

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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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 Pitstone Parish Council

Although the few days up to the time of writing have been quite cold and included some snow, there are clear signs of spring all around the village. While remaining mindful of the continuing need to be careful, I look forward to seeing more of you as the easing of lockdown allows us socialise again.

As we leave what I hope will be the last lockdown, I would like once again offer my thanks to the numerous volunteers who stepped in to support residents in so many ways.

My gratitude also goes to councillors, and particularly the clerk, for their efforts in the extended 6 year term of office. For me in particular, their advice and support during my time as chair has been invaluable.

Because there were fewer candidates than places, there will be no parish council election. We

already know that the new council forming in May will comprise mostly returning councillors. We are, however, looking forward to welcoming one new face.

It is not yet clear whether future meetings will be in person, online, or a mixture of the two. As it stands, the legislation that allowed the council to legally hold online meetings will expire just after the election, and the Government has said it will not be renewed. There are other legal proceedings that are seeking to retain the ability to meet online, but if they fail, there will be a period where the need to meet in person will conflict with the COVID rules that are in place. We will keep residents informed.

Finally, I would like to wish all Pitstone Residents a safe and enjoyable spring.

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.

Pitstone Pavilion



The full redevelopment of Pitstone Pavilion was completed at the end of 2020. This great new facility, including a community room, kitchen, changing village, senior & junior football pitches and training area is now available to book. Please contact us for more information.



Pitstone Pavilion
Marsworth Road
Pitstone
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 9AP



Community Room



For more information or to book:

pitstone.co.uk/localinfo/pitstone-pavilion

Email: parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk

Telephone: 01296 767261

Or scan the QR code:





Pitstone & Ivinghoe Junior Football Club are looking for someone to take on the role of Club Secretary.

Our current Club Secretary is stepping down as her son is going off to University later this year. She has carried out the role for the past 3 years and will make sure a thorough and supportive handover takes place.



What is the role of the Club Secretary?

To fulfil administrative tasks for the club.

Forward on email information received from the FA to managers.
Forward on email information from leagues to relevant managers.
Annual affiliation of the club to the County FA - this means working through steps online to submit information to the local FA (Berks & Bucks).

Liaise with managers to book Astro turf requirements over the winter months.

Co-ordinate set up of new U6 manager's email each year.
Pay any fines received from the FA - from the leagues for various reasons (we rarely receive fines as a club) or for players' yellow/red cards (also rare!). This is paid out of a kitty given to you.

Attend league meetings specifically for Secretaries (now on zoom). Approx 3 or 4 a year. Distribute information to managers.
Take minutes at P&I JFC meetings and distribute (approx every 8-12 weeks).

Organise the Club's AGM, take minutes and distribute.



How much time will I need to dedicate to the role?

On average about 1-2 hours a week. At peak times, it can be 2-3 hours but this is only ever a week here or there.



What else can you tell me?

It's great being part of a village football club! You feel you can make a difference and help provide local children with the football they love. From committee members, to managers, to parent helpers, to children playing - we are all such a good, supportive, fun team of people!



Who should I contact to express my interest or ask for further details?

Amanda Kingswell on secretary@pandifootball.net



PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Laurie Eagling, Parish Clerk

Skate park tendering commenced

The skate park tendering information was issued to potential contractors at the end of March and is available on our website. We have received initial input from a group of regular local skaters, and further user & community engagement will take place towards the end of May / start of June once we have established a list of contractors that are suitably qualified to deliver a good quality facility. We hope to be able to arrange some form of open event where you can view initial designs but will need to be guided by COVID legislation in force at the time. Please do keep an eye on our website, Facebook page and Twitter feeds for updates so that you can get involved.

The multi-use games area being installed by Nicholas King Homes is not due to pass to the parish council until the end of July as following completion it will still need to undergo an independent post-installation inspection plus assessment by Buckinghamshire Council prior to the snagging issues being completed and then finally being awarded a Certificate of Completion and passing to the parish.

Staff Changes

We are pleased to welcome Luke Martin as an Asset Inspector, taking over

from Dave Barratt. When you see Luke out and about checking that our playground equipment, fences, trees and benches are safe and well maintained, please do make him feel welcome.

Youth Café

We hope to re-open some form of youth café in May once the COVID restrictions permit. It is likely that it will be operating from the new pavilion site as Brookmead School is not available to us. The café will need to be responsive to changing covid guidelines, so may have to close or adapt at short notice. We will be operating in a COVID-Secure manner so will only be able to permit a maximum of 15 young people per session. Anyone wishing to attend will have to book in advance. We are very sorry, but if you have not booked, you will not be able to be admitted. Session times will also need to be reduced, so that we can operate one bubble of 15 young people from the Year 7 intake between 6.15pm and 7pm, then break for a full clean of our space, followed by a second bubble of 15 young people from Year 8 and above from 7.15pm to 8pm.

