



I can't believe I'm writing the Christmas editorial again, this year has gone so fast, and living in our lovely villages always gives us something to remember each year, especially at Christmas and in the summer.

And speaking of the summer, please take a close look at the article on Page 7 about this year's Gala, There's a shock ending to that item, so please read to the end... and then do something about it! I have been attending Flitton Galas since 1981, and it is with the greatest of affection that I say that not much has changed in that time. If you want to keep all that tradition, or indeed if you think it needs changing completely, well as usual it's all up to you. Not your next door neighbour or the people opposite who you don't really know, just you. Lecture over.

And now an apology from me - if youR mag arrives a bit late, please do not blame your deliverer. I have had a few hiccups and so am very late getting it to the printers. Sorry!

Angela

Cryptic Quiz

Don't forget your Christmas reading. Anyone looking for an indoor challenge as the evenings draw in should contact Simon Sadler on 861727 or familysadler@talktalk.net. A donation of at least £2 is requested with all proceeds going towards the upkeep of the church; the deadline for submission is 8th January with results and answers soon thereafter. This year's theme is famous people past, present and fictitious and, by all the accounts, is easier than last year where the answers seemed controversial to some (who didn't win). This will give you all the exercise you need on Boxing Day!

Errata: in some earlier versions already in circulation, there are 2 typing errors:

Clue 14 –the number of letters should be 7/7

Clue 42 should read

"Ode to a nightingale"

(not nightmare!)

Apologies to those who have been racking their brains on the incorrect clues.



Village website? It's at; <http://flittongreenfield.bedsparishes.gov.uk>

Church website; www.3churches.co.uk Contact Clare at clare.butlerellis@googlemail.com

From Your Parish Council ...

**Keep up to date with what's going on in
Flitton, Greenfield and Wardhedges**

There have been a number of changes in the Parish which all help to keep village life ticking along smoothly. Some of the little things may not even have made it into your consciousness – new lidded refuse bins at the playing field, new street name signs, new dog bins, new signs at the playing field and around the village and another new lovely oak notice board at Greenfield. Work has also started on the 'safer walking to school route project'. One thing that has not happened yet is the relocation of the post box near Holmewood Road to the top of School Lane adjacent to the existing phone box, but it will definitely be this year and a notice will be attached to the post box before it is moved. Look up the website to keep up to date:

<http://flittongreenfield.bedsparishes.gov.uk/>

A major change is the planning application for the Hermitage solar farm which stretches into our Parish from Clayhill Farm Westoning. If granted, a significant spin-off is the annual community benefit which should help fund village improvements we may not otherwise have been able to do. This is an exciting prospect for the Council and should encourage community members to consider getting more involved.

This leads me to the council elections in May 2015 where there will be vacancies, notably in the Greenfield ward. Having new members keeps us all on our toes and introduces new ideas and skills and so I would ask you to bear it in mind when the time comes. I am often asked if the parish council operates on a political basis and I can categorically say that it does not. We have 10 members who have the community at the centre of their interests before anything else. If people in the parish are able to give up some of their time to undertake this role, then 4 years goes very quickly and maybe if we had enough interest it would allow some of us long serving councillors have time off. If you want to know more please do not hesitate to contact me or our Parish Clerk Deborah Lawson.

If you don't want to play an active role on the council, you can always let us know if there are things that you have noticed need replacing, repairing, renewing or are in need of attention. You can speak directly to a Parish Councillor, email or call us, come to a Parish meeting where we always welcome your view, or by dropping a note off in the Parish post box on the Church Hall wall. It's so much better to have everyone working to make improvements in the Parish, not just the 10 Councillors. One thing that we can all be aware of is wanton damage in the Parish. Once again the Playing Field area has been struck by mindless vandals who pulled up two of the saplings which were planted on the verge by the MUGA car park and left unrooted until we had them replanted. This all just seems like a waste of your tax payer's money, so if you see anything suspicious, please call the Police on 101.

