



FEBRUARY 2026 ISSUE 265

NEWSLETTER



Editor: stfilica@mail.com

- 03 Feb St Filica AGM
- 17 Feb Parish Council
- 23 Feb Fish & Chip van
- 24 Feb Copy deadline for March
- 26 Feb Crafty Villagers
- 27 Feb 'Laura at the Village Hall'

If you have anything for the website please email
webmaster@filkins.org.uk

February 'brings the snow, makes our feet and fingers glow'...so sang Flanders & Swann, or 'February fill dyke' says country lore, but as the shortest month of the year it is often viewed as a time to pause, reflect and rejuvenate. Some of you may have done 'dry January' which is part way there, giving the body a rest from perhaps over consumption, but there are many ways we can just take stock in our increasingly troubled and unsettled world.

Perhaps the most widely observed day in February is St Valentine's Day on the 14th. Evolving from St Valentine, a 3rd century Christian martyr, to a celebration of love in all its forms, a day not just for romantic affection but also for the celebration of friendship, family bonds and in the best possible sense, self-love. Think on.



Communication is a funny thing and in these days of emails, WhatsApp, chat groups et al, we sometimes still miss out on comings and goings, I know there is a village Facebook group but many of us don't use that and whilst events are advertised in this publication it is always a good idea to use all avenues. To this end I am asked to remind you about our Village website, managed by St Filica. It has all sorts of information but events can be listed and it is used by out of villagers too, so may increase the cover. Do email anything for inclusion to webmaster@filkins.org.uk



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



THE CHURCHES OF ST PETER BROUGHTON POGGS CUM FILKINS

SERVICES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUNDAY 8TH FEBRUARY – FILKINS

6PM EVENSONG

WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY – SHILTON

7PM – BENEFICE ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

SUNDAY 22ND FEBRUARY – FILKINS

10.30AM HOLY COMMUNION

And so the year starts once again...but the last one ended on a truly high note, with the service on Christmas Day morning attended by well over 60 villagers and their families and guests. Thank you to Reverend Dennis for leading such a joyous service, and to Heather Atkins for playing the organ for us so beautifully. It was a very special way to celebrate Christmas morning.

Lent Bible Study Courses

And then...with Easter Sunday being relatively early this year on April 5th, suddenly Lent is upon us. Once again Reverend Dennis will be leading a Bible Study group on Wednesday evenings at Filkins Vicarage starting on February 25th and focussing on the Passion of Christ leading up to the Crucifixion. Places are limited so please contact Reverend Dennis for more information; thank you to Dennis and Helen for your hospitality in hosting us.

The start of Lent will be marked as usual by a Benefice-wide Ash Wednesday service which this year will be on February 18th at Holy Rood Church in Shilton, taken by Reverend Dennis. Do please come along and meet up with friends from the other congregations in the benefice.

Services in the first few months of the year are particularly special ones, especially Evensong held in the darkness of winter evenings on the second Sunday of each month – it is a wonderful time to sit quietly and think, say the familiar words that have been said in our churches for hundreds of years, and set aside for a while the troubles of an increasingly angry and discordant world.

Do please come along – you will be most welcome.

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



January 2026

Another New Year and another beginning for the Garden. The Garden Club wishes everyone a Happy New Year and we have an exciting schedule of events for members lining up for this season.

Friday 6th March 2026 3 o'clock Filkins Village Hall

A date for members diaries - this is the Garden Clubs Planning Meeting where we discuss what we would like to do for the forthcoming year. The Club is member-run and relies on contributions from members for the benefit of all.

This year we have had a wonderful surprise to the start of the year with the gift of monies from the Village Shop towards our Bulb Planting programme. We offer them our sincere thanks and gratitude. We do plan to continue with the Bulb Planting at the Burford end of the Village extending on the verges from 'the dangerous corner' out towards the Bridleway where the Old Gentleman's Walking Bench is. If possible, we would also like to plant on the spine at the main entrance off the A361.

