

NEWSLETTER



	Editor: stfilica@mail.com
Mar 31	Filkins Theatre AGM 8pm
April 4	Swimming Pool AGM
April 23	NGS Gardens Open
April 24	Fish & Chip van
April 26	Beetle Drive 7.30pm Village Hall
April 27	Copy deadline for May

To be able to travel abroad is a wonderful thing, experiencing other cultures, seeing amazing sites and meeting people of other nationalities and I have been lucky enough to do a bit of it in the last few months, however....

What was once a joy in itself and part of the adventure, actually getting from A to B is no longer a very pleasant experience particularly if flying! Check in three hours prior to flight time, queues for same and then security where one has to practically strip off. Whoever 'invented' that serpentine barrier system (possibly Mr Disneyland) has a lot to answer for, one seems to be constantly moving forward which makes one feel hopeful but actually you've walked miles to cover about 500 yards as the crow flies! In a recent queue I'd walked 9,000 winding steps to REACH security let alone get to the boarding gate! Similar if slightly shorter queues for immigration on the way back. I know it's unfair to moan when all these checks are supposedly keeping us safe and it could be considered a first world problem, after all I can travel: but is it lack of staff and/or sheer numbers of passengers? It wasn't always like this and an extra three to four hours on a return journey rather takes the gloss of things. I don't want to shop and can only manage one coffee, I guess sales of books might have increased, oh and no one wears shoes anymore....trainers reign!

Ps I have just learned that the serpentine queuing system was actually invented to calm cattle and stop them stampeding....take from that what you will. Ed.

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

April winners: Simon & Jane Easton

Filkins Village Hall...The Carter Institute...thanks to all our wonderful supporters of the Lottery. Our hall is a wonderful hub for community events and private get togethers.

Check out Rates & Booking on the website.

With spring in the air and Gardens Open on the 23rd, teas will be in the Hall...see you there

Many thanks, Pauline Care

01367 860969



**THE CHURCHES OF ST PETER
BROUGHTON POGGS CUM FILKINS**

SERVICES FOR YOUR DIARY



SUNDAY 9TH APRIL – FILKINS

EASTER SUNDAY

10.30AM – HOLY COMMUNION



SUNDAY 23RD APRIL – FILKINS

10.30 AM - HOLY COMMUNION

EASTER SUNDAY

Hopefully Easter hasn't yet happened by the time you see this – once again we will be celebrating the most important day in the Christian year with Holy Communion at Filkins at 10.30am – and now with the bell rope fixed we can once again ring out to announce the service! Everyone is very welcome – all family and friends who are celebrating Easter with you are all most welcome too!



LENT GIVE UP AND GIVE – WITNEY FOOD BANK

Thanks to all from the villages who have raided their store cupboards and made a donation for the Food Bank – and to the parents, pupils and staff from the Nursery school who have supported us again this year. We will be taking donations at the back of Filkins Church up to Easter Monday, after which we will be taking them in to Witney, so anything you can spare – please bring to the Easter Sunday service. Thank you; your kindness is very much appreciated,

BROUGHTON POGGS – SUMMER SERVICES

Services will be restarting from May onwards at Broughton Poggs Church as usual at 6pm on the second Sunday in the month. More details in next month's St Filica.

Rector

Reverend Harry MacInnes 01993 845954
harrymacinnes@yahoo.co.uk

Associate Vicar

Reverend Margot Hodson 01367 860555
margothodson@svbb.org.uk

Churchwardens

Gill Allison 01367 860787
gillian.allison@zen.co.uk

Charlie Payne 01367 860529
broughtonpoggs@hotmail.co.uk

For details of all services in the Benefice see: www.svbb.org.uk

Filkins &
Broughton Poggs
Gardening Club



We watch with delight the snowdrops, daffodils and primroses as they emerge in these early spring months. My winter jasmine has provided some colour and I am always impressed by its resilience in what is often a cold, wet and grey day.

The daffodils planted by the Gardening Club outside the churchyard and by the Village signs are now appearing and coming into bloom.

The Garden Club has notwithstanding the season been active, with the help of members we are arranging visits to :

Westwell, Kingham Lodge, Ilford Manor, Oxleaze, Broughton Castle and Upton House along with other village garden activities.

This month we do of course have the NGS Garden Open scheme on the 23rd April 2023 when many members gardens will be open.

I would also mention the bluebells at Bradbury Clump and fritillaries at Cricklade, well worth visiting.

