



The Kingsclere Tower

50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION 1965-2015



The Kingsclere Tower

50th Anniversary Issue -

From the Vicar,

"What's this, then? No, it isn't just another circular, not even a sort of local newspaper. Then what is it? Well, first of all, it's free..."

Thus began the first edition of the Kingsclere Tower magazine in **June 1965** – a double sided single sheet of foolscap paper handwritten by Vicar David Shearlock. As 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of that first edition, we thought it would be of interest to many villagers to take a look back over the last 50 years of the Tower and consider what's changed, and what remains the same! The Management team and former editors have pored over piles of archive issues and extracted a few representative articles from each decade. We hope you enjoy a few blasts from the past in this special anniversary edition.

Village Magazines before The Tower

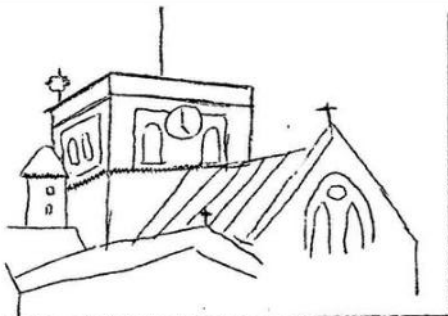
The Tower wasn't the first village magazine. Around the turn of 19th/20th century the **Kingsclere Parish Magazine** was a single folded sheet with information about church services, baptisms, weddings, funerals, notices etc. These were bound with **The Church Monthly** (a national publication) into annual volumes. A number of volumes between 1891 and 1913 are deposited with village archive:

The Kingsclere Review (1946-1950) was two folded sheets (8 sides), price 3d, carrying two sides of adverts, plus an editorial, church calendar, register and news, birthdays, and village news from the WI to the cricket club.

From 1951, Kingsclere joined with other local parishes (Wolverton with Ewhurst, Ecchinswell with Sydmonton, Kingsclere Woodlands (Ashford Hill) and Headley) to have one magazine between them, entitled "**Your Parish Magazine**". Priced at 3d, it comprised 4 sheets of local information bound around the diocesan pages, with several sides of adverts.

The Tower Magazine

That first hand-written edition of "**The Kingsclere Tower**" in June 1965 contained a fairly crude line drawing of the church roof and Tower top left, and began with a letter headed, "From the Vicar", which is reproduced overleaf.



NUMBER 1 - JUNE, 1965

THE KINGSCLERE TOWER

FROM THE VICAR

WHAT'S THIS, THEN? NO, IT ISN'T JUST ANOTHER CIRCULAR, NOT EVEN A SORT OF LOCAL NEWSPAPER THEN WHAT IS IT?

WELL, FIRST OF ALL, IT'S FREE : PERHAPS IN A FEW MONTHS WE MAY GET MORE AMBITIOUS AND HAVE MORE PAGES AND SOME ADVERTS, AND THEN

WE MIGHT HAVE TO ASK YOU FOR A FEW COPPERS EACH MONTH. BUT TO START WITH IT COSTS YOU NOTHING, AND WE AIM TO DELIVER A COPY EACH MONTH TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD IN THE PARISH OF KINGSCLERE

IF YOU THINK IT'S WORTH THE PAPER IT'S PRINTED ON (WHICH IS ABOUT TWOPENCE A SHEET) THEN WE WON'T SAY NO TO A SMALL DONATION.

OUR MAIN OBJECT IN THIS NEWS-LETTER IS TO LET YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR PARISH CHURCH AND ITS PEOPLE ARE DOING AND THINKING. DURING THE NEXT 2 OR 3 MONTHS YOU SHOULD RECEIVE A VISIT FROM THE PEOPLE WHO DELIVER THIS TO YOU. THEY COME TO YOU NOT ONLY AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHURCH, BUT ALSO AS FRIENDS. I HOPE YOU WILL WELCOME THEM, AND ASK THEM IN, AND REALISE THAT THIS IS A PARISH WHICH IS TRYING TO KNOW, SERVE AND CARE FOR PEOPLE.

IF I HAVEN'T YET DONE SO,

HOPE TIME TO HAVE THE PRIVILEGE TO VISIT YOU IN YOUR HOME. OBVIOUSLY THIS TAKES TIME IN A PARISH OF OVER 2000 PEOPLE.

MEANWHILE IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO PERSONALLY FOR YOU, DO NOT HESITATE TO SEND FOR ME AT ANY TIME OF DAY OR NIGHT, OR COME ROUND TO THE VICARAGE, WHERE YOU WILL BE MOST WELCOME.

I WOULD LIKE TO FINISH BY THANKING YOU FOR THE VERY FRIENDLY WELCOME WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE PEOPLE OF KINGSCLERE DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS.

YOUR SINCERE FRIEND & VICAR,

David Shearlock

SUNDAY SERVICES : 7.30 a.m.
8.00 a.m.
9.30 a.m.
11.15 a.m.
6.00 p.m.

MATINS (said)
HOLY COMMUNION
PARISH COMMUNION AND SERMON
SUNDAY SCHOOL
EVENSONG AND SERMON.

WEEKDAY SERVICES : SEE CHURCH NOTICE BOARDS

YOUR VICAR IS THE REVD. D. J. SHEARLOCK ; B.A. 'PHONE KINGSCLERE 272

1966

THIS IS WHY I AM CONFIDENT IN ASKING MEN AND WOMEN, AND BOYS AND GIRLS TO BRING ME A DONATION ON OUR GIFT DAY, FRIDAY, JUNE 25th.

I SHALL BE SITTING OUTSIDE THE CHURCH FROM 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. ON THAT DAY, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THEN. IT MAY NOT BE VERY WISE TO SET A TARGET, BUT WE'RE HOPING TO RECEIVE WELL OVER £100.

"MAN," SAYS MARTIN LUTHER, "NEEDS TWO CONVERSIONS, ONE IN HIS HEART AND ONE IN HIS PURSE"

o WIVES PLEASE NOTE

DOES YOUR HUSBAND SING IN HIS BATH? IF SO, AND IF THE NOISE ISN'T TOO UNBEARABLE, SEND HIM ALONG TO CHOIR PRACTICE ONE FRIDAY EVENING AT 7, AND WE WILL TAKE HIM IN HAND!

The first twelve editions continued to be handwritten, but by June 1966 it was typed and carried a few advertisements. David Shearlock wrote his last letter in August 1971, and The Tower then continued pretty much in the same format under Rev Robert Legg's editorship (Jan/Feb 1972 - December 1982).

Now that I have visited over 90 per cent of the homes of this parish, I have had the opportunity not only of meeting over 2000 people, but also of hearing your views on many subjects. When "The Kingsclere Tower" is mentioned, some say "Why don't you have it typed and smartened up a bit?" and others say, "Don't have it typed - it's more personal written by hand." Anyway, we've had a year of handwriting, so now we'll try out a year of typing - and please do not hesitate to let me know your opinion of these changes.

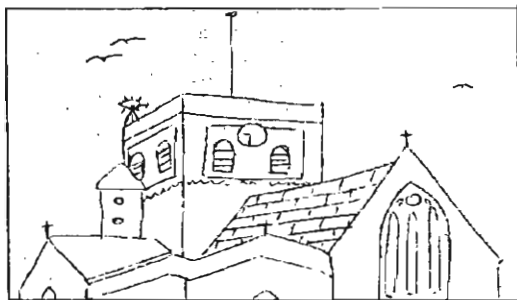
Finally, you may be interested to know that the re-arrangement of the internal layout of the Church is well under way, and every comment I have heard has been entirely favourable. Before the Bishop comes on July 10th. to dedicate our new work, we are having a "Church Cleaning Week" (July 4th - 9th) ; if you can use a brush or a duster, please get in touch with Mr.E.G.Friend, 4 Cottington Close, who will soon find you a job!

