

Flit 'n' More

SUMMER 2021

At last summer is really on its way and we can look forward to meeting our friends and restarting those well-loved village activities which we have all missed so much. The lovely picture above is a case in point; it shows the beautiful garden of Sue and John Rickatson at Hollington Farm, which is opening for visitors in June, see page 9 For details.

There are also lots of other events inside for you to enjoy, many of them outside for extra safety, let's just hope for some good weather so we can take full advantage of those community activities which we perhaps took a bit for granted until last year!

Church services too are getting back to normal, though we are being careful not to look too far ahead at the moment, and this summer will hopefully see the first

weddings in our church since 2018!

All our village organisations have suffered during the pandemic, when income and fundraising have been non-existent, so now it's up to us to breathe new life into them by giving our support, whether it's joining in with an activity, going along to a fund-raising event or just having a drink in one of our three lovely pubs. Even just continuing to enjoy walking in our lovely countryside will be a joy this summer, especially as some of our footpaths and bridges have been recently restored and our longer trails and tracks are being upgraded and promoted.

See you out there!

Angela and Jo



From Your Parish Council...

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

I very much hope that by the time everyone is reading this edition of Flit'n'More, the 'Roadmap' will be well under way and many Covid restrictions will have been lifted. From the Parish Council's point of view, the Playing Field and MUGA are both fully open and operational (subject to social distancing and user cleansing of course) and we hope to open the telephone book exchange as soon as Central Beds get their Library service back in full use.

Last year we had to abandon the Great British Spring Clean, but we are planning for it to take place this year on Saturday June 5th and hoping for lots of willing volunteers. Please see all the information elsewhere in this edition or on the Councils website.

I am sure many of you will have seen the new River bridge at Mill lane and the vast improvement to the track which has been made there. We were fortunate to be able to 'successfully' apply to Central Beds Council for most of the funding to undertake this work. Again, by the time this article is read we should also have a new step through gate installed in Mill Lane to prevent any unauthorised motorised use of the new circuit. The Parish Council has paid over and above the grant money we received, for the track resurfacing at Mill Lane and we hope that our financing will also stretch to cover the very muddy part of Brook Lane making a complete circular walk or ride. As a Council we are very pleased with the results and can see how well used the new path is.

Also by the time you read this, we will have had the Neighbourhood Plan referendum and I sincerely hope the vote is a big yes for Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) to use the Plan for Flitton, Greenfield and Pulloxhill to help it (CBC) decide planning applications in the area. The Plan has taken over 5 years to produce plus a lot of hard work by volunteers and its value cannot be underestimated. We all hope it will allow us to exert more control over the future of our villages and allow CBC to be able to say No to planning applications which do not comply with its strict criteria.

We are pleased with the new picnic benches at the Community Orchard and hope the trees will provide lots of tasty fruit this year, so that people can sit and enjoy being in a lovely calm environment or take a rest part way through a walk along the river. In order to be able to enjoy the tranquillity and calm of the river we are also hoping to purchase some new benches to be sited by the river bank in Greenfield. We will be applying for grant funding to do this and always welcome suggestions about what residents might like to see in the parish as improvements, within reason of course, as our funds do not stretch to massive projects even if we can apply for grant funding.

Alongside the orchard are our thriving allotment plots. The allotment holders stay busy and are a friendly supportive group of people who grow a huge variety of fruit and vegetables on the site. There were a number of new holders this year and we are always pleased to see them getting stuck in and turning around plots which may have become neglected through a variety of reasons, especially this last year. We do operate a waiting list for plots, so if anyone is interested, please let us know and all our details are on the website;

<https://flittonandgreenfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-services/allotment-garden-sites/>

Councillors' work is never dull and frequently varied and it is nice when we can do things that we think will improve our Parish. Sometimes we have to make hard decisions and know that we cannot solve problems by ourselves or within our means. Speeding traffic is always one of those issues, which we tackle the best we can. Our hopes are pinned on the M1-A6 Link Road, which should help to alleviate traffic using our Parish as a rat run and should start happening shortly.

