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2.15pm – 2.45pm Term time only -
free and no need to book, just drop
in.)

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Sat: 10am - 1pm

Mobile Library (Alternate Tuesdays)

Yardley Ave Health Centre:

2.40pm - 3.15pm

The Crescent: 3.20pm - 4.10pm

Figgy's Fish & Chip Van

Thurs - Maud Jane's Close (5pm), Ivinghoe
Church (5.20pm), Glebe Close (7.15pm), The
Crescent (8pm), Yardley Ave (8.20pm) then
onto Marsworth

Sat - Maud Jane's Close (12.45pm), Iv Church
(1.15pm), R Furlong (2.15pm), Glebe Cl
(2.40pm), The Crescent (3pm), Yardley Ave
(3.30pm) then onto Marsworth

Your PPP would not reach your door without the sterling efforts of the volunteer editor, band of distributors and their organiser, Klaus Ginda. Each distributor posts between 16 and 70 magazines

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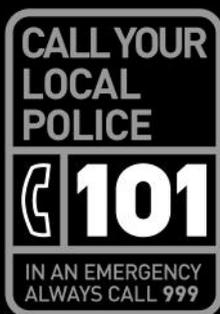
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For details see page 80 or above

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101 coming to your force

Deadline for articles for the next magazine is 15th April 2012.

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

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN, PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL



Firstly on behalf of the Parish Council may I wish all Parishioners a healthy and peaceful new year.

There has been considerable activity on the recreation ground in the Autumn period. Four trees have been removed and the stumps ground out which were either dead, dying or obstructing the line of football. One trunk was removed which was deemed to be extremely dangerous. Subsequently two new trees have been planted and are plain to see. The leaves in the play area have been swept and blown, to preserve the turf. This is an annual occurrence.

I know that the Youth café will be covered elsewhere in the PPP, but I have to put a personal reflection on this in the hope that it will gain greater support. It has been for the last three months a total success, as I am sure that the youth will testify. This is all due to the commitment of the valuable band of volunteers who turn up on a weekly basis and the hospitality of Brookmead school who allow us to be there. Thanks must go to everyone who has supported it so far. However, in order for this to continue its success we still need and must have a few more volunteers to ensure its longevity. Please, if you can spare just one Wednesday a month it would guarantee its continuation. If you can, please make contact with either myself, or the Clerk to the Parish Council.

Wishing you all well for 2012.
Bob Saintey.

NEWS DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS

By Avril Davies, District and County Councillor

Looking Forward and Looking Back

2012 will be a year of change and preparing for change in all the public

services, and will not be easy for anyone, for me, those who work in the public sector, and those who rely on its services,



which are all of us, one way or another. So in this edition I am going to break with all previous formats and as well as trying to give a short round up and flavour of what's been going on and I'm going to share some inter-

esting information about the distant past.

Looking Forward

In 2012 we are all looking forward to the fruition of last year's hard work on two Ivinghoe projects, with very best new year wishes for the BEACON VILLAGES LIBRARY project and IVINGHOE VILLAGE CENTRE PROJECT. The library needs confirmed short term support from the parishes it serves before the formal decision and launch. The village centre project has reached the formal consideration stage by Bucks County Council after months of hard work from the steering committee.

It is the time of the annual decision making on COUNCIL BUDGETS. At Bucks County Council four days are put aside for an examination of the budget in public at which a cross party select committee interrogates each cabinet member in a parliamentary select committee style on the priorities and the risks in their budget. This is followed by the cabinet recommendation on 6th of February and the decision by full county council on 16th February where a lively debate can be expected. COUNCIL TAX is unlikely to be increased at the County, although it is possible the District levy will go up.

I think those at biggest risk from inevitably squeezed budgets will be elderly people in need of care either at home or in residential care, people with learning disabilities, and parents of children needing school transport, although all services will suffer like libraries, museums and youth services, such as they are, but the results may not be felt immediately. There comes a point where improved efficiency can't make all the saving needed.

Other decisions for the County coming up shortly are changes to statutory HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT entitlement on 27th February, the ENERGY FROM WASTE contract on 19th March (3 years late and already several £M overspent), funding FOR HIGH SPEED BROADBAND in a joint bid with Hertfordshire, and a new proposal to launch the COUNTY MUSEUM as a Trust.

All this can be found in the Cabinet forward plan at

<http://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=218&RP=124&>

Aylesbury Vale District Council has launched two applications for iphone and

android, one for bin collections and one for committee meetings. These come included as part of the council's software package, and contrary to the opinion of some Jeremiah who replied to me on twitter, these save the council money, not cost them. They can be found at <http://www.aylesburyaledc.gov.uk/council-democracy/committees/>

The committee one is particularly useful for people wanting to follow planning or licensing applications, the bin one speaks for itself and there will be major changes to the collection and recycling service this year. You can also register for text message alerts for bin collections and car parking availability.

The Whistlebrook at Brook Lane

Later in January volunteers from the Chiltern Society led by Mike Baldock will be working to ensure the brook is free flowing past the school on its way to the mill at Ford End. This is the first step to regular care for the brook and the banks supported by several partners including the school, the County, District and both Ivinghoe and Pitstone parish councils, at the instigation of Keith Russell of the Ford End Watermill Trust.

Looking back – a long way

On 5th November the Bucks County Council Rights of Way team formally opened a new route up the Ivinghoe Beacon for disabled ramblers. With the financial help of the Dunstable Bogtrotters, the Chiltern Disabled Ramblers, and the National Trust 18 new gates were opened between the Beacon car park and the summit, via Gallows Hill enabling disability scooters to undertake a 5K unimpeded route. Quite a large party assembled in the fog for the formalities before setting off. At the refreshment stop at top of the Beacon, Sandy Kidd, the County Archaeologist, gave everyone an account of the archaeological excavations of the 1960s.

The fort on top of the Beacon was created around 600BC by farmers using bronze tools, but living in the later iron age manner. At the time the two archaeologists who carried out the dig, Frere and Cotton, suggested the fort was soon abandoned, but in 2000AD a student geophysical survey found evidence that the site could have been in continual occupation from stone age to iron age times.

Around the Beacon there are remains of a 2.5 m high palisade with a single entrance to the east, rebuilt several times; a D shaped enclosure

(Continued from page 5)

near the modern trig point; and a Neolithic cursus (ditch and bank) with associated mortuary enclosure running from the NE to the SW. There are 2 bronze age burial barrows inside the fort and the excavations revealed some circular hut foundations along a street of some kind, and some unusual post holes for several rectangular structures, widely presumed to be platforms for exposing the dead, called excarnation platforms, a custom still followed today in some parts of the world..

There were also finds that provided evidence for human settlement as well as ritual or religious use connected with the dead. There were pots and animal bones, loom weights, and quern fragments, as well as human skulls, and ritual unused weapons, the most famous being a late bronze age sword, unearthed illegally in 2000 by a metal detector.

All this and loads more can be found on the Bucks County Council website:

<https://ubp.buckscc.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid='MBC3743'>

The Bucks Archaeological Society website have a rolling programme of making reports available on line, but the Cotton Frere report hasn't made

it yet.

<http://www.bucksas.org.uk/articles4.html>

However the 1937 report on Pitstone Hill is available in the original at

http://www.bucksas.org.uk/rob/rob_17_1_49.pdf and the County Council website has pages of information of all excavations at <https://ubp.buckscc.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid=TBC344>

OTHER DISTRICT AND COUNTY NEWS: *in brief*

Local Area Forum

Great Brickhill, Wing & Ivinghoe Local Area Forum will refresh its priorities in early 2012. Residents will be invited to give their views on the priorities ahead of a "refresh workshop". For more information please email jwesley@buckscc.gov.uk.

Adverse weather—calling 4x4 owners!

Can you help us to help others in the snow? In heavy snow, our home carers can't always reach vulnerable people. If you can help clear snow from a driveway or path, have a 4x4 vehicle and can help drive our home carers to where they are needed, please contact BCC: locality-services@buckscc.gov.uk or tele-

phone 01296 383409.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Beacon Villages Community Library



Thank you very much to all of you that took the time to vote in our consultation

about the library in Ivinghoe.

