

KBS NEWS

The Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Village News

DELIVERED MONTHLY TO EVERY HOUSE
IN THE VILLAGE

Volume 53

Number 5

June 2026

Deputy Editor!

We are looking for a Deputy Editor to join our KBS News team.



If you have InDesign skills and are interested in getting involved in the community, or would like to gain valuable experience in editing and publishing, we would love to hear from you.

Please get in touch with us editorkbsnews@gmail.com



A new clothes, shoes and textiles recycling bin located in the car park at the Village Hall. Read more on pg 7.

The 8th of June is a World Ocean Day.



It highlights the vital role the ocean plays in our everyday lives, regulating the climate, producing oxygen, and supporting life.

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

Happy 75th Wedding Anniversary!



It is said that less than 0.01% of marriages in the UK last for 75 years or more so to have one in our village is a very special event! Read more on pg 28.



Goodbye!
& THANK YOU

Read more on pg 2.

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Copy date for next issue: Sunday 14th June for the July edition

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

Goodbye and Thank You, KBS

Dear Residents,

This edition of the KBS News will be my last as editor. Life has taken us in a new direction, and we have made the decision to return to our beautiful home country, Lithuania, to begin a new chapter by the sea and pine woods in the lovely town of Palanga.

Looking back on the past two years, I feel incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have been part of this wonderful village community. Being editor of KBS News has been such a rewarding experience. I have met so many incredible and kind people who genuinely care about their village and the place they call home. It has been inspiring to see how many residents volunteer their time and effort each month to help produce this magazine and keep the community connected.

I truly enjoyed every part of the role — even the long nights putting editions together! Through this experience, I learned so much and became far more knowledgeable about what is happening in the village. One of the greatest joys was getting to know the many contributors who make this publication possible and hearing the stories that matter to our community.

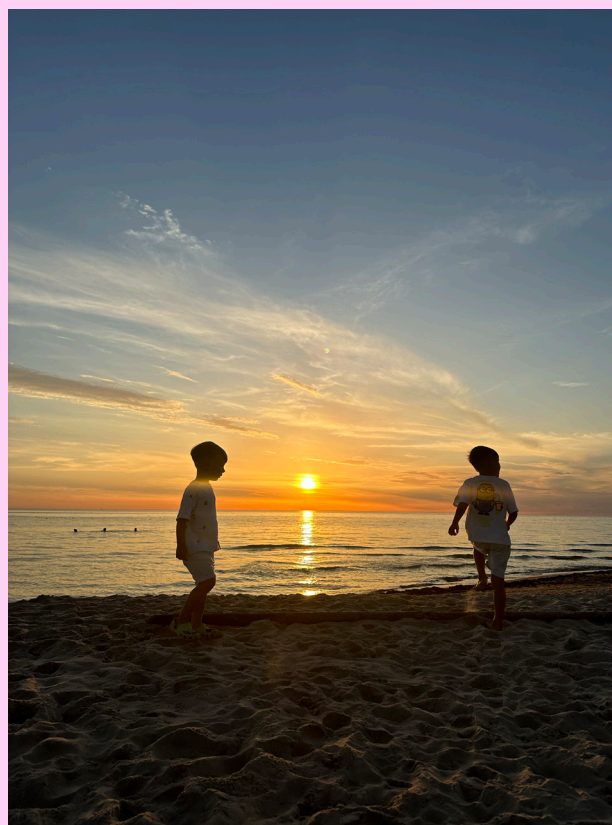
Over the past two years, the magazine itself has evolved considerably. We introduced full-colour pages, new news columns, and reorganised sections to make local adverts and information easier to find, and much more. Most importantly, our team has grown, welcoming many new people who wanted to get involved in preparing and contributing to the magazine's success.

I am also delighted to announce that Stephanie Cater will be taking over the role of editor. I am absolutely certain she will do an amazing job leading KBS News forward. If there are any local residents who would like to step in as a deputy editor, gain publishing experience, become more involved in village life, and support the team, I know your help would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you all for your kindness, support, and friendship over these past two years. I will carry many wonderful memories with me.

Best of luck to everyone, and with lots of love,

Greta 



Village Diary

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

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St John the Baptist Church, Kingston Bagpuize Services. – See full details on the Church Page				5
Monday	1 st	6.30pm	Parish Council Monthly Meeting - Swallow Room, KBS Village Hall	8
Tuesday	2 nd	7.30pm	SKB Gardening Club, Nathalie Mignotte on Gardens in the Far East,	11
Thursday	4 th	10am-12pm	KBS Café, Age UK Information Drop-In, meet your Local Link Worker and Scams Adviser	6+7
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Friday	12 th	7.00pm	Film & Music Night showing a classic old musical, St John Baptist Church Room	14
Sunday	14th	4.00pm	Final Copy Date for KBS News June edition	2
Thursday	18 th	7.00pm (tbc)	Longworth History Society, Guided walk around Buckland, Meeting point: The Lamb Tavern	21
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Sunday	5 th	10am	Litter pick, Meeting point corner of Draycott and Faringdon Roads	7
Monday	6 th	6.30pm	Parish Council Monthly Meeting - Swallow Room, KBS Village Hall	8
Saturday	18 th	tbc	SKB Gardening Club, Summer Party, Tickets will be on sale at the June meeting	11















REGULAR VILLAGE EVENTS - Please check with the event organiser to confirm

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



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

JUNE BIN COLLECTION

Wed 3rd	Food Bin / Green Bin Collection/Brown Bin + Textiles & Batteries in a separate bag on top of the Bin	 +  +  + 
Wed 10th	Food Bin / Grey Bin & Small Electrical Items	 +  + 
Wed 17th	Food Bin / Green Bin Collection/Brown Bin + Textiles & Batteries in a separate bag on top of the Bi	 +  +  + 
Thu 24th	Food Bin / Grey Bin & Small Electrical Items	 +  + 

For all advertising: Please contact the Advertising team at advertskbsnews@gmail.com

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

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

Photographs:

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

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

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

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
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				



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

Services in June at St. John the Baptist

stjb.churchinsight.com



Sunday 7th	9.00am 10:30am	Holy Communion Morning Worship with Children's Church
Sunday 14th	9:00am 10.30am	Holy Communion All-Age Worship
Sunday 21st	9.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Worship with Children's Church
Sunday 28th	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!

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

- The church will now be open for private prayer every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday 9am to 5pm/dusk and Sunday whichever is the earlier.
- **Sundays 7th , 21st , 28th Children's Church 10.30am** in the Church Room with crafts and activities, all children and families welcome.
- **Saturday 27th Village Fete** in the grounds of Kingston Bagpuize House 1 – 4pm, with thanks to Mrs Virginia Grant. Details can be found within this edition and on the back page.

