



FLITCHAM cum APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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February 2022

Parish Council

Sadly, for the second time, we greeted the beginning of a new year, at our January meeting, with face masks and continuing Covid gloom but thankfully there was positive news to kick off 2022.

We started with the co-option of a new Councillor, Susan Allen, and we welcome her return to the Parish Council. Also, due largely to the efforts of Terry Allen* and Robert Walden, the village begins the year boasting a safe and fit for purpose playground and an incredibly smart refurbished village sign. We thank them and other residents who helped in any way with these projects.

The continuing issue of renumbering was discussed briefly following comments made in Public Question Time but, as stated before, we are still waiting for clarification over the rules surrounding the voting process in any village vote. Until this is resolved no further action will be taken.

On the subject of footpaths; we have received a proposal of a walking route from Flitcham to Appleton from the Land Agent at Sandringham and are currently assessing the possible legal and financial implications of the contract proposed by Sandringham: further discussion with the Estate will probably be needed.

Ann Beasley

* TA adds "and with a great deal of help from Geoff Kilham and Don Addyman"

The next meeting is on Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 7.30pm.

Remember that if there are any issues you want the Parish Council to consider please contact:

Chairman Geoff Kilham - 609010

or

Gill Welham. Parish Clerk 01366 384205

Coffee Morning Returns

"Fancy a coffee with cake and a chat?"

The Social Club welcomes the return of Coffee Mornings on

THURSDAY 24th. February 2022.

9-30am-12-00 noon.

Coffee and Cake £2-00

Coffee mornings to be held on the last Thursday of the month initially - hopefully returning to weekly meetings, dependent on your support.



February 27th - Family Service 11.00 am.

Resolutions for 2022

I have always been a little cynical about this whole tradition but, having recently read an article discussing the new promises that we make to ourselves, I think I have discovered the best tactic to employ. The trick seems to be to set realistic and unambitious targets to ensure success. In view of this I have set myself a few goals for 2022:

1. I am going to stop competing with John Farrow over growing vegetables; he always wins.
2. I aim to get slightly less annoyed with people in Tesco who STILL don't know how to wear a face mask properly.
3. I am going to be slightly stricter about the number of treats I give the dogs whilst being a lot more generous about the number of snacks I give myself.
4. I have selflessly promised myself not to join a gym or take up running.
5. I am going to try to remember that there is ALWAYS a huge puddle by the new dog bin and not to walk into it in the dark when wearing suede shoes.

Finally, and most importantly, I am going to try to smile a bit more than I did in 2021 because despite everything I have a lot to be grateful for. I hope fellow residents will not find this last change in my behaviour too alarming...

Ann Beasley

Storytelling

This annual event, between Christmas and New Year, proved to be very enjoyable. A few hardy souls braved adversity to come and contribute a poem or a reading. Monica very kindly brought a lovely box of chocolates to share round the room and it went very well with the festive wine and mince pies we all enjoyed. Patsy and Debbie finished preparing the room just before everyone arrived. Three cheers for these ladies for their hard work behind the scenes.

Roger Young

Flitcham Social Club Events

As of 24th January the Social Club will be opening each week on the nights of **Thursday, Friday and Saturday**. It will be closed on Tuesday evenings.

Thursday 3rd February, and alternate Thursdays thereafter, the Social Club will be hosting meetings of the **Wolf Folk Club**. There is no admission charge and it is open to all who would like to enjoy a bit of music making and conviviality. The evenings start at 7.45pm.

Saturday 12th February Quiz Night 'Eyes Down' 8.00pm. Teams of up to 4 persons. Entry fee £2 per person. Come along for a fun night out.

REMINDER:

Renewal of Social Club membership is now due. The fee remains at £5 per member. Application forms and membership cards are available from the bar staff. Membership at Flitcham includes associate membership of the other clubs on the Estate.

The Flitcham Village Sign

The renovation of the village sign (see last month's Newsletter) seems an appropriate time to take a look at what it represents. We like to believe that St Felix, depicted at the helm, gave his name to our tiny village before sloping off to the metropolis of Dunwich and a bishopric. However, according to Wikipedia: "The name Flitcham derives from the Old English meaning a homestead or village where flitches of bacon are produced". That seems both more mundane and weird too - was there really a special location for curing bacon? Of course, Wikipedia peddles nearly as much misinformation as Facebook so you can't attach much credence to that either. Then there is this recently discovered fragment of contemporary verse:

*Now Felix may have been a saint
But navigator? No, he ain't.
Shipwrecked in the Babingley?
You surely must be having me -
On.*

*And as for being saved by beavers
"True", we're told by firm believers.
Others say it's not as
T'was more likely to be otters.
We shouldn't let the beavers
Deceive us.*

You might find otters stretch the imagination too. But none of this matters because the whole point of a legend is that it doesn't have to be true. After all, our village sign proudly shows the seventh century saint in fourteenth century armour - but we like it and it's good enough for us.
TA

Flitcham Primary Academy

Happy New Year from everyone at school! It was a very busy Autumn term and we are all looking forward to a - hopefully more settled - Spring term, where we will be able to invite more visitors into school and get back to some kind of normal. In the Summer term we are hoping to have a careers week, so if anyone in the village would like to share their career knowledge with the children that would be fabulous; please contact the school office.

Children were busy in the run up to Christmas producing a Nativity Play and singing carols, which we then recorded and sent to our parents online. We all enjoyed Christmas dinner in the school hall with our Christmas jumpers on, so at least some of our festive traditions were maintained.



Elves tapping away

As we move into the Spring term, children are busy preparing for Year 6 SATS tests in May, clubs have restarted and we have said some goodbyes to long serving members of staff, Mrs Berry and Miss Smith, and welcomed Miss Waterfield and Mrs Mears to the school team.

The school remains incredibly grateful to Lady Dawnay at the Hillington Estate for the use of the woods for Forest School; this is really the highlight of the week for many children.

With very best wishes for a healthy, happy New Year,
Mrs Gardener
Headteacher

THE BOOK CLUB

The book club members are still meeting around every six weeks or so, although Covid isolation has played a part. In the autumn it was warm enough to meet outdoors. With the colder weather we now meet indoors, subject to having had negative lateral flow tests, and observing distancing guidelines. I think we all find meeting up in person is preferable to zooming.

Monica Mortenson

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.