

# Pitstone Parish Post



St. Mary's Church, Pitstone

**January 2026**

**Issue number 147**

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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:

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 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](mailto: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](mailto:parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk)

**Distribution:** Rachel Weber tel/txt: 07717 471584

**Deadline for next edition:** Friday 27th March 2026. The magazine will be distributed at the end of April 2026.

**Current PPP advertising rates**

**We offer a choice of sizes, in black & white or colour, plus a 10% discount if you pre-book 4 editions.**

Black & white advert: Quarter page £16.50,

Half page £30, Full page £60 per edition.

Colour: Quarter £20, Half £35, Full £70

Inside cover, colour: half £39, full £78

Back page, colour: full page £84.

### Cover Photo



St. Mary's Church, Pitstone  
Photographed by Lesley Horlock

You may have visited the lights at Church Road this Christmas. Around the corner is Pitstone Church, a Grade I listed building with sections dating back to 1250. <https://pitstone.co.uk/localinfo/st-marys-church-pitstone/>

If you have a photograph taken within the parish that you would like us to feature within Pitstone Parish Post, please email it to [pppeditor@pitstone.co.uk](mailto:pppeditor@pitstone.co.uk)

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## PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Laurie Eagling, Parish Clerk

### Last two public access defibrillators now live

We are pleased to advise that the last two public access defibrillators have now been installed and registered to The Circuit so the information is available to ambulance crews. These units are located:

- near the play area in Windsor Road (likely to be your nearest unit if you reside near the middle of Castlemead or by The Pightle) and
- by the open space at the far right hand end of Crispin Field (likely to be your nearest unit if you live in Crispin Field, Chequers Close or that end of Cheddington Road)

The ambulance operator will direct you to your nearest unit if they feel a defibrillator is required, and provide you with the access code for the cabinet. The bright yellow cabinets are mounted to lamp posts in these two locations so are easily visible. Our grateful thanks to the Pitstone Town Lands Charity for their generous donation which facilitated the purchase and installation of these last two units.

### 24/7 Public Access Defibrillators are currently located at:

- Pitstone Pavilion
- Pitstone Memorial Hall
- The Village Health Centre in Yardley Avenue
- The Lounge in Yardley Avenue
- Cooks Wharf Marina
- Colbree Engineering Group, Beacon Court
- Little Rothschild House Surgery, Marsworth Road
- 1 Meadow Lane
- By the play area in Windsor Road
- By the open space at the far right hand end of Crispin Field, near the alleyway through to Cheddington Road



There is also a defibrillator at Sapphire Gymnastics, during opening hours only

**Please refer to our 'defibrillator' page for the full map of locations now available in**

Pitstone, and the training video to help familiarise yourself with how to use the equipment should the need arise. <https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/defibrillators/>

### Replacement Slide for Windsor Road



We are pleased to confirm that Buckinghamshire Council has now approved a release of £7k S106 developer contribution funding towards the cost of a replacement slide for the Windsor Road playground (the existing slide being beyond economic repair due to rusting legs). They have also now approved the supplier (Creative Play) and design (Bespoke Jigsaw Tower), see the illustration.



The site survey is taking place during January and Creative Play hope to commence work in February. We will keep you posted via our website and social media channels.

### Improvements at the Pavilion

The Parish Council is working jointly with Pitstone & Ivinghoe United Football Club to install a pitch barrier around the senior pitch with mesh infill panels, which will allow advertising signs to be erected, creating a new advertising opportunity and revenue stream to help fund the ongoing pitch care. We will let you know via our website and social media channels as soon as the advertising opportunities go live.

### Ivinghoe & Pitstone Safety Scheme

Buckinghamshire Council has advised that they have some highway maintenance issues to resolve before they can progress with any elements of the safety scheme along the section of Marsworth Road between Westfield Road and the roundabout. We continue to explore options and timelines with them for these works.

### New website and email addresses

The Parish Council is moving to a dedicated .gov website platform, which should be live during the next couple of months, and will enable us to have greater control and flexibility over the presentation of the Parish Council material and services, which you will hopefully find easier to navigate. The existing village website is likely to remain live, so you will still be able to use this to find local class and event information etc.

**As part of the move, the Council email addresses will be updated. We'll provide you with all the new details, and set up a forwarding service for a while.**

### Does your community group need financial assistance?

The Parish Council offers grants to local community groups and local charities that specifically benefit Pitstone residents. Applications are considered quarterly. Our most recent recipient was 1st Ivinghoe and Pitstone Scouts for replacement tents, which they are using for a camping trip this February. Please see the grant policy on this web site (<http://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/grant-policy/>) for further information or contact the parish clerk for an initial chat.

