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.

If you would like to help with the distribution of the PPP then please contact the distribution manager (see below).

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Other useful numbers see pages

35-36 and 38-39

If you wish to view the plans for any planning application currently under consultation by AVDC, please visit www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN Dave Nicholls. Chairman

I hope everyone had a good Christmas and New Year.

For the Parish Council, this year is looking like it will be guite busy. As previously mentioned we have various projects underway. With the installation of the new play equipment on the recreation ground due to start in March we are moving on to organising the tendering process for the Skate Park. We have also just released the tender documents for the upgrade of the sports pavilion and will be working towards choosing the contractor in the coming months. Buckinghamshire moving to a unitary council is also likely to impact the Parish Council later in the year once the new council is properly up and running. Exactly what will change isn't yet clear. If you are interested in getting involved with these and other village matters then now would be a good time to consider standing as a Parish Councillor. Having been delayed for a year, because of the changes at county level, there will be a Parish Council election in May, Currently Pitstone has 10 councillors but village growth means that the new council will have 11.

To find out more please speak to the Clerk, or any councillor. Perhaps the best way to get a better understanding of how the council works is to attend meetings and there are several before the election. Full council meetings are usually the last Thursday in the month. Other committee meetings also occur regularly. I look forward to speaking to any prospective candidates.

The dates for the Parish Council meetings before the Parish Council Election in May are currently as follows:

30/01/20 27/02/20 26/03/20 01/04/20 (annual assembly) 30/04/20

For more information, visit the events calendar on the village website (http://pitstone.co.uk/event/). The agenda is uploaded about a week before each meeting.

Wishing everyone a happy and successful 2020.



PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Laurie Eagling, Parish Clerk

Additional mVAS Location

The Parish Council is pleased to advise that it has now been able to install our 4th pre-approved mVAS groundscrew. This location is situated along Westfield Road, opposite Bolebec End, and joins the existing 3 locations. We thank Taylor Wimpey for granting approval for the installation of the groundscrew. The unit allows the council to collect & monitor data about traffic volumes and speeds, as well as reminding motorists that the maximum speed limit along our roads is 30mph.

Grant awarded for second mVAS unit for Pitstone

The Parish Council is delighted to



announce that it has been awarded a grant of up to Ã1,681 by the Buckinghamshire County Council Local Area Forum as 50% of the cost towards a second mobile vehicle

activated sign (mVAS) for the village. The parish council operates our mVAS along the four major through-roads in the village ie Marsworth Road, Cheddington Road, Vicarage Road and Westfield Road. The unit operates for approximately 6 weeks (depending on volume of activation) on one battery charge. Following the 6 weeks the unit is uplifted, the data collected, new batteries inserted and the unit is moved to the next location on the rotation. The addition of a second unit will enable each site to be monitored on an approximate 6-weeks on & 6-weeks off basis, rather than only

being monitored every fourth rotation. Members of the public will see it in operation around the village shortly, once we have received delivery.

Grant awarded for youth café sports equipment

The Parish Council is delighted to announce that it has been awarded a



grant of Ã2,080 by the Buckinghamshire County Council Local Area Forum towards the cost of providing an outdoor table tennis table, stunt scooters, skateboards and

hoops to keep the young people that attend the youth cafe fit and active. The young people themselves are holding fundraising activities to raise their contribution and the parish council has supported their application with a financial contribution.

We'd also like to express our gratitude to Brookmead School for their ongoing support of the young people that attend the youth cafe.

Would you like to join the parish council? Extra seat from May 2020

Due to our expanding population, the number of seats on the parish council will be increasing from 10 to 11 at the next election in May. At election time, the term of office for all current councillors terminates, and a new council is elected. Existing members may choose to stand for re-election or may choose to stand down. All members are volunteers and receive no renumeration or financial allowances for their work.

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If you are passionate about helping our community, and have plenty of spare time to volunteer, please do consider standing for election. You can find out more information about what councils are and what we do on our website:

www.pitstone.co.uk. You can also find

www.pitstone.co.uk. You can also find out lots of information, find out whether you are eligible to stand and download forms at https://

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/

You are welcome to talk to the clerk or any serving councillor to get more information and members of the public are welcome to attend all our council and committee meetings where you would gain an understanding of all the current affairs being managed.

Moving to prepayment for advertising

Could all advertisers please note that Pitstone Parish Post will be replicating the model of other publications and moving to a prepayment platform. All previous advertisers will receive a communication from the Parish Council to explain the process in more detail. Any new advertising enquiries will also automatically be set up utilising the new

system. Advertising prices are not changing. We thank you all for your assistance whilst we implement the changes.

New Play Equipment by the Recreation Ground

The removal of the old play equipment from the recreation ground will commence at the beginning of March and will be followed by the installation of the new play equipment from Huck (illustrations are available on our web site). Works should be complete by the end of May. The site compound will be located in the car park at the rear of the Memorial Hall, which will reduce parking capacity during this period. Please bear with us whilst works are in progress. Play areas will still be available in Windsor Road and Hever Close. We look forward to opening the exciting new play space once works are complete.

Pitstone Church

Pitstone Church Committee (Friends) would like to thank everyone who came to the Christmas Memory Tree in December. We raised A137 towards the maintenance of our beautiful church.