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

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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



**Tamsyn Lay MSc (Hons) MChiro MMCA
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Tel: 07810 557639 Email: tlay@espina.co.uk

VILLAGE VOICES

Send your views to editorkbsnews@gmail.com

KBS Out and About in Italy



Alarmed by the possibility of an eruption of Vesuvius, just behind him, Jeremy scans the KBS News for helpful information.



Ruth and Kerry Hastings with the KBS outside a Trulli House, Alberobello, Italy.



Tip of the Month

I've noticed recently more clothes are being made from Bamboo. Having investigated a little it seems that this is a reasonable thing for the environment and the

bamboo plant itself is an eco-conscious choice. Bamboo absorbs the same amount of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as it releases during harvesting, making it carbon neutral. Additionally, bamboo releases more oxygen into the air than other plants. It is a quick grower and requires less water than growing cotton. The definite downside to bamboo is that the whole processing of the raw bamboo to transform it into cloth requires quite a few chemicals creating emissions both into the air and water. They say bamboo is a highly sustainable plant that is naturally antibacterial, hypoallergenic, and thermo-regulating. With these advantages perhaps it's worth giving at least bamboo socks a try.



Community Links
Oxfordshire

A service provided by
Oxfordshire
ageUK

Information Drop-In

Southmoor



Pop along and meet your local Link Worker and Scams Adviser for information and advice on a wide range of activities, services and organisations.

When: Thursday 4th June, 10am-12noon

Where: KBS Cafe, Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor Village Hall, Draycott Road, Southmoor, OX13 5BY

Rachel 07827 235460
community@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk
www.ageuk.org.uk/oxfordshire

Community Links Oxfordshire is available to all adults living in the county, and is here to link you into what matters to you. Funded by Oxfordshire County Council.

Age UK Oxfordshire is an independent local charity. Registered charity No.1091529 and company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales No. 4328143. Registered office: 10 Napier Court, Barton Lane, Abingdon, OX14 3YT.



KBS Café

Every Thursday 9am to 12pm • Southmoor Village Hall

4th June (Thursday) Oxfordshire AGE UK "Information Fair"

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

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



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

If you can help, please contact Caroline Ashby on 07984 523955 or Ruth on 01865 821386.

We look forward to seeing you. *Caroline Ashby*

Village Hall News

The village hall is pleased to announce that there is now a clothes, shoes and textiles recycling bin located in the car park at the village hall. All donations will be recycled to benefit the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. Please make sure that your donations are placed inside a suitable plastic bag. The bin is located on the tarmac strip, adjacent to the Fire Assembly Point sign in the middle of the car park.



Litter Pick

5th July (Sunday) 10am • Meeting point corner of Draycott and Faringdon Roads

Another successful outing by both regular and new locals for our litter pick last month. Between us we filled 24 bags with a variety of items. This felt like our biggest haul of empty cans and bottles. There must have been quite a celebration up the Springhill end of the village where we filled 6 bags, 1 with empty cans the rest with empty wine and spirit bottles. Thankfully none were broken so no small animals in the area would have been hurt by them being there. The smokers seem to be at the other end of the village with many dog ends at the bus stop. Perhaps we need a new bin up there just for cigarette butts? Many thanks to all those who gave up their time on a warm sunny Saturday afternoon. Our next litter pick will be on Sunday 5th July, meeting point corner of Draycott and Faringdon Roads at 10 am. If you have an hour or even more to spare we will be very grateful.



Outstanding Performance of The Unfriend by KB Drama Group

I would like to congratulate the Group on what was an exceptionally entertaining production of this black comedy. The excellent cast of seven, ably directed by Laurence Brockliss, conveyed both the drama and humour of the plotline and I for one thoroughly enjoyed the play. Heartiest congratulations to everyone involved, not forgetting the off-stage team. *Grant Phillips*

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!!



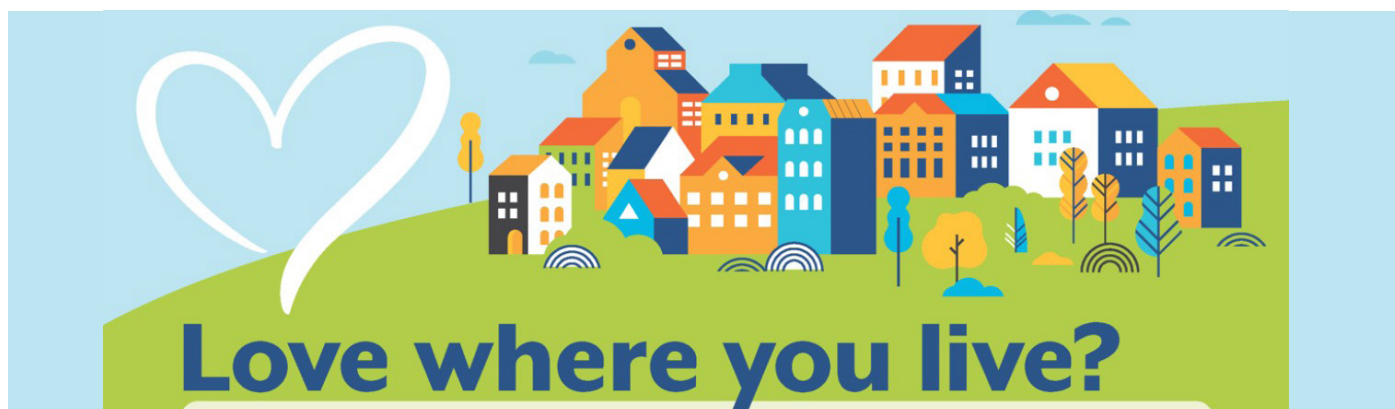
Parish council Website: kbs-parishcouncil.gov.uk

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).

At the Annual Meeting of Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Parish Council on 5 May, councillors elected Cllr Virginia Grant as Chair and Cllr Robert Barnett as Vice-Chair for the coming year. The council also confirmed its committees and representative roles, including appointments covering planning, finance, road safety, environmental matters, youth and elderly representation, public transport and community liaison. The Recreational Facilities Committee was formally disbanded, with responsibilities redistributed across other council groups to reflect current priorities.

Councillors received updates on several local issues and ongoing projects. Oxfordshire County Council is progressing redesign works at the A420/Charney Road junction, expected to begin later this summer, while discussions continue regarding speeding concerns on the A415. The council also noted progress on the neighbourhood development plan following the completion of Regulation 14 consultation, with responses from residents and statutory consultees now being reviewed before the next draft is submitted. Residents were also reminded that the village fete will take place on Saturday 27 June, where the Parish Council will have a stand.

