

KBS NEWS

The Kingston Bagpuize with
Southmoor Village News

DELIVERED MONTHLY TO EVERY HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE

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

Volume 52

Number 3

April 2025

Fir Tree Close Playground



The new look playground at Fir Tree Close is now finished and open for business. Enjoy the new features which include:

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

The Fir Tree Close playground is very well used already and we hope that this upgrade will mean even more children will be able to enjoy the facilities along with their carers.

Please keep to the footpaths, whilst the Grass Seed which has been sown, germinates. It will soon sprout and grass will grow.

April 3rd - Find a Rainbow Day



National Find a Rainbow Day challenges us to look to the sky and find a colourful ray of hope cast across it. Hidden somewhere inside the News is a picture of a rainbow. Can you find it?

Happy Easter!



Why does the Easter Bunny bring eggs?

Eggs, just like the rabbit, have long been considered an ancient symbol of fertility, rebirth and new life, all associated with the springtime celebration of Easter! From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs represent Jesus' resurrection and his emergence from the tomb.



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

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KBS News Team

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

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April for the May
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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.

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

KBS News is run by volunteers.



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

Please contact adverts-kbsnews@gmail.com



Village Diary

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

Day/ Date	Time	What & Where (KBSVH = Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Village Hall)	Page
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APRIL

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kingston Bagpuize Services. – See full details on the Church Pages			5 / 28
Tuesday	1 st	7.15pm Southmoor & Kingston Bagpuize Gardening Club, Bob Brown, 'So many plants, so little space' KBSVH	13
Saturday	5 th	6.45pm Riding for the Disabled Bingo Night - Riding Centre, Hanney Road, Southmoor	
Monday	7 th	9.30am Kingston Bagpuize Village Art & Craft Club. St John the Baptist Church Hall	19
Monday	7 th	6.30pm Parish Council Monthly Meeting – Swallow Room, KBSVH	10
Tuesday	8 th	7.30pm Apple Blossom Women's Institute 'Lorraine Chapman from Sparkling Wellbeing' KBSVH	23
Friday	11 th		
Friday	11 th	7.00pm Last Day to register to vote in the County Council Elections	4
		KBS Film and Music Night. 'L'Elisir d'Amore' (The Elixir of Love) St John the Baptist Church	14
Sunday	13 th	4.00pm Last Date / Time for copy to KBS News for the MAY edition	2
Monday	14 th	7.30pm Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Village Hall AGM	21
Thursday	17 th	7.00pm Longworth Hist Soc. Robert Evans "History of our Footpaths". KBSVH	8
Sunday	20 th	2.30pm Grand Easter Egg Hunt at the Millennium Green – All Village Residents Welcome	22
Thursday	24 th	10.00am Village Walk and Talk starting at Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Village Hall	6
Thursday	24 th – Saturday 26 th	Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group – Le Grand Return a comedy / Drama by Alan Stockdill	14/25
Friday	25 th	6.00pm Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club start of Outdoor training at the Cricket Club	24

MAY


















Thursday	1st		County Council Elections	Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Village Hall	2
Tuesday	6 th	7.15pm	Southmoor & Kingston Bagpuize Gardening Club, Mandy Bradshaw, 'Finding the Angle at Chelsea'	KBSVH	13
Monday	12 th	12.30pm	Village Lunch	Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Village Hall	7

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 rd Tuesday at 7.30pm & when it occurs 5 th Tuesday 7.30pm (see Church Hall for other days)	At Millennium Green Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize	
KBS Cafe	Thursdays 9.00am - 12 noon	Junior Park Run	Sunday 9.00am
KBS Gardening Club	1st Tuesday monthly 7.15pm for 7.30pm	At Jubilee Sports Field, Edward Strauss Park	
KBS Pilates	Thursdays 1.30 – 2.30pm See KBS News Ad	Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club	Junior Training Friday 6 – 8pm
KB & S Tennis Club	Tuesday 9 - 11am Men's Open Wednesday 6.30-8.30pm Ladies Open	In St John the Baptist Church Hall	
Longworth & District History Society	3 rd Thursday every month at 7.00pm	KB Drama Group	1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the month at 7.30pm (see Village Hall for other days)
Southmoor Baby & Toddlers	Friday (Term Time Only) 10.00 - 11.30am	KBS Art and Craft Friendship Club	Alternate Mondays 9.30am - 12.00 noon
Table Tennis (Over 55's) Currently No Vacancies	Tuesday 11am – 12 noon For Info email: bobsouthmoor@hotmail.com	Village Voices	Men - Alternate Mondays 9.30am Ladies – Alternate Tuesdays 9.30am
Yoga Classes	Tuesday 6.00pm - 7.00pm (intermediate) Wednesday 10.30am - 11.15am (seniors) Thursday 6.00pm - 7.00pm (beginners)	In Longworth Village Hall info at longworthvillage.org.uk	
Village Walk	Last Thursday every month 10.00am (Not Dec)	IYENGAR Yoga class (Term Time Only)	Monday 7.00pm – 8.30pm Tuesday 11.45am – 1.15pm
In Hinton Waldrist Village Hall		KARATE	Little Ninjas (3-5yrs) at 4pm - 4.30pm Kids Class (6-12yrs) 4.35pm - 5.25pm Mixed Class (6yrs+) 5.30pm - 6.30pm
Cedar Community Club		PILATES	Tuesday 9.15am & 5.45pm Thursday 9.15am & 6.30pm
		ZUMBA	Thursday 10.30am
		Tuesday & Wednesday 9.30 - 3:00pm	



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Extra copies are available from the
One Stop shop, Hinds Head and Southmoor Co-ops.

