

KBS NEWS

The Kingston Bagpuize
with Southmoor Village
News

DELIVERED MONTHLY TO EVERY HOUSE IN
THE VILLAGE

WWW.KBSONLINE.ORG



Volume 53

Number 9

October 2026

Local Little Ninjas Achieve Black Belt Milestone

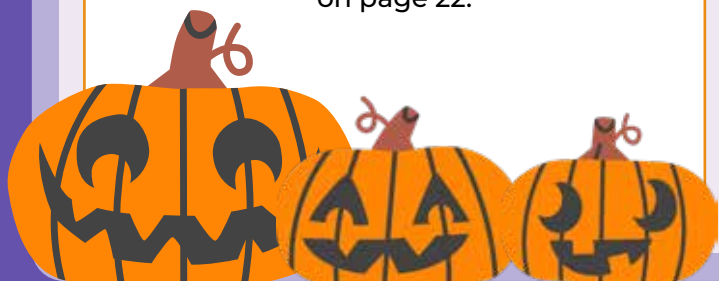


Dojang X, Southmoor's local family martial arts club, is celebrating a special milestone after two of its first Little Ninjas students achieved their Little Ninjas Black Belts in the summer! Read more on page 31.

**£1.3 million offered by developers
to improve village infrastructure**
See page 8

Get set for Halloween on Saturday 31st October!

Explore the origins of the spookiest day of the year in Darcey's Youth Matters column, then put your skills to the test with our Autumn Crossword on page 22.



**Don't forget the
clocks go back
by one hour on
Sunday 25th
October**

Sundial on the Millennium Green Gets a Makeover



The beautiful sundial on the Millennium Green (on top of Teletubby Hill) has just been repainted by the Green Team volunteers. It was originally a gift from the WI and is still amazingly accurate after all these years.

INSIDE THIS MONTH

• News From the Bowls Club	9
• Help the Hedgehogs!	10
• Join the Crocus Crew	10
• Restaurant Review - The Packhorse	13
• Update from Charlie Maynard MP	30
• A Taste of Colombia	31

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**Copy date for next
 issue: **Sunday 18th**
 October for the
 November edition**

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

For all advertising: Please contact the Advertising team at advertsksnews@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

GP SURGERIES		A & E HOSPITALS	MINOR INJURY HOSPITALS	
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
24hr Gas Emergency 0800 111 999		24hr Electricity Emergencies Call 105	24hr Thames Water Emergency 0800 316 9800	
Citizens Advice www.citizensadvice.org.uk , 0808 278 7907			Mind www.mind.org.uk , 0800 169665	
Samaritans - www.samaritans.org , 116 123			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 always looking for volunteers to help with distribution. If you can spare some time, we'd love to hear from you!

Please contact distributionkbsnews@gmail.com



Village Diary

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

October				Page
St John the Baptist Church, Kingston Bagpuize Services. – See full details on the Church Page				5
Saturday	3 rd	3.00pm	St John the Baptist Church, "October Fun with Flute"	5
Monday	5 th	6.30pm	Parish Council Monthly Meeting - Swallow Room, KBS Village Hall	8
Tuesday	6 th	7.30pm	SKB Gardening Club, Nicola Hope, "Growing Produce", KBS Village Hall	11
Saturday	10 th	2-4.00pm	Crocus planting at the Village Hall	10
Sunday	11 th	10.00am	Village Litter Pick, meet at corner of Draycott and Faringdon Road	7
Tuesday	13 th	7.30pm	Apple Blossoms WI, Greg Birdseye, "The Remarkable Work of Sobell House", KBS Village Hall	19
Thursday	15 th	7.30pm	Longworth & District History Society, Dick Richards, "The Story of the Unknown Warrior", KBS Village Hall	14
Sunday	18 th	2-4.00pm	Crocus planting at the Village Hall	10
Sunday	18 th	4.00pm	Final Copy Date for KBS News September edition	2
November				Page
Monday	2 nd	6.30pm	Parish Council Monthly Meeting - Swallow Room, KBS Village Hall	8
Thursday	12 th	9.15am	John Blandy Primary School, Open Morning	6
Tuesday	17 th	tbc	KBS News AGM Meeting, Village Hall	-
Thursday	26 th	7.30pm		20
Friday	27 th	7.30pm	KB Drama Group, "The Wizard of Oz, The Pantomime"	20
Saturday	28 th	2pm & 6.30pm		20

REGULAR VILLAGE 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 WI	2nd Tuesday each month 7.30pm	1st Longworth Beavers	Mondays 6-7.15pm
Apple Quilters	2nd & 4th Monday each month 10am-2pm	1st Longworth Cubs	Tuesdays 6-7.30pm Wednesdays 5.45-7.15pm
Clubercise	Mondays 8-9pm	1st Longworth Explorers	Wednesdays 7.30-9pm
Dance Fitness	Tuesdays 2.30-3.30pm	1st Longworth Scouts	Thursdays 7.30-9pm
Fitness Session	Mondays 9.15-10am tel 07769 883199	At The Bowls Club, Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize	
French for Fun	Wednesdays (term time only) 9.30-11am	Bowls Clubs Roll Up	Tuesdays & Thursdays Winter 1.30pm / Summer 2.00pm
KBS Badminton Club	Beginners: Wed 8-9pm Intermediate: Wed 6.30-8pm Experienced: Sat 9-10.30am Mon 6.15-7.30pm	At Millennium Green Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize	
KB Drama Group	3rd Tuesday (and 5th when it occurs) at 7.30pm (see Church Hall for other days)	Junior Park Run	Sundays 9am
KBS Cafe	Thursdays 9am-12pm	At Jubilee Sports Field, Edward Strauss Park	
KBS Gardening Club	1st Tuesday each month 7.30pm	Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club	Junior Training Fridays 6-8pm
KBS Pilates	Thursdays 1.30-2.30pm	In St John the Baptist Church Hall	
KBS Tennis Club	Tuesday 9-11am Senior Men's Open Wednesday 6.30-8.30pm Ladies Open Thursdays 6-10pm: Men's Open Sundays 10am-12pm: Mixed Club Morning	KB Drama Group	1st, 2nd & 4th Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm (see Village Hall for other days)
Korean Karate Club	Wednesdays 5.05-5.35pm Little Ninjas (3.5-6yrs) 5.35-6.25pm Mixed ages (6yrs-adults)	KBS Art and Craft Friendship Club	Alternate Mondays 9.30am-12pm
Longworth & Dist History Society	3 rd Thursday every month at 7.00pm	In Longworth Village Hall	
Southmoor Baby & Toddlers	Fridays (term time only) 10-11.30am	IYENGAR Yoga (term time only)	Mondays 7-8.30pm Tuesdays 11.45am-1.15pm
Table Tennis (over 55's)	Tuesdays 11am-12pm (currently no vacancies) For info email: bobsouthmoor@hotmail.com	PILATES	Tuesdays 9.15am & 5.45pm Thursdays 9.15am & 6.30pm
Yoga Classes	Intermediates Tuesdays 6-7pm Seniors Wednesdays 10.30-11.15am Beginners Thursdays 6-7pm	ZUMBA	Thursdays 10.30am
Village Walk	2nd & last Thur of month 10am (not in Dec)	In Hinton Waldrist Village Hall	
		Cedar Community Club	Tuesdays & Wednesday 9.30am-3pm



