

Pitstone Parish Post



July 2023

Issue number 137



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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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<https://pitstone.co.uk/pppadverts/>

or contact parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk

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Cover Photograph

Pitstone Windmill—a rare example of an early post mill. Damaged by storms in the 1900s, now fully restored by local volunteers.

National Trust would love to hear from you if you'd like to be a Floor Guide Volunteer.

The people that man the windmill on its open days 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's the intricate way the mill worked or the history of the people who worked there. Ready to get involved?

Get in touch to find out more:

ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk 01442 851227

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Pitstone Community Car Scheme



Please join us to drive local residents to their medical appointments.

Help deliver this vital service, meet new people, and be part of a great community.

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For more information, please contact Stephen on **01296 767116**

email: communitytransport@pitstone.co.uk



PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Laurie Eagling, Parish Clerk



Pride of Bucks

You will recall that Howard Jones received the Pitstone Volunteer of the Year award (in 2021) for his dedication to the Pitstone Community Car Scheme. We are delighted to say that he was also awarded the Highly Commended Trophy at the Buckinghamshire Council Pride of Bucks awards this June. Linda Howarth also received recognition for her contributions to fundraising and Windmill Preschool. Our congratulations to both!

Pitstone Volunteer of the Year 2023

Our congratulations to Mick Pilkington who was appointed the Pitstone Volunteer of the Year 2023 at the Annual Assembly in May, for many years of voluntary litter picking around the parish, participation in Keep Britain Tidy campaigns, and managing a litter picking co-ordination website for other local volunteers. The parish council runs the Volunteer of the Year scheme as a means of publicly thanking those that play a significant voluntary role within our community and to bring some of the amazing work that they do to the attention of others. Winners receive a framed certificate, card and £50.00 as a token of our thanks. If you know someone that you think deserves recognition, please send your nomination (at any point in the year) through to parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk for consideration for the 2024 award.

Mick kindly donated his £50 to the Ivinghoe & Pitstone Foodbank. Babs Byrom thanked Mick for the kind donation and explained about the impact that the Foodbank can have on the lives of those it supports. The Foodbank accept donations of non-perishable goods for distribution, and you can also make financial contributions. Please visit the website for more information: <https://pitstone.co.uk/localinfo/foodbank/>

The Coronation of King Charles III

Thank you to everyone who attended the Big Coronation Picnic on 7 May. Almost 200

children participated in the children's trail and collected their free Coronation water bottle – our thanks are extended to CuriosiTea for their assistance with handing out both the trail sheets and the prizes. The youth café free Coronation lunch was also very successful with all the food being eaten, and our thanks go to all the youth café volunteers and young leaders that gave up their afternoon to run this event.

16 local community groups appealed for volunteers as part of our Big Help Out campaign. We hope that many of you found a volunteering role that was of interest and have made contact with the relevant organisation. So many of our wonderful community facilities only exist because volunteers deliver them, including: visitor attractions like the museum & windmill; services like the car scheme & youth café; children's activities like scouts, toddler and pre-school groups and charities like the Town Lands Charity & Williamson Trust.

Can you help to organise the delivery of Pitstone Parish Post?

We are looking for a back-up distributor to help when Rachel is away and/or to help her on an ongoing basis.

The work is not too arduous: PPPs come out 4 times a year, counting takes an hour or two and distributing to the deliverers takes about the same. You will need a car.

If you would like to discuss this voluntary role, please call or text Rachel on 07717 471 584.

Annual Parish Assembly – Question and Answer Feedback

The parish council would like to thank everyone that attended and participated in the annual parish assembly on 18 May, either as a speaker or a member of the public. The draft minutes, updates to the questions raised, and the youth café report can all be found on the website at <https://pitstone.co.uk/>

ppcminutes/annual-parish-assembly-minutes-18-5-23/ We are replicating the update here in case anyone has missed the information on website/social media and have the same queries to ensure everyone can keep up-to-date.

Question raised to Thames Valley Police re anti-social motoring offences (especially speed of traffic on Westfield Road and wheel spinning in the Business Park, but the response below includes general information about speed of traffic, rather than just Westfield Road)

These are tricky issues to resolve, as they require changes to individuals' personal behaviour rather than physical/purchasable interventions.

In recent years, Buckinghamshire Council (BC) have installed a number of physical measures along Westfield Road including roundels and dragon's teeth road markings and improved signage. Thames Valley Police and Buckinghamshire Council work jointly to monitor road safety and BC prioritise expenditure on physical interventions in areas across the county where there is a poor accident record. There have been few accidents in Westfield Road since it was constructed (and most have not been attributable to road design) so this location is not a priority for further physical measures by BC at present. They review annually.

Thames Valley Police (TVP) agreed (once the road was adopted by the Highways Authority), and do, carry out regular speed-van enforcement along Westfield Road, in rotation with other approved sites. Neither TVP nor BC are supportive of the installation of fixed speed enforcement cameras in the parish. The parish council has gained permission from TVP & BC to install 'Police Speed Check Area' signage at either end of Westfield Road and this has now been purchased and installed. The permissions granted are for 'temporary' signage, so residents may see them disappear for short periods of time and then re-appear again.

The parish council owns and utilises our two mVAS units (which flash when a speeding vehicle enters its field of vision) to both remind

drivers and monitor speeds (alternating between the Warwick Road and Bolebec End locations), in rotation with all the other approved sites in the parish (in Cheddington Road, Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road). The units are in place for 6 weeks, and then move to their alternate site, providing approx. 6-weeks on and 6-weeks off for each road. This type of unit has been found to be more effective when it appears/disappears/reappears, rather than being static. When located in one position, drivers become used to the sign and are more likely to ignore it. Data is published to our website and shows that speed of traffic can be an issue in all our through roads, rather than being unique to Westfield Road (which was originally designed and built as a 40mph road for Business Park access). In fact the average speed in Cheddington Road can sometimes exceed those recorded along Westfield Road, despite Cheddington Road not having the benefits of Westfield Road, for example clear visibility, few parked cars, a grass verge & cycle path to protect pedestrians, and less reasons to cross. Further flashing devices such as a SID (speed indicator devices) were considered earlier in the year, in the hope that rotating the type of sign/message displayed, would still be enough of a difference to trigger changes to motorist behaviour. However, technical reasons that the suppliers can't resolve at present, meant that they couldn't be rotated. Fixed signs will not provide a resolution to the issues and reduce the ability of the existing signs to rotate. Therefore, this was not progressed for the moment (but may be reviewed once the technical issues have been resolved) and the council continues with its existing policy to support all residents, located along all through roads, with equal provision of our two mVAS units.

TVP suggested that if speed of vehicles was important to local residents that people may like to volunteer to set up and run a Community Speedwatch scheme. The parish council has promoted this on several occasions but insufficient levels of interest from residents has been received. If you feel strongly about vehicle speeds, please do check out the information on our website at <https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcnews/speedwatch/> and get in touch if this is something that you'd be keen to participate in.

Most of the traffic (excluding freight) in our village is likely to be local, and speeding issues exist in all the local villages (as well as within the county and nationally). Drivers may be particularly careful to mind the speed limit in an area close to their home, but not be quite as respectful passing through another location. We may all be part of the problem, and part of the solution. Please do keep your speeds down, wherever and whenever you are driving. We will continue to explore any other opportunities that arise that may be useful to reduce traffic speeds across the parish.

