

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 51 Number 3 April 2024

More hold-ups than Dick Turpin



Judging by the notice from the County Council, April is the month to avoid driving on the roads around KBS.

From 12th -15th April there will be surface work between the two Co-ops and again from 19th-23rd of the month. Also, from the 12th - 15th April works will be taking place from Spring Hill through to Charney Bassett. Plus, there are other several other sets of road works planned for just outside the village during the month. (See page 21 for details). The above shows the recent works by Rimes Close. Still, it's nice to know KBS features high on the list of infrastructure



improvements on OCC's list.

Meet the new Editor

Hi, my name is Greta, and I have lived in Southmoor village for 6 years with my husband and our two boys.

I work as an urban designer, where

my job requires me to be creative, therefore I believe that my skills, love for creativity, and eagerness can contribute to the success and longevity of KBS News magazine. I am excited about the opportunity to be a part of something that will continue to prosper for many more years to come!



April hath put a spirit of youth in everything. William Shakespeare



This is my final issue as Editor of the KBS News. As mentioned in the March edition, after 14 years I am retiring. We are lucky to have found the services of a young lady in KBS who is keen to take over as Editor, and I wish her every success. I would also like to thank those who have sent me messages and cards, it is really appreciated. *Lance Bassett*

INSIDE THIS MONTH

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- White Horse Medical Practice page 14
- Drama Group page 17

... and just for the children

Where's the Panda? Hidden somewhere inside is a drawing of a Panda. See if you can find it.

WHITE HORSE MEDICAL PRACTICE - FARINGDON

Nursing and HCA Appointments

For appointments with our Nursing and HCA teams (including blood tests, ECGs, dressings, immunisations and other injections, long term condition reviews, health checks, smear tests and contraception reviews) please **contact the practice on 01367 242388 to book**. These appointments can be booked in advance.

GP and Other Clinician Appointments

For all GP and other clinician appointments, please submit an **Engage Consult**. Our **Engage Consult** service is available to submit your enquiry online, weekdays 07:00-18:00 (after 18:00, for emergencies only, please **contact the practice**).

www.whmp.co.uk

Prescriptions and Dispensary

Please allow at least 7 working days for your request to be processed. There are occasions where we may need to order your medicine, which may result in some delay.

For patient safety reasons, we do not take repeat prescription requests by telephone.

KBS News Team:

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Copy date for next issue: BEFORE 4.00pm Monday 15th April

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| GP SURGERY | District Nurse | A & E | HOSPITALS | MINOR INJURY HOSPITALS | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------|---|---|---|---------------------|--|--|
| The White Horse Medical Practice Faringdon SN7 7YU 01367 242388 | or | Swind | windon 01793604020 ohn Radcliffe Hospital | | Abingdon Hospital Witney Hospital Marcham Rd, Welch Way, Witn Abingdon OX14 1AG OX28 6JJ 01865 903476 01865 903841 | | | |
| Chemists | District Cour | | | ets | | Police | | |
| Faringdon Pharma 01367 244632 Wootton Pharmacy 01865 736136 | 01235 42242 | 2 elpline | Elms Veterinary 30 Gloucester St Faringdon, SN7 7HY 01367 242416 | The Abin | vale Veterinary Vineyard, gdon, OX143NR 85 524777 | Call 101 | | |
| 24 hr Gas Emergency 0800 111 999 Powe | | | | / 24hr Thames Water Emergencie 0800 316 9800 | | | | |
| Citizens Advice | ww.citizensadvi | ce.org. | uk 0300 330 9042 | Mind | www.mind.org. | uk 0800 169 665 | | |
| Samaritans v | www.samaritans. | org C | 'all 116 123 | Child | line www.childlii | ne.org.uk 0800 1111 | | |
| The Cedar Comm | unity Club - wh | ere old | der people meet with | frien | ds old and new | 01865 686472 | | |
| Community Issue | s? Contact Dis | strict C | Councillor Jill Rayner | at jii | llrayner@whiteho | orsedc.gov.uk | | |

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VILLAGE DIARY

Village Hall Booking Details tel: 07771 539901 email: southmoorvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk

| | Day/ Date | Time | What &Where (KBSVH = Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Village Hall) | Page | | | | | |
|---|--|------------|--|------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kingston Bagpuize Services. – See full details on the Church Pages | | | | | | | | |
| | Tuesday 2 nd | 7.15pm | S & KB Gardening Club:Timothy Walker – 'Boggery in the Garden' KBSVH | | | | | | |
| | Saturday 6 th | 6.00pm | Charity Race Night, RDA Centre Southmoor | | | | | | |
| | Monday 8 th | 6.30pm | Parish Council Monthly Meeting – Swallow Room, KB & S Village Hall 22 | | | | | | |
| | Tuesday 9 th | 7.30pm | Apple Blossoms Women's Institute. 'Spacemaker' Helena McBride KBSVH 12 | | | | | | |
| | Wednesday 10 th | 7.30pm | Village Hall AGM All residents welcome – Swallow Room KBSVH | 10 | | | | | |
| | Friday 12 th | 10.00am - | 10.00am – 2.00pm Friends of John Blandy - Fairytale Forest Easter trail at The Millennium Green 24 | | | | | | |
| | Friday 12 th | 7.00pm | KBS Film & Music Evening. 'Wonka' Roald Dahl. Kingston Bagpuize Church Room | 10 | | | | | |
| ٥ | Friday 12 th to Monday 15 th 5.00am – 6.00pm Faringdon Road Closed for Surface Dressing Work | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Monday 15 th | 4.00pm | Last date / time for copy to KBS News for the May edition | 2 | | | | | |
| | Thursday 18 th | | Longworth & Dist History Soc: Tim Healey 'Pagans and Puritans' St John's Church | 8 | | | | | |
| | Thursday 18 th to Saturday 20 th April 6.45pm Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group: Behind Closed Doors KBSVH | | | | | | | | |
| | Thursday 18 th to Saturday 20 th April 7.00pm Appleton Players 'Ten Times Table' Appleton Village Hall | | | | | | | | |
| | Friday 19 th | 3.30pm | KBS Village Fete Drawing Competition – Last date to Submit entries | 4 | | | | | |
| | Friday 19 th | 6.00pm | Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club – Junior's Training Starts – Sports Field, Abingdon Rd | 27 | | | | | |
| | Friday 19 th to Tuesday 23 rd 5.00am – 6.00pm Faringdon Road Closed for Surface Seal Work | | | | | | | | |
| | Monday 13 th Ma | ay 12.30 | pm Village Lunch KBSVH | 7 | | | | | |
| | Saturday 18 th May 2.00 – 4.00pm Tea and Grand Rummage Sale raising funds for Cancer Research | | | | | | | | |
| Ž | Sunday 19 th May | y S&K | B Gardening Club: Members Open Gardens | | | | | | |
| V | Thursday 6 th Jur | ······ | 80 th Anniversary Celebrations from 6.00pm | 22 | | | | | |
| ľ | Saturday 29 th Ju | ine St Joh | n the Baptist Church Village Summer Fete at Kingston House | 8 | | | | | |
| | Saturday 13 th Ju | ıly Matine | ee & Evening Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group: Murder Mystery – 'Dressed to Kill' VH | | | | | | |

