

Pitstone Parish Post



Small blue butterfly' in Pitstone Local Wildlife Site

July 2024

Issue number 141

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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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Advertising: Relevant information is available on the Pitstone Village website:

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PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Laurie Eagling, Parish Clerk

**Congratulations to Barry and Sue Gregory
– Pitstone Volunteers of the Year 2024**



We would like to congratulate Barry and Sue Gregory, who were awarded Volunteers of the Year 2024 at the Annual Assembly for many years of voluntary support to local organisations, the local community, and general help to neighbours. Examples

include: acting as Trustee for the Pitstone Town Lands Charity and Williamson Trust, running the Pace stall, carrying out grass cutting and maintaining planters by The Crescent, and helping obtain the official designation of the open space by The Crescent. The Chairman presented Barry and Sue with a framed certificate, card and £50.

The Parish Council runs the Volunteer of the Year scheme to celebrate the unsung heroes within our community. If you know someone who goes that extra mile and provides an outstanding voluntary service to the residents of Pitstone, please submit your nominations to the Parish Clerk (parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk) so that they can be taken into consideration for the 2025 award.



Annual Assembly 16/5/24

The council would like to extend their warm thanks to all the guest speakers for their enlightening presentations and all the attendees for their participation and contributions. The draft minutes are available on the website www.pitstone.co.uk.

Councillor Anil Mitra



It is with great sadness that we advise that Councillor Anil Mitra passed away at the end of May, aged 88. He was an amazing man with a fascinating story of moving to the UK, his life here, and his many contributions to the communities in which he lived. Since moving to Pitstone he has touched

many lives and was devoted to highlighting the needs of the young people. Despite becoming ill, he remained committed to the council and our parish, and still actively engaged in Parish Council meetings right up to the end of April. He will be missed very much by us all and we are sure that you will join us in extending deepest condolences to his family.

We posted an official notice of vacancy, as required by Buckinghamshire Council, on 6/6/24. If, like Anil, you would like to make a difference in our local community and join the Parish Council to serve out the remaining term of office until the next election in May 2025, please do contact parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk and we'll bring you an information pack.

Welcome to the new members of the litter picking team

We are delighted to welcome Alan Meredith and Phil Clarke to the Parish Council. They join us as members of the litter picking team, so you will see them out and about in the village and within our rights of way network. All our staff do an amazing job of keeping the parish clean and tidy, so do say hello when you see them. Phil and Alan will also be undertaking training to enable them to inspect

our playgrounds and other assets, so that they can provide holiday cover etc for this team as well.

Seeking feedback from parents of children with disabilities



Our playgrounds feature a range of apparatus and features to ensure that there are a range of opportunities for the children within our parish who have a variety of disabilities. These include things like the wheelchair accessible sunken trampoline, basket and cradle swings, springers and roundabouts. We also build in bright contrasting colours and a variety of textures such as rope, wood and metal. All our play areas have disabled access. If you are a parent with a disabled child in the parish, and have either experienced any issues with our play provision, or would like to submit a recommendation for additional equipment/features, please do get in touch with us via parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk.

If your child is under 8, please supervise responsibly at the skate park

We very much want the skate park to be a facility that the everyone can enjoy, safely. A proficient skateboarder can travel at over 20mph around a skate park, so please be particularly mindful of this if you allow your younger children onto the skate park. Whilst some young children may be confident already, others are just learning and travel much slower, stop suddenly, or leave their bikes/scooters/ equipment on the park and wander about. This places them in danger of being hit by a travelling skateboarder/scooter rider (or their board/scooter) who can't change course in time, and also puts the more proficient riders in danger as they try their best to avoid the small children by ditching their equipment or deliberately falling/

jumping off and causing injury to themselves in the process.

For everyone's safety, if you take young children to the skate park, particularly pre-school children, please be mindful of the above, supervise them/their equipment at all times, consider utilising the park during quieter times, or keep to a quiet area of the park. Then they can grow in confidence and learn new skills without placing themselves, or others, in danger.

A reminder of some of the guidelines listed on the signage:

- users under 8 should be supervised by a responsible adult at all times
- use protective clothing/equipment at all times
- keep all areas clear
- users of the skatepark do so at their own risk
- skate to your own ability and do not skate alone
- this is not a playground



We wish you all happy, and safe, use of the skatepark.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Swedish Whitebeam

Sadly the Swedish Whitebeam on the Recreation Ground near the skate park has got a disease and the base of the trunk is rotting, making it unstable. The felling has been scheduled for as soon as possible after the nesting season.

Wildflower Areas

We are sometimes asked about wildflower verges. Previous trials within the 30mph village centre have given rise to complaints (especially later in the season once the

flowers have gone but the grass can't be cut until it has all seeded, so best practice dictates that it just gets cut once per year), and this type of management requires specialist equipment (as it needs collection), but there are exceptions within the parish e.g. some banks in the Business Park are left and there are dedicated areas in Ravensmoor.

We also have some residents who wish to manage the verge outside their property for wildlife. If you also wish to do this, please clearly mark it as such, so that our contractor is aware, and then we'll do our best to avoid cutting it and leave management of that particular area to the resident concerned. In conjunction with Buckinghamshire Council, verges outside the village centre (outside the 30mph zone) are all managed for wildlife by BC with the exception of vision splays. The Parish Council will continue to review as and when appropriate.

Pitstone & Ivinghoe Junior Football Club

Our thanks to P&IJFC for the kind donation for 2 new sets of goals for the junior pitches at the pavilion site. The parish council will be responsible for all the ongoing maintenance and care, as we are for all the other goals at



the site. We would also like to thank Geoff Bratt, our local Community First Responder, for giving up his day to attend the P&IJFC presentation day to provide defibrillator training to all their managers, parents and children, as well as to all the other hirers of the

pavilion facilities.

Community Group Grant Scheme



We have recently been pleased to support the 1st Ivinghoe & Pitstone Scouts with a grant of £1,800 to support their air rifle project. The rifles had their debut outing at the Ivinghoe Fete and were very popular with young people and parents alike. We've also supported Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity with a grant towards new floor cleaning equipment and the Friends of Brookmead School with a grant towards their outdoor sandpit project. As soon as these items have been purchased by the respective local bodies, we will provide residents with photographs and further information.

