



Ivinghoe Beacon Magazine

Issue 125 70 pence where sold

Parish Council Chairman attends Royal Garden Party



Inside this Issue:

- James Richards Circus
- News from the Allotment
- Ashridge Ramblings



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 all the distributors across the parish, the Ivinghoe Beacon Magazine wouldn't happen 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!



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BEACON COPY AND ADVERT DEADLINES

We aim to get the magazine distributed around the beginning of every February, May, August and November. To ensure your article or feature makes the edition you would like please see the submission deadlines below:



November 2023 – 28 September 2023
February 2024 Edition – 4 January 2024
May 2024 Edition – 24 March 2024
August 2024 Edition – 24 June 2023

Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the August 2023 issue of the Ivinghoe Beacon Magazine.

Ivinghoe parish is a busy place having recently enjoyed the Ivinghoe fete, Beaconlit Festival and AboveBelow Festival. Filming has been taking place in Great Gap, with two large films being made, filming is due to end shortly and we look forward to the Circus coming to Ivinghoe in September.

Bob Corn and Carol Tarrant Corn



Bob and Carol two very big personalities in our community will sadly be moving away very soon. Bob and Carol have lived in Ivinghoe for many years and during their time here they have been Parish



Karen Groom,
Chair, Ivinghoe
Parish Council

Councillors, Carol started the Beacon Magazine and together with other volunteers they saved Ivinghoe Old School making a village hub a huge achievement that many people have enjoyed. More recently Carol set-up the covid support group helping local residents. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for everything they have done and wish them every happiness in their new home.

Ivinghoe Traffic Calming Project

At the time of writing Buckinghamshire Council have not given us a date for installation, as you may remember this was due to be done last autumn and the delay has been caused by change of contractor at Buckinghamshire Council which is causing frustration for the Parish Council and residents. Ivinghoe Parish Council continues to pressure Buckinghamshire Council to confirm a date.

Trees

Despite the challenging weather the Jubilee Walnut trees in Ivinghoe Aston and Ivinghoe are growing well.



Ivinghoe Town Hall & Beacon Villages Community Library (Charity No. 300287)

Ivinghoe Town Hall – Regular Classes 2023:

Monday: 3.30pm – 6.30pm – **Ballet**
Lisa Sabitini (07834 281434)

Monday: 6.45pm – 9.30pm – **Parish
Council** (First Monday each month)
Bridget Knight (07960 605393)

Tuesday: 10am – 12 noon – **Beacon Art
Group** Marion Jackson (01296 668429)

Tuesday: 6.45pm – 8.15pm – **Zumba**
Carolyn Syme (07941 092673)

Tuesday: 8.15pm – 10.15pm –
New Moon Morris Daryl Jones
(07946 150380)

Wednesday: 9.15am – 10.15am **Pilates**
Andrea Hall (07855 138005)

Thursday: 7.00pm – 10.00pm
W.I. (Second Thursday of each month)
Annette Hutchinson **01296 662165**

Annual Meeting is on **Tuesday
29th August** at **4pm** at the Town Hall.
All welcome

To hire Ivinghoe Town Hall, contact:
Julie Fretwell **07469 016745** or email:
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Our website: **www.ivinghoetownhall.
org.uk** where you can see Hall
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**Police Constable
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**PCSO
Tina Hobson**



**PCSO
Connor Smith**



**PCSO
Megan Dean**

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Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TVPAYlesburyVale



Ivinghoe Old School Community Hub

Looking for a community space?

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

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secretary@ivinghoehub.co.uk





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The vllAge Hack

Ok, so this quarter's news from Ivinghoe Aston is dominated by an issue that affects all of the village in terms of its potential scope and for some residents it is understandably a major concern. I am of course talking about a proposal to build housing in the village.

Planning

Few things raise blood pressure more than plans to build houses in a quiet village location. And one sure way of making your local pub busy is to ask villagers if they would like to attend an open meeting to hear about those plans. So it was that on 14th June we had just such a meeting at The Village Swan and, as sure as night follows day, it was 'standing room only'. Those plans, albeit outline at the time, were proposed by Neil Ashby of Ivinghoe Aston Farm who was asking villagers to view and comment on his proposal.

First, hats off to Neil for arranging the gathering and for sticking his neck out at what was always going to be a lively discussion. I'm not sure any prior development proposals within Ivinghoe Aston have asked for the views of locals. I guess that around 50 to 60 folks squeezed themselves into the pub to hear about the plans.

Very briefly, the scope of the plan is for a development of 21 houses (to include a number of affordable properties), a village hall and a pond/orchard area. The housing is to be built on the field in front of The Village Swan but behind the recreation park.

Aside from Neil and his architect, I guess the room was largely divided into those totally against any development, those concerned about the size of the development and a few observing proceedings. It is undeniably true to say that there were universal concerns over the impact on the village, its local services, the burden of additional traffic (during and after build), its environmental impact and the negative implications for local house values.

After a slow start to proceedings, Neil stood to speak to outline his vision and explain some of the rationale behind his thinking. Of course, few things were greeted with open arms, in fact nothing at all to be honest, but I guess that's not a surprise really. The village as a whole would obviously prefer to keep the status quo. After that the floor was opened up and in a somewhat disorderly fashion, people had the opportunity to ask questions or make comment. Its fair to say that the questioning was at times feisty and occasionally controversial but it raised many valid and relevant points.

Only time will tell if the meeting actually achieved an awful lot. Suffice it to say that at the time of writing (20th June) Neil had thanked everyone for attending via the village Facebook group and asked that any further comments regarding the development be sent via email at: aston.voice.record@gmail.com

Its important to note that at the time of the meeting no formal planning application had been made though this may of course have changed by the time you read this article.

Above Below

In its 3rd year the Above Below festival was held again and for the 3rd year did not have any impact on the village as a whole. Here's to the 4th year and well done the organisers!

Motorbikin'

For those of you that enjoy motorbikes there's a regular bikers meet at The Village Swan (please check their website for future dates). It seems to attract a sizeable group of biking enthusiasts and their machines and is a great sight to see.

Sadly, some of the participants seemed to want to enact some of the lyrics of Chris Spedding's well known song and thought it was OK to look like a 'streak of lightnin' as they headed up the hill out of the village! So after a fair few did just that an old codger took the chance to stroll into the group just to say that their welcome will run thin amongst villagers unless they curb their speed. Happily, they responded well and we will hopefully look forward to more meetings at the pub.

Planning Meeting Revisited

After the initial meeting to discuss Neil Ashby's outline plans a second meeting was arranged at the pub for 26th June which was billed as being for those totally objecting to ANY form of development on the field in front of the pub. I had hoped to sit quietly in the meeting to assist in adding a few words to this article but was turned away even though my views were shared by several who were allowed in. I also subsequently

asked for a little helpful feedback for my piece but that was declined too.

My limited understanding is that it was positive and useful to those at the meeting. Beyond that I have nothing I can add. Its a shame but there it is.

The Quiz

As a footnote its worth pointing out that the monthly quiz night at the pub is quite frankly struggling to survive. The last quiz before the summer period was poorly attended and it will simply fizzle out without your support. So if you want to be able to join in, even if its not every month, then please make the effort to go. Our quiz has been running since the pub was acquired by the village and it would be a shame for it to disappear.

