

Flit n' More

thank you
NHS and
Key workers

Summer 2020

Hello neighbours and welcome to this lockdown issue of Flit'n'More! As I write we are all still under full house arrest, but maybe by the time it drops through your letter box the clouds may have parted a little and blue sky may be visible in more ways than one. Sitting at my computer just typing those words gives me a little hope, all by itself.

We have all come to appreciate our neighbours a lot more over the last few months, and those of us who are mostly confined to our properties have experienced random acts of kindness from so many. I have lived in the village for forty years but as I take my daily exercise I have met many new people and we all greet each other in a warmer way than before. So here's a shout out to the lady in the flowery gilet, the two gentlemen who push a buggy along the High St every morning, and the couple with the two little white dogs who walk near The Brambles, to name but a few —hi from me, the woman

puffing along in the stripy blue hoodie! I have also discovered paths and tranquil places I have never seen before, even though I think of myself as a keen walker!

Sadly many regular events have been cancelled, including the Potato Race, Flits and church services, not to speak of the big plans for VE Day 75, but there's news inside about events in the future, and how you can still enjoy our church services even though we are not allowed to welcome you in person. You can even follow your regular exercise class online!

Many of our regular advertisers are not able to carry out their usual activities at the moment, but we have included their ads anyway as a reminder of what services you can access once things are back to normal.

Angela Ayres
Co-Editor

*The picture above was created by
Martha Hardie, aged 10*

From Your Parish Council...

Keep up to date with what's going on in Flitton, Greenfield and Wardhedges, especially during these unusual times...

We are living through a strange time and I hope that when you read this, we will all be a bit clearer about how things might be changing to start that 'road map' to normal life again. Not that our previous lives may be what we come to call normal in the future, having lived through 'lockdown', 'social distancing', 'self-isolating', 'essential journeys' and all sorts of new language we had never heard before, but which may stay with us for some time to come.

The last 6 weeks has certainly seen lots of community activity and lovely volunteer effort to support anyone in need and I am confident that no-one in the villages has been left isolated or without help. This has largely been managed through the Good Neighbour Scheme and we are all grateful for their dedication and willingness to help whatever the circumstances. I sincerely hope this means they will go from strength to strength in future with lots of new volunteers. If you would like more information, please call them on 07594 578 741 or message using Facebook Messenger.

The VE day bank holiday celebrations and commemorations were a delight to be part of and the photographs of street parties and tea parties in front gardens was a sight to behold. It was a shame that the Parish Council had to cancel the planned party in the Playing Field, but there is a silver lining as we will be using the funds allocated to help buy two new commemorative VE and VJ benches for the Parish to be sited in Greenfield and Wardhedges. The benches should be ready in 4-6 weeks and look like this small picture.



By the time you read this article the Parish Council will have held a few 'virtual' meetings on the Zoom video conferencing site. This has been a learning curve for us all and worked well, but I must say, is not quite the same experience as being in one place together in face to face discussion. These 'virtual' meetings will continue until we can meet in person again and if any member of the public would like to join in, we can still hold an open public session at the start. Just contact the Parish Clerk on clerk@flittongreenfield.org.uk for more information.

We also now have a new Parish Council website, <https://flittonandgreenfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/> where all our agendas and minutes are publicised. It has been live since 1 April and is just taking a bit of time for us to get used to as all the pre-launch training

75th Anniversary of VE Day

See Page 13 for more pictures and
some reflections from Simon Sadler



had to be cancelled. However, we feel we have a reasonable understanding of the site now and are ready to ask people to start subscribing to it so they can receive regular updates about what is going on. Just visit the Home Page and you will see where to add your email details. The site is updated regularly and has links to all our meeting papers, planning applications, road closure notices and many other useful things you would like to know are happening.