Your sincere friend and Vicar,

David Shearlock

1960s

England won the Football World Cup (1966), The Beatles released 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band' (1967), man walked on the moon (1969), and Concorde made its maiden flight (1969). Locally, the Clere School opened in September 1966, whilst the Litten School closed in the same year and the new primary school was built on Parsons Mead.



NUMBER 13

- JUNE, 1966

THE KINGSCLERE TOWER

FROM THE VICAR

:

"ONE YEAR OLD"

"The Kingsclere Tower" celebrates its first birthday this week, our first edition having been published in June, 1965. From the many comments I have had, this newsletter is certainly serving a useful purpose. As I said in our first issue, our main object is to let you know what your Parish Church and its people are doing and thinking - and I sincerely hope that we have been able to do just that in our first twelve issues.

You will have noticed that we start our second year with a new look, the main changes being that we now have a few advertisements, and that the newsletter is now typewritten. I would like you to know the reasons for these changes.

The first one is quite simple: the adverts help to cover our production costs. Remember that 10,000 copies are produced annually, and we make no charge, so the expenses are quite high. Many people have valued this newsletter enough to pay us 2/6 or 5/- for their year's supply, and the more people who do this, the happier we shall be. But basically, we want "The Kingsclere Tower" to be handed free to every household in the parish.

EVERY DAY WE PRAY STREET
BY STREET FOR THE PEOPLE
OF OUR PARISH

1st - 4th.: Greenlands Road
5th - 11th.: Hollowshot Lane
12th - 18th.: King John Road
19th - 25th.: Knowl Hill
26th - 2nd.: Larch Drive

April '67

Some of the pews in the Church have become rather rickety over the years, and they are now under repair by voluntary workers. It would be a help if worshippers would remember that the small bookrest in each pew is not designed to take the weight of• someone rising from their knees

Feb '67

Vicar lost diary

The Vicar has lost his diary for 1967, in which were written all his appointments for the year: as his memory is so undependable, this is nothing short of a tragedy! If he has made any arrangements with any parishioner for any events during the year (especially weddings), would they please contact him at once.

Aug '70

Oct '70

Overheard in the Church porch "Our Vicar's sermons are wonderful. Like the peace of God, they pass all understanding, and like the mercy of God, they endure for ever."

DID YOU HEAR...

about the Vicar who was driving very fast in his sports car, and had to scream to a halt to avoid crashing into another car? As the other driver stalked angrily across to him, the Vicar pulled out of his pocket one of the cards he used for dropping into peoples' letter-boxes when there was no reply. Silently he handed over the card, which read: "The Revd. John Smith is sorry to have missed you, but hopes to make contact with you next time."

1970s

Britain's currency went decimal (1971); we joined the European Community (1973); coal strikes resulted in the three-day week (1973), Punk arrived on the music scene (1977) and Sony invented the Walkman (1979). From Park House Stables, Mill Reef won the Epsom Derby in 1971.

FROM THE VICAR : THANK YOU

My final article in "The Kingsclere Tower" is bound to start on a note of thankfulness.

Aug '71

In this I am joined by my wife and children too, because we have all enjoyed beyond measure our time in this Parish.

When we first came to Kingsclere seven years ago, what really impressed us most was the warmth of the welcome we received from the people of the village. Since then, you, our friends, have given us so much for which we are thankful - your encouragement, your help, your support, your friendship.

It is, of course, a dangerous exercise to look back too deeply into the past, because it stops us from living in the present, and from preparing for the future. Yet I can't help re-echoing the last words of Cecil Rhodes, "So little done, so much to do." As I look back over these last few years, I can't help thinking that whoever comes here next as Vicar will have plenty of work to do!

April '72

New Primary School

David Shearlock

By the time that this is published it is hoped that the new building for the Infants of the Primary School will have been handed over by the builder. At this time it is interesting to look back to the start of free education in Kingsclere. The will of John Norman, Vicar of Kingsclere, proved on 15th September 1554 provided that - "Item I give and bequeathe one hundreth poundes to be levyed of my plate and other my money, to a priest to teache a Socle in Kingiscierye by the space of tenne yeres. And he to have for his stipend yerely Ten pounds by the yere....And he to teache the Scollers of the pishe (parish) of Kingsclere freely, requyryng nothing for their teaching."

Jun '71

Gift Day this year is Friday June 26th, when the Vicar will be sitting outside the Church, from 8.30. a.m. to 7 p.m. If you do not already support the work of our Church financially, for example through Christian Stewardship, he will be happy to receive your gift some time on that day. Incidentally, don't arrange anything special for that date as it usually rains:

Jul '73

PLANT A TREE IN '73

The Kingsclere Gardening Association would like to offer help to anyone wishing to plant a tree on their own land. The Association would be pleased to advise anyone unsure of what to plant where, (or equally important, what not to plant) and to suggest suitable trees and the best varieties, where to buy, and how to care for them. Members of the Association would also be pleased to help anyone who through age or illness would like practical help in tree planting.

As a guide prices are likely to be from £1 to £3 each for shrubs, fruit, ornamental or forest trees.

Catalogues, reference books, pictures and advice will be available at the Association's shows on the 14th July and 18th August. Anyone unable to attend should ask a committee member or write to the Chairman, Mr. M. B. Sharman at 9 King John Road.

Dec '74

THE KINGSCLERE PLAYERS are once again rehearsing two one-act plays - "The Rats" a thriller by Agatha Christie and "Shepherd's Pie", a comedy by Mabel Constanduros and Howard Agg. The plays will be presented in the School Hall on Friday and Saturday 6th and 7th December at 8 p.m. Admission by programme, price 20p from Mrs. G. Saunders or at the door.

Mar '77

Camera Club

A small group of enthusiasts have formed a camera club. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17th March 1977 at 7-30pm in the Village Hall, when members will show slides and photographs. Anyone interested in photography will be welcome to join. For further details contact Bob Brooker or John Phillips.

The Kingsclere Bypass

Oct '82

Dear Friends,

The departure of the heavy traffic from our streets has brought a welcome sense of peace, and a reminder of what can be done when all work together because we are thoroughly aroused.

Peace is something which most desire, though we may be divided as to the way to achieve it. Perhaps more of us could be united in prayer if we were to take seriously One World Week, October 17th to 24th, which is also the week of Prayer for world Peace.

October 24th marks the end of the week. It is also the 300th anniversary of the arrival of the English Quaker, William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. On that day bells throughout England and America will ring to proclaim the principles for which he stood

"human rights, religious toleration, freedom under the law, and peace within and between all nations,"

It is planned that our own bells should ring, together with those of the other 26 towers in our district, and so on throughout the land

Yours sincerely,
The Vicar

Reply

To the Reverend Robert Legg

I ask your. pardon, if I. beg

To differ on your comment here,

"No heavy traffic in Kingsclere".

Lorries, cars and buses zoom
within six inches of my room,
Twenty tonners bounce with glee,
And knock great lumps off "43".



stained glass is fine to hide behind,
Rose tinted glasses suit the blind,
will you take that statement back?
it's mean to say, "I'm all right Jack".
Swan Street is busy all day long,
in fact, Dear Sir, you've got it wrong!
I am your most obedient, Sir,
A large, irate, parishioner.

1980s

The miners' strike began (1984); the Berlin wall fell (1989), and Tim Berners-Lee created the World Wide Web (1989). The Kingsclere Bypass opened in 1982, and the first missiles arrived at Greenham Common Base in 1983.

Revd Peter Robbins (Vicar June 1983-90) arrived and expressed a wish to enlarge the magazine to contain village information. The August 1983 issue announced that a small committee had been appointed to discuss the future of the Tower:

*"The group was unanimous in seeing a future for the Tower and hoped that it might be developed somewhat. In the past there have been two types - the newsheet distributed to every house and the same incorporating additional church matter. A possible development envisaged was a free magazine largely financed by revenue from advertising, but considerably enlarged from its present size. Such an enterprise would only be possible if there were **quite an army of volunteers** to share the burdens of production."*

In January 1984 the first edition of the new enlarged magazine was produced in A5 format with 20 pages including advertising. Les Wallace was the editor, and the production team included Tony Bird, Paul Ganterton, Rev Peter Robbins, Vic Siebert and Joan White. Su Winstock managed the advertising, the layout of ads was done by Mrs S Pennington and the typing was done by Mrs Pat Palmer of 'Inscribe'; the January 1984 edition contained an appeal for typists!

