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Mobile Library (1st Tuesday each
month)
Yardley Ave Health Centre:
2.40pm - 3.15pm



Cover picture: Mr Bertrand Wright,
with thanks.

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Deadline for articles for the
Spring edition is **11th April 2014**.
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.

Welcome to the 100th edition of Pitstone Parish Post

On the publication of this 100th edition of PPP – I spoke with Cllr Gill Arney to find out a little bit about the evolution of the magazine.

Back in 1989, Margaret Thatcher was still Prime Minister, the Berlin Wall came down, Rupert Murdoch launched Sky TV and at the edge of the Chiltern Hills, in a much smaller Pitstone Parish than today, the first PPP was published. The Cement Works dominated the life of the village at that time, a mark on the landscape for miles around; Old Farm had not long been completed and the village itself in terms of population was around 1900 people. The official population of the village now stands at 2952 (Census, 2011), although the real figure is now higher given the final phase of Castlemead has since completed and the village continues to grow.

Gill tells me that PPP was originally intended to be “the Parish Council’s organ for the dissemination of information” and most definitely “not a magazine”. I couldn’t help notice that “not” was the operative word from Gill’s voice.

Gareth Davies was its first Editor and from what I understand a founding father of PPP. Gareth, then a Parish Councillor, was supported by John Byrom with printing and duplicating drawing on his expertise at Rank Xerox. PPP started life as a couple of A4 sides of paper to do just that – disseminate information. A succession of Editors has since followed – Pat Camplin-Smith, May Everton, Sally Kapadia, Sue Nicholls (stint 1), Louise Ogelman, Sue Nicholls (stint 2) and now myself. **We don’t think we’ve missed anyone, but apologies if we have. I’ve been holding the reins for the last few years so it doesn’t fall by the wayside, ever hopeful that a new Editor can be found soon with more time to spare than a working father of three...it would be a shame for it to stop, particularly as looking back it has quite a history.**

In the 25 years since, it has moved from something more resembling a pamphlet to the 70-80 page magazine you receive today. Now published 4 times a year by a volunteer editor and volunteer **advertising manager, we have approaching 50 advertisers, and the PPP is self financing so we don’t have** to put it on the precept. Something we are quite proud of and not bad value for money really. In fact, Gill tells me that back in the early days of PPP, the team used to collect aluminium cans around the village, then sell them in Luton, to raise money to pay for it. Very enterprising and it sounds like **that founding principle of PPP “paying its way” hasn’t changed over the last quarter of a century.**

Over the last 25 years many people have supported the PPP, particularly successive Parish Clerks and our committed team of distribution volunteers who go out – rain and shine – to disseminate that well **known ‘organ of village information’ through your door once a quarter.**

Our mission today has moved on a little bit. **It is now simply ‘to inform and enhance the lives of people in Pitstone’, probably much the same really as 25 years ago, just said a little differently.** Letting **people know what goes on, who’s who, how to get involved** – all small things maybe, but things that our readers seem to appreciate and the Parish Council thinks is important given our rural setting.

So, Happy 25th Birthday PPP, and long may you continue. Thanks to all those past, present and future who have made, and will continue to make, this publication possible.

Enjoy the edition,
Ben Blunt—Editor.



FROM THE CHAIRMAN, PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

As you have read, this is the one hundredth edition of the PPP. From its humble beginnings 25 years ago, as a single, double-sided A4 sheet to the glossy, highly professional document that it is now, is no mean feat. All credit must go to a succession of editors and production managers who have all continued to improve and enlarge the publication that you are receiving today.

You will have noticed that there has been some tree work done on the recreation ground and at the crossroads. These trees were deemed to be diseased or too big for their current situation. We have been extremely lucky not to be on a major river course or flood plain, which has resulted in some terrible damage of property and land. The only thing we have experienced is some minor flooding around the crossroads, which in the great scheme of things is nothing at all.

I am pleased to be able to report that a successful prosecution has been made against fly tippers in our area. If you should witness Fly Tipping taking place, please ring 0845 330 1856 or report it on line at www.buckscc.gov.uk/fly. Take photographs but do not approach miscreants.

To conclude, Spring is on its way and to note that this time last year we were snowed in with sub-zero temperatures. **Let's all hope that we will start to see warmer and drier days** soon. Bob Saintey.



COUNCIL NEWS

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

By Avril Davies, District and County Councillor, Ivinghoe Division

I am writing this on 17th January - so not too late for New Year greetings - even though it **feels to me as if a whole month's work has** been squeezed in to the last ten days and the holiday is far away.

District Local Plan

So far AVDC has spent going on for £3M bringing forward two new district wide plans to replace the one covering 2004-11. Both have had to be withdrawn as unsound following public enquiry. A special Council has been called by my group to ask the cabinet to account for this.

The latest failure, announced in the second week of January, was because the enquiry concluded there were inadequate housing numbers and jobs to meet the future needs of the District, and that AVDC had acted in isolation, with insufficient co-operation with neighbouring authorities such as Milton Keynes, Luton and Leighton Buzzard.

One of the fundamental problems with the plan was that early on in the process a highly contested decision was made, probably on political grounds, to move one development away from the south of Aylesbury, near Stoke Mandeville and Weston Turville, and re-site it to the east, near Berton. Later on the proposed total housing numbers were halved.

As a result of the first plan being rejected many speculative applications have been submitted for huge developments in **Aylesbury Vale**. The District has 'saved' its most important policies from the 2008-11 plan and is able to apply them to planning applications so long as they are in line with the new 56 pages of national planning policy guidance (NPPG).

Saved Policy RA14 has previously been upheld twice in appeals relating to land at Rushendon Furlong. It remains to be tested as to whether it is in line with the NPPG or not. A similar planning application in Winslow is coming to committee on January 29th, which will indicate how strong RA14 remains:

RA.14 On the edge of the built-up areas of settlements listed in Appendix 4 of the Plan permission may be granted for residential or mixed-use development of up to 5 dwellings on a site not exceeding 0.2 ha where:

- a) the site is substantially enclosed by existing development*
- b) the proposal would satisfactorily complete the settlement pattern without intruding into the countryside; and*
- c) the proposal does not comprise the partial development of a larger site.*

Proposals should use land efficiently and create a well-defined boundary between the settlement and the countryside. Permission will not be granted for development that impairs the char-

acter or identity of the settlement or the adjoining rural area.

County Council Budget

The County Council continues to take large sums of money out of its operating budget. In the first week of January the proposals were minutely examined in public by councillors in a very similar fashion to the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee. But questioning was a bit less intimidating.

Many changes and staff reductions are proposed, but the headlines for cuts are the home to school transport budget, which is very bad news for parents in this area, so I will be doing my utmost to stave off the worst effects; the educational psychology services – again; and maintenance of footpaths and rights of way.

The state of the roads is never out of sight, but a 20 year structural maintenance programme seems as far away as ever, and only short term but increased spending approved.

At the time of writing the council tax proposal is for the minimum increase possible **without a local referendum, 1.9%. But it's** impossible to predict as the threshold for a referendum may be reduced to 1%.

High speed broadband (non) delivery

The BT anticipation (promise?) of high speed broadband to Pitstone and not-quite-so-fast to Ivinghoe by 31st December 2013 remains unfulfilled. Contention is still appalling at peak times, like 4.30pm and 6.55pm for some reason. The new published date is 31st March 2014.