Don't forget our 'Out & About with the KBS News' feature.
Send pics to editorkbsnews@gmail.com



OCTOBER BIN COLLECTION	
Wed 7th	Food Bin / Green Bin Collection/Brown Bin + Textiles & Batteries in a separate bag on top of the Bin
Wed 14th	Food Bin / Grey Bin & Small Electrical Items
Wed 21st	Food Bin / Green Bin Collection/Brown Bin + Textiles & Batteries in a separate bag on top of the Bin
Wed 28th	Food Bin / Grey Bin & Small Electrical Items

Have you thought about advertising in KBS News?



Every issue lands directly in around 2,000 homes across the village, making it one of the most direct and cost-effective ways for local businesses, clubs, and organisations to reach their neighbours. Whether you're a small business wanting steady, year-round visibility with a small block advert, or you're promoting a one-off event with a larger half page ad, there's an option to suit every budget — with local not-for-profit organisations enjoying discounted rates. Best of all, every advert booked helps keep KBS News running and allows us to keep giving back to the village. If you'd like to know more contact adverts@kbsnews@gmail.com.



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



Don't forget our 'Out & About with the KBS News feature.

KBS NEWS ADVERT CHARGE RATES

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6 cm wide x 5 cm high

For advertisers wanting to reach customers throughout the year. Multiple blocks can be booked. Rates available on application.

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Larger block adverts for advertisers wanting to reach customers having read their advert. Good for events being arranged in the near future.

BUSINESS ADVERTS (Rate Per Edition)		
	B&W	Colour
Full A4 (Portrait) Back Page	Rates on application	
Full A4 (Portrait) Inside Page	£160	£200
Half A4 (Landscape) Inside Page	£80	£100
Quarter A4 (Portrait) Inside Page	£40	£50
Part Page smaller than Quarter A4 inside only	£35	£50

Local Not For Profit Organisations ADVERTS (Rate Per Edition)		
	B&W	Colour
Full A4 (Portrait) Back Page	£50	£82
Full A4 (Portrait) Inside Page	£40	£65
Half A4 (Landscape) Inside Page	£20	£35
Quarter A4 (Portrait) Inside Page	£15	£27
Part Page smaller than Quarter A4 inside only	£15	£25

Advert format should ideally be submitted in a JPEG or PDF format but we will help put together your advert if we can.

Services in October at St. John the Baptist

stjb.churchinsight.com



Sunday 4th	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Worship with Children's Church
Sunday 11th	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion All-Age Service
Sunday 18th	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Worship with Children's Church
Sunday 25th	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Village Communion with Children's Church



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

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

- The church will now be open for private prayer every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday 9am to 5pm.
- Saturday 3rd October Fun with Flute ! 3pm in the Church
- Sundays 4th, 18th, 25th Children's Church 10.30am in the Church Room with crafts and activities, all children and families welcome.

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).

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
info@fyfieldchapel.org.uk
01865 769473

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH OF BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON & BUCKLAND

A Parish in the North Downs Pastoral Area

www.blessedhugh.org.uk

Parish Priest: Revd Claro Conde,
The Presbytery, 1 Coxwell Road, Faringdon SN7 7EB.
Tel: 01367 358895 Email: cconde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Sunday Mass 10.00 am



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Please contact distributionkbsnews@gmail.com



VILLAGE VOICES

Send your views to editorkbsnews@gmail.com

Save The Date! Village Hall 40th Birthday Celebration, June 2027

Plans are well underway to celebrate the 40th birthday of the Village Hall next June. It is hoped that there will be a ticketed evening entertainment on Saturday 5th June, possibly a Ceilidh, followed by a family-centred fun day on Sunday 6th June, 12.00-4.00 with food, activities, games, demonstrations of some of the activities that go on at the hall every week and a raffle.



As part of this we are asking that anyone in the village who has photographs of any memorable events, from the past forty years, be they communal or family-centred, that they are willing to share, as well as contributing written testimonies of what the village hall has meant to me/us, we will be able to mount an exhibition. This will be curated by Ron Green, a village stalwart and former hall chair.

Please send photos, memories and thoughts to southmoorvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk.

Thank you for your help.

Neil Oastler, Chair of the Managing Trustees



Join Us in Supporting the 2026 RBL Poppy Appeal

With the annual Poppy Appeal looming, we are looking for volunteers to do a little collecting in their locality between 23rd October and 8th November.

If you can spare a little time, please contact **Kevin** on **07770 748027** or email kevin.hadley@hotmail.com



JOHN BLANDY PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

Thursday 12th November
9.15am to 10.30am



Book a place via: Office@jbl.cambrianlt.org



Do you have something to say?
Send your thoughts to
editorkbsnews@gmail.com





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

Families with children are welcome.

If you can help, please contact **Caroline Ashby 07984523955** and **Ruth Hastings 01865821386**. We look forward to seeing you.
Caroline Ashby



Village Litter Pick

 **11th October (Sunday) 10am • Meeting place, corner of Draycott Road and Faringdon Road**

Just bring yourselves, gloves, children and dogs if they are willing and you have them. We supply litter pickers and hi-vis jackets suitable for young and old. We will also have empty bags for litter that you find. All welcome whether you have half an hour to spare or 2 hours, which is the most we normally do. The more the merrier, look forward to seeing you there.

Can Anyone Beat This?



This is a picture of my lovely Nana, Joan, and her giant sunflower, which has sprung into a tree since she planted it early in the summer. She really wanted to enter it in the Village Show, but couldn't come to terms with cutting it down. For now it'll just keep on growing.
Georgia Rice


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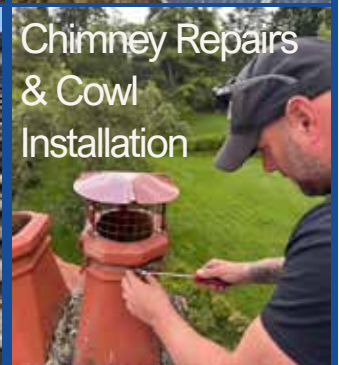
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Parish council Website: kbs-parishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk email: clerk@kbs-parishcouncil.gov.uk Full meeting details and minutes are available online at <https://kbs-parishcouncil.gov.uk/meetings/> and minutes are displayed at the noticeboards at the Witney Road Co-op and on Faringdon Road (the Paddocks).