Finally Christmas will be round the corner by the time you receive this, so can I wish you all a happy advent for now and best wishes over the festive season.

Nick Thompson, Chairman Flitton and Greenfield Parish Council

'Flit 'n' More' is published and distributed by the Parochial Church Council of St John the Baptist, Flitton. The Editor is Angela Ayres, Sunnyside Cottage, Cobbett Lane, Flitton MK45 5DX, 01525 860723, martandang@btinternet.com. Please note that views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editor or Parochial Church Council.

ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT/ORGANISATION IN FLIT'N'MORE... THAT'S WHAT IT'S THERE FOR!

The next issue will be out in Feb 2015 for events up until June. Please contact Angela if you have something to publicise or Simon on 861727 if you would like to advertise. Free for voluntary groups, very good rates for businesses.



Services for Christmas and beyond at St John the Baptist, Flitton

Sunday 30 th November	10 a.m.	Advent Sunday - a Three Churches Service at Pulloxhill. No service at Flitton
Sunday 7 th December	4.00 p.m.	Christingle - a magical children's service; each child receives an orange with a lighted candle, sweets and dried fruit to symbolise Christ in the world.
Sunday 14 th December	6.30 p.m.	Carols by Candlelight - a service of Carols and Christmas readings and poems. Come to the church Hall at 6pm for mulled wine and mince pies!
Thursday 18 th December	7.15 p.m.	Carols Round the Christmas Tree Outside the White Hart. Come and join the choir to sing your favourite carols - wrap up warm! Mince pies and mulled wine courtesy of the White Hart.
Friday 19 th December	2 p.m.	Greenfield Lower School Nativity Service
Sunday 21 st December	9.30 a.m.	The Bishop of St Albans will lead a Special Three Churches Service for Christmas at Silsoe with the choir.
	4 p.m.	Blessing of the Crib - for the very young and all the family. Come and marvel at our unusual woolly crib figures - a short informal service with a chocolate tree decoration for little ones!
Wed 24 th December	9.30 p.m.	First Communion of Christmas - with the Rural Dean the Reverend Lynda Klimas. The choir will lead us in this most special of services - please come early as the church is always full.
Thurs 25 th December	11 a.m.	Christmas Day Service at Pulloxhill (No service in Flitton)
Sunday 28 th December		No services in the Benefice - the church will be open for private prayer and reflection
Sunday 5 th January	10.30 for 11 a.m.	Family Service for Epiphany Sunday After festive refreshments from 10.30, Margaret Butt will tell the Epiphany story especially for younger folk.
Sunday 12 th January	9.30 a.m.	Choral Communion with the Reverend Julie Cox
Sunday 19 th January	11 a.m.	Matins
Sunday 26 th January	9 a.m.	Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer. A shorter service with no choir or hymns - please note the slightly later start Followed by Parish Breakfast at 9.30 in the Church Hall - see Page 5

NB Mothering Sunday in 2015 is on Sunday 15th March, and Easter Sunday is 5th April.

Jottings from St John's - Flitton Church News



CHRISTMAS TREE OF LIGHT

As last year we have a theme to our church Christmas Tree. Next to the tree you will find some blank labels on which you can write a wish or a prayer for Christmas. You can remember a loved one who is no longer with us or lives far away, or perhaps a special wish for others less fortunate than us in different parts of the world - or much nearer home.

Just fill in your message and tie it on to the tree!

A NEW VICAR SOON...

You will all know that our Vicar, Stephen Holroyd, moved on in August. We are continuing to run our services with the help of some lovely people, and special thanks must go to Julie Cox, who lives in our parish and has helped us enormously, not only by taking services but by her constant support. The PCC and Churchwardens are always at the end of a phone or email if you need anything at all during this time do not hesitate to contact us, there is nothing we cannot do, even though we do not have a vicar! Our Christmas Services will run as normal, and maybe by the next Flit'n'More we may have news of a new vicar... watch this space!

