

# Pitstone Parish Post

PPP is produced on behalf of Pitstone Parish Council and distributed quarterly, free to every household, PPP aims to keep members of the local community informed about events and news that may affect them.

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Other useful numbers see pages 39-40 and 42-43

If you wish to view the plans for any planning application currently under consultation by AVDC, please visit [www.aylesburyvalcdc.gov.uk](http://www.aylesburyvalcdc.gov.uk)



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dave Nicholls, Chairman

Having visited the Greatmoor Energy from Waste facility in February the Parish Council felt that it was also important for us to understand what happens to the contents of our recycling bins. To do so we arranged a visit in May to the CasePak recycling facility in Leicester.



This facility takes recycling from Bucks and elsewhere and processes 3500 to 5500 tonnes per week.

Arriving lorries

are unloaded and tested for 'contamination'. If they contain too much organic or non recyclable material (e.g. waste food, disposable nappies etc) the load is rejected and has to be incinerated. Because even accepted loads usually include some contamination, everything is checked by hand. Workers extract plastic film (carrier bags etc), and other items before they enter the main process. Material then goes into automated sorting equipment that separates 2D items (e.g. paper and card) from 3D items (e.g. bottles and cans). These machines aren't perfect so there are further groups of workers in cabins who manually deal with wrongly assigned items.



By the end of the process the different



materials are baled up to be sold. The value of the bales depends on market conditions and the level

of contaminants that remain. Money from the sales goes back to the councils.

As it stands, the market for recycled materials in the UK is small so most of the bales are sent to Europe or China.

We came away with a much better



understanding of the recycling process, including how fragile it can be if we don't make the effort to ensure that only well rinsed recyclable materials go into the bins. Until better processing methods are developed it is everyone's responsibility to help maximise the ability to recycle.

Wishing you an enjoyable summer.



## PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Laurie Eagling, Parish Clerk

Welcome to our new Parish Assistant **We'd like to welcome Stephen Davies to the** team. Stephen is now co-ordinating the Pitstone Community Car Scheme and keeping our noticeboards up to date. The car scheme helps residents get to their medical **appointments when this isn't possible by** other means. We are desperately short of volunteers to drive the customer to their appointment and back again. Expenses are paid and you can choose how many or how few trips you undertake. Many trips are local – to the Pitstone or Tring surgeries. If you have any spare time and are able to help, please do get in touch with Stephen on [communitytransport@pitstone.co.uk](mailto:communitytransport@pitstone.co.uk) or 01296 767116.

Very many congratulations to Dave Seaton on being awarded Pitstone Volunteer of the Year 2019.



Dave has served for 8 years on the Pitstone & Ivinghoe Entertainments Committee putting in many

hours of voluntary work to bringing the Summer Festival and Bonfire & Fireworks Events to our community, the last few years of which he has served as Chairman. Dave will unfortunately be stepping down later this year and will be sorely missed by his fellow committee members.

Parish Council Chairman, Dave Nicholls, presented the framed certificate, card and

cheque for £50.00 to Dave Seaton at the Annual Parish Assembly.

If you know someone who goes above and beyond with their voluntary efforts to bring benefits to the residents of Pitstone, then please submit your nominations for next years award to the parish clerk on [parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk).

The Parish Council is 125 years old this December

**We'll be celebrating our 125-year** anniversary this Christmas. Those of you that attended the Annual Assembly will have seen an exhibition about the activity and history of the council. Please also find within this edition of PPP a personal perspective from Councillor Anil Mitra. Should any residents have misplaced their copy of Pitstone 2000, please contact the clerk and arrange to collect another copy free-of-charge.

Planning granted for the improved pavilion buildings

Planning approval has been granted by



Aylesbury Vale District Council for the improved pavilion buildings.

The parish council is now working to secure sufficient

funding and to commence the lengthy public procurement process. We will keep

residents advised of progress.

**£10k Grant awarded by Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust Project Grant**  
We are delighted to advise that the Parish Council has been awarded a grant of £10,000 from the VAHT Project Grant towards the construction of the improved pavilion building. We will keep you updated on the results of other grant applications as we hear from the various bodies.

#### Leisure Update

We are pleased to report that the landowner is now in a position to negotiate with the Parish Council over our application to purchase the parcel of land we need for the new play space and skate park. We are being supported by Aylesbury Vale District Council with a release of Section 106 leisure monies to enable this purchase. Matters are currently progressing through the various legal representatives, and once concluded we hope to review the proposed play space with the contractor and commence tendering for a skate park. We will keep residents updated.

**Want to get to Tring station? Please respond to the survey.**

The new franchise operator, West Midlands Trains, is in the process of undertaking a Station Travel Plan for Tring and Cheddington stations which will include a survey of users to see how you get to Tring station and what improvements you would like to see. The results from this survey will help to provide supporting evidence for any schemes that arise from the project and any requests for funding that are required. It is really important that as many residents as possible respond to this survey because it may help to justify a cycle route along Northfield Road, possible public transport options to & from the station and/or parking solutions etc. The survey is the centre pages of this edition of the PPP. Either go to the link on the survey, or pull it out and drop it into the train station.

#### **Don't put yourself at risk by swimming**

in the quarry or a lake

Please be aware that the quarry at the end of Westfield Road is within private ownership and is not open to the public. Anyone accessing the quarry lake (which is not suitable for swimming due to contamination and submerged equipment etc) without the express permission of the landowner is committing trespass and may be subject to prosecution.

Repeat of a previous message from Thames Valley Police:

Thames Valley Police is appealing for people to be sensible and stay safe near open water, especially during the summer holidays when warmer weather might make it tempting to take a dip in a lake, quarry, river or canal. Aylesbury Vale has plenty of excellent swimming pools and leisure centres; these provide the cleanest and safest environment for swimming.

We are reminding members of the public to be aware of the following:

- 60% of all drownings occur in canals, lakes and rivers.
- You can drown in just a few centimetres of water.
- If you fall or jump into the water, the cold will shock your body, making your **muscles seize up so you can't move.**
- You could easily cut yourself on rubbish or rocks and you may become ill due to bacteria in the water.

Summer is a fantastic time and we want everyone to enjoy the weather, but more importantly, please take this safety advice seriously. If you want to go swimming please go to a swimming pool or your local leisure centre – **don't put yourself or your friends in danger** by swimming in a lake, quarry, pond or canal.

#### Inconsiderate Parking

Inconsiderate parking is another area that seems to cause a multitude of problems around the village, especially where the roads

are narrow, where parking causes visibility problems at junctions, when vehicles park on the pavement so pedestrians are forced into the highway, and when people park on top of **'keep clear' signs. Here is some useful information** provided to us by Thames Valley Police and Bucks Fire.

According to the Highway Code, you must not park:

- On a pedestrian crossing, including the area marked by zig-zag lines
- In a marked taxi bay
- In a cycle lane
- On red lines
- In spaces reserved for Blue Badge holders, residents or motorcycles (unless entitled to do so)
- Near a school entrance, including the area marked by zig-zag lines
- Anywhere that would prevent access for Emergency Services at or near a bus stop
- Opposite or within 10 metres of a junction
- Over a dropped curb
- In front of the entrance to a property

Answers to the top parking related questions:

- **You don't have the right to the parking space outside your house. So long as they don't break the law or contravene parking regulations or restrictions, anyone can park there.**
- **You can't force your neighbour to utilise their garage or driveway should they choose to park on the road instead.**
- There is no restriction on how long a vehicle may park there, so long as it is taxed, insured and has an MOT. The only exception being if the police believe it to be abandoned.
- Driving on a pavement has been banned since the Highways Act of 1835. Parking on the pavement in London is banned in the Highway Code. If you do park

partially on the pavement you must leave enough clearance for a double buggy to safely use the path, otherwise you will be committing other offences.

- The law only deals with obstruction to the highway, not your driveway. If someone has parked in such a way that your driveway is being blocked the police might be able to give you advice, but **probably wouldn't be able to take any action** other than asking them to move it.

- If someone parks on your actual driveway without your permission, this is trespassing. Trespass is a civil, rather than criminal, offence. This means that the police are powerless to take action.

Access for Emergency Vehicles and Refuse Lorries

Firefighters are urging people to think about access for emergency service vehicles when parking in the street. Inconsiderate parking causes them to lose valuable time, and this could be vital if they are responding to an emergency incident. A fire engine needs 10ft (3 metres) clearance to pass safely and it

**doesn't need to be a whole row of cars to** cause a delay, it only takes two cars almost opposite each other, to cause an obstruction. Bucks Fire urge residents to think about their parking as they could be putting the lives of their families, friends and neighbours at risk. ...so please be considerate when using and parking your vehicle.

**Be the type of neighbour that you'd** like next door to you

Some of the most common complaints raised with the parish council, or at the annual assemblies, relate to anti-social behaviour committed by other residents such as:

- dog fouling left on footpaths and in open spaces despite dog bins being provided
- inconsiderate parking that puts other road users or pedestrians at risk
- **speeding, which we're told are often**

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local vehicles, so perhaps you drive carefully along your own road but then speed up along Marsworth Road or Westfield Road,

- anti-social/dangerous driving such as spinning donuts at the industrial estate or overtaking whilst there are oncoming vehicles along Westfield Road,
- littering despite rubbish bins being provided.

We live in a wonderful rural village, surrounded by beautiful countryside, which we should all appreciate and value. Please spare a moment to consider the impact of your actions on other residents and be the type of neighbour that you would like your neighbours to be.

#### Grass Cutting in Glebe Close and Yardley Avenue

You will be aware that there has been an issue with grass cutting in the above two roads this year. This was historically undertaken by Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust but is apparently now being passed to Bucks County Council. The 2 bodies are discussing this issue and determining handover procedures. We understand that VAHT will be undertaking one further cut and then BCC will be maintaining for the rest of the season, but that BCC cut significantly less frequently than VAHT.

We understand that BCC may consider devolving power to the parish council for these 2 roads in subsequent years (they have not devolved power to PPC for the current year) but this will be a decision for the new unitary Buckinghamshire County once it is in place.

