

The Kingsclere Tower

EDITORS Sarah Hewitt & Nicki Lee 3 Blue Meadow, Garrett Close ☎ 07549081225
DISTRIBUTION: Brian Elborn ☎ 298704
ADVERTISING: Les Wallace, Jada, Union Lane ☎ 298794
ASSEMBLY: Janet Sturgess ☎ 298079
PRINTERS Jenny Juniper/Maggie Hiller and Ted Dunn,
LAYOUT/COVER: Mike Stokoe

As the clocks change, bringing the joy of longer, lighter evenings, I find myself noticing numerous spring jobs that need tackling. The garden is a wilderness, full of storm debris to be cleared; rugs and floors with tenacious layers of winter mud brought in by two large dogs (and their owners) need to be shampooed; and cupboards would definitely benefit from de-cluttering. With a hectic job and plenty of outside-work pursuits, I often feel that it's my head that really needs de-cluttering! Life seems to revolve around a variety of to-do lists, with more being added than completed. I recently stumbled across the concept of 'Mindfulness', a current media buzzword describing a meditation technique to focus the mind on the present moment. Studies suggest the method improves symptoms of stress and anxiety. So, I'm giving it a go! It's early days, (and it does of course mean adding an extra item to the daily to-do list), but I'm hoping I'll be so calm and serene in a few weeks' time that I'll be less frazzled whenever I spot another list!

Editor Sarah

Did you know? The Tower is now available as a PDF file on the Kingsclere Parish council website: <http://www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk/tower.html>

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

To all "Tower" Contributors

Copy for **May** to the Editor at 3 Blue Meadow, Garrett Close.

or kingscleretower@gmail.com

NOT LATER THAN 12th April.

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

KINGSCLERE PARISH COUNCIL (KPC)**Chairman: Cllr Alan Denness (298376)****Clerk: Sheila Thompson (298634)****email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk****Office: 37 George Street, Kingsclere RG20 5NH****Public Opening: Mon & Wed 9:30-11:30am.****CEMETERY SAFE PATH**

We are delighted to report that the long awaited safe access path to the Ecchinswell Road Cemetery is now in place. The steps can be accessed at the back of the Fieldgate Centre, towards the end of the Rugby field. The tarmac path has been extended to provide a level path to the steps, which bring you into the bottom of the new extension to the Cemetery. Pedestrians will no longer have to walk up the busy Ecchinswell Road where traffic is funnelled through steep banks on either side making it a perilous trip. Thank you to the Fieldgate Centre for allowing us access across its fields, this safe access path will make a great difference to many people.

MEETING WITH POLICE

Members of the Council met with senior representatives of the local police force to discuss our concerns over the future of policing in Kingsclere. This was a very positive meeting which we hope will bring about positive action. Further information will be passed on as the plans unfold.

STREET LIGHTING CHANGES

The project to replace all street lights in Hampshire has reached us in Kingsclere and there will be an exhibition vehicle on The Square from 10.00am to 2.00pm on Friday 11th April 2014 to explain the changes that are about to take place. We hope many of you will be able to visit it and find out why and how these changes will be made.

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

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

How to contact your Councillors

Borough Councillors: **CATHY OSSELTON** Tel 01635 298774

Mobile 07787 150457, E-mail:- osselc@aol.com

DONALD SHERLOCK Tel 01256 782925

E-mail:- Cllr.Donald.Sherlock@basingstoke.gov.uk

County Councillor: **KEITH CHAPMAN** Tel 0118 9700831

E-mail:- keith.chapman@hants.gov.uk

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

This year the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 17th April 2014. This is not a Parish Council but a meeting of the Community where people can hear reports from the various clubs and organisations around the village and speak informally to the Councillors and organisations direct. See the Notice Boards nearer the time for more information.

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING

Collection days for April are 2nd, 16th and 30th.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS – the Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 28th April, immediately followed by the Ordinary Meeting. These will start at 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.

Sheila Thompson (Clerk)

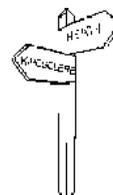
Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan

At our last meeting the group agreed to revise our objectives as we felt we didn't have the resources to revise the current Village Plan along with undertaking work on Neighbourhood Planning. The Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan will focus on:

- The provision of housing, with particular regard to low cost housing within the parish boundary.
- The identification of potential sites for development in accordance with the Borough's Local Development Plan, taking account of the historical integrity of the village
- The implications for local road use and parking in the light of any new developments
- The protection of existing facilities, continued provision and addition of a variety of sport and leisure facilities, particularly for children and young people, where need has been identified

At the time of writing we will shortly be awarding a contract to a consultant to help us with the detailed work on the Plan. We continue to welcome your views so please write in or give your comments on the Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page. Information can be found on the Neighbourhood Planning pages of the Parish Council web site plus the drop in centre. For more information contact the Parish Clerk or Sue Adams sueadams@madasafish.com

Kingsclere Paths



By the time you read this article the new gate on Footpath 84 (the Lakes to Fox's Lane) should be in use. The purchase of the gate was made possible by a grant from Hampshire County Council, Rights of Way small grants scheme, and the installation by Kingsclere Parish Council. This replaces the vandalised kissing gate, and should make access easier.

