



Ivinghoe Beacon Magazine

Issue 122 70 pence where sold



Inside this Issue:

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- Mad Jane...
- Welcome the New Vicar
- Press Release from Bucks Council



The Quarterly Magazine
of Ivinghoe Parish Council

The Beacon Team...

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

Many thanks to them all; Gloria Snowdon, Les Hyde, Pat Roach, Rob and Ann Cattle, Keith Haynes, Sharon Stewart – it couldn't be done without you!

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



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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:



February 2023 Edition – 4 January 2023
May 2023 Edition – 4 April 2023
August 2023 Edition – 4 July 2023
November 2023 – 4 October 2023

BEACON MAGAZINE ADVERTISING RATES:

1/4 page	£58 per year
1/3 page	£65 per year
1/2 page	£95 per year
Full page	£130 per year

NB: Rates are for 4 editions.

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

Welcome from the Chair

Welcome to the November issue of the Ivinghoe Beacon Magazine.

I am very pleased to say that the first phase of the traffic calming is complete. You will have seen the new surface and bollards outside of Brookmead School. Also, the double yellow lines have been installed in the High Street. Further traffic calming is expected soon in Station Road.

Two mature 'Axel Common Walnut' trees are being planted for the Jubilee. One in Ivinghoe Aston and one Ivinghoe.

I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and New Year.



Karen Groom,
Chair, Ivinghoe
Parish Council

As always please follow us on social media and our website www.ivinghoepc.org.uk for updates.

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



Ivinghoe Town Hall & Beacon Villages Community Library

(Charity No. 300287)

Greetings from your Town Hall Management Committee!

We held our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 22nd September at the Town Hall and whilst we were delighted to welcome three new members onto the committee, we were sad to see two much valued and respected members stepping down from the group.

Stephen Lott has been on committee for several years, representing Ivinghoe Parish Council and serving as Vice Chairman. He has been such an asset whenever we've needed any technical advice or input, and he can always be relied upon to have done the research, including scrutinising the small print for any issues under discussion. Thankfully, he is staying on as manager for our Website!

Thank you Stephen.

Stephen Swinbank has been on committee for 19 years and 3 months precisely! He has been an amazingly hard-working and diligent team member – in fact he has been 'Mr Town Hall'. As well as his actual responsibility of Booking Secretary, he has been the one who checks everything has been left in order, opens up for meter readings and safety checks, puts the bins out, etc etc etc! He does so much that we've had to split his jobs up amongst other

members! **Stephen, you have been amazing and we all thank you most sincerely.** Enjoy your well deserved retirement!

Our new committee is:

Karen Groom	Chair
Claire Bamber	Vice Chair
Treasurer	Greg Jones
Secretary	Sue Eyre
Minute Secretary	Elaine Wilson
Booking Secretary	Julie Fretwell
Library rep	Colin Arney
IPC	Sheena Bexson
Maintenance	Brian Rogers

All members can be contacted via our website (details below). And if anyone would like to join us, you would be most welcome. We meet about 4 times a year

To Hire Ivinghoe Town Hall:

Julie Fretwell **07469016745**.
Or email: ivinghoetownhallbookings@gmail.com
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The vllAge Hack

Not too much news I'm afraid this time and aside from those annoying and sudden road closures (all for good reason he adds quickly) its been an incident free period on the whole. I guess largely due to it being the holiday period.

Escapee on the Loose!

At just after 2am on an August morning and on a leisurely drive down into the village you might not be surprised to see a rabbit, a fox or a deer in the road. After all they're as common as muck round these parts. What you would not expect is seeing a wallaby gently hopping along, even if Whipsnade is only down the road, but that's just what local resident BB came across. Lets hope he or she doesn't go the same way as Percy our last wildlife resident of note.

Our marsupial friend was last seen hopping into one of the field near the top of the hill, no doubt to chomp away on the goodies kindly planted there!

Street with No Name

For those not aware yet, the idea that village residents have the opportunity to name the very street on which Ivinghoe Aston stands is no more – or its at least shelved. From what I gather, its a complex process and concerns raised by some residents surrounding the burden of notifying suppliers, etc and potential

costs has led the parish council to cancel the project.

It is of course possible to re-visit if there is sufficient will amongst villagers...

Tequila Mockingbird

The book club, started in April of this year, continues to thrive with a hardcore of regulars meeting up to discuss the most recent read, decide upon the next and sup a few 'ales'. They have worked their way through a number of diverse literary works such as The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafon, Gaudy Night by Dorothy L Sayers, Holding by Graham Norton, The Bees by Laline Paull and The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

If you'd like to join in then just ask around, they meet up every 4 to 6 weeks on a mutually convenient date.

The Village Swan

It seems to have been a busy time for our incumbents at the pub with a whole series of events including open mic nights, live band evenings, quizzes, a curry night, a soul music evening, a halloween night, an Oktoberfest and its been CAMRA pub of the week to boot!

Events are on a notice board in the pub and put on the village Facebook page. Great news is that the quiz night is back in full swing on the second Tuesday of the month.



By now a new chef will be in place so we can all look forward to some exciting developments. Christmas is of course round the corner and speaking with Nicole they are planning on having a Christmas menu in due course as well as planning to open for Christmas Day. Keep your eyes open.

Remember, the pub was saved by the village as the only venue where we can all meet, chat, have a drink and socialise. Keep supporting your local!

Dumper didn't Win!

At least one person has received a proverbial 'poke in the eye' following their conviction for rubbish dumping, evidence for which was a pile household waste left in Ivinghoe Aston's bus stop. I don't know if it was a bus driver that reported the dumping and given their rarity round here I doubt it!

As this scourge never seems to end we can only hope for more of the same.

Road Calming Measures

As far as I know there's no final decision on what traffic calming measures will be implemented within the village though according to the parish council minutes a consultant has visited the village in order to provide recommendations. Rumours are though that we might well be having some of that red tarmac which will no doubt solve all of our speeding problems!

If anyone would like to see something mentioned or an article submitted in the vllAge hack then please let me know.

Phil Jones
pajones58@googlemail.com

Hub News...



We are now taking rental bookings for the old village School built in 1865 in the newly situated and refurbished Community Room at Ivinghoe Old School Community Hub.

The new Community Room is situated at the rear of the building with its own private entrance via the rear school door and a dedicated outside patio/seating area. Rental also includes use of an adjoining fully equipped kitchen for self-catering in addition to the padded stackable chairs, fold-away tables and ambient lighting. Speaker and projection facilities will also shortly be available in this space.