Programme for 2020

23rd – 25th May The Late May Bank Holiday Festival of Art, Craft and Flowers. This will be our 40th and final festival in the current form. Like many organisations we have a shortage of volunteers particularly flower arrangers and artists available on that weekend. We would welcome anyone who would like to organise a replacement event on that or any other weekend during the

summer.

Friday 26th June This is My Theatre Company are presenting Jane Eyre. It should be a most enjoyable production. Further details will be on their website thisismytheatre.com in due course. Saturday 18th July 7.30pm. The Icknield Sixteen will be presenting their annual concert of varied choral music. This is always a most enjoyable event. We also hope to hold a heritage service in September and a celebration of Christmas in December. Further details to be announced. Gillian Arney 01296 668123



DISTRICT NEWS Derek Town 01296 661637 dtown@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk Sandra Jenkins 01296 668587 sjenkins@aylesburyvaledc.gov.

AVDC Offers Advice on Staying Safe when Taking a Taxi

Taxis and private hire vehicles offer a convenient way to travel to and from local restaurants, bars and clubs. However, if you're taking a taxi or private hire vehicle, itôs important to ensure youôre getting into a licensed cab with a licensed driver. All licensed vehicles are routinely checked to ensure they meet Aylesbury Vale District Council's (AVDC) high standards for passenger safety. Licensed drivers are thoroughly vetted by AVDC before they ore allowed to work, while licensed operators are required to record all journeys undertaken by their vehicles. You can recognise licensed vehicles as follows: Private Hire Vehicle ÅMust be booked through a licensed operator – cannot be hailed. ÅNot able to queue at a taxi rank. ANot required to use a meter. AYellow licence plate on the rear

Hackney Carriage Vehicle (Taxi)
ÅNo booking required – can be hailed.
ÅAble to queue at a taxi rank. ÅMust use a meter. ÅBlack, with a white licence plate on the rear (town centre taxis).
With both these vehicle types, please check theres an AVDC taxi licence plate at the rear of the vehicle. This should have a valid expiry date on it, and the registration number should match the vehicles registration plate. You should also check that the vehicle has AVDC stickers on the doors and that the driver is wearing an AVDC Photo ID badge. (Please ensure that the photo matches

and in the front window.

the driver.)

When booking a private hire vehicle, always give your name. That way, when checking if your private hire vehicle has arrived, you can ask them whose name the booking was made under.

Remember, if you take a private hire that hasnot been booked, you'd be uninsured for the journey. (Ito's a criminal offence for a private hire driver to take you without a prior booking.)

By following the tips above, you can stay safe – while still enjoying your evenings and nights out.

Fantastic Successes Celebrated as Vale Lottery Turns Four!

Local good causes and special guest BBC Three Counties Radio and Aylesbury Waterside Theatre pantomime star, Andy Collins, joined Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC)to celebrate four years of Vale Lottery - the UKôs first online council lottery. ñVale Lottery is a brilliant initiative raising significant amounts of money for local good causes, players are in with the chance to win some amazing prizes including the Ã25,000 jackpot.òsaid Andy He also said that, ñAs a local man myself I am impressed by how much has been achieved in the community thanks to Vale Lottery. A fantastic Ã296,313 has already been raised.! Vale Lottery was launched by AVDC in 2015 in response to central government cuts and has seen more than 200 causes - including over 50 schools joining up to raise much-needed funds. Specialised sports equipment, school

computers and robots, and a children's library are just some of the things Vale Lottery income has been spent on. Medical Detection Dogs (MDD) was one of the good causes which attended the birthday event. Money raised through the Vale Lottery for MDD is invested in the training of both Bio Detection Dogs and Medical Alert Assistance Dogs – who detect life threatening diseases such as cancer and Parkinson's and warn people about their complex health conditions, for example, diabetes. Carolyn Green, MDD Community Fundraiser, spoke about the vital work MDD does: rBeing a part of Vale Lottery has been a very successful way of fundraising for us; since we signed up we have raised over A10,000. Each Medical Alert Assistance Dog costs A29,000 to train and place and we rely solely on donations, so the money raised through Vale Lottery is a vital income for us.ò

And itôs not just Aylesbury Vale communities which are benefitting from the Vale Lottery model. The initiative has now been adopted by more than 60 local authorities nationwide, supporting over 5,000 good causes and generating a total of over Ã3 million annually. AVDC Chairman, Councillor Judy Brandis, said: ñThis yearôs Vale Lottery birthday event proved to be another fantastic celebration for local charities and good causes. Itôs amazing to be able to share how far Vale Lottery has come since its launch four years ago, and the difference it is making in our communities. Thank you to the good causes, the Vale Lottery players and supporters, as well as the charismatic Andy Collins for celebrating with us.òOrganisations sign up at valelottery.co.uk where players can also buy their tickets for A1 a week and choose their cause. 60p from every ticket goes directly to local good causes - that is more than double the amount donated per pound by the National Lottery, which gives just 28p. Alongside prizes in the

special draws and smaller cash prizes, players also have the chance to win a $\tilde{A}25,000$ jackpot every week.