Hope you all have a healthy, sunny summer and we say goodbye to Covid-19 for the foreseeable future.

Mark Gates

Chair, Flitton and Greenfield Parish Council



Summer at St John the Baptist Church, Flitton

Services at Flitton

Sunday 6th June at 11am Celebrating Celtic Christianity.
Outside service weather permitting
Led by Margaret Butt

Sunday 13th Jne at 9.30am Holy Communion
Rev David Payne

Sunday 20th June at 11am Morning Worship
Rev David Payne and Margaret Butt

Sunday 27th June at 8.30am Holy Communion BCP
Rev David Payne

As we cautiously return to weekly services in the church, we are not planning too far in advance in case there are changes.

All the Benefice services for July and August will be on the church website <http://www.3churches.uk> and online services are on there too on The Virtual Vicar!

Flitton Church News

A Message from the Vicar



Stone Me

I once knew a young woman who carried a rock round in her pocket. This was not, as you might suppose, part of an art project, an alternative pet or a form of self-defence, it was a way of reminding herself and others of a curious incident in the Bible, where some sticklers for the law bring Jesus a woman caught in the act of adultery.

These upright citizens remind Jesus that the penalty for such a misdemeanour is to be stoned to death. Jesus replies to the effect that so it is, and suggests that perhaps one of them who has never put a foot wrong might like to lob the first rock. (And I know at this stage if you're a fan of Monty Python you're finding it hard to read this without smiling).

The point of the story is not that Jesus is soft on the woman – far from it. He warns her to turn away from things that are wrong in her life. But the people in his sights are those who point the finger at others without a thought for their own track record. It's a habit you'll see wherever you look – from football managers who criticise referees but fail to condone their own players cheating to those who frown at others driving through the village at 40mph, but then merrily speed through Flitwick on the way to the shops (sometimes wearing a dog-collar).

And so it was that my friend with the rock would produce it with a smile from her pocket at moments when she heard someone putting down another and offer them the chance to be the first to chuck it.

It's a reference that would be lost in most circles these days (although it made quite an impact on theology students I can tell you), but just recently I feel I could have done with my own supply of rocks as I've listened to a range of folks slagging others off for their various imperfections, blissfully oblivious to the irony of the moment and their own shortcomings.

Whether it's maturity of years or increasing self-knowledge I find myself less and less in a position to throw stones. I like to think it's something to do with spending time in the company of the one who that day in Jerusalem chose not to do so, despite, by the standards he applied, being fully entitled to take aim first.

Instead Jesus exercised mercy and compassion. It's both an example and an invitation that seems to me well worth trying for all its challenges. It's certainly a whole lot better than going round with a pocket full of rocks.

Rev. **David Payne**

Flitton Church

SUMMER SALE

Saturday
26th June
10.30-12-30
in the
Churchyard
(If wet, Church Hall!)



Fresh Produce - Garden Plants

Cakes - Crafts - Raffle

Books & Jigsaws - Refreshments

All proceeds to St John the Baptist Church, Flitton

Flit Vale Wildlife Trust

Summer 2021 Programme



Wednesday 16th June

6.45 for 7.00pm at Pegsdon Hills Nature Reserve

An evening walk with Dr. Graham Bellamy*

A gentle walk around the reserve looking for summer flowers. With chalkland species, one of Graham's special areas of expertise, we will be hoping for a rich collection of names by the end of the evening.

Booking essential as places limited

Wednesday 14th July

6.45 for 7.00pm at Folly Wood Car Park, Flitwick Moor

Invertebrate walk with Colin Carpenter

Join Colin and the Wildlife Trust looking for the great variety of insects, snails and other small creatures on this magical wetland.

Booking essential as places limited

Wednesday 1st September

7.30 for 8.00pm at Flitwick Moor car park

Bat Walk – led by Colin Carpenter

Booking essential as limited to 15 participants.

Saturday 9th October

10.30am at Maulden Church car park

'Geology walk' – a fascinating insight into the rocks around us.

