



# FLITCHAM *cum* APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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December 2023

Greetings from Our New Friends  
on the Pasture



Christmas Card  
Delivery

Richard Gray is happy to deliver your cards to addresses in Flitcham again this year.

The collection box will be outside the Community Centre from 7th December until 14th December and delivery will be the weekend of 16th/17th December.

**Please ensure that you only post cards for people who live in the village.**



St Mary's Christmas  
Fair

The Christmas Fair was a great success with us welcoming many friends and neighbours from the local community. £976 was raised which is a fantastic boost to church funds.

Thank you to everyone for their support and help. With the variety of stalls, competitions, the raffle and delicious tea/coffee and cake it was an excellent afternoon.

With best wishes and many thanks from Flitcham Church Council.

Christmas Services at Our Church  
December 11th - Village Carol Service  
with the Fring Singers  
6 pm (note earlier time)  
Mince Pies and Mulled Wine  
December 25th - Christmas Day  
Family Service 11am



## School News Autumn Term 2023

Well, this is a long old term; we are already in week 12 and still 3 weeks to go! We were delighted to receive a good judgement in our Ofsted in May. The children and staff have worked so hard to achieve a great result, both in the Ofsted but also in the excellent SATS results at the end of the year, with all statutory results in Reception, year 2 and year 6 above the national averages. Our main focus now is to try and increase pupil numbers, so please shout about your local school and promote it to friends and family members. We currently have space in all years and a full days nursery from age 3 to the Reception start. We have had open days, but are always happy to show new families around at any point. I really feel that a school is the heart of our small village and we must do everything we can to keep it going. We are so grateful to members of the local community that come into school to listen to children read. If you have any skill to share (cooking, sewing, gardening, singing or anything else!) then please get in touch with the school office (600383). We would love to hear from you. We hope to see some of you too, at the Flitcham Carol concert on the 11th.

Kind regards, Mrs Gardener (Headteacher)

### Flitcham Social Club

**Opening hours: Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 7.30 pm**

**Folk Club and Darts League** on alternate Thursdays; **Poker Club** alternate Fridays

**Tuesday December 12th Christmas Bingo** - eyes down 7.30 pm

**Friday, December 22nd Christmas Draw** at 9.00 pm with mince pies and sausage rolls

**The Club is closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day**

**Sunday December 31st: New Year's Eve.** with disco, buffet and **FIREWORKS** at midnight

### Déjà vu

No one else felt able to take on the Newsletter so I'm back As ever I would like contributions so that you're not just hearing from me. TA

## Parish Council News

As the end of the year approaches, we thought it would be useful to give a quick summary of the main issues that have been our focus since the last newsletter was published.

It is always best to start on a good note and even better to finish on one too. Thanks to the dogged tenacity of Terry Allen, the dangerous, leaning section of the wall along Hillington Road has finally been rebuilt and for this he is warmly thanked. We are also mindful of the continuing encroachment on the path by dirt and foliage and this has been highlighted with the appropriate bodies.

The playground continues to be regularly inspected and the next few months will see steel feet being fitted to the legs of the basket swing, again thanks to the efforts of Terry and Richard Gray. A new swing seat has been obtained and will be fitted in the Spring. Continuing the theme of safety in the village, new pads and battery for the defibrillator have been purchased.

We are still pursuing the possibility of a 20 mph speed limit in certain parts of the village; Abbey Road is the main focus in this regard and a further meeting with Stuart Dark and the Highways Department has been requested.

We have also been discussing the local disruption caused by the recent concerts held on the Sandringham Estate. As a village, we were very disappointed at the lack of information about the road closures and restrictions that were put in place; this has been communicated to Sandringham Estate. Advance warning enables people to make arrangements and minimise inconvenience; it is also a matter of courtesy to inform local residents of such matters. Total road closures for four days was extremely disruptive and this, together with other issues surrounding the event, are being discussed with local councillors and the Estate.

There are still vacancies on the Parish Council; if you are interested in joining please discuss it, in the first instance, with our Clerk, Gill Welham (01366 384205).

We promised to end on a positive note and hope that many of you have noticed the wonderful restoration that has been completed on the War Memorial gate, courtesy of Terry and his grandson Max. This is probably the original one from the 1920s. It was looking old and weathered but has now been restored to its former glory.

Flitcham Parish Council