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Next Edition

The last edition of 2015
will be distributed
during November.
**Deadline is 16th Oct
2015.**

**If you wish to view the plans for
any planning application cur-
rently under
consultation by AVDC, please
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Pitstone Parish Post

This magazine is produced on behalf of Pitstone Parish Council and distributed three per year, 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:

Gill Arney, Kathy Brassington, Martyn Bronziet, Barbara Byrom, Mike Clayton, Dawn Eaglesham, Laurie Eagling, Lynn Fountain, Klaus BZ Ginda, Alison Hawkins, David Hawkins, Barbara Jacob, Sally Kapadia, Robert King, Norma Leighton, Linda Martin, Nikki Matthey, Julie Mead, Sue Nicholls, Janet Nielsen, Vanita Patel, Louise Pope, Isobel Robinson, Sarah Smith, Annie Stack, Tracey Stone, Fiona Thompson, Linda Thompson, Louise Weatherill, Connie Wesley, Olive West, Linda Willimont. 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

We have just experienced the first Parish election in many years. It is good to see that there is renewed interest in the community for the development of Pitstone with regard to the way things are done and vision for the future.

Congratulations to those Councillors that were re-elected and to new Councillors for getting elected. Commiserations to departing and retiring Councillors who are no longer on the Council; thank you for all the hard work that you have done.

The last six months have seen a concentrated effort from the NDP team, which was set up by the Parish Council as an independent group to steer the way towards the enlargement of the

village. Personal thanks to those involved who have delivered a draft NDP Plan that will shortly be presented to parishioners for consultation, before it goes to a referendum.

Once again this year's Party in the Park will take place on the recreation ground on Saturday 4th July. It will be a similar format, building on the **success of last year's event** and all we need is sunshine. Please come along and listen to some great music which has been lined up to make the day a resounding success.

Finally, as we rapidly approach summer, may I wish everybody a restful break.

Bob Saintey



Avril Davies
County Councillor

COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

County Council Budget

The County Council has a total working budget of £320M and reserves of about £8M. 71% is raised from the Council tax, 29% from other grants. In the last 3 years the grant component has been cut by 34%, 32% and 28%. As well as reduced income, the Council must meet increased

costs in delivering the same service, and increased demand for services. According to the budget select committee report the County has taken out £68M in costs over the last three years, and needs to take a further £65M over the next three years.

Council tax increases are limited to below 2%. If the council decides not to increase council tax the government awards a council tax freeze grant. However, this is only for the one year and does not carry forward into

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the following year's calculations, so in practice it is another cut.

As well as increased demand for services from an increasing elderly population, Bucks has the fastest growing population in the country of 0-15 year olds, and a big increase in the number of children referred to social services, mainly for neglect. Legislation is adding statutory responsibilities without funding to support them, such as the Care Act and Deprivation of Liberty standards for people with learning disabilities. The Care Act alone could eventually add up to £34M a year additional expenditure.

In conclusion I would say that there is a very high risk that the County will either not be able to deliver services within this reduced budget, or that services will fail or be inadequate.

Children's Services

The OfSTED report last August judging Bucks Children's Services 'inadequate' apparently caught senior officers and councilors unawares, although a formal warning to the Chief Executive from the head of **children's services made almost a year before** the Ofsted, apparently went unregarded, has since been leaked. Since then a recovery plan has been put into action, albeit slowly, and expenditure on children's services in the current 2014-15 financial year increased by more than £6M, with £3M recurring in all subsequent years. Although some reports liken the Bucks situation to Rotherham, the most recent report by consultants put in place by the government do not recommend putting the council in to special measures. Services for missing children and children at risk of sexual exploitation had been prioritised and were judged adequate, although in a poor context overall.

Key to both the poor performance and the recovery is the recruitment, retention, effective management and professional standards of qualified social workers. The current position shows that the numbers of first response social workers has doubled from 13 to 27, but even now only 7 are permanent, plus 20 agency; and for children and families 179 permanent and 55 agency, showing a small increase since last year, but not enough without going overseas to Canada and Romania in the short term. There is also talk of setting up a new social work faculty on the new Bucks New University Aylesbury campus.

Roads

The County spends about £50M pa on roads. There are exactly 100Km of roads in the Ivinghoe Division alone. In 2014 10 roads were repaired under the severe weather recovery government grant. There is also a members allocation scheme, prioritised with the help of the highways engineers and the data at their disposal. This members scheme however is subject to reallocation or slippage, and the programme although ambitious has still got lots to complete. So far the work done on the B488 has been part of this scheme.

Schools

The School Bus charging policy is no nearer resolution I regret to say. In fact it is likely that transport charges will increase again. It was compounded this year by the acknowledged appalling administration in August leaving many children stranded, uncertain, without allocated places or buses.

There has also been some controversy over the school grant allocation. Bucks is funded well below the average, which comes as no

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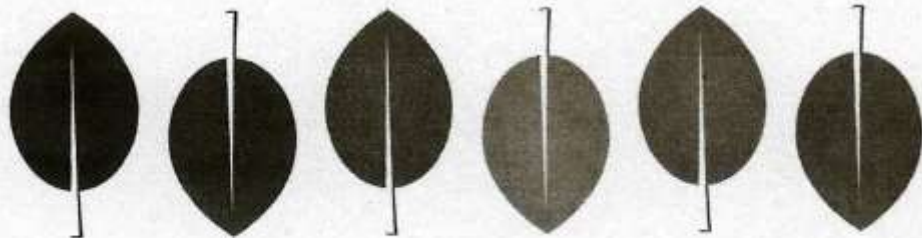
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surprise, and this year the small overall increase was awarded to early years and special needs areas. There had been no increase to these groups for five years and it is hard to argue against it. As regards the lack of funding overall the County is beginning judicial review proceedings against the Educational Funding Agency.

