



FLITCHAM *cum* APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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Parish Council News

It was with great pleasure that a new councillor was co-opted onto the Parish Council on November 3rd and we warmly welcome Deborah Morgan-Davies. We still have one vacant post on the council so please do think of joining us.

Councillors Stuart Dark and Alistair Beales were present at the meeting and each outlined the huge shake up in local government that is being proposed. Multiple smaller councils will be replaced by a smaller number of larger unitary authorities. Norfolk County Council is proposing a single authority for the whole of the county whilst district Councils in Norfolk are proposing three unitary councils: East Norfolk, Norwich and West Norfolk. Westminster will decide which proposal to proceed with and new Councils are expected to be in place by 2028.

A final decision on the future of the telephone box proved elusive as, although the general feeling seems to be that we should adopt it, we are still unclear as to insurance, long term maintenance and liability implications of such an adoption. Furthermore, we do not yet have a firm vision for its future use and many projects will require commitment from individual residents in terms of establishment and upkeep. Please do contact any of us if you wish to get involved in this project. We have asked for further information on the proposed fertiliser (slurry) pit in Icknield Way in terms of smell, safety issues and size etc and will keep residents informed. Check out the application (25/01701/LDP) on the Borough Council's planning website:

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20077/planning_applications/111/search_and_track_planning_applications

As yet we have had no response to our request for information about residents' skills which might be useful in an emergency situation so please do send any useful information to the Parish Clerk.

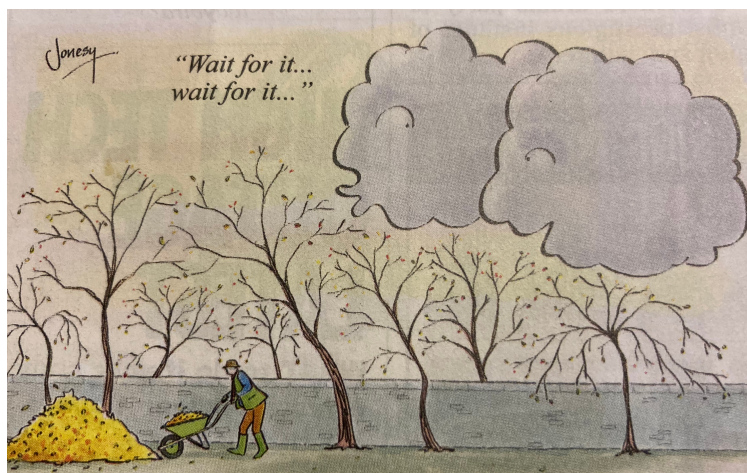
Date of next meeting: Monday 5th January 7.30pm



December 14th - Holy Communion 3 pm
Flitcham Bus Shelter

Over the years an increasing number of books and DVDs have been displayed in the shelter, offering a valuable and much appreciated resource for both residents and passers-by. Val and Paul Blackmur initiated this, and have maintained it as best they can; but of late it has become overwhelmed with far more books than it could reasonably accommodate while still fulfilling its primary function as a bus shelter. Members of the Parish Council have now sorted through the stock, discarding those which were worn or damaged through damp as well as all the DVDs. The books have been categorised and are stored in damp proof boxes with the intention to display them properly in the Spring. Meanwhile feel free to take books as usual but please ensure that any you do not want are replaced in the boxes and that the lids are re-attached.

DVDs will no longer be accepted and please do not leave any extra books there until further notice.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12TH

FROM 3.30 UNTIL 5 PM

STALLS - RAFFLE

...and much more...

Are you sitting comfortably?

As December arrives a very famous story will start to be told once more. At first glance, the tale does not appear promising or exciting; a man, a pregnant woman and a donkey go on a journey. Like most good stories however, the plot soon thickens, scenes of mild peril ensue (will there be room at the inn?) colourful, exotic characters arrive and add sparkle and the ending is most satisfactory. For a lot of us our life story is like this. From inauspicious beginnings, an ordinary life well lived turns into a thing of wonder; despite messy plotlines, periods of tedium, setbacks and sadness, other people and family add colour to our lives and give us important experiences to share. Stories are the things that make us feel more alive, foster empathy and act as a communal currency of humanity.

Finding connection through telling stories is marvellous and something that my husband John discovered on a dog walk at Sandringham. We have had a house in the village for 30 years but, unlike some other residents, were unaware of a remarkable story that also featured an inn. This time the inn in question was not in Bethlehem but was the New Inn in Flitcham.

John was chatting about cricket to a fellow dog walker called Ian who, it transpired, was born in what is now Inn House which his mother and father, Daisy and Cyril Bix (possibly born in 78 Abbey Road) ran as a pub between 1946 and 1981. Cyril had been with the Royal Norfolk Regiment and in 1942, within a few weeks of being posted to Singapore, was, along with some Australian infantry forces, taken prisoner by the Japanese. Despite being captured, the Norfolks had somehow managed to keep hold of their cricket kit and, to find connection and solace in the prison camp, challenged the Australians to a series of cricket matches called The Changi Ashes. What an utterly fantastic story, rooted in fundamental human connection in the face of adversity.

My father died recently and it has made me keenly aware of the importance of keeping stories and connections alive by sharing memories and experiences with each other and paying attention to the interwoven threads of all our lives. The Margery Kempe Trust, a charitable organisation promoting life writing and storytelling in King's Lynn unfortunately lost their recent application to take on the Carnegie Library Building. Margery Kempe, 1373-1438, was an English Catholic mystic from Bishop's Lynn, who, despite being illiterate, employed scribes to record what is generally accepted as the first autobiography in the English language.

If the Trust is still looking for new premises, perhaps we could let them use the telephone box as a local storytelling hub. Failing that, I may well start standing in there intermittently and share stories with anyone who cares to stop and listen. You have been warned.
Ann Beasley

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 should reach me by the 16th of the month to appear in the following month's edition.

Flitcham Social Club

Opening hours: Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 7.30 pm

Thursday 4th Folk Club 8 pm
Friday 5th Poker Night 8 pm
Saturday 6th Church Coffee Morning 10 am- 2 pm (see flyer)
Tuesday 9th **Christmas Bingo**
Eyes down at 7.30 pm
Thursday 11th Darts 8 pm
Saturday 13th Pensioners' Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 17th Acoustic Evening
Thursday 18th Folk Club 8 pm
Saturday 20th **Christmas Draw Night**
Draw at 9 pm
Wednesday 24th **Christmas Eve Mince Pies and Sausage Rolls 7.30 pm**

The Club is closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day

Wednesday 31st **NEW YEAR'S EVE**
8pm until late.
Music and buffet

The Club is closed on New Year's Day

Fake News

Well, it's not really news but it makes for a catchy caption.

In spite of the dry summer, we had a really big crop of apples so, as usual, I picked them when nearly ripe and stored them on shelves in the back porch. Periodically I composted the odd one which had gone black and 'furry' but noticed that, as usual, those in close proximity - even when touching the decayed one - were unaffected. Like you, I've been told since childhood that 'one bad apple can spoil the bunch'. Experience shows this to be nonsense but these old proverbs are still presented as if somehow embodying a universal truth even when they often flatly contradict each other:

"Look before you leap" BUT "He who hesitates is lost".

"Many hands make light work" BUT "Too many cooks spoil the broth".

Why not find more examples and enjoy cocking a snook (did I really write that?) at conventional wisdom.

TA

Christmas Card Delivery

Richard Gray is happy to deliver your cards to addresses in Flitcham again this year.

The collection box will be outside the Community Centre from December 1st to the 12th and delivery will be over the weekend of 13/14th December.

Please ensure that you only post cards for people who live in the village.