



FLITCHAM and APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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Flitcham Primary Academy

Dear Flitcham Villagers,
Everyone at Flitcham Primary Academy has returned after a refreshing Easter break. Some of us enjoyed the Good Friday walk and Easter service at Hillington Church, such a lovely way to start the Easter weekend. Thank you for the hot cross buns and tea reception at Bob and Mary's house.

We have an exciting Summer term ahead, with SATS tests for Year 6 in May and lots of wonderful learning opportunities for all year groups, along with some exciting trips planned, including a visit to see the important work of the RNLI.

Our grateful thanks to Mr Allen and Mrs Thorne for their tireless listening to readers in school, which the children really enjoy. Anyone from our local community who has a skill to share would be very welcome in school. Please contact the school office (600383).

At the end of this Summer term I will be retiring and moving to Italy initially, to spend time in Florence. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working at both Flitcham and Sandringham and West Newton Primary Schools and would like to thank everyone for their warm welcome when I moved here, and continued support for both schools over my 9 years. I cannot believe it has gone so quickly. Yesterday we finalised the recruitment of my replacement and I am delighted to say that our Executive Deputy Head, Mrs Catherine King was successful in applying for the post and will take up her new position in September, ensuring continuity and consistency for both schools. I wish her well and we are all so pleased that she has been appointed.

Both schools now have nursery facilities so if you know of any families looking for nursery spaces, please contact the school office. We are always looking to increase our numbers.

Have a wonderful Summer term,
Kind regards
Mrs Gardener



Sunday May 12th Holy Communion at 6 pm
Sunday May 26th Family Worship at 11 am

Parish Council

The **Annual Parish Meeting** is due to take place on Tuesday 7th May at 7:30, in the Community Centre, followed by the **Annual Parish Council meeting**.

The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for villagers to attend 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. If you would like an item added to the agenda for this meeting please let me know as soon as possible.

The Parish Meeting will be immediately followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting which will begin its proceedings by electing the Chairperson.

The Agendas will be posted on the noticeboard outside the Community Centre and on the village website.

Gill Welham, Clerk

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Email: clerkflitchamparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

Flitcham Social Club

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

MAY EVENTS

Thursday 9th.	Folk club
Friday 10th.	Poker night
Tuesday 14th	Bingo - Open from 7.00, Eyes down 7.30
Saturday 18th	Film Night (Time TBA) "Love on a Branch Line"
Thursday 23rd	Folk club
Friday 24th.	Poker night

The wise woman of Flitcham

Ann Beasley writes:

As a relative newcomer to the village (I have owned a house here for 30 years but have only lived here permanently for five) I am still learning a lot about the local history of the village that other residents are probably already aware of. Today in Flitcham, like the rest of the world in general, there are a lot of wise women who, friends and family might wearily agree, are always right, have seemingly special powers and are full of both useful and useless information.

More exciting, is the tale of the Flitcham Witch, a story that I recently came across. Sadly, her name was never definitively recorded but research centring on the Flitcham Census records of 1881 suggests two likely candidates: Mary Chilvers aged 92 years or, the bookie's choice, Lydia Bridges who died in December 1881 aged 106.

According to Jack Barrett, in his book 'East Anglian Folklore', in 1880 Princess Alexandra was advised by her kitchen staff to contact this supposed witch and expert in herbal remedies, who lived in Flitcham and procure from her some 'rue wine' to give to Bertie the Prince of Wales who was ill. This she did; the Prince recovered and the woman was given a bag of gold coins.

In the 1920s Barrett called at The Bell Inn and asked the publican Edward Cocks about this old woman; he pointed him in the direction of a man at the bar. This customer's mother had been friends with her; he remembered his mother being shown the gold coins and also commented that the woman never drank her own concoctions but preferred gin which she bought at the back door of the Bell.

I can testify that the Bell today serves a very nice lemon gin but I, conventional girl that I am, ordered this at the bar rather than sneaking round to the back door as in days of yore.



Ted and Mary (Polly) Cocks outside the Bell circa 1930: Source Norfolk Public Houses

At Last...



When the playground equipment was installed, back in 2006, the timber supports were buried two feet down in the ground and encased in concrete. The wood above this, but below soil level, has slowly rotted away. Three years ago, the diagonally opposite legs on both the double swing and the activity tower were fitted with steel feet by a contractor at a cost of nearly £1,500.

This year we decided that the small swing also needed attention. The price of materials worked out at well under £200 so two parish councillors, myself and Richard Gray, decided to do the work ourselves. Fortunately for me, Richard did most of it, and you, the Council Tax payer, were saved several hundred pounds. As you can see, a new swing seat was also fitted since the original was beginning to crack.

A recent inspection recommended that the four unmodified feet on the double swing and the tower should also be done. There is clear evidence of decay although the structure is perfectly safe, being braced diagonally by the modified feet. Given three years of rapidly rising prices, the cost of this work is likely to be around £2000 so we would like to carry it out ourselves some time this year. It will be more difficult as the concrete will need to be dug out whereas we were able to relocate the small swing. Because of the work involved, we are not prepared to do it unaided so this is an early call for some volunteers to help. Your participation would save the Parish a substantial expense alongside the satisfaction of accomplishing the task. As yet we have no dates in mind but probably late summer. Please let me know if you are willing to help.

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.