JUNE 2026 ISSUE 269

NEWSLETTER

Editor: stfilica@mail.com

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

16 June Parish Council Meeting
20 June FT Rehearsed Reading on the Paddock
25 June Copy deadline for July
28 June Village Open Day
29 June Fish & Chip van
30 June Filkins Theatre AGM

Welcome to a bumper newsletter this month, I couldn't let the pictures of our beautiful gardens, wonderful scarecrows and brilliant thespians go unmarked and although my treasurer only allows it infrequently...in glorious colour! Reports of all three events within and fair to say all were highly successful, such a wealth of talent in our small corner of Oxfordshire.

It was certainly a stunning Bank Holiday weatherwise, judging from the number of cars parked up and down the village the swimming pool must have been chock a block and hopefully the shop did a roaring trade in cold drinks and ice cream. All the summer season activities are in full swing, as well as the pool obviously, the bowls season has begun and several games played both at home and away, (do come on Mondays from 6 if you fancy having a go), open air theatre comes to the Paddock on June 20th with FT's rehearsed reading of Alan Bennett's Habeas Corpus which promises to be fun, bring a picnic beforehand and make like its Glyndebourne! A Village Open Day, see below, the St Filica Masquerade Ball in July and on to the Annual Produce Show in August. Do visit the Swinford Museum on its open days, Diane has arranged some fascinating exhibits this year and always good to learn a little more about our great villages.

Some people have been holidaying in foreign parts so I'm hoping to bring some travel reports to next months edition, I think it's fun to travel vicariously sometimes, especially if you cant getaway, yourself. Ed

FILKINS BOWLS CLUB & FILKINS SWIMMING CLUB

are celebrating their 90th Anniversaries this year and cordially invite residents to a

Village Day on Sunday 28th June from 11am to 4pm at the bowls green.

Have a go at Target Bowls for £1 (prize to highest score of the day), enjoy an afternoon tea with good company, a pay bar and tombola. You might even get a taste for playing the real thing and we do need new members to keep us going for another decade.

All welcome

The Churches of St Peter Broughton Poggs cum Filkins

SERVICES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 14th June – Broughton Poggs

6pm Evensong

Sunday 28th June – Filkins

10.30am Holy Communion

Open Gardens

As reported on elsewhere in the edition we managed to have a much better day than the weather forecasters predicted for NGS Open Gardens on May 17th – only one shower, and some actual sunshine! Teas on the day raised just over £1,100 for our churches – a huge THANK YOU to all bakers, servers and helpers under the watchful eye of new supremo Jane Martin for giving up your time to help raise such an important sum – and for giving our visitors such a hugely positive sense of our community.

Flower Arrangers and Mowers

And while we are on the subject of thanks – now that we are past Lent and we can again decorate our churches, more thanks are due to our loyal band of flower arrangers who make sure that there are flowers not only for our services, but also to welcome visitors. Elizabeth Gidman is looking down approvingly at all your had work! And also our mowing crew – it has been a tough spring with rain and sunshine making sure that the grass at both churchyards got off to a flying start, but the team has battled through and both churchyards are looking their best.

Broughton Poggs Evensong – second Sunday in the Month

A quick reminder that our Evensong services on the second Sunday in the month at 6pm are now underway for the summer. Do come along and celebrate the tradition of Christianity going back 900 years in our special church, and enjoy taking time for some peace and reflection.

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

For details of all services in the Benefice see: www.svbb.org.uk

SWINFORD MUSEUM

May was a busy month for the museum; we opened with a new selection of exhibitions, mainly showcasing the many artifacts which have been discovered over the years beneath the ground. You can see the original accession numbers which were given by Miss Hill, who was Sir Stafford's secretary, she spent many hours with George identifying the objects. She sent things off to the Ashmolean who were very helpful and identified them for her.

On opening day we had a visit from the Oxfordshire Veteran Motor Cycle Club, fifteen motor-bikes in total of various eras. The next day three ladies visited from Stocksbridge which was the home of Samuel Fox and his factory where he developed and manufactured the Fox Umbrella. Samuel bought Bradwell Grove House, home now of the Wild Life Park, and the ladies wanted to see it. I showed them the items I had displayed a few years ago when we covered the Fox family and in return they gave the Museum a china plate commemorating 150 years of the Fox factory.

