



FLITCHAM cum APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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February 2026

Flitcham Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Monday 12th January 2026 at the Community Centre, chaired by Richard Gray.

During Public Question Time, concerns were raised about an overgrown hedge on Abbey Road and recent fly-tipping incidents. Sandringham Estate as landlord will speak with the resident concerned and villagers are encouraged to report fly-tipping via the Borough Council website.

Cllr Stuart Dark reported on Norfolk County Council matters, including ongoing budget pressures, the loss of the Rural Services Support Grant and a proposed 4.99% increase in Council Tax. Updates were also given on devolution proposals and winter gritting, with links to gritting routes to be shared.

Financial matters were reviewed, with total expenditure of £926.72 and a remaining balance of £2,991.24. The draft budget was agreed with a small increase for training and the Parish Precept will rise by £200 to £4,600 (4.5%). An IT Policy was adopted.

The annual playground inspection identified repairs needed to swing posts; quotes will be obtained. Defibrillator checks continue, with attention noted to battery life and pad expiry later in 2026.

Following a councillor resignation, areas of responsibility were reviewed. The village newsletter will continue to be produced by Terry Allen, with support for playground inspections and other duties redistributed among councillors. New councillor training options will be explored.

It was agreed to proceed with adopting the red telephone kiosk, with potential community and school involvement in its future use.

The Emergency Plan will be updated and opportunities for external funding and community grants will be investigated.

The Welcome Pack is being updated and will be distributed to all residents as a reminder of its content.

Updates were also received on football pitch usage, school engagement with the Parish Council, and correspondence including planning matters. The next meeting will be held on Monday 2nd March 2026 at 7.30pm.

Report from Flitcham Parish Council



February 8th
Holy Communion 3pm

February 22nd
Family Service 11am.

FLITCHAM SOCIAL CLUB

FEBRUARY EVENTS

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| 7th | Coffee Morning 10 - 12noon |
| 10th | Bingo - eyes down 7.30pm |
| 12th | Folk Club 8pm |
| 13th | Poker Club 8pm |
| 14th | SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY
'Mr and Mrs' Quiz Night 8pm |
| 18th | Mexican Dominoes 2 - 4pm
Acoustic Night 8pm |
| 21st | Coffee Morning 10 - 12noon
Meal Night Places limited
so BOOK NOW at the bar |
| 26th | Folk Club 8pm |
| 27th | Poker Night 8pm |

Old Friends Reunited

Christmas is often a time to be reunited with old friends and strengthen connections that may have worked loose over the past busy months or years. Added to this, the New Year is flooded with swathes of rash and ridiculously ambitious resolutions that have usually been fly- tipped and left flailing on the roadside by February. This Christmas, I too was reunited with an old friend that I had lost touch with and I am pleased to say that so far, I have kept my resolution to maintain a closer bond. Ideally, good friends are not flashy, high maintenance, expensive or annoying but instead should be pleasant company, reliable, help alleviate boredom by keeping the mind active, give balm to a troubled soul, reduce loneliness and encourage people to get together and share activities. My old friend does all these things yet is not another sentient being; my old friend is a humble pack of playing cards and I have enjoyed getting thoroughly reacquainted over the festive period.

I spent a lot of my childhood playing games and especially enjoyed playing cards games with my grandparents, parents, brother and friends; yes, I did have some in case you were wondering. Horace, my maternal grandfather and a carpenter by trade, made us a beautiful Cribbage board and taught me to play this game as a young girl. I loved this time with him, he constantly smoking his roll ups and me moving the little pegs around the board and keeping score, with both of us perfectly engaged in this game of arithmetical skill and strategy.

When my own children were little, we played cards a lot, not just at Christmas, and as a young mother I always kept a miniature pack of cards gleaned from a cracker in my handbag. Said item proved to be a godsend on numerous occasions including the time I had to amuse my small daughter for four hours in the emergency department of a hospital while her brother had his face stitched back together. You may be unexcited by the prospect of card games but a pack of cards is also the cheapest, most portable and easiest way to enter the world of magic. There are thousands of magic cards tricks in existence, I know two and made my poor parents watch them endlessly. There are not many magicians who did not cut their teeth on tricks involving sleight of hand and a pack of cards and it is a form of magic that is constantly evolving. My talent did not evolve, my repertoire of tricks did not expand and I retired at a relatively early age from said activity much to my parents' relief.

Playing cards originated in China in the 9th century, made their way to Europe by the late 14th century with the suits we recognise today being designed in France in the 17th century. In 1440 the invention of the Gutenberg printing press allowed for mass production and at last cards began to reach a wider audience. As a child I never really understood the point of the Joker cards but recently discovered that they were introduced in the U.S.A during the Civil War in the 1860s as the game Euchre was in need of an extra trump/ wild card. Joker....Trump... Wild Card.....the irony.....

A pack of cards will cost you £2.99 on (advert deleted) and is an absolute bargain for a compact and portable source of endless entertainment and magic. However, before purchasing, be mindful that, just like Bubble and Squeak and puppies, a pack of cards is not just for Christmas, it is for life.

Ann Beasley

Flitcham Reserves (January 2003)



R. Elyard - C. Farrow - D. Fuller - J. Thurston - G. Wix - P. Shanks - C. Davy
S. Chalmers - N. Brennock - H. Bix - G. Holt - A. Hardingham - S. Hudson - J. Brennock - N. Farrow

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.