PITSFORD COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER April 2026

If you have any articles that you would like to submit, or an advert from your local company, please email maureeneholliday@runbox.com

Pitsford Needs YOU to help reduce speeding

Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a national initiative where, in partnership with the police, **members of communities use detection devices to monitor local vehicle speeds.**

The volunteers record speeding vehicle details and **report drivers exceeding the speed limit** to the police with the aim of educating drivers to slow down.

If the data proves a driver is **ignoring repeated warnings** police can prosecute them. **The aim is to:**



- reduce death and injury on the roads
- improve the quality of life for local communities
- reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- increase public awareness of inappropriate speed

Community Speedwatch does not result in prosecution itself. However, **if a persistent or excessive speeding driver is identified through the scheme**, police can use this evidence to take action against them if required. If there is a persistent general speeding issue where highway improvements are required (e.g., speed bumps), the relevant agency will be contacted.

Join Community Speedwatch if you want to reduce speeding through the village. Volunteers receive training, and neighbourhood policing team staff will support them. **Contact Jo Woolard to volunteer: JoWoolly@hotmail.com**

Rotary Northampton West & Northampton

CLASSIC

Car Rally & Run



Sunday 26th April 2026 | 10:00am – 4:00pm

Enjoy a day of classic cars and a scenic grand tour of picturesque Northamptonshire.

No entrance fee – donations welcome for Rotary charities including Hope Centre, Lowdown, Kids in Mind and the Food Bank.

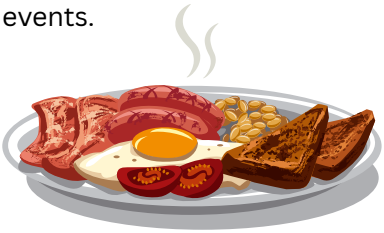
Location: Playing Field, Brampton County Primary School, Harlestone Road, Chapel Brampton, NN6 8AW.

No Dogs.

Details & registration:
www.northamptonrotaryevents.org

Pitsford Village Institute Update

March was another busy and exciting month. We had a fantastic turnout at our breakfast, plus a record-breaking Jumble Sale. Since the main hall refurbishment, we've also seen lots of interest in booking it for children's parties and adult events.



Despite two competing village events, especially the popular T's Wood Coffee Sunday Market, we welcomed over 40 bookings in March, plus plenty of walk-ins.

Our next Community Breakfast is on 5th April (Easter Sunday).

A perfect way to start your celebrations. Enjoy our usual high-quality breakfast, along with takeaway cakes, including some Easter treats.

Time: 9:30am–11:30am (last orders 10:45am).

Booking: Required for groups of 4 or more. Contact Wendy Biggs on 07903 511572.

Payment: Cash only (to help keep costs down, thank you for your understanding).

Village Hall Jumble Sale: 15th March

Our latest Jumble Sale was our most successful yet, with record attendance and queues stretching along the High Street before opening. It was a fantastic community afternoon, raising over £700. Thank you to everyone who supported and helped make it such a success.



Forthcoming Events

Following last year's success, **Vintage in the Village will return** later this year (details to follow).

Our second Jumble Sale will take place in September, can we make it another record event?

We also have a couple more fundraising events in development, with **details coming soon**.

Hall Bookings & Activities

This year, we are also focusing on wellbeing and are pleased to welcome two new health-focused groups, alongside **Vicky's popular weekly Pilates classes (Tuesdays at 8:30am and 10:00am** – contact 07949 945386):

Yoga & Sound Bath – **Thursdays from 9:15am–10:15am**. For details, contact Sara on 07765 255460.

Slimming World – **Mondays at 7:00pm**. A friendly, supportive group focused on healthy eating and lifestyle. Contact Sally on 07751 770165 or come along to a session to learn more.

The Village Hall committee would like to thank all our volunteers and everyone who continues to support our events. Your support makes everything we do possible.

Scouts
Pitsford

If you are interested or would like to know a little bit more about what we do and how you can help us please contact Sue McTaggart Pitsford Group Lead Volunteer at the following email address pitsfordleadvolunteer@gmail.com or pop along to see us at the Sports Pavilion on a Thursday Evening. I am sure you would enjoy working with us to support the young people in Pitsford and surrounding area.

You should all by now be aware what is happening within the group and **we are still looking for leaders to run our Beaver Scout Section**, you could always visit us if you are interested.