This is a great space for family and children's Birthday parties as well as other community activities.

Approx: 48.40 sq m (not including kitchen area).

Booking Fee after 1st October:

- Ivinghoe Parish and Pitstone residents or organisations:
- £12 per hour if more than 12 bookings are made at one time
- £14 per hour for ad hoc hires
- Residents/organizations not located in Ivinghoe Parish and Pitstone
- £14 per hour if more than 12 bookings are made at one time
- £16 per hour for ad hoc hires.

Ivinghoe Old School Community Hub

Website: www.ivinghoeoldschool.com

Email: secretary@ivinghoehub.co.uk

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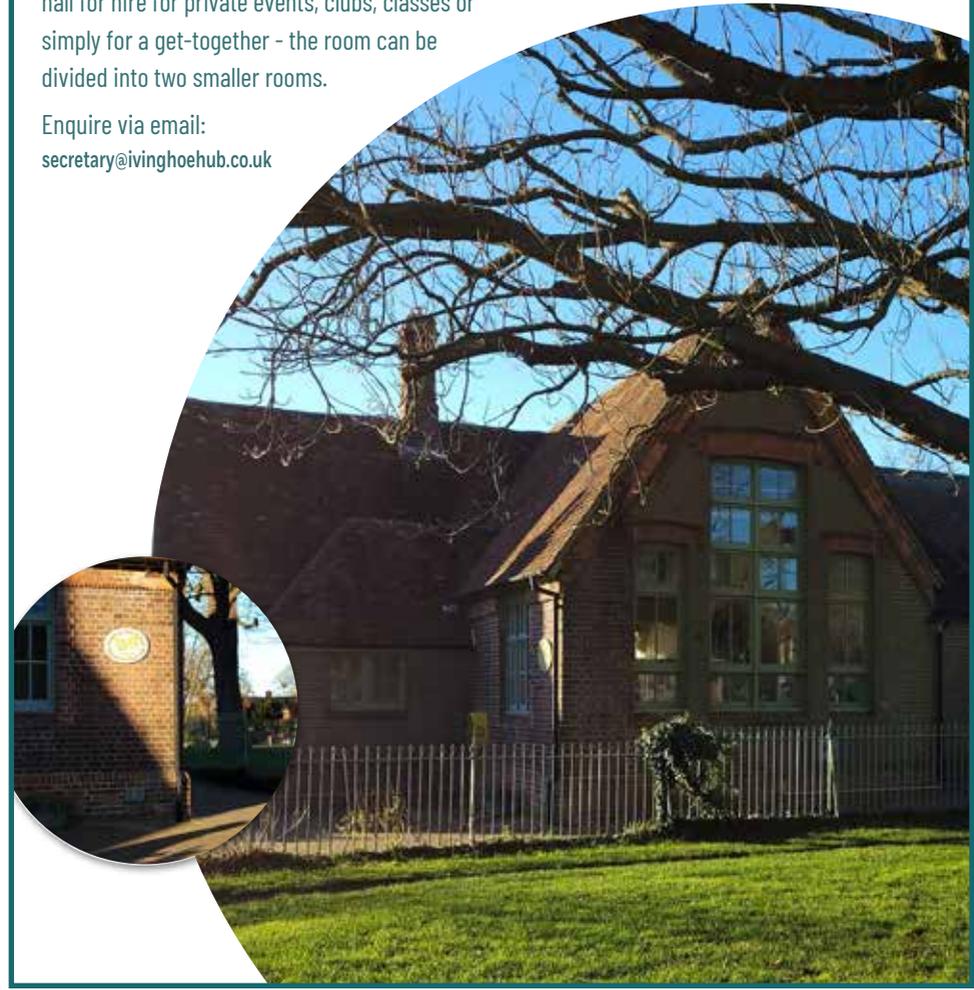
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Ivinghoe Old School Community Hub

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.

Enquire via email: secretary@ivinghoehub.co.uk



A Sad Farewell to a Culinary Gem

Friday 30 September will see what is truly the end of an era when **The King's Head restaurant**, Ivinghoe, serves its last diners and closes its doors for the final time.

The ivy-clad, 17th Century posting house, has been a by-word for fine dining in Buckinghamshire for more than two thirds of a century, and nobody can remember a time when Georges de Maison wasn't the restaurant's public face, orchestrating the consistently high standards that have made its richly deserved culinary reputation. When Georges, Annie Cooney, Patrick O'Keefe and Jonathan O'Keefe bought The King's Head from Granada in 2001, the four-person consortium already had some 75 years' King's Head experience between them.

For the four, taking over the business they loved was a dream come true. Patrick has since sadly passed away, but Georges, Company Secretary Annie and Head Chef Jonathan now total well over a century of service between them. So it's with great sadness that they have announced the restaurant's closure, but "time moves ever forward and we are not getting any younger!" Annie explained.

For Georges de Maison, the catering industry is truly in the blood. His grandparents, parents and brother were all in the business and Georges showed an interest at an early age. When he was just 14, he was one of the youngest students at the catering school in

Strasberg, combining his studies with part-time work to earn some extra money. His subsequent career included the Auberge de l'Ill in Illhausen, the famous La Tour d'Argent in Paris, the Café Royal and the Mayflower in Surrey, before joining the French Air Force as part of a General's Retinue. He returned to England as Head Waiter at the Hunting Lodge on Lower Regent Street before, in 1961, finally arriving at The King's Head, where he has been ever since.

Jonathan O'Keefe succeeded his father, Patrick, in charge of the hallowed kitchen. It was his third stint at the restaurant where he did his basic training. His previous experience had included Auberge du Lac at Brocket Hall Golf Club, La Belle Epoque at South Kensington, Pendley Manor in Tring, and Grosvenor House Hotel on Park Lane. His menus have continued to major on traditional classics, whilst also introducing some more modern dishes. The legendary Aylesbury Duckling has continued to be the speciality of the house, and has always been much in demand.

Annie Cooney had waited tables in earlier days, gained an abundance of experience in hotel management, and spent some ten years at The Kings Head and a similar period at The Bell in Aston Clinton, and was enjoying a break from the business when Georges called her out of the blue with an invitation to join the consortium. Like her colleagues, she has been a very hands on owner, often

found behind the front desk.

