

POLICE EMERGENCIES: 999 **Non-emergencies:** 101
Or report on-line – often a quicker response than calling 101
Pitsford Police Liaison Representative contact person:
Chelsey Furniss 07943239453
cfurniss.pitsfordpc@gmail.com
Neighbourhood Watch: Maureen Holliday 078844 90997
mholliday@pitsfordparishcouncil.org.uk
Parish Clerk: clerk@pitsfordparishcouncil.org.uk
01604 820635 or by note into the PC post box at V Hall
Daventry Council area contact form:
<https://selfserve.daventrydc.gov.uk/forms/Comments.aspx>

Website: www.pitsfordvillage.co.uk
Pitsford Primary School: 01604 880866
The Rector (Rev. Stephen Trott): 01604 845655
Email: pitsfordchurch@gmail.com
Sports Field and Pavilion Bookings:
Tony 07979 802524
Village Hall Bookings: Wendy 01604 880797
Pub: <https://griffininpitsford.co.uk>
Newsletter: Maureen Holliday
<https://www.pitsfordvillage.co.uk/newsletter.html>

Newsletter Editions: Feb, March, April, May, June, July, Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec. **Copy Deadline:** 26th of the previous month. **To view the newsletter and links on-line:** <https://www.pitsfordvillage.co.uk> (link on right side).

ROAD CLOSURES:

Road Closure change -Moulton Road and Manor Road, Pitsford
Errigal Civils, on behalf of Gigaclear,

The top of Manor Road (**Moulton Road to Broadlands**) will be closed from the **12th to 16th February 2024** and is viewable here <https://one.network/?tm=137088796>

To ease problems of access for schools Moulton Road will now be **FULLY closed** from the **19th February until the 23rd February 2024**. Manor Road through Moulton Road to leaving the village on the Moulton Side. (Half-term) with the information viewable here <https://one.network/?tm=137087569>

Please notify any Carers or essential services requiring access from Moulton Road.



SHIRLEY PARKER

Shirley sadly passed away on the 31st of December 2023.

She was born in January 1940 in Farthingstone and she was a happy child with lots of happy memories from there.

When she was fifteen years of age the family moved to Pitsford so her dad could work at the Reservoir.

When she left school she worked as a seamstress then later for the Pitsford Old Peoples Hospitals in the sewing room, and then she moved on to work at St Edmunds Hospital in Northampton until she retired.

She still kept up her sewing making wedding dresses and many other things.

She married Ernie Parker, also a Pitsford resident, when she was 19 years old and they divorced in the 1980's but they remained good friends to the end.

Shirley was a good Auntie and I spent many of my school holidays with them at their home in Pitsford.

Sally

Addendum.

Shirley will be sadly missed by all her friends and acquaintances in Pitsford, a long-standing member of the Craft Group and more recently part of the newly established handbell choir. Resident in her home in The Square Pitsford for over 50 years she experienced the many changes in the village over the years.

CI/KI

ALAN MASON

The Mason family have asked if we can let people in Pitsford know that Alan has passed away at the age of 77. Alan was a Churchwarden for a number of years and a great friend and supporter of All Saints church and Pitsford village along with his wife Maureen. Both greatly missed. His funeral will be held on Thursday 1 Feb 11am at All Saints church Pitsford.



It is with great sadness that the family announces the passing of **Malcolm Wilson**.

He was born in Liverpool in 1942 and joins his beloved wife Patricia, who passed away in 2021.

Malcolm started life as an electrician in Lancashire and had three children with his wife Patricia. He moved to Pitsford with his wife Patricia in 2005 and lived on the High Street for a while. He helped at the Primary School, and I still have people telling me he was the best Father Christmas, which he played for many years. He and Pat loved travelling for a few years with their son-in-law Shane and saw Egypt, America, South Africa, and the Great Wall of China.

He cycled round the reservoir every day on his electric bike the last few years. He followed the local hunt and had lots of 'girlfriends' from my horse friends aged from 40 to 84. He would come with me in the car on our summer rides and cook the bacon rolls for the when the horses got back. He could fix anything. He was great at inventing and fitted in wherever he went. He had a great sense of humour and could make you laugh at the dullest of moments. He loved most having a drink with his family and friends and had his cufflinks out on his bedside table ready to go out the night he died.

I'm Karen, Malcolm's eldest child. He also has two sons and six grandchildren. He will be sorely missed by us, especially as he and Mum moved into our garage about four years ago (we moved the cars out first 😊) and after losing Mum about 2 years ago it was so lovely to have him close, so he didn't get lonely.

