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2.15pm – 2.45pm Term time only -
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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.*

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Deadline for articles for the August edition is 7th July 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.



101 coming to your force



FROM THE CHAIRMAN, PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Bob Saintey

We have just endured one of the longest, coldest winters in my living memory. Not only will it have been extremely difficult for the elderly and those parishioners who live alone, but also there is now the added burden of keeping up with inflated heating bills.

As we turn the corner into Spring we look forward to a blaze of colour along Marsworth Road, which will be a fantastic result from a hard working, valiant few in the Autumn.

The Parish Council has awarded the Party in the Park Committee a substantial grant to help **with advertising and fixed costs. Let's hope that this event will give the community pleasure** and the Memorial Hall a much needed financial boost.

The recycling programme in our area has been in progress since last September and in that short time AVDC Refuse Department has gone from being one of the worst performing councils in the country to one of the best. Well done! Please keep it up because it will make a difference.

It's an absolute pleasure to see a rare breed of cattle, i.e. the Belted Galloways grazing contentedly over the Ivinghoe and Pitstone Hills. A sight welcomed and long overdue.



COUNCIL NEWS

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

COUNCIL NEWS

By Avril Davies, District and County Councillor, Ivinghoe Division

I am writing this at the start of the County Council election campaign and by the time you read this you will have received more than enough from me.

I have written and delivered a very lengthy

Annual Report (it's been a busy year) to all the parishes in the County division, and posted it on line through my website <http://AvrilDavies.mycouncillor.org> and Facebook page IvinghoeDivisionLibDems.

The main points are:

- Changes to services because of budget reductions, for example the library or adult day centres
- The successful work through the Parishes Local Area Forum on footpaths and pavements, reducing vehicle speeding, opportunities for young people.
- My continuing disagreement with the Council over home to school transport charges, capital spending on a waste incinerator, lack of investment in roads.
- The work I have done on overview and

scrutiny committees on health issues and academy schools.

My District Councillor role for Ivinghoe and Pitstone continues whatever the outcome of the County elections.

PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL (PPC)

We need your help to bring adult further education to Pitstone

When Pitstone Parish Council carried out a leisure survey, a number of residents replied to say that they wished there was a greater range of adult education / language / crafts & hobby events at Pitstone Memorial Hall. You told us that the courses on offer in

Aylesbury and further afield were too far to travel and too difficult to get to. We have been working with Bucks County Council (BCC) Adult Education division who are prepared to run some trial sessions at the Memorial Hall in Pitstone if there is enough demand, as part of their commitment to extending adult education to rural areas. These sessions would obviously be available for anyone to book, but will appeal most to the residents of all the local villages so we are inviting all the villages to feed into the process. If successful, BCC would look to run more classes in Pitstone and offer a greater variety of topics.

As a first step, we need to establish the most popular type of class and the most popular time of day to run sessions, so that the trials can be set up to cater for the greatest amount of people. We are looking

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
French			
German			
Spanish			
Italian			
British Sign Language			
Art/Drawing			
Textiles			
Floristry			
Psychology			
Creative Writing			
Fitness for Older Residents including yoga & nutrition.			

for an indication of what you would find appealing so that Bucks County Council can tailor the program to suit your needs. If we **don't get enough support, then the courses won't be offered so please do spare a moment** to get in touch.

Please tick a time of day you prefer for any of the options that you find appealing:

You can:

- complete the online survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BSPMW6X>
- return the above form to Pitstone Parish Council, 9 Warwick Road, Pitstone, Beds, LU7 9FE
- send an email with your preference **(it doesn't need to be in the table)** to parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk
- telephone us with your preference on 01296 660791
- send us a message via Facebook by **using the "Pitstone Parish Council"** Facebook page
- respond to the article on the web site at www.pitstone.co.uk

New play space in Pitstone

By the time this magazine goes to print the parish council is hoping to have submitted the draft plans for the new play space to RoSPA for a pre-installation plan inspection, received authority from Aylesbury Vale District Council to proceed and submitted a planning application.

As soon as everything is authorised, we will get final illustrations up on the web site and around the village for you to see. You will also be able to see the plans at the annual assembly on 21 May in the Memorial Hall.

As the planning process takes at least 3 months and then there is a lead time of 6

weeks for the supplier to manufacturer your equipment it is currently looking as though work will begin on the recreation ground after the school summer holidays. The work to remove all the old equipment and install the new play space is anticipated to take up to 12 weeks, so should be complete and re-open in November.

New skate park for Pitstone

Aylesbury Vale District Council are handling the procurement and installation of a concrete skate park on behalf of the parish council and the young people in the village. At the time of writing, they hope to get the initial brief out to the market during April and advise us that it normally takes 18-20 weeks to go through the various stages and reach the point where they can appoint a contractor.

We anticipate that the skate park will then require planning permission, requiring another 3 months so the best guess at the moment is that work is likely to start on the skate park in the early part of 2014.

The parish council will keep you posted on progress.

Land surrounding the Recreation Ground

As you are all aware, the land surrounding the recreation ground has been earmarked as part of the Pitstone Development Area since 2005. There are several parcels of land, owned by different private and charitable landowners. It is hoped that this area will become the new heart of Pitstone, joining the traditional part of the village to the new developments, providing additional housing and enabling the promised leisure development that will include the play space,

skate park, multi-use ball court, picnic areas and additional parking at the hall. Aylesbury Vale District Council has been working with the interested parties to prepare information that will be provided to any potential developer. Draft plans have been available for residents to see at numerous events over the last 2 years and will be shown again at the Annual Assembly on 21 May. There are still a number of issues to be resolved, but it is hoped that it may come to market later this year. We will keep you up-to-date as the project unfolds.

Look out for our Flashing Speeding Signs (mVAS)

Hopefully by the time you receive this magazine, the council will have received the mVAS unit and it will be operational in Cheddington Road, Vicarage Road and Marsworth Road. For those of you living in Castlemead, we regret to say that Taylor Wimpey (who still own the land) is currently withholding permission for the ground anchor/mVAS unit to be utilised along Westfield Road until after the date that Bucks County Council (BCC) formally adopt the highway (which will be at least 12 months after Taylor Wimpey bring the road up to adoptable standard, after all their residential development is complete). BCC has approved the location on Westfield Road and in their capacity as eventual landowner, provided authority for it to be sited there. However, it would still require Taylor Wimpey's permission as the current landowner. There is no financial, or other, liability for Taylor Wimpey as the parish council is funding, owning and maintaining this project.

The cameras that you may have seen erected on lamp posts around the village are not part of this project. The cameras are owned and maintained by Thames Valley Police who have the ability to capture num-

ber plate data and CCTV footage from them to assist with crime prevention in the village. Bucks County Council can also use the traffic count data they generate but have no facility to see any captured images. The parish council would like to thank Thames Valley Police for this extra initiative to help prevent criminal activity in our village.

Delay for Castlemead Bus Shelters

Sadly, for all of you that were hoping to shelter from the rain whilst waiting for your bus or school bus along Westfield Road, Taylor Wimpey (who still own the land) is currently also withholding permission for the bus shelters to be installed along Westfield Road.

New dog bin

A replacement dog bin has been installed on the land by The Crescent. This has a lockable lid which is designed to (a) prevent householders from stockpiling their dog faeces and then trying to put a whole carrier bag full into the dog bin and (b) prevent anyone from removing the contents of the dog bin. You are reminded that it is perfectly acceptable for your dog bags to be placed in your normal green lid refuse collection bin. The dog bins around the village are designed for your use whilst walking your dog and away from home only.

You must get your dog micro-chipped

The government is bringing in compulsory micro chipping for all dogs from 6 April 2016. This will help reunite owners with lost or stolen pets, relieve the burden on animal charities and local authorities, pro-

protect the welfare of dogs by promoting responsible dog ownership and help tackle the growing problem of strays (each year more than 100,000 dogs are dumped or lost at a cost of £57 million to the taxpayer & welfare charities).



If you would like to find out more, or would like to get your micro-chipping done for free, it can be accessed via the Dogs Trust website: <http://www.dogstrust.org.uk>

Highway Improvements Coming Soon

We are delighted to say that a number of highway improvements should be visible around the village soon:

Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust plan to install the additional car parking provision at

the Marsworth Road end of Glebe Close, with work currently scheduled to start on 15 April 2013. Planning permission was granted a number of years ago so we are delighted to see this coming to fruition and helping the residents.

Transport for Bucks are planning to carry out footpath repairs down Cheddington Road, this has been on the waiting list since 2011. Some of the works have already been marked out, so we hope to see this work conducted shortly.

Transport for Bucks hope to install new signage for the Pitstone Green Business Park during April/May. This has been outstanding since 2009 and will help to ensure that lorry traffic is routed around the outside of the village rather than along Marsworth Road which will be a great improvement.

The parish council is arranging for the repair of the pot holes in the car park at Pitstone Hill. This work will be carried out in April/May once the extent of the damage caused by the winter frosts is known.

Our thanks to both the organisations concerned.

Foot/cycle path to Tring station

Herts County Council (HCC) has published their draft Urban Transport Plan for Pitstone and Berkhamstead that includes their initial investigations into the foot/cycle path to Tring station along Northfield Road. The full report can be found on their website: <https://consult.hertsdirect.org/tringberkhamstedup/> the Northfield Road proposals being Scheme 12.

Essentially, three routes have been considered and the favoured method is an off-road shared foot/cycle path along the length of

Northfield Road. This has been categorised as a 'complex' scheme as it will involve the some land transfers to provide sufficient space. HCC currently estimate it will be a long term scheme with an implementation time of 3-5 years if the land issues can be resolved and funding obtained.