The Tower was produced in the Vicar's study by Myrtle & Vic Siebert and was distributed free of charge (funded by advertisers) to the whole village, with volunteers organised by Dorothy Murduck.

As the magazine continued to expand, its production moved to the King-smill Room, under Bob & Sylvia Brooker, and new copying machines were purchased.

EDITORIAL

Jan '84

The end of one year and the beginning of another seems a very reasonable time to make the changeover to a new format for the Kingsclere Tower. The new Tower will be longer and larger and there will be considerable flexibility for any articles submitted. I hope that the many and various clubs and organisations in the village will use the new amount of space available to tell the rest of us about what they are doing. Perhaps the reports might tell usHow can you join?.....What sort of activities are involved?When do you meet?

Amongst other matters which I hope will be included in future Towers will be reports on: -Parish and District Council Matters (as they relate to Kingsclere) Church Thoughts and Services. A letter section, looking at Kingsclere - the Village and its People - Past, Present, and Future. Sporting Clubs - News, Results and Fixtures. Diary Dates.

Any offers to help in the production of the new Tower would be gratefully received. The skill particularly needed is that of a typist.

Sep '84

THE VICAR'S BEES

Pray respect the Vicar's bees
 Upon their parish visits
 As they alight inside your flowers
 For apiary requisites.
 Although within our Kingsclere homes
 Our greeting to them varies,
 The wiser of us bear in mind
 Their aura of St. Mary's.

Oct '84

Gift Day this year is Friday June 26th, when the Vicar will be sitting outside the Church, from 8.30. a.m. to 7 p.m. If you do not already support the work of our Church financially, for example through Christian Stewardship, he will be happy to receive your gift some time on that day. Incidentally, don't arrange anything special for that date as it usually rains:

EDITORIAL

For a part of this Editorial I would like to quote the beginning of an article by Helen Rutter (Hampshire Council of Community Service) which appeared in the June edition of 'HAMPSHIRE the County Magazine.'

"Village Ventures from all over Hampshire await with bated breath the outcome of the long process to find the Village Ventures Champion for 1985. The winner will receive a trophy and £200. The Competition, sponsored by Hampshire Magazine and organised by Hampshire Council of Community Service, is designed to promote village initiatives in Hampshire. A band of knowledgeable judges have just completed the long task of whittling down an excellent entry of 53 to just four finalists. One has been drawn from each of the four judging categories of Care, Built, Environmental and General.

"These projects will go forward to a final round of judging to be carried out by Sir Lynton and Lady White who will visit each venture. The final results will be published in the July edition of Hampshire Magazine. Projects are judged on four main criteria; imaginative use of resources, community effort, quality of workmanship and lasting benefit to the community.

The four finalists come from the far corners of the County and illustrate the fact that no one area has a monopoly on enterprising villages, with the good ideas and the initiative to develop these into worthwhile self-help projects which make the village a better place in which to live.

'The finalists are given below, a fuller report of each will be given next month.

The Finalists

'The Kingsclere Tower.' The most northerly contender comes from this growing village near the Berkshire border. 'The Tower' is a Village Magazine.

'Durley Ladybird Group.' The formation of a new Playgroup is the venture from this small village close to Bishops Waltham in the south of the County.

'walks Around Liphook.' A booklet of walks from the local Preservation Society gives an East Hampshire finalist from the go-ahead village of Liphook.

'''Burley Youth Club H.Q.' The quartet is completed by a venture from this New Forest village where the local Youth Club have erected their own building."

Les Wallace Editor

June '84

BELLRINGERS' OUTING

Kingsclere bellringers have organised an outing, to visit Churches in a lovely part of the Cotswolds, including, Cricklade Lechlade and Burford. Non.-ringers would find it an enjoyable day out (9.00a.m. to 9.00p.m.) at reasonable cost (less than £3), and would be welcome in the party. The date is Saturday, 9th June. Enquiries to Miss Helen Piper.

Nov '85

KINGSCLERE BABYSITTING CIRCLE

With the departure of Janet Duff and family to pastures new, the organisation of the Babysitting Circle has passed on to me. On looking carefully at the present list, we babysitters do seem a bit thin on the ground; I am, therefore, asking for volunteers the only qualifications being that you are the mother of children and that you would be willing to babysit for others in exchange for tokens which would then qualify you for a free babysitter with you want to go out.

If the idea interests you, then please ring me for further details.

JAN FOSTER

Dec '85

KINGSCLERE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the November meeting' members looked back over a busy year. Playing host to two Group meetings required a great deal of organization. Sur-veying Ecchinswell for the BBC Domesday Project proved to be o very interesting and worthwhile venture. The final .result recorded on a com-puter disc by Mrs. Reynolds was shown on a VDU and a printout. Members read in turn the 20 page description of life in Ecchinswell in the 1980's.

The December meeting will be a festive occasion as usual with Christmas fare and entertainment, starting at 7.30p.m. There will be no January meeting but a Cheese and wine evening will be held at Feilden Court on 18th January to raise funds for the New Village Hall. Tickets £1.50 from Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Pennington .

Oct '84

St Mary's Guild are delighted to report that their fund raising activities in aid of the Church Carpet Fund have now reached a successful conclusion. The sum of £1212.00 has been raised over the last 3 years and our thanks are extended to all who generously supported and contributed to our worthwhile project.
M.SIEBERT

April '85

UGANDAN GIRL

The following letter has been received from 'Joan', the orphan girl in Uganda whom Bishop Yokana told us about last summer. Several people have been giving together £11 a week to support her through school.

Rev. Peter Robbins. Kingsclere Parish.

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and I am asking kindly to send all my greetings to Mrs. Elizabeth Robbins. I am very happy to have this opportunity to write a letter to you. Bishop, Yokaana Mukasa told me that he told you about my story, and you decided to assist in giving me school fees. I was really very incredible of what he told me. I couldn't think of it, but God made it that way. In fact I don't know how to start thanking you, but I will still thank you for your good faith, you have shown me; to help someone whom you don't know, whom you have never seen. Thank you very much for the good heart you have shown, and that is not enough. Instead I will just report you to our Lord Jesus Christ. He himself he will decide what to do for you.

I cannot finish all my thanking to you, but let me pray to our God who is at the top, to keep you alive. I wouldn't like to send only letters, let me ask you kindly to think how I can see you with my naked eyes. I remain with anticipated gratitude,

Your beloved daughter

BWowe Joan.

RETIREMENT AFTER 22 YEARS' SERVICE

May '85

From the end of April; a familiar friendly face will be missing from Forbuoys the Newsagents when Mrs. Vera Wellman retires after 22 years of working in the same shop. Mrs. Wellman has seen many changes in the village and the shop since 1962. She will be greatly missed by the staff and all of the customers.

We wish her a long and happy retirement

May '86

Dear Editor,

Security checks at Greenham Common Airbase = chaos and long delays on the A339. Surely it would be possible for these checks to be carried out in a secure area within the base area. It is exasperating to be stuck in a traffic jam - which you join before you leave the Village - for an hour when the result of the airbase action is so thoroughly predictable.

Your letters not the "THE TOWER" but to the Parish Council the District Council and your M.P. please.

If we have the technology to fly bombers to Tripoli then sorting out a localised traffic jam should pose no problem!

Oct '86

BOOK REVIEW

It's always exciting when a new book is published and even more so when the author is local.

