



JUNE 2025 ISSUE 257

NEWSLETTER



Editor: stfilica@mail.com

04 June	Coffee Morning
17 June	Parish Council Meeting
21 June	Cotswold Makers Fair
22 June	Village Bowls Day
25 June	Copy deadline for July
30 June	Fish & Chip van

Well, May came and went very quickly, it did feel like summer, let's hope that's not all we get. Our villages yet again showed how keen they are to party and the 80th Anniversary of VE Day was well and truly marked. Huge thank yous to all those involved in making things happen. As ever there is a stalwart band of do-ers and we are grateful to them for continuing to get stuck in; all the work that goes on behind the scenes of any event is a big commitment in time and effort, so well done, we appreciate it. Same goes for the NGS Gardens Open, blessed yet again with a glorious day, I believe the car park was completely full, there were certainly many people walking the street and seemingly enjoying the day.. The organisation is immense, from the actual gardeners who work tirelessly to make their plot ready to Avril Payne who co-ordinates the whole thing, car parkers, sign erectors and the tea providers, often the most important part of the day for some.

Onward and upward, a Village Bowls Day is again in the offing and the Produce Show follows on. What a magical place we live in.

I threatened an update on my Hadrian's Wall Walk...yes folks, I did it. See inside for reports from both us. Ed.

VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

JUNE WINNER: Linda and Stephen Richards

Congratulations and my thanks for your continued support

Wishing you all a wonderful summer and a warm welcome to new residents

Pauline Care Peacock Farmhouse 01367 860969



**COMMUNITY
FUND**

St Filica are very grateful for the generous grant received from the Lottery Community Fund, which enabled us to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day in such style. See inside.



THE CHURCHES OF ST PETER BROUGHTON POGGS CUM FILKINS

JUNE SERVICES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUNDAY 8TH JUNE — BROUGHTON POGGS

6PM — EVENSONG

SUNDAY 22ND JUNE — BROUGHTON POGGS

10.30AM — HOLY COMMUNION

No this is not a misprint — this month both services will be at Broughton Poggs. We haven't held a Communion service there for a couple of years, and it is time we put that right — do please come along on the 22nd for what will be a special Sunday.

Open Gardens was a very busy day indeed, and a real 'baptism of fire' for Vicky, Michele and Alan Heath who took on tea duties in the Village Hall for the first time. A massive 'thank you' to them and the hard-working team of bakers and helpers they raised a record sum for the Churches in the village. We are exceptionally grateful for all your hard work and we shall miss you all and wish you all the best as your plans for your move 'up North' take shape.

Sadly our regular organist Catrin has suffered a minor stroke; she is recovering well, but it will be a little while before she is back with us and she is very much in our thoughts as we wish her a speedy convalescence. In the meantime we are working to put cover in place, but please bear with us if some services are 'unaccompanied' — and be prepared to sing up! It has also been a sad time for several families in the village who have lost close family in the last month or received difficult news; our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Finally it was the Annual Parish Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting at the end of May; all existing members of the PCC stood once again and were re-elected, along with the two

Churchwardens. Thanks to all who serve and support the work of the Church in the villages, and for giving of your time for another year.

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
broughtonpoggsmill@hotmail.co.uk

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



Filkins and Broughton Poggs Gardening club news for June

Hopefully by the time you read this we are frost free! Constant vigilance was required throughout May, as the forecast threatened below zero temperatures. Many of us had made the most of the beautiful April weather and risked putting out tender plants. If you haven't already done so now is the time to replenish the hanging baskets with some nutrients and tender summer planting, together with planting out the runner beans and courgettes ready for the produce show.

May saw no garden club trips but there was an interesting talk in Broadwell in April by 'Katia Plant scientist' about how plants naturally protect themselves from invading bugs. June promises: a trip to Friars Court Clanfield, organised by Heather (places still available at time of writing). A trip to Worcester College organised by Lorraine and a trip to Pershore Horticultural College organised by Allison and Brian.

