

# 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](http://www.kbsonline.org.uk)

Volume 52

Number 2

March 2025

### Willowfields Energy Park

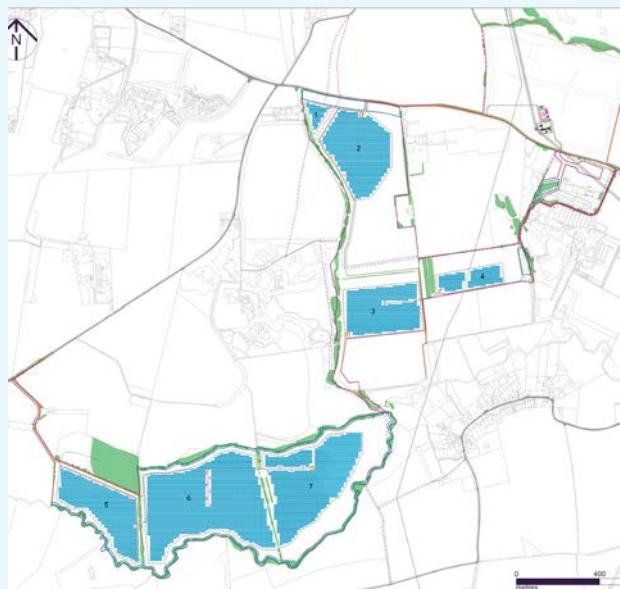
In the November KBS News we included a report of a proposed Solar Panel Farm to be installed in an area covering some of the fields to the rear of Millets Farm Centre going down to the River Ock.

This proposal has now been submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council (VOWHDC) seeking planning permission for the construction and operation of a renewable energy park comprising ground mounted solar photovoltaics (PV) together with associated infrastructure, including inverters, transformers, substation, security cameras, fencing, access, landscaping and cabling.

Below is a plan of the site. Full information regarding the application is available from the VOWHDC website at

<https://data.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P24/V2698/FUL>

At this site you will be able to express your support or concern but you must do this by **7th March 2025**.



**International Women's Day on March 8th each year celebrates the social, economic, and political achievements of women around the world.**

International Women's Day origins can be traced back to the early 1900s when women became more politically active. They took an invested and vocal role in steering their course toward voting rights, fair pay, improved working conditions, and representation under the law.

### March 6th - World Book Day UK

On the first Thursday of March each year, World Book Day in the United Kingdom and Ireland pursues placing a book in every child and young adult's hand.



Hidden somewhere inside the News is a picture of a book. Can you find it?

### INSIDE THIS MONTH

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## KBS News Team

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**Copy date for next  
issue: before 4.00pm  
Sunday 16th March for  
the April edition**

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

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**All Non advertising copy** must be sent to the Editorial Team at [editorkbsnews@gmail.com](mailto: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.

March 2025 Bin Collections				
MAR	Wed	5 <sup>th</sup>	**** Food Bin / Grey Bin & Small Electrical Items ****	
	Wed	12 <sup>th</sup>	** Food Bin / Green Bin / Brown Bin + Textiles & Batteries in a separate bag on top of the Bin **	
	Wed	19 <sup>th</sup>	**** Food Bin / Grey Bin & Small Electrical Items ****	
	Wed	26 <sup>th</sup>	** Food Bin / Green Bin / Brown Bin + Textiles & Batteries in a separate bag on top of the Bin **	



## USEFUL CONTACTS

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

GP SURGERIES		A & E HOSPITALS	MINOR INJURY HOSPITALS	
<b>The White Horse Medical Practice</b> Faringdon SN7 7YU 01367 242388  <b>District Nurse / Health visitor</b> 01367 240087	<b>Marcham Road Family Health centre</b> Abingdon, OX14 1BT 01235 522 602	<b>Great Western Hospital</b> Swindon 01793 604020  <b>John Radcliffe Hospital</b> Oxford 01865 741166	<b>Abingdon Hospital</b> Marcham Rd, Abingdon OX14 1AG 01865 904346	<b>Witney Hospital</b> Welch Way, Witney, OX28 6JJ 01865 903841
<b>Chemists</b> Faringdon Pharmacy 01367 244632  Wootton Pharmacy 01865 736136	<b>District Council</b> Vale of White Horse 01235 422422  Emergency Helpline 01235 422420	<b>VETS</b>		<b>POLICE</b>
		<b>Elms Veterinary</b> 30 Gloucester St Faringdon, SN7 7HY 01367 242416	<b>Abivale Veterinary</b> The Vineyard, Abingdon, OX14 3NR 01235 524777	<b>Non Emergency</b> Call 101 <b>Crimestoppers</b> 24hr 0800 783 0137
<b>24hr Gas Emergency</b> 0800 111 999		<b>24hr Electricity Emergencies</b> Call 105	<b>24hr Thames Water Emergency</b> 00800 316 9800	
<b>Citizens Advice</b> <a href="http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk">www.citizensadvice.org.uk</a> , 0300 330 9042			<b>Mind</b> <a href="http://www.mind.org.uk">www.mind.org.uk</a> , 0800 169665	
<b>Samaritans</b> - <a href="http://www.samaritans.org">www.samaritans.org</a> , 1116 123			<b>Childline</b> <a href="http://www.childline.org.uk">www.childline.org.uk</a> , 0800 1111	
<b>The Cedar Community Club</b> - where older people meet with friends old and new 01865 686472				
<b>Community Issues</b> - contact District Councillor <b>Jill Rayner</b> at <a href="mailto:jillrayner@whitehorsedc.gov.uk">jillrayner@whitehorsedc.gov.uk</a>				

# Village Diary

Village Hall Booking Details - email: [southmoorvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:southmoorvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk)

