

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 5

June 2025

MAYDAY! HELP! SOS!

Yes, we're worried ...



In recent editions, the KBS News team has been calling out for more villagers to help to keep the News going. We've had a modest response, which we appreciate, but sadly so far insufficient

to give us comfort about the future of the KBS News. The absence of a regular copy of the KBS News dropping through the letter box each month would be a very sad loss to the village. But without further help from more volunteers, it is something we have to consider.

We need to cover Admin, Advertising, Distribution and Editorial aspects. It would ideally suit people with a passion for the village and village life, who have a few hours to spare most weeks to help with these jobs. If you are 'recently retired' or are 'still at work' but would like to be involved, please get in touch. For more information on what is involved, please be in touch on editorkbsnews@gmail.com

8th June - World Ocean Day



It is a day to learn about the ocean and how we can help keep it clean and safe for animals and people. Hidden somewhere inside the News is a picture of a whale. Can you find it?



VILLAGE FÊTE

Saturday 28 June

1-4pm

Kingston Bagpuize House Gardens



Who is the mystery KBS News reader??

Find out on page 30!



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KBS News Team

Editor: Greta Leonaviciene, editorkbsnews@gmail.com
Co-Editors: Ilona El Madi, Thia Conn.
Chair: Melanie Leggett
Secretary: Marie Traynor, kbsnewssecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer: Gill Farrington, treasurerkbsnews@gmail.com
Advertising: Roy Wolfe, advertskbsnews@gmail.com
Proof Readers: Caroline 'Hawkeye' Ashby, Melanie Leggett.
Distribution: Caroline Ashby & Team.
Committee Member: Lesley Sanderson.

**Copy date for next
issue: Sunday 15th
June for the July
edition**

KBS News is produced by a team of volunteers and printed locally by Artisan

For all advertising: Please contact Roy at advertskbsnews@gmail.com

All Non advertising copy must be sent to the Editorial Team at editorkbsnews@gmail.com.

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.

KBS News reserves the right to alter, omit, shorten or edit any submissions. If necessary, where space is at a premium. We are not responsible for grammatical errors and spelling, nor take any responsibility for comment, opinion or advice of anything printed in the KBS News or advice given by any of its advertisers.

USEFUL CONTACTS

NEED MEDICAL HELP BUT NOT AN EMERGENCY/ WANT TO SPEAK TO A DOCTOR CALL 111 (24hours)
ALWAYS RING 999 IN AN EMERGENCY

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The White Horse Medical Practice Faringdon SN7 7YU 01367 242388 District Nurse / Health visitor 01367 240087	Marcham Road Family Health centre Abingdon, OX14 1BT 01235 522 602	Great Western Hospital Swindon 01793 604020 John Radcliffe Hospital Oxford 01865 741166	Abingdon Hospital Marcham Rd, Abingdon OX14 1AG 01865 904346	Witney Hospital Welch Way, Witney, OX28 6JJ 01865 903841
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 jill.rayner@whitehorsedc.gov.uk				

KBS News is run by volunteers.



We're looking to expand the team and are looking for people who can help manage the enquiries, advertisements and general correspondence.

Please contact advertskbsnews@gmail.com



Village Diary

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







Day/ Date	Time	What & Where (KBSVH = Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Village Hall)	Page
JUNE			
St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kingston Bagpuize Services. – See full details on the Church Pages			5
Monday	2 nd	9.30am Kingston Bagpuize Village Art & Craft Club. St John the Baptist Church Hall	27
Monday	2 nd	6.30pm Parish Council Monthly Meeting – Swallow Room, KBSVH	10
Tuesday	3 rd	7.15pm Southmoor & Kingston Bagpuize Gardening Club, Louise Brown from Tiggywinkles Wildlife Rescue Centre KBSVH	13
Tuesday	10 th	7.30pm Apple Blossom Women's Institute 'Janine Kilroy: Seven Years Inside' KBSVH	23
Saturday	14 th	10.00am – 4.30pm Abingdon Air & Country Show, Abingdon Airfield, Dalton Barracks, Abingdon	27
Sunday	15 th	4.00pm Last Date / Time for copy to KBS News for the July edition	2
Thursday	19 th	7.00pm Longworth Hist Soc. History Walk around Buckland. Meet at Buckland Memorial Hall	12
Friday	20 th	7.00pm KBS Film and Music Night. 6 Academy Awards 'La La Land' St John Baptist Church Hall	11
Saturday	21 st	2.00pm - Abingdon RDA 50 th Anniversary Celebrations at Riding Centre, Charney Rd	22
Thursday	26 th	10.00am Village Walk and Talk starting at Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Village Hall	6
Saturday	28 th	1.00pm – 4.00pm Annual Village Fete Kingston Bagpuize House	32
Saturday	28 th	1.00pm – 4.00pm Find out about the Neighbourhood Development Plan at the Annual Village Fete	10
Saturday	28 th	12.00noon – 6.00pm Vitality Vocals Summer Fiesta at Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Village Hall	12
Monday	30 th	Anti-Litter Poster Competition for Under 16 Year Olds Entry Closing day	26
JULY			
Saturday	5 th	Noon Southmoor & Kingston Bagpuize Gardening Club Garden Party	13
Monday	7 th	3.00pm Village Afternoon Tea at Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Village Hall	7
Sunday	20 th	Outdoors Messy Church at the Millennium Green	5
SEPTEMBER			
Saturday	6 th	Southmoor & Kingston Bagpuize Gardening Club, Annual Village Show KBSVH	27
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	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 6.00pm - 7.30pm Wednesday 5.45pm – 7.15pm
Clubbercise	Monday 8.00 pm - 9.00 pm	1st Longworth Explorers	Wednesday 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Fitness	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	
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	
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
Cedar Community Club	Tuesday & Wednesday 9.30 - 3:00pm	PILATES	Tuesday 9.15am & 5.45pm Thursday 9.15am & 6.30pm
		ZUMBA	Thursday 10.30am



Find Extra KBS copies at the One Stop shop, Hinds Head and Southmoor Co-ops

JUNE BIN COLLECTION

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

Wed 4th	Food Bin / Green Bin Collection/Brown Bin + Textiles & Batteries in a separate bag on top of the Bin	 +  +  + 
Wed 11th	Food Collection / Grey Bin Collection & Small Electrical Items	 +  + 
Wed 18st	Food Bin / Green Bin Collection/Brown Bin + Textiles & Batteries in a separate bag on top of the Bin	 +  +  + 
Wed 25th	Food Collection / Grey Bin Collection & Small Electrical Items	 +  + 

FYFIELD BAPTIST CHAPEL

Morning Service & Sunday School
Sunday 11.00 am

Communion monthly 2nd Sundays
location: (south side of main village)
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SERVICES IN JUNE AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



Sunday 1st	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Worship with baptism Children's Church
Sunday 8th Pentecost	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion All-Age Worship
Sunday 15th	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Worship New Additional Children's Church
Sunday 22nd	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Village Communion
Sunday 29th	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Café Church in the Village Hall Malawi Special
Sunday 20th July	TBA	Outdoors Messy Church at the Millennium Green, details next month



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

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

The church will be open for private prayer every Tuesday to Thursday 9am to 12 noon. If you would appreciate the church being open at other times e.g. Saturday, please contact Catherine our vicar.

