

The Kingsclere Tower



April 2022

Your Village Magazine

The Kingsclere Tower

EDITORS: Sarah Hewitt, Nicki Lee and Mike Stokoe
ADVERTISING: Brian Elborn b.elborn345@btinternet.com ☎298704
DISTRIBUTION: Brian Elborn ☎298704
ASSEMBLY: Andrew Kitch ☎299743
PRINTERS: Kingsclere Design & Print Ltd
LAYOUT/COVER: Steven Gaines

Whilst editing the Tower today news has broken that two British-Iranian nationals Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anoosheh Ashoori are on their way home to the UK, after 6 and 7 years in jail in Iran, respectively.

It's hard to imagine the frustration and despair they, and their families, must have felt during that time, but today's news has offered us all a welcome ray of hope in an otherwise distressing global landscape.

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 **March** to the Editor at 3 Blue Meadow, Garrett Close.
or kingscleretower@gmail.com
NOT LATER THAN 12th April.
**Will ALL contributors please include full name
& home phone number/e-mail address.**

4

KINGSCLERE PARISH COUNCIL (KPC)

Chairman: Cllr John Sawyer (297221)
Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk
Telephone: 01635 298634
Office: 37 George Street, Kingsclere RG20 5NH
Public Opening: Office is currently closed to public



KINGSCLERE'S GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN – Kingsclere's Spring Clean is back and will be held on Saturday 9th April 10am – 1pm. There will be a gazebo station in the churchyard to collect litter picking equipment from; there is no need to book, just turn up! Refreshments will be available for volunteers on return, exchange your full rubbish bag for a token to use at St Mary's Coffee Morning!

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND ANNUAL REPORT – The Annual Parish Meeting this year will be on Monday 23rd May. The CEO of the Greenham Trust Chris Bolton has been confirmed as the special guest speaker and all residents are invited to attend. Reports from village organisations are welcome, please ensure an electronic copy of your report is sent to the office so that it can be included in the Annual Report 2022.

CROWN GREEN NOTICEBOARD – Sadly during storm Eunice on 18th February, the noticeboard on Crown Green was blown over. Hopefully by the time you read this the contractor will have removed it. Replacing the noticeboard was discussed at February OM and it was decided to replace it with a more robust one. This will hopefully be installed and available for community use in the next few months.

GRASS DAMAGE IN THE CHURCHYARD – Towards the end of February damage to the grass occurred in the Churchyard. At the time of writing the Parish Council is investigating and will be asking person(s) responsible to get it repaired.

GRASS CUTTING IN CEMETERY – Grass cutting will be resuming in open spaces in the village in April. KPC asks that grave owners ensure their plots are tidy and in line with the rules and regulations so our contractors can work easily. The Parish Council understand this can be a delicate issue, however the contractors have a job to do, and no responsibility is taken for items left on graves.

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING – the collections dates are Wednesday 6th April, Wednesday 20th April, and Wednesday 4th May 2022.

The Parish website www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk
@kingsclerepc facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – will be at 7:30pm on Monday 25th April 2022, in the Village Club, (unless otherwise notified). We welcome the attendance of all parishioners at our meetings and anyone who wishes to raise any matters of concern will be given the opportunity to do so.

Police Information – “Nottingham Knockers”

We have seen a rise in reports across Basingstoke Town & Rural regarding Nottingham Knockers. Below is some information about this group and advice on how to deal with them.

Who are they? -Nottingham Knockers are usually young men selling household products door to door. They will offer to show picture ID which will likely be ‘Hawkers Work Creation’, and say they have just been released from prison. This company does not exist. They carry large holdalls containing household items at high prices and will try and hard sell to make more money. They will tell you they are trying to make a better life having left prison.

Is it illegal to sell goods on the doorstep? - Selling anything in a public space is subject to street trading laws and can only be done with special permits. Anyone selling goods on a public forecourt, road, footway or adjacent site, to a distance of 10 metres, must have written consent.

Our advice...- Whenever you get an unexpected knock on the door, check to see who it before opening it, either through a side window, a spy hole, or simply ask out loud who it is. If you do not know them, establish who they are and what they are there for before you open the door. Please remember if the cold caller sales are unsuccessful, they are unlikely to return in future.

If you experience any verbal abuse or intimidation by these people, please call 101 or report online, stating what was said and provide a description of the person.

REMEMBER

DO NOT deal with Nottingham Knockers.
NEVER allow Nottingham Knockers into your home.
DO NOT pay CASH on the doorstep.

