

KBS NEWS

The Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Village News

DELIVERED MONTHLY TO EVERY HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE

Serving the community collaboratively with the
village website: www.kbsonline.org.uk

Volume 52

Number 1

February 2025

Update on the Outline planning application for up to 249 dwellings (P24/V2357/0)



This issue of the KBS News will have gone to press before the District Council reaches its decision, for or against, this planning application, but by the time you read it the decision should be known.

The Parish Council's response to the Nicholas King Homes application is covered in the MDP Report which is listed on the Parish Council website and detailed information is available on the Vale Planning Portal.

Read more on p. 28



February 5th - WORLD NUTELLA DAY



World Nutella Day celebrates what happens when hazelnuts and chocolate collide. The jar of creamy hazelnut and cocoa got its name Nutella in 1964. Hidden somewhere inside the News is a picture of nutella jar. Can you find it?



Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate love and affection, and is celebrated on **February 14th**. The story of Valentine's Day is about a man named Valentine who was put to death for performing secret marriages. Sending greeting cards was developed in early modern England and spread throughout the English-speaking world in the 19th century.



Thanks to Tania Delohery Duffy for pictures around the Village. Find more inside the News.

INSIDE THIS MONTH

- | | |
|---|----|
| • Fir Tree Close Playground temporary closure | 6 |
| • David Warr - A Tribut | 8 |
| • New KBS Nature column | 12 |
| • Bonfire Society | 14 |
| • Final Column from Sue | 25 |
| • Temporary Closure of Sandy Lane | 27 |
| • Update on land to the north of Springhill | 28 |

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**Copy date for next
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 Sunday 16th February
 for the March edition**

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PLEASE NOTE!! all items are managed by the Editorial Team and may not be read by the Editor until the magazine is created.

Photographs:















- All photographs included with copy for publication **must include** the permission of all pictured, including parents of children.
- Photographs included within copy **must ALSO** be separately attached to the email in its original JPEG format and with a high resolution.

All copy must be supplied with the contact's name, address and phone number.

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FEBRUARY BIN COLLECTION

(late changes will be updated by Email to readers who have joined the KBS News Information email service)

Wed 5th	Food Bin / Grey Bin Collection & Small Electrical Items	 +  + 
Wed 12th	Food Bin / Green Bin / Brown Bin + Textiles & Batteries in a separate bag on top of the Bin	 +  +  + 
Wed 19th	Food Bin / Grey Bin Collection & Small Electrical Items	 +  + 
Wed 26th	Food Bin / Green Bin / Brown Bin + Textiles & Batteries in a separate bag on top of the Bin	 +  +  + 

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Chemists Faringdon Pharmacy 01367 244632 Wootton Pharmacy 01865 736136	District Council Vale of White Horse 01235 422422 Emergency Helpline 01235 422420	VETS		POLICE
		Elms Veterinary 30 Gloucester St Faringdon, SN7 7HY 01367 242416	Abivale Veterinary The Vineyard, Abingdon, OX14 3NR 01235 524777	Non Emergency Call 101 Crimestoppers 24hr 0800 783 0137
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Samaritans - www.samaritans.org , 1116 123			Childline www.childline.org.uk , 0800 1111	
The Cedar Community Club - where older people meet with friends old and new 01865 686472				
Community Issues - contact District Councillor Jill Rayner at jillrayner@whitehorsedc.gov.uk				

Village Diary

Village Hall Booking Details - email: southmoorvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk



Day/ Date	Time	What & Where (KBSVH = Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Village Hall)	Page
FEBRUARY			
St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kingston Bagpuize Services. – See full details on the Church Pages			5
From Monday 27 th January Fir Tree Close Playground closed until further notice. See information at the playground			6
Saturday 1 st	6.00am & 8.00pm	YELLOW PERIL a film shot in and around Marcham in 1989	
Saturday 1 st	7.00pm	'Dance for Life' An entertaining Evening of Belly Dancing SOLD OUT KBSVH	
Monday 3 rd	6.30pm	Parish Council Monthly Meeting – Swallow Room, KBSVH	10
Tuesday 4 th	7.15pm	Southmoor & Kingston Bagpuize Gardening Club, Joff Elphick, 'Crayfish on the Lawn'	13
Monday 10 th	9.30am	Kingston Bagpuize Village Art & Craft Club. St John the Baptist Church Hall	19
Tuesday 11 th		Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group. All residents welcome	11
Tuesday 11 th	7.30pm	Apple Blossom Women's Institute Thames Valley Air Ambulance CPR Awareness KBSVH	23
Wednesday 12 th		Closure Date for Job Application to Parish Council for the position of Outdoor Officer	31
Friday 14 th		Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Bowls Club Pudding and Prosecco Evening	21
Friday 14 th	7.00pm	KBS Film and Music Night. Rodgers and Hammerstein's, The King and I. St Johns Church	14
Sunday 16th	4.00pm	Last Date / Time for copy to KBS News for the March edition	2
Thursday 20 th	7.00pm	Longworth Hist Soc. Trevor Jackson 'The Oxford to Fairford Branch Line'. KBSVH	24
Friday 21 st		Last date for Grant Applications to local charities / non-profit groups to KB&S Parish Council	11
Monday 24 th to 27 th		Sandy Lane, Kingston Bagpuize Closed to Traffic	27
Wednesday 26 th	1.00pm – 6.30pm	White Horse Medical Practice Closed for Training – All departments	12
Friday 28 th		KBS News March Edition Publication Day	
MARCH			
Monday 3 rd	12.30pm	Village Lunch Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Village Hall	8/24
REGULAR EVENTS - Please check with the event organiser to confirm			
In Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Village Hall		In Scout Hut, Faringdon Rd (Term Time Only)	
Apple Blossoms W I	2nd Tuesday each month 7.30pm	1st Longworth Beavers	Monday 6.00pm - 7.15pm
Apple Quilters	2nd & 4th Monday Each Month 10am – 2pm New Members always welcome	1st Longworth Cubs	Tuesday 7.00pm - 8.30pm
Clubbercise	Monday 8.00 pm - 9.00 pm	1st Longworth Explorers	Wednesday 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Fitness Session	Monday 9.15am - 10.00am tel 07769 883199	1st Longworth Scouts	Thursday 7.30pm - 9.00pm
French for Fun	Wednesday (Term Time only) 9.30 – 11am	At The Bowls Club, Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize	
KBS Badminton Club	Improvers & Above Saturdays 9.00 – 10.30am Improvers & Returners Wednesday 6.30 - 8pm Intermediates & Above Monday 6.15 – 7.30pm	Bowls Clubs Roll Up	Tuesday & Thursday Winter 1.30pm / Summer 2.00pm
KB Drama Group	3 rd Tuesday at 7.30pm & when it occurs 5 th Tuesday 7.30pm (see Church Hall for other days)	At Millennium Green Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize	
KBS Cafe	Thursdays 9.00am - 12 noon	Junior Park Run	Sunday 9.00am
KBS Gardening Club	1st Tuesday monthly 7.15pm for 7.30pm	At Jubilee Sports Field, Edward Strauss Park	
KBS Pilates	Thursdays 1.30 – 2.30pm See KBS News Ad	Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club	Junior Training Friday 6 – 8pm
KB & S Tennis Club	Tuesday 9 - 11am Men's Open Wednesday 6.30-8.30pm Ladies Open	In St John the Baptist Church Hall	
Longworth & District History Society	3 rd Thursday every month at 7.00pm	KB Drama Group	1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the month at 7:30pm (see Village Hall for other days)
Southmoor Baby & Toddlers	Friday (Term Time Only) 10.00 -11.30am	KBS Art and Craft Friendship Club	Alternate Mondays 9.30am - 12.00 noon
Table Tennis (Over 55's) Currently No Vacancies	Tuesday 11am – 12 noon For Info email: bobsouthmoor@hotmail.com	Village Voices	Men - Alternate Mondays 9.30am Ladies – Alternate Tuesdays 9.30am
Yoga Classes	Tuesday 6.00pm - 7.00pm (intermediate) Wednesday 10.30am - 11.15am (seniors) Thursday 6.00pm - 7.00pm (beginners)	In Longworth Village Hall info at longworthvillage.org.uk	
Village Walk	Last Thursday every month 10.00am (Not Dec)	IYENGAR Yoga class (Term Time Only)	Monday 7.00pm – 8.30pm Tuesday 11.45am – 1.15pm
In Hinton Waldrist Village Hall		KARATE	Little Ninjas (3-5yrs) at 4pm - 4.30pm Kids Class (6-12yrs) 4.35pm - 5.25pm Mixed Class (6yrs+) 5.30pm - 6.30pm
		PILATES	Tuesday 9.15am & 5.45pm Thursday 9.15am & 6.30pm
		ZUMBA	Thursday 10.30am
		Cedar Community Club	Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30 - 3:00pm



The KBS News is delivered to every house in the village.
Extra copies are available from the
One Stop shop, Hinds Head and Southmoor Co-ops.