APRIL BIN COLLECTION (late changes will be updated by Email to readers who have joined the KBS News Information email service)		
Wed 2nd	Food Bin / Grey Bin Collection & Small Electrical Items	 +  + 
Wed 9th	Food Bin / Green Bin / Brown Bin + Textiles & Batteries in a separate bag on top of the Bin	 +  +  + 
Wed 16th	Food Bin / Grey Bin Collection & Small Electrical Items	 +  + 
Thu 24th	Food Bin / Green Bin / Brown Bin + Textiles & Batteries in a separate bag on top of the Bin	 +  +  + 
Wed 30th	Food Bin / Grey Bin Collection & Small Electrical Items	 +  + 

County Council Elections

The next county council election will be on Thursday 1st May 2025.

If you are voting for the first time or have recently moved house you will need to register to vote by 11th April.

To vote,
you must be
registered by
Friday 11 April.



Go to www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter

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SERVICES IN APRIL AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



Sunday 6th	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Morning Worship Children's Church
Sunday 13th	9.00am	Holy Communion
Palm Sunday	10.30am	All-Age Worship
Thursday 17th	7.00pm	Tenebrae Service
Maundy Thursday		
Friday 18th	3.00pm	Reflective Service
Good Friday		
Sunday 20th	9.00am	Holy Communion
Easter Day	10.30am	Family Communion
Sunday 27th	9.00am	Holy Communion
	10.30am	Village Communion

April Highlights

The church will be open for private prayer every week Tuesday - Thursday 10am to 12 noon. Opening hours may be extended if there is sufficient interest.

Sunday 6th Children's Church 10.30am in the Church Room

Sunday 13th All-Age Worship 10.30am in Church with crafts and activities – everyone welcome, every second Sunday each month

Sunday 20th Easter Family Communion Easter Egg Hunt after service for children



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

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

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VILLAGE VOICES

Send your views to editorkbsnews@gmail.com

The Village Walk and Talk



24th April (Thursday) at 10.00pm

The Village Walk and Talk which took place on 27th February was supported by 17 residents from the local area. We all met at the KBS Village hall to commence our walk at 10.00am on a fine and sunny morning. Leaving the Hall we headed towards the older part of Kingston Bagpuize via Bellamy Close, joining the footpath leading to Rimes Lane, where again we were able to admire many of the early flowers and blossom as we passed the grounds of Kingston Bagpuize House and the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist.

From here we headed a short distance via the A415 to Petypher Gardens, joining School Lane before crossing the recreation ground, stopping occasionally to be greeted by a local dog walker. At Fir Tree Close we were able to admire the newly completed children's playground, before returning via Blandy Avenue to the Village Hall, where we joined others for a welcoming coffee/tea and home baked cake.

The next Walk and Talk will take place on Thursday 27th March at 10.00am from the Village Hall, when we plan a guided walk of the Millennium Green, following in the footsteps of the Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire 'Ecology Tour' earlier in March. In the Millennium Green we will see some of the amazing nature we have close to the heart of the village.

The April Walk and Talk is scheduled for Thursday 24th April at 10.00pm. **Ron Green**



Out & About in India



Our editor, Greta, is holding an edition of KBS News alongside women from the Kutia Kondh tribe in 'Tattoo Village' in India.



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

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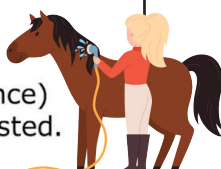
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Evenings for 1 hour approximately:
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Contact: 07889 466780 if interested.





KBS Café

Every Thursday 9am to 12pm
• Southmoor Village Hall

The Cafe will be closed on THURSDAY 3rd APRIL due to a funeral.

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*



The KBS Songsters

On Thursday 13th of March the KBS Jolly Gentlemen Singers performed to a full house at the KBS Cafe and donations of over £170 were received in aid of Parkinson's disease research.

The previous day Jenny and Ruth gave a recital of operatic arias and classical piano solos at the Bampton Bush Club and the following week they repeated their programme at the Cedar Community Club whilst a day later the ladies sang at the Aston Fellowship Centre.....What a busy couple of weeks !



Village Lunch Monday 12th May 2025

Please come and join us in the Village Hall at 12.30pm. To book your place, cost £5 per person for a two course hot meal and good company, please contact, by Thursday 24th April, Hazel Brennan (821358), or sign up with Stephen Haywood at the KBS Café. We look forward to hearing from you!

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

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Paul Weaving

It is with sadness that we heard of the passing of a very dear friend, both personal and of the village and surrounding area. Born in 1948 to Jack and Nancy, Paul grew up in the village where he lived all his life.

He married Sue in 1973 and they have 3 children and 4 grandchildren who are the fifth generation of Weavings to live in the village. Paul was a stalwart of the village and totally involved in many aspects of village life. He was once Chair of the John Blandy School governors and served on the John Blandy Trust. Paul was one of the first 'green men' in the establishment of the Millennium Green, and it was Paul who constructed the maze. And yes, it does work!



Paul carried on farming following his father and grandfather focussing on arable and beef. Once married he could often be seen driving his tractor round the John Blandy estate at lunchtime to his first home with Sue in Laurel Drive. Alongside farming Paul's other passion was folk music, frequently singing at the Ceilidhs at the old Tiddy Hall in Ascott-under-Wychwood. This is where Caroline and I first encountered Paul. We were later married and moved to Southmoor.

Paul started running his own folk nights at 'Dirty Dudlies' (the old Lamb & Flag) where he had to turn people away on the first night as the pub and car park were full. The folk nights were later held in the larger venue of Buckland Memorial Hall. Paul moved his concerts to the village when the new village hall was completed, which is when I began setting up the lighting for him and continued to do so until Paul retired. There were often 8 concerts each year with a full house each time. Among the many professional artists Paul booked were Fred Wedlock, Bernard Wrigley, Jonny Silvo, Tom Paxton, Show of Hands, The Yetties and Kate Rusby. To celebrate 30 years Paul put on a concert in The Amey Hall, Abingdon with Lindisfarne. Paul sang with his friend, Chad, for several years, but will be remembered for his group, 'The Last Straw' comprising Paul, Joe and Margaret.



