PITSFORD COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER June 2026

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



Maintaining our beautiful and historic church is an ongoing task, carried out largely by a small but dedicated congregation with valued support from the village community. Despite the challenges faced by many rural churches, we are pleased to have seen an increase in attendance at our Sunday services**, and we welcome those of all faiths or none to join us at our Sunday morning service at 11am and for refreshments afterwards.**

Over the past year, repairs have included **fixing two leaking flat roofs**, **replacing a rotten beam in the ringing chamber, and installing a new bespoke wooden ladder to safely access the tower.** These works have been funded through grants, donations, and fundraising.

Our recent Quinquennial Inspection praised the overall condition of the church, identifying only minor maintenance work required to roof flashings. We are also grateful to the Parish Council for supporting churchyard improvements, including bollards, wall repairs, and tree works.

Looking ahead, we hope to explore installing **solar panels** to help reduce heating costs, although this would require significant fundraising and grant support. As the church receives no direct financial support from the Diocese, all running costs, repairs, and Parish Share contributions are funded through donations, grants, and fundraising organised by the congregation and PCC members.

We are extremely grateful for the continued support shown by the village over the years and hope to give something back by launching a Dementia/Carers Support Group in the near future. Volunteers from the village would be very welcome.



We are also pleased to have **three new bellringers** currently in training and would welcome anyone interested in learning this traditional skill.

For more information, please contact Churchwardens Carol or Keith Isaacs on 07488 241808 or 07921 468366.

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: 7TH JUNE, 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 WILL ALSO BE SELLING OUR EVER POPULAR HOMEMADE CAKES.

Village Institute Update



Following completion of our 2025 financial accounts, we would like to thank everyone who has continued to support the Village Institute.

Recent improvements to the hall include a refurbished kitchen, redecorated entrance and main hall, a newly laid rear patio, and the installation of Wi-Fi, internet, and Bluetooth speakers. **Thanks to the support of residents and our regular helpers, fundraising events raised a record £4,500 this year.**

Upcoming events include:

- Jumble Sale - 19th September 2026
- Food/Quiz Night
- Vintage in the Village Clothes Swap - 2nd October 2026
- Bottomless Afternoon Tea - details coming soon

The hall is available to hire for parties & social events at very reasonable rates for Pitsford residents:

• Parties – £55
• Children's Parties – £30
• Afternoon Tea Parties – £30

For bookings or more information, please contact Wendy Biggs on 07903 511572 or visit the Village Hall webpage or Facebook page.



Pitsford Sportsfield and Pavilion

The grass is growing quickly, regular mowing is underway, and the moles are active once again. The football season is now drawing to a close, although the break between seasons seems to get shorter every year.

The party season has also begun, with bookings most weekends throughout May, June, and into July. These events provide essential income for the Sportsfield, although they also bring additional work preparing and cleaning the facilities.

Many residents will also have noticed another unfortunate incident involving a car missing the junction and damaging the wall once again. Repairs are due to be carried out shortly. **Tony Miles Chair, Pitsford Sportsfield Management Committee**

PITSFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our next big event is the summer fair 11am-3pm on Saturday 13th June at the School, all welcome.

We've welcomed **ducklings** at school, and the children were able to **watch them hatch**. Last Friday was **Mental Health Awareness Day**, and the children enjoyed a range of **calming activities, perfectly timed after the Year 6 pupils had completed their SATs tests**. We also held an **after-school movie and sports session**, complete with a **bouncy castle** to help the children **burn off some energy and relax**. Our **sensory alley is also getting a makeover**, **with an artist coming in to design a new mural.** Liz and her husband have been busy jet washing and cleaning the area in preparation.

Our next big project is fund raising for an insulated outdoor reading room. Please save the date for our next colour run - Saturday 12th September.



Important: Changes to Landline Telephones

Landline phones across the UK are being upgraded to a new digital system, which works through your broadband rather than the old phone network.

What this means for you:

- You can keep your current phone number
- Your provider (e.g. BT, Sky, Virgin) will contact you when it's your turn
- Your phone will plug into your broadband router instead of the wall socket

Please wait to be contacted, your provider will guide you and supply any equipment needed.

Things to ask:

- Will my current phone still work?
- What happens during a power cut?
- Do I need a battery backup?
- Will my care alarm/pendant still work?



Important: Digital landlines do not work in a power cut unless you have backup. If you rely on your phone, keep a charged mobile and inform your provider if you are vulnerable.

If you need help, please speak to a family member, neighbour, Parish Councillor or local volunteer.

Landlords now to fulfil new legal duty for Renters' Rights Act

New rental law changes will come into effect from **1st May 2026**, giving tenants across England stronger protections and significant changes to the private rental sector. **These include the end of Section 21 "no-fault" evictions, stronger protection against unfair rent increases, improved rights for tenants with pets, and the removal of fixed-term assured tenancies.**

Landlords and letting agents are legally required to provide tenants with the new government information sheet by 31st May 2026. The guidance explains the upcoming changes, how they may affect tenancy agreements, and what both tenants and landlords need to do to prepare.