Day/ Date		Time	What & Where (KBSVH = Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Village Hall)	Page
MARCH				
St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kingston Bagpuize Services. – See full details on the Church Pages				5
Throughout March		Fir Tree Close Playground closed. See information at the playground		
During March		Neighbourhood Development Plan. A meeting at the Village Hall for all parish residents to hear how the plan is progressing and ask questions. Date to be advised		
Saturday	1 <sup>st</sup>	11.00am	Millennium Green Ecology Tour – Find out about the amazing nature in our village	28
Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	12.30pm	Village Lunch Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Village Hall	
Monday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.30pm	Parish Council Monthly Meeting – Swallow Room, KBSVH	10
Tuesday	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.15pm	Southmoor & Kingston Bagpuize Gardening Club, Andrew Mikolajski, author of 'Grow your own Pet Plants' KBSVH	13
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Village Litter Pick – Meet at St John the Baptist Church	18
Monday	10 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Kingston Bagpuize Village Art & Craft Club. St John the Baptist Church Hall	19
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Apple Blossom Women's Institute Annual Meeting KBSVH	23
Thursday	13 <sup>th</sup>	9.00am	KBS Café - Come and hear the "Men's Choir" KBSVH	7
Friday	14 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	KBS Film and Music Night. 'What We Did On Our Holiday' St Johns Church	14
Sunday	16 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Last Date / Time for copy to KBS News for the April edition	2
Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Longworth Hist Soc. Paul Whitton "King Henry's Doctor in Hinton Waldrist". KBSVH	22
Thursday	27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Village Walk and Talk starting at Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Village Hall	7
APRIL				
Early April		Weather permitting, allowing work to complete - Fir Tree Close Playground reopening		
Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	7.15pm	Southmoor & Kingston Bagpuize Gardening Club, Bob Brown, 'So many plants, so little space' KBSVH	13
Saturday	5 <sup>th</sup>	6.45pm	Riding for the Disabled Bingo Night - Riding Centre, Hanney Road, Southmoor	28
Tuesday	8 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Apple Blossom Women's Institute 'Lorraine Chapman from Sparkling Wellbeing' KBSVH	23
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> - Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup>		Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group– Le Grand Return a comedy / Drama by Alan Stockdill		
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	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 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7.30pm & when it occurs 5 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday 7.30pm (see Church Hall for other days)		At Millennium Green Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize	
			Junior Park Run Sunday 9.00am	
			At Jubilee Sports Field, Edward Strauss Park	
KBS Cafe	Thursdays 9.00am - 12 noon		Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club Junior Training Friday 6 – 8pm	
KBS Gardening Club	1st Tuesday monthly 7.15pm for 7.30pm		In St John the Baptist Church Hall	
KBS Pilates	Thursdays 1.30 – 2.30pm See KBS News Ad		KB Drama Group	1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the month at 7:30pm (see Village Hall for other days)
KB & S Tennis Club	Tuesday 9 - 11am Men's Open Wednesday 6.30-8.30pm Ladies Open		KBS Art and Craft Friendship Club	Alternate Mondays 9.30am - 12.00 noon
Longworth & District History Society	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday every month at 7.00pm		Village Voices	Men - Alternate Mondays 9.30am Ladies – Alternate Tuesdays 9.30am
Southmoor Baby & Toddlers	Friday (Term Time Only) 10.00 -11.30am		In Longworth Village Hall info at <a href="http://longworthvillage.org.uk">longworthvillage.org.uk</a>	
Table Tennis (Over 55's) Currently No Vacancies	Tuesday 11am – 12 noon For Info email: <a href="mailto:bobsouthmoor@hotmail.com">bobsouthmoor@hotmail.com</a>		IYENGAR Yoga class (Term Time Only)	Monday 7.00pm – 8.30pm Tuesday 11.45am – 1.15pm
Yoga Classes	Tuesday 6.00pm - 7.00pm (intermediate) Wednesday 10.30am - 11.15am (seniors) Thursday 6.00pm - 7.00pm (beginners)		KARATE	Little Ninjas (3-5yrs) at 4pm - 4.30pm Kids Class (6-12yrs) 4.35pm - 5.25pm Mixed Class (6yrs+) 5.30pm - 6.30pm
Village Walk	Last Thursday every month 10.00am (Not Dec)		PILATES	Tuesday 9.15am & 5.45pm Thursday 9.15am & 6.30pm
In Hinton Waldrist Village Hall		Cedar Community Club	ZUMBA Thursday 10.30am	
			Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30 - 3:00pm	



## Village Summer Fête



**Saturday 28th June 1.00pm – 4.00pm**



The snowdrops are out, spring is coming and sunny, summer days won't be far behind. Many of you will remember the Village Fête last year when the sun shone, the band played, there were more stalls than ever and you may have relaxed with a Pimms or a cup of tea on the lawn while chatting to friends.

The Village Fête will be held once again in the beautiful grounds of Kingston Bagpuize House, by kind permission of Mrs Virginia Grant. The date to put in your diary is Saturday 28th June and the time is 1 – 4pm. It is always such a lovely afternoon, organised by St John the Baptist Church, where the whole village can come together and socialise.

All village organisations should have received a letter inviting you to have a table on the day. If you haven't received yours, then please let me know. Some of you have verbally told me you are coming but I haven't received the form so this is a gentle reminder! Tables will be ordered soon so we need to know definite numbers.

If any other villagers would like to join us on the day to sell items for charity, to sell your own goods or advertise your business, then please let me know and I will send you details.

Many thanks

Margo Evans

01865 820900 or [KBSFete@hotmail.com](mailto:KBSFete@hotmail.com)

(on behalf of the Fete committee)



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[stjb.churchinsight.com](http://stjb.churchinsight.com)

### SERVICES IN MARCH AT ST JOHN THE BAPTIST



<b>Sunday 2nd</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Holy Communion
	<b>10.30am</b>	Morning Worship
		Children's Church in Church Room
	<b>6.00pm</b>	Prayer and Praise in the Church Room
<b>Wednesday 5th</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion
<b>Sunday 9th</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Holy Communion
	<b>10.30am</b>	All-Age Worship
<b>Sunday 16th</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Holy Communion
	<b>10.30am</b>	Morning Worship
<b>Sunday 23rd</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Holy Communion
	<b>10.30am</b>	Village Communion
<b>Sunday 30th</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Holy Communion
	<b>10.30am</b>	Café Church in the Village Hall



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

### March 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

**Sunday 30th Café Church** 10.30am in the Village Hall with croissants, bacon baps, coffee and good company

**Come and See Lent Course** at the vicarage (1 Oxford Road OX13 5FZ) on Monday evenings at 7.30pm. 6 week course beginning on 10th March, suitable for anyone who wants to explore or deepen their Christian faith. Refreshments provided. (Note no meeting on Monday 24th March – moved to Tuesday 25th March instead). Please contact Rev Catherine on [vicar.kbs@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.kbs@gmail.com) or 07865 827679.

### 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 Rev Catherine email [vicar.kbs@gmail.com](mailto:vicar.kbs@gmail.com) or 07865 827679

#### FYFIELD BAPTIST CHAPEL

**Morning Service & Sunday School**  
**Sunday 11.00 am**

Communion monthly 2nd Sundays  
location: (south side of main village)  
Digging Lane, Fyfield OX13 5LY  
more information:

[www.fyfieldchapel.org.uk](http://www.fyfieldchapel.org.uk)  
[info@fyfieldchapel.org.uk](mailto:info@fyfieldchapel.org.uk)  
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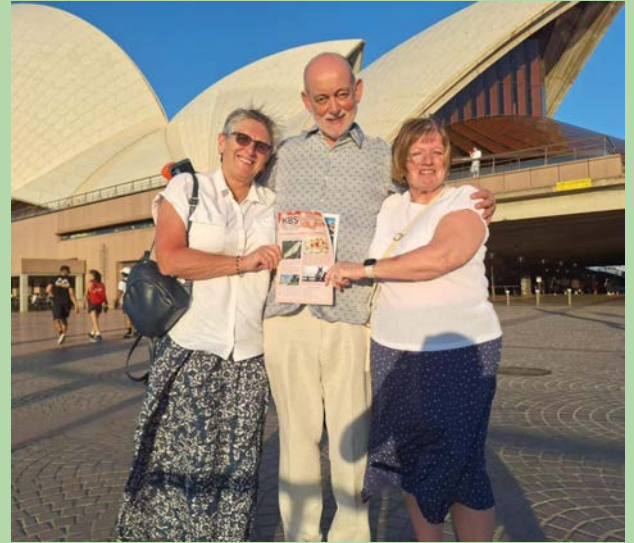
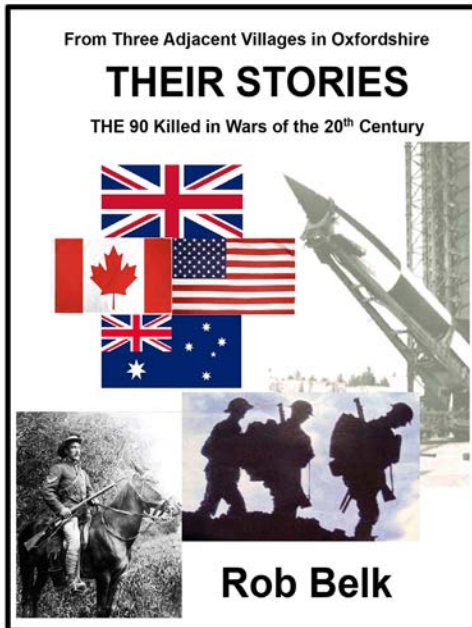
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## VILLAGE VOICES