We appreciate that this solution is not ideal, but the youth café would normally have had between 30 and 40 attendees per week, and to keep everyone safe we

must operate within the government guidelines in place at the time.

Our Café Manager has made 4 new skate ramps for the young people to try, and our front car park is fully illuminated so they can be safely used throughout the winter (weather permitting).

Anyone who has already registered with the youth café should receive an email communication from the café manager in due course. If you have not registered previously, or you do not receive an email, please contact youth.cafe@me.com. The café manager will advise anyone who has booked for a session of any changes required to follow guidance in place at the time, for instance if café has to temporarily cease.

Please like our Facebook page or follow our Twitter feed and/or register with the Café Manager by emailing youth.cafe@me.com, to get updates.

We look forward to seeing all the familiar faces back at café again, after such a long-enforced break. We also look forward to welcoming the new cohort.

£1,486 grant provided to Windmill Pre-School

In February, the parish council was delighted to award a grant of £1,486 to Windmill Pre-School, which has been able to take out a lease on the adjoining **building (previously the Children's Centre)** and thus expand the pre-school capacity and offering available for local families.

The funds will be utilised, alongside monies raised by the pre school fundraising initiatives, to purchase outdoor equipment to provide an outdoor classroom and sensory area,

which will benefit all young attendees and is especially important for those with special needs.

The council was delighted to be able to support the pre-school with this initiative **and to hear that the old Children's Centre** will be re-utilised to expand the local early years provision.

If your local community group could benefit from a grant, please see our Grant Awarding Policy available here: <https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/grant-policy/xt>

Westfield Road speed mitigation

You will be aware that as part of the adoptions process between Buckinghamshire Council (BC) and Taylor Wimpey (TW) that the location of the 30/60mph was moved from the village gate to close to the junction of Warwick Road. It materialised that the signs had been incorrectly placed in the first instance and had never been in a legally compliant location. Buckinghamshire Council arranged a site inspection by their road safety team and Thames Valley Police and has since agreed to install two additional lamp posts, relocate the 30/60mph point half-way back to the gate, install 30mph roundel in the road **and install painted dragons' teeth**

between the gate & start of the 30mph zone. BC has further agreed to install traffic monitoring once the new solution is in place, which will determine if the measures are successful in ensuring traffic slows to the prescribed speed and offered a dedicated community board sub-group to investigate further mitigation measures if necessary. BC will also investigate if TW can repaint the village gates as part of the adoptions

process. Buckinghamshire Council are not consulting on their planned response and the parish council has no legal powers to force the highways authority to take alternative action.

It is hoped that the increased presence of visual reminders will prove more effective than the previous single 30mph sign on the gate. It is recognised that some residents remain concerned about the BC proposals and the parish council will continue to liaise with BC on these matters. We will also continue to work with BC to ensure that their measures are installed as soon as they are able and to review the monitoring data once available so that we can push for further measures if those implemented are proved not to be effective.

Elections in May

Both Buckinghamshire Council and the parish council have elections on 6 May 21, postponed from last year due to the pandemic and postponed from the previous year due to the unitary changes at BC. By the time you read this publication the date for residents who are willing to stand for election to submit their nomination papers to BC

will have passed. We hope that many of you will have taken this opportunity to volunteer your time and get involved with this tier of local government (parish councillors are all volunteers, who provide an average of 3 hours per week of time).

The number of council seats in Pitstone has increased from 10 to 11, in line with the growing population figures.

There have been 10 individuals willing to stand for election, and because this is fewer than the maximum, Buckinghamshire Council will issue a Notice of Uncontested Election and these individuals will automatically be offered seats. If more than 11 residents had put themselves forward, there would be a full election on 6 May with the successful candidates being offered seats. The parish council will need to fill the one vacant position via co-option. We will keep you all updated throughout the election process.

Our thanks go to outgoing members for their many hours of voluntary service on behalf of our residents and we extend a warm welcome to all new members.

Pitstone Parish Post is promoted and published by Pitstone Parish Council, 9 Warwick Road, Pitstone, Bucks LU7 9FE.
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COUNTY NEWS

Anne Wight, County Councillor, Ivinghoe Division

One of the primary aims of **Buckinghamshire's 16 community boards** is to listen to local people and take action on the matters that concern them most.

That is exactly what the Wing & Ivinghoe Board has been doing as they reviewed the projects and initiatives they have helped support in the past six months.

At the board meeting members reviewed the projects they have agreed funding towards and approved two more. Applications for funding are welcome from any group or organisation within the local area of a community board but are most likely to be successful if they link to one of the areas the board has a particular focus on. Working groups reflect the topics that local people have raised as areas they would like a greater focus to be given.

