



FLITCHAM cum APPLETON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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Thanks Roger

Roger produced this Newsletter, virtually single-handed, for more than 18 years and established it as a unique ingredient in village life. It's tempting to think that in a small village everybody knows what's going on but that's not really the case. Roger's commitment over the years ensured that the Newsletter kept us both informed and entertained. With your help, and your contributions, of course, I hope to sustain this as the new editor. Terry Allen

Flitcham Social Club

It is now over a year since we were forced to close the Social Club. For some of us it has been a big miss, especially for meeting and chatting with our village friends. In this period though, the committee has remained active and involved using email to discuss business matters and making plans, but we have had resignations leaving us with two vacancies. Debbie Griffiths has stood in as treasurer whilst we get sorted. It is the committee's intention to re-open and to restore the amenity to the community as soon as possible.

There is a lot of work to do as the premises have not been used for over a year now. Interior cleaning and decoration is needed and we have to get the beer garden tidied and ready as it will be the first place we can open. This will probably be with table service only until restrictions ease further.

The Steward and the cleaner have been furloughed with government support but funds are



CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL

EASTER DAY 4th APRIL

The Family Service at 11am

SUNDAY 25th APRIL

The Family service at 11am



Face covering and social distancing will be observed at services until further notice.

The Church will be decorated for Easter and open on Easter Sunday and Monday from 10am.

It always looks beautiful with Spring flowers so do come and visit.

For more details please contact:

Linda Neave 529188 or

Sally Stanton 609099

running low as we have had no income for a year. Things will be difficult for a while until normality returns. We are very much hoping that the people of Flitcham will support the club. Without everyone's support there is a serious danger that we will not be able to sustain the Social Club which will be an end to an era and possibly to the amenity we all fought so hard for. Our village would be a poorer place without it.

If you feel you could help with any of the work or as a committee member, please contact Roger Young (Chairman) Tel 600948.

Flitcham Book Club

Seven Zoomers discussed Richard Osman's book "The Thursday Murder Club". Everybody had found it an enjoyable and easy read and considered the characters engaging. The story was full of quirky humour and a possible second book is something to look forward to.

The next meeting is on Monday 19th April.

Monica Mortensson

Have a Break...

First of all I would like to thank everybody for cards, letters, emails, flowers and lots of practical help after I had quite a spectacular fall on some black ice while doing an errand. I was flat on my back outside the community centre - sorry, no hilarious picture - and fortunately Patsy Young saw my predicament and came to my rescue with Roger's walking stick plus her own strong right arm.

The following day Paul Blackmur deposited me in A&E promising to collect me later. A growing number of blisters around the ankle prevented me from returning home quickly while added low blood pressure turned my visit into a free of charge unplanned holiday in QEH.

While resting in my bed, I quickly was reminded of how lucky I was with my insignificant broken ankle in comparison to very seriously ill patients bravely coping with painful treatments and depressing news. Caring for us all were patient, polite, skilful and compassionate staff, overworked and on their feet from morning till evening with telephones constantly ringing and numbers further reduced because of Covid.

I am relieved to be back home but I am very grateful to know a caring NHS "picks up the pieces" when things go wrong.

Monica Mortensson

Local Elections May 6th

These are scheduled to go ahead. Given the uncertainty over Covid regulations, and the understandable anxiety about mixing, you might consider a postal vote. **Applications have to be in before April 20th** and it's fairly straightforward so long as you are already on the electoral roll. An application form can be downloaded (see below) or you can be sent one by phoning the Council on 01553 616733. Alternatively, give me a ring (600119) and I will drop one round.

https://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/info/20131/how_to_vote/72/voting_by_post

Have Your Say

The Parish Council, which meets every two months, is always anxious to hear the views and opinions of residents. The agenda and minutes are posted on the notice board outside the Community Centre, as well as on the website: flitchampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

Contact details - Chairman, Geoff Kilham at [<chairmanflitchampparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk>](mailto:chairmanflitchampparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk) or Tel: 609010

Parish Council

In January the PC raised the precept to £3,600 (from £3,520 in 2020-21). The PC is mindful of the need to control costs, but we need to build up a fund for playground repairs. The annual inspection showed that repairs to some wooden supports will be needed soon and an initial quote of close to £3,000 shows the need for such a fund. We continue to look for other quotes (as well as extra funding), but playground maintenance is not cheap.

In March the PC voted to increase the hours of the clerk to acknowledge her additional work running the website and the parish Facebook page. Gill is exceptionally efficient but even she could not cover all this on her current 2 hours paid work per week. The PC noted that a recent NALC report recommended 4-4.5 paid hours per week for a clerk serving a parish like Flitcham, and the PC was very grateful to Gill that she wanted only a small increase. It was decided to increase her hours by 18 per year, an increase of £213 per year. The SAM device (displaying vehicle speed) has been installed on its new post in Abbey Road. The full cost has been covered by the Borough Council and by Cllr Dark from a fund at his disposal. Finally, Robert Walden offered to review the new residents' welcome pack – any views on what should or should not be included would be useful.

John Beasley

Those Three Little Words

As you all know, research into the possible renumbering of the village is ongoing and is likely to be a long process. Initially, discussion on this possible change was sparked by concern that emergency services had experienced difficulty in locating some of the properties in the village. It would seem sensible therefore to find an interim measure that would give people some reassurance and a way to enable such services to find their property should it be necessary. **What3words** is a free app that can be downloaded to a smartphone although it can also be accessed via its website without a smart phone if you have internet access. If you do not have internet access, the Parish Council will help provide you with the unique three word code for your house and you could keep a note of this by the phone to use in the event of an emergency. Every 3 metre square of the world has been given a unique combination of three words and these words can be given to the call handler over the phone, thus enabling the emergency services to locate your precise position. Ann Beasley **feared hogs inventors**.

(Mine are **verb gripes pumpkin**. No comments please - Terry)

You may send in material at any time via my letterbox at Beech House, Abbey Road or email - beechouse@mail.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.