Information from Oxfordshire County Council

Cold damp dangerous housing is responsible for increases in respiratory problems, cardiovascular ill health and problems in childhood development. It costs the NHS £2.5 billion a year. There is support available and we've pulled together lots of information to help residents understand what could help them.



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The targeted youth support service (TYSS) works with young people in times of difficulty. It could be to help stop things becoming worse for them, whatever their worries, support them to build life skills, develop healthy relationships and make decisions that are right for them.



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SERVICES IN FEBRUARY AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



Sunday 2nd	9.00am - Holy Communion 10.30am - Morning Worship Children's Church in Church Room 6.00pm - Prayer and Praise in the Church Room
Sunday 9th	9.00am - Holy Communion 10.30am - All-Age Worship
Sunday 16th	9.00am - Holy Communion 10.30am - Morning Worship
Sunday 23rd	9.00am - Holy Communion 10.30am - Village Communion



February Highlights

Sunday 2nd - Children's Church 10.30am in the Church Room
Prayer and Praise 6pm in the Church Room

Sunday 9th - All-Age Worship 10.30am in Church with crafts and activities – everyone welcome, every second Sunday each month



Coffee and biscuits after all our services – a good time to chat and make new friends.

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If you'd like to find out more about our services and resources, or discuss spiritual matters, contact Catherine email vicar.kbs@gmail.com

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Fir Tree Close Playground temporary closure

The Parish Council is excited to announce that work is beginning on the playground at Fir Tree Close, with new multiplay centre-pieces replacing the existing units, within a new layout which will incorporate some other fun new features.

Unfortunately no pain, no gain, so the playground will be closed during the installation period, which is likely to be at least 4 weeks - updates will be posted on Facebook and the Parish Council website at <https://kbsparishcouncil.org.uk/playground-upgrade/> where you will also be able to view details of the new design.

The design includes:

- New paths linking the equipment;
- A replacement junior multi-play piece which will be located in the centre;
- A new toddler zone including a replacement multi-play piece;
- A basket swing;
- A sensory area;
- A new agility trail;
- Relocation of the seating to make it more easily accessible.

Thank you from Valerie Wheeler



I would like to thank my family, friends and neighbours for all the kind messages and cards you sent me while I was in hospital after my fall.
Valerie Wheeler

Out & About in New York



Karen Whitbread with an edition of the KBS News in front of the HQ of another great publication: The New York Times!!



Send your photos from all corners of the World or an interesting location to editorkbsnews@gmail.com

2024 RBL Poppy Appeal

On behalf of The Royal British Legion (RBL), I would like to thank everyone in Kingston Bagpuize, Longworth and Southmoor who contributed to the 2024 Poppy Appeal.

Once again during difficult times, we raised £3,532 which was an 11% increase on the previous year. As always, significant contributions were made by the John Blandy and Longworth schools, the COOP, COOP Food, One Stop and the Waggon & Horses.

The greatest contributions were made by people giving time for face to face collecting, these were Fiona Pocock, Elaine Walsh, Margo Evans, Marie Traynor, Kerry Hastings, Andre King, Hazel Brennan and Nooshin Grant.

We have a good pool of helpers but always welcome anyone else who could spare a little time collecting during the 2 weeks leading up to Armistice Day. I can be contacted at kevin.hadley@hotmail.com or on **07770 748027**. Thanks, Kevin





KBS Café



Every Thursday 9am to 12pm
• Southmoor Village Hall



This is a very friendly Café whether you live in the Village or not. We welcome everybody whatever their age. It is a great place, if you are new to the Village, to get to know other people, and learn about what goes on in the Village.

We serve tea (including different flavoured teas), coffee (including Latte and Cappuccino) and hot chocolate, orange and blackcurrant squash, homemade cheese scones and homemade cakes. We have a few gluten free options as well.

- A mug of tea or coffee is £1.00
- A piece of cake or a cheese scone is £1.00
- A glass of squash is 10p

We are looking for more people to make cakes for the Café. We would only ask you no more than every 5 to 6 weeks. We are more than happy to pay for the ingredients.

If you can help, please contact Caroline on 07984 523955 or Ruth on 07775 994589. We look forward to seeing you.
Caroline Ashby



Pledge to make a difference this year



The arrival of a new year often means a time of reflection. For many they think about what they would like the next 12 months to bring and what changes they can introduce. Volunteering is often a popular choice and one that can be tailored completely to your

skillset, experience, interests and commitments. Whether you have a little or a lot of time to offer, charities are delighted to welcome volunteers from all walks of life.

The best place to start is the Oxon Volunteers website. This hub for volunteering vacancies enables you to search by distance from your home to find very local opportunities and remote, homebased ones: <https://oxonvolunteers.org/>



Please note that tickets for
Dance for Life in support of
Cancer Research UK at Southmoor Village Hall on
Saturday 1st February have now **SOLD OUT.**



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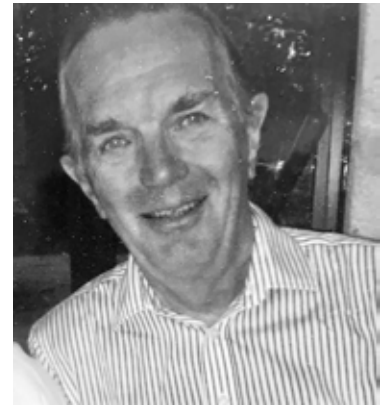
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David Warr: A tribute

It was a real sadness for many in the village to hear of the death of David Warr in November after a short illness.

David, Jean and their children Ian and Clare moved to Kingston Bagpuize in 1994 making many friends as they became involved in numerous village activities.

A successful architect and ultimately senior partner of Oxford Architects, David helped and advised village residents about the early large planning applications, he also contributed to various village projects and was highly appreciated as he helped many to become computer literate. In 2018 he joined the Parish Council and using his planning and architectural knowledge ensured that the new Jubilee Pavilion for the cricket and football clubs was completed in 2022.



After his retirement from Oxford Architects David gave much time to 2 charities, first as Chair of The Oxfordshire Association for the Blind and latterly as a Trustee of the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. First and foremost, devoted to his family, he loved music and was an enthusiastic night sky watcher. A charming and remarkable man who is much missed. **Virginia Grant**

Jean Warr and her family would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support during David's illness and afterwards. They feel "so fortunate to live in such a wonderful community".



Village Lunch Monday 3rd March 2025

Please come and join us in the Village Hall at 12.30pm. To book your place, cost £5 per person for a two course hot meal and good company, please contact, by Thursday 20th February, Hazel Brennan (821358), or sign up with Audrey at the KBS Café. We look forward to hearing from you!

We'd be grateful if you'd let us know if having booked you are unable to attend to save wasting food.

The photo shows Charlie Frearson who won the W.I. cake that was raffled at the Drama Group production of "Calendar Girls" in November.

Charlie donated it to the "Oxford Homeless project" for them to have with their Christmas dinner.

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News from The Parish Council



3rd February (Monday) at 6:30pm • Swallow Room, Southmoor Village Hall

Parish Council Website: kbsParishCouncil.org.uk/, **Parish Clerk email:** clerk@kbsParishCouncil.org.uk

Meeting minutes and appendices are available online at <https://www.kbsparishcouncil.org.uk/document-category/minutes>.

Summary for 2nd December Parish Council Meeting

- At the December 2nd meeting, the council tackled a variety of community matters, reflecting its ongoing commitment to improving local amenities and addressing residents' concerns. Key highlights included approving a robust objection response to a planning application for 249 new dwellings at Spring Hill, spearheaded by planning consultants MDP.
- Progress on the upgraded playground project was discussed, with inclusive design changes approved for installation in February, ensuring facilities cater for all children.
- Financial stewardship was also a focal point, with the council reviewing payments, receipts, and proposing a budget for 2025-26. With a precept of £127,000 anticipated for the next fiscal year, the council aims to balance maintenance needs with future community projects.
- Looking ahead, the council is preparing to recruit an 'outdoor officer' to oversee land and property and make checks, ensuring safety and upkeep.
- The community is invited to get involved by participating in the Neighbourhood Development Plan, aiming for completion by March 2025.