Led by Derek Turner – Beds Geology Group member.

Walks are £2 per person – children free.

Please contact Ann on 07580 178889 or flitvale.info@gmail.com

ALPHABET HISTORY QUIZ ANSWERS

How did you get on with the quiz in the last issue? If you're anything like me you didn't get very far without resorting to Google! Margaret reports that only one of the entries submitted got full marks, so well done them. Here are the answers;

Aboukir Bay

Blucher

Cardigan

Dreyfus

Edward I

Falklands

Glorious Revolution

Harfleur

Imphal

Jutland

Kursk

Little Big Horn

Marathon

Nebuchadnezzar

Oudenarde

Phalanx

Quisling

Renaissance

Suliman the Magnificent

Tet

Utrecht

Versailles

Wolsey

Xerxes

Yugoslavia

Zulus

**THE FRIENDS OF
FLITTON AND GREENFIELD CHURCH
EVENTS FOR 2021**



Friday 15th October

7 for 7.30 in the Church Hall

**T H A T P E S K Y F L I T T O N Q U I Z
I S B A C K !**

Still no brains required, especially the questionmaster...

BAR! RAFFLE! PRIZES!

Tables of 6 only, price £15 per person includes Chilli supper (VG option)

As there's a licensed bar, please no BYO as it's a fundraiser

*As you might imagine, we are severely limiting numbers this year
to give us all more space so **DON'T DELAY**, reserve your table...*

Call Angela on 01525 860723 or martandang@btinternet.com

Saturday 27th November

from 10.30 a.m. in the Church Hall

Coffee Morning & Festive Sale

CAKES - TOMBOLA - CRAFTS - REFRESHMENTS

Just the place to get your FRIENDS CHRISTMAS CARDS and other goodies!

**For more information about any of our events
or to find out more about the Friends,
just call Jo on 792777
or Angela on 860723**

SUMMER EVENTS AT FLITTON & GREENFIELD VILLAGE HALL



SUNDAY 13TH JUNE - ENGLAND VS CROATIA

**TUES 22ND JUNE - ENGLAND VS CZECH
REPUBLIC**

**FRIDAY 18TH JUNE - ENGLAND VS
SCOTLAND**

Games will be televised on our BIG SCREEN and DRINKS will be served from our NEW BAR!! (cash taken, but card preferable) SNACKS available. Seating available & families welcome.

(We will follow England's progress in the competition by televising further matches until the Final).

VILLAGE TRAIL

28 & 29TH AUGUST

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.....

SCHOOLS OUT FOR SUMMER

DISCO & BBQ FOR ALL THE FAMILY

FRIDAY 23RD JULY



Further details on all events to follow, including any existing covid rules.

Please look out for our Notice Board at the Front of the Hall or look at our facebook page. www.flittonandgreenfieldvillagehall

We can't wait to welcome you back.

We look forward to welcoming old and new residents and thank you in advance for your support.

OPEN GARDEN HOLLINGTON FARM

Sat 19th/Sun 20th June, 12-6 pm

PLANTS FOR SALE - CREAM TEAS

Adults £6* Children Free



In aid of the National Garden Scheme (the largest funder of Hospice UK work) *Up to 16th May, if you wish to pre book go online to NGS Website. Check government guidelines after this date.

Hollington Farm MK45 2BE (bottom of Flitton Hill down the drive by the egg cupboard! Parking available)



Flitton & Greenfield Village Hall is delighted to announce that the bar at the village hall has now been fully refurbished.

We would like to thank you all for the contributions at the 2019 Village Gala, where monies raised were put towards the refurbishment. We would like to thank Flitton & Greenfield Parish Council, Central Beds Council and Bedfordshire & Luton Community Foundation for grants received that enabled us to complete the huge project.

The committee decided that we would rename the bar in honour of local resident Gerald Jones, in light of the amazing lifetime dedication to the village hall. Gerald was on the committee for many many years and is the main reason that the hall is still standing today for us all to enjoy through his tinkering at any job that needed to be done. We felt that to thank you to Gerald for all his hard work we would rename the bar, Gerald's.

