

# NEWSLETTER

**FEBRUARY**

Editor: stfilica@mail.com

|          |                            |
|----------|----------------------------|
| 30th Jan | Fish and Chip van          |
| 7th Feb  | St Filica AGM              |
| 8th Feb  | Parish Council Meeting     |
| 22nd Feb | Deadline for March edition |

Yet another big thank you to Cris for editing January's edition in my absence (if I play my cards right and go away at the end of each month I could be out of a job, good plan!)

'February fill dyke' has never been truer, what a miserable, grey, wet, dark old month January has been and little sign of improvement, half the village struck down with persistent coughs but mother nature doesn't seem to mind; the snowdrops, daffodils and other bulbs are making an appearance and the scented gems in my garden, Lonicera Fragrantissima, witch hazel and Sarcococca are in full swing, so perhaps there is some light at the end of the tunnel and we can look towards a cheerful and healthier Spring.

I realise Christmas is behind us but photos inside of more Advent Windows.

On a personal note, on the 19th my daughter Eleanor and I said goodbye to our two fleece balls, Hardcastles Andy and Amos. Some of you may remember seeing them at Cotswold Woollen Weavers or indeed grazing at Goodfellows. Back in 2012 we had our first lambs from our pedigree Cotswold flock but Eleanor's move to an organic farm meant she couldn't take them and the flock was dispersed but we kept these two boys as our 'Cotswold Lions'. After a midnight dip in the Broadwell Brook some years ago Amos was pulled out and spent hours wrapped in a woollen blanket with a boat for shelter. Incredibly he survived but thanks to some ghastly American crayfish his ears were the only casualty. Not to be outdone, Andy had his ear broken by a naughty hinny (cross between a pony and donkey....another story!) who delighted in beating up the boys. He went and they lived a leisurely life as companions to Mr Fuddles, meeting many visitors to the mill and being spoilt with apples and carrots. At the ripe age of 11 the cold snap and prospect of a long winter ahead was taking it's toll so the decision to prevent suffering was made. We will miss our boys terribly but our shearer Ed will no doubt be relieved he will not again have to wrestle with two fully fleeced 150lb animals!

Ed

## VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

The Lottery has so far raised £1575,....tickets on sale in Our Village Shop and with me.

We welcome all new villagers and say goodbye to others...thank you all for your continued support in these testing times. We continue our improvements to the hall, the roof is complete and soon work will begin on increased insulation. The hall is a wonderful space to hire for all sorts of occasions...check our website.

**January Winners : Frank & Elaine Smith      February Winner: Ronnie Bailey**

Best wishes for 2023, Pauline Care 01367 860969



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

## **SERVICES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY – FILKINS**

**6 PM - EVENSONG**

**SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY – FILKINS**

**10.30 AM – HOLY COMMUNION**

So the seasons turn and Christmas is receding into memory – and before we know it Lent will be with us at the end of February. We had a wonderful service on Christmas morning with well over 50 people at Filkins Church to celebrate the happy day and catch up with family and visitors – thank you to Reverend Margot for holding such a happy and joyous service and for ad-libbing so elegantly while more copies of the service sheet were hastily copied!

During Lent this year we will again be making our regular collection at the back of the Church in aid of the Witney and West Oxfordshire Food Bank to supplement the outstanding work that the Shop does during the year. The collection box will be in place from the service on Sunday Feb 26<sup>th</sup> (first Sunday of Lent) until Easter Day. Any donations of non-perishable food or personal care items you are able to make will be most welcomed – this year more than ever.

Finally a big thank you to Alan Ashforth-Smith who after 'only' 15 years has decided to hang up his mowing rota organisers hat at Filkins church. Happily Alan will still be doing his 'shifts' but we do need someone to organise the team. Not an onerous job at all as the team is very diligent and long established but if someone could take it on it would be much appreciated – the Church is one of the centres of our community and it is always a credit to the villages that it looks so well looked after and cared for to greet visitors.

**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 86052**  
**broughtonpoggs@hotmail.co.uk**

**For details of all services in the Benefice see: [www.svbb.org.uk](http://www.svbb.org.uk)**

Filkins &  
Broughton Poggs  
Gardening Club



A Happy New Year to everyone although by the time you read this January will no doubt be at an end!

The snowdrops and daffodils are poking through and in some areas have made an appearance. My Winter Jasmine is in bloom a shot of colour in what does seem on some days to be dull and grey. Some of my primulas are also out, bringing a welcome bright yellow into the resting winter garden.

Rosie will be sending out shortly to members the calendar of events which we are in the process of completing with visits to:

Kingham Lodge, Ilford Manor, Broughton Castle, Oxleaze Farm and Upton House

Some members are still investigating gardens for our group to visit and we are pursuing topics for talks for members.

