



FLITCHAM cum APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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February Dates

- 2nd** Mobile library outside the Old Club House, Abbey Road 11.40 - 12.00
26th Family Service 11.00

Flitcham Social Club

Many of you will be aware that Flitcham Social Club closed at the start of 2023 to enable a review of its viability and future. After some resignations, the remaining members of the guiding committee elected me as acting Chairman, Terry Allen as acting Treasurer and Sophie Allen as acting Secretary. We are putting together a business plan to justify whether the club has a future. The initial signs are that we will be able to propose that it has, and that the club and bar will open again and hopefully in the not too distant future.

If this comes to fruition it will only survive as result of the facilities being used - and for the facilities to be used they need to be something that interest the local community. We hope that clubs and societies that used the facilities previously will return, that new events will be available, and that the premises will be available for hire for diverse functions.

It is a members' club so please join, visitors can be signed in at the bar and it is very sociable. If you have ideas then please let us know and watch this space!

Colin Lukey

The **Community Centre** continues as usual and is available for private hire, parties etc. It is a valuable resource and a distinct cut above most 'village halls' with their vast open spaces and spartan facilities. Use it while you still can!

Dersingham Surgery

Harry Verney is Vice Chair of the Patients' Participation Group (PPG) at Dersingham surgery. He would be glad to hear of any problems you may have and there is also room for one or two people to join the Group. It meets at 6 pm about 3 times a year to make suggestions for improving the service and learn about any plans the surgery has. If you are interested, contact Harry at Church Cottage: 609099.



February 26th - Family Service 11.00 am.

Parish Council

January 2023 Meeting

The Parish Council welcomed in the New Year on a wet and windy evening and quickly settled to the business of 2023.

One of our most important jobs was to set our annual precept, the tax that the Parish Council charges local electors to meet their budget requirements. It forms part of the council tax and is collected from you via your council tax payments. We decided that, in view of present economic circumstances, we would not increase our precept this year. A small gesture perhaps but as a well-known supermarket tells us, 'every little helps'.

We have now purchased a spare battery for the **defibrillator** which will be fitted as soon as it is needed; added to this, we are exploring the possibility of offering interested residents training on how to use the apparatus. We also discussed changes to the bus service in the village which residents have highlighted; the new timetable is not an improvement [see January Newsletter] and we have asked Borough Councillor, Jim Moriarty to pursue this on our behalf.

We have been trying since early December to get Highways to deal with the loose chippings from the surface dressing of Abbey Road and Church Road and are told that sweeping is 'imminent'.

Other on-going issues of concern, including the state of the wall along the Hillington Road and speed limits within the village, were discussed and we will continue to pursue them.

Next meeting: Tuesday 7th March at 7.30pm

Ann Beasley.

A Case of Mistaken Identity

You'll remember Aggie, our resident hen, who wanders wither she likes - or used to anyway but is now confined to quarters to avoid the 'flu. A casual conversation with a friend led to the offer of a few hens as her garden was becoming overrun with chicks. She claimed to be "fairly confident" of their sex. With hindsight I should have paid more attention to "fairly:" and less to "confident" but you know how it is when told something you want to hear.

A few days later, having failed to catch anything during the day, we went after dark, as they were roosting, and grabbed a fine speckled grey bird - Lady Jane (as she's grey - clever eh?) - and, later, a white one, Blanche (of course) and a little multi coloured thing - Maureen (no reason). Acquiring anything in the dark inevitably carries its own risks and it was soon evident that Lady Jane was BIG - I mean really BIG. Here she is:



Denial of the obvious persisted for several weeks - that is, up until the first shattering Cock a Doodle Do - and, having wrestled her into a basket, she returned whence she came where she continued to make an awful noise and beat up all the others. Sexing chickens is, of course, notoriously difficult in spite of the (frequently contradictory) on-line advice devoted to: location of feathers and their shape and length, presence/absence of spurs, size of feet etc. Basically, if it lays an egg it's a hen. At the moment, after 6 or 7, weeks we're not too confident about Maureen either - could she be Maurice?

Postscript: You'll be pleased to know that "Lady Jane" did not suffer the fate of her namesake but will shortly be appearing as one of the attractions at Park Farm.

Ad seen in Provincial Newspaper



Help is at Hand

Many people are experiencing difficulties and real hardship at the moment. Help is available from the Borough Council - Phone 01553 616200 or check the website:

west-norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving.

Here, you will find advice on a range of different problems and where to get help for each one, as well as checking that you are getting all the financial benefits to which you are entitled. If you are in debt, there are services that will help you get back on track and if you find yourself in crisis there may be help with food and rent costs. The council also pays for a money advice service which is free to use - visit moneyadvicehub.org.uk or call 01553 970004.

Congratulations

- As everyone will know, Val Blackmur has been awarded the British Empire Medal for her fundraising activities. She still has the energy, ability and imagination to enthuse those around her so that her events are, invariably, a guaranteed success, and helped by her extensive network of supporters from miles around. Well done Val and long may you continue.



20's Plenty for Us

...making your place a better place to be

As promised, I've knocked on all the doors in Abbey Road, (my apologies if you were out when I called) and it's very clear that the speed of traffic up and down here is a big issue for residents. There are no prizes for identifying the principal offenders but, as I have pointed out before, the SAMS unit showed that very few exceed 30mph (except, perhaps, some of the traffic to the Barns in the late evening) but are still going too fast for a narrow country road like this. The data collected, however, also yielded information which, I believe, strengthens our case. Apparently (and I didn't know this either) a statistical calculation, the 85th percentile, is often used to determine speed limits for roads. The theory assumes that most drivers are reasonable and do not want to get in an accident, but do want to get to their destination as quickly as possible. Therefore, a speed at which 85 percent of people drive is reckoned to be the highest safe speed for that road. According to the SAMS data collected, the highest safe speed for Abbey Road is 26mph. No, it's not 20, which is what we want, but a long way from what we have and a great starting point for our campaign. More news next month.

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.