The Wing & Ivinghoe board currently has four areas that it is particularly focused on this year and working groups have been set up to address each one:

- Environment
- Covid-19 recovery
- Health & wellbeing
- Transport

At the meeting board members and residents could see where the funding agreed so far has been used including new traffic calming measures, improvements to **children's play areas and crisis funding** to local groups providing support to local

people during the pandemic. The board also acknowledged that parishes and residents from different areas of the locality are working together in a much more collaborative way.

Members also agreed funding for Whitchurch Wildlife Community Group to purchase basic gardening and outdoor equipment to carry out work in the village to improve the surrounding environment of both residents and wildlife. The group hopes the project will have multiple benefits from improving and maintaining natural habitats to supporting the health and wellbeing of residents, enabling people to come together in a productive and sociable way.

There are lots of different ways to get involved and several subcommittees are up and running, so why not join one and join in the conversation on topics of interest to you? Everyone is welcome at the meetings and can join in the Facebook groups by contacting us via the email address below.

To find out more about the Wing & Ivinghoe working groups email wingandivinghoe@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

You can keep up to date with all the latest news from the board on visit the Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board Facebook page.

You can view a recording of the meeting on YouTube.

MUSIC ON THE LAWN



As part of St Mary's 800+ celebrations, the Beacon Community choir's popular open air mini-festival is returning to Ivinghoe Lawn. Bring a picnic and relax to an afternoon of music provided by the choir, and local musicians. Enjoy a feast of music from Folk to Jazz, solo artists to bands and everything in-between, plus a few surprises.....



A licensed bar and teas and cake provided by the W.I. will be available all afternoon

Bring your friends and families and help make this year's festival extra special

SUNDAY 11TH JULY

LAWN OPENS 12.30 to set up

MUSIC FROM 1.00 - 5.00pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE DAY AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE ARENA OR IN ADVANCE FROM lhewlett@btinternet.com



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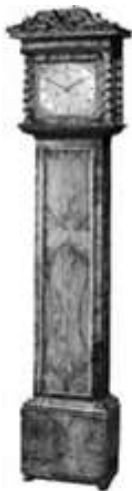
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ASHRIDGE RAMBLINGS

Rikki Harrington

The Forty Nine Steps

No, not a sequel to the famous John Buchan novel, but a mammoth effort by the Ashridge team to prevent further



erosion of the footpath leading from the sharp bend in Beacon Road towards Duncombe Terrace and thence the Visitor Centre. The very wet winter led to the path getting wider and wider as walkers tried to avoid a mud bath and gain traction.

Sign Here

The Trust has a statutory duty to look after the wildlife and archaeology throughout Ashridge, and an obligation under its charter to cater for the needs of visitors. Reconciling these sometimes-conflicting requirements can be a tricky management issue, as exemplified by the above example. In this light, it seems worth reviewing the meaning and purpose of some of the signage on the estate.

Public footpath



These can only be used by pedestrians. They are often unsuitable for cyclists and horses because of their narrowness or

steepness, which would cause danger to pedestrians, or they support wildlife that is particularly sensitive to the extra compaction caused by tyres. On public footpaths, pedestrians should be able to expect to enjoy a walk without encountering cyclists or horses.

Definitive public bridleway



There are over 30 miles of these throughout the estate, and they can be used by pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists. By law, cyclists must give way to pedestrians and

horses on public bridleways.

Chilterns Cycleway



Duncombe Terrace is part of the Chilterns Cycleway, even though it is not a public bridleway. Cyclists may also

use Thunderdell Drive.

Permitted bridleway



These can be used by pedestrians, and by horse riders who have a permit. They provide a rare opportunity for riders with young and nervous horses to

ride in places where they will not encounter bikes.

No cycling, No horses



In one sense, these signs are superfluous, as cyclists and horse riders may only use the blue-marked public bridleways and the Chilterns

Cycleway, but they provide a useful reminder in tempting spots!

Field margins



These provide refuges for wild flowers, which attract insects that help to control crop pests. If they are not

marked as rights of way, they should not be used.

If you don't know Ashridge well (or even if you do!) there are four colour-coded circular trails of different lengths which you can follow, starting from the Visitor Centre. There are also some circular walks described on the website: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge-estate/lists/self-led-walks-at-ashridge>. Enjoy!

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY



With effect from week commencing 12th April we are pleased to be able to welcome you back into the Library again.

Opening times are:

Tuesdays/Thursdays/Fridays 2-5pm

Saturdays 10am-1pm.

As before we will be limiting the numbers allowed in at any one time to ensure that you can visit safely, and we look forward to seeing you.

Keep up to

date with the latest information on our website www.bvcl.org.uk

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General enquiries:

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Committee enquiries:

secretary@bvcl.org.uk

Did you know that your local churches in Ivinghoe, Slapton and Marsworth run a Food Bank?