At the January 13th meeting the council considered a range of issues.

- District Cllr Jill Rayner confirmed that the Joint Local Plan 2041 has been submitted. South and Vale have demonstrated that there is already sufficient housing allocation for the next 15 years.
- The Lioncourt Development site (east of Kingston Bagpuize) has been purchased by Barratt Homes, David Wilson Homes with Sovereign Network Group and the Parish Council had the first of regular monthly meetings with DWH regarding the detailed proposals for the site.
- The proposed budget was considered and the council unanimously agreed to ratify it. The precept rises to £127,000.00 which gives an increase of £8.35 to £69.97 per annum for a Band D property.
- The Fir Tree Close playground will be closed for approximately 5 weeks from January 27th while the new play equipment is installed.
- Tree work, as indicated by a tree survey, is due to begin on 49 trees on parish council land.
- Council approved the job description for a new Outdoor Officer to be advertised in KBS News
- The Council's next meeting is February 3rd, 2025, it's hoped residents will attend to share their views.

Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Neighbourhood Development Plan

Summaries of the minutes from the meetings in December and January. Full detailed minutes can be viewed online at <https://kbsparishcouncil.org.uk/document-category/minutes>

December 16th

- The meeting of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group was held at the Tearoom in Kingston Bagpuize House. The session focused on refining the settlement boundary, with a new map outlining key features such as the conservation area, parkland, and infrastructure. The group also discussed local growth and the inclusion of historical maps in the NDP submission to highlight the scale of development since 2011.
- Updates on the NDP grant application process were shared, including plans to explore alternative consultancy options to address delays.

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- Further progress was made on drafting policies unique to Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor. Topics
- included village character and heritage, green spaces and biodiversity, and the adequacy of amenities
- to support a population that has doubled in recent years. Plans for infrastructure improvements,
- including arts and culture facilities, and future uses for the Scout Hut, were also considered.
- The Steering Group welcomes community involvement in shaping the NDP, which will define the parish's future development.

January 14th

- The meeting of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group was held at the Tearoom in Kingston Bagpuize House to advance the planning process.
- Key updates included progress on defining the village's settlement boundary, incorporating the Conservation Area, Millennium Green, and Heritage Parkland. Detailed notes explaining the mapped boundaries will be included in the plan.
- Discussions also covered updates on village character and history, with suggestions to reference Longworth and consider adding notable unlisted buildings, like the Old School (now the Scout Hut).
- The group highlighted the rapid expansion of the village without a corresponding increase in amenities, emphasizing the need for updated infrastructure and enhanced services.
- Environmental and sustainability initiatives were also reviewed, focusing on increasing woodland
- cover and biodiversity as part of local and national targets.
- A comprehensive green spaces map is being prepared to document accessible areas and their benefits to the community.
- Discussions touched on arts and culture funding opportunities and the importance of collaborative tools like Google Drive to facilitate the group's work.
- The next meeting is scheduled for February 11th 2025, in the Tearoom at Kingston Bagpuize House, continuing the vital work of shaping the village's future. Residents are most welcome to attend.

Grants and Donations applications

The Parish Council welcomes applications for grants or donations from local charities or non-profit groups. If you run such a group that provides services or facilities within the Parish and are planning a project which needs a financial boost, or could just really do with extra funds, then please submit an application by 21st February for consideration within this year's budget (remaining funds £2,800).

For more information and an application form, please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@kbsparishcouncil.org.uk or ring 07908 472827. Information also available at www.kbsparishcouncil.org.uk/grants-donations.

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KBS Nature



Hello and welcome to my inaugural nature column for the KBS News! Firstly, I'd like to say that I am very much an amateur. I do have a science background, but my love of nature stems from a childhood spent in Devon where, during the 70s whilst helping my dad one Saturday with his rural bread round, he pointed out a mewling buzzard circling overhead and I was hooked! We are fortunate to see many birds of prey nowadays but not so much back then. Incidentally, has anyone else spotted the large numbers of red kites amassing over the village recently? There are no prizes, but if anyone knows the collective noun for red kites or has a good suggestion, please do let me know!



And so I enjoy a good walk, with binoculars in hand, eagerly trying to focus in on anything that catches my eye. I am getting better at using binoculars after all these years, and can finally focus in on a skylark as I hear it rising. The sound of skylarks is one of my favourites and a real portent of spring! I have to confess that taking photographs of wildlife is not my strongpoint at the moment but I am aiming to improve on that now I have this column as my incentive!

My friend and I are the self-styled Unofficial Friday Walking Club and I will share some of our adventures with you. These walks, as well as taking in beautiful parts of the countryside around here and further afield, usually include participation in a bacon buttie survey and copious amounts of tea. It's a hardship, but hey-ho!

I do hope that this column can be interactive. I will offer my musings on anything I have seen on recent or previous excursions, and I would very much like you to share your sightings and thoughts too. I have set up a new email address kbsnature2025@gmail.com, so please do send in anything you think may be of interest. I am very keen to hear from young folks and, if any of the children in the village want to share any wildlife/nature drawings they have made, please do send them in via email too.

And so I'll sign off for now. In the next edition I will share the results from our garden on the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2025 24-26 Jan2025 (see <https://www.rspb.org.uk/> for details). In the meantime, here is a fuzzy photo of a surprise participant in the BGB from 2017! Anyone know what it is?

Best Wishes, Linda Collins



Do you have something to say?

Why not get it off your chest and put it in the KBS News?

Send your thoughts to editorkbsnews@gmail.com

White Horse Medical Practice

White Horse Medical Practice have advised that the Practice will be **Closed for Training between 1.00pm and 6.30pm on Wednesday 26th February.**



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**Southmoor &
Kingston Bagpuize
Gardening Club**



**4th February (Tuesday) at
7:30pm • Southmoor Village
Hall • 'Crayfish on the Lawn'**

**Our next meeting takes place
on Tuesday 4th February at**

Southmoor Village Hall and has the crazy title of 'Crayfish on the Lawn!' The speaker is Joff Elphick, who is an experienced gardener and podcaster. To be honest, we're not entirely sure what to expect, but we anticipate being entertained by various gardening related tales of some kind. If he's anywhere near as good as Timothy Walker who spoke to us in January then we won't complain!

We have a great programme in place for 2025. Take a look at our website www.skbgardeningclub.org.uk for more information on the various talks we have planned as well as the usual range of other social and practical activities and visits. You don't have to be an expert gardener to join us – as long as you have an interest in the outdoors, plants or nature you'll fit right in and it's a great place to make new friends.

Membership remains very reasonably priced at £15 for the year. Membership entitles you to free entry to our 8 speaker meetings with complimentary refreshments, free entry to members' open gardens and the opportunity to join us for various visits which will take place during the year. If you're not sure, you can always come along as a visitor for £4.00. For more information, see our website or email us at skbgardeningclub.org.uk. **Sharon Cooper (Chair)**



Pictures around the Village by Tania Delohery Duffy

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KBS Film and Music Night



14th February (Friday) at 7pm • Church Room • 'Rodgers and Hammerstein's, The King and I'

Our next Film Night will be on Friday 14th February in the Church Room when we will be showing Rodgers and Hammerstein's, The King and I, featuring Yul Brynner's Academy Award winning performance. It tells the true story of an English woman, Anna Leonowens, played by Deborah Kerr, who comes to Siam as Governess to the royal court in the 1860s. She soon finds herself at odds with the stubborn monarch but over time, Anna and the King begin to understand each other. You will recognise some of the songs, such as: Getting To Know You, I Whistle A Happy Tune and Hello Young Lovers.



These are free evenings organised by members of St. John the Baptist Church and tea, coffee, popcorn and chocolates will be provided from 7pm with the film beginning at 7.15pm. On several occasions we have actually had more people than Church chairs. **Therefore, we do ask you please to let either Peter Beer or Margo Evans know if you will be joining us so that we can ensure there are sufficient chairs for everyone. We would hate to have to turn anyone away. Many thanks.**

Peter Beer 01865 820805 or Margo Evans 01865 820900 or margoevans@mac.com

Bonfire Society

The bonfire night celebrations in KBS were sorely missed this year, especially by my kids who, although they enjoyed going elsewhere to celebrate bonfire night, missed seeing their friends and the atmosphere created at Millennium Green.



