



Pitstone Parish Post

January 2024

Issue number 139



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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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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Laurie Eagling, Parish Clerk



Memorial Bench



We would like to express our gratitude to the Deeley family for the donation of a commemorative bench, now located on the Recreation Ground by the magnificent Oak tree,

in loving memory of Graham Joseph Deeley
27/08/79-14/01/22.

Christmas Lights



We hope that all our residents enjoyed the festive illuminations at the Recreation Ground and Pavilion. As the cherry tree that used to house the lights at the pavilion had sadly needed to

be felled during the year, we opted for column mounted panels combined with our existing string lights. Feedback from residents and hirers has been very positive.

Buckinghamshire Council Street Lights

Buckinghamshire Council worked hard to try and catch up on the backlog of outstanding street light remedials in the village. By the end of October all the columns along Westfield Road were operational except 2 that had UK Power Network faults that had to be rectified before BC could return to complete their works. Since that point, several have developed new faults, and been fixed again so on 21/12/23 all streetlights along Westfield Road were operational with the exception of one on the corner of Warwick Road. By 31/12 3 further lights had gone out, which had been fixed on the next check on 4/1/24 (the one on the corner of Warwick Road remained out), but 3 different lights had then gone out, all were reported to BC. These are all old

lighting stock so will be subject to ongoing issues. The Parish Council has been pushing for them to be upgraded to LED in line with the rest of our village and BC's own policies, and Taylor Wimpey provided Buckinghamshire Council with some funding. Along Marsworth Road, the illuminated bollards were all fixed, but some are now out again, but the illuminated directional arrow signs on the islands required some replacement parts that will be installed upon receipt. BC continue to experience some issues with the reliability of some of the main lanterns along the road, but they did fix many of the long outstanding issues. BC Lighting are also working on the replacement of the signage & illumination at the Westfield Road roundabout following a traffic accident. BC no longer monitor any of their lights, they solely rely on reports being uploaded to their Fix My Street portal on their website. The Parish Council, and a team of volunteers, do monitor lights and we upload reports to the BC portal on a regular basis. If you spot a light that is not operational, or is flashing, or is on when it should not be, please let us know by emailing parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk or log it direct to the BC website. If you would like to join our team of street light champions and check the lights near you, please email parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk.

Would you use a footpath between Westfield Road and College Lake?

A few residents have enquired whether a path along this route would be possible. Initial enquiries with adjacent landowners have shown that any such path would need to run within the verge, besides the carriageway, rather than being set back through the woodland. Buckinghamshire Council's Community Board has advised that such a path would not qualify for grant funding via the Board, so would need to be funded locally or via grants from other sources, if any are

identified. Before any investigative work can be undertaken by the Highways Authority, we would need to assess how many people already walk this route, how many would utilise such a path, where you are trying to access, what other routes you currently use, and whether residents feel that this would be a good use of Local Council tax funds. If you have any views, for or against, please complete the online survey at <https://pitstone.co.uk/path-to-college-lake/> by the end of February. If you do not have computer access and would prefer a hard copy, please telephone 767261 and we will happily provide a printed version. Buckinghamshire Council has advised that it will be consulting in 2024 on its Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) so if you are keen to see such a path installed, please keep your eyes out for that consultation and make sure you have your say.

Do you experience any problems crossing Westfield Road?

At the Annual Assembly a resident enquired whether Westfield Road qualified for zebra crossings. Buckinghamshire Council's Community Board has advised that crossings would not qualify for grant funding via the Board nor BC, so would need to be funded locally or via grants from other sources, if any are identified. Before any investigative work can be undertaken by the Highways Authority, we would need to assess how many people experience difficulty crossing Westfield Road, how long you have to wait before a clear gap becomes available, where along the road you are crossing, where you are trying to reach, how many people would benefit/use a crossing, and whether residents feel that this would be a good use of Local Council tax funds. If you have any views, for or against, please complete the online survey at <https://pitstone.co.uk/westfield-road-crossing/> by the end of February. If you do not have computer access and would prefer a hard copy please phone 767261 and we will happily provide a printed version.

