



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).

We are very grateful to the following

distributors, who deliver the magazine to your door every quarter:

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Advertising

Relevant information is available on the Pitstone Village website. <https://pitstone.co.uk/pppadverts/>

If unable to use this simple form, contact klausginda@btinternet.com

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Cover illustration

Stephanie Nicholls

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dave Nicholls, Chairman Pitstone Parish Council

In the last couple of months the Parish Council has discussed two things at the opposite end of the technology spectrum.

Firstly, we have been running a campaign to try to get faster fibre broadband to the village. Currently, most areas have access to fibre, but only as far as the cabinet that the line comes from. We are trying to get the much faster, fibre to the property option made available. We have been collecting details of people who would like this to happen (See here: <https://pitstone.co.uk/pitstone-full-fibre/>) and will be passing on all the information to Openreach so they can look into whether installation is feasible. Internet speeds differ quite a lot across the village, with some areas being quite slow, so an improvement will be welcome.

Secondly, we've been discussing the printed version of the PPP. Editing and distribution is all handled by volunteers, and the printing is supported by advertising, but this doesn't cover the full cost. We continuously review council costs and the PPP is a good example of where a decision has to take into account conflicting requirements. We

have a duty to spend public money wisely, but we also have a duty to be as inclusive as possible. We know that most people can pick up information via Facebook, Twitter, or our website, but we also know that the noticeboards are important to some people and that the PPP covers things that the noticeboards don't.

In short, we know that the PPP is important to some people, but we don't know how many. We have looked at printing fewer copies and only delivering to those who request it, but this would be hard to manage and the list would, almost certainly, get out of date quickly as people move in and out of the village.

We decided recently, as we have before, that the need to be inclusive still outweighs the cost. If you do find the PPP valuable please do get in touch with the clerk and let us know. Please also let us know if you think that there are changes, or extra information, that would make it more useful.

Finally, if you are a local business that would like to support the PPP by advertising see here for rates and T's and C's: <https://pitstone.co.uk/pppadverts/>



PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Laurie Eagling, Parish Clerk

Welcome to Amy, our newest councillor



The parish council is delighted to welcome Amy Dragon as our latest parish councillor.

“Myself and my partner moved to Pitstone just over a year and a half ago as we want to build a life here together surrounded by natural beauty. We feel lucky to have found such a beautiful place to live that has such great community spirit. I felt eager to be a part of the parish council so that I could help and support our community as I enjoy being involved in local projects, supporting local businesses to thrive and I feel passionate about protecting our

special place that we live in and call home. “

Pitstone Pavilion

The 12-month remedials have now been completed and the final retention payments released to Neville Special Projects. Evenings are getting very busy, but we still have some daytime availability. Please direct any enquiries to 01296 767261 or 07939 809281.

Skate Park on the Recreation Ground

The skate park construction has been completed and the park opened nearly 3 -weeks ahead of schedule. The facility is being well utilised and is very much appreciated by all the local skaters and we are delighted to have been able to finally purchase this land and provide these facilities. Once the grass has had time to grow, it will blend into the vista from across the recreation ground. The skate park has been funded by a release of Section 106 sports and leisure funding, a community chest grant, a community leader grant, the parish council, some sponsorship from local companies and some fundraising by the users. We are currently working on a skate park event – look out for details via social media and banners at the site.

We are, sadly, experiencing a huge volume of litter dropped around the skate park, and some anti-social behaviour, including music being played into the evening. If you are using these facilities, please be considerate and respectful of both our neighbours and the new facilities. Please put all litter into the bins provided. More bins, including mixed refuse and recycling, will be installed shortly to try and encourage more responsible habits. Please also keep music to an acceptable level so that it can be enjoyed without causing distress to other users of our grounds or the surrounding properties, and switch music off after 8pm.

Multi Use Games Area and replacement car park

Discussions are ongoing with Nicholas King Homes and Buckinghamshire Council regarding these facilities. We will provide any further updates whenever we receive them.

Double Lane Cricket Practice Nets for the Recreation Ground

At the time of writing, the planning application has not been determined by Buckinghamshire Council. We have the funding available to progress with this project once planning has been granted. We will keep residents updated.

Fibre to Property Broadband

All properties that do not currently have access to fibre to property will have received a hand delivered leaflet from the parish council about this project. Information is also available on our website and social media channels, and there are banners advertising the project at the recreation ground and pavilion. We will be collecting expressions of

interest until 30 April 2022. If enough local residents are interested in registering for the scheme, Openreach will investigate and confirm whether they are able to proceed. If you are interested in a faster internet service for your home/business, please do read through the information and consider registering your details.

Keep Pitstone Tidy

We will shortly be launching a new competition to help 'Keep Pitstone Tidy' focusing on trying to reduce the explosion in litter and dog fouling seen over the last 18 months. Please keep a look out on our website and social media channels for more information.

Help for the Birds and Hedgehogs



A selection of 12 bird boxes, to provide homes for swifts, house sparrows and tits, have now been erected at our recreation ground, pavilion and local

green space sites. Swifts and house sparrows are both on the 'red' list of 'greatest conservation concern'. To find out more about how you can help the local birds please visit: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/> Our boxes were all hand made by the Sunnyside Rural Trust in Northchurch who provide training and work experience for people with learning disabilities. To order your own boxes, and support both the Trust and the birds, please email Matt on mattf@sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk. To find out more about the work of the Trust, please visit: <https://www.sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk/our-sites/northchurch/>

We are now working on a hedgehog project and will soon have Hedgehog Highway Surrounds which you will be able to purchase for £5 per unit. Access between gardens is vital for the survival of hedgehogs, enabling them to



successfully forage for food and find a mate.

