PITSFORD COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER January 2026

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

space to talk



Come and walk with the triple award-winning charity Space to Talk.

Join us for a relaxed, unhurried walk at Pitsford Water, starting from the car park, heading down to the side of the reservoir, and then gently making our way up to the café for refreshments. We'll then follow the same scenic route back, finishing where we began.

This peaceful 3km walk follows well-maintained footpaths and offers stunning, serene views across Northamptonshire's beautiful countryside, a perfect way to slow down, connect, and enjoy the outdoors.

Car park location is: Grange Lane car park through Pitsford village.

Dates: Sunday 1st February @ 10am; Sunday 1st March @10am; Sunday 29th March @ 10am.

Sensible footwear is a must as it's pretty muddy, though that won't come as a surprise to any Pitsfordians. If you fancy it, please sign up using the link below:
https://www.trybooking.com/uk/FSQT

Stories Worth Sharing

This year we're introducing a new monthly feature encouraging simple conversations at home, helping families share memories before they're lost. Family history isn't just big events; it's the everyday stories that quietly disappear unless we pass them on.

Each month includes two gentle questions: one for couples or families to discuss together, and one for children (of any age) to ask a parent or grandparent. There are no right answers, just conversations worth having.

February questions:

For couples / families: Who showed you love or care in a quiet but important way?

For children to ask parents: Who was your best friend when you were young, and why?

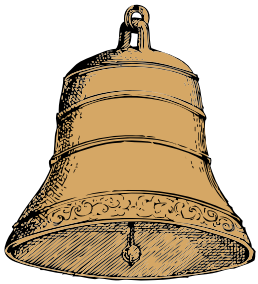
These questions are simply invitations, to talk, listen, and share a story that might otherwise be lost.



All Saints Church

We were pleased to host the renowned **Queen Eleanor Choir** for their Christmas concert in our beautiful church on **Sunday the 14th December**. Over 100 attended to join the 30 strong choir and enjoyed a very entertaining evening. **Thank you to all who supported this event** & particularly to our closest neighbours who assisted with car parking. The Choir very much enjoyed the good acoustics in the church and closeness to/engagement with the audience and hope to return in 2026.

Our Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight on Sunday the 21st December was very well attended with some **80 villagers & friends attending**. It was especially joyful to hear the children ringing our handbells to the Holly and the Ivy & a final rendition of Jingle Bells.



Our Bellringers rang out the Old and Rang in the New Year at midnight on the 31st December. This is an old tradition which we are pleased to continue.

Our practice session on a Monday between 4pm-6pm often hosts up to 20 bellringers from the local area with ringers of different levels of ability. **We also practice at Boughton & Scaldwell churches on a Wednesday evening from 6pm-8pm.**

We have two teacher/trainers who are accredited with the Association of Ringing Teachers and welcome new learners from 12 years upwards. Teachers are DBS certified. We also are looking for anyone who may be interested in learning to ring our handbells and join our handbell choir.

If interested contact Keith Isaacs Tower Captain on 07921468366 or isaacskeith@sky.com

Our local Beavers, Cubs and Scouts joined us on two evenings in January to learn about the big bells and handbells and our Church. We have a set of children's handbells and Boomwackers so a good time was had by all.

We welcome anyone of all of all faiths, or none, to join us at our Sunday services at 11am.

At our **December meeting**, local florist **Natasha from Flowers by Natasha** led a **Christmas wreath** making workshop. Festive foliage filled the hall as members created beautiful wreaths, many of which went on to adorn local front doors, with **mince pies and a glass of wine rounding off a lovely evening**.

Our **January meeting was a New Year Lunch at the Griffin Inn**, where members toasted the New Year together. **We meet in the Village Hall on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm, unless otherwise advertised.** Visitors are always welcome, whether for an evening or to join as a member. **For more information, please contact Sandie Bamford on 01604 881662.**

Pitsford Village Institute Update

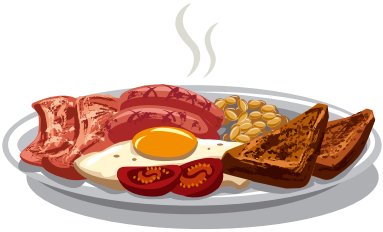
The Village Hall Team wish you all a very happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you all in 2026.

2025 was an extremely busy and very successful year with all our fundraising activities and we ended the year with **the Main Hall being repaired and redecorated complementing our new kitchen** and making the Village Hall an excellent function facility.



We have received many compliments from neighbouring villages regarding the work and improvements we have made during 2025, our latest one being **the installation of broadband**, and we now have a first-rate facility that we can be proud of.

Our goal in 2026 is to promote the use of the hall and encourage more regular events. If anybody has any suggestions as to how we can achieve this they will be gratefully received.