Social Matters

By now many of you will have had a great time at 'Saturday Night at The OSCARS' back in July and I'm sure you'd like to extend your thanks again to Sam, Sarah and Sharon, their helpers and the performers. The pub continues to hold events so please keep your eyes peeled, look at the pubs website and the village Facebook page for future social gems.

Trying to come up with ideas for things to write is not easy so please if anyone would like to see something mentioned, has an idea or even an article to see in the **vllAge Hack** then please let me know.

Phil Jones
pajones58@googlemail.com

James Richards Circus

James Richards Circus is pleased to be making a first ever visit to Ivinghoe in September with just two performances on the Lawn!

This year's show features all the attributes we have become known for including artists presenting acts of skill, glamour, danger and of course a healthy helping of comedy.

Tickets are already available online and we advise booking quickly for Tuesdays 6pm show when all seats are just £7

per person. www.jamesrichardscircus.co.uk/jamesrichardscircus

Our grandparents circus visited Ivinghoe through the 70's and into the early 80's and although modern audiences have changed our attention to affordable family entertainment is still the same.

Enjoy the show. See the circus poster on the back cover.

Mentmore Arts Festival 2023

Our festival is over for another year and, once again, we had a wonderful weekend with the sunny weather attracting huge numbers of visitors to view and buy the art and enjoy refreshments in the garden.

We had painters, photographers, ceramicists, textile artists and jewellers, all displaying their wonderful work in the church and Village Hall. Our early calculations suggest another bumper year in terms of funds raised for our charities this year –Leighton Buzzard Mencap and Bucks Mind and St Mary's Church.

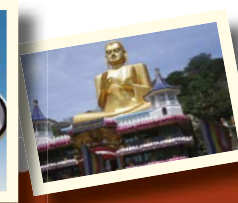
We are a small committee and so we are very dependent on the help of volunteers and we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who generously gave us their time and energy over the weekend – we couldn't do it without you. Thanks must also go to our wonderful artists and, of course, the visitors, for helping to make this such a successful event.

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WI News...

Ivinghoe & Pitstone Women's Institute



The last quarter has been a busy time for our WI. We had 2 outings in March with the first being a visit to Burghley House in Stamford. Our guide was informative and fun and the furniture and paintings were amazing. The tour finished with a trip to the Orangery for tea and cake and the all important gift shop. It was agreed that it warranted a second visit to look around the beautiful gardens. Our second trip to Dunstable 10 pin bowling alley was a great success. Lots of laughter as we showed off our bowling skills with some members definitely more successful than others. The evening was rounded off with a meal in the local pub. A big thank you to Julie for organising the two trips.

We held a successful fund raising event on 21st March in Pitstone Pavillion. At our Spring Lunch 45 guests were offered a choice of casseroles including beef, chicken, lamb and vegetarian with new potatoes. The casseroles were made by WI members and were delicious with most people having seconds and even thirds. Dessert was a choice of cheese cake or chocolate cake followed by tea or coffee. There were lots of compliments and chat as guests had a relaxing time. Betty and Eilish ran a very successful raffle and raised £130 for our charity of the year. We wish to offer a big thank you to all the WI members and family

members who helped organise this event and to the guests who supported this event and enjoyed a tasty lunch.

The start of our new membership year gave us a total of 39 confirmed members and the programme for the year was issued. We look forward to an exciting and rewarding year.

The speaker for our April meeting was Chris Beach who gave a talk on The Integration of Acupuncture of Multiple Sclerosis and symptoms as a result of Chemotherapy In Cancer Care. Research into the 3000 year old art of acupuncture has improved over the last 30 years and in 1991 the World Health Organisation recognised acupuncture's help with cancer symptoms and side effects of medication. The same is true for MS which has no cure but acupuncture helps to improve quality of life. Chris works in two clinics, the Chiltern MS Centre and South Bucks Hospice. Chris donates the fees he receives from the extra private sessions he offers to support the MS Centre. His talk was very interesting and well received by members and the evening was rounded off with tea and cake, chat and our monthly raffle for our charity of the year, Ivinghoe Scouts hut.

Our May meeting was a celebration of our WI's 106th birthday. 24 members attended the meeting in Pitstone Pavilion and included both our longest serving member Louise and our oldest member

Ellen. Platters of sandwiches and wraps were served and members supplied their own drinks to toast our birthday. Tessa made some delicious cakes and scones for dessert. Tessa also organised a Coronation Quiz for each table. The questions were challenging and we all had to wrack our brains trying to remember everything that had happened over the Coronation weekend. I am pleased to say our table won the quiz with a score of 18. The meeting was finished off with tea and coffee and a raffle. Members enjoyed catching up with each other. This month WI members helped the 2 villages celebrate the King's Coronation by putting up bunting around both villages and flags and bunting could be seen fluttering cheerfully in the breeze.

The sun shone on Saturday 20th May at Brookmead School where our WI had a stall to advertise our group at the Windmill pre-school Spring Fayre. Luckily Betty, a member of our WI and her husband Geoff supplied us with a Gazebo to keep us cool. We had several ladies expressing an interest and they enjoyed looking through some of our year books showing what the WI ladies did and achieved in years gone by. They are a fascinating insight into our history and how life has changed and moved on. A big thanks to Tessa who organised the stall. One of the ladies who showed interest at the stall visited our WI for our June meeting in Ivinghoe Town Hall.

Our June talk was given by Daphne Preece and featured Claydon House today. The house was built on a 5 acre patch of land acquired by Sir Ralph Verney, Lord Mayor of London in 1463. He leased it to Roger Giffard who built the Tudor Manor House. There are still some

beams from this original building which are part of the house that exists today. Sir Edward Verney who was chief standard bearer to King Charles 1 was the next owner of this house and it remained in the Verney/Calvert family until 1956 when Claydon Was given to the National Trust.

The very wealthy 2nd Earl Verney, Ralph inherited the house in 1753 and began building the extension Party House. He hired Luke Lightfoot a stone Mason who did all the renovations. Luke Lightfoot used carved wood to decorate ceilings and walls. The result was breathtaking. However he fell out with the Earl and was replaced by Sir Thomas Robinson who preferred plasterwork and neoclassical work. Examples of this can also be found at the house. Before he left, Luke Lightfoot completed the magnificent wooden staircase which is known as the singing staircase due to the ears of corn within it. The Earl died childless and in debt. His niece inherited the House and to her credit Mary, Baroness of Fermanagh turned the debt around. She also died childless and the house went to her half sister who was a Calvert. Every Calvert who subsequently inherited the house changed their name to Verney.

Sir Harry Calvert married the sister of Florence Nightingale, Parthenope. Her dowry was used in the remodelling of the house and Sir Harry bought a carpet for £100 which is still there today! Between 1820 and 1910 Florence Nightingale visited Claydon House many times. During the Second World War the house was home to two schools and in 1956 conservation work commenced when the house was signed over to the National Trust. During COVID the staff/volunteers made a quilt for Florence Nightingale's ►

bed as a record of both her and the pandemic. The Verney family finally moved out of their apartment in 2019. Several films have also been made there including Far from the Madding Crowd which was released in 2015. We all agreed that Claydon House, which is on our doorstep is well worth a visit. A very interesting talk. The evening continued with our business meeting and tea or coffee, cake and a raffle.