The author in question is Mrs. Margaret Ingram of Union-Lane, whose book "The Jealous Harvest Mouse and Other Tales" has its official launch date on the 26th September. Mrs. Ingram is well known for her writings on local history events and has been a contributor to the TOWER. "The Jealous Harvest Mouse and Other Tales" is for the under sixes, and I would certainly suggest that parents read this book with their children as well as letting them read it for themselves.

The stories alternate between animals and humans both of which have a very strong appeal, and are illustrated in black and white.

The book is published by Scripture Union, retailing at £1.30 and is available from Christian book shops or from Margaret Ingram.

THE SWAN INN

The Swan Inn is about to be re-opened and I am sure many will be surprised by what the renovations have revealed. The new proprietor, Mr. Geoff Buckle, has done a remarkable job in transforming this property.

The Swan has always seemed something of a mystery. Reputed to be one of the oldest pubs in the area, it looks on the outside like many Victorian establishments. The large chimney stack is one clue to an older date, built probably in the earlier part of the seventeenth century. I crawled into the attic a couple of years ago and was astounded to find a dark, sooty cavern full of great arched oak beams. Thanks to the foresightedness of Mr. Buckle we can all now enjoy a view of one of the best medieval roofs in Hampshire.

This roof would have stood over the central hall of the inn built sometime in the middle of the fifteenth century. It must have formed the central portion to a large timber-framed building. Examination of the roof shows that this building was of a similar size to the present building. Sadly, an identical roof which must have existed to the north of the hall has gone as have virtually all the timbers below roof level. The rear section of the hotel also has some fine timbers in it and might well be sixteenth century though it has been altered on a number of occasions.

Look upwards at the hall roof and one is immediately struck by the wonderful craftsmanship of the medieval carpenter. These great over-sized oak timbers are all carefully morticed and tenoned and held in place by wooden pegs. It stands five and half centuries after it was built without any signs of movement - a wonderful tribute to their skill. This roof, like the rest of the building, would have been carefully cut and pre-fabricated in the timber yard. They would have been numbered using a chisel and then re-built on site by an army of workmen. Of special note are the curved supports running from the lengthwise spanning purlins. These are known as wind braces. Above the centre of the hall stands a most impressive arch. A moulding has been carefully carved on one side and it is held in place beneath the collar beam by a whole series of pegs through the mortice and tenon.

The sootiness of the timbers pays tribute to the austerity of medieval life. Imagine, if you will, entering this great timbered hall in the fifteenth century. It would have been open to the roof with a great open fire

burning on the clay floor. The windows would have been unglazed, covered by shutters or skins when the weather proved too intemperate. What a draughty, smoky existence it must have proved! Incidentally, the fact that the central arch is carved on only one side suggests that the original owner would have sat on a somewhat raised area on this side of the hall above the straw and filth of domestic life around him.

How old then is The Swan? The story of King John staying at The Swan and being bitten by a bed bug as is supposedly commemorated by the Church's weather vane is surely apocryphal. He had a hunting lodge on Cottington Hill and would have stayed there. It is possible that his large retinue might have sought accommodation in the village. They might well have found refuge with the Canons from Rouen, possibly in a forerunner of the Falcon house or Inn, as it was at one time. Alternatively, they might have stayed at The Swan Inn. In the Middle Ages, Kingsclere was on a busy road between London, Reading and the South and west. The size of The Swan attests to the fact that Kingsclere must have been a busy and prosperous place to support such an establishment. Unfortunately, I cannot trace the Inn as far back as I would like.

What we can be certain of is that Winchester College purchased it in 1485. Looking through the College archives reveals a long list of tenants through the centuries. Henry Alyn, for instance, paid fifty shillings for the lease in 1539. The College bought the Inn from Thomas Bladen who had inherited it from his father of the same name. It was this Thomas Bladen who presumably had the magnificent hall built. He was certainly a prosperous man because the deeds of other houses and land that he owned can be found at Winchester College. Tracing the ownership further back is very frustrating. Undoubtedly an older building did exist on that site none, however, refer to The Swan by name. Medieval deeds are very stereotyped in their language and references to "a messuage and curtilage" may hide the identity of an older Inn. Nevertheless, the renovation of The Swan does give us a little insight to a piece of Kingsclere history.

M. STOKOE

WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED WANTED

Young couple wish to purchase house in Kingsclere or immediate area for up to £45,000. All types of house considered.

Please ring Faringdon (0367)xxxx after 6.30p.m.

BURNING TOPICS: 5. SATANISM

June '86

I don't know whether you believe literally in Hell as a place where the fires are always burning -- either to consume or to torment those unfortunate to go there. The vision of Hell with real flames has been a reality to most Christians down the centuries, and they have had no doubt that if Heaven was the dwelling place of God, and going to Heaven was to be in a place of joy in God's presence, then Hell was the dwelling place of the Devil or Satan, and going to Hell was to be in a place of terror in the abode of evil.

Some of us find it hard to credit it, but there are people in today's world who turn to the Devil of their own free will. The recent Satanism trial has reminded us that there are people who glory in darkness; evil, perversion, and degradation, and worship the source of it, Satan himself. We know that there is always a tendency in us human beings to be fascinated by evil and drawn towards it (this is what Christianity calls 'original sin'). Children often experiment in ways which horrify their elders, but their elders show the same inclination in their absorption in the kind of fare dished up daily by the tabloid newspapers - especially the Sunday ones with the biggest circulation of all. But this turning to Satanism is on a deeper level still. It involves calling evil good and good evil. Whatever harmful effects this has on conduct and character there is something worse still - it means that the satanic devotee literally goes to Hell. The Bible represents the Devil as the father of lies, and any people who imagine that by following Satan they are in for some reward (power, sexual fulfilment, enjoyment, satisfaction) will surely experience total disillusionment. We may cherish a hope that sinners who are simply weak, muddled or selfish, may yet find that God provides them with an opportunity for repentance and rehabilitation after death. But for those who with open eyes give themselves to the Devil, we must fear that only hell-fire awaits them. The lying source for all evil can have nothing with which to reward those who give themselves to it.

You may think that this is not a matter meriting so much space. Does it really apply to anyone in a community like ours? The sad thing is that it may. There are tendencies in the world of Pop and Rock music to dabble in satanic ideas, and the inclination of the young that I have mentioned before leads many to become familiar with the trappings of Satanism without realising where it can lead. I think it is disgraceful the way that this dangerous rubbish is promoted and performed by people whose sole motive is to enrich themselves at the expense of gullible young people, no matter what the personal or social consequences may be. I would suggest to parents that they might well exercise some supervision over the records and videos that their children try to acquire.

Satan has some more innocent-looking activities around which can ensnare people - things like Tarot cards, ouija boards, spiritualist experimentation, magical dabblings, and the occult in general, any of these can, like barbed hooks, embed themselves in unsuspecting victims, who "all innocent like" are only looking for something new, and before they are fully alive to the situation they find themselves being gradually drawn into the realm of Satan - which is out of the Kingdom of God. It is important to be aware of where these little things lead, and be absolutely resolute against any involvement whatever in the Devil and all his works.

PETER ROBBINS

Aug '86

THE CHURCH CHOIR'S VISIT TO WINCHESTER

On Saturday the church choir went to Winchester to sing. Mr. Wills picked us up in the mini-bus and we started our short journey to Winchester. On the way we sang the Chicken Song and Yellow Submarine.

When we got there we went to our pegs and put our robes on. Then very quickly we found our line and stuck to it. When we went in I sat myself down in the sixth row beside my friend Katy O'Leary. First we met our conductor and organist and then we started with a psalm. Next we did a quick hymn. Then the time just flew past and in a minute it was the time I was looking forward to tea.

Tea was short and soon we were back in the cathedral for a half hour rehearsal.