Many thanks to the nine volunteers who worked on Sunday Feb. 23rd. Work was again done on the footpaths near the school and the allotments. We have reported a number of fallen trees blocking paths, and these will either be cleared by us, the landowners or the county council.

We hope soon to appear on our own Facebook page! And should also be in the Village Diary.

March work day is Sunday 30th and April Sunday 27th. Both days 9.45 am behind the Village Club, George Street.

Please report to me or the Parish Clerk (Tel. 298634) any paths you think need attention.

There are still plenty of Parish Footpath maps left in the Parish office or with me.

Heath Denness (Tel. 298376)

Defibrillators

By the time this month's Tower reaches you the Village defibrillator will be operational. The volunteers are all trained in its use and, should the worst happen, and you have a need to ring 999, you may find that one of the volunteers will arrive slightly ahead of the paramedics. They will begin the resuscitation until the ambulance personnel arrive. There is no need, as was reported in the press, to ask for a volunteer, the ambulance despatchers will automatically send one out.

It just remains to thank the volunteers who have undertaken the training and given up their time and the generous people who have donated funds to make this possible.

Janet Bond Kingsclere Parish Council

CALLING THE YOUNG

Kingsclere Youth Club is about to re launch at the Fieldgate Centre. Come to a drop in evening from 7.0 till 8.0pm on April 15th to see what we plan to do. New ideas, new activities and Summer Streetz coming up.

Kingsclere Youth Club are looking for a qualified Youth worker for four hours a week hopefully soon to be eight hours (two sessions). Standard rates of pay apply. These will be at the Fieldgate Centre.

Please contact Janet Bond for initial information on 01635 297610
07890196422

janetbond586@btinternet.com

Kingsclere, Ashford Hill with Headley Care Group (KAHHCG)

What do you know about us?

Kingsclere Care Group has been supporting the local community in a variety of ways for over 30 years. We welcomed colleagues from Ashford Hill and Headley 3 years ago – hence the expanded name: but most of the time we're just known as The Care Group! We currently have two main activities:

Health-related transport

We provide transport related to health needs for those who are unable to provide their own, e.g. from Kingsclere, Ashford Hill or Headley to the local health centre, local hospitals and sometimes to hospitals further afield. Health centre transport is currently free; other transport costs are payable to the drivers, who get reimbursed for petrol costs at 50p per mile.

Monthly Lunch Club

On the first Thursday of each month (except January) the Lunch Club meet in the Kingsmill Room at St Mary's Church at 12.15pm. A hot, three course meal is provided for guests at £3.50 per head. An excellent opportunity to meet old friends and new ones. All are welcome.

Volunteers

All our work is done by our invaluable volunteer helpers. We currently have 13 willing drivers who between them undertook about 300 trips last year. An efficient team of 7 manage the Lunch Club. A small committee has overall responsibility for the Care Group's work.

Expanding our work

We would like to offer more help to meet local need, such as transport to local events, and also expansion to include Ecchinswell, Hannington, Bishop's Green and Burghclere. To do this, we need more help.

If you might be interested/willing to help - on an occasional or regular basis - why not have a 'no obligation' chat with one of us? Phone or email. We look forward to talking to you.

General queries

Maggy Wallace (Chair) 01635 298794 or mjwwatershipdown@msn.com

Lunch Club queries; (Lunch Club Organiser)

Pam Kitch 01635 299743 or pamela.kitch@byinternet.com

Driving queries; (Driver co-ordinator)

Margaret Gilbert 07880 658187 or mac.margaret@btinternet.com

Dear Editor,

REF: LOST KEYS. March issue Tower and Village Policing

I agree, to some extent, with the person who lost his/her key. A small item which in itself is insignificant to a finder who may not even bother to pick it up, but to the loser can give so much grief let alone expense. But having found it what do you do? Yes, good idea, Post office or local store but as I know from experience, found items can build up.

As we all know, government cutbacks have hit hard, policing in our community being just one aspect of cutbacks. The enquiry office at Tadley and Whitchurch were closed and the opening hours at Basingstoke reduced. So, as the person of the lost key points out, Where can we go for lost or found property? The answer is Basingstoke or Newbury.

The basis for this is, Hampshire Constabulary tell us that both stations are within half an hour of Kingsclere and therefore a Police Station is accessible. The other aspect is, anyone wishing to report an incident or crime can do so by phone.

You may have noticed that we rarely see a police officer in our community. This is mainly due to abstractions to other areas and there may be good reasons for this but it doesn't help us.

I believe it is vitally important that the community be made aware that as policing has changed due to cut backs, the service we will receive will be reactive not proactive.

