

Pitstone Parish Post



Bee on Flower

July 2025

Issue number 145

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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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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

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Cover Photo



Bee on Flower, Ivinghoe
Photographed by Kelsey Edwards

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

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PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Laurie Eagling, Parish Clerk



New Equipment for Ivinghoe & Pitstone Repair Café

You may be aware that the Ivinghoe & Pitstone Repair Café is now solely operating from Pitstone Pavilion each month. We have recently been advised that our grant application to the Community Board for funding towards new equipment to support the Repair Café has been successful and we are now in the process of buying the items.

Financial Support to Community Groups

We were pleased to support the Party in the Park committee with funding to hire the stage to enable this event to go ahead. A grant of £1,000 is also being provided to 1st Ivinghoe and Pitstone Scouts towards replacement tents.

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/>

Suicide Prevention Bench – Legend on the Bench & PRS Office Furniture

We are currently delighted to be working with PRS Office Furniture who are donating a suicide prevention bench made by Legend on the Bench for the Recreation Ground. Every bench displays quick access to information at any time of the day or night for anyone experiencing mental health issues.

Their vision is to combat mental health issues and prevent suicides by providing accessible resources and support to individuals in need. They believe that there should be no stigma attached to mental health challenges, and aim to create a safe environment where people can research and obtain vital contact information for themselves or

someone they care about. The QR code on the bench will direct users to a comprehensive reference list of professional support groups, complete with contact numbers, website links, and email addresses to ensure that help is just a scan away, fostering a community of support and understanding for those facing mental health struggles.

We are also sadly aware that one of our memorial benches has suffered vandalism, and are currently exploring options with the supplier.

If you wish to speak to the Parish Council about the possibility of a memorial bench, please email parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk

Children's Art Competition to Design Road Safety Signs

We received lots of amazing entries into our poster competition and would like to thank everyone who took part. After some very close competition, the winners have been decided and we are currently in the process of arranging their presentation day and production of the signs to go up around the village over the summer.

Election

Nine of the ten previous councillors stood as candidates and were elected unopposed. Our grateful thanks to everyone for their continued time and unwavering support for the parish. One new councillor, Richard Cattermole, was appointed in the council meeting on 26/6/25 and we would like to extend a very warm welcome to him. The final remaining seat will also be filled via co-option, so if you are also passionate about this village we live in, would like to make a real difference to our community, and have at least 3 hours spare each week to volunteer as a Parish Councillor, please do get in touch as we would love to hear from you.

Congratulations to Avril Davies, Volunteer of the Year 2025

We would like to congratulate Avril Davies, who was awarded Pitstone Volunteer of the Year 2025 at the Annual Assembly on 29 May 2025 in recognition of very many years of voluntary support to our village in numerous capacities including that of County Councillor.



The award recognised Avril's enormous contribution to the village, spanning many years in **various capacities, but in particular Avril's** contribution to the establishment and ongoing support of the Beacon Villages Community Library and its associated projects such as the BeaconLit Festival which raises funds for the Library.

The Chairman presented Avril 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 2026 award.

Annual Assembly

This is not a formal Parish Council meeting, but it is organized by Parish Councils and the Council Chairman 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 the council, about activity that have taken place over the last 12 months and plans that may be in place for the upcoming year.

This year, the Assembly took place on Thursday 29 May 2025 and featured a guest speaker from Trading Standards who provided advice on how to protect yourself from scams – this is the fastest growing form of crime at the moment and all age groups are susceptible – please do visit pitstone.co.uk for further advice on how to protect yourself.

Attendees also had training in how to use a public access defibrillator and heard from Thames Valley Police, Rev James Grainger-Smith, Buckinghamshire Council, Pitstone Town Lands Charity, The Williamson Trust, Pitstone Recreation Ground Charity, Pitstone Parish Charity/Step-Up Grants and the Parish Council.

Audit for Year Ending 2024-25

Our end-of-year audit has currently passed through two layers of audit and has now been submitted to PKF Littlejohn, who are the external auditors appointed to us, for the final 'external audit'. **The first layer is undertaken by members of the Parish Council and its staff. The second layer is an 'internal audit' undertaken by independent experts appointed by the Parish Council – in our case, this is IAC Ltd. Finally, the accounts and supporting documents are submitted to an external auditor appointed to the Parish Council. As our income/expenditure exceeded £200k this year, the council will be subject to an intermediate-level review. Only following the third layer of audit, are the accounts declared 'audited'.** All the information available so far can be found on our website.

