



*The parish magazine for Flitton,
Greenfield and Wardhedges*

Welcome to the festive season!

First of all, an apology; if your copy of Flit'n'More arrives a little late this month, don't blame your deliverer, it's entirely an editorial problem, to be precise my problem, as my computer went bang earlier in November and I am having to manage on a borrowed laptop. Hence your mag may not only be a bit late dropping on your doormat, but you will notice that the finish is a bit simpler than usual - we hope that normal service will be resumed as soon as possible!

There's still much to keep you busy in this issue - festive events galore, and do take special note of a new event for this Christmas, the Advent Windows, details inside, this should be lovely. And don't forget to get your copy, or indeed copies of the Flitton and Greenfield Calendar, produced by the Friends of Flitton Church, with lovely views of the village provided by local residents, including the lovely image of the church on this page.

No less than two separate cinema events in December, one at the Village Hall and one at the Church Hall, that's a really lovely addition to our community activities, with something for all tastes and age groups. We are very lucky to have so many committed folk willing to give up their time to bring you fun in Flitton, Greenfield and Wardhedges!

All the usual church services for Christmas are inside, and don't forget Carols Around the Christmas Tree outside the White Hart on Friday 21st December, a real village tradition now.

Your Flit'n'More team, Angela, Jo, Simon and Pat wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.



From your Parish Council...

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

The last few weeks have seen a host of activity in the Parish, with two new cinema projects, a lovely concert 'They Shall Grow Not Old' commemorating the Armistice, Parish Breakfast and a show at the Village Hall. The phone box book exchange is brimming, and in December Father Christmas's sleigh will be out and about and Carols round the Christmas Tree at the White Hart pub.

Please do not say there is nothing to do in the Parish! There is always something going on and we are grateful that others give up their time to make these things happen. It is great when people join in village life by participating in events or if you have a good idea by arranging an event yourself. It is all part of being a small community where people do things for each other and get pleasure in giving their time for your enjoyment. A bit like having the Christmas spirit all year round!

Whilst mentioning people who like to do things in the Parish, I should also thank my nine fellow Councillors for their time and effort to helping to keep Flitton and Greenfield running smoothly. Their duties range from spending time looking at planning applications, running the playing field and MUGA, looking after the cemetery and trying to ensure that the traffic through the villages is as quiet and unassuming as possible, not speeding or breaching our 7.5 tonne weight limit.

I am saying this because in May 2019, all existing Councillors have to stand down and we need 10 volunteers for the next 5 years. Last time we did not have an election because we did not have 10 people, although we gathered a few co-opted Councillors during the 5-year term. But this year it would be brilliant to have residents interested in the work of the Council, it is about helping the community, and if you would like to stand, watch out for details of nominations, speak to any Councillor or our Clerk and attend a Council meeting or two to see if it's the type of thing you could do and dare I say, 'enjoy'?

It has been a testing time for the Council with arson at the Playing Field in October which cost over £500 to replace. The play equipment which was also being painted was also spoilt, requiring it to be done again at yet more cost. We have opposed predatory planning applications in Flitton which would increase the number of houses by about a quarter and start to turn us into a medium or large village with no services like shops, health centres or a large enough school.

As I said earlier, being a Councillor or someone who does things for the Parish takes a special kind of person, so please get involved and keep the lovely spirit of living in these villages going all year round.

Happy Christmas and a healthy and joyous New Year to all!

Councillor Mark Gates (Chair of Flitton and Greenfield Parish Council)



Services for Winter at St John the Baptist

Sun 2 December	11 am	Christingle. A charming service where every child receives an orange - see overleaf for details
Sun 9 December	9.30 am	Holy Communion, followed by refreshments
Sun 16 December	6.30 pm	Candlelit Carols - come to the Church Hall from 6pm for mulled wine and mince pies! More details overleaf
Sun 23 December	10am	Holy Communion - a Three Churches Service for Christmas week, followed by refreshments
Tues 24 December Christmas Eve	10 am 9.30 pm	Crib Service - details overleaf First Communion of Christmas
Wed 25 December Christmas Day	9.30 am	Benefice Christmas Service at Pulloxhill - no services at Flitton or Silsoe.
Sun 6 January	11 am	Morning Worship for Epiphany
Sn 13 Jan	9.30 am	Holy Communion
Sun 20 January	10.30 am	Café Church
Sun 27 January	8.30 am	Holy Communion - a short service from the Book of Common Prayer. We welcome the Rev Julie Cox to take this service.
Sun 3 February	11 am	A Celebration of Baptisms Past and Present - see overleaf
Sun 10 February	9.30 am	Holy Communion with the choir
Sun 17 February	10.30 am	Café Church
Sun 24 February	8.30 am	Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer

LOOKING FURTHER INTO 2019...