We can't wait to welcome you all back to see the amazing refurbishment.

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Thursdays 9.30am and 10.45am

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- ☒ Develop balance and Coordination,

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7 steps to feeling better

Have you become busy doing nothing? With things starting to return to normality, are you wondering how you ever had time for everything - kids out-of-school activities, socialising, shopping & keeping fit. The important thing is not to become overwhelmed. Here are 7 simple ways to include important physical & mental wellbeing into your week to enhance every other aspect of your life.

1 - Structure - by creating a mini schedule for each day you can factor in a form of wellbeing, just like you would going to the shops and by fulfilling your schedule however basic you feel that you have achieved taking pressure off of yourself.

2 - Squeeze in a walk - this might be walking your dog, picking up children from school, walking to work, taking a walk in your lunch break if you work from home, a quick walk with an umbrella in the rain or a long stroll in the countryside on a sunny day.

3 - Join an outdoor exercise group - Combining the fun of a social fitness group with the benefits of exercising outside boosts your mental & physical wellbeing. I run a great ladies Saturday morning boot camp.

4 - Strengthen your core - working these crucial muscles help support your body, improve your posture, reduce stiffness, pain and discomfort caused by too much sitting & make day to day movements easier. Pilates is a wonderful way to strengthen your core.

5 - Quick workouts - if you've got a busy day ahead you can still find time for a quick workout, even 5 minutes is enough to give you an important boost. You can squeeze a short workout in at the start or end of your day, at lunchtime or to break up long periods of being sat down at a desk.

6 - Challenge your heart & lungs - to compliment strengthening your body's exterior it's crucial to keep healthy on the inside too. Factor in some cardio movements, a HIIT workout, brisk walk, even going up & down stairs. Whatever increases your heart rate and boosts your cardiovascular system.

7 - Stretch a little each day - make sure you allow time after any exercise to stretch, helping your muscles to recover and reduce potential soreness or achiness. Active stretching as you exercise or static stretches post exercise to enhance your flexibility are important to allow your muscles to rebuild stronger and give you some much needed mindfulness.

Pilates, HIIT, outdoor bootcamp & other classes
available face to face or online with
Nicola Rayner Fitness contact fitone@live.co.uk

The Flit'n'More Thank You Pages

Two very special people this time round, both recipients of local awards for their tireless community work.

Margaret Lowe has recently received the Central Bedfordshire Council Lifetime Achievement Award



Margaret has lived in the village for the last 55 years. She has been a pillar of the community throughout the last 38 years, working tirelessly at the Greenfield Lower School, starting up the Breakfast and After School clubs along with being the Treasurer around her role as Chief Lunchtime Supervisor.

In conjunction with this and being a mother, grandmother and wife Margaret has been very heavily involved with organising the Gala along with the committee which raises money for the Village Hall. You can be sure to see Margaret involved in the Crowning of the Gala Queen and inevitably in Fancy Dress! She is a member of the Village Hall committee, recently taking on the role as bookings officer. This has seen a considerable upturn in the bookings of the Village Hall raising much needed funds. She can be seen in the Kitchen at Hall events with a welcome smile and warm pasty.

She has also been involved in the Parish Council for over 20 years, where she is on the subcommittee for the playing field and cemetery. Margaret really doesn't understand the meaning of retirement and is a recognised and much-loved individual around the area.

In recent years she has helped at her son's charity events raising £60,000 for worthwhile causes in total. Flitton, Greenfield and Wardhedges can't thank Margaret enough for her time and efforts over the years. She shows no signs of easing up and is still very much at the forefront of village life where she is currently knitting poppies for the church and planning future events.



Citation for High Sheriff's award to Ruby Bishop

At the onset of the first national lockdown, Ruby started making Rainbow Badges of Hope on her own initiative to raise money for both Luton & Dunstable Hospital and Keech Hospice; as you will see from the photos, the badges are exactly what they say on the tin and have been available from the front of her house in Greenfield with an honesty box for donations.