Then soon after we had practised all the things we were doing it was time for the service. We walked up and sat in the same places. Then the cathedral choir came in. They sat at the top near the pulpit. The bishop Colin came in and we sang the psalm we had practised. The service went quickly and afterwards we went back to our pegs, took our robes off and walked back to the mini-bus. On the way back we sang, talked and I nearly fell asleep.

BETHAN LLOYD

Feb '87

KINGSCLERE RAMBLERS

Saturday 31st January: 10.30a.m. in the Square. Cars to Coombe Gibbet and Ridgeway walk back to Kingsclere. 14 miles. Bring a packed lunch.

Leader Mr. P. Turner

Sunday 22nd February: 2.30p.m. in the Square. A

'Discover Hampshire' walk to Cottington Hill, Whitehill, Cannon Heath Down and Watership Down. 6 miles. Leader: Mr. S. Sharman

General Information: The AGM will be held at 8.00p.m. on Tuesday 17th March, 1987, at the Community Centre. All members are urged to attend.

March '87

KINGSLERE FIRE BRIGADE

In 1986 the Kingsclere Fire Brigade answered 111 calls. This is 3 down on last year; the breakdown is as follows;

35 fires; 42 chimney fires. 15 road traffic accidents; 7 false alarms; 11 special services (flooding, etc) and 1 standby at another station.
With your help and support, we raised £1097 for the Fire Service National Benevolent Fund.

We still need more firemen that can give us some daytime cover. We have 13 men at present. Anyone interested please contact Mr. B. Snook or enquire at the Fire Station 7.00-9.00p.m. any Tuesday evening.
B. SNOOK

Nov '87

THE HUNGERFORD TRAGEDY FUND

The Kingsclere Orchestra will be holding a concert at Cheam School on Sunday, 13th December at 7.30 pm. in aid of the Hungerford Tragedy Fund.

Bring the family to an evening of light and varied music:

The Nut Cracker Suite -Tchaikovsky
"Drumroll" Symphony No. 103 - Haydn
Finlandia - Sibelius
Plus the Lark Trio

Tickets: £2.50 - £1.50 oap/children, including a glass of wine/soft, drink and mince pies.

Transport from The Square by arrangement. For tickets and transport please telephone Jackie Frith. Tickets are also available at the door.

Sept '88

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

May I, through the columns of 'The Tower,' express my thanks to all those who took the trouble to write, to send me all those delightful cards, and to those who called in at the Pharmacy, to wish me well on my retirement. Above all to those who contributed to that abundance of gifts which was showered on me before I left. I was extremely moved by this expression of your goodwill toward me; thank you all once again; and I shall miss every one of you.
GORDON TURTON

KINGSCLERE GARDENING ASSOCIATION

April '88

A pleasant evening was spent at the Junior School on Tuesday, 8th March, when the celebrated TV personality, Mr. Alan Titchmarsh, gave a light hearted and interesting talk on "How to Make the most of a Small Garden," illustrated with slides. As a result, a payment of £150 was made to MENCAP. A very successful draw was held, and the proceeds donated to Basingstoke Hospital Scanner Fund.

Just a reminder that the Spring Bulb and Flower Bulb will be held on Thursday, 14th April, at 8.15p.m., and we are looking for exhibits, so please let us have your entries. On Saturday, 21st May, is our Annual Plant Sale. Donations of any plants for inclusion would be appreciated. Come along and see what is on offer; both of these events will be held at the Community Centre in Swan Street.

It is hoped to organise a trip to Exbury Gardens providing there is enough interest - details for this later. Starting on Wednesday, 30th March, the Trading Shed at the Community Centre in Swan Street will be open from 7.00p.m. - 7.00p.m. as well as Sundays, every week.

At the timing of going to press there were still some seed potatoes for sale, booth early and late varieties; grass seed, too, garden canes and grow bags being added to our stocks.

K.G. ELLIOTT

May
'90

RED DEVILS- WILL DROP IN ON FÊTE

The-Royal British Legion, Kingsclere Branch, has booked the Red Devils' Free-Fall Parachute Team for the eighth Watership Down Fun-Run and village Fete.

Both events will be held on May 19th on Wroughton

House Field beginning around 11.45 am and ending at about 5.30 pm. Many events, displays and stalls have been organised,

The Fun-Run course has been reduced to 6.8 miles and applications for entry are now available at Forbuoys, in the square, Kingsclere. Anyone wishing to have a stall at the Fete, please contact Mr. Atkinson on

E. ZILLER.



Dec '89

ROSE HODSON COURT

Most people will be aware by now that this new sheltered housing scheme is now in operation. For those who don't know, it is situated in Wellman's Meadow, Newbury Road; Kingsclere.

This is a superb scheme for the elderly, run by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council and consists of 42 flats and various communal facilities for the tenants' use, i.e., laundry, hairdressing salon and communal lounge area where tenants can meet and have a chat and a cup of coffee or tea.

We shall be holding various social functions - some for tenants only, and some we shall invite others to join us.

In order to run social functions, we shall be holding various fund raising events which will be advertised around the village and we would hope that people will support us in our efforts to give tenants as much enjoyment as possible.

If anyone would like to look around the building please 'phone The Warden, Maureen Martin, and I will be very pleased to arrange a visit for you.

M. MARTIN

Sept '90

PLEASANT SUMMER'S EVENING

was enjoyed by all.

Who said children need expensive toys?

The truly rural setting of Porch Farm, and half-a-dozen bales of hay provided all that was necessary to keep the many children amused and out of mischief, whilst their parents were able to enjoy the Family Barbecue - arranged by the Social Committee of St. Mary's PCC. Pleasant surroundings, good company and tasty food - ably cooked and prepared by members - were complemented by a perfect summer's evening.

Our grateful thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Newbery for their kind hospitality - and to all who worked so hard make the event a success. Even the ladies of the Jersey Herd seemed very appreciative. It's not every day that they have a musical accompaniment to their chewing of the cud!



MYRTLE AND VIC SIEBERT

1990s

Women priests were first ordained by the Church of England (1994), Barings Bank collapsed (1995); Dolly the sheep became the first cloned adult animal (1997), and Britain handed Hong Kong back to China (1997). Yew Tree and Wellman's Meadow Estates were built, and there was an armed raid on Lloyds Bank in Swan Street.

May '90



KINGSLERE PLAYERS have

been successful in recent amateur drama festivals and are this year entering festivals at New Milton, Maidenhead and Andover.

As many of their supporters will be unable to attend these distant venues, they have decided to perform their festival entry "Audition for a Writer" in May, on Friday 11th (8pm) and on Saturday 12th (7pm) at the Community Centre in Swan Street, Kingsclere. To add a little "spice" to the evenings they have persuaded one of their main rivals, Centre Stage Theatre from Southampton. To perform their festival production too.

On the Saturday they are holding a GALA EVENING and tickets will cost £7.50 to include a delicious buffet supper and coffee.

There will also be a licensed bar.

Friday tickets cost £2.50 – no supper that day but there will be a bar.

Tickets available from Forbuoys, Kingsclere Crafts and Kingsclere Health Centre are very limited. Book early to avoid disappointment.

LIZ HAMER

Dear Editor

On Monday August 27th I was visited by a very friendly Mistle Thrush.

Obviously he had been reared by hand with loving care. He spent all the morning with me in the garden and venturing into the house where he was completely at ease, hopping from room to room and even lighting on to my

luncheon tray to help himself to the cheese. I think someone must have rescued him as a baby and spent a lot of time and care rearing him because he showed no fear of humans, movement or noise and was interested in everything, even to the point of alighting on the telephone when it rang.

However with a diet of flies, cake and cheese he finally disgraced himself on the lounge carpet and was ushered kindly out into the garden from whence he flew away disgusted I fear.

I have not seen him since, though I shall be looking out every day. If anyone in the village was caring enough to rear this beautiful arid friendly wild bird, I would like them to know that an August 27th he was alive and well. If anyone else is honoured with a visit please watch out for him, he is so trusting, MRS WILLIAMS. PHOENIX COURT.

