



# NEWSLETTER

**Happy New Year  
2025**



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

Dec 30	Fish & Chip van
Jan 9	Parish Council Meeting
Jan 23	Copy deadline for February
Feb 4	St Filica AGM

A new year is a time for resolutions so I will endeavour not to mention the weather too frequently in 2025, however as it is still 2024 as I write this ... .. Reading some back copies of Country Life which I get third hand, hence only catching up on March and April of this year, the reports of floods, sodden farm land, with crops washed away or unsown make me fear for the coming spring, as we seem to be in a parlous state already, Spare a thought as to where our food comes from. Successive governments don't seem to, they legislate targets for tree planting, green energy, water, air quality and Nature, but as yet nothing for food production. If you were a farmer and could put up a solar farm at £1200 a hectare – locked in for 20 years - or plant a wild flower mix for £800 per hectare, why would you take the risk and enormous cost of growing a food crop? Much of the country was under water for the early part of this year and is again in the latter half. We need greater incentives to make food production viable and profitable or farmers, as would any business person, will look for other opportunities. Since Covid and the war in Ukraine, there finally seems to be some realisation that national food security matters but currently little is being done.

A rather sparse edition this month as we went to press very early to allow for delivering alongside the Calendar before the year end.

Who knows what the new year will bring but we can be sure village life in our corner of this glorious country will continue to thrive, events will happen, friendship and concern for our neighbours will too, so may I wish everyone one of you A Happy and Healthy 2025. Ed.

## VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

The Village Hall Committee would like to wish you all a Very Happy and Healthy New Year 2025

We are on course to raise around £1500 from the lottery...still selling and collect money...for our wonderful village hall. As we are currently collating names the January draw will be in February's Newsletter.

The hall was opened as the Carter Institute in 1914 and has served our villages for a long time. We are always trying to improve it and there are plans to upgrade the toilets and the main hall floor, so our fund raising will help...thank you to all our supporters

Pauline Care, Peacock Farmhouse. 01367 860969



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

**JANUARY SERVICES FOR YOUR DIARY**

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

**6PM - EVENSONG**

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

**10.30AM – HOLY COMMUNION**

**Sunday February 23<sup>rd</sup> – 10.30am Family Service, Filkins**

And the New Year starts...new beginnings, and new resolutions - and in February instead of our usual monthly Holy Communion we will be holding a Family Service. If the formality of Holy Communion puts you off coming to Church, or if you feel it isn't relevant for you if you haven't been confirmed, but you would still like to be part of an hour of quiet reflection and peace in our busy and troubled world then do come along. This is very much an 'experiment'; so all and any ideas as to what you would like to see included in the service (or indeed not included!) then please do let one of the team know.

**Chris Woodford**

Immediately before Christmas we said goodbye to Chris at her Memorial Service in Filkins Church. Chris did so much for our community, and it was very moving to see so many people there to support Tony and his family. As the New Year starts and as her beloved daffodils first herald the start of Spring she will be very much in our thoughts.

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

**Rector:**

**Reverend Harry MacInnes 01993 845954**

[harrymacinnes@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:harrymacinnes@yahoo.co.uk)

**Associate Vicar:**

**Reverend Cannon Dennis Stamps**

**01367 860555**

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

**Churchwardens**

**Gill Allison 01367 860787**

[gillian.allison@zen.co.uk](mailto:gillian.allison@zen.co.uk)

**Charlie Payne 01367 860529**

[broughtonpoggs@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:broughtonpoggs@hotmail.co.uk)

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



## SWINFORD MUSEUM

I am writing this as storm Darragh blows it's way through the village with the Christmas lights being lit this evening. Of course that is if the tree has not been blown away.

The Museum had a sales table at the monthly coffee morning this week and we made a good amount towards the Museum's coffers. Thank you to the organisers for allowing us to be there and for all those of you who bought your bits for Christmas.

Probably when you read this Christmas will be a distant memory but I do hope you all had an excellent festive time. A Happy New Year to you all.

Diane Blackett.



A message from Elizabeth Gidman....

I would like to wish all my friends in Filkins & Broughton Poggs the very best for the New Year and thank everyone who sent kind messages of support and commiserations over the recent flooding of my home here in Shipton.

