



NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER

Editor: stfilica@mail.com

6 Sept	Pool closes pm
	Filkins Fete 1-5pm
7 Sept	Dog swim in pool
8 Sept	New shop hours
13 Sept	Filkins Drift evening
22 Sept	Fish & Chips 5.30-7.30pm
25 Sept	Crafty Villagers
27 Sept	FFF&B Ploughing Match

Well— how quickly 8 months of the year passes us by. Probably into September when you read this—will we have an Indian summer? I thought there was a hint of Autumn in the air this morning. The weather may be welcomed by many of us for long lazy sunny days but for the farmers surrounding us it has been a very difficult year again— please do what you can to buy British and support our local farmers at this difficult time. After all without them we would not have the wonderful countryside around us that we are all guilty of taking for granted. So don't forget the ploughing match on 27 September—always a great day out.

Another victim to the weather of course is the village swimming pool. The continued hot sun always takes its toll leaching chlorine out as fast as it can be put in. The pool is now 90 years old and needs some TLC over the coming months.. In addition to the maintenance works that have enabled us to re open the pool for the last 2.5 weeks. Many thanks to those who gave up their time and skills to enable the water to flow! And to all the members for supporting the pool gain this year...

Lots going on this month in and around the village so to kick off the Filkins Fete will be on 6 September—fun for all the family.

Enjoy your month!

VILLAGE HALL LOTTER SEPTEMBER WINNER: James Mackie

Congratulations to him. Thank you for supporting our Village Hall—a great space to hire out!

Looking forward to a second visit of Filkins Drift this month...see you there!
My very best wishes, Pauline Care



THE CHURCHES OF ST PETER BROUGHTON POGGS CUM FILKINS

SEPTEMBER SERVICES FOR YOUR DIARY

**SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER – BROUGHTON POGGS
6PM EVENSONG**

**SUNDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER – FILKINS
10.30 – HOLY COMMUNION**

Back to the usual timetable this month after the holiday season – plus a date for your diary for October – Sunday 26th October will be **Harvest Festival** at Filkins at 10.30am. Given that the first combine was out before the end of July this seems a bit late this year – but please do come along for one of the key days in the village and Church year.

The Oneira Trio

Over 75 people were treated to another superb display of musicianship from the Oneira Trio on their third visit to St Peters Filkins. It has been a pleasure to see their careers develop over the past four years since they first visited us, with Emily founding a harp ensemble for schoolchildren in South Wales which has played at the Junior Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, Isabelle continuing to win awards for her solo flute playing as well as playing with the LSO, and Elliot becoming one of the leading chamber musicians in Europe. The evening raised a very useful £600 to go towards the costs of the upcoming works on the floor (see below) and thank you to all those who came - it was a wonderful evening.

Building Works – Filkins Church

After a lot of planning and approvals work will shortly be starting work on the floor in the North Aisle and Vestry at St Peters Filkins. We anticipate that this will take most of September, during which time the church will be open as usual, but certain sections will be cordoned off to ensure safety for visitors and during services. Bear with us – normal service (!) will be restored as soon as possible!

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

SWINFORD MUSEUM



Something I love about stewarding at the Museum is when people come searching for their roots. Generally Ena can help them and knows where and when the person in question lived. Usually with a story to tell about them.

This happened last month when a lady visited the museum, it turned out she used to live at Hobnail cottages and that I was at school with her. We now have another member for our annual reunion.

Due to holidays we were unable to really celebrate the 80th anniversary of VJ Day but have instigated a display of village connections in the museum.



This is a picture of Major Reginald 'Reggie' Heslewood and his wife Doreen 'Dorki' don't they look happy but I am sure it masks the horrific things they endured which can be read in this newsletter written by Andy and Ian about the Heslewoods' and other village members connected to Burma.

The museum will close it's doors for the season on Sunday 21st September. However the Theatre Club is joining forces with the museum for yet another [Living History on 12TH OCTOBER @ 1pm.](#)

Please order your timed ticket by ringing 01367-860504 or email r.d.blackett@hotmail.co.uk at £10 each which includes all the village history and a renowned Filkins cream tea. Thank you

Diane Blackett

V J Day – 80th Anniversary

You may have noticed that the Remembrance Silhouettes were out again for the 15th August and hopefully visited Swinford Museum on Sunday 17th, whilst the war in the Pacific Theatre 80 years ago might seem impossibly remote, there are direct connections to the village.