HARVEST FESTIVAL REPORT

A big thank you for all those who contribute to our annual Harvest Supper in so many ways; this year we moved to the marquee at the White Hart so that we could pack in even more of you, and very special thanks must go to the team at the White Hart for the wonderful hot dinner, as well as to all those who baked pies, to B&T Brewery for the usual cask of beer, and to all those who donated auction lots, large and small. It all added up to a great evening out as usual, with entertainment from our auctioneer David Stoppard, and John Smith, the Harvest Elf. Not only that but it raised over £2,000, in addition to the generous contribution to Bedfordshire Food Bank. We thank you all for this amazing effort, Which will be shared between the church, the Church Hall and this year's charity, Marie Curie Cancer Care.

AND FINALLY...

A very happy and peaceful Christmas to you all from Angela and Clare (the Churchwardens) and all at St John the Baptist Church. We look forward to seeing you all at one of our Christmas Services. EVERYONE is welcome!



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST FLITTON FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE 2014



Thank you for supporting our Field of Remembrance this year. I'm sure you agree that this year, being the centenary of the outbreak of war in 1914, was a particularly poignant Remembrance Sunday. We thank the Royal British Legion and all who attended our service. The crosses will be left in place, and we will have another Field of Remembrance next year.

LET'S DO BREAKFAST!

Sunday 25th January 2015
and every 4th Sunday until May

PARISH BREAKFAST

In the Church Hall from 9.30-10.30 am

The Great Black Pudding Search continues!
Despite constant vigilance, we have yet to find a good black pudding, our efforts so far have been a bit like eating cardboard, but fear not, the quest goes on!

Full English Breakfast/Cereals/Pastries/Toast/Juice/Coffee/Tea
All for £5 per head! (Children £3)

IMPORTANT: PLEASE CALL 01525 860723 TO BOOK
AS WE NEED TO KNOW NUMBERS

This will follow the 9am Communion but ALL are welcome, you don't have to go to church! It's not designed to make money, just to cover costs, but any profits will go to Flitton Church.

- ▶ Don't mess up your own kitchen, bring the family and forget the washing up!
- ▶ Late night out on Saturday? Just what you need to blow away the cobwebs!
- ▶ Live alone and can't be bothered with a fry-up? Let us do it for you!
- ▶ Read the Sunday papers, relax with a coffee.. It's like Flitton's own pavement cafe.. But indoors!
- ▶ Know someone who might be glad of the company? Bring them along!
- ▶ If you need a lift, just call Angela on 860723 and we will arrange it!

The Friends of Flitton and Greenfield Church

Christmas Cards 2014

There are still some cards available featuring one of the works of the late Jack Crawley, who died in March at the age of 92, a nostalgic view of Flitton High Street in the 1960s. The Friends of Flitton Moor, and Central Bedfordshire Council, have plans to replace the derelict (& condemned) barn on the Moor with a new one and to name it 'The Jack Crawley Memorial Barn' in his honour. The cards are in packs of 10, with envelopes, priced at £5 per pack. Contact Michael Brown (01525 716230) or mgbrown137@btinternet.com).



Merry Christmas

Members

The Friends would welcome new members and especially anyone willing to join the Friends' Board to assist in the planning and organisation of Friends' activities.

If you are interested please contact Caroline (telephone 07749 836245) or email carolinejaneoneill@hotmail.co.uk or Michael.

Gala- 6th September – good and bad news

First the good news

A big thank you to everyone who contributed or came along to what is the village's largest annual event; we were again fortunate with the weather and although we had a World War theme, we didn't have to suffer the mud of the trenches and activate the wet weather programme – don't ask. Whilst we continue some traditional sessions such as the Ampthill Town Band and our local Jazzercise and Zumba groups, new "acts" this year were The Wondersmiths, an up and coming local band and Imajica Theatre Company, which appealed to different ages and interests.



