



# The Kingsclere Tower

What's On & Local News

FEBRUARY 2024

# T The Kingsclere Tower

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## Happy New Year from the Editorial Team

We have now produced 11 Editions of The Kingsclere Tower with the colour front cover and colour advert pages, and from all accounts this new format has proven to be popular. We welcome anyone to submit a high quality digital colour photograph of the village or local countryside or wildlife for consideration for a future front cover. Send to kingscleretower@gmail.com.

The fees from all our advertisers pay for the production of the magazine, and each year any surplus funds are available to support local clubs and organizations. At the end of last year, we had sufficient funds to award grants to Kingsclere Community Library, Kingsclere Village Club, Greener Kingsclere, St Mary's Church, Busy Bees, and Kingsclere Primary School.

Please note the ongoing public consultation on the options for NHS hospitals to serve North Hampshire in the future. See page 7 - Watership Down Health and Hampshire Together for more information.

### The Editor

Neither the Editor, nor the Management Committee accept responsibility for the opinions expressed or the goods and services advertised in the Kingsclere Tower. The Editors reserve the right to omit, amend, or condense any item submitted for publication.

### To all "Tower" Contributors

Copy for MARCH to the Editor at [kingscleretower@gmail.com](mailto:kingscleretower@gmail.com).  
 NOT LATER THAN 12th FEBRUARY.

If possible please submit articles as a MS Word document, A5 page size, font Times New Roman 11, single spacing. If email not possible post to  
 23 Swan Street, Kingsclere, Newbury RG20 5PP.

Will ALL contributors please include full name  
 & home phone number/e-mail address.

## KINGSCLERE PARISH COUNCIL (KPC)

Chairman: Cllr Clive Mussett 07800 022432

Email: [clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk)

Telephone: 01635 298634

Office: 37 George Street, Kingsclere RG20 5NH



**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS** - Thank you. Although the Christmas lights will be long gone by the time this issue is published, KPC would like to express once again, to all involved, thanks for the lovely display of lights in the trees, the star projection on the Church wall and other lights provided by residents in neighbouring properties. The lights do bring much needed cheer and warmth when the weather hasn't played its part over the festivities.

**ALLOTMENTS** – All our allotments are once again tenanted, thank you to all whom sent their fees and agreements back so quickly. We hope the weather allows for some planting in the coming months.

**PARISH NOTICE BOARDS** - The new boards have now been erected on Crown Green. The Community Board is accessible to all residents although we will need to monitor older adverts and possibly long-standing notices to allow new group activities and notices to be posted. There are also some "We Do Not Buy at the Door" stickers in a folder inside, please do take one.

**REPORTING ISSUES** – Please do help by reporting tree issues, blocked gullies, pavement, and road concerns to the relevant department to help get action where its required.

**REPORTING HIGHWAYS ISSUES** - A reminder of some useful links:

Potholes

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

Pavement problems <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

The Parish website [www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk](http://www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk)

[@kingsclerepc](https://twitter.com/kingsclerepc) [facebook facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil)

Problems with rights of way <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

When reporting an issue, you will be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. County Cllr Tom Thacker can follow up older / urgent issues if you forward your reference number to his email.

**ELECTRICITY** – Any loss of supply or damage to the electricity network can be reported by dialing **105**.

**FLOODING** - For assistance in the event of flooding call **0345 988 1188** or text **0345 602 6340**.

**GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING** – The collections dates are **Wednesday 7th and 21st February and 6th March**.

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – The next full Council Meeting will be at **7:30pm on Monday 26th February**, in the Village Club. We welcome the attendance of all parishioners at our meetings and anyone who wishes to raise any matters will be given the opportunity to do so during Public Questions.



**Our next evening talk will be on  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Geoff Hawkins will  
present “The Answer Lies In The Soil”  
Kingsclere Village Club  
Doors open 7pm, talk starts 7.30pm**

Geoff will give us an illustrated talk highlighting the medium that we grow plants in. It is a guide to what goes on in the soil and how we as gardeners can improve the soil, improve our environment and hopefully the planet. Refreshments are included and we hold a raffle; any donations for the raffle are always welcome. £3 entry for non-members, children are free.

Membership renews this month and we have a new Membership pack that will be available at this meeting for renewals and new members. We are unable to take card payments, please bring cash for membership renewal, raffle tickets or guests.

Members' Competition Table Show: This begins again at this meeting for the 2024-25 year. You can enter any or all of the following categories (all to be home/allotment grown): A vase of flowers – one kind; a container of bulbs; a single stem from the garden; a single vegetable; a pot plant. Points are awarded for each class and added up at the end of the year.

**Beth Theobald (Secretary) 07916 032250.**  
**Facebook: Kingsclere Gardening Association**



The Fieldgate Centre is run by the Kingsclere Community Association as a charity (No. 1168366). The association is made up of volunteers who rely on the support and participation of the community.