If you are a community group that provides a benefit to the residents of Pitstone and you could do with a helping hand towards your latest project, please contact us on parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk for further information on our grant scheme.

Hedgehog Highways



Hedgehogs are in decline in Britain and are now listed as "Vulnerable" on Britain's red list of mammals. According to the latest State of Britain's hedgehogs report, numbers of hedgehogs have fallen by

up to 30% in urban areas and 50% in rural areas since the Millennium. There are a number of ways that you can help. One of the best things you can do for the local hedgehog population is allow them access in and out of your garden. A 12cm x 12cm hole is all they need. Encourage neighbours to do the same. Why not frame your access hole with one of our Hedgehog Highways (available to purchase for £5 per unit, please email parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk). The gap allows hedgehogs to: forage for food, meet mates to breed and access nesting sites.

Westfield Road Pedestrian Crossing Consultation

The response rate to the consultation was low. Of 3,600 residents, 13 responded that crossings would be helpful (0.36%) and 3 responded to say that they would not be supportive of a crossing installation. The majority of the respondents waited less than 1 minute to cross, and no-one waited more than

2 minutes.

There are 8 tactile crossing points provided along Westfield Road. Half of respondents used the Warwick Road crossing, predominantly to access the bus stop or Business Park, where speed/volume of traffic was more likely to be cited; 4 used the one closest to Marsworth Road where parked cars & the proximity of the junction were expressed as the biggest issues. The other crossings were not significantly represented. Only 6 people found speed of vehicles an issue when crossing Westfield Road. Feedback from those that had responded that they would not support crossings, advised that this was because there was good clear visibility in both directions all along the road, plenty of street lighting, and there was always sufficient gap in the traffic within a very short period of time. It was therefore determined that there was insufficient justification to pursue an engineering solution with Buckinghamshire Council Highways at present. We'll review the situation periodically, or if the situation changes. We'll continue to explore other, non-engineered, solutions (eg the Parish Council now provides a tenant of Portland House with alternative car parking provision at our pavilion site) and other opportunities. The council also continues to work with Buckinghamshire Council reference better ways to highlight the Marsworth Road pedestrian refuge crossing points as part of the Ivinghoe & Pitstone Safety Scheme.

Westfield Road Bus Shelters

We are still working with Buckinghamshire Council and Safran, to provide shelters at three of the bus stops along Westfield Road and will provide you with an update once plans are confirmed.

Road Safety – Especially Young Children on Scooters

If your child rides a scooter to school and/or around the village, especially if they are allowed out



without a parent, please do make sure that they are well versed in road safety appropriate for their age. Especially during the summer months when young children are more

likely to be outdoors playing, and may forget to properly stop, look and listen at each road junction. There are a number of sites providing child safety information, downloadable resources, update services etc to make learning fun for your child. You may like to explore: The Child Accident Prevention Trust - <https://capt.org.uk/csw-road-safety/> - or the Think! campaign site - <https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/> If you are driving within Pitstone, please do take extra care in all the residential areas and remember that some of the younger residents may suddenly step out, or scoot out, into the highway, if they have a lapse of attention.

Please park considerately around the village and at the Local Wildlife Site

There has been an increase in complaints to Thames Valley Police, Buckinghamshire Council's parking team and the Parish Council about inconsiderate parking in the village including close to junctions (near the entrance to Crispin Field and as you enter Old Farm seem to be particularly problematic), by Brookmead/Windmill Pre School, and at the farm maintenance entrance to the Local Wildlife Site. When leaving your vehicles, please do be mindful of other residents, including those that may be on a mobility scooter, people with pushchairs and other road users. Keep dropped curbs clear and leave sufficient visibility at junctions to enable good visibility for those entering and leaving.

Please also consider the problems caused by driving and parking on either the footpath, or cycle path. Bringing a vehicle onto the footpath or cycle path considerably

inconveniences those for whom the paths were intended. It can also put pedestrians and cyclists at risk, for example if they are required to divert into the road. We've been told of instances where



drivers parked on the path have opened their doors straight onto passing cyclists, and of children learning to ride their bicycles on the cycle lane only to be confronted with moving vehicles. Thames Valley Police now regularly patrol the area by the farm entrance to the

Local Wildlife Site and have confirmed it is an offence to drive or park on the cycle path, and that they can issue a £70 fixed penalty notice for doing so.

Please be considerate and do not park either on the footpath, cycle path, or block the access to the farmer's gate (as access is required at all times) - a sign will soon be erected on the gate to remind anyone accessing the Local Wildlife Site at this point, and advisory notes may be placed on windscreens of vehicles. As a clear visual reminder, Buckinghamshire Council has also agreed to install painted decals in the cycle path at this location (and by the bus stops) and to erect further post mounted cycle path reminder signs along the length of Westfield Road (installation date not yet confirmed by BC). Thank you.



Anti-social behaviour in Yardley Avenue

Our thanks to Fairhive and Thames Valley Police for their support with trying to eradicate some repetitive anti-social behaviour occurring by the garage block in Yardley Avenue.

CCTV surveillance has now been installed and Thames Valley Police has increased their patrols of the area (overt and covert). If you witness any ASB (anywhere in the village), please file a report with Thames Valley Police so that they can continue to build their intelligence and better target their patrols.

Super-Fast Fibre Broadband

You are probably aware that Trooli are now offering super-fast fibre broadband to most properties in the parish.

You can find out more information at www.trooli.com. We still have no confirmed date from Openreach for BT to offer their service.

Pitstone Development Area

You will recall that Buckinghamshire Council challenged the Planning Inspectorate decision to grant permission for Nicholas King Homes (NKH) to build residential homes on the two

community areas of land within the Pitstone Development Area. This was via a process known as Judicial Review.