| В | Bin Collection – late changes will be updated by Email to readers who have joined the KBS News Information email service | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| _ | Thurs | 4th | **** Food Collection / Grey Bin Collection & Small Electrical Items **** | | | | | | |
| | Wed Wed | 10th | ** Food Bin / Green Bin Collection/Brown Bin + Textiles & Batteries in a separate bag on top of the Bin ** | | | | | | |
| | | 17th | **** Food Collection / Grey Bin Collection & Small Electrical Items **** | | | | | | |
| A | Wed | 24th | ** Food Bin / Green Bin Collection/Brown Bin + Textiles & Batteries in a separate bag on top of the Bin ** | | | | | | |

| REGULAR EVENTS - Please check with the event organiser to confirm | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|----------------------------|---|--|--|---|------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| In Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Village Hall | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apple Blossoms W I 2nd Tues | | day each month 7.30pm | | Apple Quilters | | 2nd & 4th 9.30am - 12.30pm | | | | |
| Clubbercise | Monday | 8.00pm - 9.00pm | | Apple Galler | | New Members always welcome | | | | |
| French for Fun | Wednesday (Term Time only) | | KB Drama Group | | 3 rd Tuesday at 7.30pm & when it occurs 5 th | | | | | |
| | | 9.30am - 11.00am | | | Tuesday 7.30pm (see Church Hall for other days | | | | | |
| | | ity Sessions (not Learners) Sa | | | | | Intermediates to Advanced | | | |
| Club | | ····· | | s Wednesday 6.45 – 8.15pm | | Monday 6.15pm -7.30pm | | | | |
| KB & S Cafe | Thursdays | 9.00ar | m - 12 noon | KB & S Gardening Club | | | | | 7.15pm for 7.30pm | |
| KBS Pilates | Thursdays | s 1.30pm – | 2.30pm | KB & S Tennis Club | | Tuesday 9-11am Men's Open Wednesday 6.30-8.30pm Ladies Open | | | | |
| Longworth & Dist H | 3 rd Thursday each month 7.00 | | | : | Southmoor aby & Toddlers | | Friday (Term Time Only) 10.00am -11.30am | | | |
| Southmoor Exercise | e & Dance | email bise | erk46@hotmail.com for info | | | | | | | |
| Table Tennis (Over | 55's) | Tuesday 11am -12pm e mail bobsouthmoor@hotmail.com for more info | | | | | | | | |
| Yoga Classes | Tuesday 6.00-7.00pm (intermediate) Thursday 6-7pm (beginners)Wed 10:30-11:15am (seniors) | | | | | | | | | |
| In Scout Hut, Faringdon Rd (Term Time Only) | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1st Longworth Beav | ers | Monday 6.00pm - 7.15pm | | | 1st Longworth Explore | | | rs Wednesday 7.30pm - 9.00pm | | |
| 1st Longworth Cubs | | Tuesday 7.00pm - 8.30p | | pm 1st Longworth Scouts | | • | Thursday 7.30pm - 9.00pm | | | |
| At The Bowls Clu | b, Oxford F | oad, Kingston Bagpuize | | | Bowls Club 'Roll Up' | | | Tuesday & Thursday 1.30pm | | |
| Junior Park Run | | Millenniu | ım Green | Sunday 9 | 9.00am | | | | | |
| In St John the Ba | ptist Churc | h Hall | | • | | | | | | |
| KB Drama Group | | | | | | | :30pm | (see Village Ha | all for other days) | |
| KBS Art and Craft Friendship Club Alternate Mondays 9.30am - 12.00 noon | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Village Voices Men - Alternate Mondays 9.30am Ladies - Alternate Tuesdays 9.30am | | | | | | | days 9.30am | | |
| In Longworth Villa | | | | | | | | | | |
| IYENGAR Yoga class (Term Time Only) Monday 7.00pm – 8.30pm Tuesday 11.45am – 1.15pm | | | | | | | | | | |
| KARATE | KARATE Wednesday Little Ni | | | injas (4-6yrs) at 5pm-5.30pm Family class at 5.30pm-6.30pn | | | | | Zumba | |
| PILATES | PILATES Tuesday 9.15am & 5.45pm . Thursday 9.15am & 6.30pm Thursday 10.30a | | | | | | Thursday 10.30am | | | |
| In Hinton Waldrist Village Hall Cedar Community Club Tuesday & Wednesday 9:30am - 3:00pm | | | | | | | | | | |



Interesting aerial view showing the whole of KBS sent in by Sasha Cohn

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.

Please note: Final copy date for next issue is 15th April @ 4pm



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DRAW A PICTURE OF WHAT YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP, PUT YOU NAME, AGE AND CONTACT DETAILS ON THE BACK.

(FELT-TIPS AND BOLD/BRIGHT COLOURS ARE ENCOURAGED FOR PRINTING PURPOSES)

WINNING DRAWINGS WILL BE FEATURED ON THE COVER OF THE PROGRAMME FOR THE KBS SUMMER FETE 2024

ENTER BY 3.30PM 19TH APRIL 2024

Entry collection points:

AQUARIUS HAIR STUDIO, FARINGDON RD, SOUTHMOOR OX13 5AF OR

JOHN BLANDY SCHOOL OFFICE (STUDENTS ONLY)

Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Church Update





SERVICES IN APRIL AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday 7th 9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
Children's Church in Church Room
6.00 pm Prayer and Praise in Church Room
Sunday 14th 9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
Sunday 21st 9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship
with live band
Sunday 28th 9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Village Communion

April Highlights

Sunday 7th Children's Church 10.30am in the Church Room Prayer and Praise 6pm in the Church Room



Coffee and biscuits after all our services – a good time to chat and make new friends.
YOUR VILLAGE CHURCH IS HERE TO HELP

Services are continuing as usual during the interregnum till the next vicar arrives, with help from visiting vicars.

Please contact the churchwardens re baptisms, weddings, and funerals

(see below or the church website for their contact details).

If you'd like to find out more about our services and resources, or discuss spiritual matters, contact the churchwardens Chris Carpenter **cw3.sjbchurch@gmail.com** 07860 583740 and Ian Blelloch **ianblelloch@chaco.com** to see if we can support you.

Fyfield Baptist Chapel

Morning Service & Sunday School Sunday 11.00 am

Communion monthly 2nd Sundays location: (south side of main village)
Digging Lane, Fyfield OX 13 5LY
more information:

www.fyfieldchapel.org.uk info@fyfieldchapel.org.uk 01865 769473

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH OF BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON & BUCKLAND

A Parish in the North Downs Pastoral Area www.blessedhugh.org.uk

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

Church fully open for Sunday Mass at 10.00 am Website also shows times of masses during the week



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Dear Editor

Village Voices

Send your views to editorkbsnews@gmail.com

THANK YOU to everyone who bought a ticket for the Inflatables gig at the Waggon & Horses on 24th February 2024 in aid of

Sobell House Hospice. A grand total of £1,645 was raised for this very worthy cause, made up of ticket sales and donations.