#### Annual Assembly

Thank you to those that attended the annual assembly. This is an annual meeting about the parish and not a parish council meeting, although the council Chairman must chair the meeting if he is present. You can find the minutes of the meeting on the website ([www.pitstone.co.uk](http://www.pitstone.co.uk)) or you can ask for a hard copy from the clerk. Some matters

have been referred to the parish council for investigation, some passed to TVP, Taylor Wimpey or Bucks County Council. You can follow progress on matters within the scope of the parish council by attending our meetings, reading our minutes, following our updates in PPP/on the website or perhaps consider standing for election (next election coming up in May 2020) as a councillor (voluntary role).

#### Parish Council Finances

The parish council accounts go through several tiers of audit. The reports produced by the Responsible Financial Officer are checked by members of the council on a monthly basis. At the end of the financial year, auditors from IAC attend and carry out an Internal Audit to check that the parish council has all the appropriate procedures and financial management in place. The report from the Internal Auditor along with the parish council accounting and governance statements are provided to the External Auditor who are appointed to us, this year it is PKF Littlejohn.

All our expenditure is available online. Our submission to the external auditor is also available online or you can see it in our noticeboards, alongside information about the exercise of public rights. In this edition of the magazine, you will also find the Annual Report and Accounts which gives a more detailed description of the activities of the past 12 months and adds meaning to the figures.

#### Sign up for info from Thames Valley Police

The best ways to get regular updates on local activity from Thames Valley Police are::

Sign up for TVP Alerts for messages about local activity: <https://>

[www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/c/2018/thames-valley-alert/](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/c/2018/thames-valley-alert/)

Follow them on Facebook for updates direct to your news-feed: @TVPAYlesburyVale



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# Dog Fouling is not acceptable



## Dog fouling in Pitstone

Residents have complained about dog fouling along our footpaths, on our recreation ground, along the permissive footpaths and in the Local Wildlife Site off Westfield Road (which is not common ground as it is in private ownership & all dog fouling should be cleared). This inconsiderate behaviour from a minority of dog owners is completely unacceptable and causes particular problems on the approach to Brookmead School and Windmill Pre-School where it gets **onto the wheels of pushchairs, onto children's shoes and then onto the carpets in the schools**, where children then have to sit and touch the flooring with their hands.

How serious is this?

Dog mess is not only unpleasant it is a risk to health. The biggest threat to public health from dog excrement is toxocariasis, an infection of the roundworm *toxocara canis*. The eggs of the parasite can be found in soil or sand contaminated with faeces and if swallowed, result in infection that lasts between six and 24 months. Symptoms include eye disorders, vague ache, dizziness, nausea, asthma and, in extremely rare cases, seizures/fits. Toxocariasis most commonly affects small children as they tend to put their hands in their mouths after crawling around.

It is an offence for dog owners to fail to clear up any dog foul left by their dogs. Offenders can be issued with a fixed penalty notice or a fine of up to £1,000 if the case goes to court. Being unaware that your dog has fouled or not having a suitable means of clearing up after your dog is no excuse – you should always carry poop scoop bags on dog walks.

Where do I have to clear up after my dog?

You should clean up after your dog wherever you are. Kicking dog waste into the gutters is not acceptable. Nor is kicking it under a hedge.

## **Where can I dispose of my dog's waste?**

There are currently 16 dog waste bins in Pitstone alone. However, you can dispose of dog waste in suitable bags in any public litter bin, of which there are another 19 in Pitstone, so there are 35 opportunities for you to dispose of your waste as you walk through our village. You can also take your dog waste home and dispose of it in your green general household waste bin.

What else can I do to help keep Pitstone clear of dog waste?

Please report all incidents of dog fouling on footpaths, to the Aylesbury Vale District Council dog warden service via their online reporting form available at <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/dog-fouling>. AVDC can implement more frequent cleansing visits or patrols by the dog warden if they are aware of a large-scale problem.

If you witness someone allowing their dog to foul, please report them to AVDC using the webpage above which also gives you some useful advice about the type of information they need in order to approach and fine a dog owner. Photographic evidence on your mobile phone would be very helpful in securing a prosecution.

**Let's work together to prove that dog fouling in our public open spaces and on our footpaths will not be tolerated and culprits will be reported and fined.**

**EDLESBOROUGH SURGERY & PITSTONE VILLAGE HEALTH CENTRE 2019 FLU CAMPAIGN**

PLEASE NOTE DUE TO SUPPLY RELEASE DATES, NO CHILDREN'S FLU VACCINE (FOR 17 YRS & YOUNGER) WILL BE AVAILABLE UNTIL OCTOBER. PLEASE WATCH FOR UPDATES ON OUR WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK PAGE

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THURSDAY 19 <sup>th</sup> SEPT 12.30 – 2pm Surnames A – M 18 years and over only	WEDNESDAY 25 <sup>th</sup> SEPT 12.30 – 2pm Surnames A – M 18 years and over only
SATURDAY 28 <sup>th</sup> SEPT 9am – 12.30 Surnames A – M 18 years and over only	
THURSDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup> OCT 12.30 – 2pm N - Z	WEDNESDAY 9 <sup>th</sup> OCT 12.30 – 2PM Surnames N - Z
SATURDAY 12 <sup>th</sup> OCT 9am – 12.30 Surnames N – Z All children also welcome	SATURDAY 26 <sup>th</sup> OCT 9am – 12.30 All children also welcome

**Don't forget, when you receive your flu vaccine at your GP surgery, we will also check if you have any other vaccines and checks due.**

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& Neurological Diseases & Diabetes  
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Carers (in receipt of carer's allowance)

All pregnant ladies

All children aged 2 & 3 years at GP surgery

Children, in eligible school years, will be vaccinated at school

All housebound patients will be contacted by the surgery



We would appreciate it if you could come at the above times in order to MINIMIZE YOUR waiting time. However, if you are unable to come at the allocated time for your surname, please feel free to attend any of the appropriate clinics above. If you are not available to attend any of the above clinics please call the surgery after October 15<sup>th</sup> to book an appointment in November

## Mentmore Fete

Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup>

1-4pm

We will be raising money for the Epilepsy

Society and WaterAid

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there!



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## A MESSAGE FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Megan Dean, TVP

Pitstone is a low crime area but one issue of note is the Anti-social Behaviour/drug use around the Memorial Hall area. As a team we have been doing a lot of work in the area. We recently did an operation where we had officers out in plain clothes stop checking anyone in the area. This resulted in 2 cannabis warnings being issued and drugs/drug paraphernalia being seized. Some persons that night were also taken home to their parents by officers. We have also been working with a local Housing Association and tenants who have been identified as causing issues in the village have been issued with Acceptable Behaviour Contracts by them. We have liaised a lot with the Parish Council and they have been really helpful in making adaptations to the area for us to try and help combat the issue. We have also been in contact with the local Neighbourhood Team in Tring because some of the youths we were stopping were from there. All of this work has decreased the issue in the area and we have had some really positive feedback. One thing we will ask is if you see anything then please report it directly to us via 101 or 999 (whichever is more appropriate). Reporting it to the Parish Council or putting a post on Facebook to make others aware is fine, but we need to be told directly so we can respond appropriately.

### Burglaries

Burglaries seem to be on the increase in the Aylesbury Local Policing Area. Please be vigilant. Make sure your home is secure and if you have an alarm, ensure it is set. Do not leave keys near to letterboxes, open windows or cat flaps. If you notice anything

suspicious, please contact us.

### Theft From Motor Vehicles

Vehicle break-ins in the local Beauty Spot car parks are on the rise due to the time of year. If you park your vehicle in a secluded area, please ensure it is secure and no valuables are left on display. We recommend leaving your glove compartment open and parcel shelf off to show there are no valuables in there. Be vigilant and if you see anyone acting suspicious please contact us.

### Parking Issues

In the Aylesbury Vale, parking has been decriminalised so we can no longer issue tickets for parking on double yellow lines, Zig-Zags etc. This is now down to AVDC to enforce. We can only deal with the offence of **“Obstruction”**. This includes obstruction to the foot path or over a dropped curb. If there is a vehicle on a footpath and you **wouldn't be able to get a pushchair or a wheelchair** past, please let us know and we can deal accordingly. If there is an obstruction to a dropped curb, for example a driveway, and you are unable to get off your driveway (Not being able to get on to your driveway is unfortunately not an obstruction) then please notify us.

We appreciate there are parking issues in the Castlemead estate however as it stands at the moment, the roads have not been adopted by the local authorities. This means it is classed as private land so we have no authority over it. I am aware that the Parish Council are looking into this but at the moment, we can only offer advice and unfortunately are not able to enforce anything.

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## IVINGHOE AND PITSTONE WI

Sue Eyre, WI President of Pitstone and Ivinghoe

The year carries on apace. Since our last report we have had a talk from Cindy White on how to make the most of supermarket flowers. This was very useful, and we have used the knowledge to make table decorations.

May saw our 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday celebration and resolutions to go to the National WI Annual Meeting at Bournemouth. Tenor, Jacob Cole, entertained us and he was magic. Ladies were invited from neighbouring institutes and they were very impressed with Jacob and the posh afternoon tea served to them.

In June we had Lorraine Law and Ann Meader who started off making jams and chutneys from ingredients from their gardens. They have now progressed to three allotments and all proceeds from their efforts go to local church funds. They make approximately £16,000 each year, well done to these ladies.

July, we all enjoyed a summer picnic.

Ladies from Ivinghoe and Pitstone represented your local WI at both the County and National meetings.

About 30 of our ladies went on a trip to Highgrove and have been enthusing ever since. Unfortunately, they did not get to meet Charles and Camilla but still enjoyed their lovely garden.

Other educational trips include going underground with the Post Office on their little postal train in London as well as a highly **enjoyable fused glass course**. **What's this you** ask, well for all you people that have glass ornaments hanging in your windows, you now know. We all have glass birds in ours

made by ourselves.

**We are winners...**

with our float, entitled Be Fantastic Get



Drastic With Plastic in the parade for the Ivinghoe Church Fete. Well done to all the other competition entrants. Our ladies were dressed as mermaids and were festooned with plastic. We really enjoyed the preparations as we felt like 5-year olds. We



we were also selling our delicious home-made cakes at the fete towards church funds.

Talking of homemade cakes, we progressed to home-made scones for Prosecco Cream Teas at the Music on The Green event. A lovely day of music and cream teas.