The Friends of John Blandy aren't currently looking at running another event in the near future because they don't feel they have the time and expertise to organise it. I would like to see if there are any people in the village with the time and expertise to start a bonfire society with the aim of running events every November. I would like to run the event as not-for-profit ticketed event with ticket sales covering the cost of running the event. I would like to invite local charities like The Friends of John Blandy and Scouts to run stalls selling Toys, Tuck Shop, Hot Drinks, Hot Food etc where they could fundraise for their individual organisations.

In the last few years I have volunteered in various capacities in the Friends of John Blandy Bonfire Night event including helping with the risk assessment, putting up fencing and clearing up the site afterwards. As such I feel that I have a good overview of what is needed to run a safe and enjoyable event in the future. If there is anybody else who would like to help organise the event or volunteer in any capacity please get in touch with me: **Anna Carrington, KBSbonfiresociety@protonmail.com**



Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group

Calendar Girls – November 2024
Anthony Nolan – Fund Raise

The Anthony Nolan Organisation has asked K. B. Drama Group to pass on their thanks to all who supported and helped us to raise £1,200 during our production of Calendar Girls - 28th to 30th November.

With this contribution to their funds they have been able to add another 30 people to the Stem Cell Register which allowed them to facilitate well over 84 life-saving transplants during December.

Thank you
K.B.D.G.



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Recipe of the month

OVEN BAKED OMELETTE - *An easy Evening Meal*



Ingredients (Serves 2)

- 4 rashers of Streaky Bacon, rinded and chopped;
- 1/2 an onion, skinned and chopped;
- 2 level teaspoons of seasoned flour;
- 1 tablespoon of chopped parsley;
- 4 eggs;
- 1/4 pint of milk;
- 4 ounces of cheese, grated.



Preparation

1. Fry the chopped bacon and drain it with a slotted spoon leaving the fat in the frying pan.
2. Put the bacon into a deep pie plate.
3. Add the chopped onion to the bacon fat in the pan and fry until golden.
4. Add the flour and stir.
5. Spread this mixture over the bacon and sprinkle with chopped parsley.
6. Whisk together the eggs and milk, then pour them over the onion mixture and evenly sprinkle the grated cheese on top.
7. Bake in the centre of the oven, at a temperature of 170°C, for 40 minutes until browned and firm.
8. Serve with a portion of chips and enjoy.



Don't forget our 'Out & About with the KBS News' feature. Send your photos from all corners of the World or an interesting location anywhere holding a copy of the KBS News. Pics to editorkbsnews@gmail.com

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Restaurant Review



The Punter, Osney



Recently we took an 18 minute bus ride on the S6 to the last stop at Osney Island for a visit to the Punter. We arrived at the front door after a pleasant 5 minute walk along the canal on a blowy Saturday lunchtime for a 2 pm table. We had

booked the table via their app and had to leave credit card details. They have a £10 per head charge for no-shows, which does not seem unreasonable when margins in the catering trade are so tight.

There are three easy steps up into the pub. The fire was lit in the lower part of the restaurant area, down another couple of easy steps. There is a street level access to the lower area, which they would no doubt open if you needed assistance.

It wasn't that busy, and some tables were already leaving. A couple of larger groups appeared, and it was busier when we left just after 3pm, than it had been when we arrived.

There were a good variety of table sizes. They were attractively done in scrubbed wood with old fashioned chairs. Loose rugs and lots of art finish off a cosy look.

There are three real ales. The XT was very good. A carafe of tap water was served on request. The wine list was concise.

We shared a pea leek and truffle scotch egg to start. The egg was slightly runny, the outside lovely and crisp, and the herb mayonnaise went well with it.

I had the black bean and sweet potato burger for main. It looked a little plain on the plate, but the texture of the burger was good, and the kimchi added some spice, along with quite a lot of ginger. The truffle and parmesan fries did the job. My companion had the crushed potatoes and tofu. The tofu was cooked nicely, and the mint in the potatoes worked very well with the gremolata on the green vegetables. Quantities were quite sufficient, and the service was very attentive. We didn't see any puddings being served, so can't comment other than that they were a bit pricey.

It is a traditional pub; what makes it different is that it only serves vegetarian and vegan food. Don't let that put you off; the quality is very high. Even the most diehard carnivore should give it a try. Overall, one to recommend. *By Wilrich, two KBS foodies*



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Find out more on <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/business/business-and-intellectual-property-centre-bipc>



Support for Young People

The targeted youth support service (TYSS) works with young people in times of difficulty. It could be to help stop things becoming worse for them, whatever their worries, support them to build life skills, develop healthy relationships and make decisions that are right for them. We'd appreciate your support in sharing information about the service.

Find out more on <https://oxfordshire.canto.global/v/communicationsportal> and click on "Support for young people"

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Tip of the Month - February Litter Pick



9th February (Sunday) at 10:30am • corner of Faringdon Road and Draycott Road

You may have spotted members of the Environment Group out using the Thermal Camera we borrowed from the Vale of White Horse Council between 15th and 30th January. We'll be reporting back through KBS News in March with some of our findings.

Until then, an early Valentine's request for folks to join us for a litter pick on Sunday, 9th February. Animals will soon be coming out of hibernation with mating on their minds. It would be lovely for a group of us to get out to get rid of any litter currently in their bedrooms. Bring your gloves but all other kit needed will be supplied.

We look forward to seeing you at the corner of Faringdon Road and Draycott Road at 10.30am.



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KBS Tennis Club



We are looking forward to some more successful tennis in 2025 and we are always keen to welcome new members - please see our website for further details: <https://www.kbstennis.org/>



Between Christmas and New Year we also ran another very successful American Doubles Tournament which helped us all run off some of the extra mince pies!



Kingston Bagpuize Village Art and Craft Club

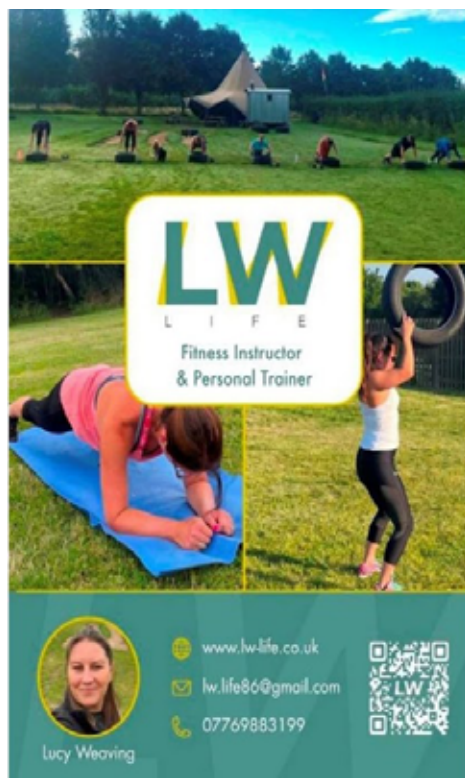


10th February (Monday) at 9:30am • St. John the Baptist Church Hall

Our last meeting of 2024 had each member bringing something to contribute to our little end of year party and we chatted as we ate goodies. The new year started with us looking at the year ahead and chatting about things we could do as well as our own projects. We welcomed Sam as a new member and also all signed a Birthday card for our oldest member Joan Weaving, who was turning 91 later in the week.

The club is intended as a meeting place for making new friends, with crafting skills not a necessity as there is a range of hobbies that other members are happy to share. If you are interested in arts and craft, or you would just like to meet people who are, why not come along to one of our meetings. We now have a Facebook page 'KBS Village Art and Craft Club' for anyone wanting to see things members have made. The club meets on alternate Mondays throughout the year in the St. John the Baptist Church Hall, Kingston Bagpuize, starting at 09.30 and finishing at midday with the first meeting being free.

Our next meeting is Monday 10th February 2025. We look forward to welcoming new members in 2025. *Jean Allsworth 07397530144*



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Magnus Macfarlane Natural History Museum



How many times have you been? Often, I ask you, have you ever seen or done this? Today's question is how many times this year will you visit the Natural History Museum. It works on so many levels for all ages. My last visit was an architectural tour.

The Museum has a striking glass and iron roof, a bit like a railway station. It had always been a bit leaky. As part of the ongoing refurbishment, the roof was repaired. It is now an extremely warm and welcoming building, a particularly good place to go at this time of year.

