

Flit 'n' More



*The parish newsletter
for Flitton,
Greenfield and
Wardhedges*

Summer 2023

I found the picture above when I was looking back on previous years of the Famous Flitton Potato Race, which has been going in some form or another ever since I arrived in Flitton 43 years ago, and although it has developed enormously in that time, the basic premise is still the same—run a flat(ish) mile to the White Hart carrying a very heavy sack of spuds!

But the picture also brought back memories of pre-pandemic times when we never thought twice about how up close and personal we got in public!

Hopefully this year everything will be back to normal, though I know that

there are still those who for various reasons are still nervous to do too much socialising. So please give a thought to them when you're out enjoying the Coronation Festivities, the Flits, the Potato Race and all the other bustling joys of early summer, and give folk a bit of space if they need it.

It's been a cold spring, with a lot of rain, but as I write this the buds are starting to burst and the garden centres are full of tomato plants, so here we go...

**Angela/Jo
Simon/Pamela**



**From Your Parish Council...
Keep up to date with what's going on in Flitton,
Greenfield and Wardhedges**

There is so much going on in the villages over the next few months I'm not quite sure where to start so I will do them in date order.

Firstly, this weekend we have the Flitton Flits fun runs. I know these clash with the London Marathon but please come out and support the runners if you can.

I very much hope that everyone is looking forward to the Coronation weekend which will be fully celebrated in the villages. Thank you to the volunteers for making all the plans and I am delighted that the Parish Council has participated in this through funding and our volunteer representative. I hope the weather is kind, the sun shines and we are all able to celebrate the Coronation of our new King!

June 11th is our most spectacular Potato Race. Always a fantastic event to take part in if you can or just come along and support those who do and enjoy the festivities at the White Hart afterwards. Hopefully by the time the potato race is on you will be able to see lovely wild flower verges again throughout the villages and in the Playing Field. This was very much appreciated in previous years and all the comments we received were positive and encouraged us to expand the areas. However, a little reminder that the verges may not look as well kept as normal after the flowers have bloomed, but in order to propagate them again next year, they have to be left in a semi wild state, which is different to our normally well mowed verges.

Please do not forget that if you have any issues to raise in the Parish, you can contact any of your Councillors or the Clerk to the Council and all contact details are shown on the website and noticeboards. We will do our best to help with any problems or resolve issues and if we cannot do this, we will try to point you in the right direction to get an answer.

Also, now we are into a new financial year, we have a new grants budget to allocate. Funding is modest, but is there to aid or assist any local service, projects or initiatives in the parish. Application forms and our criteria for grants can be found on the website.

Mark Gates

Chairman of the Parish Council

Services for Summer at St John the Baptist Church Flitton



Sun 7 May	10.30 am 9.30 am/11 am	Morning Worship for Coronation Day Followed by the AGM of the PCC—all welcome to attend Holy Communion at Silsoe/All Age Morning Worship at Pulloxhill	
Sun 14 May	9 am 10 am/1 pm	Rogation Sunday; Join our 3Churches Walk! Starts at Flitton with Bacon Rolls at 8.30 and Prayers at 9 am, then... Walk to Pulloxhill for a 10 am service, then on to Silsoe for prayers at 1 pm and finally back to Flitton!	
Sun 21 May	10.30 am 9.30 am 11 am	Café Church with Rev Louise Holy Communion at Silsoe Holy Communion at Pulloxhill	
Fri 26 May	10 am	'4th Friday at Flitton' Holy Communion Service with Rev Anne Barker	
Sun 28 May	10 am	3Churches Communion Service with Revs Loise and Simon Congregations from around the benefice join us	
Sun 4 June	10.30 am 9.30 am/11 am	All Age Communion Service with Rev Simon Holy Communion at Silsoe/Holy Communion at Pulloxhill	
Sun 11 June	9.30 am/11am	No service in Flitton—Potato Race Day! Holy Communion at Silsoe/Morning Worship at Pulloxhill	
Sun 18 June	10.30 am 9.30 am/6pm	Café church with Jo and Margaret in the Church Hall Morning Worship at Silsoe/Holy Communion at Pulloxhill	
Fri 23 June	10 am	'4th Friday at Flitton' Holy Communion Service with Rev Louise	
Sun 25 June	9.30 am/11 am 4pm	No Service at Flitton Holy Communion at Silsoe/Holy Communion at Pulloxhill Messy Church at Silsoe	
Sun 2 July	10 am 9.30/11	Songs of Praise with Rev Louise Holy Communion at Silsoe/Holy Communion at Pulloxhill	
Sun 9 July	6pm 9.30am/11 am	Holy Communion Pet Service at Silsoe/Social Sunday at Pulloxhill	
Sun 16 July	10.30 am 9.30 am/11 am	Café Church in the Church Hall with Rev Simon Holy Communion at Silsoe/Holy Communion at Pulloxhill	
Sun 23 July	10.30 am 9.30 am/6pm	Holy Communion with Rev Louise Holy Communion at Silsoe/Desert Island Hymns at Pulloxhill	
Fri 28 July	10 am	'4th Friday at Flitton' Holy Communion Service	