With regard to Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) in the Business Park, the Parish Council had sought, and been declined, permission to plant screening trees in either the BC verge or the Taylor Wimpey Business Park banks opposite Dover Close. TVP encouraged residents to report all instances of ASB (whether speeding, wheel-spinning, drugs, teen-behaviour etc) via their email (greatbrickhillwingivinghoeNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk) or via their website (<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/>). They may not be able to respond straight away, but your information helps them build intelligence and better target patrols.

Question raised to TVP re parking near junctions in Old Farm & Rushendon Furlong

Like the above, this is a difficult issue to resolve, as it requires people to be respectful of the needs of others, rather than being easy to change with a physical solution. TVP agreed to check these locations if they were patrolling the area and speak to offenders or issue advice letters. As above, please report any regular vehicle issues to TVP via their email (greatbrickhillwingivinghoeNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk) so that they can identify vehicles, build intelligence, and better target patrols.

Question raised to Buckinghamshire Council (BC) re potholes

BC advised that the budget had been increased to try and address the backlog and encouraged residents to report any issues

identified via Fix my Street so they could be addressed. The Local Highways Authority inspect surfaces at intervals, with the regularity dependent upon the classification of the road. In between, they are reliant on your eyes and co-operation to report issues. Category 1 issues (eg a deep pothole in the tyre line on an A road) will receive a faster repair than more minor issues reported, and you may find that whilst one pothole in a street is fixed urgently, another a little further along takes much longer to get repaired. Please report anything you spot here: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/> so that we have the best chance of getting issues logged, identified and resolved.

Question raised to BC regarding resurfacing

BC has already included Marsworth Road on their list of roads requiring attention, but scheduling will depend on county wide priorities, so no anticipated date is yet available. The Buckinghamshire Councillors work in conjunction with the BC team to prioritise the most important roads within their area. Also on the agreed, but not yet scheduled, BC list of highways work to be undertaken are: fixing the failing road surface down by the Cheddington Road railway bridge (due to be done in conjunction with some other works to improve pedestrian safety under the bridge), reconstruction of the Vicarage Road footpath from Tun Furlong towards Church Road and repair of a collapsed section of footpath in Queen Street.

Question raised to BC relating to highways weed killing

Buckinghamshire Council has not allowed for any weed killing (by spraying) or weed removal (by hand) beside the highway within its budget for the current financial year. The Parish Council was granted permission (but not provided with any funding) to remove weeds from the pedestrian island refuges (around both the Westfield Road and Marsworth Road roundabouts, and along Marsworth Road) and the build-outs along Marsworth Road and the Recreation Ground roundabout. Our contractor has now

undertaken this work and hand cleared all these areas to improve aesthetics and safety.

Question raised to BC re road sweeping

Buckinghamshire Council are hoping that sweeping the roads will prevent weeds from taking root. They plan to attend twice per year. The first visit to adopted highways has been undertaken and it subsequently came to light that an administrative problem within the Street Scenes department at BC (the road sweeper is managed by the Open Spaces department rather than their Highways department) had meant that the roads adopted by BC over the previous 12-months hadn't been added to the work schedule provided to their staff. This has now been resolved, BC apologised, and the sweeper returned to clear the previously omitted roads. If your road develops a problem in between the cyclical visits (eg if there is a spillage etc) this can be reported via the link to the BC website: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/street-cleaning/report-a-street-that-needs-cleaning/> Private roads are excluded from this service, and queries relating to roads that are still maintained by their respective developers should be directed to the developer in question.

Question raised to BC re zebra crossings (both instead of pedestrian refuges along Marsworth Road, and for Westfield Road)

Buckinghamshire Council have previously advised that both the Vicarage Road crossing and the Marsworth Road crossing by the pavilion did not qualify for zebra crossings (hence the installation of the provided island refuges). The most appropriate type of crossing for each location is based on traffic volumes/speeds, distance, location, and the length of time that pedestrians have to wait to cross safely. The Parish Council had requested a zebra crossing on Westfield Road as part of the planning application feedback for the retail unit at Portland House but the planning has been refused by BC and thus the crossing not progressed by the developer. BC estimate that each zebra crossing costs in the region of £80k+ to provide.

The last proposals put forward by

Buckinghamshire Council for the Ivinghoe & Pitstone Safety Scheme, included coloured tarmac at some pedestrian crossing points to raise visibility. The parish council has agreed to revert back to Buckinghamshire Council and the BC Community Board to ask if they can re-assess if any locations along Marsworth Road or Westfield Road would meet the criteria for zebra crossings and if not, if any locations qualified for coloured tarmac to enhance visibility.

Question raised to Pitstone Parish Council re tidying the Ravensmoor community plots

The two plots that were due to house a children's day-nursery and a restaurant/pub/café remain undeveloped at present as Nicholas King Homes (NKH) are seeking permission to build further residential properties rather than the promised community facilities. NKH had taken an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate who had agreed that planning permission should be granted for the homes. Buckinghamshire Council has now challenged this decision and the matter is now subject to Judicial Review, so the plots are likely to remain in limbo for some time. The Parish Council has written to NKH, who have agreed to attend site and tidy the two areas.

Question raised regarding the possibility of making the Recreation Ground roundabout more attractive

The parish council has been working with Buckinghamshire Council and Marketing Force (who administer the Buckinghamshire Council roundabout sponsorship scheme) for some time. Buckinghamshire Council will not grant permission for the roundabout to be re-developed to have a planted/grass centre, and it has been frustratingly difficult to get any permission to put planters etc on the roundabout. Our Buckinghamshire Councillors have also been trying to obtain the necessary permissions within BC on our behalf. Marketing Force has agreed that the roundabout could be included within the sponsorship scheme, but this would only provide signage for the sponsor, and they would not install/maintain planters etc so this would not address the issue of aesthetics. If there are any commercial companies that

would be interested in sponsoring the roundabout, they can contact MarketingForce direct via this link: <https://www.marketingforce.co.uk/> In the meantime, a resident has kindly donated and cares for four planters on the roundabout (our thanks are extended to them). We are continuing to work with BC to find a more permanent solution. Our contractor also cleared the roundabout surface of weeds (our thanks are extended to the resident that undertook this work last year), along with the pedestrian island refuges.

A question was raised re grass cutting at the junction of Glebe Close (Fairhive)

Fairhive have been experiencing difficulties with their grounds maintenance contractors this year. They are aware of the issues and working to resolve them as soon as possible. In the meantime, if there are any areas of Fairhive maintained grass verge in Glebe Close or Yardley Avenue that are getting overgrown, please report them to Fairhive via this link <https://www.fairhive.co.uk/contact-us>

Parish Council delivered services

There were no queries raised with regard to the Parish Council delivered services eg street lighting, play spaces, sports facilities and litter collection, nor the budget. We welcome feedback at any time. Please feel free to (a) come to our meetings (b) make an appointment to meet us in person (c) email parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk (d) telephone 01296 767261 (e) message us via Facebook or Twitter. If the matter is not something that is within our legal powers to resolve (eg highways issues where the legal duties fall to the highways authority) we will try to escalate the matter with the relevant body.