Aylesbury Vale District Council
Becomes First In-House Operated
Waste Transfer Station to Achieve
Accredited Competence
Management System Cortification

Management System Certification
Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC)
has become the first council in the UK
with an in-house recycling and waste
collection service to achieve accredited
Competence Management System
(CMS) certification from Lloyd's Register,
the only certification body able to make
this award.

This is a significant achievement for the waste transfer station at Pembroke Road, Aylesbury and recognises the professional competence of both key staff and the systems in place for the safe management of waste.

The scheme, run by Energy & Utilities Skills, is recognised and approved by Defra and the Welsh Government as a method of demonstrating technical competence of permitted sites. It removes the need for a technically competent person with a CIWM/ WAMITAB operator's certificate. Instead, it specifies requirements for a management system, which enables an organisation to develop and implement a policy and objectives that take into account legal requirements and to demonstrate the competence required to satisfy the regulatory requirements of holding an environmental permit. Working closely with 360 Environmental, the team at AVDC took eight months to put the necessary processes in place to achieve CMS certification. Before making the award, Lloyd's Register carried out two detailed audits to ensure that processes were robust, fully understood and effectively implemented. David Derrick, UK&I Area Operations Manager, and Judith Turner, Technical Manager, at Lloyd's Register, presented the certificate to the AVDC team including Amy Bridgford, Rebecca Newbutt, David Clark, Lee Davis, Lisa Higgins and Steve Chilton at the Pembroke Road site. Amv Bridgford, AVDC & Operations Manager, said: fMvself and the wider team are incredibly proud of our certification, our site and our operation. Our accredited CMS certification has provided ultimate business continuity and allowed us to develop and expand on our technical competence knowledge.òDavid Derrick, Llovdôs Register UK Area Operations Manager, said: ñThe team at Aylesbury Vale District Council has demonstrated a robust approach to their CMS, which ensures that everyone involved with the environmental permit is competent to carry out their role. Achieving independent third-party certification from LR sends a strong signal to AVDCôs stakeholders that they take competence management and permit compliance very seriously.ò Councillor Sir Beville Stanier, AVDC Cabinet Member for Waste and Licensing said: ñThis is a great

achievement by the team at Pembroke Road and yet another demonstration of AVDCs determination to be a class leading authority.ò

Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan

The consultation period for Proposed Main Modifications to the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) completed on the 17th December 2019. Once the Inspector publishes his final report it will be to guide future planning decisions until a new plan is prepared. The current expected date and the plan will then be adopted by the council, providing a strong framework for adoption towards the end of March 2020.

Celebrating 800 Years at St Mary's Church in Ivinghoe 2020 – Setting the Scene

A church at Ivinghoe has been standing nestling beneath the Beacon in the village since 1220 and has seen a lot of change.

Before the church was built, the Beacon was an Iron Age hillfort. Later came the Saxons and they called it rifacs Hill Spuro In 1086 The Domesday Book recorded the village as revingheliouo and stands beside possibly

the oldest road in Great Britain called the ficknield Wayà This name is Celto-British in derivation and may be named after the Iceni Tribe, of Boudica (or Boadicea) fame. This would have been quite a busy road that went from Norfolk to Wiltshire, passing by Ivinghoe village.

This is just a taste of the history of the church and each month throughout the year the Church Parish News Magazine will contain further information about the church and its history.

Embroidery for the 800th Celebrations

There is going to be a large canvas in church, the design being one of St Mary®s wonderful angels, and everyone, of any age, is invited to make a few stitches and add their name to a sheet of paper showing who has contributed to it. The embroidery will be put to use on the altar. The names will be framed and later



COUNTY NEWS

Anne Wight, County Councillor, Ivinghoe Division

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year, and I sincerely hope that the coming year may be one of peace and prosperity for all the residents of Ivinahoe Division. I would also like to welcome you to the final edition of my newsletter as your county councillor for Buckinghamshire County Council. With the new unitary Buckinghamshire Council starting on the 1st of April, it wond be long now until the brand new council comes into effect. I would also like to thank all the residents and local businesses who kindly donated presents to our Christmas Present Appeal for children in care across Buckinghamshire. The gifts meant so much to the growing number of looked after children in our care for whom Christmas can be a very difficult time. Thanks very much on behalf of **Buckinghamshire County Council to** everyone who took the time to remember our looked after children this Christmas. New Council Access Pointsô One of the key features of the new unitary Council will include improving the way that local residents can get on the spot access to council services. This will be through a network of new local bases called Council Access Points, supporting the new unitary council to be closer to its communities and making it simpler for people to get the information and support they need and nearer to where they live and work.

The Council Access Points (CAPs) will be based at the heart of local community life in existing buildings throughout Buckinghamshire. Staff will be on hand to help, people, and support them with online services.

Five &Access Plusocentres, located in the current council offices in the county main towns, will offer extra services from Monday to Friday for residents who have more complex enquiries.

Other Council Access Points will operate from existing buildings, such as libraries, spread across the county stretching from Buckingham in the north to Burnham in the south. The locations of these will be confirmed and promoted as part of the launch preparations for Buckinghamshire Council which will go live in April 2020. Once the Council Access Points are up and running, Buckinghamshire Council will start work on the next phase. The ambition is to evolve the access points to create wider one-stop community hubs based in multi-purpose buildings at the heart of community life.