Please report to 999 in an emergency, and use 101 or the Hampshire Constabulary website: it is vital you make a formal police report for our records.

PCSO Joshua Revett, 18145, Tadley Neighbourhood Policing Team



Situation in Ukraine: We are conscious that some patients may be affected by events in Ukraine. If recent events have affected you and you wish to seek help, please do approach us.

We are available by telephone 08:00 – 18:30, Monday – Friday when through telephone triage you can access Face to Face Appointments as well as other specialist support services.

Discontinuing eConsult: Following patient feedback, we have replaced the eConsult icon with a more streamlined way of patients accessing information and services. On the left of our website main page (www.watershipdownhealth.com) we now have quick links to: Self Care; Ask Reception; Ask the Practice; or Ask the Doctor a question. These options should not be used for emergencies, when you should ring 999.

Wearing Face Masks: Please continue to wear a face mask when attending any of our surgeries, unless you have a valid exemption in place, in which case we ask that you wear a lanyard or bring official letter. Please observe hygiene measures by using hand gel, washing your hands and remember: Hands Face and Space. We are continuing to protect our most vulnerable and sick patients and ask that you respect that the anxiety levels of the most vulnerable are still high.

Covid-19 Vaccination update: Our patients are still able to access 1st, 2nd, booster and 4th Covid vaccinations if indicated at Jameson House. Please note the 4th vaccination is currently only for immunosuppressed patients who will receive a specific invite.

Supporting people on Waitlists – My Planned Care public platform now live: The 1st phase of this NHS England Elective Recovery Plan was launched 24 February (www.myplannedcare.nhs.uk). The website provides people waiting for a hospital appointment, operation or treatment (excluding cancer) direct access to the latest indicative wait-time information for all acute trusts across England.

Community Pharmacy Consultation Scheme WDH will be taking part in a new pharmacy service, which enables our receptionists to offer patients an appointment with an NHS community pharmacist for a personal consultation for a range of self-limiting conditions. Initially the range of conditions will be few whilst we see how the system works.



The Fieldgate Centre is run by Kingsclere Community Association, a charity (No 1168366). All residents of Kingsclere over 18 are automatically members of the association, an organisation that relies on volunteers to run it. Be part of it, your support makes a difference.

Events in April

Greener Kingsclere/KCA Market Sunday 3rd 10am-12.30pm
'Voices Together' Kingsclere Singers & The Thames Valley Chorus Saturday 9th 3pm
Ceroc Beginners+ Workshop Sunday 10th 1.30-4.30pm
Racing Welfare Coffee Morning Thursday 14th 10.30am-12.30pm
Monthly Meet-Up Tuesday 19th 2.30-4.30pm
FOSM Quiz Night Friday 22nd Doors 6.45pm
Jubilee Village Celebrations on Saturday 4th June

Plans are gathering pace for a fabulous parade and party for the whole village to take part in. Contact us if you want to be involved.

Electrical upgrade – Electrical work, including solar panels, has begun thanks to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, Greenham Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation and Sovereign Housing who have awarded us grants to fund the work.

Pitch drainage update – It is no surprise that the contractors were scuppered by the weather! Work stopped in October 2021 and a wet February 2022 means that the final drains and reseeding should start in April. Reseeded areas must be protected while the grass establishes as a robust turf and barriers will be erected to discourage access until the end of the summer: we do need to stay off to make sure that money spent on refurbishing the sports pitches is not wasted.

website: www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk tel: 01635 298497

email: fieldgatecentre@outlook.com facebook

u3a Overton and District

Our April speaker is David Boag and his subject is Wildlife Photography / Natures Marvels. David's photography is recognised across the world. He lectures throughout the country and has spoken at RSPB and National Trust events. **Wednesday 20th April- 10.00am** St Mary's Hall, Overton. Free to members – non-members £3 on the door.
THE TALK WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE AGM



Saturday, 9 April at 7.30pm at Kingsclere Village Club, George Street. Door opens at 7.00pm.

'A bout de souffle' (Breathless)

(90 minutes)

A classic 1960 Jean-Luc Goddard film, starring Jean-Paul Belmondo.

A foreign language film with subtitles.

April: Subscriptions due

Next Month: 14 May 2022 **The Awful Truth** (1937)

Kingsclere Film Club welcomes guests at £7.50, subject to space. New members welcome at any time.

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

Kingsclere Community Library



We are in the process of selecting new books for your library! Remember, borrowing books is absolutely FREE for children and adults. Just apply for your free Kingsclere library card, it only takes a minute.

