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#### MISSION STATEMENT

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



## FROM THE CHAIRMAN, PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

The Spring gave us a good show of daffodils along Marsworth Road. What a good indication of the village working together and what can be done.

The weather has finally improved and we are slowly drying out which was an ideal opportunity for the Parish Council to clear the surplus spoil heap at the top of the allotments. This has enabled the Allotment Association to create four extra plots and now only leaves one resident on the waiting list.

Many of you will have noticed builders vans, skips etc outside the Memorial Hall. The gents and ladies toilets, plus the kitchen, have all been replaced and updated which were long overdue. Congratulations to the Hall Management Committee, and especially the Secretary, Mrs Laurie Eagling who has worked tirelessly to obtain funding from various sources to the sum of £45,000 to complete these much needed improvements.

Over the last four or five years Luton Airport has been planning expansion. It was finally agreed to increase its flight traffic by 80% (10m to 18m flights per year) without any local consultation. It seems ironic that the owner of Luton Airport is Luton Town Council who is also the local Planning Authority for the airport. Surely this is questionable. However the Secretary of State appointed an Independent QC to oversee and adjudicate the whole proceedings and it is proceeding. Unfortunately flight movements over Pitstone are going to increase substantially. I suppose we should be thankful that we are under the landing flight path and not the take off—we will monitor this carefully and comment where appropriate.

**The Parish Council, again this year has entered Pitstone into “The Best Kept Village Competition”. Judging takes place in June and I am sure that everybody will do their bit to keep the village looking as good as it does. Last year we were placed in the ‘Highly Commended’ section, which was praise enough. Finally everlasting thanks to our three litter pickers who work tirelessly in all weathers to keep the village as free of litter as possible. Bob Saintey.**

## COUNCIL NEWS



### DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

It's annual report time once again, so, looking back over this County Council year I would sum it up as being all about change. Never have I been more inun-

dated with so much information. Local, operational information embedded with the local, operational information for other far flung parts, and also with top level strategic information.

The County Council delivers services, often in partnerships with others, in the following areas: transport and rights of way, some aspects of planning and environment including waste disposal, Adult services, older people, **some health and mental health, Children's** services including education but not schools,

Community services such as libraries museums, and with others community safety, public health, Economic Development.

## HS2 (high speed rail)

Much time, money and energy has gone in to the anti HS2 campaign this year and previous years, although all the judicial reviews **brought by the 'M52' group of local authorities** were lost. Recently the council voted unanimously to 'petition' for mitigation measures, which is really important, and **where the County's legal and planning expertise** can really make a difference.

## Council Tax

All Councils have been permitted to raise council tax by up to 1.99%, without going to prohibitively costly referendum, so the County Council decided to raise the tax to the maximum. My group made alliance with UKIP and voted against this. I strongly felt this was gesture politics; they raised the tax in tough times for people because they could, not because it was necessary.

By increasing the council tax they turned down £2M from the government in council tax freeze grant which would have been continued in future years, and took £3M from Buckinghamshire residents pockets instead. The differential, just under £1M, could have been found from unused contingencies, and the 'generous' reserves. The total County Council budget is more than £300M.

## School Transport

The charges introduced two years ago are set to be increased. One of the largest **'savings' in the budget is from this area, with very few changes** being made as a result of

the recent consultations with parents.

## Innovation and good practice

Since 2010 the county have cut a third of their budget without total collapse of services. Instead they have won new grant funding, for roads in particular, and made far reaching changes to how services are delivered. **One approach is to 'demand manage'** – prevent people from needing services in future. Three programmes led by the council but in partnership with others are proving very successful in this. Families First – working with 600 families identified as high service users, Prevention Matters – helping keep older people independent, and a programme to reduce the impact of the welfare reforms on services and the users of those services.

## Public Health

This year has been the first year that the Council has had full responsibility for the public health service. Although the Council was shortlisted by the Local Government Chronicle for how the service was being embedded in to service delivery, the Peer review singled the service out for criticism, saying it used its budget very much in the old medical model rather than on improving health outcomes for people through other services, such as education, economy and environment.

## LGA (Local Government Association) Peer review

A recently completed review of BCC by a team of officers and councillors from other similar local authorities, praised these **innovative programmes, as well as the County's** use of the Better Care Fund to provide joint community health and social care services.

## 'Future Shape'

In a programme called 'Future Shape' more and more functions will be transferred to independent or semi independent bodies like the new Bucks Learning Trust, Buckinghamshire Care, and Transport for Bucks, a new Museum Trust is being formed, a Country Park Trust. Not forgetting the majority of secondary schools are already Academies.

This new, indirect, method of service delivery, even if clear governance structures are in place challenges the transparency and accountability of public services.

## Roads and Potholes

Dissatisfaction with the state of the roads is constant. Over £500K has been spent in this division (Ivinghoe) on road repairs and improvements from the revenue budget, so that is in addition to any capital expenditure. Each member can nominate three roads for repair. I asked for a full breakdown for the county by member division and some of the biggest spend was in Ivinghoe, Wing, and Great Brickhill.

In January TFB repaired 4,431 potholes across the whole County, of which 2,381 were in need of urgent repair. In February all resources were diverted to flooding.

More money still has come in to the budget last week, for more piecemeal schemes, but at last the County are considering a more fundamental approach to upgrading the road network with capital spending – lessons learned from the success of the prevention programmes elsewhere I hope.

Grass Cutting comes under this area. Last year the verge cutting was distinctly unsatisfactory. This year the same contractors have

been engaged for some reason, for 3 cuts outside village signs and 10 cuts within. Please be vigilant to see that happens. Parishes should consider taking this work on themselves.

## Local Area Forum (LAF)

We have yet to see how our LAF will manage without Jackie Wesley to ensure things happen. She will be sorely missed and I thank her for the fantastic work she has done for the three divisions of Wing, Great Brickhill and Ivinghoe. Paul Hodson has been assigned to our area. We have also had a change in our Local Area Technician. We will miss Paul Foot, but his replacement Rob Anderson, is up for the challenge.

## Community Leaders Fund

This year the fund was divided between the Ivinghoe Village centre, to complete the internal decorations, BBOWT at College Lake to support the publication and launch of Graham Atkins book on the creation of **College Lake, and The Villager, Slapton's** newsletter which is on line as well as on paper.

## Beacon Villages Community Library

The library has had a successful year and has



recently extended its opening hours to Wednesday morning. Many thanks to librarian Shelle, all the volunteers, the fudge makers, Fran-

ces who is running the DVD scheme, and the hard working committee members under the leadership of Emma Huxley. I enjoy the time I can spend supporting them, and particularly want to mention how much I

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## Pitstone Memorial Hall

Hire Availability Notice

### Weekday and regular bookings now available

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

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

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enjoyed the recent successful Library Lunch in Cheddington Village Hall, and helping with BeaconLit Festival, running this year for a whole day on June 28th at Brookmead School.

By Avril Davies, District and County Councillor, Ivinghoe Division

[@avrildavies.mycouncillor.org](http://avrildavies.mycouncillor.org)  
@avrildavies

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Update from the Pitstone Annual Assembly

This is an annual meeting for the community, and not a council meeting, although it legally has to be chaired by the parish council chairman and includes updates from the parish council (which you can read about in the Annual Report section of this PPP). If **you don't follow the regular updates on the village website or Parish Council page**, it is a good way of keeping up to date with developments around the parish.

This year, we had a fascinating talk by the **'bat man', Lawrence Trowbridge from National Trust**, explaining how we can all help to protect these fabulous creatures who help to keep our crops and gardens free of insects and pollinate our plants, but are unfortunately under threat from predation, crime and loss of habitat.

The assembly commenced with the announcement of the Pitstone Volunteer of the Year 2014 —more details below.

Mr Keith Steers delivered an educational talk about the role and importance of Community First Responders to the health and

welfare of our community and urged people to sign up as volunteers. You can read more about both of these in other sections of PPP.