Check for updates on noticeboard or website; 3churches.uk



Flitton Church News

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

From from our vicars, Simon and Louise Moore...

Dear Friends

With Easter over, spring sprung and school exam term with us, we can confidently say that summer is on the way. The county cricket season even started on April 6th so it must be the case, despite fielders wrapped in jumpers, summer beckons. All that it holds is going to be compared to last year's thermometer busting temperatures (40.3 celsius) and summer drought.

If this summer is a little more measured in extremes, we and the earth would all breathe more easily. It has got me thinking that we tend to remember the extraordinary and forget the seeming mundane and ordinary. Day in and day out our climate delivers what is needed. Despite global warming and all the uncertainty of climatic shifts we are remarkably blessed by seasons that bring a richness and variety to this small sceptred isle. I do take it for granted and mostly moan about the cold, 7 years in central Africa blew my thermostat many decades ago!

Might it be possible to extol the virtues of the small things of life that we can so easily miss or fail to be thankful for? Whatever this may be, birdsong, morning mist, blossom, a smile a warm hello or?

This summer we are invited to a host of events to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III and there will be other occasions when a party mood will be bolstered by warmish, dryish weather (no certainty there). But even if they are not blessed with the perfect summer day, the memories will be made based on how we were made to feel and made others feel on these social occasions.

This is the key invitation to making memories, not in the depth of holiday tans and selfies but the quality of our relationships. Each day like the changing weather brings a variety of opportunities, some expected and others not, to make the best of, now rather than waiting for later. I certainly can miss the beauty of the moment in planning for what could be, God is saying to me, embrace and enjoy the now of life. The line from the film 'The Dead Poet's Society' was 'carpe diem' (seize the day), might that be a possible challenge for this summer and each and every day, in living life and blessing others?

With love and prayers for all that is to be this summer.
Revs Simon and Louise

The Great Flittish Christmas Tree Crochet-a-long!



Calling all crafters – we need your help to make an enormous crochet square Christmas Tree, which will be put up in the Churchyard in December. Squares should be either 10cm² or 20cm², so that we can stitch them together.

We also ask that the outer row be a dark green colour, so they flow together.

Apart from that, anything goes. Plain ones, fancy ones, no matter what skill level you have, we want to include your squares.

For more information, or a quick lesson/free pattern



'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, angelaayres2468@gmail.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 August 2023 for events up until November. 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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MONDAY
Redborne Upper School
Dance Mixx (60 minutes) 7:00pm

TUESDAY
Redborne Upper School
Strength (45 minutes) 6:30pm

WEDNESDAY
Flitwick Lower School
Dance Mixx (60 minutes) 7:00pm

THURSDAY
Redborne Upper School
Dance Mixx (60 minutes) 7:00pm

SATURDAY
Flitton & Greenfield Village Hall
Dance Mixx (60 minutes) 9:30am

**Call Claire on
07944 888944**

FLITTON'S BEST KEPT SECRET



THE DE GREY MAUSOLEUM

Is open between 2 and 4pm
on the following dates
Sunday 7th May
Sunday 4th June
Sunday 2nd July
Wednesday 19th July
Sunday 6th August
Wednesday 16th August
Sunday 3rd September

FREE ENTRY



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We're proud to announce our team have already achieved a 5 Star Food Hygiene Rating.



JUST A COUPLE OF TABLES LEFT
Friday 12th May, 7.30 pm,
Flitton Church Hall



**OH NO, NOT THAT
FLITTON QUIZ AGAIN!**

BAR! RAFFLE! PRIZES!