There was plenty to discuss at the parish council meeting on 7 September after a summer break in August. District Councillor Jill Rayner reported that the government's proposed local government reorganisation is currently on hold. The planning committee had met in August to consider consultations on planning applications, two domestic extensions and for an MOT testing centre at the business park, none of which it objected to. The application for a self-build at Race Farm Lane had been rejected by the Vale and the applicant is planning to appeal. The parish council had no objection to it and agreed to reiterate this.

The Ferrers Green development was a major item on the agenda. Following approval by the Vale's planning committee, the Section 106 agreement has been revised so that money originally earmarked for a cricket pitch and pavilion will now support a range of local sports and leisure facilities, including funding for the bowls, cricket, tennis and football clubs, as well as improvements to the pavilion and existing multi-use games area on the Rec. There will also be funds to allow the parish council to purchase land for additional recreation and leisure provision. An unusual commercial deal has been offered to the parish council by David Wilson Homes and St John's College of £1.3 million towards village infrastructure rather than taking responsibility for the new public open space on the development. Projects outlined for the funds include improvements to the village hall, youth and community education facilities and new traffic-calming measures. More news on all of this to come!



Work needed at the recreation ground, playground and burial ground was approved. The continuing problem of false acacia suckers and unwanted sycamore saplings at the Rec will be dealt with and new pedestrian gates will be installed at the playground. The council decided that quotes should be sought for replacing the seesaw rather than refurbishing the existing one. The little-used table tennis table on the Rec will be donated to John Blandy School. At the burial ground, the proposed planting scheme is being reconsidered in favour of a lower-maintenance lawn, and improvements to the paved area around the tool shed and bins have been approved. The council also discussed the ongoing health and safety action list, including reports of antisocial behaviour on the recreation ground.

Looking ahead, the climate & environment committee is exploring ways to enhance local wildlife and green spaces through wildflower areas, bulb planting, changes to grass cutting and replacement trees although discussion was had around the balance that needs to be struck between habitat for wildlife and usable areas for local residents and their dogs. Preparations are also underway for Remembrance Sunday, with six wreaths to be ordered and a £250 donation to the Royal British Legion. The council is still awaiting approval from the Vale on the housing design element of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The next parish council meeting will be held on Monday 5 October 2026, 6.30pm, Swallow Room, Village Hall.

The formal minutes of the meeting can be viewed on the noticeboards at the Hind's Head Co-op and Faringdon Road and on the council's website at kbs-parishcouncil.gov.uk.



News from the Bowls Club

This week we received news our junior member, Timmy Cobb has been selected for the England junior short mat squad. Timmy is also a player for the Royal County of Berkshire junior squad in outdoor bowls. Well done Timmy.

The Finals weekend for Club Competitions has now come and gone. We had a lovely sunny weekend, possibly a little too hot at times, to be playing in. Well done to all finalists for your achievements in making it to the Finals weekend. There were some very close & tense matches over the two-day programme.

Thursday 10th, Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor BC, hosted the Royal County of Berkshire Bowls Association Presidents v Vice Presidents end of season match with 5 teams from each President. Once again the President's team were victorious for the third time in a row. Following the match players enjoyed a meal provided by the club.

On the 20th September the Autumn Triples competition commences with six teams playing over the next ten weeks on Sunday morning, other than Remembrance Sunday. We have six teams of 6 players battling it out to be the winners for 2026.

Tom Waring, Club Captain

Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Bowls Club								
League Positions								
	Position	Played	Won	Drawn	Shots For	Shots Against	Shots Difference	Points
Short Mat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KL	3	14	8	1	924.5	874	60.5	110
KLV A	5	13	4	1	676	619	50.7	56
KLV B	6	14	6	2	634	692	-58	66
Ashely Baker	5	18	10	0	967	869	+88	97
Ladies Ridgeway		2	0	1	82	72	10	4
Friendlies		10	3	1	509	715	-206	

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KBS Nature Notes

Phew what a scorcher – to borrow the famous headline from 1976 following the series of heatwaves we have experienced from May to August this summer. I don't think I've ever been so pleased to see the rain. Following the first downpour, the frogs hiding in the meagre remains of the pond made their escape leaping enmasse to the garden borders. Always fun to watch.

Following last month's photo of the Hummingbird Hawk moth, I received an email from Anne Newman with photos of the moths in her garden. Anne also sent me a photo of regular visitors to her garden – hedgehogs! I have only seen one once in our garden this year although the evidence of scat suggests that they are still around. Anne told me that her neighbour has cut a hole in their fence so the hedgehogs can move around between their gardens. This is fantastic to hear. Hedgehogs naturally have a large home range and can, apparently, wander up to 2 km in a night. I would encourage anyone, where they possibly can, to help the hedgehogs by making a small hole in the fence to allow them to have access to additional space. To find out more about helping hedgehogs why not check out www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk.



Hummingbird Hawk Moth



Hedgehogs!

Next time: Out and about with the Unofficial Friday Walking Club (again!).

In the meantime, I am always interested in receiving your observations, photos etc. on anything from the natural world that may be of interest to our readers. Please send them to kbsnature2025@gmail.com. Best wishes, *Linda Collins*

Monthly Circle Dancing

at the KBS Village Hall

Friday, 2nd October 2026

Time: 7 p.m. - 8.45 p.m

Cost: £5

- ✦ Teas and coffees during the evening.
- ✦ No experience or partner needed.
- ✦ Wear comfy shoes.
- ✦ Each dance is taught as we go along.

Come and enjoy dances to music from around the world.

Joan: 07814 988941

joancoo@outlook.com

Regular sessions will be on the 1st Friday of the month
Feel free to ring / email if you want further information

Join the Crocus Crew: Village Hall Planting Days in October

The Environment Group, courtesy of the Parish Council, have 4000 crocus corms to plant at the front of the village hall which we plan to do in October on:

Saturday, 10th 2 pm – 4pm

Sunday, 18th 2 pm – 4 pm

Thursday, 29th 10 am-12 noon (The café is open for us all to use too!)

All are welcome to come along and help with this task. We already have commitment from some members of our local WI and History Groups to come along. If your group wants to join in this activity you would be very welcome. Everyone who comes along to join in the planting will be named in our list of "esteemed list of planters".

We are planning to do this, not only as a nice 40th birthday present for the Village Hall but also to provide an early source of nectar for insects.