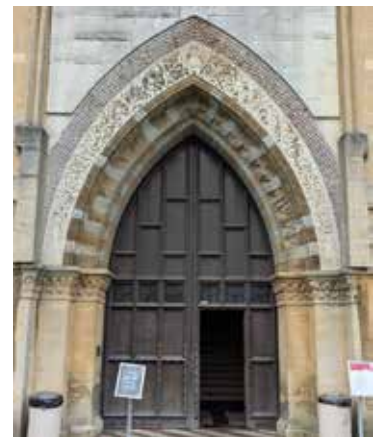
Architects Dean and Woodward employed the O'Shea Brothers from Ireland to do the decorative stonework. These colourful characters are highly skilled artisans but considered country bumpkins by the University Council of Fellows. This led to some conflict. Here's three wee stories about the O'Shea's.

The front entrance is truly spectacular, culminating at the top in the middle with an angel holding a bible in one hand and a dividing cell in the other.

Facing the front of the building you will see various degrees of decoration around the sides of the arched windows. This is partly because of budgetary restraint and partly politics. One window just to the right of the entrance features cats. Charles Darwin was making significant contributions to scientific thought at the time. This window was originally carved with monkeys, but the fellows protested that this was far too controversial and so it was that they had to be changed - into very unusual looking cats. There were many disputes about what was carved and decorated and, indeed, when the funds ran out the O'Shea Brothers offered to carry on for free, but the fellows thought they were "defacing the building" with unauthorised work.

Surrounding the main hall are statues of famous scientists, including Darwin. The O'Shea's were under strict instructions to make this non-controversial, as plain as possible. They complied. However, if you look around the back of the capital of this pillar you will see a monkey!

Many of the bases are also carved, one features snakes. If you look closely, you will see that the snakes have ears. The story goes that the fellows noted this, however as there are "no snakes in Ireland", the O'Shea's would have been unaware of this, so they let it go. Who do you think had the last laugh?



We are looking for a new cartoonist! If you're interested in contributing to KBS News with your cartoon illustrations, we'd love to hear from you!





KBS Badminton Club



Every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday • Southmoor Village Hall

It's not too late to start your New Year's Resolutions and, if those include getting more exercise, making friends or having fun then the badminton club may be just what you're looking for! We currently have room for a couple more players in the Saturday morning and Monday evening sessions. Saturdays are from 9am – 10.30am and Mondays are 6.15pm – 7.30pm at Southmoor Village Hall. Both of these sessions are for people with some experience who are looking for a fun but energetic game.

Jenny's Wednesday evening sessions aimed at Improvers or Returners run from 6.30pm – 8pm. These are often full but, if you're interested, it's worth contacting her to find out if she has space.

We usually ask people to sign up on either a monthly or quarterly basis, but the first couple of visits are free to make sure that the group is the right level for you. Costs are very reasonable indeed as the club is run on a not-for-profit basis and we just share the court hire costs. Please contact either sharon@cherrytree21.plus.com (01865 820399) (Sat or Mon sessions) or jenny.jenny.frame@live.co.uk (Wed sessions) before coming along to check that there is space available.

Sharon Cooper



Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Bowls Club



Roll Ups Played every Tuesday and Thursday. 13:30 Winter, 14:00 Summer

Friday 29th November 2024 saw the beginning of a twice-yearly friendly, Short Mat meeting of Faringdon and Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor (KB&S) Bowls Clubs. The friendly match is in memory of a much loved and keen bowler, Francis Rothwell, former Chairman and Short Mat captain of KB&S, and playing member of Faringdon BC. Both clubs contributed to the purchase of a trophy named in honour of Francis, which will be awarded on completion of both matches and played for yearly.

The score for the inaugural match was in favour of Faringdon: Faringdon 14 to 9 and 18 to 13 in the other. The scores do not reflect how close the matches played out.

The 2025 bowling season got off to an early start at the Bowls Club with the first game played on Friday 3rd January under flood lights. Twenty One members taking part. The icy conditions led to bowling being more luck than skill. Following the completion of the games a welcoming hot bowl of soup was provided in the club house.

Oxford Short Mat Bowling Association Afternoon Division 1

Kingston Kites	V	Witney Town Vultures	Kingston Kites	V	Abingdon Park Rangers
Kites total shots	17	Vultures total shots 24	Kites total shots	35	Rangers total shots 11
Points Kites 2		Vultures 2	Points Kites 8		Rangers 0

Sunday 12th January saw the start of the 10 week Winter Madness bowling event, open to all members, commencing at 10:30 am each Sunday. A good showing of 16 members turned up and enjoyed bowling in icy conditions.

Future Event: Pudding & Prosecco evening Friday 14th February

Tom Waring, Club Captain tel: 01865 821060 mob 07940517278. Email: waringtonthomas7@gmail.com



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If you view a vehicle which is not posing an immediate danger, but is being parked in an anti-social way, you may call **Thames Valley Police on 101** and report the situation.

Other Anti-Social matters

Thames Valley Police's Website describes Anti-Social Behaviour at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/asb/antisocial-behaviour/what-is-antisocial-behaviour. This website includes definitions of Anti-Social behaviour. If you observe or become aware of Anti-Social behaviour described in the above call 101.





Oxford Flower Club



Fourth Thursday each month at 12pm
• Cumnor Village Hall

Christmas Cheer and Flair was very much the theme demonstrated at our last meeting. Gill McGregor gave us a humorous and entertaining afternoon, during her third visit to Oxford Flower Club.

Gill is a respected international floral art designer, author, demonstrator and teacher. She has a passion to share her inspiration through the demonstrations she carries out around the country. Members enjoyed her fabulous displays as well as learning interesting facts and techniques, in particular leaf manipulation.

In December, members enjoyed a tasty festive lunch at Frilford Golf Club. Stunning far reaching views over the golf course and a delicious meal made for a great afternoon.



Events to come:

- February - 'the master and the apprentice' with Jane Belcher and Angela Edmonds
- March - demonstrator Elaine Stoner

Call Karen on 07967 555750 for further information.



Apple Blossoms WI



11th February (Tuesday) at 7:30pm • Southmoor Village Hall • Thames Valley Air Ambulance CPR Awareness

"There are no strangers here; Only friends you haven't yet met" (William Butler Yeats)

We held our annual meal on Friday 17th January at the Black Horse Inn, East Hanney. This is always a lovely way to start the year and our thanks to our Member and Landlady of the pub Jacqui and her husband Ian for hosting.

We are excited to announce that our next Apple Blossoms WI meeting will feature a CPR Awareness session led by the Thames Valley Air Ambulance (TVAA). This session is designed to increase the survival rate of cardiac arrests by boosting bystanders' confidence in performing CPR.

Why Attend?

- **Life-Saving Skills:** Less than 10% of people survive a cardiac arrest and, currently, less than 3 out of 10 people feel confident in giving CPR. This session aims to change that by providing both theoretical knowledge and practical experience.
- **Interactive Learning:** You will learn how to recognise a cardiac arrest and perform life saving CPR through demonstrations and hands-on practice using a mannequin and defibrillator.
- **Community Impact:** Hear about the vital role TVAA plays in our community and how you can contribute to saving lives.

Important Details:

- **Non-Certified Training:** Please note that this session is for awareness-building and is not a certified training program.
- **Engagement:** The session is designed to be interactive, with those attendees who want to actively participate in CPR practising on mannequins on the floor.

We encourage all members to attend this invaluable session. Your participation could make a significant difference in an emergency situation. Let's come together to learn and empower ourselves with the skills to save lives. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Visitors are warmly welcomed for a small charge of £5 per visit. Don't forget to bring some extra pennies for the raffle!

Follow us for more news and photos:





Celebrating 1st Longworth

At our recent Committee meeting it was said that we now have 6 different groups available for different age ranges, 19 leaders, 13 support volunteers and over 100 children regularly attending the programme. It's so fantastic to think that this small building, sometimes overlooked in our village, can provide such a fantastic provision for our youth. Unfortunately, after many years of dedicated service, our Group Scout Leader, John Dymock, will be stepping down from his role at the end of March. We wish him all the best and hope that he won't be shy about joining us for some campfire songs in the future! We are so grateful to John for building 1st Longworth to such a strong position and hope that we can continue to go from strength to strength.

The Beavers are excited to tackle the Space Badge this term with expert knowledge from some of our parents and volunteers. We will also be trying some Chinese art as we learn about Chinese New Year and try some healthy pancake snacks!

The Explorers put on their fabulous café at the start of January and the Scouts have been honing their navigation skills by planning hikes and exploring the village on a night hike. They've also learnt how to make tasty caramelised apple slices on the campfire. When the weather hasn't been so good, the Scouts have played lots of fun games and some mini pioneering activities indoors.

