

The Kingsclere Tower



June 2021

Your Village Magazine

T The Kingsclere Tower

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Good News!

First of all, there is the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Village Club with a Birthday Party on the 17th July. Please see the article on page 4 for details.

Bounce Back is announced! The 14th August brings excitement to the Fieldgate Centre. Put the date in your diary. See page 5

And lastly, St Mary's Village Fete is on 30th August, Bank Holiday Monday. I'm hoping to be first in line for home-made cakes!

Holidays abroad are fraught with difficulties this year so why not stay at home and enjoy these three special Summer occasions in Kingsclere.

Finally, a belated message of congratulations to Joan Furness who has joined that special band of villagers who celebrate being 100 years old.
Happy Birthday Joan

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.

To all "Tower" Contributors

Copy for **July** to the Editor at 3 Blue Meadow, Garrett Close.
or kingscleretower@gmail.com

NOT LATER THAN 12th June.

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

KINGSLERE PARISH COUNCIL (KPC)

Chairman: Cllr John Sawyer (297221)

Clerk: 01635 298634

email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk

Office: 37 George Street, Kingsclere RG20 5NH

Public Opening: The office is currently closed please use the contact details above.



GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN 12TH JUNE

Kingsclere Parish Council is once again hosting a:

Kingsclere Spring Clean on 12th June 10am – 1pm.

The format will be the same as last year's September Clean where residents who wish to participate will be required to email the clerk in advance to book a slot to pick up equipment from the gazebo station in the Churchyard. KPC will continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation and Government regulations, and will provide hand sanitiser, gloves and litter pickers. Residents will be required to wear face coverings when picking up equipment. KPC will designate areas to work on to avoid large groups of people working in one area together.

To book your slot, please email the Clerk or if that is not possible, telephone: contact details above.

VILLAGE MAINTENANCE HELP – The Parish Council is responsible for a varied portfolio of land assets, street furniture and public facilities on behalf of the community. There is an ongoing challenge to maintain our gates, fences, hedges, pathways and more. If you are multi-skilled, self-employed and want to earn some money whilst helping your community then please contact the Clerk to discuss details.

OUTDOOR CINEMA – will be back in Basingstoke this summer with the return of the popular Pictures in the Park event. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has lined up 10 fantastic film favourites to be shown on the big screen at a new venue, The Walled Garden at Down Grange, from **Thursday 8 July to Sunday 11 July**. There will be afternoon screenings in addition to evening performances so that people of all ages can enjoy the entertainment which is part of Basingstoke Festival 2021.

ELECTIONS – Cllr. Tom Thacker retained his position as our County Councillor for Kingsclere along with Borough Councillor Ken Rhatigan. We welcome our new Borough Councillors Stuart Michael Frost and Geoff Poland, and Donna Jones as Hampshire's new Police Crime Commissioner. We look forward to working with them. There was a 43% turnout for the County Councillor election and a 40% turnout for Borough Councillor Elections.

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING - 2nd, 16th & 30th June & 14th July 2021.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – will be at 7.30pm on **Monday 28th June 2021**, in the Village Club subject to the Government roadmap for opening and allowing social interaction, although precautions will remain in place as good practice going forward. We welcome the attendance of parishioners at our meetings and anyone who wishes to raise any matters of concern will be given the opportunity to do so.



Kingsclere's Bounce Back
Getting back together again

A Date To Put in Your Diary!
Kingsclere's Bounce Back Begins Here

14th August 2021 at The Fieldgate Centre
2.00pm onwards

An afternoon of fun activities and displays for all ages to showcase our village clubs and organisations.

3-Way Tug-o'-War competition. Why not enter your team!

During the afternoon the **Making a Difference Awards** will be presented to the many people who have made outstanding contributions to the life of the village during the past year.