Don't forget our 'Out & About with the KBS News' feature.
Send pics to editorkbsnews@gmail.com





Our next meeting is on Tuesday 6th October when Nicola Hope will be talking to us on a topic related to growing produce. This is a change to the original programme, but the talk should be along similar lines. Doors open at 7.15pm (7pm for helpers only) for a 7.30pm start. The evening is free for members and £4 if you'd like to come as a visitor. There'll be a raffle and complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits.

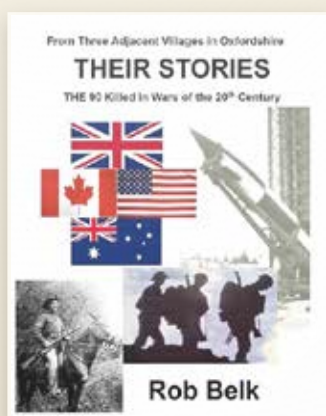
I'm now in a position to report back that we had an extremely successful Village Show on 22nd August! The event is put on by the village for the village. It's not a fund-raiser, so success is measured by the number of entries and the number of visitors. Despite the difficult growing conditions, the number of entries was higher than the last couple of years and the main hall, Elkins & Swallow Rooms were stuffed to the gills with beautiful displays of flowers, fruit, vegetables, pot plants, photographs, arts & crafts, baked goods, preserves and floral art.

It was very pleasing to see that more children had taken part and there were some very interesting things to look at. Many thanks to everyone who took part – children and adults alike – and to the parents of the children who took part as well as those who came to visit and gave the day such a buzz. And special thanks to the Show Chair, Penny Meacham, and her team of volunteers without whom it wouldn't have come to fruition. If you missed it this year and fancy taking part, visiting or helping to organise it, look out for the advertising next year!

Finally, we'd like to thank the following local businesses who generously supported the event and helped us cover the costs by donating raffle prizes: Aquarius Hair, Blenheim Palace, Bampton Plants, Corne Motors, Crocodiles of the World, Cotswold Wildlife Park, Edwards Vehicle Services, Leah Maclean, / Fitness at the Farm, Lucy Weaving / LW Life, Kingston Bagpuize Co-op, Memet's Pizza, Millets Farm / Webbs, One Stop, Southmoor Co-op, The Trout Inn at Tadpole Bridge, White Horse Leisure Centre. It was very much appreciated.

To find out more about SKB Gardening Club, visit www.skbgardeningclub.org.uk or email us at skbgardeningclub@gmail.com. *Sharon Cooper (Chair)*

Their Stories



REMEMBRANCE DAY is fast approaching. Time to honour and thank those who died for us.

The book 'THEIR STORIES' gives life back to 90 people who were killed in the 20th Century from or on our three villages of Longworth, Hinton Waldrist and Kingston Bagpuize.

Written by Rob Belk who used to live in the area, the book tells individual stories and constitutes a veritable guide to the main Wars that have cast their shadows across our land, including The Boer War, WWI, WWII and the

Cold War. It includes the stories of airmen from the New World killed in crashes in our villages.

The book includes some 250 illustrations.

Reader testimonials include –

"I am amazed at the amount of detail which you have gathered"

"Reading the details regarding the large number of aircraft crashes which happened in our area has been a real eye opener"

"Thanks for devoting so much time and effort to your book and I only hope that as many people as possible buy it and learn more about our local history"

'Their Stories' costs £24.99 and can be bought directly on-line from Amazon.



£24.99

by Rob Belk
250+ illustrations

Buy now on
Amazon

Recipe of the month

Saucy Spider with Hairy Leg Sticks

From womansday.com/food-recipes/food-drinks/g2574/easy-halloween-appetizers/

Prepare: 40 min **Cook:** 45 min **Serves:** 12

Ingredients

2 balls pizza dough (thawed if frozen)
1 large egg
1/4 cup grated Parmesan (1 oz)
2 Tbsp grated Parmesan (1 oz)
1 large pitted black olive
2 cups marinara sauce

Method

1. Heat oven to 190°C (170 C fan). Line 2 large baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Make the spider: Cut 1 ball of dough in half. Shape one half into a 5-in. ball to make the spider body. Cut a 1 1/2-in. strip from the remaining half and shape into a 2 1/2-in. ball to make the head. Cut the remaining dough into 8 strips and roll each strip into a 6-in. rope to make the legs.
3. Arrange the body, legs and head on one of the prepared baking sheets to resemble a spider, gently pressing all of the pieces of dough together. Brush the entire spider with some of the egg. Sprinkle the legs with 2 Tbsp Parmesan. Place 2 of the olive slices on the top of the head for eyes and 2 on the bottom for pincers. Bake until golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes (covering the legs with foil if browning too quickly).
4. Meanwhile, make the spider leg sticks: Cut the remaining ball of dough into 8 pieces. Roll each piece into a 3/4-in.-thick rope. Cut each rope into various lengths. Taper one end of each piece and slightly bend the other to resemble legs. Place on the second baking sheet. Brush with the remaining egg and sprinkle with the remaining 1/4 cup Parmesan. Bake until golden brown, 15 to 20 minutes.
5. Meanwhile, warm the marinara sauce. Using a knife, hollow out the body of the spider and fill with the warm sauce. Serve with the leg sticks.



Editor's note: *Do you have a signature bake or a recipe you'd like to share? Send in your contribution, with a photo, to editorkbsnews@gmail.com*



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The Packhorse Abingdon Road, Milton Hill

We could not decide on which restaurant to go to so we thought we would use ChatGPT as it seems to be the thing people do to solve dilemmas. It suggested The Packhorse. We booked online and headed off there for an early supper at 6.30 on a Wednesday evening. It took us 18 minutes to drive the 10 miles and parked easily in the large carpark. We were greeted and sat down in the large modern extension which was light and spacious with plenty of space around the tables. The décor was modern and simple. There were quite a few other dinners with a mix of ages and a few tables with very cute babies.



The drinks menu was very large with many cocktails and beers as well as wine. The menu for food is quite extensive with one side of pasta, salads and pizzas and the other with grazers, starters and stove and grill. Both of which included quite a few vegan and vegetarian options.



We decided to share a starter and chose 2 options from the mezze selection which was a wise decision. Both were plentiful and delicious. The tzatziki was crunchy and well flavoured with dill and mint and the houmous tasty and flavoured very nicely with cumin. We enjoyed tucking into them with pittas.

Next was pan roasted chicken supreme which was 2 tasty moist chicken breasts on a bed of crunchy herby couscous and lovely fresh mediterranean vegetables cooked al dente. It was obviously freshly cooked and a good sized portion. The spinach and herb bean burger was also a generous helping. It had a lovely taste and flavour with beans giving it a pleasant texture. The chips were well cooked, but the slaw was a bit bland compared to the other strong flavours.