With regard to the funding provided by Taylor Wimpey, the parish council continues to try and work with Bucks County Council and Herts County Council to get the funds transferred between the two bodies and we hope that this will take place by May/June.

Annual Parish Assembly – 21 May 2013

The Annual Parish Assembly isn't a council meeting (although chaired by the council). It is your opportunity to hear about everything that has been happening over the past year and the plans for the future including up-to-date information about the play space, skate-park, multi-use ball court, other leisure development and the future development of the Pitstone Development Area around the recreation ground.

You'll also hear from the local charities, the memorial hall, Thames Valley Police and the local District and County Councillor(s) on issues under their responsibility that affect Pitstone. We are delighted that this year we will be joined by Mr Dave Short speaking to you about the Barn Owl Project. We hope to see you all in the main hall of the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm.

Party In The Park - Saturday July 13th 2013 - 1pm-6pm

Please do make a calendar note that this year's *Party In The Park* will be on July 13th 2013 on Pitstone Recreation Ground. It is free to everyone.

As we did last year for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, we will be having a variety of talented local musicians and bands playing live on outdoor and indoor stages. We already have an excellent line-up of confirmed acts and there should be something to suit everyone's musical tastes.

We will have a beer festival and a variety of foods on offer, plus entertainment for people of all ages from young to not-so-young. There will also be stalls selling a variety of local arts and crafts.

After the outdoor events have finished, there will be more entertainment in Pitstone Memorial Hall until late in the evening for those who want to party the night away. We will once again be aiming to raise much needed funds for the Retts Syndrome charity throughout the day.

Do come along and bring your family and friends. It is not to be missed! If you have a local band, or would like to have a stall on the day please get in touch with stevemattey@gmail.com.

PITSTONE MEMORIAL HALL

Not been in Pitstone Memorial Hall lately? The hall committee and the social club have been very busy over the last twelve months improving the facilities available and the structure of the building, just take a look at some of the achievements this year:

- **The social room/bar has been completely refitted and redecorated**, there is new furniture and French doors to the garden seating area
- **Air conditioning and a juke box have been installed** in the social room

- **The soffits have been replaced and roof repairs carried out to the walkway beside the recreation ground**
- **The main hall has had down lighting and a new sound system installed**
- **Extra crockery and tables have been provided for the main hall**
- **An internal and external CCTV system has been installed for your protection**
- **Wi-fi provision is now available throughout the building**
- **New windows have been installed in the main hall and the changing rooms**
- **The main lobby, main hall toilets and changing rooms have been decorated; a new shower unit has been provided in the referee's room to solve the water heating problems and new tiling, seating and re-decoration for the main changing rooms and referees room has just been completed**
- **All doors leading outside have been converted or replaced to have push-bar emergency access**
- **The electrical system in the main corridor has been improved**
- **A fire detection system has been installed for your safety**
- **Replacement cooker has been provided in the millennium kitchen**
- **Work has been undertaken to ensure that the hall is fully compliant with the relevant Fire Regulations, health & safety and licensing legislation and the terms of the Equalities Act**
- **New Terms and Conditions of Hire have been drawn up**
- **The notice-boards in the main lobby have been reworked to make information for hirers clearer**

You will also be delighted to know that there are further development plans in the pipeline:

- **Ramps on the outside of the meeting room and main hall emergency exits will be installed as soon as the weather permits**
- **Improvements will be made to the car park surface/remove pot holes once the winter weather has passed**
- **The ceiling in the main hall will be re-plastered and the loft space insulated**
- **Grants are being sought to modernise the main hall kitchen and toilets**
- **Grants are being sought to build an additional room at the front of the building and extend the social facilities**

So if you haven't been along to the Memorial Hall lately, do go along and have a look. Please make full use of this great local facility and support the voluntary work done by the members of the committee to ensure that your hall facilities are the best.

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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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Volunteer of the year - Joe Marling, a Hero among Heroes

Reporter: Sue Nicholls

Picture of Joe on cover page

"You could write a book about me." Joe says. His life is full of stories about his interest in old vehicles and how they have mapped the path of his life.

Born and raised in Park Royal Joe spent his early years watching the buses and lorries go in and out of factory gates and depots. As a child he intended to follow his father into the army but when Joe was 15 his father died leaving Joe with the responsibility of caring for his mother and younger brother. Instead of going into the army Joe took a job in the Guinness factory that dominated the area. Starting at the bottom as a messenger he went on to become a 'Grease Monkey' servicing the vehicles and changing their tyres. Finally he drove the delivery vehicles. Joe stopped working at Guinness in 1993 but later he went back to the closing down ceremony in 2005 when the last brew was to be made. Joe, with his wife Shirley pressed the button to make the final mash.

Joe's interest in old commercial vehicles led him to restore and show a 1947 Bedford tipper truck on behalf of Ahearns Ltd, rubbish disposal merchants, and he exhibited it at Alexandra Palace and drove it in the London to Brighton Rally in 1978. Later, in 1981 he drove his own, 1947 Bedford coal lorry. It was at Allie Pally that he met Reg Jellis. He was parked next to Reg and they soon became firm friends. Joe and his wife would visit Reg on his farm nearly every weekend and the 'boys' would restore an old Bedford coal truck that Joe had bought in a poor state.

When they retired, Joe and Shirley had planned to retire to the New Forrest but Reg suggested that they should come to Pitstone. He offered them the purchase of his mother's house as she had just died and so Joe moved to Pitstone and has been here for 20 years or so.

Joe has always been interested in things military. At the age of 19 he joined the Territorial Army serving for two years with the 8th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (DCO TA), in the footsteps of his father. It was natural therefore that his mind should be drawn to owning a military vehicle. In 2003 he bought the jeep that we are all so familiar with.

Joe went on to show his Jeep at military vehicle events where he met many old veterans. His involvement with the Military Vehicle Trust led naturally to his collecting for the Poppy Appeal and that is why we see him every year outside Masons Stores in the days preceding Remembrance Sunday. "This is my 6th year [of collecting] and each year has been more of a success than the last one," he says. "The first year I collected £250, then £750. In the third year it was £1,400, then £1,403 and £1,750 then, what a shock, bearing in mind that times are getting hard, Owen, our British Legion Chairman [said] 'Well done, you raised just over £2,000!' What a result!"

(Continued on page 12)

Joe is grateful to all the people who have supported him over the years "A big thank you goes to Richard Mason, the pitch outside the shop makes it [more comfortable] as we have toilets, coffee etc. supplied by his fantastic staff. Also, The New May Fu. Tong, the owner, a great guy, supplies free meals, even to my back-up crew. The sandwich man who delivers food to Mason's Stores also provides free food."

Joe also wishes to thank the various ladies who have baked him cakes, especially Heather, "The Bread Pudding Queen", who was so upset when her health prevented her from doing it any more.

"Another young girl who touched our hearts was the youngster who knocked on some of the doors asking for a donation for her 'Poppy Man'. If she or her parents read this: Joe says a big thank you."

It was while at a Military display at RAF Halton that Joe was approached by two young women who wanted him to bring his display to a Help for Heroes fund raising event in Princes Risborough; one of the girls had lost a brother in Afghanistan. Joe wasted no time in gathering together some mates and eventually 10 military vehicles turned up at the event. It was here that Joe met the boy's family and since then he has spent most of his time fund raising for the two charities: Help for Heroes and the Poppy Appeal.

As well as all this Joe and Shirley maintain an interest in Pitstone Green Farm Museum. Joe carries out maintenance work and Shirley sits at the reception desk and also does the flowers.

Joe is a deserving recipient of the Volunteer of the Year award. "A big thank you goes to those who recommended me for this award," he says, but I think we all agree that the big thank you goes to Joe.

Ed: Well done Joe. Come along and congratulate our Volunteer of the Year in person as he collects his award at the Annual Parish Assembly—details can be found on page 7.

OBITUARY

Tom Williamson

Tom died of pneumonia in Wycombe Hospital on Wednesday 3rd April. Apart from his wife, Diane, he was the last member of the very old Williamson family still living in the village.

Born in Pitstone Tom never strayed far from home, apart from when he served in the Army Airborne Division during the war, something of which he was very proud.

His childhood was spent living with his parents and two sisters at 39 Marsworth Road, Pit-

stone and as a young man Tom enjoyed playing cricket for Pitstone. Eventually, after he met Diane, Tom built the house they lived in for 49 years of marriage, number 87 Marsworth Road. Here they had two sons, Tim and Nick. Tim now lives in the USA and Nick in Birmingham.

In the past Tom's family owned a lot of the land in Pitstone, much of which was orchard. It is nearly all built on now, including the land behind Tom and Diane's house, which became a part of Rushendon Furlong. The only remaining small piece of orchard lies in Tom and Diane's garden and many of us have availed ourselves of their windfall apples left by the gate in autumn. Alongside the orchard and visible from the road is an ancient shed, possibly 100 years old, which Diane believes was once used for storing apples. If anyone knows who built the shed, Tom was wondering the same recently so Diane would be very interested to find the answer.

Tom and his father were painters and decorators but moved into house building. When the newly married Tom and Diane took up the occupancy of their new house, Tom put up a sign on the old shed announcing his trade.

For those of us who had the privilege of knowing Tom he was a font of knowledge about Pitstone and Ivinghoe, remembering the locations of wells, long covered up, sewers before road widening and the houses he and his father had built.

Tom's funeral was held at St Mary's church, Ivinghoe, and he is now buried with the rest of his family in Pitstone churchyard. Tom was a good and generous neighbour and will be much missed.

OTHER NEWS

IVINGHOE GETS ITS OWN LITERARY FESTIVAL - WITH STAR CAST!