Health, Wellbeing and Adult Services.

This portfolio is under more pressure than the others, even though significant additional funding has been received for joint working with the NHS, and the new responsibilities for public health. As a result completely new ways of delivering services to support people are being considered. A consultation is under way on changes to support for elderly people in housing schemes, and more consultations are expected in 2015.

Library

Although Library hours in the big libraries are likely to be curtailed, the Beacon Villages Community Library is unaffected and its grant from BCC is still guaranteed for 4 years. Like all voluntary groups the library is always on the lookout for new committee members to oversee the running of the library and help fundraise with events such as the Library lunches, the VE Day garden fete which was held on May 9th, and BeaconLit festival, June 27th. The library AGM is on Saturday 20th June.

Avril Davies, County Councillor, Ivinghoe Division

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Welcome to the New Parish Council

The Parish Council would like to welcome Margaret Crutchfield, Jo Groom, Colin Starling and Kris Weber to the Parish Council. All four have been involved in the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) process and will be welcome additions to the council. See details of our new Councillors in this edition.

Our sincere thanks go to outgoing Councillors Brian Brooks and Alison Hawkins who were not re-elected on this occasion. We are very grateful to both individuals for their service to the previous administration. Also to Klaus Ginda and Brian Richardson who retired from the council for their hard work and dedication to the residents of Pitstone throughout their terms of office.

The following existing councillors have been re-elected to office: Robert Saintey, Ben Blunt, Gillian Arney, Annie Stack, Steve Matthey and Dave Nicholls. The new council look forward to serving you over the forthcoming four year term of their office.

New District Councillors

Cllr Avril Davies remains in office as our County Councillor but did not stand for re-election to the District Council. The District Council areas have been reformatted and we now have two District Councillors for the Pitstone and Cheddington ward. The successful candidates were Derek Town and Sandra Jenkins, both representatives for the Conservative Party and both residents of Cheddington. More infor-

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(Continued from page 8)

mation on them and their contact details are provided later in the edition.

Draft Annual Report and Accounts

Included in this edition you will find draft annual report and accounts. Parish Council financial affairs are subject to two layers of audit, the first via an auditor we appoint (**called the 'internal audit'**) and the second via one appointed on our behalf (called the **'external audit'**). **Further details of the audit result will be published in due course.**

Pitstone Annual Assembly 2015 plus Volunteer Fair and Defibrillator Demonstrations

The above combined event took place on 21 April 2015. Our thanks to everyone who attended and especially those that signed up to help one of the community groups **looking for extra support**. **If you couldn't make the event and have some spare time, there are still numerous vacancies available so please do contact the parish clerk for more information.**

The defibrillator demonstrations by Derek Flint of South Central Ambulance Service were very popular and Derek also gave a general demonstration to all those assembled for the Parish Assembly. Hopefully everyone that attended will now be a little more comfortable with using the equipment in the event of an emergency. The council would once again like to thank the Village Health Centre for providing the community access defibrillator and to all the football & cricket clubs that sponsored the external lock-box to house it. This life saving equipment is now mounted outside the Village

Health Centre in Yardley Avenue and the 999 operator will provide you with the access code should you require it. If you missed the demonstrations, please watch the short video on the link:

http://www.londonambulance.nhs.uk/calling_999/emergency_heart_care/cardiac_arrest/how_to_use_a_defibrillator.aspx

The Annual Assembly itself featured the presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award to Dave Clifford (see full article), updates on the Neighbourhood Development Plan and Pitstone Development Area, as well as the usual presentations from Thames Valley Police, the Parish Council and the District/County Councillor Avril Davies.

Questions You Asked at the Community Engagement Days

A number of questions were tabled at the Community Engagement Days. Those that fall within the remit of the Neighbourhood Development Plan are being answered within the separate article in this edition of PPP. Some of the questions posed do not directly fall within the scope of that project, so we are providing answers below:

Q: What are the limits of the National Trust land around the windmill?

A: National Trust own significant amounts of land within the Parish including the Ashridge Estate and Pitstone Hill. They also own Pitstone Windmill and the field it resides in, plus the agricultural field along Vicarage Road, and the Marsworth Road allotment site (which is then leased to the Parish Council). Bell Field (located between the allotments and the end of Rushendon Furlong) is in private ownership with a tenant

farmer.

Q: What are Section 106 funds?

A: Any developer building five or more residential properties on a site is required to pay a number of contributions to both the district council (for things like sport and leisure development) plus the county council (for such things as education, highways and footpaths). The District and County Council are responsible for requesting these contributions from developers and then for providing the associated facilities.

The terms are specified in a legal agreement between the relevant council and the developer. The funds normally become payable at set stages of the development. To provide two examples (1) Taylor Wimpey provided over £100k to Bucks County Council towards the foot/cycle path along Northfield Road. These funds were then transferred under a separate legal agreement from Bucks County Council to Herts County Council who will be responsible for delivering the facility within the set time period or returning the funds. (2) Taylor Wimpey provided a sports and leisure contribution to AVDC for development of the leisure facilities by the recreation ground. The Parish Council determined that the community wish the new play space, skate park and multi-use games area plus the land to build them upon, and had to submit proposals to AVDC. The cabinet at AVDC study all proposals and either grant permission or reject them (in this case, permission has been granted). Once approved, the Parish Council can undertake the work, pay the invoices and then claim the funds back from AVDC. Therefore, once the land ownership issues have been resolved, the works will be able to progress. Legislation will soon be changing and S106 will be replaced by the Community Infrastructure Levy. We will write

and provide an update on the changes at the relevant time.