The reaction to the closure – shock and more than a few tears in the community – has touched this hard working team, who admit that the decision has been the hardest, most heart breaking of their lives. It will leave a gaping hole in Ivinghoe and in the wider culinary world.

The three remaining owners said in their statement, "When Patrick passed away we commemorated him with brass plaque in the garden – 'We shared a dream' - and we have continued to share that dream to the present day.

They also thanked staff, past and present, for their skills and dedication, many of whom have been with the restaurant for many years; and their great suppliers, "especially Richard and Beverley Waller, who haveworked tirelessly, without a break to supply our famous Aylesbury duckling."

The King's Head truly was a one-off, and locals will travel a very long way to try and find a comparable dining experience. Jonathan said, "It's going to take a while to come to terms with," and that goes for their devoted clientele.



How will rising costs impact the housing market?



This is currently the million dollar question. The truth is no one knows, but everyone has an opinion.

We are all undoubtedly hearing about, experiencing and likely worrying about rising living costs. Coupled with interest rises it would appear that life and borrowing will become increasingly expensive in the short to medium term. The question is, how will that affect the housing market?

Naturally, there will be those for whom their budget is directly affected; affordability is lower and willingness to push themselves financially possibly lessens. This will mean one of two things: **a)** that a buyer's ability to meet previous market prices will be weakened, or **b)** their perception of the market will have changed – if the future market is potentially going to be weaker then they have to be more savvy and careful about what they pay today.

In my opinion, whilst the future feels undeniably uncertain, opportunities will continue to arise. For example, if you are moving up the property ladder financially because you need more space or a different schooling location, then a market that cools or softens will actually represent a better market to trade in as the pricing gap between the lower and higher value property lessens.

Given that far more people upsize than downsize, this presents an opportunity.

If you are looking to downsize physically and/or financially there have been and will always be a host of families looking for their long term family home. It might just be that expectations need to be realigned.

The key will be to properly understand your budget before embarking on a potential move. If you need to sell your property, gain sensible advice. Keenness to hear the highest valuation is probably folly. Being realistic and pricing relative to today's market will get you moved just as it did in yesterday's market. Speak to a financial advisor with access to, and an in depth understanding of the whole of the lending markets, not necessarily just the bank you currently work with.

My view is that whatever the market does or doesn't do, there will be many people who dream of a move for their own personal reasons and those dreams will be just as achievable today or tomorrow as they were yesterday. The difference for today will be in seeking advice from more experienced and realistic sources.

As an independent estate agent with over twenty years' experience I provide a more personal and tailored experience compared to traditional agencies. If you'd like to see how I can help make your moving dreams a reality get in touch at **jon-paul.brampton@exp.uk.com** or **07359 015 020**.

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WI News...

Ivinghoe & Pitstone Women's Institute



Our WI was very busy in July when we supported 2 village events. The first was the Church Fete on Ivinghoe lawn. Our WI had two tables – one selling crafts made by our members and the other a bottle tombola. Both stalls were busy with the tombola selling out and the majority of the beautiful Craft items also being purchased by visitors to the fete.

The second event was Music on the Lawn. We provided tea, coffee, Prosecco, cakes and scones. The Prosecco and the scones filled with jam and cream were very popular and our cakes all sold out. There were lots of compliments on how delicious our cakes and scones tasted which was very much appreciated by the ladies who baked for this event.

Our July meeting saw a discussion on whether to move our venue from Ivinghoe Town Hall to the Pitstone Pavilion. Each member received a pack comparing the 2 venues. The meeting was facilitated by 2 members of the WI Federation so that there could be no bias on either venue. All members attending the meeting were given an opportunity to voice their opinion on the suitability of each venue. The meeting finished with tea and cake and a proposal form with 3 options. These options were then emailed to all 52 members to vote on. The votes were returned to the facilitator by 31st July and the results were announced in the

September meeting. The decision was for the WI to continue their monthly meetings in Ivinghoe Hall and to hold special events in Pitstone Pavilion. It was good to draw a line under this long running discussion.

Our August meeting comprised of a visit to Tring Bowling club. The weather was perfect for for an evening game of bowls. Most of us were inexperienced and we welcomed the expert tuition provided by members of the Bowling club who were very knowledgeable and patient with us. The evening was rounded off with a lovely buffet provided by the club. Thank you Tring Bowling Club.

On the day of our September meeting the country was hit by the sad news of the death of our Queen Elizabeth II. The members present at the meeting considered whether to continue with our speaker, Mr Clive Peacock and his comedy magic show in light of this sad news. Mr Peacock was a late notice replacement for our previous speaker who was unable to attend. It was decided that we would have a minute's silence for the Queen and continue with the meeting. The show was clever, interesting and funny and was enjoyed by our members.

Our clubs continued to meet up during the summer months. Supper club meets up once a month on the third Thursday evening of the month and participants have enjoyed meals at The Olive Limes, Tring, The Bridgewater Arms, Gaddesdon

and The Village Swan, Ivinghoe Aston. Our Craft group members meet at the Hub on the last Wednesday of the month and have made jewellery dolly bags and mosaics on flower pots. Random Readers meet at the Hub on the first Wednesday of the month between 19:30 and 21:00 while our popular Board Games club meet in Pitstone Pavilion twice a month on the second and fourth afternoons in the Hub from 14:00 to 16:15.

The Walking Group have now completed 3 stages of Greensand Ridge Walk with the final walk being completed in July. The walkers have enjoyed the beautiful scenery of Bedfordshire and the weather has mostly been good which has been an added bonus. A new route has

been planned to start in October following the Chiltern Heritage Trail. The Knit and Natter group also meet once a month and are busy knitting for Christmas.

Members are looking forward to our October meeting when we will be having a demonstration on Salsa dancing. We have been told to bring our dancing shoes! Our Annual General Meeting takes place in November and our Christmas celebration follows in December.

Further details of these events and if anyone is interested in joining our Group and would like a trial or further information, please contact Annette Hutchinson email:

annetteipw@btinternet.com

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Brilliant BeaconLit Wows Book Lovers



After a two-year absence, BeaconLit book festival roared back in July with a literary lineup to challenge the best. With bestsellers in abundance, historical fiction royalty, future superstars, and much besides, the festival - run and staffed by volunteers to in support of Beacon Villages Community Library – returned to Brookmead School, Ivinghoe, on 18 July and was well attended.