Send your views to [editorkbsnews@gmail.com](mailto:editorkbsnews@gmail.com)

The new book that tells the stories of the 90 people killed in wars of the 20th century from, on or in Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor, Longworth and Hinton Waldrist is available from Amazon or CAN NOW BE VIEWED AND PURCHASED AT 'THE BOOKSTORE' IN BURY STREET SHOPPING CENTRE, ABINGDON



Linda Proto and Pete and Karen Osman at the Sydney Opera house about to go and see La traviata accompanied by a copy of the KBS News!



Send your photos from all corners of the World or an interesting location to [editorkbsnews@gmail.com](mailto:editorkbsnews@gmail.com)



Pictures around the Village by Tania Delohery Duffy





## KBS Café



**Every Thursday 9am to 12pm**

• **Southmoor Village Hall**

• **Thursday 13th March the "Men's Choir" are coming to sing at the Café**

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**



## Village Walk and Talk



**Thursday 27th March 10.00am from the Village Hall**

The first Walk and Talk of the new year took place on a fine sunny morning on Thursday the 30th January. The walkers assembled to start their walk from the Village Hall at 10am, and headed the short distance to the junction with Hanney Road, where they proceeded with care to the junction with Town Pond Lane, pausing for a short while to view a gathering of ducks on the "town pond" before continuing to join Stonehill Lane. From there, using the footpath crossing the field at Blenheim farm, they arrived at Norwood Avenue.

The walk continued heading towards Rimes Lane where all the walkers stopped to admire the many Snowdrops in full bloom in the burial ground next to the Parish Church. From the roundabout junction with A415, the walkers were safely escorted across the busy main Faringdon Road and entered School Lane, then crossing the recreation ground, pausing at Fir Tree Close to observe the beginning of the work ready to provide a new multiplay centre, shortly to be opened by the Parish Council. The walkers continued via Greenheart Way and Blandy Avenue to arrive back at the Village Hall KBS Café and a well-earned coffee and cake.

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## DANCE FOR LIFE



**Huge thanks to everyone who supported this event on 1st February** by helping out, performing, donating raffle prizes (Aquarius Hair, Roxy's Remedial Massage, Kingsmoor Clinic, Midcounties Co-op, One Stop, Windrush Soft Furnishings and numerous friends and performers) or coming along to watch.

Over 40 dancers from a number of different troupes, along with some live musicians, entertained a packed village hall with a range of different styles of belly dancing and circle dancing.

A fabulous evening was had both by the performers and the audience and the event raised the jaw-dropping sum of £2090.54 in aid of Cancer Research UK. This is double my original target, so I am over the moon and very grateful for the enthusiastic response and the generosity shown. The money will be directed to the Churchill Hospital to enable them to continue the vital work they do.

*Sharon Cooper*

*Editor's note:  
'Well done,  
Sharon, an  
amazing total!'*



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**CONTACT STEVE**

**01865 331501**

**Mobile 07894 983 801**

Email

**cotswolds@greensleeves-uk.com**



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

### **The Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Parish Council met on February 3rd to discuss important local matters.**

- District Councillor Jill Rayner provided updates on ongoing initiatives, including discussions on devolution affecting Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and Berkshire. A new permit scheme for garden bins will be introduced in April, and residents were encouraged to apply for free gym membership through the Better Leisure sports foundation before the February 20th deadline. The District Council also reviewed feedback on the local nature recovery strategy, which received strong community engagement.
- One of the major topics was the proposed Willowfields Energy Park, a renewable energy project currently under review. The Council decided to defer its decision to allow further research and discussion at the next meeting.
- Parish Councillors approved a switch to a government-backed website and email domain to enhance transparency and professionalism.
- Plans for improved recreational facilities were also advanced, including the purchase of new goalposts for the local playing field, supported by recommendations from Kingston Colts.
- Efforts to enhance road safety and traffic management were reviewed following a feasibility study on potential calming measures for Witney Road and Springhill. Recommendations include physical traffic control features rather than electronic warnings. Funding opportunities, including grants from the Police & Crime Commissioner's fund, will be explored to support these measures.

Residents are reminded that the next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for March 3rd, and all residents are welcome to attend.

### **Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)**

Summary of the meeting on February 11th. Full details of minutes can be viewed online at <https://kbsparishcouncil.org.uk/document-category/minutes>

The meeting of the NDP Steering group was held at the tearoom in Kingston Bagpuize House to advance the planning process.

Key updates were confirmation that the NDP grant application has been successful with funds now available for instructing a copywriter to start preparing the first draft of the plan and the consultancy MJA to advise Transport, business opportunities, infrastructure and flood risk.

Vision for the Parish of Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor

"A thriving, connected, and sustainable rural community that cherishes its heritage, fosters inclusivity, and empowers residents to live, work, and grow in harmony with their surroundings"

Key Pillars:

- Community First: A welcoming, supportive parish where all generations connect through shared events, volunteerism, and accessible spaces.
- Green Future: Leading in climate action with renewable energy, wildlife conservation, and waste reduction to protect our countryside.
- Local Prosperity: Boosting rural enterprise, to strengthen the economy and celebrate local talent.
- Heritage Alive: Preserving historic landmarks and traditions while educating future generations about our unique cultural identity.

Next Meeting of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering group will take place in mid March. The Steering Group wants to give all parish residents the opportunity to come and hear how the NDP is progressing and ask questions. The date will be confirmed and posted on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.



## John Blandy Primary School

We have had an incredibly busy, yet fun term with so much learning happening across the school. Our Reception children started 'Drawing Club' this term and it has resulted in the children producing some fabulous writing as they create their secret codes using their phonics knowledge!



Meanwhile, our Year 1/2 children have been creating wonderful Rangoli patterns in art, having experimented with lots of different media; their final designs were printed and looked amazing!



This coming term, Leigh Hodgkinson will also be paying our Year 1/2 children a visit. The author will be reading them her book, Goldilocks and Just the One Bear, an alternative fairytale as part of their English this term.

This term our Year 3/4 children have been learning about the Greeks in History and in English. The topic came to a wonderful conclusion with a Greek Day. The children all arrived at school dressed in Greek costumes (including the teachers) and they all looked fabulous! The day was spent making their own version of Greek salads (which went down very well!), creating Greek head-dresses and then finding themselves trying to escape from a labyrinth!