Residents will also be able to get support from different services such as the police, town and parish councils, visitor services and community groups all in one place. We will ask residents and communities to help co-design these facilities to meet local needs.

Cllr Martin Tett, Leader of the Shadow Executive said: iWhilst we're seeing a lot



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ADM ADMIN & BOOK-KEEPING

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more people access our services online, we know that sometimes our residents need to speak to someone face to face. Having access points dotted across the county will mean that people will be able to speak to someone to get the help and advice they need, close to where they live. Itôs really important that the new council doesnô become distant from its communities so it makes absolute sense to use existing places like council offices and libraries that people are used to visiting, to provide local support and advice for those who need it.ò

We are also in the process of setting up the Community Boards, which will replace the current Local Area Forums. The results from the recent consultation will be analysed to ensure resident input while the format of the Community Boards is finalized, so thank you very much if you were able to help us out with that consultation.

For those who may not know, the Community Boards are a way of bringing together Buckinghamshire Council councillors with local communities to help solve local issues and to provide a vital link between the council, elected councillors and communities. These local issues could include improving facilities for young people, tackling social isolation of older people or helping to set up a community bus. It is hoped that they will enable Buckinghamshire Council councillors to take decisions on local issues, alongside key partners including other community representatives, and allow Buckinghamshire Council councillors to work with communities to influence service design and delivery on local issues. We want Community Boards to involve evervone in the local area who wants to make a difference and work with the new council to do this. We're proposing that Buckinghamshire Council councillors from the local area would sit on their local board. To be effective, community boards would also need to include people and

organisations from the local community such as fire services, police and health, residents, parish and town councils and young people.

Hopefully, Community Boards will give residents greater influence on how services are run locally as well as contact with elected members and key stakeholders.

The Freight Strategy Update

I am still actively working on the Freight Strategy with our officers. The Freight Strategy will ensure that we make use of optimal freight routes throughout our local area, allowing businesses to continue to thrive while preserving our environment and the amenity of our residential areas. I know many of you have written to me with concerns about lorry traffic through our villages. To address your concerns, our Freight Strategy Officer, Graham Hillary, recently issued the following statement, which I have reproduced below:

filmust thank all the residents and businesses in the Ivinghoe Division for their patience and consideration during the Brownlow Bridge restriction period. It has been clear that some places have seen reduced Heavy Goods Vehicle flows whilst others have seen increased numbers. I appreciate the inconvenience experienced along with concerns about listed buildings, roads and the schools in the area.

The restriction was introduced as a result of a Canals and Rivers Trust survey that raised concerns about the weight bearing capacity of the bridge. For safety reasons it was critical to restrict use of the bridge by large goods vehicles while we worked on how to proceed. In order to protect the structure from further deterioration and to support the local businesses that employ hundreds of residents, approval was given to repair the bridge and maintain its role as part of the highway infrastructure. The role of the Brownlow Bridge moving forward will be as part of a wider area

approach focused on delivering the adopted freight strategy. The strategy has clear objectives to:

Åensure HGV traffic stays off unsuitable roads, minimising the negative impact on residents and the environment;

Åpromote the use of preferred routes for HGVs; and

ÅOffer support for business to deliver the county's aspirations for growth.

The proposal is being finalised for internal Bucks County Council approval, after which it is expected to be subject to public consultation. It is important that the approach is presented in the right forum to help gather constructive comment to help shape the final proposal. I look forward to the consultation and the opportunity to position what I believe is a good proposal, I welcome the chance to meet with many residents and work together to improve things in the area.ò If you have a view on these issues, please write to the Freight Strategy team via the email address below: freight@buckscc.gov.uk

Transport for Bucks Update

I met with the Capital Maintenance Programme team in November and was able to prioritise the remainder of Cheddington High Street for resurfacing works in Spring 2020. The resurfacing will be done from the tennis courts through the rest of the High Street, and Mentmore Road down to the mini double roundabout on Station Road. The preliminary patching for this work started before Christmas, and hopefully the smoother surface will improve some of the vibration and noise disturbance from traffic for residents along Mentmore Road.

On another note, Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) was recently announced as the overall winner of the Institute of Asset Management (IAM) Global Award - fimproving Customer Service through Collaborationòat the Institute of Asset Management awards on

27 November 2019.

TfB was successful in winning by making a step change in improved customer service. This was achieved by focusing and engaging elected County Councillors and executive management on asset management principles, ongoing Member meetings and increased stakeholder engagement. The result is a far better customer journey as well as genuine improvements in the highways asset. In attendance at the awards ceremony were Rob Smith, Director of Growth, Strategy and Highways Services at Buckinghamshire County Council, Andy Denman Operations Director for Ringway Jacobs and BCC political leaders along with the Transport for Buckinghamshire Asset team and Jacobsôcolleagues, who have been instrumental in achieving this success, once more demonstrating this successful and collaborative partnership.

The IAM received a huge number of entries for their annual awards this year, with excellent entries from around the globe covering a wide range of sectors. Their judges felt that the quality of the nominations was exceptional, highlighting pioneering achievements, outstanding international practice and great leadership in asset management. TfB was very pleased for the hard work and collaborative approach from both Officers and Members to be recognised by such a well-respected, professional body, particularly given the strength of competition, globally, and across all sectors. The award builds upon the recognition the Asset Management approach had through the achievement of ISO 55001 Accreditation and the very real benefits of achieving Band 3 DfT Incentive funding.

