

Interim Editor

ClIr Ben Blunt
Tel: 01296 660702
pppeditor@pitstone.co.uk

Advertising and
Distribution

ClIr Klaus Ginda
Tel: 01296 668911
Klauginda@btinternet.com

Situations Vacant:
Editor

We continue to seek a voluntary Editor to take over the publication of PPP. If you are interested in this position, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Next Edition

The next edition will be delivered May 2015.
Deadline is
8th May 2015.

Pitstone Parish Post

This magazine is produced on behalf of Pitstone Parish Council and distributed quarterly, free to every household.

The PPP is now in a new slimmer format, which contains news and updates from the Parish Council, and a small number of other items of local interest subject to reduced space availability only.

The PPP will continue to contain advertising for businesses and other groups in the future, as this helps ensure the printing costs are not passed onto Council Tax payers through the advertising revenue received.

The magazine continues to be edited and compiled by a volunteer editor, and distributed by a team of volunteers who receive no payment for their services. Our thanks go to all of them for making this publication possible:

Sheila Stevens, Annie Stack, Fiona Thompson, Barbara Jacob, Norah Parkins, Tracy Stone, Linda Thompson, Sue Nicholls, Vanita Patel, Isobel Robinson, Gillian Arney, Sarah Smith, Louise Pope, Alison Sturgess, Mike Clayton, Nikki Matthey, Norma Leighton, Kathryn Cooper, Linda Martin, Olive West, Vanessa Swan, Sally Kapadia, Julie Mead, Jacqui Gardiner, Terry Gardiner, Lynn Fountain, Louise Weatherill, Dawn Eaglesham, Linda Willmont, Kathy Brassington, Alison Hawkins. If you would like to help with the distribution then please contact the distribution manager (contact to the left).

Should you wish to advertise in the magazine please contact the Advertising Manager to discuss availability.

Current PPP advertising rates (including VAT at 20%)

Business card £9, Quarter Page £14, Third page £17, Half Page £24.50, Full page £48.50, Inside colour half £30, Inside colour full £60, Back page colour £65. For advertising enquiries please contact the Advertising Manager or Editor above.

Enjoy the edition.



Bob Saintey
Chairman
Pitstone Parish Council

Pitstone Parish Post

The Parish Council, for a number of years, has been thinking about a village Christmas tree. It was undecided whether to grow a real one or buy one annually.

Finally the decision was made to purchase lights and decorate an existing tree near the Memorial Hall.

I am sure you will all agree that it enhanced the centre of the village, and gave it a much needed festive feel. I would like to thank, on behalf of the community, those who erected and designed the lights on the tree. Well done!

As mentioned in the previous issue of the PPP, a steering committee has been formed to pave the way forward for the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). This is mov-

Winter 2014/15

ing at pace, with various sub groups working hard to re-search many aspects of Pitstone. We are hopeful that a successful and comprehensive plan can be developed and wish them ongoing success. Please come along to the Community Events and have your say.

Finally I would like to make a heartfelt please on behalf of various groups in the village for more volunteers. We are desperately short of willing personnel in many organisations and movements, to the point of total collapse.

You will see more information given in this edition. If you think that you can give some time, please contact the appropriate organisation or the Parish Clerk, who will put you in touch. *Bob Saintey.*



Avril Davies
District and
County Councillor

Why are there suddenly so many big planning applications in rural areas?

In the last two years an unprecedented number of speculative planning applications for large numbers of homes on land not planned for development have been submitted to Aylesbury Vale District Council. This is because the new national planning policy introduced in 2012, and the scrapping of the South East regional plan which put a ceiling on numbers, means it is

now presumed that planning permission will be given unless there is an overwhelming case against it.

Also encouraging locally to developers is that Aylesbury Vale has no longer got a required 5 year housing land supply, and the Council has failed twice to put in place a strong local plan to state local priorities which can interpret and adapt the national guidance to local needs.

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numbers are now accumulating across the Vale. For example as well as the approval in principle for 40 houses on land at Rushendon Furlong in Pitstone (not yet signed off) and 30 in Edlesborough in Cow Lane, 47 houses were approved on appeal in Aston Clinton on Stablebridge Road, their development currently delayed by the discovery of an Iron Age village on the site, plus another 47 on land off Chapel Drive, granted on an appeal with far reaching consequences for other decisions, leading almost directly to permission for 120 in Brook Street Aston Clinton. In Haddenham 280 were recently granted on the Glebeland, with still larger numbers applied for on other Haddenham sites. There are outstanding applications in Slapton, Waddesdon, Steeple Claydon, and many more.

Why are so many of these applications being allowed?

Many applications have been allowed because although Aylesbury Vale planners can still apply policies saved from previous plans, such as encroachment into the countryside or detriment to the character of the landscape, a succession of planning appeal judgements have given very little weight to these, stating instead that the benefits of supplying the houses needed for a five year supply of housing outweighs these considerations and the traffic growth. One of the first policies to be thrown out at appeal was the former limit on rural developments to 5 houses.