With the start of our new membership year our interest groups continue but with some evolving into a new style. The Random Readers now meet in the library on the first Wednesday evening of the month. Members bring books they have read and give a brief synopsis without giving the story away. They then swop books. There is a small charge to cover the cost of the hire of the library. The Craft Group continues to be a popular group and in April made beautiful button cards. This was followed by trendy bracelets made out of leather and beads in May and for June they are planning to meet twice so that they can make pottery trinket dishes decorated with Mandala painting. Our newly named Social Club replaces our Supper Club and we thank Tessa for taking the lead on this. This new group will meet up once a month to visit different venues and suggestions were asked for at the April meeting. This looks like an exciting new opportunity for members who can decide on a much wider choice of venues. The first outing was to Waterperry nursery and garden which they all enjoyed and a few plants were purchased along the way. In June some of the the group had a pleasant

walk around Wilstone reservoir before meeting other members for a coffee and catch up. One member, Mary made it part of her cycle ride for that day. It was lovely to catch up with friends outside in the relaxed setting of P E Meads garden and the coffee and tea was spot on. Knit and Natter continue to meet weekly and our helping put together the knitted squares for blankets for Ukraine which will be shipped to Ukraine in June. The Walking Group completed the Aldbury round walk which included views of the beautiful bluebells of Ashridge. The members enjoyed a 10 mile walk which left them a bit stiff and tired but nothing that a good soak in a hot bath couldn't sort out.

We will be running a bottle Tombola at the Village Fete on Ivinghoe lawn on 8th July and will be having our annual outing in August. Next month our speaker will be Leslie Grout on St George's Chapel. This is an open meeting so please contact us on the email below if you would like to come to this interesting talk. Other events to look forward to include a talk on volunteering in Cambodia in September which is again an open meeting and in October we have a talk on the history of famous jewels. November will be an evening of crafts and in December we have our Christmas celebrations. There is a lot to look forward to and if anyone is interested in joining our friendly group please contact our President, Annette by emailing annetteipwi@btinternet.com some fun. If anyone wishes to come to a meeting to see what we are all about please email our President, Annette at annetteipwi@btinternet.com



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BeaconLit Book Lovers



A great day was had by all at this year's Beaconlit Festival on 8th July. We kicked off in style with our New Voice panel, with Jacqueline Crooks, Natasha Hastings and Aiden Cottrell Boyce, talking to festival co-founder Dave Sivers. We may be a small festival, but two of these writers are on the Observer list of the 10 top debut authors for 2023! Well done to both Jacqueline and Aiden for 'Fire Rush' and 'The End of Nightwork'. And don't forget to check out 'The Frost Fair' by Natasha too, which will delight adults and children alike.



Rebecca Wait was next, talking to Clare Swatman about her Book of the Year, 'I'm Sorry That You Feel That Way', detailing family relationships and mental health, followed by our medical thrillers panel consisting of Heather J Fitt, Eve Smith and Annie Payne, discussing their different approaches to writing with Morgen Bailey. This was definitely a trio



you would not want to get on the wrong side of....Check out their gruesome tales of 'The Flight', 'One' and 'The Doctor'.

Huge well done to all the winners in the top 10 of the Roy Chapman BeaconFlash competition – check out our website www.beaconlit.co.uk to read these entries, and to try your hand at our next one.

International bestselling author AJ Pearce talked to Kate Hogarth about her WW2 Emmy Lake fiction series, including new release 'Mrs Porter Calling, and enlightening expansive



collection of women's magazines from that era. Then Laura Shepherd-Robinson talked about her Georgian set historical fiction, all with compelling women central characters, including the new release 'Square of Sevens', recently voted no.4 in the Times bestseller chart.

To end the day, Cara Hunter came to talk to Dave Sivers about her hugely successful Adam Fawley crime series, and the hotly newly anticipated



standalone 'Murder in the Family'. Again, not another author to cross, you never know what might happen between the pages of a good book.

Huge thank you to all our volunteers, to Our Bookshop in Tring for selling copies of all the authors books, and to all our sponsors for the event. We look forward to seeing you in 2024!

Best wishes,
Avril, Dave, Emma, Jacquie and Rachel
BeaconLit Festival Committee
www.beaconlit.co.uk

Pitstone Church

The church will be **open** from 2.30 – 5.30pm every Sunday and Bank Holiday from May till September except for Coronation weekend. We welcome all who would like to spend time in the most peaceful part of Pitstone.

We have planned a programme of events this year. We hope everybody can find something that they can enjoy in our beautiful church.

Monday 28th August Tea with music. Katharine Arney will be here with her harp to entertain visitors enjoying tea and home made cakes. This is a chance to catch up as the holidays end.

Sunday 10th September Morning service in the church to celebrate Heritage week.

Sunday 24th September Oxford Fiddle Group will be playing in the evening. More details later.

We are always looking for volunteers to help on on Sundays and at our events. If you would like to join us please contact Jean Booth **01296 661745**.

Pitstone Church is vested in the Churches Conservation Trust who look after redundant churches and keep them alive as part of their community.



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

Vicar

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(Please call to arrange Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals or Burials)

Licensed Lay Ministers

Mrs Barbara De Butts 01525 221080
Mrs Sandra Green 01296 668648

Churchwardens

Mrs Babs Byrom 07860 780127
Mr David Green 01262 668648

Our Usual Pattern of Services is:-

Every Wednesday	10:15am Holy Communion (BCP)
1st Sunday of the Month	10.00am Worshipping Together (All Ages)
2nd Sunday of the Month	10.00am Holy Communion
3rd Sunday of the Month	10.00am Morning Praise
4th Sunday of the Month	10.00am Holy Communion
5th Sunday of the Month	10.00am Benefice Communion

Because the Parish of Ivinghoe with Pitstone is part of a Benefice (i.e. shares a vicar) with the Parishes of Slapton and Marsworth, the venue for the 5th Sunday Benefice Communion rotates between the three Parish Churches.

For the most up-to-date information please go to our website:-

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/162/>

At the major festivals of the Church Year (e.g. Holy Week, Easter Day, Remembrance Sunday & Christmas) there may well be special services instead of the above pattern - again, the website is the best place to find up-to-date information.

WALK IN BEAUTY

Humanity's relationship to nature
explored in a concert of words and music

Saturday 14th October
5.00pm
Ivinghoe Town Hall
7 High St, Ivinghoe
LU7 9EP Tickets £10 from
mrwslapton@gmail.com or on
the door.
Teas will be available in the
church before the concert,
following the Arts and Crafts
Exhibition.