It's encouraging to see the service improvements for residents that TfB have made and hopefully will continue to make going forward.

Health and Wellbeing

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The 5 Chimneys of Pitstone

In the 30s was talk of a racetrack In the 40s there was a war In the 50s Tunnel Cement start digging Building chimneys to be seen from afar

From miles around you could see them On the landscape they were a blight The 5 big tall chimneys of Pitstone And all around covered in white

For 50 odd years they stood working Bringing jobs and times were spent Mining chalk and treating it finely Rail and lorries shipped Castle cement

With no more chalk and 300 jobs gone Families waited and stood in a bunch On a cold winterôs day on Vicarage Road 4 bangs later we went home for lunch

On Christmas morning at 10am When no trains ran on the track The last bang was heard, the last chimney fell 5 chimneys gone, never to come back

Taylor Wimpey built 500 houses Called the Castlemead development Where Mums and Dads and their children Now live on land that once made cement.

By Dave Barratt



I thought it might be useful to remind everyone of the Bucks Health and Wellbeing website initiatives which can be found on the main website below. One thing worth pointing out on the overall page is the link to the Heads Up website which relates specifically to menôs emotional and mental health and wellbeing.

Heads Up exists to help men stay happy. They have a toolbox that can help men overcome common issues like having trouble with sleeping, feeling low and money worries and even an online check-up to help you assess your wellbeing, as well as information on different ways to get support.

If you know a man that might be feeling a bit down or blue, have a look at our Support a Man page. Contacts are also available for men who might want to discuss some of the issues they are facing or anything which they are struggling with.

Do please check out the services on offer below, as well as ideas and tips on how we can all live healthier lives in 2020. http://www.healthandwellbeingbucks.org/ home

http://www.thisisheadsup.org/s4s/ WherelLive/Council?pageId=3717 In closing, as this is my final submission

as your county councillor for Buckinghamshire County Council, I would just like to say that I have felt very privileged to have been elected to serve the Ivinghoe Division throughout the past three years. It has been really lovely to have met so many of you at various local events or through my work at BCC, and it has been a very enriching experience for me to have had a chance to help serve the local community. Going forward, I am certain that the new Buckinghamshire Council will benefit from all the support and goodwill which Ivinghoe Division residents and parish councils can provide, and I am sure that the new council working with our communities will go from strength to strength.

Beacon Community Choir Concert

To mark the 800th anniversary of St Mary the Virgin, Ivinghoe, the Beacon Community Choir will be performing STABAT MATER by the popular and engaging Welsh composer of "Adiemus", Karl Jenkins on Good Friday, 2020. Based on the 13th Century poem, the title is an abbreviation of the first line, "Stabat Mater Dolorosa - the sorrowful mother was standing..." This text, one of the most powerful and immediate of medieval poems, meditates on the suffering of Mary, Jesus Christ's mother, during his

crucifixion. Jenkins has taken this ancient text and interweaves it with modern text settings in English, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic and Aramaic, for soloist, choir and organ. Full of melodious and inspiring music, this moving and dramatic work expresses the pain at the heart of the Easter Story. FRIDAY 10TH APRIL, 2020 6.30pm









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OBITUARY: MR ROBERT MEGSON PC 378 OUR LOCAL CONSTABLE FROM 1954 UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN 1979

It is with a great deal of sadness that we acknowledge the death on Boxing Day 2019 of Bob Megson. Bob was a modest man, popular with the community he served, as Constable 378 for twenty-five years. Bob told me that his first sight of Ivinghoe was from a seat on the route 61 bus as it passed through the village and that was sufficient evidence, of the locality, for him to accept the post as the local bobby which had just become vacant.

He was a good athlete in his youth. His father had been a sergeant, in Harrogate, and one brother an inspector in the police so law and order ran through his veins. Bob made several attempts to join up, being told to come back when he had grown a few more inches before being accepted into the ranks, due to a reduction in the height requirement. He was a conscientious and diligent police officer. We cannot do justice to his career in this short piece except to highlight the award of a British Empire Medal for meritorious service, details included here, which have been taken from the MK Heritage web site and read as follows:-

Police Constable 378 Robert Megson was commended by the Bucks Assizes on Wednesday 4th October 1967 for his "extreme courage" in disarming a youth

who, seconds earlier, had attempted to fire a loaded pistol at him.

The 16 year old Dunstable youth was sentenced to four years detention for attempting to cause the officer grievous bodily harm by attempting to fire the loaded pistol at him on August 29th 1967 at Marsworth. The offending youth together with two others aged 16 and 17 broke into the Manor at Marsworth and stole property worth $\tilde{A}7$.

The other two youths kept watch while the other went inside and stole $\tilde{A}2$ in cash along with an automatic pistol and a magazine of six cartridges. As the youths left the house they were seen.