Mothering Sunday is 31st March

Easter Sunday is 21st April

CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

The Campbell Family at The White Hart are delighted to continue this lovely village tradition. Gather at 7.15 on Friday 21st Dec for a good sing! Wrap up warm!

Dave's Diary

Flitton Church News

*The Benefice of Silsoe, Flitton and Pulloxhill
Growing as beacons of Christ's Light
in our Communities*



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our Christmas celebrations begin on Sunday 2nd December with

Christingle at 4pm. This is an enchanting service for children and their families. Everyone receives a candle in an orange with sweets to represent all the good things that God gives us. If you want to make your own Christingle, come to the church before the service from 3.15pm. There will be refreshments then too.

On Sunday 9th December we will have Holy Communion at 9.30am followed by refreshments

Then on Sunday 16th there's our very popular Candlelit Carols at 6.30pm in the church. Come for mulled wine and mince pies in the Church Hall from 6pm
Sunday 23rd we host

Holy Communion at 10am with our friends from Silsoe and Pulloxhill, followed by refreshments

Christmas Eve services start with the Crib Service at 10am - a lovely way to start your Christmas celebrations.

Then at 9.30pm we have the First Communion of Christmas.

Christmas Day our benefice service will be at Pulloxhill at 9.30 am.

Please do join us at one of these services—Christmas is a special time for us all and a time to remember the reason for it all, the birth of Christ in a stable in Bethlehem.

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISMS PAST AND PRESENT 3RD FEBRUARY 2019

The first Sunday in February is called Candlemas, and we are holding a special celebration at 11am about baptisms. We particularly invite all those families who have had someone baptised since Rev Dave Bell joined our Benefice, but anyone who was baptised at Flitton is very welcome. You can also view our lovely baptism window, where a pane can be engraved for anyone who has ever been baptised at Flitton - if you would like to find out more about this, do contact Margaret on 01525 862170

CAFÉ CHURCH

Have you tried our most relaxed and informal Sunday activity yet? Alternating between the Church and the Church Hall, most third Sundays we have Café Church, a chance to get together for a cup of coffee, a chat, and if you wish to join in a very informal service you are welcome to do so, but it's not compulsory! Children can play and enjoy craft activities.

*If you would like to talk to the Vicar, Dave Bell about weddings, baptisms or anything else, do call him on 01525 861163
A very happy and peaceful Christmas from
Dave, Ian, Gillian and the PCC.*

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS

THE FRIENDS OF FLITTON AND GREENFIELD CHURCH



This year, we decided not to produce Christmas cards, but have created a 2019 calendar, with local photographs submitted by village residents.

What a perfect Christmas present! Why not pick up a couple, to show friends and family who don't live in the area what beautiful villages we have. They are on sale in the church, the White Hart and from Patsy on 712677 or email patsykean@yahoo.co.uk

Plans are in progress for our Open Village event, which will be on the 29th and 30th June 2019. We welcome other local groups to get involved with their own events for the weekend. Look out for further information about the event in the Spring issue of Flit'n'More. Open Village Contact: Jo Holt on 792777 or email jo_holt@sky.com



KEEP CALM AND BUY A BAG FOR CHRISTMAS!

There's still time to get your hugely popular jute bag, specially designed for us.