Our guest celebrities this year were Peter and Sheila Meads, recently "retired" from running The Cross Keys, Pulloxhill; Peter has recently been awarded the British Empire Medal in recognition of his charitable work

over many years. Apart from the traditional duties of crowning Libby Wilkins as the gala queen and opening the gala, Peter also judged the WW1 fruit cake competition. This proved to be less controversial than last year's Bedfordshire clanger where everyone had a correct view. Prior to gala day, we had tried to make it easier for everyone by publishing a recipe in previous editions of Flit 'n' More but some were put off by the ingredients! We had some very impressive entries but in the end the honours went to Jo Holt from Flitton.

We also had a record number of "boys and girls" for the traditional end of gala tug of war; though some of them looked distinctly adult, especially in the later rounds. This year the girls earned their revenge for being trounced by the boys last year, but this may have been to do with the fact that the football competition was back. Apart from the individual groups who raised money from their own stalls and activities, the gala committee raised over £4,000 which will be used for the ongoing refurbishment of the village hall; Everyone who helped or participated in any way is to be congratulated for their efforts, as it is a team effort and the gala is a classic example of the more, the merrier.

Now the bad news

The gala doesn't just happen, it takes a lot of hard work both before, during and after the day. The same committee has been organising the event for the last few years – too many to mention – without any fresh blood, even though we have asked for volunteers for the last 2-3 years. Given the very poor response and the fact that none of us is getting any younger, the current committee has decided to hang up its boots as far as the annual September event is concerned. We are delighted that it has provided enjoyment to many and funds to the village hall and other organisations and would like to thank all those who have helped over the years.





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Potato Race update

2014 This year's race raised £2,500 split between a local charity, CHUMS based in Wrest Park, and a national charity, Mind; this included generous matched funding of £1,000 from Barclays; other monies raised went to local projects such as the refurbishment in the church hall. Many thanks to all those who contributed.



2015 This is an early call for sponsors and volunteers for the organising committee; although the race is provisionally scheduled for **Sunday 21st June**, the planning and organising will start early in the New Year. If this extremely popular and entertaining event is to continue

and even grow, the current committee needs more people to come forward before the day and help in the planning, marketing, publicity, fundraising etc. We need help since, as it stands, the present format is likely to change – the date and weight will stay but the route and times may not. Interested in helping out? contact Simon Sadler (see below)



Souvenir Cards Those attending this year's prize-giving may well have seen 3 lovely watercolours of last year's race by Vera Merryweather, one of Flitton's renowned local artists. These paintings are now available as cards for £1.50 each (incl envelope). Please contact Simon Sadler on 861727 or familysadler@talktalk.net

‘ A Massive Success!’

After 18 months of fundraising and six months of planning the Jolly Coopers did the Full Monty! What started as ‘we’ll do the Full Monty if you can raise £500’ turned into a huge village charity day.

After months of fundraising, during which the locals so generously supported the weekly bottle raffle, Easter Egg Raffle, Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin, number of sweets in a jar and numerous other small events, Charles Wells added their donation and the end was in sight. Then the planning really started. We arranged our first ever beer festival over the whole August Bank Holiday weekend and set the Sunday as the big charity day. We approached local singers and bands and these very generously offered their time for free. The ‘boys’ sought help and their routine was choreographed and rehearsed on a weekly basis. Sunday mornings took on a whole new meaning as teacher and pupils strutted their stuff to the sounds of Tom Jones refining all the moves. Others offered help and became the wardrobe department as costumes were chosen and adapted. Preparations were never ending.

The day arrived and the sun shone brilliantly. The stage was set out in the car park and the crowds started to arrive, and they just kept coming all day. The garden was full, the bar was packed, the beer tent was busy, manned by a rota of volunteers



who all did a wonderful job. Everyone was kept fuelled with beer and food from the pig roast, where we also cooked a whole leg of beef along with pork and turkey.