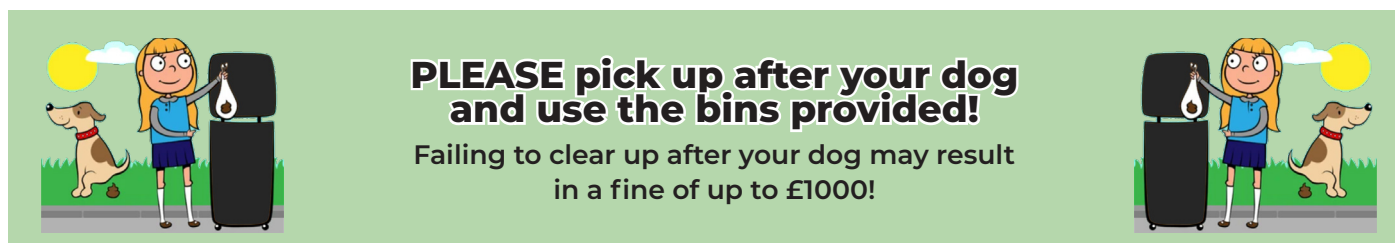
Other business included approval for a replacement dog bin on Waggon Path and permission for sports clubs to install a post box at the pavilion. The Health & Safety Working Group reported that work continues on a number of outstanding actions, including long-term improvements to playground pedestrian gates. Updates were also provided on the Ferrers Green development and the ongoing appeal relating to land north of Springhill. The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Monday 1st June at 6.30pm in the Swallow Room.



KBS Neighbourhood Development Plan

Required and advised amendments to the Draft Neighbourhood Plan continue. This has been necessary to ensure that the proposed Draft Policies and supporting text give absolute clarity and avoid duplication. Once the final draft of KBS NDP is completed a Consultation Statement is required before the NDP can be submitted to the VWHDC NDP Team who will be responsible for the remaining stages of the application process.

The KBS NDP Steering Group will continue to update residents on progress both at monthly Parish Council meetings, in the KBS News and at the Village Fete on Saturday 27th June.





KB Drama Group

The drama group would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who supported April's production of *The Unfriend*. We were delighted to perform to such large audience numbers and to receive such positive feedback from the local community both online and in person.

Earlier this year we joined NODA, a charity that celebrates, connects and supports theatre groups across the UK from village halls to large-scale venues. One of the benefits of being a NODA member is independent, detailed reviews of member's productions. Here is their summing up of April's show:

'This was a very accomplished production. The creative and technical teams knew exactly how to make the most of the resources at their disposal, the director had a thorough understanding of the piece and the imagination and experience necessary to realise his vision, and the company was packed with capable performers who really brought the characters to life. It's not an easy play to do well, as you have to tread a narrow line between rooting the piece in everyday experience and exaggerating certain traits to comic and thought-provoking effect, but that's exactly what the Drama Group did, and they gave us an entertaining and stimulating evening of theatre.'

Thoughts now turn to November's production. We have yet to decide what that will be so now is an excellent time to come to one of our meetings if you are potentially interested in joining the group. We always welcome new members, you don't need any previous experience, and we need people both on and backstage. Pop along to one of our Tuesday meetings or contact our chair micahe_lacey@talk21.com to find out more.



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



News from Southmoor Baby and Toddler Group

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

The group has been quiet for a few sessions recently, which is such a shame. We hope it's because families have been using the recent good weather to get away with their little ones outside of school term dates. If you haven't been to the group in a while, we'd love to see you back and please do bring your friends and family too. We have free tea and coffee and adult snacks along with a communal snack time for any babies and toddlers that are at the weaning/eating stage. Our circle-time sing along at the end (after tidy-up time) is a great way of teaching children language and rhythm skills. Research shows that infants process rhythmic information before they can understand individual speech sounds. Action rhymes reinforce vocabulary through physical muscle memory and our finishing song 'Sleeping Bunnies' improves listening skills and inhibitory control, helping toddlers focus on sounds when the music stops. Our current singing leader used to be a Music Teacher and she knows lots of verses of 'Wheels On The Bus' (usually requested each week by one of the toddlers) so come on and see which one's she'll pick this week!



We are looking forward to the Village Fête at Kingston Bagpuize House on Saturday 27th June. We will have a Baby and Toddler Group Stall with Ice Pop sale and Lucky Dips with prizes for under 3's and over 3's at pocket money prices. Please do visit us! We should have some toys out to play with and some free crafting activities too. Money raised will go towards our Summer Party which is where we celebrate the successes of the last academic year and say goodbye to some children who will be moving up to Reception classes at school and also some volunteers whose lives have moved on. The Village Fête is such a lovely day out with all sorts of stalls selling food, drinks and hand-made crafts. 1pm – 4pm – hope to see you there!

We run most Fridays from 10am until 11.30am during term time in the Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Village Hall. Soha residents can have 3 free sessions at our group. We have 3 week passes available on arrival; just ask. You can keep updated with the latest news on our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/southmoorbabyandtoddlergroup>. Contact us at: southmoorbabytoddlergroup@hotmail.co.uk



Pictures around the Village by Tania Delohery Duffy



Country & Western Night



Food, Music & fun



Tacos, potato chips & nibbles
Steak, fries, beans, Chilli & Ribs
Mudpie, Banoffee Pie & Ice-cream trio

£27
per person



Friday 26th June, Food from 5.30pm
Live Music to follow

The Gardens Café, Petypher House



**Southmoor &
Kingston Bagpuize
Gardening Club**



2nd June (Tuesday) at 7:30pm • Nathalie Mignotte 'Insights from Far East' • Southmoor Village Hall

Our talk on Tuesday 2nd June will transport us across the world to the Gardens of Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka. Nathalie Mignotte, a keen traveller as well as horticulturalist, will be sharing insights from her visits to the Far East. Many plants that we commonly grow originated in Japan and China so it will be interesting to see which we can successfully grow and see them in their native habitat as well as learn about different styles of gardening and the impact of faith on design. Doors at Southmoor Village Hall will open at 7.15pm and the talk starts at 7.30pm followed by refreshments and a raffle. Free admission for members and £4 if you'd like to come along as a visitor.

One of the highlights of our year – the Annual Plant Sale – will take place at the Village Fête at Kingston Bagpuize House on the afternoon of Saturday 27th June. We gratefully accept donations of good quality plants. Herbaceous perennials, shrubs, bedding plants and produce are all welcome provided they are well rooted with no pests or diseases. Anything in flower is particularly welcome and, if it flowers but isn't currently in flower, please add a label saying what colour it will be. In fact, labels are helpful in general! Please no baby oak trees or similar as they're not generally suitable for growing in most domestic gardens. If you have anything for us, please let us know and we can arrange collection or drop off nearer the time. If you're buying, the Fete is usually a great place to pick up a selection of plants at prices well below those you'd find in a garden centre.