Q: What is happening to the data centre?

A: As far as the council is aware, the data centre is still proposed to be developed at some point in the future. The owners had two sites under development and sponsorship funds became available for the other site ahead of the Pitstone location, so that is being built first.

Q: Can we have improved police presence?

A: Thames Valley Police control the policing for our area, so your queries or requests should be addressed to them. During these times of restricted budgets, TVP deploy their resources to the areas most in need and fortunately for us, Pitstone has a very low crime rate. Your neighbourhood policing team will respond to any concerns you raise regarding activity in the Pitstone area and can be contacted at any time on the non-emergency number which is 101. Any concerns or crimes should be reported via the same number to ensure the police have a full picture of the issues we experience in the village that may go unreported. If you **don't report it, they don't know and we will** get less policing presence.

Q: Can the Memorial Hall display a timetable of what happens?

A: The hall has historically published a timetable of events on the village notice-boards and details also appear within the Pitstone Guide, however they tend to get out of date quite quickly. The hall now uses an online booking facility which enables everyone to view full details of what classes are available at the hall on what dates, you can also make

(Continued on page 14)

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(Continued from page 12)

bookings for any vacant slots. The benefit of this system is that the details are always fully up-to-date. Therefore, please visit:

<http://pitstone.co.uk/localinfo/pitstone-memorial-hall/>

and follow the “make a booking or view details of a class” link near the foot of the

page.

Q: Can we have a growing collective to supply residents?

A: This would need to be a community run group. If you would be interested in operating such a scheme please let the parish clerk know and we can put all like-minded individuals in touch.

Q: Can we replace the speed bumps with speed cameras?

A: Highways are controlled by Bucks County Council who installed the speed bumps at the request of local residents. They have advised the Parish Council that the speed bumps still comply with legislation and that they have no plans to remove them. They have been an emotive issue and some residents love them, whilst some hate them. Thames Valley Police operate the speed cameras and have no plans to install permanent fixed cameras in the village however they do undertake regular mobile speed camera patrols. The Parish Council purchased our mobile Vehicle Activated Sign which flashes if motorists exceed the 30mph speed limit. The unit collects speed data from every passing vehicle, regardless of speed, and the resultant data can be used to identify any particular time periods where speeding is a problem. However, the data from the unit reveals that speeding in the village is not as big an issue as in some of

our neighbouring villages.

Q: Can we have a secondary school within the village?

A: Bucks County Council advise that they have no plans for a new school within Pitstone.

New Councillors

New District Cllrs

Derek and I are delighted to be elected as your new local District Councillors to represent you on Aylesbury Vale District Council. The “turn-out” from the Pitstone and Cheddington ward was an impressive 72.3%. This is very encouraging as we now enter a future full of challenges for local government. We intend to attend as many Parish Councils as possible, but please if you have any issues which you would like us to address you can contact us on the following e-mail addresses or telephone numbers. Once again thank you for electing us and we look forward to working with you all.

Derek Town

djtown@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

01296 661637

Sandra Jenkins

sjenkins@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

01296 668587

New Parish Cllrs

Jo Groom

I have lived in Pitstone since 1988, but my **husband's family have lived here for generations**. I have seen major changes within

(Continued on page 18)



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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.

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Leader: Andrew Broad	Leader: Keith Steers	Leader: Rob Haddock	Leader: Rob Mercel	Leader: Andrew Woods

the village and have been keen to get involved with the NDP. I am keen to now be part of the ongoing changes within our community through my work as a Parish Councillor. My main areas of interest are sport and education.

Margaret Crutchfield

I have lived in Pitstone for just over 3 years, having lived previously in Wing where I was a Parish Councillor for 15 years. I have worked with the Neighbourhood Development Planning group from the beginning and find that my knowledge of the village has increased enormously, especially the history and environment which will continue whilst working on the Parish Council. I enjoy our allotment where we keep chickens.

Kris Weber

Thank you, first of all, for placing sufficient trust in me to appoint me as one of your new parish councillors - I will do my utmost not to let you down.

I was born in Berkshire in October 1967 within a few days of both Davina McCall and Julia Roberts, neither of whose talents I share. I have had the misfortune to support Reading Football Club ever since. After a law degree at Manchester University I trained as a solicitor in the City, and have been a partner in a London commercial law firm since 2003.

My wife Rachel and I moved to Pitstone in 2011. We are both keen hill-walkers and fell in love with this beautiful area the moment we first climbed Ivinghoe Beacon some years previously. When the time came to move out of London there was no debate about where we wanted to go.

My real involvement with village life only began when I took on the role of vice-chair of our NDP team back in October last year. Since then I have become thoroughly immersed in the benefits - and the challenges - that Pitstone brings with it. I am hopeful that a fresh perspective, and the professional skills I have built up over the past two decades, will be of some benefit to the community.

In my spare time I can often be found pottering around the local area in a red VW Beetle that is only 4 years younger than me. Other extra-curricular activities include walking, gardening, and generally enjoying our wonderful British countryside: I am a conservation volunteer for the National Trust up at Ashridge, and also a volunteer hostel manager for the YHA. From a sporting perspective I'm a lapsed hockey player and a still-avid skier who takes any opportunity to sneak off to the Alps for a few days. A taste for red wine, and an inexplicable interest in Bavarian folk music, square the circle. I very much look forward to serving as one of your representatives on the Council during my four-year term.

Colin Starling

I moved to Pitstone in 2008 because of a strong wish to live in a rural village after some 30

years in Watford and before that North West London. The view of the Chilterns is very much an added bonus. Finally retired in July 2014 after a 50 year career in healthcare management.