The bands sung their hearts out and by 6 o'clock Wardhedges was really rocking. Our boys took to the stage to a massed audience of over 500 people, and their months of hard work culminated in outstanding 3 minute spectacle which had the audience cheering, laughing and enjoying the wardrobe malfunctions and brave performance of our volunteers.

The day was a massive success and no one I have spoken to has ever seen the pub busier. On top of the £5,091 raised prior to the event we raised £1800 on the day. Everyone's generosity was amazing and Keech Hospice benefited by £4,300, Macmillan by £2,500, both very grateful for our support.

I can only say that we are **so** proud of what we at the Jolly Coopers achieved and once again **Well Done and Thank You** to everyone. It's quite amazing what a village can do.

Bobbi



Throughout December we feature our Christmas Menu.

Enjoy a festive celebration without any of the work, 2nd to 24th December.

Christmas Eve: Champagne breakfast 9.30-11 am. There's nothing like a glass of fizz to start Christmas, come along & enjoy a leisurely breakfast & ease yourselves into the festive spirit.

Disco 8.30-pm to midnight; time to get the celebrations into full swing!

Roy will roll out all the golden tunes so you can sing & dance the night into Christmas Day.

Christmas Day: the dinner is cooking so come along and join us for a drink & wish everyone a Happy Christmas.

Boxing Day: Lunch 12-4. Meet friends and family and have a leisurely lunch, let us do all the work - sit back and celebrate Boxing Day.

Boxing Night - Quiz time! Enough of the physical exercise, time to exercise the brain.

Join our Christmas-themed Quiz for teams of up to 6. Prizes for the winners!

Saturday 27th December from 8.30 pm - Karaoke with Chris!

You have had a week to recover so lets head to New Year's Eve!

In the restaurant a gastronomic delight for those that would like to join us for our 7 course dinner. In the bar Sophie will entertain us with a mix of soul, jazz, pop and reggae

New Year's Day; take a walk and blow away the cobwebs, then enjoy a 'liver' or a spot of lunch with us, and ease yourselves in to 2015!

The White Hart at Flitton

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Some dates for your diary...

Thursday 18th December

Carols around our Christmas Tree
with Flitton Church Choir, 7.15-8pm

With Phil's mulled wine and Clare's mince pies to keep you warm

Monday 22nd December

Kat's Deliciously Tricky Xmas Quiz

£20 per person - Teams of 4-6 people - 8pm start

Join us for Kat's seasonal Xmas Quiz and food prepared by
Darren, Clare and Karen in the kitchen.

Always a sell-out so reserve your table with Phil now!

Xmas Day and Boxing Day

Although the restaurant is closed,
pop down for a festive drink over Christmas.

Xmas Day 11.30am - 1.30pm Boxing Day 11.30am - 2pm

Our restaurant is open Sunday 28th, Monday 29th
and Tuesday 30th December

New Years Day

Lunch 12 - 4 pm (last orders)

Continue your new Year's Celebrations over lunch with friends
and family

Start the diet on the 2nd...

Gift Vouchers

Stuck for a Xmas Present?

Fully Personalised Gift Vouchers are available

Please speak to Phil

Flitton & Greenfield P3 Group

Are you recently retired?

At a loose end some days and looking for some useful & enjoyable exercise?

Join your local footpath volunteers

Your Parish Paths Partnership Group (P3) is a small group of volunteers who have been busy improving some of the local footpaths for several years.

P3 is a partnership between Central Bedfordshire Council, who provide training, tools & materials, and local volunteers. We are a group of mainly retired villagers and we usually work on either Tuesday or Wednesday mornings – depending on the weather. We have installed Kissing Gates & Waymark Posts, made surface improvements, and done much strimming in the summer.

Some of our older members have recently decided to have a rest and make way for some fresh blood. Is anyone out there interested?

Please get in touch if you'd like to give it a go.



Please use your Rights of Way network - the only way to make sure that footpaths are kept open is for them to be walked regularly.

If you would like to join in our work parties, or if you have any questions or problems with the footpaths in the Parish, please contact David Sedgley on 01525 714961.