**Coming Up**

August – a mystery tour

September – Feel Good From the Outside In by Nikki Hall

October – Supershoes by Sarah

November – Our Annual General Meeting

Visitors and Guests are always welcome. Further details are available from Sue Eyre 01296 709281 / 07742 138955





## WASTE KING IN LOCAL FOOTBALL SPONSORSHIP DEAL

While Phil Neville's England Lionesses are representing their country in the FIFA Women's World Cup, in France, Pitstone and Ivinghoe Junior Football Club is playing its part in helping to find the next – and subsequent – generations of international women's footballers.

In this, they are now being helped by Waste King, the specialist collections, clearance and recycling company that focuses on providing a highly environmentally friendly service, operates throughout the UK and draws its customers from both the general public and the commercial world.

Waste King recently signed a sponsorship deal for the 2019/20 season with Pitstone and Ivinghoe Junior Football Club's Under 15 Girls' Team, which includes Waste King providing the team's kit. The team's manager, Barry Knight, commented, "We feel proud that a local company is sponsoring us to develop girls' football locally."

Established only three years ago, the team plays in the Bucks Girls Football League. This involves playing more than 20 league matches each season, plus cup games at a competitive level.

"Most of the girls in the squad were new to football three years ago," said Barry Knight. "They're developing great resilience and team spirit - and very much enjoy learning and developing new skills,

making friends and being part of the team. "Women's football has never had a higher profile - with the current World Cup and the women's game becoming more professional than ever," he added.

"We're currently searching for more players, of all skill and experience levels – to expand our team squad. It's important to stress that all our coaches are FA-qualified and that we are a Charter Standard club."

For further details about Pitstone and Ivinghoe Junior Football Club and especially its female section, visit [www.pandifootball.net/under-14-girls](http://www.pandifootball.net/under-14-girls).

Waste King's managing director, Glenn Currie, commented, "My colleague, Andy Cattigan, and I formed Waste King 12 years ago because we were keen to 'do something to help the environment'. Serving both the commercial and domestic markets, we're now experienced at doing that – since we're able to recycle 98 per cent of every load of waste we collect.



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## DISTRICT NEWS

Derek Town and Sandra Jenkins, District Councillors - Pitstone & Cheddington Ward

AVDC elects last chairman at its meeting (15 May 2019)

Aylesbury Vale District Council elected its last chairman – Cllr Judy Brandis – whose term of office will end with the establishment of the new unitary Buckinghamshire Council in May 2020.

At the same meeting Cllr Chris Poll was elected vice chairman. Cllr Brandis has served as a district councillor, representing Haddenham and Stone, for 20 years and has been chairman of Licensing for over 12 years.

**Previously, she ran her own children’s nursery near where she lived in Amersham, before moving to Haddenham. Cllr Brandis said: “It is an honour and privilege to have been elected as the district’s last chairman and I am looking forward to working with people, community groups and other organisations from across the Vale. In my role as chairman I hope I will be able to help them raise their profile and let others see the magnificent work they all do to**

**contribute to the life and vitality of the area”.**

Cllr Brandis has nominated Nest Aylesbury Vale as her charity for the year. Formerly known as Home-Start Aylesbury Vale, Nest is a local independent charity that has been supporting families, with one child under five, throughout Aylesbury Vale for over 16 years. Nest provides carefully selected volunteers, with parenting experience themselves, who will regularly visit a family in their own home, offering emotional and practical support through difficult times for as long as it is helpful or needed. This friendly and accessible parent-to-parent support is a

simple yet effective way of enabling families **to get back on track.** **“Unfortunately even a largely volunteer led organisation needs funds, and Nest is no exception. They are a vital resource for ordinary families going through extraordinary times and I am looking forward to working with them and others across the Vale promoting their work and organising and supporting a range of fundraising events”, said Cllr Brandis.**

Update of The Vale of Aylesbury Plan VALP local plan 2013-2033 examination Inspector Paul Clark BA MA MRTPI AVDC has advised the Inspector that it will have prepared modifications to the plan together with an updated Sustainability Appraisal by the end of June 2019. These will be submitted to the Inspector for him to be reasonably satisfied at that point that the proposed modifications are necessary to rectify the unsoundness problems that have already been identified in the examination hitherto. Once the Inspector is reasonably satisfied on that point, the modifications will be published by the Council to give the public an opportunity to make representations on them. This is expected to take place for at least six weeks towards the end of the summer. Representations should confine themselves to new matters raised by the modifications; a simple repetition of representations previously made does not assist the process. The Inspector is likely to consider the new representations made in the autumn of 2019, following which he will issue his final, binding, report.

## Local Democracy

As we previously mentioned our local elections will now take place next May 2020. The elections were due to take place this May but because of the decision to put in place a new Unitary Council these have been put back until May 2020 with the resultant reduction in the number of councillors. The Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner elections will also take place in 2020. The present Commissioner, Anthony Stansfield, who was elected in 2012, is standing down. All information on the Police and Crime Commissioner's role and responsibilities can be found on the website.

## Unitary

This is a golden opportunity to transform all **service provision in Bucks and we're** encouraged that the Minister for Local Government has reaffirmed that the new council will not be a continuation of any existing authority, but a completely new start. We are all keen to play our part in ensuring that this new council delivers excellent services and improved outcomes to the communities we serve.

Local government in Buckinghamshire is facing the biggest change in a generation as the five existing councils – Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe district councils and Bucks County Council – prepare to be abolished in 2020 and replaced **with a brand new 'unitary district' council.**

This means just one council providing all council services in Bucks.

Our membership responsibilities for 2019/2020

Sandra:

Full Council

Chairman of the Living and Environment

Scrutiny Committee

Economy and Business Development Scrutiny Committee

Bucks Playing Field Association

Bucks Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee

Derek:

Full council

Development Planning Committee

Audit Committee

New Homes Bonus Panel

Substitute Member for Strategic Planning Committee

NB Planning and Licencing Committee members are obliged to take training every year to qualify.

## Going Forward

There is going to be difficult planning decisions due to the expansion of housing development in the Vale of Aylesbury. There is also the adequacy of the infrastructure to support the developments.

This year will be a year of change due to the new Council being established in a relatively short time span.

Ensuring AVDC's service provision during the unitary process.

Derek Town

01296

661637 dtown@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

Sandra Jenkins

01296

668587 sjenkins@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

District Councillors - Pitstone &

Cheddington Ward

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# **VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUTH CAFE REQUIRED**

**Urgently needed to start  
in September!**

**Our volunteers get to  
play with remote control  
cars, have games of table  
tennis, join in on games of  
badminton and take on  
console game challenges!**

**Youth Cafe runs 6:30-8pm on Wednesday  
during term time at Brookmead School**

**Must be 18+ years. DBS checks provided. All  
training provided.**

**You don't need to commit to every week - every  
other week or once a month is great too!**





## ANOTHER BUSY YEAR FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> IIVINGHOE & PITSTONE SCOUTS

Izzy Robinson

In the Autumn Term, the Scouts and Cubs had a very successful and wet joint water camp at Longridge experiencing amongst other activities, dragon boating and paddle



boarding. We also had the opportunity to invest some new Scouts on the water. We enjoyed a joint Wide Game with Cheddington Scouts in Tring Park followed by fresh chips in Dolphin Square, a morning volunteering with the Greensands Trust at Linslade Woods, helping at the Church Christmas Market and delivering Church flyers, an evening of climbing at XC Hemel Hempstead, and December saw the return of our popular Scout Christmas Post.

The Spring term found us out of the hut and based at Brookmead School. We worked towards our Personal Challenge and Disability Awareness badges, managed an overnight Bivi camp at Braid Wood building our accommodation from tarpaulin, trees



and branches and cooking on an open fire, and got thoroughly dusty

**cleaning St Mary's Church and Bell Tower.**

We finished the term with a Scout choice evening – laser quasar at Hemel Hempstead.

Back in the hut for the Summer term and we have serviced our bicycles in anticipation of a

Summer cycle, hosted our District St Georges Day event, showcased our pioneering skills at the Church Summer Fete, assisted with car parking at the Marsworth Steam Rally, and had a very enjoyable visit around the Arla Dairy at Aston Clinton, where we had the chance to sit in a lorry cab, saw milk bottles being filled and labelled and watched the robots move the crates of



milk bottles around the factory.

The highlight of the Summer

term has to be Mission 00 Bucks – a County Camp on the Claydon House Estate at the end of May. Over 4000 children plus leaders attended, with our Scouts and Cubs camping from Friday night to Monday lunch and our Beavers visiting for the day. There were 5 activity zones available and activities included shooting, drumming and dance lessons, inflatables, climbing walls, crafts, circus activities, go-carts, there was something for everyone during the day and live bands, films a roller disco and free candy floss in the evening. A great weekend was had by all.

The Scouts are always on the lookout for ideas for interesting activities and if you have any particular skills that could help us do some of the more specialist badges or know of any exciting places we could visit, please contact us on [firsti\\_pscouts@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:firsti_pscouts@yahoo.co.uk) if you are interested in joining any section of the Scout Group, please email [Ivinghoe.pitstone.scouts@gmail.com](mailto:Ivinghoe.pitstone.scouts@gmail.com)



**Raising funds for the oldest building in Ivinghoe village**

Refreshments available throughout the day  
Lunches available 12noon to 2pm

If you would like to take part or come and support us we would love to see you.

For further information please email or telephone

**Sandra Green:** [sandragreen20@hotmail.com](mailto:sandragreen20@hotmail.com)  
**01296 668648**



Sometimes it can be difficult to cope with the challenges that life throws at us so talking to a counsellor may be helpful.

From my counselling practice near Wendover, I offer a warm, friendly and confidential space for you to talk through any problems you may be facing such as anxiety, stress, sadness, low self-esteem, anger and relationship difficulties.