Thames Valley Police were pleased to advise us that our community is very safe, with extremely low levels of crime. County & District Councillor Avril Davies provided an update on the issues affecting both these tiers of government and the work she has been involved in. Mr Mark Roberts, Chairman of the Memorial Hall Charity, talked to everyone about the huge amount of modernisation and development that has been happening at the hall and encouraged everyone to come and see the improvements for themselves.

There was a plea from the 1<sup>st</sup> Ivinghoe & Pitstone Cubs and Scouts for more volunteer helpers to join both the weekly sessions and the management committee otherwise they are in danger of closing. We also heard updates about the club for those new to computing, the success of the new **Community Cinema, Pitstone's youth cafe** and the planning permission recently granted to expand Luton Airport to accommodate up to 18 million passengers per year.

If you missed it this year, we hope to see **you at the next meeting. Perhaps you'd like** to come along and provide an update about the local club you are involved with?

### New Parish Councillor – Brian Brooks

The Parish Council is pleased to have co-opted Brian Brooks as a new Parish Councillor, following a recent resignation. Brian

is a welcome addition to the Parish Council having worked as a volunteer adviser to the ongoing Skate Park development project in his professional capacity as a Structural Engineer.

PPP caught up with Brian who tells us a little more about him and his background...

***“I have always lived and worked in the local area, having spent my childhood in Tring, attending Tring school. After leaving home I moved several times in the local area always staying close to the Structural engineering practice I was employed by in Tring. Finally I settled in Pitstone eight years ago with my wife Tara and our three children Jake, Lauren and Ben. All my children have attended Brookmead School and the eldest two are now at Tring school.***

*I am a member of the Institute of Structural Engineers and Director/owner of a medium size Structural Engineering practice based in Bourne End near Hemel Hempstead.*

*As a family we have embraced the village life and have volunteered for Pitstone clubs and associations where possible. I am currently a committee member for the Pitstone Allotment association and look after the PAA website. I have also assisted the Parish Council where possible with technical advice for the new children's park procurement. My wife Tara is a regular volunteer at the Pitstone Youth Club. My eldest son Jake is a helper each week with the Pitstone Beavers.*

*I will be hoping to take the views of the community, their needs and aspirations and help to turn them into a reality during the appropriate forum at the Parish Council meetings. I am looking forward to helping the other Parish Councillors to continue to make a difference and improve the environment and amenities in Pitstone, making it a place for all to continue to **enjoy and live in.**”*

*Ed:* Welcome to the Parish Council, Brian.

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Parish Council annually invites nominations to be put forward from anyone within the Parish of Pitstone, to be recognised as ‘**volunteer of the year**’.

It is a small gesture to recognise the many individuals within the community who give their time voluntarily to good causes, in service of others. Sometimes nominations are for particular contributions over the last 12 months, other times for longer contributions that may have spanned many years. This year The Parish Council received three nominations for consideration, which were discussed at its meeting on 9th January 2014.

The 2014 winner was unanimously agreed by the council to be Mrs Mary Saintey of Pitstone, who was nominated for her 25 years service to the Pitstone charities, as a Trustee and latterly chairperson.

Mary accepted the award at the Annual Assembly, held on Tuesday 13th May 2014 at Pitstone Memorial Hall.

PPP caught up with Mary who described the significant changes she had witnessed over a quarter of a century, most notably the ever increasing demands that the Charity Commission places on all the Trustees on how they must discharge their duties. Mary describes a very different charity to that which she first became involved with, with the acquisition of land interests over recent years which have further added to the complexities of being a voluntary Trustee. Mary served as chairperson for 7 years prior to retiring in 2013.

It has to be reported that Mary was very reluctant to accept this award for herself—something she knew nothing about - preferring to go unrecognised. However, she agreed to accept it on the condition that it was most certainly not for herself, but in recognition of all of the Trustees who devote themselves—past and present—to running the charities. This sentiment has to be admired and reflects the attitudes of many of our local volunteers—thank you to them all. Nominations are now open for 2015—please submit them to the Parish Clerk.

## Enhanced access to Play equipment

The parish council is always striving to ensure our play provision meets the local needs of all users. The new play space planned for the recreation ground will include a wide variety of features for those with disabilities. If you have a child with special needs that would benefit from a specific addition to our facilities, please advise the parish clerk directly.

## Time to start grass cutting - Transport for Bucks

Our new programme has started. With Spring in the air, we have begun our annual grass cutting programme. Grass cutting takes place during the summer months and is carried out to provide good visibility in order to ensure safety for road users. The programme is split into two parts - urban and rural.

Urban grass cutting refers to verges within 30 and 40 mph speed limit signs. Rotary blade mowers are used for this work. This year, we are carrying out this work our-

selves, rather than using an outside contractor, allowing cost savings and a more efficient programme. We have nine crews with three men in each who work through the season and will carry out six scheduled cuts for urban areas, which is one cut every five weeks.

Rural grass cutting refers to verges between village and town name signs. This year two **scheduled cuts including 'rural vision splays' (cutting of grass around road junctions) will be carried out by TfB's contract partner, Robert North.**

Cut grass is not routinely collected, but will be cleared from footpaths using hand blowers where possible. You can check the progress of our grass cutting programme online [www.buckscc.gov.uk/grasscutting](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/grasscutting). Don't forget, you can still check our pothole blog which is updated every Friday afternoon [www.tfbpotholes.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.tfbpotholes.blogspot.co.uk)

# NEWS

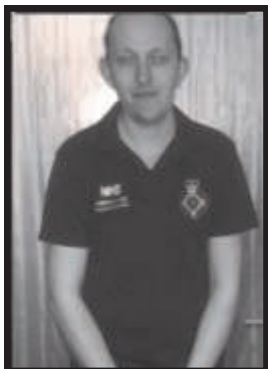
## Pitstone's new Community First Responders

Have you ever thought about what you would do if you were faced with a situation where someone needed immediate emergency treatment in front of you? What would you do?

We would hope that most people would probably dial 999 and stay with the patient offering comfort and re-assurance until emergency help arrives.

In the surrounding villages the response time of an ambulance could be up to 15 – 20 minutes. **“With some emergencies every minute counts”.**





That is where Community First Responders are vital. When you dial 999, control will know how far the nearest ambulance is and as we carry trackers when on call, they will also know how far we are. We are dispatched by control at the same time as the ambulance, but being local our response time is much faster in most cases within 8 minutes. Our duty is to preserve life, to start life support and to administer emergency treatment, to reassure the patient and monitor their condition until such time as the ambulance

arrives.

Each CFR (when on duty) is equipped with a defibrillator, oxygen and an emergency kit. We are fully trained in the use of this equipment and are regularly re-assessed.

So could you be a Community First Responder? Are you calm under pressure? Can you work under your own initiative? Do you drive and own a vehicle? And are you over 18 yrs of age.

The selection process comprises of a home visit from a trainer to assess your suitability. Arranging insurance cover on your own personal vehicle. Attending a two day training course and followed by three shifts on an emergency ambulance. Training courses are then re-attended every six months on a one day refresher course.

The cost to the ambulance service for your training and kit is £3k. Currently CFRs can book on call whenever they wish, but this may be soon changing with a compulsory amount of hours per month that CFRs have to do.

This is a non paid community role, the rewards of this role is being able to assist a fellow human being in their hour of need. Saving a life has No price.

Pitstone currently has two CFRs covering Pitstone, Ivinghoe, Cheddington, Marsworth and other local areas. Keith Steers (pictured left above) and Jonathon Horn (pictured right above).

If you are interested in joining us or finding out more about this scheme, give Keith Steers a call on 07899 696722 to find out more.

## PRE-SCHOOL

It's the beginning of the final term and spring has finally sprung in the village. 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 us.