The grounds for the appeal included the Chiltern Beechwoods "Special Area of Conservation", of which Ashridge forms a part as 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. Bucks Council was successful in their appeal and the case was returned to the Planning Inspectorate, who then ruled in favour of Buckinghamshire Council, on the grounds that if the local planning authority cannot properly determine any such application, the Planning Inspectorate should not have done so either. Nicholas King Homes (NKH) may therefore choose to wait and see what mitigation measures Buckinghamshire Council get approved in relation to the Beechwoods and their requirement to provide a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG). The Parish Council is aware that concerns have been raised by local residents about the state of these two compounds, and in particular the amount of unsightly litter and debris that they contain. We have requested that NKH take steps to tidy them up, and make them safe, so that our local amenities are not subject to detriment because of the current hiatus.

There also continue to be issues with the ball court that NKH installed. Buckinghamshire Council refused a retrospective planning application submitted by NKH to keep the installed ball court, on grounds that the one provided is not compliant with the relevant British Safety Standards. BC continue to press NKH to install the multi-use games court specified as part of the original grant of planning permission.

Dog Fouling

During the summer, when people are out-and-about more and children are playing at all our green spaces, there is always an increase in complaints about owners who have not picked up after their pets, whether this be deposits

on the footpath that then get trodden in or pushchairs roll through, or deposits left on verges / open space / local wildlife sites. Dog fouling is not only deeply unpleasant, it is dangerous. Whilst rare, contact with dog excrement can cause toxocarasis – a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and even blindness or seizures. Whilst most local owners are responsible, there must be a percentage that may benefit from a reminder. Anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100. If the case goes to court this could cost the owner or person in



charge of the animal up to £1,000. The law states that being unaware a dog has fouled or not having a suitable bag is not a reasonable excuse. When out-and-about, please pick up, bag and dispose of your dog's

deposits in one of the dog waste bins provided around the village. Please don't leave poo bags beside the Right of Way or hanging from a bush. If you think there is an area where



there is no local bin, that you feel would benefit from a bin, please let us know by emailing parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk.

When at home, please bag and dispose of your dog/cat fouling in your general waste wheelie bin. In Bucks all our general waste goes to Greatmoor Energy from Waste where it is incinerated and turned into energy (see other item) - it does not go to landfill. Please do not put bags/sacks of fouling from your home/garden in (or beside) the dog waste bins as this causes them to overflow too quickly and then subsequent bags are left on top of/under/around the dog bins, which split and spill around the surrounding area.

Fly-Tipping Garden Waste

Another common summer complaint arises when garden waste is fly-tipped in the areas of public open space, woodland, drainage ditches and field verges. Vicarage



Road, Church Road and along the woodland walk through Castlemead seem to be particularly problematic.

Please dispose of all your garden waste either in your brown garden waste bin (please visit <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/garden-waste/> to find out more information and/or order a brown bin if you are not already a subscriber), by taking it to the Household Recycling Centre at Aston Clinton (<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/household-recycling-centres-permits-and-waste-facilities/find-your-nearest-household-recycling-centre/aston-clinton/>), or by using a compost bin in your garden.

household, laptop, mobile phone or power tool batteries can be placed in clear bags and left on top of your general or recycling waste bin for kerbside collection. You can also leave unwanted small electrical items that have a plug or battery in a carrier bag on top of your general or recycling waste bin for kerbside collection (eg hairdryers, toasters, remote controls etc, not larger items which should still be taken to the household recycling centre).



What Goes in What Bin? – Use the Waste Wizard

Visit <https://www.recycleforbuckinghamshire.co.uk/waste-wizard/> to find out how you can repair, reuse or recycle household items and which bin it goes in. Simply pop the item you are interested in into the search bar and it will provide a list of locations where that item can be recycled or information on which bin to put it in. eg tablet blister packs have instore recycling centres in Superdrug or should be placed in your green general waste bin as they can't be recycled at home. Another popular search is for plastic bags, wrappers and pouches. These can be used to line your food waste caddy or can be recycled in store at most supermarkets.

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It is really important that you don't put used batteries into your general waste bin as they can cause fires in the collection vehicles or at the depot. Used

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle



Visit the <https://pitstone.co.uk/localinformation/reduce-reuse-recycle/> page of our website to find information about the Zero Waste Map, recycling locations in and around Pitstone and local repair cafes.

Pitstone and Ivinghoe Repair Café



Did you know that our local repair café can now offer jewellery repairs, fix cracked mobile phone screens and offer welding, as well as a

wide array of other services including ceramics, electricals, mechanical items, bicycle repairs and sewing. All repairers provide their services free-of-charge, donations are welcome. <https://therestartproject.org/groups/ivinghoe-and-pitstone-repair-cafe/>

Greatmoor Energy from Waste – Book a Tour



In Bucks, we are very fortunate because all our non-recyclable waste does not go to a landfill site and instead goes to Greatmoor Energy from

Waste plant in Woodham, Aylesbury. All non-recyclable waste is burned, with the resulting steam powering a turbine, which generates electricity, providing heating etc for local properties. Following incineration, any metals are collected and recycled, they even



explore alternative uses for the ash. The steam that powers the turbine is cooled before being fed back into the boiler. The plant is mainly automated. It is fascinating to tour around and see the giant claw and incinerators in action. The tours are suitable for children too. They hold regular open days and we would encourage everyone to book a place and find out more about the amazing workings of this plant <https://www.greatmoor.co.uk/open-days/>

Annual Report and Accounts for Pitstone Parish Council Year Ending 31-3-2024

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.

	To 31-3-2023	To 31-3-2024	Variance to previous year
Total Receipts	£189,150	£224,729	+19%
Total Payments	£166,670	£197,749	+19%
Balances Carried Forward	£173,135	£200,115	

Last financial year there were no major capital purchases and this financial year saw the purchase of:



the double lane cricket practice nets on the Recreation Ground, mainly funded by a receipt of £23,510 of Section 106 developer contributor monies that had been held on our behalf by Buckinghamshire Council (see the I&PUCC article for information on how you can utilise this great new facility), four information panels were installed in the Local Wildlife Site (part funded by a £2,500 grant from the



Buckinghamshire Council Community Board to help raise awareness of the importance of the biodiversity of this special site and encourage people to respect it more; a memorial bench (part funded by the family) and a replacement playground gate. There was an increase in the cost of ground-keeping, utility and water costs, and delivering devolved services on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council. These were partially offset by an increase in rental income at the pavilion, cost savings related to the printing of Pitstone Parish Post and the completion of the LED lantern roll out to our street light portfolio.