Malcolm will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. **Karen**



Our wonderful Dad, Greg Dobrowolski passed away peacefully on 31st December 2023 aged 87.

We moved to Pitsford from Cheshire in 1981, buying the house in Broadlands from the Howards.

Dad had a strong Polish connection with the Convent (now Pitsford Grammar school) and very much enjoyed the yearly Polish Easter gatherings at the school. Even his Aunt from Krakow attended one year.

We know many of you met and chatted with him over the past few years whilst he was out walking. To the very end, Dad loved Pitsford, he loved living in a village and he loved the reservoir. We will miss him greatly. We take comfort that he is now with Mum, his beloved Celia and they are both playing tennis or table tennis together somewhere in the sky.

Ellie & Anna



Pitsford Scout News February

The Scout Group resumed their meetings in January with exciting activities for all sections. The Beavers celebrated World Popcorn day (new to me!) and Burns night

creating their own tartan

The Cubs had a prehistoric night and are working on their Scientist badge with experiments. The Scouts learnt about Astronomy for their badge and have started their Stage 3 Emergency Aid.

In February the Beavers are continuing with their international theme with the Chinese new year and also mental health day and tossing pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. The Cubs are having a film night, tossing pancakes and an Environmental night.

The Scouts are having a joint meeting with Spratton Scouts and working on their Communicator badge.

Georgina Miles 07836555025



Pitsford Sportsfield

Outside this winter has thrown almost everything at us, bar so far snow. The field has variously been waterlogged - and lying water on Pitsford's sandy soil is a rarity - and frozen solid. What next with more storms approaching?

Inside the Pavilion continues to be well used by all ages from Beavers to U3A Groups. The facilities are in use almost daily with regular bookings and come the Spring there will be children's parties to add to those. We are looking to carry out some redecoration in the coming weeks inside the Pavilion and on the field, there will be a programme of maintenance work in addition to the regular mowing that Hayeswood will be undertaking once the grass starts to grow again.

We continue to battle with rabbits and moles damaging the field and with those inconsiderate dog owners who fail to clear up after their dogs. And there are the visitors who use the car park for drinking, takeaways and sniffing laughing gas and leave their litter scattered everywhere. Not sure that we will ever win those battles! **Tony Miles Chair - Pitsford Sportsfield Management Committee**



PITSFORD VILLAGE HALL NEWS The next Full English Breakfast is on Sunday 4th February, 10.30am until 12.30pm with last orders taken at 12.15pm. Still only £5.99. Help yourself to refills of Tea, Coffee & more Toast. No need to book unless it's for a table for 6 or more people then ring Wendy on 07903 511572 or Sandra on 01604 880630

Forthcoming Jumble Sale. The next Jumble Sale is on **Saturday 23rd March**, 2 – 3.30pm. Admission 20p. Bricabrac, Nearly new clothes rail, Clothes, Shoes. Books, Toys, Household items. Refreshments and Homemade Cake Stall. The Village Hall will be accepting any unwanted items on Friday afternoon between

2.30 and 4pm and on the Saturday morning between 10.30 and 12noon. Everything that is not sold is collected by Air Ambulance.

Pitsford Village Hall Fundraising. Sandra 01604 880630 & Wendy 07903 511572



PITSFORD WI

Our first get together in 2024 was lunch in the Griffin. 15 ladies attended and enjoyed the first social occasion of the year. Thanks go to the Griffin for accommodating us.

In February Tony and Georgina Miles will be updating us the Outspan Project before their next trip to Uganda this year. We will also be donating food items for the food bank. This is on the 20th February at 7.30pm. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Easter is very early this year so in March we'll be having our Easter Craft session, more on that in the next edition. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm normally unless otherwise advertised. For more information contact sarahthompson122@outlook.com or Sandie Bamford 01604 881662.



Pitsford ladies craft group

We enjoyed a lovely late Christmas celebration meal at the Griffin everyone enjoyed the meal and company

Our next meeting will be **Saturday 10th February 10 am** we now have vacancies if there is anyone who would like to join us come along and meet us in February.

Happy New year to you all **Ann 01604 881477**



ALL SAINTS CHURCH SUNDAY SERVICES

We welcome everyone of all faiths, or none, to join us for our family service on a Sunday morning at 11am, (Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month).

