



Flitcham cum Appleton VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

January 2021

Produced for the Community by The Parish Council

CHURCH SERVICES

December

Sunday 24th January 11.00 am

The Family Service

For further detail or help, please
contact -

Linda Neave 01485 529188

Sally Stanton 01485 609099

The Carol Service

Our church looked very beautiful, dressed in all its festive decorations and was a very welcoming sight for those who attended the Village Carol Service on Monday 14th December. Despite the rule of no singing, the congregation merrily hummed along behind their masks to the carols, sung by a small visiting choir. It's with thanks to Avril, our organist, that we were able to enjoy a nearly normal Carol service and listen to some beautiful music accompanied by some very accomplished singers. I think everyone would agree that it was a much needed tonic indeed!

The service ended with mulled wine and hot mince-pies (suitably distanced of course!) and people enjoyed the chance to exercise their social skills and chat and wish one another a very Happy Christmas.

SL

Copy deadline

Copy needs to be received before the 16th day of the month to allow time for editing and to ensure that it is out before the month starts. Please email copy to Roger Young Email: youngroger235@gmail.com

Community thanks

Richard Gray for providing and dealing with the village Christmas Card distribution and for setting up and decorating the christmas tree in the club porch.

There may be others who freely give their time for the benefit of us all. If so, please let me have their names for inclusion here.

Parish Council Plea to Dogowners

There are still irresponsible dog owners who are allowing their dogs to defecate on the sports field and the paddock beyond without picking up after. Other dog walkers and playing children should not have to tread carefully to avoid the dog poos. Cattle which graze the field adjacent to the playing field can be harmed if they digest contaminated grass so please pick up there also.

The contents of the two dog bins in the village are sent to landfill the same as the household black dustbins so either can be used for disposal.

Geoff Kilham.

YESTERYEARS
Antique and quality
second hand furniture
bought and sold.

House clearances
undertaken

Light removals

Contact: Gavin Austin
Mob: 07867 615947
Shop: 07554 664480

THE BOOK CLUB

The second zoom meeting was very successful and appreciated. A couple of members were unable to take part as the date clashed with Flitcham carol service. The book was written by a Japanese writer and had four inter-linking stories to tell. Most people had found the first story slightly confusing but as the book developed everything became clearer and the names more familiar. The book had seen light as a play and that supposedly was the reason why everything took place in one setting.

The description of some characters was rather limited which had irritated a couple of the readers but everybody had liked the book which they never would have chosen had it not been for the book club. There had also been a good discussion on what we perceived as Japanese life and culture. The guess is that next meeting too will be a zoom meeting which will take place on 25th January 2021 and the book is by Bernadine Evaristo who received a shared Booker prize with Margaret Attwood.

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My Lockdown Story

Sitting here, as editor - and with loads of newsletter space to fill, I mused on all the untold stories there must be in our community about how people have been filling their time and keeping sane, in the strange, restricted circumstances in which we all now find ourselves - and with not much prospect of relief for a while.

I thought maybe, if I told you what I have been up to, you might feel inclined to write in and tell us all, through the newsletter, what you have been doing. I for one, would be very interested to know - maybe you have had better ideas than me.

My first inclination, back in March was to get back to trying to learn Mandarin Chinese. I had started once before and quit, defeated by the tonalities changing the meaning of words. Lockdown seemed like the ideal opportunity to make myself knuckle down. It didn't take me long to be defeated again. No matter how much I told myself it would be good for my ageing brain and help to grow new neurons. So I drifted about a bit.

Then I saw some clips on YouTube about making Apple Cider Vinegar and we had some spare apples. So I dug out my mother's old sweet jars which I'd hung on to and followed the instructions. It's working well and I am looking forward to straining and bottling soon.

I thought it might be good too to try making some Rose-Hip Syrup, a good source of vitamin D which I remembered they used to give us during the war when I was a kid. I read in the papers that vitamin D was thought to help immunity against Covid and so, out we went to collect some hips. They're in the freezer now, waiting for some slack time in which they can be processed.

Eventually I began to feel a bit imprisoned as we were all discouraged from going out and mixing. I thought then of David Hockney's sketchbooks of views sketched from the comfort of the front seat of his car. With the



Three jars of Apple cider Vinegar brewing. They say it's very good for you.

prospect of Winter ahead of us I thought that would be just the job for me. So we both dug out our sketching kits and Patsy and I set out whenever there was a prospect of sustained sunshine, to make the best of it and to be able to come home feeling that we had been somewhere and done something and above all, escaped the domestic trap. In fact, I have found it so pleasant and engaging that I am determined to keep going. I am

very much looking forward to the springtime. I am knocked out by just how beautiful the countryside is around where we live - there are views everywhere. I may even be driven to turn some of my sketches into proper paintings. That said, I have a new appreciation for what's around us and for how lucky I am to live here.

I am sure your story will be interesting and we'd love to hear what you've been doing.

Roger



Sketch of a view near Anmer Minque