Replacement Slide for Windsor Road

Quotations are currently being obtained for the replacement of the slide, and we will update you as soon as possible on the outcome.

Improvements at the Pavilion

Pitstone & Ivinghoe United Football Club have funded the installation of footpaths adjacent to the

senior football pitch at the Pavilion to improve accessibility and amenities for spectators, and installed a hard standing disabled viewing area.

Ivinghoe & Pitstone Safety Scheme

Buckinghamshire Council has confirmed that it has the 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.

Planning Application Consultation changes to the Buckinghamshire Council's Online Planning Portal

Buckinghamshire Council, our Local Planning Authority, have taken the decision (along with many other councils) not to publish comments submitted by members of the public on their

online planning portal. You will still be able to view comments submitted by statutory consultees such as the Parish Council or Highways.

Buckinghamshire Council will still consider and take appropriate account of comments submitted by members of the public. As they are the Local Planning Authority, and responsible for determining the application, it is vital that you submit any views directly to them.

The change does however mean that the Parish Council no longer has visibility of any comments residents submit to the Local Planning Authority. It is therefore even more important than before, that if you wish the Parish Council to take your views into consideration when undertaking its own deliberations, that you supply a copy of the comments you submitted to Buckinghamshire Council, to the Parish Council ahead of the appropriate meeting where the application is being discussed.



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.

ANNUAL REPORT

Laurie Eagling, Parish Clerk

Annual Report and Accounts for Pitstone Parish Council Year Ending 31-3-2025

Performance

	To 31-3-2024	To 31-3-2025	Variance to Previous Year
Total Receipts	£224,729	£277,532	+23%
Total Payments	£197,749	£228,678	+16%
Balances Carried Forward	£200,115	£248,970	

The precept (collected via your Council Tax) for 2024/25 was £119.28 for the year for an average Band D property, which equates to £2.29 per week per home.

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.

There were three large receipts during the financial year:

- Bellway Homes paid the Parish Council a one-off Section 106 payment of £32,640 to transfer the Tun Furlong play space to our ongoing care and ownership. These funds can only be utilised for this purpose and will be called down over the upcoming years as necessary.
- Croudace paid a fee of £30,600 to transfer seventeen street light columns within the Williamson Way development to our ongoing care and ownership. A further fee of £3,600 for an additional two columns is due this financial year. These funds can only be utilised for this purpose and will be called down over the upcoming years as necessary.
- Safran Electrical and Power sponsored the installation of the bus shelter outside their premises on Westfield Road, passing £6,240 of funding to the Parish Council. The other two shelters were funded by the Parish Council utilising funds accrued over a



number of years for this purpose. The Parish Council will meet all ongoing liabilities for the care and maintenance of all three shelters.

We also saw an uplift in income from the hire of the Pavilion facilities and Pitstone Parish Post advertising income. The previous year had seen a receipt of £23,510 in S106 funds released by Buckinghamshire Council towards the double lane cricket practice nets and a grant of £2,500 from the Community Board towards the information panels at the Local Wildlife Site. The underlying difference between the two financial years is approximately £1,600/5%.

Other purchases during the year included three extra silent soldiers and some sporting and musical equipment for the Youth Café, both of which are being funded by grants from the Community Board but the associated grant payment will not be received until 2025/26.



We worked with Colbree and Little Rothschild Surgery to provide two additional public access defibrillators, both of which were 50% funded by London Hearts on behalf of the central government scheme.



Three benches were installed on the Recreation Ground – two were replacements for old stock and one was a new memorial bench which was partly funded by the Mitra family. This is part of an ongoing project to upgrade the seating at this location and further replacements will follow over a number of years. A white lining machine was purchased to enable the pitch markings at the Pavilion and Recreation Ground, some IT equipment was upgraded, a new dog bin installed in Crispin Field, two litter bins replaced on the Recreation Ground and four additional tables purchased for the Pavilion function room.

Our thanks also go to the P&I Junior Football Club for the donation of new portable

junior goals for the Pavilion site, that they obtained via grant funding.

