

FLITCHAM with APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

October 2026

Parish Council Meeting

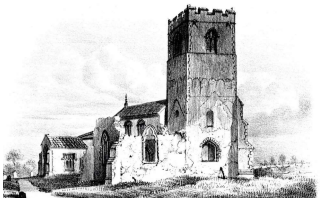
It was good to be joined by both Councillor Alistair Beales and new County Councillor, Lee Jarvis, at our meeting on September 7th. They made several useful contributions to our discussions and also mentioned the recent pause in the planned major reorganisation of local government into unitary authorities; they, like us, await developments. As a Parish Council we will still share a summary of our main activities in the Newsletter but would like to highlight to residents that additional PC information can also be found on the Flitcham News Facebook page and on the Parish Council website.

We discussed the hedge around the War Memorial, which has kindly been trimmed by a resident, but we will be approaching Sandringham Estate to ask if they could help with cutting it back further. The hedge has got rather wide and is making safe passage on the pedestrian pathway difficult; this is especially important as it is on a very busy corner. We have also been approached by Luna's Pizza, a mobile pizza trailer (holders of a street trading licence) who serves villages in the Bircham area about the possibility of coming to the village for a couple of hours on a Friday evening through the winter months. It is likely that this would be stationed in Church Road near the school. As a Parish Council we do not have any power to influence whether or not this comes to fruition but we can observe and monitor any impact in the village and on residents.
Date of next meeting: Monday 2nd November 2026 at 7.30 pm

Flitcham Bowls Club

After a very challenging summer for both captains and greenkeeper, we closed the green on September 6th with a 'rollup' and barbecue for the members, families and supporters. Many thanks to Janet, for preparing the food, and Paul Brennock for cooking. The teams managed to miss relegation and stay in Division Two in the Albert Victor League. We came third in Division Two of the North West Norfolk League and fourth in the Saturday Night Bridges League.

My thanks to all the players and, especially, John Farrow for keeping the green going in such very difficult conditions.
Paul Hunter



October 11th - Holy Communion 5pm
October 25th - Family Service 11 am

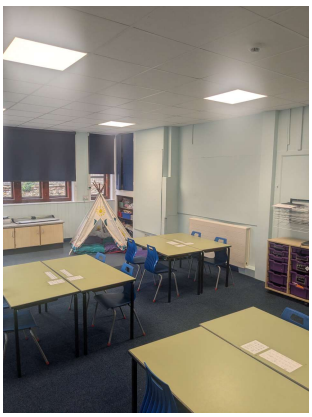
Flitcham Primary Academy

As you will know, from the last Newsletter, a lot of work has been done on our school. The Deputy Head writes:

Over the summer, extensive titivation took place throughout the main building of the school. The entire main corridor and both main building classrooms have been completely redecorated, and both classrooms have had lower suspended ceilings installed which is already having a positive impact on acoustics and will definitely be noticed once we put the heating on!



We were due to have a chimney stack removed to prevent a long standing leak in the back classroom but, on inspection, we actually need both stacks removed and this will now need to take place at a later date. We have been promised it will not impact on our lovely new aesthetics!
Mrs Nichola Keir
Deputy Head Teacher



Forthcoming Event: November 14th - Victorian Fayre at the Community Centre



Flitcham Social Club

OCTOBER EVENTS

Thursday 1st	MacMillan Coffee Morning 9 -1
	Acoustic Night
Saturday 3rd	Coffee Morning 10-12
	Bingo for Sandringham Bowls Club 8pm
Thursday 8th.	Wolf Folk Club
Friday 9th.	Poker Night
Tuesday 13th	Bingo 7.30 for 8
Saturday 17th	Coffee Morning 10-12
	Quiz for Sandringham Bowls Club 8pm
Wednesday 21st	Mexican Dominos 2-4 £3
Thursday 22nd	Wolf Folk Club
Friday 23rd	Poker Night
Thursday 29th	Acoustic Night
Saturday 31st	Coffee Morning 10-12

8pm Hallowe'en Party - Theme 'Cowboys and Indians' - Prize for best costume

It's a small world after all...

We all use this expression to describe the phenomenon of discovering unknown or unlikely connections between ourselves, meeting acquaintances in unexpected places, or finding close common ground with a stranger. When asked a question or for a recommendation, we may say that we don't know but this is often followed by, "but I know someone who does or can" and so the tangled web of human connectedness, slowly and gloriously starts to show itself. Stanley Milgram, an American social psychologist conducted his famous Small World Phenomenon Experiment in 1967 which promoted the Six Degrees of Separation Theory that everyone on Earth is connected to everyone else through a chain of no more than five acquaintances. Sounds ridiculous, but is it? Milgram gave randomly selected American citizens a letter addressed to an individual living in Boston; the participants did not know the named individual. They could only send the letter to a friend, acquaintance or relative who they thought might know the intended recipient. Milgram discovered that often the letter arrived safely after having gone through five or six interim destinations.

Many years ago, my son went on a golfing tour of the U.S.A. where American families played host to the British golfers. I had not heard from my son but my brother (in the UK) phoned me to say that everything was going well. Astonishingly, he had received an email from an American scientist who discovered, through a dinner table conversation, that the young British golfer staying in his house had an uncle who was a work colleague in the UK! We all have amazing networks of connections both across the globe and back throughout history, but it takes a serendipitous moment, as above, to realise this and appreciate how utterly marvellous it all is. In a fractured and fractious world, discovering unexpected connections, be they physical, familial, spiritual or emotional, can bring joy and a sense of belonging and closeness. As residents of a small parish, where some of us may not yet even know all our neighbours, I think we would be astounded at the enormous reach we would produce if we were ever to pool all our connections!

A small boy visiting Sandringham House recently was looking fairly miserable when I met him, and his mother explained that he was really disappointed as he thought he was going to meet the King and shake his hand. I told him that I could not conjure up the King but could help with the next best thing. I explained that, as I had shaken the King's hand, then if he shook mine, he would only be one handshake away from King Charles and, even better, only two handshakes away from all the famous people whose hands the King had shaken. At this, he cheered up immediately, shook my hand and went off happily down the corridor staring at his hand in wonder. Honestly, I could have died happy at that moment. [That is, until you remembered that the small boy's 'second hand handshakes' with the famous included various dictators, tyrants and despots whom the King had been obliged to entertain. TA]
Ann Beasley

Milgram is better known to me for his (in)famous shock experiment, first conducted in the 1960s, and since replicated, which tested obedience to authority. Participants were instructed to administer increasingly severe electric shocks to another person who was concealed behind a screen (and who, unknown to them, was actually an actor), if they answered questions incorrectly. In spite of hearing the 'recipient's' screams, sixty-five per cent of participants, when instructed to carry on administering shocks, continued all the way to the maximum 450 volts. Milgram claimed that this demonstrated the powerful influence of authority figures on behaviour. 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.