The government has described the legislation as the biggest change to renting in a generation, aimed at improving security and standards for the 11 million private renters across England.

Further information, guidance, and the official Renters' Rights Act Information Sheet can be found at www.gov.uk by searching "Renters' Rights Act".

Scouts
Pitsford

All sections have been taking advantage of the lighter evenings. **The Beaver Scouts have been taking part in Mental Awareness Week**, having **fun with bubbles** and **looking at Fair Trade**. **The Cub Scouts** have taken part in a **weekend Camp at Spotley Wood** and **participated in fun activities** as it was a beautiful Weekend.

They have also taken part in a **traditional night pitching Tents and practising knots.** Last week they went to **Brixworth Country Park looking for bugs and looking at different tracking signs**. **The Scouts** have taken part in a **litter pick around the village working towards their community badge**. They have also been for an **interesting walk around Harlestone Firs**. Last week they were **completing challenges as a group and individuals**. The Leaders have been providing interesting activities for all the young people to participate in.

Pitsford Scouts are still looking for volunteers to help run the Beaver Scout section. If you are interested in supporting young people in Pitsford, or would like to find out more, please contact Sue McTaggart at pitsfordleadvolunteer@gmail.com or visit the group at the Sports Pavilion on Thursday evenings.

Too often, outdoor lighting is overly bright, left on unnecessarily, and harmful to the environment. As a result, light pollution is becoming an increasing global issue, affecting both wildlife and quality of life. Applying these principles can create outdoor lighting that is functional, attractive, energy efficient, and less disruptive to wildlife.



Griffin Inn
PUB AND RESTAURANT



Wednesday: Pie & Pint £14.

Thursday: Fish & Chips & Pint £15.

Sunday: Lunch Sittings 12pm; 2pm; 4pm.
Wed - Sat: Lunch 12pm - 2.30pm (Senior Citizen Menu available)

Our village pub is an important part of the community and, like many local pubs, it needs support to keep going. **If we don't use it, we could lose it.**
Whether you pop in for a pint, a meal, or to catch up with friends, every visit helps support the pub and keep another village venue thriving.

Celebrate Father's Day at the Northampton & Lamport Railway on Sunday 21st June, where dads travel free on heritage train rides running hourly from 10am–3pm. Cream Tea Specials are also available on selected services and must be booked in advance via the railway website.

Upcoming events include **Double Diesel Day (12th July)**, **Kids for a Quid (26th July), the 30th Anniversary Gala (29th–31st August)**, and **Cheese & Cider Trains (6th September)**. Regular **Sunday services continue until 4th October**, with Halloween and Santa Specials later in the year. **For full details, tickets, refreshments, or volunteering opportunities, visit www.nlr.org.uk.**

Highlights from the Vintage Transport Day held on Sunday 10th May



PITSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

At the Annual Parish Meeting, residents raised questions including a request to switch off street lighting overnight. The Parish Council agreed to investigate the idea further and carry out a public consultation. **Comments can be sent to the Parish Clerk, Sarah, at clerk@pitsfordparishcouncil.org.uk**.

- A **new bench** has been installed on **The Tumulus at the top of High Street**, and **Churchyard tree safety works have been approved**.
- The Council has also agreed to support the **Community Speed Watch initiative**, with **equipment purchased at a cost of £150. Jo Woolard is coordinating the project.**

Councillors unanimously agreed that **Alastair Kimbell** will continue as **Chairman,** with **Mary Podesta** remaining as **Vice Chairman**.

Councillor Roles & Responsibilities: Parochial Church Council – Cllr Keith Isaacs; **Churchyard & Cemetery** – Clerk, Cllr Holliday & Cllr Isaacs; **Pitsford Sports Field Management Committee** – Cllr Chelsey Furniss; **Parish & Town Council Meetings** – Any Councillor; **Pitsford Village Institute** – Cllrs Podesta, Kimbell & Holliday; **Neighbourhood Watch** – Cllr Chelsey Furniss; **Police Liaison Representative** – Cllr Maureen Holliday; **Internal Finance Control Officer** – Clerk & Cllr Mary Podesta; **Defibrillator Monitor** – Cllr Chelsey Furniss; **Climate & Nature Champion** – Cllr Alastair Kimbell; **Lengthsman Services** – Paul Thomas.



In **May** we welcomed **Lisa from the Laughter Lounge** for a fun and uplifting session combining **laughter exercises, deep breathing and gentle movement and stretching**. The session ended with a relaxing meditation, designed to support wellbeing for both body and mind. **Next month we will be taking part in a treasure hunt around the village.**

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.**

Mackie
For local cleaning or ironing
call 07817 177 913

For Local Gardening & Grass Mowing
Call Clive on 07817 177 913

SAVE THE DATE

2026 PITSFORD COLOUR RUN



SAT 12TH SEPT

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