# **Pitstone Parish Post**



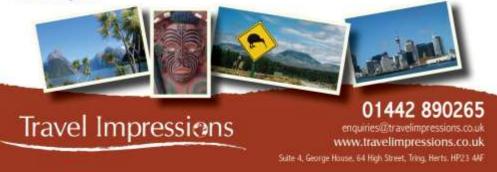
Pitstone Windmill

## Looking to visit New Zealand...

### For help with creating the best itinerary for you please call or email us

- Experienced Kiwi Specialist Agent
- Friendly, honest advice from an independent travel agency
- Specialists in tailor-making holidays to destinations worldwide
- Extensive experience to arrange every detail
- · Using fully bonded tour operators
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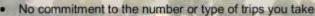


## Pitstone Community Car Scheme



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

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



- · Simple, free parking arrangements in place at all hospitals
- Expenses paid
- · Receive a text notification of available trips

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





## 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:

Annie Stack, Barbara Byrom, Cathy Brassington, David Colley, Fiona Thompson, Gaynor Flint, Helen McCashey, Izzy Robinson, Jack Heyman, Janet Martin, Janine Fursden, Jeff & Kathy Turney, Jill & Wilf Garner, Kris Weber, Klaus Ginda, Laurie Eagling, Les Cato, Lesley Horlock, Linda Martin, Linda Thompson, Linda Willimont, Louise Pope, Lynn Fountain, Martyn Bronziet, Mary Ann Monaghan, Michele Greene, Rachel Weber, Sarah Smith, Sue & Barry Gregory, Sue Nicholls and Tracey Stone.

## **Contact and Advertising Information**

Editor: Kelsey Edwards pppeditor@pitstone.co.uk

Advertising: Relevant information is available on the Pitstone Village website: https://pitstone.co.uk/pppadverts/ or contact parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk Distribution: Rachel Weber tel/txt: 07717

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**Deadline for next edition:** Friday 27th June 2025. The magazine will be distributed at the end of July 2025.

Current PPP advertising rates (inc. VAT ) Size of page:

Black & white: Quarter £15, Half £27.00, Full £54.00

Colour: Quarter £17, Half £29.50, Full £59.00

Inside cover, colour, half £32.50, full £65, Back page, colour, £70.

#### **Cover Photo**



Pitstone windmill, photographed by Lesley Horlock. The windmill dates back to at least 1627 and is acknowledged as one of Britain's earliest post mills.

(Visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk and search Pitstone Windmill for more information)

If you have a photograph taken within the parish that you would like us to feature within Pitstone Parish Post, please email it to parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk

Pitstone Parish Post is promoted and published by

Pitstone Parish Council, Pitstone Pavilion, Marsworth Road, Pitstone, Beds, LU7 9AP.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

#### **Dave Nicholls, Chairman Pitstone Parish Council**

For the last few years the PPP has been very ably edited by Laurie, our Clerk, for which the council is very grateful. From this edition we have a new volunteer editor, Kelsey Edwards. The council thanks Kelsey for stepping into the role and we look forward to working with her. If you are a contributor to the magazine, or an advertiser, please drop her a line to introduce yourself at the usual email address. (pppeditor@pitstone.co.uk).



Please also email Kelsey if you have ideas for articles, or have photographs that you feel would be suitable for the magazine cover.

By the time this edition is delivered we will be in the new financial year and Council Tax payments will have changed. As I'm sure you are aware, the Parish Council's basic funding is raised through the Precept, which forms part of your Council Tax bill. We do supplement the Precept by obtaining grants, and charging for the use of council facilities such as the Pavilion, but the Precept is our core income.

Each year we run a budgeting process starting around September/October where we look at all the things the council delivers. (e.g. Litter picking, Street Lighting, Grants, Youth Cafe, Sports and Recreation facilities etc More details can be found here: https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinformation/the-services-we-provide/. We look at priorities and take into account any comments we've had from residents over the year.

Ultimately, there are always more things that we would like to do than we can afford. For some items where the cost is too much to raise in a single year we may decide to include money that allows us to accrue the necessary funds over several years. We also accrue funds for the replacement of items that wear out over time, like Play Equipment, Street Lighting, and other Street Furniture.

After several rounds of discussion we reach the end of the process, usually in early January, and have put together a full budget which then gives us the figures we need to set the Precept. We always recognise that it is residents who pay for services and we strive to keep costs as low as possible. We are, however, subject to inflation along with everyone else which has meant that this year's precept has risen more than usual.

On your Council Tax bills you will see the rise as 7.5%, but it is important to also understand the underlying numbers. For 2024-2025 the Precept for a band D house was £122.69. For this year it is £131.92. The 7.5% represents an uplift of £9.23 for the year, or about 77p per month.

I hope this has been useful. If you have questions or comments do get in touch, either via email to the clerk (parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk) or by coming to one of our meetings. I look forward to seeing everyone around the village as we move into the warmer months.

### PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Laurie Eagling, Parish Clerk

Enhanced Bus Service to Tring Station & Tring via No. 61 & New 63

As well as a new timetable for the number 61 bus, there is now an additional number 63 bus offering a peak times service between Cheddington-Pitstone-Tring Station-Tring. Combined, they provide an improved level of service and better co-ordination with train times. The new Number 63 service is being partially funding by Section 106 developer funds from both Pitstone and Cheddington developments, along with some travel to school funding. Timetables for both services are available on the Red Eagle website or the Pitstone website (https://pitstone.co.uk/ localnews/new-red-eagle-bus-timetableseffective-april-2025-61-62-and-63/) Please do make as much use as you can of the Tring station trains for your commute. Both Bucks Council and Red Eagle will continue to monitor the level of uptake of the service, before reviewing if any further expansion of the service is possible. As before, our thanks to those residents that provided feedback to Bucks Council, and please do continue to do so if you value the service (email: passtrans@buckinghamshire. gov.uk)

Two new Public Access Defibrillators Installed at Colbree and Little Rothschild House

Our sincere thanks to both Colbree Engineering on Beacon Court, and Little Rothschild House surgery on Marsworth Road, for working with the Parish Council and granting permission for Public Access Defibrillators to be mounted outside their premises.

If you work in the Business Park, or live at the top end of Castlemead, the new Colbree unit will probably be your closest so please familiarize yourself with it's location to the left of the main entrance. If you live between Brookmead School and Albion Road, the Rothschild House defibrillator will now be your closest, and is located on the left as you enter the drive. We were awarded 50% funding

from the London Hearts/Central Government Defibrillator Grant Scheme to purchase these units.

Units are now available at the following locations (but please note that the Sapphire Gymnastics unit is only available during their

tics unit is only available during their opening hours)



All units are registered to The Circuit so they are visible and their maintenance status is known to the ambulance and paramedic services. The ambulance service will direct you to the nearest defibrillator in the event of an emergency and provide you with the cabinet access code. Being familiar with the location of your nearest unit will help you feel confident to access it. If a loved one suffers a cardiac arrest, the aim is to commence treatment within the first 5 minutes. The Stoke Mandeville ambulance service is located approximately 25 minute journey time from the village.