My main interest now is the future development of Pitstone. I became a member of the Pitstone Neighbourhood Development Plan steering group because, without an agreed 'neighbourhood plan', there is a danger that the village characteristics could be overwhelmed by unrestrained housing development. Should the Referendum confirm the Plan, it becomes essential that the Parish Council strives to maintain the agreed vision.

Our new members join Bob Saintey, Dave Nicholls, Ben Blunt, Annie Stack, Gill Arney and Steve Matthey who were re-elected. Full contact details for all councillors can be found on the web site, notice-boards or at the back of PPP.

Volunteer of the Year 2015



Many of us were sorry to have read in the last PPP that Pastor Dave Clifford and family will be moving onto another stage of their ministry in July, moving to Wombwell in South Yorks (a few miles from Barnsley). Leaving the village for the last time, they have played a big role in supporting our community here. Whether it be the community car sharing scheme, silver surfers, nativity performances (and cake!) that enthralled the children – and adults – they will be very much missed; particularly by the Fellowship that Dave has led since 2008.

It was a fitting tribute therefore that Pastor Dave was nominated unanimously as our 2015 Volunteer of the Year for the contribution made over the last few years. The Volunteer of the Year award was introduced by the Parish Council 5 years ago to recognise the many people who give their time, voluntarily, to the range of things that make our village work. And although a modest token gesture, the spirit of this recognition is something the Parish Council thinks is important to do and long may it continue. I will leave the (almost) last word to Pastor Dave, who sums it up well:

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 community 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)**

Now, I'm not particularly religious, but I am sure many of us would say Amen to that. Well done Dave on your award, and we hope those blessings are reciprocated to you and Sheridan as you move onto pastures new.—Editor

EVENTS

STELLAR CAST FOR BEACONLIT 2015

In its third year, BeaconLit has already established itself on the literary festival circuit, and **this year's event offers another opportunity to see and hear from an impressive line-up** of prize-winning and bestselling authors.

The festival takes place on Saturday June 27 at Brookmead School, Ivinghoe, with 13 participating authors spread over five events, including local writers Rowan Coleman, Julie Mayhew, Dave Sivers and Jules Wake. Richard and Judy Book Club choice Rowan Coleman will give a talk about making first novels successful, playwright and novelist Julie Mayhew will be in conversation about her work, and novelist and journalist Dave Sivers will moderate some of the author panels.

Jules Wake takes part in a discussion panel, New Voices, alongside two other hot newcomers on the literary scene – **Eve Ainsworth and S J I Holliday**. **There will also be a 'Real Game of Thrones' historical fiction panel, featuring Vanora Bennett, Toby Clements and Elizabeth Fremantle;** and the ever-popular crime panel will this year consist of Jane Casey, M R Hall, William Ryan and Laura Wilson.

As well as hearing the authors talk about their work, there will be plenty of opportunity to **meet them and get books signed in BeaconLit's informal atmosphere**.

Tickets for the day cost just £19.50 if purchased before the end of May – a £5.50 saving on the full price. To find out more or buy tickets, visit the website at www.beaconlit.co.uk.

JAZZ EVENING IN PITSTONE AGAIN FOR 2015

Ben Treacher will be playing an evening of Jazz at Pitstone Memorial Hall on Friday, 26th 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.

Beacon Village Society: Update from Phil Cummings, Chairman

The Beacon Village Society at its Committee Meeting on Tuesday 24th February to discuss

(Continued on page 27)

singalong with Helen

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

- Monday - 10.30 @ Pitstone
- Tuesday - 10.00 @ Cheddington
- Wednesday 10.00@ The Hub, Ivinghoe
- Wednesday - 13.30 @ Pitstone
- Thursday - 10.00 @ Pitstone
- Friday - 10.00 @ Pitstone

Call me on 01296 661791 to reserve a
place or ask about Singalong parties
0-5 year olds £3.75
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New PPP Editor

Readers will be aware that over the last 4 years I have been keeping the PPP going whilst we tried to find a new Editor. Despite many conversations, much cajoling, flattery, difficult decisions that resulted in changes to the publication to make it more manageable, we have struggled. However.... the light at the end of the tunnel has been switched back on!

I am pleased to say that we have finally found a familiar solution. Sue Nicholls, former Editor of this magazine (on two occasions in fact) will be returning to the Editor's chair which is very good news for all of us. I am pleased to finally be able to let go of this "interim" role, which some may say is the longest interim in living memory. Thank you for the support I have received whilst holding the reigns. I wish Sue well, and although a thankless task really, is an enjoyable role for the community minded. I will be moving on secure in the knowledge that the publication many rely on to find out what's going on locally is here for a while longer.

Good luck, Sue. Welcome back!

- Ben Blunt, Editor.



2014-15 Annual Report and Accounts for Pitstone Parish Council

Financial

Position

	2013-14 Actual	2014-15 Budget	2014-15 Actual	Variance to last year	Variance to budget
Income	£95,342	£241,686	£112,730	18%	-53%
Expenditure	£87,964	£317,728	£117,521	34%	-63%

At the close of the year the council holds £162,757. £88,208 is reserved for specific purposes or with restricted spending ability (like maintenance payments from Taylor Wimpey) leaving £74,548 of retained reserve. The council is financially independent with no loans, lease payments or debts. During the year, the council took advantage of legislative changes and moved to electronic banking with Unity Trust Bank.



Pitstone Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

In the absence of an adopted Local Plan at District Level many parishes have found themselves subject to speculative planning such as the Gladman application for 70 homes in Ivinghoe (5 of which fall within Pitstone). In August, the parish decided to take control of future development within Pitstone and produce an NDP which will have equal planning weight to the eventual AVDC policy.