Voluntary PPP Editor Required

This quarterly magazine is pulled together by our volunteer Editor who coordinates all the adverts, editorials and news articles, undertakes all the artwork and sends the document off to the printers. Sue Nicholls has sadly decided to step down, so we are on the look-out for a new Editor. This is a voluntary role. Technical skills required – MS Publisher & Word, Adobe Photoshop for photo editing & email. Personal skills required – organised, literate, reliable, methodical, careful and happy to work as part of the team. If you are the person with the drive to love & nurture PPP, please contact the parish clerk on 01296 767261 or parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk.

Annual Parish Assembly 19-5-22

After a leave of absence due to Covid, we are hoping to hold an annual assembly again this year, on 19/5/22. An Assembly is not an official parish council meeting but it must be chaired by the council chairman if he is present. It is an opportunity for residents to hear from your local MP, Buckinghamshire Council, Thames Valley Police, the local charities and the parish council about projects that have been completed over the last year and those in the pipeline for the forthcoming year. We also present the Volunteer of the Year award, and it is an opportunity for you to view the new pavilion facilities if you have not already had an opportunity to look around. You will have received an agenda alongside this publication, and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Queen's Green Canopy and Platinum Jubilee

The Queen is encouraging everyone to

participate in the Green Canopy project to commemorate her platinum jubilee, and to plant a tree. The parish council is planting and dedicating a maple at our pavilion site. Residents can find out more about how to join in by visiting this website: <https://queensgreencanopy.org/> We will also be dedicating our function room at the new pavilion to commemorate the jubilee, which will become known as The Platinum Room and a plaque erected at the site. The Ivinghoe & Pitstone Women's Institute will be decorating the village street furniture etc in time for the Queen's extended bank holiday weekend.

Information Panels for the Local Wildlife Site

We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded a grant of £2,500 towards the cost of the supply and installation of 4 information panels to promote the flora & fauna of the Local Wildlife Site off Westfield Road. We have also secured the permission of Taylor Wimpey to locate them at the site. There is still a way to go, to both artwork and get approval for the exact wording, but we will keep you updated.

And an update on local matters within the control of Buckinghamshire Council:

Westfield Road / Castlemead

Taylor Wimpey completed the majority of the remedial works within phases I-IV of Castlemead and those along Westfield Road (including those by the area that changed speed). As of 18/3/22 there are still a few works remaining, which need to be completed before Buckinghamshire Council can adopt. This phase of work by Taylor Wimpey excluded Phase V of

the Castlemead residential area and the business park, both of which will follow at a later date. We will continue to work with both BC and TW over the coming months.

Highways/paths updates

Glebe Close, Queen Street and Albion Road have now all been resurfaced. Marsworth Road does not yet qualify for resurfacing. The illuminated signs on the Westfield Road roundabout have now been replaced. The cutting back of the vegetation and siding out along the footpath between Pitstone and Marsworth remains outstanding from BC. Any resident can report a defect with the highway (eg pothole) or footpath to Buckinghamshire Council via their website <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/report-a-highways-problem/> or via the Fix My Street website.

Buckinghamshire Council are undertaking a final phase of design work relating to safety scheme improvements by Brookmead School. We will publish these on the website as soon as they are available.

The Buckinghamshire Council Freight Strategy has been re-consulted & concluded, and the consultation about parking restrictions near the quarry also concluded. We are now awaiting the outcome and actions following both.

Planning

There are several local planning applications for which we are still waiting for Buckinghamshire Council to provide a determination including submissions relating to the commercial areas within the Nicholas King Homes development (their application sought to convert

these sites to residential use), the additional properties by The Haldi and the business park development off Westfield Road.

As always, you can find full details of all planning applications on the Buckinghamshire Council Planning Portal.

Children's Competitions

Our congratulations to Emelia, Isabelle,

Mathilda, Rue, Charlie and Taleah whose submissions into the Pitstone Photography Competition were selected as the winning entries. Each child received a canvas of their winning photograph along with a certificate, and a further copy of the canvas has been mounted on the wall of the pavilion for all our hirers to enjoy.



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

IVINGHOE AND PITSTONE SAFETY SCHEME

In the recent past both Ivinghoe and Pitstone Parish Councils separately engaged Ben Hamilton Baillee Associates to draw up a concept safety scheme for the individual villages to enable pedestrians and road traffic to coalesce safely within the villages.

Both parish councils have been busy behind the scenes progressing this concept with Buckinghamshire Council and Transport for Bucks as the highways authority. As a result the two separate schemes are now known as the Ivinghoe and Pitstone Safety Scheme.

After many different surveys, concept designs, etc we are now at a point where phase 1 and phase 2 can be implemented. Both phases were chosen for early implementation as they have a direct effect on the younger members of our villages.

Phase 1 – Station Road, Ivinghoe

Phase 2 – Brookmead School

Many of you will have seen the resurfacing work taking place along Station Road by the junctions with Maud Janes Close and Ladysmith Road and outside Brookmead School. This work was in preparation for the two phases of the Safety Scheme.

Clear diagrams of both phases can be viewed at Ivinghoe library or online at <https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcnews/ivinghoe-pitstone-safety-scheme-update-april-2022/>

Any comments about the schemes can be sent to the following

- By email to parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk.
- By post to Pitstone Parish Council, Pitstone Pavilion, Marsworth Road, Pitstone, Beds, LU7 9AP.
- In person, simply drop your comments into the BLACK post box in the foyer of the Town Hall.