Paul was a giant of a man in every respect: a kind and gentle man with a tremendous, and often mischievous sense of humour. Please see above the Last Straw Logo he used on his promotional material. He juggled farming and folk music and, with the help of Sue, led a rich and full life and will be greatly missed by many. *Ian and Caroline Ashby*



Longworth & District History Society



17th April (Thursday) at 7pm • Southmoor Village Hall • Robert Evans 'History of our Footpaths'

Our speaker for the April meeting is Robert Evans who is coming to talk about "History of our Footpaths". Robert is a retired historian, and is a ramblar and county co-organizer of its (reclaiming) Lost Paths initiative.

The date is Thursday 17th April 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.

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

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

The Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Parish Council met on March 3rd to discuss key local matters affecting the community. One major agenda item was a planning application for the proposed Willowfields Energy Park, a renewable energy project featuring solar panels and associated infrastructure. Concerns were raised about the visibility of the structures, fire risks, and the impact on local residents. The Council agreed to formally object to the application in its current form, requesting more consideration for community compensation and safety measures.

Financial matters were also addressed, with approval granted for various payments, including over £100,000 for the completion of the long-awaited playground upgrade. In addition, the Council allocated grants to several local groups, including Apple Blossoms WI, Southmoor Baby & Toddler Group, and The Village Hall, ensuring continued support for community initiatives. The Council also agreed to replace the failing defibrillator cabinet at the Village Hall and take action to address mole activity in public areas. Further updates included the ongoing work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan, which aims to guide future growth in the village. A community meeting was announced for March 26th to gather local input. The next Council meeting is scheduled for April 7th, with residents encouraged to attend and participate in discussions that shape the future of the parish.

At an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Friday 7th March, the Council agreed to re-engage Mark Doodles, a planning consultant, to assess the recent amendments made by Nicholas King Homes on its planning application P24/V2357/O, and to accept his fee of £995.

Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

A meeting was held on 10th March 2025, 6.30 pm, in the tea room at KINGSTON BAGPUIZE HOUSE.

The update since the last meeting covered the following:

Progress with MJA Consulting on transport, flooding, green infrastructure measures including night skies.

The copywriters' request for a definitive list of objectives and policies.

The Steering Group discussed the need to clarify details of the Settlement boundary.

Topics to be covered by policies:

1. A SELF-SUSTAINING VILLAGE - the need for improved infrastructure and facilities with Health and Education priorities.
2. Green infrastructure: a. Protection of woodland; b. Biodiversity c. Protection of watercourses.
3. Heritage: a. Conservation Area b. Listed buildings not in conservation area c. Consideration for Scout Hut – originally the old school and WW2 control tower on the site of the old airfield to be considered 'non-designated' heritage assets.
4. Transport.
5. Housing design: a. Coalescence with regard to Springhill. b. Infill but not back-land.

Confirmation of presentation of the first draft of the plan in the Swallow Room on Wednesday March 26th at 6.30pm. Date of April KBS NDP meeting to be confirmed on KBSPC website.

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Youth Matters

Hi everyone! My name is Darcey Prince and I am 13 years old and have lived in the village for almost 4 years. I am a keen writer, sports fanatic and passionate news reporter and love life in Southmoor and Kingston Bagpuize.

I was intrigued to write about World Book Day which has recently taken place on the 6th of March. Personally, I found it particularly difficult to pick one book to bring into school to show my friends, so I ended up taking four instead! I find it so exciting seeing all of the costumes that people dress up in for this special day, including Hermione Grangers, Harry Potters, TinTins, Dorothys, Where's Wallys, Cats in the Hats and much more! I remember going as Captain Nicholls in primary school – he was one of the key characters from War Horse by Michael Morpurgo - and how much I loved my costume!

That also brings to mind the stage play that I went to watch in 2024, and it was nothing short of brilliant. The way the horse was moved by the puppeteers was so realistic and the acting was superb; it was truly an emotional, eye-opening, exceptional story that really captured the difficulty of life in World War One. I would definitely recommend this for anyone who is a fan of the book (or movie) as it is a spectacular stage production.

I also thought if anyone is stuck for book recommendations for children or young adults, I've got some below!

- **The Ottoline Series by Chris Riddell** - A wonderful read that is perfect for children in primary school, with fantastic pictures and enticing stories!
- **Gold Medal Winter by Donna Freitas** - An immersing story following a young female American figure skater on her journey to and at the Olympics and the difficulties she had to face whilst there. Perfect for Year 7 and 8s.
- **Pugs of the Frozen North by Philip Reeve & Sarah McIntyre** - A quick but exciting story of a great race across ice and snow, including a sled driven by two children and drawn by 66 pugs! This is a great read for primary school children and you'll want to read it again and again!

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KBS Nature

A frog he did a wooing-go! And they are certainly causing waves in our ponds. The sunshine over the few days in early March has finally brought a touch of spring and a frog-spawn frenzy. It has also been good to see the hazel blooming, but how many of us ever notice the tiny red female flower tucked behind the far showier male yellow catkin (thanks Mr C for the photo)?

Last month I promised you an update on an Unofficial Friday Walking Club trip to Greenham Common. If you've never been I recommend it! There are 3 car parks around the Greenham and Crookham Commons and we used the main car park at the Control Tower (RG19 8DB, SU 499 651) mainly because it gave easy access to the Control Tower with its excellent café (dog-friendly if you need to know). The control tower not only provides an excellent panoramic view of Greenham Common, it also tells the interesting history of the Common from its days as an RAF station, through the years when it was used as a base for nuclear weapons and when the Women's Peace Camp was set up through to its decommissioning and designation as public parkland. The Common now forms the largest area of lowland heath in West Berkshire. There was not a lot of wildlife around on the day we visited, but there is the possibility to hear nightingales (if you are lucky) or catching a glimpse of Dartford warblers. If you are interested in reading a personal perspective of Greenham Common and its surrounding environs, I can recommend *On Gallows Down* by Nicola Chester.