Another resident enquired whether the pedestrian refuge islands along Marsworth Road could be upgraded to zebra crossings. The Highways Authority advise that the low wait time and clear visibility at these locations

had identified refuge islands as the most appropriate type of pedestrian crossings for these locations. There are proposals within the Pitstone Safety Scheme to try and enhance their prominence, and reduce traffic speeds, via the use of coloured tarmac at crossings and median strips. Phase I of the safety scheme was installed outside Brookmead School in 2023. Buckinghamshire Council are currently reviewing Section 106 funds they are holding towards Safety Scheme works and whether the next phase of Safety Scheme implementation can progress to the next phase.

Westfield Road Bus Shelters

We continue to liaise with Buckinghamshire Council regarding the possibility of bus shelters for Westfield Road. They have now confirmed that no funding is available from either Buckinghamshire Council Public Transport or the Community Board, so these will need to be funded locally via the precept. There are a number of steps that would need to be completed before we can obtain their final approval on the design (particularly as they'd sit next to the cycle path) and get permission to carry out minor works to their highway verge to install them, so this may take some time yet.

Anti-Social Behaviour

On a sadder note, we continue to experience vandalism to the play equipment on the Recreation Ground and have received one report of anti-social behaviour near the Skate Park. If you do witness any anti-social behaviour, please report it to our neighbourhood policing team at Thames Valley Police by emailing greatbrickhillwingivinghoenhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk and providing details of the people/vehicles etc involved and the date/time that it was witnessed. This enables them to speak to offenders (if known) and better target their patrol activity.

New Curtains at Pitstone Memorial Hall

The Parish Council was pleased to supply a grant to Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity for the supply and installation of new curtains in the main hall, to provide improved acoustic and black out qualities, which will benefit many hirers and enable the Pitstone Picturehouse



(previously Pitstone Film Club) to resume. The curtains were supplied by Panache Interiors at cost, so thank you to this local company for their support of a local

charity. If you are a local community group that benefits the residents of Pitstone, and could do with a helping hand towards the cost of a project, you can find out all about our grant scheme and how to apply by clicking this link: <https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/grant-policy/>

Vacancy for Parish Councillor

Due to a change in personal circumstances Councillor Jack Heyman sadly resigned from his seat on the council as of 4/1/24. We thank Jack for his hard work and dedication during his term in office and wish him well for the future. Jack was a member of the Sports & Leisure Committee, the Pitstone

Development Area working party, the youth café working party and regularly organised the annual Children’s Competition, as well as fulfilling his duties on the main council. The BC Monitoring Officer has been advised and notices erected, the details are also available on our website. Please contact parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk or 01296 767261 if you have spare time to volunteer each week (the role of councillor is a voluntary one with no remuneration), a passion for our village, and would like to fulfil the remaining term of office until the parish elections in 2025.

Planning

There are several major planning applications for which we are still waiting for BC to provide a determination including 5 new dwellings behind 87 Marsworth Road, 1 new dwelling on Marsworth Road and 4 dwellings on Queen Street. As always, you can find full details of all planning applications on the BC Planning Portal.



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COUNTY NEWS

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

Keeping roads safe this winter

When temperatures plummet, Buckinghamshire Council's trusty fleet of gritters roll into action, salting key roads across the county, to make them safer for motorists. But did you know that the council also provides salt bins for people to freely use to make their roads and pavements safer during cold and icy weather? The bins are filled with salt and are available at multiple locations across the county for drivers and pedestrians to treat public roads and pavements in their local area. The bins are filled and topped up during the winter season with a mixture of salt and sand. They are located in targeted areas known to be affected by icy conditions which the gritting routes do not cover. Salt bins are provided for residents to use on public roads and footways only and should not be used to clear private drives.

