



FLITCHAM cum APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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Parish Council

The next meeting of Flitcham Parish Council is due to be held at the Community Centre on **Monday 7th July commencing at 7:30pm.**

The Agenda will be posted on the Community Centre Notice Board and on the Parish Council website five working days prior to the meeting. Members of the public are warmly welcomed.

There is always time allowed at the beginning of every meeting to give members of the public the opportunity to speak and ask questions; however the public cannot take part in the remainder of the meeting, although they are welcome to stay and listen to proceedings.

Gill Welham, Parish Clerk 01366 384205
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Remember that if there are any issues you want the Parish Council to consider please contact the Clerk or the Chairman, Richard Gray 600114
chairmanflitchamparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

Anniversary birds

On June 25th, the 30th anniversary of the bird hide opening, 65 species of bird were recorded. This was just within areas open to the public and within walking distance of the hide.

Even in such a small area, there are different communities of birds. House Sparrows, Swifts, House Martins, Greenfinches and Starlings were most easily found in the village itself. Heard or seen in the woodland south of the sports field were Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Woodcock. Near the Anglian Water pumping station, we found Garden Warbler, but the Mistle Thrush which is often there, did not make an appearance. There were just the regulars near the hide, including Marsh Harrier, Little Owl, Barn Owl, Little Grebe, Gadwall, Buzzard, Reed Warbler, Shelduck, Little Egret, Reed Bunting and Red Kite.

We missed out on several resident species recorded here on most days in the late spring and early summer, including Kestrel, Tawny Owl, Bullfinch, Willow Warbler, Common Gull and Goldcrest. There are also birds which are in residence or visit regularly, but not seen often, such as Goshawk, Hobby, Treecreeper, Grey Wagtail and Grey Heron. Taking these into account, it would be perfectly possible to see or hear over 75 species in Flitcham at this time of the year.

Ed Cross



July 13th - Holy Communion 5.00 pm

July 27th - Family Service 11.00 am.

West Newton Mill

If you remember from the April edition, there was some confusion over this mill as the eighteenth century map referred to it as Flitcham Mill. While it was technically in the parish - just - nobody local knew it as such. Talking of whom, Michael Jarvis clearly remembers going there with his father back in the 1950s. Bill Jarvis was well known to all of us who lived around here in the 60s and 70s as the local coal merchant. Earlier he also carted grain to the mill; this was usually ground into animal feed which Bill would deliver to local smallholders as many kept poultry and other livestock in those days. Michael vividly recalls the mill wheels slowly rotating amid the noise and dust. He thinks a "chap called Rye" used to own it (very appropriate for a miller, eh?) but he went bankrupt many years ago. Memory served Michael well as the last miller was indeed Jimmy Rye in 1953, according to a very informative and comprehensive page on the Norfolk Mills website - <https://www.norfolk Mills.co.uk/Watermills/west-newton.html> which, among others, features this photo from 1946.

TA



Are you a cuddy-wifter?

I am, and, as the only one in my family, have always been seen as strange. My mother charmingly once told me that they called me Ann as it is an easy name to spell and they didn't know how intelligent I was going to be. She added 'and of course you then turned out to be left-handed as well...' I do remember my parents trying to get me to write with my other hand but I was very stubborn so they shrugged their shoulders, gave up, and pardon the pun, left me to it.

Left handedness has carried stigma and huge cultural baggage with it for centuries although this is diminishing rapidly. An examination of English dialects in the 1950s showed that virtually every county had a mildly derogative term for people like me: cack handed, gibble fisted or just plain awkward, derived from the Old English word *awk* meaning 'with or from the left hand.'

Historically, left handedness was seen as the sign of the beast; in Islam the left hand is unclean and Christianity too shows bias towards the right hand, it being used to bestow blessings and make the sign of the cross. In art, the devil is depicted as being left-handed and most of us have superstitiously thrown salt over our left shoulder to ward off evil or bad luck.

Roughly 10% of the population are lefties and, as stigma disappears, this percentage will probably increase. We only have to look up the road to our royal neighbour in Anmer to see how prejudice attached to handedness has dissipated. Prince William is a left hander as is his aunt the Duchess of Edinburgh. There was a time when royalty, like many others, were discouraged from exhibiting this trait, especially in public life. Queen Victoria, probably a natural left hander, was trained to write with her right hand but, shielded from the public gaze, continued to paint with her left. Likewise, her great grandson, George VI and his wife, Elizabeth Bowes Lyon were both naturally left-handed but were trained to write right-handed. Away from the documents and his desk George VI continued to play tennis left-handed. Indeed, in 1926, he and his partner Louis Grieg played in the doubles at Wimbledon; sadly they lost (6-1, 6-3, 6-2) in the first round on Court 2.

Although admittedly not at quite the same level, I fared a little better. Much to the ill-concealed surprise of my P.E. teacher, I once won a table tennis tournament. It wasn't because I was really any good but, as a left hander, my opponents found it very hard to anticipate and return my very odd and erratic serve. This parish has a population of 188 (2021 figures) so that means, statistically speaking, 18.8 of us are lefties. Who are they? More importantly which individual is the 0.8?....
Ann Beasley

**Reminder - Farm Walks July 5th
see June Newsletter**

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.

Flitcham's Housing Heritage

Part Two. Although the Holkham Estate was conspicuous among the more enlightened landowners in the way they housed their workers, some of the earlier properties in Flitcham were fairly basic, both in design and the materials used. According to the date stones, several houses were built between 1854 and 1856 - a block of four in Abbey Road, Beech House, also in Abbey Road, and a pair in Church Road. They all exhibit, to a greater or lesser extent, quite pronounced 'spalling' where the brick itself degrades over time - see photo. Sometimes it was so severe that complete bricks were hacked out and replaced. Beech House used similar bricks but, because it has always been rendered over, escaped this kind of damage. There is an



entry in the Holkham Archives which reads "Sir William Ffolkes for bricks etc in 1854, Billings' house [Beech House] £44.7.3". The archivist speculates that the "Ffolkes of Hillington may have had brickworks which were more convenient than the Holkham brickworks for supplying this area of the Estate." I have not been able to find evidence of any brickworks nearby. If anyone knows more, I would be very interested to hear. A local builder once told me he thought that these may be the infamous Heacham Reds, which were both soft and permeable. There was a brick works in Heacham (Mount Pleasant) which operated from 1797 until 1914. It is likely, given the coincidence of construction dates, that the other houses referred to above also used bricks from the same source.

Yet, a mere ten years later, the Holkham Estate built houses in Flitcham of a far more attractive design and using better quality materials - see Part 3 to follow
TA

