

The parish newsletter for
Flitton, Greenfield
and Wardhedges

Christmas 2015



A chilly picture this time as we approach the festive season - this lovely photograph of sheep in the field adjoining Sand Road is by Maureen Morey.

As usual, there is lots going on this Christmas in your villages, so there will be something for everyone in these pages. Just get reading!

I'm constantly surprised when people ask me if they can advertise their organisation in this magazine as if they have only just realised that it's possible. That's what it's here for! Although basically a church newsletter, Flit'nMore will always be a noticeboard for all village events and organisations, and unlike other publications, will never be mainly an advertising brochure with a few token articles of local interest dotted about. We

do welcome paid adverts of course, but thanks to funding by the Parish Council we are able to keep them in the minority.

CRYPTIC CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2015
Don't forget your Christmas reading.
Anyone looking for an indoor challenge as the evenings draw in should contact Simon Sadler on 861727 or flittonsadler1@btinternet.com

A donation of £2 is requested with all proceeds going towards the upkeep of the church; the deadline for submission is 6th January with results and answers soon thereafter.
This will give you all the exercise you need on Boxing Day!



Village website? It's at; <http://flittongreenfield.bedsparishes.gov.uk>
Church website; www.3churches.co.uk Contact clare.butlerellis@googlemail.com

From Your Parish Council ...

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

There has been a lot going on recently in the Parish and I am pleased to see that this has culminated in some really good additions to our amenities. The outdoor fitness trail is now in situ and bench seats have been installed with two more to go on the Moor, this is thanks to S106 funding from Central Beds Council through the planning levy on new housing in the village over the last 6-7 years. So none of the improvements have cost you, as tax payers, a single penny. Work has also been completed to improve access to the telephone box library and notice board at the Brook Lane/High Street junction and we have a new shelter at the bottom of Brook Lane; thanks to go Dave Sedgley for all his efforts on this.

We held a very well attended Planning Sub Committee meeting in November where two planning applications for residential developments (one for 20 houses and one for 24) were hotly debated. The Council has opposed both applications as it was felt they would overwhelm us as a 'small village'. We have also agreed to establish a Neighbourhood Plan in conjunction with Pulloxhill Parish Council. The advantage of this plan will be that the local community will have the chance to influence the way the villages develop and it will be an important document when planning applications are considered. As the Plan progresses there should be plenty of opportunity for residents to get involved and be included in the debate and this will be publicised through the website (planning page) as well as village notice boards, so please get involved as it will be a huge job to complete. Our first public meeting will be on January 18th (see separate advert on middle page) and keep watching the website <http://flittongreenfield.bedsparishes.gov.uk/>

The Council would dearly love to improve the parking outside the School, especially as there have been a couple of 'near miss' incidents recently. There is no easy solution, but the situation would be helped enormously if parents walk to and from the school rather than drive and we are happy for the MUGA carpark to be used as a parking area for the onward walk. We will continue to liaise with the Police to drive home the seriousness of dangerous parking in the area.

The council is considering the installation of a water supply to the Greenfield Allotments. We feel that this may increase the demand for a plot, so if you are interested please contact clerk@flittongreenfield.org.uk to join the waiting list.

The Council owns and manages the Lawned Cemetery in Flitton. Many people do not realise that plots can be pre-purchased and if anyone wants to know more about this, the information is on the website. I am not trying to drum up demand merely pointing out another local facility!

As so much happens in the Parish now, please think about registering as a member of the Parish website. You can receive notification of any new postings by email, and you can choose how often and at what time. It only takes a moment to register. Any queries please call the Webmaster on 01525 860377

Finally, may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and remind you that we welcome anyone who wishes to get more involved in the work of the Parish Council, so please do not hesitate to contact me for more details

Nick Thompson, Chairman



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

Sunday 6th December	4.30 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 13th 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 17th 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 18th December	2 p.m.	Greenfield Lower School Nativity Service
Sunday 20th December	10.30 a.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!
Thurs 24th December	9.30 p.m.	First Communion of Christmas - with the Rev Dave Bell. The choir will lead us in this most special of services - please come early as the church is always full.
Fri 25th December	9.30 a.m.	Christmas Day Service at Pulloxhill (No service in Flitton)
Sunday 27th December		No services in the Benefice - the church will be open for private prayer and reflection
Sunday 3rd January	11 a.m.	Family Service for Epiphany Sunday - theme "Travelling Hopefully"
Sunday 10th January	9.30 a.m.	Choral Communion with the Rev Dave Bell
Sunday 17 January	11 a.m.	Morning Worship with the Rev Dave Bell
Sunday 24th January	8.30 a.m.	Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer. A shorter service with no choir or hymns - no Parish Breakfast this month!