The club committee has been collaborating with Lechlade Garden Club, Asthall Manor and One Planet Clanfield not only about gardens to visit but talks, events and the repairing of those valued garden tools ! The response has been very positive and we have passed on information to members. It provides evidence of the continuing generosity of Gardeners not only in our Village but further afield.

We hope you have seen that the Garden Club has now cleared the border outside the Village Shop, we have also received the plants to put into the border but are waiting for the cold spell to finish to give them the best chance of growing. We are grateful to Roger Chitty for his contribution, it was decided to bin him!

Tips for April

This is the best time to start sowing seeds.

Raising strong seedlings can set you up for the year. Remember space, light and warmth rotating regularly to avoid leggy seedlings. Water regularly and don't leave in the trays for too long.

Chitted potatoes should be put in the ground by the end of the month. Plant with manure or rich compost and water before mulching.

If you wish to join the Gardening Club contact our membership coordinator Julie Tridgell julietridgell@outlook.com

Happy Gardening to all ! Lorraine Chitty

Lorraine.chitty@btinternet.com





SWINFORD MUSEUM

I am writing this in the middle of March and the annual litter pick is approaching which reminded me of this photograph below.



The photograph was taken about 1959/60 in Broughton Poggs and shows the local reprobates! We were all ready for clearing the village as is shown by the broom, spade and wheelbarrow! For those who may remember us all the names are as follows:-

In the front seated on the truck is Phil Richards, the middle row from L-R is John Clark, Tony Garland, Diane Sykes (me), Peter Clark, David Sykes and Kenny Richards. The boy at the back is Peter Gray. We had a lovely childhood although being the only girl I was usually embroiled in fights usually with Peter Clark!! But happy days.

The displays are progressing well and will be ready for the opening on Sunday 23rd April from 2.00 to 5.00 and we look forward to welcoming you.

Diane Blackett

Summary of Parish Council Meeting 2nd March 2023

- Councillor Richard Howe was elected as Chairman until the elections in May.
- 2 new street lights have been ordered – part of the rolling programme to replace with energy efficient lighting. There is one light left to replace after this. The Council are considering turning off the street lights between 1am and 5am to save electricity. Currently they dim to 50% between midnight and 5am. We would ask residents to contact the Clerk with your opinions please.
- Work continues in the Platinum garden with the path being widened to allow wheelchair access
- Playground - one more job to complete the refurbishment, the helter skelter slide will be painted and the slide polished.
- Kick about field- permission has been given to move the fence back. New fence to be erected in next month (hopefully) and ground will be levelled, rolled and reseeded in November.
- Carol McKay – Oxfordshire Emergency Planning Officer will be attending to talk to residents at the Annual Parish Meeting. (15th May)
- Just to inform everyone the minutes, according to our Transparency Code, have to be published within 30 days of the meeting they cover. They are available on the village website after the next meeting where they are accepted and are placed on the bus shelter notice board. Is there somewhere else you would like to see them - within reason - where you think they would be more accessible?
- We are continuing to work on the following projects Villager Bus Service, Playground, Gigaclear, Platinum Garden, OCC traffic management, ECT re kick about field and stiles, telephone box refurbishment, footpaths via our footpath warden Sue Hitchcock, streetlighting and the Pump House roof. Damaged fences and stiles need to be reported direct to the landowner.
- Elections will be held on 4 May for the Parish Council. If you wish to stand nomination forms are available from Elections Office at WODC. They must be delivered by hand to WODC by 4 April 2023 at 4pm
- We were asked to consider putting road names up so addresses could be found more quickly. On the electoral roll some roads do have names but for most it is just Filkins. We would recommend using the website and app “What3words”. You can find your house on the map and it will give you 3 words the emergency services can use to find you with a 3 metre square. If you don't have the internet please ask your neighbour to do this and keep them handy in case they are needed.
- If you have any queries or want to ask the Council a question please contact the Clerk Cris Hoad clerk@filkins.org.uk 01367 860388.
- The means to contact the Parish Council are stated above. We can understand that items of concern are discussed with friends whilst out walking or in the pub. But please, if you have any items of concern do contact the Parish Council. If we are not made aware of any concerns, we cannot deal with them appropriately.
- **Next meeting 12 April 7.30pm in Village Hall committee room.**
- **Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday May 15 at 7pm. The change of day is due to elections and the extra bank holiday.**

VILLAGE LITTER PICK



We had 25 litter pickers and helpers for the annual litter pick on Saturday 25th March; mercifully dry if a tad blustery! Not only is this of great benefit to the village but also a chance to catch up for a chat between picking up old nappies and Red Bull tins, which seem never ending.

