



MARCH 2025

ISSUE 254

NEWSLETTER

MARCH

Editor: stfilica@mail.com

05 March Coffee Morning 10-12

05 March Village Hall AGM 7.30

12 March Parish Council Meeting

26 March copy deadline for April

31 March Fish & Chip Van

On a rather wet and gloomy Friday I watched a crocodile of hi viz and wellington booted little people from the Nursery School walking toward the church clutching bunches of daffodils, and assumed that was where they were going (not yet Mothering Sunday I was thinking), but great to get children out in the fresh air regardless of weather. However as I came out of Saxon's Lane their supervisor stopped me and said 'today is national kindness day, would you like some flowers?' A little boy presented them to me and on they went. I was slightly concerned that they wouldn't meet too many people on their walk but saw them going in to the Woollen Weavers and hoped they had more luck there. Seeing my lights on thy knocked the door and gave the same speech, I protested I'd already received a bunch but she said 'please have another, we are struggling to find to find anyone'. Rather endearingly when the little girl handed them to me the little boy grabbed them back! A sweet I interlude on a grey day, bless them and their daffodils are cheering up my windowsill. Who even knew there was a National Kindness Day? What a shame the world's population are not kinder every day.

St Filica held their AGM in February and distributed money to five village organisations and thanked everyone who supports their events and thank you to them for funding the newsletter and website and keeping us up to date with forthcoming events.

I am told it is time to 'chit' potatoes for March planting when hopefully lots more super veg and flowers will be sown, I'm sure the Gardening Club will give us some tips but please plant with our Produce Show in mind...Saturday 16th August this year.....advance warning!!

Although it is good to hear that Lynne Savege is slowly recovering her strength after her three week stay in hospital, it is very sad that she has put her lovely home on the market to move nearer to her daughters (who are currently looking after her). What a loss she will be to the Shop, Filkins Theatre and to her many village friends. However, she tells me she'll hold a leaving party in due course! Ed.

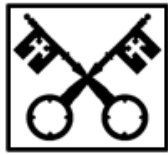
VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

MARCH WINNER; Deian Rhys

Congratulations and thank you for your support

The Village Hall AGM is on 5th March, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Pauline Care Peacock Farmhouse 01367 860969



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

MARCH SERVICES FOR YOUR DIARY

WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH – FILKINS

7PM – ASH WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION

SUNDAY 9TH MARCH – FILKINS

6PM – EVENSONG

SUNDAY 23RD MARCH – FILKINS

10.30AM – HOLY COMMUNION

Ash Wednesday

It's a busy month this month – after the pancake-fuelled splurge of Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday marks the start of the 40 days of Lent, and this year the benefice-wide service will be held at Filkins Church. Please do come along to mark this important date in the Church year – there will be the traditional anointing with ashes as part of Holy Communion service, but it is entirely voluntary.

Lent Study Group – An MOT for Life

Just to remind you following Reverend Canon Dennis's piece in last month's St Filica there will be a series of Lent Study Group meetings at Filkins Vicarage at 7pm on Wednesdays starting on March 12th. There are still one or two places left so if you would like to come and spend some time thinking about the bigger issues in life – who am I, wealth and possessions, relationships and how to keep going in the hardest of times, then please contact Reverend Dennis – details as below.

Rector

Rector:
Reverend Harry MacInnes 01993 845954
harrymacinnes@yahoo.co.uk

Associate Vicar

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





March 2025

The Garden Club had its annual Planning meeting on Friday 28th February 2025 and we have lots of lovely places lined up to visit this year.

This will include visits to
 Worcester College, Oxford
 Chippy Flower Farm, Chipping Norton
 Friars Court Garden, Clanfield
 Pershore Horticultural College, Worcestershire
 Whichford Pottery, Shipston on Stour

In addition, we are currently investigating visiting 2 private gardens nearby one of which will hopefully be an evening visit.

Along with our very popular Garden Safari when we visit some of our members gardens with a lovely tea at the end and, of course End of Season Garden drinks for members - this season plans to be busy as ever.

Visits are arranged by members for members and operate on a first come first served basis as numbers are often limited.