Pitsford Scout Group

The weather is at last starting to change for us and spring is in the air with lovely sunshine & lighter nights are upon us allowing the Beaver Scouts to be able to go outside for some activities. We are all looking forward to the **Easter Break** to refresh our batteries & the **renewal of our promises** at the village church on the 23rd April.

Beaver Scouts

Beavers started the term with a visit to the **church bell ringing**, even playing a Christmas carol on handbells. They got hands-on (and messy!) **making lava lamps** and **exploding coke for their experiments badge**. As spring arrived, they **planted cress seeds** and **made sourdough bread for St Patrick's Day**. They also **enjoyed a fantastic (and muddy!) district activity day at John Lowther**, with activities including **archery, backwoods cooking and a Naseby re-enactment**. The term will finish with an **Easter egg hunt and a well-earned break for family time**.

Cub Scouts

The Cubs enjoyed **a day at John Lowther, trying backwoods cooking, caving and making bird feeders**. They also **made bath bombs for Mother's Da**y and **learned about the Battle of Naseby through an interactive reenactment session**. They'll be **celebrating St Patrick's Day with coke floats and games**, before looking forward to their Easter break.

Scouts

The Scouts have been busy working towards their **First Aid badge**, including a visit from **a paramedic who taught resuscitation and how to use a defibrillator.** They also practised bandaging and slings. They **celebrated Pancake Day by cooking pancakes on small stoves**, enjoying a variety of toppings. **The group also learned how to pack a rucksack for a two-day hike with an overnight stay.**

Explorer Scouts

The Section has just had **a day in London doing the 'Monopoly Run'**. A fun day and an experience for all the Explorer Scouts that attended.

Our last meeting was the **Spring Craft session**, held on **Tuesday 17th March**, when members got very creative, making **Easter Bunny and Chick Cream Egg covers**, ready for the Easter weekend. **Thank you to Sandie for the wonderful ideas and for leading the session.**

We also had an enjoyable trip to Moulton Theatre, to watch their production of 'A Bunch of Amateurs!'



Our next meeting is the AGM on Tuesday 21st April.

We meet in the **Village Hall** on the **3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm**, unless otherwise advertised. We welcome visitors to join us for an evening or to become a member. **For more information contact Sandie Bamford 01604881662.**

Do You Know Who Is in Our Churchyard?



From the fields of Pitsford to the international rugby stage, **Archibald Leslie Gracie (1896–1982)** lived a life of courage, sporting achievement and strong local roots.

Born in **Colombo**, **Ceylon**, he later settled in **Pitsford** with his **wife Hilda (1901–1994)**, who grew up at **Sedgebrook Hall**. They made their **home at Duke's Clump**, remaining closely connected to village life.

During the **First World War**, he served as a **Second Lieutenant in the King's Royal Rifle Corps** and was awarded the **Military Cross for outstanding bravery**. His citation praised his **"coolness and gallantry"** under intense bombardment, maintaining communications and leading men with calm determination in extremely difficult conditions.

After the war, he returned to rugby, playing for **Northampton Saints** and going on to represent the **Scotland national rugby union team,** earning 13 international caps in the early 1920s.

One of his most famous moments came in **1923, when he scored a dramatic late try against Wales to win the match,** an effort so impressive he was carried shoulder-high by Welsh spectators at the final whistle.

Despite these wider achievements, he remained a familiar figure locally. Hilda, a strong character in her own right, lived on until 1994. The author of this piece recalls knowing them both personally in earlier years.

A remarkable life of service, sport & community, remembered in our churchyard.

MH

Royal British Legion: Brixworth & District Branch (including Pitsford). Next meeting: 6 April 2026, 7pm

Brixworth branch will now also cover Spratton, Creaton and Cottesbrooke. Eddie Edmunds has joined the County Committee and attended his first meeting. County Chairman Ian Byrnes praised the branch's achievements, noting it is now competing with larger branches such as Rushton, Kettering and Northampton.

This year marks the 110th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. The RBL is encouraging new members, particularly younger people, and is continuing engagement with local schools. The branch now has three Youth Standard Bearers.

Upcoming Events (contact Eddie: 07979 258659)

4th April – Sywell Open Day. We will be working a stall so please raid your cupboards for any cans, shampoo bottles, anything really to put in a bag for the Blind tombola. Please make sure these items are in date.