Other visits and initiatives proposed are to Radcot House Garden, Ham Court, Bampton the home of Matthew Rice, Trinity College, Oxford and a talk by Timothy Walker a well-regarded Botanist.

The Winter months leading up to Christmas give us an opportunity to rest and reflect and now the New Year has begun it is a time for planning and optimism for the coming Seasons. Chit early seed potatoes, cover rhubarb and if mild plant fruit bushes. Insulate and clean the greenhouse if you have one, and sow sweet peas if you have not done so already. The start of the year may be grey and dreary as far as the weather is concerned but it is also a time of hope for what is to come.

I wish everyone Happy Gardening !
Lorraine Chitty

If you live in Filkins or Broughton Poggs and are over the age of 18 you can join the Garden Club please contact Julie Tridgell - julietridgell@outlook.com





SWINFORD MUSEUM

Christmas is now a distant memory and we must get on with 2026. I hope this is a good year for you all and the Museum has a busy season to look forward to. We open on **Sunday 3rd May** and the Vintage Cycle club are paying us a visit so if you wish to see vintage machines do join us from 2.00 to 5.00 pm.

Exhibitions in the museum this year will be celebrating 90 years of the Bowls Club and the Swimming Pool, together with 40 years of the Theatre Club. To coincide with these milestones we will be having another Living History based on these events with people from 1936 who were present at the time (well actors portraying them!) Please put the date in your diary **Sunday 10th MAY 2026** and don't forget to book your ticket in good time.

It has been quite cold lately which is quite notable after the mild weather of November, however from the newspaper reports the following shows us it is nothing new to have extremes:-

Jan 1916 THE GALE

On Saturday last the village of Filkins suffered severely from a gale of unusual violence. An enormous number of trees were blown down, and in Filkins Hall grounds no less than sixteen trees were uprooted. Damage was also done to a considerable amount of property.

15 Feb 1919 THE WEATHER

We are having some very severe weather and for several nights there has been succession of sharp frosts ranging from 12 – 16 degrees each night.

Diane Blackett



To all the kind people who put Christmas cards through my door. With my poor eyesight I needed help to identify the senders and events rather overtook me and I was unable to reciprocate. It is lovely to be thought of by so many and I wish you to know how much it is appreciated.

Love & hugs, **Rachel Vetch**



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**

NEWS FROM THE FIVE ALLS

Hopefully we will have a monthly update from our local hostelry but in the meantime, a precis of some of the events planned for the next while.

WEEKLY FAVOURITES RETURN

Mondays - Pie Night (£16)

Tuesdays - 2 Burgers for £20

Wednesdays - Sharing Steak

MONTHLY & SPECIAL EVENTS FEB - MARCH

Second Sunday Quiz Night (£1 per person, prize for winning team)

8th February and 15th March

LIVE MUSIC

EVENINGS

(from 7pm)

6th & 20th

February



VALENTINES WEEKEND

14th & 15th FEBRUARY

Romantic set menu. Booking only

HALF-TERM WEEK 16TH - 22ND FEBRUARY

Weekly favourite special and kids will each for £3 will any full paying adult meal. £2 will be donated to a local charity

SUPPER CLUB - LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

26th February - Winter Feast

26th March - Spring Market Menu

FILKINS LOYALTY CARD HOLDERS NOW RECEIVE 10% OFF

7 DAYS A WEEK!

Not signed up yet? pop in and we'll get you sorted

There's Murder Brewing – Filkins Theatre - Saturday 18th January 2026



Crammed to the rafters with the great and the good of the Broadshires, amongst them some of the finest forensic minds this nation has to offer, Filkins Village Hall on a soggy Saturday evening in mid-January pulsed with pleasurable anticipation as the BBC's Alice Hack (authoritatively played by Julia Neame) took to the stage.

