

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2016 REPORTS

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Apple Quilters

Apple Quilters continues to enjoy their Monday morning sessions in the Swallow Room twice a month. We have a membership of about 15 from the Villages and from as far away as Faringdon. A variety of quilting activities are undertaken and include some for charity. We had a table at the recent Showcase for new villagers but so far have not achieved any more potential members. Having our meetings in the morning is a bar for so many people.

Jane Carter

Southmoor Children Centre



The Southmoor Children Centre has been supporting families in Southmoor, Kingston Bagpuize and the surrounding villages for a number of years.

The main focus on the centre is to support families with children under 5.

This support comes in many forms. Our one to one outreach service provides families with an outreach worker who will visit families in their own homes, provide support with attending appointments, such as medical and housing and accompany families to attend groups run by the children centre and other organisations.

Families are referred to the centre from Social Care, Health Visitors and Midwives, Early Years Intervention Service, Disability and Early Years Support Service, Pre Schools and Nurseries and also Schools. Families also self-refer.

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As part of this outreach work, we attend Child Protection Conferences, Core Groups and also support through attending Team around the Child/Family Meetings. These meetings support the families and also joint professional working. Actions are agreed with the families at these meetings and the children centre help to support families to make positive changes.

The relationship built between the outreach workers and families is really important and these often mean that families are able to achieve successful outcomes which directly effects the wellbeing of the children. This can often prevent families from slipping into crisis. We are able to be a voice for the child. Very few professionals have access to the home environment, this can be a really strong indicator on how things really are for the children. We have very close working relationships with other professionals and we are often a key link between agencies and families. We are able to access food, clothing and household items from local charities which can help families get back on their feet.

The children centre also provide universal and targeted groups. These provide support to families in many ways. The play activities offered are all planned carefully with the Early Years curriculum and also the individual children attending the sessions in mind. We are able to model positive ways of interacting and playing with children and this can really help parents to understand their children's needs and families can start to really enjoy time together. Agencies are invited into the groups to give advice on various issues such as budgeting, debt advice, benefits and housing on a group and individual basis.

We also support young parents in targeted groups and also provide early days support which is invaluable for mums who have just had babies. First aid courses are run regularly and offered free to our families. We also run parenting courses and courses around mental health and adult learning.

Our staff are all very professional, non judgemental, show empathy, and are aware of the many different needs of the families attending our various groups. They are all fully trained and have various expertise within the team for child protection, domestic abuse and drugs and alcohol awareness.

A number of our families have very little support and are very isolated. Having the opportunity to come to our groups has been said to be a 'lifeline' for many families. A huge part of our work is helping parents with their huge feelings of inadequacy, concerns over how to parent and worries over how their children are developing. By helping parents become more resilient and confident can improve children's lives immeasurably. We are also able to access support for victims of domestic abuse, drug dependency and homelessness.

We are very concerned about the impact of losing the children centre in Southmoor and Kingston Bagpuize will have on the families. We feel that the preventative work that the centre is involved in is essential for the wellbeing of the families, especially the children.

Carole Gough
Team Lead

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On behalf of the team at Southmoor Children Centres

John Blandy Educational Foundation

The Foundation is a registered charity that has been in existence for 45 years. It owns the Old School House and a number of investments and through annual grants, supports the education (including social and physical training) of young persons up to the age of 25, who are either at John Blandy School or who live in the village or a number of neighboring villages, including Longworth and who are in need of financial assistance. It no longer has any direct governance role with the current John Blandy School though.

The Foundation rents the Old School House to the 1st Longworth Scout Group, where it is used most days of the week by the various scout and guiding groups, although demand means some groups have to use the village hall.

The Trustees meet twice a year and are representatives from the community, including reps from the Parish Council, District Council and the Church. In the past year the Foundation has made donations to both John Blandy and Longworth Schools, their associated pre-schools and the Baby and Toddler Group.

The Foundation believes that if a new Scout / Youth hut can be built within the village, it would then be much better placed to provide significantly improved financial assistance and so is actively engaged with the Scouts, Vale and Parish Councils to move forward the current proposed plans for a new facility on the application site opposite the Millennium Green.

The Foundation would be interested to hear of other groups or individuals who meet the aforementioned criteria and who would benefit from financial support. In addition, they would also be interested to hear from anyone who might want to serve as a Trustee.