Sunday 1st Children's Church 10.30am in the Church Room with crafts and activities all children and families welcome

Sunday 8th All-Age Worship 10.30am in Church – everyone welcome, every second Sunday each month

Sunday 15th Children's Church 10.30am in the Church Room with crafts and activities all children and families welcome. **Every 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month**

Sunday 29th Café Church in the Village Hall, come and join us for bacon baps, croissants, coffee and hear about the 2 hospitals in Malawi that we support

YOUR VILLAGE CHURCH IS HERE TO HELP

If you'd like to find out more about our services and resources, or discuss spiritual matters, contact Revd Catherine Schneider email vicar.kbs@gmail.com phone 07865 827679, usual working days Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (and Sunday services)



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VILLAGE VOICES

Send your views to editorkbsnews@gmail.com

VILLAGE WALK 'N' TALK



26th June (Thursday) at 10am • KBS Village Hall

The Walk and Talk for June will take place on Thursday 26th, meeting at the KBS Village Hall at 10am when we plan to hold a leisurely walk and talk around the village byways, and to be able to view and perhaps even comment on some of the many changes as they affect our village life.

At last month's Walk and Talk 16 from the village took part plus one dog. We ventured over the A420 (using the footpath bridge) to Harris's Lane and the neighbouring parish of Longworth. Here we were able to view some of the interesting buildings and gardens before returning the same way back to the Village Hall to that welcoming cup of coffee and a fresh home-baked buttered scone. **Come and join us on 26th at 10am. Ron Green**



Out & About in Ibiza



Karen Whitbread and Richie enjoying some rest and relaxation in IBIZA!



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

The Lifesaving Power in Your Veins

Why Blood Donation Matters—and How You Can Help

When I was eighteen my mother had open heart surgery to sort out her heart valves – a very new procedure at that time. She needed lots of blood transfusions. My father and I decided that we would each donate, so we trotted off to the Blood Transfusion centre. My father disappeared. I thought he had bottled out – then found him waiting, with a note to attend the doctor's surgery to sort out his high blood pressure (something he was quite unaware of). Over the years I gave blood regularly and was on the 'Baby List' providing blood for very sick babies so I felt extra special being able to help in their treatment. Sadly, due to a health issue I had to stop donating at the age of 59.

Recently I went to the Churchill hospital and received two units of blood. Lying there, it gave me time to think about all those people – unknown and unnamed - who have given a pint of blood to help others. I never thought that I would be the recipient but I am grateful to them. Therefore I ask those of you who are fit and able to donate to this fantastic service for one hour twice a year – it could be your mother, father, child, brother or sister who needs life-giving blood – or it might even be YOU... On the other hand, like my father, you might find that you have some medical issues of which you were completely unaware but which need looking into and treating sooner, rather than later. **Jenny Charlton**



Editor's note: People who live and work around us, why not tell us about your work, we think your neighbours might be amazed at the skill of people in the village!!



KBS Café



Every Thursday 9am to 12pm
• Southmoor Village Hall

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 Ashby on 07984 523955 or Ruth on 01865 821386. We look forward to seeing you. **Caroline Ashby**

May Litter Pick

As can be seen another successful litter pick took place thanks to 6 willing pairs of hands who gave up an hour or so of their time on a May Saturday morning. It was a cool sunny day and the birds were serenading us as we worked. Hope you



agree that the Ox Eye Daisies look much prettier without the litter around them. **Huge thanks to those who came along!**



Village Afternoon Tea at 3pm

Monday 7th July 2025

Please come and join us in the Village Hall at 3pm.
To book your place, cost £5 per person for a lovely Afternoon Tea and good company, please contact Hazel Brennan (01865 821358), or sign up with Stephen Haywood at the KBS Café, by Thursday 26th June.

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.

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Land East of Kingston Bagpuize

I attended the public consultation event in the Village Hall held by David Wilson Homes on Wednesday 14th May. But I hadn't read the advert in the KBS news completely and went along thinking that I was going to see a whole picture of the estate plan, as originally planned, but with the amendments made since the original design was agreed by the Vale of White Horse District Council.

However, it turned out that the main point of the consultation was to gather feedback about the area of the plan described as the Southern Edge Character Area within the development. Please see the areas indicated by the Red Arrows on the plan.

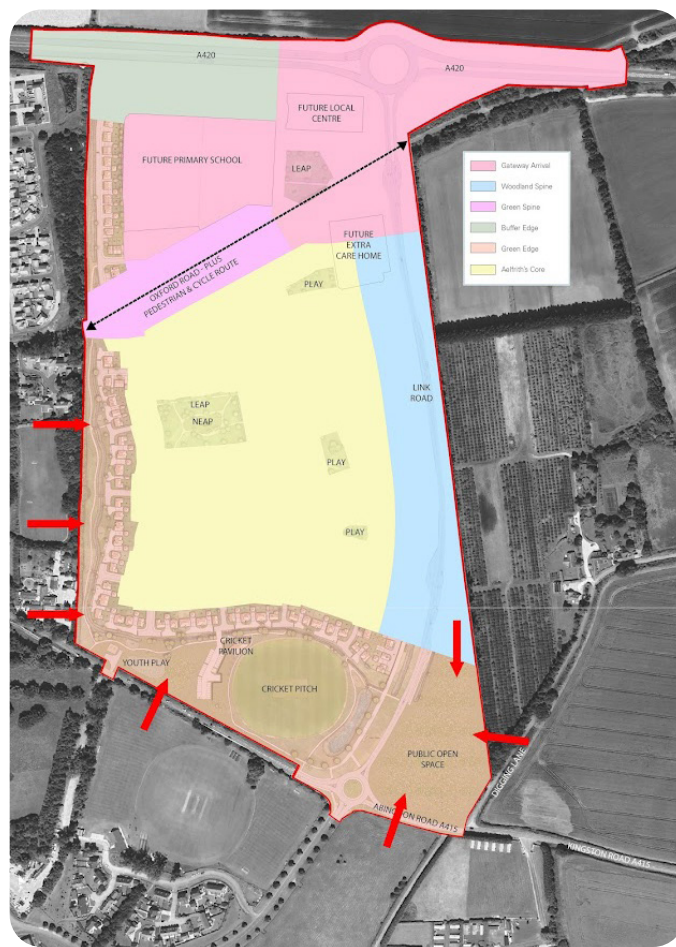
That's the bit they were seeking the community's views on. Things they have in mind are landscaping play areas for children of all ages. The Cricket pitch and pavilion and links to the existing community will be in the plan.



So, David Wilson Homes have now asked if we can include the attached plan and offer residents a further opportunity to comment and provide their views on what should be included in the Southern Edge Character Area by sending information to oxfordplanning@Savills.com as soon as possible. Thank you.

David Wilson Homes are particularly interested in hearing KB&S residents' thoughts about the following:

1. What type of play equipment would you like to see for 0 - 6 year olds?
2. What type of play equipment would you like to see for 4 - 8 year olds?
3. What type of play equipment would you like to see for 8 - 14 year olds?
4. What type of play equipment would you like to see for 12 - 18 year olds?
5. What would you like to see in the open green space? e.g. fruit trees/orchards, seating, meadow grass, meadow planting with mown grass, wildflower planting, nature trails, orchards, small woodland areas, other.
6. Would you like to see any specific accessible or specialist equipment?



Land East of Kingston Bagpuize - Second Cricket Pitch?

A second cricket pitch is planned for our village, have your say!

Those of you who went to the Public Consultation on the "Land East of Kingston Bagpuize" held in the Village Hall on 14th May may have noticed that part of the southern edge of the development has been set aside for recreation and that this will include a cricket pitch.



The Village already has a cricket pitch, so I asked the staff why another cricket pitch? I was informed that this was decided by Vale of White Horse District Council before the current developers were involved and was as a result of lobbying from Sports England. I was also informed that the current developer was open to providing alternative sports facilities, as were the Parish Council, but that the Vale of White Horse District Council planning department were not.