For further information on how I may be able to help or to book an initial appointment, please contact me:

Natalie McGourty MBACP, BA (Hons) Psychology

Tel: 07976 968166

Email: [natalie@nmcounselling.co.uk](mailto:natalie@nmcounselling.co.uk)

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

# GROVE FARM PYO

**Pick Your Own fresh Fruit and Vegetables**  
from approx. mid-June to mid-October in Great Gap, Ivinghoe



Please bring your own carrier bags and we will donate 2p to charity for every new one that you replace

For more information, directions and entry times please  
Visit [www.grovefarmpyo.co.uk](http://www.grovefarmpyo.co.uk) or Ring 01296 668175 in June





# **Cheddington Pre-School**

Cheddington Pre-School is in the grounds of Cheddington Combined School. We have a purpose-built building and our own well-equipped outdoor learning environment with vegetable patch and mud kitchen, plus access to some of the primary school's facilities. We offer a great variety of activities each week including PE, library time, woodland area visits, as well as visits to reception in the summer term for those who will be joining school in the September. Cheddington Pre-School prides itself in delivering a high quality pre-school education. We have very healthy registers at Pre-School so please remember to register your child from 18 months old. We take children from 2 years up until they start school. For further information or to register your child with us please contact Michelle Andrews, Manager. Tel. 01296 662292 or [cheddingtonps@outlook.com](mailto:cheddingtonps@outlook.com) or visit [www.cheddingtonpreschool.co.uk](http://www.cheddingtonpreschool.co.uk)



**WHERE LEARNING & GROWING ARE FUN!**

Marsworth Preschool, held at Marsworth Millennium Hall, is a wonderfully caring, fun & nurturing environment for children aged 2 to 5.

Our dedicated and experienced team provide a warm, educational & stimulating place for children to develop & learn through play. Ofsted rated 'Good' at our last inspection (December 2014).

**Opening hours are:**

**Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday**

**Morning 9.00 to 11.30am / Lunch Club 11.30 to 12.30pm / Afternoon 12.30 to 3pm**

For more information, session availability or to arrange a visit,  
please call **07506 179658** during pre-school hours

or see our website

**[www.marsworthpreschool.org.uk](http://www.marsworthpreschool.org.uk)**



## COUNTY NEWS

Anne Wight, County Councillor,

### **I'm sure you may have noticed that the**

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) is now on the Brownlow Bridge in Ivinghoe, and so vehicles over 18 tonnes should not use the bridge. While I know this is causing difficulty particularly for our farmers and some local businesses, unfortunately the issue is one of public safety as we have been advised by the Canal and River Trust---who own the bridge---that their structural analyses indicate that the bridge is too weak to handle vehicles over 18 tonnes.

As this is a temporary TRO limit on the bridge, the Freight Strategy team at Bucks County Council is now in the process of looking at traffic flows through the surrounding villages, and will also take into consideration resident and business views on the 18 tonne weight limit over the coming months before deciding whether to make the 18 tonne limit permanent, or whether to discuss the possibility of reinstating the bridge for vehicles over that weight.

If you have a view on this issue either way, please write to the Freight Strategy team at the email address below to make sure your view gets counted.

[freight@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:freight@buckscc.gov.uk)

The New Buckinghamshire Council I was pleased to have attended the first meeting of the Shadow Authority for the new unitary Buckinghamshire Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The Shadow Authority consists of all district and county councillors for Buckinghamshire.. Its main duty is to ensure a smooth transition to the new council by 1 April 2020. Its key responsibilities include

setting a budget for the new Buckinghamshire Council and appointing members to committees. At the first meeting, we elected a Chairman, Councillor Richard Scott, and a Vice Chairman, Councillor Peter Strachan, to the Shadow Authority and also agreed the constitution for the Shadow Authority.

The Shadow Authority has now also confirmed the membership of the Shadow Executive, which will consist of 17 members from across the five existing councils who will take key decisions needed to create the new council over the coming year. It met for the first time on June 11<sup>th</sup>. The Leader of the new Shadow Executive is Martin Tett, Leader of Buckinghamshire County Council and Katrina Wood, Leader of Wycombe District Council was appointed as Deputy Leader. Under the constitution that was agreed, the Shadow Authority will also establish a cross-party Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with councils nominating a specified number of councillors in accordance with political balance.

The Committee's main role will be to scrutinise and have overview of the budget and the transition to the new council, although other matters may be referred to the committee. Further details on scrutiny arrangements can be found in the Constitution document on the Shadow Authority website.

Full details of the Shadow Authority and Shadow Executive, including dates, agendas, webcasts and records of public meetings can be found at [shadow.buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://shadow.buckinghamshire.gov.uk). While there is a lot of work ahead to ensure



## Tring Station Travel Snapshot Survey

As part of the new Stations as Places Programme, London Northwestern Railways is undertaking research to find out how passengers travel to their local stations and what improvements they would like to see made at the site itself. If you would like to complete this survey online, please visit: [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TringLNR/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TringLNR/)

**1. What is your home post code?**

**2. What is your nearest station?**

**3. What station do you usually depart from?**

If different to above, please say why?

**4. Do you use the train for; Commuting, Business, Leisure, Tourism, Education? (All that apply)**

**5. How often do you use the train?**

Daily / 2-3 per week / Weekly / Monthly / Occasionally / Never

**6. Do you own a season ticket?**

Weekly / Monthly / Quarterly / Annually / No / Other (please specify)

**7. How do you usually travel to the station?**

Walk / Cycle (stored at station) / Cycle (taken on train) / Folding Bike / Electric bicycle / Car (parked) / Car (drop off) / Electric vehicle / Car share / Motorbike / Bus / Taxi / Other (please specify)

**8. How long does it usually take to travel to the station from your home? (minutes)**

\_\_\_\_\_ minutes

**9. If you drive, where do you park your car?**

Station site, on street (please specify), alternative location (please specify), I do not drive





**10. What are the three main factors that influence how you travel to and from the station?**

Cost / Convenience / Parking or storage / Distance / Accessibility or Disability / Car share / Weather / Travel time to station / Service reliability / Health and fitness / Environmental / Other commitments / Other (please specify)

**12. How safe would you feel leaving your bike at Tring station?**

Very safe / Safe / Unsure / Unsafe / Very Unsafe / Unusable as a result

**13. Which of the following would help convince you to cycle to Tring station on a regular basis? (all that apply)**

Secure racks with CCTV coverage / Swipe card access cycle hub / increased cycle parking capacity / pop up bike maintenance sessions / dedicated cycle route to the station / cycle lessons / information on types of bikes

**14. When making your most regular journey, would you ever consider switching to any of the following modes of green transport to form part or all of your journey? (select all that apply)**

Bicycle / Folding Bicycle / Electric Bike / Hire or Pool bikes / Electric vehicle / Car Share / Other (please specify) / I have never considered any of the above

**15. London Northwestern Railway will shortly be introducing a carsharing scheme at Tring station. We are also looking at providing a ride home via a taxi if your lift cancels or significantly alters your timing. Is this something which you would be interested in? If yes, please provide a contact email\* and we will in touch with sign up information.**

Yes Email:

No

***\*Your data is protected by GDPR regulation and cannot be passed onto third parties without your consent***





**16a. To what extent would you be interested in a tailored transport solution for travelling to and from the station during peak periods? This could be used to address gaps in existing public transport services.**

Very Interested / Interested / Uninterested / Not Interested at all / Don't Know

**b. What would make this option appealing to you?**

**c. Which of the following payment options do you think would be suitable for a tailored transport solution (select all that apply)**

Online Subscription / Prepaid Membership Card / Contactless Card (pay as you go)

Cash (pay as you go) / App based Payment / Advanced Phone Payment / Other (please specify)

**17. Have you ever had a mobility access issue on journey to/from your local station or at your local station i.e. access ramp gradient?**

If yes, please specify

Yes / No

**18a. Are you aware that Tring station recently received funding under the Department for Transport 'Access for All' scheme and as such new lifts, ramp and footbridge will be installed at Tring?**

Yes / No

**18b. Would you or a family member be more likely to use Tring station following the installation of these facilities to overcome mobility access issues?**

Yes / No

**19. Have you been a victim of crime, cycle crime or antisocial behaviour at Tring station? If you are comfortable in doing so, please inform us of the nature of the incident.**

Crime, Cycle Crime, Antisocial Behaviour, None of the above

#### **OPTIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS**

**Age?** Under 18 / 18-24 / 25-34 / 35-54 / Over 55

**Gender?** Male / Female / Prefer not to say



**20. How would you rate the quality of the following at your local station?**

**0 Non-existent, 1 Needs Improvement, 2 Adequate, 3 Good, 4 Excellent**

Seating \_\_ Lighting \_\_ Passenger information screens \_\_

Cycle storage and security \_\_ CCTV and Personal Safety \_\_

Pedestrian access points \_\_ Attractiveness \_\_ Cleanliness \_\_

Community projects \_\_ Parking \_\_ Public Transport Connections \_\_

Local Walking Connections \_\_ Local Cycling Connections \_\_

**Additional Comments – How could we improve your local station or help you access your local station?**

that key senior staff appointments are made and to set the budget for the new council before it comes into effect on 1 April, 2020, there is great enthusiasm on the part of all of us councillors who are now looking ahead to some of the advantages which the new unitary council will bring in terms of savings and efficiency. I will continue to keep residents informed of developments as we move towards the new unitary Buckinghamshire Council.

#### Transport for Bucks Update

I am sure that everyone will be delighted to hear that we have got funding for more weed spraying this summer. BCC currently carry out herbicide treatment of noxious weeds, primarily Japanese Knotweed and Rag Wort, throughout Buckinghamshire. These sites are on our noxious weed site registry and are **now plotted on our 'Confirm' data base** for annual programmed visits. Herbicide application occurs three times a year. Established Knotweed sites in particular can take up to 3 years to eradicate. We have also secured funding to carry out cyclical herbicide treatment during 2019 on all priority 1 & 2 footways across Buckinghamshire. This has started with completion due in October 19.

Work on road surface improvement schemes identified by Local Area Technicians in conjunction with local members commenced in April and the first phase of works is planned to be completed in June. A second and final phase of works is due to be carried out in August and September. The reinstatement of road markings and road studs will also be actioned to coincide with the delivery of the surfacing work. The part of Cheddington High Street near the tennis courts towards Cooks Wharf is also going to be resurfaced as part of the Capital Maintenance Program scheme.

This quarter TfB completed quite a few road improvement Plane and Patch schemes in Ivinghoe Division, including the whole length

of the roads of Pebblemoor in Edlesborough, Eaton Bray Road in Northall, Mentmore Road in Mentmore, and Crafton Lodge Lane in Crafton. At the recent Local Area Forum meeting, parish councillors across our division mentioned how the Plane and Patch works are high quality and prevent the **development of "pothole farms" in whole areas of the road surface.**

#### **On the back of 'Plane & Patch', the**

Government has released an additional £4.6M to Bucks County Council and Transport for Buckinghamshire to spend on highway repairs. The funding can be used to repair areas of potholes, road defects, bridges and the local highways infrastructure generally and will be spread across the County. We are very fortunate to be able to have some extra surface dressing between the Canal Bridge near the Red Lion and the county boundary around Lower End in Marsworth. The idea behind this surface dressing is that we surface dress over the patching completed in 2018 to reduce the need for reactive maintenance in the future. Hopefully, that work will be completed by late July/early August.