Changes to household DIY waste disposal due from 31 December

Residents in Buckinghamshire will be able to dispose of small amounts of DIY waste for free at Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) from 31 December 2023. The changes have been brought in by Central Government and will make it easier for people to freely dispose of small amounts of waste created at home from DIY projects such as re-tiling, renovating a bathroom or digging a pond in the garden. Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet voted in favour of necessary changes to the council's Waste Access & Acceptance Policy which sets out rules and procedures for the county's 10 HRCs, to reflect the new legislation. Following the change in law regarding the disposal of household DIY waste, the council is reintroducing a digital e-permit for DIY waste. From 31 December, any resident wanting to dispose of household DIY waste at a HRC will need to have an e-permit printed out or on a portable device, such as a mobile phone or tablet before they visit. This only affects residents who wish to bring household DIY waste. The DIY e-permit will allow residents to dispose of one load of DIY waste each week for free. One load of DIY waste is no more than 100 litres of loose DIY waste, or one large item no bigger than 2m x 0.75m x 0.7m such as one bathtub, one door or one kitchen unit. Staff will scan the permit and check the residents address, after which the e-permit will expire. It can be renewed after seven days, to allow residents to dispose of another load of DIY waste for free. Anyone wishing to dispose of more than one load of DIY waste in a week will be able to do so but will be charged, using the same price list which has been in place for the past four years.

Council enforces higher penalties for fly-tipping in Bucks

Those caught fly-tipping in Buckinghamshire face the consequence of paying a higher penalty for their crime following changes to the law which have been adopted by the council. Earlier this year the government increased the maximum Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for fly-tipping from £400 to £1,000. The penalty for Failure in Householder Duty of Care, has also been

raised from £400 to a maximum of £600. This penalty relates to people who have waste removed by a third-party waste carrier. By law householders have a duty to check that the carrier they are using is legally authorised to carry out the work and will do so responsibly. If the waste they have given the carrier is found dumped illegally, the householder is deemed to have failed in their Duty of Care regarding their waste and can be liable for prosecution. Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet today voted in favour of amending local policies to reflect the changes, bringing in powers to enforce the highest rate for FPNs for those caught breaking the law in this way. FPNs are generally used for smaller scale offences and avoid court proceedings and a criminal record. However where possible the council will always seek to impose the maximum penalty and for larger scale or more serious offences the defendant may be summoned to court where fines are set by magistrates and can result in custodial sentences and costs totalling thousands of pounds.

Coming soon to the Aylesbury area – buses on demand

People in the area surrounding Aylesbury will have an exciting new choice of how to travel by public transport after Buckinghamshire Council is set to partner with WeMove to launch a 'demand responsive' bus service. The three-year trial follows the successful introduction of a similar scheme in Wycombe earlier last year, which has already proved so popular that it has expanded to new areas to meet demand. The new service is part of a pilot scheme funded by the Government's Rural Mobility Fund and covers a specific geographical area, enabling passengers to request a pick up from one of the fully accessible minibuses at a convenient nearby 'virtual bus stop' as the buses travel through their area. The areas covered by the service include Aston Clinton, Weston Turville, Halton, Hartwell, Stoke Mandeville, Bishopstone and Weedon. The service will drop off passengers anywhere within the operational area, which includes Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury town centre and the railway stations at Aylesbury, Aylesbury Vale Parkway, Stoke Mandeville and Wendover.

Get better health and wellbeing with BetterPoints

Buckinghamshire Council is reminding residents that there is no better time to get active with BetterPoints. The free health and wellbeing app has been helping thousands of people in the county to move more and make simple but effective lifestyle changes to improve their health and wellbeing. Now could be the perfect time for new users to start as a range of extra incentives have recently been added. BetterPoints is an easy-to-use mobile app that motivates users to be more active and offers incentives in the form of points which can then be converted into vouchers to spend in local shops or given to local charities as a monetary donation. Since the initiative launched earlier this year, more than 2000 residents in Bucks have downloaded the app and been using it, earning points when they walk, cycle, run or visit a leisure centre. The simple tool encourages people to make healthier lifestyle choices to boost their health and wellbeing. Extra points are on offer for residents who would like to lose weight or give up smoking when they access support via Be Healthy Bucks. Be Healthy Bucks is Buckinghamshire's free health and wellbeing service to help residents make small changes to lead a healthy life. They offer stop smoking support, healthy weight programmes, NHS health checks and support to cut down on alcohol.

Councillor Derek Town

Leewood

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DAVID HAWKINS



Many of you will know that David sadly passed away in October.