I believe that our children need to relate to a patrolling police officer and the older community need the reassurance of seeing a police officer on the street. I feel it is up to us as a community to voice our concerns via our Parish Council or a letter to Sir George Young.

The truth and sad part about the Police Office being closed is that for the last few months it was not supported by the public or the police so you should not be surprised that the attendant felt a little disenchanted.

You may be interested to know that The Police Office in Kingsclere opened in 1986 and was the first police office in the county to be located in a community building. From that time until August 2013 the office was open each Saturday morning from 1000hrs to 1200hrs.

It was for the community dealing with any issues that members of our community had, not just police issues.

If you feel it would be an advantage for it to reopen then please contact the parish clerk.

Stewart Packham



The Kingsclere Players who are celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year, invite you to come and see their lively production of **'Ten Times Table'** by **Alan Ayckbourn** performed 'in the round' at **The Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere** from **the 10th - 12th April, 7.45pm.**

Set in the ballroom of the dilapidated Swan Hotel, Pendon, a diverse group of local residents form a committee. Their aim is to organise a town pageant based on a lost piece of local history, the 'Massacre of the Pendon Twelve'. The action quickly descends into chaos as the committee members differ widely in their views of what the pageant should be and how it should be re-enacted. Over the course of four meetings, the group splits into warring factions and the pageant itself turns into civil war!

In 'Ten Times Table' Alan Ayckbourn introduces to the audience recognisable and loveable characters. There's Ray, desperately trying to chair the meetings and keep order and Helen, his relentlessly patronising wife; Donald, the earnestly, ineffectual counsellor and Audrey his shrewdly, dithering octogenarian mother. Then there's Lawrence whose life is collapsing off-stage and Marxist teacher Eric and his two adoring women, Sophie and Philippa. And of course, there's the mad-militarist Tim, who keeps law and disorder, not forgetting, the mysterious Russian, Max Kirkov!!

Come and meet them all and see the action!! We know you'll have fun!!

Tickets £8 available from 'The Village Butcher'
or by phoning 01635 297234.

First World War commemoration

We are hoping to put together an exhibition this year about the First World War, especially in relation to the village. I have now heard of several people who have memorabilia of one kind or another, but I feel sure that there is more to be found! If you have, or can have access to, any letters, photographs, diaries; Medals, military equipment or indeed anything to do with life in the village during the 1914-18 period, and would be willing to lend it to form part of an exhibition, please contact me on fmsawyer@waitrose.com or 297221.

Thank you in advance.

Fiona Sawyer 01635 297221

For all constituents in NW Hampshire
How to contact your Member of Parliament
SIR GEORGE YOUNG

Tel: 01264 401401 Fax: 01264 391155

E-mail: sirgeorge@sirgeorgeyoung.org.uk.

Web: www.sirgeorgeyoung.org.uk



The Parent Teacher Association of Kingsclere Primary School
Reg charity no. 1099453

The Easter egg hunt will be returning on **Saturday 19th April**. It's a great family event following a map around the village, collecting answers and winning an egg at the end. We hope you can come and join in the fun from 2-4pm at St Mary's Churchyard. There will also be a raffle, cake stall and refreshments. Tickets are £2 in advance (from Kingsclere Primary School Office) or £2.50 on the day. All proceeds to FKS so please support this fun event. Tickets for our NEW event, the Ping Pong Ball on 14th June will be available soon. The ball will be at Sandford Springs with dinner, drinks and a disco & the event will raise money for outdoor table tennis tables for the school playground.

Dates for your diary:

Sat 19th April	Easter Egg hunt around the village - all welcome
Thursday 22nd May	Bag 2 School collection 9am.
Sat 14th June	'Ping Pong' Ball at Sandford Springs
Sat 5th July	School Summer Fair to be held at School
Tues 22nd July	Leavers' disco for all pupils.

Rachael Knight FKS - Tel: 268160 - e:knightrachael@hotmail.co.uk

Kingsclere Scout Group

We are actively looking for volunteer leaders to help with running the Scouts Section in Kingsclere - this is the 10 to 14 year olds section. Our Leader numbers are about to drop below a level where we can continue to operate this section and we therefore need to add to the pool of leaders.



This is a fantastically rewarding opportunity where you have the chance to join in the adventure that is scouting whilst helping to grow the life skills of the youngsters in our community. This coming summer sees the 50th Anniversary of scouting in Kingsclere and we plan to celebrate that fact. In addition, we have plans to join in with 2 county camps, one of which is at Jamboree level in the summer and is open to all sections. So you can see the activity and excitement is already growing for what looks like being a special year for scouting in Kingsclere.

If you would like to hear more then please speak to any of our Leaders or Executive committee, alternatively please feel free to call me on 298317 or email: mebeaver@btinternet.com.

Emma Rivers

Kingsclere Village Club

It is with great regret that I announce that I will be standing down as a trustee of the Village Club at our AGM in September. I will then be 79 and have served as chairman for over twenty years.