Whilst most donations came from the community and passers-by, it was publicised on social media locally and at Arnold Academy where Ruby is a pupil. All in all, she managed to raise over £1700 which has been handed over to the L&D Hospital and Keech Hospice equally.

To paraphrase a comment from her form tutor, it has shown how a young girl with a supportive family can go on to make such a huge difference to others. It really has been such a beautiful act of kindness, and all that have a badge wear it with pride.

Please send your thank you requests in the usual ways, we will feature as many as possible. Try to include the reasons for your nomination, even a photo!

A View from the Boundary

An introduction to Silsoe Cricket Club.

SCC are a club of more than 40 members, playing on our new ground at Plantation View, Silsoe. We currently play Sunday friendlies, but are looking to play league cricket next season. As part of our commitment to youth in the community we offer All Stars cricket for 5-8 year olds and the Dynamos programme for 8-11 year olds; both on Sunday mornings. We welcome all: players, non-playing members, friends and supporters.

Fixtures for the new season are available on the club's Pitchero website, but future home games are currently: May 30th; June 13th and 20th; July 25th; Aug 8th, 15th, & 22nd; September 12th, 19th and 26th. All are welcome: bring a picnic and a bottle and support the club. The 8th August date will be a Meet the Club Day, with BBQ and fun and games. Watch this space for upcoming details. Hopefully, we hope to get back to our wider social activity as we come out of lockdown.

We believe in actively supporting our community in bringing additional facilities and opportunities to Silsoe and surrounding villages, examples being: The "1st Great Silsoe Cricket Club Litter Pick" on Saturday 1st May and our support for other sports, as shown by our commitment to Silsoe Parish Council to cut the grass of the new Football Fields.

Contact details; Senior Cricket: silsoecc@gmail.com

Junior Cricket: silsoeccjuniors@gmail.com.

Club secretary: Moyra Beverton: moyra.beverton@gmail.com.

Best wishes for a great summer as we come out of lockdown
Committee of SCC





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Alice banks



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"If you've been considering a move this year you may well have been holding out following the uncertainty of Brexit followed by the pandemic but, with demand for property currently outstripping supply, now is a great time to sell. Buyers can benefit too with the extension of the Stamp Duty holiday and availability of 95% mortgages."



Duane Savage - Director

Spring is traditionally a popular time to sell a home with warmer weather and longer days encouraging buyers to go out and explore. More active buyers means more competition for your home which can result in multiple offers ensuring you achieve the best possible price.

Spring is also a great time to maximise the kerb appeal of your home with the grass looking greener and flowers blooming, in contrast to the chilly and dull days of Winter. Buyers with a family will ideally want to tie their move in with the school year, so starting their search in Spring allows them to settle into their new home before the Summer term.

First impressions count so make your property stand out from the crowd. It's said that buyers make their mind up about a home within the first 8 seconds, so making the most of the season by adding tubs of colourful bulbs and plants at your door makes an inviting entrance. Declutter and make sure your windows are gleaming to let the natural light flood in.

Buyers can benefit too after the much anticipated extension to the Stamp Duty holiday, although the relief up to £500,000 will end on 30th June you can still save on the first £250,000 of your purchase until the end of September. A new government-backed mortgage guarantee scheme has also been launched which allows buyers to purchase homes up to £600,000 with a deposit of just 5% (subject to eligibility).

Keep in mind that if you're looking to buy in the current market and you do manage to find the right property, you will need to be ready to move more quickly than ever before. Having both a mortgage agreed in principle and any related property already sold subject to contract will help to get you to the front of the queue if you're looking to buy this Spring.



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[Twitter #gijamieson](https://twitter.com/gijamieson)



Hopefully by the time you read this article, we will be opening up, not only go to the pub, but being able to meet up with friends and looking forward to summer holidays. This is great news and down to tireless work of so many people, so thank you to all.