We have some exciting activities coming up for children especially in the next few months, so check your village magazine and notices in the library!

Would you like to receive an occasional email from us with our news? Please email the address below and ask to be put on our mailing list – we promise not to send too much!

We need a few more volunteers again! Do you have some time to help? Full training given.

HOURS Tuesday & Thursday 1:00pm-5:30pm
 Saturday 10:00am 1:00pm

Nicki Lee, our new phone number: 01635 297464

Kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk



Kingsclere Village Club

Est. 1921

100 years and counting ...

Spring Craft Market

A really interesting variety of local artisans and crafters are coming to our next market on **Sunday**

24th April, 11a.m. to 3p.m. A great opportunity to buy high quality, hand-made items – you're certain to find something you can't resist!

Jubilee Celebrations

We are hoping to put on an exhibition of **Life in the 1950s**. If you have any photos, memorabilia or memories you would be willing to share, please contact Helen (details below). Though we hope to get a good range of Kingsclere related items, we will not be restricting ourselves to Kingsclere only.

And on the subject of the Jubilee ...

Community Café

Come to our Community Café on **Saturday 30th April**, 10am to 2pm, where you will have the

opportunity to make bunting for the Jubilee celebrations. Materials will be provided but we would appreciate a donation to cover costs. There will be our usual teas, coffee, biscuits, homemade cakes and friendly chat. All welcome, whether crafting or not.



Save the Date

The wonderful Festival Players will be presenting **A Midsummer's Night Dream** on August 27th for the ever-popular **Shakespeare in the Garden**. Ticket details in the next issue of the Tower.

Helen 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Website <http://www.kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/kingsclerevillageclub>

200 200 200 200 200 200 **FOSM 200 Club** 200 200 200 200 200

The March Draw winner was Peter Stamp – No. 18.

Congratulations, Peter.

The April Draw will take place at The Crown at approximately 7 pm on Thursday 7th Aril.

Jane Royle jane.b.royle@gmail.com 01635 297430

Kingsclere and Headley Woodlands WI

35 George Street, Kingsclere



March was a very successful meeting with Mike Brook entertaining us with four sketches he had written, plus tales from some of the Am Dram performances in which he had appeared. He was ably attended by a musical friend called Isobel. In all, a very good meeting.

We fully expect our April meeting to be just as entertaining when James Haddow, the 'taxi-driver poet', our speaker this month, comes to us from Bournemouth. James has agreed to come to our small WI and, to make our audience larger, I have invited ladies from our fellow institutes, Burghclere, East Woodhay and Vernham Dean to join us.

We would be delighted to welcome ladies from the village too, as we would be any month: to see what we are like, so please, come along. It's only £2 per visit for the first two occasions. We are trying to make April a little special, after all, we do meet in Easter week, on Wednesday 13th at 1.45pm, to be precise.

I hope to see you on the 13th of April.

M. Geary

Citizens Advice - Advice First Aid



Advice First Aid (AFA) is a new Citizens Advice initiative to empower staff and volunteers at community organisations to help recognise when someone might need specialist help from an adviser at our office. If you are interested in training to become part of this project, please contact our office at admin@tadleycab.cabnet.org.uk

This project is part funded by a Hampshire County Councillor grant in furtherance of the County Council's priorities – our thanks to Cllr Derek Mellor and Hampshire County Council.

In the meantime, if you or someone you know needs help with one of the key areas that we support, including benefits, debt, employment, consumer and energy, housing, family or health service issues, please get in touch by phone on 0808 278 7987 or via our website: <https://www.basingstokeandtadleycab.org.uk/citizens-advice-tadley>

Royal British Legion – Kingsclere Branch

On Sunday 6 March, the Kingsclere Branch of the Royal British Legion was 100 years old. This was a momentous milestone for our branch and its longevity is testament to the selflessly contribution made by members and volunteers from the village who, through the decades, have given their time and energies in support of our armed forces community, and to ensure that within our village, we shall never forget.

The event was commemorated by a short service of thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, during which the 100-year pennant was blessed and attached to the branch's Standard. Our thanks go to Rev Ben Read who lead the service, his last before he leaves the village.

Honoured guests, which included representatives from Kingsclere Parish Council and Hampshire County Royal British Legion, and members of the community joined branch members for a reception at the Methodist Church Hall. The branch made a donation of £1000 to the Hampshire County Welfare Fund, which ensures it goes to support those in need within Hampshire.

