

The Kingsclere Tower

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We thought we might have a lot of space to fill this month with so many activities cancelled. However there is a lot of information here from our Parish Council, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council and the Hampshire County Council. There are phone numbers and website links included for you to check the latest information, as things are changing so quickly.

Kingsclere continues to do an excellent job with residents taking care of each other, and we've included some thanks and mentions here. If you'd like to nominate anyone else as a local 'Hero' please email the editor before 12th June.

Take care and stay well.

The Editors

Neither the Editor nor the Management Committee accept responsibility for the opinions expressed or the goods and services advertised in the Kingsclere Tower magazine.

COPY DEADLINE for July 2020 issue: 12 June 2020

Send copy to the editors at 3 Blue Meadow, Garrett Close, Kingsclere or
email: [**kingscleretower@gmail.com**](mailto:kingscleretower@gmail.com)

All contributors MUST include name, address, phone number and/or email

Kingsclere Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr John Sawyer (297221)
Clerk: Louise Porton (298634)
Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk
Office: 37 George St, Kingsclere RG20 5NH
Public Opening: Mon & Wed 9.30am -11.30am



OFFICE OPENING - The Parish Office remains unmanned, but we can be contacted by phone (leave a message) and email. The Clerk is conducting routine business from home.

VE DAY 75 – This event was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions however the Chairman laid flowers early in the morning on 8th May which was recorded and posted on Social Media. The suggestion on veday75.org “to encourage the people of our great country and abroad to stand at 3pm within the safety of their living rooms, front or back gardens, outside their front doors or balconies if they have one, and undertake the Nation’s Toast to the Heroes of WW II, using the following words. “TO THOSE WHO GAVE SO MUCH, WE THANK YOU,” was posted on Social Media and KPC encouraged residents to come out to their front doors in a similar style to the clap for the NHS (and keyworkers) which happens on Thursday Evenings. Many streets in the village held a social distance street party by bringing out their patio tables to the front garden or drive and if that was not possible the footway. Many also returned to their doorsteps after the Queens Speech at 9pm to sing-a-long with Catherine Jenkins for a rendition of “We’ll Meet Again”. In these difficult circumstances it was lovely to the community engage whilst still managing to observe social distancing. Well done everyone.

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – The government is making regular announcements in response to the ongoing outbreak. We are updating information on our website and social media as soon as possible but anything we post should not be a substitute to latest updates from the government <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>.

Plea to motorists outside the shops

Please be considerate of those waiting in line outside the shops (including the butchers & pharmacy) and the volunteers by turning off your engine whilst parked outside. They really don’t like breathing in your fumes but are too polite to say.

Basingstoke and Deane Financial support for residents, communities and local businesses during COVID-19 outbreak:

Financial measures benefitting over 70,000 households and an estimated 1,600 local businesses have been put in place by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to offer support during the COVID-19 outbreak.

All 70,500 households across the borough are automatically receiving a council tax payment holiday in April and May 2020, with council tax bills being issued in coming weeks to confirm payments will resume from June 2020 for 10 months. Working-age residents eligible for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme have also had their council tax bill reduced by up to an additional £200, supporting a further 1,400 households.

Offering particular support to the borough's most vulnerable residents, the council has awarded £200,000 to Basingstoke Voluntary Action, enabling it to provide grants to community groups so that they can provide support and distribute essential supplies to residents unable to leave their homes.

Following the announcement of financial support by the government, the council is also supporting eligible local businesses through a combination of business rates relief and grants.

Leisure, retail and hospitality businesses, as well as early years providers, estate agents, letting agencies and bingo halls, will not pay business rates in the 2020/21 financial year, supporting an estimated 820 local businesses at an additional cost of around £31 million.

Grants of £10,000 and £25,000 have also been made accessible to an estimated 1,600 eligible local businesses at a cost of almost £21 million. So far, grants totalling over £16 million have been paid to over 1,200 eligible businesses.

To further boost the available financial support for businesses, the council has made a three-month rent and service charge holiday available for all 344 small businesses in council-owned properties with annual rents of up to £50,000.

For more information about further support for residents, communities and businesses, visit [**www.basingstoke.gov.uk/coronavirus**](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/coronavirus)

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



facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil



@kingsclerepc

Community volunteers working hard to support vulnerable residents

The Basingstoke and Deane Community Hub has taken over 1,200 calls from vulnerable borough residents following the launch of a new coronavirus helpline.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is working in partnership with Hampshire County Council, Basingstoke Voluntary Action (BVA) and community and voluntary groups to ensure that those most at risk can stay inside their homes and receive deliveries of food and prescribed medication during the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline has been set up for residents who are at higher risk from the virus, are self-isolating and do not have access to any help from family and friends to register for support.

