

The
KINGSCLERE
Tower



February 2019
Your Village Magazine

The Kingsclere Tower

EDITORS : Nicki Lee, Sarah Hewitt & Mike Stokoe
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The editors would like to apologise to **Helen Piper and the Bell Ringers** for mislaying her bell-ringing article submitted for the December edition. Whilst we follow processes to try to ensure we include everything we receive, sadly sometimes errors do occur.

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

To all "Tower" Contributors

COPY for March 2019 issue

to the editors at 3, Blue Meadow, Garrett Close or
kingscleretower@gmail.com by February 12th 2019

Copy MUST include name, address/phone number

Kingsclere Parish Council



Chairman:	John Sawyer (297221)
Clerk:	Louise Porton (298634)
Email:	clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk
Office:	37 George Street, Kingsclere RG20 5NH
Public Opening:	Mon & Wed 9:30-11:30am

COMMUNITY BUS – ROUTE 56 – The Route 56 bus service to Sainsburys, Tadley, provided by Basingstoke Community Transport was due to be cancelled in December 2018. Kingsclere Parish Council have kindly agreed to subsidise the service until 29th March 2019. Please use this service or it will discontinue after this date.

NOTICE BOARDS – There are five Community Notice Boards provided by the Parish Council around the village and one Commercial Notice Board on Crown Green. Here is a gentle reminder of the rules for posting notices:-

- No Commercial Advertising – Please use the Commercial Notice Board on Crown Green
- Kingsclere Events Only
- No Posters larger than A4
- Do not put up notices more than 4 weeks in advance
- Please return and remove posters after your event
- No permanent notices
- Please remember to use drawing pins to attach notices – NO NAILS, TACKS or STAPLES.

ELECTION 2019 – Make a change, become a local councillor. If you care about where you live and are passionate about your community, we need you. The local elections will be held in May this year, to stand for election you must be:

- A British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth;
- 18 years of age or older
- Live in an area that is served by a local council

For more information, contact Kingsclere Parish Council (contact details above) or visit www.nalc.gov.uk/elections.

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING – the collections dates are 13th and 27th February 2019.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – will be at 7:30pm on Monday 25th February 2019, in the Village Club, (unless otherwise notified). We welcome the attendance of all parishioners at our meetings and anyone who wishes to raise any matters of concern will be given the opportunity to do so.

Kingsclere Parish Paths Group



We had a good turnout in November and the main focus was to improve access to the path onto the Recreation ground at the top of the Dell by cutting back the hedge alongside the path. Thanks to the "mystery lady" who swept up the paths after us. We also cleared the Shepherds Steps and paths connecting the Recreation ground.

Thanks to all the marvellous volunteers who helped us in 2018 and we look forward to welcoming both old and any new volunteers on our next planned working group which will be Sunday 24th February, meeting at 9.45 in the garden of the Village Club.

We were delighted to have received a grant for some hand tools from Howe and Sons. This is greatly appreciated and will serve us well as we get out and about in 2019 !

The picture shows Ruth from Howe and sons presenting some of the tools to the Group in December.



kingsclereparishpaths@btinternet.com

Kingsclere Heritage Association



Our next meeting will be on Thursday 21st February when **Richard Oram** will give us a slide presentation entitled "**EXPLORING HAMPSHIRE**".

Richard is a keen local historian and is a founder member of the Overton Local History group. He will cover some interesting items, mostly from his own research, which he has discovered about several local villages. This will be a "must" for the many who enjoy a local speaker on a local subject.

We meet at Kingsclere Village Club, George Street at 7.30pm and visitors are always welcome at £3 pp.

Michael Leah, Secretary - tel. 297403

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



@kingsclerepc



facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil

Kingsclere Community Library



Wednesday 6th February, 7:30pm

Local author **Chris Page** returns to discuss his second book:
Sunbeams, Butterflies & Feathers: Matters of Life After Death

Two years ago Chris came and told us about his first book, Bright Lights and Fairy Dust; how he and his wife faced her terminal cancer together. This is his story afterwards.

Tickets £5 from the library and EventBrite online.

Fact or Fiction? Our very popular game night from 2 years ago is returning 22nd March, tickets available from mid-February.

Rhymetime with Rita: On the second Tuesday of every month, 2:30

We would like to thank the Kingsclere Parish Council for their grant which paid for our new table and chairs!

Coming Soon: FREE Jigsaw Puzzle loan or swap. We are looking for donations of puzzles with all of their pieces.