Nathalie Mignotte picture

We have an Open Garden coming up on Sunday 7th June from 2-4pm. This is a members-only free perk and the address will be emailed in advance. The date of our Summer Party has been confirmed as Saturday 18th July and will take place in the form of a lunch in the garden of one of our members. Tickets will be on sale at the June meeting. The Village Show will also be upon us before we know it with the new earlier date of Saturday 22nd August. The schedules showing the list of categories you can enter (lots of arty crafty and kitchen related categories as well as the horticultural ones) should be available towards the end of May. We're in the process of moving our website www.skbgardeningclub.org.uk so, if you can't find it, keep an eye out on Facebook (SK&B Gardening Club or I live in KBS). *Sharon Cooper (Chair)*



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

Monthly Circle Dancing

at the KBS Village Hall

Friday, 5th June

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.

Regular sessions will be on the 1st Friday of the month

Joan: 07814 988941

joancoo@outlook.com

Feel free to ring / email if you want further information

Recipe of the month

Pimm's Scones

Prepare: 45min **Cook:** 10min **Serves:** 8

Two classics combined into doubly delicious results, these scones will go down a treat at a summer party, served with lashings of Pimm's-soaked fruit and boozy whipped cream.

Ingredients

- 300g self-raising flour
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 70g cold butter cut into small cubes
- 30g golden caster sugar
- Zest of 2 lemons
- 150ml buttermilk
- 2tbsp full-fat milk

For the Fruit

- 3tbsp Pimm's
- 1tbsp golden caster sugar
- 300g strawberries hulled and sliced
- 1 large orange cut into cubes
- Handful mint leaves picked

Method

1. Heat oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Cover a baking sheet with baking parchment. Put the flour and baking powder in a large bowl, add a pinch of salt, then rub in the butter with your fingertips until it is mostly incorporated – unlike pastry, you don't need to worry about rubbing the butter in too finely. Stir in the sugar and lemon zest. In a jug, mix the buttermilk with the milk. Make a well in the centre of the flour mixture, then pour in the liquid. Use a knife to bring the dough together.

2. Tip out onto a clean work surface and bring together with your hands. Patting is better than rolling so that you don't overwork the dough. Stamp out eight scones with a 7cm fluted cutter – you'll need to reshape the dough once from the trimmings. Put the scones on the baking sheet and bake on the top shelf for 10 mins until risen and the tops are golden. Cool on a wire rack.

3. Mix the Pimm's and caster sugar in a bowl. Stir in the fruit, cover and infuse in the fridge for 1 hr, then stir in the mint leaves.

4. In a large bowl, whisk the cream, icing sugar and Pimm's until the mix just holds its shape.

5. Halve the cooled scones. Top the bottom half with a spoonful of cream and a spoonful of fruit, drizzle over some of the syrup, then sandwich with the top half.



For the Cream

- 300ml double cream
- 2tbsp icing sugar
- 50ml Pimm's



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 **Pierre Victoire**
9 Little Clarendon Street, Oxford, OX1 2HP

I was searching for somewhere to eat before going to a musical event at Common Ground on Little Clarendon Street. Pierre Victoire popped up and sounded theatre/ event friendly, so I booked! It was described as a relaxed, candle lit French bistro with wooden furniture, fresh flowers and fixed price menu options. Perfect!

The bookings are done online via the website, pierre victoire.co.uk. You can select "pre-theatre" booking; "pre-event" booking or just book! I guess this lets the restaurant staff know what timings may be required for service and table availability. Clever I thought! And it worked!



You would go to the restaurant by the S6 bus, walk up Hythe Bridge Street, turn left into Walton Street then right on to Little Clarendon Street - max of 45 mins from the village.

I would say that the restaurant is NOT wheelchair friendly. There is a step up to the entrance and a few narrow steps downstairs inside to get to the toilets. However, there was a lovely atmosphere with French music, French waiters, and French artwork. The tables were not too close together and there were plenty of tables for two.

We were greeted immediately at 1800 as booked and shown to our reserved table with a candle and a rose. We were given menus -fixed and a la carte. There was already water on the table and we were given a basket of baton style bread with farm salted butter – delicious!

We chose the two-course fixed price menu for £35.50 per person and two glasses of wine at £7.25/ 7.75 per glass. There was a good mix of meat, fish and vegetarian options available, and a fondue. We both had the peat smoked salmon with beetroot ice cream and cucumber starter - so light and tasty and different! Then the sea bass with sauce, braised fennel and crushed potatoes for main course. There was an ample portion of succulent fish with a delicious sauce. I finished with a coffee.

Once the service was complete there was no rush to pay the bill. It was very relaxed whilst the turnaround time had been achieved. *Wilrich, two KBS foodies*



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Our next film will be on Friday 12th June in the Church Room, 7pm for a 7.15pm start. The film is a classic old musical!

If you would like more details, for example the title of the film, please do get in touch and we can add your name to our internal email circulation list.

This is a free evening organised by members of St John the Baptist Church and tea, coffee, chocolates and popcorn will be provided from 7pm with the film beginning at 7.15pm. We have limited capacity in the room so please don't just turn up; 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.

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



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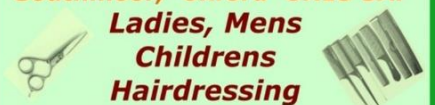
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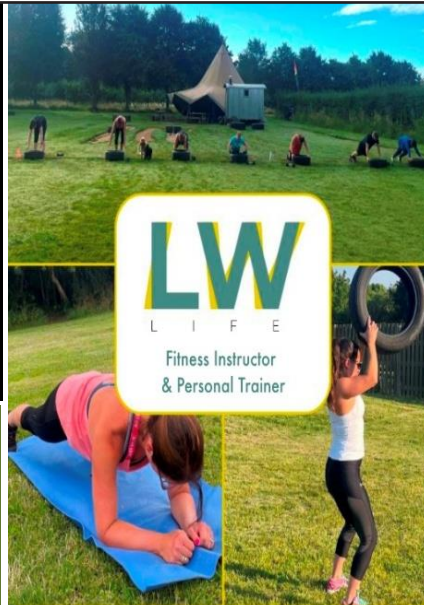
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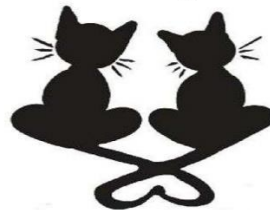
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News from the Bowls Club

The opening match of the 2026 season commenced on Saturday 18th April when the President's team challenged the Captain's Team in the opening match. Both sides fielded 15 players over 18 ends. The last 4 years has seen the President's team claiming the prize of the Challenge Shield. But not this year. The Captain's team won four of the 5 rinks with a total of 86 shots to 70. Well played the Captain's team.