Want to take part or help out with this or future Bounce Back events?
Contact **fieldgatecentre@outlook.com**
telephone 01635 298497

The Parish website www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk

 @kingsclerepc
 facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil



Kingsclere CE Primary School

We have sprung into our Summer term with great enthusiasm and the children have spoken highly about their pleasure of being back in school together. We have already enjoyed the start of our new enquiries and are busy planning events to celebrate later this month, including a special 'Olympics Sports Week'!



We have recently received a visit from County Inspectors who spent the day visiting classrooms, speaking with staff and children and exploring the joys of our school. We were delighted that they recognised everything the school has managed to put in place and achieve despite the interruptions over the past 18 months. The quality of teaching excelled and it was recognised how engaged our children are with their learning, demonstrating our Christian values and positive learning attitudes successfully. Well done everyone!

We had the absolute pleasure of being invited to help celebrate a member of our community turning 100 years old! The children made 100 birthday cards and sang a colourful rendition of Happy Birthday, as well as offering a bunch of flowers to celebrate. Our School Leaders had the privilege of visiting the person's home to share our gifts and we are sure you will join us in sending many happy returns. What an achievement!

With best wishes,
Mrs Melrose Headteacher

Dear Editor,

I celebrated my 100th birthday on 12th of May and I would like to thank my family for gifts, flowers and cards. Also thank you to my friends who sent me so many cards. And many thanks to Mrs Melrose, staff and children of the Kingsclere primary school who gave me flowers and 100 birthday cards made by the children themselves.

**Many thanks
J. Furness**



Kingsclere C.E. Primary School Governor Vacancies

Are you interested in supporting your community?
Are you good at analysing data? Do you speak out in meetings?

Then why not consider becoming a governor at Kingsclere C.E. Primary School?

We currently have a vacancy for two co-opted governors.

Our governors are a team of volunteers who work together for the benefit of the school. They come from a range of different backgrounds bringing different skills and experience to the team.

Being a school governor is an enjoyable, stimulating and rewarding experience. It is an opportunity to work with other governors and the Senior Leadership Team of the school to develop an understanding of school management issues, the well-being of the children and staff, as well as being involved in the life of the school.

Meetings of Governors include discussion and presentations in a range of school matters including curriculum, recruitment, finance and welfare and safeguarding of children and staff.

As a member of the Governing Body, you would be expected to attend 4-6 meetings a term in the evenings. This may involve both full governing body meetings and committee meetings.

We would particularly welcome applications from people who have a background in construction/civil or structural engineering for one of the posts.

If you are interested and would like further details, please contact the Clerk to the Governors by email at 3088Governors@kingsclere.hants.sch.uk



Kingsclere Charities

Applications are invited from residents of the Parishes of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley regardless of means. Please contact the Clerk for an application form for the Welfare or Education and Apprentice charities.



The Welfare Charity Registration No. 237218

Provides assistance that cannot be provided by the NHS or Social Services. Grants are given towards:

1. Motorised wheelchairs and mobility scooters
2. Stairlifts including installation costs
3. Medical equipment such as nebulisers
4. Various aids that make life easier for sick and less mobile residents
5. Travel costs to and from hospital

The Education and Apprentice Charities Registration Nos. 307212 and 307083

Provides benefits not normally provided by the Local Education Authority to schools in both Parishes.

Also provides grants towards the cost of books, travel, stationery and specialist clothing to students resident in Kingsclere, Ashford Hill and Headley. Students must be between 16 and 25 years of age attending sixth forms, colleges or universities.

The Almshouses Charity No. 236411

There are two Almshouses in Kingsclere and ten in Headley. When a vacancy occurs, it will be advertised in both Parishes.

To register an expression of interest, or for further information please contact:

**The Clerk, Mrs Jan Pearce, kingsclerecharities@iname.com
01635 269184**

The Charities will shortly be launching a web site. Details will follow when it is up and running.

Cllr Sue Adams

The Churchyard

I read Gareth Martin's article last month about the church headstones once removed and now lost, with interest.

The number of headstones were 365 with 240 now lost. Considering there has been a graveyard on this site for over a thousand years that doesn't seem a large number. So how many people do you think are buried here? It may be greater than you imagine!