The Parish Council runs a grant scheme to support local community and charitable groups that provide services that benefit Pitstone residents. During the year funding was provided to 1st Ivinghoe and Pitstone Scouts, Pitstone Memorial Hall Charity and Toy Hub.

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, Christmas illuminations, litter picking, emptying dog & litter bins, maintaining play equipment and open spaces, producing Pitstone Parish Post, 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, and maintaining the Pavilion and football pitches.

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 towards the delivery of these services, which cost the parish £8,085 to deliver. However, it does mean that our grass can be cut more frequently (Bucks would now only provide three grass cuts in towns and villages over the course of the year), works can be carried out more efficiently, and we have more control over delivery of these services. Buckinghamshire Council has now offered us a further four-year devolved service contract to continue delivering these services on their behalf.

Ongoing Projects by Other Bodies/Tiers of Government

Hertfordshire County Council continues to work with the Canal & River Trust and Buckinghamshire Council to deliver improvements to the Marshcroft Lane/canal cycle route 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.

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 does not yet have approved mitigation in place, this means that no planning applications for new residential dwellings have been granted. 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.

BUCKS COUNTY NEWS

Councillors Chris Poll and Peter Brazier

The new Council term is taking shape. Cabinet has had its first formal meeting and other scrutiny meetings are due within the next week or so, although the first planning hearing has been cancelled due to lack of business to discuss.

The new Community Boards have been constituted, and for us will be known as the East Bucks Area. This will encompass the Electoral Wards of Ivinghoe - Birtton, Kingsbrook and Wing - Wendover, Halton and Stoke Mandeville - Aston Clinton and Weston Turville. I am delighted to have been appointed as Chairman with Julie Ward as my deputy. Michelle Parker will remain as the Board Manager. The Boards will have a very different look and feel this year as there will be more focus on engagement by the managers and Chairman and fewer meetings. Work will start immediately with a proposed first meeting in September. Communities will be asked to set their own priorities and I envisage much more collaborative working between the many and varied parishes which make up our Board Area.

Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet holds first meeting

Buckinghamshire Council's new Cabinet has held its first meeting (Tue 17 June), during which the Council's overall performance and stable budget position were reflected on.

A number of key reports were discussed and considered by the new Cabinet, including the Council's Annual Report and a summary of its financial performance during the 2024/25 financial year.



The Cabinet recognised the excellent level of achievement and firm foundations the new Council has inherited following the May elections, and paid tribute to the work of the previous administration.

Council Leader Steven Broadbent highlighted a number of achievements in the Annual Report, which covers the full range of services and projects delivered under **Buckinghamshire Council's four core priorities:**

- Strengthening our communities
- Protecting the vulnerable
- Improving our environment
- Increasing prosperity

The Annual Report is an update on the over-arching Corporate Plan which acts as a golden thread for all the work and services that the Council delivers to improve lives and have a positive impact on Buckinghamshire and its people.

The Cabinet also considered the **'2024/25 Budget outturn' report** which documents the significant achievement in **balancing last year's budget against a context** of considerable pressure and volatility. While portfolio budgets were overspent by **£6.5m, primarily from Children's Social Care**, Home to School Transport and a smaller than forecast income from parking services, these were offset by overall savings **made across the Council's spending.**

Overall, the council successfully delivered £147.1 million of investment during 2024/25 on capital schemes, progressing major projects such as the South East Aylesbury Link Road and key town centre improvements that include the upgrade of White Hart Street in Wycombe and the **creation of the new 'Pavilion Quarter' in Aylesbury Town Centre.**

Join our Self Defence Classes across Buckinghamshire

Across Buckinghamshire we have been running FREE self defence classes, supported by local Community Boards.

These classes, delivered by Bucks Pro-Mai, have been designed to empower ladies (12+ - under 16's to be accompanied by an

adult) with the understanding of how to pre-empt any potential situations through pre-defence and to learn the skills of how to defend themselves if a situation does arise.

What to expect on the day:

- Pre-defence: how to recognise and avoid potential situations, running through body language and simple skills.
- Practical Skills: master basic self-defence techniques.
- Q&A with trained Bucks Pro-Mai instructors.
- Advice & Support: attendees will be provided with crime prevention leaflets and products.
- Evaluation: to help assess the class you will be asked to complete a short evaluation at the end of the session.

PITSTONE PAVILION



New building with community room (no bar) overlooking the sports ground.