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Skate Park and Play Area: Pitstone Recreation Ground

The Parish Council undertook extensive community consultation on designs for a new play area at the Recreation Ground in 2013, and appointed HUCK Play to install this for the community. When delivered this will be an exciting and stimulating new play area delivered with S106 leisure monies. We had hoped that installation of this would be commencing shortly and this project would have been delivered during 2014. In addition, in 2013 The Parish Council commissioned Aylesbury Vale District Council to undertake on our behalf a public procurement exercise for a new Skate Park on the same site, following significant work done with the user group during 2012, and similarly we had hoped this would have progressed further, if not delivered, by now.

The delivery of these projects has been delayed. Unfortunately, due to restrictions placed on the landowners of the identified site by the Charity Commission (the land is currently owned by Pitstone Parish Charity), there is now an unforeseen delay to the delivery of these projects. The Parish Council continues to work hard to bring these legal and financial matters to a conclusion.

The Parish Council has invested significant time and resources in getting to this point, and is as frustrated as residents are about this hold up. We are working hard to find a resolution on this with the landowner under the guidance of our Land Agent, in order to find a way forward. We will keep you updated via PPP, on our website and other communication channels during 2014.

Vandalism: Bus Shelters, Marsworth Road

Between the evening of Saturday 18th January 2014 and early hours of Sunday 19th January 2014 the bus shelters in Marsworth Rd were criminally damaged. Three panels of glass were smashed on the one nearest the Crescent, and one panel smashed on the shelter nearest the recreation ground. The Parish Council is reviewing CCTV footage from the Memorial Hall to see if any of the perpetrators can be identified so this evidence can be passed to the police.

This is the second time in recent months this has happened causing in excess of £1,000 worth of damage. Costs that get passed onto the Council Tax payers of the village, as a consequence of these actions.

If you saw or heard anything, or know who is responsible, please contact the Police on 101 or information can be passed to the Parish Clerk.

Fly tipping prosecution – Ashridge National Trust estate

In the last PPP, it was reported that fly tipping had blighted parts of the Ashridge Estate, an area of outstanding natural beauty on our doorstep. Many residents and users complained about these vandalous acts. To make it worse, the Parish Council was saddened to learn that one of the offenders was a Pitstone resident who recently pleaded **guilty at Aylesbury Magistrates' Court** to dumping waste illegally and was fined over £2,000.

The case, one of more than 400 convictions since it launched its Illegal Dumping Costs campaign in October 2003 to combat fly

tipping in Buckinghamshire, was brought by Buckinghamshire County Council on behalf of the Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire. On average, there is at least one conviction per week for illegal dumping offences in Buckinghamshire so at least action is being taken to protect our environment and recover costs that ultimately would be passed onto the Council Tax payer.

Residents can report fly-tipping in Buckinghamshire by calling 0845 330 1856 or report it online at www.buckscc.gov.uk/fly. It is also advised that if you are employing individuals to remove waste from your property that you check the contractor or individual has the required waste permit to dispose of it on your behalf, to avoid being held liable if it is then dumped illegally.

Party In The Park 2014 – put it in your diaries!

Hopefully many of you enjoyed the ‘Party In The Park’ last July held on Pitstone Recreation Ground in the glorious sunshine. A great day with over 2,000 people attending throughout the afternoon. The event raised well over £10,000 for local causes, including our main charity for the event - Cure Rett.

We will be holding it again this year – so make a note in your diaries now for Saturday July 12th 2014.

Once again it is completely free to attend - there will be a variety of live music all afternoon and into the evening from the main stage, great food, local real ales and craft stalls. And once again we will be raising money for good causes. Hopefully the sun will put his hat on again too!

If you would like to be involved as a volunteer on the day, or if you would like to perform or take a stall – please drop me an email stevemattey@gmail.com.

Dog fouling (again...)

The Parish Council continues to receive complaints about the level of dog fouling in different parts of the village. It would seem that despite continued pleas for consideration from offending owners (who are no doubt in the minority of dog owners it should be reiterated, many of whom are very responsible on this issue) the situation has not improved.

The Parish Council has invested in stickers (pictured below) that residents may wish to stick in their windows or onto your property. These are hoped to further raise awareness of the collective opinion on this.



Whilst a small thing, we hope that through continued awareness and community support in highlighting of the issue, those responsible who seem to lack any respect for the environment that we live in, may assume some responsibility for their dogs. If you wish to get a sticker, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council.

Dog fouling is not only unpleasant it is dan-

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gerous, with the biggest threat to public health from dog excrement being toxocarasis. It is the responsibility of the dog owner or the person in charge of the dog to clear up any dog foul left by their dog. If you fail to clean up after your dog you can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice, or if the case goes to court a fine of up to £1,000. The regulations state specifically that being unaware that the dog has fouled, or not having a suitable means of removing the faeces is not a reasonable excuse for failing to clean up after your dog.

Unfortunately, only the dog warden, authorised officers from Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) and police community support officers (PCSOs) can enforce the legislation associated with dog fouling. If you have evidence of a dog fouling offence it should be forwarded to the relevant authority for action. The Dog Warden can be contacted on 0844 4828346 or via 01296 585605 or envhealth@aylesburyvale.gov.uk. The police community support officers by calling 101. Interestingly the Police 101 discourages residents from reporting it to them, although they do have the powers of enforcement so we would encourage you to raise it with them, as well.

LETTERS

Congratulations and Thanks to CuriosiTEA Rooms

Congratulations go to all at the new tea rooms in Ivinghoe. Shirley and I spent many hours there enjoying a meal, and we recommend it to anybody around the area. I recommend the full breakfast. The staff there are so kind and also make you so welcome.
Joe Marling.

Party In The Park With A Big Heart!

In the last PPP issue we heard what a fabulous day Party in the Park was and I wanted in this issue to take the opportunity to say a BIG Thank You to everyone for making it a great success from Cure Rett. Huge thanks goes also to the amazing parents who helped with the Find A Cure For Frankie Stalls, the committee who helped with all the organising and all who attended and donated on the day... we raised £5k for Cure Rett, and with fund matching from Barclays and HSBC, got close to 8k—an absolutely fantastic amount!

We are so grateful for the support we have been given and the generosity shown by the community. For those that don't know what Rett Syndrome is ... my daughter Frankie has this genetic condition, which is primarily a female disorder and means that most girls who suffer cannot walk, talk, or use their hands, they suffer from seizures, scoliosis and many are tube fed. All require 24hr care for the rest of their lives. With the help of fundraising events like these we hope to get closer to a cure and set these girls free.

For more information please visit currett.org.uk. *Rita Ross*

EDUCATION

Brookmead School Children continue to blossom

This spring term looks to be a busy one; with some children travelling into space, others will be learning about the Great Fire

of London, some will be getting to grips with life in ancient Greece, whilst others explore conditions in the rain forests.

All this learning is being brought to life whilst the building upgrade is completed including; nine fully refurbished classrooms, a new hall and library (with fabulous new books), and we will let you know in due course what our plans are for showing off all our new learning spaces.

With help from the community and our parents, we will have also completed the clearance of the Brook in preparation for an additional outdoor learning space that will become an integral part of our successful Forest School, which is now firmly established as one of our Brookmead treasures, where our children can explore and have experiences that a classroom setting cannot offer.

There are a number of new opportunities for parents and the community to participate in our new Energy Club and Flametree after school drama club, details of which can be obtained from Mrs Kerr at the school office on 01296 668543.

We have a governor vacancy too, and would be keen to hear from you if you have particular skills that you are able to offer. Please contact the chair of governors, Elizabeth Young via the school office: office@brookmead.bucks.sch.uk. Equally, your feedback and questions are always welcome and can be sent to the same address.

