



PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Pitstone Pavilion, Marsworth Road, Pitstone, Beds, LU7 9AP
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Time to Volunteer?

Pitstone parish council is often made aware of local projects and community groups that would welcome your time and involvement. We also receive calls from residents that would like to volunteer but don't know what opportunities exist. So, we have set up a database of opportunities. If you only have an hour or two a month, or have plenty of time on your hands, there is bound to be a role to suit you! If you are a community group that would like some extra support, please do get in touch and we will add your details to the database.

The Big Help Out is a Coronation initiative, encouraging everyone to get involved and volunteer to help ensure that local communities thrive.

Community Car Scheme

...are currently looking for volunteers to take local residents to their medical appointments.

Please join us and help deliver this vital service, meet new people, and be part of a great community.

- No commitment to the number or type of trips you take
- Simple, free parking arrangements in place at all hospitals
- Expenses paid
- Receive a text notification of available trips

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver or would like more information, please contact me on the details below, I would be happy explain a little more about what is involved and to answer any questions you have, just let me know.

Stephen Davies - Car Scheme Coordinator

Tel: **01296 767116**

Email: communitytransport@pitstone.co.uk

Web: <https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/pitstone-community-car-scheme/>

Beacon Villages Community Library in Ivinghoe

Do you use the Library in Ivinghoe? Are you interested in books? Beacon Villages Community Library is run by the community for the community with Shelle as manager, ably supported by a team of volunteers. If you can help in any way, or would like to know more, please pop into the Library and see Shelle, call on 01296 387890 or email Michelle.West@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. You can also find out more information about the library via their website: www.bvcl.org.uk

BeaconLit

BeaconLit is an annual book festival held at Brookmead School, which also supports the library. The team welcome volunteers to help on the day and/or with organising the event. This year it is being held on Saturday 8 July 2023. Find out more about the festival via their website www.beaconlit.co.uk call on 01296 387890 or email Michelle.West@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

Pitstone Memorial Hall Management Committee

Pitstone Memorial Hall is registered charity, managed by a team of enthusiastic local volunteer trustees.

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to find out more about our lovely halls and how we run. You don't need any special skills or experience, just an interest in supporting your local community. If you can spare a couple of hours a month, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We would be thrilled to hear from you. Our email address is pmhchair@pitstone.co.uk

St Mary's Church - Pitstone

St Mary's Pitstone is a redundant church. It has been vested in the Churches Conservation Trust since 1974 when Ivinghoe became the church for both parishes. The building itself dates from 1295 and has some interesting features including a decorated font and mediaeval brass. Pitstone Church Committee is a small body who act as caretakers and are responsible for keeping the church open as much as possible and for fundraising to pay for essential maintenance currently running at over £1000 a year.

We open every Sunday and Bank Holiday afternoon between May and September. We always need volunteers to look after the church while it is open. It is a pleasure to spend time in such peaceful surroundings meeting interested visitors.

We hold several events during the year. This year we have a visit by This is my Theatre, The Icknield 16 choir, The Oxford Fiddle Band and a tea with music

We are in desperate need of tea ladies for two dates, Bank Holiday Monday 28th August and Sunday 24th September.

We also need someone to help with our publicity and particularly our social media presence. Our experience with this is not great and we really need some help.

If you can help us with any of these tasks or would like to help in any other way please ring Jean Booth on 01296 661745

The Heritage Park / Pitstone Green Museum

There has been a farm of some sort on this site for centuries. The big barn is believed to be 16th century or even older & was brought to the site when the present farm was built in 1831. The Hawkins family were the last to work the farm, having been there since the early 1800s.

In 1948 the last owner, Jeff, built the then modern system for storing and drying grain that can still be seen at the farm. As the 1950s were coming to an end some local farmers became aware that the old farming ways were being lost, so this group began to save their own redundant tools and machinery and salvaged many from the neighbouring area. As a result Pitstone Local History Group was formed in 1963. Over the next few years the site as we know it today started to emerge as groups of volunteers laboured to make some order from a mountain of accumulated stuff.

In 1992 a 99-year lease was signed between Jeff Hawkins and the History Society which was later renamed as Pitstone and Ivinghoe Museum Society which runs the site to this day. Work on some of the larger items such as the enormous Rack Saw and the 27 litre gas engine progressed and a start was made cataloguing the thousands of items lying around the site. Jeff died in 2001 and left everything to the National Trust and The Museum achieved full Accreditation in 2008 and started to be noticed as a major local attraction. It is now known as The Heritage Park, as a way of reflecting the size and scope of the project.

The museum relies entirely on volunteer labour and are always on the lookout for new recruits, particularly from the local community. If you fancy helping out in any way however large or small, contact Pete Farrar (manager) on 07944 357715 or email - manager@pitstonemuseum.co.uk

We work on Tuesdays and Thursdays so why not come along for a cup of tea and a chat. It's enormous fun and very satisfying. The old Victorian farm is now a centre for historically based attractions, retaining the atmosphere of ancient times before technology and mechanisation changed our lives forever and will continue to evolve in the future.

Pitstone Parish Post (PPP)

Hopefully everyone is very familiar with the quarterly village magazine published by Pitstone parish council and delivered to every home in the parish free-of-charge. PPP would not reach your door without the sterling efforts of a band of distributors, each of whom posts between 16 and 70 magazines four times per year. "Many hands make light work" as the saying goes, and we always welcome more distributors into the team – which helps to spread the workload or provide holiday cover etc. If you could deliver a few magazines down your road (or a close road), once every quarter, then we would love to hear from you. Please contact Rachel Weber on 07717 471584.