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, 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 schemes, operating our two mVAS units, running the allotment site, maintaining parish assets, maintaining the pavilion and football pitches, and looking after the Recreation Ground on behalf of the Recreation Ground Charity.



Last Christmas also saw a change to our festive lighting at the pavilion due to the sad loss of the tree from the front of the grounds. The new string and column lighting was very well received by residents.

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 £3,988.15 towards the delivery of these services, which cost the parish £9,485 to deliver. However, it does mean that our grass can be cut more frequently (Bucks would now only provide 2 urban cuts and 3 rural cuts (visibility splays at junctions) over the year), works can be 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 only offered a one-year contract for 2024 and is yet to confirm what, or if, there will be a devolved service offering for 2025 onwards.

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 as Bucks Council do not yet have approved mitigation in place, this means that no planning applications for new residential dwellings are currently being granted in Pitstone. Once the situation has been resolved it is anticipated that a number of applications that are currently on hold will then be determined by the Planning Authority.

If anyone has any specific queries they would like to ask about the receipts or payments during the financial year, please email parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk and we will be happy to provide more detailed information. The full financial audit information is available on the website www.pitstone.co.uk.

Welcome !



If you are a new resident of the parish, we extend a warm welcome to you. Please email us on pitstone.co.uk or leave us a message on 01296 767261 and we will bring round a New Home Welcome Pack full of useful local information to help you settle in. It also includes a copy of Pitstone 2000, providing a wealth of information about the unique heritage of our village.

DIANNE MARY WILLIAMSON

11th February 1935 - 9th May 2024

Diane was born in Aldbury on 11th February 1935, only child to Ernest and May Cato. Her father was the gardener at Barley End, the largest house in the village, and they lived in Little Barley End, on the estate. Later, they moved to Newground Road. Diane had a country upbringing in Aldbury, attending the local primary school in her early years. When she left secondary school, she worked at Herbert Figs Pharmacy in Berkhamsted, where she met a girl called Mary and they became lifelong friends.



In 1964, Diane married the love of her life, Tom Williamson. Tom built a house for them in Pitstone at 87 Marsworth Road, and they lived there for the rest of their lives. They were over the moon to have two boys, Tim and Nick. Diane was very content being a mum and housewife and the boys never wanted for anything. She was very practical and never extravagant, creatively restoring and rebuilding anything that needed repairing, with all the skills to 'make-do-and-mend', as many people had in those days. She was a very competent seamstress and often took on jobs for family and friends, happy to turn her hand to making curtains and furnishings, as well as plenty of knitting of gloves, scarves and hats, and toys for the Ivinghoe church bazaar and the WI which she was involved in. She was also very skilled at cross-stitch and tapestry, and lots of the wider family have been gifted her creations over the years.

Diane and Tom had an orchard where they grew plums and apples. The fruit harvest was so abundant that Diane would leave boxes full of apples at the end of the drive for anyone passing by to help themselves, and gifted her neighbours with bags of Blenheim Orange. She also liked to gather blackberries at the end of the summer and would share these with neighbours too. She loved her garden, and preferred a more wild and natural environment, leaving the orchard free and untampered with for meadow flowers to flourish in the Spring, never mowing the grass until the bluebells and cowslips had bloomed and died back. Diane wasn't one for adventure, she never drove a car and never ventured beyond UK shores, and was terrified of technology! She rode her bike everywhere round the village. They had a number of family holidays in Swanage when the boys were growing up, but really, she preferred to stay close to home. Her home was her haven and living in the same area her entire life, she was full of local knowledge.

She was a great reader and was often in the library at Ivinghoe selecting books, enjoying the twists and turns of a good thriller or murder mystery story. She also did some research into her own family history and explored the family tree. She liked to write down details and archived everything.

Diane was a private person, but had some long term friends, having weekly phone calls with her great friend Mary. She was very close to Mary's daughters Elaine and Charlotte, who were like cousins to Tim and Nick. She also stayed in touch with an old friend and neighbour, Pam, as well as the friends she made through her arts and craft group at the WI and her activities with the church. More recently, her neighbours Fiona and Murray became very good friends, Fiona often helping her out with whatever she needed, and being a wonderful support and comfort to her during the lonely Covid lockdowns, for which Tim and Nick were incredibly grateful.

It is over 10 years now since Tom died at 88, and Diane has been very stoic, living independently in the home they shared together, until 3 years ago when it became clear that she needed more support and moved into St Joseph's care home in Tring, where she was very well looked after by the wonderful kind and caring staff there. She has had what you might call a simple, country life, very contented in a loyal, devoted marriage with Tom, doing her best for her boys, and being a kind, generous and gentle figure in her local community.

It is time for her to rest now.

An opportunity for Christians to meet together with no other agenda than to worship King Jesus



Last Friday of every month

7.00pm tea & coffee
7.30pm worship

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Pitstone LU79AP

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Do you need a helping hand to 'step-up' to the next level?

Following the first round of applications, we were delighted to award one Life Step-Up Grant and two Education Step-Up Grants to local residents. Will you be the next to benefit?

Applications need to be submitted by the end of August 2024. You will need to attend an interview in support of your application on the evening of Thursday 19 September.

Pitstone Step-Up Grants are new grants available to Pitstone residents, funded from income from a local charity*. They are designed to relieve hardship, need or distress by enabling the long-term transformation of the recipient's quality of life in some way. This could be through removing barriers to enable an individual to pursue a life-improving opportunity that would otherwise have been unaffordable, or to complete some form of training or upskilling that will demonstrably improve their professional or earning potential, where funding is not available from another source.