Kitchen with external serving hatch.

Changing village connected by a covered walkway.

Dedicated parking for 42 vehicles & 8 bicycles.

Full disabled access & induction loop.

Free Wi-Fi.

Widescreen TV also enables presentations for meetings.

Contact the parish clerk on, email parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk, telephone 01296 767261 or visit <https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/sport-and-recreation/>

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PITSTONE TOWN LANDS CHARITY

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

1898 map of Pitstone area. Copyright The Francis Frith Collection



WILLIAMSON TRUST

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.uk/WilliamsonTrust

1898 map of Pitstone area. Copyright The Francis Frith Collection



**Apply by
29 August 2025 !**

As part of the last round of Pitstone Step-Up Grants, the Charity were delighted to provide funding for one resident to attend vocational training to improve their career prospects, helped two young people with their university accommodation costs, provided assistance for a young resident to undertake their gold level Duke of Edinburgh award, provided a bus pass for a resident to access further education, and funded the purchase of a Chromebook to assist a young resident with their educational needs.

Applications for the next round need to be submitted by 29 August 2025. You will need to attend an interview in support of your application on the evening of Thursday 18 September 2025. You will receive notification of any grant offered by early October. As applications are only considered quarterly, we encourage you to think ahead and apply early.

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.



Career Step-Up Grants



Education Step-Up Grants



Helping Out Grants



Community Organisation Step-Up Grants



Life Step-Up Grants

- Pitstone Parish Charity,
Registration Number: 261752

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.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, IVINGHOE

Childrens Art Competition

St. Mary's Church Ivinghoe is holding an art competition, open to all children and young people in the local community. Prizes will be awarded to winners in the following categories:
Under 5's, 5-7's, 8-11's and 12-18's



THEME: My Favourite Things

Entries in paint, collage, or pencil please. A4 size

To enter, please deliver your entries to:

ST. MARY'S CHURCH IVINGHOE

Please leave in the box on the table, near the main entrance to the church, which will be in place from the start of the school summer holidays.

CLOSING DATE FRIDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER.

On the back of your entry please add the name and age of the child or young person and a contact number.

Judging will take place on **Saturday 20th September** and winners will be notified shortly after this date.

The winning entries will be displayed at the art exhibition to be held over the weekend of **18th & 19th October** in the church.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, IVINGHOE
18th - 19th OCTOBER 2025 LU7 9EW

ART & CRAFTS EXHIBITION

FREE ADMISSION



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SAT 18th Oct 10:30-4:30

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PITSTONE CHURCH EVENTS

Bill Brassington

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

EVENTS THIS YEAR

June 3rd – This Is My Theatre returned to Pitstone church to bring an excellent rendering of the classic *“The Three Musketeers”*. A very appreciative audience watched young D’Artagnan travel 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 was not to be easy... It was a dazzling rip-roaring, cloak and épée spectacular, an excellent evening with plenty of action, a touch of comedy and humorous songs and the audience thoroughly entertained.

Once again Pitstone church hosted a highly entertaining performance which the whole audience enjoyed and returned to their homes from the brief sojourn in France. We look forward to welcoming This is My Theatre back for another unmissable performance.

July 4th was an evening to sample some excellent wines with sumptuous cheese. Modestly priced at £12, a lovely time between friends was had, with a glass of wine in hand and a variety of fruit and cheese.

SAVE THE DATE

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

August 20th Quill and Inkling Theatre Group will perform Andromeda and

Perseus. The story starts with Andromeda being 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 25th August Bank Holiday Concert. Join us for an afternoon of music and cakes.

September 14th 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 28th 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.



Hi,

If you are a parent or carer thinking about what to do when the time comes for your child to ask about having a smartphone, please come and join the discussion.

There's a local SmartphoneFreeChildhood group for parents/carers of children at Brookmead School (we're not affiliated with the school). We're on Whatsapp. You can find us here: tinyurl.com/brookmead-sfc

Everyone's situation is different and we don't have all the answers. One thing we do know is that there's plenty of time for using smartphones, but they'll only be kids once.

If you're not a parent or carer, but you know one, please pass on the message (thanks!).

Yours,

Brookmead parents/carers group, SFC

P.S. To learn more, go to smartphonefreechildhood.org



THE PARENT PACT

**Want to wait to give your child a smartphone
but don't want them to be the odd one out?**

You're not alone!