My journey to work is not quite 'trains, planes and automobiles', but I do drive to Seacourt, walk into the centre of Oxford and then bus it up to Headington. From there I walk to the Churchill along a stretch known as the Boundary Brook Wildlife Corridor. There is always plenty of birdsong at that time of the morning and it's where I usually hear my first woodpeckers of the year drumming on the big trees. Spotting the first snowdrops and then celandines make the commute a far more pleasurable experience.

A few weeks ago, I was walking past the Castle Mound on my way to work when a fox trotted out in front of me and crossed the road. He stopped and had a cursory sniff of some rubbish by the kerb, turned his nose up and went on his way. Obviously, he must have already had the full English breakfast at Malmaison ...

Next month – another Unofficial Friday Walking Club adventure and close encounters of a hare-y kind.

In the meantime, please do send me your observations, photos etc. on anything from the natural world that may be of interest to our readers at kbsnature2025@gmail.com. **Best wishes Linda Collins**

LONGWORTH ALLOTMENTS

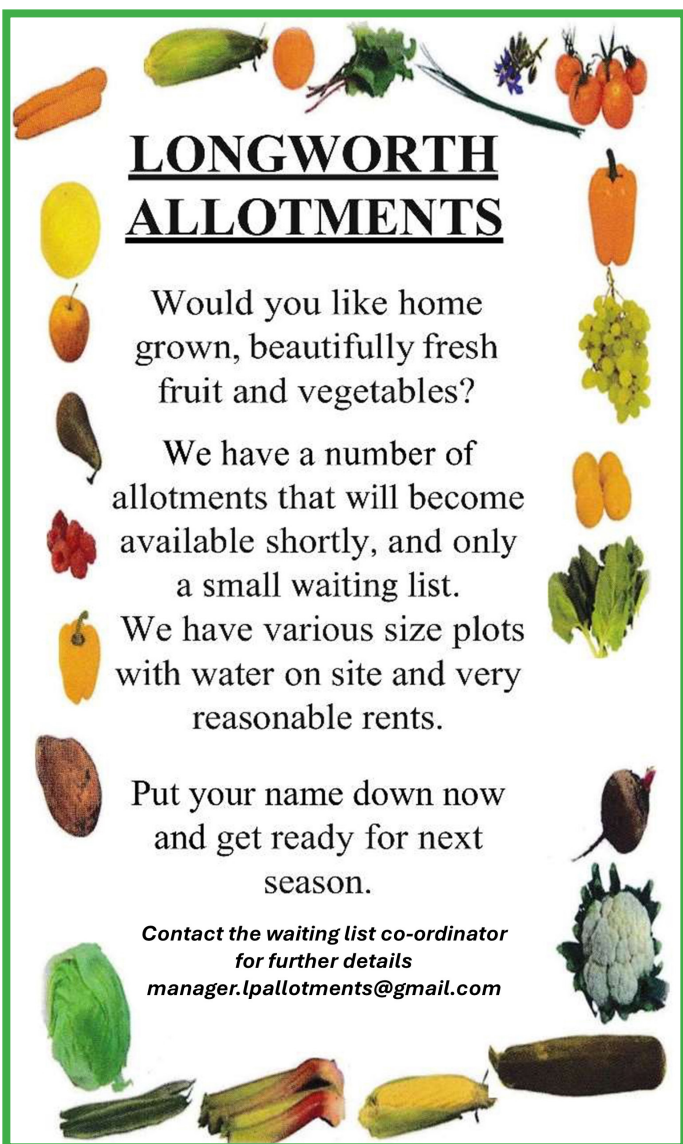
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**Southmoor &
Kingston Bagpuize
Gardening Club**



1st April (Tuesday), 7:30pm
• Southmoor Village Hall
• Bob Brown 'So many plants, so little space!'

We've been told by someone who knows him that we're in for a treat with our April talk (although it may already have happened by the time you read this, in which case you missed out!). If you do see this in time for 1st April, then come along and listen to Bob Brown on the subject of 'So many plants, so little space!' There will be some plants for sale, so bring your wallet... There'll be a raffle too.



As usual, the talk is at Southmoor Village Hall. Doors open 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. Free for members (£15 for the year) and £4 admission for visitors – includes free tea, coffee and biscuits.

We'll also be having a seed swap at the next couple of meetings. Please bring along any unwanted seed packets (part used is fine) and the rule is that if you donate a packet, you can take a packet. If you don't have anything to donate but see something you'd like to try, we ask you to put in a small donation. It's

also that time of year when we ask you to start thinking about putting things aside to donate to the Plant Sale in June.

If you're removing anything this Spring or dividing any of your clumps of perennials that have got too big, please pop them in a pot and keep hold of them for us rather than chucking them in the brown bin. Your surplus plants could be someone's future garden!

Looking ahead, on Tuesday 6th May, Mandy Bradshaw will entertain us with a talk called 'Finding the Angle at Chelsea' – a light-hearted glimpse about what goes on behind the scenes at the Chelsea Flower Show. Mandy is a Cotswold-based gardening journalist for newspapers and magazines and passionate gardener.

For our full programme for the rest of the year, see our website or email us at skbgardeningclub.org.uk
Sharon Cooper (Chair).