VE day celebrations saw both the churches decorated with beautiful flowers reflecting the Union flag colours. Finally some of our gardens were open again on May 18th, under the National Gardens scheme. Once again the weather was perfect, sunny but not too hot. All the gardens looked beautiful and were so varied – we are so lucky - and the teas as always were wonderful.

Tips for June:

Lift and store tulip bulbs after flowering

Continue planting out summer bedding and continue watering

Plant out sweetcorn, arrange in blocks to aid pollination

Mulch beans and courgettes

Give house plants a weekly liquid feed till the autumn

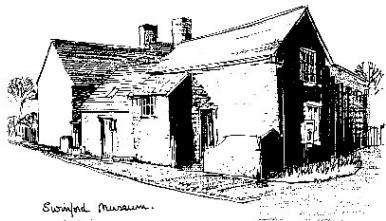
Enjoy your garden!

Sue (sue.ashforthsmith@btinternet.com)



If you live in Filkins or Broughton Poggs and are over 18 you can join the club.

Contact: Juliertridgell@outlook.com



Swinford Museum

The V.E. Day celebrations went off well with everyone enjoying the festivities. The planes decorating the hall were magnificent, well done Andy and Kevin. The Horsa gliders flew from Bradwell Grove aerodrome for D Day which those of you who visited last year would have learnt about it. You can read about the fire at Goodfellows in the museum when it was being used as a Land Girl's hostel, Elsie Garrett was one of the girls who jumped from one of the windows and survived and has just celebrated her 100th birthday this year.

Sarah Farmer was born in Filkins 1837 and married William Yeates, they ran a public house in Hannington near Highworth. They had five children and on Christmas Eve 1874 Sarah and two of the children, Fanny and Lizzie caught a train to travel to Wolverhampton to visit friends. Sadly the train crashed and Sarah and Fanny lost their lives. Lizzie was only two years old and remembers being thrown through a window to safety. She eventually moved to Canada where she married and had a family. One of her great, great grandchildren, Pat, recently contacted the Museum in the hope of seeing the small memorial card which we have in our collection, see picture below. You can always come to the museum to see it. Some of you may remember we gave a talk on the subject a few years ago.



Don't forget Oxleaze garden is open for the NGS on Sunday June 1st and the Museum is providing the teas, so do come and support us, thank you.

Diane Blackett

80th Anniversary of VE Day well celebrated!



Firstly the more sober act of remembrance



Both churches



All those poppies knitted by Elaine Smith

Then the fun begins, decorating the hall and marquee....our aeronautical engineers Andy and Kevin hoist their masterpieces into place





AFTERNOON TEA

Diane Blackett and her mighty team served delicious cream and full afternoon teas in aid of Swinford museum, they were delicious (asserted calorie free!) and enjoyed by over 52 people





Supper break



The Ed. loves a uniform!



Wide boy chairman



The amazing Cotswold Chippy served 140 portions freshly cooked portions!