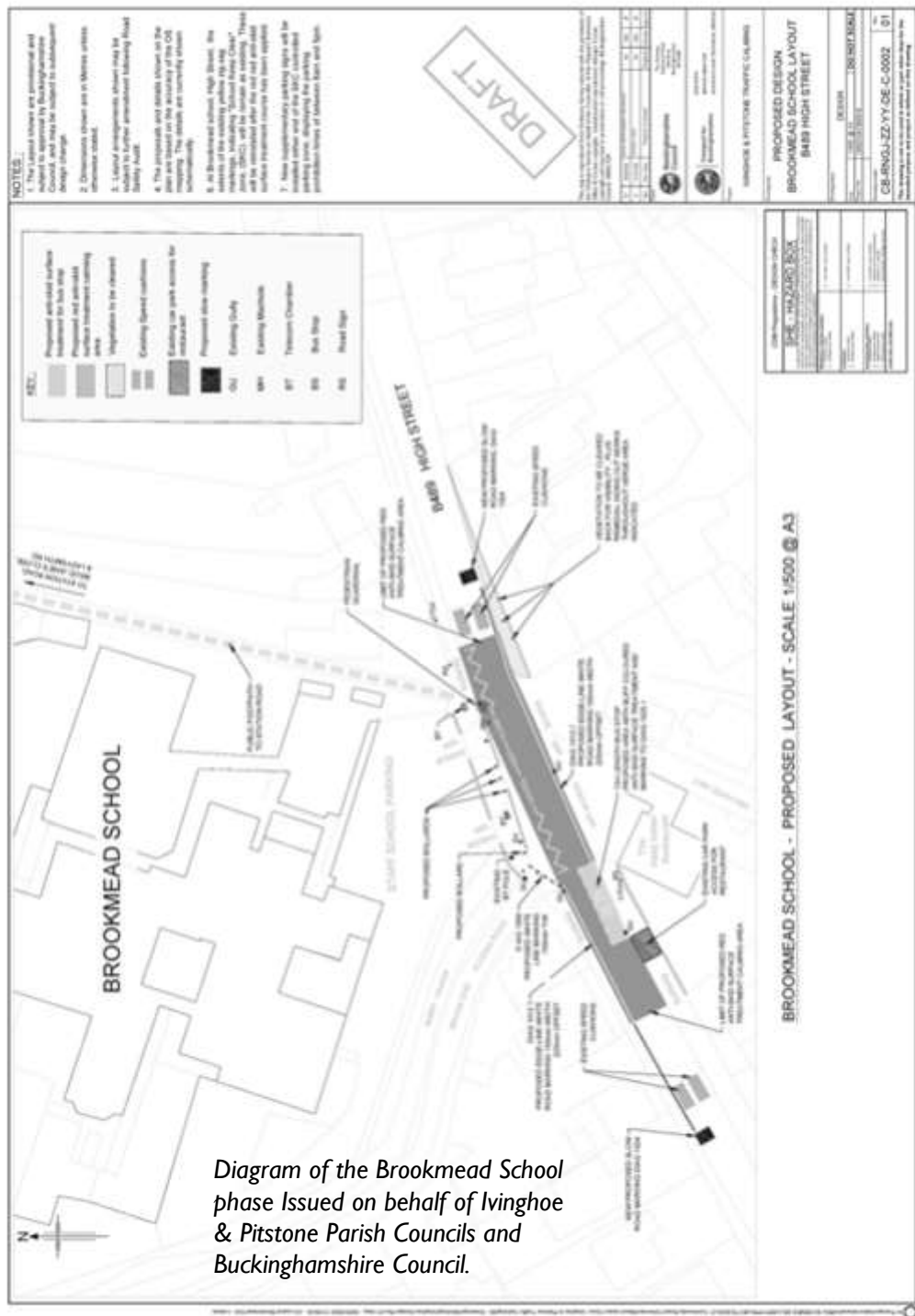
Phase 1 – Station Road, Ivinghoe

The design concepts here are to provide a 'safety zone' to enable a safer crossing point for children attending Brookmead School and also to provide additional parking for residents and the dropping off and picking up of children.

The scheme incorporates:

- A new crossing point in a slightly different location to the existing one.
- 2 new informal roundabouts
- New signage both on the road and on the road side
- Early warning markers when approaching from Great Gap/Ford End
- A 'grasscrete' parking bay for 5 vehicles (time limited parking during day time hours)
- A footpath from the parking bays to connect with the existing footpath to Brookmead School
- Anti-skid road surfacing
- New tree planting to increase biodiversity

It is envisaged that motorists will have plenty of early warning on the





COUNTY NEWS

**Peter Brazier,
Chris Poll and
Derek Town
County
Councillors for
Ivinghoe Ward**

Over 2,000 nominations received for Buckinghamshire's Local Heritage List

More than 2,000 sites and assets have been nominated by local people for inclusion on Buckinghamshire's Local Heritage List.

Using funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Buckinghamshire Council is working to improve the quality and extent of its Local Heritage List.

The Local Heritage List seeks to identify locally significant assets and celebrate their contribution to local identity and character. These assets can include historic buildings, archaeological sites, landscape features, historic parks and gardens and more. To date, over 2,000 assets have been nominated for Buckinghamshire's Local Heritage List, including clock towers, road signs, post boxes, bridges and lamp posts, as well as the usual historic buildings, heritage assets and archaeological sites.