So far our 'Neighbourhood' has been defined as everything within our parish boundary; a team of volunteers have stepped forward to help investigate options, engage with the community and meet with landowners; rCOH (planning consultants) have been employed to support our volunteers and write our NDP (£13,550 (staged payments)); statutory bodies have been consulted; the associated Strategic Environmental Assessment has been commissioned from rCOH (£2,750); a grant of £6,500 was successfully obtained from Locality to help fund the activity; the community has received updates, leaflet drops, 2 x community engagement days have taken place, and website and Facebook page has been set up. Net cost in this financial year was £4,741. Key issues for residents at the moment include a need for Bucks County Council & the local education establishments to address the current pre-school and primary school capacity issues, and a desire to see the Pitstone Development Area village centre and leisure facilities implemented. The Parish Council strongly supports both these outcomes. You will shortly receive a copy of the draft plan for you to consider and comment upon. All comments will be taken into consideration before producing a final plan, which will be subject to local referendum.

It is vital that you get involved and have your say about the future of the village.



Other Sport and Leisure Improvements

- Options for redeveloping and expanding the pavilion site are being investigated which may include provision for senior football, junior football, tennis, basketball and 5-side football. Please get involved in the NDP process to let us know what sports you want to see in the village. The facility has generated extra revenue this year through the hire of the car park to Safran and PRS. Additional costs have been incurred to commission a full topography report, necessary to draw up accurate plans for the site.
- The mounds were removed from the allotments in April so 4 new plots could be created, trees donated by National Trust were planted along the boundary and 2 new water troughs have been installed.
- The play equipment in the Windsor Road park has been painted and new gates have been ordered for the Recreation Ground park.
- We are delighted that Ivinghoe & Pitstone United Cricket Club has decided to retain the Recreation Ground as their home site and the Parish Council will be working with them regarding future aspirations for improvement and development.
- Consideration is also being given to whether Pitstone can accommodate a new Scout hut as the existing one in Ivinghoe has structural issues.



Over £20,000 of Financial Support given 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:

- The Parish Council commissioned the removal of asbestos from the Memorial Hall Charity loft void, for which it had insufficient funds, at a cost of £15,820
- £2,565 to South Beds Ambulance to fund a dedicated kit for our Community First Responders
- £1,000 to Ivinghoe & Pitstone United Cricket Club (on behalf of Recreation Ground Charity)
- £600 to A J Groom & Son towards work on the football pitch (on behalf of Recreation Ground Charity)
- £640 to 1st Ivinghoe & Pitstone Scouts for camping equipment
- £93.95 to Guides for a new flag
- £150 to the Royal British Legion in lieu of a fresh wreath

In addition a £15 donation was made to Aylesbury Vale Association of Local Councils and £175 made available to the Recreation Ground Charity to clear the ditch. Please contact the parish

New Parish Council

Brian Brooks joined the parish council in May 2014, bringing the compliment back up to the full ten. The term of office for all existing councillors ends in May with the Parish Council elections on 7th. Councillors Ginda and Richardson will unfortunately not be standing for re-election. We thank all existing councillors for their hard work over the last 4 years. This year, 12 candidates are standing for 10 seats.

Other local issues the Parish Council has been involved with

- Royal Mail has finally agreed to install a letter box in Windsor Road.
- Investigative work continues into pedestrian/cycle paths to Tring Station and Marsworth by Herts County Council and the Local Area Forum respectively.
- The Parish Council continues to investigate the considerable issues surrounding the BCC offer to devolve grass cutting and other services to the parishes.
- The landowner has agreed with Rights of Way to replace the broken stile with a gate at the end of footpath 6 where it joins Vicarage Road.
- Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust has installed bollards around the grass verges at the junction of Yardley Avenue and Cheddington Road to improve safety.
- Transport for Bucks has resurfaced parts of Cheddington Road and Glebe Close, sided out the footpath along Vicarage Road and the lay-by opposite Masons, replaced the damaged village sign along Vicarage Road, and cleared/flushed the drains to reduce flooding at the foot of Westfield Road and along Marsworth Road. Still to come is a bus box in the highway by the Haldi and replacement fittings on the Marsworth Road roundabout.
- Luton Airport secured planning permission to expand facilities (not an additional runway).
- The council funded and arranged for Christmas lights on the Recreation Ground, replacement bin for Marsworth Road and replacement dog bin for The Crescent.



Pitstone Needs You!

We would like to thank all our employees and volunteers who ensure that the village is kept clean and tidy, the pavilion runs smoothly, that the youth café can open its doors each week and to our new army of volunteers immersing themselves in the NDP.

Whilst there are lots of community groups trying to provide excellent facilities and services there is a definite volunteer shortage in the parish. The council has publicised vacancies, appealed for volunteers and hosted a volunteer fair at this year's annual assembly to try & help groups address the issue. The Parish Council also runs an annual Volunteer of the Year competition. Our April 2015 winner is Pastor Dave Clifford for his involvement in the Silver Surfers Club, Community Car Scheme and Community Cinema. Unfortunately, Dave leaves us this summer, and we wish him well in his new ventures. Please submit your nominations for 2016 Volunteer of the Year.

Keep up-to-date

Pitstone Parish Post (PPP) is only published 3 times per annum and a lot can happen in the interim. 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

YOU ENGAGED. WE LISTENED. SO NOW WHAT HAPPENS...?



Thank you to all of you who helped make our two Community Engagement Days at the end of March such a great success. In excess of 225 local residents turned out to give their views upon all aspects of village life past, present and future.