Being able to use a defibrillator in the event of an incident, before the ambulance arrives, will significantly improve the patients chance of survival.



You do not need to be a trained medic to use a defibrillator as it will give you voice prompts throughout and will only shock the patient if it detects the need to do so. We have a training video on our website: https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/defibrillators/ and would encourage everyone to watch this and familiarise yourself with the equipment. We also hold periodic training events, which we'd encourage you to attend, the next being at the Annual Assembly in May. We continue to seek the required permissions and funding for 3 further locations in the parish and will keep you updated on progress.



#### Remembering the fallen of Pitstone



Our sincere thanks to the Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board for approving a grant to fully fund the purchase of 3 additional silent soldiers and poppies to go at their feet, to enable this poignant reminder to be located

at all the main entrances to the village on each occasion they are erected. The 3 new statues will be located (at appropriate times) on Westfield Road, Vicarage Road and Cheddington Road, and will join the 2 in service at Pitstone Memorial Hall (which houses the village war memorial) and Marsworth Road (donated by the Women's Institute).

We'd also like to extend our thanks to the WI for their help mounting the poppies onto stakes and offering to put the poppies at the feet of the soldiers. The statues will make their first appearance in May, to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day, and return for Remembrance Day. You can find out more about those residents that lost their lives during the war here: https://buckinghamshireremembers.org.uk/memorials.htm

## New Music and Sport Equipment for Pitstone Youth Café

Our sincere thanks to the Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board for approving a grant to fully fund the purchase of new sports and musical equipment for the Pitstone Youth Café. The young people that attend our sessions can now reap the benefits



from a full sized and three quarter sized guitar, providing an opportunity that may not have been available to some before, to learn a musical instrument, or just to enjoy making music.

Part of the ethos of the café is to provide opportunities for young people to enjoy sport and physical activity without the associated pressures that often come with school lessons or dedicated sports clubs. The grant has provided a new height adjustable basketball hoop to replace the previous one that was reaching the end of its life, along with new balls. The new table tennis and Jazzminton sets have also been very popular.

If you have a child of senior school age who may like to come along to the café you can find out more here: https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/youth-cafe/ We offer the older youths training and support if they'd like to participate in our Youth Leader program. If you enjoy interacting with young people, we would welcome you to join us as a volunteer, please do reach out to Dave Rollins, our Café Manager on 07368429591.

## New Equipment for Ivinghoe & Pitstone Repair Café

You may be aware that the lvinghoe & Pitstone Repair Café is now solely operating from Pitstone Pavilion each month. We have recently been told that our grant application to the Community Board for funding towards new equipment to support the Repair Café volunteers has been successful and we will

update you next time and via the website.

## Grants Provided to Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity and Brookmead School



We were pleased to be notified by Brookmead School that the outdoor sandpit is now available for the children to utilise as part of their OPAL outdoor play and learning activities. The Parish Council provided a grant of £2.000

towards this initiative at the end of the last financial year, so it is lovely to now see this project finally come to fruition.

A grant was also provided to Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity in January of this year to fund a replacement security outside door and to help alleviate a temporary funding shortfall.

If you are associated with a local community group that benefits the residents of Pitstone, and your group would benefit from some financial support towards a current project, you can find out more information about our grant scheme and policy by visiting this webpage: https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/grant-policy/

#### Pitstone Churchyard

The Church requested assistance with cutting the grass within Pitstone Churchyard. This has been carried out for many years by local volunteers that have done an excellent job. but are now unable to continue. Rather than provide a grant, the Parish Council agreed to add the maintenance of this grass to the existing contract we have in place for other public open space within the village, such as the play areas, Recreation Ground and Local Green Space. This enables the Parish Council to keep costs lower. If anyone would like to offer their voluntary services to cut the grass at this location on an ongoing basis, please speak to Rev James Grainger-Smith. As with all our open space, if you have any comments on the standard of grass care at this location this season, please contact the Parish Clerk.

#### New Benches on Pitstone Recreation Ground

Three new benches have now been installed on Pitstone Recreation Ground, two of these replaced the older metal benches that were now in a poor state of repair and are part of an ongoing project to improve the seating at this location.

The third is a memorial bench for Anil Mitra, primarily funded by his family, as his wish had been for a bench in this particular location,



which was not too far for those with mobility issues to walk to from the car park, and still enabled them to interact with their families

whilst they played on the Recreation Ground. Our sincere thanks are extended to the family. The bench is already being well utilised and we are sure it will be enjoyed by many of you. If you wish to speak to the Parish Council about the possibility of a memorial bench, please email: parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk

#### Thank you to all our volunteers

Approximately 100 residents volunteer on a regular basis for the Parish Council in a variety of capacities such as delivering/ producing Pitstone Parish Post, checking Street Lights, helping at the Youth Café, driving with the Community Car Scheme, on the Allotment Association Committee or Sports & Leisure Committees. We also offer opportunities for the older young people at the Youth Café to train as young youth leaders. We held a very enjoyable social evening in January to thank everyone in person, and we'd like to thank all those that came along.

Being a volunteer can bring a number of benefits such as meeting new people, developing new skills and gaining new experiences, as well as being tremendously important for the group/cause you volunteer for. If you are interested in supporting your community and joining our team of volunteers, please get in touch by emailing parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk.

#### <u>Children's Art Competition to Design Road</u> Safety Signs



The Parish Council has joined forces with Thames Valley Police and Brookmead School to run a competition to promote road safety and encourage motorists to drive considerately through our village, especially over the summer when more children will be out playing and moving along the streets. You will find full details and an entry form on page 14. We look forward to seeing all your wonderful designs!

#### **Upcoming Election**

You will be aware that the four-year term of office for Parish Councillors expires at the upcoming election in May. Any councillors that were willing to stand for re-election. along with other residents that were willing to stand for election, will have submitted nomination papers to Buckinghamshire Council at the end of March. The Parish Council has eleven seats, so if eleven or less individuals volunteered to stand, then they will be appointed unopposed. If twelve or more individuals put themselves forward as candidates then there would be voting on 1 May alongside the Buckinghamshire Council election. Buckinghamshire Council has now issued a formal notice (available on our website) stating that 9 nominations were received and these individuals were thus appointed to the Parish Council for the next four-vear term. Once they take their seats. the new council will seek to fill the remaining 2 vacancies via co-option.

#### Annual Assembly 29 May 2025

The Annual Parish Assembly is not a formal Parish Council meeting, but it is organized by Parish Councils and the Council Chair-

man must chair it if they are present. The Assembly is an opportunity for residents to hear from a number of local groups, charities and tiers of council, about activity that has taken place over the last 12 months and plans that may be in place for the upcoming year. This year, the Assembly will take place on Thursday 29 May 2025 from 7.30pm at Pitstone Pavilion. We have a guest speaker from Trading Standards who is coming to talk about how to protect yourself from scams. We will also be presenting the annual Volunteer of the Year award. A full agenda will be delivered alongside this magazine as well as being published on the website/social media channels/noticeboards. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

#### Please Allow Access for our Grass Cutting Contractors and Refrain from Parking on the Grass Verges

We've received a number of complaints about vehicles parking on the grass verge on Marsworth Road and Vicarage Road and up by the wildlife site, which churns up the verge, kills the grass, prevents the grass cutting contractor undertaking their work and kills the daffodils/plants. Here is a plea to those individuals to please park appropriately elsewhere, especially as grass cutting season will be upon us. Not only can the grass not be reached, but these vehicles are at increased risk of damage as the bulky cutting machinery tries to maneuver to avoid them. We would be interested to hear from those individuals that currently park on verges, so that we can better understand what might be driving this behaviour in those locations.