Devolved Services from Buckinghamshire Council

BC have reduced their number of urban grass cuts (inside the 30mph zone) to just 2 per annum and rural grass cuts to just once per annum, more information available here: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/grasscutting/>. BC had previously devolved power to the Parish

Council to cut most of the grass verges within the 30mph zone on their behalf, which enables us to provide a higher level of service. We are pleased to say that BC has now granted permission for the Parish Council to undertake the grass verge cutting along Westfield Road as well, and this has now been added to our contractors regular schedule. Had this permission not been granted, Westfield Road would only have been cut twice over the course of the year. Buckinghamshire Council still have a legal duty to maintain vision splays at junctions etc and we requested that Vicarage Road/Upper Icknield Way and the pedestrian path to Marsworth are cut. If you find that any vision splays are obscured, please report them to BC via their website: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/>

Audit

The initial audit by councillors, and the second layer of 'Independent Audit' by IAC Ltd have both been completed. Details of your electors rights and the full financial details can be found here: <https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/exercise-of-electors-rights-accounts-for-year-ended-31-3-2023/> A more descriptive version of the finances from last year can be found in the following pages. The Annual Governance and Return has been submitted to the 'External Auditor' PKF Littlejohn and the results will be published in due course.

Buckinghamshire Council's Local Heritage List

You can find more details about this project here: <https://local-heritage-list.org.uk/buckinghamshire>

If you know of an historic feature in Pitstone that is of particular local importance, please contact us or follow the instructions on the website to submit a nomination.

London Luton Airport Expansion Proposals

The proposal submitted by Luton Rising is for an expansion of London Luton Airport from its current permitted cap of 18 million passengers per annum (mppa) up to 32 mppa, including: new terminal capacity;

additional taxiways and other transport infrastructure; the construction of landside support buildings; surface access adjustments; mitigation works and other associated development.

To find out more about the DCO process, please visit the Planning Inspectorate website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/london-luton-airport-expansion/?ipcsection=overview#> and to read the information on Luton Rising's website (the developer), please visit: <https://lutonrising.org.uk/>

Pitstone Town Lands Charity are inviting applicants

Thank you to the trustees of the Town Lands Charity who gave an interesting presentation at the Annual Assembly. The Charity was set up to help those living in Pitstone who may be in need, hardship or distress. Surprisingly, despite the recent challenges with the pandemic and cost of living crisis, applications for assistance from the charity are down. They now provide assistance to all ages, and also provide assistance through local groups and charities that support Pitstone residents.

If you are struggling to make ends meet, please get in touch, in complete confidence, to see how the trustees can help. They would love to hear from you. <https://pitstone.co.uk/localinfo/pitstone-town-lands-charity/>

Nicholas King Homes development around the Recreation Ground

During late 2021 Nicholas King Homes applied for planning permission for the construction of 21 dwellings (8 flats and 13 houses), including associated works, car parking and landscaping on the two plots of land that had long been earmarked, subject to viability, for a children's day nursery and restaurant/pub/cafe. The Planning Inspectorate have now concluded their investigation and determined that planning permission should be granted. The Parish Council had opposed this application and felt strongly that these much hoped-for community facilities were feasible and should be delivered. Many local residents also objected to the proposals. Buckinghamshire Council, as local planning authority, were also said by

the Inspectorate to be opposed to the application on a variety of grounds. Planning permission was nonetheless, on balance, granted to NKH.

That, however, is not the end of the story. The Parish Council understands that Buckinghamshire Council (in conjunction with other local planning authorities) are challenging the Planning Inspectorate's decision, via a process known as Judicial Review. They will be seeking a court ruling that the Planning Inspectorate was not properly able to reach the decision that it did, in other words asking that the planning permission should be quashed. The grounds for appeal are believed to include the Chiltern Beechwoods "Special Area of Conservation", of which Ashridge forms a part. There is currently a moratorium on determining planning applications which relate to residential development where the application site is within approximately 8 miles of the Chiltern Beechwoods, which Pitstone is. The argument runs, it is understood, that if the local planning authority cannot properly determine any such application, the Planning Inspectorate should not have done so either. Clearly these matters are at a very early stage and the Judicial Review process could be a lengthy one. If the planning permission is then quashed, NKH's application will go back to the original decision-maker for further consideration on the correct basis. That would also be a time-consuming process. As a consequence, it is unlikely that anything substantive will happen to the two undeveloped parts of Ravensmoor for some time. The Parish Council is aware that concerns have been raised by local residents about the state of these two areas, and in particular the amount of unsightly litter and debris that they contain. We have requested that NKH take steps to tidy them up so that our local amenities are not subject to detriment because of the current hiatus. We will provide a further update when we are able to, about both (1) the condition of the two areas and (2) Buckinghamshire Council's appeal against the Planning Inspectorate's decision.

Haddenham Electric Vehicle Car Club

Haddenham have introduced a new service where an electric car can be hired by the hour.

This is still very much a trial for them. The scheme needs a solid base of regular hirers to fund the operation, and this seems to be slowly building but they do have a larger population and different demographic to Pitstone. More information can be found here: <https://zeroch.org/electriccarclub/> If any residents think they might be interested in Pitstone, or our local cluster of villages, investigating a similar scheme, please register your interest with the Parish Council by emailing parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk.

Other updates

We are in the very early stages of trying to re-engage the numerous parties that might be required to investigate/enable a footpath from Westfield Road to College Lake, we are still trying to work with BC to seek bus shelters for Westfield Road and are also trying to re-engage various bodies that may be able to assist with the care & maintenance of the Whistlebrook. The council is exploring grant funding opportunities for solar panels for the pavilion. We have no visibility yet from either Trooli or Openreach regarding fibre to property broadband for the village.

And an update on local matters

Taylor Wimpey, Croudace, Bellway and Nicholas King Homes Developments

No further areas of Castlemead have been adopted by Buckinghamshire Council from

Taylor Wimpey. BC are proposing to upgrade all the adopted lighting columns to LED lanterns before passing maintenance responsibilities to the Parish Council. All other developer sites still fall within the care and maintenance of the respective development companies and have not yet been adopted. Bellway opened discussions with the Parish Council regarding adoption of the play & open space and we are currently considering the materials supplied. Croudace are currently negotiating with Buckinghamshire Council and the Parish Council regarding highways and lighting respectively.

Planning

There are several major planning applications for which we are still waiting for Buckinghamshire Council to provide a determination including the Business Park development off Westfield Road, the 5 new dwellings behind 87 Marsworth Road and 1 new dwelling on Marsworth Road. As always, you can find full details of all planning applications on the Buckinghamshire Council Planning Portal.

Fairhive

We are aware that Fairhive are experiencing issues with the ground maintenance contractors this year, leading to poor levels of grass cutting in Yardley Avenue and Glebe Close. They apologise for this and are working to resolve as soon as they can.

Annual Report and Accounts for Pitstone Parish Council Year Ending 31-3-2023

	To 31-3-2022	To 31-3-2023	Variance to previous year
Total Receipts	£394,221	£189,150	-52%
Total Payments	£366,469	£166,670	-55%
Balances Carried Forward	£150,655	£173,135	

The Parish Council is financially secure with no loans or debts. The majority of our capital projects progress with a high level of external grant funding, thus the rise and fall in receipts corresponds with the rise and fall in capital projects being undertaken.