A small, but star-studded literary festival with big ambitions launches on Ivinghoe Lawn on Saturday June 22.

BeaconLit, which aims to raise interest in books and writing within the 'Beacon Villages' - Ivinghoe, Pitstone, Ivinghoe Aston, Slapton, Marsworth, Cheddington and other communities close to Ivinghoe Beacon - is being run in association with Ivinghoe Entertainments within the annual Ivinghoe Summer Festival weekend.

The half-day literary event runs from 12 noon to 3.30 pm and includes two panels of top-notch authors. There will be a crime writing panel, featuring S J Bolton, Alison Bruce and Elena Forbes and a romantic fiction panel, comprising Kate Lace, Carole Matthews and Sue Moorcroft.

In between the panels there will be a 'BeaconLit a la Carte' interlude, offering refreshments, book signings, magic carpet storytelling, a creative writing workshop, bookstalls and information about the local community library, which the festival is supporting.

The event takes place in the marquee on the Lawn.

Local crime and fantasy author Dave Sivers, who will chair the event and moderate the panels, said, **"Everyone is so excited about BeaconLit. We are very grateful to Ivinghoe Entertainments for making their marquee available for the afternoon, and to an outstanding cast of authors for giving their time to make our first books and writing festival something that is bound to be hugely successful and a springboard to bigger and better things."**

To find out more, visit the website at www.beaconlit.co.uk.

Pitstone aerospace business completes sale to global French company- **8th April, 2013**

Pitstone based aerospace business employing around 500 people has completed its sale to a French-owned global company.

The former Goodrich Electrical Power Systems business on Pitstone Green industrial estate will now become Safran Power UK, part of the global aerospace, defence and security Safran Group.

Former owners, US-based Goodrich Corporation, had been sold to United Technologies Corporation (UTC) last year (July 2012). As part of that deal, UTC was required by competition regulators to sell off the electrical power systems business.

Safran agreed the purchase of the business for approximately EUR 310 million last October. The sale has now been formally completed. Chris Plumb, Managing Director of Safran Power UK said: **"Our Pitstone business is at the forefront of moves towards lighter more efficient aircraft, and will form a key part of Safran's strategy to compete in that market.**

"The benefits of electrical power include improved safety, gains in weight and space, as well as lower fuel consumption and thus lower carbon emissions.

"The transaction gives birth to a world leader in aerospace electrical power systems with a comprehensive product portfolio.

"That means we'll continue to need the highly skilled engineers and manufacturers that we already employ – and may even bring more opportunities in the area."

Safran Power UK is a leading supplier of on-board aerospace electrical power systems. It has a second facility, Safran Power USA, based in Twinsburg, Ohio employing around 100 people.

PARISH CHARITY NEWS

The two parish charities exist to support older people and others in the village who are in genuine need where no other organisations can help.

The Williamson Trust manages funds donated by Mr Marc Williamson and his son Humphrey and uses the interest on these investments to make grants each April to people in the parish over the age of 65. The Trustees would also like to know about people living in the parish who will be aged 65 or over on 31st March 2014 **and wish to make themselves known to us.**

The Pitstone Town Lands Charity has been operating since the 15th Century and this year celebrates the centenary of its creation in its current form. PTLC supports anybody in the parish in genuine need where no other organisation can help including people under 65. Following a bequest in 2011, the Charity now owns almost 50 acres of land and four flats and uses the rental income and interest on investments to make small grants and provide practical support to people in the parish. Following the bad weather of the last year, the Trustees would particularly like to hear about any person in the parish who may need support or assistance in the event of bad weather or any other emergency. The Charity also currently has some unused mobility scooters and invites enquiries about them to Peter Loose.

Pitstone Parish Council and the Charity Commission recently approved an extension from 5 to 7 trustees recognising the growth in the village and the additional assets. However, the Trustees were sorry to receive the resignation of Klaus Ginda after 9 years of hard work, dedication and commitment to the two charities. Klaus involved himself in every aspect of the charities work and has been a friend, confidante, and advocate for many of our elderly and disadvantaged residents. Klaus was often the first friendly local face to introduce himself to a new resident of the village and helped many villagers to switch to Digital TV. **Residents of the village will continue to benefit from Klaus' dedication in his role as a Parish Councillor, but the two charities will sorely miss his expertise.**

Anybody who wishes to find out more about either charity or to bring to our attention a local need should contact one of the trustees:

- Mary Saintey, 2 Albion Road ☎ 01296 668633
- Kate Smethers, 41 Albion Road) ☎ 01296 661499
- Gill Lowe, 21 Rushendon Furlong) ☎ 01296 668809
- Mark Robinson, 77 Crispin Field) ☎ 01296 660724
- Peter Loose, 21 Albion Road ☎ 01296 668051
- Sue Gregory, 4 The Crescent ☎ 01296 661609

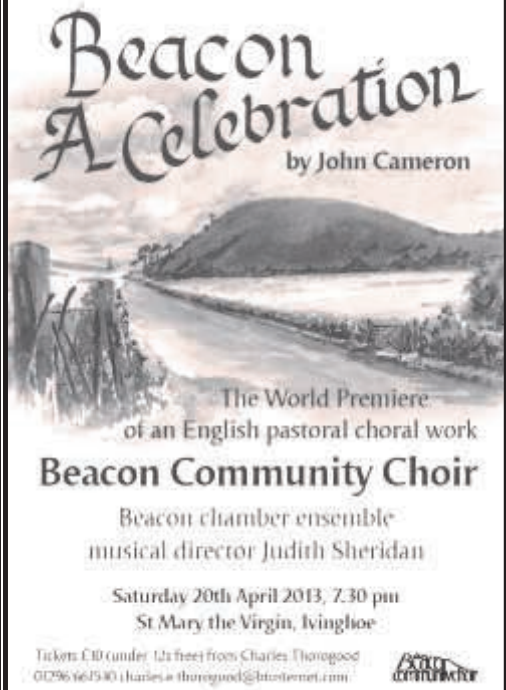
The Charities have recently been offered vouchers by Delta Force Paintballing. If any villager may be interested in these vouchers please would they contact Peter Loose (peter@loose.co.uk) or Gill Lowe who will pass on details of the offer and how it would also benefit the charities.

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Please no bedding, curtains, books, cd's, dressing gowns, wedding dresses, camouflage/army clothing.

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Knitting for SMILE and HOPE FOR CHILDREN!

A very BIG THANK YOU to all the hard working knitters who have provided so many useful items for the SMILE Charity for the last five years. I have recently received a thank you letter from SMILE and a request for us to change a little of the production line.

Apparently the situation in Kosovo has improved and the jumpers and baby clothes are no longer required. Instead they would like us to concentrate on knitting HATS, SCARVES AND GLOVES. All sizes will be needed to go in the shoe boxes next Christmas.

The charity called HOPE FOR CHILDREN is delighted to receive the Teddies, You provided 286 lovely Teddies last year and most went to comfort the Street Children in India.

Both Charities would like blankets, you gave 135 last year, all beautifully made. They prefer to have large blankets which require a lot of wool. If anyone has any spare wool sitting in a cupboard and would care to donate it to one of our blanket makers, we would be most grateful or if you find a bargain bag of wool please let me know so that we can obtain it.

Everyone has been so generous with their donated items, providing their skill, time and materials and everything has been greatly appreciated. Thank you for such wonderfully helpful garments which have done so much to relieve the suffering and cold in the Kosovo region of Eastern Europe. I look forward to providing plenty of warm scarves, hats and gloves or mittens for next Christmas. Please keep up the good work.

Alex: 01296 668336

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.

Website: www.pitstoneandivinghoetoddlers.btck.co.uk

Facebook: Pitstone and Ivinghoe baby and toddler group

Termly round Up

Well the lack of spring sunshine certainly has not stopped us enjoying a busy term at the toddler group. We have enjoyed playing with lots of new toys that have purchased with money from previous fundraising events, alongside lots of art, craft and messy play activities.

(Continued on page 20)

A big thank you goes to Doodle Caboodle, a local company who very generously provided face painting, a bouncy castle and a ball pit that ensured our Easter party was a great success.

Coming up

We are now preparing for another fun packed term. We hope to be celebrating **May Day with a Morris dance 'master class' again** this year, as it was enjoyed so much by the children (and carers) last year. Of course in June the village hosts the parade and fete, toddlers are planning to enter a float into the parade and welcome any families with pre-school children to join us as we parade up to the park. Kelle the hairdresser will be back for kiddies haircuts and adult fringes, and we will be hosting another shopping afternoon.

Details of all events can be found on the timetable on our website or facebook page.

Fundraising and toy donations

The group has decided it would like to invest in a parachute, as everyone thinks it would be a fun way to end some of the sessions. Our recent cake sale and cake raffle raised £45, thank you to everyone who supported this event, the parachute fund is well under-way.

We have started to host a termly shopping afternoon for local businesses, the benefits are twofold, we ask the stallholders to make 10% donation of any takings, and it allows businesses to promote their products and services to local families. If you live locally and would like to have a stall at a future event please get in touch.

About us

The baby and toddler group is an integral part of life in the village and offers a wonder-

ful 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.

Get in touch

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. We are beginning to use Facebook 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. Please post ideas for future activities We look forward to seeing you soon.

Rachel McGuire - Secretary

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WINDMILL PRE-SCHOOL

At the start of this Summer Term, we welcomed a number of new starters and their families to our Pre-School family and we hope they enjoy their experience at Windmill. And as we move in to the final term of this predominantly chilly academic year, we hope the weather warms up so the children can enjoy lots of outdoor activities and make use of the climbing frame and growing area.