#### Garden Waste Belongs in your Brown Bin

Sadly we have already had reports this year of garden waste being dumped in public spaces, verges, drainage ditches and private fields. This seems to be an annual problem, particularly in the woodland at the end of Church Road, all along Vicarage Road and the woodland walk through Castlemead. Flytipping refers to waste dumped or tipped in a place that doesn't have a licence to

accept it - this includes garden waste. It is a criminal offence to dump any type of waste, including garden waste, on land that you do not own or is not an authorized waste site. Please act responsibly, protect our open spaces, and ensure that you dispose of all your grass cuttings along with tree/shrub trimmings and other garden waste in your brown bin or at the household recycling centre in Aston Clinton.

## Inconsiderate parking at the Local Wildlife Site

There continues to be a problem with vehicles parking by the maintenance gates for the Local Wildlife Site and we continue to receive correspondence from residents that have been walking along the footpath and met with moving vehicles. Thames Valley Police are patrolling the area, speaking to offending drivers and issuing fines if appropriate. We are also working with the landowner and tenant farmer to investigate other options to prevent illegal parking, and further signage will be installed in due course.

#### Pedestrian Refuge Island for Westfield Road

Buckinghamshire Council recently granted planning permission for a development of six industrial starter units in land to the side of Portland House on Westfield Road. As part of that, the developer will be required to install a pedestrian refuge island in Westfield Road. We would like to thank Buckinghamshire Council for supporting this request and hope that this initiative helps to alleviate some of the difficulties with crossing at this end of Westfield Road that were previously expressed by residents.

#### Replacement Slide for Windsor Road

We are currently working on a project to replace the slide in the Windsor Road playground as this item of play equipment is nearing the end of its life. If any users have any feedback they would like to provide to the council about features they would like to see on a replacement slide, please let us

know, email: parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk.

#### **Devolved Services**

Buckinghamshire Council came back in March to offer the Parish Council a further 4-year contract to continue with the devolved services in respect of grass verge cutting, right of way maintenance, siding out, permits for event signs etc. If verge cutting goes back under the control of Buckinghamshire Council, they are only cut 3 rural cuts & 2 urban cuts per year now. The Parish Council therefore resolved to enter into a new Devolved Service contract with Bucks to facilitate an improved level of service.

#### Ivinghoe & Pitstone Safety Scheme

Buckinghamshire Council has confirmed that it has capacity to investigate and deliver the next phase of implementation for the Safety Scheme during 2025-26. These works will focus on the area between Westfield Road and the roundabout, and are being funded by Section 106 funds paid by Nicholas King Homes to Buckinghamshire Council that can only be spent on delivery of this scheme. Once we have up-to-date proposals from them, we will share them with you.

DO YOU WANT TO GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT TO THE 4,000 PEOPLE THAT LIVE AND WORK IN PITSTONE?

WE OFFER THREE OPTIONS TO COMMERCIAL COMPANIES:

ADVERTISING IN THIS MAGAZINE (WHICH IS ALSO PUBLISHED ONLINE)

DISPLAYING A BANNER AROUND OUR FOOTBALL PITCH AT THE PAVILION

OR BY DISPLAYING A BOARD IN THE PAVILION FORECOURT

PLEASE CONTACT parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk 01296 767261 FOR MORE INFORMATION

## COUNTY NEWS

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







## Court upholds council decision to refuse taxi licence over public safety concerns

Buckinghamshire Council has successfully defended in court two decisions to refuse a hackney carriage and private hire driver licence applications to applicants who were investigated for sexual assault on a female passenger. The driver also failed to disclose that his previous licence had been previously revoked by the council, casting doubt on his honesty. This outcome demonstrates the council's unwavering commitment to prioritising public protection and ensuring passengers, particularly the most vulnerable, are safe when travelling in Buckinghamshire Council licensed taxis and private hire vehicles.

#### Westcott Drone Centre flying high

A Drone Test and Development Centre (DTDC), launched in 2023 at Westcott Venture Park in Buckinghamshire by partner organisation Satellite Applications Catapult, is undergoing a major upgrade to its facilities to increase its capacity and capabilities. Drone companies will now be able to test their products and solutions at a much earlier stage in the development process in a safe and controlled environment.

The DTDC received £1.4million in funding from Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), now managed by the Buckinghamshire Growth Board following the transition of the LEP into Buckinghamshire Council last year. The DTDC is upgrading to

service a broader variety of drone companies and deepen the amount of support available. These new capabilities will allow companies to bring their innovative solutions to market much more rapidly. The development and expansion of the DTDC is a sign of growing demand for drone operations and will support flight operators both here in the UK and globally.

The cutting-edge facility compliments Westcott's commitment to innovation and will be used to develop and enhance services, building a world-class drone services hub here in Buckinghamshire. The new upgrades at the DTDC include:

- Drone cage flight enclosure for controlled flight testing in a contained environment,
- Tether for development and testing of tethered drone systems,
- Multipurpose drone platform to test sensors on drones.
- Expanded workshop spaces for drone testing and development,
- Sensor test ranges for flexible drone testing,
- Creation of Training Academy for drone pilot instructors.

Martin Tett, Buckinghamshire Council's Leader and Chair of Buckinghamshire's Growth Board, said: "It's great to see further innovation within the Westcott Space Cluster driven by the Drone Test and Development Centre. We are proud to have provided Getting Building Funds to help establish this pioneering new facility and see the potential this offers to further develop the Buckinghamshire Enterprise Zone."

"We hope the centre will continue to help shape and transform private and commercial aviation over the next decade and will further establish the county as a global centre of excellence in drone and space technology."

Richard Lowe, Chief Technology Officer, Satellite Applications Catapult, said: "Drones and automated vehicles are going to be a major source of future growth for the UK. These facility upgrades provide even more support for drone innovation at Westcott. We're creating extra capacity to host more companies, and new facilities to help them develop their technology. The addition of a drone cage and sensor test range in particular, mean that companies with new and uncertified technologies can now test both their hardware and software in a safe and controlled environment."

The DTDC site is a former RAF base and has a 270m runway, four dedicated landing pads for vertical, or vertical to horizontal take-off, and multiple flying areas offering real-world environments.

Future plans for the site (and possible employment opportunities) also include the development of Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) capabilities. To find out more about the DTDC visit the Satellite Applications Catapult website: www.sa.catapult.org.uk/facilities/dtdc/.