There were in-depth ‘in conversation’ sessions with Sunday Times Bestsellers Ruth Hogan and Stacey Halls, and with former Crown Prosecutor Nazir Afzal; a discussion on the writing of historical fiction by stars of the genre Antonia Hodgson and William Ryan, led by Antonia Senior; a panel discussion on

getting the details right in crime fiction between novelists Olivia Kiernan and Dave Sivers and real life crime busters DI Andy Thompson and former CSI Joey Giddings; and a chance to hear from rising stars Katie Allen, Rosie Andrews and Ayanna Lloyd Banwo.

Our Bookshop from Tring were in attendance to sell authors’ books for signing, and there was a happy buzz throughout the day.

BeaconLit 2023 will be at Brookmead School on Saturday 8 July. Meanwhile, writers can enter the Roy Chapman BeaconFlash Prize competition for 500-word stories, with a new theme each month and prizes to be won in the final judging next summer. All details are on the website at beaconlit.co.uk.



Art at Wingrave

Just in Time for Christmas...

Hosted by Field View and Home Farm
Castle Street, Wingrave, Bucks HP22 4PT

November 18th-20th 10.30am – 4.30pm

We're pleased to invite you back to 'Art At Wingrave' from **Friday 18th – Sunday 20th November, 10.30am – 4.30pm**, just in time to find those elusive and different Christmas gifts.

During the week-end Julie Pugh's lovely Studio will be open for her successful, annual pre-Christmas showing of 'One of One' Jewellery at **Home Farm**, Castle Street.

And at **Field View**, Castle Street we will be hosting an exciting collection of works from a dozen local Artists and Makers – and expect to meet the Artists too!

From the beginning of November, A6 booklets detailing the artists and showing examples of their work will be available at the Wingrave Shop. Look forward to seeing Ceramics, Ceramic and Paper Sculptures, Textiles, Glass

Art, Designer Lamps, Pencil and Pastel Portraiture, Mixed Media Paintings.

So here's the perfect opportunity for a spot of enjoyable browsing; keep the dates free, bring a friend, head down Castle Street and pay us a visit – a warm welcome guaranteed along with something mulled to drink and yummy cake of course (Proceeds from refreshments to Cancer Research UK).

See you there – well 'here' in fact...

**Andrew and Margaret Liversidge,
Field View Studio**

(Check out and follow Julie's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/oneofonejewellery>) and our Instagram page (<https://www.instagram.com/art.at.wingrave/>) for updates featuring participating artists and their lovely work.)

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Mad Jane

Near Great Gap is Mad Jane's Meadow. This named after Jane Horn who was to have married a sailor called Will George, but just before the wedding he went off to sea. A poem about the event runs like this:
In vain she waited for his return

Of danger thinking none, sir
Will George the feckless
Swain returned
Who'd been away to sea, sir
He'd walk no more with
Poor mad Jane
A cruel sight, but true, sir
A fortnight thus had passed away
When down by Forders End, sir
Some farmhands found the poor mad girl
A murdered you may depend, sir
Will Gorge next morn could not be found
Though searched for far and wide, sir,
And well for him and Ivinghoe town
That he's not seen no more, sir.

There is a road named after Mad Jane
but the name has been changed to
Maude Jane.

By gate and style and wood, sir
And then at last was forced to learn
That he had gone for good, sir
So, day by day her senses went
She wandered far and near, sir
Her only thought was the intent
To find her love dear sir
At midnight through by
Newman's Grove
You'd find her walking lone, sir
By Bull Lake seeking for her love

The air crash when seven died 1923

Thousands of sigh seers turned up when the DH 34, 11-seater plane belonging to Daimler Airways crashed in a field at Ivinghoe killing two pilots and five passengers. It happened in bad weather in 1923 and the crash was seen by Mr Rogers of the Raven Pub at Ivinghoe who said he saw the plane turn sideways and then hit the ground with the propellor digging a deep hole. A Mr Arthur Wad who was first on

the scene tore open the cabin but found all the passengers lying dead in their wicket seats and the two pilots lying dead underneath the wreckage with their heads protruding.

One of the passengers **Ethel Russell Armitage** was buried at Ivinghoe.

Thank you to Alex Wynne for contributing these articles. If you have some historic articles or photographs to share please contact the Editor.



Christmas Gift Fair

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New Vicar – New Chapter



A full house at St Mary's Church, Ivinghoe with Pitstone saw the Institution, Induction and Installation of Revd James Granger-Smith as the new Vicar of the Benefice, which also embraces Holy Cross, Slapton and All Saints, Marsworth.

The occasion, on a pleasant evening on Tuesday 12 July, was the culmination of a long vacancy and a painstaking selection process, and the church family and the combined communities were well represented.

James was presented to the Bishop of Buckingham, Right Revd Alan Wilson, by Revd Canon Tim Harper, who spoke of clergy needing support and encouragement. He was welcomed by the Ministry Team and the congregation before the Bishop gave a sermon, which he opened by referencing James's experience of uniting several rural parishes in Yorkshire, "finding out where people are and things that can be done together". This was "just the ticket". The Bishop thanked everyone who had sustained the cap benefice during the vacancy and revealed that the theme for the service had been chosen by James, notably a reading from Deuteronomy – a book 2664 years old – which offered a choice between good and life; and evil and death. "For God's sake choose life, through and with each other," he exhorted.

The Institution and Induction were conducted by the Venerable Guy Elsmore, Archdeacon of Buckingham. Symbols of ministry were presented by Jane Grimmette, Sandra Green, Barbara De Butts, John White, and Catherine and Ed Hughes-Power before James declared his ascent, and swore the oaths of allegiance and canonical obedience.

He received the Deed of Institution and was anointed by the Bishop. The Induction ceremony included churchwardens leading him to the door of the church and presenting him with the keys of the churches in his new Benefice. He was then led to his stall in the church before ringing a bell.

After a final, formal welcome, James was greeted with a warm round of applause. He was then introduced to representatives of the local communities: schools, parish councils, churches, the Scouts and Women's Institutes. He thanked the congregation for the welcome, and everyone who had worked to bring the service together. He led prayers of intercession before the choir performed his favourite psalm – Psalm 126 (those who sow), specially set to music by Judith Sheridan to welcome James and his family.