2024 is already marching forward and the Fieldgate Centre is busy and bustling as ever! The regular classes and events at the centre continue and the full schedule includes Slimming World, Ceroc, Clubbercise, Pilates, Yoga, Badminton, Songtree, Monthly Meet Up, Racing Welfare Coffee Mornings, and HIIT. We also have NHS clinics and the blood donor sessions running from the centre. Check our website for full details of the times of events and classes you may wish to attend.

Look out for the new **Clubbercise** class which joins the usual **Tuesday evening 7pm** class. The new class takes place on a **Wednesday mornings at 10am for 45 minutes**. Come and join in the fun, and don't forget your glowsticks!

February gets off to the flying start with the **FOSM Quiz Night** taking place on **Friday 2nd February**. Doors open at 6.45pm and the quiz starts at **7.30pm**. Always a good evening, come along and see what questions you can answer!

For the rugby fans out there, the **6 Nations** kicks off in **February**. All England matches will be shown on the big screen at the Fieldgate Centre. Full details of dates and times will be on our website and social media.

**The Monthly Meet Up** will take place on **Tuesday 20th February 2.30-4.30pm**. Feel free to pop along for a coffee and a chat. Free lifts can be organised if needed; please contact the office on the details below.

The **Greener Kingsclere** event is taking place on **Sunday 25th February 10am-12.30pm**.

Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information.

[www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk](http://www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk)

**01635 298497**

[fieldgatecentre@outlook.com](mailto:fieldgatecentre@outlook.com)

**Facebook**

### **Caretaker Vacancy at Kingsclere CE Primary School**

Following our Caretaker's retirement, we have a vacancy at our school for a Caretaker. If you wish to visit the school or find out more information, please contact Jo Messenger on **01635 298583** or you can email us on [adminoffice@kingsclere.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@kingsclere.hants.sch.uk)

## Kingsclere Players

### Audition for Kingsclere Players Next Production



Following on from the success of Peter Pan The Panto, Kingsclere Players will be holding auditions this month for its new production. If you want to be involved go along to the **Fieldgate Centre on Tuesday February 6th at 7.30pm**. Auditions are open to over 18's only. But do keep your eyes open for panto auditions open to everyone later in the year.

We're also keen to hear from anyone who would like to be involved backstage. So if you have an interest in props, lighting, music, costumes, or you'd just like to be involved, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch at [kingsclereplayersgroup@gmail.com](mailto:kingsclereplayersgroup@gmail.com).

Clare Roberts, Kingsclere Players



### Winchester's 3½ Cathedrals Their Histories. Their Bishops. Their Treasures.

This entertaining talk by Andrew Negus is given in the form of an historic guided tour, and will illustrate how bishops, architectural style, religion and historic events changed Winchester's two Saxon Minsters into the magnificent cathedral that we now have.

In doing so, we get the chance to look at some of the fabulous artistic treasures that are present today.



Join us on

**Wednesday 21 February at 10 a.m.**

**St Mary's Hall, Overton**

Free to members - Non-members £3 on the door

## Wolverton Village Market

The next Market is on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**, in the **Village Hall** from **9.30am until 11am**. There are lots of stalls to browse including locally produced honey and fresh produce. Also bric-a-brac, household products, toys, books, puzzles and handmade cards. Coffee, tea and biscuits are available and there is parking outside the hall.

We look forward to seeing you.

For further information contact **Wendy Morgan 01635 297538**

## Watership Down Health



### Norovirus

Please be aware that we have been seeing a lot of cases of Norovirus, also known as the 'winter vomiting bug'. It is the most common stomach bug in the UK. It can spread easily through close contact, or by contaminated surfaces, food or water. The main symptoms are a sudden onset of nausea, followed by vomiting and diarrhoea. Other common symptoms include a high fever, headache and aching arms and legs.

Good hand hygiene is important to stop norovirus spreading, you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly using soap and warm water after using the toilet or contact with a sick individual and before preparing and eating food.
- stay off school or work until you have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least 2 days.
- not rely on alcohol gels instead of washing your hands, as these do not kill the virus.
- wash any contaminated clothing or bedding using detergent at 60°C using disposable gloves to handle any items.
- use bleach-based cleaners to disinfect surfaces.

If you catch norovirus, stay home for 48 hours after your symptoms clear.

### Smoking Cessation

The adverse effects on health are well known and are colleagues at Solutions4Health have asked us to remind all those who wish to have help to cease smoking where to go for this valuable FREE help:

**Text QUIT to 66777**

**Call 01264 563039**

<https://www.smokefreehampshire.co.uk/>

### Training Afternoon

We have an important Training Afternoon on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 12.30 – 18.30pm**. North Hampshire Urgent Care (NHS 111) will be covering all Urgent calls between these hours that cannot wait until the next day. We will be open again on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 8.00am.