Do you know of anyone who is in need of food or are you short of food yourself?

Please call Babs on 07860 780127 or for other enquiries for St. Mary's Church Ivinghoe, 01296 668648

All calls will be dealt with confidentially and we will arrange for a box of food to be left on the doorstep

If you would like to donate food, please leave it in the porch behind the war memorial.

Thank you!



Ivinghoe Handbell Ringers

Alex Wynne



There is a set of hand bells belonging to **St. Mary's Church Ivinghoe** and there has been an evolving group of hand bell ringers in the village since the 1950s. At present we cannot meet but are hoping to restart soon. Until March 2020 we had two groups who met on either Monday afternoon 2-4pm or evening 7.30-9.30pm. We play for various events and organisations in

the villages or in local care homes.

However we have to wait until 6 people can meet together indoors to start practising. If you would like to join the group when it restarts, you need a good sense of rhythm but do not need to be able to read music. We are a friendly group and it is a lot of fun.

Ring 01296 668 336

THAMES VALLEY ALERTS

A message from Megan Dean PCSO

Thames Valley Alerts is a system where we can send an email to specific communities and areas if there has been an incident or crime in that location. This not only enables people to be extra vigilant but it also keeps them informed of what is going on in their area.

Follow this link to sign up to receive alerts:

<https://thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/>

Due to COVID, its harder for PCSOs to reach communities in ways we used to (Have Your Say events etc) but we would like to communicate as much as we can, to reassure people and keep them informed of relevant information.

Scouts

1st Ivinghoe and
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ST MARYS CHURCH NEWS

Babs Byrom, Church Warden



Spring is here, what a pleasure it is to see the hedgerows abound with new life, the buds exploding with colour as well as the different shades of green leaves completing the picture. I always think it is lovely to see the lambs happily playing in the fields, another sign of new life before our eyes.

St Mary's doors have had to be closed for a lot of the time during the past year



like many others, but plenty has been going on behind the scenes. Weekly services have continued via Face book, Zoom and telephone which has been a wonderful way of being able to keep in touch. Sandra mentioned in her winter report about the appointment of our new vicar, we are hoping that this will take place by the summer.



Prior to Christmas we had around 22 Beavers visit us in the grounds of the church to learn more about the **foodbank which is run from St Mary's**. The children were interested to learn how we looked after and cared for the families in our local villages that we are supporting and had lots of good questions. This was followed by a Nativity trail which had been organised and they were joined by more children from the villages. It was a great morning. Our foodbank continues to support

many families locally.

A successful Easter egg hunt was also organised for Easter Saturday which as you can imagine went down well with lots of children attending. I am told that it was delightful to hear the joy and laughter coming from the children as they found the treasured Easter eggs.

2020 marked the 800th anniversary of St Mary's, and we had lots planned to celebrate this, as with many things, all had to be cancelled. We are planning to pick up these during 2021, so keep your eyes open for adverts letting you know about them. It would be great to meet new faces (and of course regulars) that have moved to live in our delightful

villages and it would be a perfect opportunity to be able to welcome you.

If you would like any further information regarding events or church services please contact myself, on 07860 780127 or David Green 01296 668648.



BEACONLIT 2021 CANCELLED - BUT WATCH THIS SPACE!

The BeaconLit Festival Committee has decided to cancel its 2021 book festival, which it had hoped could be held in Ivinghoe on Saturday 10 July.

“Cancelling our festival for the second year running has been a painful decision to take, but we have concluded that it's the right one,” said co-founder Dave Sivers. “Although the signs around lockdown easing are encouraging, there is still some uncertainty about large indoor gatherings. As a smaller festival, we are able to be more nimble in some regards, but we can't avoid the fact that if we had to run a socially distanced festival, the restrictions would mean it wouldn't be financially viable, nor would it be a great experience for our audience or guest authors.

“We are most optimistic that we will return in 2022 with a stellar lineup, and we are considering whether any sort of live or online events might be possible in the meantime. So we're bitterly sorry to disappoint you, but watch this space.”

In the meantime, the highly successful 500 word flash fiction competition, BeaconFlash, is still running, with opportunities to win prizes and get good value for money critiques for your writing. Details are at beaconlitblog.wordpress.com.

You can also make a donation to support Ivinghoe Library, for which BeaconLit raises funds, at <http://www.beaconlit.co.uk/beaconlitonline2020.php>.



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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



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- Simple text notification of trip requests from our coordinator.

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

If you deliver the PPP and your name is not in the list on page one then please let the editor know by emailing pppeditor@pitstone.co.uk. We want you to be recognised for your brilliant help!