Judith Sheridan, voice
Margaret Richards, cello
Daniel King Smith, piano
William Winfield, reader

RIDGEWAY
ENSEMBLE

The Ridgeway Ensemble

The Ridgeway Ensemble presents a new programme at 5pm on Saturday October 14th in Ivinghoe Town Hall, in connection with the Arts and Crafts Exhibition to be held in St Mary's Church on Saturday 14th October (10.30-4.30, admission free) and Sunday 15th October (10.30-3.30). Following the exhibition, which will feature many works inspired by nature, 'Walk in Beauty' is an exploration of humanity's relationship with nature as seen through the eyes of musicians and writers. Lasting approximately 1hr 15mins, the varied programme ranges from the early

19th century right up to the present day. Music written in previous generations is complemented by the response of several contemporary composers to the crisis in nature, including a work by Sally Beamish and a new commission from Peter Fender, a setting of a Navajo meditation which gives its name to the whole programme.

Tickets **£10** from mrwslapton@gmail.com or on the door.

Tea and cakes will be available in the church during the exhibition and prior to the concert.



Ivinghoe & Pitstone Chapel Fellowship

Sunday Services are held on the **third Sunday** of each month, at 12 Church Rd unless otherwise specified, and start at 10.30 a.m. followed by refreshments

FIRST THURSDAY FRIENDS

Come and enjoy a family film on the **first Thursday** of each month.

Time: 2pm - approx 4.15pm in the millennium room, Pitstone Hall

PITSTONE OVER 60s' CLUB

We are a small and friendly group of local men and women who meet together for a varied programme of Speakers, Entertainment and Quizes etc., plus Refreshments.

We meet at the Yardley Centre, Yardley Avenue,
on the **third Thursday** of each month: 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.

Interested? Need more information?

01296 668005

IVINGHOE HANDBELL RINGERS

Ivinghoe handbell ringers will restart their Monday afternoon practices on Monday 5th September at 1.30pm. New members are welcome. They will be playing in St. Mary's Church Ivinghoe on 15th October at the Musicathon so come and see if it may be something you would like to join. We are a friendly group and hope to be able to brush up our skills in order to be able to resume our ability to entertain others from time to time. Please contact Eilish on **01296 668122** if you would like to come for a taster session.



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Further information can be found at
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Brookmead School seeks two Partnership Governors

At Brookmead we strive to work closely with families and the wider community to bring learning to life and life to learning.

Partnership Governors are drawn from the wider community and play a special role in representing the interests of the school with the community. Could you share your expertise and learn and grow with us?

Prior experience is not required. As a governor, you can expect to:

- Support children and young people locally
- Use and build on your local networks and connections
- Share and develop your skills in areas valued by employers
- Support your career development, adding to your CV

Governors work in partnership with school leaders to shape the future of the school, agree on the key issues to help staff to raise standards, and determine how budget will be spent to achieve these aims.

Now is an exciting time to join. We recently welcomed a new headteacher and are building on the school's strengths to enhance opportunities for our children.

Express an interest or find out more: office@brookmead.bucks.sch.uk



A love of reading at Brookmead School

At Brookmead School, we absolutely love to read. Our children are taught to read using the Read, Write, Inc phonics scheme. This is supplemented through reading books to develop phonetic knowledge during foundation and year 1. From year 2 onwards, our children have a love of reading book and a reading book band book.

We have an incredibly creative group of staff who have worked together to develop our library area at Brookmead School. The children select their love of reading book from the library and get to have a weekly library slot to enjoy perusing our wide range of fiction and non – fiction texts. We also have a themed area within our library which highlights a range of texts for children to read. We have had a Magical Tales themed area and we currently have a 'Diversity' themed area. Every year group has a shared reading area where the children can cosy up and enjoy reading a good book!

Brookmead celebrated a love of reading through World Book Day this year. Staff and children dressed up as their favourite book character. Little Red Riding Hood made an appearance in each class and asked the children to help her keep an eye out for the wolf throughout the day – wanted posters were displayed everywhere!

If you too have a love of reading and would like to enjoy this alongside our children, contact the school as we have applications for volunteer readers opening in the summer term.

(All volunteers will be subject to a DBS check.)



Brookmead Library – themed area



Brookmead – shared reading area

Ivinghoe Allotments

News
from the
Allotment

The 'wild garden' has been a pervasive theme for flower shows and many gardening programmes this year but it's not universally popular. Both Monty Don and Alan Titchmarsh, the latter quoted in a Telegraph article, take the view 'wild gardens are puritanical nonsense... an untouched patch of ground is not a garden whatever the fashionistas might think'.

Monty Don is unequivocal. 'If you want a truly wild garden, then simply walk away. Leave any patch of ground completely untouched by human hand and it will happily become whatever it wants to be. The result might be beautiful and richly satisfying as well as a good source of food for wildlife of all kinds but it will not be a garden.'

Alan Titchmarsh thinks along similar lines when he says that 'gardening is about growing things, sowing seeds, taking cuttings and beautifying our little bit of earth to feed us body and soul. It is there to improve our lives and our outlook, at the same time as being hospitable to birds, bees and other forms of life.'

In June, when looking around the allotment, I think that we have got the balance just right. We have sown, taken cuttings, weeded and sought harmoniously to influence our little

part of the world. We have allowed little patches to go wild by design or accident. I planned to prepare a small area, which adjoins my main allotment, ahead of delivery of the polytunnel that I have kindly been given permission to erect. It's a tiny plot, not really suited to growing, covered with tough grass and weeds, so I decided to resort to a 'no dig' system. I layered overlapping cardboard, topped it with straw from my chickens' enclosure and mixed in compost I'd cultivated over the winter and spring. The space was then left to do its own thing pending (delayed) delivery of the polytunnel. The result, though I only indirectly take any credit, deserves a loud 'Wow!' and I think, an acknowledgement that Mother Nature would have been a strong contender for a Gold Award at Chelsea this year. The poppies were glorious and abundant. Not only the red ones typically seen at the allotment, which continually self-seed, there was also the gorgeous Opium Poppies plus a smattering of dandelions, keeping company with an attractive range of other flowers.

I appreciate that some allotment purists may be appalled that I let the patch go that far, even if it was by accident rather than design. Their view



may be that weeds have no place in gardens or allotments. In contrast, Alys Fowler recently wrote in The Guardian that you should 'ditch your spade, forget fertiliser, listen to the weeds'. She muses that after 30 years of gardening 'all that laboured effort – the weeding, the fertilising, the digging, the tending and pruning, the selecting and conforming – is not working. Not for the plants, the soil or the community around them'.

She advises the no-dig approach to gardening and associates it with 'happy microbes making way for happy plant roots, better able to take up nutrients, fight off pests and diseases and withstand drought. As you keep doing it, there will be fewer weeds to remove.' I have commented on this before but her view on weeds goes further when she states 'it's time we ditched the word altogether. Even the Chelsea

Flower Show is rebranding weeds as hero plants.'

You may not agree with this last or any of the previous statements. However, what I find particularly interesting is her view that 'every weed in your garden is trying to tell you something very important. The more one type dominates, the louder the sermon is. Dandelions are saying your soil is a little compact, low on surface nutrients, particularly calcium and potassium; nettles tell you there is too much surface nitrogen.'

