PITSFORD COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER July 2026

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



SAVE PITSFORD SCHOOL

You may be aware of the very sad news that Pitsford School has announced its **closure on 10th July**, however, **there is a very committed group of parents desperately fighting to save this lovely school that has played such a large part in our village life**.

They need to raise a significant amount of money in a very short time to stall the foreclosure and would appreciate any help that can be offered from village residents. **If you would like to help, please contact the campaign team at fundraising@pitsford-rescue.org or look out for our Facebook page 'Save Pitsford School' - thank you so much for anything you can do.**

WWW.GOFUND.ME/9467CCE29

Whether you can donate, introduce potential investors or business contacts, reconnect us with former pupils, offer professional expertise, support fundraising, assist with media and communications, or simply share ideas and opportunities, **every contribution could make a real difference in securing our school's future.**

Cream Teas

AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH PITSFORD

11AM-4PM | SATURDAY JULY 4TH

In memory of Ann Eldred and raising funds for pulmonary fibrosis.

Admission is free, with delicious homemade sausage rolls and cakes available to purchase.



MONTHLY EVENT

FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST SERVED BY THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERS ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH (EXCLUDING JANUARY).



LOCATION: PITSFORD VILLAGE HALL

2026 DATES: 5TH JULY, 2ND AUGUST, 6TH SEPTEMBER, 4TH OCTOBER, 1ST NOVEMBER, 6TH DECEMBER.

SERVICE RUNS 9:30-11.30AM (LAST ORDERS 10:45AM).

THE COST PER BREAKFAST IS £6.50, INCLUDING REFILLABLE TEA/COFFEE AND EXTRA TOAST. TO HELP KEEP COSTS DOWN, PAYMENT IS CASH ONLY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR TABLES OF 4+. BOOK VIA WENDY BIGGS (07903 511 572).

WE'LL ALSO BE SELLING TAKEAWAY HOMEMADE CAKES, TEA, COFFEE, AND BACON, SAUSAGE OR EGG SANDWICHES.



Our June Community Breakfast was another great success, with **60 diners** enjoying the morning. We were fully booked well in advance and, unfortunately, had to turn some people away, so please **book early for our next breakfast on Sunday 5th July to avoid disappointment**. If you can't stay, we now offer **takeaway tea or coffee (£1.50), homemade cakes, and freshly made bacon, sausage or egg sandwiches.** We're always looking for ways to better serve our community, so just ask if there's something we can help with.

While our local pub is temporarily closed, why not make use of the village hall for get-togethers, celebrations or community events? It's a great way to keep our community spirit alive until the pub reopens. **For bookings or enquiries, please contact Wendy Biggs on 07903 511572.**

Don't forget to "Save the Date" for our ever popular **JUMBLE SALE on Saturday 19th September**. Details of jumble collections will follow nearer the time.

Plans are well underway for our next **Vintage in the Village** event on **Friday 2nd October 2026**. If you're having a summer clear-out, we'd love your donations of good-quality clothing. **Please contact Bev Flanagan on 07870 516961, Tracey Palmer on 07943 550314, or Wendy on the number above.**

ALL SAINTS CHURCH PITSFORD



Saturday 4th July, 11.00am–4.00pm – Join us at All Saints Church for a cream tea, raising funds for pulmonary fibrosis in loving memory of Ann Eldred.

Saturday 12th September, 11.00am–4.00pm – Ride and Stride 2026 and Cream Tea at All Saints Church.

Saturday 26th September, 7.00pm for 7.30pm – Harvest Supper and Quiz Night at Pitsford Village Hall. Further details to follow.



All Saints ForgetMeNot Pitsford – Coffee Morning

ForgetMeNot offers a warm and welcoming space for people living with dementia, their carers, those they care for, and anyone who may be feeling isolated. We hope to continue these coffee mornings on a fortnightly basis, subject to demand, and everyone is welcome from both within and beyond the village.

Sessions are held on Tuesdays from 10.00am to 12.00pm at All Saints Church, with the next Tuesday session to be confirmed. For more information, please contact Carol and Keith on 07921 468366 or email isaacskeith@sky.com. With many years' experience in health and social care and care management, together with DBS certification, they provide a safe, friendly and supportive environment for all.



I**n June**, members put their detective skills to the test with a lively **treasure hunt** around the village. **After following a trail of clues, with plenty of teamwork, a few wrong turns and lots of laughter, the evening ended with refreshments in a member's garden.**

Our next meeting, on **Tuesday 21st July**, **is our Summer Garden Party, when members are invited to bring family and friends to enjoy an evening of wine, nibbles and a raffle.**

There will be no meeting in August. From September, we will meet **at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall**, unless otherwise advertised. **Visitors are always welcome to join us for an evening or become a member. For more information, please contact Sandie Bamford on 01604 881662.**

Scouts
Pitsford

By now, many of you will be aware of the challenges facing our group. We are still urgently looking for leaders to run our Beaver Scout section, and without new volunteers we risk having to close it. If you would like to find out more about what we do or how you could help, please contact Sue McTaggart, Pitsford Group Lead Volunteer, at pitsfordleadvolunteer@gmail.com, or come along to the Sports Pavilion on a Thursday evening.

We are sure you would enjoy helping to support young people in Pitsford and the surrounding villages.