NB Mothering Sunday in 2015 is on Sunday 6th March, and Easter Sunday is 27th March - and another date for your diary - we are very pleased that the Bishop of St Albans will take our service on on Sunday 28th Feb 2016 - time to be confirmed.

Jottings from St John's Flitton Church News



QUIZ THANKS

Thanks to all who came along to the much delayed Flitton Church Quiz last month, a fantastic £956 was raised for Church funds. Hopefully we can return to the regular May slot next year, so if you fancy another evening of fun and frustration watch this space for details!



BAPTISM

In November we welcomed the families of Florence Reid and Sophia and Robert Palmer, who were baptised in Flitton Church. We welcome these children into our church family, and wish them all the best for the future.

If you or someone you know were baptised in Flitton Church, you can commemorate it by having a pane engraved in our unique Baptism Window, which will last for generations to come, maybe to mark a special birthday? The cost is £100 for up to 18 letters and the date. If you do not know the baptism date, we can look it up for you. If you are interested, or would like to come and see the window, please contact Margaret Butt on 862170 or mkatebutt@yahoo.co.uk. Alternatively you can pop into the church for a look at any of our services.

HARVEST FESTIVAL AND HARVEST SUPPER

Many thanks to all who brought produce to our Harvest Festival in September, it's a very special time at Flitton,

and everyone agreed that the church looked lovely.

Thanks also to all who helped to make our Harvest Supper another splendid evening, especially the Hale family, Phil, Clare, Mary and Michael who laid on a super meal, washed down with B&T beer courtesy of Martin Ayres. Due to the generosity of those who came and the expert auctioneering skills of David Stoppard and John Smith, we raised an impressive £2808 which will be divided equally between the Church, the Church Hall and our nominated charity for this year, an education project for disabled pupils in Uganda.

CHRISTMAS IS ALMOST HERE

And we hope that you will make time in your busy schedule to join us at one of our Christmas services, which are all on the previous page. It's amazing how a bit of reflection and a good sing can put all the frenzy into perspective and remind us of the real meaning of Christmas. This year in particular we will be gathering as Christians to pray for all those who have been affected by strife and violence, in France and all over the world. With that in mind we wish you and all your families and friends a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Vacancy: The committee is currently looking for someone who can work adhoc hours during the week and possibly at weekends; the job principally includes cleaning, opening up the hall to hirers and showing potential hirers around the facilities; a more detailed job spec is available and an hourly rate will be paid on the basis of time-sheets.

Bookings: Currently there are vacancies for regular bookings on every Friday night and 3 Tuesday nights a month, which might suit a society or club.

For details of both items, please contact Simon Sadler on flittonsadler1@btinternet.com.

Looking for... Fun... Friends... Fame and Fortune... Fings to do on a Weeknight...

ACT NOW!

Silsoe Drama Club, your local am-dram society has something for everyone and is always looking for new members. We present a wide range of shows; from comedy to cabaret, from songs to Shakespeare we have a bash at everything (except Morris Dancing and Tofu.)

And you don't need any previous experience, in fact you don't need to be able to act at all (some would say none of us can!) as there is plenty to do backstage too.

For details of our next auditions, which will be in the New Year, check out our website www.silsoedramaclub.com. We usually do two shows a year, in spring and autumn, and anyone can audition or just come along and help backstage. Just turn up, or If you want to find out more, you can email us at silsoedramclub@gmail.com and someone will call you.