To all the Kingsclere area mothers, babies and others.

I am so sorry that I had to give up being your Health Visitor in Kingsclere I was very sad to leave and I will miss you all very much.

My special thanks to Rose Lock. Joyce Pennington and Jan Reaney who helped me to run the Baby Clinic for over 15 years.

I will still be coming to Kingsclere to play in the orchestra and I hope to see many of you again.

Very best wishes.

MAUREEN JENKIN

On Wednesday. July 11th in the garden of the Old Forge. 8 George Street a coffee morning was held in aid of Multiple Sclerosis research. Our prayers were answered: the sun shone, there was not a cloud in the sky and, I believe, an enjoyable morning was had by all with the raffle a total of £100 was raised,

I would like to thank all those who kindly donated prizes for the raffle. Also my thanks to Georgio of Sasso's Restaurant who generously made and supplied the wonderful coffee for the morning, to Iris Mills of Swan Street for her valiant efforts at the sink. To everyone who assisted in one way or another and last but not least to David Riley Who generously lent us his garden for the occasion, thank you all for your support.

DORIS BARRON

KINGSCLERE LIBRARY

Aug '90

I'm sure everyone will be pleased to hear that at the Country Recreation Committee Meeting held on July 12th it was decided to defer the decision to close the Library.

It is understood that the village will now be consulted before further action is taken.

Meanwhile KEEP USING THE LIBRARY.

Rose Wellman, Borough Councillor,
Chairman, Kingsclere Parish Council



KINGSCLERE ORCHESTRA

Dec 90

Concert in aid of
The Kingsclere Tower Magazine
The Kingsclere Orchestra will hold its Christmas Concert on
Sunday December 16th at 7.30pm in Kingsclere School.
The programme includes:

Haydn
Anderson
Handel
Woodgates

Symphony No. 100 (Military).
Sleigh Ride
Water Music.
Theme and Fugue from The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra.

The concert is suitable for children and adults. Tickets cost £3.50 or £2.50 for O.A.P or child. A discount can be obtained by clubs or families (5 or more) by contacting Jackie Frith

Proceeds from this concert will go towards The Kingsclere Tower appeal for funds to buy a new printer. Why not come and enjoy an entertaining evening out in support of both Village Orchestra and Local Magazine. New members, including children (approximately grade 5 upwards) are always welcome. We are in great need of more string players. Please contact any orchestra member for details.

JACKIE FRITH



DO YOU REMEMBER?

Mar 91

1. When Army huts were in the "Chalk Quarry" at the top of Bear Hill?
 2. When children could sledge in the snow on the slope from the top of Sanford Hill (now the golf course)?
 3. When Nunn's Dairy in George Street delivered the milk with a cardboard bottle cap?
 4. When Neale and Thumwood's shop sold glasses of lemonade for 3d? (now Sue Brentnal's Florist shop).
 5. When a large Gasometer or gas holder was in Mr. R. Andrews' cottage garden in Winchester Road?
 6. When lots of hayricks were built in the fields along the Sydmonton Road?
 7. When the Victoria Diamond Jubilee lantern was taken away from the Market Square and replaced with a "modern" lamp, (the Flying Saucer?) NB It has now been returned to its proper place.
 8. When the Village Youth Club was held in Mr. Florances' house in Swan Street?
 9. When Stoke's of Tadley Fun Fair came to the village and was set up in a field where King John Road is now situated?
 10. When villagers would nip into Chance's Store to warm themselves by the large stove which stood in the centre of the shop—especially when waiting for the Newbury bus on a cold day?
- J. JAMES HARRIS

Headley By-Pass Update

Sep '91

Members of the "Bypass Action Group" have continued to campaign for the re-siting of the proposed roundabout and route of the A339 Headley Bypass. Our thanks to all who attended the public meeting held on the 8th of August, we felt that the meeting went well and we appreciate the time given by councillors Don Allen and Ralph Nicholls. We hope that many of you will have been encouraged to write to the County Surveyor offering your individual opinions.

During the coming months, as we await the decision of the Ministry of Transport, we hope that you will continue to keep alive the campaign and support the Bypass Action Group whenever possible. Our thanks for all your interest and support.

BAG.

Jan '95

The Crown Kingsclere

I AM SURE that many local people, with few exceptions, were distressed to view the Crown, boarded up and closed, following the recent unfortunate fire.

The Crown has been the central hostelry in the village since time immemorial - a local monument - a meeting place - an institution.

Following extensive damage both to the lounge and public bars, the Crown is not expected to re-open for at least six months.

Monday May 1st, when the fire occurred, was certainly a sad night for the village - A NIGHT TO REMEMBER - The temporary loss of an old friend - RIP.

ROSS WOOD

Feb '98

THE BELLS OF ST MARY'S RING OUT AGAIN

By the time you read this the bells of St. Mary's will be ringing out.

You may be asking what actually has been done to the Bells and how the money raised we spent?

The bells and fittings were removed in late August and sent to John Taylors of Loughborough One of only two remaining Bellfounders in Britain.

The wooden Headstocks (the cross shaft that allows the bells to rotate and to which the bell is physically attached) and bearings were replaced with new metal Headstocks and hearings. The Clappers were also replaced. (The large lump that actually strikes the bell).

The bells were then retuned with each other to give better harmony; this was achieved by machining metal away at various points inside the bell so that the eight notes of the bells when struck form a pleasant sound.

Renovation of the bells include replacing the stays and sliders (these stop the bells doing a 36 degree rotation); and pulley blocks on the frame.

Most of the wooden wheels were also replaced. These are connected to the Headstock. (The bell rope is fitted to this and by pulling on the rope imparts the rotary motion to the bells).

The new rope guides were repositioned in the ceiling to give the ringers a better view of each other - now they can actually see all the other ringers and not just hear them.

The members of the hand have achieved a lot by carrying out the cleaning, preparation reprotecting. and redecoration both to the ringing room and bell-chamber prior to the bells being fitted.

Grateful thanks to all, not only for supporting the larger money raising enterprises but also for your loyal support of all our other fund-raising ventures since the restoration appeal was launched, in February 1995.

DEDICATION SERVICE

The bells will be dedicated by the Bishop of Basingstoke on Monday 22nd December at 7.30pm. Please come and join in the short service and celebrate with us.

SUE REYNOLDS



Dear Editor,

Nov '98

Thank You

A very big "Thank You" to Nicky Ross and her husband for our lovely "New Post Office", now opened in George Street. I am sure Nicky if it wasn't for you, we might well be without one. "Many Thanks" also to all the team who work there and for all the hard work moving from the old one to the new. I'm sure, on behalf of my dear late mum, who worked in the Post Office on The Square way back in 1914 and for the Miss' Fanny and Rosa Twitchin, thank you and God Bless you and good luck.

Mrs. Eileen Soper

Village Club Development

Dec '99

We are very pleased to announce that the Village Club has been awarded a grant of £63,300 by the Heritage Lottery Fund as a 75% share of our £82,000 rebuilding project.

This will enable us to complete much needed repairs to the Old Caretaker's House next door to the Club where the frontage wall is gradually becoming detached from the rest of the building as a result of decaying ceiling joists.

Our plan is to incorporate the house into the Village Club so we will be making an access between the buildings at first floor level. The enlarged building will enable us to move the Parish Council to the ground floor of the old house and also to provide a ground floor meeting room.

This will improve access for disabled people and at the same time we will be carrying out other measures such as the installation of a Stannah stair lift, toilet facilities and a loop induction hearing system in the main hall.

We will then be able to redevelop the upper floor of both buildings. We plan to restore the area presently occupied by the Parish Council and the upstairs meeting room which was originally the ladies' reading room and will recreate the long room which will be called the Holding Room.

The remainder of the first floor will provide additional storage facilities and rooms which can be used for dedicated purposes such as photography.

We hope that the works can be undertaken with minimal interference to the activities of the Club.