Weeds can help the soil. Dare to ease back on the weeding and instead to pay attention to what they're saying and 'many of the common folk will quite quickly become occasional folk instead'. This is a different way to look at weeds. Personally, I'm not ready to stop weeding, indeed it's a task I find therapeutic, calming and mindful. ►

But I do intend to pay attention to what the weeds may be trying to tell me and act accordingly.

Every year we gardeners pass comment, complain and whinge about the weather. It's too hot, too cold, there's too much or too little rain, etc, etc. Some crops thrive, others fail. This year is no exception. After a cold spring we moved directly to a warm summer and occasional heavy storms. As I write we have just passed the Summer Solstice and as a result of the occasional elemental rainstorm the allotment has gone 'WHOOSH!'.

I can as a result and earlier than anticipated, record what was planted and sown. I picked a large bag of broad beans for a recent barbecue (see August 2021 edition for the recipe) although these were from my second sowing, the first having been destroyed by an intense minus 11c frost. The purple peas have soared and amazingly, not been feasted on by mice.



A delayed broadcast of radish seeds delivered the best results I have ever had. The crop is crisp and peppery and perfect dipped in aioli (which I will shortly make from my recently harvested garlic).



And the sweet peas are magnificent this year. They have just loved the rain.



I can't help but peer into my crystal ball and try to predict the events of late summer/early autumn, August to early October. Hopefully, my courgettes will be abundant (my husband hopes not as we already have a freezer full of the blighters in their various guises). I can visualise a healthy crop of pumpkins which, in common with the courgettes, will probably move into chutney jars or my freezer. Also, I yearn for unblighted tomatoes. August and September heralds a cacophony of colour from dahlias, nasturtiums, sunflowers and salvias. September is my pickling season when our house is filled with the 'aroma' of cooking vinegar. I have planted a couple of varieties of cucumber including crystal lemon, and hope both will deliver successful harvests.

What to sow during August and September? Chard, spinach, chicory, coriander dill, fennel, lettuce, parsley, radish, winter salad leaves. And October is the time for broad beans, garlic, winter lettuce and overwintering onion and shallot sets.

Finally, please don't forget...

Saturday 19 August 2023
The Ivinghoe, Ivinghoe Aston and Pitstone Horticultural Show see the magazine for rules and how to enter.

Sunday 20 August 2023
The Ivinghoe Allotment Open Afternoon 2-4pm come and see the allotments mentioned in these articles.

Aioli: (garlic mayonnaise) adapted from a Table in Provence by Leslie Forbes
 Ingredients: 6-12 cloves of fresh garlic, 1 egg yolk beaten, 275ml good olive oil (approx) juice of ½ lemon, 5ml tepid water (approx).

Method: Mash the garlic to a smooth paste in a marble or ceramic mortar or in a food processor. Stir in the egg yolk and begin adding the oil drop by drop at first, then when it begins to thicken, in a steady stream, beating constantly if using a mortar. When the egg has absorbed half the oil, add the lemon juice and water and continue slowly adding the oil. If the mixture becomes too thick before all the oil has been added, pour in a few more drops of water before continuing. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

I wish you '**bon appetit**' and **good luck** if you are planning to enter the **Horticultural Show**.



Show Programme

19 August 2023



Classes

Children's Section

Age 16 and Under:
(judged according to age)

1. A miniature garden in a seed tray.
2. Decorate a wooden spoon.
3. 4 fairy cakes judged on decoration.

.....
These Sections are open to ALL ages:
Vegetable Fruit & Produce Section:

Vegetables

4. 5 coloured or white potatoes.
5. 3 onions - tops tied.
6. 5 shallots - tops tied.
7. 5 French beans -dwarf or climbing.
8. 3 carrots – tops trimmed to 75mm (3").
9. 3 beetroot – tops trimmed to 75mm (3").
10. 5 tomatoes.
11. 3 courgettes – 150mm-200mm (6"-8") optimum length
12. 5 radishes – as pulled, roots washed.
13. A bunch of 9 spring onions.
14. 5 runner beans
15. Longest runner bean
16. A pair of any other vegetable not listed above.
17. Collection of vegetables. No

limit on kinds or numbers, displayed in a box, basket or trug (maximum size 50cm (20") in any dimension.
18. Bunch of culinary herbs.

Fruit

19. A dish of black currents, red currants or white currents, can be a single kind or mixed, displayed on a paper plate.
20. 3 sticks of Rhubarb – leaves trimmed.
21. A dish of raspberries displayed on a paper plate.
22. Any other fruit not listed above.
23. A collection of fruit. No limit on kinds or numbers displayed in a box, basket or trug maximum size 50cm (20") in any dimension.

Plants and Flowers Section:

Grown Flowers (see rules)

24. A specimen rose.
25. 5 sweet peas.
26. 5 Dahlias.
27. Sunflowers – 3 stems.

Flower Arranging

28. An arrangement in a jam jar.

Cookery and Produce Section:

Cookery

29. A Victoria sandwich with

raspberry jam. (see recipe overleaf)

30. 6 savoury muffins, own recipe to be cooked in muffin cases.

31. Shortbread - see recipe overleaf.

32 Fruit cake - see recipe overleaf.

Produce

33. 6 eggs.

34. 3 tasty tomatoes.

35. 5 cooked homegrown salad potatoes.

36. Ugliest vegetable

37. A bottle of flavoured gin or vodka - max 500mls.

38. A jar of jam - see rules.

39. A jar of lemon curd - see rules.

40. A jar of marmalade - see rules.

41. A jar of savoury jelly - see rules.

42. A jar of chutney - see rules.

Craft Section:

42. Knit a fabulously original pair of fingerless gloves.

43. Sketch or paint your own self portrait.

44. Crochet a striking beanie hat.

45. String a necklace with 'nature's natural beads'.

46. Construct a pet animal – any medium.

47. Make an attractive wreath – using only rags.

48. Make a greeting card with a fun difference.

49. Safely Craft a sporting figure in motion out of wire – mounted on a base.

**Parking will be open on the
Lawn**

**Good Luck
with your entries**



Prizes:

Certificates will be awarded in all classes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Winner Cups awarded for highest points gained in each section. Cups engraved with winner's name and awarded for one year. The Onion Cup is only for Class No. 5 (3 Onions – tops tied),.

Rules

- All entrants to take note of MAXIMUM measurements for relevant classes.
- Cookery classes to follow recipes where specified.
- All craft items to have been produced in the 36 months preceding the date of the show.
- All vegetable, fruit and produce classes to have been grown by the entrant and presented on approximately 25cms (10") plates where applicable.
- Eggs from own poultry.
- Plants and grown flower entries to have been grown by the entrant.
- Flowers for arrangements can be freely sourced.
- Jars of preserves can be any size but must not have screw top lids - cloth or cellophane lids only.

The Judge's decision is Final!

Cookery - Set Recipes

Victoria Sandwich

6 eggs; 340g/12oz caster sugar plus extra for dusting; 340g/12oz self-raising flour; 3 tsp baking powder;

340g/12oz margarine or soft butter; raspberry jam to fill.

