



Ivinghoe Beacon Magazine

Issue 127 70 pence where sold



Photo Credit: Gloria Snowdon

Inside this Issue:

- BeaconLit – Book Lovers
- Ivinghoe Traffic
- Repair Cafe



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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CONTENTS

Welcome from the Chair	3
Neighbourhood News	6-23
Ecumenical Enlightenment	24-27
School Stuff	28-29
Cultivation Clippings	30-32
Beyond the Boundary	38
Councillor Communication	42-47

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:



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Artwork must be supplied as a jpeg or a pdf file.

Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the first issue of the Ivinghoe Beacon Magazine for 2024.



Karen Groom,
Chair, Ivinghoe
Parish Council

A few good housekeeping matters are to be addressed in the next few weeks in both villages.

Following our regular playground inspections, we are being proactive and replacing the swing seats and chains in response to advisory information from the inspections. Playground safety is an important part of the Parish Council's role, and we will continue to be valiant in all safety matters.

In addition, works are to be done to the trees on the Lawn for which permission was sought and received in 2023. The tree works are part of the continued management of the Lawn trees and in the future, we will be looking at a tree planting programme as inevitably the older trees in time will come to the end of life and the aim is to maintain a tree presence on the Lawn, that makes an integral contribution to the conservation and visual amenity of the village.

Many of you will be aware some nine years ago the Parish Council together with Pitstone Parish Council engaged the services of the late Ben Hamilton Bailee who as a Highway Engineer specialised in producing conservation and village

friendly traffic calming schemes.

As everyone will have seen the traffic calming was installed outside Brookmead School by Buckinghamshire Council part funded by the two Parish Councils and Buckinghamshire Community Board.

The second area that was looked at and a scheme prepared was the junction of Station Road and Maud Janes Close. The scheme first prepared for this area was then discussed at length with Buckinghamshire Officers and their contractor partner.

More recently Buckinghamshire Officers informed us they had designed a new scheme and that the new scheme would not address the traffic calming aims of the original scheme. When pushed, Officers reluctantly acknowledged that much of the proposed changes were due to costs. Whilst as a Parish we are aware of ▶

the increased costs in all walks of life we could not agree to a scheme that does nothing in our view to deliver the traffic calming desired.

After careful consideration and some informal highway advice the Parish Council has taken the difficult decision not to progress with the Station Road/ Maud Janes Close junction proposal. The Parish Council remains incredibly frustrated with Buckinghamshire Council in relation to traffic calming in both Ivinghoe and Ivinghoe Aston. The Parish Council will look at alternative options for traffic calming for both villages, and the funds that were being earmarked for the

Station Road/Maud Janes Close scheme will remain within the capital projects earmarked funds.

When we have investigated all traffic calming options and have a potential way forward we will share this with you.

Dates for the 2024 Ivinghoe Parish Council Meetings:

5th February, 4th March, 8th April, 13th May, 3rd June, 1st July, 5th August, 2nd September, 7th October, 4th November and 2nd December.

As always please check the Ivinghoe Parish Council website for news and updates www.ivinghoe.org.uk.



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

I very much hope that you are still enjoying reading the Ivinghoe Beacon magazine, it has changed a little since the Parish Council took over the production of the magazine.

We really want the magazine to be something you get pleasure from reading as well as a useful reference tool for local events and advertising.

We are always looking for new ideas to keep the magazine an interesting read, so if you have something that you would like to be considered for inclusion, please do get in touch!

Many thanks and happy reading.

Bridget Knight The Editor – ivinghoeparishclerk@gmail.com

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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

We are also raising money to rebuild the village a purpose built scout hut and are selling bricks to supporters for £10 each. Please email the above address for details.



Ivinghoe Town Hall & Beacon Villages Community Library

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Ivinghoe Town Hall – Regular Classes 2024:

Monday: 3.30pm – 6.30pm – **Ballet**
Lisa Sabinini (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 Cath Fincher
(07983 706607)

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**

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Julie Fretwell **07469 016745** or email:
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Our website:
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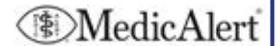
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MedicAlert and Thames Valley Police: Introducing Safe and Found

There are currently 944,000 people living with dementia in the UK. On average, around 40,000 are reported missing every year.

The MedicAlert Foundation, in partnership with Thames Valley Police, have launched a dementia safeguarding programme, Safe and Found. This new initiative supports those living with dementia and other memory or cognitive conditions.

Safe and Found is available nationally and enables people living with dementia to securely store their Herbert Protocol form digitally. This document contains information that aids a missing person search, giving the police a better understanding of who they are looking for, what they have done previously and what they may be likely to do in the future. It includes places of importance, routines and habits, their connections, medical details and more.

The Herbert Protocol is a proven strategy in reducing search time and increasing the chance of the individual being found safe and well. MedicAlert is helping to speed up the process by providing quick access to this critical information in an emergency.

Chief Superintendent Mike Loebenberg from Thames Valley Police said: "When a family member or friend goes missing, it is an incredibly distressing time for those desperate to know where they are. This fear and distress is exacerbated when that individual is living with dementia.

"Completing and keeping an up to date Herbert Protocol form printed or saved and easily accessible is really important, but we know this can be challenging. MedicAlert is a service that can help, by storing information and working to keep it up to date and accessible for officers if it is needed.

"As a MedicAlert member myself, I know this partnership will provide loved ones with peace of mind that Thames Valley Police can access important information quickly and save time in the search for those missing. I hope this offers reassurance to those living with dementia and their families."

The support of The McLay Dementia Trust makes the Safe and Found programme even more accessible.

MedicAlert and The McLay Dementia Trust will be providing the first year of MedicAlert membership free to anyone living with dementia in the UK.