IVINGHOE COMMUNITY HUB

Carol Tarrant, Hub Chair

Hello Pitstone Community! We hope you are slowly coming out of hibernation and having a warm stretch in your gardens! What has occurred over this lost year? The Trustees have had five in person Hub Trustee Meetings that I have chaired over the last year, plus further meetings on Zoom.

We all five Trustees have spoken together in keeping everything to Government Guidelines. To make sure that we were well prepared for anything that Covid-19 might throw at us, we attended several Community Impact Bucks Village Hall Volunteer Manager Meetings via Zoom, sharing experiences and gaining advice from CIB and their parent body ACRE over this concerning time.

Last summer, I spent a couple of weekends and a few weekdays patch-painting the Hub walls and gloss painting the hall, all three lavatories, the IT Room, the lobby/corridors and the cloakroom. The Government have been very generous in providing claimable grants to see everyone through and we claimed the appropriate grants needed for all at the Hub to stay afloat!

We repurposed our wellbeing Project away from the Government instructed closure of the Hub and built up 26 generous village volunteers to assist the Ivinghoe Community from home, delivering groceries, medicine, and people to appointments, organised through our **"WhatsApp-ning in Ivinghoe?"** chat, Ivinghoe village's own Covid-19 Mutual Support Group. Again,

thank you volunteers - you made us all feel much supported and safer!

While the building has been closed, we have organised many repairs and arranged for a new kitchen floor in the café. We continued to walk to the Hub to empty the two bins on the fence, but more recently negotiated Karen, our Hub Cleaner, to incorporate this task and undertake it regularly – and many thanks to her for continuing to provide a good service for us as our Covid secure guardian Angel!!

We are so sorry to have cancelled, again, our traditional booking from the Easter Bunny for a lovely Egg Hunting Day, like Valentines and Pancake racing, covid restrictions would not allow it - we could not guarantee keeping all those chocolatey **fingers safe... although we wished Windmill** Pre-School well in doing some safer alternative. We have already planned our 'All-day free BBQ come-back relaunch **Open Day**' and it should be a very happy open-day event as soon as the summer promises us a good weekend day! Until then we are taking note of the gentle relaxation of lockdown restrictions, and are starting to hire out our hall, slowly and with time in between, to make sure everything is cleaned and safe. We will come back as Trustees with full determination to get everything straightened out, strong, welcoming, balanced and supportive as usual and hopefully with some added volunteer offers to back us up as Trustees in our role, into **the bargain!?' 'Many hands make light work!'**



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PITSTONE CEMENT WORKS - A TIME TO REMEMBER

Klaus Ginda



1927-1939

The plan for a Cement Works at Pitstone originated in 1927 when the site was designated as suitable. However interested parties, at the time, could not raise the capital required. Pitstone was a natural site for the production of cement as glacial action had exposed the low chalk. Cement was already being produced within the Chiltern chalk belt at Sundon, Houghton Regis and Chinnor

and the area was well served by rail and road routes and water and electricity was readily available.

Tunnel Cement's parent company, the Danish F. L. Smidth's first acquisition in this country was at West Thurrock, Essex shortly before the First World War. West Thurrock grew to be the largest cement works in the country having started life in 1873 on the site of Tunnel Farm from which the name of

Tunnel Cement was derived.

On 25th February 1936 Wing Rural District Council approved plan number 313260 which allowed for the erection of a cement works on land which up until 1923 had been part of the Bridgewater Estate. This was F.L. Smidth's first greenfield site and the last Cement Works to be built in the Chilterns.

Tunnel Cement (Pitstone) Ltd commenced production of cement clinker on the 20th September 1937. The first Works Manager was Mr. Ulrich who was among many employees who transferred from West Thurrock in early 1937. Mr. Ulrich set up residence in the former Pitstone Vicarage known as Erleigh Manor. He was later joined by Gunnor Larson a senior engineer with the company.

The first load of cement was packed by Wally Chatten and delivered to Marley Tiles, Leighton Buzzard, on 2nd November 1937.

Senior staff were housed in homes built by the company. The first of which were six homes constructed by H.C. Janes of Luton in Vicarage Road.

1939 -1945

The reign of King George VI had seen the Tunnel works establish itself not only in the area but in the industry.

During World War 2 the company's Head Office in London was evacuated to Pitstone with the arrival of, among others, 47 female office staff billeted at Moat Farm. Wooden office building were erected for the newcomers, on the site of the Works and a canteen was opened in the Main Office.

1945 - 1965

In Pitstone, after the war, the Company's landholding increased to about 1,000 acres with the acquisition of College and Folly Farms which had formed part of the Pendley Manor Estate. This enabled development to occur in support of national post-war reconstruction.

Kiln 1, built of riveted steel plate had a production capacity of 100,000 tonnes per annum or 400 -700 tonnes per day. The construction of Kiln 2 started in 1951 and it was lit in March 1952. No.2 Cement Mill was commissioned in June 1952 adding a further 130, 000 tonnes of output.