Changes to opening hours

Since we returned after the New Year, Windmill Pre-School has been opening for four full days – and the extra afternoon sessions have proved to be very popular. We are now open Monday through to Thursdays from 9.00am until 3.00pm and Fridays 9.00am until 1.00pm. And because of the ongoing demand for places, 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 – particularly as we now welcome children from the age of two! To put your **child's name on the waiting list, please email admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk**

Staff update

We have a few staff changes to announce – we are pleased to welcome back our former setting Leader Lana Race after almost a year off on maternity leave. Lana rejoins us as a team member and will be working mornings and lunch clubs. Claire Hose, our Administrator will be returning in June after taking a few months off after the birth of her son back in **January. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Lara Rutherford who has been covering this role.**

We are also pleased that Sharon Berry has agreed to continue as our Team Leader, supported by Joe Coleman as our Deputy Leader, and the staff and the Voluntary Management Committee.

Dates for the diary

We have a couple of events coming up, firstly Photography by Carrie, on Saturday May 11th. Carrie takes beautiful photos and it is the perfect opportunity to have some fantastic family photos taken, whilst helping to raise money for the pre-school as well. Once the parents at Windmill have been given the opportunity to book a 15 minute session, members of the wider community will also have the chance to take a slot. If you are interested please email admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk

The AGM for the Windmill Pre-school Voluntary Management Committee will take place in the Meeting Room at Pitstone Memorial Hall on May 14th at 8pm. If you are interested in how the Pre-school and Committee work or would like to join the Committee, this is an

(Continued on page 25)

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 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

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

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD

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)

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PLEASE JOIN US
 for
FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

ENTRANCE 6.30PM FRIDAY 17TH MAY 2013

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(Continued from page 22)



ideal opportunity to come along and meet the whole team.

We will be holding Parent/Key worker Evenings on May 21 and 22nd. **Parents will have the opportunity to book a session with their child's Key worker and find out about their child's progress as well as look through the children's**

green books.

The annual Ivinghoe fete will be taking place on June 15th. Hopefully the weather will pick up in time, but as ever, we will have some sort of presence there. The theme this year is books and comics, so planning is currently underway.

In July during the last week of term, we will be holding our annual Sports Day for the children to get involved in (fingers crossed for good weather) and parents will be invited to come and watch – and even take part! This always proves to be a great event run by the staff and supported by the Voluntary Management Committee.

We are also looking to hold a 'graduation ceremony' at the end of term for the large number of children leaving Windmill Pre-School and moving on to the next stage of their education.

Fundraising

Just before the Easter holidays, we held our second Quiz Night at Ivinghoe Village Hall. It certainly proved to be a very successful event and everyone enjoyed the evening. Thanks to Sonya Aris for taking charge in the role of Quiz Master and organising a very varied and interesting set of questions. We are pleased to say we raised lots of money and we thank everyone that attended for their support and enthusiasm.

Back in March, we collected unwanted textiles for recycling. Everyone that took part and donated bags of textiles had a jolly good clear out. We will be holding another textile recycling day in July, so keep an eye out for information on the website www.windmillpreschool.co.uk

We need you

Part of our success as a pre-school is the role the parents or carers 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.

Join the team

Windmill Pre-School is run by a voluntary Management Committee, mainly consisting of parents of Windmill pre-schoolers, but we also welcome members of the local community. The elected Committee are the Trustees of the Charity and 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 we also have regular staff and Committee social events! If you are interested in joining our team, please get in contact.

Gail Dodsworth, Chairperson, Voluntary Management Committee

Ivinghoe Old School



Hello there Pitstone community! We are very nearly open! It is almost two years since we started to harass BCC for a Community Asset transfer of the Old School Ivinghoe for our community to turn it into an informal, level access, welcoming hub for all generations within our extended community!

We should now call our vast group of eager supporters **and the busy action committee and trustees within that, the 'Saved Old School' community group!**

Looking back we should feel really pleased and proud of the successes along the way, but in truth there is never enough time because the next issue always needs attention immediately! As you know by now, we have been awarded nearly £50,000 from the Big Lottery Village SOS and £19,500 for electricity from the Community Chest, £5,000 apiece from the Bucks Community Foundation and Vital Villages for some part of the big insulation costs.

(Continued on page 29)



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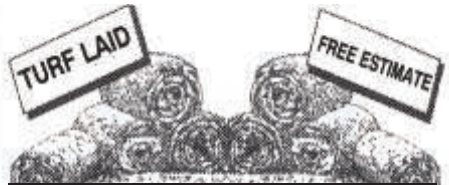
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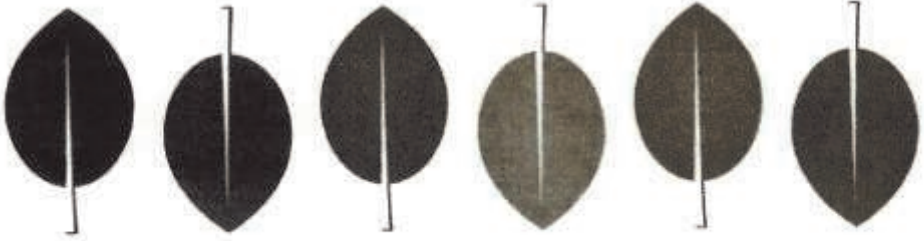


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(Continued from page 26)

It turns out not to be very easy to match/patchwork your building specifications, put together with drawings all by Bob Corn, which echo the practical building progression – with **the funding allocation as and when it comes in finally, if at all.....and for what particular purpose specified.** We have to keep each funding purse separate and specific and in some **cases it was not quite enough...so recently we have applied to 'Awards for All' and 'Comic Relief'** – each for a further £10,000 to match part of our £33,000 shortfall beyond our already awarded £80,000. Yes that is a lot of money £113,000 total, but the Old School is soaking it up easily as we speak and deserves the best it can get for its refurbishment now, to take us all well into the future!

As you may be aware the builders are now in , and are stripping the old ceilings away to apply the very good insulation we have purchased between those high ceilings and the until now un-insulated roof. The plaster and lath between the rafters looks in quite a good state, so we are optimistic of the roof condition, that we have not quite enough money to fully focus on yet. After new ceilings are put up in the same level as before we will see the builders strip out the electrics and rewire so that we have all the fittings where we need them safely without extended trailing wires tripping any of us when we are taking part with all the many new activities within the Hub. The IT suite for small businesses and IT learning will then be kitted out as soon as our security system is in and completely burglar proof! The gas heating is having a revamp and new lighting is being introduced, and the Lottery kitchen monies are also about to be used as a basic new kitchen replaces all the old fixtures now stripped away.

Hayley Wesley will be then introducing her own café fixtures beyond that kitchen level, and CuriosiTEA will invite you in!

This brings us to the predicted timing of the openings, which will be staged...in the order of first the completed building to the level that monies allow just now, then the fully inspected and 'passed' Café - CuriosiTEA Rooms run by Hayley, then the myriad of hourly activities run by Liz Raba and Joley Brindle (...now Roberts) as taster sessions first and then 'summer activities sessions' in August and finally then the Flametree theatre and forest School starts in September 2013.

For those who have not been here to get to know the plan over the last 23 months, all generations will be served by this Hub, with all the activities the community voted for delivered **back to it by these two businesses above, who will make the 'not for private profit community venture' sustainable into the future via a simple rental administered via the eight Volunteer Community trustees.** Follow all minutes and finances transparently on our new website www.ivinghoeoldschool.com or through future library notes. These activities range from Mum and Baby yoga, forest school for home scholars, lunch clubs for all, after school clubs, evening theatre school for all teenagers, IT suite for small business adults, film making, arts **and crafts, tailored exercise to music for over fifties, and IT learning for those who haven't yet done so, or want to improve.** Separately there will be a community space for weekend **parties and auction /jumble sales and film sessions etc.....or whatever the community**

needs.....and of course the CuriosiTEA Rooms Café will be open for your easy drop-in whenever you choose...with affordable but delicious food and drink and even re-heatable suppers to take home! Beyond this we imagine a host of mutually devised other possibilities and 'pop-up' extras!

We plan a mid-June finish, and thus had hoped to invite you all to a total launch to co-incide with this June 15th Village Fete and that big collective presence on the lawn. However the need for more monies is stretching the building works timings to make that too rushed a date to be fully ready and inspected, so we will just be a jolly, welcoming and informative **presence on the lawn instead. It may be possible to open our doors for a community 'gawp'** of the works so far, but writing this in early April, it is too optimistic to be sure of the **builders view on this yet....or our ability to 'refresh' the village in the way we are fully confident to be doing when next year's fete comes around again! We hope to have a presence by the smaller Old School gate during the fete and will be offering all that is timely and appropriate come the day from there.....with either invitation's for the near future or invitation's within!!**

Now comes the invitation/request that we CAN with surety extend to the community who **will later use it....for those willing to come decorate with us** – your own new Community Hub, by painting our way towards its opening. This will happen over weekends around the end of May beginning of June. The Builders will tackle the topmost spaces but we need to make good and paint the bottom two metres of the whole building, please. So with **paint-brushes at the ready and an old set of clothes or overall's standing by, please volunteer to** thecorns@talk21.com or 01296 662267. We will bring the paint!

Watch out for last minute publicity on our opening dates and we look forward to welcoming you in to all our new Hub has to offer you!

IVINGHOE ENTERTAINMENTS

The clocks have changed and spring marches on and hopefully the temperature has risen above double digits!

Summer Ball Friday 21 June 2013

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

Tickets are still available for the Summer Ball - this will be the only event of the festival weekend where fine dining and dancing are the order of the evening! A booking form and further details can be downloaded from <http://ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk/> Summer Festival page.