I was also delighted with the turn out for the planting of the Community Orchard in Joes Close, right before the lockdown started and we were lucky to just squeeze this in. It was a good time to plant the trees as there had been a lot of rain and the ground was soft, but then it turned hot and sunny so we have been busy watering ever since. The group of us on the day and since, have planted 38 trees, apple, pear, plum, cherry and a few nut trees. There are a couple of pictures of the planting day opposite this page. Most trees are doing well and the previously unused overgrown site, now looks like a healthy and well-maintained orchard. This will be a valuable asset for the community in future as we plan to provide some picnic benches and there should be plenty of nice free fruit for local residents. It is easy to walk to the Orchard and we would urge anyone wanting to visit, not to drive there. Take it in on a circular walk around Flitton and Flitwick Moor.

Finally I know many of you will be pleased to hear that the Parish Council along with Pulloxhill Parish Council has submitted the final version of the Neighbourhood Plan (The Big FGP Plan) to Central Beds Council, where it starts its final journey to be examined by an independent inspector and then hopefully approved and adopted following a referendum in the Parish. It should provide us with a strong and readymade case in future as a planning consultee, to oppose or support planning applications in the Parish. It will inevitably be slightly delayed because of the current circumstance, but after 5 years of hard work, my thanks, on behalf of you all, go the members of the steering group for reaching this stage.

Stay Alert, Control the Virus and Save Lives



Best wishes

Mark Gates

Chairman of the Parish Council

Ruby's Rainbows



Ruby, age 10, has been making Rainbow Badges of Hope to raise money for the NHS and Keech during this demanding time. Please support these fantastic causes and buy a Rainbow of Hope Badge.

Available from 7 Mill Lane, Greenfield.

Honesty box. Minimum donation £1



Flitton Church News

The Benefice of Silsoe, Flitton and Pulloxhill

Growing as beacons of Christ's Light in our Communities



Church services

Our church building may be locked but the church has not gone away. Every Sunday, a service is recorded by one of our ministry team and put onto our website. Go to <http://www.3churches.uk> and click on the Virtual Vicar link. You can print a service sheet if you want to or just listen to the service. There's a hymn to sing along with and some familiar faces doing the readings. Also on the website, if you click onto the Flitton link, you will find lots of **quizzes** to test your brain power.

Thank You Tree

In the churchyard, we have a **Thank you Tree for the NHS, Carers and Keyworkers**. Please tie something on it in any colour of the rainbow or you can place items around the base of the tree. It's a small gesture of thanks to the people who do so much for us and at long last are getting the recognition they deserve. See opposite!

Helping your church St John the Baptist, Flitton

During the lockdown, we have had to stop having services in the church so with no weekly collections and no fund raising, we will struggle to pay our way. It costs about £20,000 a year to run our church so any help you can give us would be amazing. Please think about helping us by setting up a standing order or something similar online. We would be so grateful for your help.

Bank details:

Flitton Parochial Church Council

Sort code 20-92-54

Account Number 90239682

Thank you

Margaret and Jo

If you entered the quiz I set on the church website I can announce that only one entry was completely correct, so The Gard Family (Joy, Lydia and Gabriela) of Kidbrook Cottage were the undisputed winners! Sadly no prize... but the answers are on Page 15



Great Parish Poppy Challenge

We are trying to get as many knitted or crocheted poppies as possible to display in our church on Remembrance Sunday. Please join in and let's see how many we can get. The poppies are red for the armed forces who have died in wars but also we would like some white poppies for civilian war deaths, purple for animals and blue for the NHS. The blue ones will remind us of the sacrifices the NHS and carers have made during the pandemic.



The poppies can be any size, any shade of red or the other colours and any pattern. There are lots of patterns online for all levels of ability and wool is easy to buy online too. Lockdown is a perfect time to make a few poppies - or a lot if you can. The more we have, the bigger the display. They will all be stitched onto backing fabric and they will create a stunning display. The photo shows those Margaret has done already!



Thank You Tree

Thank you for adding your lovely craft work to our tree, which you will find on the edge of the churchyard opposite the pub.