Our accounts are subject to three layers of audit each year. The first is carried out by council members. The second is conducted by an 'internal auditor' appointed by the Parish Council – IAC Ltd. The parish council and the internal auditor's findings are then submitted to an 'external auditor' appointed to us, in our case PKF Littlejohn. Members of the public can view all audit reports on our website. This report provides a more descriptive narrative, rather than purely financial.

Last financial year the Parish Council installed the long-awaited skate park and delivered some other minor projects, so the total cost of capital projects accounted for £236,298 of the total annual expenditure. This financial year, the capital undertakings have been of lower value, and therefore the total payments for the year have also fallen. Projects included some minor amendments to the pavilion building including the installation of some protective fencing, installation of sound absorbing panels and built-in racking within the container. Two memorial benches were purchased (funded by the respective families), 3 further bins (to help deter littering) and a pencil bollard (approved by Buckinghamshire Council) installed outside Brookmead primary school. Total cost of new assets therefore £11,568.

We made a financial contribution (as did Ivinghoe Parish Council) to Buckinghamshire Council for highway safety improvements outside Brookmead primary school. Our share equated to £5,250.

The normal council operations continue, and these receive no external grants, so are funded via the precept (or partially offset via income generated from hire of our facilities or advertising in our magazine). This includes maintaining streetlights, concluding the roll out of LED lanterns, Christmas illuminations, litter picking, emptying dog & litter bins, maintaining play equipment and open spaces, producing Pitstone Parish Post, supporting local community groups with grants, running the Volunteer of the Year Scheme, running the Youth Café and Community Car Scheme, children's competitions, operating our two mVAS units, running the allotment site, maintaining parish assets, and maintaining the pavilion and football pitches. Last financial year we were fortunate enough not to need to carry out any pitch renovation works due to the impact of the building works and covid restrictions on the football clubs, but this requirement returned during the 2022-23 year.

In line with the above, the capital projects delivered last financial year generated £212,225 of grant and Section 106 receipts (these are funds provided by residential developers towards specific projects within the parish). This year, there was just the final Section 106 contribution of £4,204 towards the Skate Park. We also received the funding from the two families for their respective memorial benches and a donation of £1,500 towards the Community Car Scheme from the family of a previous client. The previous year we received an £8k covid grant towards loss of income arising from covid restrictions preventing hires, that was not replicated this year.

Devolved Services

The Parish Council undertakes some right of way maintenance, grass verge cutting and siding out on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council (BC) under powers they have devolved to us for these purposes. They pay a contribution of £3,659 towards the delivery of these services, which cost the parish £5,050 to deliver. However, it does mean that our grass can be cut more frequently, works carried out more efficiently, and we have more control over delivery of these services. Due to complications arising from changing their Highways Contractors, Buckinghamshire Council extended the last contract for a further year to cover 2023, but have yet to confirm what, or if, there will be a devolved service offering for 2024 onwards.

As a follow up, in 2022 Buckinghamshire Council declined to devolve powers to the Parish Council to cut the grass verge along Westfield Road when they adopted it from Taylor Wimpey, however in June 2023 they granted permission (but not funding) and this has now been added to the schedules for our own contractors.

Ongoing Projects by Other Bodies/Tiers of Government

- Hertfordshire County Council continues to work with the Canal & River Trust and Buckinghamshire Council to specify possible cycle route improvements towards Tring station. All roadside options tested failed the required safety audits so a direct straight-line cycle/pedestrian route along Northfield Road was deemed unviable. They are now concentrating on possible improvements to the route via Marshcroft Lane and the canal.
- Buckinghamshire Council continues to work with developers (Taylor Wimpey, Croudace, Nicholas King Homes and Bellway) to fulfil their highway and leisure obligations including the issues surrounding the multi-use games area.
- The Chiltern's Beechwoods in Ashridge were designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) as they are of European importance. This gives rise to mitigation measures that must be put in place to protect them from over-use. Local Planning Authorities are working to establish what these mitigation measures may look like, and this means that planning applications for new residential dwellings are taking longer to determine.
- We are waiting for the new Buckinghamshire Council Community Board brief and their new Highways Contracts to become established, to find out how BC, and both Pitstone and Ivinghoe Parish Councils, can move forward with other aspects of the Safety Scheme.

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**PITSTONE TOWN
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*Supporting
People in Need
in Pitstone*

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

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

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

tel: 01296 668809,

email: Gill.lowe@pitstone.email



COUNTY NEWS

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

Council pledges commitment to providing high quality education for all children in Bucks

Whatever their starting point, children and young people have the right to access the best quality education and teaching to help them grow, learn and develop so they are able to realise their full potential. That is the commitment Buckinghamshire Council is making to all children and families in the county as it launches its new Education Strategy. The Education Strategy sets out five key priorities:

- Access to and availability of high-quality educational places
 - Preparing young learners to reach their potential as adults
 - Collaborative school improvement to raise standards
 - Embedding a climate of inclusion
- Supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of all children and young people
- It follows on from the previous Education & Skills Strategy which focused on the development of a programme of continuous improvement in education provision in Buckinghamshire. The new strategy builds on the achievements made and focuses on areas where more work needs to be done. In compiling the strategy, the council worked closely with schools and other education providers and consulted with parents, carers and other key stakeholders. One of the key elements of the strategy is ensuring that every child is able to access the

right educational placement and teaching for them, and that vulnerable children and young people are given the support they need to overcome challenges and achieve the same outcomes as their peers.

Bucks resident pays the price for fly-tipping

A man from Gerrards Cross has learned the hard way that crime doesn't pay after being caught fly-tipping and faced with a hefty fine. Jonathas Da Rocha Souza, aged 45, pleaded guilty to the charge of illegal dumping when he appeared at High Wycombe Magistrates Court on 7 June 2023.

The court was informed that on 12 May 2022, an enforcement officer working for Buckinghamshire Council, discovered a pile of illegally dumped waste in a lay-by on Layters Green Lane, Chalfont St Peter in Buckinghamshire. After further investigation, the source of the waste was identified and the suspected person responsible was reported to the local authority. Mr Souza was later interviewed by Council Enforcement Officers. During the interview, Mr Souza confessed to accepting £30 to remove the waste which he later illegally dumped. Magistrates fined Mr Souza £1,384 and ordered him to pay clean-up and prosecution costs of £1,010.62. A victim surcharge of £138 was also levied – making a total to pay of £2,532.62

Supporting adopters every step of the way

Are you thinking about adoption? Making the decision to adopt can be a big step but Buckinghamshire Council will be with you

every step of the way. That is the message the council is sending out to prospective adopters in Bucks as part of a month-long focus on adoption.

There are children of all ages and backgrounds who are waiting to be adopted and to start their new life with a new family. New adopters are always needed who can open up their homes and hearts to give these children the love and support they need to grow and thrive.

For more information on adopting in Buckinghamshire visit the website: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

Play Streets scheme encourages children to discover the joys of outdoor play

Children across Buckinghamshire are being given the opportunity to discover the joys of playing safely outside their homes as part of the Play Streets scheme.

The free scheme invites neighbours to apply for permission to close their road for a few hours at a time so that communities can come together, and children can meet up and have fun outdoors.

Following the successful launch last year, particular focus is being placed on encouraging communities within the targeted areas outlined in the council's Opportunity Bucks programme, in High Wycombe, Aylesbury and Chesham, to take advantage of the scheme, but communities all across the county can take part.

Electoral Registration – are your details up to date?