David started his football journey in 1957, joining Pitstone & Ivinghoe FC as a 16 year old. In those days he was a fast running young forward in the football club with a fierce shot. The club were playing in the West Herts League. Wiggy was soon to get his first medal and honour when Pitstone won the West Herts Challenge Trophy in the 57/58 season.

David was a regular in the team until he met and married Sue, they moved in with Sue's parents in Dunstable and as Wig did not drive he decided to play for Waterlows in Dunstable, his works team. Not long after David and Sue moved back to Pitstone and he rejoined the village team. More cups and league wins followed during Wigs time as a player. He played in the various local leagues, West Herts Premier League and Aylesbury District League. David was instrumental in helping the club gain admission into the Spartan South Midlands league in 1977 which is part of the National pyramid system.

David had been at the club carrying on as a player, Club Chairman, Secretary, and committee member. He put his heart and soul into the running of the club and was rewarded with league and club honours throughout his career. A real clubman and stalwart. Not many clubs can boast of a club legend lasting 66 years at a club beside Pitstone and Ivinghoe.

Wiggy will be missed by all at the club, his memory will live on. The photograph shows the Club holding one minutes silence in his memory.

I and Jay Adlem played with David in the early 60s and Wig was certainly a great character on and off the pitch, an avid singer and dancer at club functions, and one lasting memory would be of Wig dancing with Sue with his shirt hanging out, singing along to Elvis!

God bless Wiggy.

Bob Beesley



**PITSTONE TOWN
LANDS CHARITY**

*Supporting
People in Need
in Pitstone*

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

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

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

*tel: 01296 668809,
email: Gill.lowe@pitstone.email*

IVINGHOE AND PITSTONE CRICKET CLUB

Will Ottaway



Winter is here and with regards to the cricket club, there is very little to report. On the 5th December, the club had it's AGM where important matters were discussed and the plan for next season has been laid out to our squad.

In really positive news, our Colts section is gearing up to relaunch in the summer. We have qualified volunteers who have different training plans being drawn up to help develop anyone under the age of 15 as they play cricket. The club will be running the All Stars and Dynamos sessions this summer. For those children that took part last year, the parents can access their priority window that opens on 15th February. If you haven't taken part before but would like your child to take part this summer, the public booking system opens on the 1st March. Please go onto the ECB website for more details and to register an interest for this activity course. If you still have questions about our programmes that you can not find the answers to online, please email the club on ivinghoepitstonecricket@outlook.com and someone from the club will get in touch. However, at the AGM, we were informed that our 2nd team Captain (Anthony Day) will be stepping down from this role. The club would like to thank Anthony for his time and dedication that he put into the team and they are in a much stronger position because of this.

We have a number of events that will be coming up in the near future. On the 7th February, we'll be starting our winter nets. They are being held over at Kingsbrook Secondary School (HP22 7BR). They will be held every Wednesday evening between 8:30-9:30pm and will cost £5 a session. These sessions will continue until the 27th March. If you are completely new to the club, your first session will be free of charge. On the 10th February, we will be hosting our Presentation Evening at the Memorial Hall where we will be recognising all of those who performed well in the previous season and celebrating those achievements. Please watch out for our Facebook and Twitter (or X) for further information closer to the time. In March, we'll be hosting our Annual Quiz and more details will be shared closer to the event.

In the near future, the club will be purchasing some roll-on covers that will help our groundsman to prepare our pitches ahead of our fixtures. These covers will play an important role in the club's progression and the club is looking to share this journey with the community. We have a number of opportunities from printing our new covers with your logo, shirt sponsorship for youth and senior shirts and updating our signage around the scoreboard. If this sounds interesting to your business or you know someone that is looking to be noticed in the area, please get in touch.

All of these aims have been made possible with the support of our sponsors, CuriousiTEA Rooms, C&S Automotive and Mason Newsagents.

Whilst the long-term future looks good, we are always on the lookout for new players, umpires, scorers, coaches and anyone who would like to be part of the club. Last year, the club had competitive fixtures in a midweek league as well as running 2 Saturday league sides and the occasional Sunday friendly fixture. If anyone is interested in being a part of the club, please reach out to us. We are a very friendly, welcoming club that does its best to always offer everyone a game and opportunities to develop their personal and cricketing skills.