So planning applications are being judged on whether the 'good' in terms of providing a five year housing land supply outweighs the 'harm' as measured by the criteria in the NPPF for sustainable development. This is defined as building a strong competitive economy; promoting sustainable transport; delivering a wide choice of high quality homes; requiring good design; promoting

healthy communities; conserving and enhancing the natural environment; conserving and enhancing the historic environment. When applications are submitted in outline only this is often hard to judge, which is why appeal judgements are so important in interpreting the guidance.

The 2 applications in Ivinghoe for 110 houses

The two planning applications for Ivinghoe are still not determined. The first application for 70 houses by Gladman has been referred to the planning inspectorate on the grounds of non determination by the planning authority within the statutory time limit, and the other adjacent one on The Park for 40 houses is still being evaluated at AVDC.

Ivinghoe conservation area revision

Meanwhile the long overdue revision of the 1971 Ivinghoe Conservation Area has been published for consultation and can be viewed on line <http://www.aylesburyvaldec.gov.uk/environment/conservation-listed-buildings/current-conservation-area-consultation/ivinghoe-conservation-area-review/> or in the Beacon Villages library. This proposes major extensions to the conservation area to include the Park and Ford End farm, and describes the significance of views in and out of the conservation area from all points.

Appeals won

It is not all bad news. What we think in Aylesbury Vale still holds some weight. On 26th January the appeal for three sites, Hampden Fields, Weedon Hill and Fleet Marston, totalling 5,800 houses, was dismissed. The inspector upholding in almost every detail the council's grounds for re-

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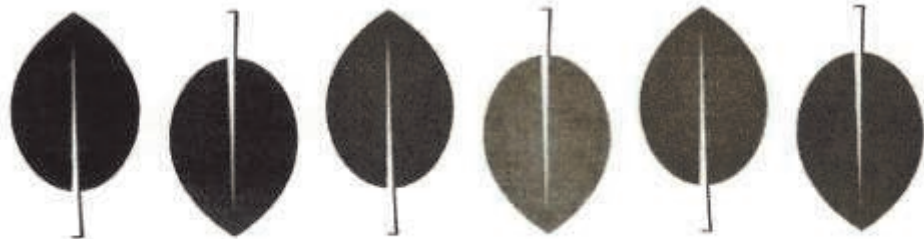
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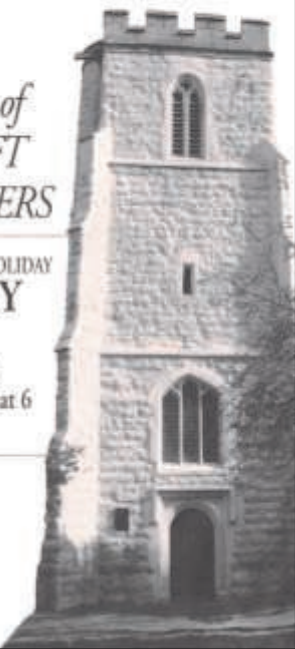
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(Continued from page 5)

fusal. Even if these appeals had been allowed, The 5,800 would not have increased the 5 year supply as the sites would not have delivered any houses inside five years, as so much pre construction and infrastructure work as well as detailed plans would have been required.

Aylesbury Vale still one of the fastest growing areas

In Aylesbury the Buckingham Park and Beryfields developments, still being built out from an earlier plan, make Aylesbury Vale the fastest housebuilding area in the country. In addition between Bierton and Broughton, 'Aylesbury East', 2450 houses have been given permission in outline and currently the detailed planning permission is being considered. A further 1560 between Bierton and Watermead are currently at appeal hearing.

Progress on a new plan for Aylesbury Vale

The new Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) was begun in May, and has just completed the 'call for sites' stage <http://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/planning-policy/vale-of-aylesbury-local-plan/vale-aylesbury-local-plan-call-sites-response/>. These sites will all be examined for viability and deliverability, and consulted on next summer. The final plan is expected to be adopted in 2017.

Neighbourhood Plans

The third important strand for planning after the NPPF and the District plan is the Neighbourhood plan. Cheddington and Pitstone have had their respective neighbourhood areas approved and the process of putting together a plan

has begun, with Cheddington being further ahead having already held a public consultation.

Ivinghoe and Slapton have made an application to designate an area for a plan.

Winslow has completed its plan and held a referendum as required. Wing, Marsh Gibbon Haddenham and Great Horwood are following closely behind.

Neighbourhood plans are intended to complement rather than contradict District Plans, so it is with interest we await the outcome of a judicial review brought by Gladman against the Winslow plan on the grounds it had no status without an overarching District Plan, as this will affect every neighbourhood plan currently being put together by hard working volunteers.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Awarded £6,500 to provide our NDP Steering Group with professional support

The Parish Council is delighted to announce that it has been awarded a grant of £6,500 from the Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning programme that will enable us to provide our Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group with professional support and to commission a necessary Strategic Environmental Assessment report.

Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning is a £9.5m programme of expert support and funding to help communities across the country create neighbourhood plans. The programme is run by Locality in association with RTP/Planning Aid England, Community Development Foundation, Urban Vision Enterprise, Eden Project and

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URS, and funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government. It is available through the My Community Rights website.

Grant Awarded to Ivinghoe and Pitstone with Cheddington Guides

The Parish Council is delighted to announce that it has awarded a grant of £93.95 to enable the Guides to purchase a replacement personalized flag. The old flag is now over **30 years old, doesn't reflect the current** group branding or name and even had Pitstone mis-spelt on it. The council wishes the Guides every success for the coming year.

Prices Frozen on Allotment Plot Rental for 2015/16

Both the Parish Council and Pitstone Allotment Association are delighted to announce that there will be no price increase for allotment plot rental for the 2015/16 season. Therefore, annual subscription to PAA will remain at £6.50 per quarter plot, annual rental to the Parish Council remains at £8.50 per quarter plot, bringing the total charge to £15 per quarter plot per annum. Residents are permitted to rent up to 4 quarter plots, subject to availability. The next allotment year commences at the end of March. If you are interested in finding out more about our allotments or adding your name to the list for a plot, please visit: <http://pitstoneallotmentassociation.org.uk/> or email: secretary@pitstoneallotmentassociation.org.uk

Play Space, Skate Park and Multi-Use **Ball Court delayed ... but not forgotten**

The youth of the village have not been forgotten and the Parish Council is still working with AVDC towards the installation of a new play space, skate park and multi-use ball court by the Recreation Ground. These projects have all been delayed due to complications arising from the Pitstone Development Area (PDA) proposals. We are hoping that the development will enable the ball court as this was defined in the 2005 adopted policy by AVDC, and that following the grant of planning permission for the PDA that the Parish Council may be able to secure the necessary land sale to enable the play space and skate park. Unfortunately, the timing of these leisure facilities is dependent upon the progress of the proposals for the PDA, so it out of the control of the Parish Council. We have been declined permission to install the leisure facilities at present. The combined cost of the leisure enhancements will be approximately £300,000. We will continue to strive for the realization of these aspirations and will keep the community updated.

Dog Fouling on the public footpath in Pitstone?

Some roads are a particular hot spot for some irresponsible dog owners that fail to clear up after their pets at present. The Parish Council has repeatedly tried to educate and encourage owners in responsible dog ownership and provides plentiful number of both dedicated dog bins and ordinary refuse bins in which the deposits can be placed. However, there appears to remain a number of repeat offenders.

Thank you for your assistance with helping to keep our footpaths free of toxic waste.

Footpath 6

Footpath 6 runs from beside the church to Vicarage Road beside Erleigh Manor. It was the path from the Vicarage to the church but is now redundant and Beacon Villages are donating a gate to make the exit onto Vicarage Road safer. I thought I would take the opportunity to publicise the path as a way up to Pitstone Hill particularly from Castlemead. Vicarage Road used to be a bit of a race track until Westfield Road was built and took most of the traffic away. Now the road is much safer to use and is less muddy than the headland way up to the Silver Birch.

The route goes up the bark path and Church Road to the church. Walk round the church and along to the Vicarage. Turn right and go to the T junction with the B488 which has to be crossed carefully. Cross the field and turn left along a mown path well away from the road. This is Footpath 7 which goes up to the hill round the field. Once you are on the hill there are paths going in all directions depending on how far you want to walk. See the walks in the Pitstone guide and on the village website. Try this walk particularly if you are a midweek walker and you will find it very useful

Gillian Arney

Life Saving Defibrillator now available at the Village Health Centre, Yardley Avenue

Pitstone is now a little bit safer thanks to the Village Health Centre in Yardley Avenue and the local sports clubs. A new external defibrillator has been purchased and mounted outside the surgery. In the event of a cardiac emergency, the 999 operator will provide the release code and the defibrillator will talk you through the process of

giving life saving treatment to the patient whilst the ambulance is on its way. Please make sure that you familiarise yourself with its location, as you never know when you might need it. Please also look out for community training sessions that will provide you all with a chance to see how the unit works so that you are more confident in the event of an emergency.

Our very grateful thanks to The Village Health Centre in Yardley Avenue for funding the purchase and ongoing maintenance costs of the defibrillator itself, and to all the following local sports clubs for funding the purchase of the external lock box that makes this vital life saving equipment available to the whole community: Ivinghoe and Pitstone United Cricket Club, Pitstone and Ivinghoe Junior Football Club, Pitstone and Ivinghoe United Football Club, Tring Town Football Club and Envirologistics Football Club.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Pitstone needs your time and help!

Our village is fortunate that there are a number of community groups and activities that provide support, entertainment and education for us all. All these services require the essential support of volunteers in order to operate, and at the moment our community is currently experiencing a massive volunteer shortage.