WINDMILL PRE-SCHOOL

It's the beginning of a new calendar year so on behalf of the Voluntary Manage-



ment Committee and staff at Windmill Pre-School, we wish all our supporters within the local community a very Happy New Year – although by the time you receive **this, a slightly belated one!** **We'd also like** to thank you for your continued support as we move forward in to the last two terms of this academic year.

We'd like to welcome all our new parents, carers and children that started this term and hope you enjoy your time at Windmill Pre-School. This term will offer continued opportunities for parents to get involved with their pre-schoolers early education and **we've got some great fundraising events** planned to help raise additional funds for toys, equipment, games and crafts so we hope parents, friends and family members as well as the local community will continue to support them.

Changes to opening hours

Due to the demand for places, Windmill Pre-School is now open for five full days and our session times have also changed to accommodate a morning session of three hours and an afternoon session of three hours. Our morning sessions are now 9.00am until midday and the afternoon session is midday until 3.00pm. When places permit, we offer an additional hour to the morning session where children can stay for a Lunch Club, however due to the demand for places, the allocation of Lunch Club sessions changes on a term by term basis.

Because of the continuing development of Pitstone and the surrounding area, and therefore 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

(Continued on page 12)

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..."



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

Source: Ofsted report June 2011

From January 2014 we will be open 5 full days per week

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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after they turn three). This will prove favourable when there are children of the same age waiting for a place, especially when places will be offered to those who have been on the waiting list longer, so therefore it is never too early to sign up. Places fill up fast – particularly as we now welcome children from the age of two so to put your child's name on the waiting list, please email admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk

Staff update

In December we were sad to see Sharon Berry leave the setting to pursue other opportunities. We wish her well in all her future endeavours and thank her for the commitment she showed whilst at Windmill Pre-School. Her sunny disposition will certainly be missed by the parents and children. The Voluntary Management Committee is currently going through the recruitment process to find a suitable alternative, however in the meantime, we have appointed an Early Years Consultant to act as Interim Leader. She is being supported by Joe Coleman as our Co-Deputy Leader and newly promoted Co-Deputy Tracey Spivey, as well as the staff and the Voluntary Management Committee. We are positive that in the next edition of the PPP, we will be able to announce the appointment of our new Leader.

Fundraising and Events

At the end of the last term we staged our annual Christmas performance. The children performed brilliantly and everyone that came to watch thoroughly enjoyed the show. Thank you to staff from the local Sure Start Centre for providing festive crafts that kept the children occupied once the performance was finished until they had their turn to visit Father Christmas in his grotto. We also had a professional face painter that created lots of festive faces and the Voluntary Management Committee put on a great spread of festive refreshments and a Christmas raffle. **Thanks to everyone's support and generous donations, we raised a great amount of money that will benefit each and every one of our pre-schoolers.**

During the rest of the year, we have some great events planned, which we hope you will support us:

February: Textile recycling

May: Family photography session with Photography by Carrie / Quiz Night

June: Ivinghoe church fete / annual sponsored walk around the villages

July: Textile Recycling

Most of our events are open to everyone, so not just parents with children at Windmill and we hope that we can count on your continued support throughout the year. Keep an eye out on our website for more information.

Getting involved

Part of our success as a pre-school is the role the parents play within the setting. We currently have a 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 equivalent check if you volunteer on a regular basis**), 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 also 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 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 also members of the local community. Members of 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 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 in the evening and we also have regular staff and Committee social events! If you are interested in joining our team, please get in contact.

Gail Dodsworth, Chair, Voluntary Management Committee

CHURCHES

ST MARY'S IVINGHOE

Dear Reader,

It's hard to believe that this is my final magazine article. I have had the most wonderful 10 years with you all and I will miss you very much but I shall always treasure my time with you

(Continued on page 16)



Girlguiding

Buckinghamshire

- Rainbows: Monday 4.30 - 5.30 p.m.
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Guider Elaine Thorogood
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- Brownies: Monday 5.45 - 7.15 p.m.
Pitstone Memorial Hall
Guider Elaine Thorogood
01296 661540
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Millennium Room, Pitstone
Memorial Hall
Guider Yvonne Ashton 01296
660044

"To join us, please visit our website at
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1st Ivinghoe & Pitstone Scout Group

Any queries contact:

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

Scouting Times:

Beavers: (5½-8years)

Watermill: Monday 6-7pm

Leader: Andy Broad

Windmill: Monday 7-8pm

Leader: Keith Steers

Contact: Michelle as above

Cubs: (8-10½ years)

Windmill: Wednesday 6.30-8pm

Leaders: Rob or Andrea Haddock 01296 663615

Watermill: Thursday 6.30-8pm

Leader: Mattie Mackinder 01442824358

Scouts : (10½-14years)

Friday 7.30-9pm

Leaders: Russell or Rachel Smith 01296661213

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St. Mary's, Ivinghoe

and thank God for all the blessings that knowing and working with you has brought me.

From the very first day of becoming your priest, the whole community welcomed Mick, Mel and myself with open arms and it is a huge wrench for us to leave you, but we know the time is right and we are being called to new pastures and adventures.

May we wish you all every blessing for the future as you too begin your new journey together.

Much love,
Rev Tracey, Mick and Mel xx

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 at Ivinghoe church

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 Sandra Green on 668648.

Men's Group

The men's group are looking forward to another year of varied events and will be meeting very soon to plan the year ahead.

We have an event each month; always relaxed, generally fairly unstructured and inevitably involving food and ale. Detailed information on events is circulated by email; please contact charles.e.thorogood@btinternet.com to be included in the circulation. New members and new ideas are always welcome.

Food Bank

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

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	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
Marsworth	8 am BCP Holy Communion	6pm BCP Evensong	10am Holy Communion	10am Worshipping together family service	10.30 am * Benefice H/C
Ivinghoe	10am Worshipping together family service	9.15 am Holy Communion	9.15am Morning Praise	9.15 am Holy Communion	10.30 am * Benefice H/C
Slapton	10.30am Morning Praise	10.30am Holy Communion	10am Messy church in the village hall.	10.30am Holy Communion	10.30 am * Benefice H/C

* Benefice service rotating round the three parishes

(Continued from page 16)

* Benefice service rotating round the three parishes

RIDE AND STRIDE UPDATE

On behalf of St Mary's Ivinghoe, I have now received a cheque from Bucks Historic

Churches Trust in the sum of £408.50 so the total we raised this year including gift aid was £817 which is brilliant.

Once again, a big thank you to our walkers Mary Cook and Brenda McAllister, our cyclists Chris Grimmette, the Ivinghoe Velos Tea Ride team, Elizabeth Carpenter and Charlotte Robinson and to our horse rider Chloe Kendrick. All of whom braved the elements to raise such a magnificent sum.

Izzy Robinson

CHURCHES TOGETHER: SOUPER LENT LUNCHES

We will be holding both of our popular SOUPER LUNCHES in March this year. There will be a range of delicious homemade soups, bread, cheese and fruit and a raffle will be held at both events.

It is a pleasant social occasion while raising valuable funds to help some local charities. Put

the dates in your diary and watch out for the posters with all the details, next month or ring Alex on tel 668336.

Thursday March 13th at Pitstone Memorial Hall 12.00-1.30pm

Thursday March 27th at Ivinghoe Town Hall 12.00-1.30pm

WREATH MAKING AT ITS BEST!

On Saturday 7th December the Friends of St. Mary's ran their ever popular Christmas Wreath Making Course.

40 ladies from Ivinghoe, Pitstone and further afield descended on Ivinghoe Town Hall for 2.5 hrs of Christmas cheer and creativity. After much hard work, tempered by a glass of warm mulled wine and the tunes of Michael Buble, each attendee produced an impressive and simply stunning wreath worthy of adorning any country mansion door!

