



FLITCHAM cum APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Published by the Parish Council

April 2026

Parish Council Meeting

It was nice to see both Councillor Beales and Councillor Dark at the March meeting especially as Councillor Dark is trying to help us raise some funds to go towards the maintenance costs of the playground. Councillor Glazebrook is taking on the responsibility for overseeing the playground; this was previously done by Terry Allen. The playground was only one of many projects that Terry devoted his time to and the whole of the council expressed their gratitude for his commitment and tenacity.

It was also really good to welcome Phil Clarke who was co-opted as a new Parish Councillor at the meeting; proposed by Richard Gray and seconded by Ann Beasley. Other councillors are busy updating the Welcome Pack and working on the final version of the Emergency Plan; we are still looking for ideas concerning the use of the telephone box once we have adopted it.

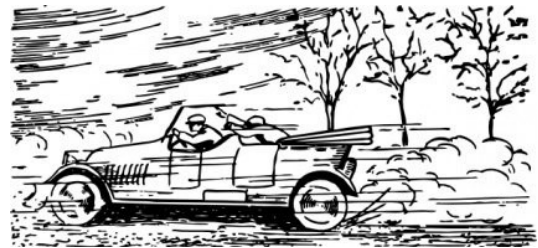
The Parish Council received an email concerning speeding in, and parking of cars along, Abbey Road. Residents may remember that we canvassed the Highways Department quite strongly to have the speed limit reduced to 20mph but to no avail. Parking along the road, although sometimes inconsiderate, is not in itself an offence unless it causes a major obstruction. As a council, we ask now that all residents and visitors to the village behave in a considerate and safe manner and that if there are known vehicles that are causing a problem, then the owners be approached directly to discuss the issue in an open and polite manner.

The other perennial issue raised again was the question of dog fouling within the village. The Parish Council understands that Sandringham Estate has emailed all their tenants in the village over this problem but the Council would like to make it clear that ALL dog owners in the village must clear up after their dogs and either take the excrement home to put in their own black bin or place it in one of the three dog bins in the village.

The Annual Parish Meeting, on May 18th at 7.30pm, is an ideal opportunity for villagers to attend, and participate in, an open meeting. The Chairman gives his report on the events of the year, the finances for the year are reported and various village groups send in reports relating to their activities over the year. It is followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting.



Easter Sunday, April 5th Family Service 11am
Sunday April 12th - Holy Communion 5pm
Sunday April 26th - Family Service 11am



You may have noticed, in the Parish Council report, that "speeding traffic" had been spotted in Abbey Road. From 2022-4 there was a long campaign by the then Parish Council to address this problem. It was recorded in the recent Minutes that the "average speed is 27 mph" but this is not the real issue; the resident who raised the matter said that a vehicle was "speeding" and presumably he/she felt unsafe as a result, regardless of whether or not it exceeded the legal *maximum* speed. The obvious reason is that 30mph is too high a limit. I still have correspondence and evidence supporting a reduction to 20 mph which featured in several Newsletters: in particular January 2022, January 2023 and January 2024 (all back issues are available on the Flitcham PC website). Ultimately, we gave up in the face of an intransigent Highways Department, who consistently refused to acknowledge our case, inordinate delays in arranging meetings with them, and the overwhelming inertia of a labyrinthine bureaucracy.

It does sound dismal but our case remains a strong one. With new County Councillors being elected in May, it may be worth revisiting - after all the traffic is still speeding. I don't know who raised the complaint but if they (or, indeed, anyone else) want to do more, and are prepared to re-energise a campaign, I would lend my support.

TA

The beauty of the unknown

We often use the expression 'fifteen minutes of fame' formulated by Andy Warhol to describe short lived publicity or celebrity of a person or phenomenon. I had a brush with this concept in early February when I stood in Ferry Lane off the Tuesday Market Place, gazing at what was thought to be the latest Banksy masterpiece. By the time I got home experts had decided it was not genuine and King's Lynn's fifteen minutes were up.

Banksy, the artist who rose to prominence from the graffiti sub culture of Bristol in the 1990s, is a global phenomenon and, although not without talent, must be acutely aware that his enduring anonymity is crucial to his current and continued success. As humans, we love certainty, being right, predictability, control and having access to accurate information but we are also hugely attracted to the beauty of mystery, intrigue, danger and uncertainty. Throughout history, artists, writers, political movements and pressure groups have used anonymity as a protective shield; a way to challenge social and political norms and bring about seismic changes in culture, thinking and behaviour. The French Revolution saw the rise of anonymous pamphlets which inspired the masses to mobilise and in Britain in 1872 The Secret Ballot Act meant parliamentary and local elections were at last held by secret ballot, thus ensuring that employers and landowners could no longer use their sway over employees and tenants to influence the vote.

We continue to be fascinated by unidentified shadowy figures from the past and we feast on the wild speculation that arises from their unknown identity. Jack the Ripper, the notorious serial killer from London's East End in the 1880s still draws huge interest and produces remarkable theories concerning his/her identity including the once popular notions that it was either Randolph Churchill (Winston's father) or, even more bizarrely, Prince Albert Victor, Edward VII's eldest son, who sadly died at Sandringham in 1892 aged only 28.

Perhaps the most poignant example of the power of anonymity can be found in Westminster Abbey. It is here that you will find The Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, a black Belgian marble slab; the only gravestone in the Abbey that people cannot walk on out of respect. The body of an unidentified soldier was interred on November 11th 1920 and it is the only time a full state funeral (King George V attended) has been held for an anonymous person. This unknown man represents all those individuals who could not be laid to rest by their families and who died during World War One without a known grave.

On a lighter note, television watchers still thrive on programmes focussed on anonymity. As a child I got ridiculously excited as my dad and I tried to guess the identity of the mystery guest on Question of Sport and later on my dad spent ages trying to work out who 'The Stig' was on Top Gear. Part of the huge popularity of The Traitors is because it ultimately revolves round watching others, frantically and often incredibly unsuccessfully, attempt to reveal the identity of the anonymous killers.

Ann Beasley

THE 25TH ANNUAL FLITCHAM YARD SALE

Easter Day, April 5th
From 9am onwards

Now's the opportunity to sell off that old rubbish those priceless treasures you have carefully hoarded over the past year. It will cost you a mere £5, with proceeds towards the Social Club and Community Centre. Organisation is, as ever, in the capable hands of Val Blackmur, so let her know if you want to take part - 600020

Books

A selection of books is now displayed on the bus shelter shelves, following a comprehensive "sort out". Please restrict any future donations to a few children's books and adult fiction or biography. No more gardening, cookery or crafts etc. please as these books do not get taken. Please do not leave any DVDs.

This is an excellent facility for the village and so that it does not become overwhelmed, as happened in the past, only the bookshelves below the notice board, and the shelf on the wall, will be in use.

Flitcham Social Club

April Events

Saturday 4th	Coffee Morning 10-12
Sunday 5th	Annual Yard Sale
Thursday 9th	Folk Club 8pm
Friday 10th	Poker Night
Saturday 11th	Full English Breakfast £10 10am Book Now
Tuesday 14th	Bingo Eyes down 7.30pm
Wednesday 15th	Mexican Dominoes 2pm
	Acoustic Night - 7.45pm
Saturday 18th	Coffee morning 10-12am
Thursday 23rd	Folk Club 8pm
Friday 24th	Poker Night
Saturday 25th	St George's Day Meal Night Book Now

Flitcham Bowls Club

We will be playing in the same three leagues this year: the North West Norfolk, the Albert Victor and the Bridges. They start at the end of April but we haven't set a date for the opening of the green yet.

Paul Hunter 07867572231

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.