* Pitstone Parish Charity, Registration Number: 261752



Career Step-Up Grants



Education Step-Up Grants



Community Organisation Step-Up Grants



Helping Out Grants



Life Step-Up Grants

To Apply:

Visit <https://pitstone.co.uk/localinfo/pitstone-step-up-grants/> to read our Grant Making Policy and Application Guidelines, then complete the application form. If you'd like us to deliver a copy of the documents to your home, please call 01296 767261 or email stepupgrants@pitstone.co.uk and we will happily drop it off to you.

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.

St. Mary's Church Ivinghoe

Come and join us for

'Coffee, Cake and Bible Crafts'

Sunday 22 September from 2.30-4pm

Theme: Autumn and Harvest



To book a place please contact
Sandra Green:
sandragreen20@hotmail.com

or book via our Messy Church Facebook
page: Messy Church at St Mary's Ivinghoe |
Facebook

Tea and Tots at St. Mary's Ivinghoe



Fun for under 5's and their parents and carers



The sessions are flexible. Drop in any time you like between 10 and 11.30am for the children to play, and for the adults to have a cuppa and a chat.

Fridays:

13 and 27 September
11 and 25 October
15 and 29 November
13 December

For more details contact Sandra on
01296 668648

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S CHURCH PITSTONE

Gillian Arney



We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to Pitstone Church this Summer. The church is now open every Sunday and Bank Holiday afternoon from 2.30 – 5.30 pm. It makes a good focus for a Sunday afternoon walk.

We still have two events this year:

Tuesday – Saturday 20th – 24th August at 7.30 pm with a possible matinee on Saturday at 3.00pm we are welcoming The Players Theatre Company's production of Shakespeare's Love Labour's Lost. Further details available on the next page of this magazine or on their website www.theplayerstc.co.uk. For this event please bring YOUR OWN SEATING.

August Bank Holiday Monday 26th August there will be Tea with Music in the church. Look forward to hearing the harp and a guitar trio while you enjoy tea and cakes.

We are always in need of volunteers to help at events and to sit in the church on Sundays. If you are interested please contact Jean Booth 01296 661745.

Gillian Arney

sandragreen20@hotmail.com 01296 668648'."/>

Music-a-thon
A day of continuous singing and music
At St Mary's Church Pitstone
Saturday 23rd November 9.30am to 5pm

Raising funds for the oldest building in Pitstone village

Refreshments available throughout the day
Lunches available 12noon to 2pm

If you would like to take part or come and support us we would love to see you.

For further information please email or telephone Sandra Green:
sandragreen20@hotmail.com 01296 668648

DO YOU BELONG TO A LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP THAT WOULD BENEFIT FROM A GRANT TOWARDS A PROJECT?

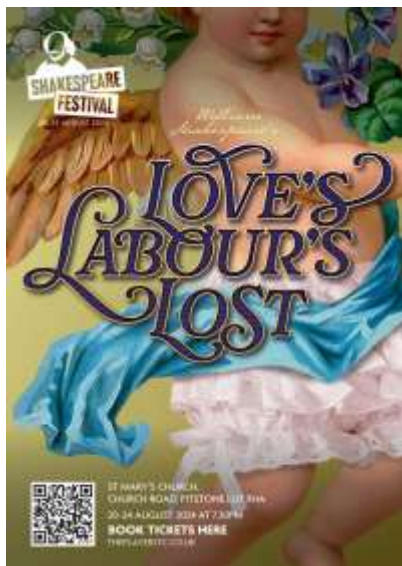
The Parish Council offers grants to local community groups and local charities that specifically benefit Pitstone residents.

Applications are considered quarterly.

Please visit www.pitstone.co.uk for more information or contact the parish clerk for an initial chat on 01296 767261 / email: parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL 2024

The Players Theatre Company



LOVE'S LABOUR'S LOST by William Shakespeare
20th – 24th August 2024
St Mary's Church, Church Road, Pitstone LU7 9HA

Step into a musical world of wit, whimsy, fun and frolic as the idyllic greenery becomes our stage for Shakespeare's beloved first comedy, *Love's Labour's Lost*. Set against a beautiful backdrop of the lush open-air setting that is St Mary's Church, sit back, relax, and enjoy a delightful tale of love, laughter and 'swapped' letters!

In this hilarious tale of love and lost love, the King of Navarre and his three loyal companions make an oath to dedicate themselves to scholarly pursuits and forswear, among other important life pleasures, the company of women for three years. However, their noble intentions are immediately tested when the Princess of France and her entourage arrive on a diplomatic mission. What ensues is a delightful romp filled with clever wordplay, romantic entanglements and uproarious antics.

The Players Theatre Company performed A Midsummer Night's Dream and hosted the 1st Edlesborough Shakespeare Festival in 2023 to sold out audiences. This year's Festival has been moved to St Mary's Church in Pitstone which has improved access whilst still retaining a beautiful landscape and a historic Church setting. Our 1st Folio inspired production of Shakespeare's **Love's Labour's Lost** will again bring together local actors, production crew and volunteers.

Bring a seat, a blanket and even a picnic and join us for a delightful theatrical experience amidst the beauty of nature, with laughter and music echoing through the summer air. Do not miss your chance to revel in Shakespeare's magic under open skies.

A Bar will be available for beer, wine and soft drinks.

Ticket Information

Doors open at 6.00pm / Show starts at 7.30pm / Show ends at 10.30pm (approx.)

Tickets - £23.00 (16+) £19.00 (under 16 & concessions)

Book Now! – www.theplayerstc.co.uk or scan the QR Code!



*As a Pitstone Resident, you can get a 20% DISCOUNT for all bookings in July – USE THIS CODE WHEN BOOKING: **LIVEHERE20%***

For more information please go to www.theplayerstc.co.uk



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
- Recycles

And more....



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Sponsor forms will be on the table in Ivinghoe Church in August.