The Local Heritage List Project Team is now seeking volunteers to help identify and assess assets important and

local to them. If you have an interest in heritage, particularly that of Buckinghamshire, and some spare time on your hands, this could be something for you!

For more information on the Local Heritage List or to register your interest in volunteering visit: Home - Buckinghamshire's Local Heritage List (local-heritage-list.org.uk) or email localheritagelist@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

More Bucks children offered first choice secondary schools places this year

Nearly four out of every five pupils in Buckinghamshire have been offered their first choice of secondary school in this year's allocations.

Figures for Buckinghamshire show that 78% of the 6917 children who applied for a school place were given their first-choice preference. This compares to 74% in 2020. A total of 99% of children in Buckinghamshire who applied in this year's process received an offer of a school place on Tuesday 1 March.

The school system we operated in Buckinghamshire can sometimes cause

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complications but I'm so pleased that we have been able to support the majority of our families in finding the right school for their child, to help them continue their education in the school of their choice.

Just over 10% of applicants received their second-choice placement and 4% were offered their third choice.

Only a handful of children, (0.0187%) have not yet been allocated a place. The reasons for this include late applications and preferences for schools far outside catchment or not meeting individual schools' entry requirements.

Offers must be accepted by 11.59pm on Monday 14 March. Families who wish to appeal their allocation can do so by following the guidance given on the Council website.

New licensing policy adopted for Buckinghamshire

Buckinghamshire Council has adopted a new policy that sets out how it will consider applications and issues relating to licensing. Under the Licensing Act 2003, the new Licensing Policy for Buckinghamshire replaces those that were previously being used by the former district councils.

The policy sets out how the Council will consider applications for licences for alcohol sales, entertainment provided at large scale or late-night events and late night food take-aways. It also explains the Council's approach to dealing with problems at existing licensed premises. The law requires

that the Council produces and publishes this policy at least every five years.

Before the policy was approved, the Council consulted with a wide range of people and organisations who might be affected by it, including the police, licence holders, members of the public and residents' associations. All the



Introducing the Anne Robson Helpline - If you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us.

At the Anne Robson Trust we aim to be there to listen to anyone who is struggling with the imminent death of someone they care about. We know that facing the end of life can leave you isolated and alone.

Calls are free and confidential – **Call us on 0808 801 0688**

Being able to access support whilst a loved one is dying is really important for a number of reasons. Gaining knowledge of what may happen towards the end and having a sense of 'preparedness' helps both the person dying and their family gain as much control as possible.

Please visit

www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service to find out more.

comments received were considered and some changes were made to the final policy as a result.

The policy includes elements that reflect how licensing can support the Council's core aims of strengthening our communities, improving our environment, protecting the vulnerable and increasing prosperity. Applications for permanent licences, and any significant changes to current licences must be advertised at the premises and on the Council's website. Anyone who might be affected by the proposed activities, or changes, can object if they think that any of the licensing objectives are likely to be undermined. These objectives are: the prevention of public nuisance, public safety, the prevention of crime and disorder and the protection of children from harm. Existing licences can also be reviewed and action taken where activities are causing a problem.

Are you caring for someone else's child?

Buckinghamshire Council is urging residents to get in touch if they are aware of children living apart from close family, as this informal arrangement could be what is known as Private Fostering and if so, by law, the council needs to be informed.

Children under 16 (or under 18 if they are disabled) who are living away from their parents or close relatives (such as aunts and uncles, grandparents, siblings or step-parents) for more than 28 days are classed as being in a Private Fostering arrangement. By law, the council must be told of this.

Private Fostering arrangements are

completely legal and can often be the best solution for the child. There can be lots of reasons why a child doesn't live at home and their parent has arranged for someone else to care for them. It might be due to illness or instability at home, being sent from overseas for education or healthcare, teenagers living with the family of their boyfriend or girlfriend, or something else.

As a council, we simply need to know about the arrangement so we can support everyone involved and ensure the child is safe and well looked after. So, if you think you might be involved in a Private Fostering arrangement, or if you are a professional and know someone who is in such an arrangement, please let us know, it's the law.

Last year, Buckinghamshire Council supported a number of children in a Private Fostering arrangement, but it is believed there are other cases it has not been made aware of.

Find out more at:

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/private-fostering or call the Connected Persons team 01296 383 962 or email: cypfirstresponse@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

Buckinghamshire Council to convert first refuse vehicle to electric thanks to government grant

Buckinghamshire Council has been awarded more than half a million pounds to upcycle its first refuse collection vehicle to electric. It marks the start of the Council's programme to convert its fleet to electric, resulting in zero exhaust

(Continued on page 16)

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emissions.

The £578,000 funding, which was announced this week, is from the Government's Air Quality Grant, which helps councils to develop and implement measures to reduce the impact of dirty air on people's health.

The grant will cover the cost of upcycling the first vehicle as well as providing a blueprint for the future conversion programme. The funds will also be used to pay for performance trials, spare parts and specialist equipment for maintaining the vehicle. It all paves the way for more vehicle conversions to follow in the future.

The upcycled 10-year-old Dennis Eagle 26 tonne refuse collection vehicle will travel 412 miles a week in the north of Aylesbury, including through three air

quality management areas. These are areas which have exceeded the air quality objective for nitrogen dioxide so the use of an electric refuse vehicle in these areas will also promote and contribute towards improving air quality. As a result of using the electric refuse vehicle, over 10 tonnes of greenhouse gas, 69 kg of oxides of nitrogen (NOx), and half a kilo of particulate matter emissions will be saved per year.