As a result the parish council has agreed to ring-fence the £3,750 for the 2012/13 budget but not to increase the precept to accommodate this. The funds will be achieved via contributing less to the social/leisure provision during the forthcoming year.

The friends of the library will be required to submit a formal grant application with full justification for any requested amount from the ring-fenced provision – be that part, or all, of the sum reserved. Decisions regarding a financial contribution for subsequent years will be made at the appropriate point during the relevant financial year.

The parish council would urge all village residents to make full use of the library. There are over 3,000

residents in the village and only a fraction are regular visitors to the library, so do pop along and find out what is on offer.

Jubilee Celebrations—date for diary!



We are sure you already have the weekend of 3rd and 4th June 2012 in your diary as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. But if you haven't

make sure you put it in your 2012 diaries as it promises to be a great weekend.

As you may know from previous editions of this magazine, we are planning to have several celebrations in our villages on that weekend.

On Sunday 3rd June, there will be a flower festival in St Mary's Church in Pitstone – a rare opportunity to see inside this 12th Century church.

Also on 3rd June, there will be a huge "Party in the Park" on the recreation ground in Pitstone from 1pm in the afternoon. There will be live performances from local bands and groups, a real ale festival, barbecue food and entertainment for children of all ages.

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(Continued from page 7)

Entrance is completely **FREE**, so do come along with your picnics and enjoy an afternoon of music celebrating the Queen's diamond jubilee with your family, friends and neighbours in the biggest "street" party we can provide!

On 4th June we will be lighting Ivinghoe Beacon at night as part of the chain of beacons being lit across the UK that day. There will be some activities coinciding with the lighting and we will supply details of these nearer the time.

The parish council would like to offer any local craft makers or small businesses the opportunity to come

Last Chance to Reserve Your Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Mugs (Free to <18s)!

The parish council has to place the order for the Jubilee mugs at the start of February, so if you haven't already placed your order please get your information to us by **10th February**.

The bone china commemorative mug featuring the official jubilee emblem and the Pitstone parish council logo is available **FREE** for all the children (<18s only) in the parish. There will also be a quantity of mugs available to purchase, if you want extra mugs or would like these fabulous souvenirs for adults.

So that we can order the correct number, please register your requirement by:

Completing the form below and popping it through the letterbox of any parish councillor or the clerk (addresses inside the cover); leaving your details on the answerphone at 01296 660791 or emailing parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk

Number of Mugs Required:	
Names & ages of children residing in parish:	
Address:	
Email:	
Number you wish to purchase for >18s (£3.25 each):	

(Continued from page 8)

along and have a stand at the Party in The Park on 3rd June. Bring your gazebos and make the most of this occasion to show everyone in Pitstone & Ivinghoe your wares!

There are approximately 5,000 residents between our two villages and we hope that at least 1,500 of you will be there on the green with us that afternoon – hopefully a lot more if the weather is glorious!

If you would like to register your interest in taking a stand at this event, please get in touch with Laurie Eagling, Clerk to Pitstone Parish Council at:

parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk

Changes to Refuse and Recycling are Coming in 2012

During this year, Aylesbury Vale District Council will be rolling out a new and improved recycling scheme. At the moment, they estimate that it will go live in September.

Food waste will be collected every week. You will get a new bin with a lockable lid and a bench top kitchen caddy for scraps. The bin will take used tea bags, fruit and vegetable peelings, plate scrapings, stale food,

food past its use-by date, bones and leftovers. The waste collected will be treated to create energy and fertiliser.

You will get a new 240lt “all-in-one” bin to put all the other recycling in, except glass. You will be able to include paper, cardboard, all plastics, steel & aluminium cans and tetra-pak cartons. This will be collected every two weeks, as it is now.

All the waste that can't go into your new food bin or recycling bin will go into your existing green bin. There will be less of it, because you will be able to recycle more materials. The green bin will also be emptied every two weeks. Any waste in bags next to the bin will not be collected. The collection day may change as AVDC move to a 4 day week schedule (Tuesday-Friday) which allows them to have one day a week to maintain & service their fleet, less people disrupted by Bank Holiday Monday changes and more time to catch up if there is bad weather etc.

The garden bag scheme that currently runs will end but you will be able to opt into a new brown bin service. Waste collected through this scheme will be composted. If you opt-in your brown bin will be collected every other Monday for 10

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(Continued from page 9)

months of the year for a charge of £36 a year. This part of the scheme may be introduced earlier and could be live in Pitstone during the summer.

The scheme has already been trialled in other parts of the Vale and is working well. AVDC also recognise that the scheme won't work for everyone, such as those living in flats, so they urge anyone that may have special needs to contact them direct and they will be happy to help. You can reach them on 01296 585858. *Unfortunately the parish council can't resolve these matters so it is important that you use this number.*

Reduced speed limits in Pitstone delayed (again!)

Bucks County Council were due to install the long overdue speed limit reductions in January 2012. The parish council now understands that this has been delayed until the end of February/March 2012. We will let you know as soon as we get any specific details.

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MORE NEWS

Freight Quality Partnership

Beacon Freight Quality Partnership Launches Interactive Website:

www.beaconfqp.org

The Beacon Freight Quality Partnership (FQP) is a new initiative for business, freight operators, public bodies, environmental groups and local communities in the Great Brickhill, Wing and Ivinghoe areas, to better understand and accommodate each other's needs.

The partnership has met just three times since February and although still feeling its way, progress has already been made with the launch of the website www.beaconfqp.org.uk; a traffic survey, and research into what data is already available to the partnership.

Individuals, organisations, drivers and employers are invited to use the website to communicate through the partnership on shared problems, brickbats and accolades.

Modelled on successful partnerships elsewhere, the group hopes that this will enable the County to get traffic flowing in a way that benefits the economy, the environment and local communities.

In the spirit of self help, now known as The Big Society, the Partnership was set up through the Great Brickhill, Wing and Ivinghoe Local Area Forum, rather than through more formal channels such as the County Council Local Transport Plan. Its members include Parish, County and District Councillors, the Police, Bucks County Council Highways (BCC), Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) planners, the Road Haulage Association (RHA) and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA). It hopes soon to welcome local and national haulage and distribution companies to its membership, as well as open conversations with them.. Avril Davies, chair of the Partnership and County Councillor for Ivinghoe Division said: 'We want this to be a win-win for both local communities and vehicle operators. It's important that every-

(Continued on page 17)

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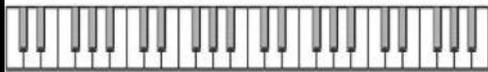
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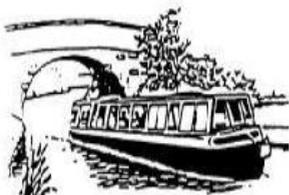
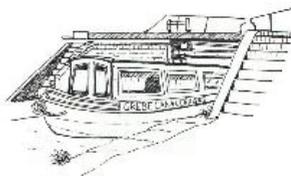
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(Continued from page 12)

one involved can gain from this. We all rely on freight haulage for our every-day needs, but we often complain at the size and number of vehicles, and the routes they take. This isn't another stick to beat the operators with, it's to understand each other's point of view and take both small and strategic actions that can really make a difference for each other'.

Philip Scotney, Area Manager, Road Haulage Association said: 'Beacon FQP provides a means for the views of local residents to be discussed and an opportunity for the Freight Industry to listen and also explain why operations need access to small rural communities. We fully support the introduction of the FQP and look forward to it making a difference for the benefit of locals and the freight industry.'

Find out more: Avril Davies (acdavies@buckscc.gov.uk) / 07790 824164 or Christabel Boersma (Christabel.Boersma@hotmail.com)

Bus Passes

Following the transfer of responsibility for free bus travel from Aylesbury Vale District Council to Buckinghamshire County Council, residents should be reassured that the conditions of use for bus passes have not changed.

Passes issued by Buckinghamshire County Council are still valid for use from 9.00am rather than the statutory minimum of 9.30am (for buses departing in Buckinghamshire).

Bus operators have been reminded of the appropriate arrangements and residents are encouraged to report any issues or pass refusals to Buckinghamshire County Council via pass-trans@buckscc.gov.uk or 0845 230 2882.

Sports Makers

This official London 2012 Games Legacy Programme is designed to locally recruit, train and deploy 550 new Sport Makers who will commit to volunteering 10 hours of their time to make sport happen for adults. Bucks Sport will be raising awareness of the programme over the coming months. For information contact Stephen Green at Bucks Sport on 01296 585626.