We will never be able adequately to express our thanks to all the key workers who have sacrificed their safety and in some cases their lives to help us through this pandemic. But if our tree can brighten the day of even one of them, we will be happy.

Keep adding your colourful tributes!

Linda Allsop

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Tuesdays Men Only Class 8.35pm

Wednesdays 10.00am and 11.45am

Thursdays 9.30am and 10.45am

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Charlotte 07801 367967 E:personallypilates@icloud.com

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- ☒ Improve relaxation skills

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Feel uplifted & enhance your wellbeing



It's so easy to dwell upon what we haven't got or can't do, instead of creating possibilities which can boost our mental & physical wellbeing, ultimately leading greater fulfilment. As a fitness instructor my priority is helping people achieve their physical goals, but more important is the mental support & feel- good boost that is gained through exercise & being active.

Taking my business online lately has helped me to realise even more that exercise isn't just about people's desires to lose weight or build strength, but about the connection that we have, how we learn from & help each other. Feeling close to, and valued by, other people is a fundamental human need. Social relationships are critical for promoting wellbeing, by talking to each other and really listening to what people have to say.

Regular exercise of any kind helps you to feel more positive and promotes wellbeing mentally and physically. Whether you partake in walking, gardening, a quick HIIT blast or a re-balancing Pilates session. It's about finding which one or combination of activities works for you.

When I do a live class on Facebook I can't see the other people's faces just their comments, but by connecting & interacting with them, laughing and responding, it not only makes them feel better and uplifted, I feel happier & more positive too. Taking notice of each other heightens our self-awareness helping to reaffirm what's important in our own life.

Trying or learning something new, isn't a reason to be scared, it's an experience that you may or may not find easy, it might not be right for you but trying different things is how we progress through life, build our self-esteem, improve our social connections, engage with others, listen to their experiences & promote our mental & physical wellbeing.

Maybe you already have, but if not try a new activity, learn something new, meet and connect with other people, share your thoughts and give them the support that we all need to feel a greater sense of wellbeing.

Why not join my online group Nicola Rayner Fitness
fitone@live.co.uk 07801 510988

Over the past few months, our village has seen our local events being cancelled, church doors closed and locked, and our front doors slammed shut. However, this is not an excuse to let community spirit fall.

My name is Olly, and I live at number 24 High Street. With ever growing uncertainty surrounding people's jobs and livelihood, I felt that myself and the surrounding community needed a welcome distraction. That is when I set up the Door Step Disco. The Door Step Disco is a fabulous weekly local event that encourages people to emerge from their homes and boogie to some classic tunes. It has been an absolute success, and I can't quite believe the response. With people from other villages using their hourly exercise to walk down to our lovely village and have a giggle. Every Saturday at 6pm, the High Street puts on its boogie shoes and has an absolute ball! We will continue to do the disco as long as people enjoy it, or until I am eventually called back to the skies for work! Thank you to everyone who has made it such a success.

Please also remember that if you are in need of anything, don't hesitate to ask for help. This is what makes Flitton special, community spirit.



CHEERS! HERE'S TO OUR LOCAL PUBLICANS!



During the lockdown, both our local landlords have been doing their bit to help with that community spirit Olly was talking about at the top of the page;

Andy (from the Jolly Coopers and Compasses) has been holding on line discos. You can get involved by setting up a Twitch account

Nathan (from the White Hart) has been doing a fabulous job keeping us fed with his excellent takeaway service. The food is up to Nathan's usual high standard and the menu changes every day. Check it out each day on the Flitton and Greenfield Community/White Hart Facebook pages—but you need to be an early bird, slots sell out quickly!

**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY USING THE PUBS ONCE THEY RE-OPEN!
NOW WE KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE WITHOUT VILLAGE PUBS!**

Covid-19 and Parish Council Services

At the most recent Parish Council meeting (13th May) where the closed services were considered, the decisions (below) were made. Councillors were concerned about services remaining closed but felt that they had to defer a decision in order to look carefully at the restrictions put in place by the Government on Monday and consider the risks of opening services which are wholly unsupervised. Time was also required to undertake new risk assessments, rules of operation and put notices in place.