The Club has come a long way from the run-down 'grot' we took over in 1994 and is now an asset any community can be proud of. But to keep it that way we need active trustees who will work to keep the 250 year old building still the face of modern Kingsclere. We currently have vacancies for two plus a replacement for me in September.. If you think you could give some time as a trustee then please contact Sharon Morris on 298370 or via our website <http://kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk/>.

Peter Woodman 297144

Village Market

20th Anniversary of the Market at the Village Club

The market on the 26th April will be opened at 10am by Lady Carnarvon. Started in 1994 by Josie Norton, the market continues to improve with good quality products month after month. New stalls are in the pipe line, with one at this market. The media will be in attendance, so the coverage will be wide. Gareth Martin will be taking pictures for the market, so come along and make it a day to remember for the market, club and the village.

Alan Gore 01635 299118

Coach Outing from Kingsclere

Wed 14th May: This month we are going to Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury. This place was built for the Rothschild family. A great many places of interest for people to see ie art gallery, aviary, old-fashioned sweet shop, plant centre etc. As I said in the March Tower, I need to have the coach fare, £15.50, plus admission to Waddesdon, £13, no later than 28th April. Bookings after that date cannot be accepted.

Josie Norton 298059

KINGSCLERE & HEADLEY WOODLANDS WI



Meetings take place on the second Wednesday of each month at The Village Club

Our next meeting will be on 9th April starting at 1.45pm

Our speaker will be Jan Blight telling us about "The Newbury Coat"

New Members always welcome, or come along to a meeting as a visitor, you can be assured of a warm welcome

More detail from Betty Eckton--01256 850017



Kingsclere Library

Author of the Month is **Susan Hill** CBE (born 5 February 1942); an English author whose writing career has encompassed acclaimed literary novels, ghost stories, children's books, detective novels and memoirs. She has won the Whitbread, Somerset Maugham and John Llewellyn Rhys awards, as well as having been shortlisted for the Booker Prize. The *Woman in Black*, her terrifying ghost story, is still running as a play in the West End and is now a successful film. She was appointed the Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2012 Birthday Honours for services to literature.

Kingsclere Book Trail was held over the school half term and people had to locate the library books displayed in various premises within the village! Our very grateful thanks go to the 19 premises that kindly took part and displayed one adult & one child's book. No-one managed to find all the books but there were 4 joint winners with a score of 36 books each, who each received a book token & a map of Kingsclere! Thank you to all who took part.

Library Consultation Just a reminder that the consultation on the future of library provision for Kingsclere ends on **2nd May 2014**, if you have not already done so please collect a form from the library during opening hours.

Quick Reads No time to read a book? Just need a short story whilst awaiting an appointment or taking a journey? Then try one of our Quick Reads.

Children's Easter Competition Look out for our Easter competition over the school holidays.

Summer Reading Scheme Talking of holidays, over the school summer holidays the library service have a Summer Reading Challenge where the children read 6 books over the holiday to receive a medal & certificate. We can only do this with our dedicated volunteers who help run the scheme and would be grateful if **you** could spare some time to also help, it is very rewarding helping to keep our children reading over the summer and would also provide experience to young people doing the Duke of Edinburgh or for that all important CV!

The Library is situated on George Street, Kingsclere within the Village Club. The library is open:

Tuesday	1 – 5.30pm
Thursday	1 – 5.30pm
Saturday	10.30 – 3pm

Rowena Hensman
Kingsclere Library Assistant
0845 6035631

Church Pages

Calming the Storm

Things in life can change quickly; we can be going about our lives quite contentedly when disaster strikes or unexpectedly something joyous appears...it is all part of this amazing life we have been gifted with.

After such a wet and wild winter, it looked as if nothing again would spring back to life, but as I write this, the daffodils are out and are out in abundance. Most of us fear change and when I feel like I'm going through a turbulent time I liken it to a storm, I feel unsettled and I want the boat to stop rocking, so to speak.

The wonderful story of Jesus calming the storm comes to mind. A wind whipped up on the Sea of Galilee and the disciples were afraid, waking Jesus up they said "Teacher don't you care that we are about to die?" Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" the wind ceased and there was a dead calm.

And Jesus does the same in our turbulent lives! If we are prepared to listen, we can hear him offering us peace. "Why are you frightened?" He said to the disciples, "Have you still no faith?"

The storms in our lives can be fierce, but with faith as small as a mustard seed, we can weather them.

Robert Frost wrote:

The rain to the wind said,
'You push and I'll pelt.'
They so smote the garden bed
That the flowers actually knelt,
And lay lodged--though not dead.
I know how the flowers felt.

Yes, the daffodils weathered the storm and with a small amount of faith, we can do the same.