OCTOBER EXHIBITION OF ARTS AND CRAFTS

Barbara Cummings



Over a weekend in mid October St. Mary's Church in Ivinghoe hosted an exhibition of art and crafts, building on the success of our first event two years earlier.

The weekend was very well attended with several hundred folk turning up over the two days, to browse the many works on display, enjoy a lunch or tea, sometimes to buy, and most of all to appreciate the warm and friendly atmosphere.

In all around 170 framed paintings were on display, with many more unframed works to peruse, and a selection of crafts ranging from hand-made cards to bespoke silver jewellery. The majority of the artists and crafts people were from our locality, and demonstrate just what a wealth of talent we have in this area.

Special thanks go to our catering team who worked non-stop to keep the supply of home-made food coming; also to the team who set the exhibition up, those who managed the financial side, and many others who oiled the wheels in many different ways. And thanks of course to the artists and crafts people whose creativity and generosity in bringing their work along for display underpinned the entire event.



In all, over £2,400 was made for restoration projects in the church. Thoughts have already turned to our next exhibition, with a probable date in October 2025, so please look out for details nearer the time.

IVINGHOE AND PITSTONE HAND BELL RINGERS

Alex Wynne

The Ivinghoe Hand Bell ringers meet every Monday at 2pm for practice and enjoyment.

The bells belong to the Church, the music is easy to read being numbers 1, 2, 3, or 4.

We are a friendly group and would welcome newcomers to learn to play.

Please phone 01296 668122



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Janet Page, Secretary, BVCL



May I take this opportunity to remind your readers that the Library in Ivinghoe is once again open on Wednesday mornings between 10am and 12 noon. We are pleased to have been able to bring back this time slot which many users have found to be useful.

Our full opening hours are:

Tuesday 2 - 5pm

Wednesday 10am - 12 noon

Thursday 2 - 5pm

Friday 2 - 5pm

Saturday 10am - 1pm

There is a returns box available in the foyer at other times.

Beacon Villages Community Library. Run by the community, for the community.

www.bvcl.org.uk

General enquiries: info@bvcl.org.uk 01296 387890.

Winter Waggle at Waddesdon Manor

16th February

3k & 5k routes

Join us for our inaugural, fun-filled 'Winter Waggle' dog walk and help babies, children & young people with a neurodisability like cerebral palsy

Scan the QR code to book your tickets!



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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.

Supported by your local churches in Ivinghoe, Marsworth and Slapton and residents of all the above villages and further afield. We are also supported by our local businesses in Ivinghoe and Pitstone.

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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The club is administered by a committee of five but we need a LEADER to guide us forward. The committee will be happy to show the right person how we are run.

And as we all get older we would also love to welcome some NEW MEMBERS – particularly those who might aspire to a committee post in time.

We have a mixed program with speakers on all sorts of subjects, quizzes, films, lunches, raffles etc., and we always have time for a cup of tea and a "natter".

If you feel you have what it takes to LEAD us into the future, would like to JOIN us or simply want MORE INFORMATION, do please get in touch with:

GEOF - 01296 668476 OR MARGARET - 01296 668005

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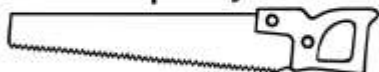
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IVINGHOE AND PITSTONE WI

