



# Ivinghoe Beacon Magazine

Issue 88

70 pence where sold



## Inside this Issue:

Farewell to our Reverend Friend

The Great Escape

Walk this Way

Explore the Chilterns

From Ivinghoe Allotments

Parish Noticeboard



The Quarterly Magazine of  
Ivinghoe Parish Council

# The Beacon Team...

The Beacon Magazine would not reach your door without the kind help of the volunteer band of distributors.

Many thanks to them all: Andy Beezer, Les Hyde, Pat Roach, Peter Miles, Geoff Travis, Albert Reynolds, Rob and Anne Cattle and of course our roving reporter Nigel Thomson – it couldn't be done without you!

If you have any skills that will help us to keep the magazine going or you would like to submit an article, please let us know as we are always looking for new and varied talents!



## Editor: Christabel Boersma

Tel: 01296 661 532

Email: [christabelboersma@hotmail.com](mailto:christabelboersma@hotmail.com)

## Advertising Manager: Max Hayes,

Clerk to Ivinghoe Parish Council

Tel: 01525 875308

Email: [ivinghoeaparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ivinghoeaparishclerk@gmail.com)

## Design & Artwork: Laila Palfrey

Tel: 07979 945231

Email: [laila@breezdesign.co.uk](mailto:laila@breezdesign.co.uk)

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# Welcome from the Chair



**Karen Groom,**  
Chairman

Welcome to the latest edition of **The Ivinghoe Beacon**, which we hope you will find both informative and a good read! This edition represents our first anniversary since taking over the reins of the magazine's production and we very much hope that you are still enjoying the fruits of our labours. We welcome any suggestions or feedback you have about the magazine, in particular with respect to the types of article that you would like featured in the magazine, so do please get in touch with the editor if you would like to make a contribution.

The front cover of the magazine and special feature of this edition is all about farewells. We will be very shortly saying goodbye to one of our community leaders, Rev. Tracey Doyle, who has made a significant impact in our Parish and will be greatly missed. So on behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to wish Tracey and her family all the very best for their new life in Devon!

We've also said goodbye to 2013 (how time flies!) but the Parish Council have had their minds set on the future many months before the year ended.

The last quarter of the year is particularly busy for the Parish Council as we prepare to make our budget calculations (precept) and this year there has been much to consider. It is our responsibility to ensure that the services that we provide for the Parish are protected and this year will see our precept request rise by 4%.

Did you know that amongst many things the Parish Council maintains?

- 30 trees
- 29 streetlights
- 20 miles of footpaths
- 7 dog bins
- 2 well-equipped playgrounds (Ivinghoe and Ivinghoe Aston)
- 1 allotment (with 30 plots)
- 1 website
- 1 magazine
- The Lawn
- Support of the Beacon Villages Community Library

Some of the services we provide to the Parish for free, for example, one of our Councillor's keeps some of the footpaths trimmed and tidy and another volunteer keeps the allotments in shape. None of your Councillor's makes any claims for expenses that they incur in attending numerous meetings on planning, traffic issues, training courses and other matters. We try to keep the precept as low as possible but at the same time ensure that we have enough to keep the services you expect going.

We do employ a professional and knowledgeable Clerk who is available to answer your questions on matters relating to the Parish on the last Thursday of the month in the Beacon Villages Community Library. She helps to ensure that the Parish Council is running smoothly, ensuring our insurances are paid, leases and legal matters taken care of, utility bills paid, balances the books and any ►

number of other tasks we ask of her!

The year 2013 has also seen a dramatic rise in the number of planning applications that we have had to handle; in fact we dealt with around 45 in 2013! We are very fortunate to have an experienced planning professional on our Council, who works extremely hard to guide the Parish Council through the complex and ever changing web of planning legislation. Much has changed since the coalition government came to power and Parish Councillors must attend an increased number of planning meetings to keep on top of the changes, and we are now required to attend Committee hearings if the Council objects to an application. This is a very time consuming process and often perplexing. In the case of the application for residential development at The Chapel in Ivinghoe, we represented the Parish in our objection of the application in consideration of the lack

of parking facilities and predicted traffic chaos in an already heavily congested part of the village. Unfortunately the planning committee sitting that day decided we had no case and the development has been approved. The best way to keep up to date with planning applications is to visit the Aylesbury Vale District Council website at [www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/planning](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/planning)

So looking forward to 2014 as we all are, you will see improvements to the safety of the play area at Ivinghoe Aston playgrounds, an additional water facility at the Allotments, improvements to the website amongst other things but most importantly the continued commitment of your Parish Council to serve the Parish as best it can.

May I wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

**Karen Groom**, Chairman

### **Congratulations and Thanks to CuriosiTEA Rooms**

Congratulations go to all the work involved in the new tea rooms in Ivinghoe. Shirley and I spent many hours there enjoying a meal, and we recommend it to anybody around the area. I recommend the full breakfast. The staff up there are so kind and also make you so welcome.

**Joe Marling**

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# Goodbye to our Reverend Friend Tracey

It was with much pleasure that I spent a leisurely hour chatting to our current Incumbent (of the Benefice of Ivinghoe, Pitstone, Slapton and Marsworth) one sunny afternoon in mid-January. Tracey Doyle, Incumbent of St. Mary's Church, Ivinghoe has served our community for the past 10 years and has recently announced her departure from our fair village, to pursue a new chapter in her life, with her family in North Devon.

Tracey was interviewed by Roger Hillier for the Beacon 10 years ago when she first came to the village and it seems fitting that the Beacon interviews Tracey as she leaves. I spoke to Tracey about her life and time here, living and working in our community and I came away with the impression that our loss is North Devon's gain!

**CB:** Tracey tell us a little bit about your background and when or what it was that led you to your decision to become a priest?

**TD:** Well, I have always been involved in working with children, clubs, Sunday Schools, and I remember about 20 years ago one Christmas Eve, I was delivering a service to a packed congregation. The thought came to me, if you can get this many families in on Christmas Eve, why not try doing this every Sunday? It was an epiphany really, a moment of spiritual enlightenment; I also remember that that Christmas no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't sing any of the carols that I

loved to sing and every time I tried my eyes filled with tears!

I realised I needed to speak to my priest about my feelings and she was delighted! She told me about a new training course starting, the Oxford and St Albans Ministry Course, a three year course in theology. I was already studying for a Bachelor of Arts degree at the time, but I subsequently spent a whole weekend being interviewed and assessed by the Church of England for my suitability to start the course.

It was to my relief that I was initially turned down. However, I was called by the Bishop of the time, who informed me that they had made the wrong decision and that he was putting me forward! Funnily enough, it was while watching an edition of Songs of Praise that one of my sons said, "why don't you be a vicar Mum?" and during a conversation with my sister, she told me that her husband had said "I can see our Trace doing that!", so I felt vindicated.

I managed to complete both my BA and my theology course and after serving first at Great Horwood for eight years, I moved here ten years ago; In fact my first service was on 23 February and my final service here will be on 23 February! And I'm no good at 'good-byes' so our moving date is set for 24 February!

**CB:** I think most of our readers realise that you are the priest for more than one church, which other parish churches do you minister and how much have things changed since you first started?

**TD:** Initially, I was Incumbent for Ivinghoe, Pitstone and Slapton. However, some pretty monumental changes have taken place in recent times and the numbers of stipend priests have had to decrease in recent times which have meant that priests have to take more churches under their wing. The Oxford Diocese informed us that we had to lose a stipend priest and split up the Benefice of Cheddington, Mentmore and Marsworth. This led to me having to take on Marsworth which led to a substantial increase in my workload. I wouldn't say that it has been easy, as Marsworth were not given a say in who their new priest was, and it has made it hard to build the right relationships. I hope though, that things have started to improve and that Marsworth is warming to joining the benefice and I hope that being involved in the selection of my successor will be another step.

**CB:** Thinking about your time in Ivinghoe, you have delivered many services, attended many events, made many friends, can you tell us something in particular that stands out in your memory as your greatest contributions to this community?

**TD:** Yes, many things spring to mind, it is very hard to single anything out! I think though that the fact that the Church has worked with the village. We've shared events, like The Party in the Park, events on the lawn, just the fact that the Church is involved in the wider community is

very valuable to me, the Church and the community coming together. That is also illustrated by the development of The Community Choir, which began as an extension of the Church Choir. I would have loved to have a little more time to be more involved in that – singing myself, but time and the difficulties I've had with my voice have made that difficult. (Tracey told me that she also plays the piano, violin, recorder and the guitar; quite a musical lady!).

I've also got a great deal of satisfaction from running the Senior Citizens Christmas dinner and enjoyed again the fact that the wider community has participated in making that such a successful event, having the school children singing and in the past serving mince pies! Children have always been at the heart of my motivations and it has been my privilege to work with some of our village children and in particular watch them grow from Tots Praise to confirming some of them last September!

But overall, it's been the community spirit here. It can be hard to be accepted for who you are and this community took me on willingly; this was really demonstrated when my daughter Mel was seriously unwell. Even people I didn't know showed their compassion, love and support for my family and that has meant a great deal.

**CB:** You have many good friends in Ivinghoe and surrounding villages, all of whom will miss you greatly, what ►

advice do you have for us to ensure that your successor is warmly welcomed into the community?

**TD:** Well that's easy! I think it would be to show that person the same openness and care that they showed to me and my family when I first arrived. Don't be afraid of change, give them a chance to lead you in new ways; any good new incumbent will build on the good work that you have already done.

**CB:** It is always hard to say good-bye when you've invested so much of your life in a place and you have mentioned that you don't like 'good-byes', but what in particular will you miss about living and working here?

**TD:** Well I won't miss the trucks trundling past at 3am in the morning! There is a great deal to miss here, but it is simply serving God and the wider community every day that I will miss the most, that and our many good friends!

**CB:** So what does the future hold for you and Mick, will you share a something of your future plans and where you are moving to?

**TD:** We are heading down to North Devon. I will be taking six months off initially, to completely rest my voice! I don't find it easy doing nothing, and I will seek permission to officiate in the Exeter Diocese, with a special emphasis on work with children and families. I may also be doing some work for the Children's Society and going into schools. Mick and I though, will be operating a B&B from our home,

which has stunning views across the Taw Valley and Exmoor. We will also be running some Christian Retreats and Mick will take visitors on walks and run photography sessions.

We have two grandsons about 45 minutes from our new home and we will be looking after them 1 day a week too, so we really will be kept busy. Although we will find it hard to say good-bye to people here, we are very excited about our move. There is much to look forward to not least of all the wedding in Cyprus this year of our youngest son. We will also be making regular trips back this way to visit our other children and grandchild, who live nearby.

We really have loved our time here and will miss you all greatly, it would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible over next few Sundays, and in the future at our B&B.

Reverend Tracey's final service will be on Sunday 23 February at St Mary's Church Ivinghoe. After Tracey's departure, Sandra Green and the Church Wardens will keep things ticking over with retired priest David Holloway taking Communion Services until our next Incumbent is appointed.

**Christabel Boersma**  
Editor, Ivinghoe Beacon



## PITSTONE MEMORIAL HALL & MILLENNIUM EXTENSION

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Mrs Sue Gregory, 4 The Crescent, Pitstone. 01296 661609

## FORD END WATERMILL IVINGHOE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

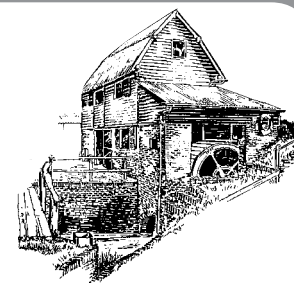
The only working watermill to survive intact in the county. The mill, recorded in 1616 but probably much older, was in use until 1963. Now restored by members of the Pitstone & Ivinghoe Museum Society, it retains all the atmosphere of a small farm mill of the late 1800s. Visitors can work the sack hoist and mill wheat on a rotary hand quern. Stoneground wholemeal flour for sale on milling days.

### OPENING TIMES 2013

**Afternoons 2.00–5.00pm.** 1st April - Easter Bank Holiday Monday (M), 14th April - Sunday, 6th May - Bank Holiday Monday (M), 12th May - Sunday National Mills Weekend (M), 27th May - Bank Holiday Monday (M), 9th June - Sunday, 23rd June - Sunday (M), 7th July - Sunday, 21st July - Sunday (M), 4th August - Sunday, 26th August - Bank Holiday Monday (M), 8th September - Sunday, 22nd September - Sunday (M), 13th October - Sunday (M) as part of Tring Apple Fair  
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**on dates marked with an (M) 2.30pm–4.30pm approx**

**Last admission 4.30pm. Admission: Adults: £3 children (5–15) 50p**  
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### LOCATION

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





### **Rainbows:**

Monday 4.30 – 5.30p.m. Pitstone Memorial Hall

Guider Elaine Thorogood

**01296 661540**

### **Brownies:**

Monday 5.45 – 7.15p.m. Pitstone Memorial Hall

Guider Elaine Thorogood

**01296 661540**

### **Girl Guides:**

Tuesday 7.00 – 8.30p.m. Millennium Room,

Pitstone Memorial Hall

Guider Yvonne Ashton

**01296 660044**

To join us, please visit our website at

**Girlguiding.org.uk**

### **The Village Health Centre**

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## Wreath Making at its Best!

On Saturday 7th December the Friends of St. Mary's ran their ever popular Christmas Wreath Making Course.

40 ladies from Ivinghoe, Pitstone and further afield descended on Ivinghoe Town Hall for 2.5 hrs of Christmas cheer and creativity. After much hard work, tempered by a glass of warm mulled wine and the tunes of Michael Buble, each attendee produced an impressive and simply stunning wreath worthy of adorning any country mansion door!