"The MedicAlert charity is making dementia a priority. We are very proud to work with Thames Valley Police and The McLay Dementia Trust. These partnerships ensure you can feel safer and more comfortable to continue being active, socialising, and living well with dementia. Wherever you go, we will be with you." says Mark Hacker, MedicAlert CEO.

"MedicAlert has also launched the Carer ID and storage of Emergency Care Plans to support carers. This ensures that, should a carer have an accident, their loved one receives appropriate and continuous care."

To find out more about Safe and Found or how to apply for free membership through The McLay Dementia Trust grant, please visit the links below:

- medicalert.org.uk/mclay-dementia-trust
- medicalert.org.uk/safe-and-found/



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The vllAge Hack

First, welcome one and all to 2024 and a very happy New Year to the lot of you. Our round-up for 2023 was not one of splendid village events. I am indebted to Claire White for the piece below that she kindly wrote following an experience she enjoyed along with her daughter Amelie.

A Room with a View

Back in October, my daughter Amelie and I spent a night in the most amazing place I've ever slept.

A room... with quite an exceptional view, the highest ceilings possible, fantastic acoustics and only a stone's throw from home! We had a sleepover in the 'Church on the Hill', St Mary's in Edlesborough. Staying overnight in a church is a growing phenomenon called 'Champing'. St Mary's is one of 24 churches in the UK available for overnight stays and even though Edlesborough might not seem too exciting a destination, (although it does benefit from a quick journey time with no traffic jams), for me it was more about the building than the location. If you prefer to travel a little further than the next village, there are 23 other UK locations offering church sleepovers, including Cumbria, Yorkshire, Devon, Anglesey and Somerset. I would recommend it to anyone looking for a few nights away or just an evening with a difference.

In addition to providing an historic building, steeped in, (in the case of St Mary's), 800 years of history, your £49 per person per night gets you camp

beds, tea and coffee, mugs, kettle, hot water bottles and most importantly, wine glasses and a corkscrew! And the best parts? Dogs are welcome, (they even provided dog treats), you get the whole (massive) place to yourself and with the most amazing acoustics and no neighbours to upset with loud music, we had a truly memorable night! Guests are encouraged to eat, drink and be merry, project a film onto the walls, or just enjoy the slight weirdness of it all!! When a few of our friends popped in for a drink, we put on our specially created playlist and danced in the aisles to (amongst other things), Hozier's 'Take me to Church', Culture Club's 'Church of the Poison Mind' and Madonna's 'Like a Prayer'!

I've been asked if it was scary... It wasn't at all, it was serene and peaceful, particularly so when I was left there alone for an hour or so with my Bluetooth speaker, my thoughts and the daily crossword. You do pass plenty of gravestones on the way to the outside loo, and when people asked if I was frightened, it reminded me of what my dad said to me many years ago when the only flat I could afford to buy in London was above a funeral directors on a grotty high street... 'Claire', he said, 'It's not dead people we have to worry about, it's all the others'!

St Mary's Church is such a beautiful building that I found it a truly relaxing experience. Up to eight people (and three dogs) can book stays there between March and October. Amelie and I went in late October and despite

our 'bedroom' being almost 100m x 40m in size, with a ceiling you won't bump your head on, it was really warm and cosy once snuggled up in our sleeping bags. We both had the best night's sleep we had had in ages, as the camp beds were so comfortable. I told Amelie I had booked the two of us as a surprise night away but she had no idea where we were going. Despite me worrying that a good night away for a 17 year old was probably more Champneys than Champing, she loved it.

If you have friends coming to stay and you fancy doing something a bit special, I would totally recommend a sleepover in Edlesborough Church, as it is one of the best experiences I've had. We arrived late afternoon not knowing quite what to expect and were immediately amazed by hundreds of fairy lights, wind up lanterns and board games.

Staying in one of the 24 UK 'Champing Sites' also helps protect and preserve churches, as Champing is brought to the world by 'The Churches Conservation Trust', the national charity protecting historic churches at risk. I'm planning to go back with a group of friends, and recommend it to anyone local who is looking for a get together perhaps for a small birthday celebration or just to go and stay somewhere that's a bit out of the ordinary. Although there are plenty of bats who apparently live in the church, and rumoured sightings of Dick Turpin riding past on his horse, unfortunately we didn't see them. We did, however, see the glorious sunlight shining through the beautiful stained-

glass windows in the morning before we headed back home via the local 'golden arches', to grab a much needed coffee and bacon sarnie!

Check it out at champing.co.uk for further info.

Claire White

Do Something for Goodness Sake!!

The age old subject of the hazard that the main road (whatever name it is!?!?) through the village reared its ugly head again in not one but three incidents within a week or two of each other.

First, we had a parked car just two houses along from my own ploughed into. Luckily nobody hurt and the driver did stop with detail duly exchanged.

Second, there was a far more worrying incident with a car obviously veering out of control coming down the hill, performing a series of rolls and ending up at the side of the road near the bridlepath to Ivinghoe. You can of course make up your own mind as to whether a modicum of speeding may have been involved (see the picture!!) ▶



Miraculously, nobody seems to have been seriously injured and the driver/passenger(s) had the foresight to remove the registration plates before the police arrived!! Hmmmmm...

Lastly, an unusual one involving a collision between two cyclists. One I understand coming down the hill into the village and the second crossing the bridlepath. My understanding is that one cyclist was fairly seriously injured and was taken to hospital so our best wishes to that person.

All that said, we yet again wonder why nothing has been seriously done about traffic control through Ivinghoe Aston. OK so we have speed monitoring cameras but lets face it it still happens.

