

A photograph of a church with a stone tower and a large tree in bloom, with wooden crosses in the foreground. The church has a stone tower with a clock face and a red-tiled roof. A large tree with white blossoms is in the foreground, partially obscuring the church. In the foreground, there are three wooden crosses on a grassy area. A bouquet of white flowers is placed at the base of the central cross. The sky is blue with some clouds.

The Kingsclere Tower

What's On & Local News
APRIL 2023

T The Kingsclere Tower

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Hooray! After a short flurry of snow in early March spring is here. The flowers of crocuses, daffodils, forget-me-nots, primula and common hawthorn ("May Blossom") provide such a visual tonic after a rather drab winter.

We welcome two new regular contributors to the Tower: Lily provides us with a young person's view of flora and fauna in Nature Notes (alternating with Lydia Harley-Tomlinson in future editions), whilst Hardy's Plants has provided a useful guide on plant staking. We hope to include ~3 articles from Hardy's Plants a year. Also in this edition there is more information about the plans for the Coronation in May (see Pages 4, 6, 10 and 18).

Spring should give us great opportunities for walking and other outdoor pursuits, so make the most of springtime and living in our wonderful blossoming village and surrounding countryside this coming month.

On behalf of all the Tower team we wish you a Happy Easter.

The Editor

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

To all "Tower" Contributors

Copy for **MAY** to the Editor at kingscleretower@gmail.com.
NOT LATER THAN 12th APRIL.

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

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

KINGSCLERE PARISH COUNCIL (KPC)

Chairman: Cllr Clive Mussett 07800 022432

Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk

Telephone: 01635 298634

Office: 37 George Street, Kingsclere RG20 5NH



ANNUAL VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN - Saturday 1st April 10.00am.

Our village Litter Warden does an amazing job and KPC is very appreciative of his hard work, however once a year we assist and go that little bit further afield and gather items not covered in the warden's round. Please come along to the base in the Churchyard and volunteer for an hour. Litter wands, hi-vis waistcoats and gloves will be provided but please wear sensible footwear. We look forward to seeing you.

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

DOG / HUMAN FOULING – We have received a few reports of owners not clearing up after their animals, particularly in the Recreation Ground. It has been reported to the Dog Warden but please do ensure you pick up your dog litter and place in the litter bins provided. We also had an instance in March of human faeces in the Holding Field car park – the quote to clear this away was £540 - truly unacceptable.

LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW! – It was lovely to see children enjoying the brief bout of snow in March, especially the sledging on the Recreation Ground and the building of igloos and snowmen on the Holding Field. However it was disappointing to hear that some had been using the cemetery - we received a complaint from a resident who was visiting a grave. Please discourage your children from using the cemetery as a playground, Thank You.

2023 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS - Thursday 4th May. Elections are held for town and parish councils every four years. KPC would be delighted to hear from interested candidates in the coming months so informal discussions about the role can take place and you could potentially come along to few meetings to get an idea of the projects and the level commitment involved.

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

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

PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES – KPC will soon be commencing regular contact surgery sessions with the aim of being more accessible to you, the residents we represent. Please keep an eye out on social media for the first date, there will be a feather flag placed near the church on the day the Councillors are available. More details will follow once formalised.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARDS 2023 – 15th June 2023.

The nomination form is now available on KPC's website to nominate your chosen person. We ask you to help us recognise those residents who deserve a big public thank you for their commitment and contribution to the village. Thank you for the nominations received so far.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR ON THE KPC WEBSITE – The calendar is now live; please make use of it to check local events and meetings. There is a form on the website to complete to enable your organisation or group to post events. Please contact the Clerk if you do not have access to the website but would like an event added.

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING – The collections dates are Wednesday 5th and 19th April, and 3rd May 2023.

NEXT FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - Monday 24th April 7:30pm, in the Village Club. We welcome the attendance of all parishioners at our meetings and anyone who wishes to raise any matters of concern will be given the opportunity to do so during Public Questions.

For further information on anything in this article please contact the Clerk.



KINGSCLERE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

To date we have only received 80 responses to the village housing needs questionnaire. Planning issues will become a prominent issue for Kingsclere within

the next few years so it is important we get as many views from residents as possible. The questionnaire is still available online but we are having copies printed and distributed throughout the village for those who prefer a paper copy. If you have not already done so, **please complete the housing needs questionnaire.** We need to know if views have changed since the NP was completed in 2018. The online questionnaire can be found on the Parish Council website. It only takes 5-10 minutes. If you prefer a paper copy kindly email me at the address below or contact the Parish Clerk. Please share widely in the village so we get as many responses from as wide a range of people as possible.

