



FLITCHAM cum APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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Parish Council News

The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting were both held on a balmy spring evening and it was good to see several parishioners attend both meetings. Reports were given about village life focussing on the church, the bowls club and the social club; the work of the Parish Council was also highlighted.

It was also at this meeting that we sadly said goodbye to Susan Allen who has stepped down as both Chairman and councillor. We should like to thank her for all the time that she has given to village matters during her two separate periods of office on the council. Richard Gray now takes Susan's place as Chairman and Terry Allen was elected as Vice Chairman. Changes continued as we very happily welcomed a new councillor, Denise House, who was co-opted onto the council.

In an attempt to save money, the parish council have moved from weekly to fortnightly emptying of the dog bins as an audit of the bins showed that they were nowhere near full after a week. This action was also prompted by a 115% increase in the cost of bin emptying by the borough council.

Sandringham Estate has very kindly offered to take on responsibility for the upkeep of both the village sign and the hedge surrounding it; an offer that we have gratefully accepted. Feedback from the Sandringham Concerts meeting was also disseminated and residents should be receiving a letter containing details about arrangements which might affect them during this time; details of possible road closures/ traffic flow changes will be published in the coming weeks.

Date of next meeting: Monday 7th July 7.30pm at the Community Centre.

Flitcham Social Club

**Opens Thursday, Friday and Saturday
from 7.30 pm**

See chalk board in porch for details of events



June 8th - Holy Communion 5.00pm

June 22nd - Family Service 11.00am.

Flitcham Flicks May 3rd

Thank you so much to Roger and Patsy Young for sharing a wonderful film of happy memories of village life in Flitcham from 1999 to 2009. As a newcomer to the village in October last year it has given me a tremendous insight into Flitcham Life in years gone by. The film included scenes of Morris Dancing, bingo nights, pantomimes, fun and games on the playing field and many more. There was even footage of our late Queen Elizabeth II opening the Community Centre. Following the screening, it was lovely to chat and listen as members of the community reminisced about their time in Flitcham.

It was a very special evening and one to be treasured.

Helen Chapman (Inn House)

Farm walks at Abbey Farm, Saturday 5th July,

Farmland and Flowers – 10am – midday. A walk through arable fields to the chalk grassland.

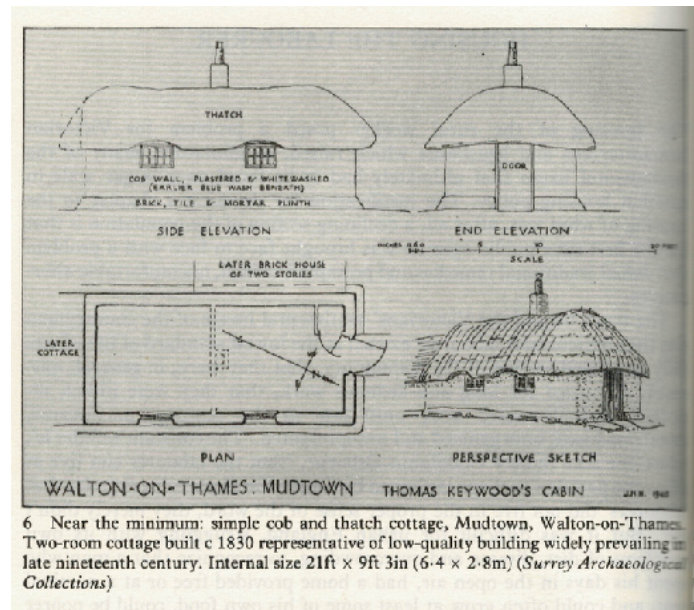
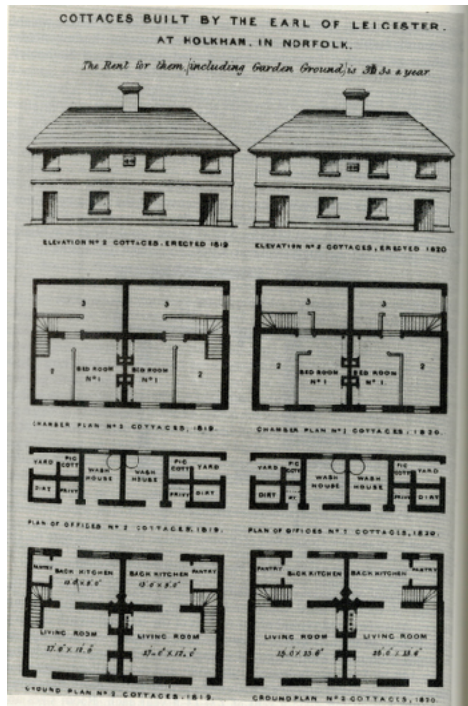
Sunset from the Hilltop – 8 – 10pm. Wildlife, landscape and the sunset.

Meet in the farmyard. Both walks will be about two miles long. They will include some time to just sit and look/listen.

For both walks there are possibilities for getting to good vantage points in vehicles that are suitable for farm tracks. Please contact info@abbeyfarm.co.uk if that is of interest to you. No dogs on the walks, other than assistance dogs – thank you. There is no charge for this event.

Flitcham's Housing Heritage

Flitcham is notable for its wide variety of housing spanning over two centuries. Many date from the mid to late nineteenth century and were built by the then owners of Flitcham, the Holkham Estate, prior to its sale to Sandringham in 1910. Holkham was notable not just for advanced farming practice but also for a more enlightened sense of social responsibility reflected in the design and construction of agricultural housing. It is reported that on the Holkham Estate there was a big increase in cottage expenditure from the 1850s until the 1880s. Not only were repairs and improvements carried out to existing dwellings, but new cottages were constructed - probably up to a hundred on the whole estate - with the aim of having two cottages to every hundred acres. In the rest of Norfolk however, and in much of the country, agricultural housing was in a dire condition. Compare Holkham plans from 1820 with the accompanying sketch of a typical labourer's cottage ten years later in Surrey.



Twenty four houses in Flitcham have date stones and, while most are indeed from the nineteenth century, several were built in the 1920s and 30s, with a few more recently - all are of interest. In forthcoming Newsletters I want to look at the range of housing styles which are such a feature of our unique village. Although there has been much 'modernisation' over the years, it may be that your house still retains some of the original features and their link with the past - knowledge that you might like to share. If so, I would be interested to hear from you.

Meanwhile, I want to consider a far more recent example of Flitcham's exceptionalism. I first came across the term Marley Bungalows during the (unresolved) matter of house renumbering a couple of years ago. The occupiers identified theirs as 'Marley Bungalows' 1 and 2 in order to distinguish them from houses with the same numbers (!) further down Abbey Road. They are, I found, very unusual, only 200 pairs having been built by Marley between 1964 and 1973. They were a response to the extreme housing shortage then and were 'system built', being composed of a wooden frame with pre-cast reinforced concrete panels overlaid with a brick skin and/or wood panelling. They were usually to be found in urban settings so their appearance in Flitcham is very unusual. However, they never really caught on through, perhaps, a combination of the salience of traditional bricks and mortar throughout the very conservative building trade, and the Ronan Point disaster, in 1968, when part of a system built tower block collapsed after a gas explosion.

TA



You may send in material at any time via my letterbox at Beech House, Abbey Road or email terry.allen2@pm.me - 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.