



MARCH 2026 ISSUE 266

# NEWSLETTER



Editor: [stfilica@mail.com](mailto:stfilica@mail.com)

04 March	Coffee Morning
17 March	Parish Council Meeting
21 March	Quiz & Curry Night
24 March	7.30 Swimming Pool AGM
25 March	6.00 Village Hall AGM
25 March	copy deadline for April
26 March	Crafty Villagers

If you have anything for the website please email [webmaster@filkins.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@filkins.org.uk)

*I know the Gardening Club visited the Priory to see the snowdrops but I think it has been the most phenomenal year for galanthus and indeed galanthophiles. Snowdrops typically bloom from late winter to early spring (January to March) depending on the climate and location. Native to Europe (and parts of the middle east), they thrive in woodlands, meadows and gardens, they can often be found emerging through the snow, hence their name. In many cultures snowdrops are a symbol of hope, purity and new beginnings because of their early appearance after a long hard winter. I always associated them with my birthday in early February but I guess being up north they were a bit later but in my garden here they show in late December but are wonderfully long flowering. It just seems that this year they have excelled themselves, great drifts in the Jubilee Walk, the wooded area on the edge of the road in Kencot and whilst in the Lake District last week banks and banks of them and at the sides of rural roads miles from habitation ..how do they get there?*

*There is still time to visit some spectacular displays of snowdrops, Painswick Rococo Gardens, Colesbourne Park (holder of the National Collection) and Newark Park. Ed,*



*With my Bowls Club hat on I should like to thank the members of St Filica for voting the Club £250, it will be put to good use bringing our green up to playing condition for our new season.*



# THE CHURCHES OF ST PETER BROUGHTON POGGS CUM FILKINS

## SERVICES FOR YOUR DIARY

**SUNDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – FILKINS**

**6PM EVENSONG**

**SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH – FILKINS**

**10.30AM HOLY COMMUNION**

**SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – EASTER SUNDAY**

**10.30AM HOLY COMMUNION**

Faster than seems possible it is now Lent, and the run up to the most important part of the Christian year. Ash Wednesday marked the start of Lent with the traditional Ashing service for the Benefice, this year at Shilton, and the churches now have their purple altar cloths on and are cleared of flowers to signify the period of fasting, reflection and preparation for Easter.

### **Palm Sunday – Holwell 29<sup>th</sup> March**

The Sunday before Easter is of course Palm Sunday, when there will be a Procession for the Benefice this year from Holwell crossroads to Holwell Church, starting at 10am. Full details will be on the Benefice website, or else do contact the Clergy, Gill or Charlie.

### **Easter Sunday – 5<sup>th</sup> April**

Easter will fall right on the cusp of the April edition of St Filica, so an advance date for your diary - there will be a full service with Holy Communion at Filkins Church at 10.30am on Easter Sunday morning – do please come along, and all friends and family who will be staying with you over the weekend are most warmly welcome!

### **Lent Bible Study Courses**

Wednesday evenings at Filkins Vicarage starting on February 25<sup>th</sup> and focusing on the Passion of Christ leading up to the Crucifixion. Places are limited so please contact Reverend Dennis for more information; thank you to Dennis and Helen for your hospitality in hosting us

**Rector:**  
Reverend Harry MacInnes 01993 845954

harrymacinnes@yahoo.co.uk

**Associate Vicar:**  
Reverend Canon Dennis Stamps  
01367 860555  
dennistamps@gmail.com

Churchwardens

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

Charlie Payne 01367 860529  
broughtonpoggs@hotmail.co.uk

## Filkins and Broughton Poggs Gardening club news for March

How time flies! January seems to go on for ever and February is over in a flash. We can already see the wonderful display of daffodils on the green near the Gassons, and as we speak the ones we planted in other parts of the village are making an appearance. Hopefully we can now enjoy some warmer drier weather. I have just started some tomatoes and sweet peas in the hope of producing early fruit and flowers but there is still plenty of time for seed sowing,

If you couldn't go to the snowdrop day at Burford Priory on Feb 15 you missed a treat beautiful displays of snowdrops in the area surrounding the historic Priory and the £4 entrance fee was donated to W.A.S.P (Windrush against Sewage Pollution).

We already have some great ideas for the year so do come to our **annual meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup> 3pm in the village hall**, all garden club members are invited.

### Jobs for March

Finish pruning roses early in the month.