Christopher Harrison: moved to the village upon his retirement around 1981, living at Anstruther until shortly before his death in 2013 at the grand old age of 99. Before WWII he had been in the Colonial Service in Africa, on the outbreak of war he joined the Volunteer Reserve of the West African Frontier Force. He was posted to the 7th Battalion, Nigeria Regiment in 1940 and between then and the start of 1943 spent long periods patrolling the north in anticipation of an attack by the Vichy French. In early 1943 General Orde Wingate's Chindits had begun operations in Burma and he required troops used to jungle conditions, as a result the 7NR were mobilised, sent to India and began training for operations. In April 1944 the main group for the second Chindit Force were dropped by glider into the heart of Burma with the task of disrupting Japanese communications. Immediately on arrival Christopher was transferred from commanding his company to become Brigade Major at Henu, those duties won him a Mention in Dispatches.

After a month conducting guerrilla operations around Henu the entire Chindit force was ordered to fight its way north through the jungle to join up with a Chinese force under General Stilwell. This was carried out over the next three months through atrocious jungle conditions with many of the officers and men succumbing to sickness, among them was Christopher. Once recovered, he rejoined the 7NR as battalion commander before returning to the UK on leave and then rejoining the Colonial Service.

Reggie Heslewood: with his wife Doreen 'Dorki' lived in Vine Cottage for over 30 years until their deaths in 1990 & 2011 respectively. At the outbreak of war Reggie joined the Royal Artillery as a gunner but was quickly commissioned. In early 1942 he boarded RMS Orion with a force intended to bolster Singapore, however it fell before their arrival and they were diverted to India to train for jungle warfare, eventually joining the 20th Indian Division. In March 1944 the Japanese attempted to invade India through Kohima and Imphal, leading to 3 months of vicious fighting which Reggie joined. He wrote long letters to Dorki every day while he was away except during those three months when his location had to be kept secret. He refused to come home on leave to see Dorki and their daughter Jennifer as going back to the fighting would have been too hard. Major Heslewood was one of a small team responsible for organising the logistics and was later mentioned in Despatches for his bravery. He was warmly remembered by the troops he commanded, but the effects of his time in India and Burma left mental scars on him for the rest of his life. Two more daughters were born to Reggie and Dorki after the war - Carolyn and Juliet.

Dorki was an actress before the war, went to France with ENSA in 1940 and was there on 10th May when Germany invaded. Her theatre company had to rush to Boulogne from where they were evacuated on 22nd May shortly before the town fell.

Jennifer married the actor Freddie Jones and their eldest son is actor Toby Jones. Juliet was married at the church in Broughton Poggs where Reggie and Dorki are now buried - together with all his letters.

Victor Drake Colville: the father of a Filkins resident Daina Maaldrink was a 27 year old Lieutenant in the Royal Navy in 1945, serving in the second assault group force 'W' R.N. H.Q. Saigon. He was the first to open the gates of one of the Japanese p.o.w. camps, witnessing the appalling conditions the prisoners had lived in and was present when the Japanese surrendered their swords in Saigon in September 1945.

John Smith: father of Colin Barry-Smith joined the Royal Engineers in 1944, aged 23, joining the 14th Army under General 'Bil' Slim, serving in Burma, India, Singapore & Malaysia. In 1946 he helped in the construction of a Bailey Bridge crossing between Malaysia & Singapore, replacing one blown up by the British in 1942 during the Japanese invasion.



As we hopefully get more rain, our gardens should be showing some autumn colour, if they have survived the summer that is.

In August the Gardening club Safari was enjoyed by members on a beautiful sunny day. We Visited three very different gardens all wondrous in that they were defying the drought conditions and looked stunning. Thank you to those who opened their gardens and for the lovely tea at the end of the afternoon.



Despite the lack of water, the Flower and Produce show had a marvellous range of exhibits and was a great success. Well done to the organisers! It really shows how folk can come up with such an eclectic mix if crafts, cake, flowers, fruit and vegetables.

Early September sees members' last get together of the year when we will bring plants for the plant stall at the village fete on 6th September. We will also have a 'guess the number of beans' quiz with a prize, and a team organising welly wanging.

For Dahlia enthusiasts Badminton gardens are open on 7th 10.00-3.00 I went earlier in the year and it was stunning.



Final date for the diary is Sunday October 19th volunteer bulb planters needed from 10.30, bulbs supplied – more details next month.