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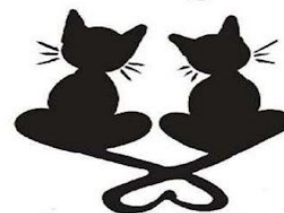


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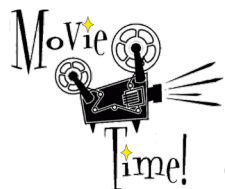
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KBS Film and Music Night



11th April (Friday) at 7pm • Church Room • 'L'Elisir d'Amore (The Elixir of Love)'

Our next Film Night will be on Friday 11th April in the Church Room when we will be showing L'Elisir d'Amore (The Elixir of Love), Gaetano Donizetti's two-act comic opera composed in 1832. It had its premiere in Milan the same year and has remained popular ever since.

The plot is simple and revolves around a love story. Nemorino (Rolando Villazon), a naive peasant, is obsessed with the capricious Adina (Anna Netrebko). She in turn is pursued by a rather officious and self-assured soldier, Belcore (Leo Nucci). In desperation, Nemorino buys a bottle of love potion (the "elixir of love") from a travelling quack doctor named Dulcamara. Come and find out what happens next...



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

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



Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group



24th April (Thursday) to 26th April (Saturday) at 7pm • Southmoor Village Hall

Rehearsals are going well and the group is looking forward to performing our next production which is a comedy / drama, *Le Grand Return* by Alan Stockdill. Dates for diaries are Thursday 24th April to Saturday 26th April.

Tickets can be purchased in advance from <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/kingston-bagpuize-drama-group> and will also be available on the night. Doors will open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start, we will have a bar and teas and coffees.

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?

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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.

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Recipe of the month

Hot Cross Buns

www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/mary_berrys_hot_cross_65003

Preparation about 2 hours Cooking 10 to 30 mins

Ingredients. Makes 12 Buns

- 500g/1lb 2oz **strong white flour**, plus extra for dusting
- 75g/2¾oz **caster sugar** 2 tsp **mixed spice**
- 1 tsp ground **cinnamon** 1 **lemon**, finely grated zest only
- 10g/¼oz **salt** 10g/¼oz fast-action dried **yeast**
- 40g/1½oz **butter** 300ml/10fl oz **milk**
- 1 free-range **egg**, beaten 200g/7oz **sultanas**
- 50g/1¾oz finely chopped mixed **candied peel**
- **oil**, for greasing

For the topping

- 75g/2¾oz **plain flour** 2 tbsp **golden syrup**, for glazing

Method

1. Put the flour, sugar, spices and lemon zest into a large bowl and mix together. Then add the salt and yeast, placing them on opposite sides of the bowl.
2. Melt the butter in a pan and warm the milk in a separate pan. Add the egg and use your hands to bring the mixture together, incorporating the flour from the edges of the bowl as you go. Gradually add the remaining milk, to form a soft pliable dough (you may not need all of the milk).
3. Tip the dough out on to a lightly floured work surface. Knead by hand incorporating the sultanas and mixed peel into the dough. Lightly knead for 10 minutes until silky and elastic and forming a smooth ball. (The kneading can also be done in a food mixer with a dough hook.) Oil a bowl and place the dough in a bowl, cover with cling film and leave to rest in a warm place for about 1½ hours or until doubled in size.
4. Turn the risen dough out on to a lightly floured surface. Knock back and knead for a further 5 minutes. Return to the bowl, cover with cling film and leave in a warm place to rise for a further hour, or until doubled in size.
5. Turn the dough out again on to a floured surface and divide into 12 equal pieces, shaping each of these into a ball. Line 1-2 baking trays with paper and place the balls on the tray, placing them fairly close together and flattening them slightly.
6. Slip each baking tray into a large clean polythene bag, making sure the bag doesn't touch the buns. Leave for 40-60 minutes until the buns have doubled in size.
7. Preheat the oven to 220C/200C Fan/Gas 7.
8. For the topping, add the flour to a bowl with 100ml/3½fl oz water. Mix together to make a paste and spoon into the icing bag.
9. When the buns have risen remove the polythene bags and pipe a cross on each bun.
10. Bake for 15-20 minutes until pale golden-brown, turning the baking trays round halfway through if necessary.
11. Melt the golden syrup in a pan and while the buns are still warm, brush the buns with a little syrup to give a nice shine, before setting aside to cool on a wire rack.



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Restaurant Review

PHO in Westgate



We thought we would go out for lunch and decided to go somewhere that would hopefully provide a quick meal and was central. We chose Pho restaurant, in the Westgate Shopping Centre. It is part of a chain that offers 'healthy' Vietnamese street food.

We booked online and received a reminder the day before.

After a short ride on the S6 and a walk, we arrived at the restaurant on the top floor,

tucked away with a few other restaurants, with a lift available to reach the top level.

We were greeted by friendly staff and shown to a lovely booth table. The restaurant was busy with a mix of group sizes and ages, families, and work parties. There were a variety of table sizes, well-spaced apart. Thankfully, there were none of the bench tables you find in some oriental restaurants, which can be more challenging to sit on! It was styled in a modern way, decorated with lots of wood and a Vietnamese street theme painting on the wall, with large windows allowing plenty of light in. It was lively and had a buzzy feel to it.

The menu is extensive, and it specialises in pho noodle soup, the national dish of Vietnam. There are sharing starters, and a mix of soup, noodles, curries and rice dishes for mains, with plenty of vegan and vegetarian options.

The drinks menu has a good selection of beers, wine, cocktails, soft drinks and a variety of fruit and veg smoothies with some interesting combinations. We were tempted by them but resisted.

We chose prawn crackers to share which were crispy, tasty and not greasy, served with a dip which we enjoyed.

Our main courses arrived promptly. The 'Super Green' pho house special soup came in a large bowl with extra herbs and spices on the side. It was very tasty with an array of fresh flavours and textures and admittedly a little challenging to eat but added to the experience. It was very satisfying and surprisingly filling as well.