The helpline is available seven days a week, from 9am to 5pm by calling: 0333 370 4000.

If you need support, or know anyone who is vulnerable and has no other access to help, please call the Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline to register for this service so we can ensure you get the supplies you need.

For more information about the Basingstoke and Deane Community Hub visit **www.basingstoke.gov.uk/covid-19-community-hub**

For more information about the support available in Kingsclere please visit **www.bvaction.org.uk/basingstoke-deane-community-hubs**

GREEN WHEELY BINS& GLASS RECYCLING– the collections dates are 3rd and 17th June 2020. Unless we hear otherwise, the reduced emptying schedule to protect services during the Covid-19 outbreak means black/grey waste bins continue to be collected on the opposite weeks ie 10th and 24th June 2020.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – will be at 7:30pm on Monday 29th June 2020, using Zoom Virtual Meeting Software unless government restrictions in place for Covid-19 are lifted, in which case normal meeting procedures will resume in the Village Club. The PM announcement on 10th May 2020 has not changed the councils current arrangement for meetings as it is possible for these to be held remotely without the need for councillors, employees or residents needing to leave home.

Safe and secure accommodation and support for rough sleepers

Rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping in the borough continue to be supported following the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) thanks to the joined up approach of the Basingstoke and Deane Social Inclusion Partnership.

For the borough's most vulnerable people, those known to be rough sleeping in the community, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and partners have ensured safe and secure places are offered or available alongside the continued support of the outreach team and other services and charities within the partnership.

This accommodation includes 10 vacant homes provided by housing association VIVID, supported by church volunteers, the food bank, the night shelter, the furniture project and the outreach team Julian House to furnish the home and provide food parcels and support.

The Social Inclusion Partnership brings together public services, commissioned housing providers, voluntary and faith-based groups and many more with a shared aim to combat homelessness and rough sleeping in the borough. Working together with partner organisations including May Place, Julian House outreach, medical services and citizens advice, the council is ensuring support continues for those most in need during these challenging times.

People who are concerned that a person may be rough sleeping are asked to contact Streetlink by calling **0300 500 0914** or visiting **www.streetlink.org.ukCounty**

Council Update

Tom Thacker, Hampshire County Councillor

Many kind people have volunteered their help to support our county's vulnerable residents during the Coronavirus pandemic. Local people and community groups across Hampshire are showing great strength and resilience, working hard to assist one another.

In addition to the remarkable efforts of local communities, Hampshire County Council has joined forces with district and borough council partners, alongside the county's community and voluntary sector, to ensure vulnerable people are able to access the support they need during the coming weeks.

A new helpline is now available to provide information and advice, as well as practical support to frail or vulnerable Hampshire residents.

The Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline – Hantshelp4vulnerable - can be contacted on 0333 370 4000. (Calls charged at local rate.) Or you can request a call-back from the helpline by completing the call-back request form, available from <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus/volunteer-welfare>.

The helpline is available seven days a week, from 9am to 5pm, and is for vulnerable people who do not have support from families, friends or their local community, and who need assistance with practical issues. Further details can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus/volunteer-welfare>

West Berks Household Waste Recycling Centres

Access will be by appointment only. Appointments should be booked via the West Berks website or by calling **01635 519080**.

Hampshire Household Waste Recycling Centres

Hampshire's HWRCs opened on 11th May for those who cannot store waste safely at home. The temporary revised opening hours are 10am to 4pm.

Use of sites is only for essential disposal of waste whereby storing such waste causes a risk of injury or to health. As per government guidelines, residents in the specified vulnerable category are strongly advised not to visit a site.

Restricted numbers of vehicles will be permitted to access the site at any one time. Only the driver will be permitted to leave the vehicle to handle and dispose of waste. Blue Badge holders are exempt from this rule. Site staff are unable to provide assistance unloading or carrying.

Commercial vehicles are permitted. Vans should bring no more waste than that which would fit in an average saloon car boot, and van permits should be clearly displayed in the window. Trailers are not permitted. No walking in of waste is permitted.

All site users must keep a 2-metre distance from others at all times. Materials not accepted at this time include textiles and chargeable waste streams (soil, rubble, plasterboard and asbestos).