David Hancox

Chairman and Treasurer, on behalf of the Foundation

Longworth and District History Society

Longworth, Hinton Waldrist, Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor are the three parishes which the society encourages the local community to enjoy their own history. We have 112 members, and a usual attendance of 65 at each meeting.

We will encourage any local research. Our archives are available to help.

We issue publication, sometimes from the society, and sometimes from an individual member. Recently one of our members had a very complete history of her house published. Providing those who read the book with so much village information.

Last year we were asked to write a history of St. John the Baptist, Kingston Bagpuize parish church. This has been done. A copy of the booklet has been delivered to each house in the parish.

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We publish a local history magazine twice a year with local history articles. It is called The Rose and on sale at meetings and in the Post Office.

Recent topics in the Rose have included a diary of a student who came to Kingston Bagpuize in August 1943 and worked in an Agricultural War Camp. She told of being organised in teams to help local farmers with their harvest.

This diary is held in the Berkshire Record Office.

The Church wardens reports from mid 17th century telling of a cracked church bell that could not be rung and was not repaired for many years. These records are kept in the Berkshire Record office.

The Wills Project, now in the 4th year of research, involves transcription of local wills from mid 15th century providing much information of families, lifestyle, buildings. The project will be going on for many more years. The wills are once again kept in the Berkshire Record Office.

We are very fortunate that we are given or loaned photographs from the past of various buildings which we can identify in the present. This gives us a real picture of how our villages were.

Our archive is growing all the time, and we welcome any new items. Photos from school classes, or photos of Scouts, Brownies, Guides where we try to identify each person.

We ask our members for help. It is amazing how good the memories of residents of the village are when presented with an old photo.

We have a series of lectures during the winter months. 8 lectures and 4 visits to local places of interest. This year we have had lectures on the History of the Bodleian Library, Sir Henry Marten an aristocrat who lived in Longworth Lodge, and The History of Harwell. We are going to hear about The History of The Abingdon Branch Line, and then local families from Buckland and Lyford.

We are anxious to get to know of any local research going on. We may be able to help.

Old photos show how the landscape changes over the years so we are lucky to have photos before and after the by-pass, before and after building projects. So quickly we forget what was there before!

Kathy Fletcher

Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor Brownies

The Brownies re-established in June 2015 after a year's gap due to a lack of available leaders in the village. The unit is currently led by Jennifer Kirman as Brown Owl and supported by Emma Lambert and Kathryn Hall who are leaders in training.

The unit was very grateful to receive a grant from the Parish Council in May 2015 to support it with re-establishing itself. This allowed it to purchase some sports

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equipment, basic supplies and also to re-establish the more traditional Brownie emblems for the sixes.

The unit has re-established the sixes into the Elves, Pixies, Kelpies and Imps. We meet each Thursday evening in the Swallow Room at the Village Hall.

Each week the sixes compete in a small sporting activity as part of the sixes league table. For the first few terms, the Imps were very much the leaders on the board but this term the Pixies are giving everyone a run for their money. We don't place a huge emphasis on the competition but it is fun, builds teamwork between the members of each six and burns off a bit of energy before settling down to the evening's activities. The summer is great as we can get out onto the field behind the hall but in the winter we have to be a little more creative but you would be amazed at how many ways we can come up with the get from one side of the room and back again!

We have also established the tradition of a silly song each week. We had done a little research on Brownie groups and found a running theme that many Brownies hated singing. So we have turned that on its head with some silly songs. It is great that some of the Brownies are bringing their own songs and one of our young leaders also has a few songs up her sleeve. You can tell by the volume that they sing at that they actually quite enjoy this bit. It was also quite impressive to hear how loud and brilliantly they sang the National Anthem!!

We have been packing lots of activities into the terms and usually work through 2 or 3 badges each term. Since re-establishing a year ago, the girls have earned the following badges:

- Wildlife
- Explorer
- Agility
- Brownie Traditions
- Booklover
- Communicator
- Stargazer

This term we are working on Hostess and the Finding your way badges.

We had a mass promise night at the end of October for everyone who had joined the Brownies but we are now able to let the newer girls join on a more individual level and have done a little work as a group to develop the idea of the Brownie play with props to welcome new members to the group.