Jobs for the month include:
 Divide herbaceous perennials
 Pick autumn raspberries
 Collect and sow seeds from perennials and hardy annuals
 Dig up remaining potatoes before the slugs get them
 Start to reduce frequency of houseplant watering
 Clean out cold frames and greenhouses
 Start to plant spring flowering bulbs

Enjoy your garden!

More information can be found on the Filkins website or please contact our membership co-ordinator Julie Tridgell (julietridgell@outlook.com).

Sue (sue.ashforthsmith@btinternet.com)



PRODUCE SHOW REPORT

SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST 2025

Once again we were blessed with lovely weather for our show and the tables in the hall and marquee were alive with colour. Entries were down a little this year but the quality was good, particularly the vegetables considering the very dry growing season. Some things though seem to have thrived, soft fruit, apples and pears and particularly figs! Greatly pleasing that there were more entries from the children.





Cup Winners this year and congratulations to you all

Vegetable Cup	Roger Wise	Craft Trophy	Fiona Cowburn
Flower Cup	Emma Sommerfield	Jackson Memorial	Fiona Cowburn
Pat Clark Fruit Cup	Keith Perry	(most classes entered)	
Floral Art Cup	Trudie MacDonald	Museum Silver Cup	Fiona Cowburn
Cookery Cup	Sandra Yates	(highest points overall)	
Children's Cup	Arabella Fraser		



Thanks to St Filica for erecting the gazebo, Andy & Kevin for putting up the tables in the hall and those who cleared away after the show. A huge help. Thanks to our judges and stewards, it wouldn't happen without you.

Next year's show is on SATURDAY 22ND AUGUST 2026, See you there.

FARINGDON, FAIRFORD, FILKINS & BURFORD PLOUGHING MATCH & COUNTRY SHOW



SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

By kind permission of Mr R Wingfield, this year's match returns to The Barrington Estate, OX18 4TN. Having been cancelled last year for the first time in 75 years due to waterlogged ground, this year's show promises a perfect day out for families seeking authentic countryside entertainment. At the heart of the show, skilled ploughmen will compete in traditional furrow-cutting competitions, demonstrating time honoured techniques, using both vintage tractors and magnificent heavy horses.

The main ring will buzz with excitement throughout the day with falconry and gundog demonstrations, terrier racing, hound parade, the Gateridge Suffolk heavy horses and a tractor & machinery parade of old and new.

Visitors can explore the craft tent where local artisans display and sell their creations. Take a wander through the Homecraft competitions (which are open to all) encouraging participation across various categories.

The bar and food outlets will ensure no one goes hungry or thirsty and for the first time mobility scooters are available to help navigate the showground comfortably. (pre-book by visiting the website).

The Ploughing Match and Country Show really is a countryside celebration not to miss.

For tickets and information: www.ploughingmatch.co.uk

(anyone who would like a Homecraft Schedule and entry form, contact:
Jane Martin at
inns1949@gmail.com)

Filkins Doctor & Hospital Runs

Sad news...



As many of you will now know, Theo Hodges died at the end of July. Since answering Tony Woodford's appeal for someone to take over from him in 2019

Theo managed to keep the service going, even during the difficult days of COVID. As a community we owe her so much; thank you Theo for everything you did for us.

Just to remind you – now all requests for a lift should be made in the first instance to Sue Hitchcock on or else 07887 566117 01367 860364 – as before, if Sue isn't available, then call either Freda Shrouder on 07557 048667 or 01367 860053 or Charlie Payne on 07810 158558 or 01367 860529.

And a warm WELCOME and THANK YOU to Sara Moule for joining our rota of volunteers – but we always need more so if you can give up even a couple of hours two or three times a year PLEASE get in touch with one of us.

Apologies for the typo in Sue's number last month—correct now! Ed



Crafty Villagers

An early reminder that our group will re-convene on

Thursday 25th September at 2pm in the Village Hall

Everyone Welcome

For more details contact Michelle or just turn up and join in.

micheleheath@hotmail.co.uk or allisonswales1@gmail.com

F&BP

PARISH COUNCIL

Please note there is no meeting in September—the next one will be 16 October—we have South Central ambulance Service attending the meeting to give some defibrillator training. Please let the Clerk know if you want to join in. clerk@filkins.org.uk

Work is due to start on the bund in October—the side of the bund will be raised as they have shrunk back

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

Quiz and Curry

Saturday 11 October 2025

7.00 for 7.30 start

Teams of up to 8 - £17.50 per head to cover the curry cost

Pay bar – payments can be taken by cash or card on the night

Please pay for tickets in advance
Book your team and for payment details
email:
Mary Bohm stfilica@hotmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

Yes it will be 2 years in 2026 so can only mean one thing—

The St Filica Summer Ball is back

To be held on 11 July 2026 on the paddock with the usual amazing food, wine and entertainment.

Put the date in your diary—you won't want to miss it.

FILKINS THEATRE



Our new Chairman speaks...

Care to join one of the few remaining rural amateur & social theatrical groups?

FT celebrates forty years on the boards in 2026 and welcomes new members to join us.

Our members have no obligation at all to perform on stage and many help behind, or support us in the audience.

We hold monthly play or poetry readings, when some like to read, and others to listen. We organise 'murder mystery' and 'radio play' evenings, and we perform rehearsed readings of staged plays (with no line learning!).

We would like new members to help front and backstage, and to enjoy the informal theatre conviviality.

Here are some dates for your diaries

26th September:
Sue Ashforth-Smith's turn to convene our monthly meeting.

12th October:
Living History with Filkins Museum

31st October:
'Ghosts & Ghoulies 2'

28th November:
Rachael Vetch convenes our monthly meeting.

17th January 2026:
'Murder Mystery' evening

For more information please contact me:
Jeremy Irwin-Singer
Chair Filkins Theatre
jeremy.irwin-singer@gmx.com



MOREINFO: 07713 666415

Filkins Drift

YES, our friends Filkins Drift are returning to Filkins on Saturday 13th September, at a great evening event put on by, and in support of, our Village Hall.

And for just £12.50 you'll get one of the best folk duos around, and a splendid two-course supper as well.

Filkins Drift are not at all one of those precious, finger-in-your-ear kind of hokey-folky set-ups, they're foot-stamping good, and they can sing too!

Oh, and of course they are named for our village... So what are you waiting for?

Please book your tickets now: everyone is very welcome.

We'll see you all on Saturday 13th September



FILKINS DRIFT

SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 7.30PM
FILKINS VILLAGE HALL

“Music, dancing & and supper”

Doors open 7pm

Intricate melodies from Wales to the Cotswolds

Seth & Chris weave old songs with new, on fiddle and guitar. Music from past generations they make their own, blending traditions for today's world.

And a mighty fine Filkins rustic supper of excellent ploughman's, and crumble and custard.

Get your tickets from Cotswold Woollen Weavers or Filkins Shop or from 07713 636415 / richard@naturalbest.co.uk



Filkins Village Hall

Any gardeners in the village? We would be very pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in the role of ‘Outside Officer’ at the hall. Someone who would take responsibility for the outside space: a bit of pruning, raking, weeding, planting... Nothing too dramatic or onerous.

Sue Yardley, secretary: sue.yardley@gmail.com

FILKINS

St Filica Traditional

FILICA FILICA FILICA FILICA

1pm to 5pm Saturday
6th September

Filkins Village Fete

- 1: It's deffo happening, *and it'll be great!*
- 2: It's on the kick-about field (*up Rouse's Lane*)
- 3: More info: stfilica@hotmail.com
- 4: Please bring friends, relations, and CASH

Day	Morning	After-noon
Monday	10-11	3 - 4
Tuesday	10-11	3 - 4
Wednesday	closed	3 - 4
Thursday	10-11	3 - 4
Friday	10-11	3 - 4
Saturday	10-11	3 - 4
Sunday	11-12	3 - 4
	07587647771	

The Village Shop



Please note our shop hours will be changing from Monday 8th September, back to one hour trading in afternoons and closed on Sunday afternoons. See new hours above.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the village fete on Saturday 6th. It will also be our 20th anniversary of our shop opening. Photos and memorabilia will be displayed going back over the years. Please come and visit us, also try your luck on our bottle stall and splat the rat. We are also taking this opportunity for all you budding artists to take part and design a new logo for the shop. Details on how to enter will be at our stall at the fete and in the village shop from 1st September.

Our Thursday veg boxes are still continuing and if anyone else is interested, we take your order & arrange for your veg box to be in shop for collection Thursday morning. Please contact me on my email below. The market stall at Carterton does stock lovely fresh fruit and veg. The bakery stall also does very nice bread, cakes and pastries.

On Saturday we still collect Sourdough bread and cinnamon buns from Blakes in Clanfield and freshly made Baguettes and croissants from the Co Op at Bampton. Again, just message me for info or an order.

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers, if you feel you could spare an hour a week please pop into the shop and leave your details with our volunteers & someone will be in touch.

Thank you for supporting our village shop. sue.yardley@gmail.com