Visit the website for further details at

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus?second=waste-recycling&third=hwrcs>

Hail Our Heroes

Many people and businesses have stepped forward to help others out during this extremely trying time. Our local shops, the volunteers helping with organising safer entry to the shops, neighbours helping neighbour - examples are everywhere of people being helpful, kind and thoughtful. This is happening all over the country, and as usual, Kingsclere has risen to the challenge. Some people have written in with individuals they wanted to celebrate. We applaud their contributions and all the other unsung heroes quietly getting on with it.

“I would like to nominate **Pippa Ashton** as an unsung hero of the Covid-19 crisis, she has supported her community in Garrett Close tirelessly by doing shopping for 5 different families, no easy feat, and spent hours queuing at different supermarkets to ensure everyone got exactly what they wanted and even added little gifts such as Easter eggs for those she has been supporting. She and her husband, Gav, have also been part of the fantastic team marshalling the queues for Swan Street Stores.

Well done Pippa and Gav!”

Susie Allam

“Could I please outline the wonderful and caring help **Monica and Rahj** of the Swan Street Store have provided to the community in Kingsclere and surrounding areas. They organised a group of wonderful helpers to take calls, and deliver groceries to residents unable to leave their homes. This was very impactful, during these times of isolation, especially to the elderly and frail. The unflappable team of Monica and Rahj who have continuous smiles and helpfulness written all over them have certainly given the community of Kingsclere something to be very proud of. Well done to our community heroes.”

Thank you, Sheila

“I would like a special mention for **Pippa Ashton**. Pippa is shopping for 7 households (and her own family) who are self isolating. She spends all day Thursday either at the supermarket or distributing the shopping. She has also volunteered to Marshall at the Village shop.”

With thanks, Sarah Melling

“Special thanks should be given to **Sarah Bates** who, although normally working in the dentistry section of the NHS, is now also doing two 13-hour shifts each week on the Covid Wards in Basingstoke Hospital. Well done and thank you.”

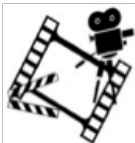
Anonymous

THANK YOU ALL

Book Quiz

The following initials spell out the titles of well-known books. How many can you work out? Answers are at the back of this magazine on page 22.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 To K a M | 14 A P for O M |
| 2 A D in the L of I D | 15 The T of the S |
| 3 Of M and M | 16 The S of the L |
| 4 The D of the J | 17 A's A In W |
| 5 The O C S | 18 a M for A S |
| 6 W A of V W? | 19 W and P |
| 7 G with the W | 20 F F the M C |
| 8 The M W of W | 21 H, P of D |
| 9 J the O | 22 The V of the B |
| 10 The H at P C | 23 A M N D |
| 11 The M on the F | 24 The T of the S |
| 12 M on the O E | 25 A B H of T |
| 13 The D V C | |



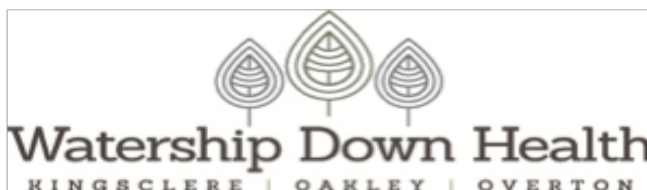
Kingsclere Film Club

While it is frustrating not being able to meet or get out to the cinema, it has been good to hear from a number of you and to lend some DVDs to watch at home. Our TV channels have also been full of great films, so we shouldn't feel too deprived, although viewing on the big screen with others always brings another dimension, and, of course, there the is glass of wine..... The good news is that wine stocks are holding up, so we will be OK when the time comes to reopen!

This month, why not borrow a Hitchcock - Rear Window, Dial M for Murder or Notorious - or a John le Carre adaptation - The Spy who came in from the Cold or Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy? Maybe you are more in the mood for Florence Foster-Jenkins or The Pianist.

Please stay safe and stay in touch.

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



Thank you for your part in our collective response to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Community response and support has been amazing. We feel very fortunate to be part of such a network. Thank you all for the lovely messages, cards, Facebook posts, goodies, essential PPE supplies, scrubs and comments of support for our team. They mean such a lot and are warmly appreciated.

Collaborative working between the NHS, the voluntary sector, social care and our patients has been one of the silver linings of the Covid-19 Pandemic and like so many others, we have had to transform quickly.