Air pollution is the single biggest environmental risk to public health. As part of the same government funding scheme Buckinghamshire Council has also been awarded a grant to purchase and trial low-cost monitoring sensors which will be part of clean air campaigns throughout the year.

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!



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MIDNIGHT WALK RETURNS FOR ONE LAST NIGHT

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity's annual Midnight Walk returns to Aylesbury for the final time after a two year hiatus on Saturday 16th July.

Since it began in 2010, the Midnight Walk has seen hundreds of men and women come together and take to the streets of Aylesbury, walking over 50,000 miles and raising over £650,000 for the charity over the years. But this will be the last opportunity to take part in the event.

The charity is hoping its local community will support their Farewell Midnight Walk, with walkers joining them to remember loved ones and support their local hospice as they walk the final miles for one last time.

Walkers can choose from 5 mile or 10 mile circular routes – both starting from Aylesbury College at midnight on Saturday 16th July, with refreshments at pit stops along the way. Each walker will also receive a commemorative Farewell Midnight Walk 2022 T-shirt, as well as a

Finisher's medal and complimentary breakfast at the end of the walk.

For more information and to sign up, please visit www.fnhospice.org.uk/midnightwalk or call 01296 429975

Florence Nightingale Hospice is located at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and provides first class specialist palliative care which is accessible and free of charge to those with a life-limiting illness in Buckinghamshire. The Hospice also provides other services such as the FNH@Home services, providing end-of-life care for patients in their homes, Florrie's Children's Team respite care for families, the Day Hospice and Bereavement Support.

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity commits to fund over £1,000,000 of hospice services each year, supporting local in-patient and at-home palliative care services.

For more information, visit www.fnhospice.org.uk

FORD END WATERMILL

IVINGHOE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The mill, recorded in 1616 but probably much older, restored by volunteers and run by Ford End Watermill Society, retains all the atmosphere of a small farm mill of the late 1800s.

Stoneground wholemeal flour is for sale on milling days.

OPENING TIMES 2022

Afternoons 2.00–5.00pm

Bank Holiday Monday: 2nd May

Sunday afternoons: 8th May - National Mills Sunday, 5th June, 17th June, 3rd July, 24th July, 14th August

Bank Holiday Monday 29th August **Sunday afternoons:** 11th September, 9th October as part of Tring Apple Fayre.

MILLING DEMONSTRATIONS (water level permitting)
between 2.30pm–4.30pm approx

Last admission 4.30pm.

Admission: Adults: £3 children (5–15) £1

Ample car parking – toilet facilities. Restricted disability access

School and other parties welcome by arrangement.

Contact: Mill Manager - Chris Tugby, millman@fordendwatermill.co.uk or

Telephone: 01442 825421. www.fordendwatermill.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/fordendwatermill>

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We have limited spaces so please remember to register your child from 18 months old. We take children from 2 years up until they start school. For further information or to register your child with us please contact Michelle Andrews, Manager 01296 662292

CheddingtonPS@outlook.com www.cheddingtonpreschool.co.uk



THE PARK

A FREE EVENT WHICH WILL INCLUDE A
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YOU THERE!

Facebook icon FACEBOOK.COM/PITP22
Instagram icon @PARTYINTHEPARK2022



YOUR NEW FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE WEBSITE

Buckinghamshire's Family Information Service has a brand-new website and directory making it even easier for families, parents to be, children and young people to find local support, activities and childcare.

The new website not only has a new look and feel but lots of the latest information from the team and experts within the council.

Head over to <https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/> to take a look and find:

support available to help with issues affecting your family

what's on at family centres

things to do and holiday activities

support and inclusive activities if your child has SEND

childcare and early years providers

Follow 'BucksFamilyInfo' on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram for the latest news affecting families and young people, local things to do and helpful reminders for all sorts of parent tasks like applying for childcare and school places.



May is Make Your Will Month

Rennie Grove's annual will-writing offer returns in May. You can write or update your will through local solicitors participating in the scheme, and they will waive their basic Will-writing fee for a donation to Rennie Grove.

Writing a Will and keeping it up to date ensures your loved ones will be looked after when you're no longer here to do it. Without a Will, loved ones will not automatically receive what you want to leave to them.

Debbie Matthews, Individual Giving Manager at Rennie Grove adds: "And when you make or update your will with a participating solicitor during Make Your Will Month, you'll be helping other families too. For a suggested minimum donation of £175 for a single Will, or £275 for a pair of mirror Wills, you'll be saving money, supporting local hospice care and gaining massive peace of mind."

Participating solicitors in Bucks include BWK Solicitors (Chalfont St Giles and Stone), D C Kaye & Co (Amersham, Prestwood and Wendover) and Horwood & James LLP Solicitors in Aylesbury. These law firms will be available to take your bookings for this special deal after 1 April 2022. Each has a limited number of appointments available so book early to avoid disappointment.

Gemma Baxter took advantage of the charity's Make Your Will Month scheme last year.

"I already had a Will but it pre-dated my divorce more than a decade ago. It was well overdue an update, not least because my partner and I needed to put down on paper who would have guardianship of our son should something happen to both of us.

"It's not a nice thing to think about – but it's so important, and to review it as the years go by. As our son Harry's character develops, and other family dynamics change over time, there are different things to consider.

"My partner didn't have a Will and neither did my stepdad. He has a life-limiting condition and he felt strongly about certain aspects of his estate. When his plans to move nearer to us coincided with Make Your Will Month, it seemed the perfect opportunity for all three of us to sort out our Wills.

"It's great to have the peace of mind that comes from making an up-to-date Will. And even better to know that in doing so you've made a difference to someone else too."