### Make a Change, Become a Councillor

There is one vacant seat remaining for the position of Parish Councillor to serve the 4-year term of office until the next election. If you care about the village we live in, are passionate about our community, and have approximately 3-hours to volunteer each week, then please do get in touch: [parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk).

### Planning

Although Buckinghamshire Council has produced a draft of its new, county-wide, Local Plan in which it acknowledges the challenge of meeting substantially increased housing targets, there is no direct indication in the draft of how Pitstone or surrounding villages might be affected. The Parish Council is contacting Bucks to see if it is prepared to give us more detail and is doing some feasibility work to assess whether a review of our own current Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) would strengthen our say in any future local development proposals.

# THE WHISTLE BROOK

## Councillor Dave Frearson

We are all fortunate enough to live in a green and pleasant land. We are on the fringes of chalk hills, surrounded by farmland and close to ancient woods.

The babbling brook is an integral part of this landscape. Locally, the most significant of these is the Whistle Brook, which in our immediate area is the boundary between the parishes of Pitstone and Ivinghoe. Further downstream, it runs through Slapton Parish and ultimately into the River Ouse. It lends its name to our local school, powers the Watermill, we walk beside it, cross it, play in it and many use it for trout fishing.

The Whistle Brook is particularly special as it is a Chalk Stream. Chalk Streams are recognised internationally as being ecologically important habitats by organisations such as the WWF. They are also rare, with only around 250 recognised globally. 80% of them are in England. So the Whistle Brook is not just locally important, it is internationally important.

Unfortunately, we English have not been looking after our Chalk Streams well and they are generally in a poor state in this country. Something that has often been highlighted nationally on programs like Countryfile. A recent housing development plan submitted to Bucks Council indicated the ecology of the Whistle Brook would be reduced, but there are many other local threats. As such, we are not immune to the harm being caused to them. Governmental and regional organisations have developed plans to improve them, such as DEFRA and the Chiltern Society, so there are plans to

turn this around.

The first stage to managing, protecting and improving any habitat is to determine what its current condition is. This is something that we have discussed at Pitstone Parish Council and I have subsequently attended meetings at Ivinghoe and Slapton Parish Councils to discuss this further. The idea is to establish a group of volunteers to start regularly monitoring the streams water quality. The simplest way to do this is to carry out regular kick sampling surveys down the length of the Whistle Brook. The data will then be fed into a national data base so it can be monitored. A model that has been followed successfully for many years elsewhere such as along the Ver in St. Albans.

This will require a group of us locals to do this and we estimate something between 8-12 across the three Parishes would be ideal. We have already had quite a few offers, but yes, this is a shout out to anyone interested in getting involved. We will need to work in pairs, with each pair covering two or three locations on a monthly basis. We have identified an organisation that will provide training and equipment. So if this is something you think you would be interested in getting involved with or know someone who would, please get in contact. The next stage is for that group to meet to discuss the idea, convert it into a plan and then into action; it has been suggested by one of the Slapton Parish Councillors this is at the Rose and Crown if that helps to persuade you...

Email: [parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk](mailto:parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk) or [dave.frearson@pitstonepc.org](mailto:dave.frearson@pitstonepc.org)

Tel: 01296 767261

### Welcome

If you are a new resident of the parish, we extend a warm welcome to you. Please email us on [pitstone.co.uk](mailto: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.

## BUCKS COUNTY NEWS

### Councillor Chris Poll

It has been a very busy 7 months since the elections in May, and we have quickly settled into the new Council term. Peter [Brazier] having been appointed as a Cabinet member, for Culture and Leisure, and myself [Chris Poll] as Chairman of the Community Board. Besides these roles, there are the day-to-day **tasks of answering residents' enquiries and attending meetings** in Aylesbury and elsewhere as required. I shall be attending the Budget Scrutiny Committee for the whole of the second week of January; more background to which can be found in the following paragraphs. It does not make for happy reading, I am sorry to say. Central Government has pushed Local Government budgets for years, and despite what some may say, this year is no exception. In Buckinghamshire, we are facing unprecedented financial pressures. The central government's recent Fair Funding Review means we face a reduction in funding in real terms.