The Living History day seemed to be enjoyed by many, thank you to all who joined us. The Theatre Club as usual, did a sterling job portraying the various characters, thank you. I would also like to thank the ladies who served the cream teas and did a great job.

Next was the Gardens Open which saw many visitors to the village. We had a new collection of the auricular which is named after George, being 'George Swinford's Leathercoat', if you would like to buy a plant please give me a call. Unfortunately we don't know how the naming of the plant came about, we do know that George's father was renowned for growing auriculars.

Diane Blackett

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**

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**

Well May has certainly finished with a flourish, wall to wall sunshine over a bank holiday is so rare. Our NGS open gardens on Sunday 17 May was a little cooler but the rain held off mostly and we still had a good number of visitors – all the gardens looked beautiful and everyone worked so hard to make it a great afternoon out.
Surely now we are frost free and it's time to plant out all those tender plants and organise the veg patch if you have one. But most of all take time out to just enjoy your garden it's so good for the soul.

Trips in June are Radcot House on 5th and on 9th a talk by Nick Bailey at Trinity College Oxford (5.30-6.30).

Tips for June:

Lift and store tulip bulbs after flowering
Continue planting out summer bedding and continue watering
Plant out sweetcorn, arrange in blocks to aid pollination
Mulch beans and courgettes
Give house plants a weekly liquid feed till the autumn
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)

F&BP PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting 5 May 2026

This year we had a larger than usual attendance from residents at our Annual Parish Meeting. Understandably, given that the Ernest Cook Trust was to give a brief introduction to how the trust was set up and how it continues to be managed today and it's objectives. Also, the trust gave an outline description of a potential planning application for a possible development of houses on land towards the lower end of Rouse's Lane. I would reiterate, as they said this is in a very early stage at present and ECT are considering many factors relating to this proposal.
Any proposal for multiple units, however proposed, will of course be contentious which the Parish Council fully understand.

Given this, the Parish Council discussed the possibility of planning within the village of Filkins and Broughton Poggs. The Parish Council came to the conclusion that expert knowledge and advice should be sought to ascertain the possibility of potential planning applications. To this end we engaged a consultant, a retired planning officer for a local county council but now working as a planning consultant. The gentleman walked both villages with a detailed map and commented on each possible free area for potential planning. The conclusion was that in any area the plots were small so that after purchase a development would not be viable for a developer. Also there were other local restriction to plots which would make them unsuitable.
Further to this and more recently the local plan was distributed for comment. When the Parish Council first saw the local plan our villages were in a group of villages where up to 300 housing units could be built. The potential of this many units within and around our villages would have been the demise of our community as we know it. Again the Parish Council after deliberation came to the conclusion that we required expert assistance in completing the form in such away that we could escape the requirement of 300 units. We again engaged a specialist who completed the form using expert knowledge of planning laws and current local planning regulations and in return had our 300 units reduced to 10!

In conclusion, the Parish Council fully appreciate the residents concerns regarding planning. The Parish Councillors as individuals are also residents and as such share your concerns. Planning in some form is inevitable but please be assured that the Parish Council is acting and always will act with the residents best interests in mind.