Special thanks goes to all those who so kindly allowed us to prune their gardens in our foliage collection exercise and in particular to Neil Rogers of Goose Hill Farm Ringshall for his generous donations of Nordic spruce and fur. In addition thank you to local businesses that donated prizes for the prize draw, which was held during the day and especially to Samsung for the first prize of a Smartphone.

The day was a roaring success and through everyone's kindness and generosity we were delighted to have raised a grand total of £940. This will be divided equally between two very worthy charities – the Friends of St. Mary's church Restoration Fund and to Keech Hospice Care.

PASTOR DAVE CALLING

May I be one of the last to wish you a Happy New Year, since you won't be reading this until 2014 is well under way.

Well that was Christmas (and New Year) and what have you done? Another year over and a new one just begun. Not often I would quote from the bard of Liverpool, John Lennon, **but these phrases do make you think don't they? In January I reached a significant age, one I couldn't even imagine at fifteen or sixteen, and when I dwell on it I begin to wonder 'what have I achieved?' In my vocation you don't always see the fruit of your labour, but you never know what seeds you have sown in the lives of those you have met.** Prior to coming here as a Pastor I spent thirty odd years in a secondary school, believe me some years were very odd. The school roll started at 1700 plus for the first half of my career and then the baby boom came to an end it settled to between 1000 to 1100. I meditated on this the first Sunday in 2014 with the fellowship and came to the conclusion that I had met, worked with, taught, disciplined and befriended in excess of 20,000 people, including staff.

(Continued on page 22)



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First Thursday Friends

CREAM TEAS

DATE: **THURSDAY
6TH FEBRUARY 2014**

WHERE: The Millennium Room at
Pitstone Memorial Hall

TIME: From 2 p.m.

Do come and join us for friendly chat and
cream teas from £2.

FILM MATINEES

DATE: **THURSDAY
6TH MARCH 2014**

WHERE: The Millennium Room at
Pitstone Memorial Hall

TIME: 2 p.m. tea / coffee then film

Film free - contribution for
refreshments and venue welcome.



'First Thursday Friends' events are open to everyone and are organized by the Chapel Fellowship - a Christian group who meet in the Millennium Room each Sunday at 10.50.

GOODBYE VICAR!

Reverend Tracey Doyle leads me to her office. The floor is piled high with open boxes and she gives me a **weary look**. **'There's so much to do, paperwork to Oxford Diocese, things to leave here and things to take with us.'**

'How long have you been in Ivinghoe, Tracey?' I ask **sympathetically**. **'Ten years,'** she replies, **'in fact it will be exactly ten years from the day I was installed as your priest to my last service on 23rd February.'**

She tells me that she always planned to be here for ten years but that the exact date is just a coincidence. 10 years of serving our community, working a six-day week with only four Sundays and two single weeks off each year. Of course she is on call all the time and if someone needs her on her day off, she goes to them without question.

Tracey and her husband Mick own a house in North Devon, where they plan to settle. Mick, a retired police officer, is a consultant, travelling all over the world running training courses for police officers, on road traffic safety.

Of course, those of us who know Tracey won't be surprised to hear that after a total of seventeen years as a minister she isn't going to sit in Devon twiddling her thumbs. Once her son has married, in Cyprus, an opportunity for a well-deserved holiday, Tracey and Mick plan to set up their Devon home as a bed and breakfast establishment. Tracey also wants to run a Christian retreat and do some work with The Children's Society. Then, after six months 'off' she will start doing some children's work with the church. She has also promised to care for her grandchildren one day per week. Mick will take visitors on walks and run photography sessions. It doesn't sound like much of a rest does it?

Am I allowed to ask who we can expect to take her place, I wonder? 'Nobody, for about nine months.' There is a retired vicar locally who can carry out communion and such like, and Sandra Green and the Church Wardens will keep things ticking over until the new incumbent is appointed.

'Well,' I say finally, **'is there anything you'd like me to put in this article?'** I'll leave these last words to Tracey. **'I've really loved every moment of my time here; it's been a fantastic experience. People have been wonderful and it's something I shall always remember and treasure.'**



(Continued from page 19)

Each one was a potential opportunity to sow seed – **though I can't claim that it was always good seed and good soil, just as in the parable, but what a lot opportunities. The right word and a person can spring into life and a glittering career – a wrong one and we can shatter dreams, destroy confidence and ruin a person's God given potential for good.**

Maybe it's not good to look back too much. L. P. Hartley, author of 'The Go-between', starts the novel with these words: 'The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.' For those who can remember 50 years back, it probably seems like a different world; and it was. Too much looking back can end in regret, guilt, dwelling on lost opportunities and an inability to repair relationships. Retrospection can be wonderful if we learn from the mistakes we made, but how many of us really do learn and avoid the same mistakes again? Be honest.

New Year brings new hope, a chance to look forward: Isaiah 43:18 says "'Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new.' (The Message). That's hope – looking forward in expectation even though we don't see the light at the end of the tunnel. 'The Fellowship' have been doing that year after year for a long time now and so it continues.

We had a great 'DIY Nativity' – thanks to Bob Saintey and Ben Blunt (and kids) for taking part. The band once again were amazing and provided a wonderful experience to singing carols old and new. I think everyone enjoyed the afternoon despite technical difficulties of computers shutting down mid carol. We take up our monthly 'Thursday Friends' on February 6th with Cream Tea and March 6th with a Film Matinee. Both at the Millennium Hall starting 2.00p.m. – ALL (whatever age) WELCOME.

Finally, let me say I took my first funeral for one of our members in December, five years after taking up post here, Miss Jill Watson – it was a privilege. Two more have recently gone into care homes, so you see we are beginning to decrease in size again. All are welcome on Sunday at 10.30am. **We are looking forward to good things in 2014, but I'd hate to be quoting Joni Mitchell in my next message, 'you don't know what you've got till it's gone.'**

Every blessing for 2014 from the Fellowship.
Pastor Dave Clifford – 01296 668906

COMMUNITY GROUPS

1ST IVINGHOE & PITSTONE SCOUTS GROUP

Hello let me introduce myself. My name is Keith Steers and I am the New Group Scout Leader for 1st Ivinghoe & Pitstone scout group. We need your help, we are about to go

through some major changes and as our motto says we want to be prepared. We are in serious need of new leaders for both our Thursday night Cubs pack and our Friday night Scouts group. Without new leaders coming forward we are in serious threat of losing both. Between now and the summer term we are losing all our Scout leaders and two of the four Cub leaders and our Group Scout Leader. Ideally we would like to recruit now to enable new leaders to work alongside existing leaders for a period of time ready for a smooth transfer. We are currently looking to recruit new leaders for both our Cub and Scout sections and also our Executive committee, so we thought who better to tell you about the roles than the leaders themselves. So this is what they had to say...

Beaver Scouts is for all Children aged 5¾ up to 8.

So what do Beaver Scouts Do? Well the Scout website tells us this:

“We are the UK's biggest mixed youth organisation. We change lives by offering 6- to 25-year-olds fun and challenging activities, unique experiences, everyday adventure and the chance to help others so that we make a positive impact in communities”.

That's a pretty good summary actually, certainly describes what Ivinghoe and Pitstone Beavers have been up to in the past 18 months. We've visited Fire Stations, had Police Officers visit us in the hut, been on a Canal Boat, had Red Indian themed sleepovers, and been on climbing walls, wooden sled runs, obstacle courses and crate stacking. We always Hike at least once a term, sometimes in the dark and sometimes in the snow.