Since then we have been carefully analysing the many Feedback Forms submitted and identifying the key themes and issues raised. This is what you told us:

THE COMMUNITY SPEAKS

You want to preserve the open countryside around the village, particularly the views of the windmill and Ivinghoe Beacon. You accept the need for a limited number of new houses but are concerned that the style must be in keeping with the surrounding environment. You want Pitstone to remain a village, not become a small town.

Traffic through the village is a major concern, especially at school drop-off and pick-up times. You want better public transport services, to more destinations (such as Tring station). Tring station, in fact, was major theme: you want better parking, along with a footpath and cycleway for those not driving.

You want a heart for the village: a traditional village green, more of a community feel, better leisure and recreational facilities, and somewhere to go for a drink or a bite to eat. You want to integrate Castlemead into 'old' Pitstone, and you want to see what was promised in Pitstone's 2005 Plan finally delivered.

And finally, you want the challenges we are facing with regards to primary and nursery school capacity addressed, so that local children do not have to travel beyond the village they live in just to go to school.

Your sentiments have been combined with the detailed work that the NDP team's four sub-groups have been undertaking since the turn of the year. Their work to understand where Pitstone is, where it is going, and where you as a community want Pitstone to be in 15 years time, has focused on the following areas:

- Housing & Land Assets
- Sport, Leisure & Education
- Employment, Facilities, Health, Education & Transport
- Heritage & Environment

We've pulled all of this together and, with help from our planning consultants and other professional advisers, we now have a draft Plan for Pitstone!

A DRAFT PLAN FOR PITSTONE

This is the document that will shape the future of our village from now until 2031. Together we have reached an extremely important milestone with the whole NDP team working hard to ensure, to the maximum possible extent, that the Plan:

- preserves what you have said is important
- improves the village as you have asked

- creates what you aspire for

By the time you read this edition of PPP, we hope to have presented the draft Plan to the Parish Council and received their approval of it. If not already known, you can expect the dates for the launch of our draft Plan to be announced very shortly. We are planning further 'engagement days' to mark the start of a six-week consultation period during which we want to hear your views on every aspect of the draft Plan.

"But what about the pub?" Well there is no denying that, along with the question of school capacity within the village, the issue of a village pub (or to be more accurate the lack of a village pub!) has been the most emotive to have emerged over the past six months. We want to do something about this.

We think the village wants a pub. You have told us it should have a pub. However, without further concrete evidence about how we could make it work, a village pub will never be anything more than a pipe dream.

Any commercial enterprise has to make money (or, at the very least, break even). There is a massive difference between us wanting something, and it being a viable business proposition. We need your help to determine what we want, what we can get, and how we can best go about getting it.

Every one of you has a real opportunity here to make a difference, and to help the village get what it needs. If we don't seize this opportunity, we may never get another.

Enclosed with this edition of PPP is a Pub Questionnaire. If you have any views about the subject, whatever they might be, please take a few minutes to fill it in and return it to us. You can even do it online if you prefer, by going to www.pitstone.co.uk/PitstoneNDP. In any event we need your views by the end of June. They will then form the basis for how we take this part of our Plan forwards.

Don't lose this opportunity to have your say and help define where Pitstone will be in 20 years' time, not only for you but also for generations to come.

Tony Clare and Kris Weber
Chair and Vice-Chair
Pitstone NDP Steering Group

(Continued from page 20)

the future of the society has decided that rather than bringing activities to a close, the society should, for the time being, become dormant. This was partly because of the changing circumstances such as the regular Local Area Forum meetings and the development of Neighbourhood Plans taking place in several villages. The creation of the "Ivinghoe Together" campaign against large scale planning applications from companies like Gladman, demonstrate effective organisation of local feeling towards unpopular development.

Records of the existing membership will be retained but the collection of the annual membership fees will be suspended. The funds held by the society will also be retained for possible future use in line with its aims. In the event of a major planning issue arising in the future, particularly associated with the Pitstone quarries, a Committee Meeting will be arranged to decide whether the society should again become active and recommence its campaigning activities. If anybody does have any comments about the BVS, we will be pleased to hear from you.

Contacts:

Phil Cummings: 01296 668621, philcummings@btinternet.com

Jean de Selincourt (Hon Sec): 01296 662151, jean@pitstone.plus.com

LOUISA STOBBS PHOTOGRAPHY AND CATHY TIMBRELL JEWELLERY



Two local talented artists are Photographer, Louisa Stobbs from Ivinghoe and Cathy Timbrell, Jeweller from Pitstone. They are delighted to be exhibiting together, along with 7 other artists and makers, for the first time at College Lake Nature Reserve near Tring, as part of Bucks Open Studios from 6-21 June.

Louisa specialises in outdoors photography, here in the Chilterns, in her garden and in her travels throughout Scotland and Europe. Unusually, **some of Louisa's photographs are printed on specially treated weather-proof canvas** and are designed to be displayed in the garden.

Cathy is a well-known Pitstone jeweller, having the luxury of her own Duck Barn Studio from where she will also be exhibiting. Her signature work has an organic feel to it and the introduction of enamel, stones, gold and diamonds gives colour and sparkle.

Louisa says "College Lake Artists are a wonderfully talented group who all work in different media—Jewellery, Painting, Ceramics, Glass, Textiles, Photography, Sculpture and Metal Creation. We are delighted that BBOWT at College Lake have given us this fantastic opportunity to exhibit in their beautiful Visitor Centre, as part of Bucks Open Studios from 6-21 June. We will all be donating a percentage of our sales to this brilliant nature reserve."

Bucks Open Studios is the largest visual arts event in the county, celebrating its 30th anniversary; over 500 artists and makers open their studios and run free exhibitions and events for the public to visit, in over 200 different venues across Buckinghamshire. For more information see www.collegelakeartists.co.uk or contact Louisa at collegelakeartists@gmail.com.