**THEY MAKE EXCELLENT
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!**

Sized 31 x 23 x 31 cm, the bags cost £7 and are available now from Simon Sadler at Orchard House, High Street, Flitton, MK45 5DU

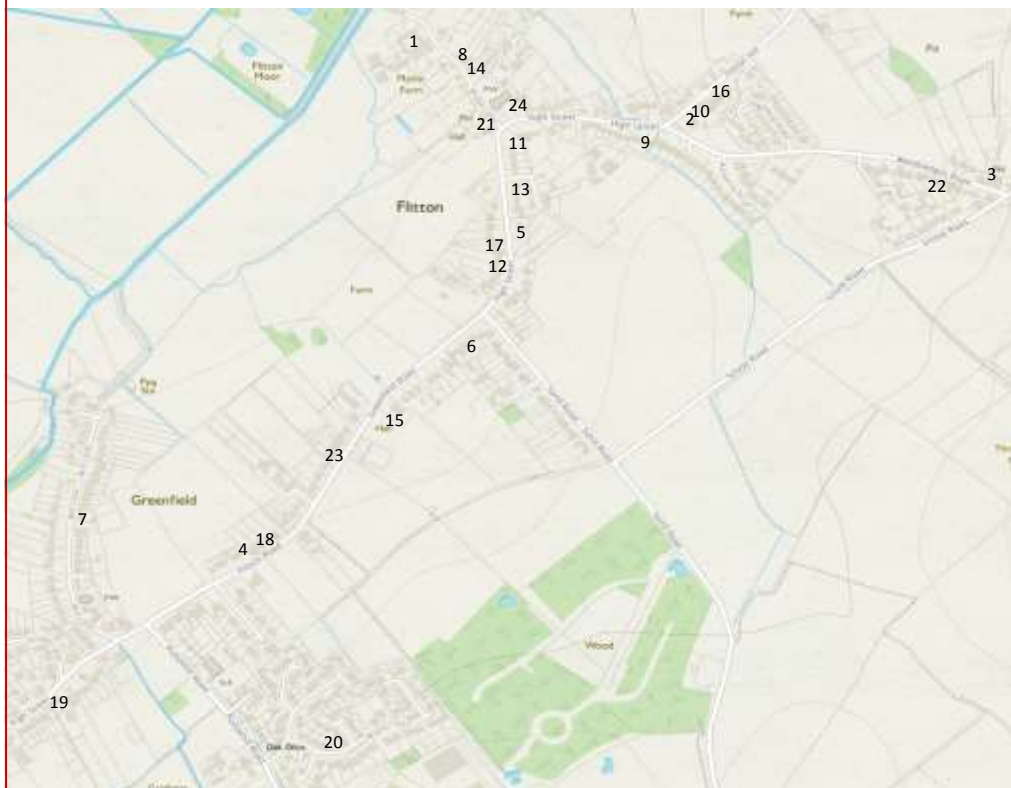
flittonsadler1@btinternet.com
or on 861727 or 07341 550990

Flitton & Greenfield Advent Windows

24 decorated windows will be lit consecutively at dusk, starting on 1st December.

The number on this map show the locations of windows on each day of December
e.g. 2 = 2nd December

In addition to looking out for
Advent Windows in houses, please visit
The Jolly Coopers on the 3rd
The Village Hall on the 15th
The White Hart on the 21st
and St. John's Church
on the 24th December



A RADICAL HISTORY OF THE WORLD

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22ND 2019
FLITTON CHURCH HALL AT 7:30PM



Cash bar and raffle
All proceeds to St. John the Baptist Church, Flitton



An illustrated talk by
Dr Neil Faulkner



Dr Faulkner is an eminent historian and archaeologist. He is the editor of Military History Monthly, an author and TV presenter on Time Team

Tickets are £10 from Margaret on 01525 862170
or email mkatebutt@yahoo.co.uk

Gala Report 2018

This September we celebrated an amazing record of 50 years of the Gala Queen, or May Queen as it was originally, so we invited back all previous holders of that high office as our VIPs for the day. There was plenty to do for those who were able to come, as they crowned Marcie Butler as this year's queen, chaperoned on the procession, opened the gala, presented the trophies at the football competition, judged (and ate) the golden treacle tarts and drew the raffle. Many thanks for all their help.



As usual, a massive thank you to everyone who helped with, contributed to, or had the courage to believe in the weather forecast and just turn up on the day. Some stall-holders pulled out beforehand and even on the morning because of the prospect of rain, but it remained dry throughout the afternoon – a relief for us all after the last two years of rain! It did mean that there were fewer stalls, but more business for them and we still managed to eat our way through the usual quantity of burgers, sausages, cakes and biscuits.