The following services will therefore reluctantly remain closed for the time being, although it is hoped this will be a temporary measure:

Playing Field – will remain closed

- whilst risk assessment advice is sought and considered
- until the play equipment can be protected from use
- whilst notices and signage are considered
- alternative access arrangements can be made to avoid contact with the play equipment
- use of the field is unsupervised and the Council cannot accept responsibility for wiping any surfaces clean

MUGA – will remain closed

- whilst risk assessment advice is sought and considered
- whilst notices and signage are considered
- regulations on usage to meet the Government requirements is established
- access arrangements are considered in terms of this being an unsupervised facility
- the Council cannot accept responsibility for wiping any surfaces clean
- considering the decision made above about the Playing Field, the gate from the car park into the MUGA is also shared access into the Playing Field and this issue needs to be addressed so as not to impact on the Playing Field and protected play equipment

Car Park – will remain closed until other services opened

Telephone Book Exchange – will remain closed

- whilst public libraries remain closed
- whilst risk assessment is considered
- until regulations about usage can be established

Further information will be posted on the Parish website as it becomes available



Please note that the
FAMILY BARN STORM
planned for **Saturday 18th July 2020**
has had to be cancelled. Better luck next year!



VE DAY STREET
PARTIES!



SOME VE DAY ANNIVERSARY THOUGHTS FROM SIMON SADLER...

75 years on from celebrating the end of the war in Europe, we couldn't have imagined even a few months ago how differently we would mark the anniversary. In 1945 virtually everything was rationed except for the one thing that was rationed in 2020, namely space. Social distancing is a new phrase which we are learning to live with but on 8th May 1945 it would have been very difficult to follow or even enforce after nearly 6 years of war, suffering and deprivation.

In terms of crowds gathering to let off steam, we had to content ourselves with watching the old film footage; however, all activities that had been planned which involved "mass gatherings" had been cancelled, so cue the traditional British spirit of coming up with another plan for a party. Door-steps and front gardens are now the focus for showing our appreciation for the NHS and key workers and communicating with others such as the Door-Step Disco, and so it was on 8th May. The bunting and flags were out throughout the parish, along with the tables and chairs, tea and scones, cakes in patriotic colours, fish and chips, beer and prosecco. Before the "party" or "parties" began, we were on our door-steps at 11 o'clock to observe 2 minutes' silence in memory of those who had suffered or were not returning home and, again, at 3.30 after Churchill's speech, a lone piper played a lament and Battle's O'er by the Memorial at the church. Throughout the afternoon music from the 1940's onwards was played courtesy of The Jolly Coopers and Door-Step Disco to put us in the mood, literally.

All in all, it wasn't what we planned and we made the best we could in the circumstances and the general opinion is that we didn't do a bad job at all; we remembered the fallen and wounded and celebrated the end of conflict in Europe. We certainly won't forget VE day 75 in a hurry.





MORE VE DAY
DOORSTEP
CELEBRATIONS



Flit Vale Wildlife Trust

Summer 2020 Programme



Note that some of these events may not happen if still affected by corona virus – please phone to check.

Saturday 25th July - 10 am Sharpenhoe Clappers Reserve ***A Butterfly Walk with Wilf Powell ****

The rich grasslands of the Clappers are home to a glorious population of butterflies. Wilf, the BNHS chairman, will guide us to the common and maybe the rare of summer's most enchanting sights.

Wednesday 12th August 10am to 3pm Cooper's Hill Ampthill ***Family Bug Hunt* (Free event)**

Gwen Hitchcock & members your local Wildlife Trust group investigate the small creatures on this magical heathland. Three slots: 10am, 11.30am & 1.30pm – please phone to book a time.

Wednesday 26th August - 8.30pm Flitwick Moor ***Bat Walk with Colin Carpenter ****

See and hear what flies in the night! What species will we find this year? Find out about the habits of these fascinating nocturnal creatures. Please bring torch, insect repellent & warm clothing.