Earlier in the week the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Cllr Onnalee Cubitt, and her Consort, Hugo Cubitt, presented the branch with an engraved cut glass bowl in recognition of this milestone, which was accepted on behalf of the branch by Alan Denness.



The whole occasion was a great success and my thanks go to everyone who contributed in whatever way.

Kate Oldershaw
Chairman



Kingsclere CE Primary School

It has been another busy month of learning in school and we are delighted to have welcomed more visitors to the school to support our pupils in their learning! Year 3 & 4 received a visit from the author Jen Carney who writes exceptional books which the children study within their class. They had opportunity to talk about illustrations as well as language choices and have developed their own writing as a result.

The whole school ventured into the village to cheer for Tom Daley, as he arrived in Kingsclere for a pit stop as part of his Comic Relief 'Coming Home' event. The children made flags & posters, waiting so patiently despite the rain! It was lovely to see the awe and wonder within the pupils as they spoke with him, watched a dance tribute from a local group & saw all the camera equipment. We continued to celebrate Comic Relief in school too as part of the wider celebrations!



Earliest last year, we took part in the 'Great Kingsclere Run' in school to support our sports partner and staff members who were running in the Great South Run. Little did we know how inspiring an event it could be, leading to one of our Year R pupils setting herself a challenge to walk 10 miles in two days to raise money for a children's charity – Sebastian's Action Trust. They raised an amazing £176.60 and were delighted to be invited to a special ceremony at the Trust! We are thrilled to see the inspiration coming together for our pupils, building initiative and sense of giving. What a wonderful inspiration!

Wishing you all a happy Easter!

Mrs Hannah Melrose

Headteacher



Reflections

As I write, we are just over a fortnight into the brutal Russian attack and invasion of Ukraine. We have witnessed devastation on a large scale as we've seen the result of aerial bombardment and shelling of Ukrainian towns and cities. The scenes are shocking and I find it hard to believe that a country that we visited just 2½ years ago, where our children ran with Ukrainian children out on the street and playing in the forests, is now such a very dangerous place to be. It is deeply sad to think of families sitting in their cold store cellars, friends waiting for the arrival of the Russian army, and little children now enduring the sounds and sights of war.

And yet we were recently sent a video from a friend who lives in Ukraine which was both heart-warming and challenging. The friend is a lady who lives on her own probably in her mid-forties. She lives in a little village outside the city of Cherkassy, which is almost in the centre of the country on the Dnieper River south-east of Kiev. She is helping to coordinate help for refugees fleeing who stay with them for a few nights on their journey east. Her faith is truly remarkable. She spoke of the Lord is such warm terms and how she believed the church was being squeezed to be shown to the world. She shared how the light that the Lord brings is brighter in the valley of the shadow of death, and that she need not fear for God was with her, alluding to Psalm 23 in the Bible.

I was deeply moved and challenged to know what my response would be. Her example of holding onto Him even in the toughest of times is one that inspires me to do the same. And if you'd like to support Christians in Ukraine then please firstly pray, and give. See the Hope Now charity website for details (<https://hopenow.org.uk/>).

Our friend's video also reminds me to hold onto the Lord as we leave this part of the world to begin our training for future work with the organisation Youth with a Mission. We are so grateful to the Lord for our time here and for all He has done, even through the hugely challenging pandemic. We'll miss our life here and our congregation and friends. Thank you and farewell!

Blessings,

Ben



Dear Friends

One of the gifts of the Methodist Church to the wider Christian community is the annual Covenant Service. As part of that service come these words from the thirty first chapter of the book of Jeremiah ...

“... this is the covenant I shall establish with the Israelites after those days, says the Lord: I shall set my law within them, writing it on their hearts; I shall be their God, and they will be my people. No longer need they teach one another, neighbour or brother, to know the Lord; all of them, high and low alike, will know me, says the Lord, for I shall forgive their wrongdoing, and their sin I shall call to mind no more.”

As we travel together towards the end of Lent and begin to prepare for the celebration that is Easter, I think it is appropriate for us to reflect on those words in relation to our own experience of God. For the prophet is describing a time when the people's relationship with God will be so close that they won't need to think about it – it will be second nature to them, like a second skin. The depth of that relationship will be based, not on the good things that have been done or the exemplary lives that have been led, but on the fact that the people's sins have been forgiven. Not forgiven in the human way of forgiveness, but in God's way where they are “called to mind no more”.