Litter

Led by Alex Razak, a team of fantastic litter collectors produced two enormous piles of discarded rubbish yet again one from each end of the village. Given that volunteers are out collecting on a fairly regular basis and its in addition to the usual dumping that goes on, its shocking when you realise just how much people simply sling anywhere.



The Rest

Great to see Santa Ketts, oops I mean Clause, make his umpteenth visit to the pub on Christmas Day which saw a lovely gathering of villagers, family and friends for a quick snifter before lots more snifters back at home no doubt.

Lots going on at the pub as usual so keep your eyes peeled for the next thing.

And finally, a plea for any information. As you know I do from time to time try to get a bit of village history as I am trying to get information about Ivinghoe Aston Manor which is believed to have sat on the island of the moat. If you have anything at all then please email me.

Phil Jones
pajones58@googlemail.com

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Exhibition of Art and Crafts – October

Over a weekend in mid October St. Mary's Church in Ivinghoe hosted an exhibition of art and crafts, building on the success of our first event two years earlier.

The weekend was very well attended with several hundred folk turning up over the two days, to browse the many works on display, enjoy a lunch or tea, sometimes to buy, and most of all to appreciate the warm and friendly atmosphere.

In all around 170 framed paintings were on display, with many more unframed works to peruse, and a selection of crafts ranging from hand-made cards to bespoke silver jewellery. The majority of the artists and crafts people were from our locality, and

demonstrate just what a wealth of talent we have in this area.

Special thanks go to our catering team who worked non-stop to keep the supply of home-made food coming; also to the team who set the exhibition up, those who managed the financial side, and many others who oiled the wheels in many different ways. And thanks of course to the artists and crafts people whose creativity and generosity in bringing their work along for display underpinned the entire event.

In all, over £2,400 was made for restoration projects in the church. Thoughts have already turned to our next exhibition, with a probable date in October 2025, so please look out for details nearer the time.



BeaconLit Book Lovers



Want to go to a literary festival, but not sure where to start? Then look no further than Beaconlit, a small festival, but with big ideas!

Beaconlit was founded in 2013 by local author Dave Sivers and Avril Davies. Since then, it has gone from strength to strength and attracts award winning authors to the small village of Ivinghoe, set in the beautiful Chilterns countryside. People keep coming back, to be inspired, informed and to enjoy the beautiful mystery of what happens when you turn a page (in books both physical and virtual).

The festival now has a settled location (the village school), a loyal following and

an impressive past roster of authors, including Carole Matthews, Ruth Hogan, Stacey Halls, Cara Hunter, Sophie Ward, Mark Billingham, AJ Pearce, Rowan Coleman and Nazir Afzal.

It is promoted in the local community library (a prime mover in the festival), through fliers in surrounding towns and a busy social media publicity campaign. The library is instrumental in publicising the festival, and some of the proceeds are given back to the library so as to keep it as a necessary resource for the villages.

Beaconlit 2024 will be taking place on 13th July, save the date now! More details to follow soon, so watch this space!

THE BEACON ART GROUP

We are an informal group who meet on Tuesday mornings in Ivinghoe Town Hall. We'd love a few more people to join us who like to dabble in painting and drawing. Beginners welcome. If you think you would be interested please call me: **Marion Jackson** on **01296 668429**.



WI News...

Ivinghoe & Pitstone Women's Institute



Our WI has had a busy 3 months. In the October meeting we had a presentation on "Famous Jewels and Their History" by Peter Hague. The talk was mainly about the famous jewels that belong to our Royal family and how they were obtained and who wore them. We learned that in 1671 'Colonel' Thomas Blood was caught trying to steal the Crown Jewels. He had fallen out with Charles II who confiscated his lands in Ireland. After Blood was captured Charles II was so impressed with his audacity he gave him a job, a pension and returned his lands in Ireland. Who says crime doesn't pay!

Peter also told us stories of some of the tiaras worn by the late Queen and her sister Margaret. The Vladimir Tiara was a favourite with the Queen and came from Russia. The Queen also wore George IV State Diadem when posing for her image on the Royal Mail postage stamps. Princess Margaret wore the Paltimore Tiara on her wedding day. She bought it for five and a half thousand pounds. A great investment as it is now worth one and a half million pounds.

One of the Queen Mother's friends, Mrs Ronald Greville was an avid collector of jewellery. When she died she bequeathed her jewellery to the Queen Mother including the Honeycomb Tiara and the Festoon necklace. The ruby necklace that graced Kate Middleton's

neck and the Emerald and diamond Tiara worn by Eugenie are other examples of the collection.

Other famous jewels talked about included La Peregrina Pearl which was bought by Richard Burton and gifted to Elizabeth Taylor on their first marriage. When they got married for the second time, Richard Burton gave Elizabeth Taylor the Burton-Taylor Diamond. Following their divorce Elizabeth had the diamond auctioned and built a hospital for the needy with the proceeds.

Peter finished with a final story regarding the brooch Queen Elizabeth II wore when she met Donald Trump. The brooch had been gifted to her by Michelle and Barack Obama!

We all enjoyed this very interesting talk and joked that our own jewellery paled in comparison.

We held a fundraiser in October, a Quiz Night in the Pavillion with over 50 tickets sold. The raffle organised by Betty and Eilish raised £180 for our charity, the Scouts hut, and we welcomed a table representing the Scouts. The questions certainly tested our knowledge and there was a lot of guesswork on our table.

The cold wet weather didn't deter 21 of our members from coming to our November meeting in Ivinghoe Town Hall for a craft evening run by our very own Sue Jones.