Special thanks goes to all those who so kindly allowed us to prune their gardens in our foliage collection exercise and in particular to Neil Rogers of Goose Hill

Farm Ringshall for his generous donations of Nordic spruce and fur. In addition thank you to local businesses that donated prizes for the prize draw, which was held during the day and especially to Samsung for the first prize of a smartphone.

The day was a roaring success and through everyone's kindness and generosity we were delighted to have raised a grand total of £940. This will be divided equally between two very worthy charities – the Friends of St. Mary's church Restoration Fund and to Keech Hospice Care.

### Ali Wade

The Friends of St Mary's Ivinghoe



## Ode to Wreath Making

*Some new and old faces  
from villages and far places  
met with enthusiasm and few fears.  
To make a Christmas decoration  
was their sole fixation,  
as they sharpened their garden secateurs!*

*Pam was the leader.  
It's okay – you need not fear her!  
Each step was clearly explained.  
Ensure you have firm moss,  
if not she may get cross  
But crack on and don't be restrained!*

*A vast choice of foliage  
means there's never a shortage  
of ideas and creativity too.  
With a glass of mulled wine,  
you'll be just fine  
and produce something splendid for you.*

*Ooh red berried holly!  
Now things are looking jolly.  
And look at that Nordic fur,  
not to mention Ivy leaf -  
That will look good in a wreath.  
So much choice I don't know which I prefer!*

*Cinnamon sticks and orange slices  
Provide aromatic Christmas spices.  
My senses are starting to flow.  
Some baubles that shine  
Will make it sublime.  
I just need a beautiful bow!*

*So thanks to you all  
for supporting our cause.  
It was such enormous fun.  
We raised 940 smacker  
Now that's a Christmas cracker!  
So well done everyone!!*



# The Nub of the Hub 2014!

With the smell of roasted chestnuts and cinnamon pretzels still in our noses, the magical atmosphere and sparkle of the Christmas market stalls inside and out in our eyes and the carol singing and hand bells still ringing in our ears we could easily stay with memories from our final grand opening evening on December 6th and the retiring Vicars and others kind words to us all, and some encouraging press coverage. However with the dawning of the new year 2014 we the ten voluntary trustees for our 'not for private profit' Community Hub turn our thoughts to all that it holds for we 'Hubber Lubbers' and just how the new Ivinghoe Hub in the Old School will interestingly continue to reflect Community needs and initiatives between us to enhance all our collective and individual wellbeing!

One way we plan to do this is to refresh and mark many of those special days we see in our seasonal calendars. At the end of the last week before half term we will be all red and rosy for **Valentines**, so pop in to have a good half term break celebration start with us! During that half term we will be having another of our legendary **activity days** on Tuesday 18th February, and making some lovely pre-**Mother's Day** and **Easter** presents for friends and family! We will celebrate the 'cooking up of the last eggs before lent', leading up towards Easter on **Shrove Tuesday** with pancake racing on the lawn after school and a feast of fillings to choose for your own pancake inside the café once the racing is won! Look out for more on this on our

**Facebook page 'Ivinghoe Old School Hub'** and bring a small frying pan to the Hub for 3.40pm on Tuesday 4th March! A Psychic Evening has been proposed for the next day 5th March, from 7-10pm, and a Mother's Day afternoon tea special at CuriosiTEA is planned for 30th March. Leading up to May Day and spring bank holiday possibilities, we have **St George's day** which makes us ask the question, 'Be there Dragons hereabouts?'... and think of small fun gestures we can support to mark that day in our English village! We will leave **Father's day** and **Midsummer Solstice** to the next publication in Summer, but suffice it to say... we are up for some fun then also, with picnic Hampers from CuriosiTEA Rooms at the ready and croquet mallets in our plans... watch this space to come and join in with us. The Hub is for all of us, all generations and all interests!

Within our welcoming spaces, activities are now happening from parties to celebrate anniversaries to wakes to remember the lives we are missing amongst us in this community. Our spaces also reflect the growing young **toddler** members of this community who now can enjoy **expressive drama play with 'Time to Shine'** on Monday mornings and **musical responding to Jo Jingles** on Tuesday mornings. **Yoga** is now being offered on a Thursday evening and will shortly be adapted and offered to us in the community with creaking limbs, who still enjoy moving gently for our health! We are scouting for activity leaders in all areas but in particular after school play leaders to run some activities on a more permanent basis

from 3.40 - 4.30pm in an imaginative and creative way. As you see from our new advert the IT room is ready and available for a variety of uses and users also.

Our **welcoming, tasty and affordable café 'CuriosiTEA Rooms' 07775 831153** is keeping us sustainable by being such a seven days a week success! Hayley has more plans brewing for further **Pop-up up restaurant evenings** and tells us more details will be available on our Facebook pages, and via our database emails and website. Meanwhile **Wednesdays in the cafe between 9am and 11am will have Hayley's legendary bacon sandwiches on special at just £1.50 each and Thursday's will be offering 10% off**

**for OAP's as a special 'pensioner's perks deal that day of the week!** Oh for those hazy, lazy days when we can sit again outside in the balmy sunshine to sing its praises... and have a long gossip with friends! To be kept in the loop of all our activities drop in and leave your contact details for our **database** on the sheet awaiting your inclusion just within the cloakroom, and check out our **Facebook page 'Ivinghoe Old School Hub'** for brewing conversations creating between us the next set of treats! **Please note our new phone, email and website contact points.**

Carol Corn



# Wendover Arm Trust

## SEEK FUNDS FOR COMPLETE RESTORATION

The Council of the Wendover Arm Trust has decided that renewed efforts need to be made to secure funding for restoration of Phase 11 and the final phase, 111. Income in recent years has largely relied upon the annual Canal Festival held on the Wendover Arm at Little Tring but this has not been possible since 2011.

It currently costs about £440 to restore one metre of canal and since labour is voluntary all expenditure incurred is plant and materials together with some overheads. Each month the Working Party, held over seven days, aims to complete 20 metres of lining.

In order to maintain income for the restoration of Phase 11 (Drayton Beauchamp to Little Tring where Phase 1 is complete) the Trust has now engaged the services of a Professional Fundraiser since about £350K to £400K is needed to complete Phase 11 with estimated completion in 8/9 years based upon voluntary workers. Phase 111, from Drayton Beauchamp into Wendover basin is estimated at £2.6 million at today's prices. The Trust has already expended some £450K on this phase and has funds available to complete about half the remaining un-restored section.

2014 is a milestone for the Trust since it will be 25 years since the society was formed and they are hoping to complete the current section up to Bridge 4a (one of the two new footbridges) by the Autumn of 2014 so that re-watering of some 450 metres, over one quarter mile, can be arranged.

If you are able to help the Trust, either by volunteering your services with restoration please telephone Roger Leishman, Restoration Director on **01442 874536** or, for general management, our Chairman, Paul Leech on **01702 584101**. Additional members are always very welcome and Membership Secretary, Katherine Deane, is contactable on **01442 246523** or visit our web site, **www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk**, where donations may be given on line. Membership is only £10 per annum and a quarterly Newsletter is circulated giving latest details of the restoration. We are also currently seeking the services of a Fundraising Director so if you are able to help please get in touch.

**Additional funds are urgently required to continue this restoration – please donate today!**

**Phase 11: £400,000 needed**

**Phase 111: £2.6 million needed**



**Nigel Williams** Publicity Director, WAT

# Happy New Year from Beacon Villages Community Library

I would like to first announce that the Library will be open **every Wednesday morning 10am – 12pm** starting from March 5th 2014.

It is with great pleasure that we can boast longer opening hours to that which were originally on offer from Buckinghamshire County Council and hope to increase this further with demand and help from volunteers; of which we are always happy to recruit, please see below for contact.

Since September we have had 5 Duke of Edinburgh volunteers from the local area senior schools, assisting us each for an hour per week to achieve their volunteering award for part of their Bronze Award and I would like to thank Juliet, Becky, Toby, Hannah and Michael for all of their help and assistance here in the library, they have each been a great asset and if ever they would like to volunteer again – who am I to try and stop them?! (Also very special thanks to Karen and Alex who helped out with prettying up the library for Christmas...)

We also held our very first Christmas Open Evening, open to all and had an enormously festive and enjoyable evening. We held a quiz for fun, a DVD tombola and enough Stollen and other treats to ground Santa whilst being washed down with copious amounts of Mulled Wine and fruit juice. Thank you to Fran, Gill, Janet and Linda for all of their efforts in the organising of this fun event.

Thank You's also go out to Sally, Colin and Kim Needham; who kindly organised a Christmas Craft Extravaganza on our last



open day before Christmas on the library's behalf. It was a big success with over 32 children and their families coming to join us. An assortment of snowmen, wreaths and crackers went home with them at the end of the morning. We also welcomed Rachel McGuire who had a collection of beautiful Usborne books for sale for last minute gift ideas and Mary Flach, Play Leader from the Children's Centre who kindly gave up a morning off to read stories to the little ones and help out with the crafts.

It has been a busy, productive year and let's hope this year will be more of the same – keep checking our website, facebook and twitter for future events and updates.

If you would like to volunteer or perhaps even join us on the committee, please contact Gill Arney on **gill.arney@tiscali.co.uk** or come into the library for a chat.

**Shelle West** Library Manager

# Not a lot happens in Ivinghoe Aston

## Father Christmas visits The Village Swan on his way home to the North Pole

Father Christmas interrupted his busy schedule to fit one final visit in before returning to the North Pole for a well-earned rest. Here he can be seen delighting the children of Ivinghoe Aston. A piece of paper fell out of his pocket on the way out, it read **Wanted Chief Elf for the Christmas run of 2014**, hmmm interesting, he must have insight into events that followed the planning application for the 6 Acre site.

tremendous support from the 100+ strong audience.



If you ever want to test the power of adrenalin then this is for you. The charity seeks another set of victims, sorry volunteers, for this year's competition. The skills required are simple, you should not be able to dance now and hate going outside your comfort zone, if that's you, see Sam Kennell and sign up for the experience of a life time. Well done Mark and Sam Kennell, Gel Boy, Heidi and Chris Greenfield, Taira and yours truly.

**So who won?** Well, all of the contestants, organisers, judges and audience were winners but most of all the Children at the hospice will be given a smile or two thanks to the £2000+ raised, everyone's a winner.

## T'was the night before Planning Application's when all through the village not a creature was stirring...

Then up popped a resident with a Christmas Eve cracker, I wanna build 9 houses, what is the matter?

Well according to the hyper active grapevine the timing was insensitive and even many not directly affected ►



## Dancing is Glamorous was Amazballs! £2000+ raised for Keech Hospice for Children

What with 4 contestants, 2 organisers and a Judge from Ivinghoe Aston the Giving is Glamorous Charity event in November was a smash hit with the audience. The participants went from less than zero ability to a position whereby they were able to wow the crowd with 2 displays of amazing dancing. They had two pieces to perform, The Waltz and The Cha Cha Cha with all contestants receiving

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by a new close being created saw it worthy enough to attend a planning meeting in the village hall. The attendance of approximately 40-50 residents decided on a planning meeting of their own. Never have so many Village Hall chairs been occupied other than the fight to save the pub (1997) and fight to save "Eric's field" in 2010. By the time this piece is read, voices and opinions will have been recorded with AVDC. There are a hand full of people that say 'good luck to them'. This made me question why?

If extension of the Village had stopped when my house was built, circa 1750, then there would have been half a dozen properties and no pub. None of the houses being lived in by 99% of the objectors would exist. The house opposite mine which could accommodate most of the village population alone would not exist.

We are experiencing human behaviour. It's 'natural'. Change fires the mind with fear and the unknown. The fact that the Grove Farm and Waterside developments have enhanced the village is forgotten by most. The attitude of, "now we are here we must keep it so", seems to be the way it is.

To be fair there is quite a difference in the case of the 6 Acre Development application in that it is slap bang in the middle of the village. This development seeks to create more dwellings that affect the lives of more families than any other development for nearly a century. That, I feel, is the issue, should one family be allowed to enhance their lives at the possible cost of others? Or you could ask it the other way around, if you were sitting on a potential fortune would you find a way to release it?

## Have you seen this man? Planning prospector seen escaping from the village disguised as an Elf...



Planning was given to The Village Swan in December 2013 to extend its property to include five bed and breakfast rooms. This did not please all of the residents either, there was a petition signed by many but there was no mass meeting and it remains to be seen if the building will ever take place. In an EGM I attended on this matter the shareholders agreed they would not do anything to upset the residents but without change the pub will die and guess what? Become a set of properties! Time will tell.

A lot of discussion is taking place over permission to extend at Grove Farm. This appears to have stumbled but no doubt will rumble on.

These requests for permission have fired up the locals with long terms friends raising voices at one and other. I have even heard people being accused of bribery! What I have learnt over the years, not least in the fight to save The Village Swan, is that emotions count for zero and assumptions dangerous and unfair. Only planning issues count in the application process. Very few people understand the

rules so when those that do tell you and it's not what you want to hear, don't shoot the messenger it doesn't help.

I personally have spent an elapsed period of 11 years and more in thousands of pounds trying to make my home better for my family. None of my plans affect another human being and yet the planning people (they changed over the years) see it their duty to say no to anything that's put forward even though they are in complete contradiction with themselves! No wonder these issues raise the blood pressure. I wonder if a block of "affordable flats" would have a better chance of success at Vine Farm, shall we meet and discuss...

## Anyone for a swim?

No the brothers haven't installed a swimming pool this is their garden suffering from too much rain and back fill. The drainage system in the village centre is oversubscribed. How 5 new rooms at The Village Swan and 9 new houses next to this photo will ease this problem is quite baffling.



## Not a cat in hell's chance! Unless they are tagged

There were two emails this quarter from residents concerned with the wellbeing of two completely separate cats. It turned out both were tagged and one was returned to its owners in Hemel

Hempstead and the other to Aldbury. Both had been away from home for several months !! What is it that attracts cats to Ivinghoe Aston and away from Hemel? Say no more, there are a number of humans that chose to settle in IA from Hemel, should they be returned?