When we say “Sorry” to God, he doesn't paint celestial Tippex over our errors so that the error remains on the page of our life, but we can't see it too clearly. Where our regret is real, God grants us the right to begin again: not Tippex, but a whole new sheet of paper without a mark or a blemish on it. What a privilege that is for each and every one of us.

If we are to enter into the celebration of Easter as fully as possible, then we need to recognise that God delights to forgive sins (both personal and communal); for our willingness to seek his forgiveness is a sign of our desire to deepen our relationship with him. As we seek God's forgiveness for ourselves, let us therefore seek and offer forgiveness amongst our community that we may be a community of resurrection, made in the image of our Risen Saviour and reflecting his mercy and love to the world.

Peace to you all this Eastertide,

Rachel.

Services in our churches during April will be as follows:



Sunday 3 rd April	9.30am Holy Communion St Peter's, Headley	10.30am Holy Communion & Junior Church St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thursday 7 th April	10.30am Morning Worship, St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Sunday 10 th April	9.30am Morning Worship St Peter's, Headley	10.30am All-Age Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thursday 14 th April	10.30am Morning Worship, St Mary's, Kingsclere	7.30pm Maundy Thursday Worship, St Mary's Kingsclere
Friday 15 th April	10am Good Friday Worship, St Mary's Churchyard	2.30pm Good Friday Worship, St Peter's, Headley
Sunday 17 th April	9.30am Easter Day Communion St Paul's, Ashford Hill	11am Easter Day Communion & Junior Church St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thursday 21 st April	10.30am Morning Worship, St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Sunday 24 th April	9.30am Morning Worship St Paul's, Ashford Hill	10.30am Morning Worship & Junior Church St Mary's, Kingsclere



Save the Date!

Everyone in our parish is invited to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5th June at St Mary's Church. We will give thanks for her reign during a celebration service at 10.30am, and then move into the churchyard for a Big Jubilee Lunch. Please do save the date and look out for more details in the coming months.

Bell Ringing

On Sunday 6th March a quarter peal of 1260 St Simon's Bob Triples was rung for our vicar Ben Read's final Sunday Service in Kingsclere.

It was also rung to commemorate the centenary of the Kingsclere branch of the Royal British Legion

Helen Piper

Saturday Coffee

Fresh brewed coffee, tea and delicious home-made cakes. All welcome – please pop in!

April 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd - 10.00-12.00

in the Kingsmill Room, St Mary's Church
Volunteers welcome – if you're able to pour coffee, welcome people or make cakes occasionally please do contact the church office on 01635 299528

Kingsclere Methodist Church

Please find below details of services at Kingsclere Methodist Church for April,

Sunday 3rd April - Judith Cole
Sunday 10th April- Jeff Britt
Sunday 17th April - Rev'd Larkinson (Easter Sunday)
Sunday 24th April - Christine Thomas

Services begin at 10 am and all are welcome

Christine Westcombe



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 07422 687125 or email administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

March

- 24th In memory of my parents Chris and Bryan Snook, on what would have been their 60th Wedding Anniversary. This year also marks the 20th and 10th anniversaries of when you left us. Missed every day by Brenda, Jo and Tim, as well as many others.

April

- 2nd Beryl Green on her birthday, with love from all your family
 17th Remembering Nigel Westcombe dearly loved, greatly missed and never forgotten. Chris, Darren, Ryan and Sarah
 25th In memory of Aimee Hardy on what would have been her 32nd Birthday, always loved never forgotten. Love Mum, Don, Samuel, Willum, Meghan and Jude x x
 29th Beryl Green – we can't believe it's been a year since you left us. With love today and every day.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Full Revision of Electoral Roll for St Mary's Kingsclere

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to be held on the **25th April** at 7.30pm in the Kingsmill Room (refreshments from 7pm). This is the occasion when we celebrate what has been happening in our church community over the past year, and conduct business such as elections to the posts of churchwardens and the Church Council.

By enrolling on the electoral roll, you become a voting member of the Church of England and are able to attend and vote at the meeting. It also gives an indication of the real membership and strength of the church in our parish.

If you would like to be added to the roll, please visit the Benefice website: www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk and click on Electoral Roll Form (under "What we Believe").

If however you do not have access to the internet, paper forms can also be found at the back of St Mary's Church. Please complete and return to the Church Electoral Roll Officer or Churchwarden before the deadline.