Opening hours: Tues & Thurs 1 – 5:30; Saturdays 9:30 – 2

Nicki Lee, kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com

Nathan's Fundraiser

A HUGE Thank You to Nathan Lubbock -Smith for raising £500 for JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) His talented pupils entertained us brilliantly at The Fieldgate Centre in December.

Also Thank You to the ladies of Keep Fit for another £50 raised from a coffee morning.

Pauline Combes

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group



New Year bought a host of new bunnies to our group, who we are really pleased to welcome. What better time of year to make new friends, venture out with your newborn or let your toddler get creative with our weekly craft? If you are thinking about coming along, why not give us a try - your first session is free so well worth a visit.

With our new members we are also in search of new committee members. If you would like to offer your help it would be much appreciated. There is very little commitment required, you will join our rota to open up and everyone helps out with getting out the toys and packing away afterwards – even the children (they are probably much better at tidying up at bunnies than they ever are at home!). We also have evening meetings which can be a very appealing part of becoming a committee member as they often are based at the pub! Do ask in session or get in touch if you would like to get involved.

Where: The Village Club, George St

When: every Tuesday, 9am-11am

Cost: first visit free. After that, £1 for bumps and unweaned babies. £2 for first child (including snack donated by Swan St Stores) and 50p for additional children.

villagebunniestoddlergroup@gmail.com

Kingsclere Allotments



We are starting to think about preparation and sowing for this new growing year. Some jobs to do include adding organic matter to soil (see notice board for supplies), chitting seed potatoes ready to plant next month and pruning of fruit trees/bushes.

Please remember not to drive into the site while ground is wet and to shut the gate.

Reminder of **Annual General Meeting on Monday 18th February at 7.30pm** in the Village club (upstairs Holding room). Please try to attend to have your views included.

Allotment Management Group.

Table Top Sale



After the success of the **Village Bunnies** first table top sale, we will be having another on 3rd March at the Village Club from 10-12pm.

This is a great opportunity to have a declutter after Christmas and the inevitable New Year clear out. Whilst the Village Bunnies are hosting the event, it is not restricted to baby and children's items, there will be plenty of space to sell anything you can think of (although if you have a spare yacht, perhaps a picture would be a good idea!)

Tables are £10 for an indoor space or £5 for an outdoor space.

Tea, coffee and cake will be available on the day - hope to see you there!

Kingsclere Bedbug Drive



Fun for all ages at a **Beetle Drive** at 6.30 p.m. on **Saturday, March 30th 2019** at **Kingsclere Primary School**. Come and compete to see how quickly you can draw Kingsclere's very own **Bedbug!**

- Children welcomed.
- Two course supper provided.
- Bar serving wine, beer and soft drinks.
- All are welcome. No need to be a member.
- Tickets £10 for members, £12.50 for non-members, £2.50 for children (under 4s free). Email for tickets at Kingscleretwinning@yahoo.co.uk, or contact Lesley Farey on 01635 297159.

We always welcome new members. Why not consider joining in 2019? Family membership is £5 per year and includes reduced admission prices to most of our events, free monthly French conversation/class (depending on confidence level), and the opportunity to visit **Cormicy** in the beautiful **Champagne** region of France. Please contact kingscleretwinning@yahoo.co.uk or telephone Sue Watson on 01635 298940 for details regarding membership.

KINGSCLERE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Nature Notes

It was good to see two greenfinches on the feeders, early Jan., they were both males and looking healthy. That would not have been news a few years ago but populations have been decimated by Trichomonosis a parasite affecting the throat, which has made them a much rarer sight. For the moment, we have to be content with memories of a time when they were a dominant species at this time of year. There is little sign however of another once common bird in this garden and that is the chaffinch, again believed to have been affected by a similar disease. It will be interesting to see the results of The Big Birdwatch on 25-27 January to get a wider picture.



A crop circle in Winter? Surely not! This one was seen very locally and was the result of a large circular straw feeder being removed from a field. Cattle had trodden a ring of mud around the feeder as they fed. With feeder and cattle removed and mild weather a vibrant green circle of germinating seed had sprung up in contrast to the frame of brown mud.

What looked like a plastic bag in long winter grass turned out to be a pure white pheasant, what a target for a gun or hungry fox.

On Hosehill Lake shoveller duck pairs were performing their early courtship dances swimming round and around each other on the surface, beak to beak for minutes at a time. Love is in the air despite the frost.