We've conducted Tree Safari's at Ashridge where we identified 12 different tree species and grown Hyacinths for Christmas. We play lots of different games, challenging the Beavers to learn new skills, work as a team and think of and help others. We take part in District events like Orienteering at Wendover, Swimming Galas, Christmas Parties and going to Warwick Castle to name a few, Beavers meet other Beavers from around the area at these events and make new friends. And this is just a few of things we do.

*Of course none of this is possible without the Adult Leader volunteers, and I joined Scouting in July 2012 to support my children who were Beavers at the time. When I first started I was showered with support and training to get me on my way and running (hopefully) a happy and successful Beaver Colony. I can honestly say I've enjoyed every single minute I've spent with the Beaver Colony and **I've learnt an enormous amount. It's so much fun, I now volunteer and help out at I&P Camps whenever I can.***

Andy Broad, Beaver Scout Leader, I&P Scouts.

Cub Scouts is for all Children aged 8 up to 10½

There's never a dull moment being a cub leader! When I took on the role nearly 4 years ago, I had no background in cubs and only managed being a brownie for a year or so, but that didn't seem to

(Continued on page 28)

Williamson Trust and Pitstone Town Lands Charity

Current priorities are to put the new assets to the best possible use in pursuing the charities' **objectives of supporting Pitstone people in need. A new tenant farmer has been contracted to farm the newly acquired fields and the rental income from this is an important part of the charity's resources.**

The Trustees are now turning their attention to the accommodation owned by PTLC. In previous centuries, the charity had owned several properties in the village and it still owns a large building on Cheddington Road which was converted from two houses into four flats in the mid 1960s. However, the properties are considerably older than this, having originally been built in the 19th century. The Trustees are exploring ways of improving the quality of this accommodation and whether they can attract additional grants or use the land around the flats or other assets to provide more modern facilities and possibly additional flats. They would like to hear from local people about whether and how this would benefit them. The charity can only support people with a strong Pitstone connection. At the Party in the Park in July, the Trustees began a consultation and are inviting people to make any comments or suggestions and to answer these questions:

- How are you connected to Pitstone?
- Do you wish to be considered if one of our one bedroom flats becomes available for rent? If so, what are your current living circumstances?
- Have you or a family member from Pitstone had to leave the area in order to obtain affordable rented accommodation?
- Do you consider yourself to be in need of any other type of accommodation in Pitstone which could be provided by a charity established to support Pitstone people in genuine need? If so, what type of accommodation would that be?
- What is your age group?

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:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| • Gill Lowe (Chair), 21 Rushendon Furlong | ☎ 01296 668809 |
| • Kate Smethers (Treasurer), 41 Albion Road | ☎ 01296 661499 |
| • Mark Robinson, 77 Crispin Field | ☎ 01296 660724 |
| • Peter Loose, 21 Albion Road | ☎ 01296 668051 |
| • Sue Gregory, 4 The Crescent | ☎ 01296 661609 |
| • Dave Nicholls, 64 Marsworth Road | ☎ 01296 661910 |
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(Continued from page 23)

matter. There's lots of support from the other leaders and from the Scouting organisation. It's great to see the cubs enjoying themselves and being challenged to do something new from time to time. Same for me too!

We've tried some tricky crafts such as making snow shoes from willow, dying cloth using natural dyes, cooking welsh cakes on a camp fire to name just a few. Trips feature highly on our programme with recent visits to a mosque in Luton and an observatory on the other side of Aylesbury, as well as a guided tour of the London Gliding Club airfield. The highlights of our year are the camps. There are a number of scout camps near us and most offer organised activities such as archery, climbing, pioneering, with some water camps involving sailing and canoeing. As leaders we even get to have a go from time to time - preferably not when the cubs are watching as they're often better at it than us!

It can be hard work now and again but it's really worthwhile and there are loads of ways to get involved. Don't be shy give us a call.

Andrea Squires, Cub Leader.

Scouts is for all Children aged 10½ up to 14

'It's really rewarding being a scout leader. You get to work with a broad range of ages (from 10 - 14) and this can often be challenging. However, young people are very creative and great fun. We tend to spend as much time outside as we can: camping, cooking and exploring in all weathers. You really get out of it what you put in and the skills you can learn are almost endless.

It's also a great excuse to do all the things you've always wanted to do like: sleep in a hammock or in Tring Museum, hold a Fish eagle. travel the world, cook with King's Head chefs and learn how to MOT a car. There is no point in moaning about the 'youth of today'. This is your opportunity to interact with them and help them to become a valuable part of our community.'

*Russell, Rachel & Tony
1st Ivinghoe & Pitstone Scouts*

The Group Executive Committee

Meeting four times a year on average, their role is to support the Group Scout Leader on meeting the responsibilities of their appointments. Included within these are the following roles: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and parents and supporters of our Scout Group.

- The maintenance of the Groups property and equipment.
- The raising of funds and the administration of the groups finances.
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment.
- The organization of Group public occasions.

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Assisting with the recruitment of leaders and other adult support.

If you are interested in finding out anymore about any of these positions or would like to go along and see for yourself what we get up to, please give me a call or email me for more information: Keith Steers (Group Scout Leader) - 07899 696722 or 01296 662781- Email Ksteers@aol.com or Mr Bob Ford (Executive Committee Chair) Tel 01296 662683 - Email bob.ford@daftrucks.com



PITSTONE AND IVINGHOE TODDLER GROUP

Pitstone and Ivinghoe Baby and Toddler Group ended 2013 in style with a Christmas themed party. We even had a visit from Father Christmas which was met with mixed emotions from the children! Many thanks to Sarah Ella who gave up her time to come and take photos of the

children meeting Santa and whether smiles or tears, they were moments to remember forever. Thanks too to Debbie Bolam who came and ran a Melody Movement session with the children at the party.

We also held a fun Halloween session at the end of October, just before we broke up for half term. Many of the children dressed up in costumes and they enjoyed spooky food at snack time including marshmallow ghosts, skeleton biscuits and bat biscuits. They also enjoyed Halloween crafts and games. Instead of apple bobbing, the children enjoyed trying to eat brioche hanging down on strings!

Other activities for last term included a photographic session by Carrie where parents had **the opportunity to have photos taken of their children. We made sure messy play wasn't too messy that day!** Our regular hairdresser, Lara came too, cutting the children's hair in a fun environment.

Everyone enjoyed tractor rides to see the Windmill during harvest celebrations, played with space rockets for National Space Week and made matchmaker fireworks and heard popping **'firework' popcorn for bonfire night celebrations.**

At the end of last term we unfortunately had to say a sad farewell to a number of previous committee members as they hand over their roles as their children have grown too old for toddler group. We want to say a big thank you to Julie Every, Clare Cleland and Jo Lucas who have already left a big hole at toddlers and will be a hard act to follow. The group has gone from strength to strength over the past few years particularly because of Julie and her **team's hard work and enthusiasm and I know every member of the group will be sorry to see them go.**

We have held our first committee meeting of the New Year and we're raring to go for the new term. We'll be trying our best to continue the great work of the previous committee.

We are always looking for input from the wider community so if you are able to come and lend a hand helping us to set up or clear away or do some washing up we would love to hear from you. Also if you run a business that would appeal to our children, how about running a free taster session at our group? If this is something that interests you, please contact us.

We have welcomed a lot of new mums and carers to our group recently. If you were in any doubt as to the existence of a baby boom, you just need to see our thriving baby area! We look forward to these babies growing and developing at the group as they become toddlers **and then preschoolers (we hope they don't grow up too fast though!).**

There are some great activities planned for the coming weeks including lots of messy play – where better to let your children get messy than in the Memorial Hall rather than at home! The children will be celebrating Chinese New Year as we enter the year of the horse in our **29th Jan session and Valentine's Day in our 12th Feb session with lots of themed craft and play.** Lara the hairdresser will also be coming each term to toddler group as an easy way to **get your child's hair cut.**

About the group

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

Each week we offer art, craft and messy play activities which allow the children to express themselves creatively. 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.