**Teams of 6 , ticket price £10 per person includes
'Posh' Ploughman's Supper and there's a licensed bar
(Please no BYO as it's a fundraiser
for Flitton Church and Friends)**

**Call Angela on 01525 860723
or angelaayres2468@gmail.com**

NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME-GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY



Hollington Farm

Flitton Hill, MK45 2BE

Sat 24/Sun 25 June

12 - 5.30 pm Adults £6 Children Free

- **MANY PLANTS FOR SALE** ▪ **DELICIOUS CREAM TEAS**
- **LOTS OF PARKING** Access information at ngs.org.uk



Mill Lane

Greenfield

68, 69, 70, 71

Sat 3 /Sun 4 June

The National Gardens Scheme has donated over £67 million to nursing and health charities and in 2022 donated £3.11 million . Core beneficiaries include MacMillan, Marie curie and Hospice uk.

In 2022 opening just 2 gardens we raised £1000. Please come and help us do better this year. £6 a person with plant sales and teas.

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**Watch the Coronation of
King Charles III**

LIVE

at the

Flitton & Greenfield Village Hall

Saturday 6th May

Doors open at 10am for

Bacon Rolls & Tea or Coffee £2.50.

**The Bar will be open also, if you prefer something
stronger!**

**Why not stay after the ceremony for a King's Cream
Tea & Prize Bingo**

**A choice of a standard Cream Tea or
Royal Cream Tea will be available.**

Please pre-order!!

**Standard £5 or £9 with a Glass of Prosecco (Royal
Cream Tea)**

**To book please call or message
Margaret Lowe on 07816115325**



CORONATION PARTY IN THE PARK SUNDAY 7TH MAY 1PM START

**FOLLOWED BY THE CORONATION CONCERT AT WINDSOR ON
OUR BIG SCREEN IN THE
VILLAGE HALL**

Join us on the Playing Field and Flitton & Greenfield Village Hall
for a Coronation Party!!

LIVE MUSIC

by the amazing Joe Ringer Band,

The Stringfellows Ukulele Band & Ampthill Town Band.

Inflatables & Entertainment for the Kids, with food from Toastie
City,

Appy Days Gourmet Barbecue & Dessert Guy.

Licensed Bar Available!!

Stay with us afterwards when we will show the
Coronation Concert on our Big Screen with surround sound.

There will also be Fish & Chips available from Howe & Co.

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CORONATION BAKING COMPETITION



Calling all bakers within our
community!!

No matter what your standard is, or your age, we are asking you to take part in the Coronation Baking Competition. Judging will take place at the Coronation Party in the Park, Sunday 7th May.

Please deliver your item to the Hall by 2pm on the day.

The only rule is your sweet treat must include King Charles III's favourite sweet item,

HONEY



Get into the Party Spirit at the Coronation Party in the Park

Pre-order, Pay and collect on the day!!

Each bag consists of:
Coronation Medal, Horn, Bookmark, Pencil, Wrist Band & Bag of Sweets .

PLEASE NOTE NO SPARE BOXES WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE DAY

Call or Message 07816115325 to order yours!!

CORONATION PARTY BOXES £6!!





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THE FAMOUS FLITTON POTATO RACE

SUNDAY 11th JUNE 2023

This year we are raising money for Primrose Car Service (transport for cancer patients), My Name's Daddie Foundation, Mind BLMK and NOAH Enterprise.

Run one mile (either individually or in a relay team of four) carrying either 20, 10, 5 or 2kg of potatoes.

Categories & prizes for all ages

Spud & Spoon races for kids!

Races start at midday

Keep your spuds!

Can you beat the
course record?

It currently stands at
5 mins 26 secs!



Book now at www.flittonpotatorace.co.uk

This event is made possible
by generous local support and,
in particular, from:



Abbott Moore

KEY TIMES

10:00 -11:30	Check-in (to collect your number and timing chip) at the Village Hall
11:35	Safety briefing for all runners (other than S&S) at the Village Hall
12:00 – 12:30	Races start at Moat Farm
12:40 approx	Spud & spoon races start from Village Hall and Sand Road
14:00 approx	Prize-giving at The White Hart of prizes & trophies

THE RACES

Adult Individual Mile for over 16s @ midday

- 20kg for men, 10kg for ladies
- Veterans prizes for the first male and female aged 45 or over
- Entry fee £15 per person (£20 after 10pm Friday 19th May)

Youth Individual Mile for 10-16 year olds @ 12.10

- 5kg for 14-16 year olds, 2kg for 10-13 year olds
- Entry fee £6 (£10 after 10pm Friday 19th May)