Give it a Go week

Bucks Sport will be working closely with AVDC and other partner organisations to promote the next Give it a Go Week taking place 20 to 27 February 2012. This special week - open to adults across the Vale - is part of the Reactivate Aylesbury Vale campaign to connect people to sport and physical activity on their doorsteps. There will be hundreds of activities for people to choose from, with many being free or subsidised. For information see www.reactivatebucks.org or call 01296 585215.

Visit Buckinghamshire

With more and more people deciding to spend their holidays at home it's important that they can find information about local days out, events and activities.

www.visitbuckinghamshire.org is a hub of information not only for visitors to the county but for local residents looking for things to do.

For local days out, events and activities visit

www.visitbuckinghamshire.org

Keep your car safe and secure this spring



The Community Safety Partnership are working to keep car crime low across the Aylesbury Vale. You can help by following our top 5 car safety tips below.

Valuables - always take valuables with you. If you can't, lock them out of site in the car boot. Valuables are not safe under the car seat and avoid using your glove box.

Car keys – don't leave the keys in your car whilst it's unattended, even if it's only for a few moments. Lock your doors and windows when parked and whilst you're driving.

Parking – park in an open and well lit, busy area. Avoid parking next to or under foliage.

Extra security – an alarm, immobiliser or even a steering lock can make things more difficult for an opportunist thief.

Property marking – Securely mark valuable property with a UV marker kit

For a free vehicle security pack send us a tweet at @aylesburyvale or comment on our Facebook page AVDC. Of course you can still drop in to our 66 High Street, Aylesbury office to get a pack or if you're unable to travel call 01296 585858.

News: Friends of Ashridge



It's cold and windy and wet out there but Spring is surely round the corner - so put this date in your diary now! The Friends of Ashridge Spring Plant Fair is on Sunday 13 May this year and is the place to find keenly-priced plants to fill the inevitable spaces the winter will make in your garden.

Every year, 1,000s of plants are offered from private gardens as well as commercial growers. The event is the Friends' biggest fundraiser of the year, last year contributing over £6,000 to the maintenance of the National Trust Ashridge Estate, helping it to remain the beautiful place it is for the enjoyment of all.

Pitstone Youth Café : a picture paints a thousand words...



Youth Café exceeds all expectations

We are delighted to say that the Youth Café running during term time has been a great success. The idea of the Youth Café was to provide young people between 11 and 16 with a place they could meet their friends, enjoy themselves and learn new skills.

Since the October half term the Café has operated every Wednesday from 6.30pm to 8.30pm during term time at Brookmead School, to whom we are extremely grateful for the use of their facilities and their ongoing support of the project. Pitstone Parish Council has funded the project and provided trained leaders to run the Café.

Week on week the numbers attracted have grown, and we now have over 60 children from Pitstone and Ivinghoe registered at the Café. We hope to start introducing skills workshops in 2012, for example plumbing, woodwork and photography. It has been a great success very quickly, and is clearly responding to a demand from the young people in the two villages.

However, in order to ensure that the Youth Café continues to operate, we desperately need more volunteers. There is danger we will not be able to continue without more volunteer support.

We ideally want to have a large roster of adult volunteers helping with the running of the Café so that each volunteer need only give one or two evenings up each month to help out. If you feel that you would like to do this, or even to contribute your skills to one of our learning workshops with the youth café members, then please get in touch with Laurie Eagling, Clerk to Pitstone Parish Council at parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk

A view from Youth Café members

By Amy Grocock and Lucy Lawrence- Roberts

We are both in Year 8 and we live in Pitstone. We were very pleased when we found out that the youth cafe was opening and have been at-

tending every week since it has opened. It's difficult to get bored at the café as there is so many things to do. So far we have had the sports cage, the portable skate park, which the boys liked, and a trip to Milton Keynes ice rink.

On top of all this we have games consoles there every week, like Guitar Hero which everyone likes rocking out too, and Just Dance 3 which all the girls (and some of the boys) strut their stuff to! There is also crafts and games for everybody to enjoy. All this and free food too!

It is a great place to catch up with friends especially people who have attended different high schools. We find the volunteers and youth café workers are helpful and always willing to get stuck in with any activities and share their skills. Hope to see you there soon!

Beacon Villages Community Library



As reported elsewhere in the PPP, The Beacon Villages Community Library has moved a step closer to community management after key funding was agreed.

Pitstone Parish Council has ring-fenced £3,750 of funding for 2012-13 and Ivinghoe Parish Council is set to provide £2,250. Several other parish councils are considering applications for funding. Bucks Country Council has also offered a 25-year lease to secure the future of the library.

The library is likely to switch to community control this April. In preparation for the change, plans are underway to work with Bucks County Council to make some improvements to the library.

Options being considered include improvements to the acoustic insulation to reduce noise transfer from the village hall room upstairs, installation of a plasma screen to display public information and create the opportunity to raise money from advertising, a new wireless internet connection, and

general redecoration work.

Many residents have offered to volunteer to help in the library, and work will begin in February to train volunteers with a view to starting to help in the library soon after. Further help is needed to help set up the 'friends card' scheme, which will involve seeking support from local businesses, and with publicity and fundraising.

To get involved, find out more, or suggest library improvements, email ivinghoelibrary@gmail.com

BEACON COMMUNITY CHOIR

SPRING CONCERT

Sunday March 11th, at 6 pm

This will be a celebration of Spring, based around the theme of Wordsworth's poem Daffodils, and comprising a selection of humorous and more serious songs, readings and instrumental pieces.

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The views expressed in the PPP do not necessarily represent the views of the Parish Council or those of the Editor.



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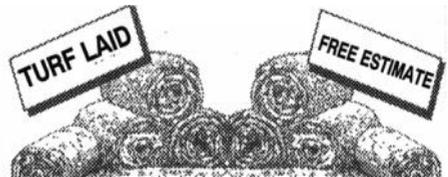
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ENERGY HELP

Advice on lowering your fuel bills

As the price of fuel increases, energy bills can become unmanageable. To help combat this, a free phone helpline has been set up to advise residents in Buckinghamshire how to cut their fuel bills. The service is offered by the United Sustainable Energy Agency in partnership with Buckinghamshire County Council, the four district councils, the Primary Care Trust and Bucks Fire service.

If you are struggling with your energy bills, you are not alone. Currently 5 million people in the UK cannot afford to pay for the heat they need. Anyone who is struggling with their fuel bills can call for free, impartial advice on:

- Improving the efficiency of your property through cavity wall and loft insulation including the grants available
- Warm Front grants to help with heating system replacements
- Switching energy suppliers to find the best deal
- Social tariffs provided by the energy companies for vulnerable customers
- Advice on fuel debt
- Home Improvement Agencies who undertake minor repairs for vulnerable home owners
- Sign posting to other active support organisations
- Information on improving your energy efficiency to cut your energy bills

The phone number is **0800 1070044** and is available Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

IVINGHOE SNIPPETS

Update: Save the Old School on Ivinghoe Lawn

Some of you will be aware that a group of villagers, led by the enthusiasm and hard work of Carol and Bob Corn, have been working to return the old school on Ivinghoe Lawn, to the community.



This building once housed the village school, attended by many residents of our two villages, it then went on to provide a roof for the Post Office and also the Chiltern Education Centre, but, with the closure of the Youth Hostel, where school children would stay to attend courses at the old school, the Education Centre closed its doors and the building was no longer, according to its owners Bucks CC, viable. The idea was mooted that the building should be sold but as there is no access to it, this was not a realistic idea. What could be done with it?

Ivinghoe Parish Council put out an appeal for businesses to rent the space and at the same time Carol Corn started thinking that the space would be wonderful for attracting isolated members of the community. Sue Nicholls and Tessa Smith were thinking of opening a cookery school, Hayley Wesley wanted a home for her café and then Liz Raba came along with a proposal for drama therapy workshops. The three businesses were prepared to pay rent and so

returning the building to usefulness seemed feasible.

With the help of many villagers it has now been decided that the building itself should be run as a charitable trust and the businesses within, should simply rent the various spaces, making sure that there is still some room for use by the rest of the community.