At our AGM mention was made of replanting the Village Shop border. We have looked at the existing border and note that there are some Viburnum, a dogwood and a spiky shrub rose (? It is a little difficult at this time of year to identify it). We are thinking about perhaps putting in Euphorbia, Muscari and Japanese Anemone and are grateful to Avril for her very helpful suggestions. If anyone has other suggestions could they please get in touch.

Last but not least, on behalf of the Garden Club we offer our heartfelt and grateful thanks to Peter and Bea Berners-Price for their wonderful help, guidance and hospitality to the Garden Club; they will be very much missed but we do hope they will come back and visit and join us for visits in the future. We wish them well.

If you wish to join the club, please contact Julie Tridgell ([julietridgell@outlook.com](mailto:julietridgell@outlook.com)) for an application

Lorraine Chitty

[lorraine.chitty@btinternet.com](mailto:lorraine.chitty@btinternet.com)

## 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

**Bats in the Belfry? An interesting article and request from Jane MacLeod**

## EXCITING DISCOVERY IN FILKINS

I have an open pitched porch outside my front door where bats have been roosting, breeding and hibernating for many years. I rarely see them except a quick sighting as they fly around at dusk.

Sadly on 15th December I found two bats on the paving inside the porch. Temperatures had dropped to minus 7 that night, but I brought them inside in the hope that they might just have dropped from the roost in a torpid state. They were cold to touch but limbs and wings were quite pliable. Unfortunately there were no signs of recovery and as rigor mortis set in it became clear they were both dead.

I believed that all the bats in the roost were common Pipistrelles but when I put photos and information up on my Wildlife Group an ecologist replied that one of the bats was a Lesser Horseshoe Bat and the other a *Myotis* - either a *Natterers* or *Bechsteins*. She indicated how lucky I was, as they are not commonplace and to report my findings to my local Bat Group - [www.oxfordshirebats.org](http://www.oxfordshirebats.org)



After contacting them I received the following reply:



***"Obviously it's rather sad that information comes through as a consequence of the demise of the bats however to have evidence of the presence of lesser horseshoes is particularly exciting. We are trying to build a picture of where lesser horseshoes are in Oxfordshire and it is very valuable to have confirmation from Filkins. In the past we have had some intriguing reports from along the A420 corridor (Faringdon eastwards) of cat caught bats which sounded very like horseshoes, however no photos were taken or bodies retained so we couldn't be sure. We think the Oxfordshire stronghold for the species as being the Charlbury/Chipping Norton area, where they have some hibernation sites but just lack the information as to where else they may be, so your record is very valuable.***

***It would be really interesting to find out more about the bats using your property and we wondered if you would be happy for a small number of group members to visit to perhaps carry out an emergence survey in the spring/summer (which involves just watching, counting, ascertain the species). If feasible we might be able to do some more survey work to find out where else in Filkins they may be, flight lines and foraging areas"***

I will be thrilled and fascinated to welcome this group but would also like to provide them with further information of other possible bat roosting sites around our villages. If anyone knows of any bat roostings - maybe in the churches, barns or outbuildings and would be willing to let me have details to pass on I would be most grateful. Maybe we have more of these rarer Lesser Horseshoe Bats than we are aware of. If you happen to come across any dead bats perhaps you could take a photograph (facial features, approx. size) and/or collect them (with gloves) or contact me with location and I will collect them

Please contact me; Jane MacLeod 077911 180721 [jane.macleod2@btinternet.com](mailto:jane.macleod2@btinternet.com)



# ourvillageshop



The Christmas hamper in aid of Breast Cancer was won by Robert Robbins, (I think this wasn't the first time he has won!). But thanks to Hilary Skinner and Sue Yardley for organising the hamper and thanks to everyone who supported this event by buying tickets or coming along for a coffee and mince pie. We managed to raise £150 for Breast Cancer.

The Village Shop welcomed Robert Courts, our local MP, on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January. He celebrated with us on being awarded £6000 from the National Lottery funding to ease the burden of increased energy costs in the shop.

He was very interested with the whole 'Village Centre' concept and the legacy of Sir Stafford Cripps; the evolution of the spaces, eg. from bathhouse to shop and including the pool, playground, bowling green, allotments, the local stone built 'social housing' on Rouses Lane and progress on the Jubilee garden.

He and his PA both relished the opportunity to be good customers and were interested in all the local produce. They purchased our local honey, sausages and Robert even bought some pick and mix sweets for his children. Thanks to all the shop committee members and the villagers who attended this event.