Part of the pleasure of living in a rural village should be pulling together and uniting to form a strong community spirit. Without some additional volunteers, some of these services may soon have to close altogether, including our Memorial Hall, Youth Café and

(Continued on page 14)

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Toddler Group.

All sorts of skills are needed, so please don't worry if you don't feel you have experience

or qualifications, get in touch anyway as there is bound to be something for you to get involved in and your support would be most welcome. Please look at your diaries and calendars and offer your services to one of the groups below. Many really only need a small amount of your time, and many of the existing volunteers offer their services alongside full time jobs and family commitments, so can be done flexibly around other commitments.

Pitstone Parish Post (this magazine)

Is in urgent need of a new volunteer editor. Without a replacement editor, this magazine is unlikely to be continued, which would be a big loss having recently celebrated its 100th edition. Please get in touch to save this publication, if you think you can help. Full training and support provided to develop new skills or use existing ones.

Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity

Urgently need extra trustees and nominated officers. The charity meets approximately once every two months, for a couple of hours, so this will not take up a huge amount of your time. All skills welcome, with an interest and passion in the hall and the services/events it can bring to our whole community.

Pitstone Youth Cafe

If you would enjoy helping our 11-14yr olds have fun, learn and grow, then the youth café is the place for you. The café needs people willing to get involved in the running

and administration of the café, as well as general volunteers to talk to our young people, play a game of snooker/table tennis/football/cards etc with them. Minimum commitment not high at just 1.5hrs once per month.

Pitstone and Ivinghoe Toddler Group

Is struggling along with no committee and a lack of support to help set up/put away once a week. If you can spare some time on a Wednesday afternoon to help the local mums and babies/toddlers they would be delighted for you to join them. It is a very friendly and welcoming local group.

Ivinghoe and Pitstone Scouts

Are still looking for one assistant Beaver leader for a Monday evening and an assistant Cub leader on a Wednesday evening to work alongside the existing volunteer team. If you can help our 6-10 year olds broaden their horizons and learn new skills then this is the role for you.

Scouts also need new members and a secretary for the executive committee. They **only meet once per quarter, so it won't be a big commitment**, but without the committee none of the scout groups are able to operate, so your support is extremely important.

Pitstone Community Car Scheme

Needs a new co-ordinator and more volunteer drivers, neither are particularly onerous roles. The co-ordinator simply takes calls from the elderly residents that need to get to their hospital appointments and matches their requirement to one of the listed volunteer drivers.

(Continued on page 16)



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Headteacher: Katherine Douglas

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Friends At Brookmead (PTA)
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Friends At Brookmead raise funds by running a recycling textiles project. Items that are no longer required such as adults' and children's clothing, shoes, hats, belts, handbags, ties and soft toys can all be turned into money, which assists us in purchasing additional resources to enhance the children's learning at Brookmead School.

Rob Clarke of Colbree Engineering has kindly agreed to use their village based engineering site at Pitstone Green Business Park to store additional textile collections on behalf of Brookmead School. Donations simply need to be placed into plastic bags such as refuse sacks and dropped off at the signed collection point, located at the rear gates at Colbree Engineering on Quarry Road. Friends At Brookmead would like to take this opportunity to thank Colbree Engineering for their support in enabling us to extend this project out to the wider community.

So next time you are sorting out your wardrobes, don't take it to the tip... take it to Colbree!!! If you have any queries, then please contact Friends At Brookmead directly by email: FriendsAtBrookmead@brookmead.bucks.sch.uk

(Continued from page 14)

The scheme also needs more volunteers that are willing to take these residents to their appointments. You can volunteer for whatever days/times would suit your schedule and you will only be contacted if a request comes in that matches your availability. You will receive payment for your petrol and any car parking expenses.

Pitstone Community Cinema

Screen a film on the last Friday of each month at Pitstone Memorial Hall. The cinema run by a small group of dedicated volunteers that help to select the films, sell the tickets and set up the hall. The local cinema is the only cinema that some of our less mobile residents, or those reliant on public transport, can get to. If you have a passion for films and can spare just a couple of hours each month, please get in touch.

Pitstone Church

Need extra help to man the church on open days, and help with the annual flower festival. Please do get in touch and help preserve our wonderful village church.

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1st Ivinghoe & Pitstone Scouts Group

(Group Scout Leader: Keith Steers)

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Scouting Sections

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Watermill Beavers	Windmill Beavers	Windmill Cubs	Watermill Cubs	Scouts
6pm—7pm	6pm—7pm	6.30pm—8pm	6.30pm—8pm	7.30pm-9pm
Leader: Andrew Broad	Leader: Keith Steers	Leader: Rob Haddock	Leader: Rob Mercel	Leader: Andrew Woods

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Party in the Park

Provides an annual summer outdoor concert on Pitstone Recreation Ground. If music and/or raising funds for good local causes is of interest, then please get in touch.