31st May – **Coach trip to National Memorial Arboretum**, **Leaving 08:30** to get there for the last post ceremony, **returning 16:00**. **Bingo, quiz and raffle on the coach (and toilet). £20.00 pp. all welcome**. If you require a mobility scooter please contact the National Memorial Arboretum yourself.

6th June – **SAMA Riders: South Atlantic Medal Association**. These are ex-servicemen from the Falklands conflict who visit every Falkland grave in the UK during the anniversary of the conflict every year. Visiting **Gerald Bull**'s grave at **Brixworth**.

11th July – **Guided tour of Sywell & aircraft.**

18th July – **Motor Neurone Disease fundraising stall.** We will be manning a stall in the George Carpark. Please raid your, and your neighbour's cupboards for tombola items.



21st August – Golf Day; **25th September** – Band Night;
5th October – RBL AGM; **8th November** – Remembrance Sunday;
11th November – Armistice Day; **TBA** – Tony's Talk N Walk.

Stories Worth Sharing: Family history isn't just big events; it's the everyday stories that quietly disappear unless we pass them on. **These questions are simply invitations, to talk, listen, and share a story that might otherwise be lost.**

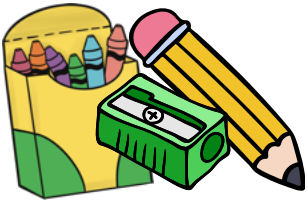
For couples / families:

What is a family tradition you remember fondly, or wish had existed?
What is something about your life that people might be surprised to know?



For children to ask parents:

What did your family do together when you were little?
Did you ever get into trouble, and for what?



Pitsford Primary School
Highlights include:
Children dressing up and celebrating world book day, getting ready for Easter with a disco and Easter raffle.
Next term will see **ducklings** literally arrive in school, they hatch in the library.
Plus in May we have an **after school film club** to celebrate the end of SATs for year 6 children and then we are gearing up for our **summer fair on Saturday 13th June, all welcome.**
Plans are afoot for **redesigning the sensory alley** and the school held a mufti day for Pets as Therapy.
My dog poppy and I go into the school each week to listen to children read.



PITSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

The first point of contact is always our Parish Clerk: clerk@pitsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Council Update: Full minutes and newsletters are available at: www.pitsfordvillage.co.uk (Parish Council → Agendas & Minutes)
The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 12th May 2026. Residents are encouraged to share views in advance: pitsfordconsultation@gmail.com.

Parish Council News

- The **Queen's Jubilee bench** at the **Playing Field** is in poor condition and will be **refurbished in spring**. **A new Tumulus bench will also be installed.**
- **Churchyard tree safety works have been commissioned**, with planning approval submitted due to conservation area status.

Grants & Donations

- **£785 awarded to the Village Hall for roof treatment**.
- The Council will **fund property revaluations** (Village Hall and Pavilion) to **ensure adequate insurance cover**.

Consultations

- **Village Sign: Agreed in principle.** Members agreed that community involvement was essential and agreed to gather ideas at the Annual Parish Meeting.
- **Street Lighting: Proposal to switch off lights midnight–5am to reduce light pollution.** Currently dimmed; full switch-off would require investment. Under review, **with resident input to be sought.**

Planning

- The West Northamptonshire Local Plan consultation closed on 27th March.
- **The Council's response challenges the allocation of 30 homes in Pitsford and supports Boughton's objection to 1,700 homes north of Boughton Lane**.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



Volunteer Opportunity: Fire Cadet Leader

Looking for a rewarding way to give back? J**oin Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service as a Volunteer Fire Cadet Leader** and help inspire the next generation.

In this flexible, countywide role, you'll support young people as they build confidence, learn practical fire service skills, and experience life in a uniformed service. From hands-on drill yard activities to community safety events, no two sessions are the same.

You don't need to be an expert—just enthusiastic, supportive, and passionate about making a difference. Full training (including safeguarding) is provided.

Make a real impact, be part of a supportive team, and help keep your community safe.



Apply by: 6 April 2026

Apply online at:

www.northantsfire.gov.uk/careers

If you're ready to inspire and empower young people, we'd love to hear from you

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Far Barn Floristry

Far Barn Floristry creates stunning, sustainable arrangements inspired by the countryside and the seasons. From bouquets and workshops to weddings and events, every piece is thoughtfully designed using ethically sourced flowers.

Visit: farbarnfloristry.co.uk

Plese feel free to call or text Libiana directly on 07492 031 343.