Tidy up borders removing newly-germinating weeds.

Pick off any developing seed-heads on daffodils and other spring bulbs, but leave the foliage to die back naturally.

Mulch borders with garden compost.

Plant new roses and other shrubs and climbers.

Plant summer flowering bulbs in pots and borders.

Spring clean the greenhouse if you have one.

Sow salad leaves indoors or in greenhouse.

Enjoy your garden and with luck some sunshine too!



More information can be found on the Filkins website or please contact our membership co-ordinator Julie Tridgell ([julietridgell@outlook.com](mailto:julietridgell@outlook.com)).  
Sue ([sue.ashforthsmith@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.ashforthsmith@btinternet.com))



## SWINFORD MUSEUM

We have completed the spring clean at the museum so are now gearing up to set out the exhibitions. While looking through records for display I came across a little blue book of poems which was written by Gertrude Foxley Norris in 1914.

The author, who lived in the Grey House, had given the book to her friend Charles Farmer and it has a dedication in the front of the book. Gertrude's brother was Dean of Westminster and her great nephew was Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Foxley Norris. Below is one of the poems:-


### *In Memory of a Baby*

*God took her ere her heart was soiled  
By sin or this world's fever:  
These tiny hands that never toiled  
Are folded now for ever.  
On the Good Shepherd's bosom laid  
His little lamb is sleeping:  
Dear Lord, we cannot be afraid  
To leave her in Thy Keeping!*

After a little more research I discovered that Gertrude had a sister who died at 3 months old so this poem was dedicated to her, Harriett Foxley Norris, 1854.

Please don't forget the Museum's new season starts on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

*Diane Blackett*



**Filkins and Broughton Poggs Relief in Need (FRIN)**

***Are you or someone you know facing a time of hardship,  
personal crisis, or needing financial assistance?***

If you, or anyone you know, would benefit from its help then please contact the Trustees via the post box outside the Village Shop, or by email: [frincharity@gmail.com](mailto:frincharity@gmail.com)

**Filkins Doctor & Hospital Runs**

Just to remind you – now all requests for a lift should be made in the first instance to **Sue Hitchcock on 07887 566117**



as before, if Sue isn't available, then call either **Freda Shrouder on 07557 048667** or **Charlie Payne on 07810 158558 or 01367 860529**

# NEWS FROM THE FIVE ALLS

## WEEKLY FAVOURITES RETURN

**Mondays -Pie Night (£16)**

**Tuesdays - 2 Burgers for £20**

**Wednesdays - Sharing Steak**

## LIVE MUSIC

**Sunday 29th  
March**

**1-3pm**

**'Meadowline'**



## MONTHLY & SPECIAL EVENTS

**Second Sunday Quiz Night (£1 per person,  
prize for winning team)**

**15th March & 12th April**

## SUPPER CLUB - LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

**26th March - Spring Market Menu**

**Saturday 14th March  
Daytime**

**(time to be confirmed)**



**Gin & Ale  
Tasting**



**Mother's Day**

**Sunday March 15th**

**3 course set menu £40pp**

## From PCSO Moulding (Thames Valley Police)

Over the last few weeks we have seen a spike in domestic theft. The villages most affected have been Filkins, Broadwell, Langford, Kencot & Taynton. A mix of offences from the theft of quick cash items such as jewellery to car theft.

Advice is to stay alert in your village, if you see anything out of place such as people observing properties, or if you're aware of vacant properties due to holidays or working away, these can be easy targets.

Please make sure any valuables are locked away, check house security and if you are going away consider CCTV linked to your phone,

**St Filica**



## AGM UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who braved the foul weather to attend the St Filica AGM on Tuesday 6 February. The minutes of the meeting are now on the Filkins and Broughton Poggs website and include the Chair and Treasurer's report. The membership voted to award the Bowls Club £250 to help towards the costs of renovating the green.

For those of you who couldn't make it, please would you consider renewing your membership or joining us if you haven't been a member before. It is only £2 per person for the year with the money going towards, amongst other things, the printing costs for your newsletter. Our annual running costs are around £3,300 so every little helps!

You can pay by bank transfer or you can drop the money off to me at 2 Bulls Close.

Many thanks for your support.