Buckinghamshire residents are being urged to ensure their electoral registration details are up to date through the annual canvass.

All residents will be contacted during July and August, and will receive an email or a letter from Buckinghamshire Council asking to confirm that the names of people listed as eligible to vote in their household are correct.

Being on the electoral register means that you can have your say and vote in future elections – plus it can also help with your credit rating. All you need to do is to read the email or letter carefully and follow the instructions on how to respond,

if necessary. It's very quick and easy! If you're not currently registered, your name will not appear on the messages we send. If you want to register this can be done as part of the canvass (a follow-up step is required).

The easiest way to register is online at: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Aylesbury Arm canal towpath benefits from £800k improvements

The Aylesbury Arm, a spur of the Grand Union Canal originally completed in 1815, has seen a significant improvement in its towpath condition, thanks to a £800k investment. The towpath improvements are on the section between locks 15 and 16, resulting in improved conditions for walking, cycling and wheeling.

The Aylesbury Arm canal towpath improvements – which have been made possible thanks to a £621,846 grant from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) from Homes England and £178,154 of funding from Section 106 developer contributions – are part of wider plans for active travel improvements in Aylesbury and form a main spine route between the town centre and the new developments of Kingsbrook and Woodlands. Improvements for walking, cycling and wheeling include:

- widening the towpath to 7 feet
- resurfacing the towpath
- improving accessibility onto the towpath
- installing new signs along the route.

The improvements aim to encourage active travel, improve people's health, and reduce carbon and air pollution.

The new route forms part of the council's aspirations for a 'Aylesbury-Tring-Wendover Canal Triangle' project and the wider Aylesbury Garden Town initiative.

Celebrating 70 years of safer school crossings

Over the years, thousands of children across Buckinghamshire have enjoyed a safer journey walking to school, thanks predominantly, to the efforts of the county's much loved school crossing patrollers who this week celebrate their 70th anniversary. Buckinghamshire currently has around 50 school crossing patrollers, commonly known as lollipop men and women due to the iconic circular signs on poles they carry when on duty, working across all parts of the county. Every morning and evening during term time, come rain or shine, they are out, guiding children, parents and carers safely across the road to and from school.

To celebrate the 70-year milestone and to say thank you to all school crossing patrollers, past and present, Buckinghamshire Council hosted a special event in High Wycombe on 29 June. The national school crossing patrol service was officially created by the School Crossing Patrol Act in 1953. The first SCPs wore white

coats and peaked hats. Over the years the clothing has changed to more weather-proof, hi-vis jackets and hats, but the popular lollipop signs have remained, relatively unchanged and become synonymous with the popular and much-loved image of school crossing patrollers countrywide.

Buckinghamshire's school crossing patrollers collectively have many interesting and amusing tales to tell of their time in the job. Christine Walker is the county's longest service patroller, clocking up 45 years. She received a British Empire Medal (BEM) in 2021 for her long service to road safety and has attended two Royal Garden Parties. All the patrollers build up a unique relationship with local families. One school crossing patroller called Mario is affectionally known as Super Mario by the children who greet him fondly every day. One thing all the patrollers clearly have in common is their love of the job with all of them saying how rewarding they find the role.

Councillor Derek Town

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The Ecclesiastical Parish of Ivinghoe with Pitstone The Church of St. Mary the Virgin

Vicar: Rev. James Grainger-Smith 01296 297915 *(Please call to arrange Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals or Burials)*

Licensed Lay Ministers: Mrs Barbara De Butts 01525 221080 & Mrs Sandra Green 01296 668648

Churchwardens: Mrs Babs Byrom 07860 780127 & Mr David Green 01296 668648

Our Usual Pattern of Services is:-

Every Wednesday 10:15am Holy Communion (BCP)

1st Sunday of the Month 10.00am Worshipping Together (All Ages)

2nd Sunday of the Month 10.00am Holy Communion

3rd Sunday of the Month 10.00am Morning Praise

4th Sunday of the Month 10:00am Holy Communion

5th Sunday of the Month 10.00am Benefice Communion

Because the Parish of Ivinghoe with Pitstone is part of a Benefice (i.e. shares a vicar) with the Parishes of Slapton and Marsworth, the venue for the 5th Sunday Benefice Communion rotates between the three Parish Churches. For the most up-to-date information please go to our website: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/162/>. At the major festivals of the Church Year (e.g. Holy Week, Easter Day, Remembrance Sunday & Christmas) there may well be special services instead of the above pattern again, the website is the best place to find up-to-date information.



Every 4th Saturday
of the month

At either Pitstone Pavilion or
Ivinghoe Village Hub

Bring along broken items to be fixed by volunteers!
No charge for fixing, but donations are welcome



Bring along:

- Tools and equipment
- Electrical goods
- Electronic devices (phones/tablets/laptops)
- Clothing, fabrics, jewellery
- Household items
- Toys and games
- Wooden items
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Don't fancy walking or cycling? You can sign up to welcome visitors to the Church on the day, the rota will also be on the table in Ivinghoe Church in August.



Registered Charity No. 206471

Further information can be found at
www.bucks-historic-churches.org/ide/ide

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF THE NHS



5 July 2023 marks 75 years of the National Health Service. Treating over a million people a day in England, the NHS touches all our lives. When it was founded in 1948, the NHS was the first universal health system to be available to all, free at the point of delivery. Today, 9 in 10 people agree that healthcare should be free of charge, more than 4 in 5 agree that care should be available to everyone, and that the NHS makes them most proud to be British. Since 1948, the NHS has evolved and adapted to meet the needs of each successive generation - from Britain's first heart transplant in 1968, to Europe's first liver transplant the same year. From the world's first CT scan on a patient in 1971 (revolutionising the way doctors examine the body), to the world's first test-tube baby born in 1978. Large-scale vaccination programmes protected children from whooping cough, measles and tuberculosis, and in 1999 the meningitis C vaccine was offered nationally in a world first. The NHS has delivered huge medical advances, including the world's first liver, heart and lung transplant in 1987, pioneering new treatments, such as bionic eyes and, the world's first rapid whole genome sequencing service for seriously ill babies and children.

During the pandemic, having a single national health service enabled us to carry out research at an unprecedented scale and find the world's first effective treatment for COVID-19, dexamethasone, making it available across every hospital the same day it was approved. It enabled us to not just deliver the first accredited COVID-19 vaccine in the world but to rollout the NHS vaccine programme with a combination of speed and precision unseen elsewhere.

Transforming the NHS

The NHS is now a leader in adopting innovative medicines, with industry data showing there are 5 treatments available in England for every 4 in Europe, as well as almost a third more cancer drugs. In 2022, robotics systems have helped to treat patients with prostate cancer and get them back to their homes less than 24 hours after surgery, we saw the first new treatment for sickle cell disease in over two decades, and the 100th cancer drug was fast tracked to patients through the NHS Cancer Drugs Fund.

Integrating health and care

We also set up integrated care systems across England, bringing health and care organisations together to address health inequalities and plan services to better meet the needs of our patients. These local health and care services are designing new proactive models of care, improving health and wellbeing today and for future generations.