A pillar of journalistic rectitude, Miss Hack was present at this 'celeb' event to interview a glittering cast, amongst them, as it transpired, one murder victim and six potential villains. A ghastly collection of poseurs, chancers and local wiseacres were then put through their paces by the convincingly prim Miss Hack.

First up, awash with bonhomie and general self-congratulation was a most deserving victim, the oily Julian Carman (Charlie Payne). Not a tear was shed when it transpired that, post-event, in the early hours, he had been 'done-in' - the victim of ketamine poisoning. A man of towering ambition and monumental conceit (and not at all unlike a well-known farmer and pub owner in one of our neighbouring Cotswold villages!) it was soon apparent that virtually the whole cast might have been queuing up to 'off' him. But who could it have been? Enter Inspector Hound (Barry Heath) to try to unravel the mystery. Plodding not showily but resolutely through a series of interviews with a collection of the world's most grandiose egomaniacs he was a master of self-control and the quizzical aside.

First to fall under his querulous gaze was local farmer, playboy and 'man about town' Chris Goode (played by that long-time star and stalwart of Filkins theatre, Jeremy Irwin-Singer). This was Jeremy at full throttle, radiating a smugness and self-approval rating that was off the charts. As a man once said of Geoffrey Boycott, 'if 'e were a chocolate soldier he'd've eat 'imself'. Vintage Jeremy!

Mr Goode oozed from the interview room to be replaced by the equally odious, Dave Brake (Paul Molyneaux). A fellow TV star and friend of Goodes (do people like that actually have friends?) and running his own nearby soon to be overshadowed and emptied pub, we saw a convincing performance of a man perpetually outshone by a star of greater wattage and one who, clearly had every reason to do the dirty deed?!

As the light faded on Dave, a palpable thrill shot through the theatre as the aptly named Olivia Open-Topp (Avril Payne) sashayed onto the stage the zip on her dress straining to contain the goods within. Dangerously alluring and (metaphorically) dressed to kill she was more than any provincial plod could surely handle?! A cockney accent that, occasionally, lapsed into something more rural, suggested that there was more here than met the eye – but a killer? A wonderfully hammed-up performance that struck all the right notes and clearly resonated with a lively audience.

A swaggering local oaf, Noah Barrell (Paul Floyd) was next in line. Radiating a tangible contempt for the affectation that assailed him on all sides, this down-to-earth ruffian brought a hint of menace to proceedings. Capable of murder? Without a doubt!

A woman born to command, Lady Bountiful (Sue Ashforth-Smith) swept onto the stage. Nose crinkling, her olfactory organ clearly assailed by the disquieting odour always emanating from the presence nearby of those from the lower orders, the poor Inspector was treated to a 'tour de force' of social disdain from an actresscontinued

who has delighted us all for over 30 years. We had to ask ourselves would she poison someone for going to the wrong school? The answer, clearly, was yes.

In the irritating case of the 'little Miss Innocent', a former wife of the deceased but long-ago dispensed with, Penny Parked (Heather Atkins), it was barely credible that this soft-voiced seductress could have committed 'murder most foul'. Doe-eyed and radiating decency despite her somewhat mucky past, she was the last person wasn't she?

Well, as it happens and as some of our more astute audience members not stunned by the surfeit of drink and food at their tables correctly surmised, it appeared she was. You could have knocked me down with a bottle of Raptor! I didn't get it right but nothing new there.

A thoroughly fun evening and a script presumably written by one of our 20th century masters of farce – an Ayckbourn or a Travers? But no! It was a Payne by one Charlie of this parish. Congratulations to him and all concerned. A highly entertaining and amusing dialogue acted with great gusto by a commendable cast. Thankyou!

David Heslam



BEETLE DRIVE - Monday 19th January



31 people turned out to the Village Hall to play the wonderfully silly game of 'Beetle' and I think a good time was had by all. Baz Heath was the overall winner of the magnificent trophy and thinks it might grace his new home!