Sara Moule

St Filica Chair.

stfilica@hotmail.com



**CHALLENGE THE LITTLE GREY CELLS!**

**SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2025 FILKINS VILLAGE  
HALL**

**7.00PM FOR 7.30PM START**

**TABLES OF UP TO 8 PEOPLE, £17.50 PER PERSON TO INCLUDE A  
DELICIOUS BILASH CURRY. CASH/CARD BAR.**

**TO BOOK AND FOR PAYMENT DETAILS, PLEASE EMAIL**

**STFILICA@HOTMAIL.COM. WE CAN FIND YOU A TABLE IF NEEDED.**



**\*\*\*\* SCARECROW TRAIL MAY 2026 – \*\*\*\***

To coincide with the NGS Open Gardens on 17 May, St Filica would like to invite everyone to take part in a scarecrow trail to entertain our visitors as they wander round our villages.

Entries cost £1 for adults and 50p for children and the closing date for entries is 8 May with judging taking place on 15 May. Entry forms will be available on the website.

The Five Alls have very kindly donated Sunday lunch for two for the best adult entry and there will be a prize for the best child entry.



# SUMMER MASQUERADE BALL

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July**

Tickets are selling fast! Email [Stfilica@hotmail.com](mailto:Stfilica@hotmail.com) to secure yours now.

Tables of 12 and individual tickets are available.

£85 a ticket includes welcome drink, 4 course meal and entertainment and dancing until 1am.

Don't miss out.

The Parish Council would like to thank all residents who took the time to object against the Alvescot Downs scoping application for up to 1,000 houses. We await the outcome but at the close there were 104 objections.

The Parish Council have a meeting with OCC- regarding some changes to move water through Broughton Poggs at a quicker rate when it builds. We also have ongoing discussions regarding positioning of a possible bund and the removal of flood water in a flood situation from the pond in Broughton Hall. Which of course are dependent on finance and agreement/permission of landowners

The bus shelter roof needs some attention – this will be done in the next couple of months

The April meeting is cancelled – the Annual Parish Meeting has changed dates to 5 May 2026 at 7pm. Ernest Cook Trust will be attending to talk about the village and we are trying again to co-ordinate TVP to attend after their regrettable cancellation last year.

There is a consultation running currently re a Unitary Council – there are 3 options and WODC is asking for residents opinions. The consultation is available at the following link - Local government reorganisation in Oxfordshire - GOV.UK

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be 17 March at 7.30pm**

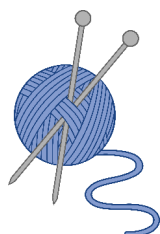
If anyone has any queries regarding parish council or village centre matters we would appreciate them coming directly to us to prevent rumours spreading which are not accurate. Please contact the Clerk – [clerk@filkins.org.uk](mailto:clerk@filkins.org.uk)

FILKINS AND BROUGHTON POGGS WEBSITE UPDATE

Traditionally, St Filica has owned the website that services the two villages. However, due to governmental changes, the Parish Council must own and have a contract in their name for the website. As a result, the current site will be rebuilt in the PCs name and will move to a .gov.uk address and will no longer be owned by St Filica.

We expect the new site to be up and running at the end of March.

The new address will be [Filkinsandbpparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://Filkinsandbpparishcouncil.gov.uk) and the current .org.uk will re-direct to it. There will be no real visible changes other than the look and all organisations will have their pages as usual.



**CRAFTY VILLAGERS**

Anyone interested in joining us is welcome. Bring along any craft item to work on

We meet in the Village Hall from **2 – 4pm** and the next meeting will be

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

£3.50 covers the cost of the village hall hire and a cuppa and biscuit.

Further information from MICHELE HEATH or ALLISON SWALES  
[micheleheath@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:micheleheath@hotmail.co.uk) and [allisonswales1@gmail.com](mailto:allisonswales1@gmail.com)

## Tuscan Chicken One Pot

Thanks to Cris Hoad for sharing this delicious recipe!



### Ingredients

- 2 large or 3 small boneless and skinless Chicken Breasts, sliced in half horizontally (to butterfly them)
- 1 small jar of Sun Dried Tomatoes, drained of oil and sliced
- Bag of baby Spinach (approx 5 handfuls)
- 1 small Onion, diced
- 3 cloves of Garlic, crushed/minced
- 2 tsps dried Italian Seasoning
- 300ml Double Cream
- 2 – 3 tbsp Olive Oil
- Salt & freshly Ground Black Pepper
- 60g grated Parmesan Cheese

### Method

Season the butterflied chicken breasts with a little salt and pepper. Add one tbsp oil to a heavy based pan and sear the chicken breasts one at a time, over a medium to high heat, approx 3-5 minutes on each side. When browned transfer to a large plate to rest. (they will not be cooked through at this point).