We want to update you on the steps we have taken to protect you and our team in this challenging time. We are very much here for you, especially supporting our most vulnerable patients who are shielding. Our practice has worked closely with neighbouring practices in the North Hampshire area, our Hospitals, North Hampshire Urgent Care and 111. Together we have set up and staffed a Covid-19 Assessment Centre and Home Visiting Service with clinicians from all the local practices. Both these services are working well and accessed via the practice.

Routine Non-Covid Care, treatment of long term conditions and screening services like childhood immunisations remain important to us all. We welcome the use of electronic consultations via our website and video consultations. Thank you for adapting the way you access us. Of course, some people still need to be seen face to face. These appointments are currently being provided safely at our Overton and Kingsclere sites after a triage process. In time, we will once again make use of all three of our sites.

Please remember we are here for you. We are working differently and together to keep everyone safe and in line with the motto 'Stay Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives'.

The Partners
Watership Down Health



Kingsclere Community Library

We hope everyone is keeping safe and well. As of this writing, we do not know the reopening date of the Hampshire libraries and our branch. You may check our Facebook page or phone to enquire. We will not open before the other libraries, and it could possibly be later.

Our AGM is normally in May or June. It is postponed this year, but we do not have a new date or plan yet.

If you would like to borrow books, you may download to read online using your library card. Please go to the website - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives>

Our **Jigsaw puzzle loans** are proving extremely popular! You may collect and leave jigsaws just outside the Swan/Bel & Dragon pub, between 10am-5pm daily. Library cards are not needed. Feel free to take what you want and return it when you are done admiring your completed puzzle. Donations needed, please, of any puzzles with no pieces missing.

We still do not know when The Hants County Council will announce their decision about library closures and our future.

Please visit our **Facebook page for news and activities for children.**

Nicki Lee, Kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com , 07899 623872

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Entries drawn first week of each month, various village venues.

St Mary's 200 Club Winner May 2020, no 79, Sylvia Pennington

Well done, Sylvia

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Reflections

It feels overwhelming, doesn't it? I'm not sure about you but that's how I've often felt given everything that is going on at the moment. Whether it be the endless stats on the virus we hear from the news, the loss of contact with family and friends or having to be so careful when we do make contact, the need to keep up with changes beyond our control, or the monotony of each day stretching before us during the lockdown, it is easy to feel overwhelmed.



I've felt confined, trapped, flooded, confused, exhausted. I've been surprised at how quickly I can move from having a great day, enjoying the sunshine, relishing the chance to get on with long overdue jobs, delighting (maybe slight exaggeration!) in the home-schooling of my children, to suddenly feeling overwhelmed again by it all.

Overwhelmed is a good description of how the early followers of Jesus must have felt as they contemplated life on earth without Him. He'd gone up before them into the sky and suddenly they felt themselves alone. They'd been given a mission to share His message but it must have been so daunting as they thought of completing the task without Him. Thankfully, He'd promised that a power would come and that for the meantime all they needed to do was wait. Last Sunday, as a church, we remembered the coming of that Power, the coming of the Holy Spirit on the disciples at the festival which we know as Pentecost, or Whitsun.

Now that day was overwhelming for the disciples. They were all together in one place and they heard the sound of a mighty wind which filled the place where they were and then fire appeared and rested on them. Then they suddenly found words bursting out of their mouths, praising God but in a language they did not understand. What an event!

God did something in them that day and gave them the promise of always being with them by the Holy Spirit. The Jesus they thought had left them had returned in a new way to help them as they lived the life he'd called them to.

At this time, when we feel overwhelmed, let's ask that the Holy Spirit might come into our lives and overwhelm us with the presence, power and love of Jesus, so that we can face the days and weeks ahead.

Blessings,

Ben

St. Mary's Church



St. Mary's Church in 1865

Worship

Our church building is still closed, but the Church is God's family and isn't restricted to one place. Join us for live-streamed worship each **Sunday at 10am on Youtube**. Search for us on YouTube or follow the link on our homepage below. If you don't have access to the internet you are able to dial in to the service and listen to it on a phone. Please get in touch with Emma (details below) who can explain how!

Food donations

We have received donations of food and toiletries/household products which we are able to give to those in need locally. If you are able to donate any dried or tinned goods or household/laundry products or if you know someone in need or are in need yourself, please contact Emma.