### And now from our Community Councillors, Lily and Ria:

In Year 5 and 6 we have been learning about China. In our History, we have been learning about the Shang Dynasty and in our artwork, we have designed our own Willow Patterns. On Wednesday the 12th of February, Year 6 held our China day. All of the Year 6s were allowed to come into school with at least one item of clothing in red, yellow or green because these colours are believed to be the luckiest.



We started off by recapping some things about the Chinese new year. Then we learnt how to count in Mandarin and say Happy New Year. After that, we did some art and made some cards with Chinese characters on them. Then we learnt how to use chopsticks and played some games with sweets. The games were fun but the best part was eating the sweets!

After that, we did some cooking. We broke off into groups and made either spring rolls or dumplings. Although not everyone liked the taste, the journey to the end was exciting.

The Year 5 classes also had their China Day following ours before the end of term. Overall, the experience was amazing and we would definitely do it again.



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## KBS Nature

**Well, the UK has certainly had some weather over the winter but that hasn't deterred me from enjoying what nature has to offer.** At the end of 2024, the Unofficial Friday Walking

Club had a trip to Wytham Woods (permits are required) on a beautiful cold and crisp morning. The hoar frost made the whole place magical, and certainly provided some post-Christmas cheer. There was not a lot of wildlife on offer (hunkered down against the cold no doubt), but we were entertained by several robins en route and delighted to see a mass of redwings in the trees. These winter visitors are members of the thrush family and are distinguishable by the red blushing under their wings.

Talking of birds, the weekend of 24-26 January 2025 was the annual RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. Myself and hubby dutifully sat down at 1.25pm on the Saturday for the one hour of counting, binoculars and obligatory mug of tea at the ready ... and, of course, all the birds immediately vanished! Undeterred, we patiently waited and were eventually rewarded with a greater variety of birds than in 2024, but sadly lower numbers. When we first moved to the village over 20 years ago, we couldn't count the number of sparrows as they were so prevalent. This year, we were pleased to see four together.

So, here is a table of what we did see.

Did anyone see any other species or note anything different in the numbers observed? I would be interested to hear! By the way, the mystery visitor from a previous BGB I posted in last month's edition was a waxwing. There were 5 of them that paid a visit to a bush in the garden loaded with yellow berries. That's the only time I have seen them and it was a real treat.

A few days after this year's BGB, I looked out of the window and typically the feeders were teeming with birds, more than you can shake a stick at until ... BOSH!!! The young male sparrowhawk swooped in to spoil the party (I've named him Flashheart after the Rik Mayall character in Blackadder). It was a close call, but no casualties, and Flashheart swept around disappearing up the garden like a typhoon jet. He came back round for a second look but no joy for him so he just sat nonchalantly on the bird feeder whilst all the other birds kept their heads down. Nothing to see here. Move along.

In next month's edition: A trip to Greenham Common and also why a simple walk from a bus stop can bring a little bit of cheer.

**In the meantime, don't forget to send me any photos, drawings or thoughts on anything from the natural world that may be of interest to our readers at [kbsnature2025@gmail.com](mailto:kbsnature2025@gmail.com)**

*Best Wishes, Linda Collins*

Bird Type	Max number
Robin	2
Dunnoek	2
Great Tit	2
Blue Tit	3
Blackbird	1
Collared Dove	1
Coal Tit	3
House Sparrow	4
Wood Pigeon	1
Long Tailed Tit	2
Greenfinch	1

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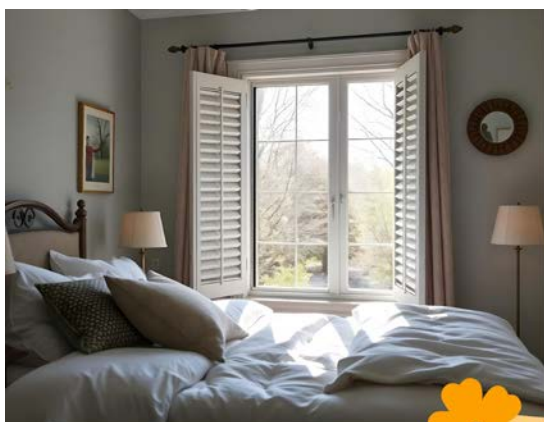
**7.15pm Tuesday 4th March  
Southmoor Village Hall**

Not only are house plants currently bang on trend, they also make great pets! They're quiet, decorative, house-trained and (mostly) low-maintenance. If you'd like to learn more about which plant to take home and how to help your leafy friend thrive, why not join us for our next talk on **Tuesday 4th March?** **Andrew Mikolajski, author of 'Grow your own Pet Plants'**, will provide us with helpful tips for choosing and caring for a plant which will suit your home and lifestyle in his talk entitled 'Plants as Pets'. Andrew is an experienced speaker and his talk will be suitable for all levels, so we look forward to an informative and entertaining evening. He may have copies of his book for sale so bring some cash.

Our April talk is right at the start of the month on **1st April when Bob Brown will join us with a talk called 'So many plants, so little space!'** The focus will be back on outdoor plants and a problem that many of us will be familiar with. Just how do you choose what to grow when there are so many exciting possibilities? Bob, owner of Cotswolds Garden Flowers near Evesham, will help us learn how to avoid wasting our money on impulse buys and, instead, choose plants that will earn their keep. There's a rumour that there may be some plants for sale, so bring your wallet... or perhaps not!

We'll be having a seed swap at the next two or three meetings so, if you have something left from last year that you're unlikely to use or if you have seeds from your own plants that you'd like to donate, please bring them along. Our talks take place at Southmoor Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. There's usually a raffle and tea, coffee and biscuits are served after the talk. Entry is free for members (£15 for 2025) and £4 for visitors.

For more information, see our website or email us at **skbgardeningclub.org.uk** **Sharon Cooper (Chair)**



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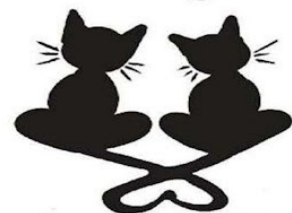


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## KBS Film and Music Night



14th March (Friday) at 7pm • Church Room • 'What We Did On Our Holiday'

Our Next Film Night will be on Friday 14th March in the Church Room when we will be showing, What We Did On Our Holiday.

This is a comedy starring David Tennant and Rosamund Pike as Doug and Abi, the troubled parents of three boisterous children.

They are heading up to Scotland for the 75th birthday of Doug's unwell dad, Gordy (Billy Connolly), which means staying with Doug's uptight brother, Gavin (Ben Miller) and his depressed wife, Margaret (Amelia Bullmore). It soon becomes clear that when it comes to keeping secrets under wraps, the children are the family's biggest liability!

These are free evenings organised by members of St John the Baptist Church and tea, coffee, chocolates and popcorn will be provided from 7.00pm 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.

**Peter Beer 01865 820805 or Margo Evans 01865 820900**  
**or [margo.evans@mac.com](mailto:margo.evans@mac.com)**



## Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group

The group has been busy reading plays and pantomimes for April and November respectively. We were delighted to have the entire year planned before the end of January.