Innovating for future generations

As we look ahead, embracing innovation is critical in enabling the NHS model to deliver better outcomes for our growing population. That means using IT and data more effectively; integrating health and social care; getting better at preventing illness, not just treating it; and speeding up the introduction of 21st century genomics-based medicine. Innovating for future generations also means developing new services, such as becoming the first country in the world to

launch clinical training in perinatal mental health using extended reality (XR) technology. More than 100,000 patients have been treated in NHS virtual wards in the last year for conditions such as frailty and acute respiratory infection - that's around the same number of patients who had a hip replacement last year in England. None of this innovation would be possible without the skill and expertise of NHS staff, volunteers and our partners in the social care sector. From the midwives who help bring us into the world, the GPs and pharmacists who are our first port of call when we are sick, the nurses, doctors and other clinicians who care for us in our time of need, the porters and cleaners who keep our hospitals moving, and the hundreds of thousands of dedicated staff and volunteers in between – our people are the driving force in helping us do this. From the day it launched, the NHS has relied on staff from across the world – from the Windrush Generation of 1948 to today's workforce, represented by over 200 nationalities.

The NHS is committed to transforming services, delivering for patients and better understanding the local populations we serve. We know we have much to do, but through modernising our outpatient services, rolling out new proactive and preventative models of care, and creating a sustainable system for the future, we will ensure the NHS continues to be the healthcare envy of the world.

We extend our thanks to all the residents who work within the NHS.

NEWS FROM COM CHURCH PITSTONE

Rev Rob Payne

COM Church Pitstone is an assembly of people who love God and the Pitstone community. We are part of a vibrant community that has a base in Dunstable which is part of The Elim Pentecostal group of churches.

We are meeting in Pitstone Pavilion on the second Sunday of the month, beginning Sunday 11th June at 4pm. We hope you will be able to join us to be inspired, challenged and refreshed. With worship and Bible-based teaching, our prayer is that we will provide nourishment for your walk with God.

We hope to see you there!

You can contact us at:
pitstone@comchurch.org.uk



PPP Deliverers Needed

Fancy getting out and about a bit more in the village?
PPP rounds are currently available on Castlemead
and on Yardley Avenue.

Each round is about 40 copies, four times a year.
Cover can be provided if you are on holiday.

To find out more, please contact Rachel on 07717 471 584.

Can you help organise the distribution of this magazine?

We are looking for a back up distributor to help when Rachel is away
and/or to help her on an ongoing basis.

The work is not too arduous: PPPs come out 4 times a year,
counting takes an hour or two and distributing to the deliverers takes
about the same. You will need a car.

If you would like to discuss this voluntary role, please call or text
Rachel on 07717 471 584.

Home Counties Loft Ladders, Quality You Can Trust!

These days most homeowners suffer from a lack of storage space. So many precious items that need to be kept – but where to store it all? That's where Home Counties Loft Ladders come in.

The company, based locally, offers homeowners the opportunity to maximise their storage space with a loft ladder, 50sqft of boarding and a light – all fully fitted in less than a day from just £444! But it's not just the affordability of the package that makes Home Counties Loft Ladders stand out, as manager Jamie Oakley explains: 'Our

watchwords are Quality, Integrity and Value. Quality in the materials that we use for all our installations and the fact that all our loft packages are fitted by time served tradesmen, so our customers are assured of the best job.

Integrity in that we will turn up at the time we say and make sure the house is spotless when we leave, and value in that we offer our services at a price people can afford.

Our business relies on referrals and we get a huge amount of our calls from people who have been referred to us by our existing customers

- that simply wouldn't happen if we didn't adhere to our overriding principles.

At the end of the day the old adage that happy customers lead to more happy customers is true and we work hard to make that happen for

every installation we carry out!

So, if you want to make use of your loft space, call Jamie free on 0808 301 9556 and he'll be happy to pop round and give you a no obligation quote so you too can make use of your loft!



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LOCAL FOODBANK

We offer an emergency foodbank service covering the villages of Ivinghoe, Pitstone, Marsworth, Slapton, Ivinghoe Aston, Horton and Cheddington.

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Please contact Babs on 07860 780127 or Sue on 07742 138955 for further information.

All enquiries will be treated in strictest confidence.



Pitstone 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
- Rothschild House Surgery, Tring £4.50
- Stoke Mandeville Hospital £9.50
- Wycombe Hospital £18.50

For more information, or to request a trip, please contact Stephen on **01296 767116**
email: communitytransport@pitstone.co.uk

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Visit our website tringu3a.org.uk or email membership@tringu3a.org.uk to find out more



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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

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SIGN UP FOR ALERTS

The Wing and District Neighbourhood Policing Team

Would you like to receive our Thames Valley Alerts? This is where you would receive an email if a crime or an incident occurs in your area so you can be more aware of what goes on where you live/work and can be extra vigilant when needed. They also send out suitable Crime Prevention Advice when applicable and anything else you need to be aware of.

You can sign up at: <https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/> or, if you prefer, you can join the alerts system by emailing the TVP team providing your email address, door number and postcode. Their email address is: greatbrickhillwingivinghoenpt@thamesvalley.police.uk



Your area is covered by The Wing & District Neighbourhood Policing Team

Charlotte Cottage, 73 Leighton Road, Wing,
LU7 9RD

To contact a member of the local team,
please email the below email address:
greatbrickhillwingivinghoenpt@thamesvalley.police.uk

To report a non-urgent crime you can visit:
www.thamesvalley.police.uk

or

Telephone: 101 to speak with an operator
In the event of an emergency always dial 999



NEWS FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH PITSTONE

Gillian Arney

The church will be **open** from 2.30 – 5.30 every Sunday and Bank Holiday from May till September except for Coronation weekend. We welcome all who would like to spend time in the most peaceful part of Pitstone.

We have planned a programme of events this year. We hope everybody can find something that they can enjoy in our beautiful church.

Monday 28th August Tea with music. Katharine Arney will be here with her harp to entertain visitors enjoying tea and home made cakes. This is a chance to catch up as the holidays end.

Sunday 10th September Morning service in the church to celebrate Heritage week.

Sunday 24th September Oxford Fiddle Group will be playing in the evening. More details later.

We are always looking for volunteers to help on Sundays and at our events. If you would like to join us please contact Jean Booth 01296 661745

Pitstone Church is vested in the Churches Conservation Trust who look after redundant churches and keep them alive as part of their community.

CRICKET LOVELY CRICKET

Klaus Ginda

In 1939 Pitstone's population was under 600, villagers conversed in rural accents that would soon be lost while the country lived first under the threat of war and then the announcement of hostilities.

Tony Puddefoot, a well known character who had some success playing for the village cricket team post war, told me that in the 1930's scenes in a feature film had been filmed on the Recreation Ground showing shots of a cricket match. I contacted the **British Film Institution** and asked if they could identify the film in question simply stating that it included a cricket match played on our Recreation Ground. Tony was on the ball, they replied that the film named simply **Inquest** was made in 1939 by film-makers John and Roy Boulting. The twins were born in 1913 at Bray in Berkshire but by the Census of 1939 their parents were shown as living at The Green in Pitstone:
RE122 1939 **Boulting**, Roy Alfred & Marian Angela. The Green



The brothers career together spanned some twenty-seven years, amounting to sixty films including 1947's Brighton Rock written by Berkhamsted's Graham Greene starring Richard Attenborough and 1959's I'm All Right Jack a film comedy that boosted the career of it's star Peter Sellers.

