



FLITCHAM cum APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Published by the Parish Council

January 2025

The Village Phone Box

If you have been particularly observant, and happened to glance inside the phone box recently, you will have seen this rather inconspicuous announcement from BT (posted on November 15th): "We're planning to remove this payphone. Unfortunately, it just isn't used enough for us to carry on running it". Just to be clear, the application by BT is to remove the telephony from the box and NOT THE TELEPHONE BOX ITSELF, which will be locked.

There is a 90 day consultation period, ending on February 15th, 2025, for you to raise any objection. OFGEM rules say that for BT to close a public call box, one or more of the following criteria must apply:

1. That it is in a place without coverage from all four mobile network providers;
2. That it is located in an area with a high frequency of accidents or suicides;
3. That at least 52 calls have been made from the box over the past 12 months;
4. That there is other evidence that the box is reasonably needed at the site – for example if it is likely to be relied upon in the event of a local emergency, such as flooding, or if it is used to call helplines.

From the information provided by BT (I have a copy of this, if you are interested), there is adequate mobile coverage, there have been no accidents or suicides and no calls at all have been made from the box in the past year. To object to the removal therefore, evidence will need to focus on the fourth criterion and show that "the box is reasonably needed at the site". The Parish Council will be discussing its response at its next meeting, on January 6th. If you wish to make any comment to inform the discussion, please contact the Parish Clerk, Gill Welham: -

clerkflitchamparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk
01366 384205

or the chairperson, Susan Allen :
chairmanflitchamparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk
01485 600119

You can also write to the Borough Council:
<https://online.west-norfolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=makeComment&keyVal=SNIK6HIV0JA00>

Or to BT direct: btp.authorisation.team@bt.com



January 12th - Holy Communion, 3.00 pm

January 26th - Mattins, 11.00 am

If you wish to attend this service please contact Michael Wheatley: verger.sandringham@gmail.com or Sally Stanton (609099) beforehand to request that you are added to the waiting list for seats.

St Mary's Christmas Coffee Morning

The Church Council would like to thank everyone who came to our event which raised £300 for Church funds.

Parish Council

The next meeting of Flitcham Parish Council will be at the Community Centre on Monday 6th January 2025 commencing at 7:30pm. The Agenda will be posted on the Community Centre Notice Board and on the Parish Council website at least five working days prior to the meeting. Members of the public are warmly welcomed.

Gill Welham, Parish Clerk 01366 384205
clerkflitchamparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

Remember that if there are any issues you want the Parish Council to consider please contact the Clerk

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

FLITCHAM SOCIAL CLUB

8PM UNTIL LATE

MUSIC - SNACKS

FIREWORKS AT MIDNIGHT

In Flanders field....

In October I spent a pleasant afternoon strolling around the village with the dogs and my husband who was selling poppies and collecting money for The British Legion. The poppy is the well-known symbol of the sacrifice made by people who have given their lives for their country in war. This beautiful, bold, glossy yet fragile bloom is one of my favourite flowers and also happens to be the officially assigned county flower of Norfolk.

Every year I love looking out of my kitchen window across the fields beyond Abbey Farm to the huge swathe of wildflowers and poppies that appears there. It always reminds me of the film The Wizard of Oz and the magical, seductive poppy field that threatens to make Dorothy and her companions sleep forever. Indeed, the poppy has long been a symbol of deep or eternal sleep and peace.

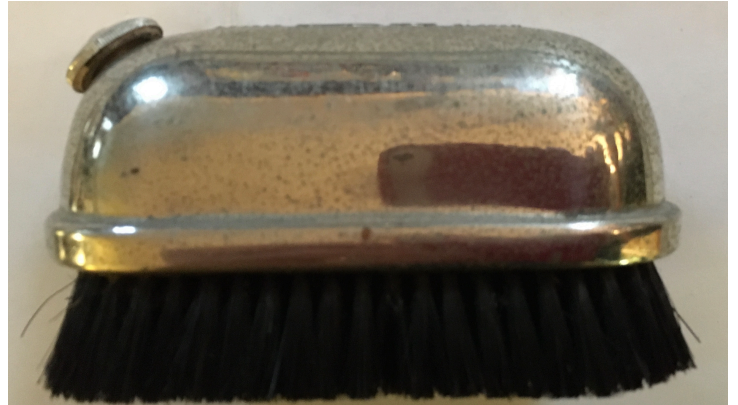
This connection with slumber may derive from the fact that opium, extracted from poppies, is a powerful sedative and one that was a huge part of Norfolk's history. In the 19th century addiction to opium was rife in East Anglia and the low-lying Fens of Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Norfolk became widely known as 'The Kingdom of the Poppy.'

Opium was the aspirin and benzodiazepine of its day, available without prescription from any corner shop in small quantities that could be afforded by the poor. Either dissolved in alcohol as the gloopy liquid laudanum, or broken into small pieces and chewed, it was a huge cure all for aches, pains, rheumatism, fractious infants and it was widely thought to ward off the endemic ague/malaria present in marshland areas. In 1867 Norfolk and Lincolnshire alone consumed half the total amount of opium imported by Victorian Britain. Opium was used for its stimulant properties by beer drinkers in the Fens of Norfolk and 19th century travellers to the area were warned to treat their pint with caution!

I was fascinated to discover this, and quite like the obviously inaccurate and idealised image that it conjures up in my head; one of a huge number of Norfolk labourers ambling contentedly around in a haze of opioid induced bliss. The view of Norfolk being a sleepy backwater, given this historical context, takes on a whole new meaning.....

Ann Beasley

Paul's Bygones



Fritcham Social Club

**Opening hours: Thursday, Friday and Saturday
from 7.30 pm**

Events in January 2025

Thursday 2nd	Folk Club 8pm
Tuesday 14th	Bingo
	Eyes down at 7.30pm
Thursday 16th	Folk Club 8pm
Saturday 25th	BURNS NIGHT MEAL
Thursday 30th	Folk Club 8pm



**COFFEE
MORNING**

10-12am

**Fritcham Community
Centre**

**Fortnightly
From Saturday
January 11th**



You may send in material at any time via my letterbox at Beech House, Abbey Road or email - t.allen@suster.plus.com - and you can phone on 600119. However it must reach me by the 16th of the month to appear in the following month's edition.