Tables were set up with all the

necessary craft items needed to make Christmas decorations. My table was really in the Christmas mood with hot mulled wine being shared around. Sue came around to each table with a different design for each decoration. My table started with a Christmas tree decoration. There was a lot of folding of paper and sticking with double sided tape and the tables were very quiet as they concentrated on the task in hand. Finally we produced a lovely paper Christmas tree that was ready to hang on a tree. Our next challenge was to make a Christmas Card. Again this involved folding and sticking with the result being very effective. The third decoration we made was a Christmas Angel again, simple but very elegant. The evening was lots of fun and was enjoyed by everyone. Everyone appreciated Sue's thought and input in setting up the evening and providing the materials.

Our December meeting was a bring and share supper in the Pavillion. The food that members made was amazing and very tasty. There was more than enough for everyone. Entertainment was provided by the very talented Jackie Barnett and 2 friends. They played a variety of instruments including the bagpipes, violin, drums, guitar and flute. The music was beautiful and varied. The entertainment ended with us joining in

singing some traditional Christmas carols to put us all in the mood for Christmas. There was good news as Annette, our President, told us we had raised £215 for Aylesbury's Women's Aid instead of a Secret Santa which she had taken to the organisation to help buy Christmas presents for the children.

Over the last 3 months our Interest Groups have thrived. Random Readers continue to meet in the library once a month on a Wednesday evening to discuss and exchange books. The Craft Group have made some wonderful, colourful autumn wreaths, Christmas decorations and Christmas swags over the last 3 months. They have devised a new programme for next year and have had lots of inquiries from members to join this popular group. The group has been very successful this year. A spin off from this was a craft morning in December, when members met up and tried out Silk Painting. The members who attended this morning all really enjoyed the activity which was not difficult and very relaxing.

The Knit and Natter Group continued to meet weekly. Projects have included making items for the Church Craft Fair and the reworking and set up of the poppies around the villages and St Mary's Church for Remembrance Day. They looked magnificent and are a poignant reminder of such an important time in

the world's history. "Lest we forget".

The Walking Group have completed 3 walks along the Hertfordshire Way. The first was from Markyate to Aldbury followed by the second walk from Ashridge Monument to Berkhamstead station and included the main camp and training base for the Corps (nicknamed The Devil's Own). We saw the trenches the boys had dug as part of their training before they went off to war. Berkhamstead was their last period of normality before the horrors of the Western Front. It was very poignant. The final walk was from Berkhamstead to Kings Langley. Again the weather was good and the ladies who attended the walk had a wonderful day. We are looking forward to 2024 when there are plans for a walk in February and then again in March. A big thanks must go to our organisers and planners, Pat and Kate. They never fail to amaze us with their knowledge and organisation.

The Social Group has been very busy with regular coffee mornings in the Hub



and trips out to Eyethrop Gardens and later Bicester Village for some Christmas shopping. Tessa is already planning a trip to Royal Ascot in June this year. Tessa has been key to the success of this group and we appreciate her hard work and thought that goes into planning these outings and meetings.

Members are now looking forward to their Christmas and New Year celebrations before our next meeting in January, titled "A Precious Evening". Members can bring an item that is precious to them and explain why. This sounds very intriguing. This will then be followed by a talk by Graham Laurie on "The Flying Doctor Service" in February and our Annual General Meeting in March.

We are a very social group and would love to meet some new potential members to our group. Please contact our President, **Annette Hutchinson** email: annetteipwi@btinternet.com if you would be interested to coming to a meeting or talking to members to see if you would like to join us.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year.



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SCAN ME

Ivinghoe Traffic...

Not many people living in Ivinghoe can remember Station Road (the B488) when it was a quiet B road used by a handful of passing cars, some local, some passing through, and occasional farm vehicles. Now it is a race track. Every day 10,000 vehicles pass through Ivinghoe. That equates to more than three and a half million vehicles annually. More than 70% of the vehicles exceed the speed limit, some as fast as 97mph. That's more than 7000 vehicles exceeding the speed limit every day.

These figures are regularly published (see Ivinghoe Beacon Magazine issue 126) by the valiant local Speed Watch team who courageously monitor the traffic. Anyone who reads these figures is horrified, and rightly so. It shouldn't be like this. Ultimately, only the police have the means of preventing or stopping vehicles from speeding. But clearly they have more important things to do.

More than ten years ago the Parish Council and the transport department from AVDC got together and hatched a traffic-calming plan. Funding was identified, feasibility studies were carried out and after endless bureaucracy the plan was approved. That was ten years ago and today the only evidence of the original plan is a patch of road outside Brookmead School which has been painted red. The original plan included a number of traffic-calming measures:

- redesigning the road at the Marsworth end of Pitstone to channel traffic around the built up areas of Pitstone and Ivinghoe;
- a similar design at the T-junction of the B488 and B489 by Handpost Cottages;
- different road colours and textures at the T-junction in the middle of Ivinghoe by the church to calm the traffic and make crossing the road a little less hazardous;
- a mini roundabout at the junction of Station Road and Maud Janes Close with a safer crossing area for kids on their way to and from the school.

Had they happened, these measures might have made a significant difference to the speed and volume of the traffic. Clearly, it was all too good to be true.

After years of tireless effort Graham Hilary, and his freight strategy team, succeeded in getting AVDC to implement the 7.5-tonne weight restriction through Ivinghoe and the neighbouring villages – something that actually happened, and the only one of its kind in Buckinghamshire! But the massive (and now illegal) HGVs still race up and down Station Road with impunity, causing a deafening cacophony and a serious level of pollution, because AVDC aren't using ANPR to identify vehicles that pass through the weight restricted zone illegally.

Throughout all the neighbouring counties there are now 20mph speed limits in all the towns and villages. AVDC does not seem to have heard of such simple, effective and economic measures that save lives!