There's a growing movement of parents across Britain who are choosing to wait to give their children smartphones, and it's simple to get involved.

The Parent Pact is a way to join together with other families in your school to agree to delay getting your child a smartphone until at least 14 (when they're a bit older and more able to deal with everything the online world brings).

It's all about strength in numbers – if your child knows that other kids in their class won't be getting a smartphone for a few years either, the peer pressure dissolves. Over 100,000 families have signed already, and it's growing fast.

It takes 30 seconds to sign the Parent Pact – and you can see how many others in your child's class, school and county have signed on the live leaderboard.



Sign the PARENT PACT

Or find out more on our website

[SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD.ORG](https://smartphonefreechildhood.org)

[SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD](https://smartphonefreechildhood.org)

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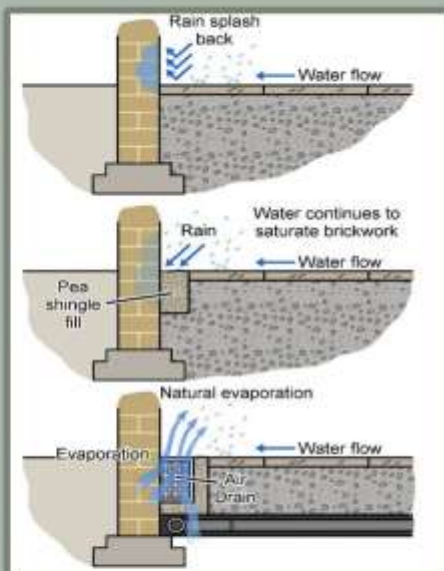


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A WWII SOLDIER'S STORY

This article was kindly written by the curator of Tring Museum, Brook Street, Tring., and provided by Richard Roberts-Collins, son of Leonard Charles Collins.

With the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, it is appropriate to relate this story of one of many sons of Tring who served their country willingly and bravely during WWII – and happily survived.

Leonard Charles Collins was born on the 3rd March 1919 at 20 Henry Street, Tring. He was the youngest of Walter and **Alice Collins' eight children. Leonard was a** pupil at both Gravelly and Tring High Street Schools. By 1936 he was employed at John Dickinson, Paper Mill in Apsley. At the time young employees were encouraged to join the Territorial Army from which you would receive a one-off payment of £5 plus one week off each year to attend training. It was because of this that, when WW1 broke out, Leonard enlisted in the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment, Inglis Barracks, NW London.



At just 20 years of age, Leonard's regiment was part of the British Expeditionary Force in France experiencing intense action from the rapid German advance. Leonard soon found himself promoted to Lance Corporal and Machine Gunner of 'C' Company when on the 15th of May 1940, 'C' company engaged with the

enemy and destroyed two heavy German machine gun units, enabling the infantry to regroup.

However, as we know, the Expeditionary Force was overwhelmed by the German advance and were forced to retreat to the Dunkirk beaches and await embarkation to England. Leonard made it back to England on the 13th of June 1940 arriving, **"barefooted"** at Tring station. This was apparently not uncommon when one considers the soldiers having to wade out to the rescuing boats. He immediately returned to his regiment in Kent, where they remained until 1942 on full alert preparing for the expected German invasion.

Whilst on duty the soldiers would frequent the local dance at the **"The Welcome Stranger"** pub in Lympe. It was there that Leonard met Leading Aircraftwoman, **Woman's Auxiliary Air Force, Renée Hornby-Burgess**, who was on leave from Tangmere Aerodrome while visiting her parents. **(Renée's father had served in France during WWI. He liked the name, Renée because it translates to 'Born Again').**

They married on the 27th of June 1942 at **St Peter and St Paul's Church in Tring.** This was understood to be the first full military wedding at the Parish Church since the outbreak of war. After the wedding, Leonard returned to duty where he was then on continuous active service throughout the



rest of the war travelling through, North Africa, Sicily, Egypt, Italy and finally Austria.

On returning to Tring, after being discharged in 1946, he and Renée moved into 26 Henry Street, Tring. Many of the properties on Henry Street were owned by the Co-Op Society. They were reasonably maintained having two ground-floor rooms and two first floor bedrooms. However, the facilities, serving two or more families, comprised of an outside shared WC and washhouse with a metal bath hanging on the outside wall. The kitchen had a coal/wood burning stove and a single cold water tap.