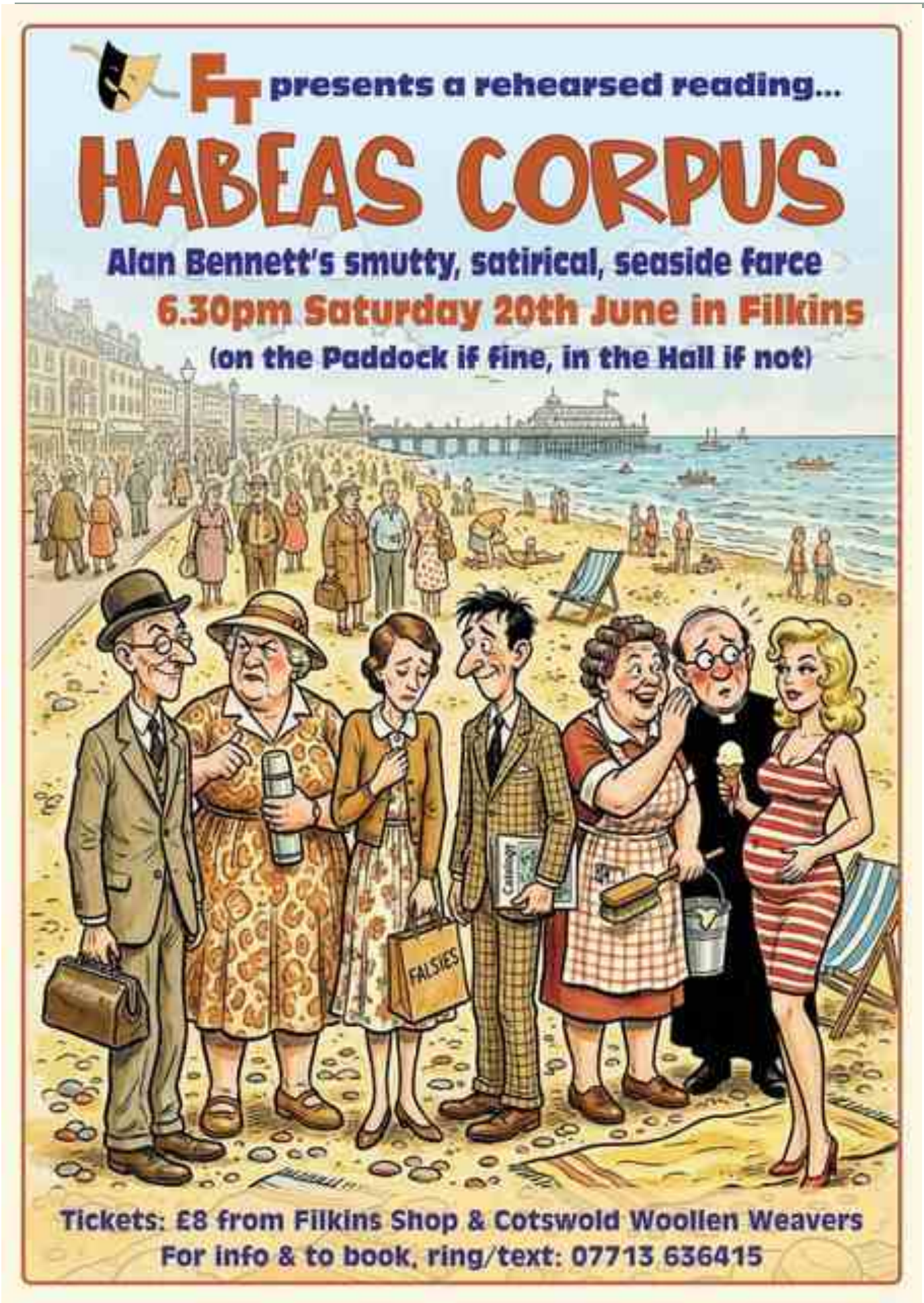
Richard Howe
Chairman Filkins Broughton Poggs Parish Council

Next Parish Council Meeting ; Tuesday 16th June

FILKINS THEATRE AGM 2026

30th June 7.30pm in Village Hall

All welcome, you do not need to be a member to attend


FT presents a rehearsed reading...
HABEAS CORPUS
Alan Bennett's smutty, satirical, seaside farce
6.30pm Saturday 20th June in Filkins
(on the Paddock if fine, in the Hall if not)
FALSIES
Tickets: £8 from Filkins Shop & Cotswold Woollen Weavers
For info & to book, ring/text: 07713 636415

OPEN GARDENS MAY 2026

The weather leading up to this year's Open Gardens was not exactly promising and the forecast was looked at anxiously by the gardeners as we hoped for a dry afternoon. It was particularly interesting as it was the same weekend as last year's opening, yet the conditions couldn't have been more different. But once again the gardens were amazing in their variety, the cakes were outstanding and the car parking was immaculate.

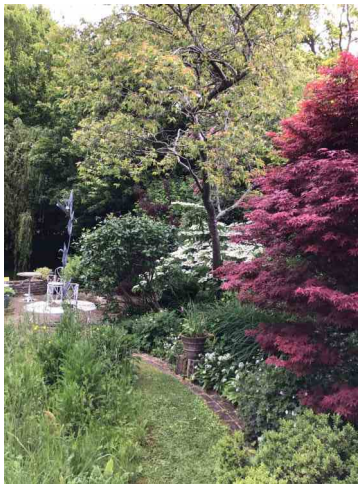
We heard so many good things about the gardens and the village - one woman told her husband that they should put in an offer on Fox House so they could move here. The twelve Canadians and Americans on the tour were particularly entranced. Thankfully the one short downpour did nothing to dampen spirits. It was lovely to see Lynne Savege who returned to the Village to support the new owners with their first opening. Although numbers were lower than last year's bumper attendance, there was still a healthy turnout of over 320, so more than £3000 going to the NGS.