#### Budget.

The settlement for local authorities was announced in the middle of December and, as expected, Buckinghamshire has suffered a reduction in funding. The forecast figure was an anticipated cut of £42.5 million over the financial settlement period. This was made more difficult given the lack of clarity provided by Government, but it proved to be broadly correct – the actual figure is a reduction in funding of £44.5 million.

As costs rise and the demand for statutory services like adult social care and special educational needs support for children continue to grow, currently approximately 73% of our entire budget, we need to make some very difficult decisions in relation to spending.

Following the public consultation we ran last

autumn, we have now developed a draft budget for 2026-27. This will go before our Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Task and Finish Group in mid-January.

This is obviously unwelcome news and the further £2 million reduction from the forecast serves to place even greater pressure on our finances. Government have **claimed that the “Core funding power” for Bucks has been INCREASED by 14.1%.** This is completely misleading. The actual measure **should be called “Core Spending Power” (CSP) which relates to the non-ringfenced money available to this Council....** Including the INCREASES in Council Tax that **the “Fair Funding” formula forces us to account for.**

The actual increase in CSP, including the rises in Council Tax for the 3-year settlement period is 8.1%. The average across England is an increase of 15.1%. So Bucks, even with a 5% per annum Council Tax increase, only sees half the Core Spending Power gain as the rest of England. This figure does NOT account for inflation – so the reality is that the small CSP increase will largely be inflated away and yet the demand for services continues to rise. Without the increases to Council Tax there would be an overall REDUCTION in CSP of approx. 5%, worth around £30m.

The Government is claiming this is a 14.1% increase because, inexplicably, they have chosen to use LAST YEAR as their baseline comparison and not this current year!

The headline message is that Buckinghamshire residents will see increases



in Council Tax and money will be sent to other parts of the country, overall Bucks will have £44.5 million less as a county.

There is, however, some good news within our own budget. There has been an increase in the expansion of our Council Tax base. This has provided additional resources into the budget which means fewer cuts will need to be made than previously assumed.

As a result, the budget proposals have **been changed to 'buy back' some options**, a number of which are relatively minor and non-resident focused but the key resident ones are.

Therefore, we will retain weekly frequency of bin collections, the increases in road and transport investment, the retention of all Household Recycling Centres and keeping public toilets open!

Other Councils in the country are squeezing these areas and making cuts or changes to services. Despite the targeted attack on rural county and unitary authorities by the Government, a history of strong, sound and prudent control of our budgets in Buckinghamshire has meant we can adjust to provide a balanced budget.

The reality is that Government are also reducing grants and investment in other areas – such as the cancellation of the previously promised SEND school. Plus, we also do not yet know what the SEND reforms will result in. The fact is that the funding provided is not sustainable over the long term.

I am sorry to be the bearer of such news but this is the reality every year when funding announcements are made.

#### Buckinghamshire housing plan.

The initial proposals for the new Buckinghamshire wide housing plan will be announced soon. With Government seeking 1.5 million homes to be built in this Parliament it is inevitable that we will see large scale development in Bucks. Where these will be proposed is not yet clear but we will expect to take our share within the ward. It is simply not possible to accommodate all of this in small sites or infill, there will inevitably be new larger developments. I have always said that the arbitrary figure announced within their manifesto would be impossible to deliver. It now seems that statistics are showing this to be the case. Current projections are that between 700 and 800,000 could be built. There may well be 1.5 million permissions given but finances and the skilled workforce are just not there to enable delivery.

#### Finally

As always, we attend almost every Parish Council meeting throughout the year, unless a meeting at Bucks Council clashes, where we can be approached by residents or we welcome any communication by email at any time.

Once again, we wish you a very happy and prosperous 2026.

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

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

**parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk  
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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](mailto:gill.lowe@pitstone.email)

You will find more information about the charity at  
[www.pitstone.co.uk/PTLC](http://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](mailto:gill.lowe@pitstone.email)

You will find more information about the charity at [www.pitstone.co.uk/WilliamsonTrust](http://www.pitstone.co.uk/WilliamsonTrust)

1898 map of Pitstone area. Copyright The Francis Frith Collection



**Apply by  
27 February 2026 !**

As part of the last round of Pitstone Step-Up Grants, the Charity were delighted to provide funding for one resident to attend sign language training, supported by an interpreter; one young man to receive a bus pass to attend further education along with some necessary PPE for his course; an applicant to receive funding to access train travel to attend a Masters course in London; one young lady to receive partial funding towards university accommodation and a young person received funding to join the Buckinghamshire Youth Orchestra and receive further musical tuition. The total value of the funds granted exceeded £8k!