**Buckinghamshire Councillor Derek Town** 





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 for further information.

All enquiries will be treated in strictest confidence.

## **Dunstable Decor / DIY Services** Home 01582 700944 - Mobile 07745 979276

- Decorating to include wallpaper, gloss and emulsion etc.
- All Property Maintenance duties to your home carried out in a professional manner. For example:-
- \* Laminate wooden flooring - clean & precise fitting.
- . Garden - grass, hedges, shed felt, fences, gates.
- \* Drives, paths & patios Powerwashed (clean & non-slip).
- ٠ Shelving, flat pack, blinds/curtains, pictures/mirrors.
- \* Hire me for the day to complete your 'must do' tasks!
- Friendly, courteous and reliable service free quotes .
- 4 Fully insured (1M Public liability)

Thank you. John



Pitstone





## TEXTILE RECYCLING

#### BEHIND COLBREE ENGINEERING (PITSTONE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE)

WHAT WE DO COLLECT	WHAT WE DO NOT COLLECT
We accept all kinds of adult and childrens' clothing, hats, shoes, belts, handbags, and household textiles including sheets, pillow cases, duvet covers, curtains and towels.	Blankets Bric-a-Brac Duvets, Pillows Sleeping Bags Rugs, Carpet Offcuts of fabric Any WET items Tent Canvas No ripped or stained clothing

PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE WHEN MAKING YOUR DONATION – THANK YOU DROP OFF ANYTIME - COLLECTIONS ARRANGED ONCE FULL

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Experienced Tech Professional will solve all your computer/technology related problems.

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Costa Coffee: Snacks: Frozen Foods: Off Licence: News & Magazines Lotto: Pay Point: Fruit & Vegetables: E Top-Up: Confectionary

Opening hours:

Weekdays: 07.00 to 20.00 Saturday: 07.00 to 20.00 Sunday: 08.00 to 18.00

Phone: 01296 660052 Marsworth Road, Pitstone, LU7 9AP







#### Tea and Tots at St. Mary's lvinghoe



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: 25th April 9th and 23rd May 13th and 27th June 11th July

For more details contact Sandra on 01296 668648



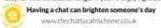
#### At a loose end? Fancy a cuppa?

The 'Chatter & Natter table' is a wonderful way of encouraging people of all ages to talk to others. During the day and time below, the table will be hosted by a friendly volunteer. Do come along and sit for a chat.

> When: Every Wednesday 11am - 2pm

Where: CuriosiTEA at Pitstone Memorial Hall Vicarage Road Pitstone LU7 9EY

Stay for five minutes or longer if you're enjoying chatting!



#### ROAD SAFETY - ART COMPETITION

Pitstone Parish Council, Thames Valley Police, and Brookmead School, are calling on all local children (under 18) to design some bright and colourful artwork to promote road safety and encourage drivers to take care when driving through our village. A selection of winning artwork will be converted into temporary signs and erected along our main roads and at key locations to act as reminders to motorists. This is especially important as the summer approaches and more children are out and about with their friends, on foot, scooters, bikes or skateboards.

Each winner will be presented with an A2 copy of their artwork made into a sign for them to keep. They will also be able to see their winning designs up on display around the village.

#### How to enter:

- Draw your design on a sheet of plain white A4 paper. Make your design as bright and colourful as possible and use big bold writing so that once it is made into a big sign (some will be A3, some A2) drivers can read it as they pass.
   We can't erect posters that look like actual road signs (for example, don't include a number 30 inside a red circle), so make sure your poster is unique!
- We need to be able to scan your artwork, to be able to convert it into a sign, so please avoid using glitter or sticking things onto your posters. Keep your artwork flat and do not crumple or fold your poster.
- 3. Complete the form below and attach it to your artwork so that they stay together.
- Return your artwork and form to: Pitstone Parish Council, Pitstone Pavilion, Marsworth Road, Pitstone, LU7 9AP by Friday 23 May 2025. There is a black parcelipost box located by the car park gate if you wish to deliver by hand.

NAME	AGE
PARENT TELEPHONE NUMBER	
PARENT EMAIL ADDRESS	
PARENT NAME	

We need your telephone number and email address so we can reach you if you are a winner and get permission from your parent for your antwork to be used. We look after your data carefully, you can see our privacy policy and full terms & conditions on our website at www pixtone co.uk. You do not need to be a Brookmead pupil to enter. Other village children and senior school children are also welcome to submit entries. Those at Brookmead will also receive a Road Safety assembly by Thames Valley Police.



#### Apply by the end of Mav!

Pitstone Step-Up Grants have so far provided a ramp to enable a disabled resident to access their rear garden, a laptop for a mature student undertaking an Open University degree, helped two young people with their university accommodation fees, assisted one person to continue their skills education by providing help with their bus fare, and another person realise an opportunity to visit Kenya and build a playground for a disadvantaged community.

Applications for the next round need to be submitted by the end of May 2025. You will need to attend an interview in support of your application on the evening of Thursday 19 June. You will receive notification of any grant offered by early July.

As applications are only considered quarterly, we encourage you to think ahead and apply early, especially if your request will relate to the 2025/26 academic year.

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



**Career Step-Up Grants** 



**Education Step-Up Grants** 



Pitstone Parish Charity, Registration Number: 261752

source.

demonstrably improve their professional or earning potential, where funding is not available from another

otherwise have been unaffordable, or to complete some form of training or upskilling that will



**Helping Out Grants** 



**Community Organisation** Step-Up Grants



Life Step-Up Grants

#### To find out more information and apply:

Visit https://pitstone.co.uk/localinfo/pitstone-step-up-grants/ to read all about the grants, our Grant Making Policy and Application Guidelines, and 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 them off to you.

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#### Supporting people in need in Pitstone

Pitstone Town Lands Charity offer grants to individual Pitstone residents, as well as local organisations who provide valuable services to them.

- We make individual grants to local people who need financial support.
   Grants include help with transport costs, support for further education and towards funeral costs.
- We regard local people of pensionable age as among those most in need.
   The Charity can assist with the cost of glasses, dental care and chiropody.
- · We own four flats available for rent to tenants with a strong Pitstone connection.

#### Do you or someone you know need help?

Contact Gill Lowe (Chair of PTLC Trustees) on 01296 668809 or gill.lowe@pitstone.email

You will find more information about the charity at www.pitstone.co.uk/PTLC



#### Supporting Pitstone residents over the age of 65

The Williamson Trust provides financial support to any person aged 65 or older on 31 March. Grants are made in April each year and delivered as cheques to eligible residents.

- The Williamson Trust is a registered charity (number 266108) and was established in 1973 for the benefit of people over 65 who live within the parish of Pitstone.
- . Trustees maintain a list of eligible couples and individuals, and deliver grants as cheques annually.