As for grass cutting across the county, BCC manage a total area of 9,948,148 million M2 of rural grass across Buckinghamshire. Our 2018 rural grass-cutting programme was carried out on budget and to time. Our main focus on highway verges is around areas that are key to maintaining visibility, such as at junctions, laybys, and the inside of bends. The aim of grass-cutting is to keep the highway safe by maintaining visibility for all road users. We carried out 4 cuts throughout 2018 consisting of 3 visions splay / junction cuts and a single swath cut, 1.2m (48") wide from the edge of the carriageway or footway which was completed in October as per the program.

This program is designed to maintain the necessary sightlines and vision splays at junctions. Based on the effectiveness of last

year we are proposing to continue with this methodology for the 2019 season with the addition of a Full width cut on both A & B strategic routes. This is designed to keep encroaching vegetation in check before it reaches a size/ diameter that our conventional flailing machines are capable of cutting

Unfortunately, we recently learned that the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust took the sudden decision to stop grass cutting for areas around Aylesbury Vale which they had historically been cutting. This has had severely adverse effects in Pitstone in particular and I am very conscious of the difficulties and inconvenience this has caused residents in Glebe Close and Yardley Avenue, as well as in other areas around the division. When I learned of this, I emailed Cllrs Steven Lambert and Angela Macpherson, who are on the board of VAHT, and explained the severely negative impact this was having on my residents. They were then able to arrange for an additional two summer cuts by VAHT during the transition period. Going forward, Bucks County Council is currently in discussions with VAHT to discuss the reallocation of grass cutting for these areas. I will keep my parish councils informed as to developments.

Mental Health Awareness Week in May  
I would just like to say that I was pleased to have been able to participate in Mental Health Awareness Week in May, both by manning our lift lobby stand at county hall and by attending our staff mental health awareness picnic in the park. I am privileged to be both a Time to Change Champion as well as a mental health champion at Bucks County Council. Time to Change is all about reducing the stigma associated with mental illness through encouraging people to share the stories of their personal experiences and journeys through mental health issues. In my own case I suffered badly from post-natal depression after my first baby, and I know

from firsthand experience how difficult it can be to try to cope with depression until finding treatment options which are effective. Since this year around one in four people will experience a mental health problem, we hope that by actively promoting discussion about mental health experiences, we can ensure that everyone feels confident and comfortable enough to approach a friend, their GP, or any of us Time to Change champions so that we can listen and signpost them to the right places to get treatment. For more information on Time to Change, please have a look at the website link:  
<https://www.time-to-change.org.uk>

CyberCrime and How to Stay Safe  
Finally, one issue I know which is of concern to many of my residents is the growing problem with cyber crime, phone scams and phishing emails. I thought I might take this opportunity to mention a few things you can do to keep yourself and your families safe from this growing threat to our communities. While many of us are familiar with call blocking on our mobile phones, not everyone may have invested in a landline Call Blocker device with caller ID. While the call blocking service is also available through BT and Virgin Media, as well as on certain landline phone sets, it is also possible to buy one of the CPR Call Blockers which is recommended by the police to try to ensure that residents are not troubled by phishing phone calls. This can be especially helpful for elderly residents living alone who are particularly vulnerable to phishing and hard-sell scammers.

If you are not sure whether a caller is genuine or not, you can make a note of the number from the Caller ID or after hanging up simply by using the 1471 service. At that point it is helpful to enter the number into the Who Called Me online phone number check at the link below. This will let you know whether others have complained about this phone number, or whether it is a scam and what experiences others have had with

it. There is also a listing of the number as being Dangerous or Neutral, and it is well worth checking if you are not certain that the caller might be genuine, or to help you decide if you want to ring the number back. <https://who-called.co.uk>

If you receive phishing emails or scam spam, you can forward them directly without **clicking on any links to the UK's online police team, Action Fraud**, at this address: [NFIBPhishing@city-of-london.pnn.police.uk](mailto:NFIBPhishing@city-of-london.pnn.police.uk) There is also a special team for businesses specifically where 24/7 online crime reporting can be handled separately to that of residents, along with news articles about the latest scams and what to look out for, as well as a live chat option if you need advice or guidance and information on victim resources.

If you are a business, charity or other organisation which is currently suffering a live cyber attack (in progress), please call 0300 123 2040 immediately. Specialist advisers are available by phone:

- Monday-Friday 8am-8pm
- Saturday - Closed
- Sunday - Closed

You can report fraud or cyber crime to Action Fraud any time of the day or night using the online reporting tool on the website. You can also report and get advice about fraud or cyber crime by calling 0300 123 2040.

**The times above represent Action Fraud's core contact centre opening hours**, although from time to time they do extend the service provided.

Action Fraud will not call you unless you have requested them to, and will never ask for your bank details. If you are unsure whether a call is genuine, call the Action Fraud team on 0300 123 2040. Please note this number will be charged at your normal network rate.

If you have inclusive minutes within your

mobile tariff then calls to the Action Fraud number are included at no cost. If you have used all of your inclusive minutes then the call will typically cost 35p per minute depending on your network provider. Please do visit the website for more information at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk>

Remember to also use different passwords for each of your various social media, utility, banking and any other online accounts. That way if one of your accounts were hacked, the hacker would not be able to access any of your other accounts automatically. Strong passwords should be more than eight characters if possible, and use a combination of upper case, lower case, symbols and alphanumerics. Never give your passwords to friends or say the full password over the phone---most genuine companies now ask for only for a few of the letters of your password over the phone, such as the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> alphanumeric in the password.



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## TIME FOR A RHYME

**Rev Adrian Manning, Vicar of St Mary's**

Ivinghoe with Pitstone

Marsworth Flower Festival 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>  
August

We will be running our flower festival this year at All Saints Church, Marsworth over the August Bank Holiday. The theme we have given to our team of flower arrangers is **'Time for a Rhyme'** It sounded catchy and as we hoped they have been choosing poems, nursery rhymes and sayings of all sorts. We are looking forward to a wide range of imaginative and colourful displays.

Poetry is an important expression of our wonder at the world around us and our deepest feelings. Many of the hymns we sing in church started as verse and were later set to music. There are poems in scripture that date back thousands of years that still resonate with our thoughts about God today.

The mathematician in me is fascinated by the patterns in poetry and I find myself reading and re-reading the words to spot rhythms, rhymes and word-plays in the text. One sometimes senses that each word was chosen and each line and each sentence constructed precisely by the author.

We would never gallop through a book of poems with the haste we move through a novel excited to know what will happen next. Reading poetry is a much slower process; it **takes time and so 'Time for a Rhyme'** is rather apt. Poetry slows us down. It stimulates reflection. It makes us to take time, to stop and think as we read.

For many people life is lived at a hectic pace.

**We are busy with so many things and can't** escape the unremitting 24 hours per day flow

of news and social media from the web.

Perhaps the flower festival will not only be a moment to stop and enjoy the artistic skill of the arrangers and the beauty of creation but an inspiration to discover poetry afresh and find the time it opens up to us as we slow down and discover depths of meaning in life.

### Pitstone Church

The Pitstone Church Committee would like to thank everybody who helped in any way at the Festival this year. We made over £1200 and much of that money came from the teas. Our cakes have an excellent reputation.

Our next event will be a performance of Wind in the Willows by the This is my Theatre company on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August at 3pm in the church.

This is my Theatre is a company who specialise in performances in churches and other historic spaces. We are looking forward to seeing how they use Pitstone Church.

Tickets and information are available from [www.thisismytheatre.com](http://www.thisismytheatre.com), tel. 07732 253311. All the ticket information is on the web site, but briefly, tickets are £10 each, £8 for concessions (over 65 and under 16). Family tickets are available.

There will be a service in the church on Heritage Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Check the Ivinghoe Church website and noticeboards for details.





## WHAT'S GOING ON AT COLLEGE LAKE?

Paul Simmons

Spring and summer really have come into their own with lots of flowers, butterflies and dragonflies to be seen. The orchids are looking fabulous around the reserve, with common spotted, pyramidal, bee orchids as well as twayblades in flower.

We held our Dawn Chorus walk on International Dawn Chorus Day on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May. This is one of my favourite events of the year, despite the 3.30am alarm.

Experiencing the reserve as the sun rises and the birds begin their morning ritual of defending territories and attracting mates with their song is always special. This year we had just under 20 people join us for the walk on a surprisingly chilly morning. As always we had a thoroughly enjoyable walk hearing all of the usual birds we expected to hear including chiffchaff, willow warbler, whitethroats and lesser whitethroat all singing plus the usual confusion between blackcap and garden warbler song. The walk as always is followed by a cooked breakfast in our café.

June always begins with Volunteer Week from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> and is a great opportunity to thank our amazing team of volunteers, who are vital to every aspect of our work at College Lake. We organise an evening for our volunteers which includes a guided walk followed by a chance to socialise over a BBQ back at the visitor centre. Unfortunately this year the weather decided not to be so kind to us. I started my walk in our Wildlife Garden, which is looking fabulous as we get into summer. The garden has its own team of dedicated volunteers who always ensure a

really good display and give an idea of things you could do in your own garden to help wildlife. When the rain started we decided to take cover in our Farming and Wildlife museum while the worst of the shower came down. We managed to see some of the orchids as well as some of the cornfield flowers which look fabulous in June before heading back in another steady shower of rain. Despite being wet everyone enjoyed a lovely BBQ and the chance to have a chat. As I said our volunteers really are vital to College Lake. If you are interested in volunteering please do drop in and see us or look at our website at <https://www.bbwt.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer> for details.