If you have an opinion on whether Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor needs a second cricket pitch, or has a greater need for some other sports facility, then why not email planning@whitehorsedc.gov.uk for the attention of Stuart Walker and copy the email to Jill Rayner, our District Councillor, email address. Jill.rayner@whitehorsedc.gov.uk. Stuart Martin, a resident in Southmoor.

Editorial Team note: KBS News understands that Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club are keen to have a second 'home' pitch as they currently run 3 teams, one of which plays at a pitch in Appleton.



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Parish Council Website: [kbs-parishcouncil.gov.uk](https://www.kbs-parishcouncil.gov.uk)

Parish Clerk email: clerk@kbs-parishcouncil.gov.uk Meeting minutes and appendices are available online at <https://www.kbs-parishcouncil.gov.uk/document-category/minutes>.

The Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Parish Council met on May 6th to discuss key local matters affecting the community.

Annual Meeting – New Appointments, Local Projects, and Community Updates

Cllr Virginia Grant was re-elected as chairman, with Cllr Robert Barnett as vice-chairman.

The Council confirmed its committee memberships and representative roles for the year, ensuring dedicated support across key areas such as planning, recreation, environment, youth, and elderly services. Notably, Cllr Behnoosh Sabah has taken on the role of Parish representative for the elderly, and Cllr Oyebola Bello will serve as youth liaison.

Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

Key community updates included:

1. **Benches for Public Spaces:** The council is exploring options for additional seating at Wellington Way and Orchard Gate, with funding potentially supported through S106 contributions.
2. **Neighbourhood Development Plan:** Progress continues, with meetings held to refine the plan's presentation and communication.
3. **David Wilson Homes Development:** Discussions are underway regarding potential funding or S106 contributions linked to the upcoming development. Residents were encouraged to attend the public exhibition on 14th May to view the proposals.
4. **Flag Raising at the War Memorial:** Volunteers will manage flag displays on significant dates throughout the year, including VE Day, Armed Forces Day, and Remembrance Sunday.
5. **Book Swap Libraries:** A proposal was discussed to install two mini libraries for community book exchanges with grants being considered to fund the project.
6. **Insurance Renewal:** The Council voted to continue its insurance coverage with Zurich under a new 3-year agreement.

The Council also reviewed and approved financial documents, the updated asset register, and ratified standing orders and risk assessments.

Residents were reminded of the Annual Parish Meeting on 19th May and the next full Council meeting on 2nd June. All are welcome to attend and participate.

KBS Neighbourhood Development Plan – Update

The KBS NDP Steering Group met on 13th May to review the latest draft of the NDP.

Members agreed on edits and identified the need for additional maps, including one showing the Lioncourt Development site. A follow-up meeting with the copywriter is scheduled for 14th May to continue refining the text. Policies have been reorganised under five headings:

Heritage; Local Housing Needs; A Self-Sustaining Village; Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity; and Transport and Travel. Appendices are still in development, with more photos needed for sections on Heritage and Dark Skies.

Plans are in place to present the draft NDP to the community at the Village Fête on 28th June and at a public meeting in early July in the Village Hall (date tbc). Notices for both events will appear in the June and July KBS News and on the KBSPC website and Facebook. The final draft will be submitted for independent review following community feedback. The next Steering Group meeting is scheduled for Monday 9th June at 6.30pm in the tearoom at Kingston Bagpuize House.



Love where you live?

THEN COME AND SEE THE KBS NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

We would love to see you at the Village Fête on Saturday 28th June.

The next stage of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is almost complete and we have the document ready to see and comment upon.

This shows our vision for the future of the place where we live, and we would welcome any comments that you may have.

It covers future homes, green spaces, amenities and puts together our needs as a community.

Come and see us, ask questions and put forward your ideas. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for us to have our say so make sure that you have yours.

The results of any of your ideas and the final opportunity for you to make comments and ask questions will be at a meeting at KBS village hall in July.

Keep an eye out for the date!

KBS PC



KBS Film and Music Night

20th June (Friday) at 7pm • Church Room
• 'La La Land'

Our next Film Night will be on Friday 20th June in the Church Room when we will be showing, **La La Land**, winner of 6 Academy Awards and a record breaking 7 Golden Globe Awards. Sebastian (Ryan Gosling) and Mia (Emma Stone) are drawn together by their common desire to do what they love, being a jazz musician and an actress. However, as success mounts they are faced with decisions that begin to fray the fragile fabric of their love affair, and the dreams they worked so hard to maintain in each other threaten to rip them apart. Join us to find out what happens...

This is a free evening organised by members of St John the Baptist Church and tea, coffee, chocolates and popcorn will be provided from 7pm with the film beginning at 7.15pm. We have limited capacity in the room, so we do ask you to **let either Peter Beer or Margo Evans know if you will be joining us. We would hate to have to turn anyone away on the night.**

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



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Longworth & District History Society



19th June (Thursday) at 7pm • Walk around Buckland • Meet at memorial Hall in Buckland

For June and July we don't have meetings in the Village Hall, but arrange walks or visits instead. In June two of our members who live in Buckland and who have written two books about Buckland, are taking us on a walk around the village and giving us a potted history of this interesting area. The date for this walk is Thursday 19th June. We will meet at 7pm at the car park at the Memorial Hall in Buckland. All are welcome. **Pam Woodward**



Tip of the Month

The Great Big Green Week is taking place from 7th to 15th June this year. The first Great Big Green Week took place in 2021 thanks to The Climate Coalition. Since then, Great Big Green Week has continued to grow and, in 2024, 600,000 people took part. Communities, national organisations, institutions, businesses and media outlets joined in, ultimately putting pressure on the government to up its game on climate change. If you want to find out more about this organisation and how you can help our climate and the natural environment visit www.theclimatecoalition.org. If you just want a fun day out with the family or some interesting workshops with this sort of theme details of what's on, go straight to www.greatbiggreenweek.com/events.



Within 10 miles of KBS I found a basket making workshop, repair café, nature walks, a honey bee themed event and lots of food and family entertainment on offer just an S6 bus ride along to Faringdon. You will also find details of varied events on offer in Wantage including Tai chi, a willow weaving workshop and a film.

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**Southmoor &
Kingston Bagpuize
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3rd June (Tuesday), 7:30pm
• Louise Brown from
Tiggywinkles 'Wildlife Rescue
Centre' • Southmoor Village Hall

On Tuesday 3rd June, Louise Brown from Tiggywinkles will be joining us to tell us more about their work at what I understand is the busiest and most advanced free Wildlife Rescue Centre in the world, handily located less than an hour away from us. Hopefully, they will also give us advice about how best to care for any wildlife – hedgehogs in particular – coming into our gardens, so we can help keep them fit and well. The talk is at Southmoor Village Hall and doors will open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. The talk is free for members, but anyone is welcome to join us for a fee of £4 which includes complimentary refreshments.

Our Annual Plant Sale will take place on Saturday 28th June at the annual Village Fête at Kingston Bagpuize House. Good quality donations of shrubs, perennials and annuals are all welcome: they should be properly rooted and free of pests and diseases. Please contact us if you have any plants to donate and we can let you know a drop off point and date or arrange collection if needed. If you'd like to purchase plants, look out for the fête advertising for confirmation of timings. The plants are usually very competitively priced compared with garden centres, so it's a good way to stock up or try out new things. We look forward to seeing you!