VE Celebrations in Pitstone

Some of us support the library by digging deep and forking out a fine, before we take out another book. Sue Groves, on the other hand, hoped for fine weather when she opened up her garden, at Orchard Farm, to host the VE Day celebrations on Saturday 9th May in support of Beacon Villages Community Library.

On offer was free entry, vintage stalls, White Elephant, Plant Stall, Tombola, Childrens 1945

(Continued on page 31)



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CG Performance
PERFORMANCE ENGINEERING



(Continued from page 28)

Fancy Dress competition, Treasure Hunt, Teas and lots more

Families were happy to stroll around and enjoy the gardens which earlier in their history must have witnessed the householders 'digging for Victory' . Wild animals roamed around in the guise of face-painted children whose parents held onto large

ballons they had 'won' on the sideshows. Many enjoyed the teas and cakes, made by the Womens Institute, on sunlite lawns, where you could image yourself back in time especially at the sight of visitors in period costume straight out of the 'Land Girls'. The raffle prizes were sponsored by Tesco who gave a £50 voucher to every event, they were aware of, organised to remember the 70th Anniversary of the end of WW2 in Europe.

No one begrudged handing over their money for a good cause I was fine about adding, a couple of books, to my collection, from a stall run by Colin Arney and I could go home and rest my head on a pillowcase



from a stall-holder selling a range of accessories, made in the region effected by the recent earthquake, profits would find their way back to aid the recovery of Nepal.. Perhaps it was appropriate to remember that in a world of man made disasters nature still has its part to play.

Nearly £800 was raised in support of the Beacon Villages Community Library and a good time was had by all.

VE Day celebrations at, The Lounge, Yardley Avenue

On Saturday 9th May, the Yardley Lounge were well supported, by a lively crowd of residents, friends and Wednesday Club members. They were calmly marshalled by their warden Vicky Wadkins of VAHT during an afternoon started on the right note with Fiona Harrison, a voice in a million. Fiona lived up to her billing with an energetic, tuneful and entertaining set, singing songs from the war years that her audience were familiar with. Encouraged to sing along, the audience bathed in nostalgia, as Fiona included songs made famous by Vera



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Pitstone & Ivinghoe Museum Society. Reg. Charity No.273931

(Continued from page 31)

Lynn and among others the Andrews Sisters by special arrangement with her backing track. Her act included a sense of humour that was always in character with the time she was portraying and for that as well as a fine voice she deserves much credit. Dressed in military uniform with her blond hair covered by a peaked-cap. Miss Harrison was modest enough to promote herself in the role of a lance-corporal although her performance deserved to be ranked much higher. The set also included the crooner introduced by Fiona as the world famous unknown bathroom singer Paul Marsden. Paul had spots during her performance and sang songs associated with Frank Sinatra as well as performing a dance routine with Fiona. His voice stands comparison with Sinatra although I would say he deserves to be known as a singer in his own right and its time, for him, to desert the bath-robe in favour of the trappings offered by showbusiness.

Both got a warm and generous round of applause at the end of their performance when it was announced that Fiona would be returning during December with her Christmas Show. Many in the audience will be there and perhaps you should be too. The afternoon ended in a barbeque where the audience could indulge in fine food and relax in more nostalgia about times past.

- Klaus Ginda

A MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL
Saturday 20th June on the Lawn, Ivinghoe



2.30 pm
Music on the Lawn
Beacon Community Choir
guest musicians and singers
folk • jazz • classical • pop
bring a picnic
suggested donation £5
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in the marquee if wet

7 pm
A midsummer ceilidh
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Email: daveclifford@pitscheme.co.uk

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
HOCKEY MANDEVILLE	£7.00
CHESHAM	£6.50
Q & D HOSPITAL	£7.00
CHESHAM	£8.50
HIGH WYCOMBE	£14.00
JOHN RADCLIFFE	£17.50
RUFFIELD, OXFORD	£17.50

**DRIVERS
NEEDED!**

**COORDINATOR
NEEDED!**

In some circumstances, we may be able to undertake hospital trips to the John Radcliffe or Ruffield 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

