



# FLITCHAM *cum* APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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## Flitcham Bell Social Club

**Friday December 3rd:** Quiz Night, 7.30 start, £2.00 per person. Four to a team with a snack at half time.

**Monday 13th December:** Bingo. Doors open at 6.30 and eyes down at 7.30

**You can book for the above events at the Club - 600703**

**Saturday 18th December: Christmas Draw at 8.30 pm (see below)**

**Friday December 24th:** Christmas Eve - hopefully with chestnuts around the fire and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Friday December 31st:** New Year's Eve. The Bell will open a little later at 8pm. A buffet will be available during the evening, with fireworks to welcome the New Year, and music throughout the evening.

**Christmas Draw - 50p a 'square' purchased at any time when the Club is open and up to 8pm on the night of the draw which will be at 8.30pm**  
The Social Club is open on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

Current Government guidelines will be adhered to with regard to COVID-19

## Parish Council

The Parish Council started the November meeting by welcoming Noelyne Fuller who was co-opted on to the Council.

It was decided that, until we receive clarification from the Borough Council over the questionable legality of counting an abstention/'no show' as a 'yes' vote in any referendum on the renumbering of the village, no further action will be taken on this matter.

Our thanks go to Robert Walden who is busy organising the removal and renovation of the village sign and also to Terry Allen for his continuing care of, and attention to, the playground. Weather proofing the fencing continues and offers to help Geoff and Terry would be greatly appreciated.

We are still waiting for confirmation from Edward Parsons about an agreed off-road walking route from Flitcham to Appleton which will be open to residents, perhaps on a permit basis.

Speeding traffic in and around the village remains a concern and we, along with Hillington Parish Council, are investigating the idea of a standardised 30 mph limit through the village and along Hillington Road to the A149 and to Hillington itself.



FLITCHAM CHURCH

**Friday, December 3rd 9.00am - 12.30pm**

Coffee Morning at the Community Centre

**Monday December 13th 6.00 pm**

Village Carol Service

*Note earlier time than usual so that you can get to the Bingo afterwards!*

**Christmas Day 11.00am** Family Service

## Friends of Flitcham Church

The annual village collection took place on 1st and 2nd November and together with a few "outside" postal donations I am delighted to report that this year we have raised £1,054. This means that together with the proceeds that we raised at the Music in Country Churches concert in July we will be able to immediately repair the four most damaged mullioned windows this year and almost certainly the fifth one in 2022 which is excellent news. The other trustees of the Friends of Flitcham Church and I would like to thank all of you that have so very generously contributed to this worthy cause of continuing to maintain the fabric of this beautiful old building that is such a key focal point for our village landscape.

Bill Tweddle, Chairman

## Good Companions

Regrettably after 60 plus years the Good Companions will be no longer. All the members are very sad that this is happening but it is unfortunately inevitable.

We will be lunching for the last time on December 8th when we will no doubt be looking back with fondness on all the happy times we have had together. Thank you to the village for the support you have given us.

Pat Cox

As a Christmas lunch will be our very last meeting, it seems appropriate for us to particularly thank Pat, our secretary, for doing the necessary admin work but most of all for her interest, care and dedication towards everybody, with support from the committee members. We will miss you Pat and the meetings and the lunches and the outings. THANK YOU from Monica Mortensson and all your friends.



So You  
Think You  
Know Your  
Village?

The outright winner, who knew them all - even number 4 - is John Farrow.

1. Clearly visible in the winter, but less so in the summer, this 'date stone' was inscribed when the church wall was repaired in, as it says, 1987.

2. Just look up when go past the Old Vicarage at this huge bunch of mistletoe at the top of a tree. Joey Smithson wrote:

"My father would never allow mistletoe in the house when I was growing up but we never asked why. When he was in the last year of his life a lady visited weekly and wrote his life story which was an amazing read, all the questions you find you want to ask but it is normally too late. Anyway the reason he wouldn't have it in the house was that during the second world war the German snipers used it as cover. I suspect it made him go cold."

3. This is quite visible on the South wall of the ruined chantry of the church. While inevitably identified as a sundial, it differs from a conventional one. While obviously not the original, the stylus - gnomon - projects vertically from the wall, whereas on a true sundial it would be angled according to the latitude of the location and there would be figures at the ends of the lines. The vertical gnomon makes it difficult to read with any accuracy as the shadow often stops short of the mark. Only a few of the 'holes' have grooves from the centre, and may therefore be original, whereas two or three on the left have clearly been crudely added later. I have taken several photos at different times of the day and there is certainly some correlation with actual times. Although they are quite common on churches - and, seemingly, only churches - there is very little written about them, the most authoritative source dating from 1917 and referring to them, generically as 'Scratch Dials.' The Flitcham one is fairly sophisticated, and may date from the Eighteenth Century while others I have seen, at Fring and Bintree for example, are much cruder and probably older.

4. This is the most interesting of all the objects I've shown and is just within the parish boundary down by the river. If you cross the pasture behind the football field, climb over the stile in the corner by the old mill pond, and walk round to the other side, there it stands by the river, still awaiting the invasion which never came. From its location it would have had clear cover of the bridge, as the trees would of course have been cleared. On its solid base would have been mounted a 'spigot mortar', an anti-tank weapon issued to the Home Guard. The metal spigot is in remarkable condition being merely tarnished and with little sign of corrosion.

5. What can I say about this - it's the date stone on the side of my house! Flitcham is fortunate - and unusual - in having a large number of houses with date stones. I have counted 27 so far, many of them shared as they are semis or in blocks of four.

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You may send in material at any time via my letterbox at Beech House, Abbey Road or email - [t.allen@suster.plus.com](mailto:t.allen@suster.plus.com) - 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.