## Do you know of an eligible person who has not received a grant?

Please contact Gill Lowe (Chair of the Williamson Trust) on 01296 668809 or gill.lowe@pitstone.email

You will find more information about the charity at www.pitstone.co.ulc/WilliamsonTrust

1898 map of Plattone area. Copyright The Francis Frith Collects

8 map of Plantons area. Copyright The Francis Firth Collection

## 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 Lav 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)

pattern again, the website is the best place to find up-to-date information.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month 10.00am Holy Communion

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month 10.00am Morning Praise

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

5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Benefice Communion rotates between the three Parish Churches. For the most up-to-date information please go to our website: <a href="https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/162/">https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/162/</a>. 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





As of 1 April, the Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board, which Pitstone is part of, will be renamed the East Bucks Community Board, this will form one of eight of the new geographical areas for the Community Board team across

Buckinghamshire.

Once the elections take place in May, a new Chair and Vice-Chair, who will be a Buckinghamshire Councillor, will be assigned from one of the wards in the East Bucks Community Board area.

When they are in their positions, the next stage will be setting our priorities for 2025/2026 and the board would like your involvement in setting these for the local area you live, work and play. So if you have any new initiatives or ideas for improvement then please get in touch with eastbuckscb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk for an informal conversation with the Community Board Manager, Michelle Parker.

Find out more information about Community
Boards here: https://
www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-andsafety/improving-your-local-community/



Application For The Grant Of A Premises Licence - Licensing Act 2003

An application has been made by: Graham Hollands, Mark Roberts, & Steve Mattey

For the grant of a premises Science in respect of: Pitstone Memorial Hall & Grounds, Vicarage Rd, Pitstone, Leighton Buzzard LU7 9EY on Saturday 12-July-2025 between 12:00 and 20:00.

The licensable activities proposed are as follows:

- Live (Amplified) Music
- · Recorded Music
- . Supply of Alcohol

Full details of this application and the proposed activities may be viewed during normal office hours at the Council Offices of Suckinghamshire Council, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA or at the Suckinghamshire Council website.

If you wish to make a representation in respect of this application, you must e-mail lizensing! buckinghamabire you us or write to Licensing Section, Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 BFF

Your representation must be received by Wednesday 30-April-2025 and should clearly states the grounds upon which the representations are made.

It is an offence for anyone knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with a licence application. The fine for which a person it liable on summary conviction is unlimited.

Dated: Wednesday 09-April-2025 Reference: ROS/25/00002/HSSAG Risstone I

Reference: RQS/25/00002/HSSAG Pitstone Party-in-the-Park 2025

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#### **VICAR'S REPORT**

**Rev. James Grainger-Smith** 

<u>Vicar's Report on the Benefice (our group of parishes) in 2024</u> For the 2025 AGMs of Ivinghoe, Pitstone, Slapton and Marsworth

#### What's the Vision?

During 2024 the parishes consolidated the idea of *Working Together to Create Opportunities for Positive Encounters* 

Central to this goal is the aspiration of *developing an atmosphere of Love & Support* in each of our parishes.

Early in 2025 the Vision – and its outworking - is to be revisited by each Parochial Church Council (PCC).

#### Did We Make Some Progress in 2024?

As I've said before, community life is a team game and so the sudden passing of the well-liked & well-respected Bishop of Buckingham, Rt. Rev. Alan Wilson, in Feb 2025 was a shock to us all. He & his family remained in our prayers throughout the year. I am so grateful, though, for all our folk! Without the hard work of church members and other volunteers, offered out of the goodness of their hearts, nothing would be possible. My sincere thanks to all who make our communities better places.

And, in 2024, one example of this was the good engagement with the Church School at Marsworth, which is extending its provision to accept even younger children. There was also good engagement with the Windmill pre-School in lvinghoe and Pitstone (I&P) which will soon have a branch opening in Marsworth! And some encouraging contact with Brookmead School. Sandra Green's exceptional work with young families in Ivinghoe and Pitstone developed. And the informal Sunday Breakfast service in Slapton Village Hall continued to be small but lively!

Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms all provided good opportunities to show something of God's love to people that we don't see often on a Sunday morning. And we appreciated the augmented congregations for our services in Holy Week and at Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas. I hope folk know that they are always welcome.

Each church held successful fundraising events, some with a partner organisation: Ivinghoe Summer Fete (with Scouts & Daisy Chain Café) and Music-a-thon (with Beacon Choir & others); the Steam Rally & Fun Run at Marsworth; the Summer Fete, Film Club, Quizzes & Murder Mystery at Slapton.

I also need to mention the somewhat hidden work of the Foodbanks, whose discreet service provides support for families and individuals experiencing real need. The Foodbanks are administered through the PCCs of I&P and Marsworth, and

were resourced by grants (including from Buckinghamshire County Council) as well as generous private donations.

The Vicar's Book Club (which also included the Lent Group & Advent Group) attracted a core of folk throughout the year. And eventually followed the example of the Slapton Prayer Lunches – meeting in people's homes rather than the Village Hall.

The "A Church Near You" website www.achurchnearyou.com continues to cover all our Parish Churches.

#### Other highlights in the year included

- The summer filming at Ivinghoe of Hugh Jackman's movie, "Three Bags Full".
- A group from Slapton dining with their patrons at Christ Church, Oxford
- John White being made Churchwarden Emeritus for all his service at Marsworth

#### Looking Forward

I maintain that a crucial idea going forward is to dethrone the concept that our churches exist to "get people to come to services". Obviously, I like it when folk come to worship God with us but perhaps a more outward-looking focus might be to identify partners that we can work with in order to make our parishes better places

Partners will be individuals or groups with whom we have some shared goals and values – and with whom we have (or feel able to develop) relationships of mutual support, trust and respect.



#### PITSTONE CHURCH EVENTS

#### **Bill Brassington**

Pitstone Church will be open on Sunday afternoons and Bank Holidays from 2.30 – 5.00 from May to September. We welcome everyone who would like to visit and enjoy the history and atmosphere of the church.

#### SAVE THE DATE

We also have a busy year of events planned for 2025:

June 3<sup>rd</sup> This Is My Theatre will be performing "The Three Musketeers" in the Church Yard. When young D'Artagnan travels to Paris to join the Musketeers he uncovers a plot to discredit Queen Anne in the eyes of King Louis XIII and the country. With Athos, Porthos and Aramis, D'Artagnan must help to defeat the evil Cardinal Richelieu and Milady de Winter, but their quest will not be easy...

**July 4**<sup>th</sup> An evening to sample some excellent wines with sumptuous cheese.

August 20<sup>th</sup> Quill and Inkling Theatre Group will perform Andromeda and Perseus. The story starts with Andromeda chained to a rock as a sacrifice to a sea monster. Perseus, passing by, fell in love with her and saved her by turning the monster to stone with Medusa's head. They married afterward.

**August 25<sup>th</sup>** August Bank Holiday Concert. Join us for an afternoon of music and cakes

September 14<sup>th</sup> The Oxford Fiddle Group will be returning to play their own arrangements of jigs, reels, polkas, polskas, waltzes, hornpipes, songs and anything else that they like and which works well in a big band of fiddles The OFG sound is built around massed fiddles, with a funky and creative rhythm

and harmony section. The line-up includes guitar, banjo, bass, English concertina, percussion, whistles, vocals and one or two other instruments...