Meanwhile, an application for a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) has been made to BCC and the response sounds positive. The council wants some more detail about the sustainability of the plan and that is being worked on now.

Fund raising and grant applications are now the main focus of the group. Carol and Bob have been applying for grant funding but we need some working capital for such things as: a structural survey, repairs, decorations and publicity. Fortunately many people from Ivinghoe, who completed an early survey about the old school, have offered their help but, like every voluntary organisation, we are always looking for more volunteers and if anyone has a particular skill they could offer we would be most grateful to hear from you.

Sue Nicholls,
SOS Communications Officer

News from Ivinghoe Town Hall

Steve Swinbank the Secretary of Ivinghoe Town Hall puts pen to paper....

So much happened in 2011 and another year promises it will be busy and better for everyone! This time last year the Hall was closed for a week while the beautiful sprung floor was completely re-furbished. Gone was the old 'Gravy Wax' floor and after 4 days of hard sanding the modern clean bright pine floor revealed itself! All the dancer groups, from Ballet, Jazzercise, Zumba, and Yoga especially appreciated the new floor.

Even all relatively 'stationary groups', e.g., Beacon Art, WI etc, commented on the modern look of the Hall!

Also, a year ago in February 2011 Ron Lymer & Seth established a now much valued combined Shop & Post Office.

In 2012 we are are planning to have the Hall re-decorated (as soon as finances permit) which will completely refresh the Hall! We are looking forward to a busy year and if YOU have any ideas or suggestions please do contact the Secretary, Stephen Swinbank on 01296-660344.

If you would like to have a look around or book the hall for a party, meeting or other event please contact our Booking Secretary, Carole Wesley on 01296-661094

POLICE AND CRIME UPDATE

Wing South Neighbourhood Police update

We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas festivities and wish you all a peaceful and crime free New Year.

2012 has bought some changes to our team. PCSO Paul Evans who joined us in 2011 has now moved to Wendover and he has been replaced by PCSO Natalie Hall who had previously been working in Hazlemere. We have also been joined by PC Steve Brisley from Waddesdon, thereby increasing our team to 2 PCs and 3 PCSOs.

Steve and Natalie (pictured) will be working in villages in both the Wing North and South areas, which includes Pitstone, and they are both looking forward to getting to know the villages and residents. If you see either of them out on patrol do please introduce yourselves.



PC Steve Brisley and PCSO Natalie Hall



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NAG info

During 2012 we will continue to attend parish council meetings in the neighbourhood in order to hold our Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) meetings within their agendas.

Please come along to any of the meetings if you wish to speak to us especially if you have any issues that can be solved by the police, parish councils and other agencies working together.

Remember if you are unable to attend one of these meetings and have something that you wish to speak to us about then please either visit us at one of our Have Your Say meetings or email us at Wing-SouthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Anti Social behaviour

During December we received reports of young people gathering behind Pitstone Green Business Park where they were making bonfires from wooden pallets left outside the business units. The area around the remains of the fire contained many empty bottles and cans. This area is popular with dog walkers and Anglers who should be able to

enjoy the tranquil countryside without it being spoilt by a few thoughtless teenagers.

Another group of thoughtless young people have been riding a moped around Vicarage Road and Castlemead in Pitstone without helmets. They have been seen riding along the footpaths and often there are two people on the moped. As well as disturbing local residents this is a dangerous practice and the young people involved could easily have an accident causing injury to themselves and innocent bystanders.

Further meetings and events will be publicised locally and on the force website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk ...you can also follow us on Twitter **@TVP_Aylesbury**.

Alternatively you can give us a 'like' on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/thamesvp>

Remember to Have Your Say online

You can now send non-emergency messages to us using the online form that is available on the Thames Valley Police website. A number of people have already sent their concerns using this method by going to:

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<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-about-nh-pol/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n257-hys>

Please allow some time for us to get back to you as we do check our mail box only at certain times of the day.

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non emergency number 101 or email: Wing-SouthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters.

Free Ultraviolet marking pens from AVDC

The new year is an ideal time to property mark your belongings, particularly new presents. Property mark your valuables by using a UV pen. By doing this you will increase the chances that should something get stolen and recovered it may be identified and returned to you.

Get a free UV pen from AVDC by emailing: community-safety@aylesburyvaldev.gov.uk

Another way you can keep your home safe in the new year is to keep any boxes out of sight. Your new 50" TV may be amazing but don't tell everyone about it.

Either dispose of the box or keep it out of sight until it can be disposed of. Burglars will look for easy opportunities, don't give them an easy option.

- Property mark your valuable items
- Don't leave valuable items on display.

Your new year's resolution: Join Community Messaging!

To hear information on crime issues related to your area, community mes-

saging (also known as Ringmaster) provides free alerts to your inbox or telephone.

By joining you will receive information about crimes and crime reduction advice, appeals for witnesses, police information and meetings all specific to the neighbourhood in which you live or work. You can choose to receive this by email, fax, text or by voice message to your mobile or landline telephone.

It involves the Police, Community Safety departments of local authorities, other voluntary organisations and, above all, individuals and families who want to make their neighbourhoods better places to live.

For more information on Community Messaging and to sign up to alerts visit:

www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org

PPP Postbag

Did you know you can write to PPP? We will publish all letters where space permits and subject to editing. Email pppeditor@pitstone.co.uk or send to the Editor, 4 Ridgeway View, Pitstone, Bucks., LU7 9AR

Olympic trivia

There I was minding my own business in the bath reading the last PPP magazine, when, being a sporting anorak, my eyes lit up as I spotted a factual error in the WI article on page 43.

I believe the USA has also hosted the Summer Olympics not only on 3, but 4 occasions.

- St Louis , Mis 1904
- Los Angeles, Cal 1932
- Los Angeles, Cal 1984
- Atlanta , Geo 1996

However, London will indeed be the 1st City to host more than 2 Summer Olympics.

For any other interested 'saddos', the USA have also hosted a record 4 Winter Olympics

Regards, Johnny Groom

Ed: Thanks Johnny for writing in. Any challengers, let us know!

Skate Park

I am writing to you with regards to a Skate Park being built in Pitstone. I feel that a Skate Park would be a great addition to the village and would be a great place to keep young people away from trouble.

Many children and teenagers have been talking about wanting a Skate Park for quite a while now and I think now would be a great time for one to be built. Another reason for one to be built is that it would be fun for all ages



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and somewhere close for parents to send their children to if they were getting fed up or annoyed with them!

A Skate Park could also be an advantage to the village as you could use it to hold fundraisers such as; competitions and put a donations box by the entrance so that people could put money in, in order to keep the skate park maintained and running. We could also put a sign up asking people to please take their litter with them and put at least two bins around the Skate Park.

Yours sincerely, Cameron Blackmore

Ed: The Parish Council are currently considering potential sites for siting a skate park as part of overall leisure improvements for the village. In the meantime keep an eye out for the mobile skate park that comes to the village and future updates in PPP with regard to future village development..

Church News

St Mary's, Pitstone

St Mary's Church at Pitstone had the nave walls repainted, in the Autumn, it has been used successfully for several Baptism and Funeral services.

Plans have already started for holding the Art, Flower and Music Festival.



This year it will be a Special Jubilee Festival over the weekend of June 2nd-4th 2012 and will be part of the many jubilee attractions in the villages.

Do write the date and event in your diaries.

To prepare for the re-opening of the church for Sunday visitors it is hoped to hold a Spring Cleaning party during the last week of April. Please watch out for notices in the Parish Magazine nearer the time if you would like to

(Continued on page 37)

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join in, or maybe you might like to join the rota of volunteers who steward in the church when it is open.

You would get a chance to admire the medieval 13th and 15th Century features. A magnificent Norman font from an earlier church and some very special medieval tiles on the chancel floor. There are fine 16th and 17th century wood work and 18th century wall paintings of a Royal Coat of Arms. Gentle 19th century restoration has left an unspoilt medieval atmosphere.

For further information please contact

Joan Bolton-King on 668806 or Vanita Patel on 661968

St Mary's, Ivinghoe

From Rev Tracey at St Mary's, Ivinghoe

Dear Reader,

Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a joyous Christmas and now feel ready to begin another very busy year with plenty of chances for us all to celebrate together as a community.