The committee meet every month on the run up to the event and there are always things to be done on the day.

Ivinghoe Entertainments

Have had to cancel their Summer Festival this year due to a lack of people on the committee. This organisation is made up of Pitstone and Ivinghoe residents that want to put on activities for the community and raise funds for local community groups. So if you have ever attended the firework display, ball or comedy night, then think about joining and lending a helping hand.

Please ring 01296 660791 or email parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk in the first instance and the parish clerk will be delighted to put you in touch with the right people.

JAZZ EVENING IN PITSTONE AGAIN FOR 2015

Ben Treacher will be playing an evening of Jazz at Pitstone Memorial Hall on Saturday, 27th June 2015 from 8.00pm. Do come along to hear this fabulous quartet's music (alto saxophone (Ben), double bass, drums, bass guitar).

All four musicians are Music Conservatoire-trained and regularly gigging and making their mark on the London and Home Counties Jazz scene.

If you enjoy live music from young and exciting new talent, then make the most of an opportunity to see London Jazz musicians in this local venue transformed into our very own 'Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club' for the evening! Box Office: 01296 668094.

NEW WEBSITE BOOKING SYSTEM FOR PITSTONE MEMORIAL HALL

The Pitstone Memorial Hall now has a new website booking system, which can be accessed via the following link:

pitstone.co.uk/localinfo/pitstone-memorial-hall

This new service will make it easier for you to make bookings and see when the hall is available to hire.



YOUR ~~COUNTRY~~ COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!!



Our school is filling up and our village is growing. We are losing our countryside and our views.

Across the country, rural communities are under threat. The UK is suffering from a chronic housing shortage. District Councils are under massive pressure to meet challenging quotas for new housing stock.

New houses ARE coming to Pitstone, but where; and are local facilities adequate?

We have the power to manage how much development takes place, where it goes, and what we get in return.

How?

Pitstone Neighbourhood Development Plan

What is an NDP?

- Your chance to have your say.
- Your opportunity to shape the future of Pitstone's housing, facilities, sport and leisure, environment.
- A policy document that has real legal force, which has to be taken into account whenever developers apply for planning permission on a piece of land.

A team of local volunteers has been appointed by Pitstone Parish Council to run this process. Their work on the project is going full steam ahead, but they can't do it without YOU.

Want to know more?

Visit the village website: www.pitstone.co.uk/PitstoneNDP

Join the discussions on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/PitstoneNDP

Email us: NeighbourhoodPlan@pitstone.co.uk

Write to us: Pitstone NDP, 9 Warwick Road, Pitstone, Bucks LU7 9FE

Telephone us: 01296 660791.

Want to have your say?

Come along to a **Community Engagement Day**.

We are holding two: **Sunday 22 March and Saturday 28 March.**

Pitstone Memorial Hall, 11am – 3pm. Stay for as long or as little time as you like.

Speak to members of the NDP team about housing supply, sport and education, transport and infrastructure, or our heritage and environment. Understand more about the challenges Pitstone is facing. Put your ideas forward. Raise any concerns you might have. Hear about 'next steps' in the NDP process. Learn about the referendum by which the Pitstone community will formally adopt its NDP. Enjoy a drink in the Social Club and hear about its own plans for expansion.

See you there!

PITSTONE CHURCHES AND FELLOWSHIPS

Pastor Dave's Last Call!

'Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.'

I included this quote which is credited to John F. Kennedy in my article for the previous edition. Little did I know then how change would hit us as a family. It is with sadness that I have to inform you that my family and I will be moving from Pitstone in July as my contract finishes with the Fellowship in June. It has been an enjoyable experience coming from a busy **town setting to a small village which only sees a chip shop once a week! There's a cholesterol hit on every street corner in Dudley. We have enjoyed the peace and quiet, the scenery, the different types of soup we've tried at 'Souperlunches', and whilst it is a sad time for us the change, hopefully will do us all good.**

The Chapel Fellowship has already begun to search for a new pastor to take over the duties of preaching and looking after the flock. There was a strong feeling that it was not yet time **to 'shut up shop' and activities we are involved in like First Thursday Friends will continue in the foreseeable future in some form.**

The Car Scheme has proved very successful over the past few years and has been well received by those who have used it. I still think there are many others who do not avail themselves of what I think has become a lifeline for some to get to medical appointments, even if I have had to get up at six in the morning to get Day Procedure patients in to High Wycombe for 7.30! We will need a new Co-Coordinator, someone willing to have their name and phone number scattered to the four winds of Pitstone. It is not an arduous task and there is a small team of drivers to help, it is more like fitting a jigsaw together pairing patients with drivers. And you will be pleased to know that there is **NO EXTRA MONEY** for doing it. Please contact me if you are interested.

'Pitstone Surfers' who meet on Wednesday morning for computer tuition is an uncertain proposition at present. I have had to cancel the last two terms because of the lack of interest which has meant room hire etc has not been viable. If anyone would like to take it on please let me know.