Visit www.renniegrove.org/mywm for full details and participating solicitors.

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BeaconLit

Tickets on Sale Soon for a Mouthwatering Literary Feast



Ruth Hogan



Antonia Hodgson



William Ryan



Stacey Halls



Katie Allen

Book lovers have a literary treat in store when BeaconLit returns to Ivinghoe in all its glory on Saturday 16 July.

This year's event sees the return of the full-day BeaconLit and also a return to its usual venue at Brookmead School. And early birds can take advantage of a 23% discount on a full-day pass up until 6 June. Tickets go on sale shortly.

The star-studded programme



Cara Hunter

includes a host of bestselling authors: There's an in depth interview with Ruth Hogan; historical fiction authors Antonia Hodgson and William Ryan will chat about their genre and its challenges with author, writer and editor

Antonia Senior; and crime fiction author Cara Hunter will appear along with real

life crime fighters to compare fictional crime with the real thing – and how authentic it really is.

We're also excited to have former Chief Crown Prosecutor and Chief Executive of the UK's Police & Crime Commissioners Nazir Afzal with us to talk about his life and work and his memoir *The Prosecutor*.

The ever-popular New Voices panel returns with a chance to meet some of the most exciting new authors of 2022: Katie Allen, Rosie Andrews and Ayanna Lloyd Banwo.

We also welcome back festival favourites Adina Campbell and Dave Sivers.

Our Bookshop, Tring, will be on hand to sell books for signing and free



Nazir Afzal

parking will be available on Ivinghoe Lawn. Refreshments will also be available on the day.

BeaconLit is run and manned entirely by volunteers and raises funds for the local Beacon Villages Community Library. Full-day passes are £23 until 6 June and £30 thereafter. Half day passes will also go on sale in June.

The Roy Chapman BeaconFlash Prize

We are thrilled to announce that our 500 word flash fiction competition is now sponsored by Roy Chapman Ltd of

Tring, an all makes servicing and MOT centre located in Tring, Hertfordshire, serving Tring, Berkhamsted, Hemel Hempstead and the surrounding towns and villages. We are delighted that our long-time supporters are now associated with the competition, and first prize is now The Roy Chapman BeaconFlash Prize. There's still time to enter the March leg of the competition, whose theme is 'Born on a Monday'. To be sure to keep up to date with the festival news, stay subscribed to our mailings. We look forward to seeing you in July!

(Continued from page 8)

approach to the safety zone, with the informal roundabouts slowing the traffic further on the approach to the crossing point.

We have already consulted with local residents on the initial drawings for this scheme and residents' views have been taken into account with this latest design.

It is currently planned for the work to be completed during the school summer holidays in late July/August.

Phase 2 – Brookmead School

The intention is to make it clearer to motorists that they are within a school zone. The scheme incorporates:

- Red anti-skid tarmac surface across the whole school zone
- Buff coloured anti-skid tarmac for the bus stop area
- Road markings to give the appearance that the road is narrower
- 'Pencil' bollards in various colours to highlight both the school and children's presence

- Treatment of the verge opposite to increase sight lines for motorists
- Additional road markings on the approach to the area
- Definitive road markings to delineate the end of the roadway along the side of the brook.

It was envisaged that the speed limit would be reduced to 20mph along this stretch of the road, but we have not been given permission yet to enable this to happen. We will be pursuing this at a later date if funding is available.

This phase of the Safety Scheme is partly within Pitstone and partly within Ivinghoe and as such both Parish Councils have had an input in its design. We have also consulted with Brookmead School.

Some works are due to start late April/early May with the anti-skid surfacing going down. Full completion is expected during the school summer holidays.



ASHRIDGE RAMBLINGS

Rikki Harrington

Repair to the Beacon

The Ivinghoe hills have a unique look and feel – magnificent topography with long views, sweeping chalk grassland with its associated floral and faunal delights, and archaeological treasures such as ancient forts and burial mounds. No wonder people come from far and wide to enjoy them. Accumulated footfall, however, leads to ever broader and deeper erosion and the need for restoration. You may well have noticed the new steps just south of Beacon Road, and various roped-off areas, inside which plant recovery is underway.

A planning application has been submitted to surface the track down from Beacon car park. This will use limestone to create a hard-wearing surface in keeping with the landscape. Users will be relieved that they will no longer have to deal with very slippery conditions. A more comprehensive plan is being prepared to tackle some of the erosion on the main slope and the 'saddle' (the hill half way between the barrier and the Beacon itself). It is extremely complex due to archaeological, landscape and nature

conservation considerations, but discussions are ongoing with Natural England, Historic England and the Chilterns AONB 'Beacons of the Past' project to work up solutions. The Ridgeway Partnership has its golden anniversary soon and is keen to join with the Ashridge team to improve other sections of the route across the Ivinghoe Hills. It will take some time to put all these plans in place but there is a commitment to improving the accessibility of the paths and preventing any further erosion and deterioration of the surrounding habitat.

Repair to the monument

Over the Jubilee weekend, why not repair to the Visitor Centre, where visitors will be invited to join festivities on Monument Green. There will be a large picnic area where the café will be serving special jubilee cakes; a variety of family games and activities as well as a large community craft base. Craft activities will include decorating bunting in a Jubilee style to hang from the Bridgewater Monument, much like a giant maypole, with the big reveal on Sunday 5th June.



