



FLITCHAM with APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Parish Council

The next meeting of Flitcham Parish Council is due to be held at the Community Centre on **Monday 7th September 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.

Gill Welham, Parish Clerk 07876 136054
clerk@flitchampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Remember that if there are any issues you want the Parish Council to consider please contact the Clerk or the Chairman, Roger Glazebrook

cllr.roger.glazebrook@flitchampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk



September 13th - Holy communion 5 pm

September 27th - Family Service 11 am



Flitcham Social Club

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Wednesday 2nd	Acoustic Night
Saturday 5th	Coffee Morning 10-12
Tuesday 8th.	Bingo
Wednesday 9th	Acoustic Night
Thursday 10h.	Wolf Folk Club
Friday 11th.	Poker Night Cancelled
Saturday 12th.	Ploughman's Supper
	6.30 for 7.00 Booking essential (07867 615947)
Thursday 17th	Darts v Babingley
Saturday 19th	Coffee morning 10 - 12
Thursday 24th.	Wolf Folk Club
Friday 25th	Poker Night
Saturday 26th	Theme Night (ask at bar for details)
Wednesday 30th	Acoustic Night

Some great news! As any visitor will have noticed, the school has been looking the worse for wear in recent years. However, over the summer break, a great deal of work has been carried out. This included removal of an old chimney stack, which had caused a serious damp and mould problem for several years, and replacing the suspended ceilings in the two main classrooms. By the time you read this they will have been completely redecorated, together with the main thoroughfare and hallway from the front door. This is a great vote of confidence in the future of the school.

TA

Please Mr Postman

One of our dogs, Teasel, simply cannot control herself when the post plops through the letter box. She barks with excitement and runs round in circles wiggling her bottom furiously; I, however, do not. Firstly, because I am not a dog and secondly because, unlike Teasel, I know only too well that it contains little to get enthused about. Most mail today consists of bills, uninspiring business stuff or occasionally a hospital appointment; the last of which I suppose is becoming something to class as an exciting rarity until you realise the post has taken so long to arrive that said appointment took place last Thursday.

First and second class stamps cost £1.80 and 91p respectively which is a lot of money compared to sending a free and instantaneously delivered message but sometimes writing a personal letter is, for me, a calming pleasure and worth the cost. Of course, if you are a serious stamp collector, £1.80 is nothing to what enthusiasts will pay for these tiny historic works of art. I always thought that the Holy Grail of stamps was the famous Penny Black, the first adhesive stamp issued in 1840, but it seems they are rather commonplace as about 1.3 million of them still exist.

(Continued overleaf)

The changing nature of the letters I receive and the patchy efficiency of the present postal service really saddens me as does the news that Denmark's state-run postal service has stopped all letter deliveries. In my mind, a letter postal service is a basic utility and a fundamental need for a nation. Back in medieval times when I was at university, I wrote to my parents and grandmother most weeks and loved receiving plump letters back. Email, WhatsApp and other messaging platforms are wonderful ways of keeping in touch but for me a beautifully crafted, hand written letter is hard to beat. It is personal, tactile and thrilling to open in a way that an email never is - I miss it.

What you really want to stumble upon is a British Guiana 1c Magenta which was issued in 1856. British Guiana (now Guyana) post office ran out of stamps and had to do a very short emergency run and print a limited number of its own stamps. Unfortunately, you won't find this little gem as only one still exists and was sold in 2014 for 9.48 million dollars. Just up the road at Sandringham, George V was a hugely dedicated and astute collector of stamps. In 1904 one of his courtiers asked the then Prince of Wales if he had seen the story in the paper about some damned fool who had paid £1,450 for a Mauritian Blue 2d stamp. After a pause, George replied rather dryly, 'I was that damned fool.' The stamp in question is now probably worth over a million pounds – not such a fool after all then.

Incidentally, my favourite quote about stamps comes from Muhammad Ali. He said, in pre self-adhesive stamp times, 'I should be a postage stamp because that is the only way I'll ever get licked (ie beaten)'.

Note to self, this quote only really works if you happen to be a famous American boxing legend.

Ann Beasley

Flitcham's Housing Heritage

Part IX

Since the Second World War, few houses have been built in Flitcham; the first of note were the two pairs of council houses in Abbey Road, numbers 1-4. Now privately owned, these appeared in the early 1950s, when there was a massive Government driven building programme to replace much of the substandard housing as well as the loss of many houses during WWII. In 1951, only half of English households had their own fixed bath, toilet, running hot water and a stove. Regulations were introduced for social housing which set minimum conditions for, among other things, space per person, ceiling height and natural daylight. At that time too there was some experimentation in prefabricated construction with one later example here being the system built Marley bungalows further up the road, to which I referred in the June 2025 issue. However, this solution, to what remains a serious housing problem, has never really caught on. It became discredited at the time through poor construction techniques, shoddy practice and the use of unsuitable materials



leading to condensation and other problems. Alongside this was the innate conservatism of the building trade, long wedded to bricks and mortar. This is a self-perpetuating phenomenon. The defence of such antiquated and labour-intensive practice is based upon the claim that "it is what people want" whereas it is arguable that they have learned to want what they get!

A more recent exception, however, can be found at 39 Church Road, dating from the 1990s. The basic sectional wooden structure, imported from Sweden, was erected in a matter of days and was then clad in stone, brick and carrstone, to match its surroundings. Ironically, given the now long overdue emphasis on combatting climate change, the design was seen as somewhat quirky at the time. It is heavily insulated, triple glazed and with a mechanical ventilation system as well as a (disconcertingly) outward opening, and very solid, front door. Indeed when I first met the late owner, Monica Mortensson, she literally swept me off my feet. Yet, once again we can now see how Flitcham is such a unique case study by illustrating the progression of housebuilding styles and practices over the past two centuries.



Post script: Pam Ellis, who has lived at number 3 Abbey Road (see above) since 1967, phoned me after seeing the August newsletter featuring the 1932 cottages, to say that she remembers there being three. She recalls who lived there too: Becky Clements, her daughter Penny Raisbury and granddaughter Carla were in 31, Sonny Knight in the now absent number 30 and Fred Lake in 29. The latter moved across the road into number 1 Marley Bungalows (see above), presumably at the time of the conversion. In retrospect, the absence of a number 30 was a bit of a giveaway in the history of the cottages, which I should have spotted!

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.

The Parish Council supports the Newsletter with a contribution towards the cost of its production.