Our group runs every Wednesday during term time between 1.15 – 3.00pm in the Main Hall at Pitstone Memorial Hall, £2 per family per session (your first session is free).

For more information we use our Facebook page to keep everyone up to date. Search for the group and you can request to join, Facebook: Pitstone and Ivinghoe baby and toddler group

Katrina Blunt, Committee Member



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- * Porches

10 YEAR GUARANTEE

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IVINGHOE ENTERTAINMENTS

Welcome to the New Year! With the New Year often comes “resolutions”; well we intend to keep ours and make the 2014 Summer Festival the best yet. To ensure that it will be we’ve completely re-vamped and re-formatted the weekend to allow our guests to enjoy themselves even more. Hopefully the changes will allow them to bring along more of their friends. This is a year of big changes, the first being that we’ve flipped the nights so that Friday night is the casual night and Saturday the formal, Black Tie Ball:

Laughter-on-the-Lawn

Friday 20-June, Doors: 19:00

Summer Ball

Saturday 21-June, Doors: 19:00 for 19:45

Summer Ball (Saturday)

The second big change is that we have booked a great Headlining band: The Collection (<http://www.thecollectionlive.co.uk/>) featuring Keavy Lynch from B*witched. B*witched enjoyed huge success in both Europe and North America between 1998 and 2000, releasing two albums and eight singles, all of which made the UK Top 20. Their first four singles, "C'est la Vie", "Rollercoaster", "To You I Belong" and "Blame It on the Weatherman", all reached number one in the UK Singles Chart. They've also enjoyed more recent success on the "Reunion" TV programme and tour. Fronted by Keavy, The Collection play a great mix of music for all tastes and so we're set for a great evening.



A further change is that in response to feedback we have engaged a new caterer too. So it's a new night, new band, new caterers and hopefully some new friends to share what's set to be a great evening.

Remember once you've purchased your ticket the only expenses are photographs, and

drinks!

We have been able to maintain the cost at £60 / ticket. A great value for money, great night out and for most .. no taxi cost!

The sale of tickets for the Summer Ball will be on Saturday 08-March from 09:30 at the Town Hall, Ivinghoe and thereafter from the usual outlets. A booking form can be downloaded from <http://ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk/> Summer Festival page (and will be available in the Town Hall on-the-day). As in previous years, we are offering the opportunity to spread the cost of the event an initial (non-refundable) deposit (£20) payable upon booking the tickets the balance (£40) payable by mid-May. We anticipate high demand for tickets and so we encourage you to book early and take advantage of the deposit scheme.

Laughter-on-the-Lawn (Friday)

Following the fantastic success of 'Laughter-on-the-Lawn' 2013 we are repeating the event with a different line up of comedians but this year on the Friday night rather than Saturday. **Our event will be associated with the "GET STUFFED Tring Comedy Festival (Tringe)"** – the Tring Comedy Festival extends to Ivinghoe! What better way to wind down from the rigours of the week than to put on some casual clothes and come along to hear some great comedians with some friends, a few drinks and food?

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

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

Summer Festival Weekend

As with previous years there will be a number of other events running across the weekend to make use of the venue. Please refer to local groups and organisations for further details.

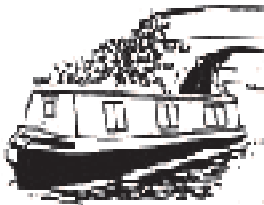
Christmas Tree

We would like to thank Ivinghoe & Pitstone WI, Ivinghoe Town Hall Management Committee, and The Kings Head (Ivinghoe) for their generous support towards the planting of a permanent Christmas Tree on the corner of Ivinghoe Lawn.

Web Site / Facebook

Our website has the latest details of our events <http://ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk/>.

(Continued on page 37)



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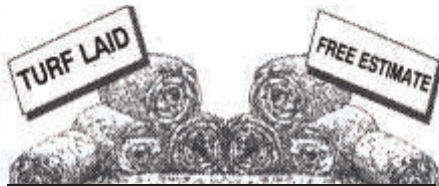
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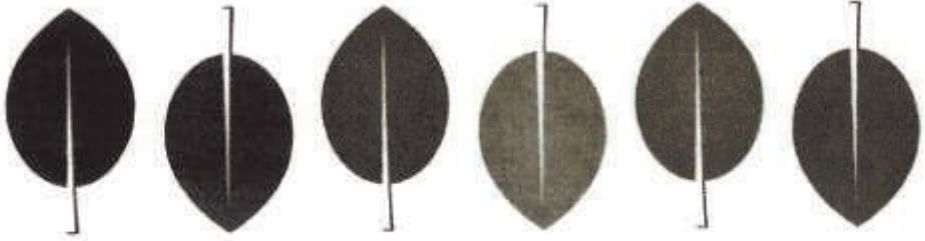


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(Continued from page 34)

Regular updates / news are posted on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/livinghoeEnts>

Appeal for New Members

As ever we are always looking for new members to join our committee who can add to the diversity of our membership and provide valuable alternate input to our events. Please contact a member of the committee (or myself – details below) if you are interested in helping us. Thanks in advance.

Graham Hollands

Chair – Ivinghoe Entertainments

Facebook: IvinghoeEnts

ivinghoeentertainments@gmail.com; <http://ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk/>

BEACON VILLAGES COMMUNITY LIBRARY (BVCL)



Since September we have had 5 Duke of Edinburgh volunteers from the local area senior schools, assisting us each for an hour per week to achieve their volunteering award for part of their Bronze Award and I would like to thank Juliet, Becky, Toby, Hannah & Michael for all of their help and assistance here in the library, they have each been a great asset and if ever they would

like to volunteer again – who am I to try and stop them?! (Also very special thanks to Karen & Alex who helped out with prettying up the library for Christmas...)

We also held our very first Christmas Open Evening, open to all and had an enormously festive and enjoyable evening. We held a quiz for fun, a DVD tombola and enough Stollen and other treats to ground Santa whilst being washed down with copious amounts of Mulled Wine and fruit juice. Thank you to Fran, Gill, Janet & Linda for all of their efforts in the organising of this fun event.



Thank you also goes out to Sally, Colin & Kim Needham; who kindly organised a Christmas

Craft Extravaganza on our last open day before Christmas on the library's behalf. It was a big success with over 32 children and their families coming to join us. An assortment of snowmen, wreaths and crackers went home with them at the end of the morning. We also welcomed Rachel McGuire who had a collection of beautiful Usbourne books for sale for last

(Continued on page 41)

Pastor Dave Clifford

"David Clifford" [@btinternet.com](mailto:davidclifford954@btinternet.com)
 Tel: 01296 668906 Mob: 07737 360183
 Email: davidclifford954@btinternet.com



Pitstone Car Scheme



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

CAN WE help?

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

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

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

Example costs (excluding car parking):

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

DRIVERS NEEDED!

New Tariffs
From 1st Dec. 2012

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

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

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

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

Dave Clifford on 01296 668906.

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(Continued from page 37)

minute gift ideas and Mary Flach, Play Leader **from the Children's Centre who kindly gave** up a morning off to read stories to the little ones and help out with the crafts.

It has been a busy, productive year and let's hope this year will be more of the same – Keep checking our website, facebook & twitter for future events and updates.