If you'd like to join or just find out more, go to our website at: <https://1stlongworthscouts.org.uk>.



Longworth & District History Society



20th February (Thursday) at 7pm • Southmoor Village Hall • AGM and Trevor Jackson talk about the Oxford to Fairford Branch Line

Our speaker for February is Trevor Jackson who is going to tell us about the Oxford to Fairford Branch Line. Before his talk we will have a brief AGM. We are short of committee members and would welcome any volunteers to help us. Please??

The meeting will be in Southmoor Village Hall, Thursday 20th February, 7.00pm for 7.15pm short AGM and 7.30pm Trevor's talk. Members free and visitors £4. As usual we will have books to browse, borrow or buy, and of course the Bar will be open! We look forward to seeing you then.

Pam Woodward

January's Village Lunch



3rd March (Monday) at 12:30pm • Southmoor Village Hall



The church team produced another successful Village Lunch on Monday 13th January. As usual we served a main course and dessert followed by tea or coffee for about 50 people, with a quiz to get the brains going. This time, for the main course, we used the recipe for 'Lightly spiced chicken with almonds and apricots' that Jenny Charlton and Kathy Fletcher submitted to the December KBS News. Thanks to them both, it was delicious and really enjoyed by the diners. We are always on the lookout for tasty recipes which are not too complicated, and this one certainly filled the bill.

We are looking forward to the next lunch on Monday March 3rd, please don't forget to book your place, see page 8 for details.

Pictures around the Village by Tania Delohery Duffy



Final column from Sue

Happily, given that 2025 finds us in a new neighbourhood, “Happiness doesn’t have just one address.”

Writing at my old desk, in a new home, it already seems like an age since we moved from KBS. The sheer effort of relocating after nine years prompted all sorts of memories of the dark, wet November when we first moved into the village. The weather was grim, and the days seemed short as the night drew in, yet it is the kindness of neighbours that comes to the front of mind. One neighbour arrived at our door almost immediately with a lovely indoor orchid. A constant pleasure ever since, it flourishes still and seems content on a new windowsill. Who knew orchids can live for up to 15 years?



One day, shortly after moving in, I rushed out in the grey light of morning hoping to put the rubbish out before the dustmen arrived, only to find myself in the line of sight of a queue at the bus stop. Another near neighbour rescued me from embarrassment. I remember with gratitude how she calmly explained the local waste collection timetable, disregarding both my harassed expression and my dressing gown ... The fact is that my feelings about KBS are best encapsulated in a memory of a warm summer afternoon in the garden at the ‘old house’: enjoying tea, cake and conversation with local friends and family.

Moving is always a wrench. Fortunately, our new neighbours have welcomed us with similar warmth and, with our sons close by, we are looking forward with some excitement. The child of a serviceman, I have moved home more than most and my parents knew the score. “Make new friends but keep the old; the new are silver, the old are gold” they taught me, and I’ve a ‘Ladies that Lunch’ date in the diary with a good friend from KBS already. In a shift from coffee and cakes at Millets Farm Centre at Frilford, we’ll be meeting at Waterperry Gardens instead. Similarly, I aim to be back to see the snowdrops at Kingston Bagpuize House. Come April, we will surely drive over to Buscot Park when this National Trust property re-opens. I have come to love not just The Legend of the Briar Rose by Burne-Jones, which adorns the house, but especially the gardens. These were both a solace and a joy through the Covid years.

It’s so easy to take good things for granted. As we leave, my thanks go to the staff of all the services on which we came to rely in KBS. Impossible to mention them all, I will certainly recall the Hinds Head Co-op and Millets which each earned our loyalty because of the superb way they supported customers through Covid. Stevo’s Servo, J.C Hobley window cleaner and the postal service all stand out. We are happy to find that, like Santa, Milk & More continues to be able to deliver to our new doorstep. As for all the volunteers associated with producing KBS news? I owe you thanks for indulging my passion to accentuate the positive, and look for the bright and optimistic.

New house, new baby ... and a stork is indeed due to find its way to our new home with our first grandchild due mid-February... ever more reason to cultivate the art of optimism. I’ve been writing The Lighter Shade of Pale about enjoying life in the village since June 2019. I have loved it and my warmest thanks go to You for reading this column. Sent with my best wishes to everyone in KBS for this New Year.

Sue



It’s a massive thank you to Sue Lacey Bryant who, with her husband Mark, has moved to pastures new over in Thame on the Oxfordshire / Buckinghamshire border. I don’t know about you, but many people in the village have told us how enjoyable Sue’s missives have been over the last nine years. So, it’s best of luck in their new home to Sue and Mark.

Have you a flare for writing? Would you like to tell us your thoughts about living in and around Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor. If you think you could fill this role, why don’t you get in touch or just send us the script. We’ll be delighted to hear from you.

Thank you, Editor.

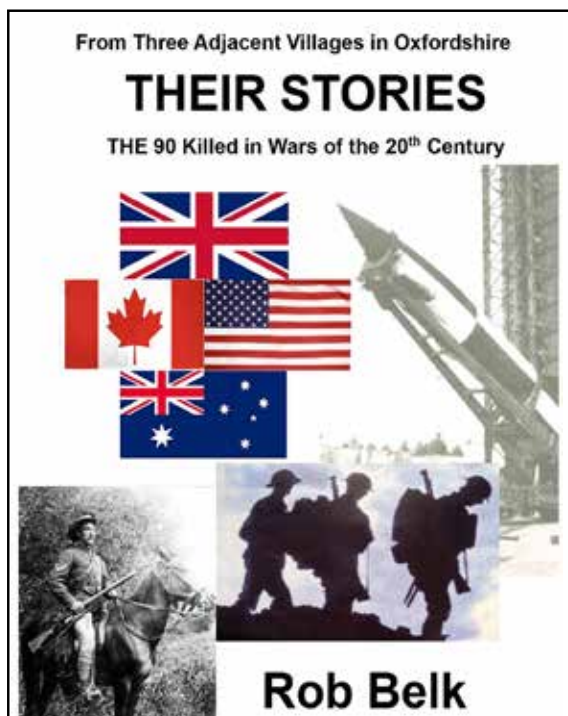


YOUTH MATTERS!

We are looking for a young people to write a few words on the Youth Aspect of the village.



What’s going on, what we should have in the way of facilities, review of new films, almost anything really that would be of interest to the younger generation. If you’re interested, let us know on editorkbsnews@gmail.com.



'Their Stories'

A new book that tells the stories of the 90 people killed, on or in Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor, Longworth and Hinton Waldrist in wars of the 20th century.

'Their Stories' is a book by Rob Belk, who lived locally for many years. The book constitutes a veritable guide to the Wars of the 20th Century and a lasting tribute to those who served.

It is the story of the main wars of the 20th Century and of 90 individuals connected to our three villages who perished in the conflicts. The book intertwines personal accounts with historical 'Roads to War' context.

The narrative begins with the Boer War (1899–1902), highlighting early signs of total warfare. It recounts the bravery of local men and their experiences in battle – including the story of one man who, after death, led his men out of the mountains and into legend. It also reflects on the civilian toll, guerrilla tactics, and early modern military strategies.

The focus then shifts to World War I (1914–1918), exploring the lives of 48 villagers who fought and died and provides detailed indexes of these men and women, noting their ages,

ranks, causes of death, and familial ties. Key battles such as the Somme and Ypres are contextualized through War Diaries and we learn of one local man who made a home-run from a POW camp in Poland and another who was sent to Russia to persuade them to 'stay in the war' after the 1917 revolution, saving countless British lives.

World War II (1939–1945) follows, chronicling the stories of 40 individuals, including local men and 10 airmen from Canada, America and Australia, who died in plane crashes on and over the villages. The book delves into casualties and pivotal events, from early bombing raids to the eventual Allied victory, shedding light on the human cost of technological advancements, rushed training, design flaws and V2 rockets. It also discusses the local and global consequences of the war.

The final sections reflect on the Cold War's conflicts and Longworth's unwitting link with American Cold War politics. It also covers the enduring importance of Remembrance. The story of the creation of the War Memorial in Kingston Bagpuize underscores the book's central theme: to give life to those who gave life, that they no longer be just 'names on stones'.

Rich in historical detail and personal narratives, 'Their Stories' honours the humanity of those who fought, while providing a broader understanding of the wars that shaped the 20th century. It stands as both a tribute and a reminder of the lasting impact of war. It is fitting that it is published in the year of the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

It includes some 250 illustrations and can be ordered on Amazon at a cost of £24.99.