## What the DUCK!

On Monday 13th a resident witnessed 2-3 darkly dressed chaps using a duck whistle to entice some ducks. Then BANG at 7:45 a 12 bore rings out and led goes flying towards the unsuspecting ducks. The issue with this is that behind the flooded field where they were situated is a footpath used by children on the way to school and a field full of horses and sheep. The witness sensibly took to the hills on hearing the shot. At the time of writing its unknown if these were locals or was in fact the lone Romanian Immigrant that landed at Luton Airport on 1st January looking for a free meal. We'll need to keep our eyes peeled.

## KEEP VIGILANT

The police cannot be everywhere so we need to look out for each other. If you are not on my mailing list, where we often warn each other of suspicious activity, email me and I will add you, [ketts999@hotmail.com](mailto:ketts999@hotmail.com)

## Have your say

Would you like to mention something about Ivinghoe Aston in the next issue of the Beacon or submit an article? Email [Ketts999@hotmail.com](mailto:Ketts999@hotmail.com) or The Editor at [christabelboersma@hotmail.com](mailto:christabelboersma@hotmail.com). It's your village have **YOUR say!**

**Clive Ketteridge**

# Ivinghoe Entertainments

## WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR!



With the New Year often comes **resolutions**; well we intend to keep ours and make the 2014 Summer Festival the best yet. To ensure that it will be we've completely re-vamped and re-formatted the weekend to allow our guests to enjoy themselves even more. Hopefully the changes will allow them to bring along more of their friends. This is a year of big changes, the first being that we've flipped the nights so that Friday night is the casual night and Saturday the formal, Black Tie Ball:

### Laughter-on-the-Lawn

**Friday 20-June Doors: 19:00**

### Summer Ball

**Saturday 21-June**

**Doors: 19:00 for 19:45**

### Summer Ball (Saturday)

The second big change is that we have booked a great Headlining

band: The Collection (<http://www.thecollectionlive.co.uk/>) featuring Keavy Lynch from B\*witched. B\*witched enjoyed huge success in both Europe and North America between 1998 and 2000, releasing two albums and eight singles, all of which made the UK Top 20. Their first four singles, "*C'est la Vie*", "*Rollercoaster*", "*To You I Belong*" and "*Blame It on the Weatherman*", all reached number one in the UK Singles Chart. They've also enjoyed more recent success on the "Reunion" TV program and tour. Fronted by Keavy, The Collection play a great mix of music for all tastes and so we're set for a great evening.

A further change is that in response to feedback we have engaged a new caterer too. So it's a new night, new band, new caterers and hopefully some new friends to share what's set to be a great evening.

Remember once you've purchased your ticket the only expenses are photographs, and drinks! We have been

able to maintain the cost at £60 / ticket. A great value for money, great night out and for most, no taxi cost!

The sale of tickets for the Summer Ball will be on Saturday 08-March from 09:30 at the Town Hall, Ivinghoe and thereafter from the usual outlets. A booking form can be downloaded from <http://ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk/> Summer Festival page (and will be available in the Town Hall on-the-day). As in previous years, we are offering the opportunity to spread the cost of the event an initial (non-refundable) deposit (£20) payable upon booking the tickets the balance (£40) payable by mid-May. We anticipate high demand for tickets and so we encourage you to book early and take advantage of the deposit scheme.

### Laughter-on-the-Lawn (Friday)

Following the fantastic success of 'Laughter-on-the-Lawn' 2013 we are repeating the event with a different line up of comedians but this year on the Friday night rather than Saturday. Our event will be associated with the "GET STUFFED Tring Comedy Festival (Tringe)" – the Tring Comedy Festival extends to Ivinghoe! What better way to wind down from the rigours of the week than to put on some casual clothes and come along to hear some great comedians with some friends, a few drinks and food?

More information about the performers will be released nearer the event but we can guarantee a well-known compere, headline act and some up and coming stars of the future... make sure you can say you saw them first in Ivinghoe! All that for just £15.00.

Our website: <http://ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk/> will be updated with full details as they become available for both events.

### Summer Festival Weekend

As with previous years there will be a number of other events running across the weekend to make the use of the venue. Please refer to local groups and organisations for further details.

### Christmas Tree

We would like to thank Ivinghoe and Pitstone WI, Ivinghoe Town Hall Management Committee, and The Kings Head (Ivinghoe) for their generous support towards the planting of a permanent Christmas Tree on the corner of Ivinghoe Lawn.

### Web Site / Facebook

Our website has the latest details of our events [www.ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk](http://www.ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk). Regular updates / news are posted on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ivinghoeEnts>

### Appeal for New Members

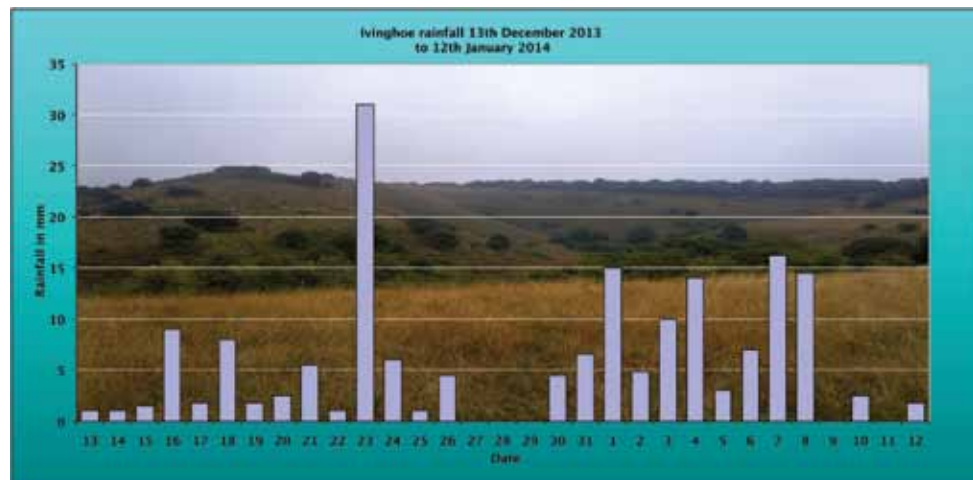
As ever we are always looking for new members to join our committee who can add to the diversity of our membership and provide valuable alternate input to our events. Please contact a member of the committee (or myself – details below) if you are interested in helping us. Thanks in advance.

### Graham Hollands

Chair – Ivinghoe Entertainments  
[ivinghoeentertainments@gmail.com](mailto:ivinghoeentertainments@gmail.com)

<http://ivinghoeentertainments.org.uk/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/ivinghoeEnts>

# The Great Escape...



Looking at the media, one could be forgiven for believing the whole nation is awash, except for Ivinghoe!

The rainfall recordings as a histogram, kindly supplied by Peter Snowden, the doyen of weather recordings shows clearly the magnitude of rain falling on Ivinghoe which has so far escaped from the worst ravages of the storms.

The picture taken by Rob Cattle shows some of the results of the rain on the Whistle brook, Mill pond and Canal lock gates with water pouring over the top.

Also, exceptionally high winds on 23/24th December gave the Beacon

roving reporter something to think about, when a large beech tree was blown down miraculously between a greenhouse and shed with hardly any damage to any structure (see picture).

The recording anemometer on the chimneystack lost the plot, the reading for that night being off the scale, and it's a mercy the instrument didn't burst into flames, it was going round so fast.

So, here we are looking forward to 2014 and the worst drought in living memory. I hope not.

**Nigel Thompson** Beacon Roving Reporter



# Poppy Appeal update

Once again I would like to thank all concerned for being picked Volunteer of this year. It was quite a shock to receive the award and like I mentioned to a few people, I don't do it to be a glory boy, although the framed certificate stands on our television for all to see. The cheque of £50 was split between my favourite charities – The Royal British Legion and Help for Heroes – in which I am involved throughout the year. Last year I was determined to beat the 2012 target, so the challenge was on. Total time spent outside Richard Masons store was 150.25 hours and I beat the years total raising £2,312.00. Rain or shine I enjoy every minute of it. I have now gone into my seventh year and it is now like a big family gathering. Last year I had people from Wendover and even Leighton Buzzard call over to say hi!

Thanks go to Richard Mason and all his staff who really spoil me and keep the hot drinks and bites going. Mind you, two of his staff said their good-byes last year so I wish them both a happy retirement. Once again Tong from the New May Fu supplied meals and also the owner of the Haldi restaurant brought down a meal. On the Friday the mobile Fish n Chip van stopped (Howe & Co) and brought a meal across.

Four weeks prior to being outside Richards shop my friend Chas Jellis phoned to see if I was free to work for him. He has a key job in the film industry and one of their guys was on sick leave and he wanted someone to join his team on set. So thanks to him I had four weeks working on the film Fury starring Brad Pitt. Just up my street, being it was a war film. What an experience! I did say to him that I was so dedicated to the Poppy Appeal that I would only stay until then, but the Friday I finished four people were to go, so it worked out just right for me.

Another thing I enjoyed was when 40 children



came down from Brookmead school to get their poppys and ask a few questions. I explained to them the reason why I sell the poppy. The next day, as some of the school children passed going to school, they would salute and shout 'Good Morning Soldier Joe'. Ever since I started our friend Fiona Harrison comes down in her ATS uniform to put a nice donation in, usually before going on stage at one of her venues. It was a big help last year when a charge-hand Ben, did a collection on the et and gave me a nice sum of money for the appeal. Also a chap came up and gave me a bottle of whisky as he did for the last three years on the trot, and always a good donation. Last year he gave the whisky and also £100.00, so if you live locally and are reading this, thank you once again sir. I'd also like to thank Tony who comes to support me and another member of the MVT, Rod Tingey.

Like I always tell people, I get wet, cold and tired but after 10 hours I go home to have a shower and relax. The heroes we collect for, some gave their all, and we show respect to our surviving troops and those who are still in the fields. Thanks for all you do for our country and God Bless you all.

**Joe Marling**  
ex Middlesex Regiment (DCO TA)

# The Miller's Tale...

As I write this the country is being battered by stormy weather and many people across the length and breadth of the UK are keeping their fingers crossed that they don't get flooded out, or lose their electricity supply like the many poor unfortunate folks who have already become victims of the bad weather. Obviously, with the watermill being positioned right on the stream, flooding is something that is always possible during bad weather. We have had the ground floor full of water only once so far during my spell as mill manager, this was in July 2007 and we spent several hours one Sunday morning with mops, buckets and brooms mopping up several inches of water that had run into the mill from the overflowing Whistlebrook so that we could be ready for milling later that day when the visitors arrived.

With this previous incident in mind, I decided to pop down to the mill just to check that everything was alright. On my way there I drove through several stretches of flooded road with standing water almost a foot deep, along with seeing a few trees blown down and seeing litter, recycling bin lids and what looked like a green garden chair flying through the air across the road in front of me.

I was apprehensive as to what I might find at the mill to say the least, as I drove into the car park the first thing I noticed was one of the trees growing on the bank of the Whistlebrook had been blown down and the grass beneath my wheels was waterlogged and I had to be careful not to get stuck. But apart

from the one tree down the rest of the mill was just as we'd left it, which was somewhat of a relief as my mind had been working overtime during the drive there, especially after seeing some incredible scenes of devastation on tv, I was imagining finding the roof off or even the mill flattened, or gone completely!

The tree that had been blown down had already been earmarked for felling during our last few sessions before Christmas when luckily we had started to considerably reduce the size of the neighbouring trees along the bank of the Whistlebrook and behind our shed, only we ran out of time before we got to the one that was blown down, so it probably made our job easier in the long run, but it still took a bit of time saving it and clearing it all away.

I have mentioned previously in the Miller's Tale that my predecessor, David, had been tasked with renovating our old wheat and flour cleaning machines that have sat in the mill for years without much attention. David has, in his own way, taken great care to dismantle these machines to their basics and has also been diligently researching and contacting other mills to find out more information about them.

During this research it turns out that one of the machines, a Coleman and Morton corn screening machine that we have is quite rare, and our Kell Meats and Co winnowing machine is also on the getting hard to find list.

One of the things that came to light during this research into our machines revealed that we have had a 'Jogscry'

in the mill for years and none of us had realised. A jogscry is a shortened name for a jogging screen, or mesh screens that are used to sieve corn and flour, revealing another milling term that none of us had ever heard of before!

Our jogscry was not in very good condition, after years of neglect, the three different sized mesh screens that comprise the jogscry had rusted almost completely away and needed replacing. Luckily we have a good relationship with Paul Messenger who is mill manager at Heygates Mill in Tring. Paul offered to have three new mesh screens made up by the maintenance engineers at Heygates, so Peter, one of the engineers from Heygates turned up at Ford End and studied our winnower and took measurements and then went away and fabricated three lovely new screens that when brought down to the mill and offered up to our winnower, fitted perfectly, Nice one Peter and Paul!

All the other working parts of the winnower were in reasonable condition and only needed careful cleaning and fettling and the woodwork was treated to some woodworm killer. So now it's just a matter of remembering where everything went and fitting it all back together again, ready to be tested out by cleaning some of our wheat.

It's interesting to note that our winnower is from around the turn of the century so it is approximately a hundred years old, but the design, layout and method of cleaning wheat that it uses has not really changed in all that time and modern winnowers employ an almost identical system for cleaning wheat.

Please look at the list of dates that we are open during 2014, starting

with Mothering Sunday in March and if you are new to the area, or haven't experienced our lovely little mill before we hope you will consider visiting sometime this year.

Cheers all!