Cadet Team Relay for 16-17 year olds @ 12.20

- Relay team of 4, each runner carrying 10kg in a rucksack for ¼ mile
- Teams can be mixed male/female
- Entry fee £24 per team (£30 after 10pm Friday 19th May)

Youth Team Relays for 10-12 & 13-16 year olds @ 12.20

- Relay team of 4, each runner carrying the spuds for ¼ mile
- 5 kgs for 14-16 year olds, 2 kgs for 10-13 year olds
- Teams can be mixed male/female
- Entry fee £24 per team (£30 after 10pm Friday 19th May)

Adult Team Relays for over 16s @ 12.30

- Relay team of 4, each runner carrying 20kg or 10kg potatoes for ¼ mile
- Teams can be mixed male/female but only a full ladies team will qualify for the 10kg weight
- Veterans category for teams with all runners aged 45 or over
- Entry fee £40 per team (£50 after 10pm Friday 19th May)

Spud & Spoon races for children aged 9 & under @ approx 12.40

- Course for 6-9 year olds starts at the village hall
- Course for under 6's starts at the bottom of Sand Road
- Entry fee £3 (£5 after 10pm Friday 19th May) and every runner who crosses the finish line gets a goodie bag

Book now at www.flittonpotatorace.co.uk

Join us on Instagram and Facebook @flittonpotatorace

The White Hart Flitton

01525 862022

Hi Everyone. With summer just around the corner we look forward to opening our garden and introducing new services and exciting products to the pub.

There is a lot to look forward to!
All starts on 3rd May

- Breakfast is back!
 - Cream teas
- Longer opening hours
 - New menu
- Music events including Saxophone Saturdays
 - 30% off all food all day Wed & Thurs
 - 2 cocktails for £12 all day Wed & Thurs
 - Garden BBQ'S
- Unlimited tea & coffee refills during breakfast hours

Flitton Flit Fun Runs - 1st May

A friendly cross country event with burgers and beers at the finish line

Kings Coronation - 6th May

Watch the big day on our big screen and enjoy our full menu

Potato Race - 11th June

The Famous Potato Race with BBQ and family favourites

Fathers Day - 18th June

Sunday lunch served from 12pm - 4.30pm

Saxophone Saturdays

24th June 8th July 12th August

Enjoy afternoons in the garden

with Lynden Blades between 3pm and 6pm



Silsoe Drama Club Young Actors Present
Roald Dahl's

James and the GIANT PEACH



Friday 7 July at 7pm/Sat 8 July at 3pm
Silsoe Village Hall

Tickets £5 available from end of May

www.silsoedramaclub.co.uk or 07575 542113



Saturday 20th May - meet in Silsoe, near Millennium Green,
at 9.00am for car share to Westoning.
Leaving Westoning village hall car park at 9.30am

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 White Hart pub. Distance c. 7.8 miles

Booking essential as numbers limited.

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

For more information on Greensand Country Festival events
throughout May & early June see the website:
www.greensandcountry.com

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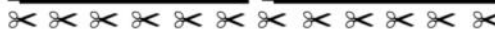
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Silsoe Drama Club Requests the Pleasure of your Company at our...

Royal Ascot Charity Race Night

Saturday 17th June 2023 - Silsoe Village Hall

Join us at Silsoe Drama Club's 'Ladies Day' themed Charity Race Night!

Hats, fascinators and posh frocks welcome but not compulsory! Prize for best ladies hat/best dressed couple
£20 per person includes canapés at your table and glass of fizz on arrival.

Exciting virtual horse racing event, six gripping races to bet on, cash prizes, raffle,
but most of all a fun-filled evening.

All proceeds to Cancer and MND charities in memory of much missed club members Joy and Martin.

For tickets contact Angela on 07771732540 / angelaayres2468@gmail.com

or www.silsoedramaclub.co.uk Why not sponsor a Race or a Horse?

Bring a party and reserve your own table? Ask Angela for details



Wildlife Trust for **Beds, Cambs & Northants**

Flit Vale Wildlife Trust Summer Programme 2023

**Saturday, May 13th, National Trust car park (LU6 2GY) at 10.00am
Butterfly Walk at Whipsnade Downs with Dr Wilf Powell***

Come and join butterfly enthusiast Wilf as we search for some of the lovely species to be found on the Downs. Parking is £3.50 for the day (ticket machines take card or cash payments) although it is free for National Trust members and blue badge holders.

*£4.00 per adult

Open to all, but please reserve as space is limited.

For additional information or to reserve your place please

email flitvale.info@gmail.com.

