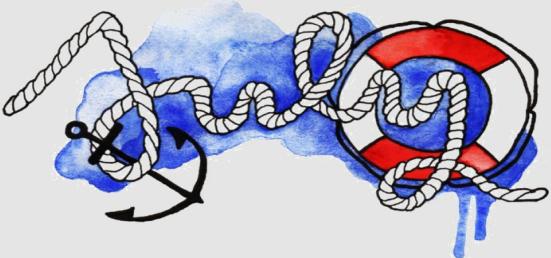




JULY 2025 ISSUE 258

# NEWSLETTER



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

02 July  
15 July  
23 July  
28 July

Coffee Morning  
Parish Council Meeting  
Copy deadline for July  
Fish & Chip van

Summer sun for the last 5 or 6 weeks has speeded up the ripening of cereal crops, I was amazed crossing the Wiltshire downs how yellow the fields were, but whether there will be much grain in the ears after so little rain remains to be seen at harvesting. Brilliant hay making weather though! Whilst reading 'Madame Bovary' at a Filkins Theatre evening a week or two ago, I was surprised by the following passage: *And what should I be doing here, gentlemen, demonstrating to you the usefulness of agriculture? Who is it that provides for our needs? Who is it that furnishes our sustenance? Is it not the farmer? The farmer, gentlemen, who impregnating with unwearyed hand the teeming furrows of our countryside, brings forth the corn, which, once crushed, is turned to powder by means of cunning engines, issues thence under the name flour, and, from there, is conveyed to the cities, is swiftly delivered to the baker, who confects from it nourishment for rich and poor alike. Is it not likewise the farmer who fattens for our garments, his prolific flocks in the meadows? For how should we be clothed, how should we be nourished without the farmer? Gustave Flaubert published this in 1856.. plus ca change, plus c'est la même chose - we still need our farmers. Ed.*

## VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY JULY WINNER: Sara Moule

**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



## THE CHURCHES OF ST PETER BROUGHTON POGGS CUM FILKINS

### JULY SERVICES FOR YOUR DIARY

**SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY – BROUGHTON POGGS**

**6PM – EVENSONG**

**SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY – FILKINS**

**10.30AM – HOLY COMMUNION**

**Oneira Trio – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 7pm for 7.30**

There is a separate advert elsewhere in this month's edition but please do come along and see the outstanding Oneira Trio (harp, viola and flute) playing for us again in Filkins church - £15 from either churchwarden as below, to include drinks before and after the concert – and all proceeds will go towards the following...

#### Works at St Peters Filkins

We have got the green light from the Diocese to start works on repairing the floors and improving the underfloor ventilation at Filkins church in the north aisle and vestry – these works were the 'next on the list' from the five yearly inspection in 2021 and we now need to get on with them. Services will continue as normal but you will see certain areas of the church cordoned off for safety from early September onwards.

#### Weddings!

Weddings are like buses – there isn't one for a year, and then there are two on the same day at the same time one in each church! Congratulations to Georgina Choyce who is marrying Matt at St Peters Broughton Poggs on 12<sup>th</sup> July, while up the road at St Peters Filkins Tom Dewbury is marrying Catherine. Many congratulations from us all and we wish you every happiness on your special day and for your lives together.

**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](http://www.svbb.org.uk)



# The Oneira Trio

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2025 - 7pm for Recital at 7.30pm**

**St Peter's Church, Filkins**

**Isabelle Harris - Flute      Elliott Kempton - Viola      Emily Harris - Harp**

**A return visit for another evening of wonderful classical music with this award-winning trio of young professional musicians who have performed with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra, and the Fibonacci Quartet**

**The concert will include Six English Folk Songs by Vaughan Williams – who was born locally in Down Ampney where his father was Vicar**