As you see from the team photo, many familiar faces and another mound of litter collected.

Lorraine, Freda and Helen Richens did a grand job with teas and our bakers - Mary Bohm, Rachel Vetch, Jane Martin, Rosie Howe, Anniika and Freda delivered an amazing array of cakes and biscuits.

I would also thank Alan and Debbie Law and Nigel Hitchcock for filling their respective cars with bags of rather smelly and oozing rubbish.

Thank you everyone. Roger Chitty





SUNDAY 23RD APRIL 2PM – 6PM

After the success of last year's Autumn opening, something very different! 12 gardens in the villages will be opening to share their spring gardens on St George's Day, Sunday 23rd April between 2pm and 6pm

Come and see the amazing variety of gardens and allotments we have and to talk to our extremely talented and knowledgeable gardeners. It's always a great day out so why not ask some friends over too?

Last year the NGS raised over £3 million for the most worthwhile charities, including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie Nurses and Parkinson's UK. As part of this the villages' gardens have contributed more than £30,000 over the past 20 years from our annual openings.

Tickets £8 on the day covering all gardens opening
Teas in the Village Hall in aid of the Village Churches
The Village Shop will be open for ice creams and treats

Thanks to all volunteers for making this happen every year – gardeners, allotmenters, car park attendants, cake bakers, tea helpers, village shop volunteers etc etc. You know who you all are!

Avril Payne



NEWS FROM THE FIVE ALLS

Fancy a cooked breakfast? We are now open daily for a cooked breakfast between 8.00am and 10.00am. Booking is recommended, however walk ins are welcome.

Dates for your diaries:

Easter Sunday - book a table to enjoy a delicious Sunday Lunch whilst the children can hunt for Easter eggs



St George's Day - Sunday April 23 - Join us for Roast Beef with all the trimmings and a complimentary pudding. Choose from Spotted Dick, Jam Roly Poly or Apple Crumble



We look forward to welcoming you



Please come to a

Beetle Drive

on Wednesday 26th April at
7.30pm in the Village Hall



Entry £2.50 to include first game, with subsequent games 50p

Pay Bar and Raffle

No experience necessary, a very silly but fun game for the whole family

Ring Jane Martin on 07857 912466 for more information

SWIMMING POOL AGM

TUESDAY 4TH APRIL

Village Hall at 7.30pm



Doctor & Hospital Runs



In the first instance those requiring a lift should call Theo Hodges on 07711 066155 and she will put you in touch with a driver.

If Theo is for any reason unavailable, then please call either Freda Shrouder on 07557 048667 or 01367 860053 or else Charlie Payne on 07810 158558 Or 01367 860529



A THANK YOU

Well Done to the Playground Committee. I took our grandsons there during the half term holidays and they loved it, in fact they said it was the Best! So thank you to all who were involved for their hard work. Elaine Smith

**You now need
photo ID to
vote at a
polling station**

For the first time, residents in West Oxfordshire District will need to show photographic ID to vote in person at this year's local elections which are being held on May 4th.

Residents are urged to make sure they are ready by checking they have an accepted form of ID. These include a UK, EU or Commonwealth passport, a UK, EU or Commonwealth drivers licence, some concessionary travel passes such as an old persons bus pass. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo and the name is the same as appears on the Electoral Register.

Anyone who does not have one of these accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for a free ID on line at

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

or by completing a paper form which is available from the Council.



Village Coronation Celebrations

Sunday 7th May 2023

All please decorate your houses as we did for the Platinum Jubilee as a village celebration.

St Peter's churches in both Filkins & Broughton Poggs will be decorated with floral displays.

Everyone in our villages is invited to **'The Big Lunch'** on the kick about field behind the Village Centre – from 1pm.

To ensure we have enough food to celebrate in style we ask that everyone attending bring a plate of food to share. Could you please let Sue, Gill or Mary know by 20 April what you can contribute.