**Chug (Chris Tugby)** Mill Manager

## 2014 Opening Times:

Open between 2pm and 5pm on the following dates with milling demonstrations, between 2-30pm and 4-30pm approx on the nine dates indicated by (M). Water level permitting.

## Last Admission 4-30pm.

**30th March** - Mothering Sunday

**21st April** - Easter Bank Holiday Monday (M)

**5th May** - Bank Holiday Monday (M)

**11th May** - National Mills W/end (M)

**26th May** - Sunday

Bank Holiday Monday (M)

**8th June** - Sunday

**22nd June** - Sunday (M)

**6th July** - Sunday

**27th July** - Sunday (M)

**10th August** - Sunday

**25th August** - Bank Holiday Monday (M)

**7th September** - Sunday

**21st September** - Sunday (M)

**12th Oct** - as part of Tring's Own Apple Fayre (M)

## Admission Prices:

Adults - £3.00 Children (5-15) - £0.50

For further information please visit [www.fordendwatermill.co.uk](http://www.fordendwatermill.co.uk)

# The great train robbery



Picture: The Bridge!

The great train robbery has surfaced again, so to speak, on its half centenary. Not exactly a celebration but nevertheless an acknowledgement in the form of a film and press review strangely on the day of Ronald Bigg's demise.

Ivinghoe can lay some claim to the event around the crime. The robbers were sentenced at Aylesbury Assizes by Judge Sir Edward Davies. Emlyn and Louise of the Manor, Ivinghoe were among the judge's friends, and Sir Edward was kindly invited to dinner it so happened on the very day sentence was pronounced.

During supper the august company became aware of some activity outside. This turned out to be a large contingent of police, for once Ivinghoe was not short of a bobby or two. It transpires that there was a real fear of reprisal from a gang of London criminals in support of their colleagues who in their opinion had suffered a harsh sentence.

Happily, Sir Edward, Emlyn and Louise were left in peace with not even a mention of porridge!

**Nigel Thomson**  
Roving Reporter

# Ivinghoe Town Hall... News!

Since the last Ivinghoe Beacon and PPP... apart from a lot of rain the Winter has been kind to us (so far)! The Town Hall continues to appreciate the many Beacon Village's users supporting the Post Office, Shop and Beacon Library.

## Ivinghoe Town Hall launches web site

The exciting news is that we are now announcing the availability of our 'On-Line' web site:

**[www.ivinghoetownhall.org.uk](http://www.ivinghoetownhall.org.uk)**

Users of Ivinghoe Town Hall will be able to make online reservation requests via a new web site at **[www.ivinghoetownhall.org.uk](http://www.ivinghoetownhall.org.uk)**. It will still be possible to make bookings via more traditional methods such as the telephone, but it's hoped that the new web site will appeal to those more used to doing things online. The web site will also help

to promote the various activities at the Town Hall by publishing dates, times and contact details. There will also be a gallery of photos, contact details, a location map, terms and conditions and pricing. So please try it and let us have your feedback to improve the web site to help you.

The regular bookings are continuing well and some of you will already have enjoyed trying the new 'Ballet for Adults' class or Vintage Fitness class! If you are interested in Pilates on a Wednesday morning, contact Andrea on: **07855-138005** she is keen to set up a 2nd class at 11:15am (dependent on interest).

If you would like to have a look around or book the hall for a party, meeting or other event please contact our Booking Secretary or myself, on **01296-660344**.

**Janet Swinbank**, Booking Clerk  
**Stephen Swinbank**, Secretary  
Tel: 01296-660344



## Ivinghoe Town Hall

**[www.ivinghoetownhall.org](http://www.ivinghoetownhall.org)**

**In centre of the Village, with Local shop, Post Office & Library.  
also the Town Hall provides modern facilities for :-  
local groups, parties, and fund raising.**

### Facilities include:

- ~ Improved lighting, heating and newly upholstered chairs
- ~ Music options including a quality electric piano
- ~ Stage with specialised lighting, curtains & dressing room
- ~ New kitchen with microwave, oven, hob, fridge, crockery etc.
- ~ Chair lift & wheelchair for those with mobility problem

**To View or Book contact Janet or Stephen 01296-660344**

# Pitstone & Ivinghoe Museum Society Programme 2014

**All meetings are held in the Meeting Room in the Pitstone Green Museum at 8pm. PLEASE NOTE: we now meet on the fourth Thursday of the month. All visitors are welcome.**

## Thursday 23rd January '14\*\*\* The Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway

An illustrated talk to look at a railway from its 1869 origins to its life as a modern heritage railway. A country branch line from Princes Risborough to Watlington, it carried passengers until 1957, then freight until 1989 when British Railways closed it. A group of enthusiasts successfully took on the challenge of finding the funds to purchase some of the track and since 1994 have been running trains at weekends. The railway is run entirely by volunteers. Our speaker, Roger Fagg has been a volunteer there for 13 years and its Chairman since 2006.

## Thursday 27th February '14\*\*\* What really happened at Bletchley Park?

After a variety of careers our speaker, Rob Johnstone is a volunteer guide at the Bletchley Park Museum when he is not trying to sail round Britain single handed in a 23ft boat. This talk will be a non-technical introduction to codes, ciphers, enigmas, bombes and lots more.

## Thursday 27th March '14\*\*\* Latimer: Listening to the Walls

Latimer and nearby Beaconsfield were chosen for use in the second world war for the interrogation of German and Italian P.O.W's

from 1941-1945. The work was highly secret and widespread knowledge of what went on did not come out until 1997, 23 years after the news of Enigma came out. On the talk we hear what went on in the camps, why it remained a secret so long and how your speaker tried to find out more before the details came out officially! 1947-1994 the Latimer site was used for other secret uses and nearby was the "rotor base" and these two uses will be looked at as a coda. Colin Oakes.

## Thursday 24th April '14\*\*\* The History of the Tring Silk Mill

Wendy Austin, our speaker has always been interested in Tring, having been born and brought up there, as were both her parents and three of her grandparents. The Silk Mill has a varied history, being built in 1823, and after closing as a mill in 1898, being put to different uses. The talk embraces aspects of local, industrial and social history, from the beginnings in 1823 to the present day.

## Thursday 22nd May '14\*\*\* Another Evening of Music

After the success of last year's May Meeting Ron and Barbara Hartwell will once again be hosting this event in their home (16, Ridgeway Road, Chesham HP5 2EG). It will need to be pre-booked using my email: [Sue.Lipscomb@btpopenworld.com](mailto:Sue.Lipscomb@btpopenworld.com). Those attending will see a unique collection of Player Pianos and a Roll playing Reed Organ. After a brief talk on the history of these instruments and how they work they will be demonstrated, after which you will be encouraged to have a go yourself. Please note the start time will be 7.30pm.

**Sue Lipscomb** Programme Secretary



## Are you looking for...

- A secure **income** by working part-time?
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All of this – and more – is possible by joining our team. We will train and mentor you to build your own successful business and coach your team members.

Our business Healthy Independence is proud to be part of a global, family owned company. Our top quality health and well-being products are bought by millions worldwide.

Call Philippa Taylor on 07866 480700 for more information or visit: [www.healthyindependence.co.uk](http://www.healthyindependence.co.uk)

# Spotlight on local Businesses: babybadger.co.uk

For this edition's Spotlight on Local Business the Beacon Magazine interviews Elke Hegarty, who runs **Babybadger**, a local, economical web design and hosting service from her home in Pitstone.



## Q: How long have you lived in the local area and can you remember what attracted you to this area?

We moved here in December 2006 – the week my girls were born. Prior to that we were at the end of the runway at Heathrow. John's commute to Hemel Hempstead was taking an hour and a half each way and we wanted to reduce that so that he could spend some time with his new family during the week rather than just at the weekends. We were looking for a family home in a community we could become involved with and this little village that we had never heard of seemed to cover all the boxes on our checklist.

## Q: Tell us something about your business and why you chose to keep your business local?

The whole ethos of **babybadger.co.uk** is that everything is done in jargon free, plain English. Even the technical stuff. Our aim is to make web design and hosting both affordable and accessible. This makes us ideal for local groups, clubs, hobbyists and small or home based business. We have a really diverse selection of clients, including

a pre-school, dog groomers, B&B, dance classes, consultants, music management, storage units and equestrian activities, to mention a few, and our websites enable you to have all manner of features – galleries, online stores, blogs and diaries, static information and online appointment booking for example. Being local to a lot of our clients means that we are never far away and we offer a friendly, not a faceless, service. Our clients are our community and neighbours and we take pride in providing a personal and individual service.

## Q: What do you enjoy most about working locally?

Well, apart from no longer having a 2 or 3 hour journey either end of my day! We live in quite a close-knit community and it's great being a part of that. It's also a community full of enterprise and

enthusiasm. We are able to support and encourage that, bringing a bit of technological advantage to groups and individuals who maybe thought that it was all a bit *out of their league*. Plus it's lovely (and much easier!) to get to know the faces and stories behind who your clients are and what they need.

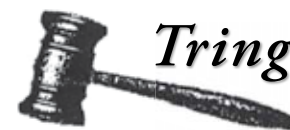
## Q: What advice would you give to other people thinking about starting up their own local/small business?

Go for it! Work with the community – they are your advertising space as well as your customers. Their needs may be more specific or niche than you may encounter working just with big or national companies/ brands. But it's also likely to be a whole lot more interesting and exciting!

## Q: After all that hard work, what keeps you sane at the weekend?

Pottering at home with my family, making something arty with Issy and Becca, rolling around playing trains with James... I've always got at least 3 books that I'm reading... I ride horses – mostly dressage these days... I love cooking – that's another one of the strings in my bow... and I'm frequently spotted clocking up the miles on my bike...

Thank you very much to Elke for letting us take a glimpse into her working life. If you would like your local business to be featured in the Beacon magazine, please contact **The Editor**.



## Tring Market Auctions

Independent Fine Art & Chattel Auctioneers and Valuers. Est 1832

## Auctioneers & Valuers of Fine Art, Antique Furniture & Collectables

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## Party in the Park 2014 put it in your diaries!

Hopefully many of you enjoyed the 'Party In The Park' last July held on Pitstone Recreation Ground in the glorious sunshine. A great day with over 2,000 people attending throughout the afternoon.

The event raised well over £10,000 for local causes, including our main charity for the event – Cure Rett.

We will be holding it again this year – so make a note in your diaries now for Saturday July 12th 2014.

Once again it is completely free to

attend – there will be a variety of live music all afternoon and into the evening from the main stage, great food, local real ales and craft stalls. And once again we will be raising money for good causes. Hopefully the sun will put his hat on again too !

If you would like to be involved as a volunteer on the day, or if you would like to perform or take a stall – please drop me an email [stevenmattey@gmail.com](mailto:stevenmattey@gmail.com)

**Steve Mattey**

To make our event feel more local we thought that this year for the first time we would like to have a local person to open it.

It was decided that we would like to find an out standing young individual who has done something very special within our local community or has overcome adversity. For example they might have raised a large sum of money for charity, help elderly neighbours on a regular basis .

This young individual must be under

18yrs old and if under 16 have parental consent if they are chosen.

Nominations should be forwarded to Linda Howarth by April 30th 2014 and the successful candidate will be chosen by a panel of individuals separate from the event organising committee.

If you require any further information or wish to send in a nomination please contact: Linda on 01296 663776 /07807096681 or [Howarthlinda4@gmail.com](mailto:Howarthlinda4@gmail.com)

Have you ever thought about 'growing your own'? Growing your own fruit and vegetables can be very satisfying experience and in Ivinghoe we are very lucky to have some beautiful allotments just off Church Road, overlooking St Mary's Church. If you are an Ivinghoe resident and would like some more information about availability of plots – we have them in a range of sizes – please contact the Parish Clerk at [ivinghoechurchclerk@gmail.com](mailto:ivinghoechurchclerk@gmail.com)

or call Maxine on 07960 605 393

NB: there may not always be an available plot but we do keep a waiting list!



# 'The Chapel Fellowship'

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# News from Rev. Tracey Doyle

Dear Reader, It's hard to believe that this is my final magazine article. I have had the most wonderful 10 years with you all and I will miss you very much but I shall always treasure my time with you and thank God for all the blessings that knowing and working with you has brought me.

From the very first day of becoming your priest, the whole community welcomed Mick, Mel and myself with open arms and it is a huge wrench for us to leave you, but we know the time is right and we are being called to new pastures and adventures.

May we wish you all every blessing for the future as you too begin your new journey together.

**Much love,** Rev Tracey, Mick and Mel xx

## Bible study groups

Our evening study meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 1 Queen Street, Pitstone at 8pm; our daytime study is on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 5 Windmill Close, Ivinghoe at 10am. Everyone is welcome no matter what age or stage you are on your Christian journey.

## Not Sunday, Not School at Ivinghoe church

These sessions are held fortnightly from 3.30pm – 5pm. The children will be provided with refreshments and the sessions generally include stories, songs, craft activities, games and cooking. This club is for children aged 3-11years. Parents why not come along

relax and have a cuppa and a chat while your children enjoy themselves under friendly supervision. If you would like to know more information please contact Sandra Green on **668648**.

## Men's Group

The men's group are looking forward to another year of varied events and will be meeting very soon to plan the year ahead.

We have an event each month; always relaxed, generally fairly unstructured and inevitably involving food and ale.

Detailed information on events is circulated by email; please contact **charles.e.thorogood@btinternet.com** to be included in the circulation.

*New members and new ideas are always welcome.*

## Food Bank

We have a regular collection for a food bank. There is a box at the entrance of each church to place gifts of food. There will be a list of items that are needed for your guidance. Please give generously.

## The All New Sister Act

Friendly women's group meeting once a month to enjoy a variety of activities and outings; Dates and activities as follows:

**November 25th:** a visit to Milton Keynes theatre to see the Soweto Gospel choir – fully booked.

**December 3rd:** Christmas crafts

If you think you may be interested contact Tracey on **668260** for more details or just turn up and have some fun.