I am researching this topic at the moment for the **Kingsclere Heritage Association**. I will let you know later in the year. Mike Stokoe

Kingsclere Royal British Legion

During lockdown your village branch of the RBL has been as busy as ever supporting our local members, armed forces veterans and wider community.

We are now poised to (hopefully!) restart our monthly meetings and socials, restart our monthly Brunch Club and start to plan for other events such as our annual Waterloo Dinner. We marked ANZAC Day in late April and held a brief, COVID safe service at the village memorial, remembering those who were lost or injured in the Gallipoli campaign in which we lost 2 men from the village.

A brief service was also held on the 8th May 2021 marking the 76th anniversary of the Victory in Europe, VE Day. The names of the lost were read out and a wreath laid on behalf of the village.

From branch funds raised at our social events (not the Poppy Appeal) we were able to give a donation of £500 to the Hampshire RBL Welfare Fund, which provides immediate support to veterans and their dependants locally who need a helping hand.

The RBL is there for its dependants during these difficult times and can provide medical, financial and other support to its beneficiaries. You do NOT need to be a member of the RBL to be a beneficiary, just meet one of the criteria below:

- If you served one day in any of the Armed Forces including Reserve and Auxiliary service;
- Serving personnel in the Armed Forces.
- Maritime Marine who served in a conflict zone.
- Current or previous full time members of Allied Civil Police Forces.
- Civilians who have been awarded a military campaign medal.
- Home Guard members who served 6 months or more.
- Certain dependants of the above categories.

The list above is not exhaustive but illustrates who can be supported, especially during these difficult times. Please contact me if you require further clarification.

Although our monthly meetings (every first Tuesday from 7pm at The Crown) are suspended, many of our activities can be viewed on our Facebook site "Kingsclere Royal British Legion." Search for the site via FB and ask to join and I will add you to the group.

There is no need to be ex-military to join the RBL. Details of all our events are on our Facebook page (search for "Kingsclere Royal British Legion" and ask to join the group).

**Mark Holden
01635 628004**



Nature Notes

Peacocks are displaying their magnificent tails to attract the attention of the peahens currently. We watched as a couple of juvenile peacocks valiantly hoisted their immature tails, no more than a fan of grey-brown feathers in an attempt to gain female admirers. The 'Ladies' response was absolute zero.



Swallows and martins were late arriving locally but in early May good numbers of both were seen skimming over the lakes at Woolhampton and swallows were lined up along telephone wires in welcome numbers. Also welcome was a cuckoo heard calling in the same vicinity but not so welcome to local reed warblers which are targeted as foster parents by cuckoos.

We have walked along the towpath of the local canal several times recently and on our second outing which was a still, calm morning with little boat traffic, found it tranquilly beautiful. Trees grow well due to a constant supply of water but aged elders were exceptional, the bushes had developed treelike trunks.



On the previous walk we were stopped at Aldermaston Wharf while a 70ft. renovated canal barge was being transferred from Yard to water. Once hoisted by the crane it only required one man at each end, with a rope to prevent swinging, for the huge load to be lifted over the towpath and lowered steadily into the canal; completed without a splash.

Cyclists were polite but it would be so much better if they could give a distant warning of their coming, bell, hooter, posthorn or even a cheery "Tally Ho"-anything to alert us.

Diana Tait and Rod Eldred

Reflections

By the time you read this, God willing, I will have had my first Covid-19 vaccine. I've been joking that I'm so young I won't get it until at least the autumn but it turns out, I'm not as young as I used to be, and they've managed to get to me by May!



For those who've had it, has it given you a new sense of freedom? I know the jab is not 100% protection, but do you feel safer perhaps? It seems to have made the difference when it comes to cases and fatalities which is encouraging and is speeding up our gradual reopening.

I wonder if sometimes we think that believing somehow acts like a vaccination. We believe and so God watches out for us and makes sure not too much bad stuff happens to us. We are protected from the worst because we believe what we're meant to and do our best to be good people.