James was born in Kent, went to school in London, and studied for his first degree at Nottingham, where he met his wife, Janice. Since then, life has taken him to Hong Kong for a short period, back to Nottingham, where he trained for ordination and then on to Winchester, where he served his title. In 2007, he became incumbent of several rural parishes in York Diocese, and he served as Rural Dean of North Holderness from 2012 – 2016. Along the way his sons, Peter and Matthew, now adults came along, and now he and Janice are looking forward to this new chapter in their lives in Buckinghamshire.

St. Mary's Church Ivinghoe

Come and join us for

'Coffee, Cake and Bible Crafts'

**Sunday 20th November from
2.30-4pm**

Theme: Advent

To book a place please contact Sandra Green:

sandragreen20@hotmail.com

or book via our Messy Church Facebook page

[Messy Church at St Mary's Ivinghoe | Facebook](#)





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 Quizzes 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.



Tots Praise at St. Mary's

Fun for under 5's and their parents and carers



Fridays:

4th and 18th November

2nd and 16th December

The sessions will be 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.

For more details contact Sandra on

01296 668648

LOCAL FOOD BANK

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 the village of Cheddington

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

All enquiries will be treated with strictest confidence.

We are always looking for donations to help us to continue with looking after our families, if you are able to help please call us and we can let you know what items are needed.

Church Craft Group Coffee Morning

Saturday 19th November 2022

10.30am – 12.30pm

St Mary's Church, Ivinghoe

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Crafts available to buy

Everyone welcome



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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**





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



After 25 years volunteering with Brownies, I have decided it is time to retire and hand over the reins, hopefully, to someone younger. Brownies have been successfully running in the villages for over 50 years and it would be such a shame if the unit was to close permanently. Volunteering is such a rewarding experience – seeing the shy, nervous little girls blossom into confident young women, giving them the chance to experience activities and adventures in a

safe girl-only space is very important.

Being a member of Girlguiding has also given me many opportunities and I have travelled abroad to Mexico, India and more recently Switzerland, staying at our World Centres. I have also volunteered at many camps over the years with Brownies, Guides and Senior Section including one this year with over 3,000 girls camping – the first large scale event post Covid.

So, if you think you have what it takes to lead our young girls as they start their Guiding journey, check out the website for more information about volunteering and how to register at www.girlguiding.org.uk

Brown Owl
Elaine Thorogood



1st Ivinghoe and Pitstone Beavers (5 3/4 -8 year olds)
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

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.





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Ivinghoe Allotments

News from the Allotment



In her poem 'November', Emily Dickinson wrote 'Besides the Autumn poets sing, a few prosaic days, a little this side of the snow, and that side of the haze' (I do envy anybody who can recite poetry at a whim. Thank goodness for 'Mr Google').

As the final month before the much-anticipated pre-Christmas rush, November is an ideal time for reflection, especially for gardeners and allotment holders. A change of season prompts a shift into polo neck jumpers and boots and November feels a long way away from T-shirts and strappy sandals.

You won't need me to remind you that this year's summer was very hot. Personally, I enjoyed it (perhaps explained by my recently discovered Italian ancestry), but many of our flowers and vegetables did not, especially those grown in pots. Luckily, we didn't have a hosepipe ban, so the mantra was water, water, water and pray for rain.

Reflecting on that haze which already starts to obscure the past growing year I cannot, much as I would like to, blame my lack of growth entirely on the weather. Some of it was my fault. However, the Florence fennel bolting was definitely nature and not nurture. My previously cited to lack of greenhouse heating meant that I had delayed planting my seeds, including tomatoes, courgettes, peas and

beans. The tomatoes weren't actually a failure; indeed, they were quite abundant. They responded well to my decision to drop sardines into the compost. A very successful Italian tomato grower, featured on a TV gardening programme last spring, attributed his success to this trick. So following suit, I tipped a small tin of sardines into some of my pots when I planted out the young plants. The harvest from these does appear to have been more prolific than those fish-free, but my measurements aren't particularly scientific, so I will reserve judgement for a few more seasons. By the end of September however, there were plentiful green balls to be seen. I have transferred these to the windowsill and brown paper bags, together with bananas to help the ripening process. Their late arrival means the Gazpacho (see August's recipe) will probably now be a hot tomato soup!

I suspect that the heat and lack of rain contributed to the non-appearance of blight. Tomato blight is caused by a fungus-like organism that spreads rapidly through the plant in warm, wet weather and renders the plant useless. It is usually very prevalent at the allotment

I initially surmised that my courgettes, typically overflowing their beds (and my freezer) in previous years, had gone on strike. I pondered whether they were all male plants (by explanation, if needed, courgette plants need male and female

flowers for pollination, fertilisation and thus for fruit to form). However, one rainfall was all they needed to spring into life. Their performance was however still severely lacking compared with almost all other years. Likewise, my runner beans produced plentiful flowers but a lacklustre harvest. Again, I'm convinced that I simply planted them too late. Other allotments produced bountiful harvests. Most frustrating, but educational. Mistakes are how you learn.

My gardener's new year's resolution is to plant my seeds in February and early March!

Whilst mentioning things to do, my jobs for November are to plant tulip bulbs and raspberry canes, tidy up vegetable patches and distribute well-rotted manure, cover brassicas with netting (otherwise the Christmas veg will be pigeon feed), clean the greenhouse windows and insulate them with sheets of UV stabilised bubble wrap, construct a leaf mould bin and collect all fallen deciduous leaves. December is the time to plant winter salad seeds, then put your feet up with a large glass of something and browse the seed and rose catalogues.

Apart from Dahlias which were as obliging as ever, my quinces were conspicuously abundant. The quince is an aromatic, bright golden-yellow pome fruit, similar to a pear and the sole member of the Cydonia genus. A ripe quince is hard, tart and astringent. I was given three trees by my two oldest friends (we met as seven year olds and are still close) for a 'zero' birthday.

The previous couple of years have seen one or two fruit but this season has been greeted by an explosion of yellow. Usually, these are picked in late October or November, but I felt compelled to relieve one severely weighed-down branch of its heavy fruit in September, so great was the bounty. They will be used for copious

amounts of quince cheese, quince jelly and some destined for a favourite lamb tagine recipe which I've included at the end.



Talking of successes, this summer also saw the very welcome return, after a couple of years' absence (for obvious reasons) of the Ivinghoe, Ivinghoe Aston and Pitstone Horticultural Show. The show was held in the Ivinghoe Village Hub and the newly decorated venue did not let us down. Despite a distinct threat of rain early on Saturday 3 September the sun emerged and as the day wore on, tables and chairs were set out in the warm courtyard. Tea and homemade cakes were served from the doorway of the refurbished visitor's kitchen by Sue Jones and her team of four ladies.