Flitton Flits - Monday 4th May 2015

Make a note in your diary for the 11th Flitton Flits.

After a very successful 10th event in 2014 Deborah Lawson is retiring from the organizing committee and I would like to thank her for her sterling work over the last 10 years.

We have some new blood in the organizing team - but if there is anyone else who would like to get involved please let me know.

Apart from some slight changes to the route, next years event will go ahead as usual, with adult 5K race and 200m toddlers & approx 1 mile for older children.

Watch the next edition of FM for more details!

Your local school – can you help?

Pulloxhill and Greenfield Schools are part of Greenfield & Pulloxhill Academy. The Academy Board of Governors has openings for community representatives from local villages including Flitton and Greenfield. Would you be prepared to get involved?

Our aim is simple: To offer the very best education possible for local children. At the moment we are looking for committed individuals with an interest in one or more of the following: Educational standards; human resources; buildings projects; fundraising.

If you think you might be able to join us, or want more information, please call in to the school office or telephone (01525) 713150 during school hours or e-mail: greenfield@gpacademy.org.uk.

Mrs A McCullion, Head Teacher

Mrs J Burkett, Chair of the Board of Directors



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

Flit Vale Wildlife Trust Winter Programme

Monday 8th December

7.15pm at Maulden Church Hall. AGM - And (at 7.45pm)
'Flitwick Moor', by Colin Carpenter - volunteer warden.

Monday 19th January

7.45pm at Maulden Church Hall.
'The Challenges & Rewards of a Wildlife Trust Site Manager'
by Rebecca Pitman - Site Manager, Houghton Regis Quarry.

Monday 16th February

7.45pm at Maulden Church Hall.
'The Fascinating World of Moths'
by Andy Banthorpe - County Recorder for Macro Moths for BNHS.

Monday 16th March

7.45pm at Maulden Church Hall.
'Otters in Bedfordshire', by Richard Laurence - ex BNHS mammal recorder

£2 per adult requested for talks.
Contact Kathy on 07890 347327
or flitvale.info@gmail.com

Protecting wildlife close to home



News from Greenfield Lower School

Exciting times!

After all the building works of last year Greenfield School is continuing to develop with an exciting new class being formed. Greenfield pre school committee decided that they would like to work more closely with the school and after a positive vote from the parents it was full steam ahead to launch Greenfield's new Nursery Class. The class is called Ducklings and is rehoused in the main school building. Projects took place over the summer to make their classroom into a perfect place for little learners. Sally Butterworth, teacher in charge of Early Years, has led the project to develop an inviting learning environment. Beautiful new furniture is in place and areas of the classroom have been restructured to make this a safe and inviting classroom. The final part of the jigsaw is the wonderful outdoor soft play area. This ensures that the children make the most of their learning both indoors and in the outdoor classroom as well.

We welcomed 22 new Ducklings at the start of the year and parents are enquiring about more sessions and places.

For more information about the Ducklings Class please ring the school office on 01525 712426.

St Albans Abbey

The Yr4 children from Greenfield were delighted to perform at the Abbey. The dramatic prayer was choreographed by one of the schools dance teachers who have worked with all year groups over the autumn term this year. The children were wowed by the experience and felt privileged to take an important part in this lovely service attended by schools from all over St Albans Diocese.

Annette McCullion
Headteacher
Greenfield & Pulloxhill Academy





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News from Central Beds

James Jamieson
Central Bedfordshire Councillor for
Flitton, Greenfield, Pulloxhill and
Westoning



Summer seems only a few short weeks ago, but we are now looking forward to Christmas. A season of goodwill and giving, not to mention carols, and I am looking forward to the Flitton Church carol service on 14th December.

This is also a time when we reflect on family. As a council, Central Bedfordshire is a "Corporate Parent" to some 280 looked-after children. As councillors we have a responsibility to do the best we can to for this vulnerable group, many of whom have not had the benefits our own children have experienced. As I write this article, I am looking forward to attending the looked-after children's awards, where we celebrate their achievements.