	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
Marsworth	8 am BCP Holy Communion	6pm BCP Evensong	10am Holy Communion	10am Messy church with breakfast	10.30 am * Benefice H/C
Ivinghoe	10am Worshipping together family service	9.15 am Holy Communion	9.15am Morning Praise	9.15 am Holy Communion	10.30 am * Benefice H/C
Slapton	10.30am Morning Praise	10.30am Holy Communion	10am Messy church in the village hall.	10.30am Holy Communion	10.30 am * Benefice H/C

\* Benefice service rotating round the three parishes

## Pastor Dave Calling...

May I be one of the last to wish you a Happy New Year, since you won't be reading this until 2014 is well under way.

Well that was Christmas (and New Year) and what have you done? Another year over and a new one just begun. Not often I would quote from the bard of Liverpool, John Lennon, but these phrases do make you think don't they? In January I reached a significant age, one I couldn't even imagine at fifteen or sixteen, and when I dwell on it I begin to wonder 'what have I achieved?' In my vocation you don't always see the fruit of your labour, but you never know what seeds you have sown in the lives of those you have met. Prior to coming here as a Pastor I spent thirty odd years in a secondary school, believe me some years were very odd. The school roll started at 1700 plus for the first half of my career and then the baby boom came to an end it settled to between 1000 to 1100. I meditated on this the first Sunday in 2014 with the fellowship and came to the conclusion that I had met, worked with, taught, disciplined and befriended in excess of 20,000 people, including staff.

Each one was a potential opportunity to sow seed – though I can't claim that it was always good seed and good soil just as in the parable. The right word and a person can spring into life and a glittering career – a wrong one and we can shatter dreams, destroy confidence and ruin a person's God given potential for good.

Maybe it's not good to look back too much. L. P. Hartley, author of 'The

Go-between', starts the novel with these words: 'The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there.' For those who can remember 50 years back, it probably seems like a different world; and it was. Too much looking back can end in regret, guilt, dwelling on lost opportunities and an inability to repair relationships. Retrospection can be wonderful if we learn from the mistakes we made, but how many of us really do learn and avoid the same mistakes again? Be honest.

New Year brings new hope, a chance to look forward: **Isaiah 43:18 says:**

*"Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history.*

*Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new."* (The Message).

That's hope – looking forward in expectation even though we don't see the light at the end of the tunnel. 'The Fellowship' have been doing that year after year for a long time now and so it continues.

We had a great 'DIY Nativity' – thanks to Bob Saintey and Ben Blunt (and kids) for taking part. The band once again were amazing and provided a wonderful experience to singing carols old and new. I think everyone enjoyed the afternoon despite technical difficulties of computers shutting down mid carol. We take up our monthly 'Thursday Friends' on February 6th with Cream Tea and March 6th with a Film Matinee. Both at the Millennium starting 2.00p.m. – **ALL (whatever age) WELCOME.**

Finally, let me say I took my first funeral for one of our members in

December, five years after taking up post here, Miss Jill Watson – it was a privilege. Two more have recently gone into care homes, so you see we are beginning decrease in size again. All are welcome on Sunday at 10.30a.m.. We are looking forward to good things

in 2014, but I'd hate to be quoting Joni Mitchell in my next message, "you don't know what you've got till it's gone."

Every blessing for 2014. From the Fellowship. **Pastor Dave Clifford:**  
**01296 668906.**

## CHURCHES TOGETHER SOUPER LENT LUNCHES

These popular Souper lunches will be held in March this year.

Book in good time to avoid disappointment.

March 13th at Pitstone Memorial Hall and

March 27th at Ivinghoe Town Hall

Both will be held from 12.00-1.30pm

Tickets at £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children can be obtained from:-

• Margaret Cole 668005

• Margaret Witherden 668004

• Alex Wynne 668336

There will be a raffle and contributions of raffle prizes would be welcome.

We will be supporting the following Local Charities -

Iain Rennie Hospice at Home, Bucks Young Carers

Home Start and Save the Children

# PARISH NOTICEBOARD

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## Ashridge Spring Plant Fair

**Sunday 11th May 2014, 11am-4pm,**  
Spring Plant Fair. Free entry. Thousands of plants for sale from private gardens and commercial nurseries. NT Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre, Monument Drive, Ringshall, HP4 1LX.  
More info and plant donations:  
John Cartwright 01442 864 984

### Marsworth WI Jumble Sale

#### Millennium Hall

2.00 pm Sat 12th April

After a very successful Jumble for the Church I have been asked to organize the one for the WI.  
I am sure with all your help we can do it again.  
I will need Jumble kept on one side or any other house clearance items (No Big items wardrobes etc) for more information you may contact me  
Josie Kempster 01442 825057

### Ivinghoe Town Hall

**Monday:** 3pm - 6pm Ballet (07834-281434)

**Tuesday:** 10am Beacon Art (01296-661291)

**Tuesday:** 7pm Zumba (07941-092673)

**Wednesday:** 8:45 and 10am Pilates (07855-138005)

**Wednesday:** 1pm Adult Ballet and at 2pm Vintage Fitness (07985-048880)

**Thursday:** W.I: Monthly each 2nd Thursday (Win: 01296-660755)

**First Thursday Friends**

**CREAM TEAS**

**DATE:** THURSDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2014

**WHERE:** The Millennium Room at Pitstone Memorial Hall

**TIME:** From 2 p.m.

Do come and join us for friendly chat and cream teas from £2.

**FILM MATINEES**

**DATE:** THURSDAY 6TH MARCH 2014

**WHERE:** The Millennium Room at Pitstone Memorial Hall

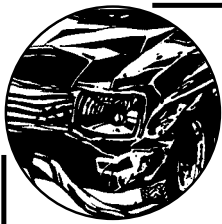
**TIME:** 2 p.m. tea / coffee then film

Film free - contribution for refreshments and venue welcome.




'First Thursday Friends' events are open to everyone and are organised by the Chapel Fellowship - a Christian group who meet in the Millennium Room each Sunday at 10.30.

Email: [christabelboersma@hotmail.com](mailto:christabelboersma@hotmail.com) to advertise your event here.



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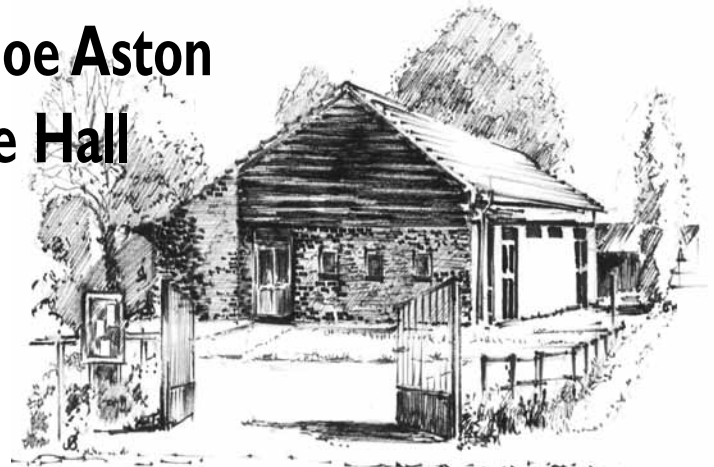
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## Ivinghoe Aston Village Hall



Villagers are reminded that there is a hall at Ivinghoe Aston for hire at similar rates to Ivinghoe's Village Centre and Town Hall. For details contact booking secretary Barbara Rayment **01525 220959** or email [jackyparsons@yahoo.in](mailto:jackyparsons@yahoo.in)

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## Vinghoe Velo's: A cup O tea and a slice O cake!



Cycling isn't just for lycra clad speed merchants, it is a sport for all and even Worzel Gummage would feel at home with the Vinghoe Velos tea ride as they enjoy a meander through the Chilterns.

The tea ride meets every Saturday morning outside the Rose & Crown in Ivinghoe between 9.50 and 10 O'clock in all weathers. If it is hot, they wear shorts, if it is cold they wrap up warm and if it snows they have been known to wear wellington boots!

The aim of the tea ride is to encourage people back onto their bikes; to make new friend and to enjoy a cuppa! The pace of the ride is that of the slowest rider and their destination is one of the fantastic coffee shops or tea rides in the local area.

Saturday mornings leaving the Rose & Crown at 10 back between 12 – 1pm with a tea and cake break in between what could be better!

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## New Year, New YOU!



New Year resolutions are now a distant memory and thankfully the days are getting longer. The spring is a great time to get active and get out and about; is it time then to revisit "2014 is the year I get fit". A great way to get fit is to start running or jogging. Sometimes considered scary and many non-runners are often heard saying "I can't run". Many people have thought this and using free and easy to access information have transformed themselves into runners. All you need is a good pair of trainers, plus a good sports bra if you are a woman and some determination.

The NHS have a "Couch to 5k" programme on their web site that aims to get almost anyone running 5k (3 miles) in 9 weeks. Week 1 is more walking than running and by Wk9 you should be all set for 30 minutes of running.

This is the address for the NHS programme <http://www.nhs.uk/>

[LiveWell/c25k/Pages/couch-to-5k.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/LiveWell/c25k/Pages/couch-to-5k.aspx) however, if you put the phrase "couch to 5k" into an internet search engine you will find it too!

Once you have reached your 5k goal it might time for you to think about a regular Saturday morning run. In Aylesbury, St Albans and Milton Keynes at 9am every Saturday morning there is a free timed 5k "race". The race is called "Parkrun" and it is supported by volunteers. Runners of all abilities take part; those who run for fun and those who are aiming for a full marathon. There is no need to book, just register at <http://www.parkrun.org.uk> turn up to the event and do not forget your barcode! (All will become clear when you register).

On my first Parkrun in Milton Keynes there was a runner in a gorilla suit and here is the photo to prove it!

**Jose Hetherington**

## Walk this way...

Welcome to the Beacon Team's latest feature, to appear in each edition of our quarterly magazine... the idea is to describe walks in and out of the village. They could be 'buggy' friendly as this one is, something more challenging, one taking in a local pub or two or perhaps a nature reserve. If you have a favourite walk in and out of the village/villages (Ivinghoe Aston included) please email your walk to the Editor for consideration. Your piece would need to be fairly detailed so that anyone taking up your suggested walk can easily follow the directions, and a distance or rough time estimate to complete the walk would be really helpful. Photos or simple maps can be included too, so please share your favourite ambles, sights and sounds with your neighbours and visitors alike!

### Ivinghoe to Bulbourne via Canal towpath

This is a very pleasant walk and can be made as long or as short as you like and apart from the obstacles of two kissing gates and two stiles the terrain is pretty buggy friendly.

Commence your walk down by picking up the footpath at Station Road at the bottom of Ladysmith Road. Follow around the back of the school, over Whistlebrook and turn right to skirt around Pitstone encountering the stiles at this point. This leads into Chequers Lane, at Cheddington Road turn right and follow for about 200 yards, the footpath is marked after Autumn Leaves on the right and is accessed via a kissing gate. The path leads through to the swing

bridge and a left turn on the towpath will take you past Pitstone Wharf and on towards Startopend Reservoir. (Whilst Marsworth Waterway Works is being developed look out for the footpath diversions, crossing the canal here and back over again at the closed White Lion Pub). Look out for an abundance of wild birds, water fowl and pursuing Twitchers. Follow the towpath for another half-mile to the Junction Arms at Bulbourne.

At this point you could either return the way you came or if you wish to make it a round trip it will involve walking some way on the road. Turn left at the Junction Arms onto the road past the nature reserve, well worth a visit and once past the traffic lights you will be able to pick up the footpath. At the Westfield Road roundabout turn left towards Pitstone. After about 200 yards the footpath turns right across the old quarry which will bring you out into Church Road in Pitstone. At Vicarage Road turn left and after about twenty yards the footpath crosses the road. Another kissing takes you across the fields towards the Windmill and back to Ivinghoe.

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From Ivinghoe Allotments

## Plant for Spring and help keep your village tidy!



I hope that all of you and your families had a very Happy Christmas and wish you all a very happy, healthy and productive New Year, and don't get hurt in the stampede to exchange your Christmas gardening vouchers!

The allotment site always looks bleak at this time of year, with only a smattering of leeks, sprouts, winter greens to be seen. But, behold garlic shoots are emerging from the soil, having been planted in October/November. Isn't nature wonderful and all taken for granted.

By the time that you get this edition of the magazine, vegetable growers on allotments and gardens will have already started planting (frosty weather of course may make it impossible). Broad beans, peas, radishes and turnips can be sown under cloches. The month of February, if the weather is kind, is the time that I plant my shallots on the plot and they don't require a lot of attention. Just make sure the bed is kept weed free and push back any sets that have been lifted by either birds or frost. All being well you should have superb homemade crunchy pickled shallots to last you until next year. Onion sets are planted about a month later, but for exhibiting I plant onion seeds in the greenhouse in January.

This is also the month to buy your seed potatoes and quality is better than quantity. Do not use any soft or diseased ones and large ones should not be cut in half. There are three varieties; first early, second early and maincrop.

Set out the potatoes in trays, I find empty egg cartons very efficient, with the eyed ends pointing upwards. Keep them in a frost free and light place until you have several sturdy shoots present (ideally half an inch

to an inch long).

First earlies are planted late March, second earlies planted mid-April and maincrop mid to late April. Believe me, digging up your early potatoes in June/July is a real treat, and with a knob of butter you can't beat the taste, and what price would you pay in the shops?

We all say that Ivinghoe is a lovely place to live and who would disagree? But we all have our little bit to do in order to keep it lovely, clean and tidy. Pat Roach does an excellent job in clearing rubbish from our streets and the lawn, but another centre piece in our village is the church cemetery. John Groom cuts the main grass area regularly, but his machines cannot go in and around the gravestones. For the past two years a handful of us together with Russell, Rachel and the scouts have been busy strimming around the gravestones and generously tidying up.