Saturday 12th September - 8.30am Flitwick Moor car park ***Small Mammal Event – Led by Mick McCarrick. **** See what small furry creatures we find on the Moor. Particularly suitable for families.

Sunday 20th September - 10.00am Flitwick Moor ***Fungal foray with Alan Outen ****

A walk through the moor with Alan, knowledgeable on mushrooms and toadstools and so much more. A damp and warm early autumn would help ensure a fine show, keep fingers crossed that the weather cooperates.

Places are limited, booking is essential.

*£2 per adult

ANSWERS TO ANGELA'S CHURCH QUIZ; 1. 7 COLOURS OF THE RAINBOW, 2. WHEN I'M 64, 3. 4 INCHES IN A HAND, 4. THE 7 SISTERS (OR THE 7 SAMURAI) 5. THE SECRET 7, 6. IT TAKES 2 TO TANGO, 7. 24 HOURS FROM TULSA, 8. 36 GALLONS IN A BARREL, 9. APOLLO 8 WENT TO THE MOON, 10. 3600 SECONDS EQUAL AN HOUR, 11. 3 PUBS IN FLITTON AND GREENFIELD, 12. A2 GOES FROM LONDON TO DOVER, 12. THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, 14. GREENWICH OBSERVATORY 0 DEGREES LONGITUDE, 15. 7 PLAYERS IN A NETBALL TEAM, 16. 27 COUNTRIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION, 17, 4 HORSEMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE, 18. 5 FURLONGS IN 1 KILOMETRE, 19. 88 RED BALLOONS BY NENA, 20. 6 FEET IN A FATHOM, 21. 4/2 FINAL SCORE IN THE 66 WORLD CUP FINAL, 22. THE 39 STEPS, 23. 9 OR 18 HOLES ON A GOLF COURSE, 24. 10 GREEN BOTTLES HANGING ON THE WALL, 25. 39 BOOKS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, 26. IN THE YEAR 2525 BY ZAGER AND EVANS, 27. A TALE OF 2 CITIES BY CHARLES DICKENS, 28. 2468 MOTORWAY BY TOM ROBINSON, 29. 1 FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST, 30. 20 TEAMS IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE, 31. 50 WAYS TO LEAVE YOUR LOVER, 32. 366 DAYS IN A LEAP YEAR, 33. NOTHING COMPARES 2U BY SINEAD O'CONNOR, 34. CATCH 22 BY JOSEPH HELLER, 35. 40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS IN THE WILDERNESS, 36. GOLDLOCKS AND THE 3 BEARS, 37. 40 QUESTIONS IN THIS QUIZ, 38. 6 COUNTIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND, 39. 1 MAN 2 GUVNORS (OR I LIKED 'I MORE TO GO!') 40. 76 TROMBONES IN THE BIG PARADE.

Hello! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

It seems like a very long time ago that our team of over 40 volunteers distributed these postcards throughout Flitton and Greenfield. I know many of you have found it helpful to call on a neighbour for support, and that many more of you have been grateful just to know that support is available.

Thank you Thank you Thank you Thank you
Thank you Thank you Thank you
to all the volunteers who have distributed leaflets, collected prescriptions, dropped off shopping and helped in many other ways.
What an amazing community we live in!

It seems to me that this crisis has emphasised the good in our community. Hopefully the spirit of "Help your Neighbour" will continue in good times and bad.

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay helpful!

If you have lost your neighbour's contact details please call Theresa 860279 and she can let you know your closest volunteer.

THE FAMOUS FLITTON POTATO RACE WILL RETURN NEXT YEAR!!



Fear not, a provisional date for the next Potato Race has already been set, and it's...

Sunday 13th June 2021

So let's all look forward to that and imagine that 2020 never happened!