As we head towards our summer break and the end of another successful Scout year, our Scouts are looking forward to a week-long summer camp at Walesby, Nottinghamshire, joined by Spratton Scouts and some Explorer Scouts. After a well-earned break, leaders and young people will return in September. Happy Holidays to everyone.

Beaver Scouts: Beavers began the term by taking part in the St George's Day Parade. They have cracked codes, learnt about Fairtrade, built bug hotels, practised yoga for Mental Health Awareness Week and worked towards their Cyclist Badge. They are also looking forward to a short hike and the ever-popular Wet and Wild evening at Overstone.

Cub Scouts: Cubs have been working towards their First Aid Badge, learning valuable life skills, as well as tracking, bug hunting, tent pitching and circus skills. Teamwork and leadership have featured throughout the term, ending with a fun water games evening at Overstone.

Scouts: Scouts joined Spratton Scouts for a sports evening, earning their Sports Badge, and explored how young people earn a living in developing countries by making paper bags. They are completing their First Aid Badge, looking forward to Wet and Wild at Overstone, and then heading off to summer camp in Nottinghamshire.







Open Water Swimming at Pitsford Water

Open water swimming has arrived at Pitsford Water, run by Swimcube Open Water. Enjoy a choice of 250m, 400m or 650m courses in a beautiful setting, whether you prefer to swim with or without a wetsuit. Wetsuit & equipment hire are available on site, and sessions can be booked via the NOWCA ACTiO App. Suitable for swimmers aged 8+ (conditions apply).

www.theswimcube.com/pitsford-open-water/

Community Speedwatch is a police-supported initiative that empowers local volunteers to help tackle speeding in the village. Using approved speed detection equipment, volunteers record details of vehicles exceeding the speed limit, encouraging safer driving and helping to reduce road casualties. While the scheme does not issue fines, repeat offenders may be dealt with by the police, and the information collected can also support requests for traffic-calming measures where needed.

Training and ongoing support are provided. **If you'd like to help make Pitsford's roads safer, please contact Jo Woolard at JoWoolly@hotmail.com.**







Capt. George Drummond and Starlight



A photograph still exists of Capt. George Drummond riding Starlight, the tall grey horse he regarded as his favourite among the many horses he owned and rode throughout his life. Commissioned into the West Kent Yeomanry in 1903, he later joined the Nottinghamshire Royal Horse Artillery before serving with the 1st Life Guards during the First World War. Wounded in 1917, he met the nurse who cared for him, Helena Kathleen Holt, whom he married later that year. Helena came from Carberry, Co. Kildare, and a distinguished Irish racing family.

After their marriage she bred and raced a number of successful horses, including Ox and Ass, which won the Welsh St Leger at Chepstow, along with winners at Ascot, Goodwood, Salisbury and Epsom.

Following the First World War, the Drummond family purchased Pitsford Hall from Henry Lloyd, and George quickly became a prominent figure in village, county and national life. A partner and later Chairman of Drummond's Bank, he was also an accomplished first-class cricketer, playing for Northamptonshire between 1903 and 1922. As a leading member of the Pytchley Hunt, he frequently entertained guests at Pitsford Hall, including members of the Royal Family. He became particularly close to the Prince of Wales, for whom he occasionally served as Aide-de-Camp. His elegant stables, now converted into housing, still stand opposite the Hall.

Although he owned many horses, Starlight always remained his favourite. When the horse died, Capt. Drummond hoped he could be buried beside the Drummond family graves in the churchyard, but church law does not permit animal burials in consecrated ground. Instead, Starlight was laid to rest in the adjoining field, just beyond the churchyard wall, where his headstone still stands today.

Capt. Drummond remained at Pitsford Hall until 1940 before moving to the Isle of Wight. Following his death in 1963, he was buried with his family only a few yards from Starlight. More than sixty years later, horse and rider still rest side by side, fulfilling Capt. Drummond's wish that they should remain together.

Rev. Stephen Trott: 20 June 2026



PITSFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

OPEN DAY

MONDAY 6TH JULY
9.15 – 11.30

All families welcome

FEATURES OF OUR SCHOOL:

- Forest school area
- New playground
- New, engaging school interiors
- Compassionate nurturing staff
- Places in all year groups
- Excellent enrichment programme
- 100% KS2 data 24/25
- 100% phonics screening pass rate 25/26



Please contact the school office on
office@pitsford.northants-ecl.gov.uk
or phone **01604 880866**


FOLLOWING THE HUGE SUCCESS LAST YEAR
'VINTAGE IN THE VILLAGE' IS RETURNING TO PITSFORD VILLAGE HALL
Vintage in the Village
FRIDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2026
6pm to 9pm
This is a pre-loved sale of women's, men's and children's quality clothes and accessories to raise funds for the ongoing upkeep of the village hall together with other worthwhile charities including:
CANCER RESEARCH, RIDING FOR THE DISABLED and DEAF FIRST.
PRICES START AS LOW AS £3 PER ITEM!
CASH ONLY ACCEPTED!
Entry, which includes a glass of wine/fizz and nibbles, is £5 per person (an additional £2 per head can be paid for priority advance admission).
Payment at the door.
GOOD QUALITY DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED
For further information, please contact
Bev 07870 516961, Tracey 07943 550314 or Wendy 07903 511572