Music on the Lawn

Beacon Community Choir

guest musicians and singers
folk ★ jazz ★ classical ★ pop

WI teas, cakes, prosecco ★ bring a picnic

Sunday 3 July 2022, 1–5.30 pm
Ivinghoe Lawn

Tickets on the gate £7.50, children free
In advance from Lindsay Hewlett
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Pitstone Parish Council Community Car Scheme

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

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

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

Rothschild House Surgery, Tring £4.50
Wycombe Hospital £18.50

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



Pitstone Parish Council Community Car Scheme

Please join us to drive local residents to their medical appointments

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

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

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Road, Pitstone, Beds, LU7 9AP - Printed by Almar (Tring)
Ltd, 24 High Street, Tring, Herts HP23 5AH**



IVINGHOE AND PITSTONE CRICKET CLUB

Will Ottaway

With the days getting longer and the weather warmer, the smell of linseed oil is in the air, which only means one thing: the cricket season is just around the corner! Lots has been going on during the winter months which will help the club move forwards with its 5-year plan.

We managed to secure S106 funding alongside a number of other fund raising initiatives and personal contributions. This has brought us close to installing our new net facility. Having secured approval from the Parish Council we now await the planning decision of Bucks Council that will allow work to get under way for the new all-weather nets to be built during the summer. The nets will help our players develop and give new opportunities to the community. Big thanks to the Parish Council who have supported us throughout this whole journey.

Our annual quiz raised funds for the continued maintenance of the cricket square and equipment.

We have secured sponsorship and support from local businesses. These companies understand the journey the club's on and we welcome their energy and support! The club has also started a Fantasy Cricket League using our current players to score points and become the best virtual selector! Details are on the address above and we welcome anyone who would like to get

involved at <https://ivinghoe-pitstone.fantasyclubcricket.co.uk/>

The league season starts on the 7th May and this will be at home against Hawridge & Cholesbury a new challenge to our 1st XI following their promotion to division 1 last year. Our 2nd XI is in a much stronger position too after a difficult first year in the Mid Bucks Cricket League and we start our league fixtures away at Wendover. We are hopeful of more promising development and results from this team. Senior Nets are being run every Thursday on the cricket square from late April and we always welcome new players. The youth sides will be re-opening with weekly training sessions starting in May. Our Dynamos and All-Stars will be from 6th May – 8th July. To enrol on these courses, please use the ECB website (<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play>).

During the cold months, several of our players have had some excellent news. Matt, Tom, Will & Jonny (and their partners) have welcomed new additions to their families and we send massive congratulations to them. We look forward to meeting them at a home match soon!

For up-to-date news, our Facebook and Twitter pages have all of the breaking news as it happens! You can also contact our Secretary, David Frankum: david.frankum@ntlworld.com

EST: 2004

K-LIN

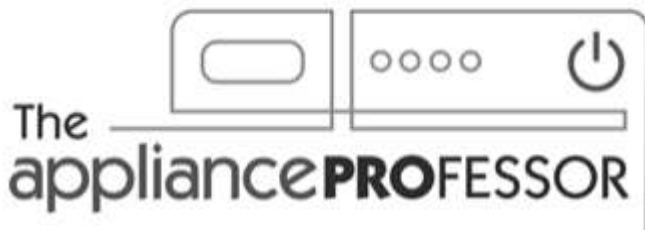
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The Ivinghoe and Pitstone WI had a busy start to the year as new officers were selected. It has taken a few weeks for the officers to familiarise themselves with the running of the WI and deal with a few humps on the journey.

We began the year with an entertaining talk on Zoom by James Haddow, the Taxi Driver Poet. His delivery was light-hearted, casual and comical with lots of interaction with members.

February saw our first hybrid meeting of the year with members joining us either on Zoom or in person in the hall. A very entertaining and informative talk was given by Mark and Giles of the Two Spoons company. The good news is that Buckinghamshire has its own blend of English tea and the debate is still open regarding the Bourbon biscuit being the best tea dunking biscuit!

Our March meeting was face to face.

Mike Chapman, a volunteer for the Commonwealth War Graves

Commission, gave a poignant talk on the start and work of the Commission. The CWGC work hard to honour and care for the men and women of the First and Second World Wars. We also learned that in St Mary's cemetery we have 5 of these graves honouring men who had fallen in the wars.

Our clubs all restarted in January.

Supper club meets up once a month on the third Thursday evening of the month and participants have enjoyed meals at the Barracuda in Tring, the Oak in Aston Clinton and The Swan in Cheddington. Our Craft group members meet at the Hub on the last Wednesday of the month, Random Readers meet at the Hub on the first Wednesday of the month between 19:30 and 21:00 while our popular Board Games club meets twice a month on the second and fourth afternoons in the Hub from 14:00 to 16:00.

March saw the return of the walking group who plan to take on the challenge of the Greensand Ridge Walk over the next few months.

April's talk is by Zoom due to the speaker living too far away and is all about tempering chocolate. Other exciting events being planned are our 105th birthday party in May which will involve a bring and share supper and lots of activities to entertain members. We will then celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a high tea. Invitations will be sent to our neighbouring WIs to help us celebrate this momentous occasion. We are expecting all the ladies at the party to wear a suitably decorated hat.

Members have been busy making bunting for both villages for this special occasion. We are also hoping to organise a couple of outings during the summer, taking advantage of the nice weather.

For further details of events, or to join the WI, please contact Annette Hutchinson via email: annetteipwi@btinternet.com.