Locally we have seen a number of positive developments; further traffic calming with a raised table near the village hall. A large number of local roads and pavements have been resurfaced over the last four years, with Pulloxhill Road due to be resurfaced in November between my writing this and publication. Parking by the school remains a major problem. While I am trying to get the yellow zigzag extended and the school also seeks solutions, ultimately this is up to parents to ideally walk to school or if this is not feasible park considerably, even if this means an extended walk.

We continue to see good economic news. Millbrook Proving Ground is undergoing substantial growth. It recently received planning permission for a new technology park, which will lead to some 1000 new jobs over the next few years and potentially 2000. Part of this is driven by cooperation with Cranfield University on advanced propulsion technology. Particularly pleasing is the opportunity for young people, with a number of apprenticeships expected. This is part of a wider picture that has seen 7,000 new jobs and approaching a thousand apprenticeships in Central Bedfordshire over the last four years.

While this is good news, many people are still finding life tough. So believe it is incumbent on the council to do our bit. We have frozen council tax for the last four years and as we develop our budget for next year I am hopeful this can continue. We have also adopted a new housing strategy for affordable homes, with a preference being given to locals, those that have lived in Central Bedfordshire for three years or worked for six months in Central Bedfordshire. We also recognise that our population is changing with an ageing population, so our new strategy also puts greater emphasis on extra care and larger one/two bedroom accommodation.

If you have any issues or concerns please contact me

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STICKY FINGERS



If you are a mum, dad, grandparent or child minder, you look after a child of pre school age and are free on a Monday morning then why not come along to the village toddler group - Sticky Fingers from 9.30 to 11.30 at Flitton and Greenfield Village Hall.

We cater for babies up to four years old with toys and games, craft every week and story time too. And during the summer holidays, we arrange weekly get-togethers. The cost is only £2.50 per family including a hot drink for you and squash and biscuits for the children.

We are a friendly bunch and we try to meet socially one evening a month in the pub or a local restaurant. It's pay as you go so you don't have to come every week and the first session is free! Either drop in or call **Kelly Bosworth** on 07828 292019 for more information.

Post Office and telephones 1894 - 1920s



We take email, letters and telephones very much for granted these days. Sadly, we no longer have a post office here but a 100 years ago, people depended on the postal services as their main means of communication.

The first mention of any postal services is in 1894 although there was not an actual post office. The Wall Letter Box at Flitton was cleared daily at 6pm and on Sundays at 9.15am. The Wall Box at Greenfield was cleared at 5.40pm. Letters arrived from the Ampthill Sorting Office at 7.15am. Silsoe was the nearest money order and telegraph office. By 1898, there was a Post Office at Greenfield with Mrs Alice Vass as the sub post mistress and by 1910 there were post offices in both Flitton and Greenfield. At Flitton Miss Alice Chapman was the sub postmistress and Silsoe was the nearest money order and telegraph office. The sub postmistress at Greenfield was Miss Ruth Goodman. Flitwick was the nearest money order and telegraph office.

In 1914, the Post Office at Flitton was run by Miss Ruth Goodman but I think this might be wrong as Miss Goodman was at Greenfield in 1910. At Greenfield, the sub post mistress was Miss Alice Chapman [again, possibly wrong]. By 1924, the sub postmistresses had returned to the order in 1910 with Miss Chapman at Flitton. Greenfield Post Office however, was now run by Mrs Florence Clarke. It is interesting to note that running a post office was considered a very suitable occupation for women, both married and single. (The picture shows Greenfield PO but the date is uncertain - do you know it?)

At a time with very few telephones, letters and postcards were the main form of communication. Delivery was within 24 hours - 12 hours if local. The First World War generated millions of items of post each week, and letters to the Western Front generally took 24-48 hours. As well as cards and letters, there were local newspapers and food parcels containing fresh food such as cakes, jam, and potted meat. Cough medicine, Pear's soap, cream for minor injuries, hair cream [partly to prevent hair lice], matches, cigarettes and scarves were all items sent to the men at the Front.