We currently have 18 or 19 girls in Brownies and can probably safely take up to 24 although we have been grateful for having slightly smaller numbers in the winter due to the size of the room (and the noise level!). We have a few girls moving up to guides in September so we hope to have a few new recruits for the new term.

Possibly our greatest success and near disaster was our attempt at making scarecrows for the Village competition in March. We were very pleased to win the competition but two of the leaders are still recovering from the effort of trying to

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hoover up all the straw from the floor of the Swallow room.

We had a very successful fundraising effort at the Village fete last year which we are hoping to repeat this year. We hope to establish “Brownies for Brownies” as a regular feature for the village. We have added to the fun by letting the Brownies choose the best recipe as part of an annual Brownie bake-off. Two leaders go head to head with their best (this year we might possibly also introduce the challenge of cheapest!) brownie recipe and let the Brownies decide on the winning recipe.

Kathryn Hall

Tawny Owl

Kingston Bagpuize Cricket Club

In 2015 teams were run from Kwik Cricket (U10s) through all youth age groups up to and including U15s, with two adult teams in the Cherwell League and an adult team in Sunday friendlies and the Midweek Downs League for T20. This was quite a challenge for a small club that had lost a number of adult members to retirement or jobs in other parts of the country but it had the benefit of giving many young players good experience of adult cricket, which will bode well for the future we hope. We are planning to run the same number of teams this year together with a new U17s team to give those in this age-group the opportunity to play age-group cricket as well as for the adult teams.

The junior section continues to provide coaching and match opportunities for a large number of local children. The junior training sessions on a Friday evening see a large number of family members - Mums, dads, brothers, sisters, grannies & granddads - from the Village and beyond descending upon the Club.. Several junior members of the Club were again selected to represent Oxfordshire District and County teams. And in the current season we have 12 youngsters who have been training with these squads, which is quite an achievement for a small village club.

For several years the Club has been looking forward to the prospect of major development with the promise of a long-term lease being granted on the ground and a new pavilion and net facilities to be built as part of the development of the land bordering the ground. The certainty that this lease would provide and the improvement in the Club's facilities, along with the influx of new housing in the village, should see a significant increase in the Club's membership in the years ahead and allow us to pursue other opportunities for funding and further development. It seems that there may at last be progress on this front although the Club has heard nothing officially.

As you will appreciate the costs of maintaining a cricket ground are considerable. In particular the maintenance of the specialist lawnmowers and rollers used to prepare a cricket pitch is a heavy drain on the Club's finances. It would be impossible for the Club to operate without the generous support we receive from our sponsors and from the Parish Council and all the volunteers who put so much effort into

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maintaining the ground and coaching and managing youth teams and giving opportunities to both adults and juniors to play cricket.

Despite the weather so far the 2016 season has got off to a good start, with the 1st XI winning their first league game and the Club hosting a Kwik Cricket tournament with 8 teams taking part.

Women's Institute



The Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor WI is a very healthy and thriving organisation. It boasts 46 members with 6 new members joining us in the year 2015 to 2016, with, on average, 35 members attending each meeting. There is a committee of seven members including offices of president, vice president, treasurer and secretary.

This year has seen Mel Gulliford re-appointed after taking up the mantle of President following Jean Warr's standing down at the AGM in 2015, after three successful years at the helm. Mel has had a steady but steep learning curve learning all the intricacies of being a WI president as well as becoming aware of her members wants, desires and interests.

In this past year there has been the opening of two sub groups within the KBS WI: the book group, which appears to be flourishing and the very new Craft group which only started meeting once a month in January. Hopefully both these groups will be well supported and that next year we can report that they are still thriving. There has also been talk of a 'social' subcommittee and also a walking/fitness group being formed. It would be really great to see these taken forward in the coming year and for us to be able to report their successes as well at next year's parish council meeting.

Last year was the WI's centenary year, and boy didn't we know it? There have been some fantastic celebrations organised both nationally and locally. Lucky KBS members got to attend the Queens garden party, ride in classic cars and carry our banner in Christ Church Cathedral, as well as get up on the stage in Witney to quench their dramatic thirst!