Reduce the heat to medium and add a another tbsp of oil to the pan and cook the diced onions until soft but not browned, then add the garlic, sliced sun-dried tomatoes and the italian seasoning. Cook for a further few seconds/minute until fragrant.

Add the baby spinach a handful at a time, stirring in until just wilted. Add the cream, grated parmesan and 1/2tsp salt. Stir to combine and bring to a simmer. Reduce the heat to maintain a gentle simmer and add the chicken breasts back in with any accumulated juices and cook until the chicken is cooked through (approx 5-8 minutes). Check the chicken is cooked through before serving. Check seasoning and add more if required.

Serve with whatever you fancy – some lovely mash or hasselback potatoes and green vegetables, or simply with pasta.



# ourvillageshop

Filkins Community Shop, GL73JE

## News & Views from Our Village Shop

LIKE any shop, we stock things on our shelves, and we open our door to customers. That's about it really.

Except that it isn't! *Filkins Community Shop* is more than that: the clue is in the name. We are a membership organisation registered on the Mutuals Public Register under the auspices of the Financial Conduct Authority... Which is a rather posh way of saying that we are owned by the members of the shop company on behalf of all of us here in our community.

As most villagers know, and many remember, *Filkins Community Shop* has been going for 20 years; it's a real success story, and it is a privilege to be back as chair after a dozen years away. We've currently got some great people involved in *Our Shop* management... including **Jennifer Rooke** (*Treasurer*), **Sue Yardley** (*Vice Chair*), **Sue Ashforth Smith** (*membership*), **Barry Heath** (*super-shopper*).

So a well-versed team already, but always keen to talk to anyone with other experience

related to retailing or other aspects of small rural business.

Oh, and then, of course, there's the human hurricane that is volunteer Hilary Skinner, who has been connected with shop-keeping in Filkins since 1952, when she was nine years old and her parents took over the village shop next to Filkins Farmhouse.

Please join Hilary from 10am any Saturday for coffee, chat, and a croissant or a cinnamon bun. (*You can pre-order these plus sourdough bread & baguettes...*)

But Hilary is not alone, for all our volunteers are our heroes without whom we could not open: we thank all of them, and we urge others to join them.

Lastly we are always keen to hear new ideas from anyone about making *Our Shop* even better, *Do please get in touch.*

**Trish Martin**  
*Our Shop Chair* 07976 055308

### Current Shop Hours

Monday	10-11am	3-4pm
Tuesday	10-11am	3-4pm
Wednesday	Closed	3-4pm
Thursday	10-11am	3-4pm
Friday	10-11am	3-4pm
Saturday	10-11am	3-4pm
Sunday	11-Noon	Closed

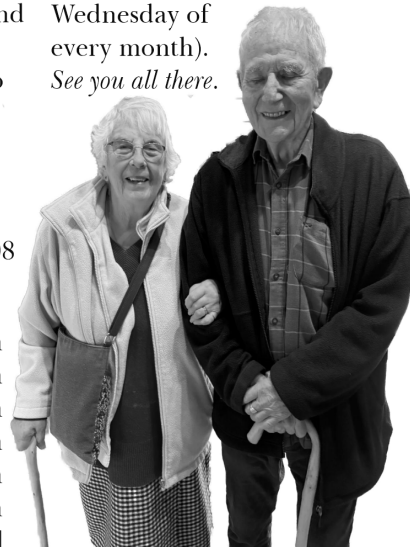
## Visitors to Our Shop

WE had a very happy visit from Mr & Mrs Howie Bumford. Howie grew up in Broughton Hall Cottage, as his father, David, was a gardener to Squire Hardcastle (and also captain of Filkins Bowls Club.)

Howie remembers attending choir practice with Ursula Cripps, (Sir John's wife), and taking his weekly bath in the communal bath-house here in Filkins Village Centre.

The Bumfords look forward to meeting old and new friends when they attend a Village Hall Coffee Morning (on the first Wednesday of every month).

*See you all there.*



### Green week

Recycling

Food waste

Garden waste



### Grey week

Rubbish

Food waste



Green/recycling

grey/

Friday 6 March

Friday 20 March

Friday 13 March

Friday 27 March