Thank you to everyone who came and particularly to those who helped clear the hall so quickly,

This was a fund raiser for Filkins Bowls Club and we were delighted to raise £264



St Filica AGM

Tuesday 3rd February 2026 at 8pm

Filkins Village Hall

Please come to the St Filica AGM on Tuesday 3 February at 8pm.

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

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

We are also recruiting committee members – would you like the chance to shape future events for Filkins and Broughton Poggs? Meetings are roughly once a quarter, over wine and nibbles. If you think you would like to get involved, in whatever capacity, please contact Sara Moule on 07931 286695 or pop round for a coffee and a chat – 2 Bulls Close.



CHALLENGE THE LITTLE GREY CELLS!

SATURDAY 21 MARCH 2025 FILKINS VILLAGE HALL

7.00PM FOR 7.30PM START

TABLES OF UP TO 8 PEOPLE, £17.50 PER PERSON TO INCLUDE A DELICIOUS BILASH CURRY. CASH/CARD BAR.

TO BOOK AND FOR PAYMENT DETAILS, PLEASE EMAIL

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

Saturday 11 July 2026

Three Course Dinner and dancing
Bar and Casino

Tables of 12 or we can find you a fun table!

Tickets £85 per person

To reserve your tickets, please email stfilica@hotmail.com.





GAZEBO HIRE CHARGES 2026

Size	Filkins Residents	Non-Residents
10m x 4m	£150	£170
8m x 4m	£140	£150
6m x 4m	£120	£130

We also have the following items for hire:

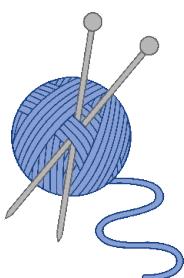
Item	Charge	Number
Table (2m x 1m)	£7.50 each	Approx 25 in stock
Chair (White Plastic)	£4 each.	Approx 80 in stock

Please note: There will be an additional £50 delivery charge for installations outside the Filkins and Broughton Poggs area.

All the above hirings will be installed and dismantled by us

Sorry but note that we cannot erect the gazebos on hard-standing or patios.

For all enquiries, please email stfilicahire@gmail.com



CRAFTY VILLAGERS

Anyone interested in joining us is welcome. Bring along any craft item to work on.

We meet in the Village Hall from **2 – 4pm** and the next meeting will be

Thursday 26th FEBRUARY.

£3.50 covers the cost of the village hall hire and a cuppa and biscuit.

Further information from MICHELE HEATH or ALLISON SWALES

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



Valentines Day Supper



For those of you that don't, but should cook for their partner, this Valentines Day Supper menu is brought to you with love, courage, and a mild fear of burning things. Every dish is made with care, enthusiasm, a beginner's touch, and many fingers crossed....

Note: Most courses can be prepared well in advance with the exception of mixing the Red Cabbage Slaw and cooking the venison.

Course One: Prawn Cocktail (John Torode)

Ingredients:

- Lemon juice, to taste · 10 prawns (2 shell on)
- 1 Little Gem lettuce · Cayenne pepper, to serve.
- 1 sprig fresh thyme, leaves picked.

For the sauce

- $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon, juice only · 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 5 tbsp tomato ketchup · Few drops Tabasco sauce
- 2 pinches smoked paprika · $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp paprika
- 1 tbsp double cream · 4 tbsp mayonnaise
- 1 pinch cayenne pepper · Pinch salt
- 1 tsp cracked black pepper

Method

- Cut the Gem lettuce in half and place in ice-cold water to crisp it up.
- For the sauce, mix all the sauce ingredients together.
- To assemble the cocktail, drain the lettuce and pat dry with kitchen paper (or use a salad spinner).
- Arrange two-thirds of the leaves in martini glasses or small bowls.
- Shred the remaining leaves and add to a mixing bowl.
- Add the prawns and a spoonful of sauce.
- Top with the shell on prawn with a sprinkling of cayenne pepper and a few thyme leaves.