But it's interesting in the Bible that the greatest characters, the ones that most inspire us often went through terrible times. There's Moses who having led the people through the parted Red Sea, then faces a rebellion and has to trudge through the desert for forty years and eventually misses out on entering the Promised Land. There's the great king David who spent years of his life running like a vagrant around the Middle East, despite God promising he would be king. There's Paul the great apostle who convinced many to follow Jesus and who was stoned almost to death, beaten and shipwrecked numerous times. I could go on.

But what the Christian faith does have is hope that lasts. In a world, where nothing lasts, not even the Covid vaccine (don't they think we might need another one next year?), Christian hope is something we can cling to. No matter how bad things get, how hard our lives are, we can be sure that, having asked Jesus into our lives, He will never leave or forsake us. As we trust Him, He will give us all we need to face every battle or trial. Hope has been in short supply recently, why not ask the God of Hope to breathe in such hope into your heart as we continue to live in these strange times.

"Blessings", Ben



Sunday Worship in our Churches JUNE

We are pleased to be able to worship in person again in our church buildings. Our churches have followed government and Church of England guidelines and continue to review the regulations as they change.

Services in our churches in June will be as follows:

Sunday 6 th June	8am Holy Communion St Peter's, Headley	10.30am Holy Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 13 th June	9.30am Morning Worship St Peter's, Headley	10.30am All-Age Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 20 th June	9.30am Morning Worship St Paul's, Ashford Hill	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 27 th June	9.30am Holy Communion St Paul's, Ashford Hill	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere

Private Prayer

St Mary's Church will be open each Thursday between 10am and 1pm for those that wish to use it for private prayer or quiet reflection.

Other Church Activities

We are reviewing our other activities and opening back up where possible. Please continue to look out for notices on email (contact 07422687125 or

administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk if you are not signed up to our mailing list).

Our online calendar is also updated regularly so please look there for the most up to date information.

www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

Kingsclere Methodist Church

Service information for June.

6th No Service

13th Jeff Britt. Morning Worship.

20th No Service.

27th Rev. Rachel Borgars. Morning Worship with Holy Communion.

We very much hope that we shall soon be able to hold our Services on a weekly basis and that we shall be allowed to sing in Church again! Meanwhile we look forward to seeing you and everyone is welcome to join us.

All Services begin at 10am

Wendy Morgan

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The May Draw was drawn at Twist Hair and Beauty.

The winner was: Heath Denness – No. 83 –
CONGRATULATIONS HEATH

June Draw is scheduled to take place at The Crown 8 pm on Friday 4th June.

You can join The Club at any time – just give us a call
Andrew and Pam Kitch

pamkitch16@gmail.com andrewkitch16@gmail.com 01635 299743

Greener Kingsclere Sustainable Market is BACK!

Sunday, 11th July, 10.30am – 1.30pm at the Fieldgate Centre.

More details to follow in the July Tower.

If you would like to have a stall with your local, sustainable, 'green' eco products or services, please email us for an application form.

Nicki, Sarah & Lucinda
greenerkingsclere@gmail.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 (£12 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 0779 0934972.



May

12th Congratulations to Joan Furness on her 100th Birthday, love from all the family

15/16/17th In memory of Brian Mills, from his sons Darren and Tyron

17th In loving memory of Emma, love from all your family XX

June

5th In Loving Memory of Eric Rampton who is always in our thoughts, dearly missed by Christine and family.



PROPOSED RECIPE BOOK

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a recipe to be included in our BUG COOKBOOK.

We are still in need of a few more, so if you have a favourite recipe that you would like us to consider, please email a copy to us. It would be good if you could include a brief note to tell us why the recipe is a favourite of yours.

They do not need to be complicated recipes – just tasty ones! We do not need photographs, as we are trying to keep things as simple as possible. The deadline for entries is Friday 23rd July.

If anyone out there feels that they would like to donate towards the cost of printing – then we would be happy to accept. We are also offering the opportunity for businesses to advertise within the book. A suggested cost for a quarter page is £50.00. Other sizes of advertisements are available at varying costs.