We were feeling quite full for puddings so went for one ball of ice cream chosen from the blackboard of 7 ice creams and 5 sorbets which included the standards ones as well as more unusual ones such as blood orange sorbet, passion fruit sorbet, popcorn ice cream, Biscoff ice cream and Nutella ice cream. Each scoop is £2.50. The dessert menu had a good selection of classic puddings such as chocolate brownie, Tiramisu and banoffee pie. We chose cookie crumble ice cream which we found to be quite sorbet-like and could not get the crumble part. Probably the only slightly disappointing part of the meal and finished with nice coffees.



We were served by very pleasant, friendly and attentive staff who were very nice and all the food turned up quickly and smoothly. The service was excellent. It seems to be a popular restaurant for all age groups and good for families.
Wilrich, two KBS foodies



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Pam Woodward, 01865 820500



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GUEST SPEAKER



Greg Birdseye

Trustee & Volunteer Ambassador, Sobell House

Greg's talk begins with a brief history of the modern hospice movement, then traces how Sobell House itself has grown to support people in need across our community.



DATE

Tue 13 Oct 2026



TIME

7:30pm



VENUE

Southmoor
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ENTRY

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Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group

The Wizard of Oz, The Pantomime sponsored by **Newton**

We are delighted to announce that this year's production is sponsored by Newton, whose head office is based at Kingston Bagpuize Business Park.

We are extremely grateful for Newton's continued support, which makes a meaningful difference to our small, not-for-profit group. Their sponsorship helps us bring affordable, live theatre to the local community and importantly enables us to provide some complimentary family tickets to our local primary school, John Blandy, helping more people enjoy the magic of high performance community theatre in the run up to Christmas.



Tickets Are Now on Sale! We've already sold many seats across all four performances and with our previous pantomimes selling out, it's well worth booking early to avoid disappointment.

The Wizard of Oz, The Pantomime runs from **Thursday 26 to Saturday 28 November**, including a Saturday matinee. Thursday and Friday evening performances are at 7.30pm with doors open from 7pm. Our matinee is at 2pm with doors open from 1.30pm and Saturday evening is 6.30pm doors open at 6pm.

Family ticket (2 adults + 2 children) £52 • Adults £16 • Children £11
Book via TicketSource:

www.ticketsource.com/kingston-bagpuize-drama-group/wizard-of-oz-by-james-barry/e-qrpqbb

Following a change in the law, booking fees must now be included in advertised ticket prices. So, while the prices may look slightly higher than in previous years, the ticket price itself has not increased. We remain committed to keeping KBDG productions affordable and accessible.

A Magical Adventure Awaits

Join Dorothy and Toto as they follow the Yellow Brick Road in search of the Wizard, meeting the Scarecrow, Tinman and Cowardly Lion along the way. There'll be Munchkins, a Wicked Witch, monkeys, plenty of laughs and all the magic and mayhem you'd expect from a traditional pantomime. Our production is James Barry's licensed pantomime based on L. Frank Baum's original story, rather than the 1939 MGM film. While the film's famous songs aren't included due to licensing restrictions, audiences can look forward to a fresh musical soundtrack, familiar characters and plenty of traditional panto fun.

Supporting Sobell House

Each year, KBDG chooses a charity to support through its productions. This year, we are proud to be supporting Sobell House, whose specialist care and support make a profound difference to local people and their families.

With free parking, a licensed bar and soft drinks, The Wizard of Oz promises to be a great-value family night out in the run-up to Christmas.

Fancy Getting Involved?

It's not too late to join the fun! We're always happy to welcome new members, whether you'd like to perform as part of the chorus, help backstage or lend a hand with any other aspect of the production. Come along to a rehearsal or contact our Chair, **Michael Lacey**: michael1944lacey@gmail.com



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.



Tip of the Month

Our memories are often unreliable so just in case you've forgotten, it's been exceedingly hot and dry this year. In an attempt to help it not be as hot next year here are 7 acts to save the world, some are obviously easier than others!

- ◆ Move your money away from banks that finance the fossil industry
- ◆ Move your energy to a 100% renewable source – electrify
- ◆ Eat more plant based food, seasonal and local where possible
- ◆ Use more green travel, walking and cycling, more trains fewer planes
- ◆ Use this to calculate your CO2 footprint and reduce where you can students.open.ac.uk/candc/carbon_calculator/
- ◆ Use your vote to demand action from your representatives
- ◆ Motivate 7 others to perform their 7 acts

These 7 acts came from *realzero.earth*. Visit their website to stay up to date with the latest climate science and news.



Vandalism of Beautiful Village Benches



It was disheartening to see that one of our beautiful village benches has been vandalised recently. Many of us enjoy these shared spaces; they're part of what makes our village welcoming and well-kept; so it's upsetting to find them deliberately damaged.

Let's hope this is a one-off, and that we can all continue to take pride in keeping our village looking its best.



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Youth Matters

Hello KBS! Happy Halloween!

I hope everyone had an excellent start to their academic year and that people have settled in well.

It has certainly begun to look like autumn, with so many of the leaves on trees turning brown incredibly quickly. It feels like the second the month of August was over the seasons suddenly changed, but it is much nicer to see the grass a lot greener than it was during the summer due to the autumn showers.

October is an interesting name for the tenth month of the year; usually, the prefix 'octo' relates to something that has 8 of the same features, like an octagon – it has 8 sides – or an octopus, which has 8 legs. However, October isn't the eight month, so why does it have this name? In Roman times, October was actually the eighth month, as the Romans only had ten months, which explains why September has its name. 'Sept' means seven and it was the seventh month, December meaning ten and so on. So why do we now have twelve months? This is because the Romans noticed that their calendar did not align with the solar year, it only had 355 days, not 365 like we do today (or 365 and a quarter, if you'd like to be precise!) and there wasn't a winter season either. So, the Roman emperor Numa Pompilius added January and February to complete the calendar. The Romans still kept the same names though, so despite October not being the eighth month anymore, it still meant 8.

Halloween is also coming up at the end of the month! What do you first think about when someone says Halloween? Pumpkins? Candy? Trick-or-Treating? Costumes? I'm sure there's plenty more. However, the first Halloweens were actually very different. They began around 2,000 years ago, and were celebrated by the ancient Celts, who called the celebration Samhain. It marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter but particularly had spiritual elements too. The Celts believed that on the night of the 31st of October, the boundary between the dead and the living thinned. To ward off the evil spirits, they wore masks and lit bonfires, which has translated into today (costumes and pumpkin carving) but are now used for entertainment. Celtic traditions also came together with the Christianity, with the commemoration of All Hallows' Eve (the night before All Saints' Day on Nov. 1st). The occasion became more centred around celebrating the lives of saints and loved ones.