Blessings **Rev Trish**

St. Mary's Church

(see also Back Cover)

Vicar Rev Lucy Thirtle, lucythirtle@btinternet.com ☎ **299489**

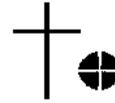
Curate Rev. Trish Bancroft trishbancroft@aol.com ☎ **269180**

Churchwarden Janet Sturgess ☎ **298079**

Churchwarden Eileen Selsey ☎ **42962**

METHODIST NOTES

All Sunday services at 9.30am.

**Preachers for April:**

6th Rev Chris Cole
13th Mrs Dorothy Regan, Holy Communion
20th (Easter) Mrs Helen Watson, Holy Communion
27th Mr Malcolm Spencer

Good Friday 18th April:

We will meet at the Catholic Church in Swan St at 10am. After devotions we will have our walk of witness to St Mary's where we will hear readings and sing hymns outside. (There are always a few chairs for those who cannot stand for too long). Then it will be across to the Methodist Church for coffee, tea and buns.

Easter Sunday:

There will be a sunrise service on the Downs about 6am, led by Rev John Beadle. The exact time can be had from the stewards or the notice board.

Mid-week Communion: Thursday 17th April at 10am**Junior Church meet on 13th and 27th April.**

Coffee Mornings: every Thursday from 10.30am until midday. A useful place to wait when catching the bus.

Everyone welcome to all or any of these events.

Musical Concert

It was a full house for the annual musical concert at Kingsclere Methodist Church in March, when nearly 40 musicians took part. Kingsclere Guitar Society, Newbury Flute Choir and Kingsclere Methodist Junior Church played to an enthusiastic audience. The guitars included such well known pieces as the Harry Lime Theme and Paul McCartney's 'When I'm 64'. The flutes included 'You Raise Me Up' and clogs were used in the Clog Dance by Herod. Junior Church played guitars, flute and piano. They were the only people to sing, singing from Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah'.

Donations for the concert and delicious homemade cakes were welcomed and the event raised £368 for the Methodist building fund.

Margaret Ingram

Methodist Chapel

(see also Back Cover)

Steward Christine Westcombe
Secretary Jeanette Billington
Hire of Hall Philippa Clements

☎ 298518

☎ 297585

☎ 298897

**Services in the parishes of
Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley
April 2014**

Sunday 6 th April Lent 5	8am	Holy Communion – St Paul’s, Ashford Hill
	10.30am	Parish Communion with Junior Church – St Mary’s, Kingsclere
Sunday 13 th April Palm Sunday	8am	Holy Communion - St Mary's, Kingsclere
	10.30am	Holy Communion – St Peter’s, Headley
	10.30am	Second Sunday Service at St Mary’s, Kingsclere
	6pm	Songs of Praise – Rose Hodson Court
Wednesday 16 th April Wedn of Holy Week	6pm	Seder Meal – St Paul’s, Ashford Hill
Thursday 17 th April Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	Eucharist & Vigil – St Mary’s, Kingsclere
Friday 18 th April Good Friday	10am	Joint Worship & Walk of Witness for Good Friday beginning at the Roman Catholic Church, Swan Street
	2pm	Solemn Worship for Good Friday – St Peter’s, Headley
Sunday 20 th April Easter Day	8am	Holy Communion - St Peter's, Headley
	9.30am	Easter Day Communion – St Paul’s, Ashford Hill
	11am	Easter Day Communion – St Mary’s, Kingsclere
Sunday 27 th April Easter 2	8am	Holy Communion - St Mary's, Kingsclere
	10.30am	All-Age Worship – St Paul’s, Ashford Hill
	6pm	Reflective Evening Service – St Mary’s, Ashford Hill
Sunday 4 th May Easter 3	8am	Holy Communion – St Paul’s, Ashford Hill
	10.30am	Parish Communion with Junior Church St Mary’s, Kingsclere

**Please note the ABC Service this month will take place on the 4th Monday in the Month (not the 3rd as usual) due to how Easter falls.
It will be held on Monday 28th April at 9.30 am in St Mary’s**

The Friends of St Mary's



As the days lengthen, we are gearing up for our annual **Plant Sale** in St Mary's Churchyard, which will be on the morning of **Saturday 17th May**. May I, as last month, ask any of you who are separating perennials, digging up self-seeded plants, or raising plants from seed if you could spare a few for the Sale. They would be gratefully received either beforehand or on the day by Jane Royle, who may be contacted on 297430. No offer too large or too small!

We are considering an event for the Summer months, but meantime a long-range date for your diaries: on **Saturday 11th October** we will be holding a **Barn Dance** at the Fieldgate Centre, with music by the Wyvern Dance Band, and a simple hot supper included. Watch this space for further details nearer the time.
Peter Turner, Chairman

St. Mary's Guild

We did not have our usual meeting in February, but instead 13 members enjoyed a delicious lunch at Sasso's Restaurant. Our thanks to the staff for providing such a lovely meal and for entertaining us for nearly three hours!

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 23rd April, 2.15 pm in the Kingsmill Room. As it is St. George's Day, we have decided to debate the subject 'What makes us English', after which we intend to enjoy a truly English afternoon tea. You do not have to be a member to join us for the afternoon – just come along, have tea and join in the debate. All are welcome.