Keith Isaacs Churchwarden Carol Isaacs Churchwarden
Tower Captain



POLICE Liaison Representative for Pitsford:

Cllr Chelsey Furniss: 81 High Street, 07943 239453 cfurniss.pitsfordpc@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator: Cllr Maureen Holliday 078844 90997

mholliday@pitsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

**Remember: IF IT IS A CRIME AT THE TIME CALL 999
OR DIAL 101 TO REPORT A CRIME: OR REPORT ON-LINE**

<https://www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/> it is **often quicker to report online**
<https://www.northants.police.uk> If you suspect a bogus caller is at your door, **call 999.**



To book: Tel : (01604) 880346 E-mail: info@griffininnpitsford.co.uk

Bar Opening Hours: Tuesday... 5pm to 11pm, Wednesday to Thursday ... 12noon to 3pm / 5pm to 11pm
Friday to Sunday... 12noon to 11pm

Restaurant/Food: Tuesday... 5pm to 9pm - STEAK NIGHT, Wednesday to Thursday ... 12noon to 3pm / 5pm to 11pm, Friday to Saturday ... 12noon to 9pm, Sunday... 12noon to 5pm

We are committed to affordable dining for our senior citizens.

Every Lunch Time... (Wednesday & Thursday 12:00-2:30) (Friday & Saturday 12:00-4:00)

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS:

The first point of contact with the Parish Council is through the Clerk. clerk@pitsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Members of the public are very welcome to attend meetings of Pitsford Parish Council. We encourage people to raise any matter they wish to bring to the attention of the Council during the first 15 minutes of the meeting.

Prior notification to the Parish Clerk please by 9am on the day of the meeting, with relevant documentation.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday Nov14th 19:30 in the Village Hall.

Parish Precept Budget Demand: £38,000 for the year 2024/25

New website: old and new pictures to put on the site have been received with thanks.

Churchyard: There are no burial spaces available in the churchyard but there is room for ashes to be interred. Please contact Rev Stephen Trott : revstephentrott@gmail.com

Cemetery: clerk@pitsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Applications for exclusive right of burial plots are available for purchase via the Clerk. Grants will be issued without a specific plot number so that grave spaces can be allocated as needed and adjacent spaces allocated on request. Burial/cremation fees aligned with the church fees have been agreed in Parish Council.

Over the next few months, a clean-up of stone chippings in the area following the building of the stone wall will be carried out and the area re-seeded.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

New Applications

2024/0343/TCA 14 Manor Road Pitsford NN6 9AR Proposal to remove the Rowan and replace it with a fruit tree.

2023/7961/TCA Annes House Moulton Road Pitsford NN6 9AU. Works to 1 x Walnut and 1x Beech tree in the conservation area

2023/6785/FULL Church Mews, Church Lane, Pitsford, NN6 9AJ Conversion of a rural building into a single dwelling

Approved:

2023/7354/TPO Magdalene 8 Stable Lane Pitsford NN6 9NG Works to be carried out on Photinia Approved

2023/7229/TCA Nethercote House Manor Road Pitsford, Removal of a branch from Horse Chestnut. Approved

2023/7156/TCA 40 Manor Road Pitsford, Works to 1x Thulia and 1x Spruce tree in the area. Approved

Quarry Update:

Boughton/Pitsford Local Liaison Group Meeting 30th January 2024

4.1 Bennies reported that the relevant permits have been approved (phase 1) and whilst they could move operations from Boughton to Pitsford today, it is not commercially viable to do so as they would not generate revenue from the Boughton site. They are currently in the planning stage for phase 2.

4.2 Maureen Holliday noted various activities occurring at the site. Bennies confirmed this is to prepare the quarry in line with the environmental and planning requirements. Once compliant, they will progress matters as and when scheduling allows.

4.3 Bennies noted all other sites, the meadow, woodland, and T's coffee continue uninterrupted. T's coffee took an operational break over winter, but they are due to reopen this weekend (3rd / 4th February) and they have lots of events planned. Bennies encourage local residents to support the small local business.

4.4 Adam Patrick previously met with Cllr Simon Phipps in respect of flooding in the area. Prior to the meeting, a video and photos of a waterlogged area was received, the Clerk shared the video to the meeting and confirmed she will circulate copies with the minutes.

4.5 Bennies reiterated they would install a gully when they have a machine on site. They confirmed no work has taken place and the current flooding is excess surface ground water from recent heavy rain. **In any event, they are not able to take any action on the public footpath.** Ciara clarified if the timescale to install the gully is likely to be when Boughton operations move to Pitsford. Bennies confirmed so.

Environment Agency Update

5.1 Michael Fallon gave his apologies and provided the following update prior to the meeting: -

5.2 He confirmed he is the regulatory officer for Boughton and Pitsford, there are no concerns with operations at either site and the permit at Pitsford has now been granted.

