



FLITCHAM CUM APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

July 2018

Produced by the Parish Council for the community

CHURCH SERVICES

JUNE

SUNDAY 1st July 8 o'clock

Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd July 11 o'clock

The Family Service

Community Welcome

Jason and Chelsie

Harriman

who have moved into 56 Abbey Rd
where Kenny Frohawk used to live.

NORFOLK PLACE NAMES PUZZLE No1

Terry Allen has created this diverting and intriguing puzzle to amuse us all. The task is to deduce from each of his very spare clues which Norfolk place name is indicated. Answers will be published in the August newsletter.

- a. **Throw them away.**
- b. **Who goes there?**
- c. **No place like it.**
- d. **Feed the babies, then.**
- e. **Gives you tummy ache.**
- f. **And rolls them.**
- g. **Turn again.**
- h. **Chamber music.**
- i. **Fairy tale town.**
- j. **Overheated copper.**
- k. **A peaceful night.**

Volunteers Needed

The Social Club Committee are planning a Fritcham Fête Day for August Bank Holiday Sunday. Help with setting up, manning of the stalls or helping with other aspects such as catering would be most welcome. If you would like to help please get a message as soon as possible to Patsy Young (tel: 600948) confirming your interest or leave a message with Gavin the club steward. Any money raised will go to benefit the Social Club.

A Letter to The Village

From The School

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that joined us at our school summer fete on Friday 8th June. It was lovely to see families from the village, coming into school to enjoy the talent show and see our wonderful produce growing in the new school garden area. Huge thanks go to Mr Kilham who has worked so tirelessly with the gardening club to create a wonderful gardening space. Thank you to everyone that attended the summer fete, the PTA has reported we raised nearly £700 in one afternoon which is amazing!

We are also excited to say the school has been awarded £2000 for developing the rest of the garden area from the Tesco Bags for life appeal, as a community garden for everyone to enjoy. We would love to hear from anyone that is interested in sharing ideas or being involved in this project.

Mrs Gardener

Letter From Joey Smithson

I wish to give an enormous thank you to the following:

Liz Osborne, words cannot express the beautiful arrangements you made for Olivia's wedding, the Town Hall was at it's most stunning.

Eileen Jarvis, for the brilliant alterations on the bridesmaid and flower girl dresses, and for being available to alter Louisa's when she flew in so close to the wedding.
Val Blackmur, for the hanging baskets outside the Community Centre.

And really to all my dear friends in the village that have listened to me and given me encouragement, Thank you. The wedding was amazing, it just couldn't have gone better on the day.

To anyone thinking about weddings, we all got ready in the Community Centre, make-up artist, hairdressers and getting dressed, It is a large area with a bar, it worked brilliantly for us. The hairdressers really loved the space, give it a visit and see for yourselves.

Parish Council Rats warning!

There have been several sightings of rats in the village now that the pigs have gone. They are obviously looking for a new home after the pig shelters and food hoppers have been dismantled. Sandringham Estate have been made aware and will make sure all the bait stations near to the village are filled. A huge disease ridden rat was seen on the community centre lawn!

Community thanks

to

Terry Elyard for cutting the grass around the war memorial again.

Val Blackmur for donating and maintaining the lovely hanging baskets decorating the porch of the Community Centre.

Social Club

events taking place during July

Friday 27th July

Poker Night

£10 to enter the game

Includes warm snacks at interval.

1st and 2nd prizes to be won

Please note there will be no Ladies Night or Meal Night for the months of July and August (peak holiday season). Normal service expected to resume in September.

Fritcham Quiz Team

Several of the clubs on the Royal Estate have quiz nights from time to time. The Social Club Committee would like to be able to enter a team from our village and are looking for possible team members. If you are good at quizzes and would like to take part, please contact a committee member or let the steward know. Hopefully we can get a good team together which would be fun.

Fritcham Social Club

Chairman's report delivered to the Management Group 19/06/2018

In my belief, it is time for us all to face some unpalatable facts.

The current committee have been resolutely and assiduously determined to maintain the Social Club as a going concern despite an array of apparently insurmountable difficulties. It had become very clear that there was insufficient interest, support or custom from within the village itself to generate the income needed to support the club with a full time steward.