Of course, Ivinghoe is not unique in being plagued by traffic. It is a country wide problem, particularly bad in the South East of England. In the absence of public transport people have to use their cars, there is no other option. But the traffic needs to be controlled so communities can live safely with it. An enormous amount of time and effort has been spent (and wasted) on designing ways to calm the traffic that have either never materialised or proved ineffectual.

It is a painful reality that one of the most effective catalysts to the

implementation of traffic calming measures is a death as a result of a traffic accident. So, before that happens, go to the Parish Council meetings and demand action, petition the Local and District Councillors, write to the MP and Thames Valley Police and anyone else you can think of who might be able to influence the decision makers at AVDC.

Speedwatch is not about reporting speeders to the police, it is about making our roads safer for our residents and educating drivers. Our ideal day is when we catch not a single speeding vehicle.

Your local friendly Speedwatch team

Andrew Dicker



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

Vicar

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

Licensed Lay Ministers

Mrs Barbara De Butts 01525 221080
 Mrs Sandra Green 01296 668648

Churchwardens

Mrs Babs Byrom 07860 780127
 Mr David Green 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.



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

The Ivinghoe Hand Bell ringers meet every Monday at 2pm for practice and enjoyment.

The bells belong to St. Mary's Church, the music is easy to read being numbers 1, 2, 3, or 4. We are a friendly group and would welcome newcomers to learn to play.

Please phone **01296 668122**



LOCAL FOODBANK

We offer an emergency foodbank service covering the villages of Ivinghoe, Pitstone,

Marsworth, Slapton, Ivinghoe Aston, Horton and Cheddington.

Supported by your local churches in Ivinghoe, Marsworth and Slapton and residents of

all the above villages and further afield. We are also supported by our local businesses

in Ivinghoe and Pitstone.

Please contact Babs on **07860 780127** or Sue on **07742 138955** for further information.

All enquiries will be treated in strictest confidence.



'Tea and Tots' at St. Mary's Ivinghoe



Fun for under 5's and their parents and carers



*The sessions are flexible. Drop in any time you like between **10 and 11.30am** for the children to play, and for the adults to have a cuppa and a chat.*

Fridays:

*5th and 19th January
2nd and 23rd February
8th and 22nd March*

For more details contact Sandra on 01296 668648



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



Well, here we are again in February, January thankfully over. I sometimes feel January should be ashamed of itself, presenting us with a wet blanket to offset December's fun and high expectations as we prepared for Christmas. It extracts all those resolutions that never quite seem to reach the finishing line. I must insert an apology here if, like my daughter, your birthday is in January, but for me, February is a more promising prospect.

February, which is more considerably also a shorter month, heralds the arrival of Spring via a joyful 'plop!' as seed packets hit the doormat. To me, that confirms that the dormant season for the hibernating allotmenteer is coming to an end. For the gardener, all is enveloped within the rhythm of the year and one senses the cycle about to turn.

One regular feature of our calendar is the Ivinghoe Aston and Pitstone Horticultural Show, which is scheduled for Saturday **17 August** this year. I can already sense that you are thinking "oh, that's a long, long way off" but trust me when I say that it creeps up on you. I repeat my winter ramblings from this time last year when I urge you to enter the show, even if you can only grow produce on a windowsill or in a few small pots. It is not necessary

to have access to a garden or allotment to enter; some soil and a few seeds will do nicely.

Neither do you have to have 'green fingers' or any particular expertise. A complete beginner can produce a superb entry and if you're intrigued, I took a poll recently and established that one of the easiest vegetables to grow for the show or otherwise, is the humble radish. I defer to my fellow gardener John, a very experienced grower with a fantastic allotment in Pitstone and also, one of the main organisers of the Horticultural Show. He has kindly contributed his wisdom on growing prize-winning radishes (which are also delicious to eat). Over to him.

'At this time of year, when you're planning the coming year's crops and looking through the seed catalogues, why not have a try at growing some tasty radishes? Often overlooked, particularly at last summer's show, this is an easy to grow vegetable and a good choice for beginners and experienced gardeners alike who would like to enter this summer's event.

You don't need a large garden or a big allotment plot to grow it. It can be grown in a small corner of any bed or even in pots or containers. Typically, radishes take between six and eight weeks to

short rows, leaving about 8 to 10 inches between rows, in drills about half an inch deep. When the seedlings are about an inch tall, thin to an inch and a half spacing. Keep well-watered.

Alternatively, radishes can be grown in a tub or large pot. Fill the container with any multipurpose compost or garden soil, firm the compost down to an inch from the top of the container. Sow the seeds, thinly or space individually around an inch and a half apart, then cover with half an inch of compost and water in.

For this summer's show in August a couple of sowings mid and late June should hopefully ensure you have a selection of mature radish to pick from. When selecting a set to show you are looking for a set of five, they need to be uniform in size, shape and colour. You are looking for the freshest cleanest roots, avoid split and over mature radishes.

To prepare the radishes for showing wash off any soil, being careful to leave the tap root intact, leave the tops on and place on a plate with your entry card. Varieties to look for include '**Cherry Belle**' and '**French Breakfast**'. Good luck. Me again. If you don't fancy growing anything or (I am positive this won't happen to you) your seeds fail to sprout, there are plenty of other categories available to enter. These will almost certainly be quite similar to last year, but please do look out for notices and on social media for specifics.

What else does the rhythm of the year ask of us? During February you can start to chit seed potatoes. Just pop them into an egg carton on the windowsill. They resemble shrivelled potatoes. Chitting produces little shoots and helps them to get an early start. You can also plant onion and shallot sets

but please don't overlook the need to protect plants, especially salads, from frost. Beds do need to be refreshed annually if you want decent results so, as I've mentioned a few times in previous articles, remember to add well-rotted manure or compost. If you have any autumn fruiting raspberries, cut the canes right back to ground level.