We all have busy lives, and a few extra volunteers with or without strimmer's would be appreciated. It is only for about one hour a month for five months or so. I know that there are about eight strimmer's on the allotment site, so come on and do your little bit for the village! If you work really hard, Louise Emlyn Jones will reward you with a cup of coffee, or a cold drink when it is hot and sunny and you get a chocolate digestive, what more could you ask for?!

If you would like to help then please contact Louise on **669202**, it would be very much appreciated.

Now that the 'ho ho ho' season has been and gone, we can look forward to the 'hoe hoe hoe' season!

**Ernie Jones**, Allotmenteer



## ST. MARY'S CHURCH PITSTONE

**We will soon be compiling a list of people to act as stewards when Pitstone Church is open on Sunday afternoons during the Summer months. We are looking for two or three new volunteers for this year so if you feel you would like to spend a peaceful afternoon enjoying the tranquillity of the church and church yard please let Gill Arney know, Tel: 668123.**

**There is a vigorous debate going on with the Conservation Trust as to whether the church should be opened more often. At present anyone who would like to visit the church when it is closed can obtain the key from the Old School at the corner of Church Road Pitstone. Call: 661968 before you go.**

**The church yard is full of lovely wild flowers in the Spring, so even if the church is shut it is well worth a visit .**

## Tales from the compost heap or, how to turn trees green again!

The 12 days of Christmas have drawn to a close; and across the country an estimated 6 to 8 million Christmas trees have had their moment of glory in the sitting room, and been discarded. Some will be fly-tipped or sent to landfill, while others (luckily a growing number) will be chewed up by a machine and spat out as wood chips – ultimately to benefit gardens as a weed suppressant or soil improver.

Whilst I do not recommend that the average householder should attempt to cram their tree into their compost bin, there are ways in which we can turn at least some of the avalanche of paper and cardboard that engulfs our homes at Christmas into something that helps the environment. And it is the compost heap that performs this transformation.

Paper, as we know, comes from tree fibre, and the process of composting causes it to revert to something like its natural state. Some types of shiny,

highly-coloured or plastic coated paper are not suitable, so it's probably best to recycle your Christmas cards another way; but newspaper, standard copy and printing paper, and cardboard will all work a treat in your heap, once suitably shredded or crumpled. Mix the paper in with your usual compost material on a 50:50 basis, keep it slightly damp, and turn it from time to time if you can.

Your reward will be a balanced heap that, with a little attention, will yield good compost for your garden. And the satisfaction of knowing that those ripped-up bank statements have not only not fallen into the wrong hands, but are helping your onions to flourish.

Of course, this is something we can be doing all year round. Because composting is for life, not just for Christmas.

**Barbara Cummings**

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



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## Brookmead School children continue to blossom

The spring term looks to be a busy one; with some children travelling into space, others will be learning about the Great Fire of London, some will be getting to grips with life in ancient Greece, whilst others explore conditions in the rain forests.

All this learning is being brought to life whilst the building upgrade is completed including; nine fully refurbished classrooms, a new hall and library (with fabulous new books), and we will let you know in due course what our plans are for showing off all our new learning spaces.


With help from the community and our parents, we will have also completed the clearance of the Brook in preparation for an additional outdoor learning space that will become an integral part of our successful Forest School, which is now firmly established as one of our Brookmead treasures, where our children can

explore and have experiences that a class-room setting cannot offer.

There are a number of new opportunities for parents and the community to participate in our new Energy Club and Flametree after school drama club, details of which can be obtained from the Mrs Kerr at the school office on **01296 668543**.

We have a governor vacancy too, and would be keen to hear from you if you have particular skills that you are able to offer. Please contact the chair of governors, Elizabeth Young via the school office: **office@brookmead.bucks.sch.uk**. Equally, your feedback and questions are always welcome and can be sent to the same address.

**Mary Tebje**  
Governor, Brookmead School



**Brookmead School**  
Headteacher: Katherine Douglas

**Bringing Learning to Life and Life to Learning**

Our school is located in the beautiful Chiltern hills, which is something to be celebrated and shared. Established in 1967, Brookmead School provides a happy and stimulating environment that promotes an enjoyment and love of learning. We aim to enable all our children to reach their full potential, both as learners and as valuable members of our school and wider community.

Brookmead School is a Foundation Primary School for children aged 4 - 11 and serves the communities of Ivinghoe, Pitstone (including Castlemead) and Marsworth.

For further information or to arrange a visit please contact Mrs Kerr on 01296 668543 or email [office@brookmead.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@brookmead.bucks.sch.uk).

Brookmead School, High Street, Ivinghoe, LU7 9EX  
[www.brookmead.bucks.sch.uk](http://www.brookmead.bucks.sch.uk)

## Pitstone & Ivinghoe Baby & Toddler Group

Pitstone and Ivinghoe Baby and Toddler Group ended 2013 in style with a Christmas themed party. We even had a visit from Father Christmas which was met with mixed emotions from the children! Many thanks to Sarah Ella who gave up her time to come and take photos of the children meeting Santa and whether smiles or tears, they were moments to remember forever. Thanks too to Debbie Bolam who came and ran a Melody Movement session with the children at the party.

We also held a fun Halloween session at the end of October, just before we broke up for half term. Many of the children dressed up in costumes and they enjoyed spooky food at snack time including marshmallow ghosts, skeleton biscuits and bat biscuits. They also enjoyed Halloween crafts and games. Instead of apple bobbing, the children enjoyed trying to eat brioche hanging down on strings!

Other activities for last term included a photographic session by Carrie where parents had the opportunity to have photos taken of their children. We made sure messy play wasn't too messy that day! Our regular hairdresser, Lara came too, cutting the children's hair in a fun environment.

Everyone enjoyed tractor rides to see the Windmill during harvest celebrations, played with space rockets for National Space Week and made matchmaker fireworks and heard popping 'firework' popcorn for bonfire night celebrations.

At the end of last term we unfortunately had to say a sad farewell to a number of previous committee members as they

hand over their roles as their children have grown too old for toddler group. We want to say a big thank you to Julie Every, Clare Cleland and Jo Lucas who have already left a big hole at toddlers and will be a hard act to follow. The group has gone from strength to strength over the past few years particularly because of Julie and her team's hard work and enthusiasm and I know every member of the group will be sorry to see them go.

We have held our first committee meeting of the New Year and we're raring to go for the new term. We'll be trying our best to continue the great work of the previous committee. We are always looking for input from the wider community so if you are able to come and lend a hand helping us to set up or clear away or do some washing up we would love to hear from you. Also if you run a business that would appeal to our children, how about running a free taster session at our group? If this is something that interests you, please contact us.

We have welcomed a lot of new mums and carers to our group recently. If you were in any doubt as to the existence of a baby boom, you just need to see our thriving baby area! We look forward to these babies growing and developing at the group as they become toddlers and then preschoolers (we hope they don't grow up too fast though!).

There are some great activities planned for the coming weeks including lots of messy play – where better to let your children get messy than in the Memorial Hall rather than at home! The children ►

will be celebrating Chinese New Year as we enter the year of the horse in our 29th Jan session and Valentine's Day in our 12th Feb session with lots of themed craft and play. Lara the hairdresser will also be coming each term to toddler group as an easy way to get your child's hair cut.

### About the group

The baby and toddler group is an integral part of life in the village and offers a wonderful opportunity for parents, grandparents and carers to meet and enjoy a cuppa together. There have been some good friendships formed amongst both the parents and our younger members. Many of the children form friendships with those they later go to pre-school and then school with therefore helping them settle into their new environments happily.

Each week we offer art, craft and messy play activities which allow the children to express themselves creatively. Our toddlers have access to a range of toys and activities such as dressing up,

train tracks, slides, trikes, trampolines etc. We are able to alternate these toys to keep everyone happy and entertained.

There is a safe soft area with a wide variety of toys for babies to explore and have fun with until they are ready to venture out into the larger area of the hall.

A snack and drink is provided for the children and tea, coffee, biscuits (sometimes cake!) for the adults at no extra cost.

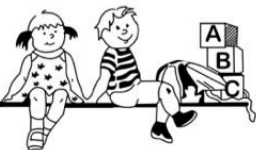
The sessions either end with a story time or sing along session, which the children really love.

**Our group runs every Wednesday during term time between 1.15 – 3.00pm in the Main Hall at Pitstone Memorial Hall, £2 per family per session (your first session is free).**

For more information we use our facebook page to keep everyone up to date. Search for the group and you can request to join. **Facebook:** Pitstone and Ivinghoe baby and toddler group

**Katrina Blunt** Committee Member

## Marsworth Pre School



Marsworth Millennium Hall, Vicarage Road, Marsworth HP23 4LR  
Tel: 07506 179658 Email: [enquiries@marsworthpreschool.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@marsworthpreschool.org.uk)

Marsworth Pre-School, held at Marsworth Millennium Hall, is a very popular village pre-school with an outstanding reputation, attracting children from a wide area.

Sessions available for ages 2 to 5 years, **FULL** or **PART** days:-

**Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday**

**Morning Session:- 9.00am - 11.30am**

**Lunch Club:- 11.30am - 12.30pm**

**Afternoon Session:- 12.30pm - 3.00pm**

For further information, details of funding, session availability or to arrange a visit, please call 07506 179658 or visit our website  
[www.marsworthpreschool.org.uk](http://www.marsworthpreschool.org.uk)

## A call for Help

**H**ello let me introduce myself. My name is Keith Steers and I am the New Group Scout Leader for 1st Ivinghoe & Pitstone scout group.

We are currently looking to recruit new leaders for both our Cub and Scout sections and also our Executive committee, so we thought who better to tell you about the roles than the leaders themselves. So this is what they had to say.

### Beaver Scouts is for all Children aged 5 up to 8

**So what do Beaver Scouts Do?** Well the Scout website tells us this:

We are the UK's biggest mixed youth organisation. We change lives by offering 6- to 25-year-olds fun and challenging activities, unique experiences, everyday adventure and the chance to help others so that we make a positive impact in communities.

That's a pretty good summary actually, certainly describes what Ivinghoe and Pitstone Beavers have been up to in the past 18 months. We've visited Fire Stations, had Police Officers visit us in the hut, been on a Canal Boat, had Red Indian themed sleepovers, and been on climbing walls, wooden sled runs, obstacle courses and crate stacking. We always Hike at least once a term, sometimes in the dark and sometimes in the snow. We've conducted Tree Safari's at Ashridge where we identified 12 different tree species and grown Hyacinths for Christmas. We play lots of different games, challenging the Beavers to learn new skills, work as a team and think of and help others. We take part



in District events like Orienteering at Wendover, Swimming Galas, Christmas Parties and going to Warwick Castle to name a few, Beavers meet other Beavers from around the area at these events and make new friends. And this is just a few of things we do.

Of course none of this is possible without the Adult Leader volunteers, and I joined Scouting in July 2012 to support my Children who were Beavers at the time. When I first started I was showered with support and training to get me on my way and running (hopefully) a happy and successful Beaver Colony. I can honestly say I've enjoyed every single minute I've spent with the Beaver Colony and I've learnt an enormous amount. It's so much fun, I now volunteer and help out at I&P Camps whenever I can.

### Andy Broad

Beaver Scout Leader, I&P Scouts

### Cub Scouts is for all Children aged 8 up to 10

"There's never a dull moment being a cub leader! When I took on the role nearly 4 years ago, I had no background in cubs and only managed being a brownie for a year or so, but that didn't seem to matter. There's lots of support from the other leaders and from the. ▶

Scouting organisation. It's great to see the cubs enjoying themselves and being challenged to do something new from time to time. Same for me too! We've tried some tricky crafts such as making snow shoes from willow, dying cloth using natural dyes, cooking welsh cakes on a camp fire to name just a few. Trips feature highly on our programme with recent visits to a mosque in Luton and an observatory on the other side of Aylesbury, as well as a guided tour of the London Gliding Club airfield. The highlights of our year are the camps. There are a number of scout camps near us and most offer organised activities such as archery, climbing, pioneering, with some water camps involving sailing and canoeing. As leaders we even get to have a go from time to time – preferably not when the cubs are watching as they're often better at it than us! It can be hard work now and again but it's really worthwhile and there are loads of ways to get involved. Don't be shy give us a call."

**Andrea Squires** Cub Leader.

### Scouts is for all Children aged 10 up to 14.

'It's really rewarding being a scout leader. You get to work with a broad range of ages (from 10 – 14) and this can often be challenging. However, young people are very creative and great fun. We tend to spend as much time outside as we can; camping, cooking and exploring in all weathers. You really get out of it what you put in and the skills you can learn are almost endless. It's also a great excuse to do all the things you've always wanted to do like: sleep

in a hammock or in Tring Museum, hold a Fish eagle. travel the world, cook with King's Head chefs and to learn how to MOT a car. There is no point in moaning about the 'youth of today'. This is your opportunity to interact with them and help them to become a valuable part of our community.'

**Russell, Rachel and Tony**

1st Ivinghoe & Pitstone Scouts

### The Group Executive Committee.

Meet on average four times a year and their role is to support the Group Scout Leader on meeting the responsibilities of their appointments.

Included within these are the following: Chair person / Secretary / Treasurer, Parents and supporters of our Scout Group.

- The maintenance of the Groups property and equipment.
- The raising of funds and the administration of the groups finances.
- The insurance of persons, property and equipment.
- The organisation of Group public occasions.
- Assisting with the recruitment of leaders and other adult support.

If you are interested in finding out anymore about any of these positions or would like to go along and see for yourself

What we get up to, please give me a call or email me for more information.