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FLITTON & GREENFIELD GOOD NEIGHBOURS

The Flitton & Greenfield Good Neighbours scheme was set up by the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) in 2008. We are a non-profit organisation and our purpose is to provide easy access to help and support for people living in the local area, regardless of age.

Our team of DBS checked volunteers all live in the villages that we cover (Flitton, Greenfield, Pulloxhill and Wardhedges) and have a willingness to give up their time to assist others, something which has become ever more prevalent over the recent weeks. In fact, our usual 14 volunteers have over doubled by temporary volunteers who have joined us to assist with the increase in demand during this difficult period.

During the Coronavirus situation, we have been busy picking up prescriptions and getting shopping for residents who are self isolating. Normally, our main tasks involve providing lifts to medical appointments or to the shops, but with social distancing, this simply isn't possible at the moment.

Our group is also involved in litter picking around the MUGA and playing field and we also look after the telephone box library in Flitton, keeping it clean and sorting out the books that have been donated and ensuring that it is neat and tidy. We also wash all the village signs occasionally (with safety in mind of course) to keep them clear and visible and we have been known to paint the gates which mark the entrances to the village.

There are several ways that you can get in touch with us. We have a dedicated mobile phone number which is manned 7 days a week (07594 578 741) and a Facebook page where you can send us a request for assistance through Facebook Messenger. We also have an email address where you can contact us (info@good-neighbours.org.uk).

Our group is funded by donations from those we assist and by the reasonable charges we make for lifts which covers the volunteer's fuel and a small donation to our scheme. We are also very fortunate that the Flitton & Greenfield Parish Council have made donations to our scheme to assist us in buying equipment needed and to help cover our modest running costs.

Summer Puzzles

A FRUIT AND VEG STORY!

First, a bit of fun... can you fill in all the gaps below using the names of fruit and vegetables?

Beware, some of them are quite 'stretched'!! Answers at foot of the page!

----- begin by telling you a story about Darren and Angela, who lived in Birkenhead. Each Sunday, whilst Angela got dressed, Darren went for his early morning - - - . In fact, the first thing Darren did every day was to go for a - - - !!

This week, they decided to go on a boating trip with Angela's mum Melanie and her new man Arty. Ange's friend Anna, who was living on the Wirral but was a - - - - - born in Malmo, was also going to come but she decided not to as she had a blind - - - - and always felt like a - - - - - when she went out with other couples. They all felt that this was for the best as they didn't want to - - - - - from coming, but the car only had four seats and two - - - - - would fit better.

Darren had just got a - - - - job in Belgium that was highly-paid, but this meant that he had to visit - - - - - a lot. The increase in his - - - - - meant that at least they could buy a brand new car, a little red American - - - - - . They picked up Melanie and Arty who noticed a scratch on the car and Darren said "Yeah, - - - - - did it." "By the way, how's the - - - - - , Darren ?", said Arty, as Darren had been learning the language to help him in his new job.

They all drove to the river and got into a rowing boat that was very small - there was not - - - - - and it was a bit of a - - - - - . The two women sat in the middle, Angela on one side and - - - - - the other. "I feel like a right - - - - - sat here on my own at the back" said Darren.

They set off against a strong - - - - - and Darren blew a loud - - - - - . "Your behaviour - - - - - me" said Melanie. " - - - - - may" said Darren. " - - - - - a little, mother" said Angela, in defence of her husband. Angela lovingly stroked Darren's leg. " - - - - - you have my dear" whispered Darren.

Disembarking down the river, they went to a shop where there was a big black and white dog. "Look at that - - - - - " said Arty to Mel. Darren went in and realised he didn't have any money, so he asked the shopkeeper if he would accept his card. "No, but I'll - - - - - a cheque" said the shopkeeper. Darren bought a bag of nuts and some amber - - - - - a bottle - he just loved Fosters lager. He finally got out of the shop. "Where have you - - - - - ?" said Angela. Darren ignored her and handed the beer and nuts around, but the nuts made - - - - - as he ate them too quickly. After Arty recovered, he decided that it was time to return home. And that' - - - - - , folks !!!