March is one of the busiest of times in the garden. It's the month in which you should be preparing and sowing your kitchen garden. Horticulturalist, Sarah Raven, devised a simple successional seed-sowing box to offset the potential to feel overwhelmed by all the March sowing. A shoe box can be utilised and divided into sections. She labels 11 compartments (November and December are combined) and I have done the same. I also created a spreadsheet – sorry if that seems nerdy – which has helped. As I receive the seeds I arrange them by month i.e, when best first sown. I never sow all the seeds at once if they are a typically bountiful crop, such as carrots, but put the packet in a section a month

or two later. With this system I and indeed, Sarah Raven, never forget that these seeds need to be sown again. This is also a brilliant aide memoire for flower seeds.

In April you should get the chitted potatoes into your prepared beds and ready the supports you'll need for beans and peas. It is also a great month for rhubarb for which I find that the rule of thumb is 'the more you pull up the more you get'. For me, the best way to harvest Rhubarb is to run a finger down the groove of the stem until you reach the root. Give it a gentle tug with a slight twist and it should separate neatly, leaving any buds to form just below the surface to develop into the next stick of rhubarb.



Should your attempts to grow radishes for the Horticultural Show produce a glut beyond that required for display purposes, here is a very useful recipe:

Pea, Preserved Lemon and Mint Dip with Radish Salsa and Feta

from **Comfort and Joy** by Ravinder Bhogal (serves 4)

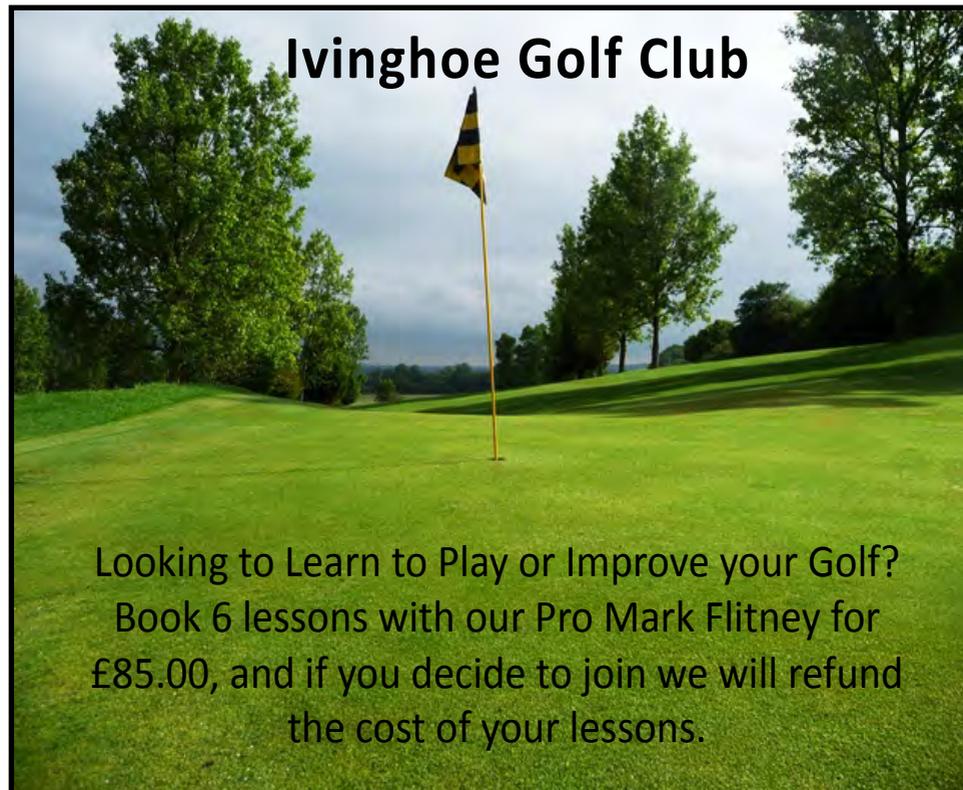
Ingredients: 500g peas (fresh or frozen), 2 garlic cloves finely chopped, Rind of 1 small preserved lemon finely chopped, handful of mint leaves chopped plus extra to garnish, 3tbs extra virgin oil plus extra for drizzling, 100g feta cheese crumbled, seasoning.

For the Radish Salsa use 10 radishes thinly sliced, ½ tsp caster sugar, 1tsp apple cider vinegar.

Method: to make the radish salsa, combine the radishes with the sugar and vinegar in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside.

To make the dip cook the peas until tender. Drain well. Add to a blender along. With the garlic, preserved lemon and mint leaves. Blend. Slowly pour in the oil and blend till smooth. Season to taste. Smooth the dip over a serving platter and drizzle over some more olive oil. Spoon over the radishes. Crumble over the feta. Scatter over some extra mint leaves. Serve with bread and crudites and/or crisps.

Bon Appetit



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Contact me, Jo Evans on
joevanspm@gmail.com

Ashridge Ramblings

A Helping Hand for an Endangered Bird

Several National Trust tenants have joined forces with volunteers from the Bucks Bird Club to start a conservation project for one of the most endangered birds on the estate – the Corn Bunting. This is a farmland bird which nests on the ground, often in arable crops, on the chalky soils around Ivinghoe Beacon. In the winter Corn Buntings join mixed flocks with other farmland birds and seek out seeds to keep themselves fed.

Bucks Bird Club have generously funded the provision of seed to four farmers so that they can provide additional winter food to help see the birds through 'the hungry gap' when seeds and insects are difficult to find. Bird Club volunteers are carrying out weekly surveys throughout the winter to collect more information about the populations of farmland birds on the estate, particularly Corn Bunting numbers and distribution.