Interim Contact: Klaus Ginda 668911



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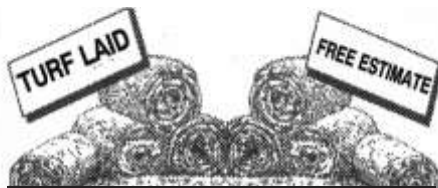
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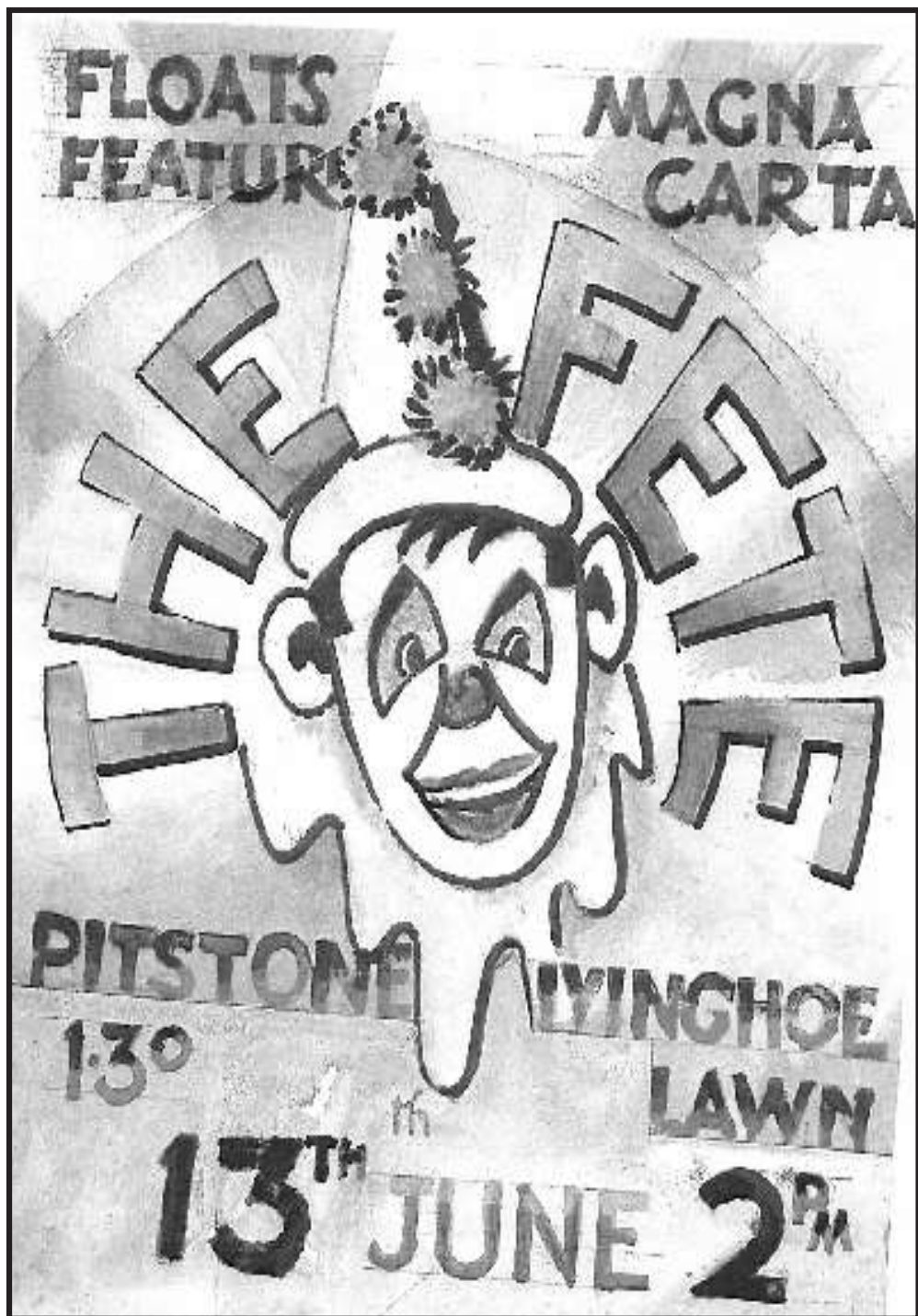


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<p>Cllr Margaret Crutchfield</p>  <p>12 Yardley Avenue, LU7 9AL T: 291389 E: lunchlineuk@yahoo.co.uk Chair of Planning Committee, member of Staffing Committee, member of NDP Steering Group, Allotment Officer & Local Area Forum representative.</p>	<p>Cllr Ben Blunt</p>  <p>The Laurels, Old Farm, LU7 9RD T: 660702 E: ben@strategyhr.co.uk Chair of Staffing Committee, member of Sports & Leisure Committee, member of Planning Committee, Minerals & Waste representative & Local Area Forum representative.</p>
<p>Cllr Steve Matthey</p>  <p>Fern Cottage, 13 Queen Street, LU7 9AU T: 662691 E: Steve.matthey@treelondon.com Chair of Recreation Ground Charity, member of Pitstone Parish Charity, Memorial Hall Charity representative.</p>	<p>Cllr Gillian Arney</p>  <p>63 Cheddington Road, LU7 9AQ T: 668123 E: gill.arney@tiscali.co.uk Member of Pitstone Parish Charity, Pitstone Hill & Trees representative, Ecology/Chiltern Conservation Board representative, Footpaths, Public Transport, Notice-board manager.</p>
<p>Cllr Joanne Groom</p>  <p>6 Queen Street, LU7 9AU T: 662062 E: groomy63@aol.com Member of Planning Committee, Member of Sports & Leisure Committee & member of NDP Steering Group.</p>	<p>Cllr Annie Stack</p>  <p>73 Old Farm, LU7 9RD T: 668020 E: annie.stack12@gmail.com Member of Recreation Ground Charity, Pitstone Hill & Trees representative, Local Area Forum Representative, Allotment Officer, Pitstone Church Committee & Community Self Help Plan.</p>
<p>Cllr Colin Starling</p>  <p>The Ship, 74 Vicarage Road, LU7 9EY T: 663856 E: colin.starling@btinternet.com Member of Planning Committee, member of NDP Steering Group, member of Staffing Committee, member of Recreation Ground Charity.</p>	<p>Cllr Kris Weber</p>  <p>The Willows, 61 Cheddington Road LU7 9AQ T: 07710088624 E: krisweber2@hotmail.com Member of Sports & Leisure Committee, member of NDP Steering Group & Ecology/Chiltern Conservation Board.</p>
<p>County Councillor: Avril Davies</p>  <p>The Old Bakehouse, Chequers Lane, T: 668152 E: acdavies@buckscc.gov.uk</p>	<p>Correspondence/Enquiries, the Clerk: Laurie Eagling</p>  <p>9 Warwick Road, T: 660791 E: parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk Website: www.pitstone.co.uk Facebook: Pitstone Parish Council and Pitstone Youth Twitter: @pitstone_pc</p>
<p>District Councillor: Sandra Jenkins</p>  <p>T: 668587 E: sjenkins@aylesburyvaldedc.gov.uk</p>	<p>District Councillor: Derek Town</p> <p>T: 661637 E: dtown@aylesburyvaldedc.gov.uk</p>