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



SATURDAY 17 AUGUST

The Ivinghoe, Ivinghoe Aston and Pitstone Horticultural Show

The Hub
Entrants from 9am
Judging from 11am
Public viewing 2-4pm

For more information and forms please see Pitstone.co.uk

IN LOVING MEMORY: ANIL KUMAR MITRA

15 January 1936 - 29 May 2024

Anil Mitra, dedicated husband of 51 years to Aparna and devoted father to Tuli, passed away peacefully at home aged 88 years old. The beating heart of his family, Anil had been a Pitstone Parish Councillor since 2018. Born and raised in India, moving to the UK for his postgraduate studies in 1968, Anil embraced the UK as his home living in Stourbridge, Hillingdon and settling in Beaconsfield for 35 years. Anil led a successful career as a Government Engineer and a Headmaster of a village school in India and then as a Principal Engineer for over 40 years in the UK from which he took early retirement to enjoy his time with his family.



Anil's life was filled with love, laughter and revolved around his family; his best friend wife, his pride and joy daughter and son-in-law and his beloved grandchildren. He dreamed of seeing his grandchildren walk to school, sharing their special moments and seeing them everyday. This is the reason he moved to Pitstone in 2015.

A dapper man, Anil showed no signs of being in his late 80s. In his eyes, he was still in his 30s and chose to dress in his own individual style, often in the village getting his paper or a coffee in his signature white tracksuit and baseball cap. In his eyes, life was about living – always look forward with no regrets. He would get out there and embrace life. He loved people, he loved a chat. Alongside a bit of golf, popping out for a large latte or eating out with his family, Anil loved cars and was often in the drive with a chamois cleaning his (or his daughter's!) car. With a background in performance as an actor or MC, Anil was a prolific writer with anthologies of poems and years of journals.

Anil was a community champion. He was the founder of cultural charities and played an active role in community associations. As a Parish Councillor in Pitstone, he was proud of the village, our facilities and was passionate about supporting the Youth Café. He was a strong advocate for community initiatives and looking at ways to improve our village.

His sheer positivity and strong spirit were highly respected on the council. Even with a terminal illness, Anil put a suit on and attended meetings, only a couple of weeks before he passed.

Anil will be sorely missed but his spirit lives on through Aparna, Tuli, Julian, Tiana & Jasmia.



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Visit www.tringcharities.co.uk

QR code

Tring
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Tring Charities for the community

The advertisement features a green background with several images: a young man with a backpack and folder, a woman with a folder, a group of students, and three graduates in caps and gowns. A QR code is located on the left side. The text at the top left reads 'TRING Charities' and 'An education award for the young people of Tring and surrounding villages Visit www.tringcharities.co.uk'. The bottom right of the image contains the 'Tring Millennium Education Foundation' logo. A banner at the bottom of the image shows a line of many small figures representing a community, with the text 'Tring Charities for the community' below it.

MILLENNIUM EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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Are you hoping to go to University or College in 2025, but are concerned that financial resources might not match up to the requirements? Are you under the age of 22? Have you lived in Aldbury, Long Marston, Marsworth, Pitstone, Puttenham, Tring, Wigginton or Wilstone for at least three years?

To see if you would be eligible for a grant, apply to Tring Charities' Millennium Education Foundation for information and an application form.

Website details: www.tringcharities.co.uk/education
Telephone: Elaine Winter, Secretary to the Trustees 01442 827913
Email: info@tringcharities.co.uk


Please note that the closing date is 15 November 2024 to lodge a completed application for grants payable from Autumn 2025.

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



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email: communitytransport@pitstone.co.uk

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IVINGHOE AND PITSTONE WI

Kay Ison

Our new financial year started in April with an interesting talk and slideshow by Kenneth Brazier on Kilimanjaro and the Mercy Ships. Ken has been raising money for charity for many years with over 20 challenges either cycling or walking and when he was 67 he decided to raise money for the Mercy Ships Charity by being part of an expedition to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. The Mercy Ships Charity is a Christian charity that supports 2 large hospital ships which provide hope and healing in Africa through surgical care and surgical education.

As part of his talk Ken showed his original rucksack and then like Mary Poppins' bottomless carpet bag, produced everything he took with him for the trip. He had a suitable vest to allow for the wicking of sweat, 3 checked shirts, 2 pairs of walking trousers that could be unzipped to become shorts, a lightweight waterproof jacket, a water camel, waterproof trousers, a liner and thicker sleeping bag, ski gloves, a head torch, iodine drops to help with water purification (the climbers had to drink 4 to 5 litres of water a day), orange vitamin C tablets, a warm wind proof jacket for the colder higher altitudes and walking poles to help with knees and balance. These items were the minimum that Ken could take to survive the heat of the Equator at the bottom of the mountain and the cold and snow when they reached the summit.

The group took 6 days to walk slowly to the summit so that they could acclimatise to the altitude. The slides showed a desolate landscape with very little wildlife. The high altitude affected people differently with Ken feeling unwell and another man suffering from hallucinations about a train. Ken, the "old man" of the trip actually reached the summit first in his group. It was a momentous achievement.

The trip back down to the bottom, in comparison only took one and a half days. The guides and porters sang their ritual Kilimanjaro song and the group bid them an emotional thank you and farewell as

throughout the whole trip their lives had been in these peoples' hands. Ken

successfully beat his target of £5000 sponsorship money to the tune of £16000. A triumph! Ken is a charming and adventurous person who has no intention of giving up his challenges and at the age of 83 is planning a trip to North West Spain to walk along the Pilgrimage Way. The talk was enjoyed immensely by our members.



Our May meeting was a celebration for our 107th birthday. We met in Pitstone Pavilion and enjoyed an Afternoon Tea with Prosecco to celebrate. It was exciting to welcome members from surrounding WI's to our meeting as we had not been able to do this for several years. We had members from Long Marston, Aston Clinton, Cheddington, Marsworth and Drayton Beauchamp. Everyone said how good it was to all be back together again. We were then treated to a talk by Thelma Sackman, Vice President and WI Advisor. We were told the hilarious story of her growing up as a child of an army officer, always on the move and her training as a nurse and career in the NHS. It was a fabulous evening enjoyed by all who attended.

