorogood (Balthazar), Yvonne Ashton (Bethlehem Star) and Dave Clifford (King Herod).

A healthy blend of regulars and newcomers made up the rest of the fine cast - but it was the whole ensemble, including some 40 singers, actors, dancers, musicians and choristers in total, that made this a show that the audience were still buzzing about as they made their way home.

More than one audience member remarked that the production had officially marked the start of their Christmas season.

OTHER BITS

New Year's Resolution— Go for it, Estelle!

My name is Estelle Churchouse-Cook. I live in Pitstone. Almost a year ago I had a trapped nerve in my neck. I have now recovered and decided to get fit and healthy. This journey started in April 2012. I decided to enlist a personal trainer, join a gym & make healthy diet changes.

I have lost 4 ½ stone since I began, and now I do 3 boot camp sessions a week with Wild Training, Aylesbury and at least 1 Personal Training session.

My Personal Trainer Glenn asked me if I would like to join the Wild Training Team in May 2013 to take part in the Tough Mudder, which is a 10-12 mile assault course...I thought he must be crazy...however having thought it over I said yes.

I have now signed up and registered, and have chosen to make my journey benefit others. I have chosen to support The Parkinsons UK charity and The British Heart Foundation. To support them in finding cures and for the invaluable work they do for patients with Parkinsons and heart conditions.

Please support me in this journey. I have an intensive few months training ahead of me: you may well see me in the village. Please visit my *Justgiving* page – below or find me on Facebook. With your help I hope to raise at least £250 for each charity:

<http://www.justgiving.com/Estelle-Churchouse-Cook> - my Parkinsons UK page

<http://www.justgiving.com/Estelle-Churchouse-Cook1> - my British Heart Foundation page; estelle.c.cook@facebook.com; www.toughmudder.com

Tales from the Compost Heap

Readers cannot fail to have noticed that we have had an awful lot of rain this past year, in places nearly 30% more than normal. But how much of this rain has found its way into your compost heap?

This time of year, with cooler temperatures, your home heap naturally does its work more slowly – this is to be expected, and is not a problem. However, it is altogether possible that your heap is either too wet (if you have the more open kind, made with pallets or wire mesh) or too dry (if you have the enclosed, plastic dalek type). Correcting the moisture content of your heap will help it along through those cold winter months. You can apply a simple test – take a handful of the mixture, and squeeze it. Maybe put your Marigolds on first. It should feel as damp as a wrung-out sponge. If it feels too dry, leave the lid off your bin and wait for it to rain (on present form, you won't have to wait all that long). Also, you could consider adding more green materials – peelings and so on.

Don't forget to replace the lid after a suitable amount of rain has fallen. Otherwise you may get the opposite problem – an overly wet heap. If your compost is too wet, the air spaces in your heap become clogged up, which restricts the supply of oxygen to those organisms which do the work. Your mix may feel slimy, and smell bad. The solution? Add more brown material – crumpled paper and cardboard, straw, dried leaves – egg boxes are particularly good as they have built-in air pockets.

Get it right, and your heap will chug along slowly through the winter. As ever, it's all a matter of getting the balance right.

Barbara Cummings

Love Food Hate Waste – Recipe Time

Love Food Hate Waste aims to raise awareness of the need to reduce food waste, and help us to take action. It aims to show that by doing some easy practical everyday things in the home, we can all waste less food – which will ultimately benefit our purses and the environment.

Check out their website for recipes and practical tips – www.lovefoodhatewaste.com. Here is a recipe for a warming winter casserole, which can be adapted to your taste and to use up whatever vegetables you have.

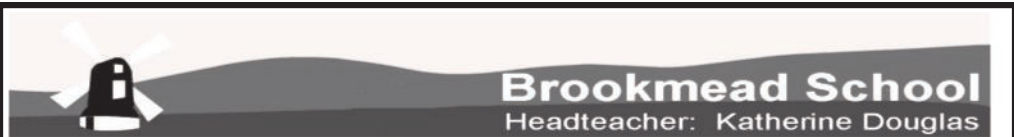
Chop one large onion and 4 sticks of celery finely, and cook in 2tbs of oil in a large frying pan till softened. Then add ½ a swede (or a few small turnips), 3 parsnips and 3 carrots – all diced. Also around 110 grams of mushrooms. Keep frying and stirring for a further 5 minutes. Make up 425mls of vegetable stock, and stir in 2tsp of peanut butter; add this to the vegetables in the pan, with some herbs – maybe a bay leaf, some dried marjoram, dried sage and/or dried rosemary. Finally add a tin of chopped tomatoes and a tin of red kidney beans, and put the mixture into a casserole dish. Cover and cook for 1 1/2 hours, at 200 degrees centigrade, or Gas Mark 6.