Our first friendly of 2026 took place on the 26th April at Carterton BC. This was a first outing for many of the KB&S BC, on a grass rink. We accounted for ourselves well in that we won two rinks, but lost the match over all due to shoot difference.

On Saturday 2nd May, Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor Bowls Club held their annual Open Day. Starting at 11.00 and was open to everyone. A team of 6 bowlers demonstrating their bowling skills throughout the day. Also three of our experienced bowlers were giving an introduction to bowling, and lessons to those thinking of taking up bowls themselves. Other members also escorted visitors around our clubhouse and facilities, including our all-weather green clubhouse and bar, with details of our members' annual social program.

Over 30 people attended through the course of the day in beautiful sunshine and a number have joined and started attending the 6-week free training program starting on the 8th May.

If you have any questions regarding membership or our fee's, beginners training program, please contact Sue Byrne on kbsbcsecretary@outlook.com. *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	2	2	1	0	137	111	+26	22
KLV A	2	2	1	0	124	80	44	12
KLV B	2	1	1	0	101	95	+6	11
Ashely Baker	5	3	1	0	146	138	+8	14
Ladies Ridgeway								
Friendlies		1	0	0	57	80	-23	2

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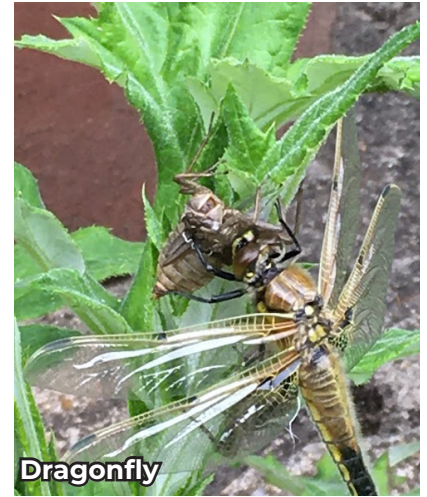
Other Anti-Social matters

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



KBS Nature Notes

As spring moves into summer, I love noting all the new arrivals. Some may be seasonal visitors, and some may be the next generation. I have mentioned the tadpoles (no legs yet!) and the sighting of the swallows in previous columns. We had a trip to Devon in the middle of April and visited Parke, a National Trust estate near Bovey Tracey on the edge of Dartmoor (I can recommend the café although my sister did say it does get plagued with wasps in the summer! I digress). There are lovely walks through meadows, woodland and along the river Bovey. It was here I heard my first cuckoo of the year and so ran around in a circle for good luck (or is that just a west country tradition?). Cuckoos were plentiful on a more recent visit to the RSPB Otmoor Nature Reserve. It is the male that makes the distinctive “cuckoo” sound and there appeared to be at least two males claiming their rights to the territory. There were also lots of reed warblers about so ample opportunity for the cuckoos to parasitise their nests when the females are ready to lay their eggs. Another arrival spotted on that visit to Otmoor was a baby grass snake weaving its way across our path. Not quite iguana vs racer snakes but a reminder to send belated birthday greetings from the KBS Nature Notes to centenarian and national treasure Sir David Attenborough.



I am hoping that the garden pond delivers more arrivals in the form of adult dragonflies. Back in 2021, I was fortunate to witness the nymphs emerging from the water, climbing the water iris leaves and moulting to reveal the adult dragonfly. At the time I took a video and several photos. I have included a picture of an adult Broad-Bodied Chaser still attached to its cast skin, called an exuvia, as it finishes hardening its abdomen and wings. Fascinating stuff.

My favourite arrivals at this time of year are the swifts. For me it isn't the swallows that make the summer but the swifts. Mr C had heard them in Wantage at the end of April, but I hadn't witnessed any until a visit to the dentist at the beginning of May when several screamed overhead as I walked towards Iffley. I still hadn't heard any in the village and was beginning to fret. However, this weekend there was a distinctive “weeb” and although I didn't see them, they appear to be back. Many of their habitats are no longer around and there has been a definite decline in numbers. However, I do believe that Kingston Bagpuise House plays host to the swifts so there is still hope for my favourite summer visitors.

Next time, I hope to have a report from the Unofficial Friday Walking Club who have been a bit quiet of late ... 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*



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Update from Charlie Maynard MP

Local elections for the West Oxfordshire District Council have just finished as I write this. I'm absolutely delighted that residents chose to elect and re-elect Lib Dem candidates and councillors which means that the Lib Dems will continue to lead the district for a fifth consecutive year. I'm also delighted with the quality and quantity of Lib Dem candidates which won seats. They will serve their communities very well. Thank you also, to everyone who stood and who came out to vote, no matter which party.

I spent many, many hours speaking to hundreds of residents. It's clear that the country is pretty fed up with how our country is being run, and I am too. There is lots to improve, and what's felt locally is the quality of our roads. Their disrepair has been decades in the making and while visible progress is now being made, it's clear that much more needs to be done. I am working hard with officers and councillors to bring about improvements, some more immediate, some longer term.

One issue which continues to cause concern is the increase in heating oil prices as a result of the war in Iran. In April I spoke in a debate in Westminster Hall about this directly with the Minister. I highlighted that the scale of the support package clearly wasn't enough to meet the level of need and have said we need a longer term cap for the cost of heating oil (similar to the caps we already have on other energy sectors such as gas and electricity), to protect households, mainly in rural areas like ours, from these large shocks.

Alongside other Lib Dem MPs for Oxfordshire, I went to a meeting discussing the East-West rail project between Oxford and Cambridge and the failure to get trains running now on the section closest to Oxford. This is not good enough and, from a western Oxfordshire point of view, my main concern is ensuring that our area feels the benefits of East West Rail when it is delivered. Currently rail connections in our district are dire, yet the national government is seeking to put 18,000 homes into West Oxfordshire alone. This is far too many and we certainly cannot accept these houses unless we have the transport and social infrastructure to support them. To that end, I'm continuing to work hard towards rebuilding the railway which previously linked Witney and Carterton to Oxford. This will cut journey times by 70% making travel much easier for all of us and opening up job opportunities. Better connectivity would also attract more businesses and economic growth into Witney itself.

Thanks as ever for reading about what I've been up to and as ever, please don't hesitate to reach out (Charlie.maynard.mp@parliament.uk) if there is ever anything me and my team can help with.