If you would like to volunteer or perhaps even join us on the committee, please contact Gill Arney on gill.arney@tiscali.co.uk or come into the library for a chat.

The Library will be open EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING 10am – 12pm starting from March 5th 2014. It is with great pleasure that we can boast longer opening hours to that which were originally on offer from Buckinghamshire County Council and hope to increase this further with demand and help from volunteers.

Shelle West, Library Manager

NEWS FROM THE ROSE AND CROWN, IVINGHOE

Not Just for Christmas!

Welcome to our January 2014 update, I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and New Year. It was great to see so many of you in over the festive period, and indeed throughout the last year.

I am sure, that by the time you read this you will be well into your new year diet, and alcohol abstinence. Naturally enough, whilst **we wish everyone the best of health, we're** not here to support these fads that make life **all work and no play. So when you're ready**

to fall off of the wagon we'll be there, with your friends, to offer you support, a refreshing drink, and some comfort food. In fact during January and February we shall be encouraging anyone who is heard to utter the words dry January or Sober October, to donate a pound into one of the charity pots around the bar.

Of course we're not just here for the food and drink, but also as the only public house for Pitstone and Ivinghoe, we provide a central meeting point for a number of community clubs. On various Monday nights we host the Bridge Club and the Local photography club. Thanks to the photography club our dining room walls are adorned with their fabulous pictures from the surrounding area. If you see one you like then let our team know and we can put in contact with the photographer to arrange your own copy.



On Saturday and Sunday mornings **the Vinghoe Velo's** meet for their weekend rides.

Whilst you'll see

lots of lycra on these honed athletes, don't be intimidated, all abilities are welcome. There are several rides that take place, and the age range of the members is from 16 to infinity. My only recommendation is that you take your stabilisers off before joining them.

You'll also be pleased to know that by the time many have got as far as Pitstone roundabout, **they're quite thirsty, and so have to** plan the rest of the route so they can get back for an Isotonic Ale or two.

Aside from this we also like to host a celebration or two. Last year a number of people **celebrated their "big" Birthdays with us.** Our dining area can accommodate up to 30 diners for a sit down meal, or if you've a larger number then we can cater for around

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Email: davidclifford954@sky.com

70 with a buffet. Our prices for this are very **competitive, so you don't need to drag yourself** round the shops, or more importantly **do the cleaning up afterwards. We're there to do that.** During the summer outdoor dining is possible in our courtyard garden. In fact the garden is a bit of a Tardis, for one birthday last year we managed to get a marquee in!

We welcome families, and offer childrens prices and portions for most of our dishes.

If you'd like more information about us, or the clubs I've mentioned above, then you can find all their details on our website, www.roseandcrownivinghoe.com.

So much like that little puppy dog, we're not just here for Christmas, but the whole year. We look forward to seeing you, and thank you for your continued support.

Gary and Kirk

OLD SCHOOL, IVINGHOE *The Nub of the Hub, 2014!*

With the smell of roasted chestnuts and cinnamon pretzels still in our noses, the magical atmosphere and sparkle of the Christmas market stalls inside and out in our eyes and the carol singing and hand bells still ringing in our ears we could easily stay with memories from our final grand opening evening on December 6th and the retiring Vicars and others kind words to us all, and some encouraging press coverage. However with the dawning of the new year 2014 we the ten **voluntary trustees for our 'not for private profit 'Community Hub turn our thoughts to all that it holds for we 'Hubber Lubbers' and just how the new Ivinghoe Hub in the Old School will interestingly continue to reflect Community needs and initiatives to enhance all our collective and individual wellbeing!**

One way we plan to do this is to refresh and mark many of those special days we see in our seasonal calendars. At the end of the last week before half term we will be all red and rosy for Valentines, so pop in to have a good half term break celebration start with us! During that half term we will be having another of our legendary activity days on Tuesday 18th February, and making some lovely pre-**Mother's Day and Easter** presents for friends and family! We will **celebrate the 'cooking up of the last eggs before lent', leading up towards Easter on Shrove Tuesday** with pancake racing on the lawn after school and a feast of fillings to choose for your own pancake inside the café once the racing is won! Look out for more on this on our **Facebook page 'Ivinghoe Old School Hub'** and bring a small frying pan to the Hub for 3.40pm on Tuesday 4th March! A Psychic Evening has been proposed for the next day 5th March, from 7-10pm, and a **Mother's Day afternoon tea special at CuriosiTEA** is planned for 30th March. Leading up to May Day and spring bank holiday possibilities, we have **St George's day** which makes **us ask the question, 'Be there Dragons hereabouts?'.....and think of small fun gestures we can support to mark that day in our English village!** We will leave **Father's day** and Midsummer Solstice to the next **publication in Summer, but suffice it to say....we are up for some fun then also, with picnic Hampers from CuriosiTEA Rooms at the ready and croquet mallets in our plans.....watch this space to come and join in with us.** The Hub is for all of us, all generations and all interests!

Within our welcoming spaces, activities are now happening from parties to celebrate anniversaries to wakes to remember the lives we are missing amongst us in this community. Our spaces also reflect the growing young toddler members of this community

who now can enjoy **expressive drama play with 'Time to Shine'** on Monday mornings and musical responding to Jo Jingles on Tuesday mornings. Yoga is now being offered on a Thursday evening and will shortly be adapted and offered to us in the community with creaking limbs, who still enjoy moving gently for our health! We are scouting for activity leaders in all areas but in particular after school play leaders to run some activities on a more permanent basis from 3.40-4.30 in an imaginative and creative way. As you see from our new advert the IT room is ready and available for a variety of uses and users also.

Our **welcoming, tasty and affordable café 'CuriosiTEA Rooms' 07775 831153** is keeping us sustainable by being such a seven days a week success! Hayley has more plans brewing for further Pop-up up restaurant evenings and tells us more details will be available on our Facebook pages, and via our database emails and website. Meanwhile **Wednesdays in the cafe between 9am and 11am will have Hayley's legendary bacon sandwiches on special at just £1.50 each and Thursday's will be offering 10% off for OAP's as a special 'pensioner's perks deal that day of the week!** Oh for those hazy, lazy days when we can sit again outside in the balmy sunshine to sing its praises.....and have a long gossip with friends! **To be kept in the loop of all our activities drop in and leave your contact details for our database on the sheet awaiting your inclusion just within the cloakroom, and check out our Facebook page 'Ivinghoe Old School Hub'** for brewing conversations creating between us the next set of treats! Please note our new phone, email and website contact points.

IVINGHOE TOWN HALL

Since the last Ivinghoe Beacon and PPP ...apart from a lot of rain the Winter has been kind to us (so far) ! The Town Hall continues to appreciate the many Beacon Village's users supporting the Post Office, Shop and Beacon Library.



Ivinghoe Town Hall launches web site

The exciting news is that we are now announcing the availability of our 'On-Line' web site: www.ivinghoetownhall.org.uk

Users of Ivinghoe Town Hall will be able to make online reservation requests via a new web site. It will still be possible to make bookings via more traditional methods such as the telephone, but it's hoped that the new web site will appeal to those more used to doing things online. The web site will also help to promote the various activities at the Town Hall by

(Continued on page 46)

Community space for hire - of great Victorian character, recently refurbished by our Community for this Community's use.

Old School Community Hub , Ivinghoe

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Email : ivinghoeoldschool@btconnect.com

Ivinghoe Community Hub on Facebook



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69.26 sq.m room with retractable screen midway. **£12** for first hour and **£10** thereafter per hour.

Contact us or come in for a booking form and our support for your plan.