## New Hospital Consultation

The consultation process on the new hospital has now started; it runs until midnight 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The main purpose of the consultation will be your input into the three options being proposed. There are two potential sites, the existing site of the North Hants hospital or a new grass roots site near Junction 7 of the M3. Option 1 is to build on the existing site, options 2 and 3 build on the new site but with different levels of use for the existing hospitals at Basingstoke and Winchester. The management and medical teams state their preference as Option 2 - a new Acute Hospital near to Junction 7 of the M3, with the existing hospitals at Winchester and Basingstoke being mainly used for outpatients, diagnostics and therapies and planned day-case surgery.

The Consultation Document is available at [www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk](http://www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk). The website also has a series of videos from the senior management and medical teams which explain their thinking behind their recommendations. There are public communication sessions both in person and on-line, details are available on the website under the tab **Get involved**.



## We're investing between £700 and £900 million in hospital services in Hampshire

We'd like to know what you think about our plans to build a new hospital, invest in Winchester hospital, and our proposals for where services are provided from in the future. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve your hospital facilities and services for decades to come.

### Have your say and help shape tomorrow's hospitals

To find out more visit [www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk](http://www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk) or scan the QR code:

You can also email [hiowicb-hsi.mohhs@nhs.net](mailto:hiowicb-hsi.mohhs@nhs.net) call 0300 561 0905 or write to us at Freepost HAMPSHIRE TOGETHER.

Our public consultation is open until midnight on 17 March 2024.



## Kingsclere Community Library

HOURS Tuesday and Thursday 1.00pm – 5.30pm  
Saturday 10.00am - 1.00pm



### Donation from the Tower!

We would like to thank The Tower for their kind donation, we are very grateful. The monies will be used to purchase new Adult Fiction and Non-Fiction Books.

### Which?

We now have a Which? account for your use at the library. It's on our public computer and anyone is welcome to come along and check out the website. It can save you time and money, especially on bigger purchases.

### Board Games and Jigsaws!

Our Board Game Bonaza has started and will continue every second Thursday in the month, the next one will be on **Thursday 8th February**. A selection of board games will be available in the library for anyone who would like to play. Also a jigsaw will be out every Tuesday during opening hours for anyone to "have a go". We now have a Jigroll, so the jigsaw will be put away when we close and will be brought out again the next Tuesday!

### Visiting Books!

The Visiting Books are continuing to prove very popular and 100 new books will be arriving in the library later on this month!



### Volunteers!

We are always in need of volunteers to keep our doors open, so if you have a couple of hours a month (or more!) to spare and would be interested in helping out, please let us know.

Nicki Lee, Library Phone 01635 297464

[kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com) [www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk](http://www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk)

## Royal British Legion

Many thanks to everyone for this year's Poppy Appeal. You raised £5,357.37. Well done all.



Mike Carrington, Organiser  
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

## KINGSCLERE TWINNING ASSOCIATION



### FAMILY BEDBUG DRIVE



A Beetle Drive with a Kingsclere twist  
Roll the dice and be the first to draw a Bedbug!

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 6.30pm at Kingsclere CE Primary School.**

Everyone welcome, and fast furious fun for all ages! Prizes for the winning team and most artistic bedbug. 2 course hot supper included, with bar selling wine, beer and soft drinks. Raffle and “Guess the number of sweets” game.

Tickets: **£7.50** per adult; **£2.50** per child (pre-schoolers **free**).

Please email [kingscleretwinning@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kingscleretwinning@yahoo.co.uk) to reserve your tickets on or before Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February, or for any information.



**Greener Kingsclere**  
Reduce Refill Re-use

**BIG EVENT**  
**Sunday 25th February**  
**10am-12:30pm**  
**The Fieldgate Centre**

**Energy Solutions** Save money, save fuel, save the planet!  
**Repair Café** Register your repair on our website.  
**Fight Fast Fashion!** Free clothing ‘swap’ – kids & adults.  
**Recycling** No medicine blister packs accepted sadly.  
**Café** Coffee, tea, cakes!

Our first BIG EVENT is still coming together, so check our Facebook page and website for up to date information. We expect to offer a lot of information (and maybe some free samples and trials!) about home, transportation and personal energy choices.

Browse the information, have a chat about some energy options, enjoy some coffee and cake, shop the free clothing ‘swap’ and maybe have an item repaired!

We are very grateful for the support from our partners at the Kingsclere Community Association, and wish to thank the Kingsclere Tower for supporting this event.

**Nicki, Sarah, Lucinda & Sue** [greenerkingsclere@gmail.com](mailto:greenerkingsclere@gmail.com)  
[www.greenerkingsclere.co.uk](http://www.greenerkingsclere.co.uk)



## KINGSCLERE VILLAGE CLUB

Est. 1921 CHARITY 1189234

Website [www.kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk](http://www.kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk)  
Facebook [www.facebook.com/kingsclerevillageclub](https://www.facebook.com/kingsclerevillageclub)



### Community Café

This month's Café is on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 1pm.**

Enjoy a cuppa, homemade cake and a cosy chat.

