



FLITCHAM *cum* APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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August 2025

Parish Council Meeting

The meeting took place on Monday 7th July and it was really good to have Denise House with us as our newest councillor.

One of the main items of interest was the proposed rejuvenation of the village football field to host winter training sessions for young players from Dersingham Football Club. See separate article for further details.

We are also looking into the future of the telephone kiosk, which will soon cease to function. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting; one option is for the village to adopt the box if there is the potential for it to have a useful function (see overleaf).

Further information concerning traffic flow restrictions during the Heritage Live concerts at Sandringham in August should be published soon, probably through the Sandringham Keep in Touch scheme which all residents have had the opportunity to sign up for. In addition, there is already some useful information on the Heritage Live website.

In the near future the playground fence will need repainting and any offers of help would be really welcome; just a little time given by a few individuals can make a huge difference. Thank you.

It has been mentioned that some residents do not feel heard in the village; the Parish Council is always open to being approached via emails to the Clerk, in person around the village and through the Parish Council meetings held in the Community Centre. Please do contact us at any time; in order to be heard residents do have to give voice to their concerns and any ideas they have for the village as a whole.

Date of next meeting:
Monday 1st September 7.30 pm Community Centre.



August 24th - Family Service 11.00 am.

Community Centre Garden

A big thank you to everyone who helped to get the garden 'summer ready'. It looks amazing.

We would be very grateful for the donation of any shrubs for the borders.

Save the Date!

On Sunday 14th September at 11.30am there will be a Flitcham Village photograph at the front of the Community Centre. It has been twenty years since the previous one, which hangs proudly inside this very special venue.

Everyone is welcome, whether you live or work in Flitcham, go to school here, have family and friends in the village or are just visiting.

It will be a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate life in Flitcham.
Helen

FLITCHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE
B1153
VILLAGE FÊTE
AUGUST 31ST From 1.00pm
Refreshments
Stalls
And lots more!

Flitcham Sports Field

This field, which is registered with Sport England, is included in the tenancy of Abbey Farm. The field has not been used regularly for sporting activity for several years, though for many decades Flitcham had two (and, for a while, three) football teams. However, Dersingham Football Club has asked if they can use it for training their junior teams during the coming season. Their sessions will run from 5-8pm on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from October through to the end of March. They will be using portable floodlights.

A few concerns have been raised about this:

- Will cars park on Abbey Road?
Dersingham FC have been asked not to park vehicles on Abbey Road. There is ample parking beside the pitch.
- Light pollution from the flood lighting.
I will work with Dersingham FC to try to minimise the extent to which floodlighting affects nearby residents.
- Impact on wildlife.
My main concern is light pollution. However, the lights will only be on for six hours per week, which is less than 10% of the darkness hours at that time of the year. So, my opinion is the impact on wildlife will be small.

Some positives have also been discussed:

- The playing surface will be kept in better condition and will be available for people from the village to use at other times. It will also be in good shape should the village wish to hold fetes, fun days etc.
- Dersingham FC have invited children from Flitcham to join the training sessions.
- There are multiple benefits to children from being involved in sport.

In due course, we will all see what hosting the training sessions is like. If you have any concerns before or after the sessions have begun, do let me know.

Ed Cross, Abbey Farm ejc@abbeyfarm.co.uk

Left Behind

Seeing Ann's piece last month, and speaking as one left hander to another, I've always quite enjoyed being 'different'. Two of my children are also left handed. We still have to write from left to right, of course, and be able to see what is written (which is otherwise covered by the left hand) so imaginative strategies are needed. My daughter crouches right over the line and looks down over it, while my son has a more radical approach, curving over his left hand and writing from above the line so he is effectively working from right to left! I was also interested in your rather neutral use of the term 'trained' to ensure conformity. One of my father's brothers who, like me, was cack-handed (Bedfordshire), was also 'trained' using the simple expedient of having one arm tied behind his back during writing lessons.

TA



The Village Phone Box

As you will know from the January Newsletter, BT wished to remove the telephone equipment from the phone box on the grounds that it had little or no use, no calls at all having been made from it during the whole of 2024. There was a consultation period, which is now closed, and the equipment will be removed shortly.

The phone box (Grade II) is one of only three listed buildings in Flitcham, the others being the War Memorial (Grade II) and St Mary's Church (Grade II*). As we have repeatedly emphasised, the application was never for removal of the box itself. Once the equipment has been taken out, the box will be locked and effectively abandoned.

An alternative is for the Parish to 'adopt' it, for the nominal sum of £1, and be responsible for its maintenance. Under the terms of the adoption, "BT Payphones will continue to be responsible for the electrical supply and any associated payments to electricity companies."

The Parish Council will be considering this at its next meeting on September 1st. Clearly there will be little merit in applying to adopt without a plan for its use. We need your ideas and suggestions to avoid the box becoming a neglected eyesore.

BT has a useful web page:

<https://business.bt.com/public-sector/street-hubs/adopt-a-kiosk-scheme/>

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.