Members of the Tring Bird Ringing Group have also volunteered to help with surveys and are hoping to be able to track birds through the landscape by fitting small, coloured rings to their legs. This would enable individual birds to be observed from a distance to help understand how far they travel, both during the breeding season and during winter. It would also help to understand

how long the birds live, and how many chicks individual birds are able to rear each year.

This is the start of a project that will provide useful information about these rare farmland birds, and it will be used to put in place measures to help their numbers go from strength to strength. If you spot any Corn Buntings on the estate, please let us know where and when by emailing: ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk

Emily Smith

Countryside Manager, Ashridge, Beds and Herts

Rikki Harrington

Ashridge Estate Committee Member



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/>



www.mbbka.org.uk



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This opens a new dialogue 'install this website as an app on your Apps screen'

May be slightly different between iPhone and Android

Buckinghamshire Councillors Report

Report from Buckinghamshire Councillor Derek Town



Keeping Roads Safe this Winter

When temperatures plummet, Buckinghamshire Council's trusty fleet of gritters rolls into action, salting key roads across the county, to make them safer for motorists. But did you know that the council also provides salt bins for people to freely use to make their roads and pavements safer during cold and icy weather?

The bins are filled with salt and are available at multiple locations across the county for drivers and pedestrians to treat public roads and pavements in their local area. The bins are filled and topped up during the winter season with a mixture of salt and sand. They are located in targeted areas known to be affected by icy conditions which the gritting routes don't cover.

Salt bins are provided for residents to use on public roads and footways only, and should not be used to clear private drives.

Changes to Household DIY Waste Disposal due from 31 December

Residents in Buckinghamshire will be able to dispose of small amounts of DIY waste for free at Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) from 31 December 2023.

The changes have been brought in by central government and will make it easier for people to freely dispose of small amounts of waste created at home from DIY projects such as re-tiling, renovating a bathroom or digging a pond in the garden.

Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet voted in favour of necessary changes to the council's Waste Access and Acceptance Policy which sets out rules and procedures for the county's 10 HRCs, to reflect the new legislation.

Following the change in law regarding the disposal of household DIY waste, the council is reintroducing a digital e-permit for DIY waste. From 31 December,

any resident wanting to dispose of household DIY waste at a HRC will need to have an e-permit printed out or on a portable device, such as a mobile phone or tablet, before they visit. This only affects residents who wish to bring household DIY waste.

The DIY e-permit will allow residents to dispose of one load of DIY waste each week for free. One load of DIY waste is no more than 100 litres of loose DIY waste, or one large item no bigger than 2m x 0.75m x 0.7m such as one bath tub, one door or one kitchen unit. Staff will scan the permit and check the resident's address, after which the e-permit will expire. It can be renewed after seven days, to allow residents to dispose of another load of DIY waste for free. Anyone wishing to dispose of more than one load of DIY waste in a week will be able to do so but will be charged, using the same price list which has been in place for the past four years.

Council Enforces Higher Penalties for Fly-Tipping in Bucks

Those caught fly-tipping in Buckinghamshire face the consequence of paying a higher penalty for their crime following changes to the law which have been adopted by the council.

Earlier this year the government increased the maximum Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) for fly-tipping from £400 to £1,000. The penalty for Failure in

Householder Duty of Care, has also been raised from £400 to a maximum of £600. This penalty relates to people who have waste removed by a third-party waste carrier. By law householders have a duty to check that the carrier they are using is legally authorised to carry out the work and will do so responsibly. If the waste they have given the carrier is found dumped illegally, the householder is deemed to have failed in their Duty of Care regarding their waste and can be liable for prosecution.

Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet today voted in favour of amending local policies to reflect the changes, bringing in powers to enforce the highest rate for FPNs for those caught breaking the law in this way.

FPNs are generally used for smaller scale offences and avoid court proceedings and a criminal record. However where possible the council will always seek to impose the maximum penalty and for larger scale or more serious offences the defendant may be summoned to court where fines are set by magistrates and can result in custodial sentences and costs totalling thousands of pounds.

Coming Soon to the Aylesbury Area – Buses on Demand

People in the area surrounding Aylesbury will have an exciting new choice of how to travel by public

transport after Buckinghamshire Council is set to partner with WeMove to launch a 'demand responsive' bus service. The three-year trial follows the successful introduction of a similar scheme in Wycombe earlier last year, which has already proved so popular that it has expanded to new areas to meet demand.

The new service is part of a pilot scheme funded by the Government's Rural Mobility Fund and covers a specific geographical area, enabling passengers to request a pick up from one of the fully accessible minibuses at a convenient nearby 'virtual bus stop' as the buses travel through their area.

The areas covered by the service include Aston Clinton, Weston Turville, Halton, Hartwell, Stoke Mandeville, Bishopstone and Weedon. The service will drop off passengers anywhere within the operational area, which includes Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury town centre and the railway stations at Aylesbury, Aylesbury Vale Parkway, Stoke Mandeville and Wendover.

Council Plan to Balance the Books for the next three years

Buckinghamshire Council has published its medium-term financial plan which details how it will balance its budget for the next three years.

In an acutely challenging financial context for local government, the council has worked hard to identify the savings needed to balance the books until 2027 and where spending

reductions will be needed over the next three years. It's also produced a detailed budget proposal for 2024/25 including how much it's proposing to spend on major projects and services, following consultation with residents.

With many local authorities increasingly unable to produce balanced budgets, we are not yet in that position in Buckinghamshire. We have already made considerable savings from becoming a single unitary authority in 2020. The council forecasts that by 2027, it will have saved a total of nearly £172 million from both savings and additional income.

However, the council is still facing very significant extra financial pressure because of rising costs and demand particularly for services that help the most vulnerable, such as social care, providing temporary accommodation for people who have become homeless and home to school transport (particularly for children with special needs). All of these are critical services that people depend on, and which are statutory, meaning the council is legally obliged to fulfil these services.