November's production will be a return to panto – *Oh yes it will!* Dates for diaries are Thursday 27th November to Saturday 29th November inclusive. This year we will be performing Jack and the Beanstalk, and we will have open auditions in June. Our panto is usually a year in the planning, sets are already being designed and heads scratched regarding how to create a beanstalk and a giant. More on 'Jack' later in the year.

Our next production is a comedy / drama, **Le Grand Return by Alan Stockdill**. Tickets will be on sale soon and dates for diaries are **Thursday 24th April to Saturday 26th April**.

### Synopsis

It's 1994 and the 50th anniversary of D-Day looms. Tommy, Alf and Edwin are incarcerated in Coldrick Nursing Home and, despite his ever-worsening heart condition, D-Day veteran Tommy is determined to break out and rejoin his old comrades on the Normandy beaches. But how will he and his pals escape and what will happen along the way? More to the point, what will happen if they get there?

Inspired by a true story, this charming, gentle comedy about fun, friendship, bravery, remembrance, war and peace will make you laugh and cry in equal measure.

Le Grand Return has delighted audiences all across the UK since it was first performed in 2015, amongst other accolades the play won 'Best New Writing' award at the 2015 Greater Manchester Fringe.

Please follow us on Facebook for more updates regarding April's production and a link to purchase tickets.



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## Recipe of the month

### Healthy sweet and sour chicken

[www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/sweet\\_and\\_sour\\_chicken\\_52908](http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/sweet_and_sour_chicken_52908)

This is exactly like your favourite sweet and sour from the local down the road, but with fewer calories. Proves that a diet doesn't have to be all about denial. This meal without rice provides 288 kcal, 20g protein, 38g carbohydrate (of which 29g sugars), 7g fat (of which 1g saturates), 3g fibre and 0.1g salt per portion.

#### Ingredients (Serves 4)

- 1 x 425g/15oz can pineapple chunks in natural juice
- 2 tbsp cornflour
- 2 tbsp dark soy sauce
- 2 tbsp white wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp tomato ketchup
- 2 tbsp soft light brown sugar
- 2 tbsp sunflower oil
- ½ tsp dried chilli flakes
- 1 x 225g/8oz can water chestnuts
- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 medium onion, cut into 12 wedges
- 2 peppers, red, green, orange or yellow, deseeded and cut into chunks of about 3cm/1¼in
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
- 25g/1oz piece fresh root ginger, peeled and finely grated
- freshly ground black pepper

#### Preparation – less than 30 mins

1. To make the sauce, drain the pineapple in a sieve over a bowl and keep all the juice – you should have about 150ml/5fl oz. Put the cornflour in a large bowl and stir in three tablespoons of the pineapple juice to make a smooth paste. Add the remaining juice and 150ml/5fl oz water, then stir in the soy sauce, vinegar, sugar, ketchup and chilli flakes until thoroughly combined. Set aside.
2. Cut each chicken breast into eight or nine even pieces. Heat a tablespoon of the oil in a large non-stick frying pan or wok and stir-fry the onion and peppers for two minutes over a high heat. Drain the water chestnuts and cut them in half horizontally.
3. Add the remaining oil and the chicken to the pan and stir-fry for two minutes until coloured on all sides. Add the garlic, ginger, pineapple chunks and water chestnuts and stir-fry for 30–60 seconds.
4. Give the cornflour and pineapple mixture a good stir and add it to the pan with the chicken and vegetables. Stir well, season with some ground black pepper and bring to a simmer. Cook for 4–6 minutes until the sauce is thickened and glossy and the chicken is tender and cooked throughout, turning the chicken and vegetables a few times. Serve with a small portion of rice.



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## Restaurant Review



**THE GREYHOUND, Telephone 01865 862110  
Near Wootton, Abingdon, OX13 5PX.**



We booked online via The Greyhound website for a Monday early evening meal. It's good to know what is open on a Monday! I hadn't been to the Greyhound since the new management team was established, headed by Ryan.

It is a beautiful building situated just off the A420 (12-minute drive from KBS) and has plenty of off-road parking. You can also travel there by the S6 bus which has a stop outside the pub. So easy and no worries about having an extra tipples! There is a very pleasant garden and patio area. The entrance is wheelchair friendly.

There was a welcome from the bar staff. The reservation was checked and we were shown to our table. There are three sitting areas which gives the restaurant good capacity without tables being too close together. The character is traditional whilst not being old-fashioned.

We were seated in the section which has beams, a lovely wooden floor, log fire and good lighting. There are books on display and prints on the walls and a pair of greyhound bookends next to our table. It was quite busy for an early evening and got busier as time passed. There was a relaxed yet efficient ambience - family friendly too. The staff were helpful. They knew the menu and could make recommendations based on our questions.



The seasonal menu is comprehensive. There are nibbles and starters; light bites until 1700; as well as main courses and puddings. Prices are £17.45 for crispy beef salad. The crunchy and tasty beef was combined with vegetables and nuts; £20.95 for fish pie and vegetables. The pie was well presented and

included plenty of fish. Main course portions were wholesome and very enjoyable. Small desserts were on offer with coffee for £8.95 - a great alternative to a larger dessert. The coffee was also served with a bite of flapjack - nice touch! There were definitely other appealing items on the menu, which would entice us back for more!

The Greyhound organises dog walks and has a circular walking route for you to follow. They organise celebrations throughout the year, eg St Valentine's Day, Mother's and Father's Days, etc.

**Wilrich, two KBS foodies**

**PS We hope you are enjoying the restaurant reviews. Feedback is welcome via the KBS News. Please let us know of any other venues/ locations you would like us to visit**

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## February Litter Pick



**9th March (Sunday) at 10am, meeting at St John the Baptist Church, Kingston Bagpuize**

On Sunday, 9th February we had, what I think must be, the most successful litter picks yet organised by the Environment and Climate Group. Sadly, this does mean there was lots of rubbish around to collect, as can be seen.