A few thank yous: Luke and the team at the Waggon & Horses for hosting the event; The Inflatables for playing fabulous music for us - it was great to see everyone dancing!

Donations from: Mathews Comfort, Hayleys Dog Grooming, DSA Prospect and The Inflatables. It was a cracking night and hopefully it will become an annual event! *K Whitbread*



Don't forget: Final copy date for the next issue is 15th April @ 4pm



Kingston Bagpuize Art and Craft Friendship Club

February saw us welcoming a new member, Jill, to the club and as March

began we continued to work on our own projects chatting away over tea and admiring the work that had been completed. The club is intended as a meeting place for making new friends, with crafting skills not a necessity as there are 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 8th April 2024 and we look forward to welcoming new members.

Jean Allsworth 07397530144



PLEASE pick up after your dog, use the bins provided and also keep your hedges and trees cut back from the footpaths and clear the cuttings away. It is difficult at times to walk along the footpaths without getting poked in the eye with overhanging trees and bushes or stepping in dog faeces. Please remember that if shrubs or bushes are on your property it is your responsibility to keep them trimmed back from public footpaths.

Hello All,

My name is Laurence, I am a resident of Southmoor.

I have recently joined the Thames Valley Police (TVP) Independent Advisory Group (IAG), for the South and Vale. Members of this group are all Volunteers and not paid employees of Thames Valley Police.

The objective is to provide TVP with feedback from their local communities on such topics as:

- Any direct interactions with TVP.
- Specific crime related issues that the local community may be suffering from.
- General law enforcement issues that are of importance to the local community.
- Wishes from the community related to how TVP operates in their community or desired changes/improvements to TVP involvement with the community.

However, any feedback, comments or concerns from the local community will be welcome as I would like to improve the communication from our local community to TVP.

Please submit any sort of community sentiment or feedback to me. If you would like to speak with me I will be happy to contact you.

Please contact me using the email address laurence.kbs.iag@gmail.com Please get in touch. Laurence



Village Lunch Monday 13th May 2024

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 25th April**, Hazel Brennan (821358), Peter Beer (820805) or sign up with Audrey at the KBS Café. We look forward to hearing from you.









If you have been appointed as an executor in a Will and are finding it overwhelming, we can help you with estate administration and probate services including:

- · Inheritance tax form preparation
- · Dealing with all estate administration matters
- · Obtaining grant of probate
- · Business or share valuation
- · Agricultural or business relief advice
- Settling the income tax position of the deceased
- · Tax during the estate administration period
- · Trust services: creation, management, use & closure
- Tax compliance and reporting assistance for executors, trustees, beneficiaries and others



Do you have something to say? Why not get it off your chest and put it in the KBS News?

Send your thoughts to editorkbsnews@gmail.com

Tip of the Month

Do you want to help wildlife this year, but unsure what to do? Just do nothing (at least during May) to your lawn as 'No-mow-May' is back for its 5th year, this time with the backing of the King!

Grass helps fight climate change by trapping carbon dioxide as it grows and turning it, by photosynthesis, into oxygen. Grass also helps prevent soil erosion; acts as a natural filter by helping to trap pollutants before they reach our streams and rivers.

By not mowing during May, you support the ecosystem around your home by encouraging (weeds) wildflowers which in turn attract pollinators: bees; bugs and butterflies. These attract their predators: birds; small mammals, (hedgehogs), and up the food chain it goes to the top predators.

How else does not mowing help the environment? The obvious would be no direct pollution from mowers; strimmers, and unnecessary blowers: including the hidden curse of noise pollution which we all grumble about on a nice afternoon in May.

What other indirect pollution does not mowing help prevent?

Let's say 2000 houses don't mow in May, there would be no pollution caused by 2000 cars driving to get fuel for their mowers, strimmers and blowers; no pollution by fuel tankers delivering fuel to the petrol stations; no pollution by distilling crude oil to make petrol and, more importantly no pollution risk from extracting crude oil from the depths of the ocean (remember SS Tori Canyon disaster www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-39223308)?

For those of you who are already proponents of 'no mow May', why not no mow May, June, July? Mow between August and March and remove the clippings to help prevent invasive grasses from outcompeting the wildflowers. By treating your lawn this way, you replicate the meadows of the past: of which 97% have been lost in the last 50 years. If you want to make the area 'set aside' look a little tidier you can mow round the edge of the lawn and to points of interest.

Other than that, do nothing except wait and see what surprising plants pop up in your wildlife lawn (feel free to email me your results, be it wild flowers, birds, bees or bugs: steve@cherrytree21.plus.com and remember you have the support of the Royal Horticultural Society; Church of England and Charles III. Steve Smith

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Longworth & District History Society

Our programme for 2024 has started off well with some very interesting talks, and we hope you will enjoy this month's meeting.



We have **Tim Healey** coming with his timely tale of "Pagans and Puritans – the story of May Morning in Oxford".

Please note that this meeting, on Thursday 18th April, will be held in **St John the Baptist Church, Kingston Bagpuize**, at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

We look forward to seeing you there. Pam Woodward

Village Fete

I am pleased to say that, despite still not having a Vicar, the church is once again organising the Village Summer Fete.

It will be held this year on Saturday 29th June and, as in recent years, it will take place on the lovely lawns of Kingston Bagpuize House, by kind permission of Mrs Virginia Grant. The gates will open at 1pm. Make sure you don't miss out on this popular annual village get-together - put the date in your diary now!

All village organisations and craftspeople should have received by now a letter inviting you to have a stall on the day. Please get in touch if you haven't got yours, or if you are new to the area. We welcome all villagers who have items or services to sell. But don't forget - we need your booking forms back in time to order you a table for your stall.

And if you are a strong and hearty villager who would like to help out, we desperately need more volunteers to set up the gazebos and tables on Friday afternoon / Saturday morning. Please contact us for information.

Many thanks, Margo Evans 01865 820900 margoevans@mac.com
On behalf of the Fete Committee

The Way We Were



Kingston Bagpuize 1867

Litter Pick



A huge thank you to the 18 folk who gave up their Sunday morning on the 17th for the first of the two litter picks organised for March. We were very lucky that the rain stopped by 10am so we were dry for our 10.30am start. Between us 26 bags of litter were collected from the north side of KBS.

We all look forward to the day when no litter picks are needed. Joan Martin

Youth Matters

We are again looking for a young person to write a few words each month on the Youth Aspect of the village.

What's going on, what we should have in the way of facilities, review of new films, almost anything

really that would be of interet to the younger generation. If you're interested, let me know on editorkbsnews@gmail.com.







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KINGSMOOR CLINIC www.kingsmoorclinic.co.uk

01865 820011

East Wing, Old Berkshire Hunt Kennels, Oxford Rd, Kingston Bagpuize, Abingdon OX13 5AP





The AGM of the Village Hall will take place in the SWALLOW ROOM at the Village Hall on WEDNESDAY 10th APRIL at 7.30 pm.

Please take this opportunity to come along and meet the committee, 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 KBS residents as possible about what you would like to happen with your Hall. You can also pop in and have a look at our recently refurbished disabled toilet in the main hall which is very 21st century now!