The opening of the Top Site (Quarry 2) was a landmark occasion towards the end of the Coronation Year in 1953. A large drilling programme was carried out on the land that became Quarry 2 which was then unfenced and included an old Rag Pit. Site surveys showed where the chalk suitable for the manufacture of white cement was situated. The Wash Mill Kiln 3 was lit up in November 1954 bringing total Works capacity to 360,000 tonnes per annum.

This period of expansion saw the building of, first, six employee homes in Church Road with a further two added in 1957 occupied by Bill Smith and John Hills who had just returned from Cyprus Cement to join the electrical department. In 1958 two houses were built on Meadow Lane one being occupied by the new Works Manager Mr. Poul Rusager and Erleigh Manor was rebuilt for senior management.

Small quantities of a sulphate resisting cement were marketed from October



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1953 and a large special-purpose plant came on-line in March 1955.

No. 3 Cement Mill was commissioned in April 1956. A separate plant was built comprising clinker silos, cement mill, cement silos, packing and loading facilities and in June 1957 the production of white cement started and continued until the middle of 1972.

Kiln 4 with a capacity of over 200,000 tonnes was a consequence of George **Brown's National Plan of 1956** prompting the industry as a whole to undertake further expansion. With a chimney of 250 feet it was commissioned in November 1963 and with No. 4 Cement Mill the six new 3,000 tonne silos built by Tileman in 1962 greatly added to the storage capacity on site.

Heavy fuel oil essential for firing the kiln during white cement production showed a huge quality advantage in the production of sulphate resisting cement. The 1957 Suez Crisis saw coal providing the main fuel to combat soaring oil prices, but as these fell with an improving Middle East situation the plant was completely converted to oil firing by 1966. Oil gave Pitstone a cost and quality advantage and buoyed management to invest in Kiln 5.

1968 -1978

Kilns 1, to 4 all used what was known as the semi-wet process of production. At a cost of £7 million Kiln 5 was designed to use an alternative dry process. The process was, in large part, pioneered by F. L. Smidth piloted at a site in Denmark the process was approved and introduced into this country by the company.

Construction of Kiln 5 started in March 1968, the whole plant, apart from the new laboratory, was built quite apart from the rest of the Works. The new chimney was of a tapered design; measuring 350 feet and soon became a landmark to traffic approaching the district from every direction. Kiln 5 was to be serviced by new bucket excavators in Quarries 2 and 3 feeding belt conveyors which led into the works. Kiln 5 came to life at the beginning of 1970 with a capacity of 300,000 tonnes **per annum. As part of it's introduction** quarrying at night came to an end.

Works Manager Poul Rusager retired in October 1969 and was succeeded by Ron Burnett.

Commissioning problems with Kiln 5 proved a steep learning curve as Tunnel management wrestled with the challenges of harnessing a new process.

The Pitstone Works having moved to full oil firing in 1966 moved five years later to North Sea Gas which was then cheap and plentiful.

In March 1972 Works Manager Ron Burnett left and was replaced by Mike Ray who had led Padeswood.

After World War 2 F. L. Smidth's stock holding in Tunnel was reduced to about 30% and in 1973 they were bought out by Thomas W. Ward Ltd who already produced cement at Ketton near Stamford and together with Tunnel operated a site at Clitheroe in Lancashire.

1973 marked the zenith of cement production Sales declined thereafter putting pressure on the less efficient parts of the industry. In Pitstone

November 1974 saw sixty-five employees made redundant.

Moat Farm House was converted from domestic to office premises, in

poor fuel efficiency made conversion to coal uneconomic. Kiln 4 and 5 would survive the cull and convert to coal. Kiln 4 had in it's favour the sole production;



of Sulphate Resisting Cement which sold at a premium. 1979 -1987 1979 heralded a period of contraction when the Pitstone Works was to move from 5 to 2 working kilns. 150 employees were made redundant and subsequent modifications to the plant completed by 1980.

1975 to house the General Manager's Office together with Sales and Development personnel.

George Goddard transferred from West Thurrock in January 1975 and became the new Works Manager the following April.

In 1976 Tunnel's site at West Thurrock closed with the transfer of key staff to Pitstone.

As fuel prices rose in the ensuing **years the Government's decision to link** gas prices to that of oil threatened the **viability of Pitstone's Tunnel Cement and put a dark cloud over it's future.** In November 1978 the decision was taken **to resuscitate Pitstone's viability by** reverting to coal firing. Kilns 1, 2, and 3 would shutdown from May 1979 as their

In 1981 Quarry 2 saw the tired and worn out bucket wheel excavator replaced by a crusher/feeder working in tandem with a hydraulic excavator more able to handle the hard chalk and supply crushed material into the Works with reduced maintenance costs.