We had a full afternoon of entertainment in the arena with the Stotfold Twirlers, X-IT, Jazzercise and sessions from each of the Ampthill Town Band and The Kolliders. There was something musical for everyone and we are particularly delighted to give local up-and-coming bands an opportunity to play at a home venue – perhaps there's a tradition in the making.

We had a unique display of "braving the shave" where Rachel Rothwell lost her golden locks to raise funds for MacMillan. Thank you to all those who donated as she raised an impressive sum of over £2700. Of course, we had to finish with the traditional all-comers tug of war which this year was won by the boys; however, judging by previous results, they can't sit on their laurels.



Could your local group/project benefit from the Gala?

All in all, a successful day, albeit very tiring for those involved. We raised over £3,500 and this is where we would like your help. After last year's success with purchasing the defibrillators for the villages, we advertised that we were raising funds for other good causes which benefit the community. We need your help in suggesting those good causes.

We would like to hear from anyone who has a project in mind which would benefit the community. We want to give everyone equal consideration, so email your suggestion/application to the gala committee c/o jo_holt@sky.com before



**Once again, many thanks to all those who supported
the villages' largest annual event.**



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire
Peterborough

Protecting wildlife close to home

Flit Vale Wildlife Trust

Winter 2018/19 Programme

Monday 10th December

Maulden Church Hall : AGM at 7.15pm, talk at 7.45pm

“Orchards East Project” - a talk by Steve Halton*

The Orchards East Project, managed by the School of History at the University of East Anglia, is devoted to discovering and understanding the past, present and future of orchards in Eastern England. Steve’s talk will have emphasis on Bedfordshire orchards.

Monday 21st January—7.45pm at Maulden Church Hall

A Moor for all Seasons – talk by Nancy Reed, Wildlife Trust reserves manager,

on the management and wildlife of Flitwick Moor.

Find out why this is one of the most important reserves in SE England.

Friday 1st February - 7.15 for 7.30pm start - Maulden Village Hall
Quiz night

Join the Wildlife Trust local group and the Greensand Trust for a fun evening and maybe a bit of a challenge. Teams of four to six. Fish supper¹ and a glass of wine

(or juice or beer). £10.00 per person. ¹ Veggie option available.

Monday 18th March - 7.45pm at Maulden Church Hall

Wildlife on a Bedfordshire Farm – talk by Dave Parsons

An intriguing insight into many years of wildlife watching on a farm at Haynes – with some superb pictures.

You don’t need to book for talks, just turn up!

£2 per adult requested for talks. For additional information please email flitvale.info@gmail.com or ring Ann on 07580 178889

**Flitton Church Hall
Saturday 1st Dec 2018**

Flitton Flicks
Community Film Project

Elf 4.00pm £5

Grand Budapest Hotel 7.30pm £7.50

Tickets via Ticket Tailor website: www.buytickets.at/flittonflicks
Proceeds to charity. Cash bar and popcorn available.
Shows every first Sat Nov-April, see us on Facebook!

Save the date!

Notice of the 15th

FLITTON FLITS FAMILY FUN RUNS

Back to its usual date – first May Bank Holiday

Monday 6th May 2017

5K Fun Run, Junior 1 mile run and under 7s' Flit Sprint

Time to get yourself fit for a great run around Flitton & Flitwick

Moors over a flat cross-country route

A great day out for the whole community, finishing with prize giving and BBQ at the White Hart pub.

Please let the organisers know if you can help in any way.

**Look out for entry forms in local pubs,
or use the address below to receive one by email.**

For more information or offers of help please contact
David Sedgley on 01525714961 or Jen Fisher on 01525 713917

Email flittonflit@gmail.com

Flittabus

About Your Flittabus - Unpaid volunteers (more than thirty of them) run Flittabus Community Transport Ltd.; a non-profit making, but self-financing operation providing services to local communities. The volunteers not only drive the three minibuses, providing scheduled local services in Central Bedfordshire six days a week, but they also run the business, which is financed by fares, charitable gifts and grants from local authorities, including Central Bedfordshire, Flitwick and Parish Councils.