The deadline for applying to be on the Electoral Roll is **8th April 2022**

The requirements for joining the roll are:

**Being baptized and over the age of 16, willing to declare yourself a member of the Church of England AND*

**Either resident in the parish or have habitually attended worship in the parish for six months prior to enrolment.*

Les Wallace – Church Electoral Roll Officer

Kingsclere Bunnies

We hope all of the lovely mummy's had a wonderful mother's day and had some time to relax.

Easter is just around the corner and to celebrate we will be having an Easter Egg Hunt on the 12th April. We hope all of the little bunnies will be able to join us for the fun.



Please note Bunnies will be closed for one session on the 19th April.

When: every Tuesday, 9am-11am
 Where: The Village Club, George St

Cost: £1 for bumps and unweaned babies. £2 for first child (including snack) and 50p for additional children.

The Kingsclere Tower Delivery Team Urgently Require Help:

Delivery Round details:

Fox Lane, The New House, Cannon Court,
 Ecchinswell Rd (as far as Frobury Farm),
 Fieldgate Drive & Centre, Old Burghclere Rd (as far as Isle Hill),

Approx 45 magazines delivered.

This round requires a volunteer with transport and some village and local area knowledge. Detailed instructions about the round will be supplied.

If you are able to spare a few hours at the end of each month (Jan-Nov) please contact: Brian Elborn T: 01635 298704 M: 07741 075473

Email: b.elborn345@btinternet.com

Your help will be much appreciated.

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd

Our deferred Quiz Night will now be held in the Fieldgate Centre on Friday 22nd April. Doors open at 6.45 p.m., and the Quiz starts at 7.30 p.m. prompt. Numbers are limited to 100, so early booking is recommended!



19. Kingsclere Church in 1840.

Tickets are £15, from Swan Street Stores, or online at ticketsource.co.uk/kingsclere-community-association (as usual, a small booking fee applies). The price includes a good Ploughman's Supper, and two bottles of wine per table of eight; there will also be a Cash Bar and a Raffle. Make up a team of eight, or we will link you with others at the event. This is always a really enjoyable evening, so do come and join us!

Last month's Tower mentioned another unavoidable change to the planned date of the Biennial Art Exhibition kindly organised by Jane Baikie. Jane and we are working hard on securing another date and a suitable venue, as the Kingsmill Room is now devoted to the food bank. When we can go firm on time and place, details will be given in The Tower, and Friends will be invited to a special Preview with wine and nibbles.

Peter Turner, Chairman

A HISTORY OF JOHN PORTER BOOK

Thank you to everyone who saw my recent exhibition on our local legend John Porter, and who has purchased my book, I hope you enjoy reading.

Covering his life and family in Kingsclere, the development of Park House Stables, Kingsclere's Albert Hall, his retirement project Newbury Racecourse, and much more! A5 size, 62 pages, with 114 illustrations,

Further copies should be available from Swan Street Stores @ £6.00 each, £1 from every book in aid of St Mary's Church.

Thank you

Gareth Martin, Kingsclere Local History Association.
GarethAlanMartin@gmail.com

A History of
John Porter.
Legendary Kingsclere Trainer



Gareth A. Martin

KINGSCLERE GARDENING ASSOCIATION



Spring Show

Sunday 3rd April 2022 at The Village Club.

Doors open at 9am for exhibitors to stage their entries and opens to the public at 2pm. We would love to have entries from lots of Kingsclere residents. Show entries usually close a week or so before the day unless the class specifically says "Entry on the day". Please see our Facebook page or email laura@ro-jen.co.uk for a copy of the show schedule. There are also strict rules to follow for staging so if you need advice, please contact us or see Facebook.

We are also co-hosting the Plant Sale this year with FOSM. This will be held on the morning of Saturday 21st May 2022 in St Mary's Church Yard.

Beth Theobald (Secretary) 07916 032250.

Facebook: Kingsclere Gardening Association. Please join our group. News, events and schedules for show entries will be advertised there first.

Our next market is **Sunday 3rd April, 10:00 – 12:30**
at The Fieldgate Centre



Come shop for everyday and special items which will help keep your household 'greener' and prevent packaging waste too.

We will also be accepting for **recycling** at this market:

PLASTIC MILK BOTTLE TOPS	BRAS
SPECTACLES	INKJET CARTRIDGES, original only, not compatible, or laser.

We are looking for more ways to make our area more sustainable. We are already planning a Repair Cafe, Clothing Swap and Toy Exchange –but we need your ideas too!

Please contact us if you would like to be involved in any way and to be added to our mailing list – we promise not to email too often!