Cllr. Sue Adams Cllr.sue.adams@kingsclere-pc.org.uk

Coronation Bunting

The Parish Council is coordinating bunting for the Coronation Bank Holiday weekend, 6th to 8th May. We are asking that your bunting is up from 1st May to 8th May 2023 to mark the event. If you received Jubilee bunting last year we would very much appreciate it if you could put this up on your home or business once again. A small stock of this was returned to KPC and can be provided again if needed. Remember this should be in a prominent place on your building, ideally outside in a public area and street facing. If necessary, it can be placed inside if it will be seen through a window from the street. If you would like to make your own bunting a template with instructions is available at <http://www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk>. If you require bunting or wish to know more about this project please contact Nicki Peach at cldr.nicki.peach@kingsclere-pc.org.uk

Community Larder

Open **Thursdays 2.30 - 4 pm** in the **Kingsmill Room** (on the side of St Mary's Church, Kingsclere).

Are you in need of food? If so, please come along to St Mary's Church and for £3 you can choose one bag of dried/tinned items and one bag of fresh / frozen food. Enjoy free refreshments and a chat too. There are no questions asked and no proof required, we want to help all those in our local area that need support. Thanks to kind donors we are able to stock our shelves with tins and dried food each week. Fresh and frozen food is delivered by the Community Food Link, an organisation in Basingstoke that collects food nearing it's best before dates and distributes it to local food banks and larders.

Donations are always welcome – please bring along any tinned or dried goods or household items to the Kingsmill Room on a Thursday morning 11.30 -12.30. Thank you.

If you have any questions about the food bank please ring the church office on **01635 299528 or 07422 687125.**

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your kindness

We would like to say a big thank you to all the people that helped us, and all the people that offered to help, since our car was vandalised. It was very much appreciated. The car is now back on the road and going well, thank you all.

Janice and Barry Hale

The Watership Health

Arrangements over Easter

The practice will be closed on Good Friday 7th April and Easter Monday 10th April 2023. Please allow 5 working days for your repeat prescription to be processed before this break. We wish you all a Happy Easter.

Covid Spring Booster - Early Warning

The NHS is planning for a Covid Spring booster campaign for

- adults aged 75 years and over
- residents in a care home for older adults
- individuals aged 5 years and over who are immunosuppressed

The plan is to commence on 17th April until 30th June (to be confirmed).

Bowel Cancer Screening Programme

NHS England is running a six week campaign from 20th February aiming to increase uptake of the Bowel Cancer Screening Programme, which involves completion and return of the Faecal Immunochemical Test. The campaign is targeted at all adults aged 56 - 74 to encourage those who are eligible to participate. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=il6VScMwFm>

Stress Awareness Month is April

Stress and poor mental health are one of the biggest public health challenges that we're facing, and we are still not taking its impact seriously enough. Stress can lead to numerous health problems, from physical problems like heart disease, insomnia, digestive issues, and immune system challenges to more serious mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression. Stress Awareness Month provides an opportunity for an open conversation on the impact of stress and its effects with friends, families, colleagues, and professionals. See: <https://www.stress.org.uk/national-stress-awareness-month/>

MIND Well-being Practitioner

We now have Charlotte Hughes working with us. Charlotte is employed as a Well-being Practitioner through Andover Mind, working across our Primary Care Network. In the role she'll be working with patients who are struggling with their mental health and well-being, providing support and short-term recovery focused interventions to equip patients with the skills they need to manage and improve their mental health. She has recently graduated with an MSc in Psychology with distinction from the University of Nottingham and has five years' previous experience in a Care and Support worker role.



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

Do the Coronation Conga all the way to The Fieldgate Centre for...

The Big Coronation Party Saturday 6th May - 3pm 'til late

Entertainment & Fun for all Ages – Live Music & Performances
Community Stalls – Street Food – BBQ – Raffle – Bar Open

It will be a fantastic chance for local groups and charities to fundraise. Book a stall! Go to <https://www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk>. Event in partnership with Kingsclere Parish Council and supported by Basingstoke & Deane.

What's Going On in April

- Sunday 2nd Ceroc Workshop 1.30 - 4.30pm**
Contact Val 07958 587256, or email val@cerocpr.co.uk.
- Monday 3rd Kingsclere Youth Club 5 - 7pm** Ages 11 - 14yrs.
- Saturday 8th Ceroc - Workshop 1.30 - 4.30pm, Freestyle 8pm - 1am.**
- Tuesday 18th Monthly Meet-Up 2.30 - 4.30pm** Coronation Theme.
All welcome. Pop in for chat, refreshments and optional activities. Helpers welcome. Contact the office if you need a lift and we'll try to help.
- Thursday 27th Racing Welfare Retired Staff Coffee Morning. 10.30am - 12 noon.**
- Saturday 29th Jan Jack's Comedy Club Night. Doors open 7.15pm.**
Special line-up includes Michael Fabbri, Keefy Jewell and Kathryn Vyne. Tickets £15. Over 18s only.
www.ticketsource.co.uk/kingsclere-community-association

The main social area is open as a welcoming 'warm hub' most Wednesday mornings 9.30am - 1pm. We advise calling the office to check beforehand.