Anyone can use *Flittabus* and we accept Concessionary Passes for free travel

Flittabus is unable to carry wheelchairs. Please use Link-a-Ride 01525 840511
or Greensands Country 01234 834993

Flittabus is a hail-to-ride service
and will stop anywhere en route providing it is safe
Flittabus Help Line **07960 388 111** Website **www.flittabus.co.uk**

Summary of Flitton and Greenfield Services

Full Timetables available at Post Offices, newsagents or www.flittabus.co.uk	Monday FL1	4th Tuesday FL4	Tuesday FL10	Wednesday FL5	Thursday FL6B
Wardhedges, Opp Highfield Road	10:15	09:00	09:52	09:45	09:43
Flitton, Church	10:16	09:01	09:54	09:46	09:44
Pulloxhill Cross keys	10:20	09:05	09:59	09:50	09:48
Greenfield, Old Bell	10:24	09:09	—	09:54	09:52
Greenfield, Adj Lower school			09:56		
Flitwick Tesco	10:29* - 12:04 [#]	---	---	---	09:58* - 11:48 [#]
Amphill	11:07* - 11:56 [#]	---	---	---	10:09* - 11:14 [#]
Bedford St Paul's Square	---	---	---	10:35* - 12:35 [#]	---
Milton Keynes	---	09:53*-13:00 [#]	---	---	---
Hitchin	---	---	10:31* - 12:50 [#]	---	---
Return to Greenfield, Opp Lower School			RR 13:25		
Return to Greenfield Old Bell	12:09	RR 13:44	—	01:09	11:59
Return to Flitton Church	RR12:15	RR 13:52	RR 13:37	01:15	12:07
Wardhedges, Highfield Road	RR12:16	RR 13:53	RR 13:38	13:16	12:08

RR= Rider Request and time approximate

*Arrives [#] Return time

13-Nov-13

The Christmas Christening



Please join us at the Flitton & Greenfield Village Hall for the christening of our newly installed projector, and our chance to wish you all a very merry Christmas.

We welcome you to attend our Showing of the Polar Express on Saturday 15th December 2018. Doors Open at 5.30pm with the film starting at 6.30pm.

The whole family is welcome, children are encouraged to bring a pillow, blanket or cushion and nestle down on the floor.

Refreshments available including hot dogs, chilli nachos, popcorn, mince pies, mulled wine & our licensed bar will be open for other tipples.

After the film please join us in the lighting of our village Advent window '15' where one lucky child will be picked to turn the lights on.

Tickets are limited but are FREE!!!

Yes we want to invite you all to the hall for FREE to see our facilities in action. We are sorry but you will have to pay for your drinks & refreshments!!

To secure your tickets please contact:

Carl Lowe 07779010704 or Annie Willcox 07847778334

The Flitton & Greenfield Village Hall Management Committee.



New Year 2019 après ski party

at the White Hart Flitton.

Can't be in the Alps over new year, then join us to welcome in 2019 in our pop up winter ski lodge dressed in glam ski wear from the 20's to the present day to enjoy a fun night of food music and dancing.

Our buffet will include raclette as well as chicken schnitzel, potato gratin and other Alpine treats.

We are delighted that the winner of Stars In Their Eyes TV show George Antony will be joining us as well as our Professional DJ.

Our snow machine & snow projector are on there way & and our bespoke snow shot boards are being handmade by our resident Austrian ski instructor. Not to mention our traditional home built umbrella bar!!

Dirndl's & lederhosen's most welcome!!

Prosecco or schnapps on arrival



The Party starts at
7.30pm

Tickets are limited and are £45 per person.

01525 862022

www.thewhitehartflitton.co.uk

info@thewhitehartflitton.co.uk



Dear Fellow Villagers,
Saturday 28th April 2018 again for the 4th occasion saw Villagers from Wardhedges, Flitton, Greenfield and surrounding Villages come together to raise money for 4 very worthy Charities.

Just shy of 500 guests arrived a little soaked but nevertheless in good spirits. All dressed up for the occasion, some in high heels, some in wellies, lots with brollies but all ready to enjoy themselves. After all we wouldn't let a little rain dampen our spirits would we?

When I held the first event in 2012 in the Village Hall for just over 100 people, I never expected to be sitting here writing a review in 2018 for just shy of 500 in a 'Big Tent' on the playing field. My sincere thanks go out to all of you who have supported me over the years. We together have raised a significant amount of money for all the Charities we have raised monies for. This year was beyond all my expectations. I am delighted to say we raised just shy of £16,000 for our 4 amazing charities. Keech Hospice Care, St Johns Hospice Moggerhanger, Bedford Hospital Critical Care Complex & Alzheimer's Research UK.