OPEN GARDENS MAY 2025

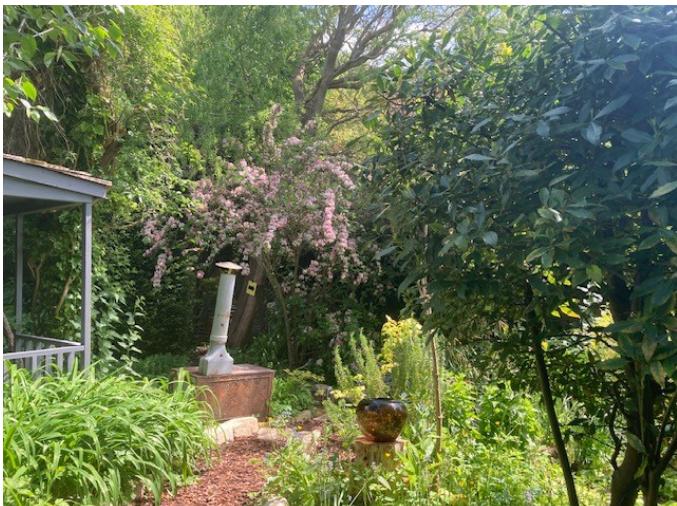
I looked at the report I did for last year's Open Gardens when it didn't seem possible that we might have an even more successful event in years to come. It just shows how wrong you can be. It was pure Goldilocks weather, neither too hot nor too cold and much as the gardeners might have wished for rain, no-one wanted it on that Sunday. I'm sure the beautiful weather and the fact there were no other NGS openings contributed to the huge number of visitors. This year we had **500!!** paying visitors and numerous more small people. A constant comment is how much visitors enjoy the variety and diversity of the gardens and this year there was a lot of interest in the allotments. **Ticket sales raised a massive £5,000** and we received a donation of £100 from Pauline and Peter Care's plant and preserve sales, so thanks to them for their generosity. This money will help the NGS donate funds to nursing charities throughout the country and allow them to continue their invaluable work.

Some things however stay the same and that is the wonderful team effort we have achieved over these past years. So, once again, it is huge thanks to everyone involved in making the day so successful. Thanks especially to the gardeners and allotmenters for all their hard work in making everything look so spectacular and without whom we wouldn't have an event. Thanks to Vicky Heath who, for the first time, organised the wonderful teas in the Village Hall and to those who baked cakes, made tea and revived the weary visitors. Having the teas is an integral and vital part of the afternoon and contributes so much to the overall success of the opening. The teas raised a massive **£1,535.45** for the two churches in our villages. Thanks to the Parish Council for allowing the use of Hardcastle's Field for parking which was vital as this year we were victims of our own success and it was full by 2.20pm and there was no option but to advise visitors to park on the road. Thanks as ever to Dave Heslam for inspecting the Field and laying it out and thanks to the car park marshalls who donned their high viz and sun hats and organised the safe parking as well as selling tickets. Other ticket sellers were Diane Blackett, Alan Heath and Debbie Law as well as the Grays at Field House, Filkins Hall and Theo Hodges at the Mill. I hope that I've covered everyone, even if not by name.

Sadly it is time to bid goodbye to Lynne Sargeant who is moving from the village and has been a stalwart supporter of Open Gardens. Her garden is an absolute delight and I only hope she can persuade the new owners to look after it and open next year. Lynne – you will be greatly missed and we wish you well.

I hope those of you who managed to get round the gardens that were open enjoyed your afternoon as much as we did.

AVRIL PAYNE





Parish Council Report meeting 14 May 2025

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Parish Meeting on 14 May. Unfortunately Thames Valley Police were called to an incident just before they arrived and South Central Ambulance Service had to cancel. We will be rearranging their visit.

We have undertaken a speed tube survey on B4477 and are awaiting the results. This has to be carried out before OCC will look at undertaking any works on the road.

As from June our meetings move to 3rd Tuesday in each month at 7.30pm so 17 June, 15 July, 19 August (instead of September) 21 October, 18 November, 16 December.

If you have any items for discussion at the meeting please contact the Clerk – clerk@filkins.org.uk

Communication

Thank you to all the residents who have completed the online form. It is still available if you have not done so.

We are trying to improve communication to residents and have set up an online form to be completed giving us permission to contact you and stating how you would like us to do this. There is a link (please copy and paste into your browser) and QR code below to complete the form. There will also be printed forms in the Village Shop if you want to complete in person. Please leave at the shop and the Clerk will collect

<https://forms.office.com/r/9S4X1FfiwN>



VE Day 80th Anniversary Remembrance Display.



You had probably noticed the soldier silhouette at the bus shelter and the poppy cascade in the church porch during the Remembrance period in recent years. The silhouette was hand drawn by Kevin Robbins And the poppies were knitted as a village effort overseen by Diane Blackett.