Prayer and Friendship

We have a team of volunteers who have offered to be available to speak to those who might need a phone call. Perhaps you are isolating at home alone and just want to speak to someone occasionally? Perhaps you would like someone to pray with? If so please contact Emma who can put you in touch with someone. We are here for our community now, as always. Please do get in touch if there is anything we can help with.

Rev Ben Read: 01635 298471 or vicar@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

Emma Rivers (administrator) 0779 0934972 administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk
www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

The Church of England has introduced a free phone line which is available all day every day. It has been set up to help those without an internet connection to have access to worship services, recorded hymns and prayers.

DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns,
 reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

Kingsclere & Ashford Hill with Headley Churches

Service pattern changes 2020

At this very strange time, with us unable to meet as we would normally on Sundays because of coronavirus restrictions, it seemed an ideal time to review our Sunday services across each of our churches. Both PCC's (Parochial Church Councils) had discussions during recent virtual meetings, and paid particular attention to feedback from various congregation members which is outlined below.

Timing: 11a.m. traditional services are too late, affecting plans for lunch and meeting up with family. and 9:15 contemporary services are too early, affecting ability to attend and ability to invite others.

Frequency: More mid-morning services in Ashford Hill & Headley churches

Lay involvement: For Bryony (White) who has renewed her license as an LLM (Licensed Lay Minister) to be involved in leading services in Headley and in Ashford Hill churches.

After thought and prayer, and having considered the feedback, we discussed and agreed the below service pattern which we intend to begin as soon as we are given permission to meet again. This new pattern means that Bryony can take two services at 9:30 in Headley and Ashford Hill (noted "Lay Led with Homily" on the following page). Worship leaders with a Bishop's Commission for Mission will lead a service once a month minimum, Ben joining them to preach part way through (noted "Lay Led" in the table on the following page).

Breakfast in Kingsclere will continue before the 10.30am service, and coffee after all 9.30 and 10.30am services across the benefice will continue as well so as to enable us to catch up with our church family.

Children's groups will continue to meet in Kingsclere at every service apart from the All-Age Messy Service on the second Sunday where everyone, young or old, join together for worship. We've listened to feedback on this service and sought to make this as much as possible a service which enables adults to worship as well as children. These changes will be kept under review and if you have any feedback, please do get in touch.

We hope the new pattern will enable more people to be able to worship with us and to get involved in our mission as a church to *Follow Jesus, Love God's Family and Bless Others*. We look forward to the day when we can meet again for worship together on a Sunday.

INTENDED SERVICE PATTERN CHANGES POST LOCKDOWN

	8.00 a.m. BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER	9.30 a.m. COMMON WORSHIP	10.30 a.m.
1st Sunday	Headley Holy Communion	Kingsclere Holy Communion	Kingsclere Morning Worship
2nd Sunday	Kingsclere Holy Communion	Headley Morning Worship Lay led with Homily	Kingsclere All-age Messy Worship
3rd Sunday		Ashford Hill Morning Worship Lay led with Homily	Kingsclere Communion Service
4th Sunday		Ashford Hill Holy Communion	Kingsclere Morning Worship Lay led
5th			Communion Service

Lighting up St Mary's

The sight of St Mary's Church when it is floodlit is truly beautiful. Many people sponsor these lights to celebrate an occasion, such as a birthday, wedding, anniversary, christening, or some other special day in their lives.

To book contact: **Emma, Church Administrator, tel 07790 934972**

June 5th In loving Memory of Eric Rampton, a wonderful Husband, father and grandfather.

June 6th Many congratulations to Caroline and Chris Redstall on your Golden Wedding Anniversary. Love and best wishes from the Newport family x

NO CAMARADERIE MEETING IN JUNE

Unfortunately, there will be no Camaraderie meeting on June 3rd as the government will not permit such gatherings. Please see the July Tower notice to read news of the projected meeting on 5th August.

Many thanks. We all send our best wishes,
Sarah Davis, Wendy Morgan, Pam Kitch

What I Would Do When I Escape?

What I'd do if I could escape for a day would be to drive to Mottisfont near Romsey.

Many Tower readers will know this interesting old house, originally a medieval priory but added to in the 18th century to make a country house. Here and there you can catch glimpses of bits of exposed wall paintings and carvings from the medieval times. The extensive grounds contain many magnificent old trees and however crowded the car park is you can always find a peaceful spot to rest, picnic, watch children playing games and rolling down the banks.