The success of the event is due to the team effort involved and there are lots of people to thank. First the gardeners and allotment owners without whom there wouldn't be an opening. Thanks to Jane Martin took over organising the teas now that Vicky Heath has left the village. She was ably supported by a team of excellent bakers and servers and the downpour meant that shelter was sought in the Village Hall which contributed to over £1100 being raised for the Churches.

Thanks to the Parish Council for allowing the use of Hardcastle's Field for parking which is invaluable in keeping the village clear of traffic. But more importantly thanks are due to Dave Heslam for inspecting the field and laying it out to maximise capacity. Thanks to the car park marshals who happily don their high viz and organise the safe parking as well as selling tickets. Other ticket sellers were Diane Blackett, Debbie Law, the Grays at Field House, Euan MacLennan at Filkins Hall and Freda Shrouder at the Mill.

I hope that I've covered everyone, even if not by name.

Avril Payne



In conjunction with the NGS Gardens Open on Sunday 17th May, 18 villagers took part in the Scarecrow Trail. You can see from the photos what a creative bunch they are! The colourful and inventive scarecrows were the subject of much delight and many favourable comments from residents and visitors alike.

The winners are shown here , with the prize of Dinner for Two kindly donated by the 5Alls won by Pauline Care for her very traditional 'Betty' scarecrow.

Runners up were Mark Truman for his wonderful Wallace & Gromit and Freda Shrouder for President Trump! Well done everyone

NEWS FROM THE FIVE ALLS

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

WORLD CUP

11 June – 19 July

Late night food & beer

Quiz Night
Sunday 14 June

£1 per person, prize for

SUPPER CLUB – LAST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

25th June – Surf & Turf

Booking recommended

New set lunch menu

From £18 for 2courses

LIVE MUSIC

Father's Day Sunday 21 June

And on

Sunday 28 June

WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Champagne, strawberries &cream

29 June – 12July

Mondays – Pie Night

Tuesdays – 2 for 1 burgers night

Wednesdays – Sharing steak night

An Evening of Laughter at The Beeb – Classic scripts, classic fun!

An expectant buzz of anticipation was in the air as Producer Charlie Payne, the Broadshire's own better-looking answer to Phineas T Barnum, took to the stage. In an excellent, fluent and humorous advisory, he ran through the elf 'n safety and then, assuming the Filkins audience had a full complement of maiden aunts and persons who had not switched on any form of electronic communication in the last 30 years, we were cautioned as to the existence of 'Gender Fluidity' and the inclusion of some foul-mouthed language. Bearing in mind that René was to come in Allo, Allo he might also have mentioned 'sex pests'.

'Death Star Canteen' by Suzy Eddie Izzard and the main cause of all the 'trigger warnings' was the first item up. This was a bit of an outlier and a sketch that never actually aired on the BBC. Nevertheless, it was funny, despite swearing that would have made my Granny blush. Incongruity and people not quite 'on the same page' were the fount of Izzard's humour. Dinner Lady (Avril Payne) turns not a hair at the sight of Darth Vader (Paul Floyd) marching towards the counter in his full regimental Death's Head Hussar's number ones. Instructed in estuarial English by this unflappable minion to 'take a tray', Darth is incensed at his lack of impact and resorts to the classic 'Do you know who I am?' before going on to list what he might do to the impassive Dinner Lady who responds nasally 'you still have to take a tray'. Darth's blood pressure reaches critical mass when the next customer (Lorraine Chitty) inadvertently pushes in leading to a farcical to and fro in which the infuriated Darth is confused with his brother Jeff. All well delivered by the actors and a good warm up for what was to come.

The main diet of the evening, the BBC sketches, had all been commissioned and aired on the BBC. The earliest of these was the classic 'Round The Horne', the four series of which had been broadcast between 1965 and 1968. Charlie Payne had put in a lot of work to extract some of the best scenes and update the scripts for modern consumption - a process which worked remarkably well.