Longworth & District History Society



18th June (Thursday) at 7pm • Guided walk around Buckland

In June and July we arrange walks or visits, and have arranged a guided walk around Buckland on 18th June, to hear more of the history of the village from members of the Society. This will follow on from the very interesting visit we had last summer. We haven't had confirmation of the time yet, but maybe it will be similar to last year's meeting there at 7.00pm. Email confirmation will be sent out to members. We will meet outside The Lamb.
Pam Woodward, 01865 820500

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Golden Charter



Youth Matters

Hello KBS! I hope everyone had a wonderful May as we now transition into the beginning of summer - June! May has been a particularly busy month as it has been packed full of DofE expeditions, GCSE exams and sporting fixtures. My highlight of the month was winning three medals at the county championships for my athletics club, which was overall a great experience and a super confidence builder. The warmer weather is allowing for better performances as we approach the height of the athletics season.

I visited the Millennium Green and was struck at the beauty of the place that we have literally on our doorsteps. The wildflowers were in bloom and the areas left to encourage biodiversity growth are flourishing. I have seen countless bees, ladybirds and butterflies at the Green during the summer and it is really encouraging to see that small spaces can make such a big difference to wildlife - especially as bees are now sadly becoming an endangered species. I think that even leaving just small areas uncut and free can make a huge difference to plants and animals, and even yourself when you get to see what wonderful things are growing or living there.

In this article, I wanted to draw your attention to how significant bees are to you and to the plants that they pollinate. To give you a statistic, it would cost £1.8 billion for farmers to pollinate their crops without bees, according to friendsoftheearth.uk. That is an astounding amount and just gives you a small taste of how important these insects are. But what does a bee actually do that is so crucial to plants?

Bees play an essential role in plant reproduction, as they carry pollen grains all over their body to pass on to other flowers. These plants are known as insect-pollinated plants, compared to wind-pollinated plants, who have seeds that are carried away by the wind. Insect-pollinated plants are specially adapted to attract bees; such as having bright colours and strong scents. Bees are adapted to carry their pollen away. Their adaptations include having furry bodies that can become covered in golden pollen! According to the BBC, around 70 crops benefit from having bees visit them and carry their pollen away to other flowers.

Bees are probably most famous for making honey, which is delicious and an incredibly natural ingredient. To summarise the process, the honey is made by bees breaking down the nectar from plants into simple sugars, using enzymes. An enzyme can help to break down large molecules in foods into smaller ones. Ingeniously, this sugar (which is stored in the instantly recognisable hexagonal holes) is then evaporated by the bees fanning it using their wings! This then turns the sugar into thick honey. This is a remarkable process! Most bees help to pollinate, but honey bees do most of it.

We really need to protect bees because of how integral they are to the environment. Sadly, it is now known that the UK's bee population has decreased by a third over the last 30 years. Many bees are being affected by habitat loss, pesticides, viruses from foreign species and climate change. To help protect bees, if you have a garden, you could leave a small or large area wild to encourage wild flowers to grow and hopefully bees will follow. You could also plant 'bee friendly' plants, such as bluebells or primroses. There are so many things to do to help bees, and if you would like to learn more, this page on the BBC was incredibly helpful: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/ztj88hv#zt444xs>. It includes what bees are facing and how to protect them.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer, and for a challenge, how many different species of bees can you spot this June? **Darcey**

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Apple Blossoms WI

 **9th June (Tuesday) at 7:30pm • ‘Steve Wilkinson - Defying Logic – Magic and Mentalism’ • Southmoor Village Hall**

“There are no strangers here; Only friends you haven’t yet met” (William Butler Yeats)

Codes, Characters and Clever Minds at Bletchley Park

Our May meeting with Gillian Cane transported us behind the guarded gates of Bletchley Park for a fascinating evening of wartime secrets, codebreaking and extraordinary personalities.

Rather than focusing solely on machines or military strategy, Gillian brought to life the brilliantly unconventional people who helped shape one of the most remarkable operations of WWII.

From mathematicians and linguists to crossword champions and chess experts, we discovered how intelligence, determination and unconventional thinking became vital weapons of war. The stories behind the codebreakers proved every bit as captivating as the codes themselves.

The evening was packed with fascinating insights, humour and moments that left us amazed at what was achieved in complete secrecy. Even more astonishing was the knowledge that many of those involved took their secrets to the grave, never revealing the vital role they had played. Thank you, Gillian, for such an engaging and memorable talk.

It seems we have a thing for secrets....next month gets even more mysterious.....

Our June speaker is Magic. Literally! Do you enjoy the impossible; mind-bending illusions and a touch of mystery? Then you won’t want to miss our next speaker, Steve Wilkinson, presenting “Defying Logic – Magic and Mentalism.”

With years of experience leaving audiences completely baffled, Steve has a rare gift for making the impossible feel very, very real. Specialising in close up and walk around magic and mentalism he has got more than a few tricks up his sleeve, and we have a sneaking suspicion none of us will see them coming.

This promises to be an evening of astonishing magic and mind reading, laughter and unforgettable moments that truly defy logic. Join us in expecting the unexpected – no magic wand required, just a sense of intrigue!

Guests are very welcome (just £5 on the door). No need to book in advance - just come along and join us.
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Report from Cllr Lee Evans

I was very pleased to join a team of volunteers recently for the village litter pick. Happily, KBS is a pretty tidy village, but it's surprising what you can find lurking in the verges - from vapes to crisp packets and much more besides. And it really does add up. Thanks to everyone who volunteers to help keep the village looking at its best.

I also had a lot of fun visiting the Bowls Club open day recently - especially when I got to have a go on the green. If you're interested in giving bowls a try, do keep an eye out for their open days and I'd encourage you to pop along. Everyone is very friendly and encouraging - no matter how good or bad you are!

Over the last couple of months, we've had a lot of work done on nearby roads and I wanted to update you on the progress. By the time you're reading this, work should have finished on the Buckland Road, the A420 between Buckland and Hinton Waldrist, and the A417 from Stanford in the Vale to Goosey Lane. Securing these improvements - among others, like the improvements to the A415 in KBS - has been a top priority for me as your County Councillor and I'm delighted to see the work being done. Now, I'm getting to work on the many other roads we need to see improved locally!

I've continued to meet with Council officers about the planned safety improvements on the A420 at the Charney Road and Pinewoods Road junctions. These works have been slightly delayed due to capacity issues at the County Council, but work should begin in the coming months. As a reminder: on the A420, the 50mph speed limit will continue beyond the central reservation to the other side of the junctions. This section of road will also remain single lane until after the junctions, where it will become two lanes at the National Speed Limit (as it is now).

I think these changes have a good chance of improving safety at these junctions. But I do not consider them, even when implemented, to be 'job done.' I will keenly welcome people's feedback on the changes - which I'll share with the County Council - and will continue to look at ways that these junctions can be made safer for everyone.

Finally, there's been some change at County Hall recently that I wanted to update you on. Firstly, the Liberal Democrats have lost their overall majority on the Council. This is unlikely to have any impact on who runs the Council, however, as they remain the largest group. Secondly, the Cabinet Member for Transport, Cllr Andrew Gant, recently resigned from his role. I had a great many disagreements with Cllr Gant, but I of course wish him all the best for the future. I will be doing all I can to persuade his replacement of the importance of safer roads and improved public transport in the Kingston & Stanford division.