Diana Tait and Rod Eldred

St Michael's Hospice Coffee Morning
Saturday, 10th November

Thank you to everyone who supported the coffee morning in November, especially friends and colleagues who ran stalls. I am delighted to announce that we raised £587.84.

It was lovely to see some new faces and to receive such positive comments. If you are someone who has never 'popped' in to this extremely enjoyable event then why not make it a New Year's resolution to come along in 2019!

From the lady on the door..... Sarah Melling



Second Saturday of the month at 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm) at the Village Club, George Street.

Saturday, 9 February 2019

Breathe

(2017 – Biography/Romance - 111min – PG-13)

Inspirational true story of Robin and Diana Cavendish who refuse to give up in the face of devastating disease, focusing on what can be done, not what can't. A heart-warming celebration of human possibility.

Next month: Saturday, 9 March – **Becket** (1964)

Kingsclere Film Club welcomes guests at £7.50, subject to space.

New members welcome.

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



Homing Enquiries 0345 260 1501 or andover.cats.org.uk
Fund-raising and volunteers 07733 242196 or email
coordinator@andover.cats.org.uk
Items for resale 01256 892773

We had a busy year last year and managed to re-home 113 cats. We couldn't do this without our wonderful team of volunteers and we would like to say a big thank you to all of them.

We are lucky enough to be able to have use of the Rotations Charity Shop in Whitchurch again this year. Our dates are 11th - 25th April and 12th - 26th September. We are always in need of good quality bric-a-brac so if you have anything to donate please contact us using the details above.

Last month's cat, Tiger Lily, went off to live with a young family in the Andover area. She's now a very happy cat and is thoroughly enjoying all the attention.

Preparing For Winter

Help yourself to stay safe and well in the cold weather and look out for friends and neighbours who maybe vulnerable to the cold or who may find it harder to get out and about.

Get your heating system serviced annually. Ask your landlord if you are a tenant. Claim all the financial support you can to help with heating bills. You may be eligible for Cold Weather Payments, Winter Fuel Payments or the Warm Home Discount Scheme. Contact the Environment Centre for more info on 0800 804 8601.

Prepare for freezing temperatures - keep extra food items in your cupboards and freezer in case it's too cold to go shopping. Keep your paths and steps clear in icy weather - you can buy rock salt from most DIY stores. If water pipes freeze they can burst, do you know where the main water stopcock is? Keep an eye on the weather forecast so you can prepare in good time.

If you need assistance call your Age Concern Village Agent, they will offer you accredited information and advice.

Contact Bronia 07813 369032 or Yvonne 07813 368259. If they are not available please leave a message & they will call you back, or call Age Concern Hampshire on freephone 0800 328 7154

Kingsclere Social Group

Do you have a few hours to spare on Thursday afternoon between 1:30pm and 4:15pm? We are looking for willing and friendly volunteers, who enjoy supporting older people and can help out at our

Whether you make a lovely cuppa or enjoy calling a game of bingo or enjoy chatting to people, we would love to hear from you.

Please call Age Concern Hampshire on 01256 423872 and ask to speak to Kirsty.

Bingo at Rose Hodson Court

Come and join us every Monday at 2pm

Tea and cakes at half time plus lots of fun

For more info contact Maureen Hayes on 07906235321



METHODIST NOTES

Sunday Services for February 2019

- 3rd February Revd. Elaine Rawlings Morning Worship
 10th February Revd. Rachel Borgars Holy Communion
 17th February Terry Rowell Morning Worship
 24th February Local Arrangement Morning Worship



All Services start at 10am

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd



Our thanks to all those who supported the **Village Walk** on 27th December and our recent **Quiz Night** at the Fieldgate Centre; both again proved popular and enjoyable events.

Looking forward, the annual **Plant Sale** in St Mary's Churchyard will be on the morning of **Saturday 11th May**, from 10 a.m. After the success of last year's event, we will again be running this with the **Kingsclere Gardening Association** and we look forward to offering a good variety of vegetables and flowering plants at reasonable prices.

Other events at the planning stage include two completely new ventures for us: **Art from the Attic** (a chance to sell your no-longer favourite pictures, and perhaps replace them with new), and a **Murder Mystery Evening** in conjunction with the **Kingsclere Players**. Watch for details in future issues!