After that, the next thing to look forward to will be our Summer Garden Party in the garden of one of our members on Saturday 5th July. This lunch is usually a lovely social event and a chance to get to know some of the other members in a relaxed environment. Tickets will be on sale starting from the June meeting for a cost of £10. Non-members are welcome. We take a short break in August and will be back with a talk on September 2nd, swiftly followed by the Village Show on September 6th. See separate article for full details or look us up on www.skbgardeningclub.org.uk. *Sharon Cooper (Chair)*

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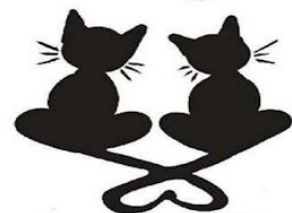


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Youth Matters

Hello! I hope everyone is having a lovely start to the summer! It is lovely to see many of the flowers coming out and the bees pollinating. Temperatures have also soared, reaching over 20 degrees Celsius - the weather has been the perfect treat to welcome in the warmer months.

Firstly, I wanted to write about something that has recently come to my interest: national and international holidays. However, these are not just ordinary holidays, these are holidays about anything and everything you can think of! Take a look at these:

- International Harry Potter Day on the 2nd May
- International Dog Day on the 26th of August
- World Baking Day on the 18th of May
- Dinosaur Day on the 1st of June
- Teddy Bear Picnic Day on the 10th of July



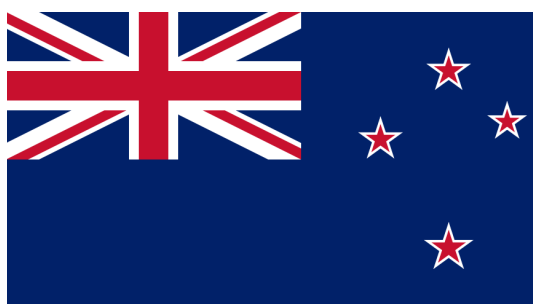
And that's just to name a few! If you're interested in a particular topic or engage in a hobby, there will probably be a special day for it! If you want to find out more, the website **daysoftheyear.com** is very helpful! What day is your birthday? Could it be on World Lion Day, International Pizza Day or possibly World Football Day? Check it out!

An international day that has passed recently is Endangered Species Day on the third Friday of May. This day helps us to recognise species at risk and how we can help them. Endangered species, such as the orangutan or different breeds of tiger, are in danger of extinction. Extinction would mean that there are no more animals of that kind left. If you want to help endangered species, you could:

- Organise a bake sale in aid of a charity that helps endangered species, such as the World Wildlife Fund
- Raise awareness of animals that are going extinct (you could design a poster)
- Plant seeds too help grow different habitats for small animals such as bees
- And so much more!

Have a great June! Darcey

Puzzle of the Month - Guess the Flag!



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Recipe of the month

No-bake strawberry cheesecake

www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/no-bake_strawberry_30276

This strawberry cheesecake is the summer dessert dreams are made of. Made with plenty of white chocolate, strawberries and cream.

This cheesecake can easily be made gluten-free by swapping the digestives for a gluten-free alternative.

Ingredients: Serves 8 Cook less than 10 mins

- 2 tsp **sunflower oil**
- 200g/7oz **digestive biscuits**
- 100g/3½oz unsalted **butter**
- ½ tsp ground **cinnamon**
- 100g/3½oz **white chocolate**, roughly chopped
- 400g/14oz **strawberries**, trimmed,
plus extra to decorate
- 300g/10½oz full-fat **cream cheese**
- 1 tsp **vanilla extract**
- ½ unwaxed **lemon**, finely grated zest only
- 1 tbsp runny honey or **maple syrup**
- 200ml/7fl oz **double cream**



Nutrition: per serving

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Kcal 523 | Fat 42g (of which 25g are Saturates) | Carbs 29g (of which 18g is sugars) |
| • Fibre 3g | Protein 6g | Salt 0.7g |

Method.

1. Brush the inside of a 20cm/8in springform tin with the sunflower oil, and line the base with a disc of baking parchment.
2. Put the digestive biscuits into a sealable freezer bag. Push all the air out and seal the bag. Crush the biscuits with a rolling pin, until they are reduced to sand-like crumbs.
3. Melt the butter in a large saucepan. Stir in the biscuit crumbs and cinnamon. Press the crumbs into the bottom of the tin. Chill in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.
4. Chop 150g/5oz of the strawberries in half from top to bottom and arrange around the edge of the prepared tin, cut side-up. Chop the remaining berries into small pieces.
5. Melt the chocolate in a heatproof bowl, either over a pan of simmering water, making sure the bowl doesn't touch the water, or in a microwave.
6. Beat together the cream cheese, vanilla, lemon zest and honey in a mixing bowl. Stir in the chopped strawberries.
7. In another bowl, whisk the double cream until it holds a floppy peak.
8. Fold the melted chocolate into the cream cheese mixture, followed by the double cream. Add more honey if needed.
9. Spoon the filling into the tin, being careful not to move the strawberries on the edge. Spread level with a palette knife or the back of a spoon, cover with cling film and chill overnight, until firm.
10. Carefully remove the cheesecake from the tin and put on a serving plate. Slice or quarter extra strawberries to arrange on top.



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Restaurant Review

The Maybush Newbridge, Witney OX29 7QD



On a beautiful sunny evening we headed off to The Maybush Pub, Newbridge. We opted for the easy option of a 10 min drive but it's definitely worth considering walking there via Longworth. A lovely walk and maybe a good excuse for eating a bit more. We parked in the car park on site and access was good with no steps.

We had booked, which is only possible for inside dining. There were lots of tables outside with beautiful views of the river, allowing us to watch the paddle boarders in such a picturesque location. There were the traditional wooden tables and benches, and also bistro-type seating under the canopy.

The menu for outside dining is virtually the same as the indoor one. No table service is available outside and one orders from the outdoor bar. We opted to be served and sat in the indoor space which had a nautical theme and consisted of two rooms, one with a fire in the middle which would be cosy in winter. It was busy, and to be honest, a little bit too loud for easy conversations.

They have themed nights with budget friendly combinations and, as Friday was pizza night, we tried the vegetarian one. There are dates for live music and festivals which were displayed on the specials board.

Our attentive and friendly waitress took our order from the menu, which had a range of meals (£16 -£21 for mains) with a limited vegetarian food and ciabattas only available up to 5PM. The food arrived promptly but unfortunately a little disappointing as the pan-fried chicken was rather tough and overall underwhelming. The pizza was large and tasty.

Next, we went onto puddings. There was a good selection including cheese, as well as classics such as cheesecake and crumble, with some available as a smaller half size. Trying to be healthier, we went for the half portion of chocolate brownies and seasonal crumble of apple and rhubarb. Both were enjoyed by us and the portions were reasonable.

The beautiful outlook and friendly staff made up for the shortfall in the meal and it is worth another visit in my view; maybe sitting outside with a different food choice. By Wilrich, two KBS foodies



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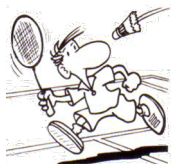
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It takes a village... The KBS Fête needs YOU!

We're all looking forward to the Village Fête next month – Saturday 28th June, 1-4pm, if it's not already in your calendar. It's a really special event, run by St. John the Baptist Church, that brings our whole community together for a fun-filled afternoon of activities and games, top-notch refreshments, connecting with local groups, and even some retail therapy.

You may have heard the saying 'It takes a village...', and it's just as true for running a village fête as raising a child. The fête's success depends on a host of contributors who willingly give a little of their time to ensure everything goes to plan.