I hope that others will volunteer to assist Dave Nicholls with the monthly Film Club and Alex Wynne with Souperlunches, both are valuable events for the Ivinghoe and Pitstone Communities and would be missed should they have to cease through lack of helpers. Please think about it.

We have met some truly lovely people, and made some great friends in our time in the village. We hope that we have made some small contribution to improving life in the commu-

(Continued on page 26)

♪ singalong ♪

with Helen

40 minutes of musical fun with
instruments and puppets
(Term time only)

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- Tuesday - 10.00 @ Cheddington
- Wednesday 10.00@ The Hub, Ivinghoe
- Wednesday - 13.30 @ Pitstone
- Thursday - 10.00 @ Pitstone
- Friday - 10.00 @ Pitstone

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

from Tony Clare, chairman of the Pitstone NDP Steering Group

Dear Resident

Evolving Pitstone in the hands of its community

Aylesbury Vale District Council is forecasting that it is unlikely to have a local housing plan in place, to answer the dilemma of how it will play its part in meeting the housing shortage in the UK, until Spring 2016. This delay has enabled some very aggressive housing development applications that, without a local plan in place, make it hard if not impossible to argue against. However, within our power is the opportunity to create a community owned Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).



What is an NDP?

An NDP does not equal "no development". An NDP means, instead, that a community can take charge of creating its own vision of how it would like to develop over the next 15 years. We as a community will then become able to manage random and aggressive applications for development that Pitstone does not need or want. Once in place all future planning applications are decided in accordance with the NDP, which carries the same legal **weight as the District Council's local plan.**

So what is an NDP?

An NDP takes an objective view on all plots of land within an agreed area. It looks at their potential development and use. It looks at the infrastructure and amenities required to support existing and future development. It considers education requirements, as well as health needs and sports and leisure facilities available. And it considers, amongst many other things, the heritage and identity of a community and looks at the employment requirements to support it.

Ultimately it creates a vision of how the community as a whole would like to see itself develop over the next 15 or so years. It is a requirement that the majority of that community support it in a referendum, in order for it to be formally adopted.

Where are we now?

A group made up of local volunteers, appointed by and acting on behalf of the Parish Council, has been looking at the questions and challenges that arise out of the development of an

NDP. It is a huge undertaking and we would ask for your help and support as they go through this process.

We would like to be clear that no decisions have yet been taken. Indeed, this would be impossible without support and input from the local community, followed by a formal consultation process about what our proposed NDP might look like.

To start this intensive process we have been investigating a number of development options for Pitstone between now and 2030. Some of them would undoubtedly be less popular than others. Some of them would involve a trade-off: if you like, a downside in return for an upside. But above all else, we cannot form a clear vision for our community without first investigating all possible alternatives, even if a number of them are then firmly discounted.

Speculation in these circumstances is bound to occur, particularly whilst our initial background work was being undertaken. However, we have now reached the stage where input from and engagement with the community is a vital next step in further developing the vision for Pitstone that is slowly beginning to emerge from our work. We now want to hear your questions, listen to your points of view, and with full transparency tackle together the issues we have identified that Pitstone will face over the forthcoming 15 years.

What's next?

The NDP team will be hosting two **“Community Engagement Days”** at Pitstone Memorial Hall, which are taking place between 11am and 3pm on Sunday 22 March and Saturday 28 March. We would ask that as many of you as possible call in and meet the team on either or both of these days, for as long or as little time as you can spare, to hear **about the challenges we're facing, to share your views and opinions, and to allow us to ensure that everyone's voice is heard.**

Posters are going up, leaflets are being delivered to every house in the village, and there is now both a website page and a Facebook page to allow you to read more and to share **views online. And if all that's not enough, the bar in the Social Club will be open as well!**

To streamline our work and to enable us to focus more clearly on the issues at hand, the NDP team has been divided into four focus groups. Set out below are just some of the issues on which they, and we, would appreciate your feedback.

Housing & Land Assets

How much new housing should the village have? (Sadly “none” is not an option.) Which sites are suitable for development? What should it look like? What sort of housing is our village short of?

(Continued on page 24)

(Continued from page 23)

Education, Sports & Leisure

Where do we want our children to go to school? Do we have enough education capacity to support our growing village? What sports and leisure facilities are we lacking, and which ones could be improved? Would you like a pub, for example, and how often would you use it? What about things for the elderly, or the under-18s?

Employment, Facilities, Health, Infrastructure & Transport

How can we manage the flow of traffic better through our village? Do we have enough local facilities to support our existing village and what would be required to meet future growth? What new facilities would you like to see in the village? Is our infrastructure sufficient for future needs?

Heritage & Environment

What is the identity of Pitstone? Do we make the most of the heritage and the history of our village? If not, how could we do so more effectively? In what ways should we look at protecting what we have for future generations?

We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at one of our Community Engagement Days. Your feedback is always appreciated.