One finished we will have a leisure and learning centre of which we can all be proud

The Managing Trustees

21st Century

Foot-and-mouth disease wreaked havoc on rural Britain (2001); terrorists crashed aircraft into buildings in New York and Washington (2001); Civil partnerships gave same-sex couples legal rights (2005). Lloyds Bank in the village closed in 2001, The Brenda Parker Way opened in April 2011, and the restored Village Club re-opened in 2012.

Kingsclere Millennium Flower, Music & Art Festival

June 2000

The Kingsclere Millennium Music, Arts and Flower will take place between 22nd and 25 June. The objective of the festival is to raise money to enable alterations to be made to St Mary's Church to enhance access for disabled people and hence make the church more accessible for use as venue for our local community. The programme is been coordinated to provide a range of events that will hopefully provide entertainment to suite a range of tastes. The Festival will open with a Special Preview evening on Thursday 22nd June where entertainment will be provided by the lively SIGMA 4 String Quartet who specialise in playing light classical music. This evening will also include a preview to the Flower Festival and a Reception with Finger buffet.

Friday 23rd June will be the first public viewing day for the flowers and will include a special flower-arranging workshop given by Denise Allen for those interested in Tower arranging. On Friday evening, the Kingsclere Players are organising a Medieval Banquet with Entertainment at Porch Farm Barn, Kingsclere (opposite the Shell Petrol Station). Those who have seen the Kingsclere Players in action will know that is will be a very special evening of entertainment that should not be missed.

On Saturday 24th June the Church will again be open for viewing of the flowers whilst in the evening we are very fortunate to have been able to book the "Taverners Big Band" (or a concert starting at 7.30pm. The Taverners Big Band have been finalists in the BBC Big Band Competitions at the Royal Albert Hall on a number of occasions and are well known for their fabulous foot tapping music. The band will be playing a selection of well known Swing and Traditional Jazz music.

On Sunday 25th June the Church will again be open for viewing of the flowers after the Special Festival Service at 11am.

The Special Preview Evening with Sigma 4 and Reception, The Mediaeval Banquet and the Taverners Big Band will have a limited number tickets available so please book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets will be on sale from "The Pine Shop", Swan Street and "Variations" on George Street along with Festival programmes. We hope that everybody will take the opportunity to visit the Festival and participate in some of the events and the organisers look forward to welcoming you at what promises to be a great series of events.

David Osselton Chairman

CLOSURE OF LLOYDS TSB

May 2000

The Parish Council tried hard to prevent the closure of this bank. Many thanks to all who signed the petition (approx. 450 signatures) and those who wrote personally to appeal against the decision. The Council was given official support including that of our local M.P. Sir George Young.

During the week before the closing date, we were hopeful we might still keep the bank open, when Lloyds TSB reversed its decision on closing two banks on the Isle of Wight, and announced that from May 1st it would not close banks which were the "lone" branches on the High St. The Council immediately sent a fax to the Chairman and also the Chief Executive of Lloyds TSB (who up to this time have not replied) asking for reconsideration and a reprieve for Kingsclere Branch for the sake of our community and businesses surrounding villages and Lloyds TSB's standing. We regret the request has not been granted.



POLICE FOCUS

Apr 2001

Roadside Parking

Some time ago I was standing in Swan Street when a car drew up by the side of me. The driver got out of the car said "good morning" and proceeded to lock the door. I acknowledged the greeting and pointed out that the driver had parked on double yellow lines. "Oh yes, that's alright. I live here" "What do you mean?" I said "you can't park on double yellow lines!" "Yes, it's OK as I live in Kingsclere" came the reply. "What difference does that make?" I asked. "Well these lines are to stop outsiders from taking up local parking spaces. The fact that the driver really believed the yellow lines were for the benefit of locals to park is not surprising, and took a lot of convincing to the contrary. We have all experienced the problems of congestion in Swan Street and Anchor Road caused by those 'who have just popped into the shops for a minute'.

A letter was recently received by the Parish Council from a concerned parishioner advising them of restricted visibility and congestion problems at the junction of Anchor Road and Swan Street. The Council subsequently passed a copy of the letter to the Police requesting assistance.

As a villager. I am aware of the Parish Council's efforts to get as many short term parking spaces as possible to supplement the Anchor Road car park but despite this a number of drivers still insist on disregarding the No Parking restrictions. It is unacceptable it frequently 'bottle necks' the area causing tempers to fray. We have tried to get the message across by asking drivers to move on apparently without success, therefore as from April Fixed Penalty tickets will be issued to the offenders.

To all my friends in Kingsclere,

I should like to convey my thanks for the lovely gifts I received on my retirement as post-lady. I am the proud owner of a multi-geared bicycle, guaranteed, I'm told to get this very new pensioner up many a hill. It has been a special experience to be one of the village posties. It wasn't just a job but a privilege to witness the many facets of family life. Through the 28 years I have seen new babies arrive, and watched them as nervous five year olds make their way to school. Later on these same children have been known to ambush me asking, "Have you got my exam results, Postie?" In turn they have married and I have seen the whole cycle start all over again.

I have had happy times with my friends in the Kingsclere Post Office and had a good rapport with my fellow posties through the up and downs of life. I have had a few traumas including the usual run-ins with our canine friends. I once disappeared down a manhole whilst parking my bicycle and ran into a lamppost buckling my front wheel. Last year I looked up from my post-bag to find I was cycling up the ramp of a trailer and had to do a quick about-turn! Now I must look for adventures new, so "goodbye and thank you" from
Postie Gill (Brindley)

In 2002 advertising was split out from the white pages into separate yellow pages. In 2003 Sylvia Brooker handed over the Tower to Fiona Sawyer and Chris McPherson who had offered to co-edit. This they did for around 10 years before passing the editing reins on to Nicki Lee and Sarah Hewitt in the summer of 2013.

STOP PRESS

August '03

Kingsclere has been chosen as Hampshire Village of the Year 2003 and will represent the County in the Calor National Village of the Year Competition.

Peter Woodman (Kingsclere Parish Councillor)

From the Editors

Aug '04

An Explanation

It appears that Chris and I, as joint editors of the Tower, have inadvertently sown much confusion in the village, for which we apologise.

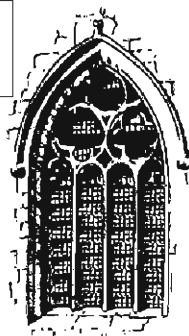
As joint editors of the Tower it appears we share an address and telephone number, but this isn't so. Chris is NOT the man who answers the phone: that is my husband John, who is nothing to do with the Tower at all. Chris lives with her husband Andrew at number 50 Swan Street and we use just one telephone number for our readers' convenience. Hope this clears up any remaining confusion.

Fiona.

The Church Pages

Feb
2003

Fare Well



Finally my friends fare well! Paul ending his second letter to his Christian friends in Corinth. I can only echo them for sadly, and it is how we both feel, I have to stand down as your

vicar from the 2nd of February, the feast of Candlemas.

In old England it was a feast for the holy days were the only holidays and then meat was eaten instead of the daily soup, vegetables and bread. Candlemas has from earliest Christian times been special. Egeria, who travelled to the Holy Land in the fourth century records the carrying of candles at Candlemas to celebrate Jesus as the light of the world. Jesus was to become our light and guide through the dark places of life, and lead us to the eternal love that is God in the heavenly places beyond.

Fare well then: travel well. It is what of your kindness you now wish us. It is also what we wish you. I once heard Archbishop Anthony Bloom talking about pilgrimage in Russia and the vast distances involved. The pilgrimage was not the arrival for that was in God's hands, he said, but the day-to-day journeying and who you travelled with. So thank you for sharing a little of the pilgrimage with us, of being companions in faith over the past seven years.

Faring well means having the necessary strength for today's journey, the strength that only God can give, the strength to overcome all obstacles, and bear parting from friends. Which is why a Roman, when wishing someone fare well, said 'have strength'.