MENTMORE Arts FESTIVAL

28-30 MAY 2022



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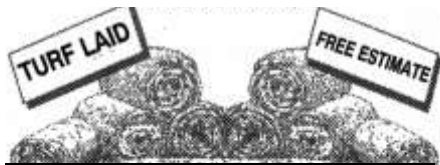
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**PITSTONE TOWN
LANDS CHARITY**

*Supporting
People in Need
in Pitstone*

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

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

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

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LOCAL INFORMATION

LOCAL VENUES (SUBJECT TO ANY COVID RESTRICTIONS)

Ivinghoe Old School Community Hub: A large hall for hire for private events, clubs, classes or simply for a get-together - the room can be divided into two smaller rooms. email: secretary@ivinghoehub.co.uk or treasurer@ivinghoehub.co.uk.

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, Wi-Fi, disabled access throughout, ample car parking. Contact: pmhbooking@gmail.com 01296 661271. Also Home to Curiositea Room.

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: Dave Burton, Facilities Manager, email pavilion@pitstone.co.uk, telephone 07939 809281 767261 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: Annette Hutchinson annetteipwi@btinternet.com

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, TBC

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 9.30am to 11am at Pitstone Memorial Hall. Warm welcome, hot drinks and a variety of fun activities for the little ones. More info and updates via the Pitstone and Ivinghoe Baby and Toddler Group Facebook page: Pitstone and 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

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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

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: Diane Benford 01296 661381

Pitstone and Ivinghoe Junior Boys' and Girls' Football: School years 1 to 13. 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 or 2 qualified and DBS checked. Email: development@pandifootball.net www.pandifootball.net.

RELIGION

Ivinghoe and Pitstone Chapel Fellowship:

Sunday Services on third Sunday of each month, 12 Church Rd, 10:30. Over 60s Club on third Thursday of each month, Pitstone Pavilion, 2-4pm, join us for varied programmes of speakers, quizzes and entertainment.

Contact: 01296 668005

Churches Conservation Trust (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

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

Adults £3, children £1. For further details go to www.fordendwatermill.co.uk

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 Council online: <http://www.transportforbucks.net/report-it-street-lighting.aspx>

Other Pitstone lights - email: parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk

Report a pot hole, blocked drain or other highway problem: Bucks 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: Bucks Council online: <https://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/section/recycling-and-waste>

Dispute with your neighbours about their high hedge: Bucks Council offer more information and a complaint service. For more information go to: <https://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/high-hedges>

Other nuisances causing problems e.g. smoke, air pollution etc: Visit Bucks Council website: <https://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/section/nuisance> or <https://www.aylesburyvaldc.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 Bucks Council: <https://www.aylesburyvaldc.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

DATES FOR TRING FARMERS MARKET

Twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at the Market Place in Brook Street, Tring. Except in December when it is on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays . Next ones are:

14th and 28th May, 11th and 25th June, 13th and 27th August, 10th and 24th September, 8th* and 22nd October, 12th and 26th November, 3rd and 17th December

*Denotes Special Apple Fair Market

Sign up to newsletter www.tringfarmersmarket or follow Instagram and Facebook @tringfarmersmarket to keep up to date with all the latest news and events.

PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

<p>Chairman, Cllr Dave Nicholls</p>  <p>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.</p>	<p>Vice Chairman, Cllr Bob Saintey</p>  <p>T: 668633 E: bob.saintey@pitstonepc.org Chair of Sports & Leisure, Staffing, PDA, Youth Café, AVALC, BALC, Community Board, Pitstone Hill.</p>
<p>Cllr Margaret Crutchfield</p>  <p>E: margaret.crutchfield@pitstonepc.org Chair of Planning Committee, Sports & Leisure, Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity, Pitstone Parish Charity and Community Board.</p>	<p>Cllr Ben Blunt</p>  <p>T: 660702 E: ben.blunt@pitstonepc.org Chair of Staffing Committee, Planning, PDA & Minerals & Waste.</p>
<p>Cllr Jack Heyman</p>  <p>T: 07966040638 E: jack.heyman@pitstonepc.org Sports & Leisure, PDA & youth café.</p>	<p>Cllr Rob McCarthy</p>  <p>E: rob.mccarthy@pitstonepc.org Strategic planning, Tring station and Community Board.</p>
<p>Cllr Alistair Kirk</p>  <p>T: 07534 135539 E: Alistair.kirk@pitstonepc.org</p>	<p>Cllr Kris Weber</p>  <p>T: 07710088624 E: kris.weber@pitstonepc.org Sports & Leisure and Planning</p>
<p>Cllr Anil Mitra</p>  <p>T: 01296 295827 E: anil.mitra@pitstonepc.org Highways & Paths, Youth Café</p>	<p>Cllr Jack Hawkins</p>  <p>T: 07713590490 E: jack.hawkins@pitstonepc.org Planning, Pitstone Parish Charity and footpaths</p>
<p>Cllr Mrs Amy Dragon</p>  <p>E: amy.dragon@pitstonepc.org</p>	<p>Correspondence/Enquiries, the Clerk: Laurie Eagling</p>  <p>Pitstone Pavilion, Marsworth Road, Pitstone, LU7 9AP T: 767261 Twitter: @pitstone_pc E: parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk Website: www.pitstone.co.uk Facebook: Pitstone Parish Council and Pitstone Youth</p>

Pitstone is served by 3 Buckinghamshire Councillors - Derek Town (derek.town@buckinghamshire.gov.uk / 07786720727), Chris Poll (chris.poll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk / 07736105959) & Peter Brazier (peter.brazier@buckinghamshire.gov.uk / 07785384989)

If you wish to view the plans for any planning application currently under consultation by Buckinghamshire Council, please visit <https://www.aylesburyvaldec.gov.uk/search-planning-licensing-applications>