Sue Yardey 07733 344750 sue.yardley@gmail.com
 Gill Pagett 07595996932 gill.pagett@btinternet.com
 Mary Bohm 078999812538 mary.bohm@btinternet.com

Suggested food: Salads – (green, pasta, potato, quinoa), Sausage rolls, Scotch Eggs, Cold Meats, Cheeses, Olives/Antipasti, Quiche .
 We're also looking for a selection of puddings: Trifles, Cheesecake, Pavlovas and the like.



St Filica will be running a Pay Bar.



Prosecco, strawberries & ice creams will also be available to buy from the Village Shop.

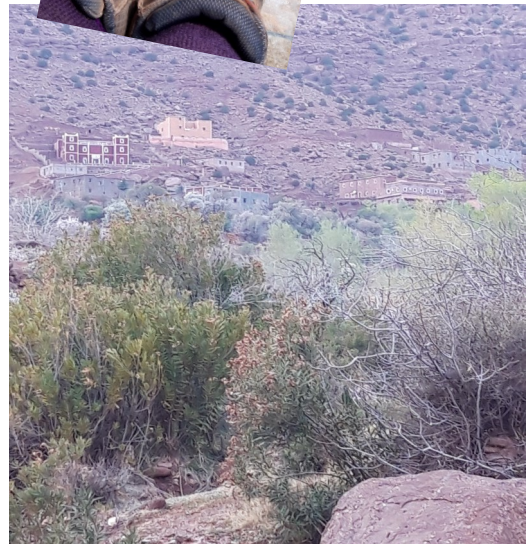
Our resident village DJ, Les Goward will be playing music to while away the afternoon, as well as a Live Band later on.

We would like to invite children and adults (if they want) to dress up – the theme of course is Kings and Queens. There will be other activities throughout the day – watch this space !!!

We are more than happy for others to get involved, by either running a tombola, hosting children's activities, putting on a show; all contributions are welcome, if you can add to the fun of the day please do drop us a line at stfilica@hotmail.com



I find we have a spare page so am sharing some amazing scenery from the High Atlas Mountains in Morocco, even more stunning in colour but can't be that indulgent!





Simnel Cake

This cake has a long history, made since medieval times. It contains plenty of fruit and marzipan and it is eaten at Easter although it used to be specifically associated with Mothering Sunday. The cake is decorated with eleven marzipan balls symbolising the disciples of Jesus (minus the treacherous Judas). With a lovely layer of marzipan baked in the centre it is a treat of a cake. Try this one:

Ingredients:

4oz currants	4 large eggs
4 oz sultanas	8 oz plain flour
4 oz raisins	1 tsp mixed spice
2 oz mixed peel	2 oz ground almonds
A wine glass of spirit	
8 oz butter	1lb marzipan
8 oz brown sugar	

* as I only buy separate bags of fruit for Christmas, I use a bag of good quality mixed fruit, less faff!

Method:

Soak fruit in the chosen alcohol of 2 –3 days shaking every day

Divide marzipan into three, roll out two pieces to fit the cake tin (7" round)

Cream butter and sugar well, add beaten eggs a bit at a time, beating well. Gently fold in flour and spice. Fold in fruit then lastly the ground almonds. Spoon half the mixture into the lined tin. Place a circle of marzipan on top, then add the rest of the mixture.

Bake for 2 1/2 to 3 hours at 150 degrees C. Test with a skewer which should come out clean. Cool completely.

Top with the second marzipan circle (a bit of honey or apricot jam will help it stick). Shape the last piece into 11 balls and place evenly around the edge. If possible toast briefly to colour the marzipan or use a kitchen blow torch.

Happy Easter



Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	10 -11	3 - 4
Tuesday	10 -11	3 -4
Wednesday		3 -4
Thursday	10 -12	3 -4
Friday	10 -11	3 -4
Saturday	10 -11	3 -4
Sunday	11 -12	
01367 860 239		



Grey week



Rubbish



Food waste

Green week



Recycling



Garden waste



Food waste

Easter Opening Hours

**Good Friday, 7th April – closed am
open 3-4pm**

Saturday, 8th April - open as usual

Easter Sunday, 9th April closed

**Easter Monday, 10th April closed am
open 3-4pm**

Please join us at the Village Shop on Saturday 29th April from 11.00 -1.00 to celebrate the opening of the swimming pool and the official opening of the playground. Sausages, bacon rolls, tea and coffee will be on sale - do come!

<https://filkins.org.uk/filkins-communty-shop>

Green/recycling	grey/household
Friday 7 April	SATURDAY 15 April
Friday 21 April	Friday 28 April