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X15 Bus Time Table



Out of curiosity, having passed the X15 several times lately, I looked up its present route. Much to my surprise I see that not only does it serve Abingdon but also continues right into Oxford, from Redbridge up the Abingdon Road and round the back of the Westgate Centre before it arrives at the train station. Who knew? At least one way of avoiding the sordid tunnel from Botley Road to Frideswide Square and onward into the city.

I think those of us who would prefer to access Oxford by bus would like to know this alternative route to the presently defunct S6. Usual bus stops apply..... **Victoria Paleit.**

Thank you Victoria. To help, we have included the X15 Time Table on the back page.

Pictures around the Village by Tania Delohery Duffy



Temporary Closure of Sandy Lane, Kingston Bagpuize

Sandy Lane, will be temporarily closed from 24 February until 27 February. Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works. Access will be maintained for cyclists and pedestrians.



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From our MP Charlie Maynard

I hope you and your family are having a wonderful start to 2025. It has now been a little over six months since I was elected as your MP. I have a full team in place and I'm very excited for everything we can accomplish for Witney this year - both locally and in Westminster.

Since the start of the year, I have been getting stuck into the new Water (Special Measures) Bill in Parliament. I was delighted to be one of the 17 MPs appointed to the cross-party Bill Committee.

It is our job to work together to scrutinise the detail of the Bill and suggest ways to improve it where we can. As a long-time campaigner for better water regulation (before becoming your MP), I certainly didn't hold back! In total I helped bring 44 additional proposals to the table, which I thought would toughen up sanctions on water companies when they are responsible for pollution and help clean up lakes, rivers and seas across the country.

The Committee was an eye-opening experience for a new MP and certainly a learning curve. I really appreciated the positive way in which MPs from all parties engaged on this important issue.

Other issues I have focussed on recently in Parliament include:

The impact of the new housing the Government have proposed for West Oxfordshire, and highlighting the new infrastructure we will need locally to go alongside this. In particular, I was pleased to secure a debate on the need to rebuild the trainline that previously linked Oxford and Carterton, to alleviate congestion on local roads.

The economy and cost of living pressures: I spoke in the debate on the budget and, through my role on the Business and Trade Select Committee, have been able to engage with the Employment Rights Bill. Ahead of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) (Assisted Dying) bill, I hosted a public debate at the Corn Exchange in Witney. I fully appreciated the strength of feeling and well-made points on both sides of this sensitive issue, and wanted to listen to these before casting my vote back in Parliament. Thank you to everyone who attended and who has written to me about this over the last few months. I also met with many constituent farmers who came to Westminster to share their views with me about changes to inheritance tax rules.

Closer to home, I have been out and about across the constituency meeting businesses, charities and residents' groups. Thank you to everyone who has kindly had me to visit. Among them were: Pennyhooks Farm, where I was deeply impressed to see the work that Lydia Otter and her team do with young people and adults on the autistic spectrum. AirTanker at their Hub base on station at RAF Brize Norton, where I learnt how the military and commercial aviation sectors integrate with the Royal Air Force. Woodgreen School in Witney, where I had a fascinating Q & A session with pupils – covering everything from the future of the economy to sewage in our rivers and the cost of local housing. The residents of Bablock Hythe, who met me to talk about the devastating impact of local flooding. Staff at Witney Royal Mail, who took the time to speak to me during the incredibly busy pre-Christmas period.

If you represent an organisation or business and would like me to visit, please do contact me and my team would be happy to arrange this. Equally, if there is anything I can do to help, please do get in touch by emailing charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk and I, or one of my team, will get back to you.

LAND TO THE NORTH OF SPRINGHILL

Update on the Outline planning application for up to 249 dwellings (P24/V2357/0)

Unfortunately, this issue of the KBS News will have gone to press before the District Council reaches its decision, for or against, this planning application, but by the time you read it the decision should be known. Over forty householders from the village objected to the application – mainly, but not entirely, from Beggars Lane and Springhill. The Parish Council engaged a planning Consultant, MDP, who submitted an objection letter on the 25th November 2024, and Longworth Parish Council followed suit. The Longworth Council had the



benefit of reading MDP's objection letter and concluded that 'They fully support all the points of objection raised and believe this site to be thoroughly unsuitable for any development, especially on the scale proposed.' Concluding that 'The application is unanimously rejected by the Parish Council and it strongly objects to this application and any development of this site.'

Key points made by MDP were that the site is 'Not a suitable location for housing development, with particular regard to local and national planning policy' as it is NOT supported by either of these policies, nor does it comply with the Council's 'Plan-led spatial pattern for housing growth', and would materially affect the character, biodiversity and appearance of the locality – factors disputed by the relevant officers. e.g. the Forestry Officer, the Environmental Protection Team and the Heritage Officer – on the other hand, numerous valid reservations were flagged up by the Vale's Urban Design Officer. The District Council itself, in its pre-application advice, made the point that 'The proposal is an unallocated site beyond the built-up area of the village extending into the open countryside, which does not accord with the District's strategy for housing growth. The proposal is therefore contrary to the Vale of White Horse Development Plan 2031 ... There has been no substantive change to the planning policy environment, nor any material change in terms of constraints on the ground or housing land supply position, to justify any departure from this conclusion ...'

Further points of objection included inadequate access to the site, given the perceived dangers of access from the A420 to the Faringdon Road and the road to Charney Bassett; the additional pressure that would be put on already overburdened local services 'especially in light of the large development already due to take place in (to the east of) Kingston Bagpuize'.

The Parish Council's response to the Nicholas King Homes application is covered in the MDP Report which is listed on the Parish Council website and detailed information is available on the Vale Planning Portal.



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CALENDAR GIRLS

Presented by Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group
November 2024



It's 25 years since 11 ladies from a Yorkshire Dales Women's Institute produced their nude calendar. Hoping to raise a few hundred £s to replace a settee in a local hospital, they raised over £6m for Leukaemia Research, spawned a 2003 Hollywood movie with Helen Mirren and inspired a Gary Barlow musical. In 2009, the professional stage show appeared. Amateur groups were encouraged to perform it from 2012, with over 500 licence applications that year. This is a story and a play gone global and viral. It's as much a part of British culture as Pantomime, and it was interesting to see it selected by the reliably brilliant Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group for what is often their Pantomime slot.

Audiences were strong for the four performances at Southmoor Village Hall (28-30 November 2024). Perhaps the most challenging session was the Saturday matinee, when a charabanc of ladies from the local WI descended! They seemed to enjoy it. As they should. This talented and cohesive drama group brought expertise, sensitivity and fun to their small stage. Saturday night's standing ovation was duly deserved.

The plot is simple and familiar. Following the death of the husband of one of the WI members, an idea takes hold to replace their typical charity calendar featuring spectacular countryside views with one of "spectacular views of the WI". Not "naked", as Chris, their leader puts it, but artistically "nude". The calendar is printed, despite opposition from WI bigwigs, but then commercial success strikes and evokes fracturing tensions. It's not a spoiler to reveal that the show ends in joyful and poignantly uplifting resolution amidst a sea of sunflowers.

The 11 girls of the original story are condensed to a manageable 6 in the play, along with their autocratic and disapproving president, Marie, ably played as a bossily competitive social snob by KBDG regular Sally Lacey. The six calendar girls are all very different. From the timid Ruth with an unfaithful husband, played with sensitivity by Lucinda Ramm, to the wealthily brash Celia, upon whose disrobing the play's most famous line is uttered: "we're going to need considerably bigger buns!" In Claire Wheeler, KBDG cast a Celia who gloriously filled this entertaining role - in all regards!

All six of the principals followed the playwright's advice to "inhabit" the characters, not just play them.

Emily Eastham, despite modestly claiming in the programme that she cannot sing or play the piano, opened things with a terrific solo performance of Jerusalem, genuinely playing the piano and evoking the indomitable spirit of the WI. Her single-mother character Cora, a vicar's daughter with fondness for drink, cigarettes and vulgarity, is famously photographed sitting nakedly at her piano. As Emily pithily remarked in her biography, the only time in 30 years she had appeared on stage without ANY underwear!

Mary Elizabeth Shewry had fun as the eldest of the "girls", with some delightfully unexpected one-liners ("I'm going to score some crack"!)!

Annie, whose husband sickens and dies from cancer early in the story, was inhabited with plausibility by Deb Didcock. This role is the hardest, demanding emotional range as she experiences grief, pride, empathy, frustration and disappointment. Her silent contemplation of the letters which came to the group from other cancer widows was a moment of theatrical power.