All proceeds from the sale will go towards solving the drainage problems at St. Mary's Church.

I look forward to hearing from you all.

Pam Kitch 01635 299743
pamkitch16@gmail.com



ST. MARY'S VILLAGE FETE

Bank Holiday Monday 30th August 2021

Plans are going well for a fun-filled Fete. Thank you to all parishioners and local businesses for offers of support. We have been very pleased with the response so far.

Musicians have been approached and we are pleased to announce that we have booked the services of a local Blue Grass Band to play in the Churchyard throughout the afternoon. The Thames Valley Chorus (a 'Barber-Shop' type troupe) are scheduled to perform inside the Church during the fete.

We still need lots of help on the day and if you feel that you can contribute in any of the following ways, please contact a member of the Fete Planning Committee.

Volunteers are required for:

- Help with the BBQ
- Registered First Aider to be on duty between 12 noon and 4 pm. (If you can only do a couple of hours, then we would still like to hear from you.)
- Stallholders to help with: Books, Toys, Cakes, Bric-a-Brac, Accessories, Plants, Tombola and Refreshments.

We are still accepting donations of bric-a-brac, good quality ladies, gents and household accessories, toys, books, CDs and DVDs and bottles and new items for the Tombola.

If you have any contacts who you think may be able to provide us with a prize for The Grand Raffle, then please pass details on to us.

THANK YOU

Andrew or Pam Kitch – 01635 299743
Sarah Mussett – 01635 291900

Kingsclere Community Library

“Your local **FREE** library”

We are very pleased that our new purpose-built computerised library system is working well! Thanks to Bob Webb of Angel Web Designs, all of our items are also listed on our new website. We plan to offer reserves within a few months, both for our own library and for any books owned by Hampshire Library Service.



We also have to give big thanks to Mark Holden who has set up and organised our computers, printers and WiFi. Free WiFi is available in the library on your device. We now have a computer for use by the public, at NO charge, with basic office functions and internet access. You may print from your work or bring in a memory stick to use the printer. Printing and photocopies are 10p for black and white or 20p for colour.

Right now, we permit two people in the main library and one family in the children's library at a time. You are welcome to stop by at your convenience, but you may have to wait to come in. If you would like to guarantee a time, please email or phone in advance to book your visit. (Appointments cannot be arranged on the same day.)

The above restrictions may be altered from 21st June if the government makes expected changes. We will decide closer to the time. The health and safety of our community and volunteers is our highest priority.

NEW HOURS

Tuesdays 1.00pm—5.30pm
Thursdays 2.30pm—7.00pm
Saturdays 10.00am – 1.00pm

If you would like to volunteer at the library please contact us for more information. No experience required! We particularly need people for the second shift on Thursdays, 4:45-7:00pm. Even once or twice a month is welcomed.

Please note: We are no longer able to accept any books owned by Hampshire Libraries. They need to be returned to one of their branches.

Nicki Lee,
 Kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk 07899 623872

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group

**We're
Open!**



Hurrah! The time has come for us to reopen and we couldn't be more excited about it! Until the next government announcement, we will be taking it steady with some limitations in place to keep everyone safe, with the hope that we will be able to open as normal after 21st June.

Where The Village Club, George St.

When Tuesday, 9.15am – 10.15am.

Cost £1 per adult – cash (correct) or bank transfer on arrival.

Snacks/ drinks: bring your own.

Face masks for adults indoors and social distancing required.

Max. 15 adults on a first come, first served basis.

This is all new for us, so please bear with us as we are getting used to a slightly different Bunnies. Our main priority is that the children have fun in a safe environment, so we may make changes as things go along so please keep an eye on our facebook page for any updates.