**£15 per person to include all drinks before and after the concert**

**All proceeds will go towards the restoration works to the flooring at Filkins church**

**To reserve your seats please contact Charlie Payne**

**07810 158558 or 01367 860529**

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

**This is their third visit and many of you will have witnessed their outstanding musicianship before. Since we last saw them Elliot is now the full time viola player for the Fibonacci Quartet, one of Europe's leading young string ensembles and is playing in next month's Cambridge Summer Music Festival. Whilst having won the Sir Ian Stoutzker Prize at the Welsh Festival of Music for 'Best Instrumentalist', flautist Isabelle has been playing with the London Symphony Orchestra and the Philharmonia along with guesting for several European orchestras and**



Many gardens are at their peak in June and we visited 3 this month;

Friars Court, Clanfield

Worcester College, Oxford (more on that next month)

Pershore College near Worcester

On June 3<sup>rd</sup> 20 members had a fascinating guided tour by Charles Willmer, owner of Friars Court. The rain stopped and the sun came out just 15 minutes before we started! Charles talked about the history of the house, toured the garden with us and we heard about the conservation work on the 650 hectare farm which is part of the estate. They have curlews nesting! After time to look closely at the planting in the various garden 'rooms', we had the best cream tea ever! Scones and lemon drizzle cake baked that morning!

By contrast last Friday June 20<sup>th</sup> we visited a commercial nursery attached to the horticultural college at Pershore on the hottest day of the year so far!

We dashed in and quickly out of extremely hot glasshouses all the while learning about propagation techniques. We appreciated the specialist apple juices made on site (Pershore Press) as refreshment when we finished!

The nursery is in the process of downsizing to focus on supporting the students of the various horticultural courses. They will continue to develop their National Collection of Penstemons however which contains many old varieties such as 'Blackbird' plus several they have bred themselves. Josh Egan-Wyer and his team have just won a silver-gilt medal at Malvern and a gold at Gardeners World live. Impressive, as they are going through fundamental change.

Many thanks to Allison and Brian for organising this trip.

Our gardens are transitioning from early summer to their full summer peak this month, here are some tips for weatherproofing your July garden;

- In heat don't water a little often, but give lots of water infrequently
- Pots however, may well need watering every day
- It's a must to keep up with deadheading: especially in hot dry weather when flowers go over quickly in order to have continued flowering
- In windy weather add more stakes and prune lanky stems to reduce breakages. Group pots together for strength in numbers!

All our activities and events give us the chance to get to know each other better and to share gardening knowledge. We have more than 70 members and welcome all adults in our two villages. More information can be found on the Filkins website or do contact our membership co-ordinator Julie Tridgell (julietridgell@outlook.com).

Heather (hatkins@bluewin.ch)



Charles Wilmer &  
Friars Court

Filkins &  
Broughton Poggs  
Gardening Club



Pershore Collage



## SWINFORD MUSEUM

I hope you are all enjoying this lovely weather. The day for the NGS at Oxleaze turned out fine albeit a little breezy. Thank you to the catering team who did a marvellous job and the volunteers in the Museum headed by David worked well also. Thank you to the cake makers again, you helped us make a good amount to add to the coffers.

I expect you are all busy making, baking and growing for the Produce Show but please remember that the Museum is open on the following day, Sunday 17th August. I would like to commemorate VJ Day in some way although it will be two days late, so please put it in your diary and I will give more details in next month's newsletter.

If a member of your family was unfortunately still at war after VE Day, do please let me know any stories. Diane Blackett



**Another fantastic report from intrepid wildlife follower Sara Moule, of India in May**

## India 2025

It has long been an ambition of mine to see tigers in the wild so when a friend mentioned she had just returned from a trip to India to do just that, I jumped at the chance. Fast forward 2 years and May saw the Moule Sisters and the ever patient brother-in-law board a plane to Delhi to start our adventure.

36 hours later we arrived in Bandhavgarh National Park, a wildlife reserve in Madhya Pradesh which has a healthy tiger population as well as elephants, sloth bears, various deer and monkey species and wonderful birds. We drew a blank on the tigers on day one but were rewarded on day two with the gorgeous Bajram, one of the resident males, strolling past our jeep and popping over the fence to help himself to a cow for breakfast. Nothing can prepare you for seeing these fabulous cats, particularly a full grown male when he turns and looks at you. He weighs in at around 300kgs and has fathered over 20 cubs in the park so hopefully, the future of the tiger is secure here at least.