Check our website and Facebook for... NEW Kingsclere Greener Market/ KCA Repair Café coming this month; Blood donor sessions and NHS clinics; Table-Top Sales... and more.

www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk 01635 298497 fieldgatecentre@outlook.com

Upcoming Blood Donation Sessions at The Fieldgate Centre

Thursday 6th April, Thursday 4th May, Tuesday 16th May,
Thursday 1st June, Thursday 15th June

Register, check availability of appointments, and book at blood.co.uk

Kingsclere CE Primary School



This half term we have celebrated a number of special events including E-Safety Week. Children took part in a variety of hands-on activities with an aim to raise awareness of emerging online issues and current concerns. E-Safety remains a priority being taught through our Computing and Personal, Social, Health and Economic curriculum. Each month we also send out an E-Safety newsletter to our parents and carers to support them in managing their child(ren)'s online safety when out of school.

We warmly welcome two new governors to the team, Natalie and Angus, and we are very much looking forward to working with them. Both governors have expertise within finance and will be supporting our Finance Committee.

This month we also welcomed a four-legged friend to Kingsclere CE Primary School – Bobby! Bobby is a Labrador who has had health, temperament, suitability and stability examinations through the Pets As Therapy (PAT) charity. He is joining us for one afternoon each week supported by his owner Chrissy who is a PAT volunteer. Bobby's primary role at our school is to help children build confidence in reading and he has already made a fine start and is a very popular member of our staff team!

On the 3rd March we celebrated World Book Day and every child and staff member dressed up as a character from their favourite book. There were some extra special story times and children were also invited to create a story jar of their favourite book – all of which looked really super!

This term some of our Year 3 and 4 children took part in a 7-a-side inter-schools' football tournament. The children displayed great teamwork in all games, taking turns in different positions and challenging themselves in some tough competitions. We were very proud of the children's efforts.

We have also celebrated British Science Week and Mrs Taylor (our Science Lead) organised some live lessons, virtually hosted by NFU education, linked to farming. Children took part in a British Science Week competition linked to the theme 'Connections' and some incredible scientific thinking was shared linked to dinosaur DNA, global warming, eco-systems and much more!

Jo Messenger Acting Headteacher

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group

Where: The Village Club

When: Tuesdays 9.00am-11.00am

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

The Bunnies are getting ready for a fun-packed Easter party! Come and join us on **Tuesday April 4th** for an egg hunt in the garden (weather permitting), an Easter craft table and even a visit from the Easter bunny! Bunnies will need to bring their own baskets for the egg hunt. As always, siblings are welcome during the Easter holidays.

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

Bunnies will be closed on Tuesday April 11th due to works being carried out in the hall.

Tess Watkins 07905 624679

Busy Bees Pre-school (Kingsclere) Est.1976

Many of you will be aware that Busy Bees Kingsclere (our independent charity preschool) has been under financial pressure recently and we have been working hard to try to improve the situation. We are very appreciative of all the support from the community towards our fundraising efforts. We are pleased to update that Busy Bees is in a better position and we are continuing to welcome new children and families. Our fundraising is ongoing to secure long term sustainability, and we always appreciate any donations or other support: www.gofundme.com/f/busybeeskingsclere

Please look out for our upcoming events, including the rescheduled medium evening with Darren Higgins, rummage sale, Easter egg hunt, Coronation activities and more!

Special thanks to the following local businesses and individuals for their support: Kit Malthouse, Lord Huntingdon, Lord Lloyd Webber, Anna Lisa Balding, Jenna Burlingham, Abinger Joinery, AFGAS, Kingsbrook Ltd, Newbury Building Society, Hampshire County Council, Kingsclere Parish Council, The Tower, The Snowdrop Foundation, The Good Exchange, and Vodafone.

busybeespreschoolkingsclere.co.uk

The Ship Inn Arts Centre

The Ship Inn Country Hotel, Ashford Hill, RG19 8BD
01189 814504

See Events 2023 on our Website for more details: <https://shipinnarts.org/>
Tickets on Eventbrite, or direct from The Ship

What's on in APRIL

Come and join us! You will be warmly welcomed.

Saturday 15th April 7pm - Courtlye Musick

“Music, songs, reading and poetry from the works of William Shakespeare played on replica musical instruments of the time” and the possibility of a Pavane Dance! Light refreshments will be served in the interval. Tickets £12

KINGSCLERE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

2023 VISIT FROM CORMICY

We are delighted to confirm that we will be receiving visitors from our twinned village of Cormicy to celebrate the Coronation with us on the weekend of **Saturday 6th May to Monday 8th May**. If you are interested in hosting any of our French visitors then please let us know. **There is no requirement to speak French**, and the activities for the weekend are being planned by the Kingsclere Twinning Association. Previous hosts have found it a rich and rewarding experience to make contacts and friends in the beautiful Champagne region of France, where there will be the opportunity for a future reciprocal visit. If you would like further information please email kingscleretwinning@yahoo.co.uk or contact **Sue Watson** on **01635 298940**.