If you can spare an hour, either the evening before to help put up gazebos, move furniture, etc, or on the day to help staff the gates, supervise car parking, sell raffle tickets, help at a stall, or clear the site, we'd love to hear from you. Everyone can get involved (although under 18s will need adult supervision) and together we'll deliver a truly memorable celebration of life in KBS. **Please call Margo on 01865 820900 or email KBSFete@gmail.com to register your interest.**



KBS Badminton Club



Every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday • Southmoor Village Hall

We'll be playing every Saturday morning, Monday evening and Wednesday evening throughout June. All sessions take place at Southmoor Village Hall and we have sessions suitable for a range of levels. Saturdays run from 9.00 - 10.30am (although watch out for a possible time change on Saturday 28th) and Mondays run from 6.15 - 7.30pm. Both of these are suitable for intermediate level and above. We play mainly for fun, but it can be quite fast paced so you should be a fairly confident player and prepared to run around a bit...

The Wednesday evening sessions are slightly less competitive, although everyone still plays to win! These run from 6.30pm - 8pm and are suitable for improvers and returners. In order to fit in, you should know how to play a basic game and how to score – or, at the very least, be making an effort to learn. As I write this, we're halfway through a series of four workshops designed to help bring a few people up to this level. It's possible that a new group or time slot may arise following the workshops, so watch this space!

If you're trying us out for fit, the first couple of sessions are free. After that, we ask you to contribute to the costs of the court hire and shuttlecocks, but it's run on a not-for-profit basis so is relatively inexpensive. Please contact me or Jenny before going along to check that the session is running and that there's space for you. You can contact us on sharon@cherrytree21.plus.com (01865 820399) (Sat or Mon sessions or beginner enquiries) or Jenny jenny.frame@live.co.uk (Wed sessions). *Sharon Cooper*

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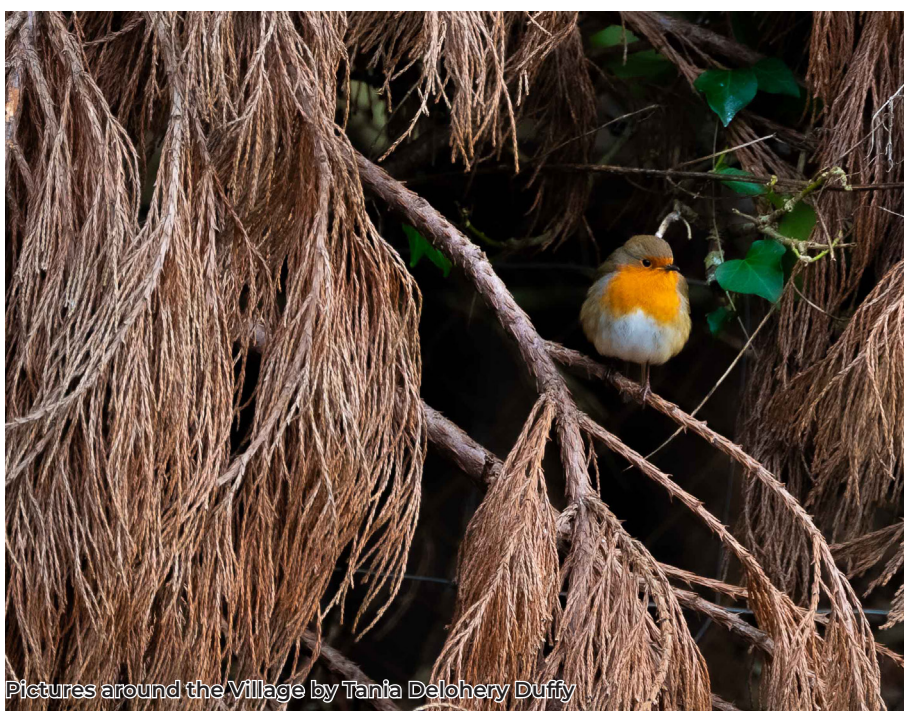
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It has been lovely to see the courts so busy during the great weather. The Friday evening social session is proving popular - see photos below!!


We currently have over 200 members and we really can accommodate any standard, so if you are thinking of digging out that racket this great weather offers no excuses!

Our membership fees are some of the lowest in the county and offer great value for money. We want to encourage participation whatever your standard.


The team at Excel Tennis Academy runs all our coaching, there are groups and individual sessions available from age 5 upwards. For further details please see our website www.kbstennis.org or come along to one of our club open sessions on Sunday mornings from 10.00 to play and chat with current members.



Pictures around the Village by Tania Delohery Duffy



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Marcham Road Health Centre PPG

Are you a patient at this practice?
This article is for you

At Marcham Road Health Centre, interest in research is high on the agenda. As part of this interest, Dr Fiona Tierney, from Oxford Brookes University, spoke to some patients from the practice, at an event organised by the PPG and Advanced Nurse Practitioner Carley Moore.

Dr Tierney's approach was to elicit sleep experiences from the patients, enabling her to give pragmatic advice and make suggestions to improve their quality of sleep. This prompted a fascinating range of sleep experiences, including; the impact of exercise, smart watches, bright light, shift-working, herbal teas and body rhythms.

She explained how she uses three prompts: Lights, Lions and Tools to help us to manage our own sleep. **The Light** prompt refers to the Circadian process and she recommends exposure to light especially in the morning, as this is more effective, and to avoid napping for more than 30 minutes. **The Lions** prompt requires us to ask ourselves, have we done enough exercise, do we have regular meal-times and regular bed-times? Finally, Dr Tierney explained, "it's important that our brain feels it's safe to wind down and go to sleep" which brings us to the **Tools** category that requires us to consider what we can do to make our brain feel that it doesn't need to 'be on alert'. Things that patients can try are: a regular night-time routine, not watching television an hour before bed-time, having a night-time drink or reading in bed. She emphasised, "We're all different so try some of the above and see what works for you".

If residents, who are patients at Marcham Road Health Centre, are interested in attending similar events, having more information or wish to be more involved with the Patient Participation Group, please contact: mrhfc.ppg@nhs.net or drop a note into reception marked for The PPG.



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KINGSTON BAGPUIZE CHARITIES TRUST



I am writing on behalf of the Trust to let you know that we have funds available for individuals or groups in need of financial support and resident in the Ecclesiastical parish of St. John the Baptist, Kingston Bagpuize – that is Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor with all housing west to beyond the roundabout and the kebab van and south of the A420 – for exact details of the Parish please visit www.achurchnearyou.com

Most grants are in the region of £100 - £150 but larger requests can be considered on their merit. In the past, grants have been made towards outings, equipment or food, or towards larger projects or purchases.

If you would be interested in applying for yourself or on behalf of someone else or a group please contact **Ian Charlton on 01865 820062** or me, **Revd Catherine Schneider on 07865 827679** or at vicar.kbs@gmail.com. *With best wishes, Catherine Schneider*

This year the Trust will again have a stand at the Village Fête on the 28th of June. So please look in your attics, on your bookshelves or at the back of cupboards and see if you have any unwanted books (childrens or adults), CDs, vinyl records, jig-saw puzzles, games, toys, china & glass ornaments or ANY other unwanted items of bric-a-brac that you would like donate to the Charity and that visitors to the fête will be just waiting to snap up! When you find them please contact Ian Charlton – 01865 820062 - Or drop them off at 6 Draycott Road, Southmoor.



Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Bowls Club

April & May have seen a busy start to the Bowling Season at Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Bowls Club.

It all started with the opening day, a fiercely contested match between the winning President's Team and the Club Captain's Team. Next came three warm up matches against local clubs Carterton, Shrivenham and Harwell.

The Club has teams in the following Royal County of Berkshire Bowling Association Leagues.

- **Kennet League**

KL 4 Rinks - 16 men. Played Tuesday evenings.
KLV over 55s - 3 triples - 9 men. We run two teams with home matches generally played Thursday afternoons.

- **Ridgeway Ladies League** - 3 triples - 9 ladies. Played Thursday evenings.

- **Ashley Baker** - 3 triples - mixed teams. Played Wednesday evenings.