Every Wednesday evening in July and August we are open for our Summer Nights. This year you can book a meal on one of these evenings via our website, so why not come in and visit us. Other events coming up include a Create-a-saurus competition in conjunction with Tring Museum and a butterfly themed walk at College Lake on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July. A bit further afield as part of the Milton Keynes Festival of Nature, we have TV wildlife presenter Nick Baker giving a talk titled **'Return to Nature at The Venue'**. There is also a summer flower and butterfly walk at Aston Clinton Ragpits on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. For details of and to book a place visit our website at <https://www.bbwt.org.uk/events>.



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*If you or someone you know is in need of help. Please contact Gill Lowe, Chair of PTLC Trustees*

*tel: 01296 668809,*

*email: Gill.lowe@pitstone.email*

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## PITSTONE: THE FACTS & A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

Anil Mitra, Parish Councillor

Having lived in another tranquil and picturesque Buckinghamshire village for over 20 years, my wife and I moved to Pitstone in the summer of 2015 to be closer to our grandchildren.

As soon as we moved, the warmth and tranquil nature of the village was clear. There is a real sense of community which is the main reason I felt encouraged to get involved in the Parish Council. Whether having a leisurely walk, popping to the shop, visiting the pharmacy or doctors, or taking children to the pre-school or school, there is always a sense of friendliness with plenty of hellos from passing villagers or people stopping for conversation. This is the atmosphere my wife and I were looking for during our retired years. The pretty location of Pitstone and Ivinghoe on the edge of the Chiltern Hills with Ivinghoe Beacon, the Windmill on our doorstep makes our little village attractive to so many different types of people and as the community expands, people seem to be coming far and wide to re-locate or move here. The village has a long history and the book, *Pitstone 2000: The Village from the earliest times to the present* captures the entire story and makes a very interesting read.

The facts about our village (the following text is taken from the book *Pitstone 2000 from the earliest times to the present*)

Situated in Buckinghamshire on the border of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, Pitstone is located on the edge of the Chiltern Hills along the east of the Vale of Aylesbury with

the eastern end marked 3 miles away by Tring railway station and located seven miles from the market town of Leighton Buzzard and 9 miles east of Aylesbury.

The neighbouring villages of Pitstone and Ivinghoe operate separately yet are closely linked in daily life. The population of Pitstone is growing at a rapid rate: by 1971, the population hit 1147 (Pitstone) and 949 (Ivinghoe) yet in 2001, Pitstone grew to approximately 2500.

In terms of topography and transport, chalk is the predominant sub surface layer and the **chalk hills' drainage is affected by the Thames Basin**. Chalk helped to create a cement factory of three quarries with clear visibility of College Lake. The road network is formed mainly by Icknield Way, running along the Pitstone Hills and is one of the earliest roads used as a trading route. Marsworth Road is the main village road connecting to Ivinghoe High Street and the village of Marsworth. Whilst Cheddington Road connects us to Cooks Wharf and Cheddington. The Local Government Act of 1894 led to the formation of the Parish Council in December that year. The first Memorial Hall was opened on the 22nd May 1922 (current one was opened 7th September 1974) 1940 was when Pitstone was connected to the mains sewers. 1950 was when The Crescent brought 24 new post-war homes to Pitstone. Pitstone Windmill is an important landmark and forms the logo for the Pitstone Parish **Council, the date '1627' is carved on its framework**. A violent storm in 1902 brought

its working life to an end. In 1970, restoration was completed thanks to funds and awards and since has continued to be a **symbol of the village's historic past.**

In 1974, Pitstone became one of 108 Parishes in Aylesbury Vale District. After the 1991 closure of the Cement Works, the new estate, Castlemead, began to take shape in 1999, expanding over the following 20 years and increasing the population of Pitstone by 35%. With this increase, travel and communication continues to be an area of concern. It has often raised the discussion about Pitstone having its own railway station with the first attempt made in 1910 for its introduction. With the village expanding, this discussion is looming again.

**What needs to be improved?**

As Pitstone and Ivinghoe continue to expand, the village will need to adapt to manage the new pressures on resources and local facilities. However, there are two key areas that residents have raised with the parish council:

- Road safety: traffic has already become a major problem in our village with speeding cars and HGVs using Marsworth Road and Westfield Road as through ways. The volume of traffic from the business park and the school area can cause further congestion. This can make it dangerous for all those using our roads, whether on foot, bicycle or car. Improving the situation would mean introducing pelican crossings, such as near the roundabout across to Marsworth Road and across Vicarage Road to allow school children to cross traffic heavy roads safely, working with the council to stop so many HGVs coming through the village, better road humps to control excessive speeds and introducing measures around the school to prevent the morning and mid-afternoon congestion. An increase of traffic calming measures across the village is definitely needed.

- Sports and Leisure Activity: We

already have a lot going on in our village in terms of entertainment and sports etc but improving our parks and leisure facilities for the younger generation will be a definite step forward.

**Future plans**

The Parish Council are working hard to listen and address all the requests from residents. With so many plans for further expansion in the village, it is important that the facilities and roads are reviewed and adapted to meet the needs of our residents. This is all in hand and we always welcome feedback about anything that can improve Pitstone. There is a warm, caring and friendly atmosphere in the village. It is an area steeped in history which is embracing all the plans for the future with enthusiasm and pride. With all this and the dedication of those that live here, Pitstone is a truly lovely place to live and has an exciting future ahead.



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## ASHRIDGE RAMBLINGS

Rikki Harrington

The Beacons of the Past Project The Chilterns Conservation Board has recently commissioned an aerial LiDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) survey of the hills. This can be used to see through the tree canopy and pinpoint previously unnoticed manmade structures which might be thousands of years old. The National Trust is a partner in the project and is looking for volunteers to help examine the archaeology hiding within the Ashridge Estate. A LiDAR Web Portal has been launched, which allows you to view the survey data, complete online tutorials and search for the tell-tale signs of earlier times. You will be able to trace over features which you think might be of archaeological interest, and your spots will be sent to the project's central database, where a team of trained volunteers will be checking what everyone is finding. Groups will then go out into the field to investigate sites identified by the survey. If you are interested in getting involved, please email Shona Waldron ([shona.waldron@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:shona.waldron@nationaltrust.org.uk)).

### Tip-Off

There have been several instances of illegal fly-tipping of garden waste on the Ashridge Estate of late. It not only poses a hazard to the natural environment but is extremely unattractive and encourages others to do likewise. Garden waste often contains seed sources or root material of plants that can become invasive in the natural environment. The Ashridge rangers and volunteers spend an enormous amount of time trying to remove invasive non-native plants that have

become established here and which pose a threat to our native wildlife. Please support us by not fly-tipping garden waste and if you do spot any, please contact us.

### Life in the Slow Lane

Whilst doing my Duke of Burgundy survey on the north slopes of the Beacon and Gallows Hill, I spotted the little fellow pictured below slithering out of his hide-hole – **then beating a hasty retreat. I hadn't**



seen a slow worm for a while, so went home and looked them up. To my surprise, I found that they can live 30-50 years – I would probably have guessed 5. So were he (or she) old, (s)he was born roughly when Neil Armstrong was taking his one small step. Should (s)he be young, King William may be in his eighties before slowly sloughs off his mortal coil.



# Send Us Your Stories!

---

Your PPP is looking for local news stories from the residents of Pitstone. We want to include articles about YOU and everything that makes Pitstone a great place to live. We want to hear about:

- Do you or your family have an interesting talent?
    - Is your pet the best?
  - Have there been some strange goings-on?
    - Are you tenth generation Pitstonion?
  - Have you had some impressive achievements?
    - What's been dug up in your garden?
- 

You don't need to be able to write as local councillor Louise Stoddart will come to you and write the article for you and take a picture to feature in the magazine.

---

**For more details, please contact:  
[louise.stoddart@pitstonepc.org](mailto:louise.stoddart@pitstonepc.org)**



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### *Dates for 2019*

*19<sup>th</sup> May - Who is Jesus?*

*21<sup>st</sup> July - Outdoor Messy Church*

*15<sup>th</sup> September - Messy Harvest*

*8<sup>th</sup> December - Messy Christmas*

*From 2.30-4pm at St. Mary's  
Ivinghoe*

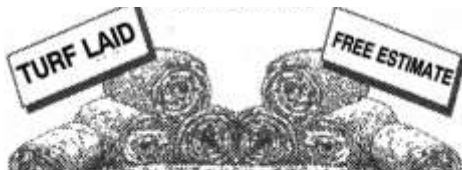
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Find out more at [www.bucks-historic-churches.org](http://www.bucks-historic-churches.org)

Your local parish contact  
**Izzy Robinson**  
 Sponsor Forms and rota to man the Church are on the table inside the door in Kingshoe Church in August

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Wednesday	9.30am - 11.30am	Wilstone Village Hall	Lo Strength45
Thursday	7.30pm - 8.00pm	Nora Grace Hall, Tring	Express
Friday	9.45am - 9.30am	Pitstone Memorial Hall	Strength45
Saturday	9.30am	Wilstone Village Hall	Lo Dance Mixx
		Wilstone Village Hall	Dance Mixx

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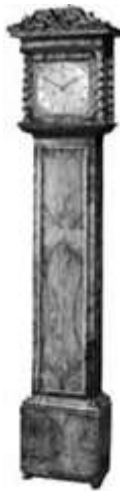
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## LOCAL INFORMATION

### LOCAL VENUES

Ivinghoe Old School Community Hub: two former classrooms for hire either separately or as one large room. Separate IT for hire suite fully equipped with PCs and other office technology Book per PC or the whole suite.

Contact: [www.ivinghoeoldschool.com](http://www.ivinghoeoldschool.com), [ivinghoeoldschool@btconnect.com](mailto:ivinghoeoldschool@btconnect.com), 01296 661666 Facebook Ivinghoe Old School Hub

Ivinghoe Town Hall: Historic and user friendly hall in the village centre, with awards for best managed small hall in the country. Modern facilities for local events. Equipped kitchen, stage, chair lift.

Contact: Stephen Swinbank 01296 660680, [spswinbank@gmail.com](mailto:spswinbank@gmail.com)

Pitstone Memorial Hall: 3 various sized event rooms including large hall with integrated cinema screen and raised stage. 2 kitchens, modern refurbished bar, WIFI, disabled access throughout, ample car parking.