Peter Turner, Chairman

Poppies

I am delighted to say that over £100 has been raised from the sale of the lovely knitted and crocheted poppies which were made for November. This has been passed to the poppy appeal fund so thank you everyone who bought them. There are still a few left if anyone missed my last announcement.

Please ring me 01635 297610

Janet Bond

Reflections



As we come to the end of January and beginning of February, Christmas may seem a very long time ago. The dark and cold winter months can lie heavy on us after the feasting and festivities of Christmas. Perhaps work is ramping up expectations or your commitments are starting to pull on you. Perhaps for some, you find yourself, disappointingly, with less to do and more time on your hands than you expected, or for others, you are being stretched in every direction by family, health, chores, or other demands. Perhaps you are deeply concerned with the state of the nation in the light of the political and social challenges.

When we have times like these, it's worth remembering that God is God and we are not! It sounds a bit strange, but sometimes we can be so under pressure, so keen to get things sorted, so disheartened that we forget that we are just creatures, made by God in His image, but creatures none the less. There is a verse in the Bible which says, *Be still and know that I am God* (Psalm 46:10). It seems to have been written by somebody who is in the midst of trouble or just out of it. It is a song which reminds the singers that God is their refuge and strength, their fortress even. They do not need to fear no matter what crises or troubles that they face, even if it feels as if their world is falling apart, because God is God and He is always on hand to help.

It's interesting that it doesn't say that He will take the trouble away but that He will be a refuge. The song writer sees that the troubles life throws at people are hard but holds onto the belief that God is there as the One who'll help them get through it. But God is only a refuge if we make Him that, if we run to Him in time of trouble, if we allow Him to take the weight of life's circumstances. Spend some time thinking on that song (Psalm 46 in a Bible or biblegateway.com). Allow God to be that place where your strength is renewed and find peace in the face of the ups and downs of life. For me, time with God is vital, what about you? Why not give it a try?

**Blessings,
Ben.**

**Services in the parishes of
Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley
February 2019**

Sunday 3 rd February 5 th before Lent / Presentation of Christ	8am	Holy Communion – St Peter’s, Headley
	9.15am	Holy Communion with Junior Church – St Mary’s, Kingsclere (breakfast 8.45am)
Sunday 10 th February 4 th before Lent	8am	Holy Communion – St Mary’s, Kingsclere
	9.15am	Morning Worship with Junior Church – St Mary’s, Kingsclere (breakfast 8.45am)
	11am	Holy Communion – St Peter’s, Headley
Sunday 17 th February 3 rd before Lent	8am	Holy Communion – St Peter’s, Headley
	9.15am	All Age Messy Worship– St Mary’s, Kingsclere (breakfast 8.45am)
	11am	Holy Communion – St Mary’s, Kingsclere
Wednesday 20 th February	11.30am	Holy Communion – Rose Hodson Court
Sunday 24 th February 2 nd before Lent	8am	Holy Communion – St Mary’s, Kingsclere
	9.15am	Morning Worship with Junior Church – St Mary’s, Kingsclere (breakfast 8.45am)
	11am	Holy Communion – St Paul’s, Ashford Hill
Sunday 3 rd March 2 nd before Lent	8am	Holy Communion – St Paul’s, Ashford Hill
	9.15am	Holy Communion with Junior Church – St Mary’s, Kingsclere

**ABC, our service for pre-school children and their carers
will take place on 18th February at 9.30am**

St. MARY’S CHURCH:

Vicar	Rev Ben Read, The Vicarage, Foxs Lane	01635 298471
Church Wardens:	Andrew Kitch andrewkitch16@gmail.com	01635 299743
	Sarah Mussett sarah.mussett@hotmail.co.uk	01635 291900
Administrator:	Emma Rivers administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk	07790 934972

From the Registers of St Mary's

Funerals	<i>I am the resurrection and the life says the Lord</i>
26 Nov	Alan Hambidge
14 Dec	Charles Nicholson
18 Dec	William Hull

Burial of Ashes

3 Jan	Marian Mitchell
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Changes to St Mary's Church Interior

I hope you have all had a chance to see St Mary's newly redecorated after many years of flaking paintwork and a grubby interior. Over the last few weeks our wonderful church has been transformed with a makeover of new paint, cleaned windows and roof beams dusted.

It's been quite a job and a huge thank you goes to all those involved.

However, the task isn't yet complete as we still have a lot of work to do with the interior of the church making it more welcoming and flexible to meet the needs of the parish. The church has a specific term for the process which is 'Re-Ordering' and this process is about to start in 2019.