(If you don't have email, please ring Ann on 07580 178889 between 6-8 pm.)

**Wednesday, May 31st, St Andrew's Chapter House, Amptill (MK45 2EL) at 7.00pm
A talk on and a walk round Amptill Graveyard Nature Reserve***

A long-postponed talk and visit to this little gem of a site with Nigel Pollard, starting with a talk in the Chapter House and followed by a guided walk round the site.

*£4.00 per adult

Open to all, but please reserve as space is limited.

For additional information or to reserve your place please

email flitvale.info@gmail.com.

(If you don't have email, please ring Ann on 07580 178889 between 6-8 pm.)

**Saturday, June 3rd, Flitwick Moor and Folly Wood (TL045354), 10.30am-3.00pm
Bioblitz at Flitwick Moor**

A joint event with the Bedfordshire Natural History Society. Come and join us at this lovely reserve and see what can be found on the Moor! Families welcome (all children must be accompanied by a parent/carer). All equipment will be provided and help given with identification of finds.

No charge, but donations welcome

Open to all, but please reserve as space is limited.

For additional information or to reserve your place please

email flitvale.info@gmail.com.

(If you don't have email, please ring Ann on 07580 178889 between 6-8 pm.)

**Saturday, June 24th, Strawberry Hill Farm, Bedfordshire at 10.00am
Visit to Strawberry Hill Farm, Knotting, with Dr Gwen Hitchcock***

In the 1990s an enlightened farmer turned his 150-hectare farm over to nature under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Twenty-five years later, Strawberry Hill has been transformed from arable fields to scrub and young woodland. Join Gwen for a privileged look at this exciting new Wildlife Trust site.

*£4.00 per adult

Open to all, but please reserve as space is limited.

For additional information or to reserve your place please

email flitvale.info@gmail.com.

(If you don't have email, please ring Ann on 07580 178889 between 6-8 pm.)

Defibrillator Training

Saturday 27th May 2023

Flitton & Greenfield Village Hall



I would highly recommend, if you haven't done so already or would like a refresher, to attend a defib training session, we will be running one on Saturday, 27th May 2023 @ 11am 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.

Please spread the word THEY SAVE LIVES!!!

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

FLITTON AND GREENFIELD GALA 2023

We are sorry to say that the Gala will not be going ahead this year with other events that are happening in the village.

We do intend to try to organise one for 2024 and get our tradition of crowning the Gala Queen up and running again .

We would however like more people from our community to get involved in the organisation and running the Gala on the day. Fresh faces. Fresh ideas.

If you are feeling up for a challenge and would like to get involved please let us know by contacting Margaret on 07816 115325 or maragret.lowe@btinternet.com

Come on down to the village hall for professional IT advice from Computerman or just a cuppa (or mugga) and a chat in the warmth and bring a friend



From 2pm until 4pm on the 1st Monday of the month, bank holidays permitting ie 15th May and 5th June

- ✓ Bring your device and problem or query for expert assistance.
- ✓ We would welcome any redundant iPads, tablets, mobiles (and leads, if possible) for recycling to those in need.
- ✓ Do you know about using BBC Sounds to download radio programmes?
- ✓ Do you know how to pay in cheques via online banking?
- ✓ Discover the latest updates on Action Fraud
- ✓ Discover how to set up your online Post Office account

Supported by the Parish Council,
Village Hall Committee and Good Neighbours.
There is no charge for the advice or refreshments so we look forward to seeing you with or without your IT device.

Flittabus

Mid Beds Community Transport



Flittabus Community Transport Limited is a non-profit making organization run and operated by volunteers and provides transport facilities to town and village communities throughout mid-Bedfordshire. Many villages are not well served by commercial operators, but Flittabus offers a scheduled timetables which covers 12 routes. Check out their timetables on the website

<https://flittonandgreenfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-admin/post.php?post=3744&action=edit> to see if you can use this community transport

Anyone can use Flittabus and bus passes are accepted on all routes. They also operate a hail-to-ride system and will pick up passengers anywhere along the route, as long as it is safe to do so.

The buses are also available for community private hire, provided hirers conform to the requirements of the law and that the purpose of the hire is appropriate – hire line 07563 170 067

Flittabus own and operate three buses which are all designed for easy access. For further details please visit flittabus.co.uk

Greenfield & Pulloxhill Academy
Greenfield Lower School & Pulloxhill Lower School



Our Christian ethos: nurture, inspire, flourish; underpinned by Jesus' mustard seed parable – the smallest of seeds when planted becomes the greatest of trees (Mt13v31-32). We nurture each other while growing in confidence, knowledge and character; we inspire creativity and support relationships and resilience, enabling our community to flourish.