During this coming year we shall be celebrating the completion of our building works at St Mary's and joining in the celebrations and fun of the Jubilee and Olympics. Of course there will also be plenty of other events and services happening too; in May we will be holding a Children's activity to raise funds for Bucks Young Carers, the usual fun days, workshops, fetes and concerts will be happening alongside some new initiatives. Look out for all the details of these events nearer the time.

Of course without all the time and talent given freely by those who volunteer it would not be possible to do all the things we do. If you would like to be involved in any way with any of our future events please let me know. God has blessed us with such a rich variety of gifts and as I said in a recent talk about Christmas pudding ingredients; we too are like those ingredients; all with different jobs to do; which God then binds together making us into the 'pudding' we are.

I look forward to sharing another year with you all.

Important notices for St Mary's Ivinghoe

Wednesday Morning 9.15am Holy Communions will be held at All Saints Marsworth until further notice due to restoration work at St Mary's Ivinghoe. Our Benefice service pattern changes from January: Benefice service rotating round the three parishes.

	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday
Marsworth	8am Holy Communion	4pm BCP Evensong	10am Holy Communion	10am Worshipping Together	10.30am * Benefice H/C
Ivinghoe	9.15 am Worshipping together	9.15 am Holy Communion	9.15 Morning Praise	9.15 am Holy Communion	10.30 am * Benefice H/C
Slapton	10.30am Morning Praise	10.30am Holy Communion	10.30am Worshipping together	10.30am Holy Communion	10.30 am * Benefice H/C

Bible study groups

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

Not Sunday, Not School

During the restoration we shall still be holding these fortnightly sessions from 3.30pm – 5pm. We returned on January 5th and the dates for the rest of this term are as follows: January 19th, February 2nd we then have half term coming back on February 23rd, March 8th and 22nd; the children will be pro-

(Continued on page 42)

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(Continued from page 38)

vided with refreshments and the sessions generally include stories, songs, craft activities, games and cooking.

This club is for children aged 3-11 years. Parents why not come along relax and have a cuppa and a chat while your children enjoy themselves under friendly supervision.

During this term we will also have our Good Friday workshop and be organising our fundraising for the Bucks young carers. More details of these events will be given nearer the time. If you would like to know more information please contact Tracey on 668260.

Men's Group

Forthcoming events will be:

- January: Homemade curry night (bring your own!)
- February: Bowling and grub at Milton Keynes
- March: Trip to London; The war cabinet rooms and a walk around "legal" London
- April: Trip to the Shuttleworth Collection
- May: Planning Session and a beer

Detailed information on events is circulated by email; please contact mick.doyle@virgin.net to be included in the circulation. New members and new ideas are always welcome. Please ring Mick on 668260.

Reel Issues

Reel Issues is a film club which aims to draw out themes and ideas from the films we watch. We meet on the 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of each month; 7.30pm at the vicarage. The idea is to watch the film together on the first evening and then to discuss it the following week. It is open to everyone. If you want to know more contact Rev Tracey on 668260

Sister Act

This is a regular women's group which meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month in St. Mary's church Ivinghoe at 8pm and is based around crafts and chat. It is a time of relaxation and fun while enjoying trying out a new craft. We shall return on February 7th. If you think you may be interested contact Tracey on 668260 for more details or just turn up and have some fun.

Photography Competition - Adults and Children

A big thank you to all those who purchased Christmas cards and calendars; the scheme was a great success, which wasn't at all surprising given the excellent pictures that were submitted, and raised valuable funds for all three churches.

We will be holding the competition again this year so get out there and start taking pictures!

This year we will try again to have a calendar for entrants under 16 as well as one for adult entrants. Once again the scheme will raise funds for the churches in Marsworth, Slapton and Ivinghoe.

Entrants can submit **up to three photos** electronically to mick.doyle@virgin.net Each entry should be accompanied by the name, address, contact telephone number (both daytime and evening) and where the photo was taken.

The 2013 calendars and consequently the winning images will be unveiled at the Ivinghoe Church Fete on **Saturday 16th June**.

The competition closes at midnight on **Monday 30th April 2012**

All entries will be judged by a panel of judges. The judges will select thirteen photographs for each calendar which, in their opinion, best illustrate

the glory of our local area. Winning entries will receive a copy of the relevant 2013 calendar.

A full copy of the rules can be found at; www.ipsmchurches.co.uk

Friends of St Mary's Christmas Wreath Making

After a busy 2011 fundraising, the Friends of St Mary's concluded the year with a festive wreath making course held at Ivinghoe Town Hall in December 2011.

Ticket sales proved so successful that for the first time the Friends provided two sessions enabling them to assist 40 local ladies to create some splendid yuletide decorations. The course proved to be a fantastic event and creative juices were helped to flow with mulled wine and mince pies throughout the day.

Pam Cook, one of the course organisers and expert wreath maker, said: "The event raised a staggering £810, so a huge thank you to those that attended and a special thank you must go to all those who kindly 'donated' much of the evergreen foliage from their gardens in preparation for the day, and to Sue Jones, who kept the refreshments flowing throughout the day."

"Fundraising is vital to St. Mary's restoration and maintenance for long term preservation of this historical building. So it is hugely rewarding to see events like this being so well supported by our local community."

The Friends would also like to acknowledge the very kind donation of Norway spruce and fir from Neil Rodgers, Ringshall.



*Babs Byrom (pictured above)
with a festive creation*

It is support from the community that has enabled the Friends of St. Mary's to raise £2,800 throughout 2011 and they are already busy planning the next event in 2012.

If you would like to hear about the Friends of St. Mary's forthcoming events, get involved with the Friends or to simply donate then please contact: Ali Wade on 01296 662446.

Souper Lent Lunches 2012

Be sure to book in good time for these popular lunches which raise funds for local charities while also providing an enjoyable social event.

Tickets available in February from :-

Margaret Cole 668 005; Alex Wynne 668 336; Win Winstone 660 755; Vanita Patel 661 968 or Sheila Stephens 668 952

The Chapel Fellowship 2012

It has been three years now since my wife Sheridan and I moved down to Pitstone from Dudley in the West Midlands. In that time we have seen quite a few changes in the life of the 'Chapel'. We have introduced a more contemporary style of worship and we are fortunate to have live music almost every week.

We have 'moved house' - both spiritually and physically—and are very settled in Yardley Avenue Lounge thanks to AVHT's good offices. All of our visitors have said what a warm, friendly and loving atmosphere there is for worship, and the presence of God's Spirit is active among us.

There were 8 regular worshippers back in the days of the old Chapel, now we have a regular congregation of 14 to 16. It was a wonderful time together for our Carol Service when 25 attended—many more and we would need a larger meeting place! If we had that number each week we

would need to actively start looking! It would be a nice problem to have.

Our family has been living in the manse on Castlemead for a year now since the fellowship was able to buy a more permanent residence. We have benefited from not having a high rental repayment, but this is only part of the vision. We still work towards a new place of worship and as and when necessary this asset could be turned into capital to provide for this.

We would like to thank people in the village for welcoming us into the community. Playing a part in caring for the community is also part of our vision for the fellowship's future and we have tried to make a contribution through 'Party on the Green', the Car Scheme and 'Xplorers' for the kids, which unfortunately we have had to suspend for the time being, but who knows?

We have enjoyed our time here so far and look forward to our future here. A warm welcome is always waiting on Sunday mornings at 10.30am —why not pay us a visit and make your own mind up? We'd love to see you.

Wishing you a Blessed 2012

Pastor Dave

Contact ; - 12 Windsor Road, Pitstone. LU7 9GD

Tel;- 01296668906

Email;- davidclifford954@sky.com

Community Groups

Ivinghoe Entertainments

Welcome to the New Year – we hope it will be a good one! I am pleased to announce the details for the Ivinghoe Festival 2012

(Continued on page 50)

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Pastor Dave Clifford

"The Church Forward" logo

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Email: davidclifford954@btinternet.com

Pitstone Car Scheme



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

CAN WE help?

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

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

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

Example costs (excluding car parking):

DESTINATION	MILES	ROUND TRIP	COST £
TRING	4	8	£2.40
STOKE MANDEVILLE	7	14	£4.20
CHESHAM	9	18	£5.40
L & D HOSPITAL	10	20	£6.00
AMERSHAM	12	24	£7.20
HIGH WYCOMBE	20	40	£12.00

So, for a return journey to attend an appointment at Stoke Mandeville hospital, the cost will be just £4.20 plus the car parking fee.