Kingsclere Youth Club

Kingsclere Youth Club is back at The Fieldgate Centre!

We welcomed a few young people on the 6th March and had fun with some food, design a logo, glitter tattoos, games and a lot more.

The club is aimed at 11-14 year olds. We run **every Monday from 5.30 pm until 7.30 pm**. The fee is £3 and tuck (includes crisps, a drink and a bag of sweets) is £1.50. We look forward to seeing your young people! Volunteers also needed. Follow our NEW Facebook page (Kingsclere Youth Club) for updates. Contact Kingsclereyouth@gmail.com



KINGSCLERE VILLAGE CLUB

Est. 1921 CHARITY 1189234

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

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

Yoga We have spaces on our Tuesday evening yoga class with Maria Bird. This class is suitable for those with some yoga experience. Starting on 25th April for 13 weeks, £123.50. Contact Emma at bookings@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Community Café The April café is on **Saturday 22nd, 10am to 1pm**. The children's craft table theme is Kings & Queens. We will be making coronation decorations and there will be a quiz at 11 o'clock. All welcome.

Coronation Come along to the Village Club to watch the coronation of King Charles III on the big screen. At the time of writing the exact time is not known – but it will be in the morning.

Spring Market Our well-regarded market returns with a Spring theme on **Sunday 21st May, 10am to 2pm**. Lots of lovely stalls offering high-quality items. Go on, treat yourself ...

Shakespeare in the Garden The Festival Players will be returning on **9th June** with Twelfth Night. Tickets: £15 performance only (doors open 7pm) or £22.50 performance + picnic (from 6.30pm) from www.wegotickets.com/event/575521, Helen (below) and the Village Butcher.

Help! Could you help out at an event? We are looking for people to help at various events through the year, e.g. setting up, serving drinks or food and clearing up. Please email me if you are able to give us a hand.

Save the Date: Summer Market 9th July.

Helen 01635 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Wolverton Village Market

The next Market is on **Saturday 1st April in the Village Hall from 9.30 am until 11 am**.

Stalls will include homegrown produce and plants, bric-a-brac, handmade garden ornaments and planters, books and puzzles, handmade candles and cards, household products and antiques and collectables.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are available to buy and to enjoy while you shop. Please come along and support us. Entrance is free and there is parking available outside the Hall.

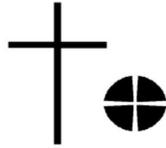
For further information or if you might be interested in having a stall please contact **Wendy Morgan** on **01635 297538**.

Note: There will be no Market in May

The Church Pages

'If our hope in Christ is good only for this life, we are worse off than anyone else. But Christ has been raised to life! And he makes us certain that others will also be raised to life.'

1 Corinthians 15:19-20



The celebration of the resurrection of Jesus at Easter is fundamental to our Christian faith, for if we cannot accept the fact of the resurrection, our faith is something that only has a present and a past. It certainly has nothing to offer for the future. It has nothing to offer as we face the certainty of death. It denies all that Christ taught about victory over death and the freedom that would be accorded to the 'children of God'. If our faith is for this life only, then as Paul wrote to the early church in Corinth, 'we of all people are most to be pitied'. We are not promised immortality – but we are promised life in the presence of God for all time.

The good news is that Christ was raised; he has promised us that what is his will be ours. We can therefore share in the resurrection hope, which he has made available to us all. It is a hope that millions of people bear witness to in the way they lead their lives in that they recognise the signs of hope in the world, however deeply the world may try to bury them. That hope is not just something for one day of the year, but something that we carry with us every day of the year.

In the first of his letters to the early church, Peter writes this:

Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope. Give a kind and respectful answer and keep your conscience clear.'

1 Peter 3:14-16a

Easter reminds us that, because of God's love and Jesus' obedience, there is hope for the world, despite appearances to the contrary. May our Easter celebrations fill us again with the confidence that 'we have a gospel to proclaim – good news for all throughout the earth' (E J Burns).