*Elizabeth*

## 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

## Parish Council Report meeting 11 December 2024

My apologies for stating the wrong date for the December meeting in last months newsletter

On 24 November regrettably Broughton Poggs experienced flooding and some houses had water ingress of some kind – some much worse than others. This happened so fast – the water rose within 30 minutes and the Parish Council and several volunteers were out directing traffic around the flood. Thank you to everyone who came out to help in the pouring rain. We had another meeting with OCC and WODC and tracked the path of the water as it came from a different direction than before – we have had valuable information from householders in Broughton Poggs and we are working with the District & County Councils on a way forward. There is a requirement for 60% of the houses/businesses with water ingress to report to OCC and WODC for them to consider additional flood defences. Then we will be able to hold an open meeting in January to update on progress.

The bund did a good job of holding back tonnes of water and we have been working with OCC since May 24 to build up the front of the bund where it has subsided. We have funding from OCC for this and have now been given the go ahead to carry out these works before April 2025.

We will be setting up a Whatsapp group for people who may need help if the water levels rise in the future and are asking for phone numbers to be sent to the Clerk [clerk@filkins.org.uk](mailto:clerk@filkins.org.uk) to register your number if you may need help AND if you are able to volunteer to come and help residents move furniture – direct traffic etc.... This group will only be used for flooding issues nothing else.

OCC are consulting on a dark sky initiative which will start in Oxford City and be rolled out to the whole of Oxfordshire. Street lights will be turned off from 11pm to 6.30am – opposition has been met due to safety reasons. If this goes ahead we will be asking OCC to pay for timers for all our street lights.

WODC are looking to revise for the waste system – they are contemplating giving each household 5-6 bins or bags so we can recycle more! We asked where residents were supposed to store them all! Also the reusable bags when left by the refuse collector on the kerbside will be blown all over the road. Cllr Leverton took this on board. Having just watched the recycling being emptied – we separate our glass, electrics, recycling then they come along and tip everything into the blue bin and put it into the back of the truck... why do we do it??? This is the question we will be posing. Who needs extra bins when it looks like one will do?

This is the month for budget setting – OCC and WODC are having a great deal of trouble balancing their accounts. The Parish Council finalised the budget for 2025/26 and set the precept. There may be a need to raise the precept this year but we are waiting for confirmation from WODC concerning unregistered land - we have been told we will need to take responsibility for ditches on unregistered land and have them cleared at the Parish's expense.

### Next meeting of the Parish Council will be the 9 January 2025

(2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) at 7.30pm in Filkins Village Hall Committee Room

Please look on website for full minutes

The Parish Council exists to represent the views of all residents and best interests of the village. The Council can always be contacted through the Clerk, Cris Hoad, by email [clerk@filkins.org.uk](mailto:clerk@filkins.org.uk) or phone 01367 860388. Please, if you have any issues concerning our villages please do contact the Parish Council, if we are not made aware of them, we cannot deal with them appropriately. [clerk@filkins.org.uk](mailto:clerk@filkins.org.uk) but do remember the Clerk is not always on duty!



**St Filica - 2024 Finance Report & call for Funding Bids ahead of the AGM**  
**on Tuesday 4th February at 8pm**

The accounts will be presented at the meeting for sign off by members, I would like to give you a brief overview of income and expenditure for the year. Questions / requests for further detail will then be addressed at the AGM .

We had budgeted to break even this year, covering forecast costs of around £3k through the summer ball , two quiz and curry nights, gazebo rentals and membership fees. In the event, the "Going for Gold" Ball exceeded all expectations and we expect to finish with a surplus of over £1k. As planned, we repaired and replaced some of the gazebos and chairs as the hire outs continue to provide a steady stream of income each year thanks to our team of volunteer helpers. As well as continuing to provide the monthly newsletter and calendar free to every household in Filkins & Broughton Poggs, St Filica funds the village website and the annual Father Christmas event. This year, we also funded the Christmas tree which has been donated in previous years and expect to have to do this going forward. With the rising costs of insurance and printing this will bring our forecast costs for 2025 to almost £4k.

The good news is that despite forecasting a deficit of between £1.5k and £2k for 2025, the surplus we have generated in 2024 plus strong reserves will enable us to make funds available for bids at the AGM. If you are part of a local club or organisation that is in need of funds for a specific purchase or project (not normal running costs ) then please email us or contact one of the committee members with the amount you are looking for and details of what it would be used for. A representative will need to make a short pitch at the AGM on the basis of which the members will decide how the surplus funds are allocated between bids.