It is our vision that when the work is complete that the church becomes a building for the community of Kingsclere, a quiet and serene place of worship and a useful building that can be used by everyone.

The PCC recently appointed a new church architect to prepare possible schemes for the transformation of the interior of the building. He is working within the confines that come with a Grade II* listed building but we would also like to ensure that as many opinions as possible are incorporated into the final scheme and so it planned to have an open meeting to review possible schemes after the APCM (Annual Parochial Council Meeting) on April 1st.

The project team have started work already, meeting regularly to incorporate and include as many ideas as possible. It's important we retain the history of our church but we need to make it suitable for the next generation and move with the times.

I plan to regularly update developments by including details of our progress in The Tower and I hope to see many people at our meeting planned for April. To be continued.....

Andrew Kitch

Lighting up St. Mary's



December

24th Birthday memories for Mum - Pat Rope - still very much in all our hearts. With love from all the family.

January

3rd, 8th So many years have passed but fond memories never fade of a wonderful Mum and Dad, Nan and Grandad, Pat, Anita and families.

February

1st Remembering Teresa Conville.

20th Remembering John David Wesson on his Birthday. x

22nd Remembering Ronald and Margaret Fowler.

To book please contact Andy and Sarah Bates, Brook House, Popes Hill, Kingsclere RG20 5SJ. 01635 299710. Online www.clerewoodlands.org.uk £12 per evening, block booking discounts. Cheques payable to St Mary's Kingsclere PCC, gift aid welcome.

Deadline for March Tower is February 10th.

St Mary's Church Fete Committee Needs Your Ideas!!

Planning is now underway for this year's fete (**August Bank Holiday Monday**) and we are looking for suggestions for new ideas for stalls / events for the day. The fete is one of Kingsclere's biggest events of the year and we want to make sure there is something for everyone in the village to enjoy on the day.

Tell us what you loved from last year; tell us what you would like to see this year. If you've never been before, tell us what would make you want to attend. Any and all ideas will be considered as we try and make the fete bigger and better than ever.

Please contact Debbie at the St Mary's Church Fete Committee:

dm.power@btinternet.com / 01635 291247

METHODIST CHURCH:

Chief Steward	Wendy Morgan	297538
Secretary & Hire of Hall	Jeanette Billington	297585

ROMAN CATHOLIC:	Rev Patrick Tansey	0118 981 4572
	tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	

CAMARADERIE

It was lovely to see so many of you at our Christmas Camaraderie and thank you for turning out on such an awful rainy day. We enjoyed a very festive afternoon with entertainment provided by the Woolton Hill Hand Bell Ringers. I think they surprised us all with their versatility and it was so good to be able to join in with the singing of some familiar Carols and Christmas Songs. A beautiful Tea was provided afterwards and as always a big Thank you goes to Pam, Sarah, Mary and Marion for their continued help and support. On this occasion they were joined by Maria and Ruth from Howe and Son, who came along and helped and kindly donated some Raffle Prizes. We are very grateful for your support. The afternoon was made complete by a visit from Father Christmas who gave each guest a small gift as they left. Thank you Santa for taking the time from your busy schedule to join us!

The first CAMARADERIE of 2019 will be on Wednesday 6th February at 2.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall. The cost is £2 which includes Afternoon Tea, Entertainment and a free Raffle Ticket. We look forward to seeing you and remember All Are Welcome.

Happy New Year, Wendy

KINGSCLERE & HEADLEY WOODLANDS W.I.

Kingsclere Village Club, 35 George Street, Kingsclere

Happy New Year to All - We're back on-stream and rearing to go!

Our first meeting + speaker kicks off 2019 with another 'blast from the past' (and you'd better believe it) because there's proof positive that terrorism IS NOT new-fangled warfare, just in case anyone out there still thinks the world is getting worse (!!):

On **Wednesday 13th February** our presenter will be **Alan Turton**, his talk: *'The Civil War in Hampshire'* sub-titled: *'John Painter - The UK's 1st Terrorist'*. Among much else that's complimentary, Alan is nationally renowned as a history consultant for TV & film productions. We have previously enjoyed his oral approach to the academic subject because he peppers his renditions with humorously *wry*, rather than merely *dry* observations.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: Letter-clue for the February competition is 'L'

VISITORS: Most welcome! At just £2 per person per visit you will experience a short spurt of typical W.I. matters discussed each monthly meeting, then enjoy tea & biscuits before the speaker's presentation. We hope that within two visits you will consider taking up membership because there's just so much more to us than you'd expected! NB: Arrival/sign-in @ KVC's main hall 1.30.