(Oh by the way we lied about the Fame and Fortune)

SPRING BALL

Saturday 12th March 2016
The Cross Keys, Pulloxhill

6.45pm

Prosecco on Arrival

3 Course Dinner

Live Band

Auction & Raffle

Carriages @ 12.30am

Tickets £45.00 per person

Individual tickets available or tables between 7 – 12 people

£10 deposit per person or lead party of table £50 deposit per table

Final payment due 15th February 2016 – cheques payable to 'Megan Butterworth'

To book tickets please call Meg on 07980 876152 or megan.butterworth@live.co.uk



**ALL MONEY RAISED WILL BE SPLIT BETWEEN
CHUMS & EAST ANGLIAN AIR AMBULANCE
(CHUMS - CHILDREN OF BEDFORDSHIRE
WHO HAVE LOST THEIR PARENTS)**



The Friends of Flitton and Greenfield Church

Our most recent fund-raising events were Margaret Butt's talk on life in the village in the Great War (13th November) and the Coffee Morning (21st November). Margaret's excellent talk was well supported and raised nearly £750 to be shared between the Friends and the PCC. Associated with the talk Margaret and Michael Brown have compiled a booklet "Let Us Remember" commemorating the names on the memorial, price £5, all proceeds to the Friends. The booklets are available from Michael (contact details below). The coffee morning made a total of £203.10.

The next Friends' event will be another Coffee Morning on Saturday 19th March 2016.

Christmas Cards

If you haven't yet bought your Christmas cards there MAY still be some of the Friends' cards available. This year the cards again feature an artwork by Lynden Thompson, a view across the fields to the Church. The cards are 200mm x 150mm (8 x 6) portrait, undated, in packs of 10, with envelopes, and are priced at £5 per pack. Please contact Michael Brown (telephone 01525 716230 or email mgbrown137@btinternet.com).

A New Treasurer

The purpose of the Friends' is "to raise funds or by other means assist in the improvement, safeguarding, provision, maintenance and restoration of the Church building and its grounds". 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.

Our pressing need is for a new Treasurer - Michael Brown will stand down in April 2016 after 14 years "in post" and we must find a replacement. If you are interested please contact Caroline (telephone 07749 836245) or email carolinejaneoneill@hotmail.co.uk



"Let Us Remember"
The Fallen of World War One
Flitton, Greenfield & Wardhedges

An Evening of Eastern Promise...

Get rid of the New Year blues by coming along to a curry night at the Village Hall and raise funds for the Army Benevolent Fund. Apart from a Madras or Korma, there will be entertainment (and not just belly dancers), a licensed bar and raffle. Date and details tbc - end of January /beginning of February. Look out for the advertising but if you want to help, provide a raffle prize or be put on the mailing list, please contact Simon Sadler on flittonsadler1@btinternet.com.

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE St George's Day 2016



Saturday 23rd April
a Grand Garden Party

at the Flitton & Greenfield Playing Field - including
Pimms reception at 5.00 - followed by a superb 3 course dinner at 6.30
Raffles & Entertainment..... - all for just £30 per person

To reserve your tickets contact Carl Lowe at
stgeorgegardenparty@gmail.com or call 077790 10704 or 01525 861111

- All profits from ticket sales to be split between the charities below, and all proceeds from collections to each charity -



Reg Charity No. 1120200



Reg Charity No. 1020200



Reg Charity No. 201017

Visit us on  St George's Day Grand Garden Party 2016

Dress for the evening will be formal or patriotic (please, - no trainers, jeans or sportswear)

The White Hart at Flitton

☎ 01525 862022 🌐 www.whitehartflitton.co.uk



Wishing You A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Thursday 17th December

Sing your 'hart' out with Flitton Church Choir around our Christmas Tree.
From 7pm. Eat Mince Pies! Drink Mulled Wine! Xmas is nearly here!

Christmas Day & Boxing Day Drinkies

11.30am – 1.30pm Xmas Day 12pm – 4pm Boxing Day

Twixmas

Not eaten enough over Xmas?
join us - Lunch 27th. Lunch & Dinner 28th – 30th.

New Year's Day

Lunch 12 - 3.45pm (last orders)
Continue your NYE celebrations over lunch shared with family and friends. (start your New Year's Resolution on the 2nd)

Burns Night(ish)

Wednesday 20th January - £35 per person
Bag Pipes. Haggis, Neeps & Tatties. 4 Course Dinner.

Valentine's Day 2016

Surprise yourself and book your table early for Valentine's Weekend - before you see the cards in the shops!

Shellfish Festival Spring 2016

Lobsters, Oysters, Mussels, Cockles, Winkles, Clams, Scallops,
Langoustines, Prawns

TWH Gift Vouchers

The Perfect Xmas present....