June's meeting was held in Ivinghoe Town Hall and we welcomed 2 new visitors interested in joining our group. Our talk was changed due to unforeseen circumstances and we were delighted to welcome Michael Kerry-White and his presentation on "What did Ancient Civilisations do for us". The talk was on the lesser known inventions that have ended up being a big part of the Western way of life. We were first informed of the inventions created in China. Four thousand years ago the Chinese invented the compass. Then a moveable printing press was developed 2000 years BC and was made using movable clay pieces. Whilst looking for the Elixir of Life the Chinese made gunpowder which was then used for fireworks. Ironically, the Mongols took the gunpowder and used it for warfare.

1500 BC the Chinese invented the first seismograph using levers and a ball to show where the earthquake was coming from. They were also the first to develop paper money as gold and coins were too heavy to carry around to pay for goods. One of their favourite inventions was the kite which was used by children to play with and then developed into hang gliders and gliders. Who knew that tea originated in China and was stolen by a British man who took it to Darjeeling in India where it then spread widely around the world. We next learned that the Egyptians invented eye makeup using Kohl. Both men and women used it to protect them from the gods. Other inventions included toothpaste, door locks, the Barber industry and bowling. The Greeks were mentally clever but did copy a lot of ideas. They invented the Hippocratic oath, Architect design, Philosophy, pneumatics, the alarm clock, the Jury system, the steam engine and also vending machines to dispense holy water for a coin. The Romans built the first proper roads and aqueducts. They invented signposts and mile markers, inventing an Odometer to measure miles. The introduction of cheap and then free food for the poor eventually resulted in bankruptcy for the Roman Empire. They also invented concrete which was used in the building of the Roman Pantheon. Another great invention was flushing toilets and they also created adverts and trade markers. The Indians invented the term "zero". They were the first country to discover diamonds and the first to introduce cataract surgery. The Americans discovered cocoa and invented chocolate. They also discovered popcorn and were the first country to offer free mandatory education. All these inventions were obscure but in the words of Jonathan Swift "The greatest inventions were produced in times of ignorance (such) as the use of the compass, gunpowder and printing". Tessa gave our vote of thanks for this interesting insight into how items we take for granted were introduced to the Western World.

Our interest groups are continuing to meet up. Random Readers meet monthly in Ivinghoe library. Spare books will now be brought to meetings to share with all members with the surplus being passed onto the Church. The Knit and Natter group knitted and refurbished

poppies to beautifully decorate the villages on 1st June for the D-Day anniversary. Craft group have been very busy and led by Sue in April made some lovely needle cases. This was followed with beautiful but simple watercolour and ink cards and bookmarks. Then an extra activity was arranged with 14 members attending a Fused Glass Workshop in the Hub producing beautiful glass pieces. The Social group have met up for several coffee mornings in the Daisy Chain Cafe. Seven members visited a company in Clapham to look at some amazing dance costumes including the dresses used in the show Strictly Come Dancing. They had a fabulous day with a talk about how the dresses were made and the fact that only 50 colours are used so that they always match.

The Walking group had a very muddy walk on Good Friday along part of the Hertfordshire Way from St Albans to Markyate. There was a coffee stop at The Mill at Redbournbury which included hot cross buns - delicious. The walk involved crossing a section where the river had flooded the path. The water was deep and we had to cross on 2 long branches. A big shout out must go to Angela who had a broken wrist and was in two minds about turning back and Jill who had wellies and was able to help her cross without falling in.

Also at our June meeting we congratulated Sue and Maggie for abseiling down the Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth. These 2 brave ladies showed no fear and really enjoyed their experience. They retold their story with a great sense of adventure. We all felt very proud of them. They raised £3000 for their chosen charities with Maggie's half going to the Keech Hospice and Sue's half to the Rennie Grove Peace Hospice. A fabulous result for these wonderful ladies.

Future events include the Ivinghoe Fete, Windmill Fest, and an interactive meeting where we are going to learn how to Jive. Sounds like a lot of fun.

If you would like to give our friendly group a trial please email annetteipwi@btinternet.com to find out more details. We would love to see you and welcome you to our WI and all it offers.

IVINGHOE AND PITSTONE CRICKET CLUB

Will Ottaway



The season is in full flow and the cricket club have been growing and developing. As you will have noticed, our covers have arrived and with the weather in May & June, they have been put to the test straight away and have passed with flying colours! A massive thank you goes to Heroes Bar, Curiousitea Rooms and Creasey & Co for their on-going support that allowed our purchase to happen. Another massive acknowledgement needs to go to our groundman, John Groom, who has been working hard and this has shown as we have not yet called a game off at home and we have one of the best playing surfaces in the league!

In the league, the club has been making massive steps forward. Our 1st XI has played 8 games this season, winning 7 of those and they are currently sitting top of Division 1. There have been a number of stand-out performances that include: Nathan Bandari who scored 157 against Whitchurch as well as Matt Dimbleby supporting him with an unbeaten 91 runs. While with the ball Greg Roach & Darren Badrick have been in fine form with the ball, with 19 and 12 wickets apiece. The 2nd XI have also been showing promising signs this season. After having 2 seasons where the team had won only one game in those seasons, the team have already recorded 3 victories and several really close finishes! Special mentions to Captain Ron Salins & Puneet Kapoor who have steadied several innings and stepped up in matches when they have been needed. James Ottaway is currently leading the wicket takers with 12 victims so far this season with several other members of the team not far behind him and they have all contributed with the ball (all statistics correct at time of writing). This season, the 2nd XI entered into the league's "B Team" T20 village knock-out competition. We were drawn at home against Wendover in the first round and we won this 7 wickets. This included a hat-trick from Phil Badrick that derailed Wendover's innings! Our semi-final fixture was a tricky away game at Bradenham on the 25th June, where Tom Groves made an impressive 53 as we went on to win this game by 40 runs. The location of the final has yet to be confirmed but it will be against Gt Hampden on the 9th July.