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

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

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

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

Dave Clifford on 01296 668906.

(Continued from page 46)

Summer Ball: Friday 22 June 2012

A local ball for local people, supporting local causes and a fantastic evening too! The sale of tickets for the Summer Ball will be on Saturday 03-March from 09:30 at the Town Hall, Ivinghoe. As an incentive we are offering a £5 discount for individuals attending both our Summer Festival events.

You will be pleased that we have managed to maintain the cost of the event at the same price as last year (£55) while maintaining the event format. As in previous years, we are offering the opportunity to spread the cost of the event an initial (non-refundable) deposit (£20) payable upon booking the tickets the balance (£35) payable by mid-May.

Highlights of the event are:

- The return of “Choice” providing live music entertainment,
- Pre-selection of 3 options for your Starter & Main Course,
- Hosted in the marquee on Ivinghoe Lawn,
- Catering by Cuisine Excellence,
- Rose & Crown providing the bar, and
- Dancing until 1am

Comedy Night: Saturday 23 June 2012

We have listened to the feedback from last year and have radically changed the event for 2012. We are pleased to say that our event will be associated with the “**GET STUFFED Tring Comedy Festival (Tringe)**” – the Tring Comedy Festival extends to Ivinghoe!

The costs for the evenings’ entertainment will be £15.

Highlights of the event are:

- An evening of comedy entertainment – please note that this is likely to be targeted at the 16+ age group,

- Hosted in the marquee on Ivinghoe Lawn
- No food will be available – please bring your own snacks, and
- Rose & Crown providing the bar

Fireworks November 2011

The bonfire and fireworks event last November was a fantastic success thank you for those that came along and supported the event also those that provided feedback.

Charitable Donations

We are in the position to make further charitable donations to local groups within / around the villages of Ivinghoe & Pitstone. If any local organisation would like us to consider making a donation to them that will help provide or enhance facilities for the villages please contact any committee member.

Graham Hollands

Chair – Ivinghoe Entertainments

ivinghoeentertainments@gmail.com

*** Ed: vote of thanks to Graham who he tells me is due to step down as Chair of IvinghoeEnts shortly. Thanks to him and all the hardworking committee members who volunteer many hours of their time to IvinghoeEnts and put on a fantastic programme during the year for our community. Here's to a fantastic 2012! ***

Ivinghoe and Pitstone W.I.

Happy New Year to you all from all the members of Ivinghoe and Pitstone W.I.



When somebody mentions the Women's Institute, what are the first thoughts that come into your head? A group of old dears sitting around drinking tea, singing Jerusalem and making jam? I can assure you that Ivinghoe and Pitstone W.I is nothing like that.

(Continued on page 54)

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Pitstone Memorial Hall

Hire Availability Notice

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

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

Hire fees vary depending on venue and time. Please contact the booking clerk for more information.

Booking Clerk; **Mrs. S Gregory 01296 661609**

(Continued from page 51)

We're a very busy bunch of ladies who enjoy meeting up a least once a month for various talks, outings, general get-togethers etc etc. We've enjoyed talks on various topics including "Can I help you I'm a paramedic", "The Life and Works of Claude Monet", "My Life as a Prison Officer" and "Barking Mad". We've had outings to the Olympic Village, Westminster Abbey, Dunstable Ten Pin Bowling and Frithsden Vineyard for supper and wine tasting, to name but a few. We've a thriving Supper Club visiting a different local pub each month, a Rambling group (summer months only), usually ending up with a well earned glass of wine or two.

We hold occasional workshops including jewellery making which seems to be enjoyed by all. We had a wonderful 3 course meal at our Christmas meeting along with entertainment provided by various members. We've provided lunch/teas for a number of organizations which helps to boost our funds and you've probably seen us on the back of a float in the Church fete parade promoting the W.I.

We've a membership of about 40 ranging in ages from 30 to a lot older, some of the members are working full time, part time, are retired or are stay at home mums, what we have in common is that we like to enjoy ourselves.

We offer all this for a yearly subscription of £31.50, but why not come along for a free taster evening, we meet at the Town Hall on the 2nd Thursday in the month at 7:45 p.m. I'm sure you will be made to feel very welcome.

The programme for 2012 is looking equally as busy and interesting, all will be revealed at the January meeting.

If you need any more details please call either myself on 668405 or Win on 660755.

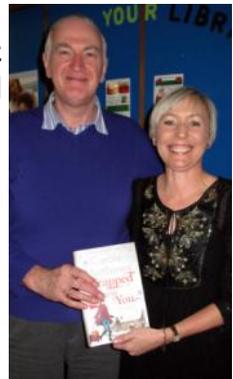
Julie Haynes
President

Local writer wins award

A short story set against the background of this year's summer riots has won Pitstone author Dave Sivers first prize in a competition organised by Wendover-based Chiltern Writers.

Dave's story, *Pink With Envy*, tells how an ordinary girl gets caught up in the riots and finds herself presented with an opportunity to loot the pink jacket she covets.

The judge, top author Carole Matthews (pictured with Dave), described the winning entry as "a master class in how to construct a short story. Dave was presented with a copy of Carole Matthews' latest bestseller, *Wrapped Up in You*, at Chiltern Writers' Christmas social. His prize also includes afternoon tea with the author.



Dave, is well-known locally as a freelance writer, contributing to local newspapers and magazines, and published his crime fantasy novel, *A Sorcerer Slain*, as an eBook in August. The sequel, *Inquisitor Royal*, will follow shortly. Dave said of his latest success, "It's always nice to have your work appreciated, and recognition from a top selling author like Carole is extremely satisfying. Winning this competition is the cherry on the cake in what has been a good year."

1st Ivinghoe & Pitstone Rainbows and Brownies

1st Ivinghoe & Pitstone Rainbows have now been running since May and of the 10 original girls who joined, two have now successfully moved on to join Brownies with the places being filled quickly from our waiting list.

We have had great fun during our first two terms and have enjoyed making such goodies as mud pie (complete with worms) and edible bonfires! Rainbows first appeared in public when girls representing the unit were seen at the Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church. I was very pleased when people came up to me after the service to comment on how well the girls had behaved and exactly who were the little girls dressed in bright red! We had our first official outing as a unit when we attended the panto at Pendley,

the girls all joined Buttons on stage to sing "Old Macdonald" and had a great time. We are looking forward to celebrating the Rainbows 25th birthday in 2012.

We meet on Mondays from 4.30 to 5.30 p.m. at Pitstone Memorial Hall. If you are interested in putting your daughter's name down on the waiting list for either Rainbows or Brownies, please contact me. We take girls at Rainbows from age 5 and welcome interest from girls aged 3 and upwards for the waiting list.

Elaine Thorogood, Brown Owl
1st Ivinghoe & Pitstone Rainbows and Brownies

e-mail:

elaine.thorogood@btinternet.com

Windmill Pre-School

One year ago in January Windmill Pre-School opened its doors at our new purpose-built premises in Ivinghoe. We have had a fantastic year and are looking forward to 2012 being another successful year for us all.



We held a Halloween event in October just before the half term holiday and invited all children, and their parents and carers to attend. It was a great opportunity for our parents to come into pre-school and see more of what their children do during session. We had Halloween themed crafts and pumpkin carving and it was another opportunity for parents to meet with their child's key worker.

Towards the end of last term we held a Christmas party for all the children which was attended by almost 30 children. There were lots of Christmas themed crafts and activities, biscuit decorating and everyone stayed for a party lunch. During lunch we had a visit from a very special man in a red suit and white beard who gave all the children a present – they all received a book ranging from Kipper to the Gruffalo's Child. Once Father Christmas had left pre-school I'm told he was spotted by many of the children at Brookmead school, who were enjoying a normal playtime after lunch. He caused quite a stir and lots of the children chatted to him through the fence!

We ended the year with our Nativity on the last day of term. We have historically put on the show in the

Memorial Hall but thought we would try it at the new building albeit without a stage for the children to perform on. We discussed holding a carol concert instead of a Nativity play but all agreed we wanted to stage the Nativity as we traditionally have.