We wish Lucille Jones who has recently come out of hospital and is currently convalescing at the Elizabeth Finn home a speedy recovery and hope that she will be home soon.

The weather has turned slightly warmer in the last week or so but continues to be wet. However, the growing season is now upon us.

Sow salad leaves, and early vegetables in gutters: lettuce, radishes and spring/onions, chard, sugarsnap/peas, tomatoes, chillies and aubergine, these are just a few. Broad Beans can be planted out, chit early potatoes if not already done. When mild plant fruit trees.

The flower season has started, slow growers like Antirrhinums, cleomes and cobaea can be under cover. And towards the middle of the month when the light level improves and nights are less cold, dahlia tubers can be planted in pots inside, take chrysanthemum cuttings and herbaceous perennials can be planted.

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

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



SWINFORD MUSEUM

Last month I told you about gaining possession of the Village Quilt so on **SATURDAY 8TH MARCH** in the Village Hall 2-4 pm it will be displayed in all its glory for you to see. There will be no admission charge but the Museum always values donations.

Those of you who attended the St Filica AGM will know members kindly voted money to enable the museum to obtain a bespoke locking glass display cabinet. It is being crafted by George Swinford's great great nephew, also named George, who continues his Uncle George's carpentry skills.

Work is beginning on the 2025 exhibition to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day. Other displays will depict local industries from the village and local vicinity. Just who forged the altar rail in the church and who was Dennis Trinder? Visit the museum from 1st May to discover.

Diane Blackett



Filkins and Broughton Poggs Ladies Supper Club

In some ways the idea for the Ladies Supper Club was a response to the pandemic. It grew from the awareness and feeling that people had not been able to get together and socialise for so long! Newcomers to the village had not had much opportunity to get to know their neighbours in more than a year.

Since September 2021, Supper Club has met in Filkins Village Hall on **the third Wednesday** of each month. At 19.00 we have a pre-supper drink and usually sit down to eat about 19.30. Typically we are 20 or more. People drop in and out depending on their commitments; the group mailing list has more than 50 people on it.

The founding team (Gill, Trish and Michele) do an amazing job of producing a varied and always delicious supper. Volunteers bring a dessert. We make sure we move around between courses to maximise the chance to get to know each other better – it's friendly! Everyone is encouraged to invite their friends and neighbours. That may not reach everyone in our two villages however – hence this piece in the newsletter! The only requirement is to be female, over 18 and to let Gill know you are coming.

The cost is £7 per head (waived if you have volunteered a pudding) to cover food, a welcome drink (e.g. glass of wine) and the hire of the village hall. There is an honesty box for more wine at £2 per glass.

Do consider coming along; you'd be made welcome.

Michele Heath 07827 298611 Trish Poole 07976 055308 Gill Pagett 07595 996932

Parish Council Report meeting 12 February 2025

WODC report- Budget is to be settled next week and garden waste bin charge will increase by £2

Millenium sign has dried out but iron work to re install it will cost approx. £760.

Flooding mitigation – we are liaising with OCC concerning the drains being cleared and the survey starting

Naming of roads either side of Church is ongoing. WODC insist we have a consensus before moving forward.

Community Transport Data is being chased – this has not been updated on OCC website since last year.

Kerb at The Gassons – is once again deteriorating. We are chasing the maintenance with Cottesway .
New groundsman will be appointed next month.

Ian Grey is currently designing an information board at the Village Centre – we hope to make an event of this when it is unveiled.

Communication

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>

**HAVE YOU RECENTLY NEEDED HEALTH OR MEDICAL CARE IMMEDIATELY OR THE SAME DAY IN OXFORDSHIRE?**

Healthwatch Oxfordshire would like to hear from anyone who has needed urgent or emergency care or help in Oxfordshire in the last two years.

This might include calling NHS 111 or your local GP practice, going to a hospital Accident and Emergency (A&E) department, or contacting a mental health crisis team. We'd like to know what you understand about these health services, what information you used to find out about services, and your experience of getting the right help quickly.