Contact: [pmhbooking@gmail.com](mailto:pmhbooking@gmail.com) 01296 661271

### LOCAL CLUBS

Beavers: (aged 5¼ - 8): Watermill Lodge, 6-7pm, Monday Leader: Tom. Tuesday Leader: Jakki

Contact: Andrew Woods (Group Scout Leader) by email:  
[ivinghoe.pitstone.scouts@gmail.com](mailto:ivinghoe.pitstone.scouts@gmail.com)

Cubs: (aged 8 - 10½): Windmill Pack, 6:30 - 8:00pm, Wednesday leader: Dan Lee (Akela), Thursday leader: Rob Mercel (Shere Khan)

Contact: Andrew Woods (Group Scout Leader) by email:  
Ivinghoe.pitstone.scouts@gmail.com

Scouts: 7-8:30pm, Friday, Leader: Andrew Woods

Contact: Andrew Woods (Group Scout Leader) by email:  
Ivinghoe.pitstone.scouts@gmail.com

Guides: Tuesday 7 - 8:30pm The Hub, Ivinghoe, Leader Rebecca Capron.

Contact: 07545 347787

Brownies: Monday 5:45 - 7:15pm, Pitstone Memorial Hall, Guider Elaine Thorogood

Contact: 01296 661540

Rainbows: Monday 4:30 - 5:30pm, Pitstone Memorial Hall, Guider Elaine Thorogood

Contact: 01296 661540

Pitstone Youth Café: Ages 11-18yrs/school years 7-13 Wednesday 6:30pm to 8pm (term time) Brookmead School hall <http://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/youth-cafe/>

**Women's Institute:** Monthly meetings held in Ivinghoe Town Hall. Other entertaining activities.

Contact: Sue Eyres on 01296 709281

Beacon Villages Community Library: Run by the community, for the community [www.bvcl.org.uk](http://www.bvcl.org.uk)

General enquiries: [info@bvcl.org.uk](mailto:info@bvcl.org.uk) 01296 387890

Committee enquiries: [secretary@bvcl.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bvcl.org.uk)

Opening times: Tues 2pm - 5pm Wed 10am - 12noon Thur 2pm - 5pm Fri 2pm - 7pm Sat 10am - 1pm

Ivinghoe and Pitstone Royal British Legion: Chair, Margaret Johnson  
01296 661280 [margo.j@btinternet.com](mailto:margo.j@btinternet.com)

Beacon Community Choir: A choir which sings a wide variety of repertoire, and **where all are welcome.. Rehearsals Thursdays (term time) at 8.15 in St. Mary's Church Ivinghoe.** Leader Judith Sheridan. Contact Lindsay Hewlett 01296 660670 [lhewlett@btinternet.com](mailto:lhewlett@btinternet.com)

## EDUCATION

Pitstone and Ivinghoe Baby and Toddler Group: Thursdays (during term time)

9 - 11am. Warm welcome and a cup of coffee, and for the little ones. Variety of activities: Music Sessions, arts and crafts, toys and games, story time. No need to book, just turn up. Contact: [www.pitstoneandivinghoetoddlers.btck.co.uk](http://www.pitstoneandivinghoetoddlers.btck.co.uk) Facebook: Pitstone and Ivinghoe baby and toddler group

Brookmead School: (est. 1967): Head Teacher Katherine Douglas, Foundation Primary School for children aged 4 - 11. Bringing learning to life and life to learning.

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[www.brookmead.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.brookmead.bucks.sch.uk), 01296 668543, [office@brookmead.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@brookmead.bucks.sch.uk)

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Contact: [admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk), 01296 661031 (during sessions)

## SPORT

Pitstone and Ivinghoe Junior Girls Football: Under 12s and Under 14s (school years 6, 7, 8 & 9) If you are interested in playing football, having fun and making new friends, get in touch, no experience needed. All our coaches are FA Level1 qualified.

Email: [chairman@pandifootball.net](mailto:chairman@pandifootball.net) [www.pandifootball.net](http://www.pandifootball.net).

Cheddington Bowls Club: The Recreation Ground, High St. LU7 9AA one of the best bowling greens in the area. Tuesdays at 2pm or Friday at 6 pm, May to Sept.

[www.cheddingtonbowls.org.uk](http://www.cheddingtonbowls.org.uk) Contact: Jo Tchertoff 01296 668624

## RELIGION

Ivinghoe and Pitstone Chapel Fellowship:

Sunday Services on third Sunday of each month, 12 Church Rd, 10:30. Family film on first Thursday of each month, Millennium Room of Memorial Hall, 2pm. Over 60s

Club on third Thursday of each month, Yardley Centre, 2-4pm, join us for varied programmes of speakers, quizzes and entertainment.

Contact: 01296 668005

First Thursday Friends: Family film on 1st Thursday of each month, 2 - approx. 4:15pm Millennium Room Pitstone Memorial Hall

Contact: Margaret Cole 01296 668005

**St Mary's Redundant Church Conservation:** Awaiting details

**St Mary's Ivinghoe:** Awaiting details

Contact: Reverend Adrian Manning

Tring and Berkhamsted SGI Buddhists: A lay humanist organisation. The SGI is a global movement of people connected by Buddhism and the shared commitment to **realise a future where life's inherent dignity blooms.**

Contact: Sue Nicholls 07788 662349 or check out <https://sgj-uk.org/>

## HEALTH

Village Health Centre: Yardley Avenue, Pitstone. LU7 9BE Opening hours 9am - 12pm and 2pm - 6pm except Wednesdays 8 - 12pm and closed pm and Fridays, 9am - 12pm and 2 - 5pm

Contact: [www.pitstonesurgery.co.uk](http://www.pitstonesurgery.co.uk) and 01525 223211

Little Rothschild Surgery: 71 Marsworth Road, Pitstone LU7 9AX Opening hours: Monday - Thursday 8am - 1pm and 2 - 4:30pm Friday 8am - 1pm closed in the afternoon

Contact: [www.rothschildhousesurgery.co.uk](http://www.rothschildhousesurgery.co.uk), 01296 662800

Nifty Fifties: Keep fit for older folk followed by optional gentle sport. Not for profit. Cheddington Village Hall. Thursdays 10 - midday.

Contact: Sue Povey, 01296 668321 Chris Hall, 01442 824350

#### PLACES TO VISIT

Ford End Watermill: The only working watermill to survive intact, in the county. Restored and run by Ford End Watermill Society. Open Easter and bank holidays.

Adults £3, children £1. For further details go to [www.fordendwatermill.co.uk](http://www.fordendwatermill.co.uk)

Contact [millman@fordendwatermill.co.uk](mailto:millman@fordendwatermill.co.uk) or tel. 01442 825421

Ashridge House: Set in 190 acres of gardens, Ashridge House is majestically nestled in National Trust woodland in the rolling Chiltern Hills in Hertfordshire. Tours available. Find out more at <http://www.ashridgehouse.org.uk/about-ashridge-house/>

#### USEFUL NUMBERS

Report a Right of Way Issue: <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/public-rights-of-way/report-a-rights-of-way-issue/>

Street light problems: Castlemead lights – email:

[CCSouthMid@taylorwimpey.com](mailto:CCSouthMid@taylorwimpey.com)

Marsworth Road lights – Bucks County Council online: [http://](http://www.transportforbucks.net/report-it-street-lighting.aspx)

[www.transportforbucks.net/report-it-street-lighting.aspx](http://www.transportforbucks.net/report-it-street-lighting.aspx)

Other Pitstone lights - email: [parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk)

Report a pot hole, blocked drain or other highway problem: Bucks County Council online:

<http://www.transportforbucks.net/Report-it-pothole.aspx>

Castlemead highway issue? Email: [CCSouthMid@taylorwimpey.com](mailto:CCSouthMid@taylorwimpey.com)

Missed bin collection or to find out about recycling: Aylesbury Vale District Council online:

<https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/recycling-and-waste>

Dispute with your neighbours about their high hedge: Aylesbury Vale District Council offer more information and a complaint service. For more information go to:

<https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/high-hedges>

Other nuisances causing problems e.g. smoke, air pollution etc: Visit

Aylesbury Vale District Council website: <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/nuisance>

or <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/environmental-problems>

Bothered by aircraft noise: Email Luton Airport [noise@ltn.aero](mailto:noise@ltn.aero)

Need details of a planning application: Details of all local applications are

published online by Aylesbury Vale District Council: [https://](https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/search-planning-licensing-applications)

[www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/search-planning-licensing-applications](https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/search-planning-licensing-applications)

Want to know if you need planning permission? Visit: [https://](https://www.planningportal.co.uk/)

[www.planningportal.co.uk/](https://www.planningportal.co.uk/)

Illegally parked: Report problem vehicles to Thames Valley Police on telephone: 101

Faulty electronic bus stop signs: [passtrans@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:passtrans@buckscc.gov.uk)



## 2018-19 Annual Report and Accounts for Pitstone Parish Council

### Financial position

	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Budget	2018-19 Actual	Variance to last year	Variance to budget
Income	£311,608	£148,601	£126,838	-59%	-15%
Expenditure	£326,739	£187,927	£147,157	-55%	-22%

The prior financial year saw significant capital expenditure with the installation of the footpath to Marsworth (£195,339) and the first stage of improvement works at the pavilion which included ball-stop netting, replacement fencing and boundary alignment (£21,702).

Council closed the year with a bank balance of £112,778 of which £77,765 is earmarked funds/grant holdings for specific projects (including grant funding towards the play space and skate park), leaving a retained balance of £35,013.

The council is financially independent with no loans, lease payments or debts.

### Grant support to the local community

The parish council has been happy to provide grants or donations to Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity (£3,000), AVALC (£25), National Trust (£50), South Central Ambulance Service to support the Community 1st Responders (£150) and Royal British Legion (£150 in lieu of a fresh wreath and £250 for a silent soldier).

If your local group would benefit from a grant, please contact the clerk or see the grant information available on our website.

### Local Green Space between Marsworth Road & The Crescent



The major purchase during the financial year was the purchase of the Local Green space between Marsworth Road and The Crescent from Bucks County Council in May 2018. This was supported by Aylesbury Vale District Council who released £12,356 of S106 funding towards the project. Since then, we've repaired fencing, installed two additional benches, installed a kissing gate to improve access and planted additional daffodils. Total expenditure during the year was £19,438.