For further details, please see our website – whitehartflitton.co.uk

Flittabus



Unpaid volunteers run Flittabus Community Transport Ltd, a non-profit making, self-financing operation providing services to local communities. **Anyone can use Flittabus and we accept Concessionary Passes**
We operate a hail to ride policy and will stop anywhere on route if it is safe to do so.

Flitton & Greenfield timetable summary

Monday FL1

Flitton Church 10:12 Pulloxhill 10:16 Old Bell 10:20 to Tesco & Ampthill

4th Tuesday FL4

Flitton Church 09:01 Pulloxhill 09:05 Old Bell 09:09 to Milton Keynes

Wednesday FL5

Flitton Church 09:46 Pulloxhill 09:50 Old Bell 09:54 to Bedford

Thursday FL6B

Flitton Church 09:40 Pulloxhill 09:44 Old Bell 09:48 Tesco & Ampthill

Full timetables are available from Libraries, some Post Offices and
www.flittabus.co.uk or www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Flittabus Help Line 07960 388 111

Also use this for information about the running of Flittabus during bad weather.

Free Healing

Drop in Clinics

Tues & Thurs
evenings from
7:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Sunday afternoons
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm



By Appointment

Mon to Fri 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Saturdays 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

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Gentle Touch Healing Centre
Wrest Park Enterprise Centre

Wide range of Holistic Therapies

also available - please see our
website for details & directions.

www.gentletouchhealing.org.uk
Charity number 1105985

Flitton & Greenfield and Pulloxhill Neighbourhood Plan

You are invited to attend a public meeting to be held at Greenfield Academy on Monday 18th January 2016 at 19.30h.

This will be to explain more about what the Plan means to us and how it will be started. It will be an important Planning document for the future of the area and we need local residents with all sorts of information and skills to help us, so please come along to see we are doing and what you can do.



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Flit Vale Wildlife Trust Winter Programme

Monday 14th December

7.15 pm at Maulden Church Hall.

AGM - followed at 7.45pm with talk by Brian Kerr on
"The Making of the Bedfordshire Countryside".

Monday 18th January

7.45pm, Maulden Church Hall

Talk by Peter Holden on "Birds without Frontiers."

Find out about the amazing migration of our feathered friends.

Monday 15th February

7.45pm, Maulden Church Hall

Talk by Brian Eversham on "Climate Change" - what does it mean for our wildlife?

Monday 21st March

7.45pm, Maulden Church Hall

Talk by Steve Cham on "Dragonflies".

Find out about some of the oldest flying creatures on earth.

£2 per adult requested for talks.

Contact Ann on 07890 347327

or flitvale.info@gmail.com

Protecting wildlife close to home

Flitton Moor Barn

Some of you will have seen our new barn.

It was erected late in October and we were then busy with bricklaying around the base. By the time you read this we should have finished the bricklaying, but there will still be plenty to do. So if you would like to become involved please let me know.

We have funding for the major part of the project – but some modifications and additions are so far not funded. The Friends of Flitton Moor are therefore asking for donations from supporters. This will be in the form of payments for various items – e.g. from £1 for a brick, £10 for an internal panel, to £25 for 1 metre of oak seating. Or any amount in between will pay towards various other things – including signage and printing.

If you would like to donate or help, or would like more information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

I'm at 01525 714961 or dsedgley@talktalk.net

David Sedgley, Flitton Moor volunteer warden.



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Stepping Stones

Playgroup

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 – Stepping Stones.

We meet every Monday morning (term time only) from 9.30–11.30
in Flitton and Greenfield Village Hall. There is plenty of parking, toys, a baby corner
and crafts each week along with refreshments for all.

You can pay as you go and come when you like – the cost is £2.50 per family per
week. We are a friendly group and have lots of fun each week!

Come and see for yourself! First week is free.

Either drop in or call: Emma Freeman – 07786 435273
Jo James – 07966 165211 Lorraine Horan – 07790 898773



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Christmas Festivities at the Jolly Coopers

Christmas Eve - Champagne Breakfast from 9.30 am
Disco/Dance 'til Christmas from 8.30 pm

Christmas Day - Join us for Drinks 11.30 am - 2.30 pm

Boxing Day - Lunch 12-4 pm
Christmas Quiz from 8.30 pm

New Year's Eve - Gourmet Dinner 7pm (booking essential)
Live Music in the Bar with Greg McDonald from 9.30 pm

We wish all our customers old and new

★ A Very Merry Christmas ★

Hope that you will celebrate some of your holiday with us!