Bean/Artichoke/Shallot

Current/Raspberry/Apples/Kumquat/Olive/Water cress/Cauliflower/Cashew/Nectarine/
Plum/Brussels/Celery/Courgette/Orange/French bean/Mushroom/Squash/Melon/Lemon/
Fruit and veg answers: Lettuce/Leek/Pea/Swede/Date/Gooseberry/Banana/Pears/

LOCKDOWN WORDSEARCH

Can you find all the words on the right hidden in the grid on the left? They can be up, down, diagonal, backwards! I think it's hard!

F D A N Z S Q D I O C E K H F
V F I Q W M N N Z O G L S D U
A K Z V S O F S R U R B A S R
C G I S O E D O B W K A M E L
C B N F C C N K N M F R E L O
I Q G T M A D H C P I E C F U
N N I W V E I A G O M N A I G
E O A I T S S N N H L L F S H
N U R P Z I T D I G C U B O M
G U E B B C A W T Z T V E L P
S G Q R Q R N A S Z Q D R A L
T K K D P E C S E M O M C T F
H A T Q Z X I H T J P O W I N
N E J M O E N T T B M X M N R
Q G M T D V G W H V B I Q G R

CORONAVIRUS
COVID
DISTANCING
EXERCISE
FACEMASK
FURLOUGH
HANDWASH
INFECTION
LOCKDOWN
SELFISOLATING
TESTING
VACCINE
VULNERABLE
ZOOM

And finally a pictorial one - what countries of the world are represented in these squares? Answers on following page!)



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TUESDAY

Redborne Upper School
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[Strength class]

WEDNESDAY

Fittwick Lower School,
Temple Way 7:30pm

THURSDAY

Redborne School South
(Gym) 7:30pm

SATURDAY

Filton & Greenfield
Village Hall 9:30am



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Speeding Traffic in the Parish

The Parish Council is aware that there are concerns about traffic speeding through the villages. Whilst Councillors try to do what they can to help ease this problem, which has existed for a long time, the Parish Council is neither the Highway Authority nor an enforcement agency, so powers are limited. There is regular Parish Council liaison with the Police and it is always our number one priority raised with them as part of their local priority setting process. Needless to say this is in common with most other Towns and Parishes in the County and so Police resources are stretched and cannot cope with the number of motorists who flagrantly breach traffic regulations. The Highway Authority (Central Beds) is also unable to combat this problem completely as how ever much traffic calming or how ever much money is spent, it is still up to individual drivers to abide by the rules and they don't.

So what can we all do?

There is a voluntary SpeedWatch group in the Parish coordinated by one of the Councillors in liaison with Bedfordshire Police. It is not able to operate at the moment due to the lockdown and the Police will let us know when it can start again. It always needs more people to help. So if you can volunteer please let us know – there is training and you have to be available to help operate the SpeedWatch sessions. They need two people at any time and we have access to one shared hand held camera, so the more people the longer we may be able to operate for. In fact if there is anyone who may be prepared to take over the running of the scheme – which does not need to be linked to a Parish Councillor, especially a very busy full time working one, we would all be very grateful to see it become community based.

For more information, please see <https://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/information-and-services/Get-involved/Watch-Schemes/Speed-watch>.

Volunteers run a session noting the date, time, colour, make, model and registration number of any vehicles exceeding the speed limit. The results are forwarded to the Police who arrange for the registered keeper of the vehicle to be written to, informing them that the vehicle was detected exceeding the speed limit, giving the location, date and time. Persistent speeders will receive a second letter but on the third occasion they can expect further action to be taken. It is also amazing how volunteers out on the roadside wearing high vis jackets can have a great effect on immediately slowing down traffic as many motorists may think it is a mobile Police speed camera.

If all the concerned people in the Parish volunteered to help when the SpeedWatch system is up and running again, it could really help in educating motorists at the very least.