If you fancy yourself as a roving reporter or the next David Bailey, then the PPP Editor is always looking for an extra pair of hands to help write articles. Please call the parish clerk on 01296 767261 or email pppeditor@pitstone.co.uk.

Pitstone Windmill

Looking for your next adventure? Life is one long adventure and we'd love to join in with your next one. Whether you want to put years of skills and experience towards our cause or just try something brand new, we'll

have a role to suit you. Our team is full of inspiring people from all walks of life who get a real buzz from working and learning together.

Floor Guide Volunteer – Pitstone Windmill. Our Floor Guide Volunteers are central to creating the brilliant experience that visitors have at Pitstone Windmill. With a friendly and inquisitive approach, volunteers unlock the stories for our visitors to enjoy, whether that is the intricate way the mill worked or the history of the people who worked there.

Ready to get involved? Get in touch with us to find out more: ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk 01442 851227
For other details visit nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteering.

Pitstone Youth Cafe

Some of the volunteers that have been with us for very many years (some since the cafe opened in 2011) have sadly had to step down, so we are seeking local adults (must be over 18 years to comply with adult/child ratios, no upper age limit) that can help at the youth cafe on Wednesday evenings during term time, 6.30-8.00pm. There is a happy, relaxed atmosphere. You can join in with sports & games, do crafts or activities, or just chat/supervise.

If you can come each week, that is wonderful. If you prefer to come every other week, that is also fine.

Some more information about the youth cafe is available from the link below or my contacting the parish clerk on parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk or 01296 767261.

Please do consider coming forward to help ensure that our vital youth service (for senior school aged children) can remain operating.

Thank you.

<https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/youth-cafe/>

1st Ivinghoe & Pitstone Scouts

Take the four-week challenge.

Volunteer for just four weeks and be amazed at the difference you can make.

Week 1 – see what we get up to

Week 2 – start to help out

Week 3 – get a little more involved

Week 4 – you'll know if scouting is for you

We have a wide range of flexible roles either supporting young people or behind the scenes. Any help is truly amazing.

Interested?

Call Andrew Woods on 07768 980311 or email ivinghoe.pitstone.scouts@gmail.com

#Skillsforlife

Ford End Watermill

Ford End Watermill, for those not familiar with it, is a small farm mill, which has produced flour and animal feed for centuries. On Station Road, just a short distance from the centre of Ivinghoe, it is run today entirely by volunteers. The mill is fully operational and we mill at each opening to the public. Our wholemeal flour is much sought after.

Would you like to join our team of volunteers?

We would welcome volunteers who can

- help maintain the mill through the Autumn, Winter and Spring in readiness for our openings.
- help us welcome our visitors as they arrive for one of our openings each Summer - on Sundays and Bank Holidays; and/or
- guide visitors around the mill describing how we use the power of water from our millpond on the Whistle Brook to drive our waterwheel, our gears and our millstones to produce our sought-after wholemeal flour.

There are opportunities for individuals with a variety of skills. So whether your preference is to meet our visitors, to explain all about the mill to visitors or to get to grips with the mill building and its machinery – the choice is yours. We can provide you with the necessary training and we have all the relevant information about the mill – how it works, its history and how it has been restored.

We are a friendly group. All of us are committed to conserving this priceless local resource for future generations. We can provide new volunteers with the satisfaction that comes from showing how the sustainable power of water can be used to produce flour for the baking of bread.

So, if you are interested, please telephone:

John Wallis on 01296 661997;

Chris Tugby on 01442 825421; or

Stephen Booth on 01296 661745.

You can also contact us by email at millman@fordendwatermill.co.uk

Windmill Pre School

Any keen gardeners out there?

Windmill Pre School are having garden work completed so need a large area cleared. Also the alleyway down to the pre school is very overgrown so we'd like to clear that too!

If you can help out, please contact Emma on manager@windmillpreschool.co.uk

Pitstone Street Light Champions

The parish council owns the majority of the streetlamps in Pitstone, with the exception of those along the Marsworth Road (which are owned and managed by Buckinghamshire Council), those within the Castlemead (some are Buckinghamshire Council & some still Taylor Wimpey) and those within the Croudace, Nicholas King Homes and Bellway estates.

Your eyes are a vital resource to help keep our village illuminated. Volunteer 'Street Light Champions' patrol the streets they live in once a month during the evenings to identify any lights not illuminating and once during the day to identify any lamps that don't turn off. The parish clerk then reports all the issues identified to the appropriate responsible bodies.

If you would be happy to join our team of 'Champions' and check the lights in your street, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please email parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk.

Pitstone & Ivinghoe Baby and Toddler Group

The group runs every Thurs morning in term time and is led by volunteers. We need helpers to get out and pack away the toys, help prepare tea/coffee and snacks and/or prepare a craft activity for the children. We can be contacted via our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PitstoneandIvinghoeBabyandToddlerGroup>

Pitstone Town Lands Charity and Williamson Trust

Fancy becoming a charity trustee? And helping local people in need, hardship or distress?

The same group of trustees manage both these local charities.

The Town Lands 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.

The Williamson Trust provides financial support to any person living in Pitstone aged 65 or older on 31 March.

You don't need to make a massive time commitment, as the trustee body only meet quarterly.

No previous experience of running a charity required.

Please contact Gill Lowe, Chair of the charities, on 01296 668809 or gill.lowe@pitstone.email

You can also find out more information online at <https://pitstone.co.uk/localinformation/charities/>