Bobbi and Ian

*Flitton and Greenfield WI is a thriving group of 55 members.
We meet once a month and also have coffee mornings,
meals, visits, a weekly summer walking programme
and a darts team. Visitors are very welcome.*



Flitton & Greenfield WI Programme 2016

Date: Meetings 3rd Tuesday each month

Place: Flitton & Greenfield Village Hall

Time: 7.30 for a 7.45 pm start

- 19th Jan: Man on the Spot - 50 Years as a Journalist
and BBC Broadcaster - Bill Hamilton
- 16th Feb: Dunstable Food Bank - Mike Pittam
- 15th Mar: Members Night
- 5th April: Group Meeting at Flitton and Greenfield Village Hall,
The Wartime Kitchen - Amanda Pickard
- 19th April: Flitton Church and Mausoleum - Margaret Butt
- 17th May: AGM and Social

GALA 2015 A GREAT DAY OUT!

A very big thank you to everyone who helped with , contributed or just turned up to the village's largest annual event. Whilst it didn't rain during the afternoon, the heavy early morning rain did put off some visitors, however, those that came along enjoyed the traditional arena sessions with the Ampthill Town Band, Jazzercise and the Affinity Tribal belly dancers; new acts this year were Delsyn Drive, a local band and the Ampthill Singers who turned up in force and sang a full programme of well-known songs; hopefully, something for everyone, and of course the traditional end of

gala tug of war. Our guest celebrity was Rev Dave Bell who had recently been installed as the new vicar into the Benefice of Silsoe, Pulloxhill and Flitton; apart from crowning Ava Oliver as this year's gala queen and officially opening the gala, he presented the prizes for the football festival which was won by St Marys, Clophill this year. Apart from the arena programme, there were more stalls and activities than previous years, covering a wide selection of interests; Ampthill Lions were offering trips around the fields in Lionel, the land train but unfortunately the timetable ran very true to life with some delays due to "defective rolling stock". We are always keen to see new stalls and this year we welcomed Creative Fudge – crepes next year.



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This year's theme was Magna Carta which prompted the committee to dress up in medieval costume – a couple of jesters and even a Friar Tuck; however, the theme did not extend to the cooking competition much to everyone's relief; this year we were looking for the best jam which brought a record number of entries and we were fortunate to have Vickie Humber of Humber's Preserves, herself a former World Jampion as judge; Jane McBride took home 1st prize.

As the banner outside the village hall states, the gala committee raised over £3700 for the ongoing maintenance of the hall, but hopefully all those stall holders made enough to make the day worthwhile. As readers will know, this time last year we were announcing the end of the annual event but, thanks to new volunteers on both the committee and on the day, everyone had another successful day. We have provisionally booked Saturday 10th September 2016 so please put in your diaries. However, the gala committee would be very interested to hear from anyone willing to help on the committee or before or on the day; It is clearly a case of the more the merrier.



POTATO RACE 2016

This is an early call for sponsors and volunteers for the organising committee for next year's race on **Sunday 19th June 2016** – yes, Father's Day! We need help beforehand with planning, marketing, publicity and fundraising, to arrange a well-organised series of races which are growing in popularity. Any help welcome. Just to let everyone know that we have the last few T shirts (£7 or £10) , caps (£5) and souvenir cards (£1.50) for sale – all just right as a stocking filler. To buy or volunteer to help, please contact Simon Sadler on 861727 or flittonsadler1@btinternet.com.



'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 2016 for events up until May. 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.



ORGANISATION	CONTACT NAME	PHONE
Vicar	The Rev David Bell	861163
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	Flitton Contact: Clare Butler Ellis	861496
Bellringers	Maureen Morey	712916
Church Flowers	Lesley Arthur/Julie Abrahams	713325 718331
ChurchCleaning/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
Stepping Stones 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	Dawn Leaning	07860 632427
Allotments	Gareth Ellis	861496
Village Gala	Margaret Lowe	861111
Friends of Flitton Moor	Dave Sedgley	714961
Jazzercise	Clare Godleman	404858
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

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