Best wishes

Tony

Tony Clare
Chairman, Pitstone NDP Steering Group





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nity both spiritually and practically. We pray God's blessing upon all who live here and may the village prosper in its sense of community and togetherness. Finally, as an outsider, cherish what you have here in the villages and surroundings, they are a blessing.

'Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.'

(Ephesians 4:2)

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St. Mary's Church Pitstone

The beautiful Medieval Church in Pitstone will be open on Sunday and Bank Holiday afternoons from May 3rd until the end of October, 2.30-5pm. A key is held at No. 9 Church Road, Pitstone. Please ring 01296 662151 if you would like to visit at another time.

35th Annual Festival of Art, Crafts, Flowers and Music 2015 will be held at Pitstone Church on:

Saturday May 23rd: 2-6 pm

Sunday May 24th: 11am-5pm followed by sung evensong at 6pm

(Continued from page 26)

Monday May 25th: 11am-6pm

The popular homemade refreshments will be available everyday and the event will definitely be one to attend.

If you are new to the area or have not yet discovered the beautiful 13th Century Church, this is a good weekend to visit. You will receive a warm welcome and will be inspired by the beautiful works of art you will find there.

Look out for the signs around the village in May and write the dates in your diary.

St. Mary's Pitstone is still licensed for services which take place 2 or 3 times a year and is available for funerals, weddings and baptisms when required.

The Church is in the hands of the Churches Conservation Trust and a small local group of Friends. If you would like to join the Friends we need help with the festival and to help us open the church on Sunday afternoons in the summer. The CCT also allow some other events in the church. If you would like to run an event in the Church please contact Gill Arney on 01296 668 123 or the Churches Conservation Trust at www.visitchurches.org.uk.



'BEACON: A CELEBRATION'

Not content with singing this two years ago, Beacon Community Choir is once again performing their piece from Ivinghoe Aston composer, John Cameron, set to words by members of the choir and local poets. **'Beacon: A Celebration'** brings to life our beautiful surroundings, our history and our songs.

The Beacon Community Choir (BCC) was founded to give local people the opportunity of singing a complete cross section of music. It is open to members of all ages and abilities, with the emphasis on having fun and singing. There are no auditions and no need to be able to read music – all you need is a love of music and a sense of humour!

'Beacon: A Celebration' is a piece not only about the area we live and work in, but has input from whoever wanted to contribute. This has included pre-existing poems, new poems by members of the choir along with local poets, images, local historic narrative and snatches of prose and verse describing everything from local wildlife to the secrets of choir practice! All this has found a place in the work. Musically it is firmly in the English choral and pastoral tradition, but with a healthy dose of contemporary musical theatre thrown in. Principally though, it is a celebration – a celebration of the work of the choir and the community, and a celebration of this unique corner of the country.

Come along to 'Beacon: A Celebration' at St Marys Church, Ivinghoe on Saturday 28th March. Tickets cost just £10, with accompanied children getting in free. Tickets are available from Charles Thorogood on 01296 661540 or charles.e.thorogood@btinternet.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

LETTERS

Grateful thank you from Joe Marling – The Poppy Man!

Yet another year has passed and to my surprise, the total I collected for the Poppy Appeal jumped up to £2736.26.

Since I started collecting some seven years ago, it has always been a personal challenge to be outside our local store, Masons, in the village of Pitstone. Under canvas at times looking **after customers' dogs while they shop, also the odd baby in their pram, it all helps to put an extra donation in the tin for the extra service provided!**

Thanks also go to Richard Mason for the use of the shop toilets, plus his staff for bringing the tea out. Tong from The New May Fu for the food and soup he sends down, Hayley from CuriosiTEA for the bacon sandwiches and the latte and eggnog. In addition, the meal brought down from the Haldi Restaurant in Ivinghoe. Since I started collecting I was nicknamed the Poppy man from Pitstone, which still stands!

Thanks also go to MVT members Rod, Tony, Bill, Jacqui and, we must never forget Phil (Rambo), wet or shine he joins in!

Also grateful thanks go to all who turned out for the two-minute silence outside the store on both occasions.

Over these last seven years our total outside the shop stands at just over £11,000 – a fantastic result.

Joe Marling

Invitation from Rev Tracey and Mick Doyle

Mick and Tracey Doyle are delighted to announce that their bed and breakfast, in North Devon, is now open for guests. To mark the start of their new venture, and to show their appreciation to the people with whom they spent ten very happy years, they are offering a 25% discount on all visits until the end of June 2015.

To find out more visit; www.stablesbnbdevon.co.uk and quote IPSM25 when you book.

TALES FROM THE COMPOST HEAP

From Christmas Tree to Catnip

Many of you will be wondering what to do, at this time of year, with your old and faded Christmas tree. There it is, still down the side of the garden shed – but how best to dispose

of it?

Clearly, putting it in a skip is not an option; and dumping it at the roadside is most definitely out. Very usefully, some local authorities run a chipping service, which allows chipped trees to come to life again as valuable mulch and soil improver.