## Redevelopment of the sports pavilion site



Last years approved works to extend the larger pitch have been completed (expenditure of £5,405, part funded via a Football Foundation grant of £2,703 plus a donation from the P&IUCF of £550). We've also worked with Woods Hardwick architects to submit a planning application to Aylesbury Vale District Council for the enhanced building (subsequently approved in May 2019). The new premises will include a multi-use function room, improved changing facilities, a parish office/store, proper kitchen and ground-keepers store. We hope to offer a range of services and facilities from the site, meaning that more residents can benefit (currently just used for

football). Following professional advice the parish council has also opted to tax the building, which will also enable us to reclaim the VAT incurred during the construction of the new facilities. Total expenditure this financial year of £8,128 on this project, which is being supported by AVDC with a release of S106 funding.

## Ongoing aspirations for play space and skate park

You will recall, we've previously advised that the Charity Commission couldn't permit the redevelopment of the play space and installation of the skate park on the recreation ground until planning permission had been granted for the new village centre that will surround this site. AVDC granted planning for the new village centre just before Christmas. We understand that the developer is in continued discussion with the landowners and the parcel has not yet transferred ownership.



We continue to talk to the charity regarding purchase of the land we need for the leisure facilities and already have planning in place for the play space. At the start of 2019/20 you will see some initial works to prepare the site and we

hope to follow this with installation of these long awaited facilities as soon as possible thereafter. We will keep residents updated with any progress.

## Other sport and leisure improvements

- A new external defibrillator, kindly donated by P&IJFC, was installed at the pavilion site, supported by a grant of £1k from the Women's Institute.
- Two additional playground gates were installed at Hever Close and Windsor Road playgrounds, funded by S106 monies, to improve pedestrian safety and enabled the sole use of the double gates for maintenance equipment.
- Pitstone Allotment Association obtained a grant and have installed a number of raised beds for the less able, are creating wildlife areas and have installed a bench. They are now looking at improvements to the perimeter track to enable year-round access for tenants of the further away plots.
- Four new trees were installed on the recreation ground, to replace some lost to vandalism the prior year and eventually provide greater protection from cricket balls.

## **Multi-use ball court and other facilities in the new village centre**



AVDC granted planning to Nicholas King Homes (NKH) for the new village centre in December 2018. The parish council continues to work with this developer on the provision of community facilities which will include a multi-use ball court (see illustration), additional open space, a replacement car park and extra parking by the Memorial Hall plus a foot/cycle path link to the Castlemead estate. Once the land is within their ownership, we hope NKH will be able to provide an update on potential time-scales and we will keep residents up-to-date.

As part of the Neighbourhood Plan, the community imposed certain conditions on these parcels of land including areas for a potential public house and day nursery. AVDC granted outline planning for these two commercial elements and it is anticipated that, once within their ownership, the developer will market these commercial areas to try and identify potential operators. The development will also provide further private and affordable housing, financial contributions towards education, public transport and further sport/leisure in the village.

## **Other facilities arising from planning**

The parish council adopted the new bus shelter installed at the end of Rushendon Furlong which had been funded by S106 contributions provided by Croudace. BCC will continue to maintain the real-time information panels provided at bus stops along Marsworth Road funded by contributions from both Croudace & Bellway.

The parish council will eventually be passed responsibility for street lighting and play equipment within these developments. Both developments also provide some additional open space and footpath improvements, along with the required education, public transport and sport & leisure financial contributions defined by AVDC.

## **Other activity this year**

- The young people at the youth café worked with the parish council to obtain a grant of £800 from AVDC's New Homes Bonus scheme and also raised money themselves by holding cake sales. These funds, along with some from the council, have been used to provide some more up-to-date games consoles, games, football goals, remote control cars and sports equipment. Over 725 youngsters have benefitted from the café since its inception in 2011.
- Our youth café took part in a LAF funded project to identify the youths view of their village. The results will be available later this year.
- The council has taken the Community Car Scheme under our umbrella to safeguard this very valuable service. Over 300 trips are undertaken each year. Please get in touch if you can volunteer to drive a neighbour to their medical appointment.
- We now fully comply with the requirements of GDPR.
- The grand opening of the path to Marsworth took place and Transport for Bucks completed the snagging issues.
- Properties at the far end of Cheddington Road now benefit from sewerage services for the first time.



## **Devolved services from Bucks County Council**

We received £3,423 from Bucks County Council (BCC) to carry out devolved services such as the cutting of grass verges within the 30 mph limits, siding out footpaths and right-of-way maintenance. £3,071 was expended delivering these services (78% on grass cutting, 17% on right of way maintenance, 3% on siding out/shrubbery clearance and 2% removing signage). Allowing for the prior year overspend of £182, the cost centre closed with £170 available. BCC have agreed to fund one further payment in April 2019 but the future position remains to be determined by the new unitary council for Buckinghamshire.

As part of the obligations devolved to us from BCC, the council issues advertising permits for local charitable events (12 granted during the year), removes non-compliant signs plus issues hedge cutting notices (5 issued during the year) where overgrowth from private homes impedes use of a footpath or highway. Two minor complaints were received and these have been resolved.

## **Other ongoing projects**

- The installation of a foot /cycle path along Northfield Road (Herts County Council continues to scope options).
- Castlemead issues including the handover the highways to BCC and the handover of the open space to AVDC.
- Working with Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity to help identify and achieve future ambitions to make the hall the centre of the village.
- Exploring the viability of a Community Transport Scheme.
- Working with West Midlands Trains regarding access options for Tring station.
- The Pitstone & Ivinghoe Safety Scheme (BCC due to deliver a Feasibility Report in August 2019. The council has agreed to fund £11,289 and the Local Area Forum is providing £7,536.)
- Working with Transport for Bucks/BCC to secure resurfacing for Glebe Close highway and Vicarage Road footpath (Tun Furlong to Church Road).

## **Thinking of joining the council? Or want to keep up-to-date?**

During the year, three new councillors joined us—Anil Mitra, Jack Hawkins and Louise Stoddart. The parish elections were postponed by central government to May 2020 so that they could coincide with the elections for the new unitary council for Buckinghamshire so members are now serving an extra year on top of their normal 4 year term of office. In 2020 an extra seat will be added, reflecting our growing parish population. If you have the time and drive to volunteer as a member, please contact the parish clerk. We also have a new Editor for Pitstone Parish Post, Miss Stephanie Nicholls, and a new Parish Assistant, Mr Stephen Davies, who is co-ordinating the Community Car Scheme and maintaining notice-board content.

Pitstone Parish Post (PPP) is only published 4 times per annum and a lot can happen in the interim. So to keep up-to-date throughout the year, please:

- 'Like' and 'follow' our Facebook page on @pitstoneparishcouncil and/or like the Pitstone Youth page for immediate updates to your Facebook feed
- Follow us on Twitter @pitstone\_pc
- Regularly check [www.pitstone.co.uk](http://www.pitstone.co.uk) and watch the notice-boards.

# PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

<p><b>Chairman, Cllr Dave Nicholls</b> 64 Marsworth Road, LU7 9AS T: 661910 E: dave.nicholls@pitstonepc.org Chair of Parish Council, Chair of Pitstone Parish Charity Committee, Staffing, Planning, Youth Café, GDPR and Village Web Site.</p> 	<p><b>Vice Chairman, Cllr Bob Saintry</b> 2 Albion Road, LU7 9AY T: 668633 E: bob.saintry@pitstonepc.org Chair of Sports &amp; Leisure, Staffing, PDA, Highways &amp; Footpaths, Youth Café, AVALC, Local Area Forum, Pitstone Hall &amp; Trees and Local Council Planning Liaison Group.</p> 
<p><b>Cllr Margaret Crutchfield</b> 12 Yardley Avenue, LU7 9AL E: margaret.crutchfield@pitstonepc.org Chair of Planning Committee, Allotment Officer, Sports &amp; Leisure, Youth Café, Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity, Community Self Help Plan, Pitstone Parish Charity and Local Area Forum.</p> 	<p><b>Cllr Ben Blunt</b> The Laurels, Old Farm, LU7 9RD T: 660702 E: ben.blunt@pitstonepc.org Chair of Staffing Committee, Planning, PDA, Minerals &amp; Waste and Local Area Forum.</p> 
<p><b>Cllr Louise Stoddart</b> 7 Campbell Lane, LU7 9FT T: 07970 767097 E: louise.stoddart@pitstonepc.org</p> 	<p><b>Cllr Gillian Arney</b> 63 Cheddington Road, LU7 9AQ T: 668123 E: gill.arney@pitstonepc.org Pitstone Parish Charity, Planning, Pitstone Hill &amp; Trees, Ecology/Chiltern Conservation Board, Footpaths, Highways &amp; paths, Public Transport, Pitstone Church and Notice-Board Manager.</p> 
<p><b>Cllr Dr Dave Frearson</b> 93 Yardley Avenue, LU7 9BD T: 07946 067808 E: dave.frearson@pitstonepc.org Sports &amp; Leisure, Street Lighting, Ecology/Chiltern Conservation Board, Community Transport and Local Area Forum.</p> 	<p><b>Cllr Kris Weber</b> The Willows, 61 Cheddington Road LU7 9AQ T: 07710088624 E: kris.weber@pitstonepc.org Sports &amp; Leisure, PDA, GDPR, Local Council Planning Liaison Group and Highways &amp; Footpaths.</p> 
<p><b>Cllr Anil Mitra</b> 40 Campbell Lane LU7 9FT T: 01296 295827 E: anil.mitra@pitstonepc.org Highways &amp; Paths, Youth Café</p> 	<p><b>Cllr Jack Hawkins</b> 4 The Green, LU7 9QS T: 07713590490 E: jack.hawkins@pitstonepc.org Planning</p> 
<p><b>County Councillor: Anne Wight</b> T: 01296 682955 E: awight@buckscc.gov.uk</p> 	<p><b>Correspondence/Enquiries, the Clerk: Laurie Eagling</b> 9 Warwick Road, LU7 9FE T: 767261 Twitter: @pitstone_pc E: parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk Website: www.pitstone.co.uk Facebook: Pitstone Parish Council and Pitstone Youth</p> 
<p><b>District Councillor: Sandra Jenkins</b> 38 Mentmore Road, Cheddington, LU7 0SD T: 668587 E: sjenkins@aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk</p> 	<p><b>District Councillor: Derek Town</b> 4 The Slips, Cheddington, LU7 0RH T: 661637 E: dtown@aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk</p> 