Course Two: Venison with Red Cabbage Slaw (Angela Hartnett)

Ingredients

- 150g/5½oz red cabbage, shredded · 1 eating apple, peeled, cored and finely diced
- $\frac{1}{2}$ small red onion, finely chopped · 25g/1oz raisins, soaked in hot water for 10 minutes, drain
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp capers, drained and rinsed · $1\frac{1}{2}$ tbsp olive oil, plus extra for frying
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tbsp red wine vinegar · 2 x 150g/5½oz venison loins or steaks
- knob of unsalted butter · 2 tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

- Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6.
- In a large bowl, mix together the cabbage, apples, onion, raisins and capers.
- Mix the oil and vinegar in a clean bowl to make a vinaigrette. Add to the slaw, reserving a little vinaigrette for serving. Season the slaw with salt and pepper, cover and leave to marinate for at least 10 minutes.
- Season the venison with salt. Heat a dash of oil and the butter in a large frying pan until foaming. Cook the venison until brown on all sides. Transfer it to the oven for 4 minutes, remove, and leave it to rest.
- To serve, mix the parsley into the slaw. Slice the venison. Spoon the slaw onto two plates and top with slices of venison. Finish with the remaining vinaigrette.

Course Three: Chilli Chocolate Mousse (Good Housekeeping: Cir. 1995)**Ingredients:**

- 150g Dark chilli chocolate · 2 eggs, separated.
- 1 tbsp rum, brandy or tipple of your fancy · 50ml Crème fraiche
- Thin slivers of fresh chilli

Method

- Break chocolate into a bowl, place bowl over a pan of simmering water and heat until melted, stirring occasionally.
- Remove from heat, allow to cool slightly, beat in the egg yolks and tipple of your fancy.
- Whisk egg whites until stiff and fold into chocolate mixture.
- Spoon into small dessert dishes or glasses and chill in the fridge for 2-3 hours.
- Decorate the mousse with a spoon full of Crème Fraiche.
- Push a sliver of the chilli into the Crème fraiche.

If your budget won't stretch to a cheese course, below is a poem for you to recite to your partner instead:

*Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
I'm not good at cooking,
But I'm great at loving you....*

Had to give Alan Law over a page this month, what a delightful menu and beautiful thoughts behind it...go guys. Ed



There are various road closures for repairs to pot holes and resurfacing: 9 February to 21 April B4477 Between Corbett Road to fork of B4020 and B4477. This means for these 10 weeks NO traffic will be able to pass through to Carterton

11—12 March the entrance to Alvescot will be closed for Highway repairs.

B4477 Alvescot to Filkins was inspected on 22nd December and they found a dozen defects!!! These are supposed to be repaired within 28 days..... hmmmm

As many of you may be aware WODC are threatening to close the Woodford Way car park in Witney for housing. Witney Conservatives are leading a campaign to oppose this—whatever your persuasion—please let your views be known.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Alvescot West proposed site for 1,000 houses. Brize Norton village has 2 speculative housing proposal—one for 350 houses by Kilkenny Park and another for up to 3500! These are included in the local plan and please do raise your objections.

A little progress on flooding—we managed to have all the drains in Filkins & Broughton Poggs jetted this month. So 15 years of debris was flushed through and we are waiting the end report. We are also hoping to meet with OCC and WODC re the siting of a bund for Broughton Poggs—we rely on landowners consent for this project to go ahead.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be 17 February 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

Day	Morning	Afternoon
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	closed
	07587647771	



Welcome to February from your village shop.

Don't forget we sell a great range of groceries including fresh fruit, vegetable and bread from Carterton Market on a Thursday. Please let a volunteer or me know if you would like to order anything. Hilary's Saturday coffee mornings still remain popular. Please join us from 10am for a coffee, natter, croissant or cinnamon bun. These can be pre ordered along with baguettes from Co-op & delicious sourdough bread from Blakes.

We are always on the lookout for more volunteers to help in our shop. If you have a spare hour or two a week please contact me.

Full training given.
sue.yardley@gmail.com