As a reminder, if you want to find out more about my work as your County Councillor, please visit my website at www.LeeEvans.uk. And if there is anything I can do to help please get in touch on lee.evans@oxfordshire.gov.uk, 07724 601 096 or via [Facebook.com/LeeEvansOxfordshire](https://www.facebook.com/LeeEvansOxfordshire). Thank you.



Kingston Bagpuize Village Art and Craft Club



1st June (Monday) at 9:30am • St. John the Baptist Church Hall

There were six members on Easter Monday and as each worked on their own projects there was the usual chatter over tea and biscuits. We said our goodbyes to one member who was moving from Oxford. 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 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 9.30am and finishing at midday with the first meeting being free. Our next meeting is on June 1st.

We remain 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*



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



Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Village Show

Saturday 22nd August 2026

The Village show has become an annual event, and we are hoping this year's will be even better than before! We encourage as many people as possible to enter so we have a colourful array of produce, flowers, art and crafts, cookery, and photographs. It is your entries that will make the show spectacular! The schedule is available to download via KBSONline as our own website is currently transitioning to a new provider, hard copies will be available soon! <https://www.kbsonline.org/copy-of-local-groups-1> alternatively look on Facebook under SKB gardening club for more information.

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

There are lots of different categories to enter so there should be something for everybody in the village to take part in. Are you artistic, enjoy crafting or are you a budding baker? Do you enjoy growing things but have never entered a show? What do you like photographing, maybe enter the photography section? It's not just about showing flowers, fruit and vegetables.

We encourage children to take part, we hope you will find something that sparks your little one's interest whether it is drawing, baking or growing something! There are special cups to win in the children's sections.

Put the date in your diary even if you are not planning on entering as there will be lots to see, tea and cakes on sale, our fabulous raffle with some excellent prizes and a Tombola stall.

More details to follow in next month's magazine. *Penny Meacham, Village Show Chair*

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Oxford Flower Club



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

Members enjoyed a 'French Affair' with National Demonstrator Fiona Harrison at our meeting in April. Fiona's love of northern France was evident as we were transported around the country with her talk. Fiona replicated the style of European florists who don't use much greenery in their arrangements.

Food, wine, long lunches, fashion, frogs and snails, all formed part of her very amusing chat, whilst putting together beautiful displays. Her passion for teaching and demonstrating provided us with a fun event, enjoyed by our members and guests, who had joined us for the afternoon.

We look forward to future meetings to include an afternoon with Angela Edmonds who is demonstrating at Blenheim Flower Show in June, and an afternoon with Louise Jones on the elements of floral design. A trip to Thenford House and Gardens owned by Lord and Lady Heseltine is organised for June.

For more information of our events calendar, or if you'd like to join us, call Karen on 07967 555750. We meet in Cumnor Village Hall on the fourth Thursday afternoon of the month at 1.30pm.



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 summer arriving and village life in full swing, June is a great month to enjoy regular activities with friends and neighbours. Badminton at Southmoor Village Hall offers energetic games and a friendly atmosphere for players of all levels. Rackets provided? No. Laughs provided? Absolutely!!

The club runs 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

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



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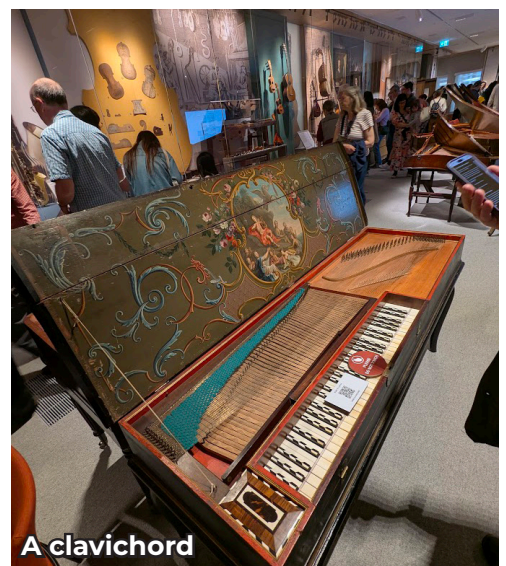
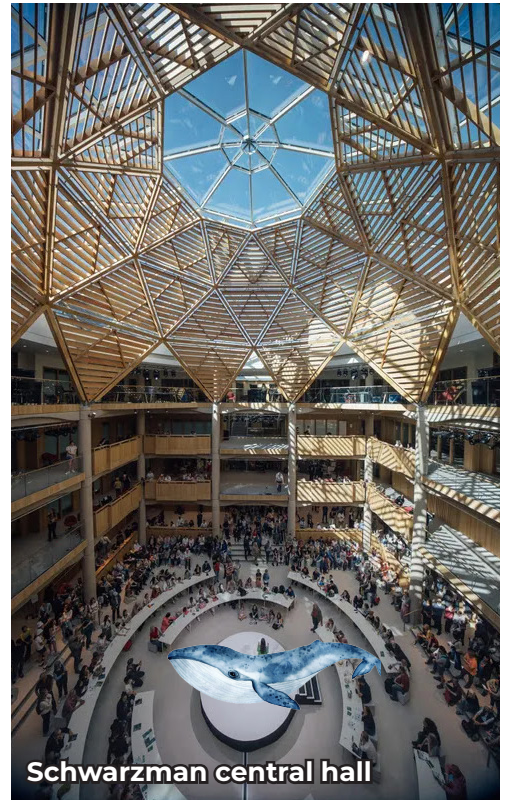
The Stephen A. Schwarzman Building

I promised you, and Oxford has delivered, more places for you to visit. Probably the most iconic building in Oxford is the Radcliffe Camera. Its dimensions have been replicated in the central atrium of the Schwarzman building. This building occupies the last space in what today is the Radcliffe Quarter, formerly the Radcliffe Infirmary on the Woodstock Road. It's nestled between the Blavatnik to the West and the Mathematical Institute to the East. For the University, it features the coming together of seven humanities subjects, their libraries, and research. It has a huge public space: a new location for the Bate Music Museum: the 500-seater Sohmen concert hall, a theatre, and a cinema.

On opening day there were 12,000 people there. The central auditorium had been turned into a circular conference area with a stage in the middle. We were greeted by a jazz band, and a series of entertainments were performed throughout the day. In the Sohmen concert hall, the Scottish Ensemble performed. The acoustics were spectacular. The performance started after the lights dimmed, with a single violinist walking onto the stage and performing in crystal clear sound. Gradually more string players assembled on the stage, and we were treated to a brief concert. Towards the end Keble College choir filed in through the balcony and joined in. One of my ambitions is to visit as many libraries as possible.