Entries in all categories, albeit fewer in number than in prior years, were of very high quality and variety. On parade were giant, bulbous white onions, ultra-long carrots, the tastiest tomatoes and red large beetroot. The judges, Lynda and David Treacher, tasted a variety of sticky jams, spicy chutneys and delicious cakes. There were beautiful, colourful dahlias and ▶

the efforts of local children were reflected in a display of artwork.

Many thanks to the Horticultural Show Committee (Karen, Bob, Carol, Amy, John, Julie, Alastair, Ernie and Simone) for all their contributions, which were vital to get the show on the road. Thank you also to everyone who helped with judging, supporting various categories and of course to Windmill Pharmacy, which sponsored the entire show. Watch out for the date of next year's show so you can get growing and creating.



Lamb Tagine adapted from Persianna by Sabrina Ghayour (serves six)

Ingredients: 800g diced lamb (neck and/or leg); two onions peeled and diced, two heaped tsp ground cumin, one heaped tsp ground cinnamon, one heaped tsp turmeric, sea salt, two tbsp tamarind paste, two heaped tbsp clear honey, one small butternut squash peeled, deseeded and cut into 5cm (2inch) chunks, two generous handfuls of cubed quince and/or pitted prunes and/or dried apricots.

Method: Preheat a large saucepan over a medium heat. Drizzle in enough oil to cover the base of the pan, then add the onions and sauté until they begin to brown slightly around the edges. Add the lamb to the pan and stir the meat into the onions, ensuring that you keep the meat moving so it becomes nicely brown and not stewed. Add the spices with a generous seasoning of salt and stir well to coat the meat thoroughly. Stir in the tamarind paste and honey. Pour in just enough boiling water to cover the contents of the pan, reduce the temperature and simmer for 1.5-2 hours, stirring every so often to prevent sticking.

After the cooking time has elapsed add in the chunks of butternut squash and if using, quince, add this too. Stir well and top us with a little more boiling water to just cover the pan. Cook for 30 minutes, then add your prunes and/or apricots. Check the seasoning and cook for a further 30 minutes. Serve with basmati rice, couscous or Persian flatbread.

Bon Appetit!



I also want to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Healthy 2023

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Ashridge Ramblings

Brian Barton

Many readers will fondly remember talks on Ashridge's wildlife, given at the Visitor Centre by Brian Barton and his late wife, Sian, always accompanied by a fine afternoon tea. They also led countless wildlife walks. Sadly, Brian died recently. I have enjoyed and learnt much from his insights into deer, badgers and edible dormice (glis glis), presentations always delivered with great charm and authority. What he didn't know about the history and wildlife of Ashridge wasn't worth knowing. He had a 50-year association with Ashridge and was chair of the Estate Committee for several years. With Sian, he initiated the 'Gentle Strolls' series, which brought a lot of joy to a whole new audience. Brian and Sian were Ashridge legends and are much missed.

Ring Out the New, Ring In the Old!

Ashridge is home to large areas of ancient woodland, defined as having had continuous tree cover since 1600. Only 2% of British woodland matches this criterion. Ashridge used to have more but, from the 1950s, conifers replaced broadleaved trees on some ancient woodland sites. Such sites have a fantastic diversity of plants locked up within their seedbank, as well as fungi, but such species do not colonise new

woodland sites and are damaged and suppressed by conifers through the affect that they have in acidifying the soil and the dense shade that they cast. Many benefits of the species that rely on the trees are also lost. The only solution is to restore broadleaved woodland.

The Ashridge team has been successful in securing major grant funding from the Forestry Commission to trial new techniques for accessing hard-to-reach sites, removing the conifers and replanting broadleaved woodland for the benefit of wildlife. The funding will run for three years. The team will be testing different approaches to using trackway (ground protection mats) to enable extraction of conifers without causing damage to the ground.

Eventually, most conifers will be removed from ancient woodland sites. This year and next, the matting will be trialled in Ringshall Copse (to the east of Wards Hurst Farm). In the third year, work will be done in Sallow Copse (to the north of Monument Drive), which the team has been wanting to work in for a very long time but hasn't been able to due to the fear of damaging the ground.

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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Press Release from Buckinghamshire Council

New home energy schemes for Bucks residents



Hundreds of households in Buckinghamshire are set to benefit from new funding to make their homes more energy efficient as part of a joint project paid for by Central Government funding. The news will be welcomed by households across the county, many of whom are at risk of being pushed into fuel poverty due to rising fuel costs.

The grants are for households with a gross annual income of less than £30,000 or who are receiving eligible benefits, and properties must have an energy rating of D, E, F or G.

The scheme will benefit both homeowners and those who rent privately. The new grant funding will potentially help more than 400 households in the county, and includes properties that are 'off grid', currently using an alternative energy supply, such as oil.

For owner occupiers, the work will be carried out for free. However, for rental properties (whether private or social), the landlord will be expected to pay at least one third of the cost towards the work.

Applications are open now to eligible households at: buckinghamshire-applications.co.uk

The BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) Sustainable Warmth Competition which ran last year invited bids from local authorities for a share of the available funding. Buckinghamshire Council partnered with the Greater South East Net Zero Hub – who applied for funding on the council's behalf, securing just under £5m of capital funding. This will be allocated as follows:

- £3.2 million to support low-income households in Bucks on the gas grid with energy efficiency and low carbon heating measures such as external wall insulation, underfloor insulation and air source heat pumps.
- £1.7 million to support low-income households in Bucks with energy efficiency and low carbon heating measures such as cavity wall insulation, solar PV and loft insulation.

The Hub has since contracted with City Energy who will be the delivery partner for the schemes across Buckinghamshire.

Gareth Williams, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment, said: "This is great news for hundreds of households in the county. Improving

your home's energy efficiency will lower heating bills and reduce carbon emissions, but not all households have the capital available to finance such upgrades without support through schemes such as Sustainable Warmth. This underlines the council's commitment to tackling climate change and is a great example of the co-benefits to society of many mitigation and adaptation measures."