Barbara Cummings

Poppy Appeal November 2012 – over £2,000 raised

What a result yet again, outside Mason's Store in Pitstone. I was determined to beat my target whilst collecting for the Poppy Appeal. The year before £1,700 plus was raised, so I decided that the challenge was on to raise even more.

The weather was cold and wet at times, but that did not deter me. With a total of 124 hours parked outside Mason's Store it was all worthwhile. All the locals and also people from the surrounding villages know what it means to me to support our troops; Owen from the Royal British Legion supports my challenge and is always there to restock my 1942 jeep with the items I need to give out to passing friends.



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It was so pleasing to find out that although times are hard and the target to beat was £1,700 plus, the sum of £2,002 was collected this year. So next year there will be an even bigger challenge. Over the last six years, each year beating the total for the year before, I have raised a total of over £7,345, as well as the collections for Help for Heroes, which come to over £2,000. There's no stopping now.



I would like to thank the other lads and lasses who came to keep me company with their WW2 vehicles – Alan, Rod, Arthur, Rambo, Paul and Mel. Thanks also go to the New May Fu for all the meals supplied, to the people who supplied freshly baked cakes, to Richard Mason and his staff for looking after and feeding me throughout my stay outside the shop, and also to Cindy who kept me going with sandwiches throughout the challenge.

On the Sunday before Remembrance Day, I was sitting outside the store at 7.30 am when some guy put his head under my canvas awning and said “You have to be some idiot sitting under there in the rain”. I asked him to retract his statement, and explained that we were doing this from respect for those who gave life and limb and their all for their country, and that it was disrespectful to come out with something like that. On the whole,

though, it has been more than rewarding to hear stories from the older generation, and to exchange tales such as the experiences of my wife Shirley who was an evacuee from London and can tell many a good tale.

Also I have been given very many items to add to my collection which is on display at the Pitstone Green Farm Museum on open days. Thank you all for your support.

Joe Marling (pictured above); Photo courtesy of: Simon Cross.

Neighbourhood Police Update: Wing, Great Brickhill & Ivinghoe District

Update from PC Steve Brisley

Firstly your Neighbourhood Policing Team would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope you enjoyed the festive period. The team have been busy focusing on our Wintertime Burglary Campaign. Hopefully most of you would have seen us out and about walking in villages particularly around the Cheddington, Pitstone and Edlesborough areas. We have been proactively reminding residents of at risk properties. We have supplied a vast number of crime prevention packs including timers for switching on lights. These are a valuable as-

set to safeguard your property, as the appearance of someone being in may be enough to prevent a burglar from attacking your property. We would urge anyone leaving lights on to also shut their curtains so that no one can see into your property. If you have been supplied with one of these packs and would like any assistance please contact a member of the team who will be happy to help.

Additionally what has been noticed is the amount of garage doors being left open whilst residents go back in doors. This may seem petty, but all it takes is for an offender to simply walk by, seize the opportunity and suddenly you find yourself a victim of crime.

Speeding continues to also be on our priority list. PC Levens conducted speeding operations in Ivinghoe, Dagnall and Cheddington. Also present was a representative from the Road Safety Team at Bucks County Council. A drink drive operation was conducted in Wing by PC Ingram. Several motorists were breathalysed but no arrests were made, which is a good indicator that the 'do not drink and drive' message is getting through.

On another note, PCSO Wendy Taylor from the Winslow Team held a Have Your Say meeting last month where it emerged numerous drivers' licences had expired. It would be a timely reminder to all drivers to check their licence to make sure it is still valid. If you have an out of date licence, then your insurance is invalid and if driven you risk your vehicle being impounded at a considerable cost. It is your responsibility to check your licence is valid.

Fly tipping

Fly tipping continues to be a problem in most rural areas and the police, together with AVDC, will deal robustly with any offenders. Did you know you can report fly tipping via the AVDC website www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk who will make arrangements to have rubbish removed.

Theft from vehicles

This is usually more of a summer issue in beauty spots; however, we continue to receive reports of theft from vehicles. Most commonly, owners have left a valuable item in the vehicle such as a sat nav (or even the cradle on the windscreen) which then attracts a criminal. Unfortunately, most of these offences go unwitnessed and happen in the most remote of areas, do not be complacent and think just because you happen to be in a beautiful part of the countryside, something won't get stolen. Anyone seen acting suspiciously around vehicles must be reported to us on 999 so that officers can get there quickly and challenge the suspicious person(s).

Reports of people who have been contacted by fraudsters claiming to be from Action Fraud

Conmen frequently impersonate officials in an attempt to convince people that their offer is genuine. We are aware of a recent scam where fraudsters impersonate an Action Fraud

representative to trick people into sending money.