**September 28**<sup>th</sup> There will be a communion service to celebrate Heritage Week. We hope you will be able to attend at least one of these events.

Please note we now have a card reader for donations so payment for refreshments or donations can be made using card, cash or cheque. The CCT accepts mobile phone payments through a QR code displayed in church

Volunteers to help with events or Sunday afternoons will also be welcome. If you can help please ring Jean Booth 661745.



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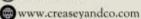
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watchwords are Quality, Integrity and Value. Quality in the materials that we use for all our installations and the fact that all our loft packages are fitted by time served tradesmen, so our customers are assured of the best job.

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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#### **ASHRIDGE RAMBLINGS**

Jessica Eykel, National Trust Staff



## RESTORING ANCIENT WOODLAND AT THE ASHRIDGE ESTATE

Over the past three years, the National Trust has been working to restore the ancient woodland at Ashridge by carefully removing some of the mature conifers that were planted in the 1950s. Ancient woodlands play a critical role in maintaining UK biodiversity, yet the conifers were casting dense shade. At Ringshall Copse, the project has reached its final stage as work begins on planting 1,600 broadleaf trees to replace the conifers. Restoring the tree species composition to a diverse mix of native species will create the right conditions for nature to thrive and for the woodland to be resilient in the face of a changing climate.



Over the last two years, with more sunlight reaching the forest floor, natural regeneration has already begun in Ringshall Copse, leading to exciting ecological improvements. The rare spotted flycatcher has returned, and butterfly populations have increased, including the silver-washed Fritillary, a species of conservation concern. Primroses and foxgloves have emerged from the woodland floor and are now flowering. A wide selection of tree species is being planted to

complement the naturally regenerating trees and these include oak, hornbeam, crab apple, hawthorn, cherry, hazel and lime

We anticipate that the restored woodland will support a further resurgence of bats, butterflies, bees and hoverflies, contributing to a vibrant and thriving ecosystem across the estate. With further tree planting to take place on other conifer plantations next year, this is a long-term investment in nature, ensuring that future generations can enjoy and benefit from this precious landscape.

Planting of 1,600 trees is underway at Ringshall Copse (Photo: Jessica Eykel, National Trust)



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## IVINGHOE AND PITSTONE WI

#### Kay Ison

Our WI had our first meeting of the year in as he was not on Ivinghoe Town Hall on Thursday 9 January.

It was great to see a good turnout of members after the busy Christmas and New Year period. We enjoyed a game of consequences, followed by a variety of cheese and biscuittasting featuring many types of European and British cheeses, with some members having their first taste of goats cheese and Brie being a firm favourite.

Members enjoyed a very interesting talk for February's chilly meeting in Ivinghoe Town Hall. Jo Laurie gave a presentation on "My Cousin Henry: from Ardbeg to Antarctica". Henry Bowers was Jo's third cousin and a member of Scott's famous, ill fated trip to the South Pole. Henry was born in Scotland in 1883 to a seafaring Captain called Alexander and a teacher, Emily. Henry developed a love of the sea and adventure from a young age and, at only 7 years old, wrote to an Eskimo saying that he would visit them one day to see how they lived. We learned that Henry had a fear of spiders, leading to him sleeping on deck rather than in his cabin. Henry was desperate to go to Antarctica and was very happy when, out of 8000 applicants, he received a telegram whilst in Burma to say he was in It was an enthralling talk, portraying the ad-Scott's team.

Henry was an excellent & experienced stores manager, which proved essential for the journey on the ship, the Terra Nova. A lot of the supplies were lost in a terrible storm and the ship also got stuck in pack ice for 20 days before docking at Cape Evans on 04 January Our March meeting saw our final meeting of that are still used today.

In September 1911, 16 men set out on the South Pole Journey. But as time went on both ponies and dogs could no longer pull the sledges. Scott ordered non-essential items to be abandoned so it was lighter for the men to haul. Unfortunately, this included Henry's skis stated the President's tenure is only for 3

the original team completing the journey the South Pole. Later



Scott made the decision to include Henry in his 5 man group and he became the only man in the team to walk in the treacherous conditions. The group had already received word that the Norwegian explorer Amundsen and his better prepared team had reached the South Pole. Scott and his team reached the South Pole on 17 January 1912. A tremendous achievement but soon at a great cost.

The return journey was gruelling and relentless. The team did not have enough food or fuel. The final three continued until they were just 11 miles from their destination. They died on the 29 March 1912. Scott wrote diaries during his expedition and a letter was also found addressed to Henry's mother, referencing his character: "As the troubles have thickened, his dauntless spirit ever shone brighter and he has remained cheerful, hopeful and indomitable to the end". A fitting tribute. He also wrote a diary, published 100 years on in 2012.

venturous spirit of a special man who lost his life following his dream. Jo and her husband are retiring from the speaker's circuit at the end of this year after 35 years of giving many enjoyable talks on a variety of subjects. We wish them a happy retirement..

1911. Due to his skills and fitness, Henry was our financial year and Annette welcomed us picked as one of the shore party. He took me-formally to our Annual General Meeting ticulous weather records during the expedition (AGM). She also welcomed Lynn and Margaret from Long Marston WI to run the process of the AGM. Lynn Foster took the lead for this part of the meeting. Five members stepped down with a total of seven standing for the new committee. All were accepted en masse. Tessa was then voted as the new President. After this vote, the bye law that

years was reinstated.

There then followed the Treasurer's report, the Secretary's report and the President's report. The finances of the group are in a good place and were audited by an IFE. Annette, our President thanked us all for our support A big thanks must go to all the organisers and over the last three and a half years. We are still the oldest WI in Buckinghamshire and long may that continue. Mary thanked Angoing.

by Tessa with tea and coffee organised by a lot of interesting meetings coming up and in Betty and Eilish. This went down very well with April we will meet in Ivinghoe Town Hall for a our members with the winning cookie came talk on Healthy Eating by Jennifer Marshall from LidL

Throughout the last 3 months our interest groups have gone from strength to strength. Random Readers met on the first Wednesday of each month. Any books left over after swaps are taken to the meetings for members to take home for a small donation. Our Craft Group have enjoyed making crocheted red hearts for Valentine's Day, concertina folders in February and rope and fabric coasters in March. Our Social Group have enjoyed several coffee meet-ups in the Daisv Chain cafe in Ivinghoe Hub. Several members also enjoyed a tasty lunch at Lussman's in Woburn. A gin tasting evening is next on our agenda. Knit and Natter have a weekly meeting and their projects have included knitting items for Ukraine, personal projects and updating and knitting more poppies for the VE celebrations this year.

