

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 42 Number 1 February 2015

Southmoor Pre-School is officially "OUTSTANDING"



Pre-school
welcomed a
special visitor
this Christmas,
yes Santa did
pop in but so did
OFSTED. Now
that the report
has been
published we are
delighted to

announce that we have officially been recognised as an "OUTSTANDING" facility. There are only a handful of Preschools in the county awarded this so we are very proud of this achievement. So huge congratulations to Manager Jackie and dedicated team who have transformed the preschool over recent years. Thanks also to the wider community for its continuing support in both educational and fundraising activities. Staff were praised in the report for their "inspirational" level of teaching and that they created a "highly stimulating environment" allowing children "to make excellent progress in all areas". Other areas of good practice highlighted by the report were excellent availability of resources, safeguarding and the welfare of the children, attitudes to promoting children's healthy lifestyles and successful ways of engaging parents in their children's learning. The report also acknowledged the work the team had done in strengthening relations with John Blandy School. Two key areas highlighted for good practice were Pre-schools strong communication with the reception class and sharing of resources. Describing us as having "exceptional links" and as a result of which, "children are exceptionally well prepared for school". If you wish to view the full Ofsted report or are interested in a preschool place (sessions still available) please visit our website www.southmoorpre-school.co.uk or contact us on 01865 821505.

Have your say on proposals for Southmoor House

Blue Cedar Homes is proposing to build new retirement cottages on land at Southmoor House, Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor.

Blue Cedar say "We are a retirement living developer with a real commitment to ensuring that our new retirement cottages add value to the areas in which we build." With this in mind, they would welcome your feedback on the proposals before a planning application is submitted to Vale of White Horse District Council.

A newsletter has been sent to residents neighbouring the site, which outlines what is proposed. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter, have any questions or have any comments, please call Paul Erskine on 01225 422243 or email paulerskine@meetingplacecommunications.com



Computer generated image of a current Blue Cedar Homes development

Exclusive Fallowfields offer for KBS News readers - Page 4

NEED A DOCTOR URGENTLY?

After office hours and at weekends and Bank Holidays please phone III if you have a requirement for urgent medical advice and assistance. (NHS Direct is no longer a phone service but offers comprehensive on-line medical advice through its website)

On phoning III your needs will be assessed, advice offered and arrangements made for you to see an Out Of Hours doctor if appropriate. Please do not ask to see a doctor out of hours unless you genuinely cannot wait until the surgery re-opens.

Call 999 in an emergency. Chest pains and / or shortness of breath constitute an emergency.

THE FERN HILL PRACTICE tel 01367 242407

Repeat prescriptions can be left at the Southmoor Village Post Office
The practice runs a weekly service to the Post Office delivering each Thursday at 2:30pm
Please allow 2 working days and include payment when requesting your prescription where
necessary

THE WHITE HORSE MEDICAL PRACTICE tel 01367 242388

Repeat Prescriptions can be left at the Southmoor Village Post Office

The practice runs a daily service to the Post Office. Please allow 2 working days and include payment when requesting your prescription where necessary.

DISTRICT NURSE or HEALTH VISITOR 01367 240087

SOUTHMOOR CHILD HEALTH CLINIC First Friday of the month 2pm to 3pm

NEED THE POLICE? EMERGENCY ONLY: 999 NON EMERGENCY: 101

KBS News Team

Chairperson: Pat Smith 820775 **Annual Advertising:** Kathy Fletcher.

Secretary: Lynda Newman 820527 Treasurer: Roy Wolfe
Editor + Monthly Ads: Lance Bassett KBSonline Rep: John Smith

Caroline Ashby, **Distribution:** Nigel Beale 821591.

Copy date for next issue: BEFORE Monday 16th February at 4.00pm

Please send all copy and one-off advertising by email to: editorkbsnews@googlemail.com, as a MS Word document if possible, with no formatting or tabs. It makes our work so much easier, but do not worry if you do not have access to a computer - we are happy to receive your contribution in any form! Leave items in the boxes in the Post Office in Kingston Bagpuize or in the One Stop shop. These boxes will be emptied at regular intervals. Please ensure all photographs have permission of all concerned.

Please send all correspondence (other than copy and advertising contributions) to KBS News Secretary, Lynda Newman, 21 Larch Close, Southmoor, OX13 5DD. For annual box advertising please contact Kathy: advertskbsnews@googlemail.com PLEASE ensure all copy is supplied with contact name, address & phone number. KBS News reserves the right to shorten or edit any submissions if necessary where space is at a premium. All submissions must be attributed, anonymous submissions will not be printed and late copy may not be included. We are also not responsible for grammatical errors and spelling.

Beyond the Whinge - the Editor's blog

I am reporting to you now from deep in my bunker in Kingston-in-the-Mire, a once peaceful village retreat just outside Oxford, which now resembles a ravaged war torn battlefield somewhere in the third world. The onslaught continues with reinforcements getting through on a daily basis via endless convoys of HGV supply trucks merrily tearing up the verges, the last of the green spaces in our midst, as it would appear these are no longer allowed here. The road blocks in place are a great success with traffic queuing in all directions. We now have more trenches than they did on the Somme and it's also possibly noisier and muddier. I can only assume it's the heavy bombardment of these said trenches that is causing the frequent power cuts.

I would like to announce relief is at hand, just like Mafeking, but in our case expect no column of cavalry from the Vale Council, County Council or indeed the Government because we are on our own, make no mistake. Our only hope is to form a circle of wagons and pray for the second coming of John Wayne. At least in WW2 you knew who the enemy was. My grandfather hated the Nazis because they bombed his allotment and shelled his peas, but today the foe seems to be, other than a few greedy landowners, the people we elected. Think on next May!

VILLAGE DIARY

Village Hall Booking Details tel: 0777 153 9901 email: southmoorvillagehall@yahoo.co.uk

February	Day	Time	What & Where (SVH = Southmoor Village Hall)	Page				
Monday	2nd	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting - Southmoor Village Hall					
Tuesday	3rd	7.15pm for 7.30pm						
Wednesday	4th	10.00am - 12.00noon Ferndale House Preparatory School Open Morning						
Wednesday	4th	**** Food Collection & Grey Bin Collection ****						
Monday	9th	Mobile Library ** 10.05am Waggon & Horses, SVH 10.45am, Bellamy Close 11						
Tuesday	10th	7.30pm	Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor Womens Institute - Pat Fowler - SVH	26				
Wednesday	11th	****	**** Food Collection & Green Bin Collection & Brown Bin Collection ****					
Monday	16th	4.00pm	Last Copy Date / Time for KBS News March 2015 Edition					
Wednesday	18th	**** Food Collection & Grey Bin Collection ****						
Thursday	19th	7.15pm for 7.30pm	Longworth and District History Soc - Witney Blanket Making - SVH	26				
Monday	23rd	Mobile Library ** 10.05am Waggon & Horses, SVH 10.45am, Bellamy Close 11.						
Tuesday	24th	7.30pm	New Age Kurling Association demonstration - Southmoor VH	6				
Wednesday	25th	**** Food Collection & Green Bin Collection & Brown Bin Collection ****						
Saturday	28th	7.00pm - 11.30pm	60s Evening With The Saga Louts - Southmoor Village Hall	28				
March		W ASS		0.				
Saturday	7th	10.00am - 12.00noo	on Ferndale House Preparatory School Open Morning	24				
Saturday	14th	7.00pm	Blandy Boffins Quiz - John Blandy School Hall	27				