As always, we are very keen to hear of any villagers who wish to get involved with the running of the Hall, the time commitment is very minimal.

Sadly, as yet no one has come forward to be our new secretary. Now the lady who has transformed the bookings over the past year feels she cannot continue because of work and family pressures, so we need a Bookings Clerk/Manager as well.

If we can't recruit anyone, we may have to consider making it a paid position, financial resources we can ill afford and would much rather divert into other improvement projects.

Please don't hesitate to speak to me at the meeting or contact me by phone or email. neiloastler@gmail.com Tel:07876 590919

Neil Oastler, Chair of the Managing Trustees

The Wicked Wit of Winston Churchill



It woud be a great reform in politics if wisdom could be spread as easily and as rapidly as folly.



KBS Film and Music Evening

Our next Film Night will be on Friday 12th April when we will be showing, WONKA.

centre of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Roald Dahl's most iconic children's book and one of the best selling books of all time. Wonka tells the story of how the world's greatest inventor, magician and chocolate maker became the Willy Wonka we know today. The musical, comedy fantasy stars Timothée Chalamet as Willy Wonka, Hugh Grant as an Oompa Loompa, Olivia Coleman and Rowan Atkinson among others. It is a free evening organised by members of St John the Baptist Church and tea, coffee, popcorn and chocolates will be provided from 7pm with the film beginning at 7.15pm. We do ask you to let either Peter Beer or Margo Evans know if you will be joining us so that we can ensure there are sufficient chairs for everyone - we ran out last month! Many thanks. Peter Beer 01865 820805 or Margo Evans 01865 820900 or margoevans@mac.com

This is based on the extraordinary character at the



Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Tennis Club

The winter league is approaching the final few matches.

Men's A team currently in 7th place Div 1
Men's B Team currently in 9th place Div 4
Men's C team currently in 3rd place Div 7
Ladies' A team currently in 6th place Premier Div
Ladies' B team currently in 3rd place in Div 5
Our Ladies' midweek teams have had some great
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If you fancy some friendly competitive tennis check out our website, the summer league fixtures will be kicking off in April and we will be entering 3 men's teams and 3 ladies' teams plus a mixed team. *Angie Burrell*

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Apple Blossoms WI

We held our Annual Meeting in March where our committee and President were voted back in. Sue Melling, who was on our committee for the previous year has stepped down and we pass on our thanks to her for keeping us all in check.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 9th April at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. Our speaker will be Helena McBride from The Space Maker, who are professional organisers who can help you at home in: 'clearing your house, clearing your mind, clearing your life and

taking back control'. Curating, sorting, organising, and categorising your belongings is a practical step forward to help yourself live a calmer life. You'll be able to better enjoy your life when you have less mess and clutter to deal with. You can focus on the things that bring you joy and make you happy.... but where do you start? Apple Blossoms WI are also leading the poppy project with Standing with Giants - The People's Tribute – Normandy 80 memorial. Toni is the poppy coordinator and is receiving hundreds of parcels of knitted and crocheted poppies from WI groups all over the country. These poppies will decorate the stillages that transport the soldier silhouettes to Normandy.

We always have so much going on, and our WI is growing in numbers which is fantastic. Visitors are very welcome, so please do come along. We'd love to see you.

Give us a follow on social media for news and updates: **Facebook** – Apple Blossoms WI **Instagram** – apple_blossomswi

Toni Briggs, Apple Blossoms WI Secretary appleblossomswi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk













If you have moved into the village since the last KBS
News, welcome to Kingston
Bagpuize with Southmoor. Did you know our village has its own website? Be sure to visit www.kbsonline.org.uk where most aspects of life in KBS are covered including a list of clubs and associations with contact numbers.

THE NEW SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE AND VALE OF THE WHITE HORSE LOCAL PLAN

This month, I have been looking at some of the Council's preferred options in Chapter 6 in respect of housing —Housing requirement (HOU1), Available and identified sites (HOU2), Affordable Housing (HOU3), The Housing mix (HOU4) and Housing for older people (HOU5).

POLICIES HOU1 and HOU2 cover the Vale's housing requirements and sources of sites: The Vale has identified a need for between 600 and 800 new houses per annum depending upon how one interprets the figures. Much of the new development will be at Dalton Barracks, Didcot, Grove, Culham and Berinsfield – but apparently, although Planning Permission has already been granted for in excess of 33,000 new houses, there are no plans to delete any of the proposed developments included in the current plan which, of course, includes the land East of Kingston Bagpuize along the line of the A420 towards Fyfield and land towards the North East and South East of Marcham and North East of the Hanneys.

POLICY HOU3 Affordable Housing: identifies the need for at least 32% of new houses in the Vale to be 'affordable'. This percentage would increase to 40% if those in rented accommodation on housing benefit were taken into account and to 75% with the addition of those renting privately but who would like to buy their own home and get on the housing ladder. The Council's preferred option is that in any new development of ten or more houses 50% of the total build must be affordable.. In the case of rural areas only five new dwellings are required to trigger the requirement for a percentage to be affordable — which begs the question; What is a rural area? As far as the Vale is concerned, the 1985 Housing Act designated the North Wessex Downs i.e the area which lies, with the exception of one or two Downland villages, mainly to the south of the Ridgeway. So we may think we live in a rural area, but apparently we don't.

POLICIES HOU4 and HOU5- Cover the housing mix and the needs of the elderly: The Vale has commissioned Opinion

Research Services (ORS) to provide evidence of new housing needs through a 'Joint Housing needs assessment', the results of which will hopefully shape the final Plan. It would seem that there is now acceptance of the fact that there has been a preponderance of larger houses (which developers and builders much prefer) built in recent years, and a much wider mix will be needed in the future. National space standards will be adhered to with regard to room sizes and density of houses, etc. NO mention is made of gardens, of course, and it would seem that we will continue to see large four/five bedroom houses built with only minuscule gardens, as is already the case in our village. Nor is the word Bungalow ever used. It is accepted that there is a requirement for what is termed 'Ground floor living' for elderly people, the housebound and invalids - in what one can only assume to be Bungalows provided, of course, that developers can be persuaded to build them! The needs of the elderly, wheelchair bound, etc. are being assessed by ORS, and the Vale's strategy will eventually be based on their assessment of 'Identified needs'. However HOU5 states that the preferred policy for sites of 500+ dwellings is to be more supportive of applications from older people 'in places that are consistent with the spatial strategy and settlement hierarchy......' all well and good, assuming one can interpret the Local Government speak. Ian Charlton

David Johnston is our MP.

You can write to him at: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA or phone 020 7219 6350 email: david.johnston.mp@parliament .uk





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Nature Notes - Feeding Garden Wildlife

First of all, thanks to all those who reported back on Hedgehogs in their gardens. There were quite a few of you, and it is great to hear of them doing apparently quite well in various parts of the village. Unsurprisingly, perhaps, reports do seem to be mostly from older established gardens. As yet I've not had a lot of feedback from the newer built properties in the village, so if you are in those then it would be great to hear from you and maybe tell us what positive steps you've taken such as supplementary feeding.