Two ran off in one direction and the youth with the gun in another. PC Megson stopped the car he was driving and approached the youth who was on his own, and when about 12 vards away the youth drew the pistol and pointed it at him telling him to keep back or he would shoot. The officer continued to walk towards the youth, and when about two vards away the youth pointed the gun at his stomach and pulled the trigger. The firing pin struck the cap of the cartridge in the chamber, and the only reason it did not fire was the owner had cleaned the gun and left oil which had got on to the cartridge.

A passing motorist Mr. Robert De Lucia stopped and although warned that the youth had a gun helped the officer to restrain him. The motorist was also commended by the Judge.

(Extract: www.mkheritage.co.uk)

His award, led to an interview with Jack de Manio on Today (Radio 4) and a ceremony with the Queen where, accompanied by Mary, he was presented with his medal.

Bob was devoted to his wife Mary who sadly died earlier in 2019, she also served the community for many years, except she chose to do so from behind the counter of various local shops. They had one son Paul.

OAP parishoners no doubt have many memories of Bob during his working life and if they cared to share them on these pages their memories would serve as a reminder of a life well lived.



News from Beacon Villages Community Library in Ivinghoe

New for 2020 – an opportunity for all readers to share their enjoyment with others by reviewing and recommending a novel or non-fiction title.

The guidelines for reviews and recommendations are:

- What is the book about (avoiding plot spoilers);
- Why you read it (e.g. book club, personal recommendation, it is a topic you interested in, favourite author);
- What you think the author set out to

achieve and whether you think they were successful;

- What you liked about it and why youôd recommend it; and
- Maximum length 300 words.
 Please submit your reviews via the form on our website bvcl.org.uk or send to reviews@bvcl.org.uk







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- Is your pet the best?
- Have there been some strange goings-on?
- Have you had some impressive achievements? Are you tenth generation Pitstonion?

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

For more details, please contact: louise.stoddart@pitstonepc.org



DANIEL KING SMITH PIANO, WILLIAM WINFIELD READER

Sunday February 2nd 2.30pm Admission £8 Holy Trinity Church, Potten End, HP4 2UY

www.ridgewayensemble.co.uk



ASHRIDGE RAMBLINGS

Rikki Harrington

On the Fly

I was at a meeting recently on rentomological outreachà that is getting the word out to the public about the importance of insects. One of the speakers was Erica McAlister from the Natural History Museum, who has made it her mission to convince people that flies are fascinating and generally good news. There are about 7,000 species of fly in Britain and Ashridge is home to hundreds of them, including a few that are extremely rare. Some are pollinators, several are decomposers, many are incredibly beautiful and have extraordinarily interesting behaviours. Erica has written a great book on the subject: The Secret Life of Flies in which she complains that they are much maligned through phrases such as ffly in the ointmentà mo flies on meòandé é

Fly-Tipping



Unfortunately, Erica® twowinged friends cand decompose fridges. I wrote briefly about flytipping in this

column six months ago, but incidents have taken a turn for the worse. A few weeks back I was on my usual Wednesday wander when I came across the most extreme example that I have seen. It was opposite the wooden barrier at the foot of the Beacon on the bend of Beacon Road, blocking a track that leads to a reliable Duke of Burgundy butterfly colony. *Killing Eve* fans will recognise the track as the one at the bottom of which

Villanelle got extremely trigger happy with a machine gun (and then reversed over her ffriend).

In a separate fly-tipping incident, a member of the public took a surreptitious photo of the culprit, who got his name in the papers and ended up A1,160 poorer as a result. One of our rangers said to a reporter: "Our job is to look after the estate so that nature and wildlife can thrive and visitors can enjoy the beautiful landscape, but we have to divert considerable resources to clearing and preventing illegal dumping. We much appreciate the support of our visitors in keeping an eye out for these criminals, and we thank Buckinghamshire County Council for taking cases such as this to court - every successful prosecution is a warning to would-be fly-tippers.à Couldnô have put it better myself. A spokesman for the Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire said: "The Ashridge Estate is a much-loved beauty spot where many people go to relax and enjoy nature - which makes it shocking when it's treated like a waste tip. Our thanks go to the member of the public who took the pictures which were key to the prosecution of this case. Public vigilance plays an important part in catching flytippers, though I'd remind people to ensure they don't put themselves in danger while obtaining evidence.à Should you spot anything along these lines please call the Estate Office on 01442 841800 and ask to speak to the Countryside Team. If you see a fly-tip in progress, please call 999 and report it immediately.



IVINGHOE AND PITSTONE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Christine Linley, I+PWI Correspondent

A new year and new decade, certainly with a lot being planned, particularly for 2020. Some of the highlights for the early part of the year are below.

Yet another centenary to celebrate. This year our County Federation is 100 years old, many congratulations. Our County Federation is made up of volunteers from WIs from across the county and provides support, etc. to all the individual WIs. To celebrate, our walking group are walking The Chiltern Way, not all at once but in easy 10-mile stages at various times across the year. The walking group are pictured.



Michael Kerry

May – Birthday Meeting

Visitors and Guests are always welcome.

Further details are available from Sue Eyre 01296 709281 / 07742 138955

St Patrick's Day
Sunday 15th March.
St Patrick's Day lunch at the
Town Hall.

£12.50 per person For a delicious two course meal with traditional Irish music.