**Applications for the next round need to be submitted by 27 February 2026. You will need to attend an interview in support of your application on the evening of Thursday 19 March 2026. You will receive notification of any grant offered within ten days. 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](mailto:stepupgrants@pitstone.co.uk) and we will happily drop them off to you.



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February Roses  
March Going to the Mattress  
April Burn Fight  
May Countdown

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BeaconLit Book Festival fundraises for the Beacon Villages Community Library, a vital resource at the heart of Ivinghoe

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24th January - PITSTONE PAVILION

28th February - PITSTONE PAVILION

28th March - PITSTONE PAVILION

25th April - PITSTONE PAVILION

23rd May - PITSTONE PAVILION

27th June - PITSTONE PAVILION

25th July - PITSTONE PAVILION



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## Chatty Cafe Scheme



**At a loose end?**

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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**

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**COSTA**



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

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

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

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

### Our Usual Pattern of Services is:-

**Every Wednesday** 10:15am Holy Communion (BCP)

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Month** 10.00am Worshipping Together (All Ages)

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

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

**4<sup>th</sup> 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: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/162/>. At the major festivals of the Church Year (e.g. Holy Week, Easter Day, Remembrance Sunday & Christmas) there may well be special services instead of the above pattern again, the website is the best place to find up-to-date information.

### AN EVENING WITH

## JOHN CAMERON

The Beacon Community Choir are proud to celebrate the music and achievements of multi-award winning, Oscar and Emmy nominated composer John Cameron.

**Renowned for his versatility, and originality, John's music spans genres and styles over a 60+ year international career working with the world's most renowned musicians.**

The programme, introduced by John himself, will include pop & rock, film music, extracts from musicals and classical compositions, and also music written especially for the Beacon Community Choir.

Supported by a 10 piece instrumental ensemble this is a chance to encounter a musical legend both in person and through his music.

SATURDAY 16TH MAY 2026 @ 7.00

SUNDAY 17TH MAY 2026 @ 4.00

TICKETS £15 (children free) in advance from Lindsay Hewlett - 07986 009157

[beaconcommunitychoir@gmail.com](mailto:beaconcommunitychoir@gmail.com)

[www.beaconcommunitychoir.co.uk](http://www.beaconcommunitychoir.co.uk)



*Beacon*  
communitychoir

Your local Watermill, Ford End Watermill in Station Road Ivinghoe, needs volunteers to help keep it open in 2026!



#### Volunteers to help with maintenance

Preferably with DIY skills but not absolutely necessary as long as you are willing to learn. We meet at the mill on Sunday mornings usually for a couple of hours, but commitment every Sunday is not a strict requirement, even just a couple of Sundays a month would help.

#### Volunteers to help on open days

We are looking for friendly people to help on our open days which is only for few hours on Sundays and Bank Holiday Monday afternoons between Easter and October (Approximately 12 openings) There are a variety of tasks from welcoming our visitors and taking their entrance fee, or showing them around the mill, or help with bagging up flour. You don't have to commit to all the openings usually just 2 or 3 times per year unless you are keen! And our current team of volunteers will help you learn all about the watermill.

If you think you might be able to help, or have a question then please get in touch with Mill Manager Chris Tugby either by

Email: [millman@fordendwatermill.co.uk](mailto:millman@fordendwatermill.co.uk) or

Telephone: 07799 575197

See Website: <http://fordendwatermill.co.uk/>



## PARISH NOTICES

It is illegal to forage within the Ashridge Estate— From the changing colours to the rich **textures of the forest floor, Ashridge's woodlands offer beauty and quiet. As the estate is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI),** foraging is not permitted. But, visitors can still enjoy the landscape through guided walks, photography, sketching etc. This leaves fungi and plants undisturbed, and the delicate ecosystem protected but still able to be enjoyed.

**The UK's telephone network is going digital—** These changes affect everyone who has a **landline they'd like to keep using.** If you have loved ones with additional needs such as elderly relatives or someone who uses a telecare device or pendant alarm, the Connected Together initiative encourages you to take a few simple steps to support them through the switch. **Here's** everything you need to know: <https://www.bt.com/about/all-ip/connected-together>

Professional Dog Walkers now need a licence to walk within the Ashridge Estate— Starting 1 September 2025, all professional dog walkers need a licence to operate at Ashridge **Estate, under the National Trust's Protecting Our Roots project. Professional dog walkers can** apply for a standard licence to walk up to four dogs or an enhanced licence for up to six dogs, reviewed on a case-by-case basis after meeting with the dog walker. If you use a dog walker who takes your dog to Ashridge, please check that they have the necessary licence. If you are a dog walker, please make sure you have obtained a licence. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/esssex-bedfordshire-hertfordshire/ashridge-estate/visiting-ashridge-with-your-dog>