Of course it is not just Hedgehogs that need our help in what is now recognised as a Nature Crisis. Many people feed garden birds, in fact the UK is particularly known for what is sometimes termed "an obsession". Data from the British Trust for Ornithology suggest that we may be spending between £200 & £300 million a year! All that additional food which birds find difficult to source in the wider countryside is having an impact. Species such as Goldfinch and Blue & Great Tit which seem comfortable in coming into gardens are doing well but other more wary species are losing out on the food on offer. A question often asked is "should we cease feeding in the summer months?" Previously suggestions that providing food to birds who are rearing chicks may be causing them harm but this view has been dispelled. Birds are not daft and they know better than us what food their young require, so yes, do keep feeding all year round. But there are a few do's and don'ts: Do keep feeders clean to prevent spread of disease; Do provide a variety of different foods as you'll attract a wider range of species; Don't position feeders where cats or other predators can lurk and pounce.

Unfortunately, the visitors your feeders get may not always be the ones you hoped for. For some, while we were troubled by Grey Squirrels and while one would like to tolerate them, they do become a problem when they persist in chewing holes in the feeders. I've always found Rooks to be a characterful species, but we did have to take steps with sturdy wire to prevent them from unhooking the feeders onto the ground. Last but not least the issue of Brown Rats. I can say for sure that chasing them off doesn't work, the only cure that does have an effect unfortunately, is to cease bird feeding for a few days. Without the easy pickings of a reliable food source they hopefully clear off and annoy someone else! As usual, please report any unusual or interesting wildlife sightings from around about and do keep sending in your Hedgehog news to kbsnaturenotes@gmail.com Peter Pool



KBS Badminton Club In April we'll be playing at Improver level and above on Saturday mornings from 9 – 10.30am with the exception of 27th April as the hall is booked for a wedding.

We'll be playing at Intermediate level and above every Monday evening from 6.15 – 7.30pm (note new times) with the exception of 15th April when the Drama group will be holding a dress rehearsal. We do play on the Easter Monday so you can burn off all the calories from your Easter eggs. All sessions take place at KBS Village Hall.

We currently have space for a couple more players at both sessions so, if you're interested in joining us, please get in touch. We're quite a competitive group but the emphasis is on fun and we don't take ourselves too seriously. The first couple of visits are free and after that we ask you to pay a share of the court hire costs. For more information or if you have any questions, please email me at sharon@cherrytree21.plus.com or call on 01865 820399. Note that Jenny's Wednesday evening improver sessions are currently full. Sharon Cooper



Information for Village Residents who receive prescriptions from the White Horse Medical Practice in Faringdon.

At the March Parish Council meeting, the Council were asked if they could make representations to the

Pharmacy at the White Horse Medical Practice in Faringdon, who had advised that they would no longer be sending text messages to let people know that their prescriptions are ready for collection.

Parish Councillor Diana Swale has spoken to the Pharmacist at the White Horse Medical Practice and has been told that, from 1st April, the Pharmacy will be sending out emails instead of text messages.

The Practice asks that patients order their renewal prescriptions 7 WORKING DAYS before they expect to collect them from the Dispensary.

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The Kitchen Depot Recipe

Roasted cauliflower & chickpea coconut curry

https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/roasted-cauliflower-chickpea-coconut-curry

On a mission to eat less meat? Tom Kerridge's roasted cauliflower and chickpea coconut curry will be a new

favourite. Enjoy with your choice of sides

Ingredients - Serves 4

- 1. large cauliflower, cut into florets
- 2. 4 tbsp sunflower oil
- 3. 2 tbsp black mustard seeds
- 4. 1 tbsp cumin seeds
- 5. 6 cardamon pods, seeds only
- 6. 2 onions, finely sliced
- 7. 400g can chickpeas, drained
- 8. 1 tsp ground cumin
- 9. 5 garlic cloves, finely grated
- 10. 1 tbsp ground coriander
- 11. ½ tsp chilli powder (optional) 2 tsp turmeric
- 12. 400g can coconut milk
- 13. 1 thumb-sized piece of ginger, finely grated
- 14. 300ml vegetable stock (vegan, if needed)

Method:

- 1. Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Tip the cauliflower, 1 tbsp of the oil, mustard seeds, cumin seeds, cardamom seeds and chickpeas into a large bowl, season generously and toss well. Spread over a roasting tray and roast for 20 mins, tossing halfway through, until the cauliflower is caramelised but retains a little bite.
- 2. Meanwhile, heat the rest of the oil in a shallow saucepan or wok. Fry the onions with a little salt over a medium heat for 10-15 mins, until golden. Tip in the garlic, ginger and spices and cook for 3-4 mins.
- 3. Pour in the coconut milk and stock, bring to a simmer, then tip in the roasted cauli and chickpeas. Simmer for 5 mins and add the lime juice. Top with the coriander and chilli, if using, and serve with your choice of sides.

To serve, provide:

- 1 lime, juiced handful of roughly chopped coriander
- 1 green chilli, sliced (optional) cooked rice poppadums, naan or flatbreads Bon appetit!



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Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group

This month we will be presenting 'Behind Closed Doors' an evening of four one act plays from four very different homes including Anyone Can Dance

which we are pleased to bring to the village following the group's award-winning performances at both Abingdon and Wallingford Festivals and then by invitation at the National Drama Festival's Final last year. Dates for diaries are Thursday April 18th to Saturday April 20th inclusive with doors open at 6.45pm and performance starting at 7.30pm.

Mother Figure by Alan Ayckbourn - Lucy, a stay-at-home mother of three, has been looking after the children alone for so long (whilst absent father Harry is away with 'work') that she has forgotten what adult company is like. Lucy has spent so much time being 'Mum' she seems to have forgotten who Lucy ever was. Then Rosemary and Terry from next door come to check on her A very funny one act play set in the 1970s. Reminiscing by Charles Dennison - James and his wife Jenifer reminisce over their many years together, the trials and tribulations of having a family, the difficult and emotional moments and the ones too funny to forget. The shortest of our four plays, but perhaps the most thought-provoking.

Housebound by Simon Mawsdesley is laugh-out-loud funny.

Housebound explores what happens when Bone, an inept criminal who is about as far from a mastermind as you can get, takes the agoraphobic and ever so slightly highly strung Fiona hostage in her own home. Neither of them want to be there but neither of them can leave. Neither of them like wasps either!

Anyone Can Dance by Sean Baker. Samantha and Joe, a couple, fall into a discussion one night – what if they had met at different points in their lives? What would they have been like, and how would they have reacted to each other? Would they have fallen in love, or at another age would they just have been wrong for each other? Is there such a thing as soulmates, or are successful relationships just a result of "right place, right time"?

'Behind Closed Doors' will be a great value evening right on your doorstep (just £12 per ticket) with a fully licensed bar, teas and coffees and free parking. It's really helpful to us if tickets are purchased in advance (so we know how much bar stock to order!) and these can be purchased here: https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/oxfordshire/southmoor-village-hall/behind-closed-doors. We will also be selling tickets on the door each evening.

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Magnus Macfarlane about Oxford Oxford museums.

It's April. It's probably going to be wet, perhaps even cold, but Spring is in the air. What can you get out and do?