Featuring the ever-popular fun quiz at 11. There will be a craft table for younger visitors – adults are welcome to take part, too! We will be printing natural patterns and making leaf pictures.

Please contact us if you or someone you know requires transport due to mobility issues. All welcome.

### They're Back!

The fabulous ABB (formerly Average Blues Band) are returning on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April**. Doors open **7.30pm for 8pm** start. Tickets £17 (including supper) from [www.wegotickets.com/event/605838](http://www.wegotickets.com/event/605838) or email Helen (below).



### Coffee & Craft

There are some spaces in our **Monday** craft sessions, **10am to 1pm**. Bring your own project and/or choose from a range of other craft projects lead by experienced crafters. Contact Helen (below).



### Warm Hub

We would love to set up a warm hub at the Club but it can only happen if we have someone to organise it and a team of volunteers to run the sessions. Can you help? Perhaps you could contribute in other ways. There are opportunities to help with admin, planning events, and fundraising. Let us know!

Helen 01635 297390 or [events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk](mailto:events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk)

## The Church Pages

Dear Friends

This month we will see the beginning of Lent. The emphasis for many people seems to be on doing without things: there is still a tradition for people to “give things up” for Lent. This all seems to lead to a very negative emphasis on the whole season. Christians are called to respond to the season of Lent in a far deeper way. It is the beginning of what can be a hugely positive spiritual experience, culminating in the glory and triumph of the Resurrection.

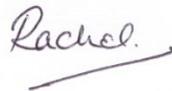
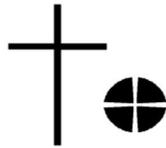
The prophet Joel is prophesying that the day of the Lord is coming and the people actually have to do something about getting themselves ready for it. (Joel 2:1-2 and 12-17). He says that there is more to true repentance than an outward show of different behaviour. He tells them “rend your hearts and not your clothing”. In part of the account of the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew takes this idea on further and says that the disciplines of alms giving, prayer and fasting are matters between the individual and God, to be done in secret. They are signs of repentance and a re-aligning of oneself spiritually. If they are carried out ostentatiously in public they become statements of power, of actions that seek some reward or acknowledgement and thus run contrary to the nature of the servant ministry to which we are called.

Lent offers us an annual opportunity to take stock of our spiritual lives and the directions they are going. It has traditionally been a time of self-examination and withdrawal from the things of the world. Hence the concept of “giving things up”. It is a period of readjustment, of repentance, of getting back on track to live the lives God calls us to. But the Christian life is not one to be lived in isolation from the world. We need to reflect not only on our particular journey, but also on how that interacts with the communities in which we live out our faith. A former President of the Methodist Conference, Chris Hughes Smith wrote the following: *“Repentance is the offering of sacrifice, not as aimless ‘giving up’ of things for spiritual self-gratification, but as sharpening spiritual awareness, and wholeheartedly offering to God new patterns of act and attitude, with the longing that these will have effect in a particular direction, according to his will.”*

May our celebration of Lent not be a time of downcast eyes and heavy hearts about what we are missing out on, but a time of re-focussing with our eyes on God that we might better discern his will.

Peace,

Rev Rachel Borgars

## Worship in our Churches

February 2024



	9.30am	10.30am
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>		Holy Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>		Benefice Communion (Bishop David visiting) St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>		Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship St Peter's, Headley	Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>		Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship with Baptism St Paul's, Ashford Hill	Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Holy Communion St Paul's, Ashford Hill	Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>		Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere

[www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk](http://www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk)

### Kingsclere Methodist Church

Services for **FEBRUARY 2024**

- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> – Worship Leaders
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> – Mrs Rosie Greenhalgh
- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> – Mrs Judith Cole
- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> – Rev Jenny Ellis

All services start at **10 am** unless otherwise stated.

Coffee morning every **Thursday 10.30 until 12 am**. Everyone welcome!

Hall available to hire, see back cover of this magazine for details.

Christine Westcombe [c\\_westcombe@hotmail.com](mailto:c_westcombe@hotmail.com)



## Lighting up St Mary's

The sight of St Mary's Church when it is floodlit is truly beautiful. Many people sponsor these lights (£15 per evening) to celebrate an occasion, such as a birthday, wedding, anniversary, christening, or some other special day in their lives. To book, contact Emma, our Church Administrator on **07422 687125** or email [administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk](mailto:administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk).



### December

19th Hildres Alderman, on her birthday. Still missing you, Mum.

### January

19th For Pablo on his birthday. Dearly loved and missed by all. XX

### February

14th Remembering Lillums on her birthday

15th For Daphne Bell. Helping to shine a light on our new home but dearly missed by all. Love Graham, Emma and the Bell family.

20th Remembering John David Wesson on his birthday. With love from Karen and Paul. XX

27th In loving memory of John Charles Coleman, never forgotten. Madge, Josef, Hannah and family.

### Saturday Coffee in the Kingsmill Room, St Mary's Church

Fresh brewed coffee, tea and delicious homemade cakes.