The **BFI** were helpful and kind enough to invite me to view the film at their new London headquarters. An offer I never took up because they thought I was a young eager film student rather than someone at the other end of the spectrum. Years went by, their email remained in my follow file, when by chance, last year, I was able to view the film on Talking Pictures TV (Freeview Channel 82). After screening by TPTV their films are accessible for some time on a sister service, which requires registration by the user, called TPTVENCORE, it may still be available to view, otherwise is worth looking out for when it is next scheduled on our TV screens.

The film shows spectators - mainly children and the elderly accompanied by their dogs. The Memorial Hall, in use till the 1970's is recognisable to all who stepped through it's doors during the fifty years it served the community as a cinema, theatre, scout hut etc. Those of a certain age may be able to identify family and characters who made an uncredited appearance in the film.

Also included was a short clip of Ivinghoe showing a car, involved in the film's plot, turning from the High Street down past the exterior of the King's Head with it's Benskins pub sign. A lone dark haired women is pictured walking up Station Road. At this time were the villagers who seemed carefree, on a bright summers day living under the threat of war or had war already been declared, shots on celluloid soon superseded by the sound of real bullets in the theatre of war?

Anyone with recollections of Pitstone's past is invited to write to the editor at pppeditor@pitstone.co.uk.

IVINGHOE AND PITSTONE WI

Kay Ison



The last quarter has been a busy time for our WI. We had 2 outings in March with the first being a visit to Burghley House in Stamford. Our guide was informative and fun and the furniture and paintings were amazing. The tour finished with a trip to the Orangery for tea and cake and the all important gift shop. It was agreed that it warranted a second visit to look around the beautiful gardens. Our second trip to Dunstable 10 pin bowling alley was a great success. Lots of laughter as we showed off our bowling skills with some members definitely more successful than others. The evening was rounded off with a meal in the local pub.

We held a successful fund raising event on 21st March in Pitstone Pavilion. At our Spring Lunch 45 guests were offered a choice of casseroles including beef, chicken, lamb and vegetarian with new potatoes. The casseroles were made by WI members and were delicious with most people having seconds and even thirds. Dessert was a choice of cheese cake or chocolate cake followed by tea or coffee. There were lots of compliments and chat as guests had a relaxing time. Betty and Eilish ran a very successful raffle and raised £130 for our charity of the year.

The start of our new membership year gave us a total of 39 confirmed members and the programme for the year was issued. We look forward to an exciting and rewarding year.

The speaker for our April meeting was Chris Beach who gave a talk on The Integration of Acupuncture in to Multiple Sclerosis and symptoms as a result of Chemotherapy In Cancer Care. Research into the 3000 year old art of acupuncture has improved over the last 30 years and in 1991 the World Health Organisation recognised acupuncture's help with cancer symptoms and side effects of medication. The same is true for MS which has no cure but acupuncture helps to improve quality of life. Chris works in 2 clinics, the Chiltern MS Centre and South Bucks Hospice. Chris donates the fees he receives from the extra private sessions he offers to support the

MS Centre. His talk was very interesting and well received by members and the evening was rounded off with tea and cake, chat and our monthly raffle for our charity of the year, Ivinghoe Scouts hut.

Our May meeting was a celebration of our WI's 106th birthday. 24 members attended the meeting in Pitstone Pavilion and included both our longest serving member Louise and our oldest member Ellen. Platters of sandwiches and wraps were served and members supplied their own drinks to toast our birthday. Tessa made some delicious cakes and scones for dessert. Tessa also organised a Coronation Quiz for each table. The questions were challenging and we all had to rack our brains trying to remember everything that had happened over the Coronation weekend. I am pleased to say our table won the quiz with a score of 18. The meeting was finished off with tea and coffee and a raffle. Members enjoyed catching up with each other. In April WI members helped the 2 villages celebrate the King's Coronation by putting up bunting around both villages.

The sun shone on 20 May at Brookmead School where our WI had a stall to advertise our group at the Windmill pre-school Spring Fayre. Luckily Betty, a member of our WI and her husband Geoff supplied us with a Gazebo to keep us cool. We had several ladies expressing an interest and they enjoyed looking through some of our year books showing what the WI ladies did and achieved in years gone by. They are a fascinating insight into our history and how life has changed and moved on. A big thanks to Tessa who organised the stall. One of the ladies who showed interest at the stall visited our WI for our June meeting.

Our June talk was given by Daphne Preece and featured Claydon House today. The house was built on a 5 acre patch of land acquired by Sir Ralph Verney, Lord Mayor of London in 1463. He leased it to Roger Giffard who built the Tudor Manor House. There are

still some beams from this original building which are part of the house that exists today. Sir Edward Verney who was chief standard bearer to King Charles 1 was the next owner of this house and it remained in the Verney/Calvert family until 1956 when Claydon was given to the National Trust. The very wealthy 2nd Earl Verney, Ralph inherited the house in 1753 and began building the extension Party House. He hired Luke Lightfoot a stone Mason who did all the renovations. Luke Lightfoot used carved wood to decorate ceilings and walls. The result was breathtaking. However he fell out with the Earl and was replaced by Sir Thomas Robinson who preferred plasterwork and neoclassical work. Examples of this can also be found at the house. Before he left, Luke Lightfoot completed the magnificent wooden staircase which is known as the singing staircase due to the ears of corn within it. The Earl died childless and in debt. His niece inherited the House and to her credit Mary, Baroness of Fermanagh turned the debt around. She also died childless and the house went to her half sister who was a Calvert. Every Calvert who subsequently inherited the house changed their name to Verney.

Sir Harry Calvert married the sister of Florence Nightingale, Parthenope. Her dowry was used in the remodelling of the house and Sir Harry bought a carpet for £100 which is still there today! Between 1820 and 1910 Florence Nightingale visited Claydon House many times. During the Second World War the house was home to 2 schools and in 1956 conservation work commenced when the house was signed over to the National Trust. During COVID the staff/volunteers made a quilt for Florence Nightingale's bed as a record of both her and the pandemic. The Verney family finally moved out of their apartment in 2019. Several films have also been made there including Far from the Madding Crowd which was released in 2015. We all agreed that Claydon House, which is on our doorstep is well worth a visit. A very interesting talk.

With the start of our new membership year our interest groups continue but with some evolving into a new style. The Random Readers now meet in the library on the first Wednesday evening of the month. Members bring books they have read and

give a brief synopsis without giving the story away. They then swap books. There is a small charge to cover the cost of the hire of the library. The Craft Group continues to be a popular group and in April made beautiful button cards. This was followed by trendy bracelets made out of leather and beads in May and for June they are planning to meet twice so that they can make pottery trinket dishes decorated with Mandala painting. Our newly named Social Club replaces our Supper Club. This new group will meet up once a month to visit different venues and suggestions were asked for at the April meeting. This looks like an exciting new opportunity for members who can decide on a much wider choice of venues. The first outing was to Waterperry nursery and garden which they all enjoyed and a few plants were purchased along the way. In June some of the group had a pleasant walk around Wilstone reservoir before meeting other members for a coffee and catch up. It was lovely to catch up with friends outside in the relaxed setting of P E Meads garden and the coffee and tea was spot on. Knit and Natter continue to meet weekly and our helping put together the knitted squares for blankets for Ukraine which will be shipped to Ukraine in June. The Walking Group completed the Aldbury round walk which included views of the beautiful bluebells of Ashridge. The members enjoyed a 10 mile walk which left them a bit stiff and tired but nothing that a good soak in a hot bath couldn't sort out.