Regular Events each Month

What	Where	guiai Events each	Day		Time
Apple Quilters	Southmoor Village Hall		2nd & 4th Monday		9.30am - 12am
Anchor Church Youth Group (14-18 yr			1st & 3rd Sundays Term		[[전경진(전경성경성경 - : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :
Friends Church Youth Group (10-14 y		oor VH Swallow Rm	Sundays	-	6.00pm - 7.30pm
French for Fun	Southmoor VH Swallow Rm		Wednesday		9.30am - 11.00am
IYENGAR Yoga class	Longworth Village Hall		Monday Term Time Only		7.30pm - 9.00pm
IYENGAR Yoga class	Longworth Village Hall		Tuesday Term Time Only		11.00am - 12.30pm
KB Drama Group	St John the Baptist Church Hall		Tuesday (except below)		7.30pm
KB Drama Group	Southmoor Village Hall		3rd Tuesday each month		7.30pm
KB & S Bowls Club 'Roll Up'	Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize		Tuesdays & Thursdays		1.30pm
KB & S Cafe	Southmoor Village Hall		Thursday		9.00am - 12 noon
KB & S Gardening Club	Southmoor Village Hall		1st Tuesday from Feb		7.15pm for 7.30pm
KB & S Health Walk	Leaves Southmoor VH 10.45am		Tuesday		10.30am - 11.30am
KB & S 14+ Drop In Centre	Southmoor Village Hall		Friday Term Time Only		7.30pm - 9.30pm
KB & S Womens Institute	Southmoor Village Hall		2nd Tuesday		7.30pm
Kingsmoor Community Club	Call 01865 820166 for venue		Tues, Wed, Fri		10.00am - 3.00pm
1st Longworth Beavers	The Scout	Contact Mike Furse 01865 820162	Thursday	T	6.00pm - 7.15pm
1st Longworth Cubs	Hut Faringdon		Tuesday	Term	7.00pm - 8.30pm
1st Longworth Explorers			Wednesday	(T) (T) (T)	7.30pm - 9.00pm
1st Longworth Scouts			Thursday	Only	7.30pm - 9.00pm
1st Southmoor Guides	Southmoor V	/illage Hall	Wednesday		7.00pm - 8.30pm
Nordic Walking Classes Call	See Advertisers Corner (page 20) for days / times				
Serendipity Over 60s Club Meeting	Southmoor VH Swallow Rm		2nd Wednesday		2pm - 4pm
Southmoor Baby & Toddler Group	Southmoor Village Hall		Friday Term Time Only 10.00am - 11.30am		
Southmoor Exercise & Dance	Southmoor Village Hall		Wednesday Evenings 7.45 Exercise 8.45 Dance		
Southmoor Rainbows	The Scout Hut, Faringdon Road		Monday Term Time Only		5.45pm - 6.45pm
Zumba	Southmoor Village Hall		Monday		8.15pm

Advertising in the KBS News

If you would like to place an occasional advert in the KBS News please Email: editorkbsnews@googlemail.com

Cost for occasional adverts for "Local Not for profit" organisations: Back Page £24 Inside Full page £20 Inside Part Page % of page used Min £5 Personal Small Ads (Items for Sale) % of Page Minimum £5

Cost for occasional adverts for "Commercial / Business organisations"

Back Page £110 Inside Full page £90 Inside Part Page % of page used Min £10

Occasional adverts can only be included only where space permits

If you would like to place an annual advert in the KBS News please Email: advertskbsnews@googlemail.com.

KINGSTON BAGPUIZE CHURCH NOTICES

NB NEW WEBSITE: http://stjb.churchinsight.com/

Sunday 1st Feb	9.00am	Holy Communion	Speaker: Revd Andrew Symes
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Speaker: Revd Andrew Symes
Sunday 8th Feb	9.00am	Holy Communion	Speaker: Revd David Pickering
	10.30am	All-Age Service	Speaker: Mr Stephen Haywood
Sunday 15th Feb	9.00am	Holy Communion	Speaker: Mr George Watkinson

10.30am Questions of Life Service Speaker: Dr Graham Scott-Brown

Wednesday 18th Feb 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Cluster Service Speaker: TBC Sunday 22nd Feb 9.00am & 10.30am Holy Communion Revd David Pickering Coffee and biscuits after all our services – a good time to chat and make new friends.



FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

THURSDAY **5th:** PINTS OF VIEW: From 8.00pm onwards, at the Hind's Head, a men's discussion group over a beer or two. All men welcome.

WEDNESDAY 18th – CLUSTER ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: Join us at 7.30pm on this solemn day to begin Lent well together. We meet with Christians from eight local villages to share a simple communion and consider the challenge of Lent.

OUR NEW WEBSITE: Just put the link above into your browser, and see our church's new website. Thanks to some great work from Chris Carpenter, we have an exciting and informative new resource in our shiny new website. Do take a look at it.

CHURCH GROUPS: We have a range of groups for adults and children. Call David on 820451 or Hazel on 821358 for more information.

Do contact our Vicar, The Revd David Pickering (820451), re baptisms, weddings, funerals or pastoral care (on any day of the week except Fridays).

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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Parish Priest: Fr Leslie Adams, 1 Coxwell Road, Faringdon, SN7 7EB Tel: 01367 243510, email: blessedhughfaringdon@yahoo.com,

Masses: Sunday One Mass at 9.00am. Weekly Masses: Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am preceded by Morning Prayer at 9.15am. Details of Masses on Holy Days and of Reconciliation - please refer to the Parish Newsletter available at Blessed Hugh Church or from the Parish Website: http://www.blessedhugh.org.uk/







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VILLAGE VOICES

Southmoor House Site

So the 2.48 acre site that used to be Southmoor House is to be a development of retirement cottages for the over 55's. At the moment it is proposed to build 14 of these homes of $1\frac{1}{2}$ storeys. Let's hope when the design comes to planning consent the number hasn't risen as it did in Draycott Road. Ed.

It has been pointed out that Southmoor resident Mary Elizabeth Shewry has been awarded the BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL in the New Year's Honours list. Mary Elizabeth is a Manager at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and has received the award for services to UK Scientific Research. Wow! Congratulations then are certainly in order.

JIM PASCOE.

Regretfully, Jim passed away on Tuesday 9th December, 2014. Jim had fought a long courageous battle without any complaining. He was, along with Carol a regular supporter for many years of the Local History Society and Gardening Club, and their love of walking took them to the New Forest many times. Our thoughts and good wishes go to Carol and family at this very sad time. Carol and family would like to thank everyone who sent cards of condolence and messages.

More dog fouling

I have this morning had a resident of Laurel Drive, complaining of free running dogs fouling his front garden and anywhere else that they are inclined. He also nominated what he believed to be the source of the dogs. He had apparently been advised by the dog warden office of the Vale that they will take action against any dog owner who is committing such an offence, in the meantime more signs will be provided for those irresponsible dog owners who can't seem to understand the current signs. Name & address supplied.

Reading the Editor's December Blog, a feeling of Déjà vu came over me. There were no handouts in the period he was referring to, we left school and started work the following week, there was no year out. When we were married our little cottage, for which we had saved hard for the deposit, had no fridge, no TV, or other mod cons. We were lucky to have a twenty year old car to get us to work in and the weekly trip to the launderette. I am not saying we were hard done by, that was the norm in those days. We started off with a 7% mortgage, which rose to a height of 15.2% at one time. I could go on but I think the Editor covered most things in December. *Peter Smith*

My family and I would like to say a very big "thankyou" to all our friends in the village for all their best wishes, cards, flowers, prayers, food hamper and support in my very sudden illness.

I am doing OK and due for another lot of treatment at the end of the month. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who still support me with the J.B. School lottery. We are very lucky to have such a nice school and village. We moved here 50 years ago this year and have been very happy here. Happy New Year to you all. Dot Peart, 26 Cherry Tree Close.

Credit where it's due

Anyone moving into the village into one of the new houses should be aware how well served we are in the village with regard to electricians, plumbers, decorators and general handymen. I would like to hi-light three who have done sterling work for us over the past year - Dom Rowland (Comfort heating) who has kept our central heating circulating! Carl Sachse - 'Man about the House' and Steve Wagstaff who, over the years, has dealt with just about every problem one could imagine, both in and outside the house. *Jenny Charlton*.