My friend had a chicken thigh rice bowl which again was a generous portion with a varied combination of meat and vegetables and both colourful and tasty. Much enjoyed.

We were full after our meal, so we were not able to try the puddings even though we were tempted. They included ice creams, waffles and banana fritters.

The only disappointment we had was no decaffeinated coffee available to finish an otherwise lovely meal, served promptly by friendly attentive staff.

By Wilrich, two KBS foodies



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Tip of the Month

A challenge for us all, Avoid Plastic April!

Let's all use our People Power and leave items packaged in plastic on the shelves as encouragement to producers to remove single use plastic from their packaging. This is good for the environment, our rubbish bins and streets and eventually the fish in the seas. It's not an easy task, but if we all work hard at it, the producers will surely get the message. An easy one to start with, only buy Easter Eggs with cardboard packaging.



Many thanks to the 6 folk who turned up for the March litter pick, who between them gathered 12 sacks of rubbish. I look forward to the day the message is that there was no litter to pick up and everyone just enjoyed a stroll around the village! Our next litter pick will be on a Saturday afternoon, date yet to be decided.



KBS Badminton Club



Every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday • Southmoor Village Hall

Exciting news if you're a complete beginner or would like to get a better grasp on the basics of this fantastic game before joining one of our main sessions! We're planning

on running some dedicated sessions during May so that players of a similar ability can learn together with some basic instruction provided. The sessions will focus on holding the racquet correctly, different ways of hitting the shuttlecock, the aims and rules of the game and – very importantly – how to score! We expect that these sessions will run on Wednesday evenings from 8 -9pm, but please note that they will only run if there is sufficient demand. Numbers will be strictly limited and by advance booking only, so please contact me as soon as possible if you would like more information. Note that you will need your own racquet.

If you can already play, you have a choice of three regular times when you can come along. Jenny's 'returner / improver' sessions are on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm – 8pm. Saturday morning sessions are a little more competitive and run from 9am – 10.30am. Monday evening sessions run from 6.15pm – 7.30pm and are suitable for anyone who plays competently. We'll be playing on all the above days throughout April, including Easter Monday. All of the sessions take place at Southmoor Village Hall.

Please do contact me or Jenny before going along to check that there is space for you. The first couple of sessions are free (with the exception of the beginner sessions mentioned above) and, after that, we divide up the cost of the court hire and shuttlecocks between us. It works out great value for money. You can contact us on sharon@cherrytree21.plus.com (01865 820399) (Sat or Mon sessions or beginner enquiries) or Jenny jenny.frame@live.co.uk (Wed sessions). **Sharon Cooper**

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The winter season is coming to an end with final fixtures taking place over the next few weekends.

Congratulations to the Ladies B team who have gained promotion already for next winter.

KBS with Southmoor Tennis club was nominated as a finalist in this years LTA Oxfordshire awards for 'Club of the year'- standout achievements included doubling of numbers at Club Open sessions, 3 additional adult teams which comprise of 16 new players and winning 3 competitive divisions in the summer season of 2024.



A big congratulations to our coaching provider - Excel tennis academy who have won the "Tennis Opened Up" award for 2024 (LTA Oxfordshire). This is awarded for providing playing sessions for as many as possible. Excel provides a schools program, discounts to blue light workers and teaching staff, walking tennis, coaching for SEND pupils, financial support, linked with local councils via "You Move" and offered free spaces on holiday camps.



Kingston Bagpuize Village Art and Craft Club




7th April (Monday) at 9:30am • St. John the Baptist Church Hall

At the beginning of March we had our first of two sessions on bookbinding where we prepared the cover for the book using acrylic paint. Each picked their colour of choice and then preparation for part two was completed ready for the final making, when we will be making the book.


In April we look forward to trying our hand at glass painting. This session is now full. We welcomed a new member, Kate, to the club. 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 April 7th 2025**. We look forward to welcoming new members. **Jean Allsworth 07397530144**


Do you have something to say?
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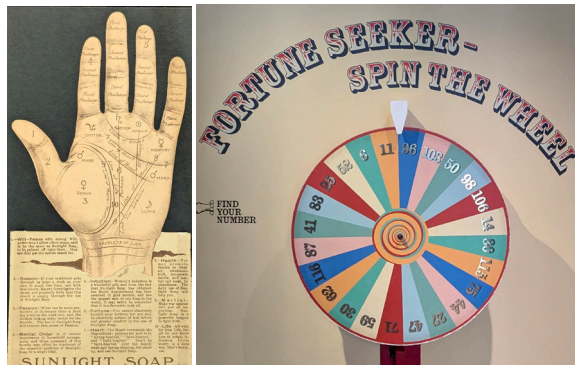
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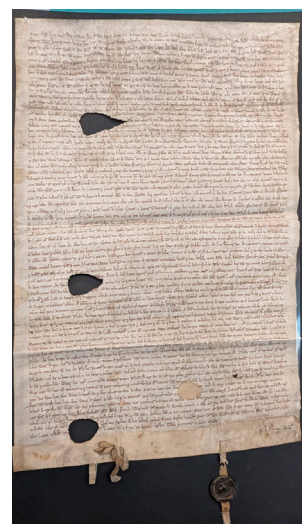
Would you like to predict what is going to happen in your future? I could guess that you are going to visit the Weston Library to see one of the three current exhibitions.

The first is 'Oracles, Omens and Answers'. Entering the exhibition room, spin the wheel and see which number comes up to identify the object you should read. Is it chance or fate? "See how societies have turned to divination to ask questions that resonate with us today: on health, relationships, money and politics." Select from the wonderful display of methods your chosen path to future knowledge. Will it be oracle bones from the Shang dynasty over 3000 years ago? Or palmistry, the interpretation of your future from your own hand? Spider divination practice? Interpretation of the celestial configuration? Or will the answer lie in using the AI generated tarot cards?



