



FLITCHAM cum APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council is scheduled to take place at the Community Centre on Tuesday 4th January commencing at 7:45. Currently, legislation does not allow for Parish Council meetings to take place remotely, hence we must continue to adhere to Covid rules. This means that anyone wishing to attend must book a place in advance of the meeting as numbers will be limited. Face masks must also be worn and everyone must be socially distanced. However, with pressure on the Government to reintroduce the legislation to allow remote meetings once more, this may change. If this is the case, the access details to attend remotely will be published on the website, on the Facebook Flitcham News group and by email to those members that receive the Newsletter via email.

The Agenda for the meeting will be posted on the Notice Board and on the Flitcham website just before Christmas which seems earlier than normal but is due to the sheer number of bank holiday days between Christmas and New Year.

I take this opportunity to wish everyone an enjoyable and healthy Christmas

Gill Welham, Parish Clerk 01366 384205
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January 23rd - Family Service 11.00 am.

Christmas Coffee Morning

Our regular Friday coffee morning pre-Covid was recreated for one day only, in order to raise funds for Flitcham Church. It was a pleasant morning with refreshments to eat and drink, various bargains and generous prizes to be had. The morning raised £526.14 and a heartfelt thank you goes to all the people who came from near and far to give support, plus many thanks to all the willing volunteers, who, with their work, made the coffee morning possible.

Carol Service

Quite a few parishioners found their way along the path lit by candle light, and into a Christmas decorated church. To many, singing the carols and listening to the lessons is the start of the festive season. It seems appropriate to give an appreciative thought to those who put up the Xmas tree and decorated it, set out the nativity scene, arranged all the flowers, bought the mulled wine, baked the mince pies and organised the visiting Fring choir. Thank you very much for your dedication resulting in a successful and atmospheric evening.

Monica Mortensson

In the [June Newsletter](#) I wrote about speeding traffic through our village and drew on data collected in April by the SAM devices located in Anmer Road and Abbey Road. Figures collected in July, when traffic flow was much greater, were similar. This reinforced the case for tackling the problem in Abbey Road. Only a very small number of vehicles (3.4%) exceeded the current limit and yet it is clear to anyone who lives here that most vehicles are still going too fast given the road conditions. The following proposals were put to (and approved by) the November meeting of Flitcham PC.

Proposal 1 (in conjunction with Hillington PC)

A148 At the approach to Hillington from Fakenham relocate the start of the 30mph limit to the Hillington village sign.

Proposal 2

Hillington Road, Flitcham. Extend the 30 mph limit all the way to the A148 junction.

Proposal 3

Reduce the speed limit in Abbey Road to 20mph and extend it from the village centre to the bird hide.

These proposals were discussed and agreed by Hillington PC at their meeting on November 23rd and are now going forward to the County Council

TA

The Fritcham Village Sign

Repainting the village sign was interesting and revealing. There may have been just 2 previous versions; with the solid oak original a gift from King George V in 1912 lasting for over 40 years. This is not so improbable if, as is likely, it was properly maintained: after all, softwood window frames over 100 years



old exist. Photographs show the carved details of the sign unchanged over that period although the original 4 fingerboards were reduced to 3. At some time "Appleton" was added to the Sandringham board and "Docking" joined the Bircham board (pictured) but all fingerboards were removed when a softwood sign replaced the original, probably in the 1950s. This rotted extensively requiring large areas of wood to be replaced during a temporary refurbishment for the 2002 Jubilee but it had again deteriorated by 2008 when the current sign was gifted by the Cross family to celebrate their 50 years at Abbey Farm. This is also of solid oak and heavy: one man can lift it inches off the ground but three were needed to lift it in position from a teleporter (kindly supplied by Edward Cross) and secure it. Thirteen years on, it too has suffered rot, having had no maintenance during that period. Woodwork constantly exposed to the elements usually requires repainting every 5 years and frequent inspection and maintenance to survive. It will probably require a touch up therefore before 2026.

Robert Walden

Note from TA:

Thank you Robert for all your work in restoring the sign to its former glory. He asks, and I quote: "Does anyone have a roll of 'flashband' loitering in their shed? About 18" needed to be cut up into 2" wide strips to seal the top edge of the Village Sign. Contact Robert Walden 38 Church Rd." If you have some, you'll know what it is!

Musings from Fritcham End

As a devoted dog owner who can often be seen mooching about Fritcham with two terriers, Tetley, the slightly grumpy and portly one, and Teasel the pigeon poo obsessed puppy, I take a keen interest in the world as it looks through their eyes. For all their intelligence and charm, dogs do not have any concept of the distinction between public and private property nor where it is and is not appropriate for them to attend to their ablutions. It is therefore my responsibility and the responsibility of all dog owners to ensure that excrement is picked up and disposed of in the proper way. It is such an easy and small thing to ask of the canine lovers in the village; much as I love dogs I would be distinctly unimpressed if a 'package' was left outside my house. We should not need to get to the stage where individuals need to be confronted as happened to me in Wolferton a few weeks ago when a sprightly and rather aggressive woman galloped out of her house to shout at me about letting my dogs foul in front of her property. Thankfully, I was able to proudly hold up my little black plastic bag and say that we had in fact just stopped to admire her beautiful front garden!

My message is bag it and bin it; I even do this at Sandringham where, in some places, they have introduced a Stick and Flick policy. Personally, I am not prepared to take the risk of picking up a stick that someone else has flicked with.

Ann Beasley

You Know Who You Are.....

Just a little reminder for those who walk their dogs in the public access field. The law applies exactly the same as on the road and verges.

I am regularly picking up excrement in the field, close to the paths so impossible to miss. The 'depositor(s)' must be large dogs by the size of the mess.

Dogs can carry Neosporin in their faeces, harmless to the dog but dangerous to cows and calves, causing stillbirth and spontaneous abortion. Our regular cows have been affected in the past and it can remain in the soil for years.

Please be responsible and pick up after your dog!

Geraldine Rowe

You may send in material at any time via my letterbox at Beech House, Abbey Road or email - 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.