All welcome – please do pop in!

**February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 10.00-12.00**

Volunteers welcome – if you're able to pour coffee, welcome people or make cakes occasionally please do contact the church office on **01635 299528**

## Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere

Our **Quiz Night** at the **Fieldgate Centre** is on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**. Doors open **6.45pm**; the Quiz starts at **7.30pm** prompt. We sold out last year, so have increased the capacity of the event, and look forward to a really entertaining evening. Tickets, at £15 a head, include a good Ploughman's Supper and two bottles of wine per full table of eight quizzers. Smaller numbers are welcome, and where possible will be linked to make up full teams. There will also be a cash bar and a raffle. Tickets available now from Swan Street Stores, or by contacting **Jane Royle on 01635 297430** or at [jane.b.royle@gmail.com](mailto:jane.b.royle@gmail.com). But please move fast, they're going like hot cakes!

By public demand, there will be another **Staycation** at the **Village Club** on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April**, taking off for the mighty USA at **12.30 pm** (see below). Come suited and booted, and enjoy another great time away!

Our always popular **Plant Sale** with Kingsclere Gardening Association will be held in **St Mary's churchyard** on the morning of **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May**.

**Peter Turner, Chairman**

Website: [friendsofstmaryskingsclere.org](http://friendsofstmaryskingsclere.org)

For membership & enquiries email: [fosmkingsclere@gmail.com](mailto:fosmkingsclere@gmail.com)

## AMERICAN STAYCATION

**WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

**Fasten your seatbelts again! This time we're off to the USA!**

Your flight leaves from the Village Club at **12.30pm**.

Check in from **12.15pm**.

A two-course meal and drinks will be served (special diets catered for if notified in advance). Entertainment with Country and Western Music, and a Cowboys and Indians theme.

Saddle up, and come dressed accordingly!

Raffle, and lots and lots of fun!

**Tickets £15, available now from Jane Royle on 01635 297430 or at [jane.b.royle@gmail.com](mailto:jane.b.royle@gmail.com)**

image: Freepik.com

## Kingsclere Tennis Club

### Join us at our Open Day – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April

Kingsclere Tennis Club will be hosting an open day at the clubhouse and courts on the Holding Field on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 9:30am to 4pm.**

Come and meet club members and join in with some social tennis. All abilities and ages are welcome. All you require is appropriate footwear.

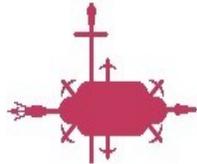
We will also be running a mini tennis competition for children with a LTA qualified coach. More information and entry forms can be found on our Facebook page (search Kingsclere Tennis Club).

Refreshments will be available.

We look forward to seeing you there!



## Kingsclere Rugby Football Club



The adults' season is going well. After a home win 52 - 10 against Alton 2<sup>nd</sup>s at the end of November, and an away win 36 - 7 against Farnham 4<sup>th</sup>s in December we are now top of the Hants Counties 5 North league. The next home game is on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February** against Alresford 2<sup>nd</sup>s. Kick-off **2pm**. You are very welcome to come and watch.

Feel like getting fit in 2024? Come and join some like-minded individuals for some post festive season exercise and cardio workouts with **Walking Rugby**. A fitness workout with a ball for everyone from 16 - 70 +. This runs every **Wednesday evening 7.00 - 8.00 pm**.

Our minis hosted Aldermaston RFC on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December which was well attended by both clubs. The **minis** meet every **Sunday morning 10.30 - 12 noon**. If your child/children would like to play sport and you would like to get out on a Sunday morning please come along and meet other children and parents.

To find out more information please contact either **Dilwyn Patterson: Chairman-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com** or **07831 161163**, or **Stefan Morsley: Coach-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com** or **07815 670782**, or alternatively via the club's Facebook and Instagram pages.

## Nature Notes

By mid-month, the relentless New Year rain that saturated the ground has finally given way to brighter, colder days. The dazzling blue skies allow us to be out and about more freely but only if we are well wrapped up. Dorothy Parker evokes it vividly in her revenge poem, 'Braggart' -

*Like January weather,  
The years will bite and smart,  
And pull your bones together  
To wrap your chattering heart.*

The earth's gradual tipping away from the sun has provided my daughter and I with a new interest on our walks - looking for pools of sunlight to 'catch' and wave to our long shadows. 'Shadow so tall!' she cries with wonder.

We saw few birds when the river was swollen and chalky white with rainwater. Now, calm and crystal-clear again, we have spotted two moorhens skulking in the shallows near the willow tree. We see them frequently and I wonder if they are building a nest in the secretive bend of the river. They scatter as we approach (we're not the quietest of walkers), spirited away on those wonderful yellow, stalky legs. They are happily evolved to cope with the freezing water by a clever counter-current heat exchange system: warm blood flows down from their bodies and, as it reaches the feet, cools to acclimatise to the temperature of the water. This prevents frostbite. The blood is then warmed again as it circulates back up to the body, so as not to chill their little chattering hearts.