Your feedback will help us understand your experiences and identify areas for improvement. To tell us about your experiences, please complete our short online survey at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/UECservices/>

The survey is anonymous. If you would rather talk to someone about your experience, or would like a paper copy or translated version of the survey, please contact Healthwatch Oxfordshire on 01865 520520 or at hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk

To find out more about the work of Healthwatch Oxfordshire see www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk

**Pat Mason 1937 – 2025**

Pat and husband Geoff took over the Lamb Inn in July 1983 having been landlords of the Red Lion, Buscot for some years, coming with their black labrador Ben (who was never allowed in the bars until after last orders!)

At that time the Lamb was owned by Halls Brewery but after two years they decided to sell all their village pubs and the Masons were able to buy it. Originally their idea had been to run the lounge bar as a restaurant but such were the local demands on the pub it never happened. They had inherited five Darts Teams (plus another two which followed them from Buscot), four Aunt Sally Teams, two Quiz Teams and Filkins at that point had two football teams, so the bars were busy. Pat was behind the bar and cooked pub food in the kitchen. Pat was a bright friendly face behind the bar, the distinctive slight gap between her front teeth adding to her expression but she was also a mine of great ideas. When they moved they had brought with them a large whisky bottle, half full of donations towards a Guide Dog. This was set on their new bar and in 1986 a cheque for £1200 was presented to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. The bottle was kept and it was thought that any money raised should be used to support village activities, for some time the main beneficiary was the Village Hall, a seemingly bottomless pit for funds.

Pat continued to be Secretary to the Faringdon & District Ladies Darts Association (a post she held for 20 years) and was instrumental in raising £4000 for research into cot death. She also, together with Richard Martin started the Business Lunch Club, the idea being to bring together the owners of small business in Filkins and surrounding villages.

Two very regular patrons of the Lamb, Mike Clark and John Hayes, were chatting with Pat and Geoff about the village in general and money for other causes than the village hall when the idea of an umbrella organisation evolved. Mike was a great fan of alternative history and came up with an imagined saint, one connected with 'frivolity' and a cod Latin motto, 'Nunc Est Bibendum' (now is the time to drink) and a logo of two chalices...St Filica was born.

Between the four of them ideas came fast and furious. Pat was the productive one, thinking of fun, sometimes ridiculous ones that the whole village could enjoy and at little or reasonable cost. Her first blinder was a Pantomime Horse Race – a huge success which was even filmed by the BBC. Other ideas followed apace, Pram Races, Its a Knockout, the Street Party - which ran for a number of years, Conker Championships and the revival of the Filkins Feast. 'Lamb Specials' were also hers, a Tramps Supper, Halloween Party, Fancy Hat Competition etc, always the emphasis was on having fun.

Pat had two brothers, Gordon an actor and Cliff a chef, who visited the Lamb from time to time. When Gordon died he left Pat his apartment in Spain and although difficult for them to leave the pub together, Pat enjoyed taking girlfriends there for occasional weeks.

In 2000 Pat and Geoff sold the Lamb which was developed into the houses we see today and moved to Lechlade. Geoff took the complete Lounge Bar of the Lamb (which was pretty idiosyncratic being lined with rough sawn elm planks amongst other things) and rebuilt it in a shed in their garden, a home pub – ever the Landlords – here they enjoyed entertaining friends old and new.

They took up cruising, enjoying dressing for dinner and seeing much of Europe, really appreciating their retirement.

Sadly in 2016 Pat was diagnosed with dementia and declined rapidly. It was not a happy period for her or Geoff, who cared for her pretty much unaided until her death on January 15th but she is now at peace. Those of us who lived in the village through Pat and Geoff's time at the Lamb will remember her fondly, her smile and love of life and we at St Filica owe her a great debt too.



F&BP ALLOTMENTS - VACANT PLOTS

There is nothing better than the taste of fresh vegetables grown by yourself, or the satisfaction and enjoyment you get from doing it. Well, that's we on the allotments believe.

It's not only a great way for children to learn where their veggies come from but for those not so young, it's a great way to keep fit, get outdoors, and meet like-minded people.

Come this April, we will have a few plots available at the allotments behind the Village Centre, mainly half plots - so quite manageable.

If you are interested, please contact the Chair, Jennifer Rooke on jerooke76@gmail.com or speak to one of the other plot holders. Priority will always go to residents of Filkins and Broughton Poggs.