### Staff update

As promised in the last edition, we are very pleased to announce the appointment of our new Setting Leader Kate Wort, who started with us just before the Easter Break. Since completing an NNEB Diploma in Nursery **Nursing in 2000, Kate's first role was as a** Nursery Nurse. Since then she has worked **as a Children's Representative in Cyprus, a** Private Nanny and then in most recent times as a Nursery Manager for a committee run Nursery. Kate is qualified to Level 5 with a Foundation Degree in Early Years. She also has experience and qualifications in implementing the Early Years Foundation Stage, so she brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience. Kate is also a parent with a two year old son, a very lively Chocolate Labrador and horses to add in to the mix, so her weekends are always spent **outdoors come rain or shine.** **With Kate's** appointment, we believe that a new and positive stage in Windmill Pre-School's growth has begun, putting behind us quite a challenging period.

At the end of last term, we were unfortunately sad to say goodbye to Lana Race and Tracey Spivey. Lana was previously our Setting Leader before going off to have her baby, and she played a huge role in Windmill **being awarded 'outstanding' by Ofsted in** 2011. Both were very valued members of

the team who will be missed greatly by the children and committee. We wish them both well in their new roles and in all their future endeavours.

We are delighted to announce Sharon Berry will be returning to Windmill after the Easter break. Her role will be as a Practitioner working as part of the team under our **new Leader's management. Sharon will be** taking on key children of her own and because she is such a cheerful, pro-active and positive individual, she will be a welcome addition to the Pre-School. Sharon is very excited at the prospect of returning and is looking forward to working in partnership with the parents and children. For those of you that don't know Sharon, she has previously been a member of the Windmill Team, who was very popular with the children and parents

### Changes within the setting

Existing parents will have noticed that there have been a lot of significant changes taking place within the setting over the last few months. We thank you for your continued patience and support during the periods of change but please rest assured that our **'learning through play' ethos continues to** have a positive effect on the children in our care. If you have any questions relating to any of the changes, please feel free to speak to a member of staff or make an appointment to speak to me or the setting's new Leader Kate.

### Session availability and Admissions

**It is never too early to get your child's name** on the waiting list – **don't forget we take** children from the age of two – so we strongly recommend that you do this well in advance of wanting a place – even if you **don't plan to enrol your child until they be-**

come funded (the term 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. To register your interest, please email our Administrator Claire Hose at [admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk).

We start the Summer Term with a few places available on Friday afternoons. More sessions will become available in September when our older children leave us to start school. With the continuing expansion of the village, there is great demand for sessions and we strictly adhere to a policy on allocation of places. For parents with children at Pre-School, if your preferred sessions are not available you can request that your child's name be placed on a waiting list. As places become available they are offered to the child at the top of the waiting list. If the parent does not wish to take up the session offered, they remain at the top of the list and the next child is offered the place. This process continues until the place has been allocated. Priority is given to funded two year olds and children with Special Educational Needs if extra sessions are thought to be beneficial. These children are offered available places before those on the waiting list as are children of staff and committee members.

### Fundraising and Events

During the final term of this academic year, we have some great events planned, which we hope you will support:

June: Ivinghoe church fete / annual sponsored walk around the villages  
July: Textile Recycling / sports day

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.

Also, just to let you know that we are collecting **Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers**. So, if you find yourself with any vouchers **that you don't know what to do with, please** feel free to donate them to Windmill Pre-School so we can gain some new equipment for the children to enjoy.

Thank you for your continued support.

Gail Dodsworth, Chair, Voluntary Management Committee

## CHURCHES

### PITSTONE CHURCH

#### May Festival

The Annual Pitstone Festival of Art, Crafts, Flowers and Music will take place over the Late May Bank holiday weekend at St. **Mary's Church Pitstone. The Church** is being cared for by The Churches Conservation Trust and by a group of Local Friends.

Many volunteers arrange flowers and help run this popular festival and if you would like to join them or the Local Friends of the Church please make yourself known to any of the stewards who will be there over the whole weekend.

Cakes will be needed and people to serve the teas over the whole weekend as well. If you are able to make a cake or spare a couple of hours to serve refreshments please ring Alex 01296 668336.

# ♪ Singalong ♪

with Helen

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- Friday - 10.00 @ Pitstone

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## Summer opening

We will soon be compiling a list of people to act as stewards when Pitstone Church is open on Sunday afternoons during the Summer months. We are looking for two or three new volunteers for this year so if you feel you would like to spend a peaceful afternoon enjoying the tranquillity of the church and church yard please let Gill Arney know (668123).

There is a vigorous debate going on with the Conservation Trust as to whether the church should be opened more often. At present anyone who would like to visit the church when it is closed can obtain the key from the Old School at the corner of Church Road Pitstone. Ring 661 968 before you go. The church yard is full of lovely wild flowers in the Spring, so even if the church is shut it is well worth a visit. There is a new colourful and informative leaflet in the church which will enrich your visit

### Other events

We have the annual concert on Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm which this year will be a special Memorial Concert for Emlyn Jones who established these inspiring concerts 15 years ago and raise money for both Ivinghoe and Pitstone Churches.

We hope to arrange a walk from the Church with a picnic afterwards later this year. The group of Friends welcome new members, if you would like help in any way or need to know more, again please ring Gill Arney on the number above.

## PASTOR DAVE CALLING

Well here we are almost half way through 2014 (by the time you read this) and where

has the time gone? Last time I called it was **to wish you a Happy New Year and now I'm praying for restful and peaceful summer holidays! It's a strange thing this time lark.**

When I was a kid I longed for the 6 week summer break, but by the end of the second week you were so bored it seemed like school was a life-time away. In my middle years I still looked forward to the six week holiday (teachers know what I mean) but no sooner had I got used to the freedom it seemed like we were back at the chalk face **again. Now I've reached my 'Autumn' as they say, I see my grandchildren growing up in fast forward and wonder where the time goes so quickly. Einstein said, 'The only reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen at once.'**

**He also said, "When you are courting a nice girl an hour seems like a second. When you sit on a red-hot cinder a second seems like an hour. That's relativity."**

For us 2014 has brought a little more stability in knowing that God has provided the finance we prayed for to help us continue our ministry in Pitstone for another year, for which we are grateful. The last five years seem to have flown by. Pitstone must be **one of Einstein's 'nice girls'.** We have enjoyed our time here despite personal situations with health and missing the family we left in the Midlands. Sadly, the Chapel building is looking worse for the ravages of time, but unfortunately that is not our responsibility any longer and we feel sad to see it in such a state as, I imagine, do its neighbours. We always wanted to sell to someone who would keep the integrity of the frontage as it is since it has been a village land-mark for so many people over so many years. It would be nice to see it spruced up and looking as it **did in the 'Summer' of its years. Unfortunately, time does not treat all of us kindly and it is not so easy to renovate the human**

body or the body of the Christ, his church.

**Last night we went to see ‘Noah’ the new movie with Russell Crowe.** Not impressed – more script than scripture. But I did come away with a couple of interesting thoughts **about ‘time’.** **Firstly, how Noah kept his focus on his task over the long period of time it would have taken to prepare an ark (place of safety not just a boat) for his family and the future of Creation – in our 21st Century society commitments for the long haul seems to almost disappeared with all of our ‘instant’ commodities and relationships.** **Secondly, how easy it is to have a ‘MAÑANA’ attitude to our spiritual wellbeing.** Tomorrow, as my Dad used to say, is the day that never comes. He also used to say that procrastination is the thief of all time. Easter is a significant time for Christians, perhaps more than Christmas in some ways. Yes He came down to earth from Heaven, but look what it was for. His words are remembered but His actions spoke even louder than His words. Perhaps you might mull over your spiritual health while you are getting your tan this summer, I hope the sun will do your physical person good – why not let the Son do the spiritual you some good too.

Look out for – **‘First Thursday Friends’ dates. It’s a good time for chat and cream tea, and a good matinee film with free popcorn and ices!**

**\*\*HARVEST FESTIVAL – OCT. 3RD WITH LEIGHTON LINSLADE BAND – PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY\*\***

**Every Blessing from the ‘Fellowship’**  
Pastor Dave Clifford – 01296 668906

## **ST MARY’S IVINGHOE**

Dear Friends,

Now that May is here with the warm sunshine and the arrival of the Bluebells, we are focused on the process for selection of a new priest for our Benefice.

