



FLITCHAM cum APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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January 2024

Flitcham Social Club is Alive and Well

It is rapidly approaching a year since the Social Club (also known as The Bell) was unfortunately closed but it was only for a short time before it was reopened with new vigour and a new and ambitious committee who have striven to grow it and move it back into profitability.

It serves real ale on Friday and Saturday nights as well as the usual bar drinks that one would expect in a pub, and at prices that attract people from the local area as well as the village. There is an active folk club, poker nights, and darts and dominoes teams who meet there on other nights during the week. Also there is an active dining club that has received popular acclaim from those who got tickets before they sold out. It is also available for other clubs at any time of the day and private hire with or without a bar.

There was a free pensioners' lunch on Saturday the 16th December, the bar was open on Christmas Eve and there will be a New Year's Eve party with good company, music, a few things to eat and fireworks to celebrate the New Year. It may be a big bang or a little fizzle as the fireworks were bought before Covid when the display was cancelled. Any volunteers to put them in the oven to dry out please let us know!

There have been upgrades to facilitate the running of the club including a new cooler in the cellar, to cut electricity costs, and a dishwasher, as we found too many people in the kitchen washing and drying up was too much of a squeeze for orderly conduct! Thanks to those who donated cash in a very short period of time to facilitate these upgrades.

We plan cost cutting in areas that have been neglected previously and further functions to improve profitability. One already planned for next year is championship snail racing, watch this space!

It is of course a members' club so please drop in and join at the bar for a fiver or come as a guest to enjoy what is more of an amenity for the village than anything else.

Colin Lukey



January 14th - Holy Communion, 3.00 pm
January 28th - Mattins, 11.00 am
Dedication of the Newly Restored Organ
*If you wish to attend this service please contact
Sally Stanton (609099) beforehand*

Parish Council

The next meeting of Flitcham Parish Council will be at the Community Centre on Tuesday 9th January 2024 commencing at 7:30pm. The Agenda will be posted on the Community Centre Notice Board and on the Parish Council website at least five working days prior to the meeting. Members of the public are warmly welcomed.

Gill Welham, Parish Clerk 01366 384205
clerkflitchamparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

Remember that if there are any issues you want the Parish Council to consider please contact the Clerk or the Chairperson, Susan Allen- 600119
chairmanflitchamparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

Flitcham Social Club

Opens Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 7.30 pm
December 31st: New Year's Eve. with disco, buffet and **FIREWORKS** at midnight.
January 4th Folk Club
11th Darts and Dominoes
18th Folk Club
19th Poker Club
25th Darts and Dominoes
27th Burns Night Supper - Haggis and Neeps plus 'a wee dram' **BOOK NOW**

Newsletter Distribution - Help Needed

Although I deliver round the village, from the Church to the end of the houses in Abbey Road, the Parish extends as far as Appleton and Harpley Dams. Geoff Kilham has been covering these for many years but we do need a back-up for when he is away. If you feel able to take this on, please let me know.

Organ Restoration at St Marys, Flitcham

For the last four years the Friends of Flitcham Church have been busy fundraising to restore the church organ which was in a very poor state of repair due to general wear and tear, water and woodworm damage.

It has been quite a challenge but thanks to a number of very successful charity events including "sponsor an organ pipe" (320 in total!), as well as a large number of generous donations, particularly from people who have past connections with the village, we achieved our target in October and the organ is now at an organ builder being extensively renovated.

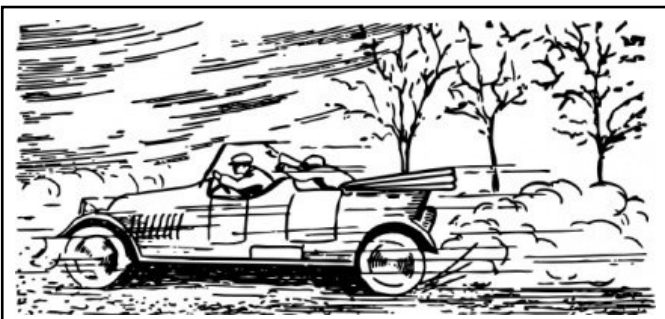


The organ is a JW Walker and was donated to the church by King Edward V11 in 1909 so it has an interesting provenance and obvious connection with Sandringham. It therefore seemed very important to restore it to its former glory - ready to serve the village for another 100 years!

We are planning that the newly restored organ will be fully operational by late January and a short (30 minutes) organ recital with the eminent concert artist Julian Haggett is taking place on **Friday 26th January at 5.30 pm** to celebrate and hear it in all its splendour. It will be a mix of light popular classics including pieces by JS Bach and Elgar - everyone is most welcome to attend with the opportunity to donate towards the organ fund if you so wish.

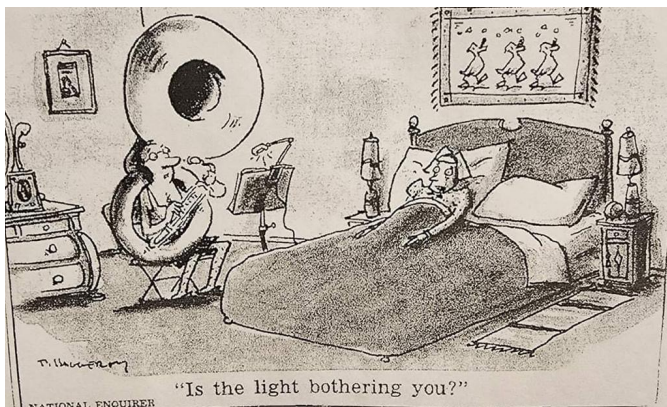
We look forward to seeing you then.

Bill Twedde
Chairman, Friends of Flitcham Church



As you will have seen, from last month's Parish Council report, we have not given up on our campaign for a 20 mile an hour speed limit in Abbey Road in spite of its initial rejection by Norfolk County Council Highways Department who say it does not accord with County policy. This is a policy, you will recall, that flies in the face of the national and international move towards a 20 mile an hour limit in areas where vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists mix. This is certainly the case in Abbey Road where we have only a very short stretch of footpath. Their "offer" for which we would have to pay a proportion of the cost, is to make "cutaways" on the stretch of road from the end of the houses to the Barns - In effect creating pedestrian lay-bys. We have always rejected this as being irrelevant since, to our knowledge, nobody has expressed any concerns about this section of the road. The Highways Department consistently refuses to recognise the fundamental problem which is the speed of vehicles in the built up section past the houses. Instead they offer an expensive solution to a problem we don't have but not to one which we do. We know from the SAMS data that few vehicles actually exceed the current limit of 30 mph yet this is clearly too fast for the road conditions. The obvious solution is to reduce the speed limit to 20 mph.

Stuart Dark, our County Councillor, is arranging another Highways visit. Once the date and time have been agreed I will let everyone in Abbey Road know. If you are around at the time it would greatly strengthen our case if you came out and shared your feelings directly with those who can do something about it.



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.