**Pam Kitch,
Chairman
01635 299743**

St Mary's 200 Club Winners
Feb: Sheila Thompson no 97 and March: Harold Thrower No 81
Well done Sheila and Harold
Entries drawn first Friday of each month - The Swan Hotel, Swan St

From the Registers of St Mary's

Funerals	<i>I am the resurrection and the life says the Lord</i>
5 Mar	Laurence Carter aged 75

Kingsclere Twinning Association

By the time that the April edition of *The Tower* goes to print our Wine Tasting and Quiz will have passed. At the time of writing, we are busy preparing for a sell-out event and are anticipating a fun-filled evening trying some single grape varieties of wine as well as taking part in a food and drink based quiz.



Visit from Cormicy

The visit from Cormicy will be from Saturday 7th June until Monday 9th June. If you are able to offer accommodation during that time, please would you contact us on the Twinning Association email address: kingscleretwinning@yahoo.co.uk. About half of the members of the Cormicy association are families with children of various ages who would love to make contact with families in Kingsclere. Many thanks to those people who have already offered accommodation.

Sue Watson

Lighting up St Mary's



March 7th Cherished memories of Karl Anthony Jones on his birthday. With love always, Mum, Dad, Beverley and Julian.

April 3rd Happy Birthday Nicki, love Mum, Dad and Catherine.

April 4th In loving memory of our dear father Cyril Newport. Passed away a year ago today, always in our hearts. Much love from Caroline, John, Pamela, Peter and Family xxxx

April 13th Remembering our son Richard on his birthday 13th April. Missing you on this special day and every day. Lots of love Mum and Dad.

April 17th In loving memory of Donald and Joan White.

April 25th For Aimee Hardy-Biggs, on what would have been her 24th birthday. We all love you so much, every day you are with us, we will always love you, and include you in our daily lives. God bless you, sweet girl of ours. For ever, love from Mum, Don, Samuel, Willum, Meghan, Jude and your beloved Gran xxxxx

To book please contact Andy and Sarah Bates, Brook House, Popes Hill, Kingsclere RG20 5SJ. 01635 299710. Hand deliveries please use the black post box next to the front door or www.clerewoodlands.org.uk. £12 per evening, discounts available for block bookings and business sponsorship. Cheques payable to St Mary's Kingsclere PCC, gift aid welcome.

Deadline for May Tower is April 10th.



The Garden Club
Spring Bulb and Flower Show
Sunday April 13th. Open to public at 2.30pm
In The Village Club, Kingsclere

Refreshments available.
 Admission 50p. Exhibitors free.
 Schedules available at The Village Butchers and library
 or Laura Butler 01256 781892.

Staging of exhibits from 9.30am -12.00pm.
 Judging between 12.30pm- 2.30pm.
 Trophies presented at 4.00pm.

A reminder that our tables are for hire, membership of the club gets you 10% off purchases at Cottismore Garden Centre as well as evening talks in the winter.

John Eckton [01256 850017](tel:01256850017)

Nature Notes



One of our regular walks around the gravel pits at Woolhampton was flooded enough to make a complete circuit impossible. A field nearby had swans on it and seven pairs of Shoveller ducks. The ducks were in their element in the shallow water, busy feeding on what must have been a banquet of invertebrates and seeds scooped off the surface or shovelled off the drowned soil. The drakes are easily recognised by their handsome dark green head with the broad shovel bill and chestnut, black and white plumage. At intervals they all left the water to take a short flight before settling to feed again.

The male Great crested Grebes are now sporting their colourful breeding plumage once so desirable for decorating ladies' hats!

Wading through the clear water and watching where we were going we became aware of large earthworms lying on the flooded track. At first they looked dead but as we studied them more closely we came to the conclusion that they were alive and moving faintly. We started to scoop them off the bottom to confirm this and, having ascertained that this was so, flipped numbers of them onto higher ground above the flood. It seemed quite remarkable that these creatures could have survived submerged for such a long time.

A distant flock of birds repeatedly moving left and then right across marshland showing, black in one direction and white in another, proved to be lapwings. They numbered, by rough counting, approximately 150 birds, a lovely sight.

Diana Tait and Rod Eldred



**Kingsclere
Film Club**

Saturday, 5 April 2014 at 7.30pm in the
Village Club, George Street

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas
(2008) 12A 94 mins

Set during World War II, a story seen through the innocent eyes of Bruno, the eight-year-old son of the commandant at a concentration camp, whose forbidden friendship with a Jewish boy on the other side of the camp fence has startling and unexpected consequences.

Subscriptions due in April.

Next month: Sat, 3 May – Casablanca

Kingsclere Film Club shows a range of films on the first Saturday of the month. Membership gives access to all films at £4.16 per film shown on the big screen with improved acoustics. Guests are always welcome at £7.50, subject to space.