Check out our Bunnies Facebook site – as well as our local buying and selling site “Kingsclere Bunnies Preloved”, where locals often have bargains to pass on.

villagebunniestoddlergroup@gmail.com

Core Health Training – Outdoor BOOTCAMP

9.45am Tuesdays

11am Thursdays

William Holding Playing Fields, Kingsclere
 RG20 5NY

For more details contact Charlotte

07876717276
crcutler@hotmail.co.uk

Kingsclere Gardening Association



A third of the year gone already and at last some hope of normality. What will that be like? Will people try to avoid closeness with you when out shopping or something similar? It makes you feel that you are in the way or even infectious! Let's hope it goes away soon. I wonder how people reacted at our plant sale in May. We have received some positive response so far. I have had a request for a Pampas grass plant from a lady at Plaistow Green. If anyone can supply a growing plant, please contact me so I can let the lady know about it. Nothing to report on club activity except we have a committee meeting arranged in June.

Despite not having any shows to go to, the daffodil bulbs I bought have given a great show of flowers. Some opened in March continuing through the whole of April and up to mid-May. They have been brilliant. The colder weather in April suited them with no hot sun or many pollinating insects. I have not bothered much with bedding plants as there seemed nowhere to sell them. However, vegetable plants have done well and germination of seeds, terrific. I got about 50 plants from a packet of tomatoes (cheap ones) and all other seed packets must have been at least 90% successful. Probably the best I have ever had apart from the peas which were dismal, although there is plenty of time still.

I cannot say if the outing to Hartley Witney will take place. Sylvia Pennington is the person to contact. No doubt she will contact all who responded to her earlier in the year.

John Eckton 01256 850017

.June In The Garden

After the very cold, windy, and wet winter we have had, June will hopefully give the garden some much-needed warmth. Many plants are behind; some of my clematis are sulking from the late frosts we have had. I have seen many sad looking magnolias that have been frosted this year.

Now is the time to take off the heads of the hellebores that flowered earlier in the year unless you require the seeds to germinate in the ground which they will do in abundance if left. Although the seedlings are easy to pull out, they will produce hundreds. The old leaves should be removed as the plants tend to look untidy and can become infected with blackspot or other diseases.

This month the foliage of the spring bulbs can be cut back after been deadheaded and left for six weeks for the leaves to start fading. This gives the bulbs time to re-generate for next year. Cutting back the leaves too early can result in the bulbs being blind the following year. The bulbs will flower better the following year if fed before the leaves are cut down.



Time to plant the hanging baskets. Resting them on a bucket makes it easier to work. It's lots of fun building them up and the arrangement of plants that will give pleasure until the autumn. To keep the basket in good condition watering and feeding is a must with so many plants in a small space. Leave the freshly planted basket on the bucket for a week or so the plants can settle in.

Continue pruning shrubs that have flowered so that they remain at a controllable size. It's amazing how a small shrub can become a very large nuisance if not cut back regularly. A feed is useful to the shrub after pruning to help the new growth.

Now the spring bulbs have finished there will be space to plant annuals. There may be a plant that you really like but you are aware that it is invasive. A good idea is to grow it in a pot and just dig a hole, and drop the potted plant into the space. The pot can be removed when required or before the roots escape which is a great relief knowing the plant is not going to take over the garden. Keep dead heading flowering plants to prolong their season.

Continue cutting the lawn regularly. In dry weather raise the mower blades so that the grass isn't cut too close. Fertilize to keep in good condition. If the weather is wet a dry fertilizer can be used, something like Growmore, but otherwise use a liquid fertilizer. Remember to read the instructions.

This is a busy time in the vegetable garden. Early peas are ready to harvest. Plant out runner beans making sure that they are well supported. As they grow make sure they are watered often, spraying the flowers to set if needed. Dwarf beans also can go out now. Tomatoes can be planted outside. Also sow salad vegetables in intervals so that the season is extended. Lettuce will not germinate in high temperatures if the weather is hot and dry so sow in the shade. A last thought. Sadly we can still get a frost so care must be taken to protect any tender plants.

June is the month for the paeonia, early flowering clematis, roses, and irises, so enjoy them for the short period that they bloom.