Today, Halloween is a great time for hanging out with friends, crafting and watching scary movies, but still preserving elements of the festival that took place thousands of years ago.

Have a great October!

Darcey

Crossword clues:

Across

3. A small prickly mammal that hibernates
4. The American word for autumn
6. They turn brown, gold and orange this time of year
9. The third season of the year
10. The month autumn starts

Down

1. Holiday on October 31st
2. When autumn actually ends
5. When you gather crops
7. Squirrels gather these in preparation for winter
8. They are round and typically orange





Apple Blossoms WI



13th of October (Tuesday) 7.30pm • Southmoor Village Hall

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

Crime Scenes, Clues and Fingerprints!

This month we welcomed the fascinating Hayley Scott, a former Crime Scene Investigator (CSI), who took us beyond the police tape and into the world of crime scene investigation.

Drawing on 14 years of experience, Hayley gave us a captivating insight into the skills, techniques and attention to detail needed to investigate crimes ranging from burglaries to murder cases. She shared stories from her career, explained how evidence is gathered and analysed, and even revealed some interesting details from real-life cases that never made the headlines. One particularly interesting part of the evening had us all taking a closer look at our own fingerprints and discovering which fingerprint patterns we have... if indeed we still have fingerprints at all! Something many of us had never considered before! The talk was both informative and engaging, leaving us with plenty of questions and a real appreciation for the work that goes on behind the scenes. A huge thank you to Hayley for a fascinating evening and for sharing her experiences with us.

Good Company, Great Cause – EVERYBODY WELCOME!

Our October meeting will be an Open Meeting in aid of Sobell House Hospice.

We are delighted to welcome Greg Birdseye, a Sobell House Ambassador, who will be giving a talk about the incredible work of Sobell House and the support they provide to people with life-limiting illnesses and their families across Oxfordshire. From specialist palliative and end-of-life care to bereavement support and care in patients' own homes, Sobell House makes a real difference to thousands of local people every year.

This promises to be a wonderful evening and an opportunity to learn more about a charity that touches so many lives in our community, while helping to raise vital funds and awareness for their important work. There will also be a fantastic raffle, with prizes including a 43inch 4K smart TV kindly donated by Andy from Framework Roofing, a beautiful gift hamper including voucher kindly donated by Aquarius Hair Studio and many more prizes! Every penny raised on the evening will go directly to Sobell House Hospice.

Visitors, family, friends and neighbours – are all very welcome. Entry is just £5 on the door, with tea and coffee available throughout the evening. Come along and join us for a great evening... we would love to see you there! **Naomi & Jules, Apple Blossoms WI**



– Apple Blossoms WI



– apple_blossomswi



– appleblossomswi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Meet The New John Blandy Community Councillors

Hello! Our names are Oisin and Charis. We are pleased to say that we are this year's John Blandy Community Councillors.

Each month we will give the KBS News an update of things happening in school. This might include any upcoming events that we are hosting - this month we are holding a MacMillan coffee afternoon. We will also keep you informed of things going on around school, what topics we are covering, and any trips have been on as well as anything else we think you would like to know. We are looking forward to sharing this with you, this year.

Oisin & Charis





Report from Cllr Lee Evans

I wanted to start by thanking everyone who has completed my survey on parking issues in the village. As I've always said, I'll only support introducing parking restrictions in KBS if you tell me it's what you want to see. So I've taken the time to read everyone's feedback. I'll post the detailed results on my website, but here are the headlines: the vast majority of people who completed the survey are concerned about parking issues, and there was overwhelming support for action on Draycott Road, Fir Tree Close/Laurel Drive, and Cherrytree Close/Faringdon Road. There was also support, although less strongly, for restrictions on Faringdon Road and Oxford Road.

With that feedback, I'll now draw up proposals for where yellow and white lines could be positioned with Council staff, and will publicise those as soon as they're ready. If you haven't yet had the chance to let me know what you think, the survey is still open (www.leeevans.uk) and I'll continue to read any comments that come in.

Recently, I had a shock when I saw a copy of the Oxford Mail with my mug on the front cover! It was a story about issues with the A420 between Buckland and Hinton Waldrist, which was showing signs of wear and tear within weeks of major repairs. I raised this with the Council months ago, but so far their approach seems to be "nothing to see here." I'm grateful to the Oxford Mail for covering the story, and to the local resident who spoke to them about it. As I said in the article, we deserve roads that are fit for purpose and safe to drive on – and when roads are repaired, we deserve to know our Council Tax has been spent on a quality job that will last. I'll be raising the issue again in County Hall.

We've made some progress on the sinkholes in the village in the past month. The issues in Laurel Drive have now been fixed, and the team seem to have done a good job. I've also escalated the dip in the road opposite the Waggon & Horses, and a new sinkhole I've been told about in Cherrytree Close. I'm hoping we'll see action soon – and will stay on the case until we do.

In County Hall, I've recently questioned the rise in MyBus ticket fares introduced in August, with fares for young people rising by an eye-watering 57%. What makes it so galling is that the Council has a massive £7.7 million surplus from the Oxford Congestion Charge, meant to help support people to use public transport. Yet the ruling administration is driving up bus charges like this. I'm arguing for the MyBus ticket price to be reduced again.

You can find out more about what I've been up to as your County Councillor at www.LeeEvans.uk and [Facebook.com/LeeEvansOxfordshire](https://www.facebook.com/LeeEvansOxfordshire). If there is anything I can do to help in the village, please email me at lee.evans@oxfordshire.gov.uk or call 07724 601096.

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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

Happy 90th Birthday

This month long term Southmoor resident Ron Green BEM turns 90 (October 11th).

Ron, from Oxford, and his new bride Elsa (a St Helena girl) moved to Sandy Lane in 1960. Shortly afterwards, Eddie Edney and his wife Myrna (a Southmoor born girl) moved next door into their newly built bungalows. So this year we have been neighbours for 66 years!

Ron, a Parish Councillor and Parish Chairman for many years, has served this community well, with selfless dedication and pride.

Happy birthday Ron!
Eddie and Myrna Edney



Kingston Bagpuize Village Art and Craft Club



5th October (Monday) at 9:30am • St. John the Baptist Church Hall

We continue to have nice relaxing mornings spent working on our own projects with the usual chatter over tea and biscuits. A near future event will have us all trying our hand at mixed media and will be run by one of our ex members who we lost when she moved away. 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.

We now have a Facebook page 'KBS Village Art and Craft Club' for anyone wanting to see some of the 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 on 5th October. We are now at full capacity for the Church Hall but we are happy to put your name down on a waiting list to allow us to inform you when a place is available to meet new friends. *Jean Allsworth 07397530144*



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Oxford Flower Club



Every fourth Thursday at 1:30pm • Cumnor Village Hall

In August we enjoyed our long-awaited trip to Thenford Arboretum and Gardens, having had to reschedule due to the extreme heat in the summer. Even though the gardens were affected by the drought conditions, the setting can only be described as 'stunning'.