***Please do continue to support Your Local Village Shop and do let us know if there is anything you would like us to stock.***



## SWINFORD MUSEUM

Another month has rolled by but the Trustees have not been wasting time. David Swinford has erected the water pump at the old well outside the museum. The pump was offered to the museum by Mrs June Goodenough a couple of years before her death. It had been in the middle of a field in Broadwell for many years but with farm machinery being so much larger it was in the way. We were delighted to accept it and David has made it look part of the village.

There may be a little bit about the water pumps etc in this seasons exhibition, so do come and see. We open on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, early this year to coincide with the National Open Gardens.

Another project David has been working on is making a new prisoner for the lock up. He has been named 'Old George' and can be seen when you peer through the grid in the lock up door. However, children please don't stand too close to the door he has a bit of a frosty nature!!

Research is still being done on Broughton but other things keep getting in the way so it will be done soon.

Have a good month. Diane Blackett



## Calling All Gardeners

There is nothing quite like home grown fruit and veg!  
The Allotment Group is drawing up a list of people who would like to take on an allotment this year should any become available.

If you think you might be interested, please contact Pat Gibson on [Pat.gibson@btinternet.com](mailto:Pat.gibson@btinternet.com) so that we can add you to the waiting list.



## ST FILICA AGM



Tuesday 7th February 2023

8pm in Filkins Village Hall

Everyone is welcome – please come along

# THE PLATINUM GARDEN PROJECT

## An Update, Vision and a Request....

In last month's newsletter we shared progress on the ground clearing activities in our Platinum Jubilee Garden. If you have wandered down to the allotments or peered over the wall from the playground, you will see work is still ongoing and in its early stages, with a large tree stump unearthed and ready to be ground down so that the land can be further levelled and prepared for landscaping. It's a messy time – especially in all the rain!

But what is the vision? the design below is the plan – some lines may be curvier than shown (my IT skills fell short here!); some elements may need to be a second phase; we are looking at options to reduce concrete and replace with hoggin; planting specifics are not yet addressed - but hopefully you get the broad idea. The brief was to keep it simple, easy as possible to maintain (as we will need volunteers apart from the mowing) and able to cope with drier summers. We need access to a picnic area, seating and improved access to the allotments. We think it meets the brief – would you agree? Hopefully it will be a lovely place to stop, sit and chat with friends. A world away from how it looks today!

### See plan alongside

We already have some funding available, but we are also applying to the NGS for more (we need more!) and should hear back in March. We also hope to receive some native hedging plants from the late "Queen's Jubilee Canopy" initiative.

Whilst we wait for news on funding, we have sufficient money in the pot to press on with some hard landscaping at least, with the aim to get the area looking neat as soon as possible ready for Spring.

I mentioned a request. Yes, so I did! At this point I cannot confirm **WHEN** we will need help with digging manure into beds, or shovelling gravel or planting hedges.... but if you think you would like to help with that when we do and we **WILL**, then our ask is that you pop an email to [rosie@rosiehowenutrition.com](mailto:rosie@rosiehowenutrition.com) to let us know so that I can contact you as and when we need some support. Every little helps – the heavy lifters, and the gentle plant handlers! Help with the planting design would also be much appreciated so if this is your forte, please raise your hand!

Let's make this new garden a lovely feature we can all enjoy in the heart of our beautiful village centre! Thank you!

Rosie

Email: [rosie@rosiehowenutrition.com](mailto:rosie@rosiehowenutrition.com)

100





Filkins & Broughton Poggs

## **Village Litter Pick**

Saturday March 25th 2023

Meeting at

Village Hall at 2pm

Please come and give an hour or two to keep our village looking at its best

Bags provided. Please bring sturdy gloves, high-viz jackets. Some picking sticks provided but please bring your own if you have one.

Cars will drop people at various points around the village to work their way back to Filkins

Village Hall.

Complementary Tea & Cakes from 3.00pm



## **FILKINS THEATRE AGM**

Please join us at our AGM at 7.30 pm in Filkins Village Hall, you will be most welcome. Anyone with an inkling to join in monthly meetings, rehearsed readings, productions, back stage etc should come along!

Secretary: Lynne Savege. [lynnesavege@gmail.com](mailto:lynnesavege@gmail.com)

***Apologies that this report was missed from January's edition, well worth marking, what a team! Ed***

## **Community Lunch 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

We could hardly believe the fact that our latest Community Lunch held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, celebrated the beginning of our 6<sup>th</sup> year of lunches and our 5<sup>th</sup> Christmas together. Indeed, had it not been for the intervention of Covid wiping out any chance of a Christmas Lunch in 2020, this year would also have seen a half dozen consecutive yule tide occasions.