**Keith Steers** Group Scout Leader  
**0789-9696722** or **01296-662781**.

Email: **Ksteers@aol.com**

## Windmill Pre-School

It's the beginning of a new calendar year so on behalf of the Voluntary Management Committee and staff at Windmill Pre-School, we wish all our supporters within the local community a very Happy New Year – although by the time you receive this, a slightly belated one! We'd also like to thank you for your continued support as we move forward in to the last two terms of this academic year.

We'd like to welcome all our new parents, carers and children that started this term and hope you enjoy your time at Windmill Pre-School. This term will offer continued opportunities for parents to get involved with their pre-schoolers early education and we've got some great fundraising events planned to help raise additional funds for toys, equipment, games and crafts so we hope parents, friends and family members as well as the local community will continue to support them.

### Changes to opening hours

Due to the demand for places, Windmill Pre-School is now open for five full days and our session times have also changed to accommodate a morning session of three hours and an afternoon session of three hours. Our morning sessions are now 9.00am until midday and the afternoon session is midday until 3.00pm. When places permit, we offer an additional hour to the morning session where children can stay for a Lunch Club, however due to the demand in places, the allocation of Lunch Club sessions changes on a term by term basis.

Because of the continuing development

of Pitstone and the surrounding area, and therefore the ongoing demand for places, we recommend that you put your child on the waiting list well in advance of wanting a place – even if you don't plan to enrol your child until they become funded (the term after they turn three). This will prove favourable when there are children of the same age waiting for a place, especially when places will be offered to those who have been on the waiting list longer, so therefore it is never too early to sign up. Places fill up fast – particularly as we now welcome children from the age of two so to put your child's name on the waiting list, please email: **admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk**

### Changes within the setting

Parents will also have noticed that there have been a lot of significant changes taking place within the setting over the last couple of months. We thank you for your patience and support during the periods of change but please be assured that our 'learning through play' ethos continues to have a positive effect on the children in our care.

If you have any questions relating to any of the changes, please feel free to speak to a member of staff or make an appointment to speak to me or the setting Leader.

### Staff update

In December we were sad to see Sharon Berry leave the setting to pursue other opportunities. We wish her well in all her future endeavours and thank her for the commitment she showed whilst at Windmill Pre-School. Her sunny ►

disposition will certainly be missed by the parents and children. The Voluntary Management Committee is currently going through the recruitment process to find a suitable alternative, however in the meantime, we have appointed an Early Years Consultant to act as Interim Leader. She is being supported by Joe Coleman as our Co-Deputy Leader and newly promoted Co-Deputy Tracey Spivey, the staff and the Voluntary Management Committee. We are positive that in the next edition of the PPP, we will be able to announce the appointment of our new Leader.

### Fundraising and Events

At the end of the last term we staged our annual Christmas performance. The children performed brilliantly and everyone that came to watch thoroughly enjoyed the show. Thank you to staff from the local Sure Start Centre for providing festive crafts that kept the children occupied once the performance was finished until they had their turn to visit Father Christmas in his grotto. We also had a professional face painter that created lots of festive faces and the Voluntary Management Committee put on a great spread of festive refreshments and a Christmas raffle. Thanks to everyone's support and generous donations, we raised a great amount of money that will benefit each and every one of our pre-schoolers.

During the rest of the year, we have some great events planned, which we hope you will support us with:

- **February:** Textile recycling
- **May:** Family photography session with Photography by Carrie / Quiz Night
- **June:** Ivinghoe church fete / annual

sponsored walk around the villages

- **July:** Textile Recycling

Most of our events are open to everyone, so not just parents with children at Windmill and we hope that we can count on your continued support throughout the year. Keep an eye out on our website for more information.

### Getting involved

Part of our success as a pre-school is the role the parents play within the setting. We currently have a small number of enthusiastic volunteers that come in and help out. This can involve helping with crafts and messy play, reading stories, baking or helping with tidying and clearing up at the end of a session. We would like to invite members of the local community (you don't have to be a parent of a child currently attending, but you would need to undergo a CRB equivalent check if you volunteer on a regular basis), who is able to spare a couple of hours – either on a regular basis or an ad hoc basis, to get in touch by emailing:

**admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk**

We also welcome dads, or people with interesting jobs to come in and get involved. So if you are good at sport, or are a fire fighter or you work in the police, maybe even a doctor, nurse or dentist and could spare some time to come in and talk about your job the children would love to meet you so please do get in touch.

### Join the team

Windmill Pre-School run by a voluntary Management Committee, mainly consisting of parents of Windmill pre-schoolers, but also members

of the local community. Members of the elected Committee are the Trustees of the Charity and are responsible for all decision making relating to the running of the Pre-school. Some of the activities we are involved in include strategic management of the setting, e.g. staffing, premises, equipment and hours of opening, grant applications, funding, marketing, PR and administration. Without this dedicated team, our pre-school would not be able to run.

We have vacancies for general committee members - enthusiastic individuals, who are able to spare a little time each month. Being a member of the Committee is an extremely

worthwhile activity, enabling parents to have some influence over their child's early years' education, and also allows local people the opportunity to get involved in a focal point within the community. Both have a real and positive impact on the way in which Pre-school is run. We are a friendly group and we meet the first Tuesday of each month in the evening and we also have regular staff and Committee social events! If you are interested in joining our team, please get in contact.

**Gail Dodsworth**

Chair, Voluntary Management Committee

## Give your child an outstanding start

Windmill Pre-School in Ivinghoe is rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted making us one of the top pre-schools nationally and highest rated locally

*"Children make excellent progress in all areas of their learning and development because staff plan an outstanding range of activities..."*

*"Children have fun and are purposefully engaged in all areas of this dynamic setting. They make excellent progress as staff recognise them as unique individuals..."*

Source: Ofsted report June 2011

**Morning session:** 9am-12pm  
**Lunch club:** 12pm-1pm  
**Afternoon session:** 1pm-3pm

From January 2014 we will be open 5 full days per week

We welcome all children between 2 and 5 years from Pitstone, Ivinghoe & surrounding areas to our purpose-built premises behind Brookmead School

### IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD

For further info and to arrange a visit for you and your child please contact us: admin@windmillpreschool.co.uk or 01296 661031 (during sessions)

Registered Charity No. 1032380 **www.windmillpreschool.co.uk**



# Explore intriguing Chilterns attractions and opulent historic houses this spring

**D**ue to the proximity to London, the great, the good and the not-so-good have all made their homes in the Chilterns. Some of their finest houses are now in the care of the National Trust, whilst others are in private hands.

## Here are our top 10 Chilterns favourites:

### 1. Cliveden

The Profumo affair – 50 years on. In 1963 the Profumo Affair scandalised the nation and Cliveden hit the headlines as the place where John Profumo first met Christine Keeler. Now a luxury hotel, this is a rare chance to visit inside the house to see the private rooms and pool that are not usually open to non-residents. The gardens and woodland trails are open all year.

### 2. Milton's Cottage

Milton's Cottage is the only extant home of John Milton, the great English poet and parliamentarian. It was in this grade 1 listed 16th century cottage, described by Thomas Ellwood as "that pretty box in Giles, Chalfont", that Milton completed *Paradise Lost*, and the idea of *Paradise Regained* was put to him. Complete with cottage garden, this really is a Chilterns gem.

The cottage is open daily from 1st March to 31st October, Tuesday to Sunday inclusive. Admission charges apply.

### 3. Greys Court

The Brunner family lived at 16th-century Grey's Court until quite recently, when the National Trust took over the management. The estate is tucked away in a tranquil Chilterns valley with a series of courtyard gardens and longer walks around the Estate. The house still exudes a welcoming atmosphere, with a well-stocked kitchen and homely living rooms. The series of walled gardens is a colourful patchwork of interest set amid medieval ruins, which made it the perfect location for another family picnic – for members of the Crawley family in the new series of *Downton Abbey*.

### 4. Chenies Manor House

In 1285, during the visit to Chenies of Edward I, the earliest occurrence is recorded of eggs being cooked and given to the villagers to celebrate Easter. Such are the quirky traditions at the lovely Chenies Manor, located in the picturesque Chilterns village of Chenies. Henry VIII and Elizabeth I both visited and it is where Catherine Howard carried on the fatal dalliance with her lover Thomas Culpepper. Now much used for filming, the MacLeod Matthews family home and gardens are a gem. April – October on Wednesdays, Thursday and Bank Holiday Monday's open from 2 – 5pm.

**5. Lacey Green Smock Mill**, so-called for its resemblance to a traditional farmer's smock. It stands on the

escarpment of the Chiltern Hills, near Princes Risborough and halfway between High Wycombe and Aylesbury. It has been restored by the Chilterns Society to preserve its unique wooden machinery, which probably dates from around 1650, making this the oldest smock windmill in the country. Open from Sunday May 5th between 2 – 5 pm on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

### 6. Chilterns Open Air Museum

Like a doorway into another world, the beautiful collection of restored historic buildings include the Thame Vicarage Room, High Wycombe Toll House, Shepard's Living Van and Iron Age house all to be explored around the museum site. Admission charges apply. Doors open for the season on March 29th.

### 7. Ashridge House

Now a prestigious management school located in the lovely Ashridge Forest, Ashridge House and gardens will have limited opening during March, April and August. There is plenty to see including; the house where guided tours will be available and includes access to the Humphry Repton-designed gardens that have been extensively restored.

Ashridge House and Gardens are open for guided tours during April and August. (excludes Bank Holidays)

### 8. Natural History Museum Tring

This branch of the Natural History Museum in London was formally known as the Zoological Museum and the founder, Lionel Walter Rothschild, born into an international financial dynasty, was destined to be famed as a zoologist and collector rather than a banker. From

the cassowary to the zebra, he was fascinated by animals and dedicated his life to studying zoology. He also kept an interesting variety of live animals in the grounds of the museum and in neighbouring Tring Park. The collection is still housed in the original museum, full of Victorian charm and can be visited all year round. Free.

### 9. Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre

When he was alive, the postman would deliver up to 4,000 letters from his fans every week. Possibly the greatest of Chilterns' sons, the lovely Chilterns town of Great Missenden was home to Roald Dahl for 36 years. He used the landscape to draw inspiration for some of his stories including; the Matilda and the BFG. The museum and story centre are open all year. Admission charges apply

### 10. Berkhamsted Castle.

It all began with the Duke of Normandy, who having defeated king Harold at the battle of Hastings in 1066, pillaged his way through southern England until he reached Berkhamsted. Here he was met by the local bigwigs who swore allegiance and offered him the crown. The offer was accepted and William was crowned king on Christmas day in 1066. One of England's oldest motte and bailey castles is free to explore, and can be found adjacent to Berkhamsted station.

Information on these and other Chilterns adventures can be found on [VisitChilterns.co.uk](http://VisitChilterns.co.uk) and [@VisitChilterns](https://www.instagram.com/VisitChilterns)

# Ashridge Spring News...



Spring is on the way and the gardening year will soon begin again. Once you have taken the first faltering steps towards reacquainting yourself with the beds and borders, you might find time to think about what to do with any unwanted plants or surplus stock available from your garden. If you do have plants to spare, The Friends of Ashridge Estate would love to hear from you!

The National Trust at Ashridge is holding its annual Spring Plant Fair on 11 May 2014, 11am till 4pm and sells donated plants from the public to raise money exclusively for the upkeep of the Ashridge Estate and maintenance of the mobility vehicles, access paths etc. The volunteer organisers would be happy to receive any number or variety of plants - most commonly we receive perennials, grasses, shrubs, and vegetables prove especially popular. We ask that the plants come labelled, noting the colour of the bloom if ornamental.

The event is run entirely by volunteers, and is able to raise thousands in funds for essential works at Ashridge and

the upkeep of the estate. Ashridge is ours and for everyone and needs to be continually nurtured with the right resources to ensure that enjoyment of such a beautiful, ancient site of natural woodland is preserved for future generations. Please come along and contribute to the annual Spring Plant Fair!

Many individual commercial nurseries support the event and set up stall too. They will be open for business and come from local areas, representing all three counties in which Ashridge is situated. They will be selling unusual hardy perennials, border plants, roses, herbs and more. Please come early as queues form. The fair is situated at the top of Monument Drive.

To donate any plants, find out further information, or if you require assistance in potting up any surplus material, please contact John Cartwright on **01442 864 984**. Last date for plant donations is 4th May 2014. Pots and compost can be provided.

**Lauren Wise**

## Ashridge Spring dates 2014

### We're open!

Don't forget the Visitor Centre re-opens on Saturday 15th February. Come up and see us and enjoy a nice walk followed by a look round our National Trust shop and a nice cup of tea and a slice of cake.

### Book Fair Saturday 10th May

We are planning a Book Fair to be held at the Visitor Centre on 10th May at which we will be selling all the rare, antique and collectable books that have been donated over the last few years. We will also have an extensive selection of paperbacks and hardbacks to purchase.

We are also inviting a limited number of people to have their own book stalls. If you would be interested in booking a book stall of your own please contact **[lauran.wise@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:lauran.wise@nationaltrust.org.uk)** all stall booking need to be in by 28th February 2014.

Don't forget if you have any second hand books you would like to donate we would be happy to receive them, just drop them up to the Visitor Centre. Thank you.

### Filming at Ashridge

Do you ever find yourself watching telly and suddenly you think 'hang on a minute I know that view?!' You're probably right. Filming provides an important but sporadic income to the Estate. We have had some exciting filming projects over the last year with the biggest being Disney's Maleficent which filmed for a few weeks last summer. So far this year we have had the second series of meet the hounds and a Santander commercial.

When film crews approach us, the estate staff carefully consider proposals and decide whether or not they can be accommodated. Our commitment to visitor access, nature conservation and archaeology comes first but with careful management by staff, income from filming enables us to channel more resources into the conservation of the Ashridge Estate.