Kay Ison

Our WI has had a busy 3 months. In the October meeting we had a presentation on "Famous Jewels and Their History" by Peter Hague. The talk was mainly about the famous jewels that belong to our Royal family and how they were obtained and who wore them. We learned that in 1671 'Colonel' Thomas Blood was caught trying to steal the Crown Jewels. He had fallen out with Charles II who confiscated his lands in Ireland. After Blood was captured Charles II was so impressed with his audacity he gave him a job, a pension and returned his lands in Ireland. Who says crime doesn't pay! Peter also told us stories of some of the tiaras worn by the late Queen and her sister Margaret. The Vladimir Tiara was a favourite with the Queen and came from Russia. The Queen also wore George IV State Diadem when posing for her image on the Royal Mail postage stamps. Princess Margaret wore the Paltimore Tiara on her wedding day. She bought it for five and a half thousand pounds. A great investment as it is now worth one and a half million pounds. One of the Queen Mother's friends, Mrs Ronald Greville was an avid collector of jewellery. When she died she bequeathed her jewellery to the Queen Mother including the Honeycomb Tiara and the Festoon necklace. The ruby necklace that graced Kate Middleton's neck and the emerald and diamond tiara worn by Eugenie are other examples of the collection. Other famous jewels talked about included the Peregrina Pearl which was bought by Richard Burton and gifted to Elizabeth Taylor on their first marriage. When they got married for the second time, Richard Burton gave Elizabeth Taylor the Burton-Taylor Diamond. Following their divorce Elizabeth had the diamond auctioned and built a hospital for the needy with the proceeds. Peter finished with a final story regarding the brooch Queen Elizabeth II wore when she met Donald Trump. The brooch had been gifted to her by Michelle and Barack Obama! We all enjoyed this very interesting talk and joked that our own jewellery paled in comparison.

We held a fundraiser in October, a Quiz Night

in the Pavilion with over 50 tickets sold. The raffle organised by Betty and Eilish raised £180 for our charity, the Scouts hut, and we welcomed a table representing the Scouts. The questions certainly tested our knowledge and there was a lot of guesswork on our table.

The cold wet weather did not deter 21 of our members from coming to our November meeting in Ivinghoe Town Hall for a craft evening run by our very own Sue Jones. Tables were set up with all the necessary craft items needed to make Christmas decorations. My table was really in the Christmas mood with hot mulled wine being shared around. Sue came around to each table with a different design for each decoration. My table started with a Christmas tree decoration. There was a lot of folding of paper and sticking with double sided tape and the tables were very quiet as they concentrated on the task in hand. Finally we produced a lovely paper Christmas tree that was ready to hang on a tree. Our next challenge was to make a Christmas Card. Again this involved folding and sticking with the result being very effective. The third decoration we made was a Christmas Angel again, simple but very elegant. The evening was lots of fun and was enjoyed by everyone. Everyone appreciated Sue's thought and input in setting up the evening and providing the materials.

Our December meeting was a bring and share supper in the Pavilion. The food that members made was amazing and very tasty. There was more than enough for everyone. Entertainment was provided by the very talented Jackie Barnett and 2 friends. They played a variety of instruments including the bagpipes, violin, drums, guitar, and flute. The music was beautiful and varied. The entertainment ended with us joining in singing some traditional Christmas carols to put us all



in the mood for Christmas. There was good news as Annette, our President, told us we had raised £215 for Aylesbury's Women's Aid which she had taken to the organisation to help buy Christmas presents for the children.

Over the last 3 months our Interest Groups have thrived. Random Readers continue to meet in the Library once a month on a Wednesday evening to discuss and exchange books. The Craft Group have made some wonderful, colourful autumn wreaths, Christmas decorations and Christmas swags over the last 3 months. They have devised a new programme for next year and have had lots of inquiries from members to join this popular group. The group has been very successful this year. A spin off from this was a craft morning in December, when members met up and tried out Silk Painting. The members who attended this morning all really enjoyed the activity which was not difficult and very relaxing. The Knit and Natter Group continued to meet weekly. Projects have included making items for the Church Craft Fair and the reworking and set up of the poppies around the villages and St Mary's Church for Remembrance Day. They looked magnificent and are a poignant reminder of such an important time in the world's history "Lest we forget".

The Walking Group have completed 3 walks along the Hertfordshire Way. The first was from Markyate to Aldbury followed by the second walk from Ashridge Monument to Berkhamsted station and included the main camp and training base for the Corps (nicknamed The Devil's Own). We saw the trenches the boys had dug as part of their training before they went off to war. Berkhamsted was their last period of normality before the horrors of the Western Front. It was very poignant. The final walk was from Berkhamsted to Kings Langley. Again the weather was good and the ladies who attended the walk had a wonderful day. We are looking forward to next year when there are plans for a walk in February and then again in March. A big thanks must go to our organisers and planners, Pat and Kate. They never fail to amaze us with their knowledge and organisation.