Friday evening conversations last winter showed a desire to build on this. Frank & Elaine Smith had taken note of the Remembrance displays in other villages and Kevin Robbins had in mind additional silhouette(s) for the War Memorial area. Kevin eventually decided to purchase two of the RBL soldier silhouettes and applied to St Filica for funding, the membership generously voted for funds that covered some two thirds of the cost and Sir John Allison very kindly offered to cover the balance.

Buoyed by such generosity Kevin set his sights on an additional silhouette, this time representing an airman, appropriate given our proximity to Brize Norton & Broadwell. The cost of this was fully covered by a donation from the Beer Festival Committee. Meanwhile Elaine Smith decided to knit poppies to enhance the displays at both the War Memorial and bus shelter. A mornings work from Kevin, Frank & Elaine with the invaluable aid of Ian Grey put it all together.

Hopefully you will have seen the results over the 80th V E Day commemorations, these together with the church display will be seen during future Remembrance Sundays.

Hadrian's Wall Walk - Andy Hoad

Long, long ago... actually when I was an apprentice, I had twice taken part in the Ten Tors walk on Dartmoor, our training for which began in the winter months around Edale, which is the southern end of the Pennine Way and instilled in me the desire to complete the 268 mile route. Unfortunately the 16-19 days required was too long to take off work and so the idea was parked.

Now retired I have the time, but between slightly dodgy knees and ankles I

I think that it is probably now out of reach. However, a couple of conversations with Kev Robbins regarding his Hadrian's Wall walk (in aid of the Fire Service Charity) a few years ago, inspired me to take this on as a more manageable (85 mile) challenge and I determined to complete it this spring.

I mentioned this in passing to Jane Martin over Christmas and somewhat to my surprise she expressed a keen interest... whilst there may have been some buyers remorse, she stuck to her guns and we conducted a series of training walks both individually and together before finally setting off on Saturday 26th April. We visited Segedunum, the Roman fort at Wallsend that afternoon before sallying forth from the fort, our starting point the following morning.

The 85 mile walk does not always follow the line of the wall which is some 80 miles long. There are 16 forts spaced at approximately 7 mile intervals where the majority of the troops would have been housed, 80 defensive Milecastles, placed unsurprisingly at approximately 1 mile intervals, numbered from east to west they would have housed between 10-30 soldiers and between the Milecastles were two smaller defensive turrets. The wall itself was mainly built in stone, it varied in height and width but on average was about 2.4 m wide and 5 m high, some sections mainly to the west were constructed of earth. The defences were strengthened with a defensive ditch just north of the wall and a further wider and deeper ditch, the Vallum, a little to the south which created a sterile defensive band. Today no wall remains from Wallsend to Heddon-on-the-Wall in the east or from the river crossing between Milecastles 55-56 to the coast in the west.



For the first 15 miles the route does not follow the course of the wall which is now lost beneath the city of Newcastle, rather for the most part it follows the course of the river Tyne, giving views ranging from the post-industrial remains of the shipyards to the bustling city centre and at one point the sight of seven bridges including the Millenium Foot Bridge. The route leaves the city at Newburn but continues to follow the river until finally turning away to climb up the hill to Heddon-on-the-Wall where the route finally joins the course of the wall and the end of day one for us. At this point I must mention that we were supported by my wife Cris, driving the Freelander; whilst there are baggage transfer services available, we had a great deal of flexibility, put to use on this first night with our accommodation being some three miles away. Returning to Heddon in the morning, we glimpsed the first, albeit rather small section of wall driving into the village, oddly enough it wasn't on the walking route. The second days walk followed the B6318 almost the entire 15 miles to Chollerford, although there is over 1,100 ft of ascent and 1,300ft of descent the route follows gently rolling hills and the walking is easy. Towards the end of the day we crossed the battlefield site of Heavenfields (633AD) and the 18th century church of St Oswald's, reputedly built where King Oswald raised a large wooden cross prior to the battle. A little further on by turret 26A we came across the first section of the wall on the walking route.