Thank you to Brookmead School who kindly lent us some adult-sized chairs, as we felt we couldn't ask parents to sit on the children's chairs! With some parents seated and some standing at the back, everyone was able to see their child taking part. I was very proud of all the children and staff for putting on a fantastic nativity performance. We also served refreshments and held a fundraising raffle with many prizes, including a first prize of a huge cuddly white tiger donated by one of the Management Committee members.

We are looking forward to many more fundraising events in 2012. The first big event currently being organised is a Children's Valentine's Disco. Following the success of this event last year we decided to host it again for the children of Pitstone, Ivinghoe and the surrounding areas and their friends. The disco is being held on Saturday 11th February at 3pm at Pitstone Memorial Hall. It is a fancy dress disco with the theme of dressing up as a character you love –

all children and adults are invited to dress up and there will be prizes for the best costumes! JNC Discos will be providing the DJ and music. There will be refreshments and crafts and lots of dancing and games to look forward to. We look forward to seeing you there to support the event and raise much-needed funds for pre-school.

The early part of 2012 will see us recruiting for a temporary Pre-School Leader as Lana will go off on maternity leave. We are advertising both internally and externally and are striving to find the right person to maintain and continuously improve the standards we have set ourselves and had recognised with our Outstanding Ofsted rating in 2011. Visit our website for more information on the vacancy. We aim to have the person in place in time for a good handover period to ensure a smooth transition between leaders and all look forward to welcoming Lana back, after her maternity leave.

Every month we see Castlemead expanding and new families moving to the villages. If you would like to find out more about pre-school and your child attending we look forward to hearing from you. To get in touch please contact us via email at admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk, call

the Pre-School on 01296 661031 or visit our website
www.windmillpreschool.co.uk

On behalf of the Management Committee I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a belated Happy New Year and look forward to seeing many of you at our forthcoming events during 2012.

Katrina Blunt

Chair, Windmill Pre-School Voluntary Management Committee

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Source: Ofsted report June 2011

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Facebook: Pitstone and Ivinghoe baby and toddler group



Girlguiding

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



1st Ivinghoe & Pitstone Scout Group. Scout HQ, Next to the

Lawn in Ivinghoe

TIMES

Beavers: Leader: Michelle Lee 01296 668467
(ages 6 - 8)

Mondays, **Watermill Pack** 6-7pm, **Windmill Pack** 7-8pm

Cubs: Leader: Hattie Mackinder 01442 824358

Windmill Pack: Wednesday 6.30 - 8pm

Watermill Pack: Thursdays 6.30 - 8pm

Leader: Rob & Andrea Haddock 01296 663615
(ages 8 - 10½):

Scouts: Leader: Russell or Rachel Smith 01296
661213 firsti_pscouts@yahoo.co.uk (Boys &
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News from the Rose and Crown, Ivinghoe

Happy New Year to all from the team at the Rose and Crown! A big thank you for all the support over 2011 given by our lovely local customers as well as the visitors to the area. I can't believe that another year has flown by and we are into the year of the London Olympics. As well as the Olympics we have the European Cup, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and no doubt much more on a local basis so this is stacking up to be another busy year.



Reflecting on 2011, there were many highlights with the Rugby World Cup (now who won it, anyone remember?), the Royal Wedding, a lovely early summer, etc. But one highlight was surely our longest-suffering customer Henry who turned 80 and had a surprise birthday party at The Rose and Crown. Some photos have recently surfaced of this event and are shown here for posterity.

We hope that 2012 will continue to see the old Rose and Crown well used by the community. Groups such as the Vinghoe Velos, the bridge group, photo group, Knit and Natter etc. all seem to be active and prospering and always are welcoming of new members as well as a number of club and organisational committees which are using the pub as a meeting venue. The quiz nights have restarted and we are also starting a games evening combining traditional pub and electronic games. Keep an eye on the website for more details. As always feedback is welcome so if there is something you would like to see us do this year or stop doing, please bend our ear.

Cheers for now and hope to see you soon!

Alistair and team

www.roseandcrownivinghoe.com

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News from the Business Park

‘Pitstone Firm Scoop National Awards’

Bowles and Wyer, until recently were known to me only as, a business on the Pitstone Green Business Park to which I delivered a copy of this magazine.

I now know that the company founded in 1993 by Chris Bowles and John Wyer has grown, through careful planning, into a company with a £2 million pound annual turnover.

It was reported in the *Bucks Herald of December 14 2011* that **Bowles & Wyer** scooped two awards at the national New Homes Garden Awards in London. **Garden designer**, and **landscape architect of the year**. Making them the first company to be awarded both accolades in the same year.

Bowles and Wyer were showered with a further three gold awards for:

- **best urban garden**, for a contemporary garden scheme at a private residential property in St. John's Wood.
- **best landscaped urban development**, at The Collection, on the site of the former Saatchi Gallery site in north London.
- **best communal garden**, for the private residents garden at the Lan-casters development in London's Hyde Park.

They also achieved an award for national design excellence, at the British Association of Landscape Industries Awards in 2011.

The Parish Post is happy to include articles about 'life on the Business Park' so if you have news please share it with us.

Reporter: Klaus Ginda

To book Yardley Lounge for an event please contact Linda Taylor, Supported Housing Officer, on 01296 732718, 07738 314975 or email linda.taylor@vaht.co.uk



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Baby's First Café, Pitstone

The Café is a meeting place for breast feeding mums to meet other mums and to chat about breast feeding problems with a trained advisor over coffee and biscuits.

From Tuesday 1st March, we will meet at the vinghoe and Pitstone Sure Start Children's Centre, Brookmead School, High Street, Ivinghoe at the new time of 9.30 – 11.00. (access by the path to the right of the school entrance).

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‘The training to understand health problems, the time to listen’

Film Club: would you be interested in a 'cinema' in Pitstone?

The Leisure Survey and Older Person's Tea Party last year identified a need for films to be shown locally, as some find it difficult and expensive to travel to a local cinema in time for a showing.

In the first instance we need to set up a working party to investigate whether people in Ivinghoe and Pitstone would support a Film Club, to determine what is possible and whether that meets the need. A number of enthusiastic villagers, have indicated their willingness to step-forward and help with this.

Let us know what you think

Please let us know what you think about having a Community Cinema in Pitstone. Text 'pitstone cinema yes' to 60300 if you'd like a community cinema in Pitstone or Text 'pitstone cinema no' to 60300 if you don't think it's a good idea

We'd also like to keep you updated on what's happening with the Community Cinema. To join our text news service text 'pitstone filmnews start' to 60300. To cancel your subscription text 'pitstone filmnews stop' to 60300

For all messages, do not include the quote (") characters and don't put anything else in the same text. Texts you send will cost you one message at your standard network rate. You are not charged for any messages received from the service, all costs are borne by Pitstone Parish Council"

In the meantime, don't forget that.... the villages of:

Eaton Bray run a monthly club, on Monday afternoon's at 14.00 hours at their village hall, run mainly to interest pensioners it is followed by refreshments and a catch-up with friends.

Contact: Graham Chappell on 01525 220883.

Wilstone run a monthly club held at 20.00 hours on a Friday aimed at the wider community.

Contact: Richard Smissen 01442 823523

Ivinghoe already have a group called 'Reel Issues' which meets at the Vicarage on the 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 19.30 hours first to watch the film and then to discuss it the following week.

Contact: Rev Tracy on 668260

Get involved

If you would:

- like to be part of this working party
- are interested in attending a Film Club
- would like to add other groups to be catered for
- have any other view you wish to express
- or would like more information.
-

Please contact: Klaus Ginda, 7 Chequers Close, LU7. Phone 668911 E-mail: Klausginda@btinternet.com. With your help and support we can make it happen and in the May issue of the PPP progress will be reported.