We will be running a bottle Tombola at the Village Fete on Ivinghoe Lawn on 8th July and will be having our annual outing in August. Next month our speaker will be Leslie Grout on St George's Chapel. This is an open meeting so please contact us on the email below if you would like to come to this interesting talk. Other events to look forward to include a talk on volunteering in Cambodia in September which is again an open meeting and in October we have a talk on the history of famous jewels. November will be an evening of crafts and in December we have our Christmas celebrations. There is a lot to look forward to and if anyone is interested in joining our friendly group please contact our President, Annette by emailing annetteipwi@btinternet.com

The Ridgeway Ensemble presents a new programme at 5pm on Saturday October 14th in Ivinghoe Town Hall, in connection with the Arts and Crafts Exhibition to be held in St Mary's Church on Saturday 14th (10.30-4.30, admission free) and Sunday 15th October (10.30-3.30). Following the exhibition, which will feature many works inspired by nature, 'Walk in Beauty' is an exploration of humanities relationship with nature as seen through the eyes of musicians and writers. Lasting approximately 1hr 15mins, the varied programme ranges from the early 19th century right up to the present day. Music written in previous generations is complemented by the response of several contemporary composers to the crisis in nature, including a work by Sally Beamish and a new commission from Peter Fender, a setting of a Navajo meditation which gives its name to the whole programme. Tickets £10 from mrvslapton@gmail.com or on the door.

Tea and cakes will be available in the church during the exhibition and prior to the concert.



Exhibition of art and crafts

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Sunday, 15th October,
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Ivinghoe Town Hall
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mrvslapton@gmail.com or on
the door.

Teas will be available in the
church before the concert,
following the Arts and Crafts
Exhibition.

Judith Sheridan, voice
Margaret Richards, cello
Daniel King Smith, piano
William Winfield, reader

RIDGEWAY
ENSEMBLE

ASHRIDGE RAMBLINGS

Rikki Harrington (Ashridge Estate Committee Member)

ALL THINGS ...



... Bright and beautiful

In the last issue, we called for volunteers to help show visitors the Windmill. It's not too late – **please email ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk or ring 01442 851227**. Those who do will be able to show off the new tail wheel. It had to go to a specialist wheelwright to be completely rebuilt using traditional methods. Only the metal rim has been retained. Such a lot of craftsmanship was involved that it took three months. The roundhouse roof has also been repaired and re-tarred. The remaining work, painting the mill body and roof plus repairs to the timber of the sails, will be happening soon.

... Creatures great and small

Breeding bird surveys on Northchurch Common are underway for the first time since 2018 and reflect changes since the habitat has been managed to allow more scrub to grow up. There has been a welcome increase in Yellowhammers and Linnets in the scrubby areas (both on the Red List of birds of conservation concern in the

UK) as well as Whitethroats and Garden Warblers (both visitors from Africa, returning to the UK for summer to breed).

In contrast, a great deal of scrub has been cleared from Ivinghoe Beacon hills. This should help the rare Duke of Burgundy butterfly to thrive and spread.

THE BEACON ART GROUP

We are an informal group who meet on Tuesday mornings in Ivinghoe Town Hall. We'd love a few more people to join us who like to dabble in painting and drawing. Beginners welcome.

If you think you would be interested please telephone me, Marion Jackson 01296 668429.

... Wise (possibly) and wonderful (certainly)

Fancy a long walk? The Boundary Trail has grown from 16 to 17.5 miles. When it was originally devised, Aldbury Nowers and Pitstone Hill were not owned by the National Trust. This beautiful area has now been incorporated into the trail and a few other minor tweaks made. By the time you read this, the new signage should be in place.

Pitstone Community Cinema are apparently currently investigating what measures may need to be put into place to enable this group to start up again. We will keep you updated of any progress.



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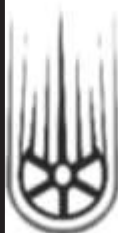
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LOCAL INFORMATION

LOCAL VENUES

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: Julie Fretwell, 07469 016745, ivinghoetownhallbookings@gmail.com.

Pitstone Memorial Hall: 2 various sized event rooms including large hall with integrated cinema screen and raised stage. 2 kitchens, Heroes—our 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

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

Over 60's Club: third Thursday of each month, Pitstone Pavilion, 2-4pm, join us for varied programmes of speakers, quizzes and entertainment. Contact: 01296 668005

Beacon Art Group: Tuesday mornings Ivinghoe Town Hall. Beginners welcome. Contact: Marion Jackson 01296 668429

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): 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

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

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

Pitstone House of Worship: an evening of worship open to all Christians in the area. Last Friday of the month at 7.30pm (tea and coffee at 7pm) at Pitstone Pavilion. Contact Brian and Vanessa 01296 662227.

Com Church Pitstone: meet at Pitstone Pavilion on the 2nd Sunday of the month at 4pm. An assembly of people who love God and the Pitstone community. Part of The Elim Pentecostal group of churches. Contact us at: pitstone@comchurch.org.uk.

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 10-12. 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 £5, children 16 years & under are free. For further details go to <https://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/>

Pitstone Windmill: This beautifully restored mill is a window into history and also a perfect location for some stunning walks. Part of Ashridge Estate, Pitstone Windmill is a Chilterns gem from the 17th century. More info: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/pitstone-windmill>



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: Last phase of Castlemead & business park lights – email: CCSouthMid@taylorwimpey.com

Marsworth Road, Westfield Road and phase I-IV of Castlemead lights – Bucks Council online: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/report-problems-on-roads-streets-and-pavements/report-a-problem-with-street-light/>

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> unless still maintained by a developer

Missed bin collection or to find out about recycling: Bucks Council online: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/report-a-missed-bin-collection/>

Dispute with your neighbours about their high hedge: Bucks Council offer more information and a complaint service. For more information go to: trees.av@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Other nuisances causing problems e.g. smoke, air pollution etc: Visit Bucks Council website: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/environment/environmental-health-and-nuisance/>

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.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/view-and-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

Want to know if you need planning permission? Visit: <https://www.planningportal.co.uk/>

Illegally parked: Report problem vehicles to Thames Valley Police on tel: 101











Faulty electronic bus stop signs: passtrans@buckscc.gov.uk

Power Cuts: UK Power Networks telephone 105

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. 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, Sports & Leisure, 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 Mrs Margaret Crutchfield</p>  <p>E: margaret.crutchfield@pitstonepc.org 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, BALC and Community Board.</p>
<p>Cllr Mrs Frances Nash</p>  <p>E: frances.nash@pitstonepc.org</p>	<p>Cllr Kris Weber</p>  <p>T: 07710088624 E: kris.weber@pitstonepc.org Chair of Planning, Sports & Leisure.</p>
<p>Cllr Anil Mitra</p>  <p>T: 01296 295827 E: anil.mitra@pitstonepc.org Youth Café and footpaths.</p>	<p>Cllr Jack Hawkins</p>  <p>T: 07713590490 E: jack.hawkins@pitstonepc.org Planning, Sports & Leisure, Pitstone Parish Charity and Footpaths.</p>
<p>Cllr Dr Dave Frearson</p>  <p>E: dave.frearson@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.aylesburyvalde.gov.uk/search-planning-licensing-applications>

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