April at The Fieldgate



Mondays

Basingstoke Voluntary Services – Youth Hub

6.00 – 8.00 pm

Tuesdays

Quit For Life – Free help with giving up smoking

10.15am – 12.15pm

Friday 4th April – Shopping and Pamper evening

7.00 - 9.00pm

To be held in the social area and The Atkinson room.

Entry £5- tea, coffee and snacks free.

Monday 7th April – Royal British Legion meeting

7.00- 8.00pm

10th – 12th April – Kingsclere Players present: “Ten Times Table”

Saturday 26th April –

70s evening with Ian and Mel Tickets £5

8.00-11.30pm

All tickets available from The Fieldgate Centre office:01635 298497
or Karen Green: 07768937282

Kingsclere PHOTO Club

A thriving and friendly club covering all manner of photography, new members always welcome.



Only £5 membership for year + £2 per meeting attended, inclusive of refreshments.

Forthcoming meetings, now in the Main Hall, Village Club, George Street,
@ 7.45pm for 8pm start:-

Weds 2nd April Theme challenge – “Electric”

Weds 7th May Practical

Weds 4th June Disposable Camera Challenge

For more information, see our website: www.kingsclerephoto.org or contact:-
Garth Martin (Membership Secretary/Treasurer/Darkroom) Tel. 299227

ECCHINSWELL MAY FAIR!

4th May 2014, 1.00pm onwards!

The Royal Oak

Garden events to include:

3-a-side human Foosball -	Traditional Punch and Judy shows
Gunk Tank -	Village Bake Off
Tug-O-War -	Miniature River Boat Race
Craft Fayre -	Afternoon BBQ
Raffle -	Music all day and night!

Plus an incredible array of games to suit all ages!

Want to Get Involved?!

We are running a Model Animal Competition with exhibits to be displayed around the village during the week before the Fair. Entry forms at the Royal Oak. Closing date 4th April. **Prize** - a meal for four at the Royal Oak!

We need any handbags or scarves that ladies have upgraded from to sell on our pre-loved stall within the craft fayre!

We always need volunteers to tend a stand for 30 minutes during the day!

Please contact us at Ecchinswell.may.fair@gmail.com for more information

www.chickenessentials.co.uk

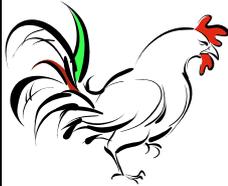
Oak Cottage, Kingsclere, Berks, RG20 4TA

CHICKEN KEEPING WORKSHOPS

Informal morning courses

Children welcome

Lunch included



CHICKEN HOUSES

New and secondhand

POINT OF LAY PULLETS

CHICKEN EQUIPMENT & STARTER PACKS

POULTRY FEED

FERTILE EGGS IN SEASON

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE www.chickenessentials.co.uk
FOR MORE INFORMATION & WORKSHOP DATES OR
CALL FOR AVAILABILITY ON**

0777 5166 938

***PLEASE CUT OUT AND KEEP THIS ADVERT FOR FUTURE
REFERENCE***

**THE PROSTATE CANCER
USERS GROUP
ALDER VALLEY**

**BRASS BAND & A CHOIR CONCERT
Sunday 13th April 2014
2pm – 5pm
Queen Mary's College**

Tickets £7.50 (INCLUDING TEA/COFFEE & BISCUITS)
Available from Gerald Merritt 07792 535116

Alternatively from BNHFT 01256 313515
Cheques payable to Urology Nurses Fund 4293
or G.L.Merritt.

**All proceeds to the Prostate Cancer Equipment Fund
At Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.**



WELLBEING OF WOMEN
CHARITY GARDEN AND GIFT FAIR
 THURSDAY 8TH MAY 2014 - 9.30am - 3.30pm!
 At DUMMER CRICKET CENTRE, DUMMER, RG25 2AR
 (Please do not drive through Dummer village)

NEW Over 100 stalls with many garden and plant stalls, home produce and more!!
 WOW 50th ANNIVERSARY raffle and Silent Auction.

SPECIAL LECTURE EVENT 11AM - TRESCO ABBEY GARDEN
 BY GARDEN CURATOR MIKE NELHAMS
 Apply for lecture tickets via mailhampshire.wellbeingofwomen@gmail.com
 £20 including entrance or by calling 01256 351369 (ticket enquiries only).
 Plus opportunity to visit the gardens of Dummer Down Farmhouse!

*This charity is dedicated to improving the health of women and babies,
 to make a difference to everybody's lives today and tomorrow*

Dyslexia Open Evening

Talk by dyslexic writer Sally Gardner, winner of the Carnegie medal for 'Maggot Moon'

You are welcome to West Berks Dyslexia Association's Open Evening at **7.30 p.m. on Thursday 24th April at St Bartholomew's School**, Andover Road, Newbury RG14 6JP

Entry is £10 members and £12 non-members. Refreshments included.

Further details from Marguerite Shave on 01635 866800.