Our next Community Breakfast will be held on Sunday 2nd February 2026.

Breakfast is served from 9:30am to 11:30am, last orders taken at 10:45am. To help us cater efficiently and serve everyone promptly, reservations are required for groups of four or more. **To book, please contact Wendy Biggs on 07903 511 572.**

Please note: we accept cash payments only to help keep costs down. Thank you for your understanding.

The remaining dates for the breakfasts in 2026 are 1st March; 5th April (TBC); 3rd May; 7th June; 5th July; 2nd August; 6th September; 4th October; 1st November; and 6th December.

Fundraising Events 2026

Jumble Sale – Saturday 14th March, 2–3.30pm

Free entry (donations welcome). Cakes, refreshments, tombola, clothing and bric-a-brac. Donations accepted: Friday 13th March (3.30–4.30pm) and Saturday morning (10.30am–12 noon). Tombola prizes always welcome. Unsold items donated to local charities.

Vintage in the Village – Clothes Swap

Returning late spring/summer after last year's success. Details to follow.



Curry & Quiz Night

Planned for autumn with a refreshed format. Details to follow.

Royal British Legion: Brixworth & District Branch (including Pitsford)

Pitsford is now part of the Royal British Legion, Brixworth & District Branch.

Chairman: Eddie Edmunds

Next meeting 2nd February 2026 new time 06:30pm.

County Conference – Northamptonshire 10th January 2026

The County Conference was very well attended this year, and we're pleased to say that **Brixworth & District** is now firmly in the **"Premier League"**, alongside larger districts such as Rushden, Kettering and Wellingborough.

Following the formalities, awards were presented, including the new Beacon Award, based on an honest and fair review of branch activities.



We were delighted to receive:

Gold Beacon Award

Faulkner Cup for the most improved Poppy Appeal, with an impressive 48% increase.

The Bill Rose Trophy, awarded on the Beacon scoring (won by just one point).

This is a fantastic achievement and a real credit to everyone involved. We should all be incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication shown across our District Branch.

Band Night: Friday 27th March at the Brixworth Cricket Club.

Get ready for a great night with **Disco Infirmary**, a 6-piece disco band playing classics from **ABBA, Bee Gees, Earth, Wind & Fire** and more. **1970s fancy dress optional.**

Tickets £10 pp all profits to RBL Branch funds.

General ticket release 3rd February - **80 Tickets only**. When gone they're gone.

Let's make this another belter.

To reserve tickets, message Eddie: 07979 258659.

National Memorial Arboretum Bus Trip: Sunday 31st May

Eddie Edmunds has organised a bus trip leaving the village at **8.30am.**

£20.00 per person - all welcome.

To book a place, contact Eddie on 07979 258659.

Please note: if you require a mobility scooter, you will need to contact the National Memorial Arboretum directly. www.thenma.org.uk

The switchboard is open Monday - Saturday, 9am - 5pm, call 01283 245 100.

Email us at info@thenma.org.uk



Tony's Talk N Walk: TBA

Sywell Airfield, tour of the aircraft: TBA



Bob Andrews led a very full, vibrant, varied life and at 87 had a very good 'innings'. He was a Greens Norton boy who left school at 16 & served his National Service in the Parachute Regiment, nicknamed 'Squaddie' amongst his friends. He was a chippie by trade and co-founded Andrews Carvell Developments with Bob Carvell. Bob was an Old Scouts & Saints Rugby fan. Andrews Carvell built the original Old Scouts Club House. Bob played for the club for a number of seasons and was an extremely enthusiastic 2nd XV Captain in the late 60s and early 70's.

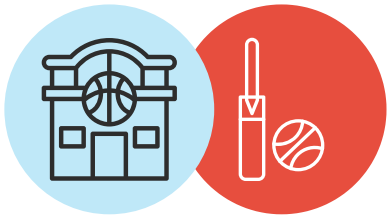
He was made Vice President of the club as a reward for his services. An avid skier, and later took up riding and sailing, earning his Yacht Master ticket. He also became an artist. In 2000, Bob, along with Ted Coogan and others resurrected the Pitsford branch of the British Legion and Bob was the first chairman. Bob has left his mark on the village of Pitsford carrying out a number of works and projects including The Old Post Office, The Drummonds and Meadow View, his final home in Grange Lane. His daughters moved to Australia and New Zealand where Bob enjoyed part of the year.

Pitsford Sportsfield and Pavilion

Many residents will have noticed an **unusual night-time incident** recently when a car failed to stop at the top of Brampton Lane, crossed the junction and landed in the Sportsfield, damaging the wall. **Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt, though the car itself will not be returning to the road.**

Otherwise, life at the Sportsfield continues as normal, with **junior football at weekends, weekday training and regular use by groups ranging from Beavers to U3A.** Children's parties will soon be back in full swing, last year there was at least one most weekends from May to September.