Please email clerk@flittongreenfield.org.uk if you can or would be able to help.

COUNTRIES PUZZLE ANSWERS: 1.Canada, 2.West Indies, 3.Iceland, 4.Russia, 5.Mozambique, 6.Bahamas, 7.Taiwan, 8.New Zealand, 9.Holland, 10.Columbia, 11.Brazil, 12.Cuba, 13.Wales, 14.Portugal, 15.Rumania, 16.Japan, 17.Liechtenstein, 18.Bali, 19.Iraq, 20.China, 21.Belgium, 22.Singapore, 23.Bahrain, 24.India, 25.Hungary, 26.N. Korea, 27.Kampuchea, 28.Sweden, 29.Italy, 30.Hong Kong, 31.Botswana, 32.Grenada

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Sir Albert Richardson

Growing up in Ampthill, Sir Albert Richardson was part of my younger years. Anyone living in Ampthill could not fail to know who he was and where he lived. Sir Albert was born in 1880 and became a renowned architect. He moved to Avenue House, 20 Church Street, Ampthill in 1919 and lived there for the rest of his life. He was a true eccentric and he really wanted to live in the Georgian era. He often dressed in Georgian clothes and was carried in a sedan chair to local dinner parties. He refused to have electricity installed for many years but finally relented when his wife, Elizabeth, persuaded him otherwise.



He was an architect, historian, writer, artist and teacher. He was Professor of Architecture at UCL and one time President of the Royal Academy. He was knighted in 1956. His prolific work was based on nostalgia for Georgian times and an admiration of the Neoclassicism style favoured by Sir John Soane. He wanted Avenue House to be a home, office and university just like Soane's house in Lincoln's Inn Fields. I know Sir John Soane's house only too well as I tripped over an Egyptian sarcophagus on a visit there in January 2018 and broke my wrist. I visited Avenue House many years ago on more than one occasion too but can only remember it being very dark and full of objects. There was a large mirror which had beautifully hand written invitations to balls, dinners and events round the edges.

His work included the design for Stewartby model village, Saunders Piece in Ampthill, the parade of shops in Brookes Rd in Flitwick, local houses and church restorations all over the country. He had 2 offices: Ampthill and London, and travelled to London by train most days. He had student and trainee architects from UCL and elsewhere and they sometimes stayed at Ampthill.

He designed 2 houses in Flitton [I will go to the Archive Office when I can to find out which ones] and the lead downpipes on Flitton church. In 1926, he was at Flitton with the vicar Alfred Houfe. The Rev'd Houfe became vicar of Flitton and Pulloxhill in 1920. He was already vicar of Pulloxhill and it had been agreed that when Rev Roberts left Flitton, the parishes should share a vicar. Rev'd Houfe continued to live at Pulloxhill and we have not had a resident vicar since 1920.

The vicar's son, Eric Houfe, was just finishing at Bedford School and was a talented artist. Eric was invited to play tennis with Sir Albert's daughter Kathleen, and they fell in love, getting married a few years later. He became a pupil of Sir Albert, eventually becoming a partner in Richardson and Houfe. As Simon Houfe, Sir Albert's grandson told me 'If it wasn't for Flitton church, I wouldn't be here'.

'Flit'n'More is published and distributed by the Parochial Church Council of St. John the Baptist, Flitton, and Flitton & Greenfield Parish Council. The editors are Jo Holt, jo_holt@sky.com and Angela Ayres, martandang@btinternet.com Please note that views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editors or PCC. ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT/ORGANISATION IN FLIT 'N' MORE.... THAT'S WHAT IT'S THERE FOR! The next issue will be out in Sept 2020 for events up until December. Please contact Jo or 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.



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Bedfordshire Police	Amphill Team	01234 841212
Greenfield Lower School & Ducklings Pre-School	Head Teacher Mrs Debbie Drawbridge	712426
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IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR DETAILS ADDED TO OR DELETED FROM THIS LIST,

CONTACT THE EDITOR