Steve Bowles, Cabinet Member for Communities, commented: "This new funding comes at a critical time when many householders are struggling with rising bills. As well as residents being able to apply directly for the grants at: buckinghamshire-applications.co.uk

– our housing and climate change teams will work together with colleagues at the Hub to ensure all those who are eligible know about the scheme are given the opportunity to benefit."

For more information on the funding visit the **GSENZH website**.

Anyone worried about their energy bills can access free advice and information via the Big Energy Saving campaign being run jointly by Citizen's Advice and the Energy Saving Trust. It includes ideas on **how to save energy at home**.

Bucks residents struggling to pay bills or afford food and essential goods can also apply for grants via the council's **Helping Hand team**

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!



Press Release from Buckinghamshire Council

Have your say on the Home to School Transport Consultation



Buckinghamshire Council has today launched its Home to School Transport Consultation inviting residents to share their views on proposed changes to council-run school bus charges (Spare Seats Scheme), the Home to School Transport Policy (0- to 25-Year-Olds) and the Post-16 Transport Policy Statement for 2023 to 2024.

Between Wednesday 19 October and midnight on Sunday 4 December, people in Buckinghamshire will be able to provide their views on proposals for:

- Spare Seats Scheme charging options
- Updates to our home to school transport policies

Any changes will apply for the 2023 to 2024 academic year onwards and will apply to both new and existing customers.

The Spare Seats Scheme offers paid-for seats on timetabled Council-run school buses, after all young people who are eligible for free school transport have been allocated a seat.

The changes will even out the cost of travel over a child’s whole school career by reducing the cost of post-16 travel for some Spare Seats passengers, making it easier for parents and carers to know

upfront how much they will have to pay before applying for a seat.

The consultation addresses concerns that the Spare Seats fee structure is complex and difficult to understand and proposes three options for simplified school bus ticket charges.

Under all proposed options, non-Buckinghamshire Council residents will pay a higher fee to customers who live within Buckinghamshire.

The Home to School Transport Policy sets out the Council’s approach to providing transport to schools and educational settings for students up to 19 years old, and up to 25 years old for students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The Post-16 Transport Policy Statement sets out transport arrangements for students aged 16 and over. Minor changes to these policies are being proposed to make them clearer and easier to understand.

Steve Broadbent, Cabinet Member for Transport, commented:

“We sell spare seats on Council school buses where they are available after allocating seats to children who qualify for free assistance. This is a positive way of maximising the number of children who are able to travel on our

commissioned bus routes.

“The service has had feedback from parents that the current charging structure is complicated and confusing with lots of different factors that can lead to uncertainty over the rate to be charged. We want to make it easier for parents to understand so are consulting on options which simplify the pricing structure.

“There are no other changes proposed to the Spare Seat Scheme offer, application process or prioritisation policy. Only the Spare Seat charges

will change from the 2023 to 2024 academic year.

“The consultation is open to anyone who wishes to share their views, so please do take a look and provide your comments.”

Complete the online survey at: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/school-transport-consultation

Contact us at communications@buckinghamshire.gov.uk during office hours. For urgent out of hours enquiries, please call **07825 430 978**.



Buckinghamshire Councillors Report

Opportunity Bucks' 'Levelling Up' in Buckinghamshire



Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet has this week approved a new programme aimed at promoting opportunity for all in the county. 'Opportunity Bucks' aims to help all residents access the fantastic opportunities on offer in Buckinghamshire where education, skills, work, living standards and health are concerned.

Following the government's 'Levelling Up' White Paper earlier this year, Buckinghamshire Council has carried out extensive work to draw up a local approach to promote better opportunity for everyone. The result is our new programme **"Opportunity Bucks – Succeeding for All."**

The approach will vary by area depending on what is most important locally and will initially focus on creating action plans for ten wards where outcomes for residents are poorer than in other parts of the county. The ten wards are in parts of Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Chesham.

This is a long-term piece of work and importantly is a partnership approach with other key stakeholders in the local areas such as housing associations, local businesses, voluntary and community groups, schools, and charitable organisations. Activities will be locally led

by neighbourhood Community Boards along with local councillors.

Planning enforcement success for Buckinghamshire Council

Buckinghamshire Council has issued the highest number of planning enforcement notices outside of London according to the latest national data. A planning enforcement notice is issued when an individual or developer is found to be in breach of planning control – it might be that someone has carried out works without planning permission when it was needed, or that they've done something that wasn't within the granted permissions.

Buckinghamshire Council has also served the highest number of 'breaches of condition' notices in the whole country – this is where individuals or developers have failed to adhere to conditions set out when planning permission for their project was granted.

Buckinghamshire Council to hit 25% renewable electricity target

As part of its commitment to tackling the climate crisis, Buckinghamshire Council is pleased to announce that from October of this year, **25% of the**

electricity it uses will come from renewable sources. We have finalised the details of how we will procure the energy for council buildings and assets like streetlights.

Buying renewable energy is one of a number of ways we're tackling climate change in Buckinghamshire and is directly related to action 33 in our Climate Change and Air Quality Action Plan. It helps support the renewable generation sector, reduces emissions of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants, and our dependence on fossil fuels. The extraction, processing, and transportation of fossil fuels has various negative environmental impacts so this purchasing decision helps improve the Council's environmental performance overall.

Town and Parish Charter

In line with the establishment of the new Buckinghamshire Council, we wanted to take the opportunity to strengthen our relationship with all councils across the county.

There has been an ongoing programme of work in the last few years and, following discussion and consultations on earlier iterations, we have developed a charter that demonstrates and articulates the commitment to work and communicate effectively with residents.

The charter has been published on our website and will be shared widely across the council. You can **view the charter online or download a PDF copy.**

The charter will be subject to an annual review which will of course be done in consultation with you all. Cabinet Members and senior officers will be accountable to the Localism and Communities Select Committee to

ensure that the commitments made in the charter are upheld.

New Guardian's Guide website launches

Buckinghamshire Council has launched a unique website to support people who may be taking on the role of a Special Guardian in a child or young person's life. The innovative 'Guardian's Guide' website – makes it easy for guardians and parents involved in Special Guardianship Orders to gain access to a variety of helpful information, advice and support.

A special guardian is a person who looks after a child or young person who cannot live with their birth parents or who isn't suitable for adoption. The child can maintain a relationship with their birth family, but the guardian – usually a family member – is responsible for looking after the child and all day-to-day decisions until they are 18.