The Bowls Club held an Open Day on Saturday 10th May at our Oxford Road site. We were blessed with wall-to-wall sunshine, and a good number of prospective new bowlers from the village and further afield turned up to find out what KB & S Bowls Club has to offer. Several were sufficiently impressed to complete application forms to join the Club, and we look forward to seeing these new members on the green.

If any readers weren't able to come to the Open Day and would like to find out more about our Club, with its year round all-weather green, friendly membership and active social programme, please phone **Club Captain Tom Waring on 01865 821060** or **07940 517278**.



**Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor
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Oxford Flower Club



26th June (Thursday) • Oxford Flower Club Tea Party • Cumnor Village Hall

Members were enthusiastic about welcoming back Michael Bowyer MBE who had visited us last year. In October Michael gave a talk on 3 remarkable women, Rachel Ruysch, Mary Delaney and Claris Cliff. This time floristry skills were very much order of the day with 'If spring is here, summer can't be far away' being the theme for his demonstration.

Rhythmic designs, early meadow flowers, table scape in small bottles, controlled willow arranged on pin holders and metal pots overflowing with colourful displays. You could hear a pin drop in the hall as members were mesmerised by his talent.

Michael who is a past national president of NAFAS, is organising the flower festival in Salisbury Cathedral this year. We have a full coach organised for this creative event.



A tea party and workshop are organised for June, and Fiona Harrison visits in July for 'A French affair'. No meeting in August.

- **June 26th - Oxford Flower Club Tea Party.**
- **July 24th - Oxford Flower Club - Guest Fiona Harrison 'A French Affair'.**

Call Karen on 07967 555750 if you are interested in joining our club that meets in Cumnor Village Hall on the fourth Thursday afternoon of the month. Guests are welcome to join us for the afternoon for £8.



Apple Blossoms WI



10th June (Tuesday) at 7:30pm • Janine Kilroe 'Seven Years Inside' • Southmoor Village Hall

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

What a fantastic May meet! It was lovely to see everyone, both familiar faces and new! A warm welcome to our newest members! We had a fun, creative, and interactive evening as Peter Tickler had us hooked in the art of devising a whodunnit. From key tips on writing crime fiction to creating a couple of delightfully crazy characters, Peter brought the process to life with insight and humour. A big thank you to Peter for such an inspiring session!

Looking ahead... Join us on Tuesday 10th June as we welcome Janine Kilroe for a captivating session: Seven Years Inside! Janine will share incredible experiences working with some of the most dangerous men in the country - including international news stories and unforgettable encounters. **Step inside the prison walls and hear stories few ever get to experience!**

Visitors are always warmly welcomed, just £5 per evening (including refreshments). **Don't do time... make time to join us! Naomi & Jules, Apple Blossoms WI**



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Golden Charter



Le Grand Return by Alan Stockdill

Review of Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group production 24 - 26 April 2025

Just a couple of weeks before commemorations of the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, it was a poignant delight to see a play set around the 50th anniversary of D-Day. As survivors from the Second World War become fewer and frailer, our connection with that time increasingly becomes one of history and story. This excellent drama group's Chair remarked in her thoughtful programme introduction, that they are "passionate about creating and telling stories the same way communities have done for hundreds of years." It was clear that the four actors and director in this production had truly poured their souls into this tale of revisiting wartime locations and honouring the memory of those who did not return.

The play's plot has a familiar flavour. A D-Day veteran, Tommy, has a yearning to return to Normandy for the 50th anniversary celebration. He enlists the help of his two friends, Alf and Edwin, from the Nursing Home where they all reside, to pursue this improbable project. They form an escape committee, up against a formidable resistant force in the shape of "Matron".

The first Act is set in the Yorkshire Nursing Home, culminating in their dawn escape, finally and rather touchingly approved by a saluting Matron. The second Act is in Europe as they travel through Belgium and into Normandy, culminating in an emotional scene at the war cemetery where Tommy's best friend lies.



The power and indeed the humour of this play emerges from the bond between the three elderly gents, as they banter, bicker, tease and plot together. They are not a harmonious trio and represent three very different wartime experiences. Tommy, sensitively portrayed by KBDG stalwart (30 years!) Mike Lacey, is eager, determined, unwell, and hopelessly naïve about his dream to return to Normandy. His co-conspirators did not see active wartime service. Edwin was an officer in the administrative pay corps and Alf was a "Bevin Boy", toiling in the Welsh coal mines.

Recent KBDG signing Mike Varnom brought great authenticity and understated humour to the pompous ex-officer Edwin with obsessive penchant for good order in the form of meticulous escape committee agendas and minutes.



The third member of the trio, Alf, is a simpler soul, and gave Richard Buss great opportunity for languid comic timing and looks of humorous incomprehension. Together the three worked really well, ricocheting the play's tone from comedy to pathos.

The fourth member of the cast - or should that be the 4th, 5th and 6th - is entrusted with three roles: Matron, then a Belgian customs officer and finally Yvette, the owner of the French house where Tommy's friend George was killed in 1944. The script calls for the same actress to play all three roles, thus enabling a running joke about how the Belgian and French women they encounter all remind the veterans of "Matron". In Tasha Padbury, the production

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deployed an actress of impressive versatility and charisma. Her matron was suitably scolding, her customs officer notably chilling and as Yvette, she offered a perfect French accent that stayed sufficiently remote from the girls of 'Allo 'Allo!

There were two standout scenes in the production, both in the second Act. First when the gents - definite temptation to refer to them disrespectfully as "codgers" - have a drinking session in Yvette's house, making ever grander and more ludicrous toasts. The camaraderie between them was beautifully evoked, the earlier barriers between the sole war combatant and his two non-combatant associates touchingly dissolved.

The final scene in the cleverly-imagined war cemetery was particularly poignant, as Tommy completed his first, and presumably final visit to the grave. The scene built powerfully to maximum poignancy as the names of actual local men from Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor village who died in the Second World War were read out and the evocative notes of the Last Post rang through the hall.



Back to Chair Emily's programme remarks - "sometimes you will see something that really does touch your heart or blow your mind". In that final few minutes, we absolutely did. Bravo and congratulations to the cast, director Laurence Brockliss and the whole redoubtable team at KBDG who always ensure their shows run so slickly. Once again, a privilege to be in your audience. **Adrian McGlynn, Banbury Cross Players**

A big thank you to everyone who came to April's production which was well received and reviewed.

Now we turn our thoughts to November. KBDG is excited to announce auditions for our upcoming pantomime Jack & The Beanstalk. Join the Fun! This November, Jack and his friends will be battling the Giant and his wicked wife to rescue Princess Rose, save the kingdom, and maybe even come down the beanstalk with a few golden eggs!

KBS House VE Day Display

I would like to say Thank you and well done to Virginia Grant and her family at Kingston Bagpuize house, for the display to celebrate VE Day, lighting the house up in red white and blue. A great effort! My family and I enjoyed it very much. And hope many others saw and appreciated it as we did. **Eddie Cox**



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



John Blandy Primary School

Year 6 Residential

At 7:50 am on Monday 28th April, Year six arrived at school excited for their residential, and the week ahead! Once on the coach, we set off to Kilvrough. Half way through the journey, we stopped at a service station to have our snack. When we arrived, we were greeted by one of our instructors who invited us to have lunch. After that, we split into our groups and did some teamwork activities.

The next day, everyone did bodyboarding as a group and enjoyed some time on the beach. On Wednesday, two groups did caving and one group did abseiling. Then on Thursday one group did caving and the other two did rock climbing and abseiling. Finally, on the last day all of us went on a beach walk and made sand sculptures.

We had an amazing time trying out lots of new experiences and the weather was amazing all week! Perfect for all of the activities on the coast!