I particularly enjoy the walks along the river looking at the brown trout swimming among the reeds and over the stones in the clear water, then criss-crossing the little bridges till you reach the wooden shepherd's hut. In late May to July the walled rose garden is a special wonder with its variety of old roses, the beds beautifully planted with shrubs, perennials and espalier fruit trees against the old brick walls - all labelled so you know what you are looking at.

Maud Russell, a previous owner of Mottisfont, loved entertaining, especially 'bright young things' from the '30s, and a legacy from this era is the stunning and intriguing 'trompe l'oeil' drawing room painted by Rex Whistler where you can imagine Noel Coward playing the piano, cocktails before dinner and lots of gossipy chit-chat. The Derek Hill [a guest of the Russells'] collection of paintings on the ground floor is well worth a visit, there are lots of early works by well-known artists, and the top floor, formerly servants' quarters, is now open for changing exhibitions.

I know I would relish the chance of being refreshed by a day at Mottisfont with its fine grounds and interesting exhibits, (also the drive there along the old Roman road has beautiful views) before returning to lock down. Oh, and did I mention the teas? - an essential part of any National Trust visit!

Clare Risoe



Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands WI

Venue: Kingsclere Village Club,
35 George Street

Like so many other contributors to our Tower magazine, we pine for something new to tell you. But, the odds are against us. That notwithstanding, our terrifically reliable little publication remains ‘a voice of the people’ and gives us the opportunity to tell you how we are thinking, feeling and hoping.

The month of May just passed would have seen our W.I.’s Annual Meeting take place. Our printed Members’ Programme June 2020 to May 2021 went out two months earlier than usual. Our fond, accompanying letter was our way of holding hands at a distance. A moment to reflect upon: All of the fine speakers or presenters booked for the year have taken a hard hit. They have lost out all ‘round so we’ve been keeping in touch with them also.

The WI is in it for the long haul to overcome circumstances as best we can. Our enduring hope is not just to retain but to expand our membership once freedom has replaced Lockdown. We desperately wish to attract more members of all ages. This is absolutely the ideal ‘way to go’ since all organisations and groups must gear up to fully participate in the revitalisation of our society.

We are looking ahead to FREEDOM and not for the first time. This mindset is what brought about the creation of the Women’s Institute as part of a recovery process required to counteract the destructive impact of The Great War. Well, Covid-19 is our adversary in this New Great War. Scientists and medics are in the frontline of this fearsome combat. Your local W.I., must be content with being only a ‘back-up’.

Our weapons of choice are hope, discipline and determination. We acknowledge that we’re up against a heavyweight enemy: determinism, ‘the acceptance that all things, including the will, are determined by causes’. By causes like pandemics; but we press on. In doing so we wish you all everything of the best. We hope for all of us that much good, kindness and unexpected improvements may still emerge out of and after these extraordinary times - in the not-too-distant future at that!

Nova Saunderson – 01635 299570

The Village Club

Even though our doors have been closed to the general public for several weeks now, our trustees and volunteers have still been working to move our large maintenance projects forward, and ensure the Club is ready to re-open when we get the nod.



Our “energy efficiency” project to replace the heating systems, external doors and windows throughout the club is live on [TheGoodExchange.com](https://www.thegoodexchange.com) meaning you can donate online and the Greenham Trust will match the donations £ for £. We are also starting a second capital project to replace part of the original roof where the slates are no longer waterproof. Whilst we have put aside money over recent years in readiness, we will still need to top this up with grants and donations.

Lock down has given us a chance to implement long planned changes to move the room hire bookings and enrollments onto the classes we administer on-line. As regards room bookings, if you are a regular hirer and have not yet received instructions or have questions about setting up your account, now is a good time to get in touch to smooth this out. Our AGM, originally planned for June, has been deferred and we plan to set a new date for September hoping that social distancing rules will allow people to attend.

We are looking for some help on a short term voluntary basis for someone with a computer, internet connection and good social skills to help us prepare for when lock down is eased. Please email me at **chairman@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk**, call on **298370** or connect via facebook. So, if you are feeling a little bored or cut off, this could help you to recover your mojo.

Finally, thank you to the volunteers who have come forward to help us revamp our website (still in progress), maintain the gardens and decorate the Club for the 75th anniversary of VE day.

We look forward to welcoming you back soon. Best wishes and keep safe.

Sharon Morris

June in the Garden

The weather should be getting warmer now, so keeping plants watered is essential. A good watering once a week will keep plants growing well, rather than a small splash every day. Afterwards add some mulch round the plants as this will keep the moisture in the soil.