How about one of the Oxford museums? The first question for you is how many free museums are there in Oxford? Would you believe 6!

There is much more to do than perusing the collections. Look across the museums for free tours, self-guided audio tours, workshops, talks, interactive family experiences, handling objects.

On top of that there are specialist tours or temporary exhibitions and the stories that go with them.

Sometimes these have a small fee.

Try the Ashmolean for the new interactive family experience, games, quizzes, stories, design and sounds. Try the Natural History Museum. The glass beehive is back! All sorts of specialist tours on at the moment, including marine reptiles, nature themed crafts, autism-friendly, bird song, architecture and of course dinosaurs and the dodo. Go next door to the Pitt Rivers where over half a million items are displayed typologically, so all the bracelets are together and all the swords are together etc. Try the object handling tour or hidden histories.

In the Museum of the History of Science, check out Einstein's blackboard. There used to be a second blackboard, but unfortunately the cleaner was cleaning up ... Join the hands-on sessions or step into Lyra's world.

Try the Bate Museum where over 1000 musical instruments are on display.

All the above are run by the University one way or the other. The Museum of Oxford (MOX) is run by the City Council. It used to be somewhere to shelter from the rain but after a major revamp it is now a destination museum - explore marmalade to Morris motors; saints to pubs and it's all about Oxford. You can even dig up your own archaeology. Modern Art Oxford is relatively small but manages to attract exhibitions by major modern artists. Then there is the Story Museum, which of course also runs the Alice day every year. It has undergone a £6 million redevelopment providing some fabulous venues for stories.

Beyond visiting each of these sites is the sheer amount of information that they put online for you to peruse and

enjoy, including previous exhibitions. There is something for absolutely everybody across this spectrum. Do check online for details of openings and exhibitions that you want to visit.



Finally which Museum is this?

Oxford Flower Club

With the wind and rain lashing down outside, it was great to see so many members turn out for our meeting in February. A delicious choice of homemade cakes and tea got the afternoon off to a good start, before we welcomed our guest speaker Jeremy Mainwaring-Burton.

Jeremy came to talk about the Queen Mother's love of jewellery. He graduated from University with a degree in geology before joining the Army. He spent 5 years in the Irish Guards, of which 2 1/2 of those were on a secondment to Clarence House as the Queen Mother's equerry. His admiration of her jewellery enthused him to

interesting speaker.

study and qualify as a gemmologist.

The Queen Mother loved in particular pearls and diamonds, and acquired a collection of 100 pieces of jewellery and tiaras valued in excess of £50m. These were either gifted,

commissioned, or inherited. A large number of pieces were

bequest to her from a good friend Margaret Greville. Many of the Queen Mother's pieces, particularly the tiaras, are worn by the royal family today. What a fascinating afternoon with a genuinely

Our demonstrator in April is Rekha Naidoo with her 'Inspirations of India', and in May a Master florist Jennifer Allen Thompson for 'A Good Read'. Guests and new members welcome. *Karen Mole*

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In a change to our original programme, our next talk on Tuesday 2nd April will be 'Boggery in the Garden' by Timothy Walker. Many of you will be familiar with Timothy, who was previously the director of Oxford Botanic Garden and is an entertaining speaker. Water adds an extra sensory dimension to a garden and the talk will look at water features for

both large and small gardens. Emphasis will be placed on the plants that can be grown in a water garden – the "boggery" of the title. The talk is at Southmoor Village Hall and doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. There will also be a raffle and complimentary refreshments for members. Visitors are welcome for a fee of £4. We have now confirmed the date for several of our events which will take place during the year as follows: Member's Open Garden (Sunday 19th May pm); Visit to Bridewell Gardens (Sunday 9th June pm); Member's Open Garden (Sunday 23rd June); Summer Party (Sat 13th July lunchtime); visit to RHS Wisley (Sunday 13th October). Our annual plant sale at the Village Fete will be on Saturday 29th June and The Village Show is on Saturday 31st August this year. Put them all in your diary now and full details will follow nearer the time. Note that some of these events are only open to members.

Membership costs £15 for the year and offers free entry to our talks for the year as well as various other perks. We aim to make sure our talks are of interest to anyone who has an interest in gardening, nature or the environment so you don't have to be an expert to come along. Our updated 2024 Programme is now available on our website www.skbgardeningclub.org.uk . If you'd like any further information, you can email us at skbgardeningclub@gmail.com. Sharon Cooper (Chair)





Tamsyn Lay MSc (Hons) MChiro MMCA MCTIMONEY CHIROPRACTOR - SOUTHMOOR In pain or do you just require a general back check?

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OCC Highways have advised of further road works in, and close to, the village.

From 12th April to 15th April from 5.00am to 6.00pm

Faringdon Road, Southmoor / Kingston Bagpuize between the two Co-Ops.

To facilitate surface dressing works

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From 19th April to 23rdth April from 5.00am to 6.00pm
Faringdon Road, Southmoor / Kingston Bagpuize between the two Co-Ops.
To facilitate surface seal installation work

From 28th April to 30th April from 5.00am to 6.00pm

A420 Kingston/ Bagpuize/Southmoor/Pusey from the Witney Road Roundabout through to Buckland

To facilitate surface dressing works

From 27th April to 30th April from 5.00am to 6.00pm

A415 from Marcham through to the Frilford Crossroads

To facilitate surface dressing works

All the above notices all include the following

TEMPORARILY PROHIBITS THE USE OF AND WAITING ON THE HIGHWAY BY ALL MOTOR VEHICLES (Traffic Regulation Notices cover a maximum of 5 consecutive days.)

ACCESS: Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works

Diversion Signs will be in place

From 12th April to 15th April Surface Dressing work will also be taking place on the road from Spring Hill through to Charney Bassett

Other details are not yet available

The KBS News is delivered to every house in the village.

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



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News from the Parish Council

Parish Council Website: https://kbsParishCouncil.org.uk/ Parish Clerk email: Clerk@kbsParishCouncil.org.uk

The Parish Council met in Kingston Bagpuize Village Hall on 4th March. For a full account the minutes and appendices are available on the Parish Council website at https://kbsparishcouncil.org.uk/document-

category/minutesboards and online/ and on Parish Council notice boards

Present: Cllr Virginia Grant (Chairman) and Councillors Oyebola Bello, Natalie Clements, Dianna Swale, Kim Kousari, Behnoosh Sabah, Steve Smith, Robert Barnett, Brian Forster together with District Councillor Jill Rayner and 9 members of the public.

Report from District Councillor Jill Rayner: Discussed proposal by Thames Water to increase household charges; 6500 hrs of sewage dumped into rivers; Vale budget approved; Joint Local Plan consultation ended, publication date probably summer 2025; Climate Action grant funds available later in 2024.

Public Participation: Laurence Hutton-Smith the new local member of the Thames Valley independent Advisory Group spoke briefly and will liaise with the Council's Speeding/Road Safety committee.

Clerk's Report: OCC have advised traffic calming feasibility study for Springhill no longer in 2024/25 budget; Village Hall looking to appoint new secretary and bookings clerk; s106 Art Monies: discussions continue for bench designs and work for the stone carving of the boulders for Wellington Way stones has begun.