I have to say thanks to my 6 helpers who worked with me over a year to put on the event. To all the sponsors who helped me put on this event for their continued support, but finally to all of you within the Village and surrounding areas. We together have been doing something special over the last 6 years. I had stated that the Mad Hatters Charity Ball would be my last event; however I do believe I have just 1 more in me and I hope that you do too. Venue to be confirmed but I hope I will be seeing you all again on Halloween 2020 for the 'Harry Potter Charity Ball' I'm sure we will be able to create some more magic for worthwhile charities that evening too!!

Sincere Thanks

Carl Lowe

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HERITAGE GROUP



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The Friends of
Flitton Moor

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Festive Fitness Fun

The **12 days of Christmas workout** will keep you active during December. Depending upon your fitness level and time available you can reduce the number of exercises or change the order that you do them in. You could do each exercise for 30 seconds once through, taking just 6 minutes!

Those of you up for a challenge can tackle the **12 days of Christmas workout**!

Simply follow the number of repetitions for each exercise and repeat just like the 12 days of Christmas song!

Start with 1 burpee, then do 2 squat jumps + 1 burpee, then do 3 press ups, 2 squat jumps + 1 burpee. Continue until you do 12 jumping jacks all the way through to 1 burpee. Phew!

Remember to have a warm up before, take breaks when needed and stay hydrated and have cool down stretch afterwards.



1
BURPEE



2
SQUAT
JUMPS



3
PRESS UPS



4
FRONT
KICKS



5
SQUAT TO
LUNGE



6
POWER
LUNGES



7
SPRINTER
SIT UPS



8
SNOWBOARD
HOPS



9
SIDE LUNGE



10
MOUNTAIN
CLIMBERS



11
SKATER
HOPS



12
JUMPING
JACKS

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**FANTASTIC NEWS: DEFIBRILLATORS AT FLITTON & GREENFIELD VILLAGE HALL
AND FLITTON CHURCH HALL ARE NOW ACTIVE!!!**



I am very pleased to announce that the defibrillators at both the above locations are now active – should you require access to a defibrillator you will need to ring Emergency Services on 999, request an ambulance and they will confirm to you the nearest location of a defibrillator and give you the access code to allow you to send someone to fetch it.

In the unit there is the defibrillator and also an equipment bag which includes a torch, face shields, spare defib pads, paediatric defib pads and other items to assist with using the equipment.

I would highly recommend, if you haven't done so already, to attend a defib training session, we will be running another one on Tuesday 5th February 2019 @ 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The training is extremely valuable as over the 90mins session it will give you the opportunity to familiarise yourself with an AED, learn how to use them, and also how to perform CPR on adults, children, and infants.

Funds allowing, we hope to run a refresher training session annually from 2020.

Please spread the word that these are now active..... THEY SAVE LIVES!!!

If you have any questions or require further information please contact me,
Defibrillator Guardian – Julianne Wright, mobile 07739 431933 or email
julianne.wright@btinternet.com

Nicola Rayner Fitness

Pilates

Focuses on building your body's core strength and improving your posture through low impact stretching and spine safe conditioning exercises to enable you to continue those everyday activities that you love with ease. My classes are delivered with a positive, caring approach in a fun and friendly environment to relieve stress and leave you feeling energised!

Tuesday 10.45 - 11.45 am Thursday 6 -7 pm Limited spaces available

Men's Core Strength

Do you suffer with aches and pains, a bad back or tight muscles? Maybe you've been recommended Pilates but feel that you would be the only man?! This class will improve your flexibility and core strength

Thursday 8.30 - 9.30 pm

Legs, Bums and Tums *(total body tone-up)* Tuesday 9.45 - 10.30 am

HIIT Circuits *(Strength, Core and Cardio)* Thursday 7.15 - 8.15 pm

Ladies' Boot Camp *(super start to the weekend)* Saturday 9 - 10 am

Flitton and Greenfield Village Hall

Classes also available in Silsoe and Clophill For full timetable or to book contact Nicola
fitone@live.co.uk 07801 510988



Newly Opened!