As this income is vital, especially following recent heating system costs, anyone considering **booking the Pavilion is advised not to leave it too late.**



Tony Miles
Chair, Pitsford Sportsfield Management Committee

Scouts
Pitsford

For more information, contact Sue McTaggart, Group Lead Volunteer, at pitsfordleadvolunteer@gmail.com

If you're interested about what we do or how you can get involved, please get in touch with Sue McTaggart, or come and see us at the Sports Pavilion on Thursday evenings. I am sure you would enjoy working with us to support the young people in Pitsford.

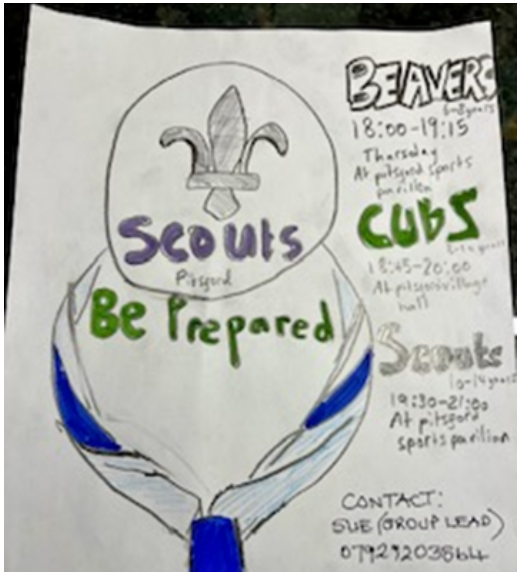
Firstly, all members of Pitsford Scout Group would like to wish all in the village a Happy New Year. We do not have very much to report at the moment as we only started back on Thursday 15th January due to the bad weather on the 8th January.

The Cub Scouts started back with an evening of bell ringing at the Church. They all had a fabulous evening learning about how to ring the church bells, and using the church hand bells. The other two sections are looking forward to bell ringing this coming week.

Beaver Scouts were celebrating the **Chinese New Year** and creating Chinese dragons. **What a lovely array of dragons were created.**



Scouts started the new year by creating a code of conduct for the section. They also produced some excellent posters advertising the group as we are now in a position to accept new members in the Beaver Scout and Scout Section.



Please make contact with me, Sue McTaggart Group Lead on 079292038464, if you are interested in joining the Group; this includes adults who would like to help.

PITSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

Parish Council Update

Full minutes and newsletters can be read on the village website:
www.pitsfordvillage.co.uk (Parish Council → Agendas and Minutes)

Village Planters – Volunteer Needed
The Parish Council is seeking a green-fingered volunteer to care for the planters at the Moulton Road village entrance. Expenses can be reclaimed.
Contact Sarah at clerk@pitsfordparishcouncil.org.uk.

Village Green Spaces & Maintenance
Queen's Jubilee Bench (Playing Field) to be repaired this spring.
Wildflower areas on Moulton Road to be rotavated and re-seeded.
Wall edge clearance and ivy removal on Moulton Road in February.
New heritage-style bench ordered for the Tumulus.
Winter tidying continues across village green spaces.
Cemetery maintenance ongoing, **with thanks to Paul Thomas, Lengthsman.**

Road Safety Reminder
Stopping on zig-zag lines at the zebra crossing is illegal and enforceable. A penalty has recently been issued.

Budget
Council agreed a budget of £50,500, including funding for a new Housing Needs Survey and Neighbourhood Development Plan update.

Local Plan Consultation
West Northamptonshire Council's Local Plan consultation runs for 8 weeks from early February. The draft proposes 30 homes for Pitsford. The Parish Council will object, citing limited services, existing refusals and a housing need of 11 identified in 2021.

Future Meetings (2026)
3 March · 12 May (APM & ACM) · 14 July · 8 September · 10 November

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Flowers by Natasha

Flowers by Natasha
Independent, fully qualified florist based in Pitsford and the Heart of the Shires Shopping Village. Beautiful flowers for birthdays, thank yous, congratulations, weddings and funerals, created with care for every occasion. **Free local delivery.**
https://flowers-by-natasha.square.site/
07963 732388

Everyone is welcome to join children from
Pitsford Primary School as they host an



Afternoon tea party

Weds 11th Feb 1.30-2.30pm

Pitsford Village Hall NN69AD
Booking required
£5 for unlimited hot drinks, **lots of** cake and entry into the raffle !
Funds for Pitsford School Association (PSA)

To help us calculate numbers please book your place by completing the booking form or just email us by Fri 6th Feb
pitsfordschoolassociation@outlook.com/ 07967428198