Tickets available from Sue Eyre 01296 709281 / 07742 138955

Coming Up
February – A Fashion Show, charity
shop special
March – North Bucks Way by Feet and
Stitches by Daphne Preece
April – The Accidental Salesman by

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Pitstone Parish Council Community Car Scheme

If you have difficulty getting to your medical appointments, our volunteer drivers could help

To cover volunteers' expenses, we make a charge of 45p + 45p per mile (Minimum £1.00). Typical return costs from Pitstone are;

Yardley Avenue Surgery, Pitstone £1.00 Stoke Mandeville Hospital £9.50

Rothschild House Surgery, Tring £4.50 Wycombe Hospital £18.50

Call Stephen on 01296 767116 communitytransport@pitstone.co.uk



Pitstone Parish Council Community Car Scheme

Please join us to drive local residents to their medical appointments

- No commitment to number or type of trips you take.
- Mileage expenses paid.
- Simple text notification of trip requests from our coordinator.

For more information, please contact Stephen on 01296 767116 email: communitytransport@pitstone.co.uk



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

cheddingtonps@outlook.com or visit www.cheddingtonpreschool.co.uk



At Home in Pitstone

My name is Anil, an easy-going chap.
India to UK; home from home marked on the map.
As a retired man, to be close to my family was my aim,
So, Pitstone: my new home it became.
Steeped in history, scenery & more,

A tranquil picturesque location that I truly adore.

School children, dog walkers, young families, runners and business people all wander past.

My home is a place I can watch them all, no-one moves too fast!

A simple vet fulfilled retirement I enjoy with my wife.

A simple yet fulfilled retirement I enjoy with my wife, Our day to day existence is dedicated to family life.

From my garden, I hear my granddaughters laugh and sing,

To live so close to them is the most joy living here can bring.

Making a difference has always been my pleasure,

Being a Parish Councillor of Pitstone is now my activity of leisure.

With so many new houses being built nearby, The increase of people and cars canô be denied.

Keeping our roads safe continues to be hard.

Especially with lorries and commercial vans racing through; if only they were barred.

Children need to walk to school and play in peace.

As a Parish Council, we plan to make changes for their ease.

Working in a community is an honourable role.

Listening to village voices, addressing issues are all under our control.

As a councillor, I go to youth caf®with personal pride,

Offering village children, a safe, sociable place to gather inside.

The Memorial Hall on the green is where councillors meet,

For the monthly discussions regarding work needed on our village streets.

A team of willing volunteers supports the work the Parish Council do,

For the litter picking, a PPP distribution and so much more, we thank you.

My daily paper is purchased from our central village shop,

Well stocked with everything- itôs always a place for me to stop.

As I get older, the doctor's surgeries nearby are a relief,

Although the number of recent visits my wife and I have made is beyond belief! Brookmead school and Windmill pre-school brings the new village generation together,

There is a community spirit here – one I respect and treasure.

In this village, I have met so many friendly faces,

And with my family, we have visited many local places;

Whether to grab a coffee, enjoy lunch or have a quick stroll, Pitstone is perfectly located with plenty to offer for young and old.

There is so much to get involved in, see and do nearby,

As a parish councillor, working towards an improved village future:

for that, I will continue to try.

With my life settled here from now until the end,

Dedicated to my family and helping the community: this is where my time will be spent.

By Anil Mitra



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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE HUB? Carol T

Belated &HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020ôto you all out there in our community! Following our delightful Wintry Market, I would like to say a huge thank you to those who came to buy original gifts and support our Community Hub. There will be loads of happy gatherings taking place throughout the colder first months of 2020, including the Spring Market and Easter Egg hunt, then the Summery Market on the Caf®s birthday in the summer. During Autumn we can look forward to the Veggie Show and Autumn Market, and then we'd be back preparing for Midwinter again!

We, the volunteer trustees, are hoping that your own New Yearôs resolutions include supporting all the community offerings in the neighbourhood which depend on that support to run. Your own positive support is the key ingredient otherwise we all disappear, sadly!

Our Hub hall bookings welcome your use for parties, wakes, meetings, teaching and learning spaces in a variety of subjects, such as crafts, music and fitness. The rental for this whole Hub hall space at Ã12 first hour, then Ã10 for each hour after, or for a screened off half Hub Hall space its Ã9 for the first hour and Ã7 each following hour.

This rental fee pays for all our replacement furniture, computer and caf®kitchen equipment, structural replacements, redecoration and volunteer DIY, whilst the caf®tenants rent pays our utilities. Volunteers are always welcome to offer their own donated time, to work alongside the trustee voluntary crew in undertaking this DIY on your behalf. We are looking to find

community volunteers to work alongside us to make our lovely independent Community Hub sustainable well into the future, so please contact us if you are active and generous with a wee bit of spare time!

To start the year, 2020 Quizzes in the Caf® are planned we hear, and we the Hub Volunteer trustee back room crew plan a lively pancake flipping on Shrove Tuesday and a loving Valentine[®] Day all day 14th February. By the end of February the expensive replacement of all our original 1867 floorboards will have been replaced by strong but suitably matching aged boards, all paid for by a grant which we have won! Please come down and fill the Hub with love and laughter, living up to what we as a community saved the building for!

Craft challenges to work on for Autumn Show 2020!