1918 - 2018

the **WI**
INSPIRING WOMEN
HAMPSHIRE

Nova Saunderson - 299570

The Fieldgate Centre



Happy New Year! and thank you to those of you who joined us for festive fun over the Christmas period. Our calendar of events through the coming year has something for everyone to enjoy. Bi-monthly Over 21s Disco, Band Nights, Race Night, Play Day, Pantomime performances and some extra surprises, and social events and fundraisers run by so many local charities and clubs.

The centre continues to be popular for wedding receptions and other celebrations; our tailor-made packages include all that you need.

Dates for your diary:

February

Sunday 3rd Ceroc Beginners Day

Saturday 9th Les's Disco

March

Saturday 2nd KRFC Charity Quiz Night

Friday 22nd Village Library Quiz

Saturday 23rd FKS Barn Dance

Saturday 30th KRFC Charity Band Night

KCA is busy pushing on with the refurbishment project and we are immensely grateful to the volunteers who continue to give us their time and skills. We are keen to finish redecorating, so please get in touch if you are handy with a paint roller and have some time to spare. If your company or the company you work for takes part in Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV) we need your help too. In 2018 the footfall was an incredible 41,966 and with your support more and more people are benefiting from this unique resource.

www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk, 01635 298497, fieldgatecentre@btconnect.com

The Children's Society

2018 Marked the 50th anniversary of the Christingle service and more than 80 children and adults gathered to make Christingle oranges in St. Mary's Church. A total of £ 63.97 was raised. Thank you!

It is time for the annual collection of boxes. If you are a box holder, would you please either leave your box with a church warden at St. Mary's or contact me on the number below to arrange collection in person. If you would like to have a box in your home, do contact me. All the coins you donate add up to make a big difference.

The Children's Society is a national charity that works with the country's most vulnerable children and young people. It worked with over 11,000 vulnerable children and young people last year, while its policy changes will improve the lives of more than half a million children. Right now in Britain there are children and young people who feel scared, unloved and unable to cope. The Children's Society works with these young people, step by step, for as long as it takes.

More information can be found on the charity's website www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Sue Grove-White 297683

Busy Bees Pre-school Kingsclere



We have had a busy autumn term leading up to Christmas. We have enjoyed a lovely harvest lunch, a fantastic trip to Four Kingdoms and finished off with our Christmas party and performance. The children did amazingly well, performing to such a large audience of parents and carers.

There are some places available at Busy Bees but they are filling up fast. Please get in touch if you are interested in your child joining us or to arrange a visit by emailing us at admin.busybees@btconnect.com or message us on the Busy Bees Preschool Kingsclere Facebook page.

Kingsclere Royal British Legion

The plan to send Christmas parcels to British servicemen and women who would be away from home over the Christmas period was successfully completed with a grand total of 128 gift parcels being sent to various locations. Thanks must go to the Guides and Scouts who provide parcels and goodies and to the many villagers who donated items and time. The intent is to do the same in December 2019 and any support would be most welcome.



We have a number of events currently being planned for 2019, which is the 75th anniversary of the D Day invasion of Europe, including a WW2 themed “village bake-off”, Easter WW2 themed Fete, Waterloo Supper, branch outings and events focused around the village Remembrance Weekend. Watch out for details in The Tower and on the village notice boards soon.

It is a myth that you had to have served in the military to be a member of the RBL; all are most welcome and we would encourage all to come along to a meeting to see what we are about. Please contact me via the Facebook page or call on 01635 628004 for more information. We meet in the Function Room of The Crown at 7pm on the first Tuesday each month.

Mark Holden, Chairman

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2018

Thank you, thank you, thank you! There are few words that can truly describe the wonderful generosity shown by the people of Kingsclere and the surrounding areas. The amount raised so far is £8,013.43p, an absolutely fabulous result with still some outstanding donations to come!

My personal thanks go to everyone who helped in any way; collecting, donating, fund raising or supporting the Appeal. The money will help those who served, including recently in war and conflicts throughout the world, some of whom received devastating injuries and are still suffering as a result. In many cases it is the families who need help and support and the Poppy Appeal is always there for them.

We are so grateful for all the help we have received and look forward to your continued support for this very worthy cause in 2019. My Best Wishes to you all.