There will probably be gaps in the flower border, as the early flowering plants will be dying back, these spaces can be filled with summer bedding plants. Some annual seeds can still be sown now to prolong the flowering season in the border. Dead heading also helps many plants to flower longer. It can be a rather boring job but often worth it.



This is the time to plant hanging baskets. I like to cut a plastic bottle down so that it's a little like a funnel, place this in the basket so that it is easy to water. As the neck end will be inside the soil the water will enter the soil instead of flying off the surface if the basket dries out.

The Lilac will have finished flowering, take off the dead flowers if possible; they look very sad and this will help the new growth. Of course if the shrub has gotten too large now is a good time to give it a good prune. You may have to forfeit flowers next year but the shrub will be more manageable. There will be other shrubs that have flowered that need to be cut back e.g. Philadelphus and Weigela. Giving the shrubs a feed after the prune will help the new growth.

It is time to tie in climbing and rambling roses. Roses will often throw up suckers. To remove them you need to go below the soil level a few inches and pull away the sucker from the root stock.

Hellebores can have any old leaves taken off and seed heads removed. The seeds can be sown but be warned that if seed heads are left on the whole garden will be covered in baby plants by next spring.

The Chelsea chop is good way to keep down tall growing perennials. Normally done Chelsea show week, but I would still do it now, particularly if I had gotten behind with the garden. Taking off a few inches, they will flower a little later but will be tidy.

Lawns are growing rapidly so don't forget to feed. Try not to cut too short as this could cause moss to grow in the bare patches.

There is plenty to do in the vegetable garden. French and Runner beans can be planted out, and also tomatoes. Seeds for salad leaves can be planted at intervals so they don't all come at once.

June is the month for Sweet peas and Roses; hopefully we shall have the perfect weather for them.

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group



We can't believe how long it has been since we have seen all of our bunnies, we hope that you have been all able to enjoy the lovely weather and keep entertained through these strange times.

We are all missing going out and about and visiting places that we have been used to exploring, enjoying and letting off steam. There are a lot of online alternatives for various groups, but this month we wanted to give a shout out to all of the local cultural, heritage and tourist attractions who have come up with a wide range of virtual activities for children over the last few months. So whether it's storytime at the library, digital activities from the Corn Exchange Newbury, learning how to weave at Whitchurch Silk Mill or culture on call from Hampshire Cultural Trust, there is something for everyone!

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

villagebunniestoddlergroup@gmail.com

Kingsclere Royal British Legion

The 75th anniversary of VE Day will have been and gone and we hope that you all managed to spare a moment to those who have gone before us. I know many in the village put up flags, bunting and banners marking VE Day and to bring some colour to the village and our thanks go out to those who support the day.

On a more positive note, the Kingsclere Poppy Appeal total for the period (October 2019 through to September 2020) stands at a massive **£7836.50** – our thanks to all who donated and who continue to donate; every single penny makes a massive impact on our Veterans, Serving Armed Forces and their dependants.

The current restrictions have put some of our all year fund raising on hold, but we will be back with even more determination to increase this superb total soon! The RBL is there for its beneficiaries during these difficult times and they 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, and if you are unsure if you qualify or have any specific questions please do contact me.

Your village branch of the RBL plans to combine the postponed VE Day events with those planned for VJ Day in August along with other village organisations and details will be published once future limitations on movement are known.

Planning is underway to ensure our November 2020 Remembrance Day events go to plan and we are also planning to mark the centenary of the village War Memorial, which is 100 years old in late November. If you need a wreath, cross or similar items throughout the year, please do contact me.

Although our monthly meetings (every first Tuesday from 7pm at The Crown) are suspended, much of our activities can be viewed on our Facebook site; “Kingsclere Royal British Legion”. Search for the site via FB and ask to join. There is no need to be ex-military to join the RBL.

Mark Holden, 01635 628004

Nature Notes

June's Notes are essentially garden based but time and sunny days have resulted in opportunities to observe its wildlife. A robin is delighted to have a personal takeaway offering suet pellets. A gentle trill from the fence announces that the customer is waiting. Two pellets will be consumed on site but a third is ferried away to a nearby hedgerow. Three pellets are the accepted ration and a fourth is refused, so no panic buying there.