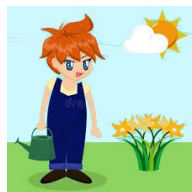
*Market in partnership with the Kingsclere Community Association.

Nicki, Sarah & Lucinda

Email: greenerkingsclere@gmail.com www.Greener-kingsclere.co.uk

April In The Garden

Now that Spring is definitely here, and gardens are looking green and vibrant, it's time to prune early-flowering shrubs, such as forsythia, that have finished giving their wonderful show. Always fertilise after pruning.



The showers and the warmth that comes in April will encourage plenty of growth. This will of course result in food for slugs, which do rather well in this area with the heavy soil. Not everybody is happy to use slug pellets. An alternative is to boil garlic and use the diluted water to spray round plants.

If you are fortunate enough to have a pond, and the plants have become overcrowded, this is a good time to clean it out. Once cleaned plants may be divided and hopefully the pond will be good for another five or six years.

Weeds are also growing. Try to get them out of flower borders before they flower and set seed, otherwise you have a problem for years to come.

Prune any roses not yet done; deadhead and trim hydrangeas; & tie in climbers. Keep planting and dividing perennials, & deadhead daffodils to encourage the bulb to produce flowers the next year. Plant summer bulbs e.g. gladioli and dahlias. Continue sowing hardy annuals and annual climbers. If weather is warm enough plant out sweet peas

Lawns need to be cut regularly and fertilised. Do not leave to grow too long as it will turn yellow when cut short, & will look rather unsightly.

In the vegetable garden, thin out seedlings, sow leeks, fennel, tomatoes, herbs, sweetcorn, & courgettes. Most of these can be sown at intervals to avoid having a glut of a produce all at one time.

Plant main crop potatoes and earth up early potatoes. If you like strawberries mud-free, they will grow happily in pots which can be planted now. Berries and currants need to be fed with a high nitrogen feed to give them a boost

In our gardens this month we can look forward to lily-of-the-valley, dicentra, bergenia, epimediums, early-flowering alpine clematis, aubrieta, aquilegia, & lots of lovely blossom.

Denise Allen

Platinum Jubilee Events Thursday 2nd – Sunday 5th June

Many village organisations have met recently to co-ordinate events for the village on the weekend of the Jubilee.



Thursday night: there will be a beacon/bonfire.

Saturday: will be one of the main attractions with a Jubilee Parade leaving the Holding Field at 2pm, arriving at Fieldgate Centre for 3pm.

We want to encourage all village organisations to participate with some kind of “walking or pushed” entry with themes ranging from Royal to 1950s.

There will two bands at the Fieldgate Centre and food available on a Commonwealth theme.

Sunday: we encourage everyone to have a street party, while there will be a service at the Church followed by a picnic in the Church grounds.

Forms to enrol your organisation will be on the Parish Council and KCA web sites.

Bunting: A number of organisations are considering making bunting, and we are keen for as many people to contribute to this effort as possible. Co-ordination of this activity is to be confirmed, but in the meantime look out any unused fabrics and/or paper and start thinking about your designs!



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, June 19th, 2022

The Hannington Fair

12pm - 4pm

An afternoon of fun & entertainment for all ages
Arena attractions, sideshows, stalls, food, drink, and more
Follow the Fair...@Hannington_Fair
hanningtonfair
www.hanningtonfair.wixsi@com



Whitchurch Silk Mill

We're proud and excited to report that our retiring Chair of Whitchurch Silk Mill Trust was recently presented with an MBE by HRH The Prince of Wales for services to cultural heritage in Hampshire.



Exhibition: Works in Silk, 2 April–3 July

Ribbon weaver Robert Ely's first solo gallery exhibition outside his home county of Devon. Includes wall panels and silk costume ribbons used for film and TV including the BBC's 'Poldark' series.

Easter Holiday Activities

- Wild and Wonderful Family Day, 21 April from 10.30am.
 - An Egg Hunt and Wildlife Photography Workshops.
- Please book at: whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk/events/



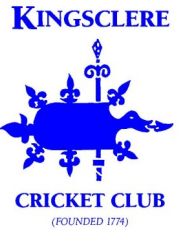
The Blue Lamp Trust charity is a partnership between Hampshire Police, & Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service promoting community safety and security through two schemes:



The Bobby Scheme provides practical home safety and security help and advice. The Cyber Bobby Scheme provides home visits for guidance on IT security. Both services are free of charge, and are available to Hampshire residents over 65, disabled (over 18); victims of burglary, domestic abuse, or cyber crime. Further info at www.bluelamptrust.org.uk/bobby-scheme-choice; email

info@bluelamptrust.org.uk, or call 0300 777 0157

Kingsclere Cricket Club.