Day three took us 12 miles from Chollerford (Milecastle 27) to the car park at Steel Rig (between Milecastles 39-40) and this was undoubtedly the hardest day with over 2,000 ft of ascent and 1,300 ft of descent. The terrain starts as the day before over rolling hills, but by Milecastle 33 approaching the Pennine spine the going becomes more arduous and the last two and a half miles from the Roman fort at Housesteads contains the steepest and occasionally partially craggy climbs and descents, if you are happy not to follow the exact line of the wall, the Military Road slightly south of the wall it would iron out much of this. Turret 37A is at the famous Sycamore Gap, sadly now just a stump.

Day four was the shortest walk at just nine miles from Steel Rig to Gilsland, the first section is still very hilly as the route exits the Pennine spine but by the end is back to gently rolling hills. Days three and four being the most rugged and least populated contain by far the largest and best preserved remaining sections of the wall. Day five took us another ten miles to Newton, the last visible sections of the wall were on this section, by the river crossing approaching Walton. By the end of the day the route had very much returned to the lowlands. The final two days covered 24 miles, following the river Eden through Carlisle and finally along the Solway Firth to Bowness-on-Solway. We were extremely fortunate in that the weather conditions were as close to perfect as we could have wished throughout the period.



Newcastle to Bowness on Solway - Hadrian's Wall Walk (Jane's take)



Yes, we did it and during an extremely warm week, not that we're complaining, much preferable to wet and windy.

At the advice of the b&b owner we drove up to Tynemouth to touch the shore, so that if we did the same at Bowness we could claim the Coast to Coast Path as well, not quite a cheat, but we discovered a lighthouse and seal colony which was a bonus.

Walking through Newcastle on Day 1 was much more interesting than anticipated, beautiful bridges over the Tyne and the cantilevered Millenium one was stunning, the Sunday market could have been distracting but apart from a coffee en route we kept going.



The wonderful Mrs Hoad was our one woman support team, locating our evening b&b's, meeting us at points of interest and tracking our progress should I collapse,always a possibility.



Days 2 and 3 took us through some stunning countryside, so much blossom, gorse and lambs of all ages, Andy had the compulsory lesson in sheep breeds as we went along. Birds were constantly singing and I heard my first cuckoo on April 30th. Days 3 & 4 got harder, uphill climbs and steep downhill negotiations; Sycamore gap sadly deprived of it's treethe culprits were in court as we walked, but they say it is sprouting.



Although we met other walkers, relatively few but all cheery with the possible exception of around 70 young soldiers on their basic training, some of whom were definitely struggling bless them.

An interesting selection of b&b's, from more basic to excellent, a highlight was in a lovely Georgian Manor House with a fabulous dinner and actually one of the most reasonable, a real find and worth a return visit sometime.

The last two days were less exciting, long stretches of road and walking down the Solway estuary from Carlise was pretty much a slog, one could see a mile ahead on a dead straight earth bank, maybe what the Roman legions felt!



Coast to coast!



Mr Hoad's mileages differed from my Strava app, I reckon I did over 90 miles, so there!





Ever thought about Bowling? Now's the time!



**Filkins Bowls Club invites you to a
FUN VILLAGE BOWLS/ "Let's Roll" DAY**

On Sunday 22nd June from 10.30am

Bowls Green, Filkins

(on the corner of Rouses Lane)

No experience necessary, just wear flat soled shoes. Bowls will be provided and members will be on hand to explain, encourage and offer help. Bowls is fun, friendly and gentle exercise. Come and have a go.