Method: Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/Gas4. Grease and line 2 x 20cm/8in sandwich tins. Break the eggs into a mixing bowl, add the sugar, flour, baking powder and butter. Mix with an electric mixer or wooden spoon. Divide the mixture evenly between the tins and bake for 25 minutes. Leave to cool on wire rack. Spread the jam on one cake, placing the second sponge on top. Sprinkle with a little caster sugar.

Shortbread

125g/4oz unsalted butter, softened; 180g/6oz plain flour; 55g/2oz caster sugar plus extra for dusting.

Method: Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas mark 5. Beat together butter and sugar until smooth. Stir in the flour to get a smooth paste. Turn onto a worktop and gently roll out to a 1cm/1/2" thickness. Cut the shortbread into rounds with 8cm/3" cutter. Place on lined baking tray. Chill for 20 minutes. Bake for 15-20 mins or until golden brown. Sprinkle with caster sugar and leave to cool.

Everyday Fruit Cake

400g mixed fruit
125g unsalted butter at room temp
3 large eggs
60ml (4 tbsp) jam
1 rounded tbsp jam
125g soft brown sugar
250g self-raising flour
2 tsp mixed spice

Method: Preheat oven to 170C/150C fan/ gas mark 3. Line a 2lb loaf tin. Weigh fruit and put to one side. Put all ingredients, except the fruit, into a large bowl. Beat together well, but do not over do it. Mix in the dried fruit by hand. Put mix into tin and bake for 1hr 15 min. Check after this time and if knife is not coming out, clean and check again after 10 mins, repeat until cooked.

Schedule and Entry Form

This form can be emailed or posted (no charge for advanced entries) at any time up until Thursday 17 August 2023 (postal address is : John Lowe, 22 Yardley Avenue, Pitstone, LU7 9AL or email : johnglowe2@gmail.com. Late entries, including those on the day, will be accepted but will be charged 50p per entry.

Name.....

Email.....Telephone

I wish to enter the class(es) marked with an 'x' below and I agree to abide by the rules.

Signature

Children's Section: 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐

Vegetables: 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐

Fruit: 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21 ☐ 22 ☐ 23 ☐

Grown Flowers: 24 ☐ 25 ☐ 26 ☐ 27 ☐

Flower Arranging: 28 ☐

Cookery: 29 ☐ 30 ☐ 31 ☐ 32 ☐

Produce: 33 ☐ 34 ☐ 35 ☐ 36 ☐ 37 ☐ 38 ☐ 39 ☐ 40 ☐ 41 ☐ 42 ☐

Craft: 43 ☐ 44 ☐ 45 ☐ 46 ☐ 47 ☐ 48 ☐ 49 ☐

Total Number of Entries

Total Entry Fee

ALLOTMENTS

Recently the allotment trees were surveyed by an arboriculture expert and essential tree work is required.

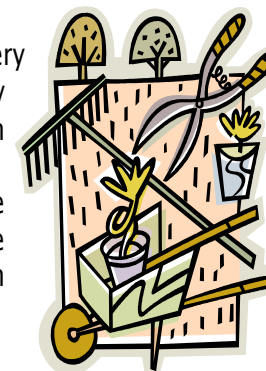
Ivinghoe Parish Council has applied for permission from Buckinghamshire Council as the trees are located in the Ivinghoe Conservation Area. At the time of writing the work is expected to start in the autumn.


The allotment site is primarily for growing produce, mainly vegetables with the occasional fruit tree permitted, other trees unfortunately are not allowed as they create problems when not maintained and block light onto surrounding allotment plots. There is a lovely woodland area and walk to the picnic site, a real haven for wildlife.

The Allotment Officers would like to remind allotment holders following National Allotment Association rules that 75% of the allotment plot must be cultivated.

Have you ever thought about 'growing your own'? Growing your own fruit and vegetables can be a 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 ivinghoeparishclerk@gmail.com

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






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Monday 6-7pm with Tom as Watermill Coloney leader

Tuesday 6-7pm with Jakki as Windmill Coloney leader

1st Ivinghoe and Pitstone Cubs (8-10 year olds)

Wednesday 6:30-8pm (Dan) Akela as Windmill Pack leader

Thursday 6:30-8pm (Rob) Shere Khan as Watermill Pack leader

1st Ivinghoe and Pitstone Scouts (10 1/2 -14 1/2 year olds)

Friday 7-8:30pm Andrew as Troop Leader

For any enquiries or to join the waiting list please contact us

on ivinghoe.pitstone.scouts@gmail.com

Or our Group Scout Leader, Andrew Woods on ivinghoe.pitstone.scouts@gmail.com
or 07768 980311

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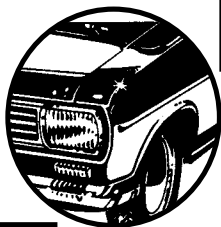
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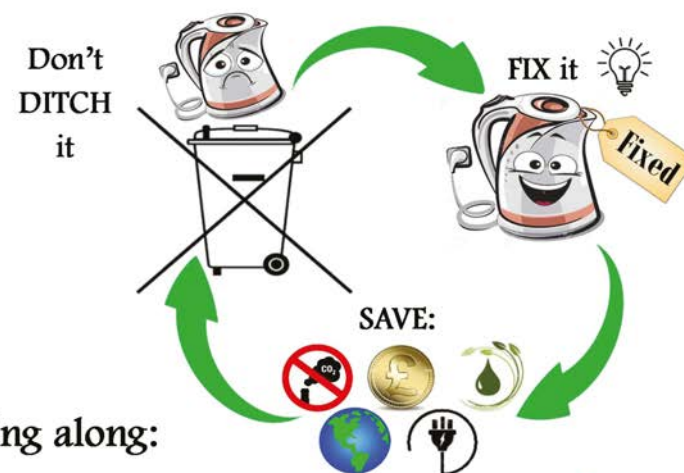


Every 4th Saturday
of the month

At either Pitstone Pavilion or
Ivinghoe Village Hub

Bring along broken items to be fixed by volunteers!

No charge for fixing, but donations are welcome



Bring along:

- Tools and equipment
- Electrical goods
- Electronic devices (phones/tablets/laptops)
- Clothing, fabrics, jewellery
- Household items
- Toys and games
- Wooden items
- Bicycles

And more...



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Ashridge Ramblings

All Things... Bright and beautiful

In the last issue, we called for volunteers to help show visitors the Windmill. It's not too late – please email ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk or ring **01442 851227**. Those who do will be able to show off the new tail wheel. It had to go to a specialist wheelwright to be completely rebuilt using traditional methods. Only the metal rim has been retained. Such a lot of craftsmanship was involved that it took three months. The roundhouse roof has also been repaired and re-tarred. The remaining work, painting the mill body and roof plus repairs to the timber of the sails, will be happening soon.



...Creatures great and small

Breeding bird surveys on Northchurch Common are underway for the first time since 2018 and reflect changes since the habitat has been managed to allow more scrub to grow up. There has been a welcome increase in Yellowhammers and Linnets in the scrubby areas (both on the Red List of birds of conservation concern in the UK) as well as Whitethroats and Garden Warblers (both visitors from Africa, returning to the UK for summer to breed).

In contrast, a great deal of scrub has been cleared from Ivinghoe Beacon hills. This should help the rare Duke of Burgundy butterfly to thrive and spread.