With our all-weather nets, we have been lucky to have several training sessions on during the week. These are normally Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, starting at 5:30pm and going on to 8-8:30pm. These sessions are free for anyone to come along and join in, no matter your experience or skill level. As well as that, the practice nets are available for all the community to use. To gain access, all you need to do is scan the QR Code on the sign and fill in the details. Once you have done that, the access code will be shared with you. All we ask is that the nets are locked up after they have been used. Our All-Stars and Dynamos programmes on a Friday evening have been a massive success. We have had 26 Dynamos and 40 All-stars who signed up to our programme and everyone has enjoyed the weather and atmosphere at the end of everyone's busy weeks!

If you would like to enjoy a relaxing Saturday outside to watch some cricket, everyone is welcome. With Curiousitea Rooms open, you can have a lovely lunch with cake available and Heroes Bar are on hand for all of your drinking needs! However, if you would like more information about the club, please email us on ivinghoepitstonecricket@outlook.com. We are always looking for new members to join us for league fixtures, we have competitive fixtures on a Saturday while our friendly fixtures are on most Sundays. We will always give our players an opportunity to show and develop their skills and always welcome new faces, young or old!

ASHRIDGE RAMBLINGS

Rikki Harrington (Ashridge Estate Committee Member)



EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS FOR VISITORS AND WILDLIFE

In a previous *Ramblings*, I explained why Ashridge needs to strike the right balance between supporting visitors and reducing impacts on the estate's wonderful wildlife. There is now much more 'flesh on the bones' (or should it be 'leaves on the trees'?) of the *Protecting Our Roots* project.

Over the next few years, the proposal is that visitors will be encouraged away from the current centre of gravity around the monument, although

some facilities would remain there. Three new 'hubs' would be established in ecologically less sensitive areas and would showcase aspects of the estate that many will not have previously appreciated.

One hub is proposed to be at Ward's Hurst Farm, off Beacon Road near Dockey Wood. This site has amazing views across to Dunstable Downs and would be a great spot for a picnic as well as a starting point for a magnificent woodland and grassland walk to Ivinghoe Beacon. If successful, the farm buildings would be repurposed to provide a range of visitor facilities, an orchard and a kitchen garden. Wildlife-rich habitats would be protected and restored using traditional practices such as conservation grazing and coppicing.

The next hub would be on land within the northern part of Hill Farm, across the road from Northchurch Common. You may already be aware of the café in the southern part of the farm, open during the summer months. This is a marvellous hedgerow habitat, with pockets of mature woodland which would be enlarged by new planting. Scrub, wetland and grassland habitats would also be created. Facilities would include car parking, toilets and a café, and this would be a terrific centre for walking, cycling, play and education. New trails would be created to suit all abilities.

The final hub would be at Pitstone Quarry, north-east of Northfield Road and south-east of the B488. This is a longer-term project which would eventually include opportunities for organised swimming as well as walking in a newly landscaped, biodiverse habitat. The proposals include parking, toilets and hopefully somewhere to purchase refreshments.

All of this would increase opportunities for visitors to enjoy the great outdoors whilst protecting and enhancing the natural wonders of the Ashridge Estate. You can discover more on the website, and I will keep you abreast of developments through this column.

[https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/essex-bedfordshire-hertfordshire/ashridge-estate/protecting-the-future-of-ashridge-estate/](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/essex-bedfordshire-hertfordshire/ashridge-estate/protecting-the-future-of-ashridge-estate)

Rikki Harrington, Ashridge Estate Committee Member

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FORD END WATERMILL IVINGHOE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

A working watermill with original machinery. The mill, recorded in 1616 but probably much older, was in use up until 1963.

Now restored by volunteers and run by Ford End Watermill Society, it retains all the atmosphere of a small farm mill of the late 1800s. Stoneground whole meal flour will be on sale.

OPENING TIMES 2024 Afternoons 2.00–5.00pm

6th May - BH Monday, 12th May - National Mills Weekend, 27th May BH - Monday, 16th June - Sunday, 7th July - Sunday, 21st July - Sunday, 4th August - Sunday, 26th August - BH Monday, 15th September - Sunday, 13th October - Sunday, as part of Tring Apple Fayre.

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

Last admission 4.30pm. Admission Prices:

Adults: £5, children 16 and under free.

Ample car parking – Toilet facilities. Restricted disability access. School and other parties welcome by arrangement.

Contact: Mill Manager - Chris Tugby, millman@fordendwatermill.co.uk
or Telephone: 01442 825421 **www.fordendwatermill.co.uk**



LOCATION

Station Rd, Ivinghoe, Bucks LU7 9EA
600 metres from the church along
Station Road.
The B488 to Leighton Buzzard.



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: pnhbooking@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: 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.

Brookmead School: (est. 1967): Foundation Primary School for children aged 4 - 11.

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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: Rev James Granger-Smith 01296 297915. 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

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: 07712 836871 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 Sainley</p>  <p>T: 668633 E: bob.sainley@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, youth café and Community Board.</p>	<p>Cllr Ben Blunt</p>  <p>T: 660702 E: ben.blunt@pitstonepc.org Chair of Staffing Committee, Planning, and 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 Planning</p>	<p>Cllr Kris Weber</p>  <p>T: 07710088624 E: kris.weber@pitstonepc.org Chair of Planning, Vice Chair of Sports & Leisure.</p>
<p>Vacancy</p> <p>See website for full details</p>	<p>Cllr Jack Hawkins</p>  <p>T: 07713590490 E: jack.hawkins@pitstonepc.org Vice Chair of Planning, Sport & leisure, 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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(01296) 661031

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Please check out our website!
www.windmillpreschool.co.uk
Brookmead school site, High street, Ivinghoe, Bucks

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Adult Electric Bikes & Scooters, Cycle Repairs & Service, Helmets & Cycle Accessories, Lights & Tyres.



JANES FLOORING

Carpets, Vinyl, Kardean, LVT, Rugs - We have a fabulous show room with great products to fit any budget & offer a fully fitted service, from start to finish.



JANES DIGITAL

TVs, BlueRay, DVD, sound systems, audio visual - our tech team will help get all your devices set up and installed.



JANES SERVICE

Lawn mowers, washing machines, dishwashers, ovens, fridges, vacuum cleaners - even kettles - all repaired and serviced.



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