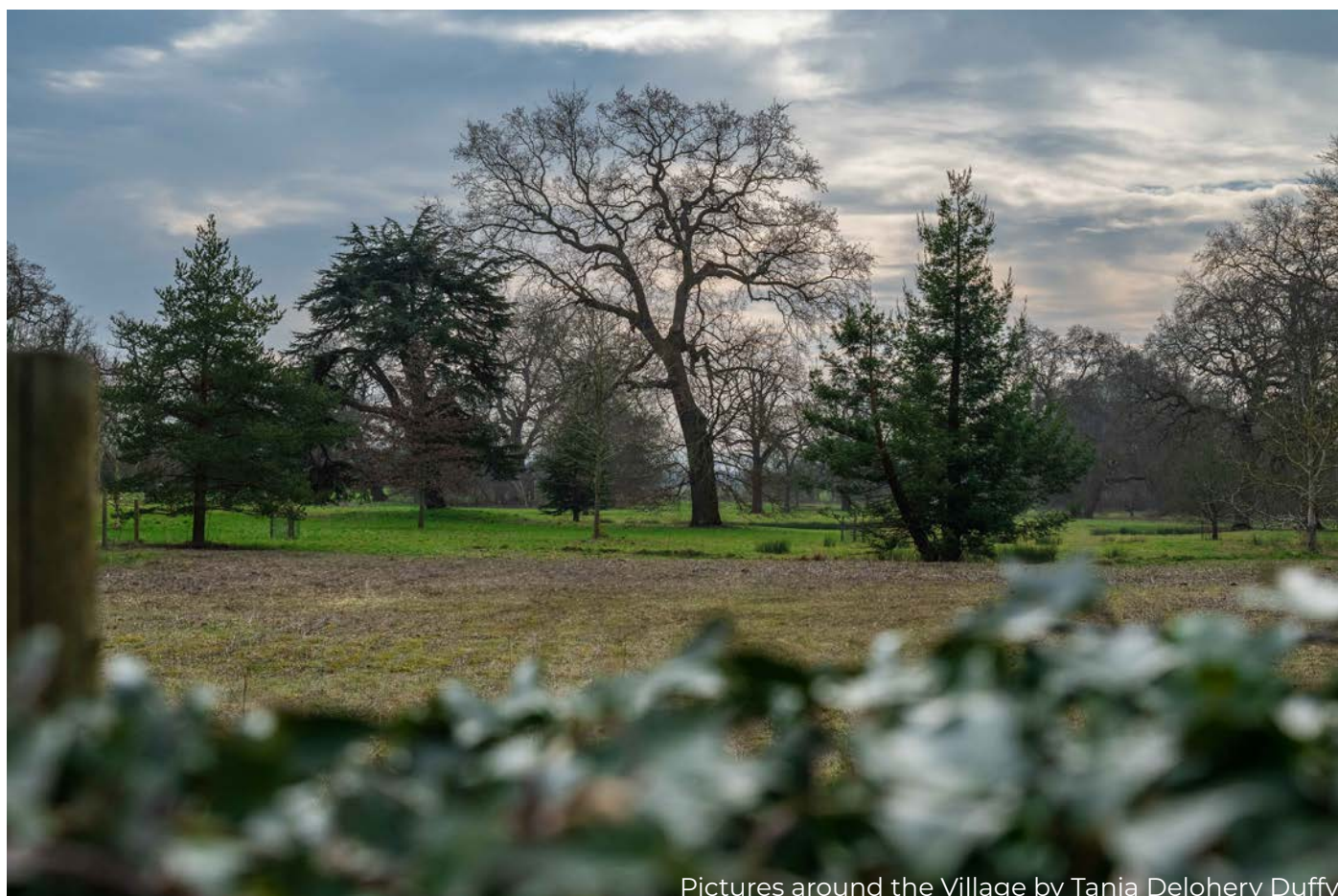
A goodly dozen pairs of willing hands, from pensioners to primary school age, got to work for a couple of hours. We filled

30 bags, collected 16 tyres, a bucket and a keep right sign. Sorry folks, I forgot to take a picture of the wonderful team that turned out but you all know who you are and can be well pleased with yourselves. Thanks are also due to the Vale of White Horse Waste Team. They provide an invaluable service delivering to us the litter picking kits and then taking the rubbish away very quickly. Huge thanks to all!



A fruitful morning's work

If you feel you missed out on a couple of hours of fun time, fear not, our next litter pick outing is on Sunday, 9th March starting at 10am to be led by Steve. Meeting point this time will be Kingston Bagpuize, St John the Baptist Church. All welcome, even if you only have half an hour to spare to roam the streets of Kingston Bagpuize.



Pictures around the Village by Tania Delohery Duffy



## **KBS Tennis Club**

Looking for some activity as a part of your new year's resolution....

Did you know that playing tennis can improve your cardiovascular health as well as improving your strength and flexibility and helping your coordination and agility?

Our coaching team at Excel run numerous coaching sessions, there really is something for everyone:

### **Adults:**

- Monday am drills and skills
- Wednesday am Cardio tennis
- Friday am Cardio tennis
- Saturday am beginners and improvers

There are also various open sessions for club members to hone their skills and for returners to tennis to play some different people.

*What are you waiting for?!!*

For further details please see our website [www.kbstennis.org](http://www.kbstennis.org)



## **Kingston Bagpuize Village Art and Craft Club**



**Monday 10th March at 9.30am - St John the Baptist Church Hall**

**At our first meeting in February, we each worked on our own work as we picked dates for our first group projects.**

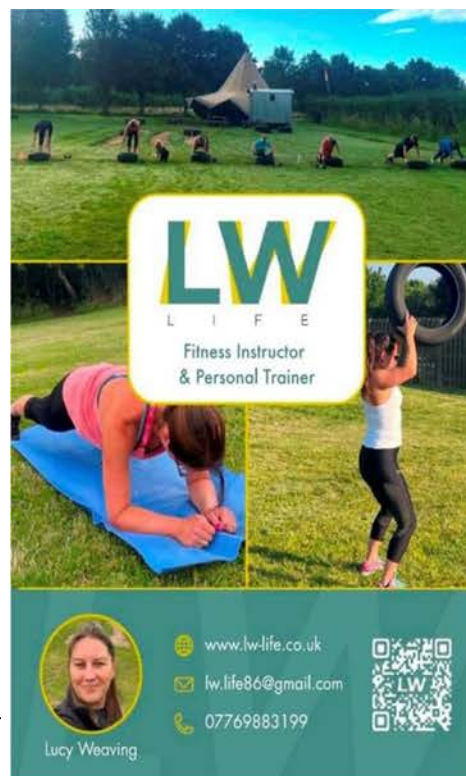
As February ends, we will all have had a try at Glass Painting, guided and encouraged by Gurvinder. In March, we will all attempt another book-binding session using a different technique. Other group projects will include card-making using stamped images, making a small origami box and trying our hand at water colouring.

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 March 10th 2025. We look forward to welcoming new members. Jean Allsworth 07397 530 144

*Have you a flair 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.*



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## Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Bowls Club



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

### Short Mat Scoring explained

In the Oxford County Short Mat league, two teams from each club play two teams from another club. Short mat is played indoors on a mat 45 feet by 6 feet. Three members form a team (i.e. triples). Each player has 3 bowls to bowl. The match consists of 12 ends. Six ends bowled one way and six the other. The idea is to get as many of your bowls closest to the Jack. The Jack (small ball Yellow or White) is what you are aiming at. When all the bowls are bowled, the number of bowls of your teams closest to the Jack are counted against the opponent's bowls. If your team has more bowls closest to the jack (shots), they are counted and recorded on the scorecard. At the end of 12 ends, the scores of each team are counted. The team with the most shots wins that match (2 points). When both teams have played 12 ends each, the scores from both teams are counted. The maximum points available is 8. If both teams win a match the score is 2 points each, unless one team has more shots overall they would get 6 points and the other team 2 points. If a team draws a match with their opponent they score 1 point each.



### Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor Bowls Club

All Welcome from age 8 to 80+ years

See our Website at: [kbsbc.co.uk](http://kbsbc.co.uk)

### Recent Scores

#### Didcot Buzzards v Kingston Kites

Buzzards 27 shots

Kites 17 shots

Buzzards 8 points

Kites 0 points

#### Abingdon Ascendants v Kingston Kites

Ascendants 15 shots

Kites 19 shots

Ascendants 2 points

Kites 6 points

#### Drayton Wasps v Kingston Kites

Wasps 20 shots

Kites 16 shots

Wasps 8 points

Kites 0 points



**Upcoming events**    Friday 7th March Whist/Cards    Friday 28th March Quiz

**Tom Waring, Club Captain    Tel: 01865 821060    email: [waringthomas7@gmail.com](mailto:waringthomas7@gmail.com)**



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## KBS Badminton Club



Every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday • Southmoor Village Hall

**We are a friendly bunch of players who offer three different sessions every week at Southmoor Village Hall.** If you're a returner or improver or looking for a slightly gentler game, Jenny's Wednesday evening classes are a good place to start. They run from 6.30pm – 8pm but are very popular so do contact Jenny first if you're thinking of going along. If you're a complete beginner but would be interested in learning to play, please get in touch. If there is sufficient interest, we may be able to organise something.

The Saturday morning sessions are a little more competitive (but still friendly!) and run from 9am – 10.30am every week. Please note that there is NO SESSION on Saturday 8th March and instead we'll be playing on SUNDAY 9th March at the same time. If you turn up on the Saturday you may get roped into helping the Drama Club build their next stage set! These sessions are suitable for solid improver level and above. Monday evening sessions run from 6.15pm – 7.30pm and are also suitable for anyone who plays competently and is after a more competitive game.

The costs are very reasonable as it's run on a not-for-profit basis. The first couple of visits are free. Please contact me or Jenny before going along – we should usually be able to fit you in but need to limit the numbers as there's just the one court. 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**

***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!***



## Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club

*Indoor Cricket Season Update*

**The start of 2025 brought the return of Indoor Cricket for KBCC, and this year we have entered two teams into the Oxfordshire league.**



### **1st Team Performance:**

The 1st team has performed exceptionally well, winning all four games they have played so far. With four more games to go, we have our fingers crossed that they will retain the trophy they won last year. Great job, team!

### **2nd Team Performance:**

The 2nd team, featuring many players experiencing indoor cricket for the first time, as well as a number of KBCC junior members, has also played very well. They have won two games and lost two. The highlight of the season so far for the 2nd team is an all-run 3 indoors, which equals 8 runs in total (you get two runs per run and 1 run for the ball hitting anywhere other than the wall behind the bowler).

We wish both teams the best of luck in their next four games!

### **Join Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club for 2025!**

If you are interested in getting back into cricket, consider joining Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club for 2025! We have:

- 3 Senior Saturday teams playing in the Cherwell League
- 2 Midweek T20 teams
- A Sunday Friendly team
- New for 2025: our KBCC Ladies team
- Plenty of cricket for junior members from U10s to U15s

If you're interested, please send us a message via our Facebook page: **<https://www.facebook.com/baggiescricket>**. ***Let's make 2025 a fantastic season together!***



## Longworth & District History Society



20th March (Thursday) at 7pm • Southmoor Village Hall  
• Paul Whitton will talk about "King Henry's Doctor in Hinton Waldrist"

Our speaker for the March meeting is Paul Whitton who is coming to tell us all about "King Henry's Doctor in Hinton Waldrist". It appears Hinton Waldrist has many connections with royalty!!

The date is Thursday 20th March in Southmoor Village Hall at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start, and everyone is welcome. Members free and visitors just £4. As usual, the bar will be open and there will be books to browse, borrow or buy. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Pam Woodward**



We *warmly* invite you to join us for our Spring Discovery Day at Richmond Villages, where you can experience the *exceptional lifestyle* we offer.

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- Learn about lifestyle options and how we can support your future.
- Enjoy a complimentary lunch prepared by our talented chefs.

Whether you're curious or ready to make the next move, this event is the perfect way to experience what Richmond Villages can offer first-hand. Spaces are limited, so please let us know if you can join us.

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**Richmond Villages Letcombe Regis**  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April, 10am – 2pm  
To RSVP call 01235 773 970

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**Richmond Villages Witney**  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 10am – 2pm  
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### Vicky's After School Club

Based in the school – Breakfast Club opens at 7.30am and After school Club is open from 3.00pm – 6.00pm Monday to Thursday and until 5.00pm on a Friday

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Please contact Vicky Hickman at  
[info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk](mailto:info@vickysafterschoolclub.co.uk)





## Oxford Flower Club



**Fourth Thursday each month at 12pm**  
**• Cumnor Village Hall**



January Blues were blown away when Graham King visited Oxford Flower Club. His enthusiasm for floristry and crafting was quite inspirational, giving us lots of ideas to take away from our meeting.

Graham has been an experienced Surrey Area of NAFAS tutor and demonstrator for almost 30 years. He demonstrated to us his skilled art and crafting within his floral displays. The mechanics, all made by him, were intricate and unusual, very often made from scraps found on his travels. As a youngster, he helped his father at weekends in his upholstery business, where he feels his artistic flair and journey to his career began. He is also a respected author, having written numerous books, including two on floristry. A very enjoyable and interesting afternoon.



Forthcoming meetings include *'The Master And The Apprentice'* and *'Flowers on Vacation'*. New members and guests are very welcome.

### Events to come:

• March - demonstrator Elaine Stoner

**Contact Karen on 07967 555750 or email [karen@fourgates.me](mailto:karen@fourgates.me) for details of our events programme.**



## Apple Blossoms WI



**11th March (Tuesday) at 7:30pm • Southmoor Village Hall**

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

The CPR Awareness session led by locals Jane and Dave Kidd, who volunteer for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance (TVAA), at our recent Apple Blossoms WI meeting was incredibly beneficial and enlightening. The session provided us with essential life-saving skills, significantly boosting our confidence in performing CPR. The combination of theoretical knowledge and practical experience was invaluable, as it equipped us with the ability to recognise a cardiac arrest and effectively respond. The hands-on practice with mannequins and defibrillators made the learning experience interactive and engaging, ensuring that we felt prepared to act in an emergency.

Moreover, the session highlighted the critical role that TVAA plays in our community. Hearing about their efforts and contributions was inspiring and underscored the importance of our involvement in such initiatives. Although the training was non-certified, the awareness and skills we gained are crucial. This session has empowered us to make a difference in emergency situations, and we are grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow together as a community.

Join us for our Annual Meeting on **Tuesday 11th March** at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. This important event will see our current committee step down, providing an opportunity for new members to take on key roles. Only members can vote for the new committee. We'll also take time to reflect on our achievements over the past year.

The following month, on **Tuesday 8th April**, we will be joined by Lorraine Chapman from Sparkling Wellbeing. Join us for a mindfulness session to enhance your physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing. Discover the scientifically-backed benefits of mindfulness in a supportive environment.

Apple Blossoms WI meet on the second Tuesday of every month at the Village Hall. Visitors are warmly welcomed for a small charge of £5 per visit. Don't forget to bring some extra pennies for the raffle!