Teams of two will play each other over 2 sets of 3 ends (an end is basically bowling from one end to the other), with each player using two bowls and taking turns to deliver their bowls nearest to the 'jack'. Scoring will be simple and depending on the number of teams taking part we will arrange rounds and play offs or a knockout system. Everyone (over 12) is welcome, encourage friends and family to take part, please just let our Secretary Annika Hansen know names by 16th June

Light refreshments will be available, plus a pay bar (cash only) and raffle

We look forward to welcoming you

Filkins has had a Bowls Club since 1936 but in the nature of all clubs, membership waxes and wanes. Currently we are small and in need of more players. This might be your chance to have a go in a fun and relaxed way and see if you enjoy it....you might get hooked, or even bowled over!

Filkins & Broughton Poggs Swimming Club

Well May 3rd was definitely one to remember - the membership sold out on opening day!



If you live in Filkins or Broughton Poggs you can still obtain membership so please contact

filkinspool@hotmail.com and Claire or Cris will make this available

Happy swimming...let's hope the sun shines!



A date for your diary- Late Summer Fete

We are planning to run a later summer fete in the kickabout field on the afternoon of Saturday the 6th September from 1pm until 5pm.

There will be:

- Music
- Stalls
- Games
- Food
- Drink

Watch this space for details soon.

Simon
St Filica Chairman

Ps If you fancy running a stall or game on the day, please contact me or email

stfilica@hotmail.com

The **COTSWOLD**
Makers
craft *at the*
Filkins Fair
Filkins Village Hall, GL7 3JQ
10am to 4pm, Saturday 21st June 2025
... and other dates throughout the year

“By Hand, with Design”

Ceramics, textiles,
jewellery, candles,
print & lots more...

07818 440824 thecotswoldmakers@gmail.com

@thecotswoldmakers

No admission charge
Refreshments nearby
Lovely village to explore



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

Our resident chef is away so we have master baker Helen Dunmall to thank for this recipe

Bacon and Cheddar Muffins

These savoury muffins are perfect for a picnic or if the British weather lets us down, then they are a fabulous warmed accompaniment to a hearty bowl of soup.



to

Ingredients (makes 6 large muffins)

250g self-raising flour
150g mature Cheddar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
1 tablespoon chopped chives or some chopped spring onions also works well
4 rashers streaky bacon, cooked and cut into small bitesize pieces
100ml natural yoghurt
100ml milk
2 eggs

Method

Preheat oven to 200'C/180 fan/gas mark 6

Fry bacon rashers in a little oil and turn out to cool, then chop roughly into small pieces

Grate the cheese

Mix the dry ingredients together: flour, cheese, bacon, salt, pepper and chives

In a separate bowl beat 2 eggs and add yoghurt and milk

Make a well in the dry ingredients and add wet. Mix quickly but gently. Don't overmix, the mixture should be lumpy and just about falling off the spatula- if not add a touch more milk

Spoon mixture into paper cases in a muffin tin and bake for 15-18minutes or until tops are golden. Turn out onto a rack to cool

Warning: these are very moreish!



Day	Morning	After-noon
Monday	10-11	3 - 5
Tuesday	10-11	3 - 5
Wednesday		3 - 5
Thursday	10-11	3 - 5
Friday	10-11	3 - 5
Saturday	10-11	3 - 5
Sunday	11-12	3 - 5
	07587647771	

The Village Shop



The start of our busy period has begun. The pool opening was a great success with the shop selling out of bacon and sausage baps. Since then the sun has been shining and the shop filling with customers purchasing their snacks and drinks for poolside. On Sunday 18th was the NGS and Barry did a great job serving visitors with ice creams and other goods.

If you need any fruit and veg remember we still go to Carterton market every Thursday and stock fresh sourdough bread and cinnamon buns every Saturday. Just let a volunteer in the shop know of your order or email me .

New volunteers are always welcome. Just one hour a week and you get to meet such lovely people. Thank you for supporting your local shop.

sue.yardley@gmail.com

Green week

Recycling



Food waste



Garden waste



Grey week

Rubbish



Food waste



Green/recycling

grey/household

Friday 30 May

Friday 6 June

Friday 13 June

Friday 20 June

Friday 27 June