The children and staff at Greenfield School have been working very hard and enjoying lots of exciting events and are looking forward to many more before the end of the school year.

The youngest children in our school enjoyed a visit from Little City, where they were able to carry out role play for many different professions. The children had a wonderful day, and the adults did too!

We have enjoyed a Sports and Well-being week, where we focused on being active and healthy. We tried lots of different sports and learned more about being part of a team. We looked at healthy eating and how this helps us live active and healthy lives. We designed smoothies and used pedal bikes to produce them!



We are now busy thinking about the Coronation, we are designing crowns and making bunting to celebrate the occasion. We will be celebrating by having a picnic on the field.

Our older children are looking forward to a trip to the science museum in June. We hope the children will get an exciting view of science and maybe even inspire them to become scientist!

We are a small and caring school that thrive on providing wonderful experiences for our children as they move through the different phases of school. Our staff pride themselves on wanting the best for our children with high expectations, but with nurture at the heart of everything we do.

If you would like to visit our school, please do contact the school office on 01515 712426. We welcome children in our nursery from the age of three, and they leave us at year 4 when they transition to middle school.

Best wishes.
Mrs Drawbridge
Headteacher



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VILLAGE HISTORY BY MARGARET BUTT

John Dowyer (Sculptor) and Giacomo Leoni (Architect)

In the De Grey mausoleum at Flitton church is the monument of Anthony, Earl Harrold, eldest son of the Duke of Kent. The Earl died in 1723 aged 28 apparently by choking on a grain of barley but Lady Amabel Yorke in her diary of 1817 says that the barley was 'uncertain and dubious' and implies he had a disease of the throat. The Earl had been Lord of the Bedchamber to The Prince of Wales, later George II. His tomb was designed by an Italian architect, Giacomo Leoni and the sculptor was John Dowyer.

When the Earl went on his Grand Tour of Italy, his father the Duke of Kent asked him to find a suitable architect to build a new house at Wrest as the old one was crumbling. In Italy the Earl met Leoni, a leading palladian architect of the time. Leoni was asked to draw up plans for an impressive new mansion. However, the De Greys lost a lot of money in the South Sea Bubble and their London home in St James Square burnt down so the new house was never built during the Duke's lifetime.



Leoni came to England and designed, amongst others, Lyme Park in Cheshire, the location of *Pride and Prejudice* [where Colin Firth dived into the lake]. John Dowyer, a lesser known London based sculptor, wood carver and furniture maker worked with Leoni for several years.

When the Earl of Harrold died, Leoni was asked to design the monument and Dowyer was the sculptor. It was completed in 1726. It's an unusual design with 3 toed claws [a reference to the wyvern on the De Grey crest] and a black sarcophagus base, very different to the other monuments. As was the fashion, the Earl is dressed in Roman clothes. The monument has been described as clumsy, the overlarge head not corresponding with the rest of the body and that Dowyer had failed to master the intricacies of the design. It's surprising that the Duke let an unknown sculptor do the work to commemorate his beloved son but Dowyer must have been recommended by Leoni.

The Duke did not ask Leoni to design his own monument [possibly because he did not like the Harrold monument] but turned to Edward Shepherd who was overseeing the work on rebuilding at St James Square, his London home. The Duke also commissioned Rysbrack, a much more renowned sculptor, to carve the statues.

John Dowyer lived in Drury Lane near Covent Garden, home to many artists and artisans. His professional career is only known from 1725-1731. He also lived in Westminster and was buried there in 1741. He married Ann Godson in 1728. Leoni died in 1746 and is buried at Old St Pancras churchyard. Leoni did other designs for monuments but they were sculpted by Rysbrack.

KEEP IN TOUCH...

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Bellringers	Simon Stranks	simon.stranks@3churches.uk
Church Flowers	Lesley Arthur	713325
Friends of F & G Church	Jo Holt	792777
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Village Hall Hire	Margaret Lowe	07938 965817
Church Hall Hire	Jill Chandler	860715
Bedfordshire Police	Ampthill Team	01234 841212
Greenfield Lower 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
Silsoe Drama Club	Angela Ayres	860723
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 www.FDHG.co.uk
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
Jukebox Junction Dance	Laura	07864 212171
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PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITORS**