



JANUARY 2026 ISSUE 264

# NEWSLETTER



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

17 Jan	Murder Mystery
19 Jan	Beetle Drive
20 Jan	Parish Council Meeting
22 Jan	Crafty Villagers
25 Jan	Copy deadline
26 Jan	Fish & Chip Van



You will actually be reading this before New Year but as we come close to entering 2026, a few reflections. Each of you has played a part in making our village a warm and welcoming place, filled with laughter, support and resilience; the last year brought its challenges but it has given us joy on

occasions and moments of sadness when we said goodbye to some. We celebrated milestones, hopefully lent a hand to neighbours and created memories. Let's welcome the newcomers and continue to support our village organisations as well as one another. There are two 90th Anniversaries to mark next year, Filkins Bowls Club and the Swimming Pool, and Filkins Theatre will celebrate 40 years.

May it be a year of hope for our country and the wider world but here in Filkins & Broughton Poggs may it bring you good health, quite joys and occasions to celebrate with those you love. Here's to a fresh start, and a smooth transition into 2026, Happy New Year to you all.

Your editor, Jane



An apology to Filkins Theatre for my mess up of the date for the Murder Mystery in last month's newsletter. However full details on Page 6, come along and challenge your powers of deduction.



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

## **SERVICES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – FILKINS**

**6PM EVENSONG**

**SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY – FILKINS**

**10.30AM HOLY COMMUNION**

It is somewhat odd writing this when Christmas hasn't happened yet – but we hope that by the time you read this you and your families have had a happy and safe Christmas, and that at least some of your new year resolutions remain intact!

It is always the busiest time of year for the Church, with Remembrance Sunday only three weeks before the first Carol Service. Armistice Day was celebrated at both memorials, and thank you to Group Captain Andy McIntyre for representing RAF Brize Norton again this year. Some years are particularly affecting, and this year with all the strife and conflict in the world the services in our small villages seemed particularly poignant.

We again welcomed St Filica for the lighting of the village tree in the churchyard and for carols afterwards, and held our traditional two carol services in Broughton Poggs and Filkins – it was great to see so many of you there and to welcome a number of new faces to the community. Advent Carols at Broughton Poggs is always a very special service – gathering by candlelight in our ancient church where Christians have celebrated Christmas for nearly a thousand years.

As we start the New Year we must say a huge **THANK YOU** to our incredible team of flower arrangers and churchyard mowers – you are all absolutely amazing, and we are beyond fortunate to have you all; few communities are lucky enough to have so many willing volunteers to take on these jobs. And in particular to Diane Blackett, who once again decorated the porch so beautifully for both Christmas and Remembrance Day, and Jane Martin, erstwhile organiser of the flower team – thank you both, so much.

And now - it only remains to wish you and all your families a very...

**HAPPY NEW 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**

## Filkins & Broughton Poggs Gardening Club



For most of us December is perhaps the quietest month of the year in the garden. Stringing up outdoor lights being the main reason for being outside.

Of course that assumes you've finished all your autumn tasks. I am grateful for the mild start to the winter which allows me to carry on with unfinished tasks without feeling cold at all! Planting tulips in December - wouldn't have done that a few years ago. The later the better to try and avoid tulip fire: a fungal disease causing brown scorched looking spots and distorted withered leaves and flowers.

At the end of December into January we tend to focus on indoor plants.

Unfortunately my cyclamens wilt as do my white flowered jasmines on a hoop. My poinsettias drop their leaves (actually bracts). I just can't keep them in the style in which they are mass marketed. This year however I have cyclamen coum, hyacinths, 'Paper White' narcissi and hellebores – all of which can have a second life in the garden. I'm trying to avoid the Christmas horticultural massacre!

Please send the committee your ideas for visits in 2026. We meet at the end of January to plan our programme but already have two visits booked. Our annual meeting, to which all members are warmly invited, is on

**March 6<sup>th</sup> at 15.00 in the village hall.**

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

Heather

([hatkins@bluewin.ch](mailto:hatkins@bluewin.ch))



### Filkins Doctor & Hospital Runs

Just to remind you – now all requests for a lift should be made in the first instance to **Sue Hitchcock on 07887 566117**

as before, if Sue isn't available, then call either **Freda Shrouder on 07557 048667** or **Charlie Payne on 07810 158558 or 01367 860529**



### Filkins and Broughton Poggs Relief in Need (FRIN)

***Are you or someone you know facing a time of hardship, personal crisis, or needing financial assistance?***

If you, or anyone you know, would benefit from its help then please contact the Trustees via the post box outside the Village Shop, or by email: [frincharity@gmail.com](mailto:frincharity@gmail.com)



## SWINFORD MUSEUM

We hope you will all have/had a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. Work now starts on spring cleaning the museum ready to install the new exhibitions. I thought you may be interested in reading an excerpt from a book written in 1896 by William Monk, entitled 'Walks and Drives Around Burford'



Near the church is 'The Peacock Farm', so named because there are two yew trees in the garden which are trained in the shape of a peacock. The villagers tell a curious story in connection with the house. It is given here, but the author declines to be responsible for all the details. Years ago, this farm was hired by a Mr Jonas Bassett. His housekeeper was named Betty Hill and she used to declare that a lady, in the garb of other days, frequently passed through the house. For years the apparition came, till one day some children, by playing rather boisterously in the old house, caused an old stocking to fall down from a place where it had been hidden away. In this old stocking, the story continues, there was a knob of gold, which is said to have been of considerable value. It is satisfactory to be able to record that after this incident, nothing was ever afterwards seen of the unhappy lady who haunted the Peacock Farm House for so long.

It doesn't say what happened to the knob of gold but I hope the children benefitted from it. It would be good if the Peacocks could be reinstated.

*Diane Blackett*

## CRAFTY VILLAGERS

We have ended the year with double the number of people attending the sessions from our starting point. We are so pleased that the meetings have become popular and it has been good to share ideas and patterns.

In January we meet again on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm in the Village Hall.

The cost is £3.50 to cover the cost of the hall hire and a cuppa and biscuits.

**Further information available from Michele ([micheleheath@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:micheleheath@hotmail.co.uk)) or Allison ([allisonswales1@gmail.com](mailto:allisonswales1@gmail.com))**



## 🎄 Filkins & Broughton Poggs Sparkles as Festive Season Kicks Off 🎵

Filkins and Broughton Poggs officially ushered in the festive season with the traditional Christmas Tree Lights Switch-On, despite the rather miserable weather trying to dampen spirits!

### 💡 Lights On at the War Memorial

The excitement began at the War Memorial, where a large and enthusiastic crowd gathered by the Christmas Tree. The poignant memorial served as a perfect backdrop for the festive kickoff. The moment everyone was waiting for arrived as none other than Santa Claus himself took centre stage to perform the honours! With a flick of his wrist (and perhaps a little Christmas magic), the magnificent lights on this year's tree were illuminated, bathing the area in a cheerful, festive glow.



### 🍷 Treats and Cheer in St Peter's

Following the switch-on, the crowd moved across to the warm, welcoming atmosphere of St Peter's Church, escaping the wind and drizzle.

The wonderful St Filica Committee, who provided this year's splendid tree, were on hand inside the church. They kindly served up generous servings of warming mulled wine, delicious mince pies, and home-baked cakes to all the attendees, ensuring everyone was well-fed and comfortable before the main concert.

Santa Claus also took the opportunity to hand out delicious sweets to all the children present, as well as the 'young-at-heart' adults in the congregation!



A special mention must go to the always popular Mr. Fuddles, who was in suitably high festive attendance, sporting a rather fetching reindeer costume!


### 🏠 A Heartfelt Carol Concert

Once everyone was refreshed, the evening culminated in the annual Carol Concert. Everyone joined in with gusto for a heartfelt rendition of a selection of beloved carols and classic Christmas songs, truly warming the soul and concluding the formal part of the evening.

### ❄️ Windows of Advent

Adding to the sense of occasion was the simultaneous lighting up of Advent Windows across the villages. These beautiful displays truly signal the countdown to Christmas and made the whole night feel completely magical.

Despite the weather, the evening was a huge success, getting the festive season off to a truly brilliant start for Filkins and Broughton Poggs! Thank you to all the volunteers and everyone who came out to support the event, and many thanks to the Churchwardens for allowing us to use St Peter's Church.

 An evening of Supper & Sleuthing hosted by Filkins Theatre

# THERE'S MURDER BREWING!



The beer has certainly gone flat when celebrity car-show presenter turned farmer Julian Carman is found dead in his new pub '*The Shepherds Ram*' on its opening night.

*Everyone has a motive and nothing is what it seems, and Inspector Hound of Cotswold CID badly needs your help in sorting out the real ale from the mocktails...*

## SUPPER & SLEUTHING

Filkins Village Hall

Saturday 17th January at 7.30pm

Tickets: £15 from Filkins Shop & Cotswold Woollen Weavers

*Ticket includes Supper. Pay bar*

Filkins Bowls Club held their Annual Presentation Night on Friday 29th November. Members gathered to enjoy a range of picture quizzes, including attempting to identify bowlers from their younger photographs...quite a challenge!

A meal of pie and mash, then apple and blackberry crumble was followed by the presentation to the winners of our Club Competitions, presented by Club Captain Robert Robbins, then a bumper raffle. A good evening was had by all.

All interested and new members will be welcome to our Monday Club Nights when the season resumes in 2026



### Cup Winners

#### Singles:

Ken Gough & Brian Richens **Pairs:** Emma Keating & Ken Gough

**Two Wood, Edward Inns and Handicap:** Ken Gough

**Never Won :** Andy Keating

**Member of the Year:** Annika Hansen

**F&BP**  
PARISH COUNCIL

### Filkins & Broughton Poggs Parish Council

The Parish Council held a meeting with OCC- LFP team, Highways, Drainage and Bridges, WODC and landowners re the steps we want to take for flood prevention. The meeting was very productive and a second will be held in the new year to progress proposals.

Further to the spate of burglaries in our villages 3 residents attended a meeting between TVP and the Community last week –we did invite them to attend our May Annual Parish Meeting but unfortunately they were called away just before the meeting started. However, it was raised that a Village WhatsApp group may be useful which any resident can set up. There is currently the village Facebook page – does anyone have an thoughts on this.

The Parish Council as Village Centre Trustees discussed the community shop, which has been a great success since it was founded 20 years ago and which the village centre rightly continued to support. The council noted that as trustees of the village centre they would continue to work closely with the shop committee so that the shop can continue to be a success and a valued part of the community

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be 20 January at 7.30pm**

If anyone has any queries regarding parish council or village centre matters we would appreciate them coming directly to us to prevent rumours spreading which are not accurate. Please contact the Clerk – [clerk@filkins.org.uk](mailto:clerk@filkins.org.uk)



## FILKINS BOWLS CLUB

Another fun filled evening awaits you at our

# BEETLE DRIVE

**MONDAY 19th JANUARY 2026**

**7.30pm FILKINS VILLAGE HALL**

A ridiculous game but great fun and absolutely  
no experience necessary

**Entry £2.50 to include first game with subsequent  
games 50p**

Wine, beer, soft drinks & raffle  
(please bring cash)





## St Filica AGM

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 at 8pm**

**Filkins Village Hall**



Everyone is invited to attend the St Filica AGM on Tuesday 3 February at 8pm.

This is your chance to hear what the Committee has organized during the last year and what events we are planning for 2026 over a glass of wine.

Membership fees will remain at £2.00 per person – bargain!

There is also the opportunity for village organisations to bid for a share of funds for projects that will add value to life in our villages. In the past, we have helped pay for spring bulbs, a coffee machine for the village shop, slow cookers for the village hall, printing for the Produce Show and a new display cabinet in the museum. The total amount available is yet to be confirmed but will be in line with previous years.

**Bids should be sent to [stfilica@hotmail.com](mailto:stfilica@hotmail.com)  
no later than Friday 30 January 2026.**



**\*\*\*\* SUMMER MASQUERADE BALL – SAVE THE DATE \*\*\*\***

**Saturday 11 July 2026**

Dinner and dancing

Casino

To reserve your tickets, please email [stfilica@hotmail.com](mailto:stfilica@hotmail.com).

# “SINGER & SUPPER”

FRIDAY  
27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
7.30PM  
(BAR OPENS 7PM)

“Great singer”  
“Fabulous  
entertainment”

## LAURA THORNTON

Glam rock to Jazz  
A true performer

Laura promises a great night’s  
entertainment, and says:  
“I guarantee to have some  
of you up, and dancing!”  
There’s an offer you can’t refuse...

£15

Excellent Supper included

Get your tickets from Cotswold Woollen Weavers or Filkins Shop  
or from 07713 636415 / [richard@naturalbest.co.uk](mailto:richard@naturalbest.co.uk)

FILKINS  
VILLAGE  
HALL



For  
Filkins  
Village  
Hall

## ‘Laura at The Village Hall’

Enjoy a great night’s entertainment, an excellent supper  
... and support our Village Hall as well.

Please buy your tickets now.

### Mary Berry Crackle Cheese Biscuits

We were recently served these delicious biscuits with drinks by a different Mary (but an equally great cook!) – they were so delicious they deserve to be shared!



### Ingredients

100g plain flour  
¼ tsp salt  
¼ tsp paprika or cayenne pepper  
100g butter, softened  
100g mature cheddar cheese grated  
25g Rice Krispies

### Method

Preheat oven to 180 degrees C/160 fan/Gas 4. Line two baking sheets with non-stick/greaseproof paper. Put the butter, flour, salt and cheese into a food processor. Whiz until mixture comes together. Spoon into a bowl and add the Rice Krispies, mixing well with your hands to combine.

Shape the mixture into 30 small balls. Place on baking sheet and press down firmly with a fork.

Bake in the oven for 18-20 minutes until the edges are golden and crackers are firm. Let them cool on the sheet for about 5 minutes then move to a wire rack to cool completely. Store in airtight container for up to 5 days. Or of course, serve immediately as a savoury snack. Not suitable for freezing.



### Free to a good home!

Lovely cast iron electric coal effect fire, gives plenty of heat, although light not currently working

Suitable for home or workshop.

Must be collected (from Filkins) ...quite heavy!

Contact: 07557 048667

**We are closed on New Years Day**

Day	Morning	Afternoon
Monday	10 -11	<b>3 - 4</b>
Tuesday	10 -11	<b>3 - 4</b>
Wednesday	closed	<b>3 - 4</b>
Thursday	10 -11	<b>3 - 4</b>
Friday	10 -11	<b>3 - 4</b>
Saturday	10 -11	<b>3 - 4</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	11 -12	<b>closed</b>
	07587647771	

The Village  
**Shop**



Congratulations to Mick Lewis who won our Festive Christmas hamper in aid of breast cancer. It was a great success with many turning up for coffee & cake. £155 was raised on the day & a further £400 was kindly donated. Thank you to everyone who supported this worthy cause. Well done, Hilary

One of our regular customers wrote a poem about our village shop which we thought we would share with you all.

Where I often go  
The staff are really nice  
At such a reasonable price.  
They always get me a chair  
Which shows they really care.  
We always have a chat  
About this and that.  
They do things in a special way  
And brighten up each every day  
Filkins community shop really care  
With lots of love to spare.  
They've made a difference to my life  
And always take things in their stride.  
Filkins community shop is so nice  
They even sell sugar mice!  
So, Filkins community shop is where I go,  
They even open in the snow.  
Hip hip hooray  
For Filkins shop is here to stay  
As they go merrily on their way  
The End

Green/recycling      grey/

Monday 29 December	Monday 5 January
Saturday 10 January (No garden waste)	Friday 16 January
Friday 23 January	Friday 30 January

Hilary will still continue her Saturday coffee mornings so please pop in, even just for a chat.

**Have a happy & healthy new year & thank you for supporting our village shop.**