Year 6 SATs

On Monday 12th May, Year six came in fully prepared to sit their SATs. We were given a wide variety of delicious breakfast items to choose from! Each morning before the papers arrived our teachers talked to us about reminders of things that we needed to remember, like reading the question carefully and writing our answers clearly! After that, we then had a quick break outside before coming in to do our assessments. We did assessments on grammar and spelling, reading, arithmetic and maths reasoning papers. The assessments went well as the teachers had prepared us so well and it felt no different to any of the other papers we had practised. At the end of it all, Year 6 got to celebrate with some fizzy drinks and ice cream from the Ice Cream Van!

Lily and Ria



Friends of John Blandy update

The Friends of John Blandy School (FOJB) are looking forward to hosting a stall at the upcoming village fete on 28th June—and we'd love for you to stop by! We're planning a fun and creative activity for the children: cupcake and cookie decorating in exchange for a donation to our charity. There will be other activities too so come along and see what we are up to. Everyone is welcome—whether you're young, young-at-heart, or just fancy a sweet treat, come and join in the fun.

All funds raised will help us support the school. We are currently fundraising towards taking the entire school to the theatre - a fantastic opportunity for every child to enjoy a live performance together.

We look forward to seeing you there!



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Kingston Bagpuize Village Art and Craft Club



Alternate Mondays at 9:30am • St. John the Baptist Church Hall

The beginning of May saw some members putting finishing touches to their glass painting while others carried on with their own projects. Dates for further projects have yet to be identified.

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 June 2nd 2025. We look forward to welcoming new members. **Jean Allsworth 07397530144**

Village Show



6th September (Saturday)

After the success of last year, we are holding another Village Show and are hoping this year's will be even better. We would encourage as many people as possible to enter so we have a colourful array of produce, flowers, art and crafts, cookery, and photographs. It is your entries that will make the show spectacular!

The schedule is available to download via the gardening club website www.skbgardeningclub.org.uk. Do have a look to see which classes you could enter and start planning now! If you have never entered a show before, do have a go. It is a village event; you don't have to be a gardening club member to enter, and it is good fun taking part. There is something for all the family so please encourage your children or grandchildren to take part and see if they can win a prize.

Put the date in your diary even if you are not planning on entering as there will be lots to see, tea and cakes on sale, a raffle and a tombola. More details to follow in next month's magazine. **Penny Meacham**

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VILLAGE HALL REPORT

The following is a digest of the report given at the AGM which took place in April, after the copy date for the May KBS News.

The last year has been one of consolidation, building on a lot of extensive works and improvements to the infrastructure that started in April 23. The internet hardware has been updated in the hall so there is now a MESH system ensuring that there is a strong resilient Wi-Fi signal throughout the hall which have also made improvements for the Tennis Club Wi-Fi as a consequence.

The Elkins Rooms and Parish Office have been redecorated and have new carpets, a consequence of the leak in the disabled toilet and flash flooding which overwhelmed the storm drains, after rain of biblical proportions in September. We are grateful to a grant from the Parish Council towards the costs of refurbishment, not covered by our insurance.

All of the hirers of the hall are now paying the same hire rates for the same hires and the charging for storage by various organisations has been reviewed and everyone is paying a comparable rate based on cubic volume.

Following the retirement of Alan Atkins as our general handyman, we have built up a strong portfolio of local tradespersons to undertake plumbing, electrical works, building works, plastering, carpentry and decorating. The Trustees were able to show their appreciation of Alan's many years of dedicated service with a small gift at Christmas.

We are grateful to Ian Ashby, of the Drama Group, who continues to maintain the chairs in the hall and has recently helped out with repairs to the hearing loop microphone and PA system.

Additional external safety lighting has been added to that renovated in 2023, and the car park lights have been upgraded to LEDs and damaged lights replaced.

We were without the services of Dawn Cox until June last year, but thankfully Dawn has been able to resume her full duties as our cleaner/caretaker having recovered from her not insignificant injuries.

Victoria Paleit has reluctantly continued in the role of secretary over the past year, and we have had numerous false starts in trying to replace her, as well as being unable to find a new bookings clerk. We thank Victoria for her many years of service. However, we were delighted to welcome Will Rippin who came forward in response to our March 25 KBS News article to volunteer to take on the secretarial role and, ultimately, he will assume the Booking Clerk role as part of a gradual transition in the coming months.

Elizabeth, as our treasurer, has ensured that we are on a much sounder financial footing, but we have had to spend more of our reserves in order to fund the improvements, most necessitated following a Health and Safety Audit. The invoicing for all the hall usage has been streamlined and she is the epitome of efficiency. The amount of work that she carries out is immense. We have the reassurance as Trustees that we now have robust accounts and systems in place that have had the appropriate scrutiny and ratification by an appropriately qualified examiner.

Bookings both from casual and regular users have increased. Autumn and winter exercise classes have become a regular calendar fixture; Table Tennis has increased the length of its Tuesday sessions; Tots Tennis, Fitsteps and Dojang Martial Arts all started regular hires in April. Badminton has added some extra sessions to try and accommodate beginners.

Our commercial hires have increased, as has usage by local and county-based charities for committee meetings and special events.

I am very grateful to each and every one of the trustees for their hard work and support, particularly for enduring some very long committee meetings and listening to me droning on for hour after hour. They all help to keep me grounded. They aren't afraid to speak up and their wise counsel is invaluable.

As for the future: we have plans to explore solar energy generation and battery storage and be a site for EV charging, but our priority after the flooding last Autumn will be around storm drainage and the soakaway close to the tennis courts, where we have developed our own sinkhole. We are desperate to upgrade the main toilets to something more modern. All will need grant applications and fundraising as these are very expensive capital projects and we don't have enough reserves at present to progress large capital projects.

The Parish Council has given us a grant towards the cost of purchasing a short throw Laser projector

which will make us a more appealing venue as a location for corporate training days and of benefit for regular society users. They have also given us a grant towards some replacement tables for the main hall which have been identified as being unsafe.

We would still encourage new committee members from within the village, not necessarily from user groups, to come forward and to become trustees. Our constitution does allow for two further individuals to join us. As yet, the Parish Council has not identified a councillor to become a Trustee following the resignation of Steve Smith.

My final thanks go to all the many hirers and users of the village hall. I thank you for your continued patronage. Without you we couldn't continue as, unlike the majority of village halls in the country, we stand alone as an independent charity and survive largely on the income we are able to generate from hires and rents. **Neil Oastler, Chair, Managing Trustees**

Report from Cllr Lee Evans



I'm delighted to be writing for KBS News as the new County Councillor for the Kingston & Stanford division.

I wanted to begin by thanking everyone who took part in the County Council elections on 1st May. The result of the election in our area was:

Lee EVANS (Conservative) - 1,166 (39.4%)
Hannah GRIFFIN (Lib Dem) - 939 (31.7%)
John RANSON (Reform UK) - 570 (19.3%)
Matthew CARPENTER (Green) - 155 (5.2%)
Charlotte Anne ROSE (Labour) - 129 (4.4%)

For me, it's a great honour to have been elected and I'm looking forward to working for the villages that make up the Kingston & Stanford division, including Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor.

I also wanted to record my thanks to the other candidates who put themselves forward in this election. Democracy wouldn't work without different people and parties setting out their competing visions for the local area, and I'm grateful to them all for having put their head above the parapet.

Beyond Kingston & Stanford, residents may be interested to know that Oxfordshire County Council went from being a Liberal Democrat led Council (with no overall majority) to being a Liberal Democrat majority Council. Making up the opposition are 12 Labour Councillors, 10 Conservatives and 7 Greens, along with several single member parties and independents.