I hope the people who wanted faster Broadband think it is worth all the mess and disruption it has brought to whole village. A Stonehill Lane Resident

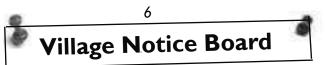
Congratulations to Carolyn who has received a certificate from the Post Office to mark ten years as our Postmistress.

She and Andrew provide an excellent service to all their customers. Always happy to help with those difficult forms, give advice on the best way to send items, both here and abroad, and so much more. This is all carried out in a calm professional way and made to look so easy. We are so lucky to have them both. *Margaret Hockedy*



WORDS OF WISDOM

There never was a good war or a bad peace. Benjamin Franklin in 1783



Please note:

The Parish Council is considering keeping the three flagpoles in Memorial Crescent permanently erected, and would like to know the thoughts of village residents on the subject. If you have an opinion on the suggestion please send them to the Parish Clerk, John Melling at johnmelling765@btinternet.com or alternatively through the columns of this magazine at editorkbsnews@gmail.com

Fire recovery update from South and Vale councils

The websites are back online, however things like viewing and commenting on planning applications, postcode search and democratic services may not be accessible. For more details please see latest update,

(http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/news/2015/2015-01/latest-news-council)

Faringdon Academy of Schools Admissions Consultation

Proposed Admissions Policies for the Faringdon Academy of Schools

The Faringdon Academy of Schools is consulting on our new Admissions Policies that will come into effect for students starting at our schools in September 2016. We welcome input from parents and members of the local community during this consultation process. This consultation will end on 1st March 2015

http://fcc.oxon.sch.uk/information_home/admissions.html

IF YOU LIVE IN THE VILLAGE AND DO NOT RECEIVE A COPY OF THE KBS NEWS DELIVERED TO YOU WOULD YOU PLEASE CONTACT ME TO LET ME KNOW. THANK YOU. PAT 820775

GP Practices to Merge



The partners of the White Horse and Fern Hill medical practices in Faringdon have announced that NHS England has approved their plans to merge the Practices in April 2015. All current patient services provided by both Practices will continue and it is



hoped that by having one bigger Practice in Faringdon there will be more opportunity to attract a wider range of medical services to the town.

As both Practices currently share the same Practice geographical area (i.e. Faringdon and the surrounding villages) there should not be any problems with joining the two patient lists together. Patients to whom prescriptions are dispensed will be unaffected by the merger and will continue to be able to collect their prescriptions from the surgery, or have them delivered to their local collection point. The building layout will need to be altered to allow it to function as a single Practice rather than as two separate Practices, as only one waiting room and one dispensary will be necessary. Further details are available via the websites (www.whmp.co.uk and www.fernhillpractice.co.uk) and that of the patient group (www.whitehorsepracticeppg.org.uk)

The Practice will be changing clinical software systems in February 2015. The 'Go Live' date is Tuesday February 10th. From Thursday February 5th until Wednesday February 11th, they will be offering emergency appointments ONLY. No routine appointments will be available during this time, and you will only be able to book routine appointments for February 12th and onwards after the migration has taken place. Please also ensure that all repeat prescription requests are made well in advance of these dates.

New Age Kurling

The secretary of the British New Age Kurling Association has agreed to give a demonstration of this up and coming game on Tuesday 24th February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. As I said in the April edition of The News, New Age Kurling can be played by people of any age, sitting or standing, and requires very little physical strength. This is an ideal opportunity to enjoy a gentle game within a social setting, and maybe make some new friends in our ever increasing village population. If you would like to come along, please contact me on kathy.c-smith@virgin.net or 01865 820763

The Waggon and Horses - Events for February 2015 Disco Bingo Saturday 7th February 9.00pm • Quiz Night Sunday 8th February 8.00pm • Diary Date - Mother's Day Sunday 15th March - BOOK YOUR TABLE NOW • Take Away Fish and Chips and a selection of Take Away Curries available during food service times

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www.danacare.co.uk



FEEL LIKE EATING OUT TONIGHT? No: 22 The Hanney Spice, West Hanney

Full of the joys of Eastern Promise, nine of us descended upon the Hanney Spice in West Hanney. The first thing that struck me was the way the waiter kept his cool as we arranged and rearranged the seating. Then as he pressed for a drinks order, we kept him at bay as we sorted out how we would all pay for the forthcoming feast. At last he took the order for the aperitifs without so much as a 'About b***y time', impressive I thought. The Hanney Spice formerly known as The Lamb has dominated the main street in West Hanney for several years now and this is the second time I have visited the establishment. Indian food

isn't my absolute favourite but nevertheless never let it be said I turn down the chance of a meal or a night out with chums.

So having all settled down for the evening and sipping the House red, a rather smooth Merlot, as recommended by one of our party, we perused the extensive menu. I always feel with Indian restaurants it would be a lot easier if they had just a choice of two meals, but no, so we waded through the countless options and I settled for the 'Baby button mushrooms stir fried in garlic and cream with a touch of coriander' as a starter, who could resist that and the Chicken Biriyani mixed with Basmati rice served with vegetable curry to follow. Let no one say I'm not adventurous. Indeed pretty much all our group went for the mushrooms and it was happily noted that they didn't run out half way such an order as often happens in hostelries, two ticks then so far. Round came the poppadoms with accompanying dips. Always an adventure these dips. Always welcome with such a scale of tastes from cool cucumber to quick, where's the water jug? Great stuff. In good time the mushrooms arrived and they were swimming in garlic, just how I like them, and such a good size portion, I've had smaller main courses.

By now we were on the second bottle of Merlot and gearing up for the main event. When my dish arrived I was a little disappointed in the presentation, but then I often am everyone else's food always looks better than yours don't you think? However the true test is in the tasting and in fairness it was fine. Not too hot, tasty, great texture with the Basmati rice complementing the sharp taste of the curry. So, a satisfying meal with no great surprises, what it says on the tin really,

The bride went for the mushroom starter then the vegetable curry. Like me she enjoyed the meal but not to the point of saying we can't wait to return. However the company was good and the evening enjoyable and the meal adequate. Cost for five of the party was £121 including two bottles of wine, so about right really. Eton Lovett

THE KBS NEWS WINE LIST: WINES OF THE MONTH

Happy New Year to you all, we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year and managed to enjoy and empty a few bottles! This month we decided to try wines from South Africa, choosing a country rather than a grape variety, and out of the ones we tasted, we can recommend the following two wines.

The white wine is a 2014 Stoneberg Chenin Blanc/Sauvignon Blanc Reserve from the Cape Winelands. This is a crisp, dry, well balanced wine, with delightful, lingering

flavours of tropical fruit and fresh citrus. The wine was purchased from Sainsbury at a cost of £7.99. One to try if you are a white wine lover.

The red wine is a Helderberg Winery 2013 Stellenbosch Cabernet Sauvignon, £7.99 (reduced from £9.99) from Marks and Spencer. This medium bodied red wine, packed with plump cassis fruit, is made by celebrated winemaker Marc Kent. In the winelands heart, Stellenbosch benefits from cool breezes that extend the ripening period, and intensify the red fruit flavours. These are combined with a judicious use of French Oak that adds a sleek sophistication and a dark coffee finish to the wine. It is good to drink now but will keep for a further three to five years. Definitely one to go with the roast beef! *Cheers The Wine Quartet*

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

Extra copies are available from the Post Office and One Stop shop.

BRIEF ENCOUNTER - a shared memory with Cyril Gliddon

At around midnight on the second Wednesday in February in the late 1950s, two young servicemen embarked on a troop ship in Harwich, returning them to their units in Northern Germany. Over fifty years later, a chance chat in the Village Hall recalled that nightBoth remembered it as if it were yesterday. The night of the 'Great Storm'. The weather was so bad and the old 'Vienna' was reputed to be flat-bottomed and difficult to handle in heavy seas, so either the Captain did not want to sail and was over ruled by the senior military officer, or vice versa; no one ever knew exactly which. Suffice to say that the ship eventually sailed in the early hours, in the teeth of a howling gale and reached the Hook several hours later than its scheduled time of arrival! Such was the power of the storm that the events of the night were etched on both our memories...Cyril even reckoned that he could remember the three prisoners that I was escorting back to their units - three very bedraggled Argyll Highlanders who had gone absent without leave after Hogmannay - last seen joining the train with others from their regiment, having been admonished by the Transport Officer to the effect that if they tried to leave the train they would be shot by the Military Police or if they missed, by the Dutch Police. We both recalled the officious 'Snowdrop' - an RAF Police Corporal - who tried in vain to stop the squaddies smoking between decks and eventually gave up the struggle, taking off his identifying white cap cover and his police arm bands to blend in with the rest of the returning servicemen. (Very few, if any servicewomen in those far off days !!) Ian Charlton

The following is an extract from the OXFORDSHIRE MNDA Winter 2014 Branch Newsletter **Enormous support in Southmoor village raises £7,500**

When David Butler was diagnosed with MND Sue, his wife, decided to hold a summer fair in their village where David had lived all his life. They were particularly grateful that he had been allocated one of the neuro wheelchairs that enabled him to drive up the road every day to his place of work at the Renault garage where he had worked for 35 years. Sue says that the chair has been his lifeline to independence and, like many others affected by the disease, in raising awareness and funds for the MND Association they felt they were fighting this cruel disease itself. They hoped to raise £1000.

With the help of their family and many friends the event snowballed. People offered to run stalls, provided 40 raffle prizes, baked cakes and many other ideas to make it success. They approached their workplaces and donations were received from the Rotary, Waitrose, Lloyds Bank and Nationwide Building Society and also David's garage, Crossroads.

The day dawned fine and sunny in early September when the event was held in the Village Hall. "It was as if the whole village had turned out" Sue recalls. "We were amazed at the support people gave."

During the day from 10.30 until 3pm there was a terrific atmosphere as people played the Tombola, took part in a penalty shoot—out and lucky numbers game; teenagers cycled on rollers for four hours for others to guess how many miles they could do (their own idea).

"The children's activities were particularly good fun" reports committee member, Matthew Jones, who took his young family along. "The refreshments were great".

They were overwhelmed with the support they received Sue said, and they were amazed to raise so much money £2,500 for MND at the JR hospital and £5,500 for the local Oxfordshire Branch. Our thanks to everyone involved. MNDA is the Motor Neurone Disease Association

Winners of the Out & About with KBS News Competition 2014



Ian & Jenny Charlton win the most innovative picture category at Colditz Castle.



Greg Coles is joint winner with Toby far away on Bondi Beach with his copy of KBS News.



Toby Loutzenheiser at the same spot on Bondi Beach in Oz. How's that for coincedence?

New Year, new start to our Out & About with KBS News Competition. Where will the News turn up this year? Send in your entries to editorkbsnews@gmail.com to win a £10 Marks & Spencer voucher for the furthest away and for the most interesting/innovative pic holding the KBS News.

The History of Alresford House. The story of the village shop at the Cross Roads in Southmoor, Oxfordshire. By Patricia Dando

The History of Alresford House

The story of the village shop at the Cross Roads in Southmoor, Oxfordshire Patricia Dando

REVIEW: In 1983 a wish came true for Pat and Simon Dando. At last they owned an old village house, spacious enough to bring up their two sons and with a wide garden to indulge in another passion. For most of its existence, this Victorian house at the Crossroads in Southmoor had been a village shop and intriguing reminders of its commercial past kept emerging as the house was redecorated and modified for the needs of the Dando family.

Most families keep some record of the passage of time, particularly as their children grow, but perhaps with no particular thought that a family history was gradually accumulating. A critical turning point came in 2004 when it was suggested that Pat, a member of the local history society, should extend her interest in her immediate family history to include the history of the house they lived in, and the families who

had lived in the house in the past.

From there on, there was no turning back and, to the great benefit of the village of Southmoor, the notes and records gradually matured into a social commentary on the lives of those who had lived in 'Alresford House' and the village society within which they were embedded.

It took 10 years before the accumulated research finally flowered into this well-illustrated and meticulously researched book. Pat has now published a history which will give immense satisfaction to her family for many years to come. At the same time, the people of Southmoor have a very personalized commentary on the lives of some of the people who lived in the village over a period of 170 years.

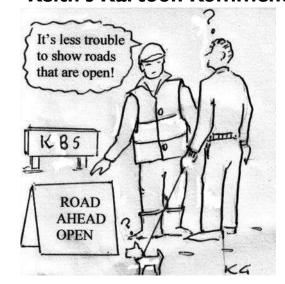
More widely, it may be held up as an example of what can be achieved by diligence and research. Starting from humble beginnings, and gaining confidence and skill as work progressed, here is an example which might be emulated by many families who wish to have a concrete reminder of both their family and the settlement in which they lived. (P.K.).

AVAILABILITY: How to get a copy: It is available 'locally' at cost price (£8.95) from the bookstand at any History Society Meeting or by calling on the Publication Officer (Peter Keene) at 7, Norwood Avenue, Southmoor (give a ring 820522 to check we are in). Also available on-line (www.thematic-trails.org) for the full rrp of £12.00 so you can see just what the local bargain means, thanks to Pat Dando. Peter Keene

This village is now one big building site with Gigaclear, SSE, + 4 building sites & additional house building in some back gardens. It doesn't help with building transport coming from both directions through the village throughout the day. I believe we should put up the following sign to appeared the inhabitants of the village and surrounding areas. John Smith



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NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

As we reach the end of another year I would like to thank you for the support you have given the Village Hall over the past year, and to bring you up to date concerning the latest regarding a contribution for the Hall improvements in the Section 106 Agreement from the Draycott Road planning application referred to as Southmoor Grange.

The supporting letters received from the 17 village organisations out of the 20 regular users of the hall I contacted were handed to the VWHDC at our last meeting. Providing the hall can meet the Planning criteria by enabling clubs and in particular youth groups to meet more often and at different times, plus the improved access for people with disabilities we may expect a contribution. However the final recommendation for funding will be decided by the VWHDC Cabinet.

The Village Hall Trustees have already 'ring-fenced' £5,000 towards the improvements, and with the Trustees consent I will approach the Parish Council for a matching sum to be considered in the 2015/6 Parish precept. With regard to the plan to carry out improvements to maintain the new footway along the Village Hall copse with a log retaining wall, this has been agreed by Taylor Wimpy plc. In addition the remaining stone from this site will be used to construct a 900 mm high dry-stone wall on each side to enhance the entrance leading to the Village Hall, with the possibility of including an art feature.

I have a final plea for somebody who would like to assist or advise with the future planning and needs of the Village Hall or maybe consider joining the Management Committee in 2015 to please contact me. Ron Green



New KBS News Secretary

Lynda Newman (left) from Larch Close has joined the KBS News team as Secretary replacing Hilary Clements who has stood down after doing such sterling work over the last few years. As we welcome Lynda our thanks go to Hilary for her past support.

SERENDIPITY OVER 60'S CLUB

We had a very enjoyable bring and share party. Sparkling wine, mince pies, sausage rolls, sandwiches and all the other delicious party food. After a game of musical bingo - and a rendition of

Patricia the stripper by Chris De Burgh!!, we chatted over coffee and tea and enjoyed the usual raffle and sales table. All the members send their thanks to the Guides for their chocolates and beads. If you are interested in joining the lighthearted social group for just £2 a month you would be warmly welcomed. Contact Pat on 820775.





KBS CAFE @ SOUTHMOOR



We've opened again after our Christmas and New Year break, and welcomed a new lady, who has joined our team of helpers. Father Christmas came to our Christmas party in December, taking time out from his busy schedule to give presents to the children. Thank you, Santa!

The café is held every Thursday from 9am – 12 noon at Southmoor Village Hall, Draycott Road. We serve Fair Trade tea, coffee and hot chocolate, orange and blackcurrant squash, bacon sandwiches and a selection of (mostly) home-made cakes and scones, including some dairy- and glutenfree options. We have toys for the children and newspapers and magazines

for the grown-ups. We always welcome new volunteers to come on our rota of helpers. It only means helping for one morning about every two months. If anyone is interested, please contact Jenny Bone on 01865 820368. We look forward to meeting you. If anyone needs a lift please contact one of us on the numbers below.

"We are friends you haven't met yet"

Jenny Bone (820368) Carole Watts (821710)

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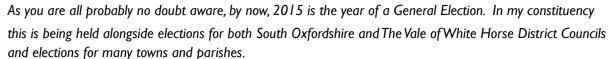


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EDVAIZEY MP Parish News





The way people register to vote is changing and it is very important that as many of you as possible have the chance to have your say at the ballot box. Individual Electoral registration (IER) is being implemented which requires each person to register to vote individually rather than by household. Residents who have automatically been re-registered on the electoral roll will have received a confirmation letter from the returning officer, and will not have to do anything more. To try and increase the number of people registered to vote council staff will be visiting the homes of those who are not registered, or who have not sent back forms asking who lives at the property. These canvassers will always carry identification badges, so please ask to see them, and there is no need for them to enter your homes. You can register securely online by visiting www.gov.uk/yourvotematters or by contacting the shared elections office on 01235 540310. Thursday May 7th (the date of the election) falls in a week with the May Day bank holiday on the Monday, so if you are planning to take this opportunity to go on holiday, please register for a postal vote as soon as possible.

As so many elections are taking place at the same time, counting the votes is being spread over several days. The General Election votes will be counted after polling stations at 10pm on the night of 7th. District Council counts will take place on the afternoon of 8th and town and parish council counts on 9th. If you are interested in getting involved in any of these counts please contact elections@southandvale.gov.uk or telephone the phone number above.

Tortoise in Love Village Trust

Thanks to the film we have a small pot of money to distribute amongst village good causes.

Please drop me a line if you have a project you think we can support.

Simon Dando
simonandpatdando@tiscali.co.uk
Closing Date Feb 12th

Contacting Your MP

As your local MP, I can be contacted by email, at vaizeye@parliament.uk

or, by telephone at 01491 838816

or, or by post at Ed Vaizey MP, Wallingford Town Hall, Wallingford OX 10 0EG.

The quickest way to get in touch with me is by email.

All these details, surgery times and locations and other information can be found at www.vaizey.com

Ed Vaizey MP

KINGSTON BAGPUIZE & SOUTHMOOR BOWLS CLUB

The Autumn Triples Competition was completed in December. Six teams took part with the Jays winning by just one point. Our Mulled Wine get together, prior to Christmas, was well attended by those wishing to socialise and exchange cards. The 'Winter Madness Challenge' is under way and continues until March. Thirty plus members signed up but there is no commitment to play every Sunday. It's now time for Memberships to be renewed and our Treasurer will soon be sending out renewal letters, he would be grateful for these to be returned as soon as possible, (he needs the money!) Our fixture list for 2015 is being compiled, more news on this next month. *Mick Fuller* (01865820818)

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The January meeting of the KBS Parish Council took place on Monday 5th January in the Village Hall together with 10 members of the public, and District and County Councillor, Mrs. M Tilley.

Public Participation: Some residents of Cherry Tree Close perceived a serious risk of collision with vehicles leaving the parking area in front of the shops and those travelling along Cherry Tree, either leaving the Faringdon Road or, proceeding onto it. Improved and additional road signs / marking could reduce the risk. The poor state of the road surface at Little London was identified yet again. Further requests to OCC Highways for repairs will be made.

Report from District and County Councillor: Mrs. Tilley advised that VWHDC are expected to keep their Council Tax demand at the current level in the coming Financial Year, but OCC are likely to impose a 1.9% increase (notwithstanding current inflation levels of .5%).

Concern was expressed that the updated Minerals and Waste Plan takes account of the SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment) figures for new housing. This could result in a new application for sand extraction off the Pinewoods Road and, if approved, result in detrimental effects to both Villages (Chair). Councillor agreed to press OCC Highways for repairs / resurfacing to A420 / 415 Roundabout since numerous requests have been made in the past.

Matters Arising: Southmoor Pre-School. The chair indicated that he had attended a meeting called by the Pre-School management committee for parents. Also present were some Governors of John Blandy School, together with the Head teacher to discuss and vote on the proposed merger with John Blandy School and incorporation within the Faringdon Academy. The motion was carried unanimously. Completion of the merger is likely to take up to 12 months.

Planning: Footpath from Draycott Road to Waggon Path. The Parish Council will respond to the consultation on behalf of VWHDC, welcoming the proposed dedication as part of the definitive footpath map, expressing our preference for retention of the existing route, rather than partially through the Taylor Wimpey development (Southmoor Grange)

Applications received: 2 Rimes Close P14 V2825/hh No Objections

P14/V2820/FUL Land off Field Close. David Wilson Homes. Erection of 73 dwellings. Extra meeting 15th Feb Voted to object strongly. All residents advised so to do also.

Decisions:- 6 Frax Close, Conservatory - Permitted. Faringdon Rd. Telephone relay Station to detached dwelling. Withdrawn.

Accounts: The precept for financial year 2015/16 was set at £23,735 with a total budget of £25,975 estimated income was £2240, thus creating a precept as quoted. This represents an increase of £410 over the previous financial year. For Full details, please refer to January Minutes.

Road Safety: Public concerns over Conflict between traffic exiting the shops' car park, and traffic on Cherry Tree Close, will be conveyed to One-Stop, and OCC highways.

Land to be leased or purchased under S106 Agreements. Sports Field and Pavilion----Nothing to report. Land to south of Pye development----nothing to report.

Land adjacent to Village Hall.----The concern of the tennis club that the area for extra courts may have been reduced from that shown on Taylor Wimpey's plans --- will be investigated.

Land off the Witney Rd.--- The Scout organisation will be contacted to ascertain whether they wish to acquire the land identified for their use under DWH Plans.

Correspondence. The Village hall will be the polling station for the upcoming general and local elections. Oxfordshire Age U.K are running a winter warmth campaign. Senior residents to contact if interested.

Village Amenities. Recreation Grounds: Signs have been defaced and require replacement. Further general maintenance is required to the footpath and installations. Burial Ground: General garden maintenance required.

War Memorial: A resident who lives adjacent has voiced complaints regarding the continued erection of the flagpoles and hopes to attend Feb meeting in order to voice these complaints. Opinion of other Village residents is invited and would be appreciated! Council currently has license from OCC to fly daily.

Faults: The ongoing and extended works to sewer pipes to the School path from The Faringdon road are causing some inconvenience to many who use it, particularly the elderly. Thames Water will be requested to accelerate the programme to reduce the predicted further 9 weeks, which it is felt, is unacceptable. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Mon 2 February in the Village Hall at 7.00 pm

Brian Forster, Chair KBS Parish Council.



Ist Southmoor Guides

Last term we made rag dolls for an overseas charity, and 15 dolls have now been sent off to less fortunate children, who hopefully will enjoy owning a new doll – the Guides worked really hard to get the dolls finished and showed real determination to finish the project. We also made and delivered handmade Christmas decorations and chocolates to some older village residents. It is always enjoyable for the Guides to meet their older village neighbours, we even sang a few carols. The Guides term ended with our annual ice skating trip to Millets, which was as enjoyable as always, and was followed by hot chocolate and cookies. This term we will be starting with our onesie chill-out night, having an

astronomy night, learning some life skills (mums expect some excellent cups of tea to be coming your way). We will be doing team building games, holding a Spanish night and learning about diversity with a special guest coming from Guiding.

We meet on Wednesdays at 7pm to 8.30pm in the Swallow Room at the Village Hall and can be contacted at southmoorguides@gmail.com. Our leaders are Sarah Harris, Sally Dance and Carole Armstrong.

Kingsmoor Community Club at Hinton Waldrist

We had an eventful end to our year with a fire in the Hinton Village Hall! It was on our party day 3rd December but fortunately the fire service were prompt and everyone got out safely. Our members were able to get straight onto the integrated transport bus and were driven away from the scene. No one was hurt and we went for a meal out at The Bystander in Wootton.

So since then Kingsmoor have been like Nomads; we went to Millets and took our booked singers and sang carols in the resturant. The Waggon and Horses let us stay all day and do crafts and have our booked pantomime of Puss and Boots and we teamed up with Oakwood Club in Faringdon for a few sessions. Lynne and Steve at The Hinds Head gave us a Wonderful Christmas Event with full Christmas dinner which more than made up for our missed party .

I have to mention the choir/singers from St Johns, who provided a piano (I think its called something else) at short notice for our Christmas Service at The Hinds Head. Simon Dando and Team to the rescue appearing with a 'piano' on skateboards within 15 minutes and manoeuvred it into the pub and the service began. Amazing the way it was done, true Christmas spirit!!

We are temporally meeting in Longworth Church Hall, behind St Marys church. Its snug but lovely to be in the same place each day. For some of our members this had been the worst thing, different place every time. We didn't close for any of the days and continue to be there every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. We need new members to keep the club running so remind people who can't get out that we are there, transport can be provided. Give Gwyne a ring on 01865 820166 (you will be diverted to the temporary mobile).





Palmers Garage on the main road through the Village Though the photo isn't as old as it looks due to the white lines on the road. (Our thanks to the History Society)



KINGSTON BAGPUIZE WITH SOUTHMOOR PARISH COUNCIL

Vacancy for Part-time Parish Clerk

The parish council is inviting applications for the post of parish clerk from suitably qualified candidates. The council hopes to make an appointment no later than April 2015. The hours are 28 a month (SCP21 - £10.26 per hour). The majority of your time will be spent working at home but attendance at monthly Parish Council meetings and some other meetings is required. You will manage the Parish Council's burial ground and recreation areas

The ideal candidate will have knowledge or experience of parish council work and experience of book-keeping and accounts. He or she will also possess good communication skills, be proficient in Microsoft Office software and be capable of working independently without supervision.

For a full job description please contact The Clerk tel: 01865 820867 or email johnmelling765@btinternet.com

Apply in writing by **26th February 2015** to:

The Clerk, Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Parish Council, 17 Lime Grove, Southmoor, OX13 5DN, or by email



Southmoor & Kingston Bagpuize Gardening Club

Making Wildlife Gardens

Jenny Steel returns to Southmoor for a much-anticipated talk on wildlife gardens. Jenny studied Plant Ecology at Oxford University, and has over 25 years experience of writing about and teaching

wildlife gardening. She has also worked as an ecological advisor on a variety of projects including Kingston Bagpuize's very own Millennium Green Project. She'll talk to us about the wildlife gardens she has made and the wildlife they've attracted - an inspiration to anyone wishing to create their own or just wanting to find out more about the topic. Talk details: Tuesday 3rd Feb, 7.15 for 7.30 pm at the Village Hall. Non-members £3; members free. Tea and coffee served after the talk. For more information about the club, call Rebecca on 01865 820793 or email skbgardeningclub@gmail.com. *Paul Gill, Secretary*.



Not-so-great offers

Great article by Scott Thomson - I think his thoughts re our new village shop are spot on! I had to laugh at his comment re "wasting money on deals"... See pic for a recent special offer, which really takes the biscuit in terms of wasting money: Batchelors Supernoodles: 2 for £1.70 (usual price 80p.) Come on, do the maths!

I don't shop there very often, but have already spotted two other instances where offers advertised on the shelf failed to register at the till so I ended up paying over the odds. On neither occasion did I get a receipt so, when I went back to the store to complain, the staff — who I think are all fantastic — were unable to do anything about it. I'm told

by the store staff that offers are instructed by head office, so I'm wondering whether these so-called 'offers' are a deliberate ploy to relieve us country bumpkins of our cash or just due to general incompetence at head office? We know that One Stop's owner (not to name names but it starts with a T) has difficulty with numbers so, either way, you would be wise to ask for receipts and keep an eye well open if you want to avoid being ripped off by a 'special' offer! Sharon Cooper

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It shows you must have been a special person for someone to pen a poem about you when you pass away.

So it was for Cyril Glidden when local bard Don Viney wrote these words.



An Ode to Cyril Glidden

Cyril was a Cornishman
Dependable, bold and true
Who had proudly served his country
In the serge of air force blue.

He had a host of passions, His wife and family first, But motorcycling was close second For which he'd always had a thirst.

A man of many talents Who was there until the last, You only had to call on him, He'd be ready for any task.

He'd had a broad career, And was technically sound, While his engineering knowledge With ability did abound.

Proud he was of all he'd done, And never short of words, Once you got him started, He would chatter like the birds.

He'd not been long among us, But had quickly made his mark, Involved in many village projects, His absence will be stark.

There is no doubt about it, He will be greatly missed 'cos without his boundless energy, Our village ship will list.

And now he's gone and left us, His life long race is run, But to all of us who knew him, It's a race that he had WON!!

So as we bid farewell, dear Cyril, Our true and trusted friend, May your memory live on with us, Till our own demise and end.



Mark Potts' Kitchen Talk

After all the food over Christmas and New Year a lot of people like to eat healthier in January. I've got a recipe for Bircher Muesli which is a great start to the day for Breakfast. In a low oven bake 200g of Porridge

Oats with a small spoon of Honey, for around 10 minutes. Put into a bowl with a pinch of Cinnamon. Mix in some Yoghurt to bind and a few Blueberries. I make it with Hazelnuts, diced Apple and Banana – but you can use any Fruits and Nuts. It is a creation of Maximilian Bircher Benner, a Swiss Doctor and Nutritionist. We have just put it on our Breakfast Menu – but full English is more popular!!

A tip is to also put in some uncooked oats at the end as this gives slow

A tip is to also put in some uncooked oats at the end as this gives slow release energy.



Mark's recipe for Bircher Muesli provides a healthy start to 2015 Mark is Head Chef at fallowfields Hotel

FRIENDS OF JOHN BLANDY LOTTERY WINNERS November 2014

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December 2014

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Congratulations to the winners! Thank you to everyone for continuing to support the Friends of John Blandy School Lottery.

£66 (November) and £67 (December) will go towards school funds. Lottery Administrators: Melanie Singleton & LeeAnne Burgess.

You have to laugh



Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement center were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says: 'Slim, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?'

Slim says, 'I feel just like a newborn baby.'

'Really!? Like a newborn baby!?'

'Yep. No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants.'

Youth Matters

Yizhen Clark writes:

How to function as a reformed procrastinator

Procrastination is an affliction I have been living with since tender primary school ages — it is the habit putting things off and leaving it to the last minute. It's an affliction common in the student population and we suffer it severely.

The art of curbing procrastination is easy during term-time. Tutors regularly enforce deadlines, friendly competition with your peers pushes you to try a little harder and the sight of other students labouring slavishly in solemn, silent libraries is enough to intimidate even the most hard-core procrastinators into doing some type of work. Say goodbye to checking Facebook or aimlessly browsing YouTube as you enter into a deep state of productivity.

Returning home to our cosy village abode can therefore enliven the worst procrastinators in us. For fellow chronic procrastinators seeking reform, when left to rely on your own self-discipline, I advocate the following principles:

The library or the school environment offers you isolation from distractions. Translate this technique to your home by removing temptations: switch your phone off, block social media, heck, turn off wifi altogether! Remedy the difficulty of getting started by making a realistic, daily schedule of things to accomplish by the end of the day. Tackling your work in bite size amounts can make it feel less daunting and consistently checking off your to-do list at the end of day creates a sense of achievement that will only make you want to do more. ·Take a break from work by doing other work. This might sound paradoxical but there is wisdom in the saying 'a change is as good as a rest.' By breaking up the monotony and doing something easy in between the bursts of onerousness is a sure way of maximising productivity.