It means that to balance the budget, the council has put forward solutions to ultimately reduce costs, including:

- investing in additional children's homes to reduce the heavy cost burden of external placements
- making savings in Adult Social Care through providing help for some residents, where it fits their need, to live more independently

- rationalising the council's office space, such as closing the King George V site in Amersham
- investing in more housing and temporary accommodation units to bring down the spend on costly nightly-paid accommodation

Residents were asked their views during the autumn on where they wanted the council to prioritise spending the budget and this feedback is now reflected in the financial plans.

The budget proposals include spending the following amounts over the next four years:

- £105 million on the highways network
- £25 million on supporting housing and homelessness
- £14.7 million on climate change and flood management projects
- £37.6 million on economic growth and regeneration projects

Overall, the plan proposes that the council spends £656.4 million on capital projects over the next four years.

The council raises the money needed to pay for these projects and services through grants and income streams. The biggest of these by far is the income from council tax, which makes up 80% of how council services are paid for. Because the cost of providing services has risen so significantly due to added demand and high inflation, the council can only balance the budget by raising council tax again next year. The budget proposals put forward a 2.99% rise in the base rate of council tax, with

a further 2% rise to be spent on Adult Social Care, meaning a total rise of 4.99% – or an extra £1.69 per week for the average Band D property.

Underpinning this overarching financial plan are a number of key principles, including how it will allow the council to keep delivering on the priorities residents have asked for, while not making over-ambitious savings or excessively using reserves in the process.

Council agrees to start work on Phase 2 of the South East Aylesbury Link Road

Buckinghamshire Council will start work shortly on Phase 2 of the South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) scheme.

SEALR will see the construction of 1.1 miles of dual carriageway including three new roundabout junctions designed to ease congestion in Aylesbury and provide an easier route for traffic to flow without going through the town centre. The new link road will join the A413 Wendover Road with the Stoke Mandeville Relief Road, which is being constructed by HS2.

The council is coordinating the SEALR scheme with the project moving forward in two phases. Phase 2 will connect the B4443 Lower Road to a new roundabout junction with both the Stoke Mandeville Relief Road and future South West Aylesbury Link Road

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

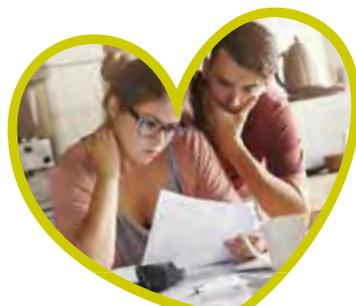
Get in touch

- 📍 buckinghamshire.gov.uk/helping-hand
- ☎ 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.



Your local Councillors:

Cllr Karen Groom
 Chairman – Ivinghoe Parish Council
 Add: Willowdene Farm, Ivinghoe, LU7 9EA
 Tel: **01296 668326** or
 Mob: **07882 3562411**
 Email: karengroom@hotmail.co.uk



Cllr Helen Nash
 Email: helennashpc@outlook.com



Cllr Claire Bamber
 Vice Chairman – Ivinghoe Parish Council
 Add: Bruce Grove House, Great Gap, Ivinghoe, LU7 9DZ
 Tel: **01296 668134** or Mob: **07711 107 114**
 Email: claire.bamber@btinternet.com



Mrs Bridget Knight
 Clerk to Ivinghoe Parish Council
 Add: Parish Office, Ivinghoe Town Hall, High Street, Ivinghoe, Bucks LU7 9EP
 Tel: **07960 605393**
 Email: ivinghoeparishclerk@gmail.com



Cllr Paul Jellis
 Email: ivinghoeparishclerk@gmail.com



Cllr Peter Brazier
 Buckinghamshire Councillor
 Email: Peter.brazier@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Cllr Stephen Lott
 Add: 2 Yew Tree Close, Ivinghoe, LU7 9ET.
 Tel: **01296 668897**
 Email: sjl@linley-lott.me



Cllr Chris Poll
 Buckinghamshire Councillor
 Edlesborough Ward
 Add: 43 Gooseacre, Cheddington LU7 0SR
 Tel: **01296 663 737**
 Email: chris.poll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Cllr Sheena Bexson
 Email: sbexson@spiralportfolio.com



Cllr Derek J Town
 Buckinghamshire Councillor
 Tel: **01296 661637**
 Email: derek.town@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Cllr Clive Ketteridge (known as Ketts)
 Email: ivinghoeparishclerk@gmail.com





Saturday 24th Feb

9:30~12:30

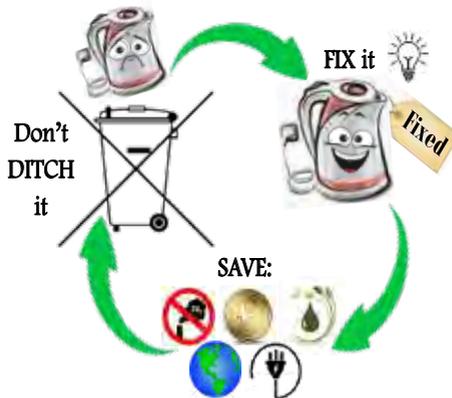
Pitstone Pavilion

Bring along:

- ♻️ Clothing and Fabrics mending
- ♻️ Household items
- ♻️ Furniture
- ♻️ Laptops, phones, tablets

And more...

*No charge for
fixing, but
donations are
welcome*



 @ivinghoepitstonerepaircafe

 Ivinghoe & Pitstone Repair Café

 ivinghoerepaircafe@gmail.com

 www.iprepaircafe.wixsite.com/repaircafe