Peace,

Rachel

Rachel Borgars, Methodist Minister

Worship in our Churches April 2023



Sunday 2 nd Palm Sunday	9.30am Holy Communion St Peter's, Headley	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Thursday 6 th Maundy Thursday		10.30am Maundy Thursday Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Friday 7 th Good Friday	10.30am Kingsclere Churches Good Friday Service (in St Mary's Churchyard followed by refreshments at the Methodist Church)		2pm Reflective Good Friday Service St Peter's, Headley
Sunday 9 th Easter Day	9.30am Easter Day Communion St Paul's, Ashford Hill	10.30am Easter Day Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Thursday 13 th		10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Sunday 16 th	9.30am Morning Worship St Paul's, Ashford Hill	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Thursday 20 th		10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Sunday 23 rd	9.30am Holy Communion St Paul's, Ash- ford Hill	10.30am Morning Worship and Annual Meeting St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Thursday 27 th		10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Sunday 30 th		10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	

Lighting up St Mary's

The sight of St Mary's Church when it is floodlit is truly beautiful. Many people sponsor these lights (£12 per evening) to celebrate an occasion, such as a birthday, wedding, anniversary, christening, or some other special day in their lives. To book, contact Emma, our Church Administrator on **07422 687125** or email administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk



April

- 2nd** Beryl Green – Happy Birthday. Missing you today and every day. SSCJAKGRMMKEJANLENDASLPHZC
- 13th** Remembering Richard on his birthday, 13th April. We miss you so much, love Mum and Dad xx
- 25th** Happy Birthday sweet Aimee Hardy-Milborrow. 33 today. We will always include you in our lives. We all miss you and love you so very much. Love forever, Mum, Dad, Samuel, Willum, Meghan and Jude xxx
- 29th** Beryl Green (Nanny 'Biscuit'). We can't believe it has been 2 years since you left us. Love you today and every day, from all your family.

FOSM 200 Club

The winner of the March Draw was

Lucy Butler – No.135. Congratulations, Lucy.

Next month's Draw will take place at The Crown at approximately **7 pm on Thursday 6th April.**

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

Saturday Coffee

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

**10.00 - 12.00 in the Kingsmill Room, St Mary's Church
1st, 8th, 15th and 29th April**

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

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd

Our next event will be the annual **Plant Sale in St Mary's Churchyard**, in conjunction with Kingsclere Gardening Association, on the morning of **Saturday 20th May**. We hope to have a good selection of perennial flowering plants, some annuals, and a variety of young vegetable plants. As ever, if you are splitting clumps or have spare seedlings, we should welcome donations. Please contact **Jane Royle** at jane.b.royle@gmail.com or on **01635 297430**.



We are very much hoping for a fine summer, particularly for our **Open Gardens Trail** on the weekend **afternoons of 24th and 25th June**. Owners kindly opening for us include several who have lovingly created their mature gardens over decades, and others who have more recently made or transformed their plots. There should be something to engage everyone. Maps and tickets (valid for both days) will be available at the Kingsmill Room from 1 p.m. each day, and refreshments will also be on sale there or, weather permitting, in the Churchyard. We look forward to welcoming you!

Peter Turner, Chairman

For membership & other enquiries contact fosmkingsclere@gmail.com

Services at Kingsclere Methodist Church April 2023



Sun 2nd	Morning Worship led by Tim Gardner 10am
Sun 9th	Easter Sunday Sunrise Service on White Hill 6am Easter Breakfast in the Methodist Hall from 7.30am Morning Worship & Communion led by Rev'd Rachel Borgars 10am
Sun 16th	Morning Worship led by Jeff Britt 10am
Sun 23rd	Morning Worship & Communion led by Rev'd Canon Gill Bental 10am
Sun 30th	Morning Worship led by Rev'd Andy Fitchett 10am

All are welcome to all services.

Hall for hire, see back page of this magazine for details.

Coffee morning: every **Thursday 10 – 12 am.**

Christine Westcombe c_westcombe@hotmail.com

St. Mary's Village Fete

Plans are going well for the Fete on Bank Holiday **Monday 28th August 2023**. Thank you to all the people who have already put their names down to help. Downer and Co. have agreed to sponsor the Fete again this year. We have already had offers of some great Grand Draw prizes.

We need you to keep us in mind when Spring Cleaning – please save your good, clean, bric-a-brac and any books or DVD's etc. Unwanted presents would be great for Tombola prizes too.

We can confirm that we will be able provide BBQ food and liquid refreshment from The Village Pub. We have also managed to find some musical entertainment. We still need someone to volunteer to run the Tea Shop; we have several people who will help with this but we need someone willing to be in charge.

If you have contacts who would be willing to donate raffle prizes or who you think might be able to help in any way, please let us know. Thank you.

Sara Hannan – 299550 or email: pamkitch16@gmail.com

St Mary's Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The annual meeting of St Mary's Church council will take place after the 10.30am service on **23rd April 2023**. All are welcome to attend to find out what has been happening at St Mary's over the past year, and how we are looking forward to our new Priest in Charge arriving – as well as other changes in 2023 and beyond. There will be a light lunch in the Kingsmill Room afterwards.