In the days when the sun was inexorably setting on the last territories of the British Empire, as Dad (& mum) helped maintain our sway over palm and pine, I had sometimes heard these via British Forces Overseas Radio as a background to the washing up in our Aden apartment. They were as funny now as they had been then and a timely reminder that filthy innuendo has long been a staple ingredient of British humour. Jeremy Irwin-Singer played a strait-laced Horne to perfection and Therese Smallbone the classic BBC announcer of the period. Charlie Payne, in the Kenneth Williams part of Dr Chou En Ginsberg, MA (Failed), revealed such a remarkable talent for 'Chinglish' that coupled with his wife's command of playful French (coming later) it made you wonder quite what went on at home.

Perhaps my favourite scene from a succession of amusing sketches that had the audience laughing long and loudly was that involving the square-jawed and noble Charles (Hugh Paddick aka Paul Floyd) just back from 'The Front' and the desperately smitten Fiona (Betty Marsden/Sue Ashforth-Smith):
Fiona: 'Tell me Charles . . . is it bad?
Charles: ' . . . at The Front? . . .'
Fiona: ' . . . at The Front . . .'
Charles: 'Pretty bad . . . at The Front . . . not too good at the back . . . but . . . he's done the sides beautifully'.

All perfectly timed and delivered in irreproachable cut glass accents á la 'Brief Encounter'. You probably had to be 40s to 60s vintage to really appreciate this but that span probably included a good two-thirds of an appreciative audience.

Before the interval we updated to Monty Python's 'Spanish Inquisition' screened 1970 - those Halcyon Days! This really is difficult to act as it involves diabolical laughter and diabolical acting. Nevertheless, Paul Floyd as The Millworker along with wife (Heather Atkins) appeared suitably bemused as the sinister red-robed Cardinals (Jeremy Irwin-Singer & Julia Neame) employing speed, surprise and bungling inefficiency careened in and out of their living room failing to get out their words and thereby belying their reputation as the slick MI6 of 16th century Spain.

During the interval, in anticipation of what was to follow in the shape of Douglas Adam's 'Hitch Hiker's Guide to The Galaxy',1978-80, I availed myself of two mind pummelling 'Pan Galactic Gargle Blasters'. The author had advised never more than two "unless you are a 30-ton elephant with bronchial pneumonia." The Galaxy sketches were a lot of fun and witnessed the debut of Sally Denyer, who nervelessly took to the stage in the form of Ford Prefect, half-brother of Zaphod Beeblebrox (Paul Floyd – who, in a multiplicity of roles throughout the evening, proved himself an untiring and adaptable actor with a tangible 'stage presence'). Hopefully, we all got to sleep later without too much feverish pondering on the meaning of 42, generously revealed to us as the answer to the meaning of life.

The 1984 to 1992 sitcom classic, 'Allo, Allo' proved a great note to end on. Teresa and Jeremy Irwin-Singer appeared in the first ever Filkins Theatre offering, Noel Coward's 'Hay Fever' in 1986 although it may have been earlier at Cambridge when they were first cautioned to 'Just say the lines and don't trip over the furniture!' It was just as well that the lusty René (played by Jeremy) was going into frequent breathy clinches in the kitchen with his own wife playing Yvette Carte-Blanche whilst attempting to 'hang up the Knackwurst'. But he is nothing but generous with his attentions and also has an eye for Mimi Labonq (Sally Denyer).

With energy to burn René is running an escape operation for downed airmen, in this case Squadron Leader Carstairs (the calm and unflappable Lorraine Chitty sporting the stiffest of upper lips and one gloriously festooned with a handlebar moustache). All is kept hidden from the beady eye of the Boche in the form of Oberst Kurt Von Strohm (Paul Floyd). René also has to cope with the complicated plans of resistance leader Michelle Dubois – 'listen to me very carefully, I shall say this only once' (Avril Payne - she of the beguiling French accent). However, when René attracts the attention of Gestapo psychopath, Herr Flick (menacingly played by Heather Atkins) it looks like he may well have hung up his last Knackwurst and that Carstairs could be visiting Stalag Luft 69. As you know, however, René always pulls through . . .

The next morning, quailing before an impatient keyboard, I did wonder about the organization that had once produced such a phenomenal stream of comedy offerings. Has there been a 'falling off' or is it, as my wife contends, that I now spend all my time tuned into the golf? Perhaps it's time to grow that handlebar moustache . . .

Thank you stalwarts of Filkins Theatre – Producers, Directors, Actors, Actresses, Sound and Lighting (Andy Hoad & Roger Chitty), Wardrobe/Props (Jane Martin) and all the crew manning the bar (Jennifer Rooke, Barry Heath & Hilary Skinner) for providing another very enjoyable evening of entertainment.