This is going to be a very important time for us all and we particularly welcome any thoughts or views that you may have regarding the new appointment.

If you wish to, please speak with any of the Churchwardens or Licensed Lay Ministers, Sandra and Barbara, and they will be happy to hear from you.

There is always some social activity around the Benefice to get involved with or just to attend as a visitor, and we look forward to meeting you at any of the services or events when we can join together in friendship and chat over a cuppa.

There will always be a friendly welcome offered to you – Come and see us!  
With best wishes.

Wendy Mann  
Churchwarden, Holy Cross Slapton

### Bible Study Groups

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

**‘Not Sunday, Not School’ After School Club - Thursdays at Ivinghoe Church**

These sessions are held fortnightly from 3.30pm – 5pm. The children will be provided with refreshments and the sessions

*(Continued on page 16)*

## 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

<b>Morning session:</b>	<b>9am-12pm</b>
<b>Afternoon session:</b>	<b>12pm-3pm</b> (includes Lunch Club)
<b>Lunch Club:</b>	<b>12pm-1pm</b> (available on a term by term basis)

We welcome all children between 2 and 5 years from Pitstone, Ivinghoe & surrounding areas to our purpose-built premises behind Brookmead School five full days per week

### 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](mailto:admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk) or 01296 661031 (during sessions)

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

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### PUBLIC CRUISES

90 minute cruises weekends and school holidays from 5<sup>th</sup> April 2014 through to end October.

Adults: £8.00	Seniors: £7.50
Children: £4.50	Family: £20.50
(2 – 15 yrs)	(2 adults +2 children)



Please see our website or contact us for details of our Cream Tea, Roast Lunch and Evening Dinner cruises.

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

Telephone: 01296661920

Pitstone Wharf Cheddington Road Pitstone LU7 9AD

generally include craft activities, games and cookery. This club is for children aged 3-11years. 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 contact Sandra Green on 01296 668648

Alternate Tuesdays:

Tots and Tiddlers for the under 5s. Crafts, stories, action songs and refreshments at 3pm followed by:

After School Club for 3-11years - Crafts, cooking, games and refreshments. 3.30-5pm

Contact Barbara on 01525 221080 or speak to David or Wendy Mann on 01525 221202

### **Men's Group**

Events are circulated by email, please contact [charles.e.thorogood@btinternet.com](mailto:charles.e.thorogood@btinternet.com) to be included in the circulation and find out more. 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.

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from a helping hand, please get in touch with Barbara de Butts on 01525 221080 or Sandra Green on 01296 668648

After a strictly confidential chat we will arrange for a box of groceries to be delivered to your door.

**St Mary's Music Group** - New members always welcome

**At the 'Worshipping Together' Service each month a friendly collection of musicians play** the worship songs. The group also play for a few other events; we even played at a wedding by special request. The group includes violin, clarinet, saxophone, flute, trumpet, piano and oboe; we would be very happy to welcome any new musicians of any age and ability and any instrument.

If you would like to know more, ring Jeanette on 01296 660194

### **Knitters**

Another BIG thank you to all the knitters and crochet workers who continue to keep the scarves, hats, gloves, teddies and blankets coming. I receive them from Cumbria, Northampton, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Stoney Stratford, Wing, Ivinghoe and Pitstone and take large sacks of items to be distributed to Eastern Europe by SMILE or Teddies to India or





# Ivinghoe and Pitstone Children's Centre

**Do you have a child aged 5 and under?  
Have you visited Ivinghoe and Pitstone Children's Centre?**



At the Children's Centre, we offer a variety of fun play and learning opportunities for you and your child to enjoy together.

Why not come along and give them a go!

Take a look at what we offer at [www.bucksfamilyinfo.org](http://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org)  
(Then search for Ivinghoe and Pitstone Children's Centre and you will find our timetable.)

Alternatively, give us a call on 01296 662363

Don't forget to look out for us in your local area, we don't just run sessions in Ivinghoe- all services are FREE!



Ivinghoe & Pitstone Children's Centre, Brookmead School, High Street, Ivinghoe, Bucks, LU7 9EX

You can come to us if you are experiencing or need support with any of the following:-

- ❖ Childcare options & school application advice.
  - ❖ Relationship advice.
- ❖ Crisis support, (i.e. financial, emotional, addictions, mental health issues etc)
  - ❖ Implementing routines; e.g. mealtimes or bedtime.
  - ❖ Support with breast feeding & weaning
- ❖ Understanding child development, tips and advice for managing behaviour.
  - ❖ 1st Aid & home safety
  - ❖ Confidence building either parents/carer's or children
  - ❖ Positive Play; i.e. promoting turn taking, sharing etc.
- ❖ Help and advice accessing services, education and work e.g. Job Centre Plus, benefits, Citizens Advice Bureau, and Adult learning.
  - ❖ Building Family relationships: Baby blues, bonding, respect.





## Girlguiding

Buckinghamshire

- Rainbows: Monday 4.30 - 5.30 p.m.  
Pitstone Memorial Hall  
Guider Elaine Thorogood  
01296 661540
- Brownies: Monday 5.45 - 7.15 p.m.  
Pitstone Memorial Hall  
Guider Elaine Thorogood  
01296 661540
- Guides: Tuesday 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.  
Millennium Room, Pitstone  
Memorial Hall  
Guider Yvonne Ashton 01296  
660044

"To join us, please visit our website at  
Girlguiding.org.uk"



1<sup>st</sup> Ivinghoe & Pitstone Scout Group

Any queries contact:

Group Scout Leader: Michelle Lee 01296 668467 or  
[putsevee@gmail.com](mailto:putsevee@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

Africa by HOPE for Children. They are all greatly appreciated and much admired when I take them in.

Please keep knitting and I will make sure the teddies continue to cheer the children who are visited by HOPE and the warming comforts that go to SMILE! Last year you made: 211 teddies, 135 hats, 18 sets of hat, scarf & gloves, 18 pairs of gloves, 35 scarves, 45 blankets and 180 bags. Thank you for such an amazing effort. Alex Wynne.

### Souper Lent Lunches

A big thank you to all those who supported the 12<sup>th</sup> series of Churches Together Lent Lunches. During the Christian season of Lent it is customary to give things up, but we are very pleased to be able to give to others at this time and thanks to your generosity the two lunches made a total of £953.73 which has been shared between the following worthwhile charities: Iain Rennie/Grove Hospice at Home, Save the Children Fund, Home Start Dacorum, Bucks Young Carers.

Next Year we are looking for a new group to run the Ivinghoe Souper Lunch so please give this some thought. One of the most enjoyable aspects of these events is the experience of getting together with people from all the different churches and faith groups. It also provides a popular social activity for people to come to during a chilly time of year. If you think you could be part of the new team next year please let Dave Clifford on 01296 668906 or Alex Wynne on 01296 668336 know.



Located in the centre of the village, with local shop, Post Office & Library. The Town Hall provides modern facilities for: Local groups, parties, and fund raising.

## IVINGHOE TOWN HALL

[www.ivinghoetownhall.org](http://www.ivinghoetownhall.org)

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- Stage with specialised lighting, curtains & dressing room
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**To View or Book contact Janet or Stephen  
01296 660344**

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## Bucks Historic Churches Trust – Ride & Stride 2014

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September, sponsored cyclists, walkers and horse riders 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 and since 2006, Holy Cross, Slapton has received a number of grants to help with the considerable cost of restoring the tower, the clerestory walls and windows, the aisle roofs, north and south aisle walls, some redecoration and improved drainage.

Last year our walkers and riders raised an amazing £817 for Ivinghoe and £210 (plus gift aid) for Slapton and the two churches each received a cheque for half that money. 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](http://www.bedshertshct.org.uk). Many of the manned churches **offer refreshments, toilet facilities and information about the church. If you don't fancy riding or walking but can spare an hour of your time on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September, we also need volunteers to welcome people to our local churches and offer refreshments.**

If you would like to ride, walk or volunteer your time to help in a church, please contact the relevant person below: Izzy Robinson on 01296 660724; Alex Wynne on 01296 668336; or Mary Cook on 01296 662530.