He returned to work at his pre-war employer, John Dickinsons, who held his position open for him as they did for all their serving employees. In January 1959 Leonard was offered a job in the Transport Office of Tunnel Cement in Pitstone where he remained until he died quite suddenly from a heart attack in December 1968. This was

only one week after attending the annual Middlesex Regiment Reunion in Kensington, London. He was just 49 years old.

Leonard's funeral took place with full military honours at Tring's, St Peter and St Paul's Church the following January 1969. His son Richard Collins has kindly provided us with his story, these images and we currently **have the pleasure of exhibiting Leonard's medals at the museum, which we encourage you to visit.**




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ASHRIDGE RAMBLINGS

Rikki Harrington, Ashridge Estate Committee Member



FANCY A LONG ONE?

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The Boundary Trail was instigated before Pitstone Hill and Aldbury Nowers were owned by the National Trust. These are two beautiful areas of Ashridge, and a few years ago it was decided to incorporate them into the Boundary Trail. This necessitated a major redesign of part of the trail and, whilst about it, a few other tweaks were made. The signage is now in place and maps with brief route descriptions can be found by searching 'Ashridge Boundary Trail North' or 'Ashridge Boundary Trail South'.

The North Section is 9 miles (14.4 km) long and the South Section 10.5 miles (16.8 km). Joining the two together and missing out the link between them gives a trail of 17.5 miles (28 km). The website gives advice and describes clockwise routes starting and finishing at the Visitor Centre, but you can, of course, start and finish anywhere you like and go round in either direction.



If you go for it, please let me know if you find any aspects of the website description confusing or any signage missing or tampered with.

Rikki Harrington at harrington.rikki@gmail.com

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LOCAL CLUBS

Beavers: (aged 5¼ - 8): Watmill 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 & 2-5pm, Thurs 2pm - 5pm, Fri 2pm - 7pm Sat 10am - 1pm

Ivinghoe and Pitstone Royal British Legion: Chair, TBC

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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

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RELIGION

Churches Conservation Trust (St Mary's Pitstone) visitchurches.org.uk or phone Jean Boothe 01296 661745

St Mary's Ivinghoe: 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

Pitstone Surgery: The Village Health Centre, Yardley Avenue, Pitstone, LU7 9BE. <https://www.edlesboroughsurgery.co.uk/> Telephone: 01525 223211 or 01525 221630

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

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LOCAL CHARITIES

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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

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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 LutonAirportnoise@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 telephone: 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, Staffing, Planning, Sports & Leisure, Youth Café and Village Web Site.</p>	<p>Vice Chair, Cllr Mrs Frances Nash</p>  <p>E: frances.nash@pitstonepc.org Vice Chair of Parish Council, Planning</p>
<p>Cllr Mrs Margaret Crutchfield</p>  <p>E: margaret.crutchfield@pitstonepc.org Planning, 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>Cllr Bob Saintey</p>  <p>T: 01296 668633 E: bob.saintey@pitstonepc.org Chair of Sports & Leisure, Staffing, Community Board, Pitstone Hill, BALC</p>	<p>Cllr Rob McCarthy</p>  <p>E: rob.mccarthy@pitstonepc.org Strategic Planning, Tring station, BALC and Community Board.</p>
<p>Cllr Richard Cattermole</p>  <p>E: richard.cattermole@pitstonepc.org</p>	<p>Cllr Kris Weber</p>  <p>T: 07710088624 E: kris.weber@pitstonepc.org Chair of Planning, 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, Vice Chair of 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 2 Buckinghamshire Councillors - Chris Poll (chris.poll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk / 07736105959) & Peter Brazier (peter.brazier@buckinghamshire.gov.uk / 07785384989)

If you wish to view the plans for any planning application currently under consultation by Buckinghamshire Council, please visit <https://www.aylesburyvalde.gov.uk/search-planning-licensing-applications>

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

Windmill Pharmacy



19-21 High St, Ivinghoe, LU7 9EP
(01296) 706280

- **Serving Our Community**
- **Medicine Reviews**
- **Free NHS Flu Vaccines**
- **Weekly Dosette Boxes**
- **NHS & Private Prescriptions**

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



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