In the same area we often see a ghostly little egret, looking for fish. Feeding the ducks by the lake one day, I looked up into a large leafless tree and was amazed to spot *five* of these quiet little herons spread among the branches like huge, white, feathered fruit.

The red berries of this season brighten up the garden beautifully and we love watching the blackbirds gulp the fruits of the cotoneaster tree in our garden. One breakfast time we counted a particularly hungry male guzzling nine berries in one sitting as we ate our Weetabix.

**Lydia Harley-Tomlinson**

## FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN

How lovely to start to have longer days, the dark and wet winter has been very long. Very little has been done in the garden this winter, as working on wet soil and grass does more damage than good. Hopefully we will be able to cut back perennials and ornamental grasses that are left from the winter, being careful not to cut any new shoots that may be emerging. If weather permits do try taking some root cuttings from the perennials while you are cutting them back, even if you do not require them yourself someone else will like them I'm sure. Other plants to be trimmed back now are winter flowering heathers, and late flowering clematis. If clematises are left unpruned they become a tangled mess and only flower high up in the plant.

Prune deciduous hedges now, such as beech and hornbeam; this needs to be done while they are dormant and before the birds start nesting. If you grow wisteria, prune now to encourage more flowers. This needs to be done with care; the object is to achieve a framework of well spaced vigorous branches. If flowering has been poor feed with Growmore or fish, blood and bone .

Dig over the vegetable patch and add compost. The compost needs to be at least a year old and well rotted. The soil should be limed if brassicas are to be grown as they prefer alkaline soil. The soil in the vegetable patch can be warmed up by covering with black plastic for when you start planting.

Lettuce, carrots, chard and radish can be sown under cover or on a windowsill. Plant onions and shallot sets outside, checking them regularly to make sure the birds have not pulled them out of the ground. Early potatoes can also be chitted, placing them in an egg box indoors where they will produce shoots. Only 3-4 shoots will be required on each potato; rub any excess shoots off.

In the flower garden the snowdrops are a welcome site; they are easily divided after flowering. If the winter baskets and tubs are looking sad, refresh with primroses and violas. Plant sweet peas now; they can be placed in pots in the greenhouse or they can be started on a damp kitchen towel left in a warm place, getting them to shoot before planting in pots. Start dahlia tubers; plant in soil and spray every now and then, this must be done where they will be frost free. The new shoots make good cuttings that will flower the same year.

Plants that are at their best this month: hellebores, winter heathers, hardy cyclamen, dwarf iris, early narcissi and crocus, viburnum tinus and camellia .

**Denise Allen**



**Kingsclere  
Film Club**

**Saturday, 24 February at 2.00pm**

## THE GREAT ESCAPER

*(2023 - 12A - 96 min - Comedy, Drama)*

**After the Community Cafe at the Kingsclere Village  
Club Refreshments from 1.30pm**

*Bernard Jordan escapes from his care home to attend the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings in France. Stars Michael Caine & Glenda Jackson.*

Guests (£7.50) welcome at any time.

### Statement From Kingsclere Film Club Committee

It is with great sadness that after more than twenty years, the Committee has decided to close Kingsclere Film Club. We will show three further films (February, March & April) and hold an Extraordinary General Meeting of members to confirm the closure on **27<sup>th</sup> April**. The current committee does not have the resources to continue running the Club. If there are people in the village who would like to take on the task, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Currently the Club is solvent and owns the cinema equipment installed in the Village Club.

For further information call **John Sawyer (Chairman) 297221** or **Diana Tait (Membership Secretary) 298494**



### FOSM 200 Club

The winner of the January Draw was  
**Peggy Morris No.114**

**Congratulations, Peggy**

Next month's Draw will take place at The Crown at approximately 7 pm  
on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February**. [200clubkingsclere@gmail.com](mailto:200clubkingsclere@gmail.com)



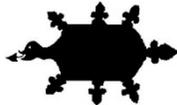
## Sandham Memorial Chapel, the 'Holy Box' of Burghclere

Sandham Memorial Chapel is nestled in the northwestern corner of Burghclere. The Chapel, or Holy Box, as Stanley Spencer the artist called it, houses Spencer's visionary paintings. It was built to honour the forgotten dead of the Great War. Spencer was commissioned by Mary and Louis Behrend.

The architect Lionel Pearson, who had designed the Royal Artillery Memorial at Hyde Park, was commissioned in 1924 to create the Holy Box, working from Spencer's sketches. We know from Spencer's correspondence that he wanted it plain outside just like a box with no ornament or features. The Behrends insisted on the alms houses which would serve a philanthropic purpose and but also to accommodate a chapel warden. The resulting complex is eclectic and austere and allows the focus to fall solely on the artwork inside. The orchard and meadow were planted in the 1920s. In 2014 The Garden of Reflection was created to mark the centenary of the First World War.