We intend to keep the membership fee at a nominal £2. As well as voting rights, membership entitles you to a free glass of wine at the AGM so please come along on the 4th February at 8pm. If you can't make it, you can pay the fee by bank transfer (email [StFilica@hotmail.com](mailto:StFilica@hotmail.com) for the details) or by cash / cheque payable to St Filica Society. Donations are always welcome and we thank those of you who generously supported us in 2024

Amy Geschke

Treasurer, St Filica Society



## Filkins Christmas Tree Celebrations: A Night to Remember



This year's Christmas celebrations in Filkins were filled with festive spirit, despite the challenges posed by Storm Darragh. While ECT were unable to donate a tall enough tree this year, the St Filica group stepped in, generously purchasing, erecting, and decorating a beautiful tree that became the heart of the village's festivities.

The Christmas tree light switch-on went ahead as planned and despite the heavy rain and gusty winds, a large crowd gathered to mark the occasion.

Father Christmas, as always, was the star of the show and this year, he was joined by Mary's ponies, who were delightfully decked out for the occasion. Santa, along with the crowd and children carrying lanterns, then paraded down to the church, where the warmth and cheer of the evening continued.



Inside the church, the mulled wine was flowing, and the air was filled with the irresistible scent of cakes and mince pies, providing much needed comfort on a miserable night. (special thanks to the bakers of the pies and cakes)

Kate Mowbray had worked some magic, assembling a wonderful choir of local children who kicked off the concert with a lovely rendition of "Away in a Manger." The children were then joined by the congregation for a joyful sing along of Christmas carols, making it a truly heartwarming occasion

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Linden for playing the organ, which added to the festive atmosphere. A special thank you goes out to everyone who braved the wet and windy weather to come together in celebration, your presence truly made the evening special.

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the evening, and we hope you had a merry and bright holiday season in Filkins!



New Year, chilly weather, what could be more comforting than a bowl of soup for lunch or a light supper.....

## Cauliflower Soup

1 large cauliflower , approx. 1.5 kg, cut into florets  
1/2 tbsp ground cumin  
2 tbsp olive oil  
4 sprigs of thyme  
1 onion finely chopped  
1 stick of celery, finely chopped clove garlic, crushed  
750 - 850 ml veg or chicken stock  
100ml single cream  
1/2 small bunch of parsley, finely chopped



Heat oven to 200C. Toss cauliflower with 1 tbsp of oil, cumin and thyme in a roasting tin and roast for 15 mins or until golden and tender. Discard the thyme.

Heat remaining oil in a saucepan with onion and celery and fry over a medium heat till softened. Add garlic and cook for 1 min. stir through most of the cauliflower, reserving a few florets to top the soup with later. Add 750ml of stock and bring to a simmer. Cook for 10 mins. Blitz the soup with a hand blender or food processor. Stir through the cream and season to taste. Add extra stock if you like a thinner soup. Ladle in to warm bowls and top with parsley, reserved cauliflower and a drizzle of oil.

Serve with a roll or crusty bread.

## The Lenthall Concerts 2024/5 season

08 January 7.00pm

**Elgar Piano Concerto Unearthed**

(arranged for solo piano)

David Owen Norris (Piano)

Burford School Hall. Individual concerts are £20

[www.lenthallconcerts.org.uk](http://www.lenthallconcerts.org.uk)



Day	Morning	After-noon
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	
	07587647771	



New Year Opening:

Monday 30th Dec 10-11 3- 4  
 Tuesday 31st Dec 10-11 Closed  
**Wednesday 1st Jan Closed all day**  
 Thursday 2nd Jan 10-12 3- 4 (market day)

December proved a very busy month in the shop with numerous Christmas meat, fruit & veg orders, along with the delicious bread and croissants. Our shop was looking very festive with our beautiful advent window, Well done Lynne.

Hilary's breast cancer raffle proved a success with many customers purchasing raffle tickets, coffee & mince pies. Winners & exact money raised, to be published in next months issue. A big thank you to all the shop volunteers who made cakes, mince pies and helped out.

We sell large bags of kindling at great prices along with wood & fire lighters for those cosy nights in. Why not make it your new year resolution to pop into our shop each week to purchase at least one item. You will be surprised at what else we stock.

Happy new year to everyone from your local shop.

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

Green/recycling	grey/household
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