Planning Applications: The Council did not object to any of the 3 applications being considered: P24/V0208/HH; P24/V0291/HH and P24/V2697/FUL.

VWHDC Planning Decisions: P24/V2694/HH Permission Refused

Full details of all Planning applications and decisions taken by the Parish Council and VWHDC Planning are listed on the website. The KBSPC Planning Committee will next meet on Thursday 4th April in the Elkins Room at 6.00pm. This meeting is open to members of the public.

D-Day 80th Anniversary Thursday 6th June 2024:a committee meeting to be arranged. Event to start at 6pm with beacon to be lit after 9pm. Help and involvement sought from village residents. Clerk to promote on Facebook.

Grant & Donation Requests: There were 9 submitted applications. A total of £6461.00 was awarded with £3723.00 coming from CIL monies.

Environment & Climate Committee: Hedgehog Street – details and hedgehog street map to be posted on Facebook and website.

Next meetings of the Council: Monday 8th April & Tuesday 7th May. 6.30pm Swallow Room, KBS Village Hall.



On Thursday 6th June the Parish Council is planning an event to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

This will take place in the grounds of Kingston Bagpuize House.

There will be food, a licensed bar and music, and the evening will end with the lighting of a beacon at dusk.

Anyone with ideas for / or who is interested in helping to plan and arrange this event please email:

clerk@kbsparishcouncil.org.uk

KBS Café at Southmoor Village Hall Every Thursday 9am to 12 noon

We serve tea, coffee and hot chocolate, orange and blackcurrant squash, cheese scones and of course cake. 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

The café is a great place for recent arrivals in the village to meet neighbours, make new friends and learn about the village. We have toys for the children so all ages are welcome.

If anyone would like to make a cake occasionally, please contact Caroline on 820936 or Ruth on 821386. We look forward to seeing you.

Caroline Ashby

The Cedar Community Club for the young at heart

Activities

'Fun' and 'Fund-raising' at the Cedar Club

Well, the Wednesday
Drinking Club has done it
again! This group of five
men, all living locally, has
found the perfect way of
combining their favourite
hobby with charity fundraising. Despite some of
them having already
reached their 8th decade,
they meet up every
Wednesday at the

Waggon and Horses in Southmoor for a session of gentle exercise (well, lifting those heavy beer glasses surely burns off some calories). They have been meeting up every week for nearly ten years (apart from the dreaded Covid years), and early on they decided to put their small change to good use and have a collection kitty for charity. At the end of each year, there



The Wednesday Drinking Club
(from the left): Philip (usually known as Pip) Holton, Fred
Arnold, Nick Forster and Pete Richings enjoying a drink
--- and fund-raising --- at the Waggon and Horses in
Southmoor. Sadly, the fifth member, James Marks, was
absent that day.

is a grand counting up ceremony, and a very welcome donation is made to the Cedar Community Club. The Club was delighted to receive £150 at Christmas from these generous community-minded drinkers, and the money will be used to pay for a Club outing for our members.

Not to be outdone, the Blue Boar pub in Longworth has similarly been organising fund-raising activities, and since last July landlord Anthony has been generously hosting the monthly 'Longworth Charity quiz'. These quizzes have proved immensely popular, with a different local charity benefiting from the proceeds each month. Last August it was the turn of the Cedar Club, which was handed nearly £350 at the end of the evening thanks to the amazing generosity of some ardent quizzers. This April it will be the turn of the Cedar Club again to be 'Charity of the Month' and we are looking forward to another great evening at the pub. It is a great way of putting 'fun' into 'fund-raising'.

Finally, a word of thanks to the local charity HALF (Hinton and Longworth Educational Fund), which has awarded the Club £400 to pay for our regular visits from the Memory Box team run by the Oxfordshire Museum Resources Centre at Standlake. These visits are one of our monthly highlights, and their illustrated talks range from schools in Oxfordshire over the past 150 years, to changes in food and its packaging over the years. Our team leader Sonja not only informs and educates but entertains and stimulates --- and we have learnt so much from her talks. Just because we are senior citizens doesn't mean we don't want to learn new things.

However, despite all this fund-raising, the Club still faces some difficult challenges to balance its books at the end of each year. The Club runs at a monthly deficit of around £1000 per month and, although in the past we have received government grants to help us, such grants may well be harder to get over the coming years. If you have any good ideas for future fundraising events, please drop me an email or give our Manager Clare a call --- we would love to hear from you!

Please don't forget that the Cedar Club is **your club** and is there for you. Please contact our Manager, Mrs Clare Stroudley, if you would like to arrange a free visit to come and see everything we can offer. Valery Rose Tel: 01865 686472 Email: thecedarcommunityclub@gmail.com



Do you have something to say? Why not get it off your chest and put it in the KBS News? Send your thoughts to editorkbsnews@gmail.com

The Lighter Shade of Pale

Sue Lacey Bryant enjoying life in the Village It's rare that I need to look for inspiration. Now as I approach retirement, though, I find I am looking for new inspiration and new adventures into learning. There are so many choices.

I'm thinking of starting with U3A, which is a collection of groups which run local and online member-led learning – aimed at people who are no longer in full time work. The strap line is "Learn, laugh, live". There are branches all around us - in Abingdon, Faringdon, Wantage and Grove, and Witney each with different website pages. Take a look:

https://www.u3a.org.uk/get-involved/join
Witney alone has around 60 groups covering a wide
range of interests: Literature, Music, Languages,
Board games, Arts, History., and everything from
Archaeology and Croquet, to Railways, Science and
Technology, Wine Appreciation and Yoga.

If you have a bit of cash in your pocket, and want to head into Oxford itself, or learn online, University's Continuing Professional Development department offers lots of courses.

https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/continuingprofessional-development

I've been telling my friends that I'm looking for Renaissance not Retirement, only to find there is indeed an online short course in the 12th Century Renaissance in Oxford. It runs for 11 sessions at a fee of £257.00 At the other end of the fee spectrum. "Impudent Housewives: Debunking Stereotypes of Early Modern Women" caught my eye. Hardly aimed at most locals at a fee of £1500.00, albeit with lunch and dinner thrown in, I won't be signing up this year, though I can see it's a fantastic programme.

"Your free time should be yours to enjoy. Whether you are looking to find a hobby, retrain and upskill, or simply follow your passions, we have plenty of courses to choose from." The invitation from Oxfordshire Adult Learning is enticing. "See what you can get involved with and how you can improve your skills today" they say. I've been browsing through the part time and evening courses organised by Abingdon and Witney College: https://abingdon-witney.ac.uk/part-time-evening.

Focused on a screen and at a desk for hours at a time through recent years, I'm loving the idea of Exercise to Music for an hour a week for 10 weeks or so. Courses offered by the college are fully or partly funded by the Government so this course only costs £25.00. Alternatively, might I find the courage to take the leap

and sign up for "Summer landscape in a day", a one day course in painting at a charge of £41.40? I'm thinking Seurat's A "Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jette", but realise I may have to start with the equivalent of an emoji smiley face... There lies the first challenge, it is so easy to dismiss opportunities — "I'll never be any good at that".