We reopen on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Thursdays - Sundays, 11am – 3pm.

## KINGSCLERE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION



Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 22nd February** when we welcome a return visit by **Dr David Peacock** of West Berkshire Heritage Forum and Chair of the Newbury Society who will present "**The Tudor Cloth Industry In The Newbury Area**".

In Tudor times Newbury was very much known for its cloth industry which brought great prosperity to the town. Many accounts and stories relating to the industry are documented and David completed his Doctorate at Reading University on that local industry. This included researching a petition supported by Tudor clothiers from six counties with fifteen towns and villages from Hampshire including Kingsclere. Do come along to hear the fascinating story.

We meet in the main hall at **Kingsclere Village Club at 7.30pm** and visitors are very welcome at £3p.p.

**Michael Leah, Secretary 297403**

## FEBRUARY AT SHIPINNARTS

The Ship Inn Country Hotel, Ashford Hill RG19 8BD  
<https://shipinnarts.org/>

Our new QR code to link to events:



Tickets on Eventbrite, or direct from **The Ship 01189 814504**. If paying on the door on the day, please bring cash – thank you.

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 7pm: Open Mic**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 11am – 2pm: Crafts at Shipinnarts - Decoupage**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 7 – 9pm: Olde Tyme Music Hall with Kingsclere Singers and Kingsclere Players.** An immersive evening in the music hall style. Dress in costume if you wish. Bar snacks only. Tickets £10.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/olde-tyme-music-hall-evening-tickets-765600480647>

\*\*\* Coming up early in March we have a FAMILY EVENT \*\*\*

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 3 – 5pm: The Hands-On Company Puppets with Jo**

The children enjoy a puppet show with Jo Bryant, they make sock puppets and use them to create their own puppet shows. Biscuits and drinks, tea and coffee.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets £10 for children, adults FREE.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-hands-on-company-puppets-with-jo-tickets-785713800127>

## Upcoming Blood Donation Sessions at The Fieldgate Centre

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February  
 Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February  
 Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March  
 Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April  
 Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April

Register, check availability of appointments, and book at [blood.co.uk](http://blood.co.uk)

## Kingsclere CE Primary School



Our new school library refurbishment took place just before the Christmas holidays and looks super! The children have been enjoying using this space to select library books, read and work in. The children have particularly enjoyed the colourful comfortable seating areas and the wide choice of books that are available. Thank you to our PTA (Friends of Kingsclere CE Primary School) and the Robert Higham's Trust for funding this wonderful project.

Christmas was just lovely in school. Our Years R, 1 and 2 performed a heart-warming nativity; the whole school performed songs, poems and readings in our Christmas Service at St. Mary's; our PTA ran a Christmas Fayre and a Christmas Film Night; and the whole school enjoyed a Christmas dinner together in the school hall, cooked by our fantastic kitchen team!

We are always very keen to promote and involve children in many super Arts opportunities at our school. We were visited by performing arts students from Kings PA who performed bespoke performances linked to our Year 5 and 6 Egyptian enquiry question *'Who was Tutankhamun and why was he so important?'*, and our Year 1 and 2 enquiry question *'How do we keep ourselves warm in winter?'* Our Year R children took part in an online event with some members of the London Symphony Orchestra based on the story *'Fergal is Fuming'*, learning about different instruments and what it means to be an audience member. The whole school have also taken part in an art competition to draw famous people such as Anne Frank, David Walliams, Katie Kirby, Elon Musk and many more to represent our different foundation subjects. The wonderful designs will be displayed all around the school.

Happy New Year from all at Kingsclere CE Primary School!

**Jo Messenger (Acting Headteacher)**

### Treasurer PTA Vacancy

We are looking for a volunteer to join our PTA as treasurer. Our PTA (Friends of Kingsclere CE Primary School) are a friendly group who carry out events in school for the children, families and community as well as raising funds for school projects. If you are interested in the role, please contact our school office on **01635 298583** or you can email **adminoffice@kingsclere.hants.sch.uk** for a chat about the role.

## Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group

Where: The Village Club

When: **Tuesdays 9.00am-11.00am**

Cost: £2.50 for 1<sup>st</sup> Child (including snack for child and hot drink and biscuit for adult), 50p per extra child, £1 per extra adult

The Bunnies are looking forward to lots more fun and games in 2024, and we hope to meet many new visitors this year!

We are a very friendly selection of mums, dads, grandparents and child minders with children, from tiny babies to energetic toddlers, and we love welcoming new visitors to our play sessions. We enjoy both indoor and outdoor play, with a craft table, plenty of toys and singing time too. Thank you as always to Swan Street Stores for their continued support of a weekly donation of fresh fruit snacks for the bunnies. For information visit our Facebook page, or regular visitors can join our WhatsApp group for weekly updates.

We will remain open on **Tuesday February 13<sup>th</sup>**, during half-term. As always, older siblings are welcome to join us for this session. Hope to see you there!