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

### Ivinghoe Entertainments

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

### Summer Ball Saturday 21st June-2014

We have changed the day for the Summer Ball to Saturday – we have tickets available - 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/>

# Ivinghoe Entertainments

In association with



Presents

## Laughter on the lawn

An evening of comedy

Friday, 20th June 7.00pm - midnight

The Marquee, Ivinghoe Lawn

Featuring



John Moloney

Mick Ferry

Tammy Stone

Your MC for the night



Kevin Day

Bar provided by The Rose & Crown, Ivinghoe  
BBQ food also available

Tickets £15

Available from: Masons Store; Pitstone & Cheddington,  
Grooms Farm Shop, The Post Office and  
The Rose and Crown: Ivinghoe

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

(Continued from page 20)

Featuring:

*NEW* - The Collection (<http://www.thecollectionlive.co.uk/>) featuring Keavy Lynch from B\*witched

*NEW* - **Catering by “Hansons the Caterers” including pre-selection of Starter & - Main Course**

Hosted in the marquee on Ivinghoe Lawn

Bar by The Rose & Crown

Doors 7pm

Dinner 7:45pm

Dancing until 1am

## Laughter on the Lawn Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014

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

The evening will be compared by Kevin Day. Kevin Day is a stand-up and TV writer, with **credits including ‘Have I Got News For You’, ‘8 Out Of 10 Cats’ and the British Comedy Awards**. He has co-written a history of the Old Vic with Kevin Spacey and directed Arthur Smith's **‘Dante's Inferno’**. **But he is probably best known presenting the filmed inserts on ‘Match Of The Day 2’.**

The headline act is Mick Ferry. Mick Ferry is renowned as a fine purveyor of lugubrious surrealism and has quickly established himself as one of the most sought after comics on the British and International comedy circuit. One of the finest comperes around, Mick Ferry performs regularly at The Comedy Store in London and Manchester as well as headlining at comedy venues nationwide. He is also a regular member of the prestigious topical Cutting Edge Team at the Comedy Store.

**On our TV screens, Mick has recently starred in BBC One's ‘Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow’ as well as Comedy Blue and The Comedy Store for Comedy Central. He made his big screen debut in 2009 in Ken Loach's ‘Looking For Eric’ – a hit feature film at the Cannes film festival where it was nominated for the prestigious Palm D'Or. A prolific writer, Mick was a writer on John Bishop's ‘Britain’.**

Mick Ferry will be joined by John Maloney. John Moloney has been a professional comedian for over twenty years – and headlines at all the major Comedy Clubs around the world, **including the prestigious London Comedy Store. John has TWICE won ‘Best Live Performer’ at The London Comedy Festival, and was nominated as ‘Best Live Stand-Up’ at The British Comedy Awards**. John Moloney is a world-travelled comedian, who has delighted thousands at Festivals, Theatres, and Clubs. From Melbourne to Edinburgh, from the prestigious Just For Laughs and Halifax Festivals in Canada to The Liffey Laughs in Dublin – John has been

recognized as a true multi-award-winning comic talent.

Our final performer joining the stage is Tammy Stone. Love Tim Minchin? Sarah Silverman? Joan Rivers? You do! Tammy Stone has been described as an explosion of all three. Tammy is a contributor to 'Argumental', 'O!l' and 'Never Mind The Buzzcocks'. She may be skewed, sometimes risqué but undeniably very funny.

**As you can see we have a great line up for the evening ... make sure you can say you saw them in Ivinghoe!**

Featuring:

An evening of comedy entertainment (NB: this is likely to be targeted at the 18+ age group)

Hosted in the marquee on Ivinghoe Lawn

Bar by The Rose & Crown

Doors 7pm

Comedy from approx. 8pm

Event conclusion midnight

Tickets just £15 are available from the end of April 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](http://www.facebook.com/ivinghoeents).



Graham Hollands  
Chair – Ivinghoe Entertainments  
[ivinghoeentertainments@gmail.com](mailto:ivinghoeentertainments@gmail.com)

*(Continued on page 27)*

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[nikkimattey@hotmail.com](mailto:nikkimattey@hotmail.com)



# Flute Lessons



**Kate Hunter**

MMus, BMus(Hons)

01296 706 436

[katehuntermusic@outlook.com](mailto:katehuntermusic@outlook.com)

St Mary's Church

# PITSTONE

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LATE SPRING BANK HOLIDAY  
**24-26 MAY**

Saturday: 2-6

Sunday: 11-5 and  
Evensong at 6

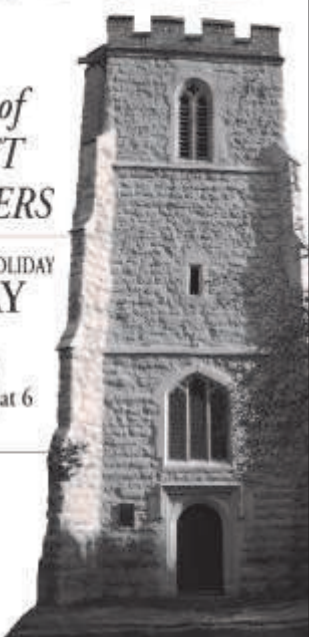
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Refreshments available



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Your troubles

in your old  
kit bag



Theme  
WW1

and come to

# THE FETE

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June

Pitstone 1.30

Ivinghoe Lawn 2p.m.

**Pitstone Party in the Park**  
**Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup> 2014 from 1pm**  
**Pitstone Recreation Ground**



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



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*(Continued from page 23)*

## PITSTONE MEMORIAL HALL CELEBRATE GRANT SUCCESS

The Committee at Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity have recently been successful in their bid to obtain funding from two grant suppliers, towards refurbishment work to the kitchen and toilets in the original part of the hall building. This project received £15,151 of funding from the Aylesbury Vale Community Chest towards refitting the toilets, kitchen and insulating the loft of the main function hall. The Big Lottery Fund awarded £7,200 towards the renovation and refurbishment of the main building toilets.

Although minor redecoration work had been undertaken in recent years to these areas the overall situation has been that no major upgrade to these particular facilities had taken place for well over 40 years making them look tired unattractive and at times simply not functional to the many users and hirers within the community. These major works form the final phase of a longer refurbishment project to bring the hall facilities up to modern standards which has seen the installation of dedicated disabled toilet facilities, provision of baby change facilities, a microphone system for the main hall, disabled access ramps to all entrances & exits, conversion of all exit doors & internal doors to meet the latest Fire Regulations, installation of CCTV and a fire detection system, refitting & refurbishing the changing rooms and referee room, replacement soffits and roof repairs, replacement windows and the installation of Wi-Fi.

**Chairman, Mark Roberts, says “As Trustees we are naturally delighted and grateful that both the Community Chest and the Big Lottery Fund have chosen to fund these works which will undoubtedly be welcomed within the Community and will serve all hirers and local groups well into the future, as well as to encourage a wider audience to consider the Pitstone Memorial Hall as a venue of choice.”**

The charity would also like to thank all those who supported the Party in the Park fundraising event last summer, including the Pitstone Social Club. This event raised over £3,000 **towards this refurbishment project at the Memorial Hall. This year’s event is being held on 12 July 2014** the charity hope that the whole community will come along to view the improvements delivered through this project for themselves. Works on the toilets and kitchen have now commenced and it is anticipated that the project will be completed in four to six weeks.

More about the Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity:

Registered Charity Number 300318. Founded 13 September 1921 to provide and maintain the village hall for meetings, classes, recreation and leisure with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants of our rural community. The hall, in its current location, was built in 1972.

## WOMENS INSTITUTE

**Hello, I'm Tessa Smith, President of your local WI. You may be wondering what has been** going on in the WI for the last few months. We have had an interesting time.



