St Filica Society AGM

Tuesday 3rd February 2026 at 8.00pm

Filkins Village Hall

AGENDA

1. **Apologies** were received from: Jane Martin, Kevin & Elaine Robbins, Amy Geschke, Richard & Trish Martin.

2. **Minutes of AGM 2025**

The minutes of the AGM of 4 February 2025 were accepted by Cris Hoad and seconded by Tony Woodford.

3. **Chairman's Report** – see Appendix I.

4. **Treasurer's Report** – see Appendix II.

The Treasurer presented the finance report and advised that we had made a loss of £1,865 in 2025 as there had been no major fund raising event and we had running costs of around £3,300 pa.

In response to a question from Lorraine Chitty, she advised that the retained funds were set aside for replacements and repairs to the gazebos and for repairs to the storage sheds on Hardcastles field. The £1000 set aside for the Trustees was there to cover debts should St Filica cease to exist.

The Filkins Bowls Club had submitted a request for funds to the amount of £250 for seed and top dressing for the playing surface. This was the only bid received and was unanimously accepted by the membership in a show of hands.

The Treasurer's report was accepted by Ian Grey and seconded by Freda Shrouder.

5. Election of Trustees, Officers and Other Committee Members for 2024/5

The existing Trustees (Andy Hoad, Jeremy Irwin Singer, Jane Martin and Sue Hitchcock) had kindly agreed to continue in office. This was agreed by the membership.

The following were accepted as Officers:

Chairman: Sara Moule

Vice Chairman: Michelle Woodworth

Treasurer: Mary Bohm

Secretary: Avril Payne

Other Committee Members:

Gill Pagett, Rob Bohm, Kevin Robbins, Simon Yardley and Les Goward.

The Chairman thanked Simon Yardley for his time as Chairman, particularly for organising the village fete in 20205, and Alison Sutcliffe, Amy Geschke and Denise Barry-Smith for their time on the committee. She also thanked Jane Martin as editor of the newsletter, Sue Hitchcock for organising deliveries, Agate Goward for running the gazebo bookings last year (now taken on by Rob Bohm) and Annika Hansen and Debbie Law for running the website. Thanks were also extended to Avril Payne for taking on the secretary role.

6. Future Programme

21 March: Quiz and Curry night

11 July: Summer Masquerade Ball

17 October: Quiz and Curry night

5 December: Father Christmas and Advent Window lighting

The Chair asked for any ideas for other events to be fed back to the committee.

7. AOB

Summer Fete – the St Filica Committee recommended that due to the Summer Ball taking place this year, the Fete should be a biennial event and take place in 2027. It also suggested that holding a race night in the evening of the fete would help involve families. SM would find out dates for neighbouring villages to avoid any clashes.

The meeting agreed to having a scarecrow trail round the villages to coincide with the NGS Open Gardens on 17 May – this would be advertised in the newsletter.

Appendix 1 - Chairman's Report 2025

Good evening everyone, and thank you for coming along. It's wonderful to see so many of you here for our AGM. Looking back over the past year, it's striking just how much this village can pull off when we all get stuck in together.

We began back in March with the Quiz and Curry Night - always a favourite - and this year's Queen Connections was particularly memorable. I'm still not sure whether people were more delighted by the clever links or baffled by them, but it certainly kept the room buzzing.

In May we celebrated VE Day in proper style: a swing band, fish and chips, and a crowd ready to dance, chat and enjoy the atmosphere. It was one of those evenings where the whole village felt alive.

Then came the summer fete. After a week of torrential rain, we somehow found ourselves blessed with a perfectly timed break in the weather. The result was a wonderfully traditional fete - with the notable exception of the maggot racing, which was anything but traditional. The Witney Silver Band lifted everyone's spirits, and it turned into one of the most cheerful afternoons of the year.

Our autumn Quiz and Curry Night was equally memorable, not least because we managed to drink the keg dry. Whether that's a sign of enthusiasm or a lesson in stock-planning, I'll leave for you to decide.

And finally, we rounded off the year with a beautifully atmospheric carol concert in St Peter's church. Music, enthusiastic voices and a full church - it was the perfect way to close the year.

As we look ahead, the new committee has a few challenges to tackle. Our large gazebo incurred damage during the fete and now needs replacing, and the stable storage in Hardcastle's Field is reaching the end of its life too. Both will need attention - and funds - so we'll need to put our heads together and work out the best way forward.

I also want to take a moment to thank three committee members who are stepping down this year: Denise, Alison and Amy. Each of them has given a huge amount of time, energy and good humour to St Filica, and we're enormously grateful for everything they've done.

Their departure does mean we have space - and a real need - for new volunteers. If you'd like to help shape the events we run, or lend a hand with organising them, we'd be delighted to have you join the committee. It's rewarding, it's sociable, and it genuinely makes a difference to village life.

Now, I could stand here and list every person who's helped make this year such a success... but we'd be here all night, and I'd inevitably forget someone. So instead, let

me simply say a huge thank you - to the committee, to the troops, and to everyone who pitched in, whether by lifting chairs, selling raffle tickets, baking cakes, pouring pints or just turning up with enthusiasm. You're the reason these events work.

Right - that's enough from me. Let's move on to the next item on the agenda. Mary, over to you for the finances.

Simon Yardley

St Filica Chairman

Appendix II - St Filica Society - Financial Report Year Ending 31st January 2026

St Filica Society		
Accounts as at 31st January 2026		
		01/02/2026
Assets		
Current account		90.22
Deposit account		6,296.48
Petty Cash		1,078.72
Stock		384.72
2026 Ball Deposits		600.00
Accrued for bids		
Accrued for 2025 Xmas tree		- 350.00
		8,100.14
Reserves		
Trustees		1,000.00
Marquee		2,400.00
Retained		4,700.14
		8,100.14

We had some great events this year with only Father Christmas making a loss. However our currently running costs are about £3,300 and without a major funding raising event in 2025 we have made a loss for the year of £1,865.

Events

- Quiz (March and October) - £704.
- VE Day - £514. Due to a grant secured from the National Lottery
- Gazebo Hire - £978.
- Fete - £83.29. The bar covered the cost of the band. Profit came from donations from a couple of the stalls.
- Membership and donations - £158.
- Father Christmas (£293). We received very generous donations this year of £139 however the tree was £350.
- Calendar – breakeven.

Major Costs

- Insurance - £910 required for all our events and was also used for the village to cover the fete in 2025
- Newsletter - £1,675. This is a major cost however we believe it is worth it and it enables the whole village to stay connected.
- Other costs

- Hardcastle's Field – £290
- Village website - £180

As you can see from the summary we are currently holding funds of £8,100, with £1,000 Trustees fund and £2,400 Marquee fund leaving £4,700 retained. We are stilling looking to replace our 10 x 4 gazebo as it is a poor state or repair and we will need to ensure that we have funds to cover the ball upfront costs and the running costs. Therefore we would like to recommend a bid fund of £250.