However, it seems those residents of Cambridgeshire who live near a certain zoo have another option; throw your unwanted tree to the lions. Said tree, an unlovely thing to most of us, is apparently viewed by big cats as a plaything, a source of great sport, the next best thing to catnip. Folk have taken photos of lions apparently enjoying play fights with Christmas trees, **positively hugging them to death. And any spare trees are used as fuel in the zoo's bio-burners.**

Clearly, we cannot all set off for Whipsnade Zoo with our old trees; for all I know their lions may not even have discovered the fun aspects of such trees. Better by far to go for the chipping service; or, as an alternative for those who have the space, why not create an eco-pile of carefully stacked small branches in a shady corner of the garden? In the process of very gradually decomposing, it will provide a lovely habitat for slug-eating ground beetles and other useful inhabitants.

Barbara Cummings

www.recycleforbuckinghamshire.co.uk

Post Office Opening Times

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

Weds: 9am - 1pm

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Library Opening Times (BVCL)

Tues, Thurs: 2 - 5pm (Tues Story time 2.15pm – 2.45pm Term time only - free and no need to book, just drop in.); *Weds 10-12.*

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Pitstone Car Scheme



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

CAN WE help?

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

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

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

Example costs (excluding car parking):

DESTINATION	COST £
TRING	£3.00
PEASE MANDEVILLE	£7.00
GRESHAM	£6.50
A & D HOSPITAL	£7.00
STONESHAM	£8.50
HIGH WYCOMBE	£14.00
JOHN RADCLIFFE	£17.50
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**DRIVERS
NEEDED!**

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

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

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

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

Dave Clifford on 01296 668906.



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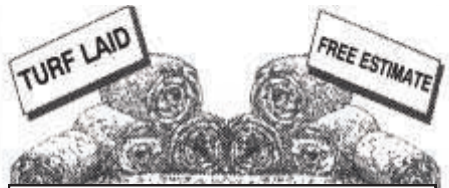
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 <p>Cllr Gillian Arney 63 Cheddington Road, LU7 9AQ T: 668123 E: gill.arney@tiscali.co.uk Pitstone Hill and Trees, Parish Paths, Pitstone Church Committee, Aylesbury Vale Transport Users Group, Recreation Ground & Playground Inspections, Notice Board Manager.</p>	 <p>Cllr Annie Stack 73 Old Farm, LU7 9RD T: 668020 E: annie.stack12@gmail.com Pitstone Hill and Trees, Allotment Rep. Rep. with the Chiltern Society, Chiltern Conservation Board & other ecological issues, Pitstone Church Committee, Local Area Forums</p>
 <p>Cllr Brian Richardson 55 Rushendon Furlong, LU7 9QX T: 662227 E: Bvrichardson@hotmail.com Representative on the Planning Committee, Representative on Pitstone Windmill Committee, Beacon Villages Society, Recreation Ground & Playground Inspections.</p>	 <p>Cllr Alison Hawkins 27 Rushendon Furlong, LU7 9QX T: 668144 E: Alisonhawkins22@hotmail.com Rep. on the Pitstone Development Area Working Party, the Planning Committee, the Pitstone Windmill Committee, Street Lighting, Recreation Ground & Playground Inspections, Neighbourhood Planning</p>
 <p>Cllr Dave Nicholls 64 Marsworth Road, LU7 9AS T: 661910 E: Dave@djsolutions.co.uk Chair of the Pitstone Parish Charity committee, the Planning Committee, Web site.</p>	 <p>Cllr Steve Matthey Fern Cottage, 13 Queen Street, LU7 9AU T: 662691, E: Steve.matthey@treelondon.com Chair of the Pitstone Recreation Ground Charity committee, Youth issues, Recreation Ground & Playground Inspections, Representative Memorial Hall Committee.</p>
 <p>Cllr Klaus Ginda 7 Chequers Close, LU7 9AF, T: 668911 E: Klausginda@btinternet.com Rep. on the Pitstone Development Area Working Party, the Pavilion Committee, Street Lighting, Leisure and Skate Park Project, PPP Advertising, VAHT, Police Issues</p>	 <p>Cllr Brian Brooks 1 Ridgeway View, LU7 9AR T: 660852 E: brooks.pitstone@gmail.com The Planning Committee, Allotments, Local Area Forum, Leisure Development working party, Drainage & Highways' Matters</p>
 <p>District and County Councillor: Avril Davies The Old Bakehouse, Chequers Lane T: 668152 E: acdavies@buckscc.gov.uk Lib Dem Group Leader Bucks CC, Lib Dem Spokesperson for Strategic Planning on AVDC; Adult Services on BCC. Special interests: environment and NHS</p>	 <p>Correspondence/Enquiries, the Clerk: Laurie Eagling, 9 Warwick Road, LU7 9FE T: 660791 E:parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk Clerk to Parish Council, Responsible Financial Officer for the Parish Council, all correspondence and enquiries</p>