**Bajram**



**Panihaai and cub cooling off**

The weather wasn't in our favour on day three – it needs to be very hot so that the tigers come down to lie in the water - although we did spot Jamhol, another resident male in the distance recovering a kill and heading off into the long grass for dinner. Day four however was extraordinary – 7 sightings with new 6 individuals and a repeat visit from Bajram who had come to check on his adolescent cubs. Later that day we saw tigress Panihaai catch a langur monkey and take it off into the under-growth. 20 minutes later, one of her 3 cubs emerged with a very full stomach to have a drink at the waterhole. He and his mother then treated us to an hour of them lying in the water to cool off before disappearing back into the scrub – a magical encounter.

Overall, we saw 8 different tigers in Bandhavgarh aided by our wonderful guides and drivers – they are so knowledgeable not just about the tigers and their habits but also the many birds and animals we spotted. Other highlights included playing cow slalom on the roads in the mornings – cows are sacred in India and roam freely, seemingly finding the middle of the road the most comfortable place to sleep – and seeing an elephant and mahut patrolling through the long grass in the early morning mist, checking on the tigers.

**Mahout and elephant on patrol**



From Bandhavgarh we drove to Katni to catch the train to Agra and the next leg of our journey. I've never been so thankful for an airconditioned compartment! Agra was hot and humid so it was a 5am start the following morning to visit the Taj Mahal – nothing can prepare you for how beautiful it is, despite how many photos you may have seen. We had it to ourselves for the first hour and took the obligatory pictures on the 'Diana Bench'! From the distance, it looks like it is made of lace due to the inlays of semi-precious stones and appears to be floating in the landscape, changing colour as the sun rises.



From Agra, we moved on to Jaipur and Jhalana Leopard Reserve which you approach through an industrial estate on the outskirts of the city. 500 yards into the park and we found a huge male leopard (Rana) and his lady friend (Flora) breakfasting on a recent kill right beside the track. Leopards in Africa are quite shy and elusive but not these ones – no fear of the jeeps and quite relaxed for you to share time with them. Rana is quite famous as he featured in a BBC documentary a couple of years ago about the leopards coming into the city to catch dogs and pigs – it was quite bizarre watching these beautiful cats whilst listening to the sounds of Jaipur's mad traffic and trains. We found Rana again in the afternoon lounging by a waterhole – he had clearly been back for seconds of the kill and was so full that he couldn't even move when a deer came up for a drink at the waterhole. Think post-Christmas dinner food coma and that was our boy.



Rana

Spot the leopard



While in Jaipur, we also visited the Amber Fort – a royal palace that overlooks the city and which is still used by the royal family. Like the Red Fort in Agra, this was a beautiful tranquil place with stunning architecture designed to keep occupants cool in the hottest weather

and to provide every luxury imaginable. Jaipur is an extraordinary city – never again will I complain about the traffic here, nor will repeat taking my life in my hands by travelling in a tuk tuk.

Our trip to the local equivalent of Covent Garden Market was great fun – all hustle and bustle and a riot of colour. Everyone was so friendly and greatly amused by the strange westerners taking photos of their everyday life.



Tomatoes



Potatoes



Garlic

Chilli



Turmeric

Lady with limes



India is a real assault on the senses – from the colours of the vibrant saris worn so elegantly by all the women to the delicious food, even the samosas from street vendors (and no, no Delhi Belly for anyone!). Nothing can prepare you for the noise (use of the car horn is obligatory), the friendliness of everyone we met and the vibrancy. It is full of life in all its forms (think cows and monkeys on the central reservation of the 'motorway') and I can't wait to go back. Bucket list ticked. Sara



## Parish Council Report meeting 17 June 2025

WODC are edging closer to finalising their Local Plan which is overdue

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.