A huge postal depot was set up in Hyde Park to cope with this and letters were taken to and from the local sorting offices and villages by horse and cart or bicycle. The railways played a huge part in the war effort with the post, trying to improve morale and keep contact with home... or of course the dread of seeing the telegram delivery boy bicycling down the road with bad news.

In 1910, there were 10 telephones in Ampthill and 7 in Silsoe but none listed in Flitwick, Flitton or Greenfield. At Silsoe they were ; Silsoe 1: The Post Office, Silsoe 2: Estate Agent, Wrest Park, Silsoe 3: Estate Agent, Silsoe 4: Delme Radcliffe, The Red House, Silsoe 5: J. Gray farmer and publican, Silsoe 6: The Honourable Whitelaw Reid American Ambassador, Wrest Park. Silsoe 7: Rev. Williams, The Vicarage

In 1914, the Flitton Annual Parish Meeting agreed to ask the Postal Authorities to install a telephone at Flitton but it

was years before that happened. By 1920 there were 52 subscribers in the Ampthill area with some now at Flitwick. Phones were the police, the local hospital, shops, pubs, local businesses, farms and some private residences. By 1922, the first telephone had finally arrived in the village - Copping and Sibley, Millers and Merchants at Greenfield Mill was Flitwick 12. The vicarage at Pulloxhill now had one, with many more in Silsoe. There were several shared lines, eg. Silsoe 8 had several subscribers, and party lines were common until the end of the 1960s.

By 1920, The Flit Motor Company of Ampthill [Mr Albert Grimmer] was advertising in the directories. He had had a bicycle shop in Ampthill for many years so the move to cars was fast. In the 1922 directory, Pecks of Ampthill advertised clothes, haberdashery etc. People from villages would have gone to Ampthill for shopping but most shops had delivery services.



Handy Phone Numbers

ORGANISATION	CONTACT NAME	PHONE
Churchwardens	Angela Ayres Clare Butler Ellis	860723 861496
Flit'n'More	Editorial: Angela Ayres Advertising: Simon Sadler Distribution: Pat Woodland	860723 861727 860189
Church Choir	Musical Director: Enid Gibbon Flitton Contact: Clare Butler Ellis	712018 861496
Bellringers	Vernon Green	712916
Church Flowers	Angela Ayres	860723
Church Cleaning/Baptism Window	Margaret Butt	862170
Parish Council	Nick Thompson (Chair)	860421
Village Hall Hire	Pauline Downing	860595
Church Hall Hire	Jill Chandler	860715
Bedfordshire Police	Amphill Team	01234 841212
Greenfield Lower School And Ducklings Pre-School	Headteacher: Mrs Annette McCullion	712426
Sticky Fingers Toddler Group	Kelly Bosworth	07828 292019
Scouts and Cubs	Badger Hill Scout Group; www.badgerhillscouts.org.uk	
Brownies	Jane Staff	717294
Multi Use Games Area bookings	Lee Ashton-Rigby	862436
Allotments	Greenfield: Kathy Wright Flitton; Gareth Ellis	714724 861496
Village Gala	Margaret Lowe	861111
Friends of Flitton Moor	Dave Sedgley	714961
Jazzercise	Nicky Thacker	405178
Women's Institute	Meriel Davies	633421
The Greensand Trust	Maulden Office	01234 743666
Flitwick & District Heritage Group	Dave Sedgley	714961
Keys to Mausoleum (English Heritage)	Barbara Stimpson	860094
Amphill & Flitwick Flyers (Running Club)	Dave Sedgley	714961
Amphill and District Lions	Bob Pledger	860962
Square Dancing	Betty Brown	404564

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS ADDED TO OR
DELETED FROM THIS LIST, PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR