



KBS NEWS

The Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Village News

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

Volume 40

Number 2

March 2013



Planning - the plot thickens

The formal complaint to the VWHDC following their Planning Committee meeting on 9th January continues to escalate through their complaints procedure. You may recall from last month's KBS News that those of us who attended the meeting were appalled that several members of the Planning Committee seemed to make their decision to approve development on the Witney Road site through fear of incurring costs at an appeal if they turned the application down. More seriously, however, was the fact that when councillors asked the planning officer responsible for the application about the net effect in respect of other applications to develop in the village, he was told that no other applications had been made.

This was a clear failure on the part of the planning officer and we were astonished by this response. The day after this planning meeting, the application

for 98 dwellings in Draycott Road appeared on the Vale's website. This had been received by them on 20th December 2012 and registered by the council on 2nd January 2013. In a subsequent telephone conversation with the planning officer, we were also told that this application was validated on 7th January – still two working days in advance of the Planning Committee meeting on the 9th. The fact that this information was with-held from councillors at the Planning Committee meeting suggests either gross negligence or foul play, and so we are demanding that the decision made on the 9th January is invalidated and that the Witney Road application is considered again in the context of all the facts.

We received an initial, and wholly unsatisfactory, response to our complaint at the end of January from the VWHDC Planning Development Manager, Martin Gilbert. He tried to fob us off with dates and told us that because of 'internal process' the Draycott Road application was not registered until 10th January – rather conveniently the day after the planning application for the Witney Road site was heard by committee. It beggars belief that the Vale thinks us naïve enough to swallow this.

The planning department would have been well aware of this major application for many weeks, indeed the same planning officer was assigned to both cases, so he must have known! Councillors were told repeatedly in reply to questions about other applications which might be pertinent to the context of the Witney Road development that no other applications had been submitted.

We then took our complaint to Stage 2 of the VWHDC complaints procedure and received a response on Valentine's Day from Strategic Director, Anna Robinson. She acknowledged that the Planning Committee had been misled by the planning officer on January 9th when he told them that no other applications had been received for the village. Nevertheless, she dismissed the complaint on the basis that the Witney Road development only equated to a 10% increase in the overall population of KBS and would not in itself be a material planning consideration or something that she would expect the committee to take into account. With the full backing of our own ward councillor, Melinda Tilley, we are now escalating our complaint to VWHDC Chief Executive, David Buckle, under Stage 3 of their complaints procedure. We intend to fight this all the way and continue to demand that this application be taken back to committee.

Meanwhile, we are continuing to consolidate our arguments against the Draycott Road application (P12/V2653/FUL) which will go before committee on 26th April. We meet every other week on alternative Tuesdays and Wednesdays in the Village Hall and would dearly love more of the community to get involved, join us at meetings and add your support. Email kbsprotest@gmail.com if you would like to know more. *Petra Merne*

MOBILE LIBRARY DATES ARE NOW ON PAGE 3 IN THE VILLAGE DIARY

NEED A DOCTOR URGENTLY?

After office hours and at weekends and Bank Holidays please phone 111 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 111 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

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

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Secretary: Hilary Clements

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Caroline Ashby

Distribution: Cyril Gliddon (820434) & team

kbsonline Rep: John Smith

Copy date for next issue: BEFORE Monday 18th March 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 Southmoor Food and Wine.** 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, Hilary Clements, 3 Bellamy Close, Southmoor, OX13 5AB.**

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.

Beyond the Whinge - the Editor's blog

I'm shaken *and* stirred at the state of roads in the UK today. Throughout this village alone there is total breakdown in the maintenance of this vital infrastructure and the people responsible should hang their heads in shame. Circumnavigating the roundabout on the A420/A415 one could be forgiven for assuming the road surface has been taken away for cleaning. Through our road tax we have paid for the upkeep of these masterpieces of arterial design but someone is not delivering. I could understand it if there were hordes of road works everywhere doing what road menders do but there isn't, and the cry that there isn't the money doesn't hold water (unlike the endless potholes encountered daily), if the money has gone just where is it? We have paid the bills but not got the goodies.

On an interesting drive to Cheltenham this week the A40 (the A40 mind) resembled an RAF runway in 1940 after a visit from the Luftwaffe. Some potholes you can avoid, some you can't, with the resultant damage to expensive wheels and tyres and many a hairdo. Driving a car along these dangerous trails of horror is bad enough, how my cycling friends get on I can only speculate. *Lance Bassett*



VILLAGE DIARY (inc Mobile Library Dates)

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

March	Day	Time	What & Where (SVH = Southmoor Village Hall)	Pg
Monday	4th	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting, Elkins Room, SVH	11
Monday	4th	7.30pm	Southmoor Pre-School AGM in the Pre School Building	16
Tuesday	5th	7.00pm	KBS Gardening Club - Fritz de Zutter "Gardening on a Shoestring"	10
Friday	8th	TBC	BBC TV Gardeners World - Snowdrop Group at SVH + KB House	10
Saturday	9th	2.00pm for 2.30pm	1st Longworth Scouts - Jumble Sale - Scout Hut, Faringdon Rd	23
Monday	11th	Mobile Library ** 10.05am Waggon & Horses, SVH 10.45am, Bellamy CI 11.15		
Monday	11th	7.30pm for 8.00pm	White Horse Cruising Club - Off Vancouver Island - East Hanney	6
Tuesday	12th	7.30pm	Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Womens Institute AGM - SVH	15
Wednesday	13th	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Serendipity Monthly Meeting - Knit & Natter - Swallow Room SVH	15
Thursday	14th	7.30pm	Longworth & District History Society AGM - Swallow Room SVH	17
Saturday	16th	7.00pm for 7.30pm	1st Longworth Scouts - Family Easter Bingo - Southmoor VH	23
Monday	18th	4.00pm	Last Copy Date / Time for March KBS News	2
Thursday	21st	7.15pm for 7.30pm	Longworth & District History Soc Meeting - Colditz Castle - SVH	17
Friday	22nd	3.00pm	Friends of John Blandy, Mad Hatter's Tea Party, John Blandy Sch	
Friday	22nd	7.00pm	Blandy Boffins Quiz Night, John Blandy School	24
Saturday	23rd	9.30am - 4.00pm	Gigaclear Ultrafast Broadband Demonstration, Appleton Village Hall	12
Monday	25th	Mobile Library ** 10.05am Waggon & Horses, SVH 10.45am, Bellamy CI 11.15		
Friday	29th	7.30pm	KB & S Bowls Club Quiz - Club House, Oxford Road	18
April				
Wednesday	3rd	7.30pm	Village Hall AGM, Swallow Room, SVH	10
Thursday	4th		VOWHDC Waste Collection (Food & Grey Bin - replaces Wed 3rd)	
Friday	26th		Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor WI - Annual Dinner	15
May				
Saturday	11th		Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club First Match	18
Friday	17th		Southmoor Pre-School - Bag2School Collection	16

** The Mobile Library Service - see dates above. All types of books are available, including books in large print and an audio cassette for the partially sighted. Music cassettes also available. Reservations accepted for a small fee.

Regular Events each Month

What	Where	Day	Time
Apple Quilters	Southmoor Village Hall	2nd & 4th Monday	9.30am - 12am
Baby & Toddler Group	Southmoor Village Hall	Friday Term Time Only	10am - 11.30am
Church Youth Group	1 Oxford Road	Every Sunday Term Time	6.00pm - 7.30pm
Circuit Training	Southmoor Village Hall	Every Thursday	7.30pm
French for Fun	Southmoor VH Swallow Rm	Every Wednesday	9am - 10.30am
IYENGAR Yoga class	Longworth VH from Jan 8 2013	Tues Term Time Only	11.00am - 12.30pm
KB Drama Group	St John the Baptist Church Rm	Every Tuesday	7.30pm
KB & S Bowls Club 'Roll Up'	Oxford Road, Kingston Bagpuize	Tuesdays & Thursdays	1.30pm
KB & S Cafe	Methodist Chapel	Every Thursday	9am - 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	Every Tuesday	10.30am - 11.30am
KB & S 14+ Drop In Centre	Methodist Church Hall	Friday Term Time Only	7.30pm - 9.30pm
Kingsmoor Community Club	Hinton Waldrist Village Hall	Every Tues, Wed, Fri	10.00am - 3.00pm
1st Longworth Beavers	The Scout Hut Oxford Road	Every Thursday	6.00pm - 7.15pm
1st Longworth Cubs		Every Tuesday	7.00pm - 8.30pm
1st Longworth Explorers		Every Wednesday	7.30pm - 9.00pm
1st Longworth Scouts		Every Thursday	7.30pm - 9.00pm

Serendipity Meeting	Southmoor VH Swallow Rm	2nd Wednesday	2pm - 4pm
1st Southmoor Guides	John Blandy School	Every Wednesday	7.30pm - 8.30pm
Southmoor Karate Club	Southmoor Village Hall	Every Sunday	10am - 11.30am
KB & S Womens Institute	Southmoor Village Hall	2nd Tuesday	7.30pm
Zumba	Southmoor Village Hall	Every Monday	8.15pm
Zumba	Southmoor Village Hall	Every Thursday	9.15am

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

All 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: advertiskbsnews@googlemail.com.

KINGSTON BAGPUIZE PARISH CHURCH NOTICES

www.kingstonbagpuizechurch.wordpress.com



Sunday 3rd March	9.00am	Holy Communion	Revd David Pickering
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Speaker: tbc
Sunday 10th March	9.00am	Holy Communion	Revd David Pickering
	10.30am	Mothering Sunday All-Age Service	Speaker: Revd David Pickering
Sunday 17th March	9.00am	Holy Communion	Revd David Pickering
	10.30am	Questions of Life	Service Speaker: Revd David Pickering
Sunday 24th March	9.00am & 10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd David Pickering
Thursday 28th March	7.00pm	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion	Revd David Pickering
Friday 29th March	2.00pm	Good Friday Meditation	Revd Joe Cotterill
Sunday 31st March	9.00am & 10.30am	Holy Communion	Revd David Pickering

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

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS: MOTHERING SUNDAY: A special service every year, with flowers for all mothers, and a joyful celebration for all the family.

EASTER SUNDAY: We have a special All-age Family Communion at 10.30am on Easter Sunday. Children are invited to join our "Easter garden on a plate" competition: make a garden on a plate for Easter and bring it to the church room: all who enter will get a prize, and the winner gets a box of chocolates. There will also be an Easter Egg hunt for children in the churchyard afterwards.

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 Saturdays).

Fyfield Chapel (Evangelical)

www.fyfieldchapel.org.uk

Sunday Service: 11.00 am

Crèche and Sunday School

Communion: 2nd Sunday in month

Evening Tea & Fellowship

5.30 pm 1st Sunday in month

Home Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

8.00 pm 3rd Friday in month

(for details please email

or call 01865-769473)

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

BUCKLAND AND FARINGDON PARISH CENTRED AT BLESSED HUGH CHURCH FARINGDON

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/>

Very Advance Notice for your diary. .

" Evening with Andy Flannagan"

The London based Christian Irish singer/songwriter Andy Flannagan is coming to the Amey Theatre on 24th May at 7.30pm His audiences have ranged from the Big breakfast on TV , BBC and radio, the slums of Bangkok, to festivals of 20,000 at Greenbelt and New Wine." His new album " Drowning in the Shallows " can be heard on You Tube if you haven't seen or heard him before.A really good event to bring your friends to.As well as a brilliant singer/ guitarist he is a good " storyteller, with beautiful poignant melodies that betray his Irish roots" We will also have supporting act local husband and wife duo Karen and Duncan Wymbys who are excellent - plus one free glass of Pimms in the interval. Tickets will be £7.50 from around mid February onwards.We are also planning to give a gift from the proceeds, for a girl called Lily Gulshat aged 12 who has just had a big operation on her spine.The money we hope to raise will go towards any ongoing costs in her recuperation. For tickets and more information contact. Sue Porter andyandsuep@aol.com 01235 529142



VILLAGE VOICES

I can't believe the letter in the KBS News (Feb) with regards to allowing dogs onto the Millennium Green. This Green is used regularly by Sunrise Nursery and is a great place for our children to get fresh air, learn about wildlife and play 'in the woods' as my 2 year old tells me when she returns.

Given that in the last couple of months on my walks around the village my pushchair has returned home with dog dirt on the wheels because of owners not clearing up after themselves on the pavements; allowing owners access onto the green until the few that are neglecting to clear up after their animals would be a huge mistake, regardless of any financial support for the number of dog walkers this would generate.

Have a look round on your walk around the village, I think you'll be surprised at how many dog owners aren't picking up after their animals. Matt & Natalie Sharp

I am not usually moved to write, but I feel very strongly about the issue raised in the copy letter to the Hon Treasurer of the Millennium Green Trust. The Green is a wonderful open space for all to enjoy. It is so pleasant to be able to walk there without fear of treading in dog's mess. Even when it is cleared up it leaves traces that can cause severe eye conditions and even blindness in children. Equally importantly is being able to walk or sit and enjoy the peace without fear of being approached by unknown dogs that may or may not be safe and friendly!! Adults and children who are not familiar with dogs can be very upset when faced with a lively dog that comes towards them. The last comment made in the letter also appears to be a bribe and I sincerely hope the Millennium Green Trust will not be bribed. Hazel Brennan

The way we were



Ah yes, the old Log Cabin which stood for many years on the Faringdon Road almost opposite Cherry Tree Close before relocating across the way.

If anybody has any photographs we can share of how it used to be in the village, send them to editorkbsnews@gmail.com or put them in the News boxes in the Post Office or Southmoor Food & Wine. You will get the pics back if requested. Ed



OOPS....! I took these photographs when a loaded coal lorry skidded on ice and ploughed through the New Bridge at the Rose Revived. It ended up in the River Thames with it's load of coal, luckily nobody was injured. This happened before the weight restrictions and when laden trucks regularly travelled from South Wales to Didcot power station. Date not sure, the registration letter on the recovery crane number plate is 'N' which may be a clue so I think it may have been the bad winter of 1976. Ron Green



Village Notice Board

1st Southmoor Guides: Unit Helper Required for 1st Southmoor Guides. We meet on a Wednesday evening from 7.00pm to 8.30pm and require a new unit helper to join the team to help run activities, outings, craft and cooking with a group of girls aged between 10-15. We also offer occasional day trips and residentials. If you would like to find out more please telephone Sally Dance on 01865 821924. We also have room for new Guides if you know a girl of this age who might be interested. *Sally Dance*



WHITE HORSE CRUISING CLUB

The Club will next meet on Monday 11th March to hear Paul Williams on

“A Golden Anniversary Cruise off Vancouver Is.”

about a stretch of west coast Canada, most will not have seen. You'll be very welcome! We meet at the Royal British Legion Hall, East Hanney from 7.30, talk starts at 8 pm. First visit free, then £7.50 for half season.

Robert Dyer (tel 01865 820282)

Café Church Bistro

Sunday 14th April at 12.30 pm in the Church Room

Lunch and a chat, delicious coffee, thought provoking ideas and a community feel

Welcome to a relaxed informal Sunday lunchtime for everyone, with plenty to chew on and to chew over! If you have children bring them along and enjoy a free hot lunch, cuppa and cake, discuss the news and listen to a speaker on one of life's "big issues". Includes activities for kids after lunch. If you've not yet tried out the church in the village, this is a warm, effortless way to get yourselves acquainted and make some new friends locally.

Sunday 14th April

12.30 – 2.00 pm

St John the Baptist Church Room

Come along and enjoy a social family lunchtime.

Further details call Bob 821358 or Peter 820805

On the Faringdon Road turn right at the Hind's Head, then first right into Frax Close and immediately left and park on the grass.

Community Message

The Oxfordshire Autism Alert Card is available free of charge to anyone in the county with autism. It can be shown if the holder needs:

- Support from their contacts
- Help in difficult/stressful situations
- Help from police officers or other emergency services
- Help on public transport
- To explain about autism

It will also assist people to identify that they are dealing with someone with autism. If presented with a card, please support the cardholder using the advice on the card and contact their named supporters. The scheme provides free autism training for police and other services. Alert Card leaflets and posters available on request.

Autistic Spectrum Conditions

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability, caused by differences in the brain, which affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. About 1 in 100 people are autistic, many remain undiagnosed.

At the one end of the spectrum, sometimes Asperger's syndrome, people are very able in many ways, having normal or above average intelligence. It is important to realise that this is not always "useful intelligence" when it comes to everyday situations. Difficulties are not visible and are often misunderstood. People are affected differently, but difficulties with the following are common:

- Social interaction
- Verbal and non-verbal communication;
- Understanding body language, tone of voice, facial expressions
- Eye contact may be avoided time needed to process conversation
- Over/under sensitivity to touch, light, colour, sound, smell, temperature, etc.
- Difficulty foreseeing consequences of one's actions
- Overload, when anxious, stressed and/or faced with the unexpected

For more information: www.autismoxford.org.uk Tel: 0844 381 4484;

Email: alertcard@autismoxford.org.uk



The Plough Inn dates back to 1683

FEEL LIKE EATING OUT TONIGHT? No.2 The Plough, Appleton

On a recommendation, we booked a table at the Plough at Appleton. The night was bitterly cold and snow covered the ground as we entered the bar with delight descending on us at the sight of log fires burning happily in both the bars.

Unfortunately the delight was a short-lived as the dining room was bleak and cold. Shame.

The evening's experience at The Plough was like a game of two halves. We settled in the restaurant and were told there was no

scampi or bacon, an ingredient in the starters we were contemplating.

I thought the Prawn Skewer as a main course looked appetising but alas they had run out of prawns. We ordered a bottle of the reasonably priced wine and oh dear a dirty glass. Things were not going well.

Then the transformation began: The food arrived accompanied by the landlady who had the effect of a Fairy Godmother salvaging the evening with her pleasant manner and also by switching on a heater!

Our starters of Grilled Mushroom Rarebit with bacon (without the bacon) was extremely tasty, but real salvation came along in the form of the main course, Tuna Steak served on sizzling volcanic rocks. Others in our party had steak served in the same way. This unique dining experience, available only on Friday and Saturday nights, saved the evening with the platter tasting as good as it looked with accompanying Greek Salad and golden fries. The Tuna, like the steaks, was succulent, tasty and good value for money and of course being served in this way enables you to cook the dish exactly to your liking.

Dessert of Blueberry Cheesecake finished off the feast.

The service was good, as you would expect as we were the only occupied table in the room and the meal for four worked out at just over £30 a head with two bottles of wine.

What started as a poor choice of venue ended up an evening to remember due purely to the food. The front of house and a few details need attention to make The Plough an inn for all seasons. *Dinah Outte*

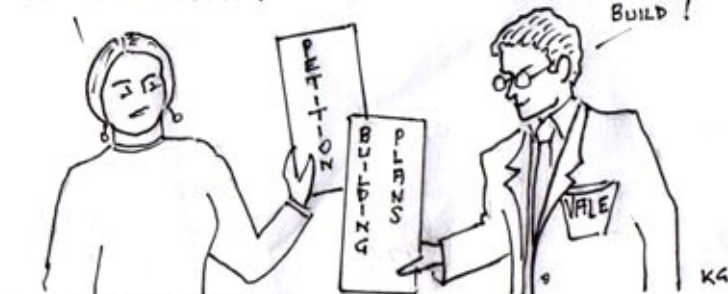
Top chef takes helm at Fallowfields

Fallowfields Hotel and Restaurant has announced an award-winning head chef will take the helm there in March. Matt Weedon first gained a Michelin star at Glenapp Castle in Ayrshire and then at Lords of the Manor near Cheltenham. Altogether, he has held the accolade for a total of six years, and is said to be one of the top 100 chefs in the country. While Matt heads up the kitchen, his wife Rachel will run the restaurant.

SPOT THE PROBLEM

A LARGE MAJORITY BELIEVE
OVER 200 BUILDINGS IN KBS
ARE FAR TOO MANY!

I AM NOT RESTRICTED
BY THAT! I HAVE
ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY TO
BUILD!



DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS

DEMOCRATIC: UPHOLDING THE INTERESTS OF THE COMMON PEOPLE.
POPULAR WITH or FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL.
CONTROL OF A GROUP THROUGH THE WILL OF A MAJORITY OF THEM.

DICTATORSHIP: ABSOLUTE POWER or AUTHORITY!
USING POWER OPPRESSIVELY!

WORDS OF WISDOM

A Government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul. *George Bernard Shaw*



This debonair stranger was seen enjoying the cold snap on the Millennium Green recently. I tried to introduce myself but got the cold shoulder....

In a piece written exclusively for the KBS News, our MP Ed Vaizey gives his side of the debate on the village housing crisis.

I am well aware of the concern that many people living in villages in my constituency feel about the number of planning applications that are being made by developers at the moment. I have met the Village Action Group at one of my surgeries, and I have also held public meetings at other villages, including Ashbury, Watchfield, Shrivenham, Stanford-in-the-Vale and Sutton Courtenay. Those meetings involved a combined total of several hundred people; most were held on a Sunday morning or afternoon, so the fact that so many turned up leaves me in no doubt about the strength of feeling in the villages.

As your MP, I cannot approve or turn down planning applications, nor can I change planning law. I can however do my best to try and influence what is happening. There are several reasons for the current situation. First, the recession means that many planned developments never happened, or are happening too slowly - so the Vale is behind in its housing targets. Second, the Vale has not developed a local plan, and won't until the end of 2014, meaning that planning applications can't be judged against it, only on their merits. South Oxfordshire does have a local plan, and unsurprisingly I am not inundated with complaints in that part of the constituency.

What comfort can I offer? First, planning laws do still apply. It is not a complete free for all, and some planning applications will be turned down. Second, not all planning applications will result in homes being built. There are hundreds of sites with planning that have never been built on.

What can I do? While I support the need for more houses in the constituency, I strongly agree with the view of the villages that there is too much proposed development happening all at once. I have made representations to the council about this. I am also taking the council to meet the planning minister, Nick Boles, to try and get our housing targets reduced. We lie close to several conurbations, and in particular Swindon's housing growth is not taken into account when considering our housing allocation. I will also continue to work closely with the Vale to try and ensure that the local plan is completed as soon as possible. *Ed Vaizey*

SOUTHMOOR & K.B. GARDENING CLUB



A Free glass of wine, cheese and biscuits and advice on gardening on a shoestring:

Rarely do we get something for free nowadays, so come along to Southmoor and Kingston Bagpuize Gardening Club meeting at the Village Hall, in Draycott Road, on Tuesday 5th March it's FREE, and furthermore enjoy a complimentary glass of wine with Cheese and biscuits, plus be 'entertained' by our guest speaker Fritz de Zutter, who will show us that it is possible to have a productive and a picturesque garden without spending pots of money. His talk is entitled 'Gardening on a Shoestring' meeting starts at 7.00 pm. We will also have a Members' table with plants to buy with proceeds going to our adopted charity for this year 'Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance'. Hope to see you there? For further information about the Club visit www.kbsonline.org.uk click on Gardening Club or contact Steve Smith 01865820399. *Ron Green*



Carol Klien in the Village Hall

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL

BBC television appeared for the annual gathering of the Snowdrop Group held in the village hall on Saturday 16th February. Among the visitors was Carol Klien from BBC Gardeners World who will be featuring Snowdrops in her Cottage Garden series later. There were many enthusiastic members attending to admire or to buy some of the rare varieties of Snowdrops on display. There was also advice on hand and a presentation given by a well-known grower. This was followed by a visit to the gardens of Kingston Bagpuize House to see the magnificent display of Snowdrops there.

On 3rd April the Village Hall will be holding its AGM in the Swallow Room at 7.30 pm. As I announced earlier I will be stepping down as chairman of the Trustees. Many readers will be aware I have been part of the Management Team since the hall was built (25 years ago) the management are keen to hear from any person interested in joining the

new Management Team. You would be joining a team of volunteers who are responsible for planning, running and hire of the hall to benefit the local community and village organisations. The management consists of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Booking Secretary and seven elected and representative members, meetings are held regularly once a month. Come and join us on 3rd April or for further information about the village hall contact Ron Green on 01865 820051 or email: ron.green@live.co.uk *Ron Green*.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL



An extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday 28th Feb in order to discuss the planning application by Taylor Wimpey for erection of 98 residential dwellings on land to the West of Draycott Rd. (21 members of the Public also attended).

Members resolved to object to the application as it represents a gross over-development of the village, given existing permissions for large developments totalling 113 dwellings and 45-bed care home.

Other significant concerns relate to the extra traffic on the Draycott Rd., and elsewhere in the village, of impact of noise from the A420, on any future residents, drainage of surface water, water supply and sewage disposal, and a token amount of public open space.

The monthly meeting of the KBS Parish Council Meeting was held on Monday, 4th. February, in the Village Hall, together with four members of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION A resident of Spring Hill welcomed the recent "Litter Pick" along the Faringdon Road, however, a number of large items still remain.

Subsequent to a question; the public were brought up to date with the results of discussions on the future provision of fast and super-fast Broadband in the Village..

REPORTS from DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR. Mrs. Tilley apologised for her absence.

PLANNING. A response from the VWHDC to the complaint registered by the Parish Council to the conduct of the January Planning Committee meeting, and the decision to permit the application for land, west of the Witney Rd., is awaited.

The Clerk has received advice from SLCC on the Parish Council's powers to employ consultants to support an objection to a planning application: S.222. Of the Local Govt. Act 1972 is limited to representation in any legal proceedings or a public inquiry. S.29 of the local Govt. and Rating Act 1997 would allow the employment of consultants to investigate road and Traffic issues..

Nevertheless, the advisor cautions against appointing a planning consultant to object to a planning application. Further advice will be sought from OALC and a decision made in the light of comments from OCC Highways regarding the application..

The comments from Thames Water on p12/2653, Land off Draycott Rd., have become available since the meeting on Feb 4th. Thames Water express serious concern that the existing infrastructure is inadequate to support the development.

(Since the VWHDC employ planning experts, and this Parish Council does not have any, how else can we fight developments that we consider excessive to our situation as a village, other than to commission our own experts? Although recognising that it represents the use of public money, which we, as a Parish Council, have a duty to use within the law).

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED. P12/V1721/RM. Application for reserved matters for erection of 50 dwellings, public open space and new vehicular access, land South of Faringdon Rd.,

The Council will support the Vale Conservation Officer's comments that the proposed parking provision will lead to parking on the roads, and the failure of the proposed dwellings design to match the character and variety of local buildings.

DECISIONS: - Please refer to minutes for details of further planning decisions.

BROADBAND. OCC. Is due to announce its decision on a preferred contractor, and what, where, and when will be revealed later. Longworth Parish Council is very keen to join with those other parishes on the Longworth exchange to participate in joint representations to OCC and Ed Vaizey, local MP and Minister concerned. (A further meeting with Peter Cowen, BT Group, will be arranged to update progress).

VILLAGE AMENITIES. Burial Ground. The erection of a small stone plaque, to commemorate a close relative of Susan and Peter Roach, against the wall of the Memorial Garden, was approved.

FAULTS: The condition of the road surface in the area of the Hinds Head roundabout was noted, OCC Highways to be advised, requesting repair.

The next meeting of the KBS Parish Council, will be held on Monday 4th, March, in the Village Hall at 7.00pm members of the Public are welcome, and may put questions during the "Open Session" *Brian Forster Chairman.*

To lodge objections of excess noise at unreasonable hours as a result of various organised functions being held around the village, contact the Vale of the White Horse District Council on 01235 520202.

Kingsmoor Community Club.....the local club for the elderly.

Members of the Kingsmoor Club greatly enjoyed the run-up to Christmas last year, and activities in December included Christmas decoration demonstrations and carol singing, as well as a visit from the Cumnor handbell ringers. Members also enjoyed a wonderful Christmas lunch at the Hinds Head in Kingston Bagpuize, very kindly funded by The Hinds Head proprietors Lynne and Steve, for which we would like to record our thanks. These activities, together with our usual arts and crafts mornings, seated exercises, singing and music sessions, not to mention the word games and jigsaw puzzles, meant that a good time was enjoyed by all.

Vacancies: The Club currently has places for new members on all three days (10.00 to 3:00 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays).and we would be delighted to hear from any new prospective members. The Club provides a friendly, safe and stimulating environment for the more senior members of our communities, including those who are facing increasing mobility problems or those feeling lonely and isolated. Although many of our members come from nearby villages, we have also had members from villages such as Longcot, Bampton and Faringdon. We are always happy to receive membership enquiries. The fees at present are £10 and this includes a hot nutritious two-course meal each day, prepared on the premises using local produce where possible (during December many of the vegetables we used were grown in Hinton, and therefore notched up less than 0.5 travel miles from field to table!). The day begins with tea and coffee, with biscuits, and most days end with a slice of homemade cake and tea. [We have a special transport bus from Oxfordshire County Council which will pick up our members in a 5 mile radius of Southmoor] If you know of anyone who might benefit from membership of this warm and friendly Club, please contact Gwyne Diment on 01865 820166 to discuss individual requirements.

Raffles: If you find you have gained a collection of unneeded Christmas gifts, please think about donating them as prizes to our raffles that take place throughout the year. Although unneeded by you, they may well be cherished by others, and they will certainly make a useful contribution to our funds.

Gwyne Diment, 01865 820166

Gigaclear

Ultrafast Community

You are invited to attend our

Demonstration Day

Appleton Village Hall

Saturday 23rd March

Call in anytime between 9.30am – 4pm

Join us to see what you can do with up to 1000Mbps of ultrafast broadband and have your questions answered by the experts.

Take part in our speed challenge!

Bring your own device and see how fast it can upload or download.

Access communications, online Film and TV, entertainment, education, gaming, security and work-related applications and services.

Discover the alternative to a land line that will save you money and still keep your existing telephone number.

Enter our FREE prize draw to win a Samsung Smart Television

Check progress in your community – www.gigaclear.com/can-i-get-it
Enquiries – Email us at events@gigaclear.com

SERENDIPITY OVER 60'S CLUB

February meeting was enjoyed by 16, and we welcomed June (Karen Moores' mum) who is going to be joining us when she is here in Southmoor. The afternoon was mostly spent trying to find the answers to a flower quiz. It got the brains working!!!! - and there were some funny answers. THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE IN THE SWALLOW ROOM FROM 2 - 4 on Wednesday March 13th, which will be a KNIT AND NATTER afternoon. Details from Pat 820775.

REQUEST PLEASE SERENDIPITY ARE GOING TO KNIT SQUARES TO MAKE BLANKETS AND IF ANYONE HAS SOME SIZE 7 KNITTING NEEDLES AND DOUBLE KNITTING WOOL LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME PLEASE CONTACT PAT (820775) AND I WILL GLADLY COLLECT. THANKYOU.

KINGSTON BAGPUIZE WITH SOUTHMOOR W.I.

Unfortunately our Annual Dinner had to be cancelled, due to the awful weather conditions back in January, but it has been rescheduled for Friday 26th April at the Sudbury House Hotel.

The speaker at our February meeting, Graham Horn, gave a very interesting talk about the History and Restoration of the Kennet and Avon Canal, complete with 'before' and 'after' slides. Members enjoyed a delicious spread afterwards, kindly provided by the tea ladies.

I know I've mentioned this before, but we really do need members to step up to the mark at our Annual Meeting, which will take place on Tuesday 12th March @ 7.30pm. Several existing Committee members will be stepping down, and it's up to our membership to form a new Committee at that meeting. Please do come along if you are able to, as the WI will not be able to run without a committee at its helm. Afterwards Delyth Hallion-Gammon will be talking to us about the International womens project she works for - Global Seesaw. She will also be bringing along some of the Fairtrade products sold on behalf of the charity, for members to purchase. Finally, remember that all our meetings take place on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in Southmoor Village Hall, and don't forget to check out our very own website (www.bagpuizewi.co.uk) which gives details of all our future meetings, photographs of visits we've been on, details about the WI's own Denman College (just down the road in Marcham), and links to the NFWI website, amongst others. You can also follow what we get up to on Facebook. *Mel Gulliford, Vice President (821087)*

Rosemary Maclean

Many people in the village will be sorry to learn that Rosemary Maclean who lived in Southmoor and Kingston Bagpuize for over 60 years has passed away.

Rosemary came to live in the village when she married Ken Maclean (of the Apple Centre) in 1947, and moved into Westfields, and there they brought up their family. When her husband died in 1978 she moved into a bungalow in Kingston Bagpuize. In the 1950s Rosemary served in the Civil Defence giving many lectures in the area, and for over 40 years she served in the W.R.V.S. For many years amongst other duties she organised and helped in the delivery of Meals on Wheels to a number of housebound people in the village. She was a very regular visitor to Southmoor House, and used to buy necessities for many of the residents who did not have regular visitors, and took sweets etc., as treats for some of the residents. They used to eagerly look forward to her weekly visits.

Rosemary Maclean and Mary Blanchard were the greatest of friends, and together they ran the monthly Good Companions Club for retired people in the village. They were still running the Club when she was 90 years old; in fact she was probably the oldest person attending the meetings, yet she was the one who was looking after everybody there.

Rosemary was a devoted worshipper at St John the Baptist Church and rarely missed attending there each Sunday. It was Rosemary's wish to replace all the old kneelers in the Church and she and Mary encouraged many people and organizations in the village to take part in the sewing of new ones. It was a huge task, over one hundred kneelers to be worked. Some kneelers took years to be completed but Rosemary kept track of every canvas, helping those who had problems with the fine cross stitch patterns, and taking over the completion of some which were never going to be finished otherwise. She kept everyone supplied with the required wools and eventually the Church was completely furnished with new kneelers.

Rosemary left Kingston Bagpuize in 2009 and moved to West Sussex in order to be nearer to her daughter and the rest of her family and died there after a long life aged 97. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. *Beryl Riley*

KBS CAFE @ SOUTHMOOR


Hopefully by the time you read this, the future of the Methodist Chapel will have been decided. Whatever the result, the KBS Café WILL continue, in one form or another, because we don't want to lose this valuable resource, nor do we want to lose you, our customers. We are very grateful for all your support so far, and we know we can rely on you in the future.

Don't forget we are open every Thursday (regardless of the weather!) from 9am until 12pm, at the Methodist Chapel, (opposite Cross Roads garage). If you need a lift there or back, again please ring one of us on the numbers below; we're always happy to come and fetch you, and we'll even take you home afterwards!. If anyone would like to either help with the setting up, or clearing away at the end, or even making a cake every now and again, please speak to one of us. *Mel Gulliford*

"We are friends you haven't yet met."

Jenny Bone (820368) Carole Watts (821710) Mel Gulliford (821087)


KINGSTON BAGPUIZE DRAMA GROUP

Since December we have been meeting every week in order to read plays with a view to April and November's productions. The main challenge we face, in common with other amateur drama/community theatre groups, is the recruitment of new members.

While we have a very strong and steadfast group of members, we need an influx of men and younger members to fill the ranks and optimise the range of plays we can produce.

It is getting harder and harder to keep finding plays for — dare I say it — an ageing, mainly female cast. We need new blood of all ages, not only to act but also to direct, produce, stage-manage and to do costumes and backstage, in fact, we need new people right across the board.

Amateur dramatics doesn't always enjoy a good reputation; stereotypes abound of megalomaniac directors, would-be divas with swollen egos and a penchant for 'self dramatisation' along side mouldy costumes and toppling plywood sets.

Well, occasionally we may have directors who swear under their breath, there is often a bit of gossiping backstage and not everyone is especially gifted at acting but there is also passion, commitment, fun and friendship as well as some very good shows, with real ambition.

Over the last sixty four years our group has slotted alongside cricket, the WI and the church as a quintessential English activity. Long before the pronouncement of the "big society", theatre and the arts have been activities which unite people of all ages and from a range of backgrounds.

Current members provide informal training to recruits. We have a plethora of valuable experience which we could pass on to anyone who is keen to join. We have lost some of our younger members recently as they have now moved onto university, two of whom are studying Drama. A high percentage of professional theatre actors and practitioners had their first taste of theatre through local groups like ours.

As each year passes the pressure and desire not to allow the village drama group to disappear increases but without new recruits it could happen. Unfortunately we have not been able to find a play we can cast and therefore with regret there will be no production in April.

However we have bold plans for a production in November but need to increase our membership in order to make it happen. We meet every Tuesday in Kingston Bagpuize St John the Baptist Church Hall at 7:30pm. If you would like to know more please email rob.bateman28@live.co.uk or come along to one of our meetings.....we would love to hear from you. *Sarah Curran*


SOUTHMOOR PRE-SCHOOL

Pre-school will be
All of the current

are able to continue their good work. Pre-school needs a new Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. As Pre-school is Committee led it cannot open without these positions being filled and Pre-school will have to close.

We are also looking for general Committee members. If you are interested in any of the roles please contact Suzanne Elliott, the current Chairperson on southmoorpsc@hotmail.co.uk for further information. If you are having a spring clear out of your wardrobe in the near future, Pre-school are having their second bag2school collection on Friday 17th May. *Pre-School Committee*

LONGWORTH AND DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY



In January Keith Crawford told us about "The History of the Blanket Hall" which is an impressive building in the High Street in Witney, built by the Company of Blanket Weavers in 1721. Keith is currently responsible for the building and he told us of the many changes it had been through. It was built to oversee the manufacture of the famous Witney woollen blankets, a complex series of tasks using water from the adjacent River Windrush and it later included a brewery. Later it housed meetings of the Court, the National School Movement, the Teetotal Society, Public Dinners and the General Reading Society formed in 1830 which is still going today. It amazed the townsfolk when the first gas light was turned on in the Hall. Fifty years later, in 1884, the first electric light system in Witney was installed and it amazed everyone that the lights in the building could be turned on or extinguished in a split second!

Shaun Morley's talk on Oxfordshire Friendly Societies was entitled 'The Wise in Heart should be called Prudent'. In an extremely interesting talk he explained how during 18/19th centuries almost every village would have a Society, which would involve men meeting in the village pub, paying a weekly/monthly or quarterly subscription. These would be held in readiness for times when the man of the house could not work due to illness or death. Longworth had one which functioned for some years but uniquely was then incorporated into an Oxford/Iffley Society along with the Cumnor society. The highlight of the year was the Friendly Society Club Day. The whole village stopped work, followed the band to church for a service, visited various large houses in their vicinity gathering gifts, ale or other drinks, then back for a meal in the pub or nearby hall. It often took another day to get over the excesses of The Society Club Day. Friendly Societies came to an end when they were no longer financially viable.

Our AGM is on Thursday 14 March in the Swallow Room in Southmoor Village Hall at 7.30. There will be a complimentary glass of wine and nibbles and an interesting display of some of our archive collection. This will mainly be pages from the scrapbook that pupils from John Blandy School made about our village in 1968 and the Christmas cards from Prof. John Blandy, which he drew and sent to the school.

On Thursday 21 March David Ray will give a talk entitled 'Colditz Castle, holiday camp or hell' - He is a retired teacher from Rugby school where he was head of Rugby for several years. *Kathy Fletcher (01865 820193)*



When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife. ~ Prince Philip



Pet File

Welcome to my first piece for the KBS News, and thank you for the invitation to contribute to such a fine, local periodical.

During National Pet Month, which all local Practices will be celebrating in April through into May,

(<http://www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk/>) for the May edition of the KBS News, I would be very happy to accept questions for a very general reply or for redirection advice (we cannot comment on specific cases for professional reasons), via the Editor, Lance Bassett, please. One current topic of interest is the DNA testing of food of poor-traceability or "provender". Here, UK organic produce, licensed and thoroughly traceable, stands out as an example of what can be done to maintain confidence in what we all can buy and eat.

Micro-chipping of ALL dogs will be legally necessary from April 2016 in England. The Welsh Assembly are already working on this. It has always made sense to make sure that every pet is micro-chipped, and it is already a legal requirement for the PETS, pet passport scheme, for dogs, cats and ferrets to be micro-chipped in order to be granted a passport after the rabies vaccination.

Chip databases will have to be re-aligned as a one-call-for-all service for all current Chip suppliers, so that Chip enquiries can be speedily answered 24/7 every day of the Year. It is hoped that veterinary practices will get a share of the free microchips, spearheaded by the efforts of The Dogs Trust, Blue Cross, Battersea Dogs & Cats Home and others, to be made available for better client compliance. Micro-chipping is a safe and effective way to link dogs to owners, and the Dogs Trust notes that in 2010/2011 a staggering 52% of stray dogs could NOT be returned to their owners, with all that implies. This could reduce costs to local authorities by between £20-23MILLION! We'll keep you posted! See you next Edition!

Many thanks and welcome to our Village Vet, all comments and pet questions please to the editorkbsnew@gmail.com



BOWLS CLUB

A few members have been hard at work on our clubhouse facilities for a number of weeks now which we hope to complete before the start of the new bowling season. An update next month. We played a friendly match in February against Oxford and District Bowls Club on their indoor rinks at Sandy Lane in Oxford. We lost the match but enjoyed the game and the meal afterwards. Sunday March 17th we have a friendly fixture at home to Abingdon, for which we are hoping to put out five rinks, starting at 2.30pm. Our next Quiz takes place at the club house on Friday the 29th March at 7.30pm and the bar will be open as usual, every one welcome to attend.

Sorry Fred but I seem to have forgotten the short mat news lately. At the present time we appear to be holding everyone up with the team struggling which has been compounded by the unavailability of John and Sue Brown and we wish them a speedy return to the fold. The last three matches were against Drayton Wasps (H) lost 8-11 and drew 11-11, Didcot Kites (H) won 16-4 and lost 7-22 and Harwell (A) lost 18-4 11-5.

Mick Fuller (Club Captain) 01865 820818



Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club

KBCC are looking forward to the coming 2013 season after last seasons ups and downs. We ended the season with the 1st XI being relegated to Cherwell Division 4, the 2nd XI almost being promoted but just missed out and the 3rd XI finished bottom but the juniors are improving and were unlucky not to win a few games.

On a high point for last season our Indoor cricketers won the Oxfordshire league and went through to play in the National Indoor Competition.

The 1st round was played on the 16th of February but Kingston were knocked out to Buckinghamshire winners MK Sahara, so this ended their season but well done to our players for putting KBCC on the Cricket Map. We are still looking to recruit players in the 3 Senior teams and our Youth teams so if you fancy a game please contact KBCC via the website: www.kingstoncricket.co.uk

Senior Players : Dave Ward 07768 421100, email david@worldcricketer.co.uk

Youth Players : Mandy Rodway 07884 393613, email mandyrodway@btinternet.com

Junior/Youth Nets have now been booked and we are having 3 sessions at John Mason School, Abingdon, OX14 1JB. The dates are 2nd, 23rd and 30th of March, the sessions are between 10am to 12 noon.

In September lots of our Youth members did County/District Trials, after a couple of months 4 members of KBCC were selected to represent their age groups for Oxfordshire.

Laura Jacob and Lucy Dixon were selected for Oxfordshire U11's Girls. Will Woodley was selected for Oxfordshire U11's Boys, George Woodley was selected for Oxfordshire U15's Boys.

The 2013 season starts for our Senior Teams on the 11th May all fixtures are on our website:

www.kingstoncricket.co.uk. For our Youth teams KBCC U15's start their National Club Championship 22nd April. For all our Youth Fixtures they will be updated on the website in due course. *Hannah Woodley*



Community Transport - Helping others get around

Oxfordshire generally has a good transport network, but even so, not everyone is able to get out on their own or to make use of buses or taxis for their shopping or medical appointments.

ORCC, with Oxfordshire County Council, is offering support to groups and communities who want to help others get around for those vital journeys, using their own cars or community minibuses.

Get in touch to find out more: you can get support and advice from Beth Weston, the Community Transport Adviser at Oxfordshire Rural Community Council. She can advise you about grants for surveys to understand local transport needs, and to start-up new or expanded community transport services.

Alternatively, see OCC's website www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/communitytransport or contact Kathrin Luddecke, Community Transport Development & Strategy Officer, on 01865 323965 or email <mailto:kathrin.luddecke@oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Many people across the constituency are involved in a huge range of voluntary efforts, helping causes they value in lots of different ways. **ED VAIZEY MP**
Parish Newsletter

The Charity Commission recently contacted me because they are looking for more people to consider becoming charity trustees so if you are looking for a way to help others, why not consider contacting them? Charities do a huge range of very important work and cover just about every conceivable interest, both locally and nationally so there is bound to be something to interest everyone.



In fact, there are 513 registered charities in Wantage and Didcot, and you can see them all at charitycommission.gov.uk/ShowCharity. There are also charities such as Helen and Douglas House and Creation Theatre, which do great work for people in the constituency but are based just outside. There is more general information about what is involved in being a trustee at trusteesweek.blogspot.co.uk/p/becoming-trustee. It may not be as complicated or difficult as you think, so do have a look. If you are interested, you might like to look at the trustee finder service which allows people to enter areas of interest and run a postcode search so they can find opportunities in their local area: trusteenet.org.uk/jobs-search. If becoming a trustee is more of a commitment than you want to make at the moment, then why not consider volunteering with any one of those 513 local charities?

I was recently advised where in the area constituents might obtain impartial advice in relation to energy efficiency, which is particularly important to all of us at this time of year. I've been told by Mike Edmunds that the Blewbury Energy Initiative (BEI) website blewbury.co.uk/energy offers general information about climate change and green energy, as well as impartial advice about improving your home's energy efficiency and installing renewable energy systems to cut your bills and reduce carbon emissions. It's run by Sustainable Blewbury, a very active local group.

With many constituents thinking about their summer holidays at the moment, I wanted to draw attention to two key changes which Parliament has recently agreed to the ATOL scheme. The scheme is there to protect people against the risk of their travel company going bust: ensuring they can continue their holiday and return home safely if the company collapses whilst they are away; or providing refunds if they're yet to travel. The first change will widen protection and help people understand when they are protected. Holidays known by the industry as 'Flight-Plus' are now included in the scheme, as well as traditional package holidays. A 'Flight-Plus' booking is one that includes a flight plus accommodation and/or car hire, so long as these separate parts of the holiday are booked with the same company and within a day of each other.

The second change agreed by Parliament saw the introduction of the ATOL certificate; offering consumers greater clarity on how their holiday is protected. Anyone who books an ATOL-protected trip will now receive an ATOL certificate from their travel company as soon as they make any payment. The certificate tells them what is protected, who is protecting it and what to do if something goes wrong. I hope that both of these changes will help constituents to feel more confident that they are properly protected.

As ever please feel free to contact me at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or vaizeye@parliament.uk. Surgery details can be found at www.vaizey.com. *Ed Vaizey MP*

Oxfordshire Trading Standards Doorstep Crime Team is appealing for information on a Solar Panel company who have been cold calling in the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse area. The company are believed to be targeting elderly and vulnerable residents. Residents have been sold panels that are not approved and not necessary and told they can get money back from selling excess electricity to the grid. To get money back from the government scheme, the panels must be installed by an approved MCS installer and a certificate supplied. (MCS Micro generation Certification Scheme)

Aggressive sales tactics have been used and some residents have been escorted to the bank to obtain funds to pay for the panels.

The company has been reported operating in the Didcot, Wallingford, Wantage, Blewbury, Wootton, Letcombe Regis, Stanford in the Vale and Kennington areas.

If you have been the victim of cold callers or know of any elderly or vulnerable neighbours who have been sold un-necessary solar panels, please contact the Trading Standards Doorstep Crime Team on 0845 051 0845, option 2 or email trading.standards@oxfordshire.gov.uk



America is the only country where a significant proportion of the population believes that professional wrestling is real but the moon landing was faked.~ David Letterman

Welcome to February's Faringdon East Neighbourhood update from Sgt Tim Pavey, Neighbourhood Officer Hannah Farrell and PCSO's Myra Stokes and Susan Haynes.

This month we have been quite unfortunate with the amount of Burglaries that we have attended. We would like to remind you all that there are many ways to keep your home safe and we would be very happy to show you how. Please contact any member of your Neighbourhood team for a free crime prevention survey on 101 or FaringdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk for more information. We are still actively recruiting for new Neighbourhood Watch volunteers. If you would like to be part of the Neighbourhood Watch in your area please contact one of the team for more information.

On 2 January a property in Gainfield was burgled during the day between 9am-4pm. If anyone has any information about any vehicles or offenders seen on this day or if you noticed anything of note please contact us on 101.

On 15 January a property in Littleworth was burgled during the day. The offenders were probably in and out of the property within an hour and took items of high value including watches, jewellery and cash. As a result of this burglary we did a crime prevention event door to door on February 1st. When we gave advice and sold SMARTWATER. For more information please contact the Neighbourhood team on 101.

On 23 January a Green Landrover Defender was stolen from a property in East Hanney between 7.15pm and 8.15pm. Landrovers and Range Rovers are particularly vulnerable and are usually stolen to order. If anyone has any information about this incident please contact us on 101.

I would like to mention the success that we had with our drugs dog operation on Friday 25 January in Faringdon and Wantage. We took our passive drugs dog to a number of local venues and we managed to complete around 30 searches of persons in the local pubs. We had assistance from the Wantage Neighbourhood team as well as a number of special constables. We will continue to crack down on drug use within licensed premises and any information regarding drug use can be passed to us via 101 or the email address, alternatively you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

We are continuing to have issues with illegal hare coursing and we want to send a clear message to offenders that they are not welcome in Oxfordshire to pursue this kind of crime. If you do see hare coursing taking place please call 999 immediately. The Police will deal robustly on every occasion and the faster we get there the more likely we are to stop this reoccurring.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that you live in a safe low crime area and if you need any help or assistance in any way including crime prevention advice please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the Neighbourhood team who will be more than happy to assist. If you have an interest in representing your village or would like to play an active role in area priorities and problem solving please contact Hannah.Farrell@Thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk for more details.

I look forward to seeing you all out and about but in the meantime if you do have any issues please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Neighbourhood Team on 101.

Contact us: If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non emergency number 101 but if your call is an emergency then dial 999. You can also contact us via email:

FaringdonNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk - please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. If you have information about crime or Anti Social Behaviour in your area but you do not want to speak to the police, please call the Crime stoppers charity on 0800 555111. To view information on your neighbourhood team you can visit the force website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk

The Last Word

PLEASE pick up after your dog and use the bins provided and also keep your hedges and trees cut back from the footpaths and clear the cuttings away. It is becoming increasingly 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.