Options Hair Salon

Inside Route 66 - 22 High Street, Silsoe

Competitive Price List

To book, please call Nuala on: 07795 592740



Christmas at Greenfield School

Following the success of last year's Reverse Advent Calendar we will be repeating it this year. Each day in December we will be collecting food and goodies, this will all be sent off to the Preen Foodbank in Biggleswade. We started with an empty calendar and by the time we broke up for Christmas last year we had an amazing amount of produce to go to Preen, just a fraction of which can be seen in our photographs.

All the children enjoyed bringing in supplies that would help people who have less than we do to have a better Christmas. Each of the 15 days that we were in school during Advent we collected specific items, from Christmas socks to mince pies. Basics were also collected. Our families at Greenfield and Pulloxhill Schools enthusiastically show their support to the Charities and good causes that the schools help.

This year the Diocese of St Albans has a theme of 'Follow the Star' which is a journey through the twelve days of Christmas. Greenfield School will be joining in by following our own star to our traditional Christmas Nativity Service on our last day of term, Wednesday 19th December. We will leave school at 1.15, you are welcome to join us in our starlit procession to St John The Baptist Church for a 2pm start.

Happy Christmas to everyone from Greenfield School!



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SATURDAY

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Village History by Margaret Butt **Thomas de Grey, 2nd Earl de Grey, 1781-1859**



The last person to be buried at Flitton in the mausoleum crypt was Thomas Philip de Grey, 2nd Earl de Grey, 3rd Baron Grantham and 6th Baron Lucas. Born Thomas Philip Robinson, he was the eldest son of Thomas Robinson, 2nd Baron Grantham and his wife Mary, a daughter of Jemima, Marchioness Grey [granddaughter of the Duke of Kent]. Mary was the younger sister of Amabel, 1st Countess de Grey. The 1st Countess had no children and so Thomas Philip was the heir to his aunt, taking the De Grey surname in 1833. He was educated at St John's College, Cambridge and grew up knowing he was to inherit Wrest Park.

The Robinson family were Tory politicians and Thomas had an illustrious political career. He was First Lord of the Admiralty during the reign of William IV and later Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland when Sir Robert Peel was Prime Minister and Queen Victoria was in the early years of her reign. He was Privy Councillor, a Knight of the Garter, Colonel-Commandant of the Yorkshire Hussar Regiment of Cavalry for over 40 years and an aide-de-camp to both King William and Queen Victoria. He was Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire from 1818 until his death in 1859.

He married Lady Henrietta, daughter of William Cole, 1st Earl of Eniskillen in 1805. She died in 1848 and her monument is one of the largest in the mausoleum. They had 2 daughters Ann Florence and Mary Gertrude. On his death in 1859, he was succeeded by his daughter Ann who became Baroness Lucas. She was already Countess Cowper through her marriage. Their 3 sons, Frederick, Philip and Thomas all predeceased their father so his other titles passed to his nephew, George Robinson, 2nd Earl of Ripon. Because there were no direct male heirs, the family influence waned and never regained their political importance.

Thomas Philip created the 4th and final room in the mausoleum for his family by cutting off the end of the chancel. The east window was blocked off and we now have an internal east stained glass window which is unusual in a small church.

Thomas Philip was a founding member of the Institute of British Architects in 1834. This was formed to promote and facilitate the arts and sciences necessary for the advancement of architecture. He was the first President of the Institute and remained so until his death. The institute received its royal charter in 1837. He was also the first president of the Royal Architectural Museum. He and fellow of the Royal Society and of the Society of Antiquaries. He was one of the commissioners of the New Buckingham Palace development from 1848.

One of his early attempts at design was not successful. In 1829, he decided to increase the height of the spire on Silsoe Old Church. He miscalculated the weight of the new spire and it collapsed. This was one of the main deciding factors in the decision to build a new church at Silsoe. He designed the house of Wrest Park we know today inspired by French architecture between 1833 and 1839, assisted by James Clepham, and added many statues and decorations to the Park.

When he died, he chose to be buried at Flitton rather than Silsoe where his wife had been laid to rest, together with several of their children. His monument is placed where the altar once stood. After that, the De Greys rarely used Flitton church and it began to decline. The villagers ever since have battled to maintain the building – we still do!

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