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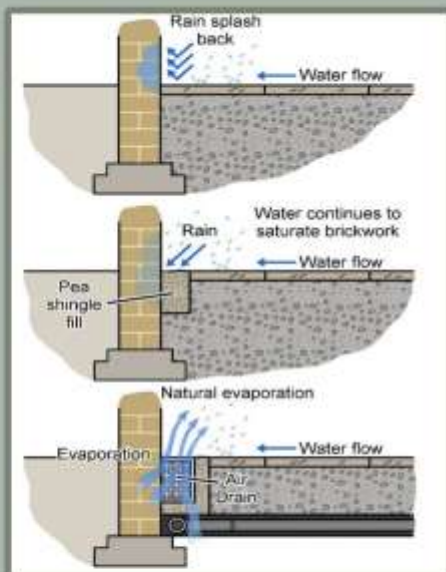


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# IVINGHOE AND PITSTONE WI

**Tessa Smith**



Well, what a year 2025 was for Ivinghoe and Pitstone WI. We turned 108 in May and members celebrated with a lovely cake and learning to line dance! We've had many different speakers; giving advice on healthy eating, telling us about life in an antique's auction room and about the art of Japanese flower arranging. We have a successful new group – Loopy Loopers, and many of us can now crochet! Our craft group goes from strength to strength and we have learnt many new crafts.



Our Christmas party took place at the Daisychain in Ivinghoe and we were treated to a tasty meal followed by a visit from Santa, see left. The cafe was beautifully decorated and we had lots of time to chat. The other photo is one of the beautiful wreaths made by our craft group.

We're looking forward to our January meeting where Keri is coming to teach us about Jazzercise, it might help us to lose any weight gained over Christmas!

We wish you all a Happy New Year and hope you may feel you'd like to visit us in 2026. If you do fancy visiting, we meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month in Ivinghoe Town Hall at 7.30pm. For more information contact Tessa, email [wiiivinghoe@pitstone@gmail.com](mailto:wiiivinghoe@pitstone@gmail.com). Maybe we could have a coffee and a chat if you'd like more information.



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.

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# ASHRIDGE RAMBLINGS

## Rikki Harrington, Ashridge Estate Committee

As it turns out, there’s not a lot of Ashridge news to report this time round, but it’s the lull before the storm and the next issue should be bursting with excitement. To keep the series unbroken, here’s a little ditty and a seasonal picture.

### SENSELESS

So many ramblers, it appears,  
have wires leading to their ears.  
Thus, when I pass and wish them well,  
**they don’t respond, nor can they tell**  
that birds are sweetly singing.

Instead, they do things while they roam  
that would be better done at home,  
for, in that precious time outside,  
our senses should be open wide  
and telephones not ringing



© Richard Harrington (3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020)



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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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Windmill



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### Ivinghoe contact:

[ivinghoe@windmillpreschool.co.uk](mailto:ivinghoe@windmillpreschool.co.uk)

**01296 661031**

Brookmead School site,  
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LU7 9EX

### Funded hours

Both settings accept all funded hours

(the term after your child is eligible)

Free paying sessions are also available from the day they  
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Contact Area manager, Emma on

[manager@windmillpreschool.co.uk](mailto:manager@windmillpreschool.co.uk) to book your tour

of either/both settings NOW!

### Marsworth contact:

[marsworth@windmillpreschool.co.uk](mailto:marsworth@windmillpreschool.co.uk)

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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](mailto:secretary@ivinghoehub.co.uk) or [treasurer@ivinghoehub.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:parishclerk@pitstone.co.uk), telephone 01296 767261 or visit <https://pitstone.co.uk/ppcinfo/sport-and-recreation/>

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:annetteipwi@btinternet.com)

**Beacon Villages Community Library:** Run by the community, for the community [www.bvcl.org.uk](http://www.bvcl.org.uk)

General enquiries: [info@bvcl.org.uk](mailto:info@bvcl.org.uk) 01296 387890

Committee enquiries: [secretary@bvcl.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bvcl.org.uk)

Opening times: Tues 2pm - 5pm, Wed 2pm - 5pm, Thurs 2pm - 5pm, Fri 2pm - 5pm, Sat 10am - 1pm

**Ivinghoe and Pitstone Royal British Legion:** Chair, TBC

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

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

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

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

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

## EDUCATION

**Pitstone and Ivinghoe Baby and Toddler Group:** Thursdays 9.30am to 11am at Pitstone Memorial Hall. Warm welcome, hot drinks and a variety of fun activities for the little ones. More info and updates via the Pitstone and Ivinghoe Baby and Toddler Group Facebook page "Pitstone and Ivinghoe baby and toddler group".