CuriosiTEA Rooms is our pivotally important permanent tenant within our building and serves home-made affordable refreshments and hot meals seven days a week. Special arrangements for space hirers who do not wish to self-cater for their own events can be arranged with Hayley Wesley on – 07775-831153 Facebook Curiositea Rooms

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publishing dates, times and contact details. There will also be a gallery of photos, contact details, a location map, terms and conditions and pricing. So please try it and let us have your feedback to improve the web site to help you.

The regular bookings are continuing well and some of you will already have enjoyed trying **the new 'Ballet for Adults' class or Vintage Fitness class! If you are interested in Pilates on a Wednesday morning** ~ contact Andrea on 07855-138005 she is keen to set up a 2nd class at 11:15am (dependent on interest).

Monday: 3pm-6pm - Ballet (07834 281434)

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

Wednesday: 8:45 and 10am Pilates (07855 138005)

Wednesday: 1pm Adult Ballet and 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 or myself, on 01296 660344.

Janet Swinbank, Booking Clerk

Stephen Swinbank, Secretary

Tel: 01296 660344

OTHER UPDATES

POPPY APPEAL

Once again I would like to thank all concerned for being picked Volunteer of this year. It **was quite a shock to receive the award and like I mentioned to a few people, I don't do it to** be a glory boy, although the framed certificate stands on our television for all to see. The cheque of £50 was split between my favourite charities – The Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes – in which I am involved throughout the year. Last year I was determined to beat the 2012 target, so the challenge was on. Total time spent outside Richard Masons store was 150.25 hours and I beat the years total raising £2,312.00. Rain or shine I enjoy every minute of it. I have now gone into my seventh year and it is now like a big family gathering. Last year I had people from Wendover and even Leighton Buzzard call over to say hi!

Thanks go to Richard Mason and all his staff who really spoil me and keep the hot drinks and bites going. Mind you, two of his staff said their good-byes last year so I wish them both a happy retirement. Once again Tong from the New May Fu supplied meals and also the owner of the Haldi restaurant brought down a meal. On the Friday the mobile Fish n Chip van stopped (Howe & Co) and brought a meal across.

Four weeks prior to being outside Richards shop my friend Chas Jellis phoned to see if I was free to work for him. He has a key job in the film industry and one of their guys was on sick leave and he wanted someone to join his team on set. So thanks to him I had four weeks

working on the film Fury starring Brad Pitt. Just up my street, being it was a war film. What an experience! I did say to him that I was so dedicated to the Poppy Appeal that I would only stay until then, but the Friday I finished four people were to go, so it worked out just right for me.

Another thing I enjoyed was when 40 children came down from Brookmead school to get their poppys and ask a few questions. I explained to them the reason why I sell the poppy. The next day, as some of the school children passed going to school, they would salute and shout '**Good Morning Soldier Joe**'. **Ever since I started our friend Fiona Harrison comes** down in her ATS uniform to put a nice donation in, usually before going on stage at one of her venues. It was a big help last year when a charge-hand Ben did a collection and gave me a nice sum of money for the appeal. Also a chap came up and gave me a bottle of whisky as he did for the last three years on the trot, and always a good donation. Last year he gave the whisky and also £100.00, so if you live locally and are reading this, thank you once again **sir**. **I'd also like to thank Tony who comes to support me and another member of the MVT,** Rod Tingey.

Like I always tell people, I get wet, cold and tired but after 10 hours I go home to have a shower and relax. The heroes we collect for, some gave their all, and we show respect to our surviving troops and those who are still in the field. Thanks for all you do for our country and God Bless you all.

Joe Marling, ex Middlesex Regiment (DCO TA)

ASHRIDGE PLANT SALE



Spring is on the way and the gardening year will soon begin again. Once you have taken the first faltering steps towards reacquainting yourself with the beds and borders, you might find time to think about what to do with any unwanted plants or surplus stock available from your garden. If you do have plants to spare, The Friends of Ashridge Estate would love to hear from you!

The National Trust at Ashridge is holding its annual Spring Plant Fair on 11 May 2014, 11am till 4pm and sells donated plants from the public to raise money exclusively for the upkeep of the Ashridge Estate and maintenance of the mobility vehicles, access paths etc. The volunteer organisers would be happy to receive any number or variety of plants - most commonly we receive perennials, grasses, shrubs, and vegetables prove especially popular. We ask that the plants come labelled, noting the colour of the bloom if ornamental.

The event is run entirely by volunteers, and is able to raise thousands in funds for essential works at Ashridge and the upkeep of the estate. Ashridge is ours and for everyone and needs to be continually nurtured with the right resources to ensure that enjoyment of such a beautiful, ancient site of natural woodland is preserved for future generations. Please come

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LU7 9GY***

along and contribute to the annual Spring Plant Fair!

Many individual commercial nurseries support the event and set up stall too. They will be open for business and come from local areas and represent all three counties in which Ashridge is situated. They will be selling unusual hardy perennials, border plants, roses, herbs and more. Please come early as queues form. The fair is situated at the top of Monument Drive.

To donate any plants, find out further information, or if you require assistance in potting up any surplus material, please contact John Cartwright on 01442 864 984. Last date for plant donations is 4th May 2014. Pots and compost can be provided.

TALES FROM THE COMPOST HEAP

...Or, How to Turn Trees Green Again

The 12 days of Christmas have drawn to a close; and across the country an estimated 6 to 8 million Christmas trees have had their moment of glory in the sitting room, and been discarded. Some will be fly-tipped or sent to landfill, while others (luckily a growing number) will be chewed up by a machine and spat out as wood chips – ultimately to benefit gardens as a weed suppressant or soil improver.

Whilst I do not recommend that the average householder should attempt to cram their tree into their compost bin, there are ways in which we can turn at least some of

(Continued on page 49)

(Continued from page 48)

the avalanche of paper and cardboard that engulfs our homes at Christmas into something that helps the environment. And it is the compost heap that performs this transformation.



Paper, as we know, comes from tree fibre, and the process of composting causes it to revert to something like its natural state. Some types of shiny, highly-coloured or plastic coated paper are not suitable, so **it's probably best to recycle your Christmas cards another way**; but newspaper, standard copy and printing paper, and cardboard will all work a treat in your heap, once suitably shredded or crumpled. Mix the paper in with your usual compost material on a 50:50 basis, keep it slightly damp, and turn it from time to time if

you can.

Your reward will be a balanced heap that, with a little attention, will yield good compost for your garden. And the satisfaction of knowing that those ripped-up bank statements have not only not fallen into the wrong hands, but are helping your onions to flourish.

Of course, this is something we can be doing all year round. Because composting is for life, not just for Christmas.

Barbara Cummings

www.recycleforbuckinghamshire.co.uk



Two tips for the new year from the Community Safety Partnership

The new year is an ideal time to property mark your belongings, particularly new presents with a UV pen. By doing this you increase the chances that should something get stolen and then recovered, it may be identified and returned to you.

If you have a UPVC door make sure you lock it with the key after pulling the handle up. Securing the door by only using the handle is not enough to prevent entry.

Also, don't forget car security – it's easy to forget to remove items from the back of the car seat or the satellite navigation system from the windscreen, however leaving these valuables could tempt an opportunist thief. Follow these top tips to keep the opportunists away...

- Never leave a sat nav in your car, always take it with you. This includes taking the cradle

(Continued on page 59)

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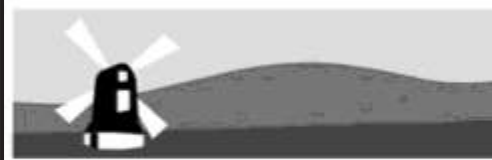
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(Continued from page 49)

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 <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>
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