KINGSCLERE CHARITIES

Incorporating Kingsclere Welfare Charity and
Kingsclere Apprenticing Charity

2023 Meeting Dates:

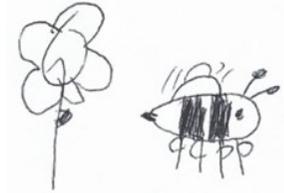
Thursday 20th April
Thursday 15th June
Thursday 21st September
Thursday 16th November

The Trustees will meet on the above dates; applications must be received by the clerk two weeks before each meeting. Apply in the first instance to **www.kingsclerecharities.org**, where information and application forms can be found by selecting the appropriate charity for your needs, and submitting to the clerk.

Alternatively please email **kingsclerecharities@iname.com**

Nature Notes

Hi! My name is Lily, I'm 7 years old and I live in the village. I love bugs, flowers and all living things.

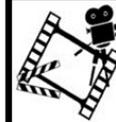


When I go on walks with my family or go outside to play, I always find exciting things in nature and I thought I could tell you about my discoveries!

In the half term I was in my back garden, helping my mummy clean out my bunnies (we have 4 of them!) when I heard a buzzing sound. I followed the noise and I saw 6 little bees with legs full of pollen, buzzing around one of our bushes (Mummy called it a Saracococca bush).

I thought that bees went to sleep in the winter and came out in the summer but when we looked it up we found that they are around all of the time, looking for flowers! I have decided to make a bee house out of bamboo sticks in case they need a rest before the summer comes.

Lily K



Kingsclere Film Club

Unfortunately, the April meeting of the
Film Club is cancelled.

Next month: **Saturday 13th May 2023**

West Side Story

(2021 - 12A - 156min - 1 Oscar)

Kingsclere Film Club welcomes guests at £7.50. New members welcome.
For further information call **Diana Tait** (Membership Secretary) **298494**

Kin&scelere Singers

Are Recruiting
Singing is our happy place,
make it yours too!

Join us to make music & new friends
Singing in aid of local charities since 1891

Varied repertoire of original, classical & popular music. Local performances.

No prior experience necessary, no audition, no need to read music.

Rolling termly/annual subscriptions & 2 free taster sessions.

Rehearsals: Mondays, 7.30 - 9 pm The Fieldgate Centre.

Call **Hazel O'Leary 01635 298507** or email **Mary Bushnell** at
Kingscleresingers@gmail.com **www.kingsclere-singers.co.uk**

Kingsclere Cricket Club

Kingsclere Cricket Club is getting ready for the Summer 2023 season starting with indoor nets through the second half of March and the whole for April. Nets will be held in Cheam School's Sports Hall Sundays from 7pm to 9pm. Everyone is welcome, particularly new players (16 and upwards).

We had an interesting season in 2022! The weather, as always, played its part with the January 2022 storms demolishing our machinery shed at the Fieldgate. Thanks to some great work by our Treasurer we secured a grant from Sport England and it has now been rebuilt – and looks much smarter than the old “crinkly tin” one! With the pitches at the Fieldgate out of action, we became a bit of a travelling side with “home” Saturday fixtures being played either at Hurstbourne Priors or Aldermaston Village. Team spirit never flagged through all the upheaval and we finished mid table having played all 16 fixtures and won 8 of them. We were very fortunate to be able to use the Park House Stables cricket ground for our evening league fixtures. Many thanks to the Balding Family and everyone at the stables for the use of the ground – which is a fabulous place to play cricket!

This season, we have a couple of friendlies on 15th and 30th April before the league season starts on Saturday 7th May. Home games will be back at the Fieldgate again. We've entered the evening league again and all of these fixtures will be played at Park House Stables. We are also organising a club tour to Cornwall in the middle of September. Watch this space!

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

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

Kingsclere Community Library

The Newbury Dramatic Society returns with another evening entertainment :

Percey Shelley, Romantic Poet and Revolutionary

Thursday 20th April, 7:30, in the Library

Tickets in advance at the library or online at <https://tinyurl.com/mskxwnfy>

£8 adults, £4 students includes glass of wine or soft drink

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

Nicki Lee, Library phone 01635 297464

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



Kingsclere Coronation Party & Celebrations

Friday 5th May

Jubilee Light Switch On Village Square

Live Music George & Horn

Saturday 6th May

Afternoon Tea Village Club

Street-food George & Horn

Kingsclere Coronation Conga

to the

Big Coronation Party

The Fieldgate Centre 3pm till late

Live music – Entertainment & Fun for all Ages

Community Stalls – Street Food – BBQ – Bar Open

Sunday 7th May

Service of Celebration for all St Mary's Church
Downs Walk and The Big Lunch Picnic



For more information and to book a community stall scan the QR code or visit www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk
 Details will be updated as we get more information.



APRIL IN THE GARDEN

The days are longer and can be warmer, but there is still a chance of frost. That is when the damage is done to some plants in the garden, the sun on frost is not a good mix, so do protect plants that will not survive these conditions. Unfortunately there is still a possibility of snow this month which will also cause damage to some plants.