Denise Allen

Whitchurch Silk Mill

Welcome Back to the Friday Country Market

The Friday Country Market has resumed in the Mill's garden and it's been lovely to see all the producers again and of course, to be able to buy their varied and colourful wares. The market is here every Friday from 9.30–11.30am.



Weavers of bespoke silk since 1830

Mill Open and a Very Special Offer

To say a big thank you for helping to raise more than £1.7m to create a sustainable future for the Mill we're offering free entry to National Lottery players from Saturday 5 to Sunday 13 June 2021. We are open Tuesday to Sunday, 10.30am to 5pm. To redeem this offer all you need is one National Lottery ticket or scratch card per family, adult or group of adults. Paper and digital tickets/scratchcards for all National Lottery games qualify.

Our Blogs

Are you reading our regular blogs, on the website and via social media? Their subject matter is varied, educational and entertaining and we recommend them wholeheartedly. Recent blogs have featured Shannon Bye, our weaver and tackler, offering her thoughts about textile industry waste and how to purchase textiles more sustainably; Amy Hammett, our marketing and social media volunteer, telling the story of a black silk weaver in Tudor London; and Brittany Peckham recounting what she learned during a work experience placement with our Visitor Experience Team. We provide annual work experience placements for university students who get a chance to work behind the scenes and learn what it takes to run the Mill.

We Are Recruiting for Our Digital Media Volunteer Team

Do you have an interest in or experience with social media?
Have you created content for online platforms?
Would you like to gain experience volunteering for a heritage organisation?
If so, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Zoë Umpleby, Visitor Experience Coordinator, for more information and for an informal chat about joining the Digital Media Volunteer Team at Whitchurch Silk Mill.
Email: zoe.umpleby@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk

Regular Events

Our regular events including Mini Millers, Young Millers and Pins & Needles will resume as soon as we're able.

Contact: info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk – 01256 892065 – www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk

Contact: info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk – 01256 892065 – www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk



AT LAST - GREAT NEWS!

We are planning to resume activities on Saturday, 12 June 2021 at 7.30pm in the main hall at the Village Club showing either *Mr Smith goes to Washington* or *The White Crow*.

At the time of writing, we will need to organise social distancing, hand sanitising and serve refreshments to you in your seats. Call to reserve your place (and a lift, if required). It will be great to see you all. Please make sure we have your contact details.

If you are interested in joining Kingsclere Film Club as we re-start, please get in contact.

John Sawyer (Chairman) 297221 or jrsawyer@hotmail.co.uk



Accessories Stall

St Mary's Village Fete

Bank Holiday Monday August 30th 2021

Please can you donate "good as new" accessories for our stall this year.

Handbags, Hats, Belts, Purses, Wallets, Gloves, Scarves, Pashminas, Umbrellas and Jewellery.

As well as quality gifts (unopened please.)

Please contact me if you have accessories or gifts you would like to donate. I will be collecting from the beginning of July.

Thank you.

**suzystokoe@btinternet.com
01635 297234**

Basingstoke & District Disability Forum (BDDF)



Why volunteer?

Do you have a couple of hours to spare a month? Maybe you have more free time than usual as you are commuting less or want a new challenge or a way to make new friends whilst giving back to your local community?

BDDF are actively seeking volunteers to support our services such as the buddy scheme and to help on the Scarecrow event.

BDDF would like to expand our Trustee Board. As a Trustee you can help set the strategy for the charity. We have 2 positions available one focusing on Diversity & Inclusion and the second a Treasurer/Financial position.

Why volunteer? Volunteering offers vital help to people in need but there are many benefits for you, the volunteer. Aside from the obvious feel-good factor from giving your time to a worthy cause, volunteering has several key benefits which make it well worth considering.

- **Gain confidence** by giving you the opportunity to try something new and build a real sense of achievement.
- **Make a difference.** Your actions will have a real and valuable positive affect on people, communities and society in general.
- **Meet people** from across the community and make new friends.
- **Be part of a community**, be part of a cause wider than your current network.
- **Learn new skills**, gain practical experience, help your CV stand out and learn skills which make you more desirable for prospective employers.
- **Challenge** yourself to try something different, achieve personal goals, practice using your skills and discover hidden talents.
- **Have fun!** Most volunteers have a great time regardless of why they do it.