The COTSWOLD Makers

A Summer CRAFT FAIR

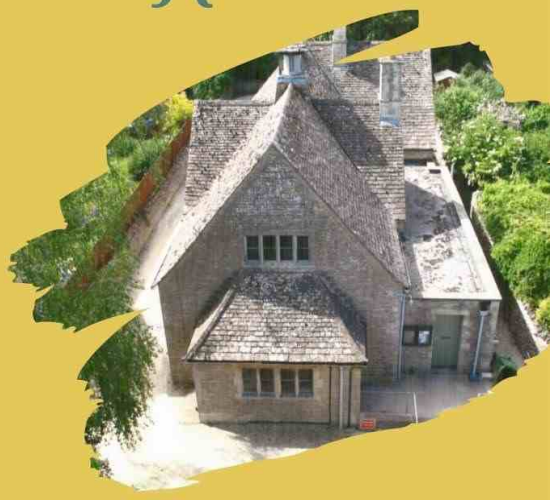
'By Hand with Design'

SATURDAY JULY 4TH
10AM TO 4PM

A GATHERING OF CREATIVES AT FILKINS VILLAGE HALL, GL7 3JQ

CERAMIC | FABRIC | WOOD
METAL | WAX | OIL | INK
FELT | PAPER | WOOL

NO ADMISSION CHARGE | FREE PARKING
REFRESHMENTS | CHARITY HAMPER



@THECOTSWOLDMAKERS
07818440824
THECOTSWOLDMAKERS@GMAIL.COM

In the absence of Debbie, I give you a refreshing easy summer drink.. Ed

Fresh homemade Lemonade

Ingredients

4 - 6 fresh lemons
1 cup sugar
1 cup hot water 3 - 4 cups cold water
Ice

Optional

Mint leaves
Lemon slices
Sparkling water instead of some of the cold water

Method

Make a simple syrup by stirring sugar into the hot water until dissolved

Juice the lemons - you want about a cup of juice

Combine the lemon juice, syrup and cold water/sparkling water in a glass jug

Taste and adjust, if too sour add more sugar, if too sweet add more lemon juice and if too strong add more water, until it is just right (as Goldilocks would say!)

Serve over ice with mint and a lemon slice if liked.

St Filica

Gazebo Hire Charges for 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 ourselves.

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

For all enquiries, please email stfilicahire@gmail.com

SUMMER MASQUERADE BALL

Saturday 11th July

There are a few places still available for the Ball, it promises to be a great evening; welcome drink, 4 course meal, entertainment & dancing. £85

email:

stfilica@hotmail.com

ourvillageshop

Filkins Community Shop, Rouse's Lane GL73JE M: 07587 647771

Our Shop needs your help to be even better...

ANYONE who suggests running a small shop, is easy hasn't run one! Juggling with staffing, product choice, stock control, pricing and all the other tasks between opening and closing time (and which continue long afterwards) is not a business for the faint-hearted.

With a community shop, there is the definite advantage that we have the village on our side, and we all thank the village whole-heartedly for that support.

On the other hand, ***Our Shop*** is entirely dependent on enthusiastic volunteers, As ever, we thank those we have, but we do really need more, and urge anyone who would like to help to get in touch. Full training will be given, And we guarantee a warm welcome, and a rewarding experience for all.

Trish Martin, chair ***Our Shop***
Ring or text: **07976 055308**

"Local" is the deal!

Our Shop continues to source local products whenever possible... Including ***Cutler & Cashin*** pork sausages, bacon, and burgers, ***Winstone's Icecream,*** and yummy ***Cotswold Chocolate***. And now we have some of the great range of pickles and chutneys from our new friends: ***Dauntsey Preserves*** in Chippenham.

We also have our very own ***Our Shop Beer*** brewed for us in Cirencester...

Do come in to ***Our Shop***, and try our local range yourself. We'd love to hear your views, and of course also your ideas for new products for us to stock.

Our Shop Hours

These are our Summer hours, subject to weather or availability of volunteers

Monday	**10-11am**	**3-5pm**
Tuesday	**10-11am**	**3-5pm**
Wednesday	**Closed**	**3-5pm**
Thursday	**10-11am**	**3-5pm**
Friday	**10-11am**	**3-5pm**
Saturday	**10-11am**	**3-5pm**
Sunday	**11-Noon**	**3-5pm**

Green/recycling grey/