On the Council, I will therefore serve as an opposition Councillor and my focus will be very much on getting things done for our area, standing up for the interests of our community in County Hall, and holding the ruling administration to account to try and ensure the best local government possible in Oxfordshire.

One of my top priorities is to improve the condition of our roads and to make junctions safer, including here in KBS. I know many people have safety concerns about access to/from the A420 at both ends of the village. The Charney Road junction is a particular concern, but so is the speed of traffic entering the village along the Witney Road. I have already raised these issues with the Council and would keenly welcome the views of local residents and Parish Councillors about what you would like to see happen to make these roads safer.

More broadly, as your Councillor I will speak out on the issues local people have raised with me in recent months, including the challenges of over-development in the area and the need for the County Council to deliver better support for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

If you have a local issue you would like to raise, I'd be glad to hear from you. You can contact me on lee.evans@oxfordshire.gov.uk and I'll do what I can to help. You can also keep up to date on what I'm doing by following my **Facebook page: facebook.com/LeeEvansOxfordshire**. Thank you. **Newly elected Councillor Lee Evans at County Hall.**



Recycle Your KBS News

We would like to assure all our readers that the paper used to print the KBS News is 100% recyclable. We know that some residents keep copies for months, and even years, but for those that don't the green bin is the place when you've read it and finished using it as your reference document for the month.



KBS Nature

So, who was the mystery reader of KBS Nature Notes? None other than BBC Springwatch presenter Iolo Williams!

Iolo was one of the guides for Nature Scotland when Mr C and I set a trend by visiting the Isle of Mull. As it was good enough for us, the Duke and Duchess of Rothesay decided to give it a go a couple of weeks later...

The weather was absolutely glorious, the scenery spectacular and the wildlife abundant on our 5-day guided tour. I can thoroughly recommend Nature Scotland (<https://www.naturescotland.com/>), Ewan and his team, Theo and Klay, were extremely knowledgeable and friendly. How they can drive on the twisting, narrow roads and still spot an eagle soaring over a distant hill is quite amazing. And Iolo was delightful, engaging with everyone and particularly encouraging to the younger wildlife enthusiasts.

On our first trip we spotted Green Tiger Beetles – boy can they move! Then we were treated to short eared owls and a sky dancing Hen Harrier. Not bad – and the cakes provided were excellent!

Day 2 took us south and we were delighted to see my “bucket list” raptor – a White Tailed Eagle. Magnificent! There was an abundance of birds including Great Northern Divers making their eerie call. We then had a wonderful display of 4 eagles (I have been informed there were 3 WT and 1 Golden) and a raven soaring above the mountains all in the field of my binoculars. The lunchtime soup was delicious.

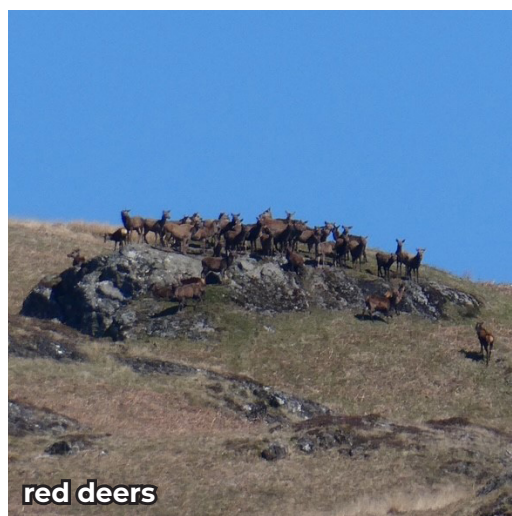
The following days brought us many of our recognisable garden birds plus, new to me, Redpoll and Siskin. Coastal spots included Curlew, Oystercatcher and Eider ducks – which elicited a OOOOooo from me (and an “I see what you did there” from guide Theo). My favourite bird of the trip had to be the Ringed Plover – a delightful little bird and so easy to miss camouflaged against the pebbles.

Other highlights included a herd of red deer all attempting to stand on the same rock. I felt they would make a good addition to the Aardman Animations portfolio all jockeying for the best position to spy on us (thank you to fellow tour guest Evelyn Turnbull for the photo). More sky dancing Hen Harriers, more otters and my top spot of the tour – just call me the Osprey Whisperer! (Ok so I thought it was a Buzzard to start with – we all make mistakes). I didn't manage to spot the porpoises or the Minke whale but maybe on the next visit.

Next time: KBS Nature Notes on its travels again... In the meantime, please do send me your observations, photos etc. on anything from the natural world that may be of interest to our readers at kbsnature2025@gmail.com **Best wishes. Linda**



Iolo Williams



red deers

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Magnus Macfarlane

Alice

Alice is real! Did you know that the Alice of Alice in Wonderland was a real person? Alice Liddell was the daughter of the Dean of Christ Church. Together with her two sisters Edith and Lorinda, they would go on picnics upriver, rowing from Folly Bridge to Godstow. They would be accompanied by Charles Lutwidge Dodgson whose name when translated into Latin, rearranged and translated back becomes Lewis Carroll. He was a lecturer of mathematics at Christ Church and part-time librarian. The girls asked Charles to tell them a story, and so began Alice's Adventures Underground which was published as "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland".

Alice day is the 5th of July this year. The theme for 2025 is Quests and Adventures. Heritage, cultural and retail partners across Oxford will offer a programme of storytelling, trails, games, crafts, talks and tours, mostly free and suitable for all ages. The full schedule is released on 1st June. I have wonderful memories in years past of seeing some of the 150 people dressed up as Alice. For now, look online to see what happened last year.

Where else can you see Alice connections today? Well, let's start with the Alice restaurant in the Randolph Hotel. There is a grotesque of a Dodo in the Sheldonian quad on the corner facing north: a real Dodo in the Natural History Museum. The Botanic Gardens will remind you of places and plants; the Alice shop, which was a greengrocer where Alice used to buy sweets; and Christ Church Meadows Walk. But, significantly, if you go into Christ Church



Christ Church Library

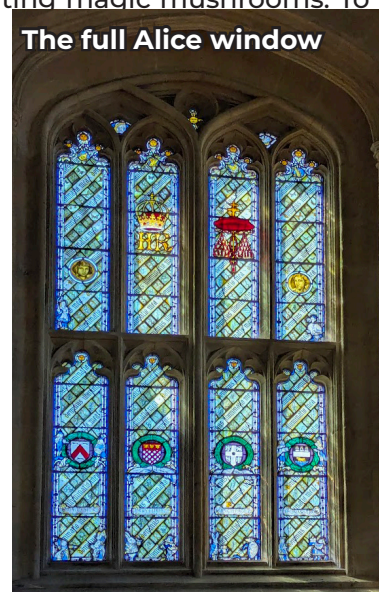
dining hall there is a dedicated Alice window. The fire dogs have long stretched necks, like Alice after eating magic mushrooms. To the left of the platform of High Table is the door to the senior common room. Dean Liddell himself would often be late for dinner, arriving wearing a white cassock and rushing from the door to his seat saying "I'm late I'm late!" Remind you of anyone? There is even a picture of Charles Dodgson himself.

Look out for the next exhibition in Christ Church Library (a treat in itself) of the recently gifted lifetime collection of Jon A Lindseth, who donated a magnificent collection of manuscripts, rare editions and photographs which

explores Carroll's life and work and his enduring impact and legacy. I saw the most recent exhibition. There is even a copy of Alice translated into Klingon – yes, the language of warriors in Star Trek!



Christ Church Library Collection



The full Alice window



Pictures around the Village by Tania Delohery Duffy

St John the Baptist Church

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Craft stalls

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Pimm's

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