The Social Group has been very busy with regular coffee mornings in the Hub and trips out to Eyethrop Gardens and later Bicester Village for some Christmas shopping. Tessa is already planning a trip to Royal Ascot in June next year. Tessa has been key to the success of this group and we appreciate her hard work and thought that goes into planning these outings and meetings.

Members are now looking forward to our next meeting in January, titled "A Precious Evening". Members can bring an item that is precious to them and explain why. This sounds very intriguing. This will then be followed by a talk by Graham Laurie on "The Flying Doctor Service" in February and our Annual General Meeting in March.

We are a very social group and would love to meet some new potential members to our group. Please contact our President, Annette Hutchinson email: annetteipwi@btinternet.com if you would be interested in coming to a meeting or talking to members to see if you would like to join us.

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BEACON LIT

Emma Thorogood



Dear booklovers

Beaconlit 24, will be on Saturday 13th July, so add the date to your diaries now. We have Elly Griffiths confirmed, but watch this space for as and when new authors are added to the line up. In the meantime, if you want some reading recommendations, then look no further ...

Prophet Song by Paul Lynch Winner of the Booker Prize 2023

The explosive literary sensation: a mother faces a terrible choice as Ireland slides into totalitarianism. On a dark, wet evening in Dublin, scientist and mother-of-four Eilish Stack answers her front door to find the GNSB on her step. Two officers from Ireland's newly formed secret police are here to interrogate her husband, a trade unionist.

Ireland is falling apart. The country is in the grip of a government turning towards tyranny and when her husband disappears, Eilish finds herself caught within the nightmare logic of a society that is quickly unravelling. How far will she go to save her family? And what – or who – is she willing to leave behind?

Exhilarating, terrifying and propulsive, Prophet Song is a work of breathtaking originality, offering a devastating vision of a country at war and a deeply human portrait of a mother's fight to hold her family together.

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ASHRIDGE RAMBLINGS

Rikki Harrington (Ashridge Estate Committee Member)



A Helping Hand for an Endangered Bird

Several National Trust tenants have joined forces with volunteers from the Bucks Bird Club to start a conservation project for one of the most endangered birds on the estate – the Corn Bunting. This is a farmland bird which nests on the ground, often in arable crops, on the chalky soils around Ivinghoe Beacon. In the winter Corn Buntings join mixed flocks with other farmland birds and seek out seeds to keep themselves fed.

Bucks Bird Club have generously funded the provision of seed to four farmers so that they can provide additional winter food to help see the birds through 'the hungry gap' when seeds and insects are difficult to find. Bird Club volunteers are carrying out weekly surveys throughout the winter to collect more information about the populations of farmland birds on the estate, particularly Corn Bunting numbers and distribution.

Members of the Tring Bird Ringing Group have also volunteered to help with surveys and are hoping to be able to track birds through the landscape by fitting small, coloured rings to their legs. This would enable individual birds to be observed from a distance to help understand how far they travel, both during the breeding season and during winter. It would also help to understand how long the birds live, and how many chicks individual birds are able to rear each year.

This is the start of a project that will provide useful information about these rare farmland birds, and it will be used to put in place measures to help their numbers go from strength to strength. If you spot any Corn Buntings on the estate, please let us know where and when by emailing ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Photograph copyright: Adrian Riley

**Emily Smith, Countryside Manager,
Ashridge, Beds and Herts and
Rikki Harrington,
Ashridge Estate Committee Member**

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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

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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.

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.

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Contact: the Parish Clerk, email parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk, telephone 01296 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 - 5pm 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

Board Games Club: At Pitstone Pavilion, twice per month, 2-4.15pm on a Thursday. All welcome. Contact Janine to book or for more information, 07484200799.

Hand Bell Ringers: Mondays at 2pm at Ivinghoe church. Please phone 01296 668122

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.

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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.

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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

Simply Walk: register at buckinghamshire.gov.uk/simply-walk and come to Pitstone Memorial Hall at 9.50am for a 10am walk each Monday. Free.

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 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>Vacancy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">See website for full details</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.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/search-planning-licensing-applications>



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Brookmead school site, High street, Ivinghoe, Bucks



Windmill Pharmacy



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Mon - Fri 8:30am to 6pm (closed 1-2pm)



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