WODC are asking for views on moving to a Unitary Council – this will mean WODC is joined with Cherwell and Oxford City. Please register your views online on the WODC website

OCC are also consulting on congestion charges in central Oxford – driving to the Westgate centre will cost £5 if this is passed. You can also have your say online on OCC website

We commissioned a speed survey on B4477 last month this shows an average speed of 34mph. We are sure Speedwatch has slowed the cars on the road.

As from June our meetings move to 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in each month at 7.30pm so 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](mailto: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



### FILKINS BOWLS CLUB

Unfortunately the 'Fun Village Bowls' Day scheduled for June 22nd did not go ahead due to lack of participants. However if you would like to 'have a go', please join us on Monday evenings from 6pm when you would be warmly welcomed.

For further information contact our Secretary Annika Hansen on 077775 093484

[filkinsbowlsclub@gmail.com](mailto:filkinsbowlsclub@gmail.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

**SUMMER SPORT** - table tennis table with cover, net, bats and balls - as new.

**PRICE £100** - to be divided between St Peter's Church and the Museum.

Viewing welcome. Contact Tony Woodford, 860319



**FILKINS & BROUGHTON POGGS PRODUCE SHOW  
SATURDAY 16th AUGUST**

**Schedules available from the Village Shop or CWW**

## Gooseberry and Elderflower Parfait



For those readers who have been with me from the beginning, you may remember I shared a Gooseberry and Elderflower Sorbet in 2014... As both key ingredients are in season, now I thought you would like another recipe. This one is a parfait rather than a sorbet so more creamy and softer.

We made it recently and were reminded of how good it is particularly if you use really fresh ingredients (i.e. pick your own gooseberries and make your own elderflower cordial) however, shop bought is fine!

It takes about half an hour to prepare and then add freezing time. The recipe serves between 4-6. I usually double it and use a larger tin or two smaller ones and leave the remaining one in the fridge for another time.

### Ingredients

225g fresh gooseberries  
 6 tbsp water  
 115g caster sugar  
 4 egg yolks  
 2 tbsp elderflower cordial  
 150ml double cream, whipped until soft peaks  
 Additional double cream and elderflower cordial for serving.

### Method

Place gooseberries in a pan with 3 tbsp of water and simmer until soft. Leave to cool slightly then puree the gooseberries. Sieve the puree.

Gently heat the remaining water with the sugar until dissolved. Bring to the boil for a couple of minutes then remove from the heat.

Whisk the egg yolks in a large bowl. Whilst whisking, gradually add the sugar syrup and continue whisking until the mixture is thick and cold. Whisk in the elderflower cordial, then fold in the whipped cream and gooseberry puree.

Pour the mixture into a 450g loaf tin lined with cling film. Freeze until solid, preferably overnight.

About 15-20 minutes before serving, turn out on to a plate and leave to soften in the fridge.

Mix spare whipped cream with 2 tsp of elderflower cordial. Cut parfait into slices and serve with a spoon of the elderflower cream.



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

# The Village Shop



As I write this, the sun is shining and the village shop has been full of lovely customers purchasing their ice cream, drinks and snacks for poolside.

A big thank you to our army of volunteers who have been shopping, pricing, stocking, selling & all the other things involved with running our shop. We can never have enough volunteers so if you are interested please email me and I will be in touch.

We stock virtually everything you need, so please pop in and take a browse. Lots of wines, beers & prosecco on our shelves, which in this lovely weather is proving rather popular.

One last thing, if you have any half dozen egg boxes going spare the shop would be very grateful if you could pop them into us. Many thanks.

[sue.yardley@gmail.com](mailto:sue.yardley@gmail.com)

## Green week

Recycling



Food waste



Garden waste



## Grey week

Rubbish



Food waste



Green/recycling

grey/household

Friday 27 June

Friday 4 July

Friday 11 July

Friday 18 July

Friday 25 July

Friday 1 August