



FLITCHAM cum APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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February 2024

Flitcham Social Club

The year ended on a high for Flitcham Social Club with a great community spirit which we hope will continue through 2024.

Judging by the turnout and comments after the event, the Pensioners' Christmas Dinner was a great success and a tribute to those who prepared and served it; Christmas Eve in the bar was a sell-out. The various clubs that operate in the Social Club are very active; if you are interested in Darts, Folk Club or Poker please go along - enquire at the bar on a Friday or Saturday. New Year's Eve finished with a bang! The stored fireworks worked although they were a bit of a challenge to get lit which seemed to add to the amusement particularly as it was a couple of the oldest people there that were lighting them, but they gave a good uncoordinated display, that was of course the fireworks.

We already have snails in training for the snail racing event later in the year, so if you have an entrant, it's time to get it jogging.

We are hoping to make disabled access easier, and we are talking to the Estate about the best way to do this. While things have gone well for us over the past year, with greatly improved profitability, we are still not where the Committees that run the Community Centre want to be as we are not covering all our fixed costs. Great progress has been made though and we need to keep in mind that the Club was closed for a month last year with no income and we have spent on improvements to generate savings. If you have ideas for an event please share it. It's a New Year so club subscriptions are due (a mere £5). Please renew or come and join and find out what really goes on!

Colin Lukey

Flitcham Social Club

**Opens Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 7.30 pm
February Events**

- 1st** Folk Club
- 2nd** Poker Club
- 13th** Bingo - Eyes down 7.30.
- 15th** Folk Club
- 16th** Poker Club
- 22nd** Darts and Dominos - Flitcham v Wolferton
- 24th** Valentines' Meal Night - Menu TBA
- 29th** Folk Club



February 11th - Holy Communion 3pm.

February 25th - Family Service 11.00 am.

Please note that, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Dedication of the Organ, arranged for January 28th, has been postponed. The Mattins service will, however, proceed as announced.

Flitcham Parish Council

Unfortunately, neither Councillors Stuart Dark nor Alistair Beales were in attendance at our meeting on January 9th, and we were not able to pursue either the issue of speed limits in the village, and the promised meeting with the Highways Department, or the ongoing discussions with Sandringham Estate about future concerts and the potential disruption to local residents. Both these matters will continue to be pursued.

It was decided that we do not need an Emergency Bleed cabinet in the village but we are continuing to research, as suggested by Joey Smithson, the Falls project mentioned in Heacham's Newsletter.

Maintenance of, and repair, to the playground is underway thanks to the efforts of Richard Gray and Terry Allen although weather conditions obviously determine when this can happen. It is worth noting, in view of the next item concerning our precept for 2024, that Terry and Richard carry out a lot of this work voluntarily with no labour charges and if this were not the case then cost to the Council would be higher.

One of our most important jobs was to set our annual precept. As you know, the precept is a tax that the Parish Council charges local electors to meet their budget requirements. It forms part of the Council Tax and was last increased in 2022; after a long discussion, we decided to increase our 2024 precept from £3,800 to £4,100, costing an average household in the parish an extra £3 per year, depending on their Council Tax band.

We still have several vacancies on the Parish Council and very much welcome new members to join us.

If you are interested, please contact Gill Welham: clerkflitchamparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

Date of next meeting; Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 7.30pm

Going to the Dogs

Like many people, I find watching "The Repair Shop" balm for the soul. In a busy, sometimes chaotic, world it is reassuring to share the calm, gentle, slow and precise restoration of loved items. Few of us can offer up the delights of 18th century bracket clocks and 19th century Wemyss Ware as King Charles has done recently but we can all take pleasure in seeing the great skill and patience needed to breathe new life into old things. What a shame that we can't present ourselves for the attention of Jay Blades' team; I've got enough padding but my face could do with being reupholstered.

One of the main themes to come from this television programme is that the value of objects does not lie solely in financial worth. Instead, for most of us, the value is tied to memories, family history and sentiment.

I have very little of monetary value, but two things in my house which spark many memories for me are a patchwork bedcover and an old towel. The bedcover was made by my mother and each precious scrap of material has meaning and, all stitched together, they form a social history narrative of my life. It contains bits of mum's homemade dresses that I remember her wearing when I was a little girl, remnants of old curtains that used to hang in our house and offcuts from clothes she made for my own children. The other item is a ragged and threadbare towel which is a testament to long life and possibly reincarnation as it has had many different lives. I first remember it in my grandfather's house. After he died it reappeared as my swimming towel all through primary school; it then followed me to university and indeed my own children used it on many occasions after happy crabbing expeditions to Hunstanton. Sadly, it is in the later stages of its life now and is spending a well deserved, semi-retirement as a towel for the dogs. This simple piece of cloth owes me nothing, provides a wealth of memories which in turn makes the horrid job of drying wet dogs significantly less unpleasant.

Ann Beasley

Dentistry Services

NHS Norfolk and Waveney's Integrated Care Board is consulting on NHS dentistry provision "in the long term," in response to all the concerns about lack of services. You may think that the short term problems need resolving more urgently so, hopefully, they are working on that. Meanwhile, they have identified four key areas on which they would like to "capture your views": Urgent Care, Developing Capacity in our Dental Teams, Improving Access, and Promoting Good Oral Health. You can contribute, by February 21st, via a website: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/dental-priorities-survey/> or ask for a paper version by phoning 01603 595857



The Pipes are calling...

The organ pipes that is. Our newly restored church organ was in full voice at an inaugural recital on January 26th featuring Julian Haggett, organist at St Peter Mancroft, Norwich, with an exciting and varied programme for the enthusiastic audience. It was the culmination of intensive fundraising by the Friends of Flitcham Church, and three and a half months restoration, during which time the organ was completely

dismantled. We have a fine resident organist, Avril Wright, so if you come to any family service - the next is on February 25th - you can hear this great instrument for yourselves. It will be well worth it. What we miss, of course, is the familiar whine from the old blower, as it struggled asthmatically into life, but you can't have everything.

Flitcham Academy

We are delighted to announce we are opening our Nursery, Reception and Year 1 class for two drop-in mornings for a 'stay and play' session on **March 6th and March 20th from 8.45am-11am**. You are most welcome to visit and try out our setting, if you are looking for Nursery provision or a Reception or Year 1 place. Please call the school office to arrange a visit - 01485 600383.

Do let any local friends and family know as our catchment covers an area as wide as towards Kings Lynn, Bircham, Rudham and Dersingham.

We would love to welcome new children to our lovely village school.

Kind regards, Mrs Gardener, Headteacher

More from the Elyard Archives

Flitcham Reserves 1990-91: At the end of the season In May, Flitcham travelled all the way to Stanhoe Football Pitch. The game was a draw, which resulted in Flitcham avoiding relegation and Stanhoe winning Division 3. Of course, it's all down to training - Stanhoe ran on Hunstanton Beach and Flitcham ran on 20 Benson and Hedges and two pints of lager.

Richard Elyard

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.