

FLITCHAM with APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

November 2026

Tapping House

Compassionate Communities Workshops

We have an open invitation to anyone in our communities to come along to one of our free workshops.

Compassionate Friends

Compassionate Friends aims to build confidence and skill in supporting people we know who are living with serious illness, are approaching end of life or grieving. We aim to dispel some myths and taboos about death and dying, and provide some simple communication skills that will help you.

Our next workshop is on:

Tuesday 8th Dec 2026 10-12.30 at Tapping House Wheatfields, Hillington PE31 6BH

Planning for Future Care

Planning for Future Care is a proactive, positive step to planning ahead. It is an informal workshop where we explore all the different things to consider, from legal decision making to legacy, and the different resources that you can use to record your wishes. While we all hope for the best, let's do planning for the rest.

Our next workshops are:

Monday 16th November 2026 from 1pm until 4.

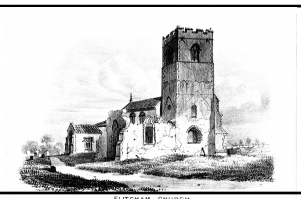
Friday 22nd January 2027 from 10am until 12:30

MacMillan Coffee Morning October 1st

This raised £250. Flitcham Social Club and the Friends of Flitcham Primary School wish to thank all who came and supported us.

Season of Mists





November 8th - Remembrance Sunday
Flitcham Village War Memorial
A Short Act of Worship and laying of Wreaths 2.15pm
St Mary's Church
Holy Communion 3 pm
November 22nd Family Service 11 am

Parish Council

The next meeting of Flitcham Parish Council will be held at the Community Centre on:
Monday, November 2nd 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. Members of the public are warmly welcomed.
Gill Welham, Parish Clerk 01366 384205
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 - 600114
cllr.roger.glazebrook@flitchampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Marking the Anniversary of the Late Queen's death

One aspect of the Queen's life that never seems to get mentioned is her time as a leading Girl Guide and then a Sea Ranger. My mother moved to Windsor in 1941 and so my two sisters joined the Princess's Guide company. They learned many skills for their badges such as signalling with flags. As a 15 month old baby I helped them to obtain their baby minding badge!

Later they became Sea Rangers, boating on the lake at Frogmore near Windsor Castle. They were lent a motor gunboat by the Navy and my sister's scrap book even had a picture of the then Princess Elizabeth cleaning the decks with a mop.

For many years afterwards the former Guides and Rangers were invited to Frogmore House for a reunion; sometimes husbands were invited too.
Harry Verney

A History of Flitcham School - Part One

White's Gazeteer of Norfolk (1890) records that in Flitcham "A [National] school was erected, in 1848, by Miss Ffolkes, which was generously supported by that lady until her decease in 1853; it is now supported by subscription and small payments from the scholars". There is brass plaque in her memory in Flitcham Church although it makes no reference to her founding the school. The Ffolkes were, of course, the Hillington landowners and it is interesting to note that this philanthropic and enlightened move predated the establishment of a similar school in Hillington by several years.

National schools very much depended on local initiative and finance - usually from landowners, albeit with an element of state support, with the result that provision was variable and absent in many cases. According to Craven's Commercial Directory of Norfolk (1856) Flitcham school then had 30 "scholars", the teacher being Ann Phillips. The low number of children, given that the village population only a few years later (1861) was 533 (Harrod's Directory of Norfolk and Norwich 1863), may have been the result of the requirement to pay fees following Miss Ffolkes's death. The Directory refers to there being "also a school in connection with the church" but I have been unable to find any further information on this. We do not know where the 1848 school was located although it is likely that the new school, erected in 1874, was on the same site.

This school was the result of the Forster Education Act of 1870 which established Board Schools to ensure every child was educated. Parents were still obliged to pay a fee until a new Act in 1880, after which it was free. Perhaps as a result, the new school provided for many more pupils and, by 1890, was attended by 96 children even though the village population had dropped a little to 488. The concept of universal education aroused tension at the time with a firm belief in many quarters that education may undermine the hierarchical relationship prevalent in rural areas and, for the more prosaic reason, that farmers needed child labour and parents needed the income thus provided. Even when education became more widely accepted, agricultural needs often meant that children were absent from school at harvest time. However, there was a big financial incentive too as Board Schools received grants from the central Education Department and were maintained through local rates.

The intention was that these Schools would be managed in a far more democratic way. Women were permitted to stand as candidates to be Board members and also to vote - remember that this was over forty years before universal suffrage. Moreover, the 'cumulative' vote enabled each elector to cast as many votes as there were candidates with the potential for all votes being cast for one candidate! However, in rural areas, such as Flitcham, the absence of people sufficiently well educated to act as Board members, alongside ingrained deference, rendered them unlikely (and certainly unwise) to stand as candidates against their landlord and employer. Hence the 'rural leadership' of parson, landowner and farmer was likely to prevail.

The Education Act of 1902 established the Local Education Authority which paid the teachers and appointed the managers who were also expected to find funds to contribute to the school's maintenance; it is very likely that the former elected Board members would have transitioned into the managers. In Part Two, based on contemporary correspondence, we shall look into the tensions which soon arose in what could otherwise be seen as a traditional and mutually satisfactory arrangement. (To be continued) TA

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15th

at the Community Centre

from 10 - 2

MANY STALLS

Local Crafts

Plus tea, coffee, cakes

Flitcham Social Club

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Thursday 5th	Folk Club 8 pm
Friday 6th	Poker Club 8 pm
Saturday 7th	Meal Night - now fully booked
Tuesday 10th	Bingo: Eyes Down 7.30 pm
Wednesday 11th	Acoustic Night
Saturday 14th	Coffee Morning 10 am-12 noon
Sunday 15th	Victorian Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 18th	Mexican Dominoes: 2-4 £3 including refreshments
Thursday 19th	Folk Club 8 pm
Friday 20th	Poker Club 8 pm
Saturday 21st	Full English Breakfast: 10am Booking essential
Wednesday 25th	Acoustic Night
Thursday 26th	Darts v Bircham
Saturday 28th	Coffee Morning 10 am-12 noon

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