The same year saw the computerisation of office practices together with the introduction of Visual Display Units (VDUs) to place the Cement Works in the vanguard of this new technology.

Tunnel Cement and Thomas W. Ward Ltd. were acquired by the Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation plc in 1982 when RTZ Cement Ltd was formed. Surplus clinker from the Group became available to grind at Pitstone where the

cement mills and silos infrastructure existed to support 5 kilns. Sales slowly grew and the Works was kept at full stretch with the additional clinker coming from Ribblesdale.

The various trading names continued until November 1986 when all the plants started trading under their final incarnation of Castle Cement.

In 1984 the cement industry became quality assured, leading to stiff regulations in the production of cement to guarantee standards in the industry by the issue of BSI numbers.

The Industry's Common Price

Arrangement was voluntarily concluded after fifty-three years by the Cement Maker's Federation in February 1987. It is a strange coincidence that the Industries Common Price Arrangement lasted for 53 years a life span close to that of the Castle Cement Works which survived 54 years.

1987 heralded a modest increase in the demand for cement which with the earlier collapse of world oil prices and subsequent reduction of the price of gas resulted in Kiln 3 being recommissioned in June 1987.

This however was to prove misplaced optimism in a revival of the Tunnel's fortunes in an industry that flourished, when unregulated, in a post-war Britain that saw growth as a way out of economic woes and floundered when, growth slowed and they were forced to complete through price when the cement they were all trading was essentially the same, with the exception of the Sulphate Resistant Cement which was peculiar to Pitstone.

1987-1991

In September 1987 Kiln 5 had produced a total of 5 million tonnes of clinker since **it's commission with a grand total for all five kilns amounting to approximately 20,500,000 tonnes.**

In the first fifty years of it's operation the Tunnel transformed itself into a Castle, saw Pitstone grow five times its' original size and twenty cement manufacturing plants close in the United Kingdom. In 1991 Pitstone joined the list of closures. It's empty shell became the; backdrop for video and film productions by among others the Light House Family, Richard Harris and Doctor Who. In 1994 Castle Cement proposed Quarry 2 (124 acres) which spread into Hertfordshire be used as landfill, for twenty years and then be restored. This was overturned by John Gummer, Minister for the Environment, on the grounds that it would adversely affect an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Instead it was transformed into College Lake the vision of Graham Atkins a former lorry driver at the Cement Works who gathered a group of volunteers around him to make his dream come true.

In July 1998 an agreement in principle was signed for the redevelopment of the Cement Work site for 275 houses and light industrial premises.

The Works stood till Boxing Day 1998 when the chimney topping event raised more than £10,000 for two local charities Iain Rennie Hospice at Home and Macmillan Cancer Relief. Lynn Wilson of Wilcon Homes had the honour of firing the first of four

chimneys brought down on a dismal Saturday morning when the weather matched the mood of some of the hundreds of onlookers who had gathered to watch. Geoffrey Palmer the well known TV actor was on hand when the first of three raffle winners Wendy Fitzgerald a local resident representing the Iain Rennie charity was given the responsibility of pressing the plunger to blow up a second chimney assisted by her four year old grandson George. Alison Burton from St. Albans

supporting Macmillan's went next. The fourth and last chimney brought down that morning was reserved for Jim

Dymond chosen from among former employees. Jim Dymond, travelled from Nottingham, he had worked; at Pitstone between 1975 and 1991 transferring to **Castle's North Wales site before** retiring. The explosions and subsequent crashing to the ground of the chimneys caused enough disturbance to rattle nearby houses.

Kiln 5's forlorn monumental chimney stood alone for a further month 350 feet of diminished grandeur, before it too was swallowed up in a cloud of dust, consigned forever to the memory of all who recognised it as a landmark to either work or their way home.

About Rennie Grove Hospice Care (see next page)

Rennie Grove Hospice Care gives adults and children in Buckinghamshire and west Hertfordshire who have a life-limiting illness the choice to live as well as possible at home surrounded by family, friends and the things that matter to them most right until the end.

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We also provide a range of day services at Grove House in St Albans.

We support the families of our patients by offering counselling, listening and other practical and wellbeing services during the illness and through bereavement.

Our care is provided at no cost to our patients and families and we rely on the generosity of the local community to help us raise 88% of the £8.1 million it costs to fund our service every year - £20,000 each day.

We work with other healthcare providers, such as GPs, district nurses and other hospices to ensure co-ordinated care and a seamless service.

Rennie Grove has 27 shops that raised £3.3 million in 2019-20.

Rennie Grove relies on the support and expertise of over 1,500 regular and part-time volunteers. We estimate that the value of the hours given by our volunteers is approximately £1.5 million each year. Our volunteers were honoured to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2017.