The Summer Ball offers fantastic value at just £60 – get your tickets now from Penny 01296-668017 (email: enquiries@ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk). We have made significant improvements to the event from previous years: larger easier access bar, premium sound and

lighting, multiple selections for your starter and main courses, and quality of the 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**

An evening of First Class stand-up comedy, in association with the Get Stuffed Comedy Club.

The evening will be compared by Logan Murray who, for those that remember last **years' event appeared as the monstrously** bitter tired old showbiz hack Ronnie Rigsby. He is 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.

The headline act, and well established star of comedy, is Sean Hughes. Until recently, a sardonic team captain on Never Mind the Buzzcocks, Sean Hughes started his career as a stand-up comedian by becoming the youngest winner of The Perrier Award. Several sell out tours later and two series of **Sean's Show for Channel 4, Sean diversified** into writing, presenting and acting. Recently co-starring with Peter Davison in The Last

Detective (ITV).

More information about the other performers **will be released soon** **make sure you** can say you saw them in Ivinghoe!

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

Tickets £15 are available from mid-May from: Pitstone: Masons, Ivinghoe: Post Office, Rose & Crown, and Grooms in case of difficulty Penny 01296-668017 (email: enquiries@ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk)

Get the News

To ensure that you have the latest updates from Ivinghoe Entertainments sign up at <http://ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk>, follow us on Twitter @IvinghoeEnts or Facebook www.facebook.com/ivinghoeents.

Graham Hollands
Chair – Ivinghoe Entertainments
ivinghoeentertainments@gmail.com

**Beacon Villages Choir: World
Premiere in Ivinghoe!**

Beacon
community choir

What have the following in common: Cilla Black, Donovan, Hot Chocolate, Jose Carreras, Gloria Estefan, Ella Fitzgerald, Agnetha Faltskog, Cozy Powell, Julie Felix, Bobbie Gentry, the assembled casts of Les Misérables & the Choir of New College Oxford? Answer: they have all sung music composed

or arranged by Ivinghoe Aston composer John Cameron. Now the Beacon Community Choir of Ivinghoe joins this illustrious band by performing a suite of songs composed especially for the choir by John Cameron. John sings with the Beacon Community Choir when **his other commitments allow, and knows well the choir's strengths and has composed a work to demonstrate the choir's joy of singing together, and its sense of humour!**

Oscar-nominated and multi-award-winning composer, John Cameron's works include film scores for Kes, Path to 9/11, A Touch of Class, and the cantata based on texts from 6th to 18th centuries, Missa Celtica, as an arranger, his orchestral scores for Les Miserables, Spend, Spend, Spend, Honk! and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. John's new work is a suite of 9 choral pieces, and accompanying orchestral score, to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the Beacon Community Choir, based in Ivinghoe.

The world premiere of John's new work is on Saturday 20th April at St Mary the Virgin, Ivinghoe at 7:30pm. The 45-strong Beacon Community Choir will be conducted by their professional director Judith Sheridan: opera singer, singing teacher and musical coach.

Choir Director Judith Sheridan said: "I'd always wanted a major work for the choir to mark the milestone of the community choir's 5th birthday. John was the obvious choice as he sings with the choir occasionally and the fact that he's a composer of such incredible stature and versatility is a huge advantage. I knew bits of his music – his jazz stuff – very well, and I'd heard some of his classical pieces. I'd heard many more of his pieces before I knew it was he who'd composed them. I had absolutely no idea of what style of music would come out, but I knew it would be good. And now I've heard it, it's wonderful – I fall in love with each piece as I do it. He's thrown himself into this commission with incredible vigour and enthusiasm, and he's doing the orchestrations as well."

Composer John Cameron says: "When Judith approached me about commissioning a piece for the Beacon Choir, I was immediately attracted to the concept that she and the choir envisaged: namely a piece not only about the area we live and work in, but a piece with input from whoever wanted to contribute. Suggestions of pre-existing poems, new poems by members of the choir, images, local historic narrative and snatches of prose and verse describing everything from local wildlife to the secrets of choir practice! All this would find a place in the work. Musically it is firmly in the English choral and pastoral tradition but with a dose of contemporary music theatre thrown in. And principally it is a celebration: a celebration of the work of the choir and the community, and a celebration of this unique corner of the country we live in."

Tickets for the Beacon Celebration Concert are now on sale from Charles Thorogood at Charles.e.thorogood@btinternet.com priced at £10 with accompanied children under 12 admitted free. Following the performance there will be a drinks reception at which John Cameron will be signing copies of the souvenir programme. To read more about John Cameron, and to hear some of his music, visit <http://www.johncameronmusic.com>.

Ivinghoe & Pitstone Scout Group

Scouting always seems to be busy whatever the time of year. Hopefully, as we enter Spring

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and the Summer months the sun will come out whilst the youngsters take their **scouting activities outside...we can only dream....**

The Scout Troop is particularly busy at the moment as their expedition this year is to Iceland during October half term. Not only are they excited about the trip they are also very busy with fundraising activities, which will help towards their flights, food and equipment required for the trip. If you are able to come along to any of their events during the year they will be more than happy to see you there.

The Cub sections are also camping during the year, but much closer to home and without so much of a cost to mum and dad! During May half term they are off to Chalfont Heights, the leaders are busy arranging an exciting programme whilst they are there. The Cubs will also have another District camp in September.

The Cub Section are also losing a leader at Easter, the group would like to say a huge THANK-YOU to Judith Seaton. She has been in Scouting for many years and would like to step aside to allow somebody else a turn. A leader will need to be found to allow the Wednesday group to continue- can you spare some time?

Not to be out done the Beaver Leader is also planning a night away for the Beavers, a date is yet to be fixed, but as always the Beavers enjoy their first experience of their **scouting night away....and not much sleep** is had by all!!

During the year the Beavers will have their Beaveree on 15th June at Chalfont Heights. They are also hosting the yearly Sports Evening on 28th June on Ivinghoe Lawn 6-8pm.

(Continued on page 35)

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(Continued from page 33)

The District this year organised a trip to Warwick Castle for St George's Day, Sunday 21st April. A train was chartered for just the District only stopping at Wendover, Aylesbury and then Warwick. This allowed about 600 Scouters young and old to travel together. Many of our group took part in this magical event.

Dates to jot down:

- Friday 17th May Bingo at Pitstone Hall, 7pm start
- Sunday 23rd June: **Children's Village Disco on Ivinghoe lawn, 5.30-7.30pm**: For children in Year 6 and under, Children under 5 years to be accompanied by an adult.
- Saturday 13th June: Party in the Park, Pitstone.

If you are interested in Scouting in any way, a child who would like to join or an adult who has some spare time, please pass on your details!

Yours in Scouting,
Michelle Lee
Group Scout Leader

Brilliant Brownies!

Thank you to Emily Eagling for sending in the below article on how much she enjoys attending Brownies, as part of her working towards another badge. The Editor is hoping that Emily will be able to take over the PPP before too long!

My favourite evening was our Circus Skills evening.

By Emily Eagling, Age 7 (pictured balancing on the pedal go).



This week's Brownies was extra special because Mr Fantastiko visited us and we had a double session. This was my favourite evening because we had lots of fun doing all sorts of fantastic circus skills, such as: stilts, unicycle, juggling, flower stick, Diablo and plate spinning on-Stilts.

All girls 7-10 years should join Brownies because it is really fun working towards badges and it is also really fun making, baking and creating. You should also join Brownies because there are lots of friends to be made! Everyone will take care and look after you when you join, they will be great friends to have. Brownies are caring children and are always helpful to others at school, home and at Brownies. Here are some of the activities that we have done so far: Circus Performer, Road Safety, Artist, Creating and Colouring.

First Pitstone and Ivinghoe Brownies is a great place to be every Monday evening! If you are interested in taking part in these extraordinary activities too, please visit:

www.girlguiding.org.uk.

IVINGHOE AND PITSTONE WI



February 28th was a cold but sunny morning when two cars full of **WI members set off for Frost's Garden Centre in Woburn Sands.** After coffee and cake we went our separate ways and wandered and shopped until 1pm, when we all met up again and had a good chat over lunch. We visited the outdoor plant section and the delicatessen before driving back through Woburn where we stopped

with the intention of visiting the local craft and wool shop, unfortunately it was closed, so maybe next time!

Judy Farady was the speaker at our March meeting. Judy has been the archivist for the John Lewis Partnership since 1996, and her talk was so completely different to what I had in mind **when I saw the listing in our member's card. The hall was absolutely silent for once (always a good measure of the speaker's talent I find). The people who work for that company** which now includes Waitrose of course, must be some of the best looked after employees **in the country; so impressed were we that some of us "retirees" seriously considered offering our services and going back to work!**

On March 26th seven of us visited Brackley Antiques Cellar, where we spent a pleasant few hours browsing amongst the very interesting and varied selection of everything from vintage clothing and jewellery, furniture, toys and books, silverware, and kitchenalia, (to use that awful phrase which covers a multitude of goods both plain and fancy, old and new). We bought a few things and sampled the freshly made soup and of course the cakes had to be tested before setting off for a leisurely drive home through the countryside.

Our bowling evening in Dunstable was a huge success as usual. We booked two lanes and had basket meals. We wore the GORGEOUS shoes they supply at absolutely no extra charge, and proceeded to have fun. The winner of the trophy was Betty (for the second year running), and the wooden spoon was won by Annie who came up with any number of **reasons why she shouldn't take it home just because it had LOSER printed over the entire surface.** We were all of the opinion that the high scores would probably indicate how old we were going to feel the following morning, but we did have fun!