**Tess Watkins 07905 624679**

### The Little Mermaid at the Corn Exchange, Newbury

A colourful production of Disney's "The Little Mermaid" splashes into Newbury this February, headed by local performers!

The community production has been led by local performer Kate Izzard who is also playing the title role of Ariel, and is heavily influenced by her work running multi-award winning children's entertainment company Jollypop Entertainment. The production also stars local performer David Scanlan who will be taking on the role of villainous Chef Louis.

The show will take place in Newbury's Corn Exchange between **14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February**, with mainly matinee performances for the perfect family half term outing! Meet and greets with the characters from the show will also take place after every performance, giving your little ones the chance to meet their favourite characters for a photo!

For more information and tickets visit: <https://cornexchangenew.com/event/the-little-mermaid-2>

And watch this space, as Kate will be following this project with Disney's Beauty and the Beast in 2025!

## Kingsclere and Headley Woodlands WI

A very Happy New Year to all readers of the Tower. Our ladies greatly enjoyed the meeting in December; we and five guests had an excellent buffet lunch prepared by two of our members, and listened to the St Thomas Woolton Hill hand bell ringers. This was a brilliant way to round off 2023. Our first meeting of 2024 in January was very well attended and we were very pleased to welcome Tony Hersh telling us about his life as a magistrate.

The topic for **Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>** is still about law and order, this time we are delighted to welcome once again Jackie Dimmock, with the next installment of her life as a policewoman in the Hampshire police. This visual presentation is slightly different from usual in that it is conducted with the help of tapestry panels, all worked by Jackie. I'm sure our members will be very interested in the update. As usual we meet at the **Village Club** in George Street at **1.45pm**. Do come along and listen and watch and see what you think. You will receive a very warm welcome with tea and biscuits and lots of chat!

**Margaret Geary, President 01635 297197**

### REMAP – The Free 'MakeAbility' Service Is Back

Volunteer engineers from Remap are back in Kingsclere and North Hampshire designing and making free gadgets and equipment for local people with a disability or special need. Remap is a national charity founded in 1965.

The work they do - often in association with occupational therapists and physiotherapists - makes a real difference to quality of life and independence. Assignments vary from bespoke wheelchair ramps and controllers, long-reach window openers, kitchen and washroom adaptations, through to items to help those with dementia or neurological and balance issues...the list is endless. The engineers all pride themselves on thinking outside the box to develop solutions where no others exist, and enjoy making a real difference.

The 'MakeAbility' service is provided entirely free, thanks to the group's fund-raising efforts and the support of various community groups.

If you would like to know more about Remap Berkshire & North Hampshire please visit [www.berkshire.remap.org.uk](http://www.berkshire.remap.org.uk). To discuss a particular need in confidence please call **07790 127123**.

## THE KINGSCLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

**POLICE, FIRE or AMBULANCE**

Police Enquiries/Information

**Emergency 999**

**non Emergency 101**

<b>Kingsclere Health Centre:</b>	01635 296000
<b>North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke</b>	01256 473202
<b>Parish Council:</b> 37 George Street (see page 2)	01635 298634
<b>KingsclereCharities Clerk:</b> Jan Pearce kingsclerecharities@iname.com	01635 269184
<b>Dial-a-Ride</b>	01256 462101

### CHURCH CONTACTS

#### St. MARY'S CHURCH:

**Vicar** Peter Williams vicar@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

#### Church Warden:

John Price johnsaprice@hotmail.com 01635 297780

#### Administrator:

Emma Rivers 01635 299528  
administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk 07422 687125

#### METHODIST CHURCH:

**Minister:** Rev Rachel Borgars 07889 905753  
Rachel.Borgars@methodist.org.uk 01256 895878

**Secretary & Hire of Hall** Jeanette Billington 01635 297585

**ROMAN CATHOLIC:** Rev Patrick Tansey 0118 9814572  
tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Bas & Deane	01256 844844	Swan Street P O	01635 297035
Buses	0345 8101000	Vet	01635 297557 or 40565
Trains	0845 7484950	Dentist	01635 299981
Gas Emerg.	0800 111999	Age Concern Local Agent	0800 3287154
Chemist	01635 298419	Watership Down Health	01635 296000
Kingsclere Library	01635 297464		

### BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

**Ken Rhatigan** 07850 530319 cllr.ken.rhatigan@basingstoke.gov.uk

**Mike Bound** 07833612735 cllr.Mike.Bound@basingstoke.gov.uk

**Kerry Morrow** 07422 651172 cllr.Kerry.Morrow@basingstoke.gov.uk

### COUNTY COUNCILLOR

**Tom Thacker** 07712 695468 tom.thacker@hants.gov.uk

### MP for N.W. Hampshire:

**Kit Malthouse** 01264 401401 kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk  
2, Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP

**There is a more comprehensive list of local contact numbers on the Parish Council website. Go to [www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk/directory](http://www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk/directory)**