Rennie Grove's children's Hospice at Home team is also supported by the Pepper Foundation.



Have you been invited for your COVID-19 vaccine?

Healthwatch Bucks would like to hear about your experience.

Please give us your views on how things went by doing our survey.

Or perhaps you have been invited but decided not to have it? Please tell us more about your choice by doing a shorter survey.

You can answer as a relative or carer on behalf of someone else.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HWBucksVaccFeb>

We will write reports based on what people tell us. Your responses will be summarised in the reports. We will share our findings with the Bucks organisations involved to highlight any way in which the vaccination programme could be improved. We will also publish the findings on our website.

This survey does not collect any data that can be used to identify you. Therefore, please do not include any personal information like names or detailed health notes in the free-text responses.

We are sorry that we can't send out paper copies at the moment but if you leave a message for us on 01844 348839 we will ring you back and take your answers over the phone.

Contact details

If you have any other questions, please email info@healthwatchbucks.co.uk or ring us on 01844 348 839 and leave a message so we can call you back.

You can also post your feedback about local health and social care services on our website (<https://www.healthwatchbucks.co.uk/your-feedback/>).

Healthwatch Bucks is the county's independent health and social care champion. We exist to ensure that people are at the heart of care. Teams of staff and volunteers listen to what people like about local health and social care services, and what could be improved. These views are then shared with the decision-making organisations, so together a real difference can be made. More information: www.healthwatchbucks.co.uk



Introducing the Tour de Rennie Grove cycle challenge



Rennie Grove Hospice Care is launching an exciting new cycling event in June this year. The event will be held virtually over three consecutive weekends beginning on 12-13 June. The routes will be based in an area of Buckinghamshire and west Hertfordshire that the charity's nurses drive every day while delivering vital hospice at home care for people with life-limiting illnesses.

Each route will be approximately 50 miles in length, and riders are able to choose to do one leg or the full tour. The registration fee per leg is £10, or £25 for the entire tour. Participants will also receive the first ever Tour de Rennie Grove branded cycling jersey.

Registration will remain open until 11 June.

Find out how to register at www.renniegrove.org/tourderenniegrove or email tourde@renniegrove.org for more information.



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

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

tel: 01296 668809,

email: Gill.lowe@pitstone.email

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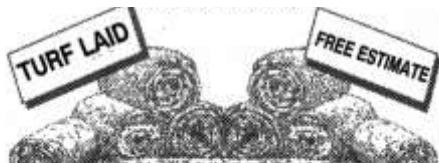
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LOCAL INFORMATION

LOCAL VENUES (SUBJECT TO COVID RESTRICTIONS)

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

Pitstone Pavilion: Newly renovated and extended building with community room overlooking the sports ground, kitchen with external serving hatch, toilet facilities and changing village connected by a covered walkway. Dedicated parking for >40 vehicles plus 8 bicycle racks. Full disabled access and induction loop. wi-fi. Widescreen TV also enables powerpoint presentations for meetings. No bar.

Contact: email parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk , telephone 01296767261 or visit <https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/sport-and-recreation/>

LOCAL CLUBS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact: 07545 347787

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

Contact: 01296 661540

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

Contact: 01296 661540

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

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

Contact: Sue Andrews sue_andrews1@hotmail.co.uk

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. Mary's 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

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Ivinghoe baby and toddler group

Brookmead School: (est. 1967): Head Teacher Esther Taylor, 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, office@brookmead.bucks.sch.uk

Friends of Brookmead textile recycling: Please put your unwanted textiles i.e.

adults' and children's 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 Level 1 qualified.

Email: chairman@pandifootball.net www.pandifootball.net. U16 see advert in mag.

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

Churches Conservation rust (St Mary's Pitstone) visitchurches.org.uk or phone Jean Boothe 01296 661745

St Mary's Ivinghoe: Contact: Sandra Green (Lay Minister) 01296 668648

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

Contact: Sue Nicholls 07788 662349 or check out <https://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 Plus: Keep fit for older folk followed by optional gentle sport. Not for profit. Cheddington Village Hall. Thursdays 10 - midday. Contact: Chris Hall, 01442 824350

PLACES TO VISIT

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Adults £3, children £1. 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://](http://www.transportforbucks.net/report-it-street-lighting.aspx)

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/](https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/nuisance)

[nuisance](https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/nuisance) or <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/environmental-problems>

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

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

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

www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/search-planning-licensing-applications 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 Café and Village Web Site.

Vice Chairman, Cllr Bob Saintey



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

Cllr Margaret Crutchfield



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Chair of Planning Committee, Allotment Officer, Sports & Leisure, Youth Café, Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity, Community Self Help Plan, Pitstone Parish Charity and

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Cllr Ben Blunt



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Chair of Staffing Committee, Planning, PDA, Minerals & Waste and Local Area Forum.

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