Wendy Morgan. Poppy Appeal Organiser.



Friends of Kingsclere School (FKS) News

FKS has a number of exciting fundraisers planned for 2019. We do hope you will support us to raise important funds and also to strengthen our school and it's links with our community. We had a fantastic Christmas Fair at the end of December, so thank you for supporting this. We made approx. £2,200 which will be put back into exciting new projects and developments at the school.

2019 DATES FOR THE DIARY

- * School Disco for pupils – Fri 11th February
- * Film Night for pupils – Fri 15th March
- * Easter Egg Hunt – all welcome – Fri 5th April (last day of term) from 15:30 at School
- * Film Night for pupils – Fri 17th May
- * School Summer Fair – Sat 22nd June
- * Camp Out – Sat 6th July

We are always looking for volunteers to help, so if you would like to get involved, please contact us at fkscommunity@hotmail.com

Harriet Gabbott, FKS Chairperson, Harriet.baker@hotmail.com

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**Last 2018 Winner, no 117 Mark Ponting
Well done, Mark**

**January 2019 New Year winner No 63, Mike Shaw
Well Done Mike**

Entries drawn first week of each month, various village venues

Police Report



There have been some recent changes to the policing for Kingsclere. Emma Page has left and our new contact will be PCSO John Dullingham (john.dullingham@hampshire.pnn.police.uk). The rural team mailbox is Basingstoke.Rural.Mailbox@hampshire.pnn.police.uk. which is monitored daily (while individual mailboxes are not).

We will now receive reports for the Rural West area, which incorporates Highclere, Burghclere, East Woodhay, St Mary Bourne, Tadley North, Baughurst, Sherborne St John and Kingsclere. We will therefore in future include only highlights from our immediate area, however you may sign up to receive their full report each month by email.

November Incidents

- **Traffic**, 6 reported in Nov. Three were damage only road traffic collisions (RTC), a minor injury RTC on the A339, a serious injury RTC on George Street involving a cyclist and a vehicle and lastly a vehicle was seized for having no Tax again on George Street.
- A van (GU07***) was seen acting suspiciously around Park House Stables. The occupants said they were from A4 Recycling but checks resulted in this not being true.

December Incidents

- 10th Winchester Road, Kingsclere, shed broken into overnight, ATV vehicle stolen along with gardening equipment.
- Ecchinswell Road, Ecchinswell, sometime over 4 weeks a garage was entered and 2 bikes stolen.
- Hardys Field, Kingsclere, over 2 weeks a shed has been broken into and fishing equipment stolen.
- 4th - White Hill Car Park, Kingsclere, report of 2 males trying the door handles of a motorhome while it was parked up, no entry gained due to the males leaving after the owner turned on the outside light.
- Antisocial Behaviour - 1 incident, Strokings Road, Kingsclere – group of males/females causing problems.

Kingsclere Gardening Association.

Thursday, February 14th at 7:30pm, Meeting at the Village Club.

Our speaker is Mr Steve Austin from Hilliers of Romsey, one of our leading gardening groups. Steve's subject is "Planning and Planting for the New Year". Previous speakers from Hilliers have arrived with plants for sale; I am not sure about this time but expect there will be plants available.

Meetings are free to members. Visitors and guests £2.00. Our subscription will not increase this year, you can join at any meeting or event of ours. Our meetings are on the second Thursday of the month.

A social evening has been arranged at the Royal Oak, Echinswell, on Saturday February 23rd, 7.00pm. We would love to see as many members and friends there as possible; please let a committee member know if you need a lift and we will try to help.

John Eckton 01256 850017

Basingstoke Disability ConneXions

Monthly get-togethers for anyone affected by any type of disability. Meet new people and talk about issues that are important to you.

Sessions:

First Tuesday monthly from 12.30pm to 2.30pm, Church Cottage (behind St Michael's Church), Church Square, Basingstoke RG21 7QW

Guest speaker topic:

5 February: Learn how to access information to help you stay independent, well and connected to your community

5 March: Learn about energy medicine and how it can help your immune system and to manage anxiety.

All FREE, everyone is welcome, no booking needed (just turn up).

For more information, please contact us: 01256 423869, Email: info@bddf.org.uk Web: www.bddf.org.uk

North Wessex Downs

Rising up to the south of Kingsclere, and dominating the landscape, are the scarp slopes of the North Wessex Downs. To the east of the Overton Road along the flanks of Cottington Hill is Stubbington Down and Freemantle Park Down, whilst to the west are the gallsops of Cannon Heath Down and Watership Down.