There have recently been a number of positive announcements locally, Central Bedfordshire Council approved the business plan for the M1-A6 link road, which subject to Department of Transport approval will provide an alternative and faster route to traffic from the A6 to the M1, and will reduce rat running through Flitton and Greenfield. This will be particularly helpful in reducing lorries. Work should start in the next 12 months or so. The route will run from jn 11A to the A6 near Keech Hospice. Government has committed to change legislation so Councils can enforce lorry bans, I will continue to lobby for this to happen, as CBC is already committed to enforcement when it has the powers. The council has also been successful in obtaining grants to redevelop Flitwick Rail Station, with a new Transport Hub, allowing direct bus access, as well as improving traffic flows, dedicated Taxi area and bus stop for Centre Parcs. Work will start on this year. We have also been successful in getting Network Rail to commit to a new pedestrian bridge with disability access ie lifts, which is due in 2024.

We are also looking to invest further in sustainability, CBC will be repeating its matched funding programme for tree planting and a Strategy on Electric Vehicle charging and roll out will be discussed by the Executive in June. I am also very keen that we continue to look at improving opportunities for cycling, in particular dedicated cycle paths. Having already used the new route along the Flit several times, looking at how we can have more routes.

As ever please contact me if you have any issues

James

HEADLINES AMONG THE HEADSTONES



Would you like to “sponsor” a rose in memory of a loved one?

We are resurrecting the rose garden and want to restock with new plants.

You choose the colour and we plant later in the year.

Do you have any spare time to lend a hand in looking after the churchyard?

We are looking to establish a rota for cutting or strimming the grass, weeding flower beds and paths, arguing with ivy and nettles and general maintenance.

Clearly this is seasonal.

If either answer is yes, please contact Simon Sadler for further details



**FLITTON & GREENFIELD
GOOD NEIGHBOURS**

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.

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.

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MONDAY

Redborne School South
(Gym) 7:30pm

TUESDAY

Redborne Upper School
(South School Gym) 6:30pm
[Strength class]

WEDNESDAY

Flitwick Lower School,
Temple Way 7:30pm

THURSDAY

Redborne School South
(Gym) 7:30pm

SATURDAY

Filton & Greenfield
Village Hall 9:30am



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THE FLIT VALLEY WALK



Monday 31st May - meet at Westoning village hall car park at 10.00am

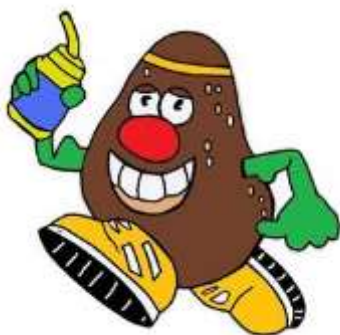
A leisurely all day walk with visits to Flitwick Mill and the De Grey Mausoleum, and an extended route around Flitwick Moor. Lunch at the Compasses pub – or bring packed lunch. Distance c.8.5 miles
Booking essential.

Walk led by David Sedgley : Phone 01525 714961 or email dsedgley@talktalk.net to book and for more information.



The number of people on the walk will be limited by Covid restrictions in force at the time. For more information on Greensand Country Festival events throughout May see the website: www.greensandcountry.com

THE FAMOUS FLITTON POTATO RACE UPDATE



Despite our optimistic message in the last issue we have decided that it is too soon after the end of lockdown to organise a much-loved event where everyone would feel comfortable. On the basis that it better to be safe than sorry, this year's race will not be going ahead.

Instead we are planning a bumper event next year on **Sunday 12th June 2022** which will be more memorable than ever. Put the date in your diary and start training!

'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 2021 for events up until Nov. 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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Rev'd Henry Wellesley

In the early 19th century, our parish had many artistic connections. Thomas Fisher was painting in Bedfordshire and the Countess at Wrest Park was an artist herself. The Rev'd John Thomas James, later Bishop of Calcutta, and then Rev'd Henry Wellesley were both very interested in the arts.