If you watched Food Glorious Food on ITV, the keen eyed amongst you may have spotted a few familiar faces tasting the food at the first of the semi-finals. The programme was filmed last November at Ashridge House. We were there all day from 10.30 am. and it was good fun, even if some of us showed a few more chins than we would have liked!!

At the time of writing, we are still looking forward to the Beacon Group meeting at Cheddington, where the subject of the talk is " **The Disappearance of Glenn Miller.**"

(Continued on page 39)

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(Continued from page 36)

The Knit and Natter club is still thriving, and I'm sure that there are quite a few pieces of previously discarded knitted and embroidered items that are being finished off amongst friendly chatter with tea and cakes on a Tuesday afternoon somewhere in Ivinghoe or Pitstone.

Also going strong is the Dining/Supper Club that Jane very kindly and efficiently continues to organise in order that we should support local pubs and restaurants.

In May Ivinghoe and Pitstone WI. reaches the grand old age of 96, the oldest in Buckinghamshire, and to celebrate we are going to have a tea-party after business is finished at the monthly meeting. We are going to visit Cliveden on Friday May 24th, the boathouse by the **Thames being famous for it's part in the "Profumo Scandal". Of course, I can hear you saying** that you are way too young to remember that, but there you go, Cliveden is where it all happened, (allegedly).

That takes us up to June when our speaker Philip Wright is going to be talking about "Hats", the competition that night will be "a homemade Ascot hat," so I'm sure that will be interesting! In July we are going on a mystery tour instead of having a meeting in the Town Hall, all I can say and hope, is that the weather is much better than it was the last time we went on **one. On that occasion we couldn't see the countryside through the rain!**

After that, in August we are having a picnic on Ivinghoe Lawn instead of a normal meeting (I use the word normal advisedly you understand), by which time there will be another edition of the PPP, so if any of the above appeals to you on any sort of level, please do get in touch . There is always a contact number on the posters around the two villages, or you can contact me on 01296 668644 or e-mail maggiewi@tiscali.co.uk and I will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have (regarding the WI that is). We also have a pamphlet which gives general background information to the workings of the WI. If you would like **one of these before you commit to coming to a meeting, (although we don't bite), again just** ring or e-mail.

Maggie Halsey, President of Ivinghoe and Pitstone WI.

NEWS FROM ASHRIDGE

How is your garden growing? - surely, any day now the soil will again be warm enough to be doing some serious plant moving and splitting. And if you find after all your hard work you've plants to spare, the Friends of Ashridge will be delighted to receive them.

Despite the lack of Spring-like weather, preparations are well on the way for our annual Spring Plant Fair on Sunday 12 May. Come early to get the best bargains, as there's always a queue waiting for the 11am start. In the meantime, we'll happily receive plants any time between now and 5 May, just as long as they're well-rooted and healthy. And our customers will also be very pleased if you would please label your plants, especially giving the colour of

ornamentals! It really doesn't matter what the plants are - vegetables are especially popular, as well as fruit bushes, we welcome anything sellable!

Every year, volunteer growers help make this event a huge financial success, allowing the Friends to raise several £000s which go directly to the upkeep of the National Trust Ashridge Estate. In recent years, these funds have provided among others new mobility vehicles for the less able-bodied, a new mobility vehicle- and wheelchair-friendly path, forestry equipment, and fencing, and so on. The woods, commons and parkland are wonderful amenities to have on our doorsteps, and the Friends' events are run solely to keep these beautiful places in good shape.

If you'd like more information or have plants to offer, call John Cartwright on 01442 864 984. Pots and compost are available if you need them. Full details of the plant fair's where-and-when are in the dates section below.

Brian and Sian Barton's 'Gentle Strolls' programme through the National Trust Ashridge Estate makes a welcome return in April, running once a month right through the summer until October. Explore the Ashridge Estate at a leisurely pace, admiring the flora and fauna as you go - stout footwear is recommended but all are welcome. No booking is required - just bring £2.50 per person on the day. For more information, call 01442 823 727.

Tuesday 7 May 2.30pm - Gentle Stroll - Meet NT Meet Ling Ride car park, off Beacon Road, Map ref SP 982 143

Sunday 12 May 11am – 4pm - Spring Plant Fair. Free entry. 1,000s of plants for sale from private gardens and commercial nurseries. NT Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre, Monument Drive, Ringshall, HP4 1LX. More info and plant offers: John Cartwright 01442 864 984

Friday 14 June 10.30am - Gentle Stroll - Meet NT Meet B4506 road end of Monument Drive, Map ref SP 979 127

Thursday 11 July 2.30pm - Gentle Stroll - Meet NT Meet Visitor Centre, on Monument Green, Map ref SP 971 131

Monday 19 August 2.30pm - Gentle Stroll - Meet NT Meet Clipperdown car park off Beacon Road, Map ref SP 964 156

Wednesday 18 September 10.30am - Gentle Stroll - Meet NT Meet B4506 road end of Monument Drive, Map ref SP 979 127

Tuesday 15 October 10.30am - Gentle Stroll - Meet NT Meet B4506 road end of Monument Drive, Map ref SP 979 127

New from the Chilterns Tourism Network

Due to the proximity to London, the great, the good and the not-so-good have all made their homes in the Chilterns. Some of their finest houses are now in the care of the National Trust, whilst others are in private hands. Make your own selection to plan a short break or a Grand Tour with more than its fair share of opulence, interest and intrigue.

Here are our top 10 Chilterns favourites

1. Cliveden

The Profumo affair – 50 years on. In 1963 the Profumo Affair scandalised the nation and Cliveden hit the headlines as the place where John Profumo first met Christine Keeler.

Now a luxury hotel, this is a rare chance to visit inside the house to see the private rooms and pool that are not usually open to non-residents. The gardens and woodland trails are open all year.

2. **Milton's Cottage**

Milton's Cottage is the only extant home of John Milton, the great English poet and parliamentarian.

It was in this grade 1 listed 16th century cottage, described by Thomas Ellwood as "that pretty box in Giles, Chalfont", that Milton completed Paradise Lost, and the idea of Paradise Regained was put to him.

Complete with cottage garden, this really is a Chilterns gem. The cottage is open daily from 1st March to 31st October, Tuesday to Sunday inclusive.

3. Greys Court

The Brunner family lived at 16th-century **Grey's Court** until quite recently. The estate is tucked away in a tranquil Chilterns valley with a series of courtyard gardens and longer walks around the Estate.

The house still exudes a welcoming atmosphere, with a well-stocked kitchen and homely living rooms.

The series of walled gardens is a colourful patchwork of interest set amid medieval ruins, which made it the perfect location for another family picnic – for members of the Crawley family in the new series of Downton Abbey.

4. Chenies Manor House

In 1285, during the visit to Chenies of Edward I, the earliest occurrence is recorded of eggs being cooked and given to the villagers to celebrate Easter.

Such are the quirky traditions at the lovely Chenies Manor, located in the picturesque Chilterns village of Chenies. Henry VIII and Elizabeth I both visited and it is where Catherine Howard carried on the fatal dalliance with her lover Thomas Culpepper.

Now much used for filming, the MacLeod Matthews family home and gardens are a gem. April – **October on Wednesdays, Thursday and Bank Holiday Monday's open from 2 – 5pm.**

5. Lacey Green Smock Mill

So-called for its resemblance to a traditional farmer's smock. It stands on the escarpment of the Chiltern Hills, near Princes Risborough and halfway between High Wycombe and Aylesbury.

It has been restored by the Chilterns Society to preserve its unique wooden machinery, which probably dates from around 1650, making this the oldest smock windmill in the country.

Open from Sunday May 5th between 2 - 5 pm on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

6. Chilterns Open Air Museum

Like a doorway into another world, the beautiful collection of restored historic buildings **include the Thame Vicarage Room, High Wycombe Toll House, Shepard's Living Van and Iron Age house** all to be explored around the museum site.

Doors open for the season on March 29th

7. Ashridge House

Now a prestigious management school located in the lovely Ashridge Forest, Ashridge House and gardens will have limited opening during March, April and August.

There is plenty to see including; the house where guided tours will be available and includes access to the Humphry Repton-designed gardens that have been extensively restored.

25 – 28 March, 2 – 5 April and 29 July – 30th August.

8. Natural History Museum Tring

This branch of the Natural History Museum in London was formally known as the Zoological Museum and the founder, Lionel Walter Rothschild, born into an international financial dynasty, was destined to be famed as a zoologist and collector rather than a banker.

From the cassowary to the zebra, he was fascinated by animals and dedicated his life to studying zoology. He also kept an interesting variety of live animals in the grounds of the museum and in neighbouring Tring Park.

The collection is still housed in the original museum, full of Victorian charm and can be visited all year round. Free.

9. Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre

When he was alive, the postman would deliver up to 4,000 letters from his fans every week.

Possibly the greatest of Chilterns' sons, the lovely Chilterns town of Great Missenden was home to Roald Dahl for 36 years.

He used the landscape to draw inspiration for some of his stories including Matilda and the BFG. The museum and story centre are open all year.

10. Berkhamsted Castle.

It all began with the Duke of Normandy, who having defeated king Harold at the battle of Hastings in 1066, pillaged his way through southern England until he reached Berkhamsted.

Here he was met by the local bigwigs who swore allegiance and offered him the crown. The offer was accepted and William was crowned king on Christmas day in 1066.

One of England's oldest motte and bailey castles is free to explore, and can be found adjacent to Berkhamsted station.

Information on these and other Chilterns adventures can be found on www.VisitChilterns.co.uk

Florence Hawkins—99 years and counting!