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

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Contact: Brookmead School, High Street, Ivinghoe, LU7 9EX, [www.brookmead.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.brookmead.bucks.sch.uk), 01296 668543, [office@brookmead.bucks.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.cheddingtonbowls.org.uk) Contact: Diane Benford 01296 661381

**Pitstone and Ivinghoe Junior Boys' and Girls' Football:** School years 1 to 13. If you are interested in playing football, having fun and making new friends, get in touch, no experience needed. All our coaches are FA Level 1 or 2 qualified and DBS checked. Email: [development@pandifootball.net](mailto:development@pandifootball.net) [www.pandifootball.net](http://www.pandifootball.net)

## RELIGION

**Churches Conservation Trust (St Mary's Pitstone)** [visitchurches.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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: 01296 767261 Email: [stepupgrants@pitstone.co.uk](mailto: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.co.uk](mailto:gill.lowe@pitstone.co.uk) Web: [Pitstone.co.uk/ptlc](https://pitstone.co.uk/ptlc)

**WILLIAMSON TRUST:** Tel: 01296 668809 Email: [gill.lowe@pitstone.co.uk](mailto:gill.lowe@pitstone.co.uk) 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](mailto:millman@fordendwatermill.co.uk) or telephone 07799 575197

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.tringfarmersmarket) or follow Instagram and Facebook @tringfarmersmarket to keep up to date with all the latest news and events.

## PITSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

<p><b>Chairman, Cllr Dave Nicholls</b></p>  <p>T: 07712 836871 E: dave.nicholls@pitstonepc.org <b>Chair</b> of Parish Council, Staffing, Planning, Sports &amp; Leisure, Youth Café and Village Web Site.</p>	<p><b>Vice Chair, Cllr Mrs Frances Nash</b></p>  <p>E: frances.nash@pitstonepc.org <b>Vice Chair</b> of Parish Council, Planning</p>
<p><b>Cllr Mrs Margaret Crutchfield</b></p>  <p>E: margaret.crutchfield@pitstonepc.org Planning, Sports &amp; Leisure, Youth Café and Community Board.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Ben Blunt</b></p>  <p>T: 660702 E: ben.blunt@pitstonepc.org <b>Chair</b> of Staffing Committee, Planning, and Minerals &amp; Waste.</p>
<p><b>Cllr Bob Saintey</b></p>  <p>T: 01296 668633 E: bob.saintey@pitstonepc.org <b>Chair</b> of Sports &amp; Leisure, Staffing, Community Board, Pitstone Hill, BALC</p>	<p><b>Cllr Rob McCarthy</b></p>  <p>E: rob.mccarthy@pitstonepc.org Strategic Planning, Tring station, BALC and Community Board.</p>
<p><b>Cllr Richard Cattermole</b></p>  <p>E: richard.cattermole@pitstonepc.org</p>	<p><b>Cllr Kris Weber</b></p>  <p>T: 07710088624 E: kris.weber@pitstonepc.org <b>Chair</b> of Planning, Sports &amp; Leisure.</p>
<p><b>Vacancy</b></p> <p>See website for full details</p>	<p><b>Cllr Jack Hawkins</b></p>  <p>T: 07713590490 E: jack.hawkins@pitstonepc.org Vice Chair of Planning, Vice Chair of Sport &amp; Leisure and footpaths.</p>
<p><b>Cllr Dr Dave Frearson</b></p>  <p>E: dave.frearson@pitstonepc.org</p>	<p><b>Correspondence/Enquiries, the Clerk: Laurie Eagling</b></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](mailto: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)**

# Our Flooring Services

Fully fitted Carpets and Flooring to suit your space



Expert Consultation & Measuring

Design & Layout Advice

Wide Range of Flooring Options

Samples to Take Home

Professional Installation

Aftercare & Maintenance Advice

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4 - 6 High Street, Edlesborough, LU6 2HS

01525 220208 | [info@janesltd.co.uk](mailto:info@janesltd.co.uk) | [www.janesltd.co.uk](http://www.janesltd.co.uk)