In January we had the pleasure of meeting Widget, the field spaniel with her handler, Lyn Young and her husband. This marvellous dog was an instant hit with our members and aids the police in their efforts to crack down on drugs. We were given a fascinating insight into her training and finally a demonstration of how they work with drug samples hidden around the Town Hall. Whilst Lyn answered questions Widget amused herself playing fetch just like any other dog. What a great night.

**February we had Dave Short talking about the 'Disappearing habitat of the barn owl',** and some of us managed to hold on a very stout leather glove a beautiful example of the species. Their feathers are like cloud, they are so soft. Quite a few piccies were taken that night.

Tim Amsden came to talk to us about the History of Tring in March. What a very knowledgeable man he turned out to be. Full marks to Lynn, who planned our programme for this year.

In between all this, the supper club on the Thursday after our meeting continues to support **local 'hostelries'**.

We have lots more planned, along with a mystery outing in July not to mention all the other trips and outings our members get offered.

If you fancy coming along to try us out, we meet the 2nd Thursday in every month at 7.30pm in Ivinghoe Town Hall. I or one of our committee members would love to bring you **along or meet you so that you don't feel shy about coming in. We have a diverse range of ages so there's sure to be someone you can pal up with. Give me a ring on 661562.**

### 1<sup>ST</sup> IVINGHOE & PITSTONE SCOUTS 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 will have no choice but to close both sections by the end of this term.

Between now and the summer term we are losing all our Scout leaders and two of the four Cub leaders. Ideally we would like to recruit now to enable new leaders to work alongside

*(Continued on page 37)*

## Williamson Trust and Pitstone Town Lands Charity

Pitstone Town Lands Charity exists to support people living in the parish of Pitstone generally or individually who are in need, hardship or distress. The charity makes grants and discretionary payments for items, services or facilities when no other organisation can help. This support is mainly provided to older people but grants may also be paid to people in need under the age of 65 where there is a genuine need. For a long time, the trustees have regarded people of pension age as among those most in need and have assisted with grants for glasses, dental care and chiropody.

Until recently, it was often difficult to access NHS dental care, but as a result of changes by the government, this has changed in recent years and there are now local dentists able to accept new referrals for NHS treatment. Therefore the trustees have elected to limit all payments for dental treatment to the NHS rates which are now:

Band 1	Band 2	Band 3
This covers an examination, diagnosis, X-rays, advice, a scale and polish and application of fluoride varnish or fissure sealant.	This covers everything listed in Band 1 plus any further treatment such as fillings, root canal work or removal of teeth.	This covers everything listed in Bands 1 and 2 plus crowns, dentures and bridges.
£18.50	£50.50	£219

Residents of Pitstone who wish to enquire about grants or other support from the Town Lands Charity are invited to visit our stall at the Party in the Park, to call Chairperson, Gill Lowe, on 01296 668809, email [ptlc@pitstone.co.uk](mailto:ptlc@pitstone.co.uk) or to pick up a leaflet from one of the GP surgeries in the village.

### Williamson Trust

The Williamson Trust makes annual grants to people living in Pitstone over the age of 65 funded by the income from bequests by the late Mark Williamson and his son Humphrey.

Despite low interest rates and the increasing number of people over 65 living in the village, the Trustees were pleased to be able to maintain grants at the 2013 level of £35 per individual and £45 per couple. Trustees delivered grant cheques for 2014 on 6th April to all eligible residents of Pitstone.

The Trustees can only make grants to eligible people they are aware of on the cut-off date of 31st March each year. If you would like to make us aware of any additional person eligible for a grant in 2015, please see us at the Party in the Park, notify one of the Trustees or email [williamsontrust@pitstone.co.uk](mailto:williamsontrust@pitstone.co.uk).

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## 2013-14 Annual Report and Accounts for Pitstone Parish Council

### Financial Position

	2012-13 Actual	2013-14 Budget	2013-14 Actual	Variance to last year	Variance to budget
Income	£128,732	£206,974	£95,342	-26%	-53%
Expenditure	£99,627	£255,510	£87,964	-12%	-66%

At the close of the year the council holds £167,547. £97,578 is reserved for specific purposes or with restricted spending ability (like maintenance payments from Taylor Wimpey) leaving £69,969 of retained reserve. The council is financially independent with no loans, lease payments or debts.

Changes to the Localised Council Tax Support system are affecting the funding stream for parish councils and will impact on the Council Tax values for the coming years.

### Frustrating Year

There have been a number of issues relating to key projects which has resulted in implementation delays (and therefore postponed expenditure). Including:

- A delay to the leisure development project (The parish council is waiting for the discharge of planning conditions from Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) relating to the play space; we are beholden to the landowner to resolve a land issue before the **skate park procurement can commence and the MUGA can't be progressed until** alternative car parking is available for the Memorial Hall as part of the Pitstone Development Area (PDA) plan).
- Taylor Wimpey declined permission for the parish council to install bus shelters and mVAS points along Westfield Road until they have completed transfer of the highways to Bucks County Council (BCC). BCC has issued a list of remedial works required to be undertaken, likely to cost over £0.5m.
- The redevelopment of the PDA will hopefully create a new heart for the village. Negotiations continue between the joint landowners but no plan has yet been submitted to AVDC.
- Even the weather conspired to keep the construction traffic out of the allotment site to remove the mounds of soil. However, we are pleased to report that in April 2014 the ground dried sufficiently for the diggers to negotiate and four new allotment plots have now been created.



### Progress in Other Areas

However, there have been a number of achievements during the year in other areas:

- At the pavilion - a sub-meter was installed to reduce water costs, enhancements were made to the emergency exits to improve safety, net supports were purchased, a memorial bench for Ben Wesley was installed and wheels were ordered for the free standing goals (now installed).
- The mVAS equipment has been deployed throughout the year, reducing traffic speeds along Vicarage Road, Marsworth Road and Cheddington Road. An additional location point has been approved opposite Ridgeway View and the parish council is waiting for the installation of the ground-screw.
- At the allotments, an extra water trough has been installed and the four new allotment plots have recently been created.
- Pitstone Hill car park has been resurfaced.
- The bi-annual Pitstone Guide was published and residents can now obtain up-to-date information from the new Pitstone & parish council web site.
- The parish council has continued to publish Pitstone Parish Post (PPP) into its centenary year, in the absence of anyone stepping forward to help, in order to keep our residents informed. Our thanks to Councillors Blunt and Ginda for all the voluntary time contributed as Editor and Advertising Manager.
- Raised mounds have been created either side of the lay-by opposite Masons to help prevent damage to the verges. Signs reminded drivers during the spring that the daffodils were growing and discouraged parking on the grass.
- Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust (VAHT) installed additional parking at the end of Glebe Close in April 2013.
- BCC surface dressed Glebe Close, installed new signage for the Pitstone Green Business Park to help divert traffic away from the high street area and resurfaced the footpath along Cheddington Road. All these issues had been outstanding for a number of years.

### Grants to our Local Community

During the year, the parish council provided financial assistance to a number of local bodies so that they can continue to enhance the lives of residents. This included:

- £3,000 to Pitstone Memorial Hall towards building enhancements
- £2,250 to Beacon Village Community Library
- £1,000 to Ivinghoe & Pitstone United Cricket Club
- £765 to Pitstone Recreation Ground Charity
- £600 to A J Groom & Son towards work on the football pitch
- £550 to 1st Ivinghoe & Pitstone Scouts
- £396 to St Marys Church, Pitstone
- £355 to Pitstone Parish Charity
- £100 to the Royal British Legion

### Success in the Best Kept Village Competition 2013

The parish council was delighted that the excellent work of the litter pickers, notice board manager, hall committee and church committee had been recognised when the village was awarded a Certificate of Commendation in the Best Kept Village competition. Judging for this years award takes place in June.

All the usual activity of the parish council continued with bus shelters maintained (disappointing to note that 5 separate glass panels had been vandalised this year), notice-boards treated to prolong their life, street lights kept operational, our open space and play equipment regularly inspected and maintained, litter picked up and removed, dog fouling bins provided and emptied, Pitstone Parish Post produced every quarter, the youth café offered every week during term time and a range of activities for the younger generation with visits from the portable skate park and Play Around the Parishes.