Minerals and Waste Department Update (previously Northamptonshire County Council)

6.1 Martin Broderick, as the principal planner, confirmed they are currently dealing with the phase 2 application and once they have the relevant information (i.e. biodiversity, archaeology reports) they will process the application as quickly as possible.

Action: Bennies have no authority to work on the footpath, therefore, Pitsford Parish Clerk will contact Public Rights of Way regarding the flooding on the footpath.

WNC/23/00034/MINFUL Pitsford Quarry, Pitsford, Northamptonshire

Proposal Submission under condition 2 of planning permission 14/00057/MINFUL for an updated schedule of conditions to enable mineral extraction and restoration works within phase 2 (Phase2 is the field between the quarry and the fishing pond). All works vehicles will be routed through the main quarry area to the A508.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/current-minerals-and-waste-planning-applications/current-minerals-and-waste-planning-applications-daventry>

Highways

Ian Boyes Assistant Community Liaison Officer is retiring on February 2nd. Ian has been a first-class supporter of all of the Parish Councils he has worked with. We will all miss him. PPC thank Ian for many years of good service and wish him a happy retirement.

WHAT IS THE PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSIBLE FOR?

The Cemetery: Contact the Parish Clerk clerk@pitsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Millennium Spinney and the Tumulus (Ancient burial ground at the top of High Street) are **owned by the PC.**

The Island Moulton Rd, The Green Grange Lane, Village verges: (Owned by Highways). **The PC receives an annual grant payment from West Northants Council for the maintenance of these areas.**

Puddy Back Lane – the PC has **no responsibility for this lane.** Contains utilities therefore responsibility of WNC
Litter Picking, Leaf Clearing, Road Sweeping is the responsibility of WNC.

West Northamptonshire Council are the governing body responsible for our paths, roads and highways.

You/anyone can report any issues directly to them at

<https://fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk/>

A great success in reporting through FixMyStreet has been the felling of the large dead tree in Grange Lane.

WNC are measured on their performance through FixMyStreet. The Council has been pursuing this for years but a member of the public reporting and chasing it constantly finally brought about success.

Anyone can report potholes, overhanging hedges and many other problems – Just do it!

Northampton Hospital ~ THE SPENCER CONNECTION ~

The link between the Spencer family residing on the Althorp Estate and the first infirmary established in 1744, dates back to the 18th century. The infirmary was a voluntary hospital located in George Row, which ran on donations and was managed by notable members of the community. The role of Grand Visitor was held by a total of six Earls from that family dating between 1810 and 1948. Their role involved meetings, fund raising and regular inspections of the infirmary. This must have been a totally new experience for these individuals because the conditions in that establishment were mostly unsanitary and possibly was their first encounter with the poor of the county. I chose an image of the 5 Earl Spencer as it is one of my favourite images in our collection. He was also known as the 'The Red Earl' as he had a distinctive red beard and was active in politics and a good friend of Prime Minister Gladstone.

Albert Edward John 7th Earl Spencer was the last of that family to serve the Northampton hospital, now on its present site. He served loyally from 1935 – 1948 on various committees and was the last to hold the title of Grand Visitor. There was a Staff of Office that was used when carrying out inspections, looking rather like a billiard cue, which we still hold in the archive. He was amused by the fact that in his role and as a peer acting as Management Committee Chairman he actually served under the radical socialist Minister of Health, Mr Aneurin Bevan, who formulated the NHS, but which gave him connections in high places which proved useful to the hospital. When the new out-patient block was being planned there appeared to be a 2-year delay with obtaining planning permission. Lord Spencer took a trip down to London and spoke to certain parties and came back with immediate building permission to proceed. On top of that he got a promise that the Queen Mother would lay the foundation stone for the building which she duly did on 25 October 1956. His hospital role along with many other public figures in the county terminated in 1948 when the National Health Service was introduced.



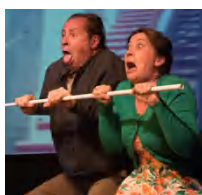
SUE LONGWORTH Museum & Archive at NGH



<https://www.whitecobra.co.uk> to read more....

For PITSFORD Northamptonshire theatre company White Cobra, there's nothing quite like the sight of a satisfied audience. Its founders Richard Jordan and Kate Billingham of Pitsford talk about the evolution of their theatre company.

White Cobra was created by Richard Jordan and Kate Billingham twelve years ago to tour the one-man play Scaramouche Jones. Richard performed the title role, Kate directed and the company got its name from a white cobra that features in the script. Since then, the company has produced around 30 shows, a mix of live drama, audio, musical and comedy productions, and performed across the UK.