Food for thought? Want to know more about volunteering with Basingstoke & District Disability Forum (BDDF), your local disability charity, please contact sarah@bddf.org.uk or telephone 01256 423869. or by visiting our website www.bddf.org.uk.

From Amanda, Sarah, Ani & the team of Trustees

Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands WI

The venue we hope to return to when conditions are favourable:

Kingsclere Village Club, 35 George Street



Our Women's Institute is gearing up for a return to 'membership interaction', better recognised as human contact.

Looking back over our shoulders at the *half-dead* year-and-a-half just behind us, the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) has reason to be not merely *relieved* but *proud* that the entire institution has coped as well as it has. After all, the inner core of the WI network has been functioning ceaselessly from Day One of Lockdown No.1. It has been adjusting to pandemic conditions and *maintaining* alternative forms of communication, all the while '*Carrying on Regardless*' (a wry tribute to early British comedy movies.)

Our Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands WI met up in person on 18th May, not via zoom. Although minus full membership attendance and a paler version of an ANNUAL MEETING, it was nevertheless spot-on-target in mid-May as in all other years *bar* Lockdown Year 2020. Among other subjects under discussion our President Margaret Geary reported on the speakers whose presentations booked for June 2020 to May 2021 had been cancelled due to Covid. We have been in constant (email) touch with all of them since March 2020. After a further link-up with them just a fortnight before this issue of the Tower hit the streets, we can report that all but two are able to accept re-bookings for our monthly meetings at the Kingsclere Village Club. You will have read in last month's issue of this magazine that the club, our normal venue, has announced that the premises would be open to the public once again from 17 May.

Well known local resident, **Nicki Lee**, whose WI presentation was cancelled last year is one of the Speakers who has promised to feature on our Annual Members' Programme during this happier, new year-to-be. Failing the *earliest* of returns of members' meetings to Club premises however (which would leave us without a brand-new announcement to submit to the July Tower) we will run Nicki's own personal 'Lockdown' story (not previously done) in the next edition of the Tower. This would pretty much fall in line with what we have done in respect of all the other furloughed speakers during that horrible 'old' year that we have all just experienced.

Nova Saunderson - 299570

THE KINGSCLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

POLICE, FIRE or AMBULANCE	Emergency 999
Police Enquiries/Information	non Emergency 101

Kingsclere Health Centre:	01635 296000
North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke	01256 473202

Parish Council: 37 George Street (see page 2)	01635 298634
Dial-a-Ride	01256 462101

CHURCH CONTACTS

St. MARY'S CHURCH:

Vicar Rev Ben Read, The Vicarage, Foxs Lane Church Wardens:	01635 298471
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Administrator: Sarah Mussett sarah.mussett@hotmail.co.uk Emma Rivers administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk	01635 291900 07790 934972
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METHODIST CHURCH:

Chief Steward Secretary & Hire of Hall	Jeanette Billington 01635 297585
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ROMAN CATHOLIC: Rev Patrick Tansey	0118 9814572
tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	

Bas & Deane	01256 844844	Kingsclere Library	07899623872
Buses	0345 8101000	Swan Street P O	01635 297035
Trains	0845 748 4950	Vet	01635 29557 or 40565
Gas Emerg.	0800 111999	Dentist	01635 299981
Chemist	01635 298419	Age Concern Local Agent	07813 368259

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Ken Rhatigan	07850 530319	cllr.ken.rhatigan@basingstoke.gov.uk
Stuart Frost	07961 265719	cllr.Stuart.Frost@basingstoke.gov.uk
Geoff Poland		cllr.groff.poland@basingstoke.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Tom Thacker	01264 738464	tom.thacker@hants.gov.uk
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MP for N.W. Hampshire:

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

There is a more comprehensive list of local contact numbers on the Parish Council website. Go to www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk/directory