Crafty Villagers

Our last meeting this season will be on Thursday March 20th from 2 – 4 pm.

We ask for £2 to cover the cost of the Village Hall hire.
The dates for September to December will be published in Filica in August.

If you require any further information, then please contact either :
Michele Heath micheleheath@hotmail.co.uk
Allison Swales allisonswales1@gmail.com

Rosie's Pilates Plus (07879 668175 or rosie@rosiehowenutrition.com) classes in :

Kempsford VH: Mon 10.00

Bradwell VH: Tues 09.30 & 10.45 Langford VH: Mon 17.15 & 18.30, Wed 17.15

Northleach Westwood Centre: Wed 9.00 Bampton Recreation Pavilion: Wed 11.00



Date for your diaries:



Curry & Quiz Night

Saturday 22nd March 7pm

Up to 8 per team, £17.50 per head, pay in advance stfilica@hotmail.com

Pay Bar– cash or card accepted

Advance Notice, please save the date

Village Litter Pick

Saturday 5th April 2025

meeting at the Village Hall at 2pm

Please give an hour or two to keep our villages looking at their best
Bags provided. Please bring sturdy gloves, hi viz jackets. Some picking sticks
provided but do bring your own if you have one
Cars will drop people at various points to work their way back to the Village Hall.

Complimentary tea and cakes from 3pm

Please call or email Roger (07802 345483 or roger.chitty1@btinternet.com if you
are able to attend or able to help with refreshments



***** SAVE THE DATE *****

Saturday 10 May 2025

**VE Day Celebration at the Village Hall
from 7.30pm**

Swing Band and a Fish & Chip supper



Dentists!

Not many love the dentist's chair, but here's a very appreciative letter written to his dentist by John Pigott of Filkins in June 1890.

First the advert:

Do call and inspect Mr Shippley Slipper's dental specimens. No need to extract stumps, totally life-like, & no wires required. 3s 6d a tooth, or 20s a set.

Now Mr Pigott's letter:

Dear Sir

It is nearly 6 months since you put in my new teeth, and they perform their work well. I continually put them to the severest of mealtime tests, & can now eat toasted crusts. In speaking & singing they exceed my expectations. I never think of taking them out of my mouth except for cleansing or to show to sufferers, to whom I remark, go to Mr Shippley Slipper & do as I have. My new teeth are more useful & comfortable than are those of some I know who have paid twenty or thirty guineas or more for theirs.

I am yours truly

John Pigott

Filkins Post Office

March 5th 1890



An evening of Supper & Sleuthing hosted by Filkins Theatre



We are at The Awards Evening, and all are agog to greet the winners... When, what's this? Instead of applauding the make-believe world on the silver screen, we are plunged into the real world of murder and mystery! Your help is needed...

SUPPER & SLEUTHING

Filkins Village Hall

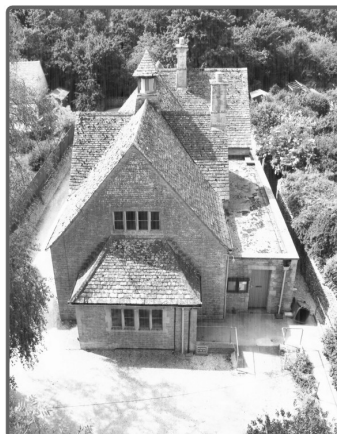
Saturday 26th April at 7.30pm

Tickets: £12.50 from Filkins Shop & Cotswold Woollen Weavers

Book a table (up to 8), or join a table on the evening

Ticket includes excellent Supper. Pay bar

Telephone / text for tickets & information: 0771 3636 415



Filkins Village Hall

**The Annual General Meeting
will take place at 7.30pm
on Wednesday 5th March 2025**

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



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIVE ALLS!

Congratulations to Rob, Jo and Chris (and Tom) on completing their first year managing the Five Alls. We have lived in Filkins for approaching 15 years and in that time, we have seen many different Managers come and go, with varying degrees of success, there have been some alarming periods when we thought the pub might close permanently!

It is a sobering thought (no pun intended) that more than 400 pubs in England and Wales shut their doors for good in 2024 against a backdrop of rising costs and cautious spending among customers.