Finally, the Walking Group have enjoyed several walks, the first being a Tour around Totternhoe Knolls. The 5 mile walk was led by 2 of our members' husbands and the scenery was spectacular. We ended up in the Old Farm Inn for a pub lunch. Next was a circular walk around Aston Clinton with deep muddy puddles under stiles. Luckily, three husbands attended the walk and were on hand to help the ladies. Well done to all of the ladies for keeping cheerful and surviving the walk. Our third walk saw eight members following a 3.5 mile circular route around Waddesdon Manor on 21st February. The snowdrops were out in

force and the daffodils were beginning to bloom, promising a beautiful vellow carpet. The sun shone in a beautiful blue sky and we ended up enjoying a hot drink from the coffee hut outside the manor.

leaders of our interest groups as without them we would miss out on so many interesting ideas, activities and friendship. We are exnette for all her hard work in keeping our WI tremely grateful that they give up their time to organise these outings and sessions.

There then followed a cookie tasting arranged April sees the start of our new year. We have Jenkinson. This will be followed by our birthday party and line dancing in May and a mystery trip in June. If anyone would like more details of our group and what the WI stands for please send an email to Tessa at tsmith44@btinternet.com. We look forward to welcoming you.

#### 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

#### **LAWN BOWLS**

#### Sam Lincoln, Club Captain

## <u>Lawn Bowls: A Sport for All Ages – Join the</u> Fun This Season!

Think lawn bowls is just for retirees? Think again! With the current World Indoor Bowls Champion just 28 years old, this sport is shaking off outdated stereotypes and attracting a new generation of players. It's competitive, strategic, and social. Now's your chance to get involved!

Cheddington Lawn Bowls Club is excited to welcome new players for the upcoming season, which kicks off on 19 April 2025. To celebrate, we're hosting a special Open Day on 9 May 2025 (4 PM to 9 PM), where you can experience the game firsthand, meet members, and see what the club is all about. Whether you're looking for a relaxed way to stay active or something more competitive, lawn bowls has it all.

#### A Sport for Everyone – Truly Inclusive

Lawn bowls is one of the few sports where you'll find teams with players aged 10 to 90+, playing side by side. It's also a mixed-gender sport, creating a uniquely welcoming and social environment. We're especially keen to grow a junior section and, if there's enough interest, we aim to form a junior team for the 2026 season. If you want to be part of a growing sport and make your mark, now is the perfect time to join!

## <u>Friday Night Bowls – The Perfect Start to Your</u> Weekend!

We run weekly Friday sessions from 6 PM to 9 PM for those not wishing to play regularly or become full members, making it easy to drop in after school or work. They are completely free for under-18s if accompanied by an adult or just £6 for playing adults, offering an affordable way to unwind while enjoying a sport that's easy to learn but deeply tactical. Plus, it's a great way to meet new people. We encourage families, friends' groups and organisations to enjoy our facilities. We provide minimum coaching for these sessions, giving you the freedom to enjoy your experience but with coaches on hand if you want help.

#### <u>Opportunities to Play – No Matter Your Skill</u> <u>Level</u>

One of the best things about lawn bowls is that it's suitable for all experience levels. Our full members take part in internal club competitions, as well as friendly and competitive matches against other clubs. Most matches are played on weekday evenings or weekends, so there's plenty of opportunity to bowl around your schedule. If you're a beginner, don't worry – we'll provide three free coached sessions to help you get started.

# Affordable and Accessible – Get Involved! One of the best things about lawn bowls is that you don't need to buy expensive gear to play. We provide all the equipment – just bring a pair of flat-soled shoes, and you're ready!

If you want to go beyond the Friday sessions and play in matches, our first-year new bowlers membership rates are unbeatable value:

- £25 for under-18s
- £75 for adults

This membership gives you access to all club facilities, match fees for friendly and competitions, Bowls England affiliation and year-round social events. Whether you want to improve your skills, enjoy friendly competition, or be part of a fantastic community, it's an investment worth making.

#### Why Try Lawn Bowls?

Lawn bowls is more than just a game – it's a sport that combines precision, strategy, and teamwork in a relaxed yet competitive setting. Whether you're naturally competitive or want to enjoy a gentle but engaging activity, it offers the perfect balance. Plus, the social aspect means you'll always have a great time on and off the green.

So, why not give it a go? Join us for our Open Day on 9 May or drop into a Friday session – we'd love to see you there. You might just discover your new favourite sport!







Emma, Practitioner, Dawn, Practice lead, Peth, Pre-School assistant

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## REPAIR CAFÉ

#### Martin Hayden, Volunteer Repairer

Repair Cafés are spreading all across the UK since starting in Holland a few years ago. Alongside fixing just about anything that you can carry, we are beginning to see shoppers become conscious of repairability when buying new. You may not be aware but you can find a repair score for most phones, tablets and laptops that you may be thinking of buying. Before buying a new phone it could be worth checking if the battery can be replaced easily, or will require open heart surgery using a scalpel and heating pads to separate the adhesive. Checkout IFIXIT online and search for repair scores then compare your options.

Making these repair scores public and displaying them alongside the price tag in stores is apparently mandatory in some European countries. Rather like the Energy rating we see on fridges and washing machines, wouldn't it be good to have the Repairability score when buying?

Volunteering at our nearest repair café in Pitstone over the last year has shown me that so many manufacturers create deliberate barriers to repairing their products. These range from special screws with non-standard heads to electronic serial numbers that the product will not recognize if changed. That's assuming you can buy the spare parts needed and the manufacturer actually publishes a repair manual.

The good news is that there is so much more information available now on how to repair many products. There are lots of You Tube videos to show you how to test and repair all kinds of faults. These are often amateur videos but when the manufacturer hasn't provided repair data they are invaluable. I'm often frustrated trying to open up some kitchen appliance only to find a secret screw hidden behind a label. Or a series of snap fit catches

moulded into the case that require a thin plastic disk inserted into the split line. Somebody on You Tube will have worked it out already. So what can you do?

You could join the campaign for repairability and for public data on repair scores. You should consider it when buying any new product. How long will it last, does it carry a warranty, can the battery be replaced? Can you fix it yourself, can it only be fixed by the manufacturer at great expense.

You might consider volunteering at the Repair Café. If you have a few tools and the skills to repair stuff and can spare a half day once a month let us know or just come along.

#### www.lvinghoePitstoneRepairCafe.co.uk



22nd March - PITSTONE PAVILION

26th April - PITSTONE PAVILION

24th Way - PITSTONE PAVILION

28th June - PITSTONE PAVILION

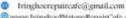
26th July - PITSTONE PAVILION

27th Sept - PITSTONE PAVILION

25th Oct - PITSTONE PAVILION

22Nd Nov - PITSTONE PAVILION







BEACON LIT

## **BEACONLIT 2025**

#### **Kelsey Edwards**

On Saturday 12th July, The Big Little Book Festival returns. Find us in lyinghoe, LU7 9EP, at both the Old School Community Hub and the Town Hall opposite.

BeaconLit began in 2013 as a humble stand at the lvinghoe Summer Festival. It's purpose was, and remains, to raise much-needed funds for the vital Beacon Villages Community Library (https://bvcl.org.uk/).

Over the years, the festival has flourished, and 2025 is no different. Due to last year's popularity, the Writing Workshop (led by Julie Cohen) and Poetry Circle (featuring Hannah Copley and Rachel Spence) will both be returning. This is as well as author panels, interviews, Q&A sessions and many opportunities to peruse the *Our Bookshop* of Tring stand. And, of course, to have your book signed.