Toni Briggs, Apple Blossoms WI Secretary [appleblossomswi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:appleblossomswi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

*Follow us for more news and photos:*



– Apple Blossoms WI



– [apple\\_blossomswi](https://www.instagram.com/apple_blossomswi)



– Toni Briggs, [appleblossomswi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:appleblossomswi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

# Magnus Macfarlane

## Balliol College origins

**Recently, I ran a tutorial for fellow Guides on visiting Balliol College, one of the oldest and a personal favourite, as there is so much to see and do there.**

There are three colleges in Oxford that claim to be the oldest and each, in its own way, is correct. Balliol's claim is that it has been a community of scholars on its present site without interruption since inception, 1263. It was founded by John de Balliol, a descendant of the Norman knights who had come with William the Conqueror. John de Balliol was born in France on the family lands of Bailleul-en-Vimeu, Picardy, but mostly brought up in Barnard Castle in Durham. He had a dispute with the bishop about some land so the bishop detained him. King Henry III intervened. John had to do a penance in two parts. Firstly, he was taken to the square in Durham and publicly flogged. For the second part, he had to do a charitable act. He founded a college for the education of 16 poor boys.

John died shortly after, and it was his wife, Dervorguilla, who made sure that the College survived. She was a Scottish princess from Galloway. She ensured its continuity, giving it a permanent endowment and statutes in 1282.

Their son John Balliol became King of Scotland as the great, great, great grandson of David I. He had no male issue and it's interesting to see on the Balliol website that the College says it has no records of his family tree.



*John De Balliol (Balliol College)*



*Dervorguilla of Galloway (Balliol College)*

It seems that the ancestral hunters have been asking questions. Dervorguilla had John's heart removed and placed in an ivory casket, which was always placed on a pillow in her bed. He also had a place at dinner, where the uneaten food was given to the poor. Dervorguilla also founded Sweetheart Abbey near Dumfries. The skeleton of this magnificent structure stands to this day as a testament to her love.



*Balliol Crest*

The crest of the College is the lion rampant of Galloway joined with the red shield of Balliol. The portraits shown are a rather crude pastiche of Dervorguilla, and John in a full set of armour. His was painted 200 years after his death by which time he was not good portrait material.



*Sweetheart Abbey (Wikicommons)*

**When you visit Balliol, see how many times you can see their crests, portraits and grotesques of Dervorguilla.**



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## Thermal imaging camera update from the village Environment and Climate Group

The recent offer to residents to have a free infra-red thermal imaging camera survey of their properties was taken up by around 25 households in KBS during January. This facility was available thanks to the loan of a thermal camera from the Vale of White Horse District Council Climate Group.

We were fortunate it was particularly cold and dry when doing the surveys so heat loss from the warm houses generally showed up well, even if the surveyors themselves were a little on the chilly side. Individual home owners were afterwards provided with images that enabled them to see the areas that were losing the most heat and areas that were better insulated.

The types of properties visited ranged from a number of older houses including ones with solid walls or minimal cavity insulation right the way through to several new builds, built to modern energy conserving building regulations standards.

A number of interesting observations were made, very often confirming the owners' knowledge of where they had already been considering doing some remedial work. In some older properties, a wooden front door was often better insulated than the walls. We also found that many of the modern plastic front or back doors were losing more heat than from double glazed windows. On some, the presence of radiators on outside walls were only too obvious. Heavy curtains inside go a long way to retaining heat in a room as does a draught excluder on the letterbox as well as reflective insulation behind radiators.

Only a limited number of surveys could be undertaken as we only had the camera for 3 weeks and a small team doing the surveys, but this may be expanded in the future. Surveys were generally from outside of the properties but a lot can also be gained from the inside, by looking for cold spots.

Grants can be obtained from various sources to help with energy saving projects, so this is something that the Environment and Climate Group might investigate further. In the meantime, anyone wanting to find out more about how to help keep their home warm and reduce their bills can find out more information by making a free phone call to **Better Housing Better Health on 0800 107 0044** or look at their website at [www.bhbh.org.uk](http://www.bhbh.org.uk).

Oxfordshire County Council also has funding available to support eligible residents to save money. More information about this is available at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/retrofit](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/retrofit). You can also do an internet search under "loan thermal imaging camera" if you are considering the option of borrowing or hiring a thermal camera for yourself.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the local Environment and Climate Group and becoming involved in further activities are welcome to email us at [kbsenvironmentgroup@gmail.com](mailto:kbsenvironmentgroup@gmail.com)

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## From our MP Charlie Maynard

I hope you and your family have been keeping well this last month. I am sure you are as happy as I am that warmer spring days are hopefully just around the corner!

I have been campaigning very hard on the need for the Government to get tough with failing Thames Water.

Across Witney, we received letters this month telling us to expect our bills to go up by an average of £19 per month over the next year. I have raised with Ministers the distress this is causing, especially at a time when household budgets are so tight.

Early in February, Thames Water asked the High Court to let them take on another £3bn of debt, which I think is unacceptable and will only make their financial position worse. Working alongside Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (WASP), I submitted evidence to the Court urging them to reject the proposal, as I do not believe it is in the interest of Thames Water's customers. After all, we are the ones who will pay for the debt through our bills! At the time of writing, we are still waiting for the judgement, and I will keep constituents updated. Please google it or visit my socials for more information. It has been covered by the BBC, The Guardian, the FT and others.

My last month has been full of interesting visits. I've been lucky enough to see lots of good work going on in our constituency, but also to hear about issues and challenges people are facing.

Among these were a lovely visit to Hailey Primary School, a small school of 93 pupils and 4 teachers, where we talked about the challenges of school budgets, and especially how they support the growing number of pupils with special needs.

I also visited Edgars, a planning consultancy in Witney where we had an interesting conversation around skills, apprenticeships, the Witney rail project and how the revised National Planning Policy Framework could impact us locally.

It was also a pleasure, as always, to attend Witney MP Watch's Climate Matters meeting, where we spoke about Parliamentary processes and my campaign to rebuild the railway between Carterton, Witney and Oxford as a way to reduce congestion on local roads.

A big thank you also goes to Witney Rotary for an enjoyable meeting, where I was asked about my time as MP for Witney so far and to share my goals for the future. What a great group, working hard to raise funds for charity!

As ever, I'm extremely grateful for everyone who has taken the time to meet with me.

Further, in my role on the Business and Trade Select Committee, I get the chance to question Ministers on how we can tackle the cost-of-living crisis and get our economy growing again. I've recently asked the Minister for Trade about our free trade agreements and how we can get growth back on track.

Looking ahead, I am very pleased that the Government has confirmed that County Council elections will go ahead in Oxfordshire this May, following some uncertainty around the planned Local Government reorganisation. Whatever your political views, it can only be a good thing that democratic processes are able to go ahead, and you get a chance to hold your local elected representatives to account!

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](mailto:charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk) and I, or one of my team, will get back to you.



## YOUTH MATTERS!

**We are looking for a teenage person or persons to write a few words about "Teenage living in Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor".**

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](mailto:editorkbsnews@gmail.com).





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**Ecology Tour**  
**Millennium Green**  
**11am 1 March**

An expert community ecologist from  
Berkshire Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust  
will be leading a guided walk of the Millennium Green  
on Saturday 1st March from 11am to 1pm.

Please join us and find out about all the  
amazing nature we have in the heart of the village.

**kbsmilgreen@gmail.com**