Within our members meetings over the past 12 months we have enjoyed a diverse range of entertainment. From formal lectures and talks on: resolutions, lost villages, brass rubbing, Queens of England and medical detection dogs; to bell ringing, chocolate making and simple old imbibing of Pimms and Pudds! Everything designed to meet our members' eclectic and diverse tastes! There are lots more fabulous and fun stuff to come in 2016-2017, which include 'Afternoon tea at the V and H', 'Healthy diets and lifestyle choices', 'Grandma flew spitfires' and 'Owls their history and conservation', as well as a presence at the Village Fete and our annual Christmas dinner.

The WI hosted a village Scarecrow competition for the first time this year in an attempt to get the whole village involved in a fun community event, something we

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will look to repeating again next year. The WI also continue to have links with John Blandy School , we hope to hold another competition for the school children with regard to the fruit bed that was purchased with funds from the WI, we are just waiting to hear back from the school as to whether this can go ahead.

Jean Warr won the bursary award this year and we look forward in the months to come hearing about her choice of Denman course and her experience there. The next bursary will be awarded in 2017-2018.

Our Christmas party seemed to be a great success. It was lovely venue, The Lamb at Buckland, with warm welcoming hosts providing us with delicious food and plenty of drink. It was so nice to see every one dressed up and having a good time, the atmosphere was electric and the conversation nonstop! It was nice to have good quality time to socialise with a lovely group of people. It will be a difficult one to follow.

There it is then, another fabulous, entertaining, educational and socially active year for the KBS WI, long may it continue.

We would like to take this opportunity to place a request for a donation towards purchasing our own projector and stand so that members within the WI can use it to illustrate their talks and to have it for visiting speakers who do not have their own. The cost to purchase these would be approximately £250.

Helen Disley

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Kingston Colts Football Club

The football club has teams playing in either the Witney and Oxford leagues age ranges 5-15 ,With around 120-130 players registered on our books

The teams train regularly mainly on a Monday and play games on Saturdays and Sunday's at the football/cricket ground on the edge of the village

We try and hold regularly fundraising events to help run the club with the last event being a race night at the Waggon and Horses on the 21st May and then our annual end of season presentation/award afternoon which is being held on Sunday 5th June

I'm the coach of the under 7s and we've just completed our first full season of playing league matches and tournaments.

The squad has been made up of around 11 boys and just recently 1 girl all mainly from the village and all apart from 2 attend John Blandy School

I try to give all abilities some game time to improve their skill and knowledge

The season started with local games including Witney Bampton Eynsham and the end of this we found ourselves in the top section of the Witney league for the next set of fixtures These following matches were a lot more competitive but still I think we held our own and finished mid-table (no results are published due to FA regulations for Youth football

The season has had a couple of downs with only one large defeat but overall a lot more ups it has been a great success and the boys are already looking forward to the in between seasons weekend tournaments at Crowmarsh Hendred and Carterton and then next season as U8s

Two of my team had successful trials at Oxford United and actually train and play a year above their age group and I think at least 4-5 other players within the club are also at Oxford United at various ages

The club has shirt sponsors for most of the teams but are always on the lookout for sponsorship / donations to help assist the club

We are also on the lookout for new players for most age groups

Hope this has given the parish council an insight into us at Kingston Colts FC

Many Thanks

Matt Belcher Under 7 coach/manager

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KBS Youth Club

2015 was the Club's first full year in Southmoor Village Hall. The transition has been largely successful, although there has been an impact on cost. The increased rent (initially £35 per week, now £40pw, plus termly charge for storage) has cost us around £1,000 for the year.

With an average of 15 young people coming along per week, income from 'subs' (at £1.50 per visit) was just over £600 last year, so we were some way short of covering costs. The tuck shop, selling mainly drinks and sweets, has brought in a little additional income but only makes a small profit. With other costs such as Insurance, the club has been running at a loss of around £400-£500 a year. We finished 2015 with total funds of £1,079, but our balance has now dropped below £1,000.

As a result, the Youth Club Committee made the reluctant decision to increase subs to £2 per visit from April 2016. This does not appear to have affected numbers, although they do vary quite widely – sometimes 25 plus are there, other times it is much quieter. Successful trips have also been organised, for example Laser Quest and 'midnight' Ice Skating, which tend to be cost neutral once travel and other costs have been taken into account.

We are looking at running more themed events, for example a Quiz Night, to keep the numbers ticking over and make the club more varied and interesting, as well as these occasional trips. The Club is also no longer known as '14+', (it is now known as KBS Youth) reflecting the decision to allow visitors from school year 8 upwards, i.e. aged 12/13, which has brought a younger age profile.

Several new volunteers have joined to help out on Friday evenings, so we now have over a dozen. All volunteers go through a DBS check, and committee members and volunteers are being encouraged to undertake the First Aid and Safeguarding training sessions being offered by Oxfordshire Youth, which we are able to access as we are paid up Full Members. There have also been some Committee member changes - John Disley has joined as Treasurer, with Sarah Clark stepping down after several years, and Sam Bawden as Secretary. Sadly of course we no longer have Charles Bone with us.

Delyth Hallion-Gammon stepped down as main leader last year due to other commitments, however, she has had to remain involved in the committee meetings and as an advisory role. She is also the safe guarding officer for the club. She is keen to be able to hand over this role to someone, so the committee are looking out for someone to take over as soon as possible.

Contributions to the club do really help keep things going - last year, we received a generous donation of £300 from the Parish Council, which helped bridge the funding gap. Other donations received have enabled us to treat the club to items like our new wireless Bluetooth speaker.

Consideration of a donation from the Parish Council for the current year would be welcome. We are also looking into grant funding opportunities, as well as raising the profile of the club to attract new young people along and ensure existing ones

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keep coming.

KBS Youth Committee

KBS Gardening Club

The gardening club have had a pretty good year, with membership currently standing at 66. Our monthly meetings usually see around 40 plus attendees, and as many will know entail a presentation from a speaker, often plants for sale, refreshments and time to socialise. We aim for an interesting mix of speakers.

Over the last year or two we have been trying to attract new members from the new houses. This has included specific leaflet drops to the new houses, arranging talks on topics we hope would be attractive (e.g. Design for small gardens) and attending the Village showcase event in March. This seems to be working and we have just had a few members new to the village join in recent months. We'd love to welcome more new members to the club.

At last year's fete we had our usual plant stall, and this raised a record amount for the club, no doubt helped by the fantastic weather that we had that day. We'll be there again this year and are hoping for continued success - thanks of course to the people who kindly donate plants and their time to make it happen.

2 or 3 years ago we made the decision to make the Annual Show, the "Village Show". Opening it up to all villagers, not just members of the club. It seems that this was a good decision. There was a fantastic buzz to the Show last year, with good numbers of entries, and of excellent quality too. It is clearly a family event. This year we are really pushing to increase the entries from children. We have contacted the Brownies and Guides who have enthusiastically agreed to run an activity so that their members can enter an item into the show. We have also been reaching out to the scouts and the pre-school, so hopefully they will do the same.

Our annual garden party this year will be on Saturday July 9th - at 12.30pm - a change from the usual Tuesday evening - something we are trying in the hope it will be a little warmer, tickets will be available at our June 7th meeting, or email us at skbgardeningclub@gmail.com.

Rebecca Gill

Chairman' Report (Brian Forster)

The last year has seen the completion of one new housing project (Ridgeway View), and the near completion of another(Southmoor Grange) plus the further completion of a third (Orchard Gate), which represents the completion of over two hundred plus houses, together with the SOHA care home'

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Further applications have been approved, or are awaiting, planning permission, principally known as "Land to the East of the Witney road", which represents some 200 plus houses by Mctaggart and Sons.

Fallowfields Hotel, a feature of the Village for over 40 years, has ceased trading, and its' future, currently, is uncertain, although an improvement and extension planning application was approved, which may be "brought up".

Planning Applications for Bullocks Pit Lane, and Spring Hill Farm have been received, the "Fallowfields" application has been approved, which represents some 45 plus houses.

Planning Applications for Village development continue to be submitted in an almost never ending stream, which reflects the impact of the Governments' planning relaxations, via the N.P.P.F.(National planning policy framework) and the fact that the V of W.H.D.C. admits that it has lost control of the situation, because of it; until the Vale Strategic Plan is approved (currently under scrutiny by the appointed inspector).

News received over the past two weeks is that the site for the Sports Field Development, originally by a company known as "Landframe" together with Mrs. V. Grant, owner of Kingston House, has finally been sold to a company known as Abbey Homes. Part of the S106 agreements to this site was the construction of a new brick built sports pavilion, to be handed over to the Cricket and Football clubs and eventually that the Sports Field , with its cricket and football pitches, would be handed over, ultimately, to the Parish Council , on a long term lease. This planning consent being finally sold after some three years since inception.