After a warm welcome by Lord and Lady Heseltine's son Rupert, we took a steady ramble around the grounds. The woodlands surrounding Thenford House, formed a welcomed walk in the shade, before making our way to the walled and formal gardens. Around every corner was an interesting surprise, with lovingly cared for topiary, and a knot garden with some unusual statues from around the world. After the water gardens, rose garden and the rill, we carried on to the lakes that formed an enchanting backdrop to the main house. We finished our tour by meeting Lord Heseltine who chatted with us about the family's journey to restore the grounds before signing his book about Thenford for us.



Thenford is famous for its extensive range of snowdrops; over 1,000 different types. Many members enjoyed our outing so much, they want to visit again in February to see the snowdrops.

We have a busy schedule for the rest of the year followed by exciting events and highly regarded demonstrators booked for 2027. If you are looking for an interest, then call Karen on **07967 555750** for more details. We meet on the fourth Thursday afternoon of the month in Cumnor village hall. Our club welcomes everyone, just an interest in all that's floral is needed. Annual membership is available or come as a guest for the afternoon for just £8. **Karen**

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 Badminton Club



Every Monday (6:15-7:30pm), Wednesday (6.30-8pm & 8-9pm) and Saturday (9.00 – 10.30am) • Southmoor Village Hall

With autumn well underway and Halloween just around the corner, October is when the evenings really start to draw in, along with the biannual confusion over whether the clocks are going forward or back! Badminton at Southmoor Village Hall offers a friendly and energetic way to keep active ... and is considerably less frightening than going for a run in the dark.

The club operates on a non-profit basis, so costs are very reasonable, and the first couple of sessions are free, giving you the chance to see if it's for you. As there's only one court, numbers are limited to ensure everyone gets enough game time, so please do get in touch before coming along. Our sessions can be found in the regular events section on page 3, with current availability as follows -

Beginner: Currently full (waiting list available). Contact Scott - spj74@outlook.com

Intermediate: Currently full (waiting list available). Contact Jenny - jenny.frame@live.co.uk

Experienced: Spaces currently available for both sessions. Contact Alan - alan1198@btinternet.com

Magnus Macfarlane

Antibiotics and vaccines

It's a well-known fact that Albert Alexander, a policeman from the Berkshire force based in Wootton, (yes, Wootton was in Berkshire at that time), was the first man to be treated with penicillin after he contracted blood poisoning from the prick of a rose in his garden. Well-known facts such as this are possibly the result of successful wartime propaganda. Today we know the real story

The Scottish physician Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin. He recorded it but never developed it. Three scientists from Oxford University, Australian pathologist Howard Flory, German refugee biochemist Ernst Chain and British biochemist Norman Heatley, working in the Dunn's school of pathology on South Parks Rd, discovered the methods for cultivating, extracting, purifying and storing penicillin



It is a tragedy that Heatley did not get a Nobel Prize like Flory, Chain and Flemming (and later Dorothy Hodgkin). The bed pans that they used to cultivate the mould are still on display in the Museum of the History of Science.

Back to Albert Alexander. On the 30th of November 1940, he was actually injured in an air raid when helping the police during the blitz in Southampton. When he contracted blood poisoning he was transferred to the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford, (the fountain of Triton still stands in the quad outside the building). It was decided to treat him with penicillin. He immediately showed signs of recovery. However, sadly, there was not enough to give him a full course and he died. Recently a new blue plaque has been unveiled in Newbury in his honour. His place in the history of antibiotics is secure.

The University of Oxford has remained number one in the world for clinical, pre-clinical, and health sciences (medicine and health) for 15 consecutive years. More recently, as you recall in a previous article, it produced a vaccine for COVID. It is estimated that this saved 6 million lives in the first year alone. Earlier this year it released a vaccine for malaria which has now gone into full production. It is estimated that malaria will not be a problem across the world in 10 years' time. It doesn't stop people getting malaria but reduces the effects greatly. Even more recently it has released a vaccine for Ebola. It was developed just twelve weeks ago with the first human volunteer trials happening in July. The Serum institute of India has already stockpiled over 600,000 doses for treatment.



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Before you spend a penny on solar

The heating goes on for the first time around now. It's a small moment, and it's also the one where the bills start climbing again. So here's something I probably shouldn't say, given we install solar for a living. For a lot of homes, panels aren't the first thing to buy.

Start with the setting almost nobody touches. A combi boiler usually has two dials. One for hot water, one for the radiators. That second one is the flow temperature, meaning how hot the water is when it leaves the boiler. Most are set at 70 or 80 degrees. Turn it down to 60 and the boiler runs more efficiently. Nesta, an independent charity, reckons that cuts a typical home's gas use by about 8%, or around £65 a year. It costs nothing and takes two minutes. Your house still gets just as warm, it just takes a little longer.



Then the cheap jobs. Draughtproofing the windows and doors of a whole house costs roughly £250 and saves about £55 a year. Capping an unused chimney costs from around £150 and saves about £45. A jacket on an old hot water cylinder is about £30 and saves £45 a year, which is the best return of anything here. Turning the thermostat down from 22 to 21 degrees saves roughly £120.

Be careful, though, because "insulate first" gets repeated as if every measure is worth doing. It isn't. If you already have 120mm in the loft, topping it up to the recommended 270mm costs around £600 and saves about £17 a year. That's a 35 year payback and I wouldn't bother. A bare loft is a different story. Around 2.7 million households in England still have less than 100mm up there, and for them the £750 is money very well spent. So go and have a look before anyone sells you anything.

Older properties around Kingston Bagpuize, Southmoor and the wider Vale lose heat in unglamorous places. Gaps under floorboards, an open chimney in a room nobody sits in, a cylinder in an unheated airing cupboard. None of it is interesting. All of it is cheaper than a roof full of panels.

One thing worth being clear about. Everything above is about heating, which for most homes means gas or oil. Solar is electricity, and that's a separate bill entirely. So it isn't a choice between the two. It's just that the heating bills are the ones about to jump, and the fixes are cheap, so do those now if you can.

Llewellyn Kinch, Director – MakeMyHouseGreen.com



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.