The second is 'Listen In: How Radio Changed the Home'. Radio was the first mass communication system. It changed our lives. There followed some significant steps in communication. Next came television invented by John Logie Baird, a Scotsman. The third great leap was the World Wide Web invented by Tim Berners-Lee, a graduate of Queens College and Oxford Fellow. Now we are dealing with and learning Artificial Intelligence (AI). However, radio was the first. Discover the previously unpublished first-person accounts of how it changed lives. You can even indulge in the audio booth!

The third, is a smaller side cabinet exhibition 'Magna Carta 1215 & 1225' celebrating the 800th anniversary of the definitive issue of Magna Carta - one of the most important documents in democracy. There are three different versions on display. Magna Carta is a contract between the King and his nobles hand copied so that everyone has a record of the deal. The original 1215 version was not a success. It was Henry III and his 1225 version which ensured its place in history. My favourite is the one with the little holes in it. It is of course written on parchment (stretched young animal skin) and in its time it has been folded and the edge nibbled by a mouse, hence the holes.



Don't delay! These are, as always, temporary exhibitions. You have until the 21st April for Magna Carta. Look out (check online) for the free tours/talks of these exhibits by experts. Go and secure a knowledge of your future as soon as possible!

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Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Bowls Club

The results of the last three Afternoon Short Mat matches for this season 2024/25.

Kingston Kites v Didcot Red Kites			Charlbury Sycamores v Kingston Kites		
Total shots	21	17	Total Shots	28	24
Points	6	2	Points	8	0

Kingston Kites v Charlbury Chestnuts		
Total Shots	26	14
Points	8	0

Of the 10 clubs playing in the Afternoon Div 1 OSMBA Short Mat League, Kingston kites finished in 4th place overall. A good position for our first year in Division 1.

Afternoon Short Mat will recommence in October 2025.

Saturday 8th March saw the first friendly outdoors match against Abingdon Bowls club, consisting of six rinks of triples. The weather could not have been kinder to us on the first match of the 2025 season. Abingdon demonstrated how good they are by winning the match 4 rinks to two.. Abingdon scored 92 shots to KB&S 78.

Friday 14th March saw the second Short Mat match with Faringdon Bowls club for the Francis Rothwell Cup. Unfortunately KB&S Bowls Club lost both games. *Tom Waring, Club Captain*

Village Hall AGM

The AGM of the Village Hall will take place in the **SWALLOW ROOM** at the village hall on **MONDAY 14th APRIL at 7.30 pm**. Please take this opportunity to come along and meet the committee and hear the reports related to what has happened in the past year and also what our plans are for the future.

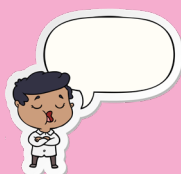
We would like to hear from as many of the KBS residents as possible about what you would like to happen with your hall. As always, we are very keen to invite villagers to get involved with the running of the hall, the time commitment is very minimal. There may well be a glass of wine on offer to entice you to come along. We are still without a secretary and a booking clerk. Come along and find out what each role involves and who knows either might be something you feel you can commit to. Please don't hesitate to speak to me at the meeting or contact me by phone or email neiloastler@gmail.com 07876590919. *Neil Oastler Chair of the Managing Trustees*



**Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor
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to say?**

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- Enjoy a complimentary lunch prepared by our talented chefs.

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Richmond Villages Letcombe Regis

Friday 11th April, 10am – 2pm

To RSVP call 01235 773 970

Richmond Villages Witney

Thursday 3rd April, 10am – 2pm

To RSVP call 01993 894 000

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Oxford Flower Club



Fourth Thursday each month at 12pm • Cumnor Village Hall

The Master and The Apprentice. Two of our members took on the role of demonstrators at our February meeting. The Master: Jane Belcher, who is a four times Chelsea Gold Award winner, demonstrated how she formed the mechanics of her contemporary design. Beautiful structures that were so creative and raffled off to three lucky members at the end of our meeting. The Apprentice: Angela Edmunds is a qualified florist and a multiple Chelsea Award winner including Silver Gilt. Angela's designs were more natural but dramatic and bursting with colour.

Jane talked about her journey into floristry and teaching, while Angela talked about her wedding in Las Vegas. Her wedding was the inspiration for one of her displays. A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon with such talented people.

Next month, members are invited to bring along their own spring display. Future events include another master demonstrator, Michael Bowyer MBE, a trip to Salisbury Flower Festival in May and a tea party in June.

We meet every fourth Thursday afternoon of the month in Cumnor Village Hall for anyone interested in joining our friendly club. **Call or email Karen for more details - karen@fourgates.me or 07967 555750.**



Apple Blossoms WI



8th April (Tuesday) at 7:30pm • Southmoor Village Hall • Enriching mindfulness session by Lorraine Chapman

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

We held our Annual Meeting on 11th March, during which a new committee was established. We are delighted to welcome back Elizabeth Oastler as our President for the third consecutive year. As our WI continues to grow, many members have volunteered to take on tasks previously managed by the committee. This helps distribute the responsibilities and encourages everyone to participate in the operation of our WI.

We were thrilled to donate to the Cedar Club and Riding for the Disabled (RDA). We provided twelve new folding tables to replace the Cedar Club's old ones, and bunny ears and toe stoppers for the RDA. Margo Evans accepted the donation for the Cedar Club, while Nicky Middleton and her son Jake accepted on behalf of the RDA. These donations were made possible thanks to a successful year of fundraising by Apple Blossoms WI at the Village Fête and the KBS Community Mall.