For this is the secret of the play's success. If ever the cliché "bittersweet comedy" can be applied to a piece, this is it. The script makes sudden tonal turns, much like the melody of Jerusalem itself, dislocating from major to minor key. One moment the characters are larking about, the next, literally with a line, a word, a look, everything changes. Much of this hinges on the main character, Chris, who enthusiastically leads the gang, but is forced to confront her personal shortcomings as the world of celebrity intrudes. This is a play as much about exposing flawed personalities as flesh.

Paula Eastwood returned to the stage as Chris with confidence, energy and wit. In particular, she delivered the passionate, iconoclastic and deeply moving protest to the WI London Convention with authentic purpose.

Calendar Girls is a female-led piece, but the ancillary men, in the roles of dying husband, photographers and photographer's assistant, played respectively by Mark Padbury, Rob Bateman, Richard Buss and Mike Varnom, supported the girls with impeccable comic timing. Adding to the merriment were cameos from Nicky Harris, (doubling up as a broccoli-specialist speaker at the WI as well as local aristocrat Lady Cravenshire) and Tasha Padbury delivering a neatly pitched patronising make-up artist, Elaine - whose incriminatingly abandoned knickers Ruth found in her husband's car - prompting a vitriolic reaction from the normally timid mouse/rabbit!

Director Sarah Curran did a great job. Not least with precision choreography of the pivotal photography scene just before the interval, when each of the 6 ladies posed individually for their shots - without revealing anything that should not be seen! Marshalling 13 actors, of which 8 or more were often on the small stage at once, was impressively accomplished. This is a technically demanding play. Backstage and production creativity are hallmarks of this group and deftly supported the fine acting. The curtain calls were raucous, as each of the six principals emerged to their individual calendar photographs being projected onto an adjacent screen.

This was a joyful, pacey production, nimble in blending humour and poignancy, and as the director desired, speaking directly of the power of community and friendship. Bravo Britain's Women's Institutes and bravo Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group!

Adrian McGlynn

Chairman Banbury Cross Players



Pictures around the Village by Tania Delohery Duffy

**KBS
PC**

**KINGSTON
BAGPUIZE
WITH SOUTHMOOR
PARISH COUNCIL**

Outdoor Officer

KBS Parish Council is looking to fill the newly created position of **Outdoor Officer** to help maintain the safety and upkeep of our parish grounds and assets.

The role will involve regular visual inspections of trees on parish council land, outdoor equipment, and parish property, along with monitoring fire and security systems at the sports pavilion.

The ideal candidate will have a keen eye for detail, enjoy outdoor work, and possess good communication and basic IT skills. No prior experience or qualifications required as training will be provided for key tasks, including routine playground inspections.

This part-time position is for 4 hours a week (with a flexi-time approach). Applicants must be willing to attend off-site training.

Join us to help ensure the smooth operation and safety of our beloved parish!

For full details please contact Sarah Bates, Parish Clerk on 07908 472827 or at clerk@kbspishcouncil.org.uk.

Deadline for application: 12 February

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X15 Time Table



Buses to Witney

Mondays to Fridays except Public Holidays	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15
Kingston Bagpuize School Lane	0621	0721	0851	0949	1049	1149	1249	1349	1447	1559	1710	1811	1905	1957	2057
Southmoor Latton Close	0622	0722	0852	0950	1050	1150	1250	1350	1448	1601	1711	1812	1906	1958	2058
Southmoor Spring Hill	0623	0723	0853	0951	1051	1151	1251	1351	1449	1602	1712	1813	1907	1959	2059
Newbridge Rose Revived	0630	0730	0900	0958	1058	1158	1258	1358	1456	1609	1719	1820	1914	---	---
Standlake Woodlands	0635	0735	0905	1003	1103	1203	1303	1403	1501	1614	1724	1825	1919	---	---
Ducklington The Green	0645	0745	0915	1013	1113	1213	1313	1413	1511	1624	1734	1934	1928	---	---
Witney Market Square	0654	0800	0924	1022	1122	1222	1322	1422	1522	1635	1743	1842	1936	---	---
Saturdays	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15
Kingston Bagpuize School Lane	0647	0747	0849	0949	1049	1149	1249	1349	1449	1549	1649	1749	1850	1957	2057
Southmoor Latton Close	0648	0748	0850	0950	1050	1150	1250	1350	1450	1550	1650	1750	1851	1958	2058
Southmoor Spring Hill	0649	0749	0851	0951	1051	1151	1251	1351	1451	1551	1651	1751	1852	1959	2059
Newbridge Rose Revived	0656	0756	0858	0958	1058	1158	1258	1358	1458	1558	1658	1758	1859	---	---
Standlake Woodlands	0701	0801	0903	1003	1103	1203	1303	1403	1503	1603	1703	1803	1904	---	---
Ducklington The Green	0711	0811	0913	1013	1113	1213	1313	1413	1513	1613	1713	1813	1913	---	---
Witney Market Square	0720	0820	0922	1022	1122	1222	1322	1422	1522	1622	1722	1822	1921	---	---

Buses to Abingdon and then Oxford

Mondays to Fridays except Public Holidays	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15
Southmoor Spring Hill	0540	0642	0731	0852	0953	1053	1153	1253	1353	1456	1603	1709	1819	1917	2010
Southmoor Latton Close	0543	0644	0733	0854	0955	1055	1155	1255	1355	1458	1605	1711	1821	1919	2012
Kingston Bagpuize School Lane	0544	0645	0735	0855	0956	1056	1156	1256	1356	1459	1607	1712	1822	1920	2013
Frlford Millets Farm	--	--	--	0900	1001	1101	1201	1301	1401	1504	1612	1717	--	--	--
Marcham Duffield Place	0554	0655	0746	0907	1008	1108	1208	1308	1408	1511	1619	1724	1832	1932	2025
Abingdon Fairacres	0602	0703	0754	0913	1014	1114	1214	1314	1414	1518	1626	1731	1839	1937	2030
Abingdon Stratton Way stop A2	0611	0712	0812	0929	1029	1129	1229	1329	1429	1530	1638	1747	1853	1948	2038
Abingdon College	0614	0715	0817	0932	1032	1132	1232	1332	1432	1533	1643	1750	1856	1951	--
Bagley Wood Hinksey Hill Top	0626	0727	0834	0944	1044	1144	1244	1344	1444	1548	1658	1802	1907	2003	--
Redbridge Park&Ride	0629	0732	0844	0947	1047	1147	1247	1347	1447	1551	1701	1806	1911	2006	--
OxfordWestgate	0639	0742	0856	0957	1057	1157	1257	1357	1457	1601	1711	1817	1922	2015	--
Oxford Railway Station	0645	0748	0902	1002	1102	1202	1302	1402	1502	1606	1716	1822	1927	2020	--
Saturdays	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15	X15
Southmoor Spring Hill	0633	0758	0853	0953	1053	1153	1253	1353	1453	1553	1653	1755	1855	2010	--
Southmoor Latton Close	0635	0800	0855	0955	1055	1155	1255	1355	1455	1555	1655	1757	1857	2012	--
Kingston Bagpuize School Lane	0636	0801	0856	0956	1056	1156	1256	1356	1456	1556	1656	1758	1858	2013	--
Frlford Millets Farm	--	--	0901	1001	1101	1201	1301	1401	1501	1601	1701	--	--	--	--
Marcham Duffield Place	0646	0811	0908	1008	1108	1208	1308	1408	1508	1608	1708	1810	1910	2025	--
Abingdon Fairacres	0654	0817	0914	1014	1114	1214	1314	1414	1514	1614	1714	1815	1915	2030	--
Abingdon Stratton Way stop A2	0703	0829	0929	1029	1129	1229	1329	1429	1529	1629	1729	1826	1926	2038	--
Abingdon College	0706	0832	0932	1032	1132	1232	1332	1432	1532	1632	1732	1829	1929	--	--
Bagley Wood Hinksey Hill Top	0716	0844	0944	1044	1144	1244	1344	1444	1544	1644	1744	1840	1940	--	--
Redbridge Park&Ride	0721	0847	0947	1047	1147	1247	1347	1447	1547	1647	1747	1843	1943	--	--
Oxford Westgate	0731	0857	0957	1057	1157	1257	1357	1457	1557	1657	1757	1852	1952	--	--
Oxford Railway Station	0737	0902	1002	1102	1202	1302	1402	1502	1602	1702	1802	1857	1957	--	--