The caller states that they are from Action Fraud and that the person they are calling is entitled to compensation from a recent incident. The scammer then asks for money to be sent via a Ukash voucher in order to process the compensation claim. The amount asked for is usually in the range of £200 to £400.

Action Fraud is warning people not to pay these bogus telephone callers; there is no way to retrieve Ukash payments as they are in effect cash transactions. This is a scam. You will lose your money.

Action Fraud is in no way affiliated with these scammers and would never under any circumstances be involved in processing claims for compensation. The genuine Action Fraud is the UK's national fraud reporting centre where consumers can report if they have been scammed or defrauded. You can report fraud using www.actionfraud.police.uk.

Neighbourhood Alerts

Have you signed up? We have had a number of residents ask us whether we send out crime alerts, crime prevention advice or witness appeals. The answer is Yes. You can even receive our monthly newsletter this way straight to your email. To sign up register at <https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/>

Upcoming Have Your Says (HYS)

These meetings are an ideal opportunity for local residents to speak to their local Police Officer and PCSOs about any local issues. No appointment is necessary, just turn up and speak to your local officers. Further meetings will be publicised locally and on the force website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Have Your Say online

You can now send non-emergency messages to us using the online form that is available on the Thames Valley Police website. A number of people have already sent their concerns using this method. For you to do that please follow the link.

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-about-nh-pol/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n121-hys>

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The Haldi: Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch



The newly opened Haldi Restaurant on Marsworth Road in Pitstone welcomed a large number of Senior Citizens to a free Christmas lunch, throwing open its doors in an event organised by Rev Tracey and well attended with over 30 people.

Open to all over 60s from the local area, a thoroughly good time was had by all. Sources tell the Editor that a good amount of food and liquid refreshment was consumed, and attendees were in good spirits just before Christmas, all singing the new restaurant's praises.

The Haldi has made a good impact in the village and seems to be getting a reputation for excellent service and cuisine. Long may it continue. Let's hope that people from far and wide will continue to support them as they establish their customer base, as well as visiting the New May Fu to support them as well up the road.

Thanks to Shelim and team at the Haldi for their hospitality. The Bell's certainly had a new lease of life and we're all very pleased.



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Pastor Dave Clifford

Tel: 01296 668906 Mob: 07737 350183
 Email: davidclifford954@btinternet.com



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):

New Tariffs
From 1st Dec. 2012

DESTINATION	COST £
TRING	£3.00
STOKE MANDEVILLE	£7.00
CHESHAM	£6.50
L & D HOSPITAL	£7.00
AMERSHAM	£8.50
HIGH WYCOMBE	£14.00
JOHN RADCLIFFE	£17.50
NUFFIELD, OXFORD	£17.50

**DRIVERS
 NEEDED!**

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.

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- Wednesday - 13.30 @ Pitstone
- Thursday - 10.00 @ Pitstone
- Friday - 14.00 @ Long Marston

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- **The Millennium Room** is a smaller hall seating 60, and has its own kitchen and toilets.
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Guider Elaine Thorogood
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- Guides:** Tuesday 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.
Millennium Room, Pitstone
Memorial Hall
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660044

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1st Ivinghoe & Pitstone Scout Group

Any queries contact:

Group Scout Leader: Michelle Lee 01296 668467 or
putseylee@gmail.com

Scouting Times:

Beavers: (5½-8years)

Leader: Andy Broad 01296 662576

Watermill: Monday 6-7pm

Windmill: Monday 7-8pm

Cubs: (8-10½ years)

Windmill: Wednesday 6.30-8pm

Leaders: Rob or Andrea Haddock 01296 666315

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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 or visit: www.cheddingtonpreschool.co.uk

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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

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.

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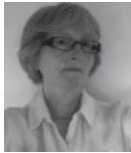








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www.pitstoneandivinghoetoddlers.btck.co.uk

Facebook: Pitstone and Ivinghoe baby and toddler group

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 <p>Cllr Gillian Arney 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 & Playground Inspections, Notice Board Manager.</p>	 <p>Cllr Annie Stack 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 & other ecological issues, Pitstone Church Committee, Local Area Forums</p>
 <p>Cllr Brian Richardson 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 & Playground Inspections.</p>	 <p>Cllr Alison Hawkins 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 & Playground Inspections, Neighbourhood Planning</p>
 <p>Cllr Dave Nicholls 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>Cllr Steve Matthey Fern Cottage, 13 Queen Street, LU7 9AU T: 662691, E: Steve.matthey@treelondon.com Allotments, youth cafe, Recreation Ground & Playground Inspections</p>
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 <p>District and County Councillor: Avril Davies 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>Correspondence/Enquiries, the Clerk: Laurie Eagling, 9 Warwick Road, LU7 9FE T: 660791 E: parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk Clerk to Parish Council, Responsible Financial Officer for the Parish Council, all correspondence and enquiries</p>