Time to look up an inspiring quotation? To quote Steve Backley, "The first step is the most important".

Friends of John Blandy Update

It's been a busy term for the Friends of John Blandy. Our Easter Bunnies have been very busy coordinating events for the children at school and the wider community.

This term we have organised a uniform sale, chocolate raffle, an after school film night for Key Stage 2 children and of course you will have seen the posters for the Blandy Boffins which, as this goes to print, is about to take place. It's always a really fun night and so nice for us to invite the community into the school to pit their wits against each other!

This year, towards the end of the Easter holidays we are also arranging an exciting Fairytale Forest Easter trail at The Millennium Green. The MG Committee has kindly allowed us to host this event in the beautiful green on Friday 12th April and we are hoping to attract lots of children to come and take part. Participants will enjoy spotting the fairytale characters - the goodies and the baddies, solving clues and doing some forest crafts along the way, all for £4. Please tell your friends and neighbours as this will be a lovely outdoor event for the children - all proceeds are going towards restocking the school library.

To read more about the trail please go to www.fojb.co.uk/trail and to learn about our library fundraising take a look at www.fojb.co.uk/library-fundraising

Finally, we'd like to thank all of the villagers and businesses who have supported us so far this year - we are so lucky to be part of such a supportive community. All donations big and small are so appreciated - If you think you could help with donating craft supplies, raffle prizes, flower seeds and pots, chocolate treats or a financial contribution please get in touch via johnblandyfriends@gmail.com

Thank you, *Nina, Jenny, Lindsay, Sarah and Rachael*On behalf of the Friends of John Blandy School

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The Defibrillators are located on the front of the Village Hall in Draycott Road and on the outside wall by the main entrance at Petypher House off the Witney Road. Find defibrillator locations at https://defibfinder.uk











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MP David Johnston's
Westminster Newsletter
Being an MP involves a lot of travel
across the length and breadth of my
constituency from my home in Didcot

and this means I know first-hand that the state of the roads across our area is not good enough.

I launched my Roads Survey last year and I'm grateful to the almost 900 people who have filled it in. More than 80% of residents agreed that our roads are poor quality. Flooding on the A417 and safety issues on the A420 and A34 were frequently mentioned, and many people spoke about issues with congestion. I am meeting with the Roads Minister to share the findings with him.

From potholes to congestion to flooding and safety issues, it is clear that we need improvements. We do not need blanket 20mph zones across our area – and the Government is rightly making clear that these should be decided on a hyper-local basis with local consent. No-one objects to strict limits in areas near schools or other sensitive areas but are they required across an entire town? Constituents regularly say no and 71% of residents who filled in my Roads Survey agreed with the Government's policies here.

I have been taking action since I was elected and have raised every issue that has been reported to me with the County Council and the Highways Authorities, who are responsible for our roads. This has resulted in some issues being fixed, but I think everyone can agree that it should not take an MP writing a letter for this to happen.

I have spoken about the need to improve our local roads in 13 separate debates, met with the Roads Minister about it, and led a debate in Parliament on safety issues on the A34 and A420.

It's not all about money, but the Government has also rightly given the County Council millions in funding to help improve our roads and fix our potholes - including a substantial increase of 30% for 2023/24. We need to see this used effectively.

I will keep campaigning on this, but please fill in my Roads Survey at www.david-johnston.org.uk/RoadsSurvey.

I also took senior managers from the Environment Agency to Steventon to talk about our flood defences and what more can be done to prevent the flooding we have seen.

Many constituents shared their thoughts with me ahead of this and I raised various issues on their behalf, including concerns about the proposed reservoir. I will remain in close contact with the Environment Agency and the Council.

Please note: Final copy date for next issue is 15th April @ 4pm



Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Bowls Club

The short mat indoor season is now over with Kingston Kites.

after gaining promotion from division two in the Oxford Short Mat Bowling Association last season into the top division one, finished in 6th position and only two points behind the 4th placed club. The Winter Madness competition is now over and proved to be very successful with the maximum of 36 bowlers taking part at times.

With the new bowling season about to start, we have a very full fixture list of around 106 matches to complete in various leagues and friendlies, plus county and inter club competitions. We have already played a friendly match against Abingdon at home, with thirty-eight bowlers from the two clubs taking part. We usually win this fixture but not this time, we drew on rinks 3-3 but lost overall by 82-113. April fixtures include: our own President versus Captain's annual match; Wantage away; Tilehurst at home; both league Carterton away in a friendly; and our KLV 'A' against our KLV 'B' teams. Each year we support a worthwhile charity, and this year we have chosen to support the Motor Neurone Disease Association. Lawn bowls can be enjoyed by everyone whatever your physique or fitness level. Our green is an artificial one playable all year round, plus we have an indoor short mat in the winter months, and a bar in the club house. We still welcome new members to join a very friendly and sociable Bowls club. Not many villages can boast a bowling club so why not give it a go. We are situated along Oxford road next to the Millennium Green. For more information, visit our website >kbsbc.co.uk< for more details and contact numbers.

Mick Fuller, Club Captain (01865 820818)

KBS Market Place



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Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club – Juniors

After really successful Winter Nets sessions, Kingston Bagpuize
Juniors now look forward to a bit of

warmer weather so that our Friday night outdoor training can start in preparation for the junior leagues starting in May.

Has your child thought about cricket....? We are always looking for new players as we look to expand and offer greater opportunity to the youngsters of Kingston and surrounding areas.

We start training on Friday 19th April (weather permitting) at 6pm. Why not come along, have a drink in the bar while your child tries it out?

This season we will be running 2 Teams at u11, one softball, one hardball, and U13 Hardball and an u15 hardball team. Please feel free to reach out to me at mwalton2309@gmail.com



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John Blandy School Report



On Wednesday 7th of February, the Year 6 children had a fabulous day, learning all about China and cooking some Chinese food.

In the morning, we learnt about some Chinese history, its traditions and the importance of Chinese culture. We also learnt some Mandarin. We also learnt to count to ten in Mandarin. It was tricky but fun at the same time! We ended the morning with creating Chinese Happy New Year cards and decorations and then took them home to our families.

In the afternoon, we began cooking some Chinese food. Half of the class made dumplings and the other half made spring rolls; they were both delicious! We all want to say a big thank you to all the adults that helped us have a great day.

On Friday the 15th of March the Years 3 and 4 went to Kingston Bagpuize House. They were able to have a look at the grounds and also have a tour of the house. Some relatives and carers volunteered to go along and help with the trip. They had the wonderful opportunity to have a once in a lifetime experience of looking around the house and exploring the wonders of its history. Our school is so grateful for the wonderful lady of the house (Virginia Grant) who allowed us to take our Years 3 and 4 out on a trip to tour the perfect house of our village's history. On Friday the 22nd of March Years 3 and 4 are putting on a school play: 'The Wind In The Willows.' They are putting in lots of time and effort into practising their lines to put on a show for their parents and carers to cherish, enjoy and remember. We do hope that they love the performance that they have put on as we are sure it will be a masterpiece that they are working so hard to perfect! By Chloe, Tahir, Ellie and Ava, Community

Councillors, Year 6, John Blandy Primary School.

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