In Buckinghamshire the number of children being cared for by special guardians is rising every year. The number of Special Guardianship Orders being granted for Buckinghamshire children is currently outstripping the number of Adoption Orders, so having easy, accessible information for people new to Special Guardianship is vital.

Council employs Green Technology to repair damaged roads

The programme of work started earlier this month. In three phases, it will tackle some of the 'failing roads' where the filling and refilling of potholes is not enough to maintain the road surface to an adequate standard. These are ►

generally more rural roads, originally simple tracks, that were never designed to carry the amount of traffic they now do. As traffic levels have increased over the years, the road surfaces have deteriorated and foundations subsided to such an extent that normal plane and patch repair work is not enough.

The repair work is carried out using a process called Regen. It has been trialled previously in other parts of the county. Crews break up the existing road surface. These materials are then pulverised on site, spread out and compacted to create a level surface. A small amount of cement mixed with water, binds the materials together and creates a solid structure. The surface is then covered with bitumen and stone chippings, sealing it to prevent water getting in. The process is specifically designed for rural roads with a relatively low volume of traffic and would not be suitable on bigger roads with higher traffic flows.

The use of the new technique has multiple benefits:

- The whole process is significantly quicker than alternatives so reducing the inconvenience for local residents and road users
- It has a direct impact on improved air quality as there is no need to use hot asphalt
- By reusing materials instead of taking them away from the site by vehicle, it helps reduce our carbon footprint
- Using fewer materials also brings about significant savings. The cost is £22-£28 per square metre compared to £75-£100 per square metre for more conventional methods

New planning guidance for the Vale of Aylesbury unveiled

Buckinghamshire Council launched a consultation on three important planning guidance documents that, once adopted, will inform planning and development decisions in the former Aylesbury Vale district area.

These documents, known as supplementary planning documents (SPDs), provide detailed advice and guidance on policies in the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan which was adopted by the council in September 2021.

The consultation will be open until 2 November 2022. Individuals and organisations are invited to give their views on the following documents:

Aylesbury Garden Town – South Aylesbury Masterplan

This masterplan document is intended to guide landowners, developers, the public and the local planning authority in respect of environmental, social, economic and design objectives for the planning and development of the South Aylesbury area of the Aylesbury Garden Town, situated within Stoke Mandeville civil parish.

Affordable Housing SPD

This document provides further planning guidance on how affordable housing policy should be applied to proposals for residential development within the Aylesbury Vale local plan area.

Design SPD

The aim of the design supplementary planning document is to ensure that new

development across Aylesbury Vale is of the highest quality, is in context with its location, and is inclusive and sustainable. The document sets out clear principles and objectives that aim to inspire developers and designers and assist landowners, developers, applicants and planners in the process of delivering high quality and well-designed development.

Update on move to new single system for revenues and benefits

In August, Buckinghamshire Council began the process of moving to a new and improved single system for managing council tax, business rates and benefits – merging the former district council systems into one.

The Chiltern and South Bucks systems were taken offline as planned on 15 August and the council has now converted the South Bucks and Chiltern council tax, business rates and housing benefit data and moved it to its new format.

The next step begins today (22 September), when the Aylesbury and Wycombe system (that was merged last November) is taken offline and all the data merged into one system which will be live on 27 October. One single system will then be available to all of Buckinghamshire residents and businesses.

Get your veg on with Grow It, Cook It, Eat It

Buckinghamshire Council supported 'Grow It, Cook It, Eat It' initiative helps residents in times of hardship to put nutritious and fresh food on their table. As the number of food

parcels distributed to households in Buckinghamshire reached 13,718 in the first six months of 2022, many residents are looking for help to find affordable and healthy solutions and alternatives. Grow It, Cook It, Eat It is a community-led project that focuses on growing healthy produce, meanwhile educating local residents about maintaining and harvesting crops to allow people to grow their own food.

There is no cost or membership to visit one of the growing sites, and very little to no commitment – anyone can visit when they have spare time. What doesn't get taken home from the allotments is donated back to the community.

If you're a grower and sometimes find yourself with excess fruit and vegetables you can also give back to those in your community who need it via the **Grow to Give project**, where surplus produce from local allotments and gardens goes towards helping the community via local food banks to help households who may need extra support to access healthy and nutritious foods.

The Grow to Give project has been running in Aylesbury and High Wycombe since 2020, linked to local food banks and was recently launched in Amersham with residents waiting at the door of the council building at 10am to collect fresh produce. Check the Grow to Give website to find your nearest donation allotment site and free access to recipes and cooking videos.

Welcoming Spaces give a warm reception to all

Buckinghamshire Council's latest measure to offer 'a helping hand' to ►

support local residents with the cost of living crisis this winter, is the introduction of Buckinghamshire's **Welcoming Spaces**.

The council is pledging to develop a network of Welcoming Spaces offering a variety of facilities around the county, with local partner organisations, where residents can come into safe and inclusive spaces, free of charge, to stay warm and enjoy a little company.

The scheme is kick-starting with the launch of Buckinghamshire's libraries and community libraries as the first of the Welcoming Spaces venues. Visitors will be welcome for as long as they wish during opening hours and can make use of facilities including free wifi and computer access. Library staff will also be on hand to offer information and support to visitors struggling with the effects of the cost of living crisis.

More information on the Welcoming Spaces scheme can be found on the council website.

Household recycling centres switch to winter hours

Buckinghamshire Council's nine household recycling centres switch to winter opening hours on **Saturday 1 October**. The new opening hours will be 9am to 4pm.

The household recycling centres will be operating the same days as normal, as only the opening hours are changing,

due to the reduced number of visits to the centres after 4pm.

New Kingsbrook Secondary School is officially opened

The new pupils of Kingsbrook Secondary School walked through its doors for the first time in September, the multi-million-pound educational establishment was officially opened by Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, Councillor Anita Cranmer.

The new school in Aylesbury, has been built with funding from the national Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF), Section 106 developer contributions and the government's Basic Need Funding. It will provide 1,080 places for secondary school age children in the local area, including those living in the newly opened Kingsbrook housing development. In addition to state-of-the-art facilities, the school will also benefit from a dedicated 32-place unit for young people with special educational needs (SEN), the first of its kind in the county. The opening of the school has been delivered ahead of its original forecast schedule through the close collaboration of different partners, including Barratts, Insignis Trust, Morgan Sindall and the council.

This may be a future option for Ivinghoe ward students.

Councillor Derek Town

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