The humanities library was open; there was a tour amongst the many fabulous books and a bust of Tolkien, transferred from the previous library. There are bowls of fidget toys provided for the students while they are studying! There is a café which serves lunch to the public. Sadly, I could not get into the talk “When Shakespeare met Trump” or “Tudor health and safety” or the mad hatter’s tea party. I did catch the difference between hieroglyphs and hieratic script and “Mass shoving in Greek warfare”.

In the Bate Music Museum there is a selection of musical instruments that the public can play, amongst the displays of jam-packed goodies. I must return for a date with the serpent. In February, I promised more to do in Oxford. Schwarzman has delivered three new public venues - check out the cultural program to see what you might enjoy there, or simply go to view the space, the ceiling, and have lunch.



Southmoor Couple Celebrate Their 75th Wedding Anniversary

It is said that less than 0.01% of marriages in the UK last for 75 years or more so to have one in our village is a very special event.

George Mitchell (95) and Jean Mitchell, née Bungay (94) of Latton Close, Southmoor were married on the 16th of June 1951 at Longworth Parish Church. They had met the previous year when George, then doing his National Service at RAF Abingdon, attended his pal's wedding in Longworth. The bride's sister caught his eye and romance blossomed. George turned down a posting to Gibraltar and the chance of a good career in the RAF to be with Jean, marrying her as soon as he was demobbed.



They began married life in Aberdeen, George's home city, but Jean struggled with the weather and the impenetrable Aberdeen dialect and most of all, she missed her family. They came back south initially to Longworth at Jean's parents but when Ian was born in 1954 they moved to Farm Cottages on Weaving's Farm. Jean worked as a domestic for Guy Weaving and George got a job with Tom Cantwell, a local builder who, among other things, built the shops and houses on Faringdon Road at the Cherry Tree Close junction. In 1958, they moved to a new council house in Hanney Road where their daughter, Ann, was born in 1960 completing the family.



They moved to Latton Close in 1969. George was then working in the MG car factory in Abingdon but, after it closed in 1980, he went back to "the building", this time with Mike Cantwell down at Standlake where he worked until his retirement. Meanwhile, Jean had gone to work at Longworth Hospital and, when that closed in 1981, she commuted daily to Witney Community Hospital until her retirement in 2012 at the age of 80. This meant that she had to learn to drive, no mean feat for a lady in her fifties, passing the test on her first attempt. For a while in the 1960s both had evening jobs at the Lamb & Flag or "Dirty Dudley's" as it was commonly known.

In his younger days, George helped out with the Longworth Scouts and played football for both Longworth and Kingston, becoming a successful manager of the latter for a time. In his early 40s he took up golf with a passion and eventually became a Life Member at what is now Shrivenham Park Golf Club. For Jean, life has always revolved

around home and family. A natural carer, she's always been there for anyone who needs her, be that friends or family.

Their family has grown over the years and Jean and George now have three grandchildren, Katie, Alex and Catherine, and two great grandchildren Beatrice (5) and Max (2).

When asked what their recipe for a long and happy marriage was, they said "Compromise, understanding, humour, allowing each other space to pursue separate interests and never going to bed on an argument."



St John the Baptist Church Village Fête

 **Saturday 27th June 1 – 4pm**

Our annual Summer Fête in the beautiful grounds of Kingston Bagpuize House, is fast approaching and it is such a happy, village occasion. It always seems to make it more exciting if you are involved in some way, so, if you are able to help on the gate, with parking, or on a Church stall during the afternoon that would be wonderful. Please let Hazel Brennan 01865 821358 hb.brennan@hotmail.com or Margo Evans 01865 820900 margoevans@mac.com know if you can be involved in any way. We would appreciate it and you would be part of a great team!



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The Real Value of Your Solar Power Exports

When people look into solar panels, one of the first things they ask about is selling spare electricity back to the grid. It sounds simple. Your panels make more than you need, the surplus flows out, and you get paid. The reality is worth understanding properly.

The scheme that handles this is called the Smart Export Guarantee, or SEG. Every major supplier has to offer one. But the rates vary a lot, and most standard deals pay somewhere between 3p and 7p per unit. When you're paying around 24p to buy electricity from the grid, that gap matters. Sending out power you could have used yourself is rarely a great deal.



This is why the real value of solar is in using what you generate, not selling it cheaply. Some suppliers do offer much better export rates. Octopus Agile, for example, changes its rate every half hour based on wholesale prices. In the early evening, when demand peaks, those rates can reach 20-30p or more. Other suppliers offer their own higher-rate deals too.

The catch is that better export rates usually come tied to taking your import from the same supplier too. So a 15p export deal might only be available if you're also on that supplier's import tariff. Whether the whole package saves you money depends on what you'd pay for your incoming electricity. A high export rate paired with a poor import rate can leave you worse off overall.

This is where it's worth doing it properly. Rates also vary by region, so what's available to homes across the Vale of White Horse may differ from the national figures. It's something we help customers work through: looking at import and export together, rather than just chasing the highest export number.

If you have solar but no battery, your export rate matters a lot: every unit you can't store goes straight to the grid, so the rate you get for it has a direct impact. If you have a battery, you can go further, timing exports to hit peak price windows and earning more from what you do sell. Either way, getting the right export tariff is worth thinking about.

The bigger point, though, is that self-consumption remains your best option. The more of your own electricity you actually use, the less any of this matters. Getting the right size of battery is often the most effective place to start. *Llewellyn Kinch. Director, MakeMyHouseGreen.com*



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SMALL BLOCK ADVERTS

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.

RUN OF PAGE ADVERTS

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)			Local Not For Profit Organisations ADVERTS (Rate Per Edition)		
	B&W	Colour		B&W	Colour
Full A4 (Portrait) Back Page	Rates on application		Full A4 (Portrait) Back Page	£50	£82
Full A4 (Portrait) Inside Page	£160	£200	Full A4 (Portrait) Inside Page	£40	£65
Half A4 (Landscape) Inside Page	£80	£100	Half A4 (Landscape) Inside Page	£20	£35
Quarter A4 (Portrait) Inside Page	£40	£50	Quarter A4 (Portrait) Inside Page	£15	£27
Part Page smaller than Quarter A4 inside only	£35	£50	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.

St John the Baptist Church

Village Fête

Saturday 27 June
1pm – 4pm

Teas &
Pimm's

Hot Food
& Ice Cream

Auction
of
Promises

Craft
Stalls

The
Kennington
Band

Children's
Games

Kingston Bagpuize House Gardens

by kind permission of Mrs Virginia Grant

Assistance dogs only

Entry £3 • Children 5-16 years 50p • Under 5s FREE