### Ongoing Projects

In addition to the projects that were delayed during the course of the last 12 months and therefore will continue to be developed this year, we are also working on a number of initiatives, many with other bodies, which have not yet come to fruition but will continue to be an area of focus during the next 12 months:

- The provision of a footpath to Marsworth (we are working with Marsworth Parish Council and the Local Area Forum)
- The installation of a foot & cycle path along Northfield Road (we are working with BCC and Herts County Council)
- The enhancement and development of the pavilion site (plans currently being investigated following an update from the I&P Junior Football Club and I&P United Cricket Club that they were no longer pursuing plans to obtain extra land from the Pitstone Towns Land Charity to extend the site.
- Updating and replacing the parish maps to reflect all the development off Westfield Road
- Replacement of the lighting equipment on the Marsworth Road roundabout and options to enhance this feature at the entrance to our village
- Castlemead issues including the handover of the highways to BCC and the handover of the open space to AVDC (currently working on Phase III).
- BCC issues including the installation of a dropped curb by the Cheddington Road railway bridge and footpath works to part of Vicarage Road.
- Working with VAHT to develop and install a solution at the junction of Yardley Avenue and Cheddington Road to prevent vehicles parking on the grass verge and obstructing the exit
- Working with Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity to help identify and achieve future ambitions to make the hall the centre of the village.
- Working with AVDC as they produce a new Vale of Aylesbury Plan which will affect the future housing and planning provision for the parish.

### Other Local Issues

- The NHS Litigation Authority granted an application by J T Health to operate a pharmacy from premises in the High Street, Ivinghoe. No planning application has yet been submitted. The impact on dispensing provision at the existing two surgeries remains to be confirmed.
- Anglian Water announced their intention to supply first time sewerage to a number of properties at the far end of Cheddington Road, by the railway bridge. An exact date has yet to be confirmed.
- The Computer Club at Pitstone Memorial Hall, which was supplied with a start up grant by the Parish Council, continues to operate. If you would like a helping hand accessing the internet, working a computer or keeping in touch with your family, do pop along.
- The Pitstone Community Film Club, which was also supplied with a start up grant by the Parish Council last year, launched on 15 November. Monthly screenings have been offered throughout the winter and the number of attendees has continued to climb. If you have not yet visited the big screen at the hall, do look out for the date of the next showing.

### Thank You

We would like to thank all our employees and volunteers who ensure that the village is kept clean and tidy and that the youth café can run each week.

We are fortunate in the parish that so many people are willing to give up their time to help our community. The Parish Council runs an annual Volunteer of the Year competition so residents can nominate the person they feel has gone the extra mile and deserves public recognition for their efforts. In April 2013 our winner was Mr Joe Marling, probably better known to everyone as the soldier selling poppies outside Masons every winter. Our April 2014 winner is Mrs Mary Saintey for many years service to the Pitstone Town Lands Charity and Williamson Trust. Previous winners have included David Hawkins, Michelle Lee, Elaine Thorogood and John Groom. Please submit any nominations for the forthcoming year to the parish clerk.

### Keep up-to-date

Pitstone Parish Post (PPP) is only published quarterly and a lot can happen in 3 months. So to keep up-to-date throughout the year, please:

- **'Like' the Pitstone Parish Council and/or Pitstone Youth pages on Facebook for immediate updates to your home page**
- Follow us on Twitter @pitstone\_pc
- Regularly check [www.pitstone.co.uk](http://www.pitstone.co.uk)
- Watch the notice-boards

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*(Continued from page 28)*

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Mr Keith Steers (Group Scout Leader/ Beaver Leader) Tel 07899 696722  
(Ksteers@aol.com) or Mr Bob Ford (Executive committee Chair) Tel 01296 662683  
(bob.ford@daftrucks.com).

## BEACONLIT RETURNS – BIGGER AND BETTER

BeaconLit, the small literary festival with big ambitions, returns on Saturday June 28 with a new venue, a full-day's programme, and a dazzling array of authors.

**The festival 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 in the beautiful Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. **Last year's inaugural half-day** event attracted visitors from far and wide, and the organisers are hoping to grow their audience this year.

The full-day festival runs from 10am to 5.30pm in Brookmead School, Ivinghoe, which has recently been extended with an impressive new hall that will provide the centre stage for the event.

**“There's something for everyone in BeaconLit 2014,”** said local crime novelist Dave Sivers, **who will again chair author discussion panels. “We think of it as a live chat show. The morning offers an a la carte selection of sessions on getting published, talks on writing craft, and hands-on creative writing workshops.**

**“In the afternoon, there are two discussion panels** - one on young adult fiction with Hilary Freeman, Caroline Green and Teri Terry, and we also have another of our already popular **crime fiction panels, this year featuring Stephen Booth, Jane Isaac and Anya Lipska. It's a chance to hear successful authors chatting about their genre and also to ask questions.**

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**“The afternoon will also include an ‘in conversation’ session with Mandy Kirkby, talking about and reading from her book, Love Letters of the Great War, which will be especially poignant in this the centenary year of the outbreak of World War One.”**

The morning’s activities include the return of crime writer Alison Bruce, who will run a session entitled ‘CSI Ivinghoe: Getting Away with Murder?’, in which she takes a look at novel ways of killing people. Women’s fiction author Rowan Coleman will be talking about ‘Three Reasons why First Novels Fail, and How to Avoid Them’. And local author and creative writing tutor Claire Steele will run two writing workshops, whilst Dave Sivers talks about his experience with self-publishing eBooks, and Martin Godleman and Belinda Hunt uncover pathways to traditional publication.

**A ‘BeaconKidz’ programme for youngsters to enjoy on the day is in development, and all visitors can enter a free 150-word flash fiction competition with the chance to win a day pass for BeaconLit 2015. There will be stalls to browse, opportunities to chat to the authors, buy books and get them signed, and refreshments to enjoy.**

A day pass costs £13.50, but early birds can buy them for just £12 before May 17 - a saving of more than 11%. For those who only want to attend for half a day, there are morning and afternoon passes. Generous concessions are available for young people in full time education.

**“BeaconLit 2014 offers an exciting day out for both readers and writers, at outstanding value compared to many other literary festivals,” said Dave Sivers.**

For more information, and to buy tickets, visit the website at [www.beaconlit.co.uk](http://www.beaconlit.co.uk).

## NEWS FROM IVINGHOE TOWN HALL

On 26th February the Town Hall Committee were sorry to have to say goodbye to Terry Jennings who has done a fantastic job acting as a Trustee & Chair of the Town Hall Committee over the last 15+ years.

Terry, always jovial, kept us moving forward in good spirit and one of his last significant positive actions was to encourage us to embrace the idea of setting up a web site for the Town Hall ~ and who better to lead this effort than Andy Beezer, who has also been unanimously appointed as Chair of the Committee.

**If you haven’t already tried it please try the web site at [www.ivinghoetownhall.org.uk](http://www.ivinghoetownhall.org.uk) where you can see regular activities and search for Hall availability dates, or if you prefer to enquire in person then call The Booking Secretary on 01296-660344.**

You may also have noticed a new Town Hall advertisement is appearing in the PPP, for

which we are indebted to Jaqui Adams.

The Committee has purchased a new Yamaha Keyboard, a quality instrument which a number of our regular hirer's will appreciate after struggling for a couple of years with our old one which finally had a mind of its own!

On May 10th & 11th The Ivinghoe PCC, Old School (HUB), Cafe and the Town Hall all pulled together to enable both Hall's and The Green for parking to support an "Artists & Makers Fair" which raised the profile of our beautiful Village and its facilities. Wednesday 28th May The Town Hall AGM is being held at 8pm, to which all are invited. To View or Book contact Janet of Stephen on 01296 660344 or visit [www.ivinghoetownhall.org.uk](http://www.ivinghoetownhall.org.uk).