#### **Ticket Information:**

Early Bird All-Day: £25 until 1st June

General Admission All-Day: £35

Morning/Afternoon: £20 each

Headlining BeaconLit 2025 are three remarkable authors: **Lissa Evans**, the acclaimed romance writer and producer of show *Father Ted*, **Abir Mukherjee**, award-winning author of the *Wyndham and Banerjee* series with works translated into fifteen languages, and **Jane Casey**, the bestselling crime writer behind *The Killing Kind*, which was adapted for TV. Each will participate in exclusive conversations about their writing, careers and inspirations. Aylesbury and Buckinghamshire-based local authors **Bill Randall** and **Denise Beddows** will also be speaking.

Special mention goes out to BeaconFlash, our 500-word story competition, with entries closing 31st May and final results being announced at the festival itself. May's theme for submission is 'Full Circle', so stories should centre around that. Entry is £3 or £13 with critique from author and tutor Morgen Bailey. Eight prizes will be awarded, including cash, extended critique and online publication.

We hope to see you soon for an enjoyable day of literary celebration and fundraising for the BVCL. For programme and ticketing details, visit www.beaconlit.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.



# AUTOMOTIVE

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Clinical Specialist MSK and Rheumatology

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  - Pre and post-op rehabilitation
- Complex chronic pain states, pain management, treatment and rehabilitation

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#### LOCAL INFORMATION

#### **LOCAL VENUES**

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

email: secretary@ivinghoehub.co.uk or treasurer@ivinghoehub.co.uk.

Ivinghoe Town Hall: Historic and user-friendly hall in the village centre, with awards for best managed small hall in the country. Modern facilities for local events. Equipped kitchen, stage, chair lift.

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

**Pitstone Memorial Hall:** 2 various sized event rooms including large hall with integrated cinema screen and raised stage. 2 kitchens, Heroes—our modern refurbished bar, wi-fi, disabled access throughout, ample car parking. Contact: pmhbooking@gmail.com 01296 661271. Also home to CuriosiTea Room.

**Pitstone Pavilion:** Newly renovated and extended building with community room overlooking the sports ground, kitchen with external serving hatch, toilet facilities and changing village connected by a covered walkway. Dedicated parking for >40 vehicles plus 8 bicycle racks. Full disabled access and induction loop. wi-fi. Widescreen TV also enables PowerPoint presentations for meetings. No bar.

Contact: 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:

lvinghoe.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 & 2-5pm, Thurs 2pm - 5pm,

Fri 2pm - 7pm Sat 10am - 1pm

Ivinghoe and Pitstone Royal British Legion: Chair, TBC

**Beacon Community Choir:** A choir which sings a wide variety of repertoire, and where all are welcome.. Rehearsals Thursdays (term time) at 8.15 in St. Mary's Church Ivinghoe. Leader Judith Sheridan. Contact Lindsay Hewlett 01296 660670 lhewlett@btinternet.com

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

**Beacon Art Group:** Tuesday mornings lvinghoe 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 lvinghoe 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. Bringing learning to life and life to learning.

Contact: Brookmead School, High Street, Ivinghoe, LU7 9EX, www.brookmead.bucks.sch.uk, 01296 668543, office@brookmead.bucks.sch.uk

**Friends of Brookmead textile recycling:** Please put your unwanted textiles i.e. adults and children's clothing, shoes, hats, belts, handbags, ties and soft toys into the bins at Colbree Engineering, Pitstone Green Business Park to help raise funds for the school.

**Windmill Pre-school:** (children aged 2 - 5 from Pitstone, Ivinghoe and surrounding areas): One of the top pre-schools nationally and highest rated locally. Purpose built premises behind Brookmead School, open 5 full days per week. Mornings 9am - 12pm, Afternoons 12pm - 3 pm (Includes Lunch Club), Lunch Club 12 - 1pm (subject to availability) Contact: admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk, 01296 661031 (during sessions).

#### **SPORT**

**Cheddington Bowls Club:** The Recreation Ground, High St. LU7 9AA one of the best bowling greens in the area. Tuesdays at 2pm or Friday at 6 pm, May to Sept. www. cheddingtonbowls.org.uk Contact: Diane Benford 01296 661381

**Pitstone and Ivinghoe Junior Boys' and Girls' Football**: School years 1 to 13. If you are interested in playing football, having fun and making new friends, get in touch, no experience needed. All our coaches are FA Level 1 or 2 qualified and DBS checked. Email: devlopment@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.

#### LOCAL CHARITIES

**PITSTONE STEP-UP GRANTS:** Tel: 01296767261 Email:stepupgrants@pitstone.co.uk Web: https://pitstone.co.uk/localinfo/pitstone-step-up-grants/

PITSTONE TOWN LANDS CHARITY: Tel: 01296 668809 Email: gill.lowe@pitstone Web:

Pitstone.co.uk/ptlc

WILLIAMSON TRUST: Tel: 01296 668809 Email: gill.lowe@pitstone Web:

https://pitstone.co.uk/localinfo/the-williamson-trust/

#### **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

**The Heritage Park—Pitstone Green Museum**: A fascinating blend of attractions from the past, based in the once redundant buildings of an old Victorian farm. It captures the spirit of a bygone age when life was harder but slower than it is today. Open 9 times a year, on Bank Holidays & 2nd Sundays of the month from June to October. pitstonemuseum.co.uk

#### **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: 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4th Saturdays at the Market Place in Brook Street, Tring. Except in December when it is on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

#### Chairman, Cllr Dave Nicholls



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.

#### Vice Chairman, Cllr Bob Saintey



T: 668633 E: bob saintey@pitstonepc.org Chair of Sports & Leisure, Staffing, PDA, Youth Café, AVALC/BALC, Community Board, Pitstone Hill.

#### Clir Mrs Margaret Crutchfield



E margaret crutchfield@pitstonepc.org Planning Committee, Sports & Leisure, Youth Cafe and Community Board.

#### Cllr Ben Blunt



T: 660702 E: ben.blunt@pitstonepc.org Chair of Staffing Committee, Planning, and Minerals & Waste.

#### Vacancy

See website for full details

#### Cllr Rob McCarthy



E: rob.mccarthy@pitstonepc.org Strategic Planning, Tring station, BALC and Community Board.

#### Cllr Mrs Frances Nash



E: frances.nash@pitstonepc.org Planning

#### Cllr Kris Weber



T: 07710088624 E: kris.weben@pitstonepc.org Chair of Planning, Vice Chair of Sports & Leisure.

#### Clir Mrs Hannah Bates

E: hannah bates@pitstonepc.org

#### Cllr Jack Hawkins



T: O7713590490 E: jack.hawkins@pitstonepc.org Vice Chair of Planning, Sport & Leisure, and Footpaths,

#### Cllr Dr Dave Frearson



E: dave frearson@pitstonepc.org

#### Correspondence/Enquiries, the Clerk: Laurie Eagling



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

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.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/search-planning-licensing-applications

## 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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