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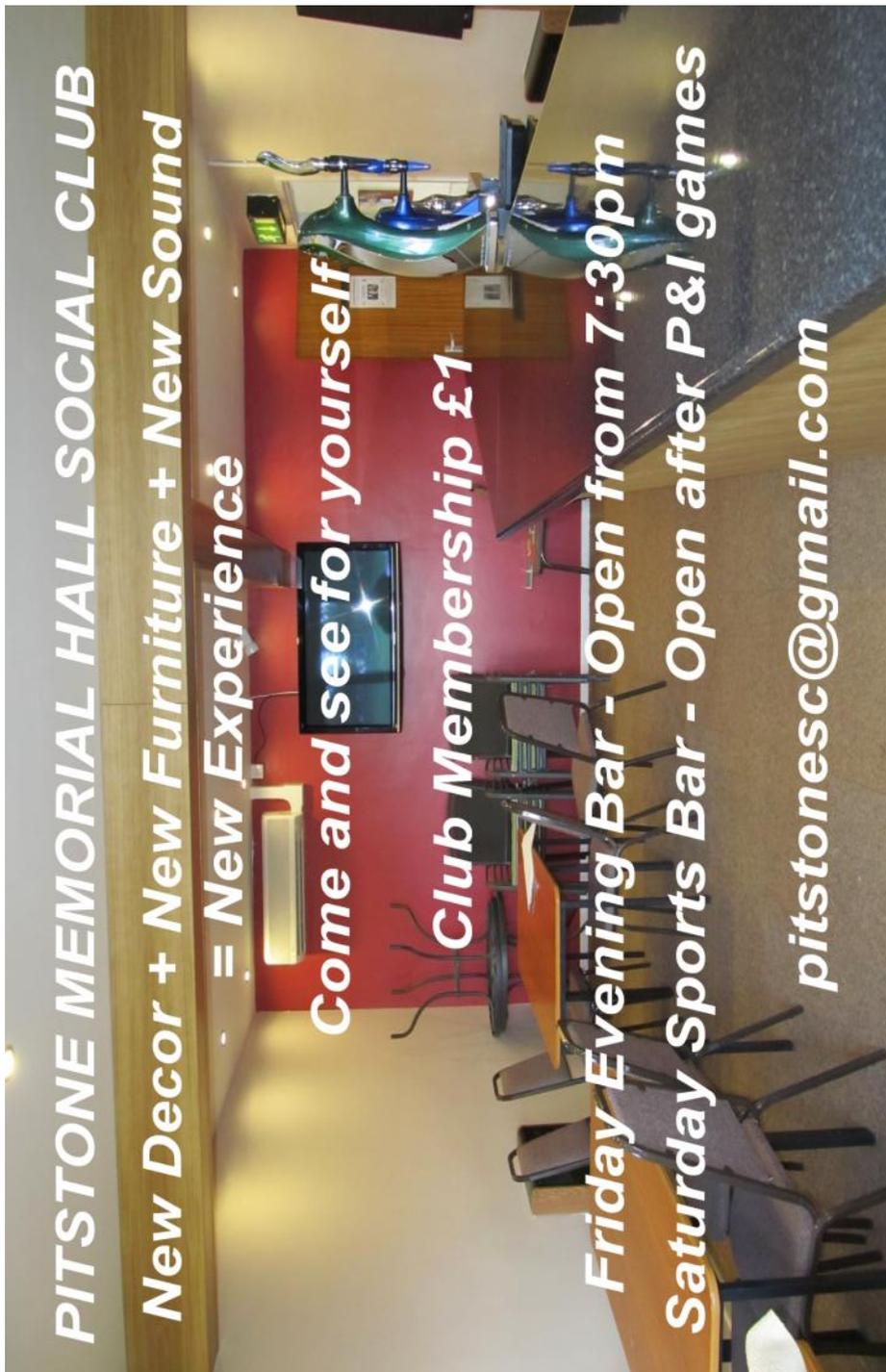
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THE CHRISTMAS STORY REDISCOVERED

The combined local churches presented the Nativity story as never seen before at Slapton Equestrian Centre on Sunday December 11. It was the third year running that the churches of Ivinghoe, Pitstone, Marsworth and Slapton (IPMS Churches) had presented an 'outdoor Nativity' for people of all ages to enjoy.



The latest play, written and directed by local writer Dave Sivers, told the story from the viewpoint of the Angel Gabriel.

“I think one of the fascinating things about the story of Jesus’s birth is that there are so many elements,” said Dave. “Mary and Joseph, of course, the Wise Men, the shepherds... and each of them would have had their own tale to tell.

“But this time, I thought it would be interesting to take a look at how Gabriel was working behind the scenes to make sure everything happened as foretold in the scriptures. It’s a fresh way of rediscovering a well-known story.”

The Equestrian Centre generously provided its biggest arena for the event. The IPMS Churches outdoor Nativity began life in a barn in Ivinghoe Aston in 2009 and moved to the Equestrian Centre in 2010.

The cast was composed of local actors, with the part of Gabriel taken by Jane Grimmette. Many of the cast had appeared earlier in the year in a murder mystery play for the local WI.

The production also included carols led by the Beacon Community Choir and music by the St Mary’s Music Group. Judith Sheridan, who recently toured India with the Toccata ensemble, was the Musical Director.

Pitstone Jazzercise Open House Charity Event

On Wednesday 11th January, the main hall of the Memorial hall was the venue for a fund-raising event run by Keri Donnellan and her fellow instructors, of **Jazzercise**. The evening was in support of the **Rett Syndrome Research Trust** co-founded and run by Rita Ross who lives in the village.



Rett Syndrome is the most physically disabling of the autism spectrum disorders, it can strike randomly in early childhood, affecting little girls almost exclusively. The Research Trust are making huge progress in finding a cure for this disease, which in turn will lead to progress with other neurological disorders.

Currently there are no effective treatments for Rett Syndrome and sufferers, who can expect to live into adulthood, require total, 24-hour-a-day care. Identified just 25 years ago, its as wide spread as Cystic Fibrosis, Huntingdon's and ALS, but is vastly under funded by comparison. For more information log into www.reverserett.org.uk

A total of £120 was raised through admission fees and a raffle and for that a big thank you to all those who raised a sweat in aid of a good cause and to **Jazzercise** for promoting the exercise in a good cause.

Williamson Trust: 2012 grant distribution

This is a single annual grant determined by the interest accrued from assets, in the previous twelve months, divided by the number of qualifying beneficiaries who must live in the parish and be aged 65 years and over.

Unless they had previously declined, residents 65 and over in age receive a grant distributed in the first quarter of the year. In 2011 the total distributed to 144 homes was £5545. (£45 paid for a couple in the same household or £35 for someone qualifying singly.) The amount to be awarded in 2012 is still to be determined. The trustees (detailed below) anticipate sending it out during March of this year.

Newly qualified residents and those, in this age group, that have recently moved to Pitstone should make themselves known to a trustee. If you know someone of 65+ please make them aware of this information in case they missed this article and are not on our current list.

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	POSITION
Mary Saintey	2 Albion Road	668633	Chairperson
Kate Smethers	41 Albion Road	661499	Treasurer
Gill Lowe	21 Rushendon Furlong	668809	Secretary
Sue Gregory	4 The Crescent	661609	Trustee
Klaus Ginda	7 Chequers Close	668911	Trustee

Poppy Appeal

I would like to put in a big thank you to all who contributed to the poppy appeal in 2011. I beat last year's target and managed £ 1.717 .00 plus many little stories that went with it.



Joe Marling



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For further information, please contact the Manager Michelle Andrews on 01296 662292, email admissions@cheddingtonpreschool.co.uk or visit: www.cheddingtonpreschool.co.uk

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Chairman of the Council, Chairman of the Planning Committee, Chairman of the Pavilion Committee, Chairman of the Staffing Committee, Rep. on the Memorial Hall Committee, the Pitstone Development Area Working Party, Local Area Forum, Neighbourhood Planning

**Vice Chairman, Cllr Ben Blunt**

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Vice Chairman of the Council, Rep. on the Pitstone Development Area Working Party, the Planning Committee, the Pavilion Committee, the Staffing Committee, Waste/Minerals, Rep. with Brookmead Governors, Local Area Forums, Recreation Ground & Playground Inspections, Neighbourhood Planning, Pitstone 2020 rep.

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Allotments, youth cafe, Recreation Ground & Playground Inspections

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PPC Communications, Castlemead Representative

**District and County Councillor: Avril Davies**

The Old Bakehouse, Chequers Lane

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Lib Dem spokesperson for Strategic Planning on AVDC; Adult Services on BCC. Special interests; environment and NHS

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Clerk to Parish Council, correspondence and enquiries