Reporter: Klaus Ginda



Florence Hawkins (Nee' Tooley) reaches her centenary landmark on 18th May 2013. Florrie's life, has stretched out during a time when tears were shed over two world wars, and among other monumental events, the raising of the Berlin Wall, the death of a President, the winning of a World Cup, the space shot which saw man land on the moon, the appointment of Britain's first women Prime Minister and the dismantling of the 'Iron Curtain' which brought an end to the 'Cold War'.

Born at the Fog Cottages next to the railway, where the bridge crosses Marsworth Road. Florrie was the youngest of four daughters, named after her mother and she was preceded by



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Doris (Blake) and twins Vi (Robertson) and Daisy (Rogers). Her dad Harry worked all his life on the railways and lived at what is now known as Railway Cottages until a year before his death, in 1962, aged 83. Her mum died two years before him at the age of 79.

Florrie, with her sisters attended Pitstone Primary School on the corner of Church Road and Vicarage Road, here she excelled as a runner and a love of sport followed her into adult life.

Few working class children progressed past an elementary education. to go to a secondary school. Secondary education supported only 200,000 children in the whole country. So Pitstone was the only school Florrie knew and from here, aged 12, she would have gone into the world of work.

Florrie witnessed first hand the day to day progress when the Tunnel cement works were built in 1936-37 and lived under the umbrella of the chimneys until production of Castle cement stopped in 1991. The chimneys being demolished on 30th January 1999 an event covered by regional television. Up until married life intervened Florence cycled daily to Tring Station to catch the morning train to Berkhamstead where she was employed as a seamstress.

Florence was married, during the war, on the 11th May 1940, at Pitstone Parish church, to William Harold Hawkins. They began their married life with Harold's mother Lucy at, what is today, 48 Station Road in Ivinghoe. Over a year later David was born to complete their family. Whitefriars in Pitstone and Ivinghoe Manor, were among those who employed Harry as a gardener during his working life after the war.

During the fifties life in Pitstone was shared with the radio family of The Archers. This was a time when television viewing was limited to time spent with family and friends when watching television was a social occasion. Florrie's first television was not acquired until after the death of her husband, twenty eight years ago, when she moved to Pitstone to be nearer her son.

The parish join together with son David, daughter-in-law Sue, grandchildren, Kevin and Michelle, great grandchildren Charlotte and James, Nicola and all other relatives and friends to wish Florence a Happy Birthday later this month. Hopefully in our next issue we can get to share with you the message received from the Queen in recognition of her achievement in reaching a great age.

IVINGHOE TOWN HALL....News!

It seems a long time ago now but soon after the last publication was distributed a nasty gang who were targeting village shops & Post Offices broke into the Town Hall at 1.30am on 20th February by forcing the lock on the main door. Once inside they forced the door to the Shop & Post Office which triggered the main alarm system notifying the Police and Owners. The Burglars then knew they had very limited time and cleared the shops cigarettes & alco-

Pastor Dave Clifford

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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):

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JOHN RADCLIFFE	£17.50
NUFFIELD, OXFORD	£17.50

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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

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hol stock but left the Post Office itself untouched before they fled.
(The Town Hall main door has since been fitted with an additional strong lock).

In March Brookmead School approached the committee for using the Town Hall during the Summer & Autumn Terms to relocate up to two classes whilst Bucks CC is undertaking the **much needed improvements to Brookmead's facilities**. Following a presentation by the Head Teacher the Town Hall committee unanimously agreed to offer the use of the Town Hall for 3 days per week. Since going to press we have recently heard that our facilities will not now be needed but they were very grateful for our offer.

Frost has caused one of the decorative upstairs window 'baubles' to come loose and narrowly missed the parked cars. Fortunately no one was passing by at the time or they might **otherwise have suffered a sore head...or worse!** Our thanks to Stella and Shelle who witnessed what happened while sitting at one of the Library computers on Saturday 30th March and went out to retrieve the wooden bauble!

Bucks CC are coming to check the security of the 4 others and refit the missing one.

The regular bookings are continuing well and some of you will also have enjoyed trying the **new 'Ballet for Adults' class at 1pm-2pm on Wednesdays**. If you are interested in any of the **regular classes please contact the numbers...**

Monday: 3pm-6pm Ballet (07834-281434) / 7.45pm Jazzercise (07900-987230)

Tuesday: 10am -Beacon Art (01296-661291) / 7pm Zumba (07941-092673)

Wednesday: 10am Pilates (07855-138005) / 1pm Adult Ballet & at 2pm Vintage Fitness (07985-048880)

Thursday : W.I ~ Monthly - each 2nd Thursday (Win ~ 01296-660755).

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

Stephen Swinbank, Secretary Tel: 01296 660344

CHURCHES

Pitstone Church News

Pitstone Church will be having its' Spring clean at the end of April ready to be open every Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday from May 5th 2013 until September 29th from 2.30-5.30pm. We are always pleased to welcome new volunteers to help clean the Church or to Steward on one of the open Sundays.

If you are new to Castlemead or to one of the villages it is well worth a visit to see one of **the oldest buildings in Pitstone and maybe you would like to be a "Friend" of Pitstone church** and join the friendly group who meet twice a year to look after the Church .

Although it is now maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust this organisation has **experienced serious cuts in its funding and so the local group's** over-site of the building is very valuable and much appreciated by the Trust. It can be found in a tranquil setting at the end of Church Road, off Vicarage Road, Pitstone and there are several foot paths from Castlemead which take you to the Church too.

This part of Pitstone, apparently, was wiped out at the time of the plague in the 1400s and so there is a beautiful rural space around it with wonderful views of the Pitstone Hills. The Church is open from the end of May on Sunday afternoons. We are always glad of new volunteers to act as stewards from 2-5pm on these Sundays or to join the group of friends who care for the building locally for the Churches Conservation Trust.

To find out more please contact Vanita Patel 661968 or Joan Bolton-King 668806

The Annual Art, Craft, Flower and Music Festival will take place on:

25th to 26th May at 2-6PM; 27th May at 11-5pm followed by a sung Evensong at 6pm; 28th May at 11-6pm.

Refreshments will be served during the weekend. The proceeds from the Festival have helped to pay for the repairs over the years.

There will be another popular concert on Saturday July 13th at 7.00pm

The Church can be used for Weddings, Baptisms or Funerals for Pitstone residents and Tracey arranges 3 or 4 services to take place each year in this beautiful old Church, the acoustics are excellent and the musical events are very popular there. So please look out for events taking place.

Pastor Dave Calling!

Well, we've moved to the Millennium, and no – Revival hasn't hit yet! Whilst we are still relatively small in number, our main focus is to increase in size and step out into new areas of community activities which is why we changed venue 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 more accessible to the Castlemead estate.

Looking to the future, our Harvest Festival Service will be on October 6th (provisionally – keep an eye out for details on the notice boards) and we are planning another Community Carol Service for 2013 as we met with many new faces last year and had many positive comments. Leighton-Linslade Concert Band will be with us again to provide music for both occasions. I am sure that it they will be enjoyable times of celebration.

'Church' has changed quite a bit over the past few years and different churches celebrate in different ways - it isn't what many people expect these days. If you haven't been for years,

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why not try dropping into one just for a change one Sunday morning and see. For many the first step through the door is the biggest. We would love to see you any Sunday and the Millennium is comfortable, warm and familiar ground for most people in the village. Or join **us for one of special events, you'll find that we are very human.**

We continue to meet every Sunday and offer a warm invitation to all to come and share in **worship whether weekly 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 – Coffee and biscuits to follow.

Every blessing. From the Fellowship.

Pastor Dave Clifford – 01296 668906

Ivinghoe Church and Benefice

Dear Reader,

I hope you haven't all eaten too many Easter eggs! What a busy Easter we have had; with the clocks going forward on Easter Day the Easter fire and breakfast at Slapton in place of the usual windswept and wet start on the beacon, was much appreciated by all.

Hopefully April brought us warmer and brighter weather and a chance for us all to enjoy **being out and about in God's lovely countryside. Have you ever noticed that when the** weather is sunny everyone is in a sunny mood? People smile as they pass; and say hello, even **to strangers. Wouldn't it be good if we could find this happening all year round and not just** in the sunshine, after all I believe we need a friendly face even more in the darker months.

At the moment, St Mary's church family is really busy working on their new initiatives, including providing a place to have a free cuppa and a chat on a Tuesday afternoon from 2 – 4pm. We have named this CAMEO (come and meet each other). If you would like to come but need transport please give Rev Tracey a ring and she will arrange it.

Over the past few years our churches have collected food at Harvest Festivals to pass on to our surrounding food banks. It was in passing on of that food we discovered that none of the nearby Food Banks (in Dacorum and Dunstable) would be available to help someone from the area of our parishes of Ivinghoe, Pitstone, Marsworth and Slapton.

We have, therefore, set up our own Food Bank, ready to help anyone who needs a bit of support during these lean times. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from a helping hand with the monthly expenses, please get in touch with Revd Tracey at the Vicarage in Ivinghoe (01296 668260).

After a strictly confidential chat with Tracey, she will be happy to arrange for you to share the very generous quantity of groceries we have in store.

Thank you to all those who have donated and we will be grateful for your continuing generosity. Each of our churches has a box for donations beside the door. We are very keen to **share our food so don't hesitate to get in touch with Rev Tracey if you would benefit from a helping hand or if you know anyone who might do so.**

Not so long ago we produced a leaflet called 'church is not just for Sundays' how true! Sunday seems to be our least hectic day of the week. It seems nothing can stop us from being a very friendly bunch of Christians who enjoy sharing our faith with others no matter what day it is; so come and try out some of our activities. You will be made to feel very welcome.

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 Rev Tracey on 668260.