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

**Thanks to all of our visitors and villagers for their ongoing support. We've seen a number of** fantastic events take place over the last few months, from birthday parties, yoga lessons and soft play sessions to themed restaurant nights and table top sales. The Spring Fair and the Easter Egg Hunt were spectacularly successful with 58 children hunting for eggs.

This huge range of events has helped make the Ivinghoe Old School a real community hub, enjoyed by all.

### **How you can help...**

Two upcoming historical exhibitions in need of community contributions are:

Photography exhibition – **celebrating the history of the school and it's place in the heart of Ivinghoe – do come in and visit during the Church Fete weekend taking place over Father's Day weekend on the 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> June.**

WW1 exhibition – --we will start to collect community memorabilia which will be displayed from July to late November.

### **Why not...**

Dig out any photos or memorabilia to share.

- Join one of our community groups to help out. Use your skills to provide for the village, contact us to find out how you could help.
- **Take advantage of the longer days... spring towards summer with a variety of options to enjoy at our community Hub or... even buy a picnic basket from CuriosiTEA Rooms to take out on the lawn... Croquet anyone?**





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## *Spring Highlights*

### Artists and Makers Fairs 2014 – 10-11<sup>th</sup> May

Hope you enjoyed seeing local artists selling their beautiful and affordable work including painting, ceramics, textiles and much more. There is also interest in another such event in September to showcase Bedfordshire Artists. The After School Club is also in development **and closer to becoming a reality... as is some village theatre to help brighten up the late summer afternoons.** Join our database to get the earliest nudges about such things!

### *Regular Events*

Tuesdays 11am – Jo Jingles

Wednesdays 8pm – Yoga

First Tuesdays (except Sept) 7.30pm – Ivinghoe Parish Council

### *CuriosiTEA Rooms*

CuriosiTEA Rooms continue to provide delicious and affordable meals and refreshments to all our visitors and villagers. Hayley can also provide catering for any events in the Hub, just pop in to discuss your plans.

### *Ongoing Hire*

As always the community space can be yours for hire from as little as £9 per hour.

The IT Suite is also available for hire - either single computers or the suite as a whole. Personal IT tuition will be starting at the Hub soon.

For more details on any of the above or to make a booking please contact us. Booking forms are also available from the Hub. Why not pop in to have a look round, partake of some refreshments and pick one up! Join our database, by signing the list in the cloakroom of the Hub, to be kept informed of special events or send an email. Phone: 01296-661666, Email: [ivinghoeoldschool@btconnect.com](mailto:ivinghoeoldschool@btconnect.com), Join our Facebook group Ivinghoe Old School Hub or visit our website [www.ivinghoeoldschool.com](http://www.ivinghoeoldschool.com) .

## OTHER NEWS

Rose and Crown, Ivinghoe

**“Basin to Bar Charity Canal Cycle Ride”** - Sunday 1st June 2014

Once again we are cycling 53 miles along the Grand Union Canal tow path from Paddington Basin to The Rose and Crown, Ivinghoe. Catch the train to London Euston, a short hop down the Marylebone Road to Paddington Basin the start of the Grand Union Canal and the tow path back to Ivinghoe.

If you would like to join us; please register making a minimum donation of £15.00 towards Cancer Research UK. To make a donation or find out more visit: <http://tinyurl.com/oqf25py>

## BOWLS UPDATE - **'WICKED!'**

**Rather stronger language will be said under a bowler's breath when an opponent's wood** luckily wicks off another wood and finishes up in a good place. Poor shots sometimes have a **good result. Infuriating, but that's bowls. Of course, a good shot can be deliberately aimed** to wick off another wood to achieve a prime position on a rink.

What a great game bowls is - skill, tactics, friendship and fresh air. There will be plenty of wicks, aimed for, and lucky ones, during the coming season at Cheddington Bowls Club.

You can GIVE BOWLS A GO on any Tuesday (2 pm) or Friday (6pm), through to September. **Coaching and the loan of bowls is free. The Club's OPEN DAY is on Sunday June 1st** from 2 pm.

Last year was a very successful one. The Club won and were semi finalists in County competitions. It was also a very sad year. Our President, Bill Young (Cheddington), passed away after a short illness. Bill was one of the best. We will miss his smile and humour. A great ambassador for the fun of bowls.

A special thanks goes to the Green team, led by Ken Eames (Dunstable), who have worked so hard this winter widening access paths and renewing ditches, and to Richard Lloyd (Houghton Regis) who has led the work on a new ladies changing facility. Bingo, short mat and food & drink evenings, when members of Marsworth WI and the Beacon Club **(Pitstone) joined us, were each part of the Club's social as well as bowling calendar. The** Christmas dinner too was pretty good fun.

Our friendly Club attracts members from far and wide. I look forward to seeing you being WICKED on the green sometime this summer. If you would like to know more, just give me, or our secretary, Nigel Dolton, 01442 824679 (Tring), a call.

Tony Duke: 01525 220644 (Eaton Bray)  
Club Chairman

Keen photographer? We are always pleased to receive photographs to include in the magazine of local interest.  
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## TALES FROM THE COMPOST HEAP

### The Wonder of Weeds

Weeds – perennial ones in particular – **are the bane of a gardener's life.** Couch grass, ground elder, bindweed, celandine, dandelions, thistles, nettle roots and docks – to name but a few – are all possessed of an almost miraculous ability to keep going and prosper, no matter what. Most gardeners will have pondered at length how to get rid of them, solutions varying from curses and incantations to the prolific use of certain proprietary mixes.

In the majority of cases and assuming that the curses etc. turn out to be ineffective, the only solution is to dig them out carefully, bit by bit. This is wonderfully good exercise for those who wish to develop large biceps and possibly triceps also. Then, confronted by a heap of weeds, what should one do next? These weeds, added to the standard home compost heap, may well demonstrate their unique ability to survive by reappearing to live another day. This is because such a compost heap rarely reaches the temperatures necessary to kill the weeds off. A different strategy is called for – and in fact there is more than one way to go here.

Option one is to stuff the weeds, roots and all, into a black plastic sack; add some green material such as lawn clippings, secure the top and put the bag behind the shed, or some other out-of-the-way spot. After about 6 months, check the contents – which should have turned into a kind of black sludge, or weed soup if you prefer. All traces of the original plant material should have disappeared. You can then add this to your compost heap. Option two is to create a separate heap, just for these perennial weeds; cover it completely with black plastic – not beautiful, but necessary for this job, to smother the weeds. Again, check the contents carefully after a few months. If no traces of the original material can be detected, add the material to your normal heap.

Either way, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have performed that marvellous alchemy of turning nuisance weeds into a valuable addition to your garden, and in the process have let nothing go to waste - surely one of the greatest joys a gardener can have.

Barbara Cummings

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

**\*\* THIS MAGAZINE NEEDS YOU! \*\***

**Do you enjoy reading PPP? Could it be made better?**

**We are seeking a volunteer Editor to take over the reins and keep PPP going. Please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance. Full training and support will be given.**

Pastor Dave Clifford

"I'm a Christian, I'm a Pastor, I'm a Car Driver"

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

## New Tariffs

## From 1st Dec. 2012

# DRIVERS NEEDED!

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

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

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

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

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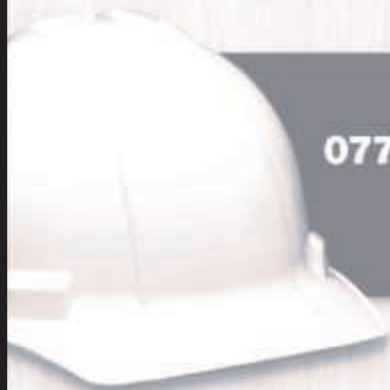
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 <p>Cllr Gillian Arney 63 Cheddington Road, LU7 9AQ T: 668123 E: gill.arney@tiscali.co.uk Pitstone Hill and Trees, Parish Paths, Pitstone Church Committee, Aylesbury Vale Transport Users Group, Recreation Ground &amp; Playground Inspections, Notice 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; Playground Inspections, Neighbourhood Planning</p>
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