Booking in advance via website www.wbdyslexia.org.uk or pay on the night.

There will be opportunities for asking questions on this and other topics concerning Dyslexia.

Charity number 1077308.

Kingsclere based helpline: Lyn Pounds calpounds@supanet.com

Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

(see also Back Cover)

TIMES OF MASSES Swan St., Kingsclere

Sunday 11.15 am.

Confessions after Mass on request.

For details of Masses at St. Michael's, Tadley, contact Fr. Patrick Tansey

St. Michael's Hospice Fund Raising



When you have unwanted clothes, which can be sold at the Hospice shops, or any items that can be classed as rags, please fill black bin bags with the items. Bags containing rags must have a label on the outside stating rags. This is an on-going fund-raising scheme. Give me a ring if you wish me to collect. The van from the Hospice collected in December, beginning of February and the beginning of March.

If you have any unwanted furniture that the Hospice could sell, please give me a ring and I will arrange for the van to pick it up. **Josie Norton 298059**

Home of the National Needlework Archive www.nationalneedleworkarchive.org.uk

The Old Chapel Textile Centre,
Main Street, Greenham Business Park
Newbury, Berkshire, RG19 6HW

Open 10am-4pm Tuesday-Friday
& the first Saturday in the month 10am-4pm

Exhibitions - Admission £4
19th Mar – 30th Apr. HALFWAY BETWEEN. Thames Valley Textile Group
2nd May – 7th Jun. SCULPTURED TEXTILE DOLLS
Future exhibitions, workshops and classes are all on our website

Headley Quiz Night

There will be a quiz night in aid of funds towards the upkeep of the Headley Village Hall. Please support this event as funds were depleted considerably due to the installation of the new gas heating system which was required because the fuel for the old oil system was continuously being stolen.

Date - Saturday 3rd May

Time - Doors open 7.15pm, start 7.30pm

Tickets - £7 on the door or £5 from the Headley Community Shop and The Village Butchers in Kingsclere in advance – non refundable

Food - Ploughman's will be included – cheese and pickle

Drink - Soft drinks will be provided. Alcohol, bring your own

Teams - Max of eight per table, max of ten tables

Book early to ensure entry

**Basingstoke Ladies' Choir
In Concert**

St Bede's RC Church,
Popley Way, Basingstoke
Saturday 26th April 2014 at 6.30pm
In aid of the St Bede's kneeler fund
Tickets available from Margaret Allen
(01256 325457)

St Mary The Virgin, Silchester

presents:

ALL IN AN APRIL EVENING

with

Berkshire Brass

Conductor Dave Richards and Guest Artiste KEN HARRATT at the keyboard.
Saturday 12th April 2014 at 7.30P.M.

Music by Mussorgsky. Rimsky-Korsakov, Butterworth, Parker, Susato and
others.

Tickets £10 (including glass of wine or soft drink) available from:

Ralph Atton	0118 970 0825
Richard Fletcher	0118 970 0633
Richard Rand	0118 970 0450

4 day War Graves trip to France/Belgium - July 2014

The Basingstoke & Deane "Young at Heart" Over 55s Forum are arranging a four day visit to the War Graves in France to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War.

We will be visiting Flanders Fields, Menin Gate (with the Last Post) and the Somme regions. En-route we will be visiting 2 museums and have tour guides booked.

Dates: leave on the 11th July and return on the 14th July 2014.

The cost is £379 which includes all coach travel, 3 nights Dinner Bed & Breakfast, 2 full day guided tours and entrances into 2 museums. Staying in a good standard hotel in Belgium. Single Room Supplement £74.

This is such a great occasion that we would like to invite people of the general public to join us. Anyone interested please send a £40 deposit cheque to G.L.Merritt at 30 Dartmouth Walk, Basingstoke, RG22 6QS

DIVINE ROSSINI
Stabat Mater
William Tell Overture



VERDI
Te Deum

New London Sinfonia
Basingstoke Choral Society
Croydon Philharmonic Chorus

Conductor
David Gibson

7pm Sunday, 6th April 2014
The Anvil, Basingstoke

Tickets available from
The Anvil Box Office 01256 884244
or www.anvilarts.org.uk

BATS presents Jesus Christ Superstar
13th - 17th May 2014
The Haymarket, Basingstoke

Andrew Lloyd Webber with lyrics by Tim Rice
Performances start at 7.30pm with 2.30pm matinee on Saturday 17th

Early booker prices
apply until 8th March
2014: £18 (adult) and
£14 (Children 16 and
under).

JESUS CHRIST
SUPER
STAR

Full prices apply from 9th
 March: £20 (adult) and £16
 (Children 16 and under). All
 prices include Anvil Arts £1
 booking fee per ticket.
 Concessions apply for all
 performances for over-60s,

Book your tickets online via www.bats.net, www.anvilarts.org.uk, call 01256
 844244 or visit The Haymarket or Anvil box offices.

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