The slug and snail population will increase greatly at this time of year; they can destroy plants overnight. There are many ways to combat these pests. Now that slug pellets are not popular, because of the effect they could have on birds, try the old remedy of a beer trap.

There are plenty of jobs to do in the garden now. Thin out any vegetable seedlings, otherwise they won't crop well. Sow leeks, fennel, sweetcorn, courgettes and tomatoes. Plant main crop potatoes, and earth up early potatoes. There is nothing as tasty as homegrown strawberries, so if you are limited for space, grow some in pots, now is the time to plant them. Feed currants and berries taking care not to use too much feed, follow directions on the packaging. Container grown fruit trees can be planted now, as it is too late to plant bare rooted trees.

Ponds should be cleaned out this month. Keep mowing lawns; if you have moss in your lawn, this is usually caused by poor drainage and the soil has probably become compacted. Getting rid of any thatch (dead grass) and aerating the soil will help.

Deadhead daffodils, leaving the leaves to die down naturally. I like to give my bulbs a sprinkling of potash after flowering to help them perform well the next year. Plant and sow sweet peas, continue sowing hardy annuals. Cut back early flowering shrubs after flowering, tie in climbers, and support perennials. Now is the time to take softwood cuttings using new shoots from deciduous shrubs such as Hydrangeas, Buddelia, and Lavatera; they should develop roots within four weeks. Fig trees can be pruned now but they need to be done with great care.

Flowers to enjoy this month or Lily of the Valley, Dicentra, Aubrieta, Aquilegia, Fritillary and Jasmine.

Denise Allen

Our next **Market** will be in **June**, please watch out for details!

We are still organising our first **Repair Cafe**, which we hope will be in April. Please check our Facebook page and website for news.

Nicki, Sarah & Lucinda greenerkingsclere@gmail.com

www.Greener-kingsclere.co.uk



Kingsclere Gardening Association and Friends of St Mary's Plant Sale

Saturday 20 May 2022 10 – 12, The Churchyard

This very popular Village event is back. Please come along and see what the growers of Kingsclere and surrounding area have been able to produce from their own homes, gardens and allotments. There will be people who can give help and advice on any potential purchases or general plant care questions. If you have any plants or spare seedlings, please bring them along on the morning or get in touch with me and I will happily accept these donations and take them for you. If anyone would like to help on the day, again, please let me know. There will also be upcycled, handmade planters for sale.



We are holding our **Spring Show** on **2 April** at **The Village Club**, doors open to the public at **2 pm**. There is still time to enter as there are "Entry on the Day" classes for Kingsclere residents (entries on the day need to be on the show benches before judging commences at 12:00pm):

36. 3 stems Daffodil from the garden (unprotected)
37. 1 stem of Daffodil from the garden
38. 1 vase Miniature Daffodils, not more than 5 stems
39. Vase of flowers from the garden, excluding daffodils, not more than 5 stems. Own vase can be used.
40. A Photograph 'Springtime' – for all ages
41. Jar of Chutney (State on label Hot or Mild)
42. Jar of Marmalade
43. 5 Shortbread Biscuits
44. Children only - A leaf print
45. Children only - A decorated flowerpot.

For more information, the full Show Schedule including rules is saved in the Files section of our Facebook page, or call or email **Laura Butler** on **01256 781892** or at laura@ro-jen.co.uk. Entries are 20p and free for children.

Beth Theobald (Secretary) 07916 032250

Staking Perennials

Staking plants is a thorny issue for lots of gardeners, but here we will try to clear away some of the confusion.

Place your plants with care: Sun loving plants placed in too much shade will stretch and lean towards the light. Don't force a plant into conditions to which it is not suited. Don't overfeed: Soils that have been overfed or are nutrient-rich will promote fast soft growth leaving plants vulnerable to wind, rain and extra weight. Depth of soil: Some plants need to root deeply to anchor themselves in place. Taller plants in particular, rarely do well in shallow soil.

With careful research and planning you will hopefully have reduced the number of plants needing to be supported. However, some need for support may be unavoidable. Timing is important and you need to work early to allow your plants to grow through the supports without damaging them and to help hide the supports. This is particularly relevant with grids or hoop stakes.

Twiggy sticks can be pushed into the ground around lower growing plants like Penstemon and will add extra woody structure that won't be seen. Individual bloom supports in the form of small rings or Y shaped stakes need to be in place by the time the flower buds start to swell. Prunings from shrubs and trees can be used. You will also need twine or cushioned twisty tie - don't use wire or bag ties as they can damage the plants. Tie in loosely to allow for growth and also to enable the plant to move and flex. Use a figure of 8 by tying around the support then crossing the ends over and tying around the plant stem to stop the stem rubbing against the support. You can also make frames or cages round the plant to enable it to fill out while still being supported.