Mark your calendars for our next meeting on **Tuesday 8th April at 7:30pm in the Village Hall!** We're excited to welcome Lorraine Chapman from Sparkling Wellbeing for an enriching mindfulness session. Come and discover how to boost your physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing, and explore the scientifically proven benefits of mindfulness in a warm and supportive atmosphere.

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!

Follow us for more news and photos:



– Apple Blossoms WI



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



– Toni Briggs, appleblossomswi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

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Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club

The clocks have changed, the weather is getting warmer, and Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club is getting ready for the new Season.

The Juniors have completed the Winter nets and will have their first outdoor training on Friday 25th April at the cricket club, 6-8pm. We then have a full season of games planned for all age groups and abilities starting from May running through to August. We will have Teams that enter the following competitions u11s Softball, U11s Hardball Pairs and 11 a side, 2 u13 Hardball Teams and an u15 Hardball Team.

We are a fun and inclusive club that wants to provide an opportunity for all to learn and enjoy the game in a safe environment. If your child is interested in playing cricket, please contact Michael via kbcc.juniorcoordinator@gmail.com.

In addition to this we have 3 adult teams playing in the Cherwell League, so every weekend from May until September there will be a game at Kingston. Why not come along and watch a game and enjoy the great weather? Or if you are interested in playing cricket, please contact us at <https://kingstonbagpuize.play-cricket.com/Aboutus>

This year we are also launching a women's team that will play in some softball festivals. No cricketing background required as we will all learn together. If you are interested in playing, please contact Caroline via carolinewalton77@outlook.com



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From our MP Charlie Maynard

Thank you for taking the time to read my update. I hope you have been keeping well this last month and are looking forward to a break with friends and family over Easter.

I wrote last month about my campaign to sort out failing Thames Water and that I had submitted evidence to the High Court urging them not to let Thames Water take on another £3bn of debt. Supported by local campaigners including Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (WASP) and with an amazing legal team who all gave their time for free, I argued that I did not believe that this was in the interests of Thames Water's customers.

The money we pay through our bills needs to be spent on repairing our water infrastructure and cleaning up our rivers, not paying for Thames Water's billions in debt and the huge interest repayments on it. Regrettably the court decided to let them go ahead with this plan, but I was able to appeal the decision. If you are interested in hearing more about my work on this, you can find coverage here: [Thames Water faces court claim that £3bn bailout is 'poor, short-term fix' | Thames Water](#) | [The Guardian](#) [Thames Water secures £3bn lifeline after court ruling - BBC News](#). I will of course continue to keep residents updated on my work on this.

In Parliament I recently attended a debate on the disastrous decision to shut down the Sustainable Farming Incentive, a vital funding stream for farmers which also supports more sustainable farming methods and nature recovery. This decision was briefed to press without giving farmers any notice at all – leaving local farmers totally in the lurch, many of whom will have been counting on this revenue. This on top of the fact that farmers in Oxfordshire are still reeling from the Government's inheritance tax changes, which could strip them of family businesses they have built over generations. To deal the sector another blow so quickly – delivered in such an abrupt way – is awful.

I've been out and about in the constituency a lot over the past month and lucky enough to see lots of good work going on, but also to hear about issues and challenges people are facing. Among these were visits to two schools in Witney, where, amongst other things, I spoke to teachers about special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision.

I also visited the Defence Academy at Shrivenham, which was a great opportunity to get some insights into the challenges facing our military personnel. A few days later, back in Shrivenham, I had a great time at the Zumba Gold class, part of a nationwide 'Let's Dance' campaign. I also paid a visit to Matthews Cotswold Flour Mill in Shipton-under-Wychwood, which prides itself on producing the highest quality flour to sell to customers locally and nationally. It was great to see the mill at work and to discuss local issues with the staff. I also recently visited the Bradwell Grove Estate, which runs the Cotswold Wildlife Park. The owner, Reggie Hayworth, showed me around and we discussed the challenges farmers are facing locally.

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



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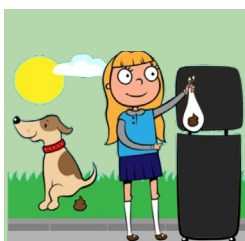
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Pictures around the Village by Tania Delohery Duffy



Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor

Spring, and particularly the long Easter weekend, is a good time for a project. You'll have seen the adverts for garden furniture and the plants and flowers on offer at garden centres and supermarkets. It's exciting to do something new outdoors, to feel the growing warmth of the sun on your back, the smell of the soil, enjoying the bright colours of spring flowers, hearing the birdsong. It's such a welcome relief after the cold, short, dark days of winter.

But there are always things in life that are not as easily fixed or changed as the height setting on the lawn mower. We all have things in our lives that hurt us – the breakdown of a relationship, the death of a loved one, illness, job uncertainty, financial worries. These things need something a bit more profound than a new outdoor project to bring hope and comfort. Sometimes we look after our physical, even our emotional and mental health and forget that we are also spiritual beings.

Why not try going to church (again) this Easter time? Or have a walk in the countryside, being aware of the beauty that is around you, and consider the love of God who came to earth to give up everything (including life itself) to show us the extent of his love and to give us new life and new hope.

(If life is tough at the moment and you'd like some extra support please feel free to contact me, Revd Catherine Schneider, on vicar.kbs@gmail.com)

Happy Easter from everyone at St John the Baptist!

The church will be open for private prayer every week Tuesday - Thursday 10am to 12 noon. Opening hours may be extended if there is sufficient interest.

Our Easter Services

Palm Sunday 13th April

9.00am
10.30am

Holy Communion
All Age service

Maundy Thursday 17th April

7.00pm

Tenebrae Service – a quiet communion service

Good Friday 18th April

3.00pm

Reflective Service

Easter Sunday 20th April

9.00am
10.30am

Holy Communion
Family Easter Communion
Easter Egg Hunt