As it was, the event saw a record number of guests coming along, with more than 50 villagers sharing in what was, without doubt, a special and really happy occasion. The menu comprised a truly traditional main course of local turkey, with the pudding being slightly more "off piste" with Lexi creating a death defying chocolate brownie with meringue and fresh cream. For those guests still standing, coffee and chocolates were provided as a coup de gras.

Thank you all for your continued support, along with a very special mention to those members of our village who give freely of their time in providing table decorations and flowers, move furniture and help clearing and washing up after each event. A genuine Community Lunch.

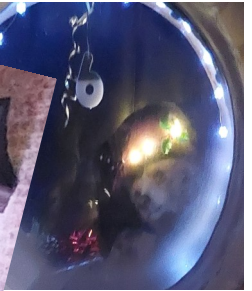
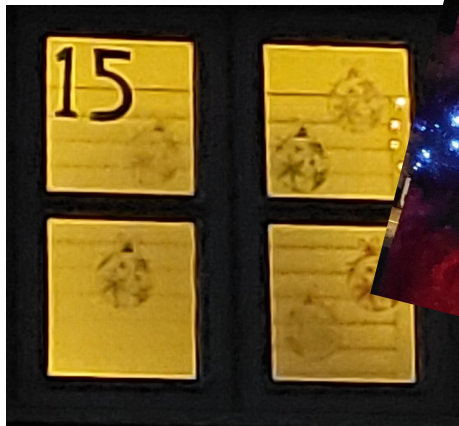


**The Christmas Catering Team:** (left to right) Don, Dan (foreground), Pauline, Annika, Lexi, Moira

## **Food Bank**

Finally, and as is befitting such an occasion, Alan Heath presented a cheque to Moira for £210 as a contribution to the Witney Food Bank. This cheque represented the proceeds of the Drama Group's raffle takings at the two magnificent pantomime performances held on the Friday and Saturday of the preceding week. Other food contributions collected on a continuous basis by the Village Shop and personal cheques generously given by a number of villagers, were all delivered to the Food Bank before Christmas. A donation that was gratefully received by Food Bank volunteers.





**More lovely  
Advent Windows**







**The Lenthall Concerts** - last two concerts of this season. These take place on Wednesdays at Burford School starting at 7.30pm. Tickets on the door at £

**22 February**

**Michael Bochmann (violin)**

**&**

**Adam Khan (guitar)**

Passionate music from South America  
together with classics from Europe

**29 March**

**Amael Piano Trio from Slovenia**

Magnificent works by Schubert, Haydn and  
Smetana



**Amos & Andy**  
**2012 –2023**





## Strawberry Mascarpone & Lemon Curd Tart

This is a very easy Waitrose recipe which I am sharing this month as it can be adapted to make the perfect Valentine's Day dessert. Just halve the ingredients and either buy or make two single pastry cases. If you are brave ( & have moulds) you could make them heart shaped, if not, just arrange the strawberries on top in the shape of a heart – even easier if you have a pastry cutter to use as a template! Otherwise just make as below and enjoy!

The recipe as you can see uses a bought pastry case but it is nice to make your own just google a recipe for sweet pastry and bake the tart blind (prick pastry, cover with baking paper and weight down with baking beans or some dried beans) cook as per recipe instructions, usually an oven at 200 degrees C for about 15 mins then remove paper and beans and bake for another 15 mins, then leave to cool before filling.



### Ingredients

125g mascarpone  
125g greek yoghurt  
175g lemon curd  
1 lemon, zested  
1 sweet pastry case (215g) (bought or made)  
400g strawberries, sliced.  
Icing sugar to dust.

### Method

Beat together the mascarpone and yoghurt in a bowl until smooth. Beat in the lemon curd and most of the lemon zest until combined. Use mixture to fill the pastry case(s), then arrange the strawberries on top and chill for 20 minutes. Dust with icing sugar and scatter over remaining lemon zest.



Enjoy





| 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      |
| <b>Sunday</b> | 11 -12        |           |
|               | 01367 860 239 |           |

# The Village Shop



#### Grey week



Rubbish



Food waste

#### Green week



Recycling



Garden waste



Food waste

We have a new stock of Mustard Foods which include a wide range off meals for 2-3 people

We also have a selection of Pukka Herbal Teas at reasonable prices

Don't forget we supply fresh fruit and veg on Thursday mornings. Do contact Lynne if you would like to be put on the mailing list.

[savegelynne@gmail.com](mailto:savegelynne@gmail.com)

***Thank you to those who support our village and shop and those that don't...please do!***

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

Green/recycling

grey/household

Friday 10 Feb

Friday 24 Feb

Friday 3 Feb

Friday 17 Feb