- 1) Design and arrange ribbons to form a ówearableôbouquet.
- 2) Sew or crochet something practical that becomes an art object too. 20cm cubed max.
- 3) Cross stitch a framed addition to any nursery, A4 max.
- 4) Knit a wearable necklace free choice
- of materials to knit with.
- 5) Cut, fix and build up a pop-up card to delight someone, A4 max.
- 6) Make a fascinator to wear out of beads, wire and feathers.
- 7) Photograph an unusual portrait of a living being & frame it, A4 max.
- 8) & Skyward lookingô any size & medium. unframed.





Supporting People in Need in Pitstone

The Pitstone Town Lands Charity aims to support people living in the parish of Pitstone who are in need, hardship or distress.

The Charity makes discretionary payments to Pitstone residents, especially those of pensionable age and to organisations supporting the people of the parish. The charity also owns 4 flats and provides local, affordable accommodation.

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





2020

Tring Choral Society

and Orchestra
Conductor: Colin Stevens

JS Bach

St John Passion

Soloists: Soprano: Alice Gribbin Contralto: Jessica Gillingwater Tenor: Reb Johnston Bass: Tim Dickinson

Saturday 4 April Church of Saint Peter & Saint Paul, TRING

Starting at 7.30pm (doors open 6.45pm)

Tickets: £15, Under 18's free from Beechwood Fine Foods, Frogmere St email:tringchoralsociety@gmail.com FR JEFFERY & SON

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Clinical Specialist in Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine

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

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Natalie McGourty MBACP, BA (Hons) Psychology

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Email: natalie@nmcounselling.co.uk

www.thetechnologydoctors.co.uk website: www.nmcounselling.co.uk

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Intact Keir - 07900 987230

AVAILAGE ON A



There are a few gaps in the LOCAL INFORMATION pages. If you notice your organisation is missing or has the entry 'To be advised' then do send us your wording to make sure that residents are informed about the services available to them.

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, 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

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 01296 661271

LOCAL CLUBS

Beavers: (aged 51 - 8): Watermill Lodge, 6-7pm, Monday Leader: Tom.

Tuesday Leader: Jakki

Contact: Andrew Woods (Group Scout Leader) by email:

lvinghoe.pitstone.scouts@gmail.com

Cubs: (aged 8 - 10l): 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:

lvinghoe.pitstone.scouts@gmail.com

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

Contact: Andrew Woods (Group Scout Leader) by email:

lvinghoe.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

General enquiries: info@bvcl.org.uk 01296 387890

Committee enquiries: 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

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. Marys Church Ivinghoe. Leader Judith Sheridan. Contact Lindsay Hewlett 01296 660670 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 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.

Contact: Brookmead School, High Street, Ivinghoe, LU7 9EX, www.brookmead.bucks.sch.uk, 01296 668543,

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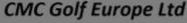
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office@brookmead.bucks.sch.uk

Friends of Brookmead textile recycling: Please put your unwanted textiles i.e. adultsôand childrenôs clothing, shoes, hats, belts, handbags, ties and soft toys into the bins at Colbree Engineering, Pitstone Green Business Park to help raise funds for the school

Windmill Pre-school: (children aged 2 - 5 from Pitstone, Ivinghoe and surrounding areas): One of the top pre-schools nationally and highest rated locally. Purpose built premises behind Brookmead School, open 5 full days per week. Mornings 9am - 12pm, Afternoons 12pm - 3 pm (Includes Lunch Club), Lunch Club 12 - 1pm (subject to availability)

Contact: 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 Level1qualified. Email: chairman@pandifootball.net 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 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 inherent dignity blooms. Contact: Sue Nicholls 07788 662349 or check out https://sgi-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 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, 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 Ã3, children Ã1. For further details go to www.fordendwatermill.co.uk

Contact 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

Marsworth Road lights - Bucks County Council online: http://

www.transportforbucks.net/report-it-street-lighting.aspx
Other Pitstone lights - email: 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

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/environmental-problems

Bothered by aircraft noise: Email Luton Airport noise@ltn.aero

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

published online by Aylesbury Vale District Council: https://

www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/search-planning-licensing-applications

Want to know if you need planning permission? Visit: 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

PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman, Cllr Dave Nicholls



T: 661910 E: dave.nicholls@pitstonepc.org Chair of Parish Council, Chair of Pitstone Parish Charity Committee Staffing. Planning, Youth Cafe and

Village Web Site.

Vice Chairman, Cllr Bob Saintey



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Chair of Sports & Leisure, Staffing,
PDA, Highways & Footpaths, Youth
Cafe, AVALC, Local Area Forum,
Pitstone Hill & Trees and Local Council
Planning Liaison Group.

Clir Margaret Crutchfield



E: margaret crutchfield@pitstonepc.org Chair of Planning Committee, Allotment Officer, Sports & Leisure, Youth Cafe, Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity, Community Self Help Plan, Pitstone Parish Charity and

Cllr Ben Blunt



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Local Area Forum,

Cllr Louise Stoddart



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Cllr Rob McCarthy



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Clir Dr Dave Frearson



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Cllr Kris Weber



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Cllr Anil Mitra



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Cllr Jack Hawkins



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District Councillor: Derek Town



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