 The logo for Natural England, featuring the words "NATURAL" and "ENGLAND" stacked vertically in a white, sans-serif font against a dark grey rectangular background.

The Downs were laid down in warm tropical seas 145-65 million years ago as minute calcite shell dropped to the seabed, then they were raised above the sea and exposed to erosion and weathering to create the landforms we see today. The underlying chalk rock produce alkaline soils that over the years with continued sheep grazing have produced the iconic chalk grassland of the North Wessex Downs.

In former times there would have been thousands of sheep on the downs, nibbling the grass down to a close cropped turf and preventing any tree or shrub from establishing. The work of a shepherd was to find grazing and to keep the flock in good order. The wealth of the nation in the medieval era was founded on wool and the prominence of wool to the economy is reflected in the fact that the Chancellor sat on the Woolsack. Jack of Newbury was a major producer of wool during the reign of Henry VIII. The need to produce wool drove the breeding of sheep to produce a range of sheep breeds, suited to their use and local conditions. The increasing intensification of farming and industrial revolution saw alternative cloths take the place of wool and the extensive sheep grazing decline.

Modern farming methods enabled large swathes of the rolling downs to be brought under the plough, and the push to produce food during World War II exacerbated the decline of the wide open fields that had started with the Enclosure Acts. Farming was underpinned by inputs such as fertiliser and herbicides, both of which reduced the number of wildflowers in the remaining grassland. The remnants of the once extensive species rich chalk grassland have hung on in the places where the tractor and plough could not reach, and we see that today in the chalk grassland overlooking Kingsclere.

Species rich grassland does not look after itself and as soon as the grazing is relaxed, scrub starts to invade along with the more robust agricultural weeds such as ragwort, thistles and coarse grasses that out-compete the typical grasses of the chalk. Left its own devices, the areas would ultimately revert back to the woodland and the rare and special mix of grasses and flowers would be lost.

In a project to restore the down at the back of Kingsclere to its former glory, Natural England have entered into an agreement with William Huntingdon of Field Barn Farm, to renew dilapidated fencing and where needed install new stock proof fences, so that a range of rare breed sheep can safely graze the down: Wiltshire

Horns, that shed their fleece so no need to shear them and they do not get caught up in scrub; Hebrideans, Galways, Soay originally from the remote St Kilda island in the Atlantic ocean that closely resembles the sheep of ancient Britain; Lonks, a hardy mountain breed from the Pennines; and North Ronaldshay sheep from the Orkney Islands that evolved to eat seaweed. Red Poll cattle, renowned for their quiet temperament, have also been introduced on the hill.

The hardy breeds have been selected for their ability to open up the grass and thrive in situations where modern breeds would struggle. They attack the thistle, nettles and ragwort to start the long process of restoring the land so that in years to come the rare flowers such as rock rose, fairy flax, clustered bell flower, pyramidal orchid, milkwort and thyme that colonised the downs when they were the powerhouse of the medieval economy can flourish again. With the flowers will come a range of butterflies such as the Common Blue and Marbled White. With sensitive grazing the rare Duke of Burgundy has a good chance of making a comeback.

The improvements can already be seen across the area. The coarse weeds are much reduced, the range of grasses are getting better, and with a summer such as we have just had, butterflies were seen in good numbers.

Harold Makant, Natural England.

U3A Overton and District

Our second Extra Curricular session is **Monday 4th February** at 2.00pm in St Mary's Hall, Overton, RG25 3HA, when we will be watching '**Britain on Film: Coast and Sea**' supplied by the Independent Cinema Office showing fascinating images of beaches, coast lines, seaside towns and ships from the 20th

Our next monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, 20th February** at 10.00am in St Mary's Hall, Overton, RG25 3HA, when our talk '**The Plight of the Bumblebee**' will be given by Dr Nikki Gammans, who as Project Manager for the Short-haired Bumblebee Reintroduction Project was lead editor of the only current guide telling all you need to know about bumblebees. Two bumblebee species went extinct in the UK during the 20th century, with a further eight currently endangered.



At both meetings entry for members is free and visitors are welcome and pay £3 on the door

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General Enquiries 01635 298794 *Transport only* 07880-658187

Parish Council: 37 George Street (see page 2) 298634

Dial-a-Ride 01256 462101

Churches: *see contact details within Church Pages inside*

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