Despite this, the committee understood that the Social Club and especially the Community Centre, as a venue, was an important facility for the community. People would need such a place from time to time for meetings, celebrations and social events. It seemed worth the effort to try to sustain it. Worth the effort to labour on everyone else's behalf, even though it was a lonely and unrewarding task. Hardly any of our residents have showed any sign that they cared at all.

Many of us remembered the days after the Bell Inn and the New Inn were closed and we had nowhere. We remembered how the community came together, over a period of several years, to raise funds and struggle to establish a village hall. We remember too the delight when the Royal Estate made it possible. How we established the Management Group to look after the premises and the Social Club to handle sales and raise the revenue which would sustain the place. That remembrance and spirit has now all but died away. Most of the many new residents have no knowledge of that period. "No skin in the game" as they say.

The present committee decided that the best way forward was to attract as much custom as possible from outside our community. The Darts and Dominoes season had always been a good source of income and we thank Andrew Jarvis for all his hard work in organising that down the years. But it only lasts from September to May and nothing fills the gap left by the loss of the cricket season. Even with the darts we were slowly and steadily losing money. We needed

some new thinking. We set in place the poker nights, the cabaret nights and, with Andrew and Claire's support, the meal nights, as events intended to generate some worthwhile sales across the bar. These have been successful and enabled us to bounce along just above break-even level. But they are all hard work involving a lot of labour all done for free and at no cost to the community. The volunteers get no obvious thanks from our community. We find it very difficult to get anyone to help.

The Ladies Night is a worthwhile social event but the bar sales are trifling. This is the case with most other events using the premises. They don't generate significant bar sales and that is largely where our real income comes from. Frankly, we need lots of events that generate bar sales, to survive.

The nub of the matter is that a small group of people are working very hard to sustain a community facility which the community does not want or need and that their efforts are largely in vain and unappreciated. People in our parish have little interest in contributing to the spirit of community. A recent call via the newsletter for people to form a village quiz team got zero response. Similarly a call for volunteers to help with organising the fete in August got zero response. The newsletter itself is continually under-supported by the people of the community and we hardly get enough material to fill one side of A4 paper.

The fact is that our village and its community has undergone a huge change in the last few decades. It is disintegrating. It used to be a community of people who worked locally and who were raised here and had their family roots here. They belonged. They subsisted *together*. They worked, played sport and relaxed together. They all knew each other. The population was a balanced mix of young and old.

Not any more. The people in the village who know each other and who speak to each other regularly, are few. We now have a village of "strangers" who show little interest in being a part of the community. The proportion of elderly is now very high. We have lost our balance of young folk and with that, our two football teams and our cricket team. The future of the darts teams hangs in the balance. These social events and activities were central to the social fabric and health of our community. Their loss was disastrous for the revenues of the Social

Club and thereby the Community centre. It was equally disastrous for the unity, or togetherness, of our community.

The Social Club has just three regular customers who use the place more than once a week. The most frequent topic of conversation in the barroom is wondering where everybody is and why they don't want to come out for a beer and some conversation and trying to puzzle our heads as to what we can do to get more people to come and socialise. In an age when "Loneliness" is identified, by all authorities, as a major social problem and the government sees it necessary to appoint a "Minister for Loneliness", it is a puzzle to understand why the Social Club – a cure for loneliness - is so little used.

Having said all that, it remains to say that the committee are moving to an inescapable conclusion that the provision of a Social Club is an unworkable proposition under the current circumstances. The prospect of the dissolution of the Social Club in the not too distant future is a reality. That will put the survival of the Community Centre at risk. They will find it very difficult to get the necessary level of income to cover all costs.

These problems are not confined to Fritcham. They are being suffered across the country. Under pressures from commerce and from public administration, society has been divided into its constituent households. The public is in the process of being systematically seduced, monetised and controlled. The majority seem to be very happy with that.

You may disagree. Why not get together and talk about it and what should be done, over a pleasant pint or a tasty coffee. We do both at the Social Club. **RY**

A Festival of Hobbies & Interests St Nicholas Church Manor Rd Dersingham

July 12th to 15th 10.00am to 5.00pm
Stalls and refreshments

Free entry

Copy deadline

Copy needs to be received before the 16th day of the month to allow time for editing and to ensure that it is out before the month starts.