



FLITCHAM cum APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Published by the Parish Council

April 2024

Parish Council Meeting March 5th

It was good to have Councillor Beales and Councillor Dark at our meeting on March 5th as they were able to fill us in about both Borough and County matters. The Borough's share of the Council Tax bill for 2024-5 (£1,672 for Band D) will rise by £4.50 to £144; of which £61 goes to the Internal Drainage Board which is responsible for reducing flood risk and managing water levels for agricultural and environmental needs.

Councillor Dark is still trying to arrange for the Highways Department to meet Council members in the village and review residents' continuing concerns over road speeds and safety; hopefully the meeting will be held this month. He also provided feedback from a meeting with Sandringham Estate where he was assured that any future large-scale events, such as the Bank Holiday concerts of August last year, will be planned with much more consideration for, and consultation with, local parishes.

As ever, we are keen to recruit new members to the Council. We have only four councillors (out of the seven allowed) and three are required for a meeting to be quorate; if it falls below this number no business can be transacted. Residents rely on the Council to ensure village interests are given attention, but without more support this local voice may be lost.

The Annual Parish Meeting, on May 7th, is an ideal opportunity for villagers to attend, and participate in, an open meeting. The Chairperson gives her report on the events of the year, the finances for the year are reported and various village groups send in reports relating to their activities over the year. It is followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7:30pm.

Important Notice

From July 2024 onwards, the Parish Council is changing the day of all future meetings. Meetings will now be held on the FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH, EVERY TWO MONTHS. The first Monday meeting will be on the 1st July



March 31st Easter Day Family Service with
Baptism - 11am

April 14th Holy Communion - 5pm

April 28th Family Service - 11am

Flitcham is part of The Sandringham Group of Churches established many years ago. If you want to know more about what other Churches in the Group are doing, why not look at their website:

<https://www.sandringhamchurches.org.uk/>

Paul's Bygones

No doubt most people will have guessed (and winced at) last months object - a DIY ear piercer.

How about this though?



Flitcham Social Club

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

APRIL EVENTS

Tuesday 9th	Bingo - Open from 7.00, Eyes down 7.30
Thursday 11th.	Folk club
Friday 12th.	Poker night
Thursday 25th.	Folk club
Friday 26th.	Poker night
Saturday 27th.	Meal night

Musings from Flitcham End

Although fed up with squelching around in the rain and being ready for Spring, I like living in a country with varied weather and definite seasons. We all know the telltale signs of Spring even though some of the flowers have been a little too quick off the block this year. Snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils signal Spring for me and probably a lot of people have the same markers in their heads. My marker for summer, for many years, used to be rather more idiosyncratic and unpleasant.

We spent most of our working lives living in boarding schools and I always knew Summer was on the way when my husband brought out a disgustingly rancid and crusty bottle of smelly linseed oil (made from flax) in preparation for the great ceremony of oiling the cricket bats which belonged to either him or the boys under our care. No wonder I am still immune to the wonders of this game.

Who knew that I would eventually retire to what was, between the 1930s and 1950s, the flax capital of the country? In 1931 George V started growing flax in the fields opposite Appleton Water Tower and in 1935 a newly built flax mill was opened at West Newton.

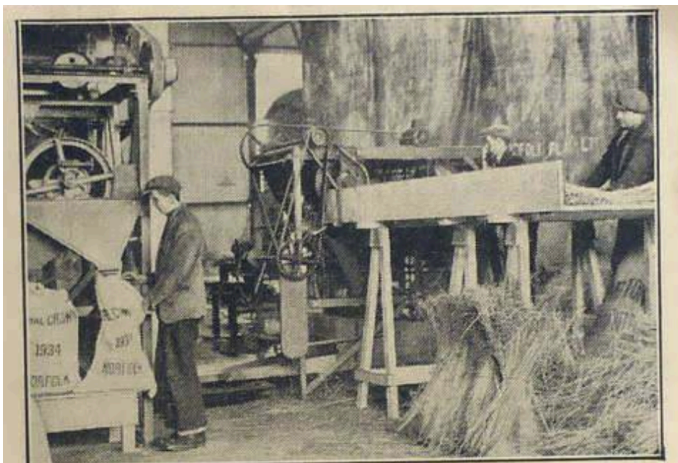
Even more impressive, was that a national flax breeding research centre was established at Flitcham Abbey (now Abbey Farm) in 1935 which survived until 1956.

Flitcham, and the surrounding countryside which produced flax, helped the war effort hugely as the crop was used to make naval canvas, hosepipes, parachute harnesses, material to cover aeroplane wings and much more.

The mill finally closed in 1958 and some of the last crop was used to make damask table linen and other domestic items for Queen Elizabeth II. Given the quality and longevity of these fine linen products, it is entirely possible that they are still gracing royal tables today.

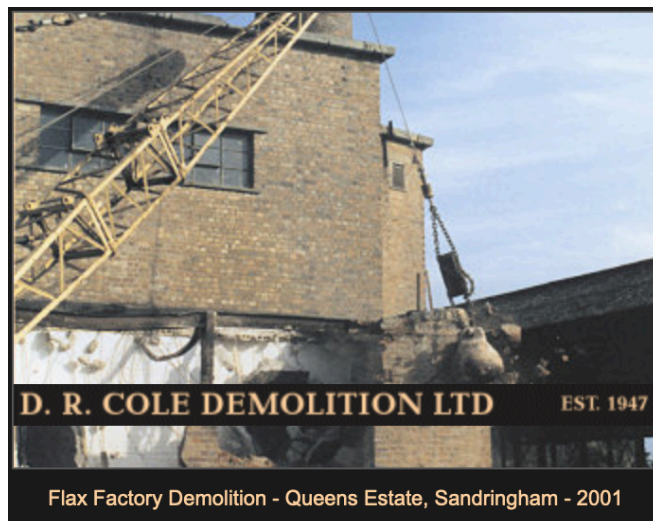
Ann Beasley

Due to the wonders of the web, I came across this photo of the factory in its heyday - 1935. There was not much attention to "Health and Safety" in those days. Clouds of dust and whizzing chains must have created a very hazardous environment.



Among the King's interests is the growing of flax. This picture shows the deseeding and seed-cleaning plant on the Sandringham estate. Extension of the plant is to be carried out this year.

- and over forty years later



Snippets of local history like this are always welcome, especially if there are one or two pictures. Do let me know if you have anything you think may be of interest.

Flitcham Bowls Club

We are hoping to open the green on April 21st at 2 pm, if it ever stops raining

We will be playing in three leagues:

North West Norfolk on Monday or Thursday.
Albert Victor on Friday and
Bridges League on Saturday

Evening games mostly start at 7 pm and take about an hour and a half. Any one wishing to come along on the 21st please do or, if they need information, call me.
Paul Hunter 07867 572231

Library Service

In spite of all the cuts to public spending, Norfolk County Council still maintains a good library service. It's easy to sign up for the Open Library which gives you access to branches outside times when it is normally staffed, and you can 'take out' e-books without even leaving home.

See the website for Dersingham hours: <https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/40176>

The mobile service, now with a brand new bus, still visits Flitcham every four weeks, the next being on April 25th outside the Old Clubhouse in Abbey Road from 9.55 - 10.10

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.