All day the squeaky wheel of a fairy bicycle sounds from the tall hedge bounding the garden. Not a fairyland creature but a bullfinch constantly piping its slightly mournful two-note call, seldom seen but always there. The lovely rose pink, grey and black capped male visits the bird feeders only occasionally and then but briefly.

Early Spring saw reasonable numbers of Brimstone butterflies to be followed closely by Peacocks; these two species steal a march on others as they over winter as butterflies and so are ready to emerge as temperatures rise. More recently Orange Tips have visited and also restless Holly Blues.



Garden pond news is not so good. It has been a poor year for spawning and few frogs have been seen. Only one small clump of frogspawn was laid so frog numbers will not get a boost from this source and they need all the help they can get.

Stepping outside of the garden: As contractors have not cut green areas we are going to see a wonderful flowering of Mallow on some of the verges in the next few days (10/5), most years it is slashed down along with the other 'weeds'.

Finally, we haven't heard a cuckoo yet but reliable sources report having heard them calling.

Diana Tait and Rod Eldred



Overton and District

Have you noticed something different about the U3A Logo? Many of you will be familiar with term University of the Third Age (U3A) but recent research showed the need to raise the profile to make it more accessible. One of the initiatives to achieve this has been to change the strapline to 'Learn, laugh, live'. The "U3A" wants to be recognised as a leader in positive ageing for the wellbeing of older people.

We held our last monthly talk in February when our guest speaker was John Pilkington. His talk 'To Eritrea and Ethiopia, Retracing a Victorian Expedition', covered the bid our government made in 1868 to rescue a group of European hostages in the Ethiopian highlands. They built a Red Sea port, then a railway across the coastal plain, and finally imported 44 Indian elephants and commissioned 26,000 local people to serve the soldiers and carry their heavy guns into the heart of Africa. A hundred and fifty years later, John followed in their footsteps and spoke about all the changes that have swept through Eritrea and Ethiopia since. His talk was beautifully illustrated with a series of slides and enthusiastically received by members.

There will probably be no monthly (including the AGM) or group meetings until September, but we remain hopeful of going ahead with our summer outing to The Weald and Downland Living or West Dean Gardens and an August Tea Party, but this will depend on Government Guidance nearer the time. I have become aware that our last Newsletter, published toward the end of March, did not reach all our members despite a second attempt at mailing and for this I apologise. If you are a U3A member and have not received your copy, please email me and I will send you one.

Lizzie Lewis lizbettlewis@outlook.co8

BOOK QUIZ ANSWERS (Questions on Page 8)

1 To Kill a Mockingbird, 2 A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovitch, 3 Of Mice and Men, 4 The Day of the Jackal, 5 The Old Curiosity Shop, 6 Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolfe, 7 Gone with the Wind, 8 The Merry Wives of Windsor, 9 Jude the Obscure, 10 The House at Pooh Corner, 11 The Mill on the Floss, 12 Murder on the Orient Express, 13 The da Vinci Code, 14 A Prayer for Owen Meanie, 15 The Taming of the Shrew/ The Turn of the Screw, 16 The Silence of the Lambs, 17 Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, 18 A Man for all Seasons, 19 War and Peace, 20 Far from the Madding Crowd, 21 Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, 22 The Voyage of the Beagle, 23 A Midsummer Night's Dream, 24 The Turn of the Screw/The Taming of the Shrew, 25 A Brief History of Time

Keeping fit with your daily walk?

One of the joys of living in Kingsclere is that there are numerous walks you can take in a variety of directions from your own front door. So why not stretch your legs and go a little further! The walk starts at the top of Bear Hill. However, in more benevolent times you could start and finish the walk at the Royal Oak pub in Ecchinswell. The walk is 7½miles long, so it takes about 3 hours. It is not too severe though the climb up to the Gallops on Watership Down will get the blood moving!

The walk takes you down the Gallops off the Sydmonton road and then following a track to the foot of Watership Down. Once at the top you have the splendid view across to Sydmonton Court and beyond to Greenham Common. From the Downs you walk down the track which you meet just after crossing the Nuthanger Down road. Descending to Sydmonton it is just a couple of hundred yards before you turn right to take you on the public footpath through Sydmonton Court. Pass Watership Farm and turn left when you reach the public road and you enter Ecchinswell where once upon a time you could reward yourself with a well-earned drink at the Royal Oak! Return to Kingsclere via Frobury Park Copse and crossing the Ecchinswell Road to the barn on Bishop's Hill.

Thanks to John Dain for the walk.

Mike Stokoe