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News from Southmoor Baby and Toddler Group

 **Every Friday 10-11:30am • Southmoor Village Hall**

Good news – we are back up and running thanks to Sarah who is now running the group, Gemma who is helping with behind the scenes admin work and a lovely team of regular volunteers who are willing to pitch in as and when work and family commitments allow. We are still looking for one more person to help run the group as this will mean that sessions are more likely to go ahead; even when life throws curve-balls for the team already in place; as we all know life certainly does seem to do that at times! If you don't feel able to commit to this important role, there are other things you can do to help:

- ◆ If you've got children under school age come along ... the more people who use the group will secure its future.
- ◆ Spread the word; tell your friends and family, share the Facebook posts or take some flyers to hand out at local playparks, etc.
- ◆ If you are attending the group and are able to volunteer: even if you don't know you can help until the day it would be great as there are always roles like washing up, etc.
- ◆ Join the committee – the committee is made up of 3 roles; Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. We already have two members in place ready to take on a role; having a third will complete this important trio for making decisions like whether to have a Halloween Party (suggested date for which is 16th October).
- ◆ Anybody (not just members) can sign up for Easy Fundraising or choose the Southmoor Baby and Toddler Group if they already use it. It's free to use and you can generate donations on your weekly shop at Tesco, Sainsbury's, ASDA, Waitrose, Morrisons, Ocado and Iceland plus many other stores like Ebay, Argos, Amazon etc. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/southmoor-baby-and-toddler-group>. We've currently got 10 supporters who have generated £96.66 in donations so far; just think what we could achieve with more!

If you think you could/would like to help please get in touch ASAP by emailing:
southmoorbabytoddlergroup@hotmail.co.uk

We run most Fridays from 10am until 11.30am during term time in the Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Village Hall. Although please do check to see that sessions are on whilst we are still looking for another person to join the team at: www.facebook.com/southmoorbabyandtoddlergroup



If it's your first session with our group, it's free but Soha residents can have 3 free sessions. We have 3-week passes available on arrival; just ask.

We also don't want to turn families away who are experiencing financial hardship so do talk to us if the cost of attending is keeping you away.

If you are planning on attending one of our special events it's best to use the Bookwhen system to ensure your place: bookwhen.com/southmoorbabyandtoddlergroup.

Do you have something to say?
Send your thoughts to
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Update from Charlie Maynard



At the end of August, West Oxfordshire District Council opened a public consultation on the final draft of the Local Plan 2043, which will shape how our area develops over the next fifteen years.

With the central Government forcing West Oxfordshire to take 18,000 new homes over the next 20 years, it is vital that public transport, roads, utilities, and healthcare keep pace. I will make the case in my response to the consultation that we need a new railway linking Carterton and Witney to Oxford, to tackle congestion on the A40. I strongly encourage everyone to email to respond to the

consultation and make your voice heard: planning.consultation@westoxon.gov.uk

It's been a busy month across the constituency, meeting lots of fantastic local charities, businesses and community groups.

I visited the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) to see the incredible scale of their work first-hand. BBOWT manages more than 80 nature reserves, including Chimney Meadows near Bampton - the largest nature reserve in Oxfordshire. Their results are brilliant. Around 100 bird species are recorded there each year, and a wetland restoration project has opened a fish passage.



I also visited the Pump House Project in Faringdon, which has been responding to community needs for fourteen years. The charity is the base that many other local services simply couldn't run without – from table tennis for the over-65s to an Urban Movement Academy for under-18s, a weekly cake café, and a daily food share project. I really enjoyed meeting everyone who works so hard on these.



I have also continued to support Shrivenham residents in their campaign against the planning application for housing on the community golf course, which is such an asset. The course is home to many community groups, such as Parkies Pals, and forms the green gap between Shrivenham and Watchfield. I have visited and heard residents' concerns first-hand and raised them on BBC Oxfordshire.

With Parliament now back from its summer recess, I have been busy on the Westminster side of things too. In the first week back, I spoke in a debate on financial services where I raised the issue of how we can be better prepared for AI threats to cyber security in the financial sector. In a debate on biodiversity, I raised the importance of the Government incentivising nature recovery and natural flood management here in Oxfordshire, and across the country. Responding to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's first major speech, I also challenged new Treasury Ministers to boost our economy by opening the door to a new growth and defence partnership with the EU.

As ever, this is just a snapshot of everything I've been working on, and everyone I've met with over the last few weeks. A huge thanks to everyone who gets in touch and takes time to meet me or just chat when out and about. It is always appreciated and helps me be the best representative I can of our area.



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

A Taste of Latin America Right Here in Our Village

What does it mean to celebrate your heritage when you live thousands of miles away from home?

For me, it looks like going to see your abuela every weekend (because one week without seeing grandmother is a family emergency). It looks like drinking tinto (Colombian black coffee, not red wine!) and eating arepas. Most of all, it means someone asking, “¿Ya comiste?” (“Have you eaten?”) five minutes after you’ve finished lunch. In Colombia, food is how we show love.

Latin America isn't just one culture; it represents over 20 countries, each with unique accents, foods, and histories. But family connects us all. Our children are growing up here with British accents and a love for local life. But we still pass on our roots, cooking our parents' recipes, telling childhood stories, and saying “En español, por favor” more times than we’d like to admit!

If you’ve ever been sitting peacefully in a café when a group of Latinos appeared sounding like an international summit, we apologise! There are two reasons: our abuelas express themselves best in Spanish, and we really want our kids to keep the language or we pretend we don't understand English when our children ask for a drink!

So if you hear a little more Spanish around the village this month, come and say hello! You might even get offered an arepa.

Quick Colombian Arepa Recipe:

1. Mix 1 cup pre-cooked cornmeal (Harina P.A.N.), 1 cup warm water, a handful of grated cheese, a pinch of salt, and a knob of butter into a soft dough.
2. Shape into flat discs and pan-fry in butter for 4–5 minutes on each side until golden and crispy.
3. Serve warm with extra cheese!

Leslie Vasquez — A Colombiana, married to an Englishman, and mum to two children growing up between two cultures.



Local Little Ninjas Achieve Black Belt Milestone

Dojang X, Southmoor’s local family martial arts club, is celebrating a special milestone after two of its first Little Ninjas students achieved their Little Ninjas Black Belts in the summer!

Fred and Elliot have been training with the club since the Little Ninjas programme launched over two years ago. Designed for children aged 3–6, the programme introduces young children to the foundations of Korean Karate (Soo Bahk Do), while helping them develop confidence, co-ordination and social skills. The children also have the opportunity to meet other local youngsters and learn basic Korean.



The Little Ninjas syllabus provides a foundation for the Family Class that follows, where students can continue their martial arts training and work towards achieving a black belt in Soo Bahk Do Moo Duk Kwan, a martial art organisation recognised nationally and globally.

Achieving a Little Ninjas Black Belt is a significant accomplishment at such a young age. It reflects the dedication and commitment shown by both Fred and Elliot throughout their training to learn and improve their skills.

Dojang X is proud to have seen its first Little Ninjas students reach this milestone and we look forward to following them on their martial arts journey!

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