Do you agrree with Scott & Yizhen? Send your thoughts to editorkbsnews@gmail.com

Scott Thomson writes:

Warning, mild jargon alert In many cases, the internet is an important and sometimes vital tool in the modern world. Whether it's for receiving e-mails or streaming videos, a lot of us use it. But what annoys me, and I expect most other internet users who experience it, is slow Wi-Fi. There is nothing, and I repeat NOTHING, that annoys me more. When my browser inexplicably crashes or a video spends five minutes buffering, I am known to scream at my laptop in desperation for it to go faster! So in this column, I will be discussing the promise of faster Wi-Fi proposed by Gigaclear, the internet company who want to transform our village with superfast broadband.

First things first: however this article may sound, this is NOT a glorified advertisement. Gigaclear are not paying me anything. Secondly, I use the internet a lot, as do a lot of 'youths', so you might have to consider this when reading, but I genuinely think we could actually use this broadband offer to its full potential. The U.K average broadband speed for rural areas is 13.6 Megabits per second, meaning you can download (*fishes out calculator) 1.7 Megabytes in a second (there is a difference between megabits and megabytes). Gigaclear can offer 100mbps, meaning you can download 12.5 megabytes per second, a 10.8 megabyte difference. The difference is enormous, but not overkill. In a short browsing session, I enter about 15 different pages, each page taking about 10 seconds to load with my, admittedly slow, broadband, meaning I am wasting 1 and a half minutes of my precious time!! With 100mbps broadband, it would be almost instantaneous.

With all these facts taken into account, I think our village will benefit from faster broadband, especially my generation.

Error message: an error has occurred in the saving of this Googledocs file, all progress will be lost. (*punches computer screen)

Ist Kingston Bagpuize Brownies

The local Brownie Unit closed in July 2014 due to lack to leaders and so we are now looking to try and re open the Unit as there are several girls aged 7 and over in this Village and neighbouring villages who would like to join Brownies. There is a Rainbow Unit and a Guide Unit already in Kingston Bagpuize/Southmoor. Are you aged 18 to 65 years and interested in becoming a Brownie leader? Perhaps you were a Brownie or Guide yourself and would like to now pass on your skills to girls aged 7 to 10 years in the village. Brownie Units meet for about 1 to 1.5 hours per week in term time. Full training will be given.

More information about Girlguiding can be found at www.girlguiding.org.uk. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Susan Baker on 01235 520074 or s.baker.guiding@btinternet.com

KINGSTON BAGPUIZE DRAMA GROUP

Reviews of 'Kindertransport' by Diane Samuels performed in the village hall November 2014



Lil (Andrea Spencer) & Eva (Ruby Belcher) in Kindertransport, KBDG's latest production

The plot of this production revolves around Eva, a young
Jewish refugee from pre-war Germany, who was given safe passage to the
UK under a programme introduced by the government at the time.
All the action takes place in Eva's home back in war torn Germany and in the
attic of her 1980's Manchester on a split set, designed by the talented allrounder Andrea Spencer.

It was a bold decision to undertake this play, which was only written in 2009, but as per, the KBDG came through it well. There are deep waters afoot when Eva, who in the '80's is now known as Evelyn, discovers her daughter has found the evidence of her early years and is not best pleased. (About this time a mobile phone goes off in the audience and the lady seems to have a problem turning it off, there's always one despite numerous

reminders pinned round the hall to turn off your phone. (You couldn't make it up) I digress. Directed by Kate Belcher, 'Kindertransport' did start slow, but in fairness this was the first night of the run so nerves come into play. This was emphasised by the prompts given to the usually word-perfect Paula Eastwood as the grown up Eva. Apart from that Paula played her part well, coping with the discovery of her secret by her adolescent and feisty daughter Faith admirably portrayed by Bryony Harding.

Sarah Curran convinced us she was Helga, Eva's birth mother, starting the play as a typical middle-class Jewish mother sending her daughter away with her valuables hidden in Eva's shoes, and ending as a crone, a shell of her former self as the ravages of war have taken the toll including the loss of her husband in a Concentration Camp.

Eva comes to the UK to live with Lil and the relationship between the women in the play is examined in depth as Eva skips her English lessons to go and ask round the local big houses if they will give her parents jobs so they too can come to England. Lil doesn't like this at all. Eva is unhappy and misses her mother. But Eva and Lil both eventually become at peace with one another as Eva is shown steadily losing her Jewish roots.

Andrea Spencer as Lil was up to her usual high standard and played the part of the grandmother to Faith as well as she portrayed one of the high-kicking dancers in 'Stepping Out' her first outing with the Group all those years ago. How time marches on.

Now, a star was born in this production of Kindertransport in the guise of 14-year old Ruby Belcher as the young Eva. The part she took on was huge by any standards, but for a young girl to tackle it as successfully as she did took both talent and courage. I am told prior to this play Ruby had only had small parts in school plays, but you would never have known, as she seemed word perfect and confident in what is a very demanding role. No doubt we will be hearing more of the young Ruby, a jewel in the Group if there ever was one. (Pun intended).

Four other small parts in the piece were all played by Rob Bateman. Unfortunately all four characters had their arm in a sling as Rob had damaged his arm badly. Such are the perils of am dram where there are no understudies.

I have to admit I couldn't grasp the coming and goings of one of Rob's parts, the Ratcatcher, as he cruised around the stage under a black cloak ignored by the cast and doubling as a sceneshifter. Perhaps it's me. *Phil Leseats*

It is rare to witness an amateur production of such quality as Kindertransport, presented by Kingston Bagpuize Drama Group.

The spilt set was ingenious, contrasting the attics of war-time Germany and 1980's Manchester. The music was atmospheric and the sound effects outstanding, giving vivid impressions of the German train, the boat crossing the Channel and the dockside. The lighting was skilfully arranged and controlled to distinguish between the action in the two halves of the set.

The play reflects the early years of a 12 year old Jewish girl, Eva being sent to England to avoid the oppression of the Jews in Germany and how her life, adoption and change of name with an English family affected her.

The cast, without exception were excellent. The young Eva was played by Ruby Belcher, who, at 14, in her first role with the group, is talented in the extreme, being able to switch with ease from speaking English to German, and as the years pass, gradually lose her Jewish accent. Her later-life, alter ego, Evelyn in the 1980's was played brilliantly by Paula Eastwood, whose acting skills really shone through, not just acting, but living the part so that it was completely believable; anxious and coming to terms with her background and present life. She was particularly poignant in her soliloguy and

Drama reviews cont......

we all felt her disappointment at her past being discovered. Eva's birth mother, Helga, played by Sarah Curran was totally believable, maintaining her Jewish accent brilliantly, throughout and turning from sadness at seeing her daughter being sent off England to anger that she would not join her, after the war, now widowed, in New York and be part of her original Jewish family, unable to accept that she had become anglicised and changed completely.

Evelyn's English adoptive mother, Lil, played by Andrea Spencer was solid and a force to be reckoned with, struggling with Eva as a girl and Evelyn as a grown woman with a daughter of her own, Faith. Their relationship was very believable, particularly in the argument scenes. Faith, played by Bryony Harding was strong and enquiring about her mother's past and often petulant when she did not get the answers she wanted. Her sadness when Evelyn destroyed the evidence of her past was very touching.

The female cast was supported excellently by Rob Bateman in several minor roles of the Nazi officer, railway guard, postman and border guard, even though he had his arm in a sling due to fracturing his elbow a week before the performance. He still managed to manoeuvre the furniture successfully, whilst dressed in his tattered 'rat-catcher' costume. He was required to remain seated motionless, for most of the play, which added to the creepy atmosphere of the German attic.