Remember to deadhead plants to encourage new buds and also to reduce the overall weight of taller plants. Many perennials will lose vigour, particularly in the centre, after a few years as the plant grows into a larger clump. Lifting and splitting these plants during their dormant season will give them new vigour and help prevent any outward collapse.

This is an edited version of an article on **Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants** website. For the whole piece, including more tips on planting, go to **www.hardycottagegardenplants.com**.

Visit us in Priory Lane, Freefolk, RG28 7FA.



u3a
Overton & District

Darren Gowers *presents*

DNA and the Genome Revolution

Darren is Senior Lecturer in the School of Biology at Portsmouth University.



Darren says: "In this talk, my overall aim is to take you on a tour down into the microscopic world of a cell and explore what makes them tick. We will start with a description of the scales of biological life, from ecosystems down to the tiny molecules of life. We will look at why the 3D shape of molecules like DNA and protein are essential to their function, and the key role of enzymes in allowing reactions to proceed on a useful timescale. We will discuss the central role of evolution in shaping life and explore various examples of how diseases can be explained, diagnosed and cured by a clear understanding of molecular interactions."

Join us for this fascinating talk on

Wednesday 19 April at 10 a.m.

St Mary's Hall, Overton

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



Kingsclere Bowling Club

Need more exercise? Want a new pastime? Like to make new friends and socialise?

You can do all these by coming to **Kingsclere Bowling Club** and **TRY LAWN BOWLING**.

Our season starts in April and continues until mid-September.

Following the green opening we shall be holding **OPEN EVENINGS** on Tuesdays during May starting at 6:30pm for you to give bowling a try – **ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

All ages and genders will be very welcome, and novices are also invited to attend on any or all of these evenings. Tuition will be given and bowls provided. All we ask is that you wear flat soled shoes or trainers, and are reasonably mobile.

We look forward to meeting you.

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

North Wessex Downs Walking Festival



The third North Wessex Downs Walking Festival is **2nd - 11th June 2023**.

The Festival will include over 25 walks taking place across the North Wessex Downs and all in celebration of this stunning landscape. Be one of the first to hear when bookings for the festival open by signing up to receive the North Wessex Downs emailed newsletter at northwessexdowns.org.uk/walking.

Volunteering Opportunity

Are You—A Good Listener? Caring & Understanding? A Parent/Grandparent/Carer? Do you have 1-2 hours a week you could spare? We are looking for Volunteers to support families in the Community **YOU** can make a difference to someone's life.



INTERESTED? Contact us:- 01256 325793

info@homestart-nwhampshire.org.uk

www.homestart-nwhampshire.org.uk

Volunteers benefit from 10 - 25 hours training over 2 - 5 weeks starting **Friday 5th May 2023 @ 9:30am - 2:30pm**

BECAUSE CHILDHOOD CAN'T WAIT!

Kingsclere and Headley Woodlands WI

After a very successful start to our WI year we were disappointed to have to cancel our March meeting on the day because of the dreadful weather.

However, we will be back in April with Brian Sylvester, the town crier for Newbury, with his talk 'For Crying Out Loud'. You may even be able to hear him from outside! Do come along to our meeting on **Wednesday 12th April at 1.45pm** at the Village Club. You can be sure of a very warm welcome.

Also this month Kingsclere WI hosts the twice yearly North Downs Group Meeting on **Wednesday 19th April**. The speaker on this occasion is Colin Johnson, a geo-profiler. Don't know what that is? Do come along and find out.

Margaret Geary President 01635 297197



THE KINGSCLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

POLICE, FIRE or AMBULANCE

Police Enquiries/Information

Emergency 999

non Emergency 101

Kingsclere Health Centre:

01635 296000

North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke

01256 473202

Parish Council: 37 George Street (see page 2)

01635 298634

KingsclereCharities Clerk: Jan Pearce

01635 269184

kingsclerecharities@iname.com

Dial-a-Ride

01256 462101

CHURCH CONTACTS

St. MARY'S CHURCH:

Vicar TBA

Church Warden:

Administrator:

Emma Rivers

01635 299528

administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

07422 687125

METHODIST CHURCH:

Minister: Rev Rachel Borgars

07889 905753

Rachel.Borgars@methodist.org.uk

01256 895878

Secretary & Hire of Hall Jeanette Billington

01635 297585

ROMAN CATHOLIC:

Rev Patrick Tansey

0118 9814572

tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Ken Rhatigan 07850 530319

cldr.ken.rhatigan@basingstoke.gov.uk

Stuart Frost 07961 265719

cldr.Stuart.Frost@basingstoke.gov.uk

Kerry Morrow 07422 651172

cldr.Kerry.Morrow@basingstoke.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Tom Thacker 07712 695468

tom.thacker@hants.gov.uk

MP for N.W. Hampshire:

Kit Malthouse 01264 401401

kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk

2, Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP

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