It was the first major planning application to be submitted for the village (for many years), and it was thought. At the time, it would represent the village contribution to the anticipated increased housing requirement for the Vale. How wrong we were!

The Village has suffered major disruption over the past year, the like of which has not been seen for the past 35 years. This was caused principally by repairs to, and construction of, additions to the foul water system of the Village, as a result of the construction of the major building sites.

O.C.C. has announced withdrawal of bus subsidies for two routes in the Village, namely the X15 and 63. The X15 is an important route between Witney and Abingdon, used by students of both Town Colleges, and communities alike, the loss of which is not to be countenanced. The 63, which serves a number of villages between here and Hinton Waldrist, Fyfield, Appleton, Eaton, Cumnor and Oxford. I suspect it will mean a virtual total reliance on cars or other private transport, for these villages. I fear this to be a totally retrograde step.

The provision of free secondary school buses, by O.C.C. to Faringdon College, and Matthew Arnold at Cumnor, is being gradually withdrawn, some parents of the younger secondary pupils are already having to pay. If they wish for their children to attend these schools, the only free transport will be to Larkmead in Abingdon, which falls within O.C.C.'s Statutory Obligation (in terms of distance) to provide free transport.

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As a result of the new house building, John Blandy School is nearing or almost at capacity, and will require enlargement. The traffic implications of this are likely to have a negative effect on the residents of the Draycott Moor Estate, and in particular the residents of Laurel Drive.

The Mctaggert site is also to be the location of a "Parkour" facility, a minority sport featured around "free running" which is to be designed around a rural theme, rather than its principally city/urban theme for locations that already exist.

Many consider this a dis-proportionate allocation of funds for a minority activity, whilst many other youngsters are short of funds and facilities, to say the least.

The village is changing, due to the massive increase in housing, some 50%, with a corresponding increase in population, whilst very little, if any, evidence exists of an increase in the required infrastructure, which indicates a lack of "PLANNING" by the so called Dept. of the V.O.T.W.H.

This may be as a result of the "war" which has apparently broken out between the O.C.C, and the five District Councils, as to who can best run things without the other, with apparently no mandate to be so doing.

The Parish Council continues to donate to those Village organisations which so request consideration, within the Parishes' limited budget, and all are encouraged to request financial assistance.

The Remembrance Day ceremony has now become a regular feature of Village life and is very well attended, together with military contingents from Dalton Barracks in Abingdon, and R.A.F. Brize Norton.

All this now takes place at the Village War Memorial, now known as the "Memorial Green", a feature not present in the Village for over 90 years, for unknown reasons, although plaques existed in the Village Church for both WW1 and WW11.

I have endeavoured to cover the major events that have occurred over the past Parish year, and after some nine years as Chairman, I hand over to Mrs. Elizabeth Oastler as Chair for the next year.

I will continue as Vice Chair for the coming Parish year and endeavour to offer every assistance to the new incumbent.

Brian Forster (Chair 2007-2016)

Southmoor Pre-School

The pre-school currently has 39 children on roll including a number of funded 2 year olds. Most of the families are living in Southmoor or Kingston Bagpuize. We currently employ 5 members of staff. As always we strive to provide the best possible care in the most engaging early learning environment.

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The government plans to introduce 30 hours per week of funded sessions to children with working parents. This is an increase from the current 15 hours for all children. We therefore expect demand for places to increase from September 2017. We are currently considering how we can best meet this demand.

Several members of our hard-working committee are going to be stepping down next month and we are looking to recruit new members in order to keep the pre-school running.

We have good links with the church. The vicar joins us to celebrate special times during the year. We have built up a strong relationship with the primary school, especially the foundation class, which helps our children make a smooth transition up to school in the autumn.

We are keen to build on our relationship with other local community groups.

Our plans for development for the future are as follows:

- to continue to provide the highest quality pre-school education
- to continue the process of amalgamating with John Blandy Primary School and the Faringdon Academy of Schools
- to investigate different models of delivering our service to see how we can best meet the needs of the local community

As always we welcome visitors to pre-school and would love any regular volunteers who can share their skills with the children.

Jackie Taylor