### We have a new season of exciting events lined up including:

#### Cadbury Easter Egg Trail:

**Fri 18th – Mon 21st April 10 – 4pm**

Put on your wellies and join us for our annual Easter Egg Trail. Follow the trail through the woods and answer questions along the way to earn your chocolate reward! £2.50 per child.

#### Dawn Chorus: Sat 26th April or Sat 3rd May 5am – 7am

Yes, we know it's early! But getting up to experience the dawn chorus should be on everyone's list of things to do. As a reward for your early start we will provide you with a cup of tea and a bacon sandwich at the end of the walk. £15 per adult, £10 for children.

#### Spring Trail: 15th Feb – 30th May, £1 per child

Pick up your copy of the trail from the Visitor Centre to help you look for the first signs of Spring at Ashridge and complete some of the 50 things to do before you're 11 ¾ along the way!

For our full list of events please visit **[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge)**

# Hold a **Fish and Chip Supper**

To help spinal cord injured people rebuild lives after injury.

**Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 16th May 2014**

**W**ant to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 16th May 2014 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's vital services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 8 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £40.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

In 2014 SIA is celebrating its 40th anniversary and so we want to make the batter matter and raise £25,000 from everyone holding suppers. Last year we raised £12,500 from the suppers.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to rebuild lives after spinal cord injury.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord

injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Manager, Elizabeth Wright, says, "The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on **0845 071 4350** or email **fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk** or visit **www.siafishandchips.co.uk**



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# Hospice charity helps keep fitness goals on track...



Rennie Grove Hospice Care is offering a full programme of sponsored events in 2014 to help keep everyone's fitness goals on track while raising vital money for the work it does in the local community for patients with cancer and other life-limiting illness.

Events Manager, Ruth Barber, says: "We all start out the New Year with the best of intentions with regard to fitness but with many cold days and long winter nights still in front of us, it is sometimes really hard to keep that initial motivation going. By committing to taking part in one or more of our events throughout the year, you'll get a focus for your fitness goals and a having a date to work towards will help you stay motivated. It's also proven that taking part with other people can help keep you on track, so why not sign up with friends, family members and colleagues – the more the merrier!"

The charity offers a range of different events, catering for those new to fitness as well as committed enthusiasts:

"Our events are designed to have a wide appeal and many have a choice of routes so you can pitch your participation at the right level. You can even use them as training for a bigger personal goal like climbing a mountain or maybe just looking good on the beach!"

The fact that by taking part you are raising money for local patients with cancer and other life-limiting illness is an added incentive. Ruth explains:

"So many of our participants have told me what a help it is when the going gets tough to know that all their efforts are helping other people. It really helps you stick at it – and it's an added bonus that your fundraising also gives you something else to do when the biscuit tin beckons.

"We know that not everyone is comfortable with asking for sponsorship all the time from friends and family, especially if you do take part in a lot of events, but there are plenty of other ways to raise money too. You could bake cakes and sell them at work, offer to wash cars in exchange for a donation or even have a sweepstake on how long it will take you to finish your event – the possibilities are endless and we're always on hand to help if the ideas run out!"

To view a listing of our events please go to

[www.renniegrove.org/activeevents](http://www.renniegrove.org/activeevents)

For further information on our events programme or fundraising, please contact the Events Team on:

**01442 890222** or email them on [fundraising@renniegrove.org](mailto:fundraising@renniegrove.org)



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Tuesday	6.00 pm	Low Impact class @ Wilstone Village Hall
Wednesday	9.30 am	Wilstone Village Hall
	7.30 pm	Pitstone Memorial Hall
Thursday	9.45 am	Low Impact class @ Wilstone Village Hall
Friday	9.45 am	Wilstone Village Hall

Pastor Dave Clifford

01296 668906 07737 360183

Tel:- 01296 668906 Mob:- 07737 360183

Email: davidclifford964@btinternet.com



## Pitstone Car Scheme



**DO YOU** have difficulty travelling to hospital or other healthcare appointments?

**CAN WE** help?

Pitstone Community Car Scheme is a new scheme offering a service for residents who have difficulty travelling to healthcare appointments.

The scheme is run by volunteers who use their own cars to drive residents to local hospitals or other healthcare appointments (for example, the opticians, dentist or physiotherapist).

There is a small charge for the service to cover the volunteer's petrol and car parking expenses. To make it easier, a set tariff has been worked out in advance for typical journeys to local hospitals. If you need to access healthcare in another town, eg Hemel Hempstead, the cost will be advised at the time of booking the trip.

Example costs (excluding car parking):

DESTINATION	COST £
TRING	£3.00
STOKE MANDEVILLE	£7.00
CHESHAM	£6.50
L & D HOSPITAL	£7.00
AMERSHAM	£8.50
HIGH WYCOMBE	£14.00
JOHN RADCLIFFE	£17.50
NUFFIELD, OXFORD	£17.50

**DRIVERS  
NEEDED!**

In some circumstances, we may be able to undertake hospital trips to the John Radcliffe or Nuffield hospitals. Please contact the number below if you are having difficulty accessing transport to these hospitals.

The volunteer will usually wait while the appointment is taking place, and then take the resident home. However, there may be circumstances where the return trip is much later or another day. In this case, each journey will be classed as return – as the volunteer will need to return to Pitstone using their own vehicle and petrol.

These charges are exceptionally good. The trips are being undertaken by volunteers so, at present, these cannot be extended to include appointments other than healthcare. Also, there is no guarantee of an available volunteer driver, but we will do all we can with the volunteer resources we have. Please give as much notice as you can.

If you have difficulty travelling and would like to use this service to help you get to a hospital or other healthcare appointment, please telephone

Dave Clifford on 01296 668906.

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# Ivinghoe Beacon January 2014

I am writing this on 17th January, so not too late for New Year greetings – even though it feels to me as if a whole month's work has been squeezed in to the last ten days and the holiday is far away.

## District Local Plan

So far AVDC has spent going on for £3M bringing forward two new district wide plans to replace the one covering 2004-11. Both have had to be withdrawn as unsound following public enquiry. A special Council has been called by my group to ask the cabinet to account for this.

The latest failure, announced in the second week of January, was because the enquiry concluded there were inadequate housing numbers and jobs to meet the future needs of the District, and that AVDC had acted in isolation, with insufficient co-operation with neighbouring authorities such as Milton Keynes, Luton and Leighton Buzzard.

One of the fundamental problems with the plan was that early on in the process a highly contested decision was made, probably on political grounds, to one development away from the south of Aylesbury, near Stoke Mandeville and Weston Turville, and re-site it to the east, near Bierton. Later on the proposed total housing numbers were halved.

As a result of the first plan being rejected many speculative applications have been submitted for huge developments in Aylesbury Vale.

The District has 'saved' its most important policies from the 2008-11 plan and is able to apply them to planning

applications so long as they are in line with the new 56 pages of national planning policy guidance (NPPG).

Saved Policy RA14 has previously been upheld twice in appeals relating to land at Rushendon Furlong. It remains to be tested as to whether it is in line with the NPPG or not. A similar planning application in Winslow is coming to committee on January 29th, which will indicate how strong RA 14 remains.

*RA.14 On the edge of the built-up areas of settlements listed in Appendix 4 of the Plan permission may be granted for residential or mixed-use development of up to 5 dwellings on a site not exceeding 0.2 ha where:*

- a) the site is substantially enclosed by existing development*
- b) the proposal would satisfactorily complete the settlement pattern without intruding into the countryside; and*
- c) the proposal does not comprise the partial development of a larger site.*

*Proposals should use land efficiently and create a well-defined boundary between the settlement and the countryside. Permission will not be granted for development that impairs the character or identity of the settlement or the adjoining rural area.*

## County Council Budget

The County Council continues to take large sums of money out of its operating budget. In the first week of January the proposals were minutely examined in public by councillors in a very similar fashion to the Parliamentary Public

Accounts Committee. But questioning was a bit less intimidating.

Many changes and staff reductions are proposed, but the headlines for cuts are the home to school transport budget, which is very bad news for parents in this area, so I will be doing my utmost to stave off the worst effects; the educational psychology services – again; and maintenance of footpaths and rights of way.

The state of the roads is never out of sight, but a 20 year structural maintenance programme seems as far away as ever, and only short term but increased spending approved.

At the time of writing the council tax proposal is for the minimum increase possible without a local referendum, 1.9%. But it's impossible to predict as the threshold for a referendum may be reduced to 1%.

## High speed broadband (non)delivery

The BT anticipation (*promise?*) of high speed broadband to Pitstone and not-quite-so-fast to Ivinghoe by 31st December 2013 remains unfulfilled. Contention is still appalling at peak times, like 4.30pm and 6.55pm for some reason. The new published date is 31st March.



**Avril Davies**

County and District Councillor  
<http://avrildavies.mycouncillor.org>



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## Have your voice heard...

**M**uch of my time as your Councillor is taken up with planning matters. I wanted to take this opportunity to explain just what is and what is not possible for me to do.

My role as your representative on AVDC is primarily to ensure that you have ample opportunity to have your voice heard. Of course this is your democratic right as a taxpayer and I am only too happy to facilitate this. Planning is the most emotive subject we have to deal with. There are nearly always two opposing sides to any application and my role is not necessarily to take one view or the other. In the three years I have been your representative I have attended many planning meetings and it is for many a most frustrating process.

At the application stage two sides explain their case and a council employee takes a view. Primarily that view will be, for us in our part of the Vale at least, to prevent inappropriate development in the countryside. There is now however a new directive from central government which gives added weight to "sustainable" new development. We are after all suffering a serious shortage of new build housing in the country as a whole. This should not of course be at the expense of developing "green field" sites. The Council has recently submitted a plan which gives their view of development over the next twenty years. Sadly, like half of all councils' in the country, this plan has been rejected by the planning inspector. It should have no effect for us in our area but instead mean an increase in proposed development in and around the major settlements such as Aylesbury and Buckingham.

Ivinghoe as a parish has proposed in any case very little new housing allocation.

This does not mean however that new development will not take place. Whilst the planned development has been rejected there is the real possibility that "speculative" development could take place. A decision could be reasonably argued that the lack of any such plan gives the green light for new building outside of that plan. The whole process is really up for interpretation at the moment.

If a new development is proposed and you have a view then I want to hear it. I can ask for any decision, be it for or against, to be heard by a committee of other Councillors to consider its merits. I do not have the power to make or influence any decision over and above anyone else. I have though the facility to ensure scrutiny of any decision by members of the Council.

There was in 2012 a BBC documentary series which followed various council committees entitled **"The Planners"**. This was an excellent series of programmes which covered the work of council planners, local members and the public during various applications around the British Isles. Sadly this is not available on iPlayer at present but it is on **YouTube** and a new series is planned. I cannot recommend this highly enough.

I hope that this brief overview of what happens when either you or a near neighbour submits a planning application will encourage your engagement in the process. I am here to help and will do what I can to facilitate your rights as a resident in the Vale of Aylesbury.

My contact details are contained within this publication and I am only too pleased to hear from you.

**Chris Poll** District Councillor Ivinghoe Aston

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# Your local Councillors:

## Cllr Karen Groom

Chair of Ivinghoe Parish Council  
Planning & Liaison Cllr for:  
Ivinghoe Library, National Trust  
and Windmill, Thames Valley  
Police and Local Area Forum  
Add: Willowdene Farm  
Ivinghoe LU7 9EA  
Tel: 01296 668 326  
Email: karenroom@hotmail.co.uk



## Cllr Gloria Snowdon

Footpaths and Bridleways  
Allotments, Ivinghoe Lawn, Trees  
and Streetlights  
Liaison Cllr for: Chiltern Society,  
Beacon Villages Society  
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Tel: 07946 884 416



## Cllr Christabel Boersma

Vice Chair Ivinghoe Parish Council  
Streetlights and Highways  
Planning  
Parish Council Website & The  
Beacon Magazine  
Liaison Cllr for: Local Area Forum,  
Beacon Freight Quality Partnership  
Add: The Old Vicarage  
Ivinghoe LU7 9EH  
Tel: 01296 661 532  
Email: christabelboersma@hotmail.com



## Cllr Sheena Bexson

Matters for Ivinghoe Aston  
Planning  
Ivinghoe Aston Recreation Area  
Liaison with Town Hall Committee  
Add: Crabtree Farmhouse  
Ivinghoe Aston LU7 9DP  
Tel: 01525 229 443  
Email: sheenafoy@foyplanning.co.uk



## Cllr Jose Hetherington

Liaison Cllr for: Ivinghoe Library,  
Thames Valley Police  
Add: 17 Wellcroft  
Ivinghoe LU7 9EF  
Tel: 01296 661 510



## Cllr Peter Miles

Ivinghoe Recreation Area  
Ivinghoe Lawn and Trees  
Liaison Cllr for: Ivinghoe Town Hall  
Committee  
Add: 56 Station Road  
Ivinghoe LU7 9EB  
Tel: 01296 668 471



## Cllr Carol Bennitt

Ivinghoe Aston Recreation Area  
Footpaths and Liaison Cllr for:  
Ivinghoe Aston Village Hall  
Add: Beacon Farm Ivinghoe Aston  
Tel: 01525 222 293  
Email: carolbennitt@googlemail.com



## Maxine Hayes

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Add: Holly Villa 31 Princes Street  
Toddington Beds LU5 6ED  
Email: ivinghoeaparishclerk@gmail.com



## Avril Davies

County and District Cllr Ivinghoe  
Division  
Add: The Old Bakehouse  
Chequers Lane Pitstone LU7 9AG  
Tel: 01296 668 152  
Email: acdavies@buckscc.gov.uk



## Chris Poll

District Cllr Eddlesborough Ward  
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or to be added to our emailing list**

**Or pop in and see us**