The miming of travel was very well handled and the conversations across time were very well done. The costumes were good for both periods. The set and props were all appropriate and added to the visual impact of the play. Overall, an excellent production, superbly performed and presented. Nigel James

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Our next open mornings are on Wednesday 4th February and Saturday 7th March from 10am-12noon. We'd love to know that you're coming, but also do feel free to just pop in on the day. Either way, we look forward to welcoming you.

Read more at <u>www.ferndalehouseschool.co.uk</u> or visit our Ferndale House Preparatory school Facebook page.





BAGPOOS, BAGPUSS or BAGPUIZE

My attention was drawn to the Pointless programme on BBC1 on 20th January. The host Alexander Armstrong was asking a contestant about where he lived and where he worked it raised the question of the contestants journey to and from work. Alexander Armstrong then said "Do you go anywhere near my favourite place - a place called Kingston Bagpoos - Kingston Bagpuss". The contestant replied "If I take a little detour I'd go through Kingston Bagpuize". Alexander Armstrong responded "Oh it's nice to go through Kingston Bagpuss" Looks like Alexander needs some speech lessons!!!! Roy Wolfe



Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club

We are seeking:-

- 1. **NEW PLAYERS** of any ability and all ages from 9 years upwards
- **2. VOLUNTEERS** to assist our existing team with all aspects of running a community club, from administrative roles and fund raising to coaching, helping with the upkeep of the ground and buildings, umpiring and scoring.

Planning consent has been given for the Sports Field development and we are looking forward to having long term security of tenure which enables **your** community cricket club to plan its future and develop its facilities for the benefit of the people in the parish and surrounding areas.

We run 2 **Senior** Saturday league sides playing in the Cherwell league, a midweek 20/20 league side (blending competitive cricket with social cricket) and a Sunday team playing friendly fixtures. Lastly, the club are the reigning **Oxfordshire Indoor Champions**!

We have a thriving **Junior Section** supported by ECB qualified coaches and many of our youngsters go on to play for representative teams run by the Oxfordshire Cricket Board (Girls and Boys!).

The club is working towards the prestigious Clubmark accreditation and we offer open access to all abilities.

To find out more, please contact:-

<u>tjscrase@hotmail.com</u> (club Chairman) <u>Hannahspan76@hotmail.com</u> (junior co-ordinator) <u>David.warner@cobaltlight.com</u> (club Captain)

Or visit our website http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/kingstonbagpuizecricketclub/



KINGSTON BAGPUIZE WITH SOUTHMOOR W.I.

The December meeting took place in a very festive Village Hall with the Committee providing Christmas cheer for the members. Mulled wine, mince pies and an assortment of tasty food was enjoyed along with entertainment from The Abingdon Operatic Society performing "The Sound of Christmas" with carols, songs and readings. The Christmas Quiz was a resounding success and the evening finished with a superb raffle.

The first meeting of 2015 was an open meeting and many husbands were welcomed to listen to Paolo Scremin give a very interesting talk entitled "Bringing the Egyptian Past to Life". This gave a lot of insight into the working practices of carrying out this archeology in Egypt by Paolo and his colleagues.

Our next meeting is on 10th February and the speaker is Pat Fowler with "Cheese and Wine with the Fowlers". The competition is "A Token of Love". Our Auction is taking place at our April meeting and members can bring donations for auction from February.

All of our meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7-30pm in Southmoor Village Hall. New members are always welcome and we have more information on our own website and Facebook page. *Karen King 01865 803169*



Longworth & District History Society

The Oxfordshire Civil War Campaign of 1644 was an interesting insight into our local history. Stephen Barker suggested that our villages would have been on a front line between the Parliamentarians and the Royalists. Our villages would have been used to provide fodder, and soldiers would have been billeted here. He challenged us to see if we could find any evidence

left over from Civil War! He told us to forget the usual image of the Royalists and Parliamentarians, saying that they probably had similar clothing and would be identified by 'field signs' or 'field words'. Field signs were twigs of rosemary or holly tucked into the hat. Field words were phrases that would be shouted when preparing troops for the battle, e.g. Royalist shouted 'Hand and Sword'. There is a trail with information boards around the area of Cropredy Bridge where one can follow the battle. We were told that the lie of the land has not changed dramatically since 1644.

Our next meeting 19th February, Southmoor Village Hall 7.15 for 7.30 will be Keith Crawford telling us of Witney Blanket Making. All welcome. Guests £3. The AGM will be held in The Swallow Room, Southmoor Village Hall on 5th March. Come along to give us your ideas for the future of the Society. *Kathy Fletcher 01865 820193*

Southmoor Baby & Toddler Group A new year and the fun continues at the Southmoor Baby and Toddler group.

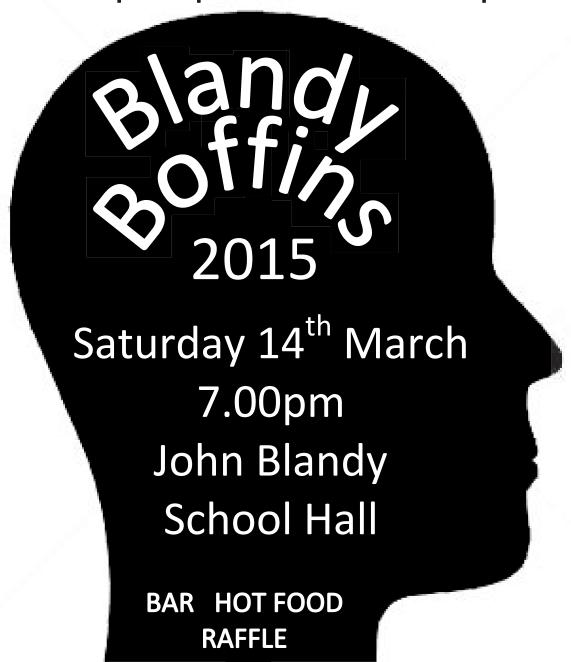
At the end of last year we had a visit from Father Christmas to cap off a fantastic Christmas party. Festive songs were sung, huge quantities of cake were consumed and every child received a present from the main man. A few weeks earlier we also enjoyed our very own Gruffalo Day. Some of the children dressed up and all of them had a great time, tucking into scrambled snake, roasted fox and gruffalo crumble... or at least, some cleverly disguised, but slightly more palatable, versions of those dishes. We played games, including a treasure hunt, and all hunkered down for a reading of the story itself. Special thanks must go to Mel for all her hard work in organising it.

We told you in our last KBS article about our plan to introduce activity time – a bit of art and craft – every other week. Well, it's proving very popular, with autumnal tree pictures and reindeer decorations among the creations so far. We'll be continuing to make more great things in the months to come.

The group meets on Friday mornings during term time from 10:00-11:30 at Southmoor Village Hall. It's only £2 per family – the first visit is free – and with that comes a snack for the little folk and refreshments for the grown-ups. Mums, dads, grandparents, carers – anyone with a small person is welcome!

There'll be lots more fun to come in 2015 so why not come and join us. There are new faces almost every week at the moment thanks to the housing developments in the village, so if you haven't been before you certainly won't be alone in not knowing anyone just yet. Do get in touch if you'd like to know more. We'd love to hear from you. Email:southmoorbabytoddlergroup@hotmail.co.uk *Rachel Skeet*

The Friends of John Blandy invite you to the annual pub quiz that's not in a pub!



£10 pre-booked tickets include a fish and chip dinner & drink £4 quiz only on the door

Cash bar and desserts available to buy on the night Vegetarian option available if booked in advance

Teams of up to 6 can enter and teams can be made up on the night.

For further information and tickets: Email johnblandyfriends@gmail.com or



FriendsofJohnBlandySchool







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Vintagemusicforseasonedrockers

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