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:

May - Chris Hodson - Historical Oxford

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 circulated by email; please contact mick-doyle.consult@btinternet.com 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



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01296 661540
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Guider Yvonne Ashton 01296
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Any queries contact:

Group Scout Leader: Michelle Lee 01296 668467 or
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Scouting Times:

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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 663615

Watermill: Thursday 6.30-8pm

Leader: Hattie Mackinder 01442824358

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(Continued from page 51)

The All New Sister Act

Friendly women's group meeting once a month to enjoy a variety of activities and outings;
Dates and activities as follows:

May 7th at 7pm – **walk with us from Leighton Buzzard Tesco's along the canal to the Globe** for a drink

June 1st at 3-5pm – A charity garden party is planned in the vicarage garden

July 12th at 3pm – a visit to Hampton Court flower show

September 3rd – a theatre visit

October 1st – a pamper evening

November 5th – a fashion evening

December 3rd – Christmas crafts

If you think you may be interested contact Tracey on 668260 for more details or just turn up and have some fun.

Photography Competition - Adults and Children

A big thank you to all those who purchased Christmas cards and calendars; the scheme was **a great success, which wasn't at all surprising given the excellent pictures that were submit-**

(Continued on page 62)

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'The training to understand health problems, the time to listen'

(Continued from page 61)

ted, and raised valuable funds for all three churches. We will be holding the competition again this year so get out there and start taking pictures!

Entrants can submit up to three photos electronically to mickdoyle.consult@btinternet.com

Each entry should be accompanied by the name, address, contact telephone number (both daytime and evening) and where the photo was taken. The 2014 calendars and consequently the winning images will be unveiled at the Ivinghoe Church Fete on Saturday 15th June. The competition closes at midnight on Monday 30th April 2013

All entries will be judged by a panel of judges. The judges will select thirteen photographs for each calendar which, in their opinion, best illustrate the glory of our local area. Winning entries will receive a copy of the relevant 2014 calendar. A full copy of the rules can be found at; www.ipsmchurches.co.uk.

Churches Together Souper Lent Lunches 2013

The ever popular Souper Lunches raised a total of £1162.00 which will be shared between Iain Rennie hospice at home, Save the Children, Home Start and Bucks Young Carers. It is a tremendous result, an increase on 2012, all thanks to the generosity of all who supported the events, the Soup makers, the many helpers including 10 Brookmead School children with the support of Mrs. Witherden, those who gave raffle prizes and all the people who attended. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Bucks Historic Churches Trust – Ride & Stride 2013

On Saturday 14th 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. 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 carried out on the nave roof.

Every year we have been lucky enough to have volunteers walk or ride on behalf of our local churches. **Last year they raised an amazing £523.76 and St Mary's Ivinghoe received a cheque for half of that money.** This money has been used to pay off some of the £9,000 loan needed to complete the work on the nave roof as the restoration work ended up costing more money than the Church had. We are now on the lookout for people who could take part in the sponsored event this year to 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. Many of the manned churches offer refreshments, toilet facilities

and information about the church. If you don't fancy cycling or walking but can spare an hour of your time on Saturday 14th 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 one of the team: Izzy Robinson on 01296 660724; Alex Wynne on 01296 668336; or Mary Cook on 01296 662530.

OTHER BITS

Tales from the Compost Heap - Good News for Tired Gardeners

Have you ever fully plumbed the mysteries of single digging and double digging? Whatever they are, they certainly sound like hard work and almost definitely involve a great deal of wielding of ones spade. So what could be done to make the lot of the gardener an easier one?

To protect your soil – and your back – you may find that a system that involves minimal, or no digging, suits you and your soil best. This is where compost, and other soil improvers come into the picture. Always assuming your bed has no problems with being over-compacted, compost, leaf mould and manures (well rotted or composted) can be spread **over the surface at, I'm told, the "usual rate". I think this means a fair bit, depending on what your soil is like and what it needs to improve it.** Compost and strawy animal manures **provide plant foods and improve your soil structure, whereas leaf mould doesn't have much in the way of nutrients but can be used ad lib as a means of bulking out your soil and helping it that way. What you're aiming to do is to use a combination of materials to improve your soil.**

Compost, manures and other organic materials can be put on as a mulch, or dug into the **top 6 – 8" of the soil (just a bit of digging, then). They can be put on in spring or summer, which is when they're needed to help your plants along. Needless to say, you would observe normal hygiene routines, such as washing hands well, washing produce before eating etc.**

It hardly needs to be said that there is a great deal more to know on this subject; but just for now, once the first warm days of spring arrive, take that lid off your compost bin and have a look inside. Hopefully you will find a quantity of material ready to be fished out, sieved, and barrowed off to be spread on your flower beds or veg plot. And, with luck, you will never need to find out what double digging is.

Barbara Cummings

Spring has nearly sprung....please don't park on it!

What a lovely blaze of colour that has emerged on the verges along Marsworth Road with the newly planted daffodils. Please respect the work of the volunteers who worked tirelessly to create this display last Autumn, and do not park on the verges so we can all enjoy them for as long as possible. Thank you.

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

Give Bowls a Go!

Open sessions for you

Every Tuesday at 2pm

Every Friday at 6pm

May to September

CHEDDINGTON BOWLS CLUB, your friendly local Club, is for everybody – all ages: beginners to experts.

Our Open sessions are an ideal opportunity to get to know bowls and refine your skills. Come with trainers or flat soled shoes. We will supply the rest.

Cheddington Bowls Club, The Recreation Ground, High Street,

Contacts: Nigel on 01442 824 679 or Sue on 01296 668 772



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National Vegetable Society Bucks District Association

Forthcoming events:

- Tuesday, June 18th, 6.00 p.m. onwards – Open Garden Social Evening at Chiltern Place, Nup End Lane, Wingrave, HP22 4PX. Join us for our annual visit to John & Jill **Branham's garden for a completely informal evening**. Members & guests welcome – no charge.
- Tuesday 15th or 22nd October (to be confirmed), 7.30 p.m. at Pitstone Memorial Hall. A talk on Growing in Greenhouses & Polytunnels by Rob Tasker. NVS Members Free, Guests very welcome £3.
- Tuesday, 12th November 7.30 p.m. Pitstone Memorial Hall. Roger Umpelby (the Ashton Bugman) makes a welcome return to talk to us on Kitchen Gardens. NVS Members Free, Guests very welcome £3.

• Cryptic Clue: JACK ON THE GRASS IN THE WOODS

2012 was wet, but even rain could not kill the fun and games at your local Cheddington Bowls Club located at The Recreation Ground in Cheddington High Street.

League and Cup success was on a par with last years. Celebrations included Pete Rowling (Leighton Buzzard) representing the County at the National Championships and a great victory over the very strong Chesham Club. Steve and Sue Molnar (Pitstone) won the new Nominated Pairs competition and Richard Jacob (Pitstone) was Match Player of the Year.

2012 was fun. Ours is a friendly and social Club. FAD Friday evenings were a great success welcoming new comers to GIVE BOWLS A GO with a bite to eat and a drink from the bar. On Tuesday afternoons it was tea and biscuits. The famed Molnar BBQs, Race Night, Beetle **Drive, Bingo, Christmas Party and Short Mat Monday evening's tasty treats all went down** well.

We are especially appreciative of Geoff Roberts (Cheddington) for his devotion to, and the **plaudits received, for running our Men's Gala so successfully over many years; 2012 being his** last. We too are in debt to our great team of groundsmen, which includes Dave Skip (Pitstone) and Ted Bateman (Ivinghoe). The team work through the year; mowing two or three times a week, top dressing to level, repairing boundary ditches etc. to produce a green that meets the highest standards and is a joy to the eye – you should come see.

2013 PROMISES MORE. Time for you to GIVE BOWLS A GO? A Tuesday afternoon or Friday evening in May would be an ideal time to start. Or come and enjoy a tea or drink from the bar and watch a game or two. Bowls is a truly great game to play. You will make new friends, be exercising without really noticing it and, importantly, you will be having fun in the fresh air. I look forward to meeting you at the Club.

Chairman of Cheddington Bowls Club: Tony Duke 01525 220644.

Answer: Bowls: Aim your bowls (woods) over the grass to be nearest the jack (target ball)



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 ½ 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 or visit: www.cheddingtonpreschool.co.uk

Marsworth Pre School



Marsworth Millennium Hall, Vicarage Road, Marsworth HP23 4LR
Tel: 07506 179658 Email: enquiries@marsworthpreschool.org.uk

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 2 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



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

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For more information please visit

www.pitstoneandivinghoetoddlers.btck.co.uk

Facebook: Pitstone and Ivinghoe baby and toddler group

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 <p>Chairman, Cllr Robert Saintey 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>Vice Chairman, Cllr Ben Blunt 4 Ridgeway View, LU7 9AR T: 660702 E: ben@strategyhr.co.uk Vice Chairman of the Council, Pitstone Development Area Working Party, Planning Committee, Pavilion Committee, Staffing Committee, Waste/Minerals, Brookmead Governor, Interim PPP Editor, Local Area Forums, leader of Recreation Ground/Leisure and Skate Park Projects, Neighbourhood Planning</p>
 <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, village 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>
 <p>Cllr Klaus Ginda 7 Chequers Close, LU7 9AF, T: 668911 E: Klausginda@btinternet.com Rep. on the Pitstone Development Area Working Party, the Pavilion Committee, Street Lighting, Leisure and Skate Park Project, PPP Advertising, VAHT, Police Issues</p>	 <p>Cllr Mary Ann Monaghan 103 Windsor Road, LU7 9GG T: 662412, E: mamonaghan59@aol.com PPC Communications, Castlemead Representative</p>
 <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>