...Wise (possibly) and Wonderful (certainly)

Fancy a long walk? The Boundary Trail has grown from 16 to 17.5 miles. When it was originally devised, Aldbury Nowers and Pitstone Hill were not owned by the National Trust. This beautiful area has now been incorporated into the trail and a few other minor tweaks made. By the time you read this, the new signage should be in place.

Rikki Harrington
(Ashridge Estate Committee Member)
harrington.rikki@gmail.com

Honey Bee Swarms are Important!!

Honey Bee Swarms: Swarms such as the ones pictured are merely Colonies that are in transition. Normally these Swarms are found hanging from tree branch, fence post or any place where the swarm can gather close to the Queen while scouts are sent out to look for a more permanent home. A swarm left alone will only be in place from just a few minutes to a few hours and occasionally a few days. Generally these swarms are very docile and the swarming Bees usually will not sting. When Honey Bees swarm they gorge themselves with honey before leaving the hive which makes it very hard for them to double over and sting.



What Causes Honey Bees to Swarm?: Honey Bees have a natural instinct to survive by sending out new colonies. They may also swarm through overcrowding or because an old queen is thought to be failing and they wish to raise a new one. Honey Bees usually swarm in early spring just as the colony is building up numbers in anticipation of the upcoming honey flow but swarming can happen through to late summer. It is difficult to predict if weather conditions will lead to a large number of swarms in a particular year.

If You See a Swarm: Declining Honey Bee numbers make the collection of swarms an important part of the work of bee keepers. You should never interfere with a swarm and pest control companies will not kill a swarm unless absolutely necessary.

Please contact:

MBBKA Swarm Hotline 07770370132 or
Brian Bush – Mid Bucks Beekeepers and BBKA Swarm Officer

BBKA British Bee Keepers Association website
<http://www.bbka.org.uk>
Mid Bucks Bee Keepers Association website
<https://mbbka.org.uk/>



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Buckinghamshire Councillors Report

Report from Buckinghamshire Councillor Derek Town



Council pledges commitment to providing high quality education for all children in Bucks

Whatever their starting point, children and young people have the right to access the best quality education and teaching to help them grow, learn and develop so they are able to realise their full potential. That is the commitment Buckinghamshire Council is making to all children and families in the county as it launches its new Education Strategy.

The Education Strategy sets out five key priorities:

- Access to and availability of high-quality educational places
- Preparing young learners to reach their potential as adults
- Collaborative school improvement to raise standards
- Embedding a climate of inclusion
- Supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of all children and young people

It follows on from the previous Education and Skills Strategy which focused on the development of a programme of continuous improvement in education provision in Buckinghamshire. The new strategy builds on the achievements made and

focuses on areas where more work needs to be done. In compiling the strategy, the council worked closely with schools and other education providers and consulted with parents, carers and other key stakeholders.

One of the key elements of the strategy is ensuring that every child is able to access the right educational placement and teaching for them, and that vulnerable children and young people are given the support they need to overcome challenges and achieve the same outcomes as their peers.

Buckinghamshire Culture Open Weekend – a first view of ‘what’s on’!

We are excited about the amazing projects that are planned for Open Weekend and you can now have a first look of what will be happening 27 to 30 July 2023 on the Visit Buckinghamshire website.

Everyone is invited to enjoy creative projects, performances, workshops, exhibitions and much more taking place across the county over a long weekend.

Confirmed activities for this year include – but are not limited to – a special opera performance of ‘Revolutionary Rhymes’ at the Roald Dahl Museum in Great Missenden, giant bug hotels

building at Langley Country Park, a creative workshops organised by Chesham Library resulting in joint ‘One World’ through ‘Many Stories’ display, a festival of Marlow’s colourful history at Marlow Museum, an inclusive workshops organised by ‘Sing Your Pain Away’ (online and in person), a workshop for a giant sculpture out of recycled material at Chiltern Open Air Museum, an online writing workshop and a session of musical forest bathing.

Other activities include craft workshops, dance performances and classes, textile workshops, exhibitions, free theatre performances, concerts, choir sessions for families – but there is so much more!

Find out ‘what’s on’ and make plans for an exciting weekend. Everything will be easily searchable in one place on the Visit **Buckinghamshire website**.

Bucks resident pays the price for fly-tipping

A man from Gerrards Cross has learned the hard way that crime doesn’t pay after being caught fly-tipping and faced with a hefty fine.

Jonathas Da Rocha Souza, aged 45, pleaded guilty to the charge of illegal dumping when he appeared at High Wycombe Magistrates Court on 7 June 2023.

The court was informed that on 12 May 2022, an enforcement officer working for Buckinghamshire Council, discovered a pile of illegally dumped waste in a lay-by on Layters Green Lane, Chalfont St Peter in Buckinghamshire. After further investigation, the source of the waste was identified and the suspected person responsible was

reported to the local authority. Mr Souza was later interviewed by Council Enforcement Officers. During the interview, Mr Souza confessed to accepting £30 to remove the waste which he later illegally dumped.

Magistrates fined Mr Souza £1,384 and ordered him to pay clean-up and prosecution costs of £1,010.62. A victim surcharge of £138 was also levied – making a total to pay of £2,532.62.

Supporting adopters every step of the way

Are you thinking about adoption? Making the decision to adopt can be a big step but Buckinghamshire Council will be with you every step of the way. That is the message the council is sending out to prospective adopters in Bucks as part of a month-long focus on adoption.

There are children of all ages and backgrounds who are waiting to be adopted and to start their new life with a new family. New adopters are always needed who can open up their homes and hearts to give these children the love and support they need to grow and thrive.

For more information on adopting in Buckinghamshire visit the website: **www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption**

Play Streets scheme encourages children to discover the joys of outdoor play

Children across Buckinghamshire are being given the opportunity to discover the joys of playing safely outside their homes as part of the Play Streets scheme.

The free scheme invites neighbours ►

to apply for permission to close their road for a few hours at a time so that communities can come together, and children can meet up and have fun outdoors.

Following the successful launch last year, particular focus is being placed on encouraging communities within the targeted areas outlined in the council's Opportunity Bucks programme, in High Wycombe, Aylesbury and Chesham, to take advantage of the scheme, but communities all across the county can take part.

Electoral Registration – are your details up to date?!

Buckinghamshire residents are being urged to ensure their electoral registration details are up to date through the annual canvass.

All residents will be contacted during July and August, and will receive an email or a letter from Buckinghamshire Council asking to confirm that the names of people listed as eligible to vote in their household are correct.

Being on the electoral register means that you can have your say and vote in future elections – plus it can also help with your credit rating. All you need to do is to read the email or letter carefully and follow the instructions on how to respond, if necessary. It's very quick and easy!

If you're not currently registered, your name will not appear on the messages we send. If you want to register this can be done as part of the canvass (a follow-up step is required).

The easiest way to register is online at: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Aylesbury Arm canal towpath benefits from £800k improvements your details up to date?!