Paul used the common Greek greeting 'have joy'. For him the Christian journey was not thought of as a march toiling up hill but as a joyful dance, sometimes slow sometimes fast, but always graceful and led by the Lord of the Dance, our Lord Jesus Christ. Our immediate partners will change but will never be far away in spirit and finally the dance will lead to that heaven which is perfect life and perfect love, music and dancing, rhythm and melody, grace and courtesy, and animals and birds and flowers and friends and angels-and all with Christ and Christ with God,

So finally, my friends, be strong, be joyful and in that strength and joy journey well. Elizabeth joins with me in saying Fare Well.

And may God in his mercy bless us all.

Canon Michael Benton,

Dear Editor,

Nov 2001

My October Tower has come this a.m. and I'm reminded, not for the first time, that is awfully good of you to have given me so much pleasure in being able to read about my old parish, which I left in 1949.

We were collecting funds for the church roof repairs a little earlier than 1949. A friend, Gus Lowe by name, came down from Birmingham with his Punch and Judy Show to raise a few pennies for the fund and suggested that I might consider going abroad. This took me, eventually, to Jamaica.

Looking back to my Kingsclere days I don't recall that we had any magazine. The second World War was on and we would have found it far from easy to produce one. I can't remember that we even tried. I think we should have done.

Best wishes to anyone still living in the parish whom I knew.

Yours sincerely Horace Bedloe

P.S. Rev. Horace Bedloe was Vicar of St. Mary's from 1945 -1949

Gordon's Benches

Jun
'2005

I would like to say a very big "thank you" to those people who contributed to buy "Gordon's Bench"

which has been placed outside St. Mary's Church

. Thanks also to Kevin for designing and making it to

match the Church window above it. Several people who have sat on it have said how comfortable it is.

It was a perfect May morning on Pentecost Sunday when Lucy, the Vicar, gave such a beautiful prayer over it. Gordon would have loved to have been there and would have enjoyed the refreshments.

I would also like to give grateful thanks to the Fieldgate Centre for arranging the quiz last year to raise the money for the bench at the Fieldgate Centre.

I know he would have liked to have sat on both seats because his heart was in both places. He was more interested in joining in with the local community than going out in the car for the day.

Margaret Ingram



A Polite Request

Would those needing to light a bonfire please consider their neighbours and not light up until late afternoon when the washing on the lines is dry and safely indoors. Thank you.

Christine McPherson

William's Baptism

Apr '09

I am delighted to say that Bishop Trevor, Bishop of Basingstoke, has agreed to come and preside at William's baptism which will take place as part of the Sung Communion service at St Mary's Kingsclere at 10.30 am on Sunday 31 May-Pentecost/Whitsun (5th Sunday so a United Benefice Service). We hope as many as are able will join us on that occasion as we celebrate William's birth and welcome him as a new member of the Church.



St Mary's Churchyard Wild Flowers

Nov
2010

Has any other churchyard such a rich variety of wild flowers in so small an area? Rough grass is often a main feature, but we are well blessed by the strong presence of yellow rattle, a semi-parasite reducing the strength of vigorous grasses, with the pleasant result that much of our small patch has little grass present. This has allowed primroses, cowslips, violets, barren strawberries, ground ivy, bugle, selfheal and wild basil to flourish. Add to these the presence of six orchid species, a broomrape and meadow saxifrage and we enjoy a continuity of colour. May our small, exquisite gem of a wild flower area next to our War Memorial be allowed to develop even more potential next season for years to come.

Ralph Cook

Jul-2013



Nature Notes

It is heartening to see that a recently built road/river bridge has included timber otter underpasses and ten bat-bricks incorporated into the reconstruction. These special bricks have a slotted entrance and presumably, a chamber behind, rather like a bat box. The river has been surveyed by the Hants and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust for signs of otters recently.

A female orange-tip butterfly, recognised by her green and white mottled under wings, arrived in the garden and spent two days anchored on a white tulip. Even strong breezes failed to dislodge her. Ladies smock flower is one of the main food plants for the caterpillars – had she got her botany wrong?

We set off with high hopes to see the swathes of foxgloves which had been seen this time last year and described in Nature Notes. Then the new plantation had been a sea of pink but alas not so this year, indeed there was scarcely a foxglove plant to be seen in the whole area. Was the previous show an eruption of vigour of previously dormant seed suddenly released by forest clearance and replanting?

The late and cold spring does not seem to have affected the breeding of Canada geese and there are plenty of the new generation to be seen on local lakes. Some goslings were barely out of the egg, still little balls of golden fluff whilst others were already quite well grown. Geese generally are excellent parents, very protective and move their broods across open water in convoy – parents ahead, goslings in line astern, parent at the rear.

Diana Tait and Rod Eldred

One evening last week I visited the area behind St. Mary's church having heard about the new bridge and other improvements. I must say I was delighted with the outcome. On my last visit the bridge resembled an army assault course making it difficult to cross even for the able-bodied. I have since suffered a stroke but can now cross the brook on my mobility scooter. Many thanks to all those involved in bringing these works to fruition. You have brought back to my reach a particularly beautiful part of our village

Paul Parkes

Jun '69

Some things never change!

There have been a number of complaints recently by parishioners who quite rightly object to the Churchyard being used as an exercise ground for dogs. The fouling of grass and paths which has resulted from this is by no means pleasant. Will dog owners therefore kindly find an alternative place for the discharge of the biological functions of their pets. No letters, please, from irate dog lovers : I'm as fond of them as you are!

Dear villagers

we are writing to ask you politely to keep
your dogs off our school grounds.

Dec
2002

We have recently had many "messes" and still it is going on. It is unpleasant and often children running on the field tread in it. Also we are the ones who have to deal with it. So in future we would be really grateful if you would keep your dogs off our school grounds.

yours sincerely,

pupils of Kingsclere primary school

Aug '03

STILL MORE COMPLAINTS about dog-fouling, especially around the play area on the recreation ground. Dog owners, do you realise that children can be blinded through contact with dog faeces? If you can live with a clear conscience knowing that you have blinded a child for life, there is little more to be said. However, there is a simple solution, you can either keep your dogs away, or if your dog fouls a public area, clear up after it.

Today the majority of submissions come into the Tower by email, with just a few hand-written notices still being dropped through the letter-box. There is still *an army of volunteers* involved in the end-to-end production of the Tower, including editors, layout teams, printers, collators and finally numerous magazine distributors at the end of each month. It's also available on-line.

The Tower magazine still does what it was set up to do 50 years ago: it shares information and notices about our churches, local clubs, organisations and events with everyone in the village, and all at no charge! We wonder how that information will be shared in 2065, and what changes another 50 years might bring?

The Management Committee

50 years of Tower magazines have seen six vicars come and (almost) go! Two of these were mainly responsible for the magazine that we know and love today. First, the Rev David Shearlock (1964-71), whose initiative it was in the first place to produce a publication for free distribution to the whole parish. Second, Rev Peter Robbins (1983-91) whose vision it was to develop the magazine into a self-funding and more substantial publication, not just for the village but with news and events about the whole village.

I am delighted that as I also move on, the Tower is proving itself to be in excellent shape and clearly valued by many in the village, and still fulfilling its role of service to the whole community. This is partly thanks to a dedicated and able team but also because Kingsclere continues to be such a vibrant community with a great deal happening which people want to know about. It has been fascinating to look back to see what has changed and what has not over these 50 years. It will be interesting to see what happens to the publication as evidence would suggest our society moves inexorably away from print into the electronic and digital age. Will there be a centenary special edition? I wonder!

Rev Lucy Thirtle – Vicar and Chair of Tower Management Committee



Thank you to all our contributors, advertisers, volunteers and readers for your support over the years. Our thanks to Gareth Martin for supplying the photographs and to Peter Woodman of Kingsclere Heritage Association for local historical content.