I have written about the links between the Wellesley family and Flitton cum Silsoe before. Henry Wellesley, born 1794, was the 5th and youngest child of the Marquis Wellesley and Hyacinth Roland. He was the nephew of Arthur Wellesley, later Duke of Wellington, so Henry came from an illustrious family. The Marquis and Hyacinth only married after all the 5 children were born and they were considered illegitimate.



However, they seemed to have overcome that and were not ignored by society unlike their mother who was never accepted.

Henry went to Christchurch College, Oxford and became vicar of Flitton cum Silsoe after ordination in 1827 [Christchurch held the patronage then], taking over from another Christchurch man, Rev. John Thomas James. It was his first and only parish. He was very well educated and later became an eminent author. He must have been welcome at Wrest Park by the Countess de Grey and her husband Alexander Hume - Campbell, Lord Polworth, who were keen on the arts. The Countess was an artist, diarist and political writer, especially about the French Revolution.

The Rev'd Wellesley would have lived in The Vicarage at Flitton but probably left quite a lot of parish work to a curate. The Countess died in 1833 and he left the parish soon after. Possibly he decided that he was not suited to being a priest and preferred an academic life. After he left Flitton in 1833/34, he returned to Oxford University. He became a Professor and Principal of New Inn Hall College from 1847 having been Vice Principal before that. His uncle, the Duke of Wellington, was Chancellor and presumably appointed his nephew. He became Curator of the Ashmolean, the Bodleian Library and the Taylor Institute and was then known as Dr. Reverend Henry Wellesley. The Duke didn't like his nephews and nieces, once describing them as parasites, but maybe this did not apply to Henry who was the youngest. The Duke certainly helped Henry to get his position at Oxford.

He had great knowledge of Spanish and Italian art and literature, and was the author of several books including one on Shakespeare in 1865. The new university galleries from this time attracted significant gifts and made important purchases, including an outstanding collection of drawings Raphael and Michelangelo. These were bought during the dispersal of the collection of portrait painter Sir Thomas Lawrence 1769-1830. They were presented to the university in 1846 by a consortium of supporters of the University led by Henry Wellesley. Consequently, the Ashmolean has the largest and most important collection of drawings by Raphael in the world and one of the greatest by Michelangelo, largely thanks to a former vicar of our parish.

He never married and died in 1866.

ORGANISATION	CONTACT NAME	PHONE
Vicar	Rev David Payne	864858
Churchwarden	Jo Holt	792777
Flit 'n' More	Editorial: Angela Ayres, Jo Holt Advertising: Simon Sadler Distribution: Pat Woodland	860723/792777 861727 860189
Church Choir	Clare Butler-Ellis	861496
Bellringers	Jen Fisher	713917
Church Flowers	Lesley Arthur	713325
Friends of F & G Church	Jo Holt	792777
Parish Council	Debbie Lawson (Clerk)	clerk@flittonandgreenfieldparish council.gov.uk
Village Hall Hire	Margaret Lowe	07938 965817
Church Hall Hire	Jill Chandler	860715
Bedfordshire Police	Amphill Team	01234 841212
Greenfield Lower School & Ducklings Pre-School	Head Teacher Mrs Debbie Drawbridge	712426
Good Neighbours	www.good-neighbours.org.uk	07594 578741
Scouts and Cubs	Badger Hill Scout Group	www.badgerhillscouts.org.uk
Brownies	Jane Staff	717294
Multi Use Games Area	Dawn Busbridge	07860 632427
Allotments	Bob Rishton/Rik Stokes	Bob 07712 534901 Rik 712180
Village Gala	Margaret Lowe	861111
Friends of Flitton Moor	Dave Sedgley	714961
Jazzercise	Clare Godleman	404858
Nicola Rayner Fitness	Nicola Rayner fitone@live.co.uk	07801 510988
Women's Institute	Meriel Davies	633421
The Greensand Trust	Maulden Office	01234 743666
Potato Race	Simon Sadler	861727
The Mausoleum	Wrest Park: 01525 860000	www.english-heritage.org.uk
Amphill & Flitwick Flyers	Dave Sedgley	714961



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