The number of pubs has now fallen below 39,000 for the first time, as 412 were demolished or converted for other uses in the year to December 2024, according to an analysis of government figures by the property data company Altus Group. Most of the closures happened in the first half of the year. More than 34 pubs in the UK shut every month on average, the sharpest fall in numbers since 2021!

A village pub is more than a hostelry, it is the heart of a functional village, providing a meeting place for neighbours, friends, village associations and families. Whether it's an early evening drink with chums or Sunday lunch with family, a pub engenders camaraderie, human interaction and promotes the general well-being of village.

Since taking over the Pub, Rob and the team have worked tirelessly (opening 7 evenings a week) to deliver a professional, friendly service. At one point I thought Rob must have an identical twin as this could be the only explanation for his continual presence behind the bar!

The Five Alls serves a good selection of beers, wines and sprits. The food offer is wholesome, robust 'Pub Grub.'

What Rob and the team have achieved in the past 12 months reminds me of an American sitcom aired through the 80s & 90s called Cheers, based in a bar in Boston where regulars share their experiences and lives with each other, it was known as the bar "Where Everybody Knows Your Name".....

Well done Team Five Alls! I look forward to availing myself of your hospitality for many years to come.

Alan Law

The Lenthall Concerts 2024/5 season

26th March 7.00pm The last concert of this season

Raphael Wallfisch—Cello Beethoven Kodaly and Elgar

Raphael is one of Britain's greatest cellists, broadcasting & playing worldwide

Burford School Hall. Individual concerts are £20

www.lenthallconcerts.org.uk

Mushroom and Cheese Brunch Burger (serves 2)

Our latest favourite weekend treat. This can be really simple or raised to another level depending on type of cheese etc.



Ingredients:

6 portobello mushrooms (or you could use 2 large flat mushrooms)
30ml rapeseed oil
Sprig of thyme
1 garlic clove, crushed
6 slices of raclette cheese (or other cheese that melts easily)
or 160g gruyere cheese grated
30g good quality mayonnaise
2 brioche buns
1 baby gem lettuce – cut off 2 slices
1 large tomato, sliced
2 pickled gherkins, sliced.

Method:

Heat oven to 180 degrees c/Gas 4

Peel mushrooms and remove the stalks. Put mushrooms into a deep roasting tray with the rapeseed oil, thyme and garlic. Season well with fresh ground salt and pepper and cover with foil. Cook in oven for 15 minutes.

Remove mushrooms from the oven and lift off foil. Pour away any liquid from the tin then cover each mushroom with cheese. Return to the oven for 5 minutes until cheese has melted and is bubbling.

In the meantime, spread a tablespoon of mayonnaise on each brioche bun half and top with a slice of baby gem lettuce, a slice of tomato and a couple of slices of pickled gherkin.

Place 3 mushrooms on each bun and push down the top half of the bun. Serve.

Cook's Tip:

I tend to pop the brioche bun and the tomato into the oven for the last 5 minutes to take the chill off before assembling.

Serve with brown sauce or chilli sauce for an extra kick !

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



We are continuing to go to Market each Thursday to purchase fresh fruit, veg, bread & flowers. Orders can still be taken via email below or do pop in & see what we have to offer.

Blakes sourdough, cinnamon buns and fresh croissants are also still available on Saturday mornings. Please pre order these in shop or contact **sue.yardley@gmail.com**

Please note our shop opening hours for a Thursday are now 10 till 11am

Great new selection of more superior wines are now in stock.

Its still a bit chilly in the evenings so don't forget to stock up with our logs, kindling & firelighters.

We are always on the lookout for new volunteers, whether to just cover ad hoc or a regular hour or so a week. If you are interested, please speak to a volunteer in the shop & we will be in touch. It's a great way of meeting new people.

One last thing please note our village shop telephone number is the mobile number on this page and not the landline number on the St Filica calendar.

Do come and support your local village shop

<https://filkins.org.uk/filkins-community-shop>

Green/recycling

grey/household

Friday 7 March

Friday 21 March

Friday 28 February

Friday 14 March

Friday 28 March