Richard and Kate are both happiest on the stage, but are also involved in directing and producing. They describe themselves as 'semi-professional', but their attitude is fully professional. "We do employ professional actors occasionally and our tech team are professionals. We like to support local theatre groups and have recruited performers from there. We don't audition as such, but rather we invite actors we believe will fit the part. One of the problems, though, is attracting a wider diversity of actors. Should we specifically tackle this or is so-called colour-blind casting the way to go? It's tricky, and we need to be wary of tokenism."

In the light of Holocaust week and thoughts of the end of the war: A lovely story



Gunner R Bull 1945



Notice in the Hotel: *This flag was found by British Liberation troops in the German Naval H.Q. at the Pomme d'Or Hotel, St Helier. As can be seen, the flag was signed by many of the Gunners of 620 Regiment, Royal Artillery, who liberated the island on 9th May 1945. The flag was retained for 40 years by Mr R Bull of Wellingborough and handed by him to the C.I. Occupation Society for safekeeping at the time of the celebrations to mark the 40th anniversary of the Liberation in May 1945.*

Fast forward: 1960 and I was a cheeky 7-year-old living the best life possible in a tiny two up, two down on, what was the outskirts of London with my mom, dad, and my sister Pat 4 years older than me. The war had been over for 15 years but like every one of my parents' generations it left its mark. My dad, Ronald Harold Leslie Bull a refrigeration engineer went to work on his old moped protected from the weather by his army trench coat and wearing his army beret. His army greatcoat covered his and Momm's double bed for extra warmth in the winter, but my warmest memories are of climbing into bed next to my dad on a Sunday morning, his muscular arm around my shoulder, a cup of strong tea in the other hand and there he would regale stories of his time in the army. He told me about the old flag he kept in an oxo tin, the one I would tie around my neck and run up and down the garden like some sort of superhero. Little did I know of the fear that flag held for many thousands of people.



May 9th 1945 a week after Hitler committed suicide my dad (along with a few of his mates) liberated Jersey. He took down the swastika flag that flew above the hotel Pomme d'Or St Helier then had his fellow gunners sign it.

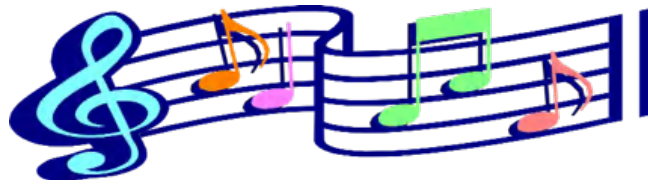


Jumping forward now to 1985 and the commemoration of 40 years since the liberation of Jersey. My dad returned the flag to the island and while looking at all the pictures of the time he pointed to one pinned to the wall that showed a small boy handing over a German officer he had found hiding in a barn. He turned to my mom and said, 'I remember that. The boy handed him over to me'. With that a hand tapped my dad on the shoulder and said 'that boy was me'.

Mr R Bull 1985

Colin Bull

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2024 7.30 PM TO 9.00PM

JOIN US AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH PITSFORD

“Collide: A Choir Fest Experience” is coming to West Northants

An exciting and unmissable event featuring a diverse collaboration of local and community choirs combining over 200 voices, unique singing styles and a variety of much-loved musical genres is coming to West Northamptonshire next year.

Taking place at Northampton’s Royal & Derngate theatre on Saturday, 30 March 2024, this ground-breaking musical production will include performances conducted by award-winning Choir Director, Gareth Fuller, supported by internationally acclaimed conductor Karen Gibson MBE, famed for her show-stopping performance of ‘Stand By Me’ at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

The production will present a blend of differing musical genres as classical meets pop and gospel style singing, rock meets jazz, and orchestral meets them all. The event will feature collaborative performances from 7 choirs, including 3 which have been shortlisted for the Community Choir of the Year award in the **Northamptonshire Local Music Awards 2023**.

Collide will be preceded by a series of **warm up events** and free visible musical performances scattered throughout prominent locations across West Northamptonshire in aid of the Charities chosen by Cllr John Shepherd in his year as Council Chairman.

We are excited to be a host venue for one of a handful of exclusive pop-up performances led by Music Director, Gareth Fuller and cast members of the upcoming specially commissioned show Collide: A ChoirFest Experience.

As the only location to host an evening performance, we are thrilled to invite you all to experience a snippet of what to expect at the full production.

Gareth Fuller is known here at Pitsford following a sell out show with one of his other choirs, Wellingborough Community Gospel Choir.

If you missed that night, you won’t want to miss this!

Tickets Adults £5 U 16’s Free Available from Keith Isaacs 07921468366

isaacskeith@sky.com OR PAY ON THE NIGHT. Refreshments available.