The Aylesbury Arm, a spur of the Grand Union Canal originally completed in 1815, has seen a significant improvement in its towpath condition, thanks to an £800k investment. The towpath improvements are on the section between locks 15 and 16, resulting in improved conditions for walking, cycling and wheeling.

The Aylesbury Arm canal towpath improvements – which have been made possible thanks to a £621,846 grant from the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) from Homes England and £178,154 of funding from Section 106 developer contributions – are part of wider plans for active travel improvements in Aylesbury and form a main spine route between the town centre and the new developments of Kingsbrook and Woodlands.

Improvements for walking, cycling and wheeling include:

- widening the towpath to 7 feet
- resurfacing the towpath
- improving accessibility onto the towpath
- installing new signs along the route

The improvements aim to encourage active travel, improve people's health, and reduce carbon and air pollution.

The new route forms part of the council's aspirations for a 'Aylesbury-Tring-Wendover Canal Triangle' project and the wider Aylesbury Garden Town initiative.

Celebrating 70 years of safer school crossings

Over the years, thousands of children across Buckinghamshire have enjoyed a safer journey walking to school, thanks predominantly, to the efforts of the county's much loved school crossing patrollers who this week celebrate their 70th anniversary.

Buckinghamshire currently has around 50 school crossing patrollers, commonly known as lollipop men and women due to the iconic circular signs on poles they carry when on duty, working across all parts of the county. Every morning and evening during term time, come rain or shine, they are out, guiding children, parents and carers safely across the road to and from school.

Many of the current school crossing patrollers have been doing the job for years, enjoying the special role they play in their local communities. Between them they have totted up more than 500 years of service, helping multiple generations of families. Several now help the children of the children they first helped cross the road on their way to school and some of the longest servicing school crossing patrollers are guiding the grandchildren of the children they first helped.

To celebrate the 70-year milestone and to say thank you to all school crossing patrollers, past and present, Buckinghamshire Council hosted a special event in High Wycombe today (Thursday 29 June).

The national school crossing patrol service was officially created by the

School Crossing Patrol Act in 1953.

The first SCPs wore white coats and peaked hats. Over the years the clothing has changed to more weather-proof, hi-vis jackets and hats, but the popular lollipop signs have remained, relatively unchanged and become synonymous with the popular and much-loved image of school crossing patrollers countrywide.

Buckinghamshire's school crossing patrollers collectively have many interesting and amusing tales to tell of their time in the job. One patroller in Buckingham recalls once guiding a horse and rider safely across the road amidst the schoolchildren. Another proudly relays how they lost three stone in weight when first starting in post, simply by all the walking he does on his patrol site. Christine Walker is the county's longest service patroller, clocking up 45 years. She received a British Empire Medal (BEM) in 2021 for her long service to road safety and has attended two Royal Garden Parties. All the patrollers build up a unique relationship with local families. One school crossing patroller called Mario is affectionally known as Super Mario by the children who greet him fondly every day. One thing all the patrollers clearly have in common is their love of the job with all of them saying how rewarding they find the role

Join the plastic pollution solution revolution!

Buckinghamshire residents are being urged to become part of the plastic pollution solution and see how far they can go in reducing their use of ►

single use plastic during the global, month-long initiative, Plastic Free July.

With awareness of the problems plastic pollution is having on our planet at an all-time high, Buckinghamshire Council is taking the opportunity to remind residents of the many local initiatives aimed at reducing all types of waste and showing the many simple things all of us can do to make a difference.

One of the easiest ways to start, is to take a look at Buckinghamshire Recycles Zero Waste Map. This handy tool provides an online directory for all the local places where you can reduce your waste including re-use shops, community fridges and upcycling schemes as well as listing all recycling points around the county and details of the household recycling centres.

Another way to make a change, for those with babies and toddlers, is to switch from using disposable nappies to reusable cloth nappies. Disposable nappies are made from plastic, paper pulp and a variety of chemicals and glue. Babies have around 5,000 nappy changes up to potty training, which is a lot of nappies to put in the bin. Cloth nappies can be 40% better for the environment, even with the extra washing machine cycles. Find out more information about the Buckinghamshire Nappy Scheme online.

Last September, Buckinghamshire Recycles introduced its new Reduce Single Use Plastic schools initiative which encourages schools to sign up to a pledge to reduce single use plastics within school. Haddenham Community Infant School became the first school to achieve a gold award for its efforts. Currently aimed at primary schools, the scheme will be opened up to secondary schools from September.

There are numerous, easy ways we can all try to reduce single use plastics and waste:

- Use refillable water bottles and coffee cups
- Avoid using bathroom and cleaning products in single-use containers – there are lots of places you can refill existing bottles again and again. Check out the Zero Waste Map for locations
- Consider using more environmentally friendly sanitary products
- Make use of reusable bags when shopping

And where it is impossible not to use some plastics, make sure you recycle as much as you can. Check our **Waste Wizard** tool to find out what you can recycle and where

Find out more about **Plastic Free July** online.

Councillor Derek Town

Are you struggling with food, fuel, bills and finances?



If you or your family are in need of support, on low income or experiencing a financial emergency or crisis, find out what help is available.

Let us know if:

- you are struggling to afford food or fuel
- you cannot keep on top of your bills
- you are in debt
- you are struggling to pay for essential goods in your home

Get in touch

- 📍 [buckinghamshire.gov.uk/helping-hand](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/helping-hand)
- ☎ 01296 531 151

Our phone lines are open:

- Monday to Thursday (9am - 5.30pm)
- Friday (9am - 5pm)

In an emergency our out-of-hours team can be contacted on 0800 999 7677.



**Buckinghamshire
Council**



Councillor Karen Groom attends the Royal Garden Party



Ivinghoe Parish Council was delighted when the Chairman Councillor Karen Groom was chosen to represent Buckinghamshire and attend with her partner Charles the first King's Garden Party held in Buckingham Place just days after the Coronation.

The Royal Garden Party celebrated long standing Parish Council Chairman who have made a significant impact helping young people.

Karen has been a Councillor for nearly thirty years. In her role Karen leads improvements for young people with opportunities and experiences through developing play and fitness equipment, supporting students undertaking Duke of Edinburgh challenges and supplying equipment. During Karen's time as Chairman the council has introduced traffic calming measures at Brookmead School with Station Road/Maud Janes planned which will create a school drop off point, and a courtesy crossing to make travelling to school by car or bike safer. Through her role as Chairman she supports all members of the community including the foodbank, local churches, and community groups.

Karen has also been a Brookmead School Governor and volunteered regularly at Brookmead School helping with netball and cooking. Karen is Chairman of Ivinghoe Town Hall Committee, and a trustee of the Poor

Lands Charity – supporting elderly and vulnerable people in the local area.

Karen is very committed to the local area, young people and the environment. In her day job she is a Farmer who supports ecology and wildlife at her busy farm with local produce and her apprentice butcher Harriet recently won a National Award.

As a netball umpire she regularly officiates at junior and senior netball matches, and is very actively involved in the Young Farmers Bedfordshire branch.

Karen has made a huge difference to the local community and as a Parish Council we feel very proud of this acknowledgement.



Your local Councillors:

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Cllr Helen Nash

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Cllr Clive Ketteridge (known as Ketts)

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