Kingsclere Cricket Club is getting ready for the Summer 2022 season starting with indoor nets through the second half of March and the whole for April. Nets will be held in Cheam School's Sports Hall Sunday from 7pm to 9pm. Everyone is welcome, particularly new players (16 and upwards).

We had a brilliant season in 2021 with some outstanding performances including a National Best Batting performance in league cricket by Ed Lyle on 5th June. Ed scored 263 not out in a team score of 437 for 3 wickets off our 40 overs. Funnily enough, Basingstoke 4ths couldn't quite match that!

We have a couple of friendlies on 16th and 30th April before the league season starts on Saturday 7th May. We are also running an U17s side in the North Hants Youth Cricket League and a team in the local midweek evening league.

If it's a while since you "turned your arm over" or hit a "scorching cover drive" but you fancy an enjoyable game of cricket – come and join the rest of us at pre-season nets.

Mark Hirst – Chairman: 07901 118818
Steve Hanney – Club Captain: 07856 584711

Bowling

Need more exercise? Want a new pastime?

Like to make new friends and socialise?

You can do all these by coming to KINGSCLERE BOWLING CLUB.

Following the green opening we shall be holding OPEN EVENINGS on Tuesdays during May starting at 6.30pm for you to give bowling a try – ABSOLUTELY FREE!

Tuition will be given and bowls provided. All we ask is that you wear flat soled shoes or trainers, and are reasonably mobile.

For further information contact Brian Watts on 0118 981 6892 or email brian-watts@btconnect.com or visit www.kingsclerebowlingclub.co.uk.

Kingsclere Bowling Club, William Holding Field, Ashford Hill Road, Kingsclere, RG20 5NY



Nature Notes

A large window overlooks the pond so that as the curtains are opened a daily check can be made. News from a reliable source reported frogspawn in early February which intensified the scrutiny- but as the month slowly slipped away and the length of night shortened all remained calm and orderly UNTIL, the first day of March, the first day of Meteorological Office Spring. Then the surface of the water boiled with heaving bodies each intent on passing on their genes and momentarily oblivious of anything else, such a contrast to the usual placid scene. Their efforts were not in vain and there was a satisfactory amount of spawn in the pond, certainly enough to maintain the frog population and give the fish a little protein. A danger now are sharp frosts, which can strike this time of year, spawn on the surface and exposed turns milky and will not hatch but that, which is submerged, is usually safe in this area as Dickensian winters are rare.

The friendly robin which regarded the garden as part of his territory for two years, coming regularly for suet pellets has yielded to another male. This one is a much shyer bird and unfamiliar with the doorstep hand-outs but nevertheless always welcome. Blue tit numbers appear to be good in spite of a reported low survival rate of chicks last Spring. The bird feeders are awash with blue and great tits, occasional coal tits and marsh tits and sometimes, a blackcap.

Many rooks lost their nests in the exceptionally high winds of February, would they start again? There is plenty of twiggy material to hand (or beak) to rebuild or repair.

Diana Tait and Rod Eldred

Kingsclere Singers

We're glad to be back singing again!
Please come and support the local community and the Kingsclere Singers at their Spring Events

'Voices Together'

Friday 8th April, 7pm St Paul's Ashford Hill

Saturday 9th April, 3pm Fieldgate event in conjunction with the Kingsclere Community Association with special guests Thames Valley Chorus

Tickets are £7.50 and can be bought on the door

www.kingsclere-singers.co.uk Follow us on Facebook

THE KINGSCLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

POLICE, FIRE or AMBULANCE

Police Enquiries/Information

Emergency 999

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 TBA 01635 298471

Church Warden:
Sarah Mussett sarah.mussett@hotmail.co.uk 01635 291900

Administrator:
Emma Rivers
administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk 07790 934972

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 748 4950	Dentist	01635 299981
Gas Emerg.	0800 111999	Age Concern Local Agent	07813 368259
Chemist	01635 298419	Watership Down Health	01635 296000
Kingsclere Library	01635 297464		

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Ken Rhatigan 07850 530319 cllr.ken.rhatigan@basingstoke.gov.uk
Stuart Frost 07961 265719 cllr.Stuart.Frost@basingstoke.gov.uk
Geoff Poland 07967 444137 cllr.geoff.poland@basingstoke.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Tom Thacker 01264 738464 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