

The Kingsclere Tower



August 2020

Your Village Magazine

The Kingsclere Tower

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DISTRIBUTION: Brian Elborn ☎298704
ADVERTISING: Les Wallace, Jada, Union Lane ☎298794
ASSEMBLY: Andrew Kitch ☎299743
PRINTERS: Kingsclere Design & Print Ltd
LAYOUT/COVER: Mike Stokoe

August! The month we go on holiday then back home to enjoy the Village Fete and Summer Flower Show. But not this year! So much of the future is still unknown and so it is not surprising that there is little to advertise about the activities which we would normally expect to begin come September.

The Tower has honoured some of our recent heroes who have helped us all so much during the Covid 19 lockdown. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will also be celebrating them from the 10th - 14th of August. Read about it on page 6.

One thing that remains constant is the past. 130 years ago this month the most famous sportsman in the country came to visit Kingsclere. He was invited by John Porter from Park House Stables, perhaps the leading trainer of Victorian horse racing. W.G. Grace had visited the previous year and his fame brought a 1000 people to watch cricket in Kingsclere. See page 18.

I have also included a piece about the curious case of Richard Duckett who married Winifred Webb in 1790 at St. Mary's Church. Perhaps the oldest person to have fathered a child in Great Britain. Or is he? The story of Richard's teenage bride leaves much to wonder about. See page 27.

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.

To all "Tower" Contributors

Copy for **September** to the Editor at 3 Blue Meadow, Garrett Close,
or kingscleretower@gmail.com

NOT LATER THAN 12th August.

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

KINGSLERE PARISH COUNCIL (KPC)

Chairman: Cllr John Sawyer (297221)
Clerk: Louise Porton (298634 or 07915 950407)
email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk
Office: 37 George Street, Kingsclere RG20 5NH
Public Opening: Mon & Wed 9:30-11:30am.



OFFICE OPENING – At the time of going to press the office remains closed due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The latest government advice is still to work from home where possible. The Parish Office is not large enough to accommodate public opening with adequate social distancing but the office staff continue to work from home, as they have done throughout the lockdown. If you need to contact the Parish Council please:-

1. Email clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk
2. Alternatively, you can use the contact form on the website www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk/contact/
3. Write to us at the office address, 37 George Street, Kingsclere, RG20 5NH
4. Phone 01635 298634 (this number is forwarded to the office mobile number)
5. If you prefer, a virtual meeting can be set up using Zoom/Teams/Skype – please request this using one of the methods 1-4 above.
6. If none of the above options are suitable for you, we can now arrange an appointment but due to social distancing restriction this cannot be in the Parish Office and we will need to book a meeting room – please request this using one of the methods 1-4 above.

DOGS URINATING IN THE STREETS – We have received complaints about dogs urinating in the streets, in particular against residents' properties. This is a particular problem where there are no front gardens, for example George Street, Swan Street, Newbury Road, North Street and Popes Hill. If when you walk your dog(s) they urinate against someone's property, please can you wash it down with water immediately and not leave it to someone else. The problem is that once one dog has been, other dogs will follow and it is becoming unpleasant for residents. Please be prepared and carry a bottle of water ready – this is becoming common practice in other European Countries.

THANK YOU – My thanks to Howe and Son Funeral Directors who kindly donated 10 wooden crosses for marking plots for Exclusive Rights at the Cemetery.

ANONYMOUS LETTERS – A reminder to residents that we do not respond to nor act on anonymous letters. Thank you.

ORCHARD INSPIRED ARTWORK – Planting in the Community

Orchard has been completed and Kingsclere Parish Council is now looking to install signage. That's where we need your help! This is open to everyone, adults and children alike, to create artwork inspired by the orchard to go on the entrance sign.

Artwork (no words/text) must be A4 landscape and you must include your name, age, and contact details with your entry.

One piece will be selected to go on the entrance sign - age will be taken into consideration when artwork is selected. Other entries will be kept by Kingsclere Parish Council and may be used in future publications and material.

To enter, please email your artwork and contact details to admin@kingsclere-pc.org.uk or post to 37 George Street, Kingsclere, RG20 5NH before 30th September 2020.

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING – the collections dates are 12th and 26th August 2020. At the time of going to press, the reduced emptying schedule to protect services during the Covid-19 remains in place. Unless we hear otherwise the black/grey waste bins continue to be collected on the opposite weeks to the green recycling bins i.e. 5th and 19th August 2020 (although this is set to be reviewed by Basingstoke and Deane mid July).

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – will be at 7:30pm on Monday 28th September 2020 (no meetings in August), using Zoom Virtual Meeting Software unless government restrictions in place for Covid-19 are lifted, in which case normal meeting procedures will resume in the Village Club. Any member of the public wishing to attend should email the Clerk for a link to connect to the meeting.

Following the government announcement of further easing of lockdown restrictions from 4 July, as at 26 June both NALC (National Association of Local Councils) and SLCC strongly advise local councils to continue to meet remotely, without the need for face to face contact. The government rules still state that we should all work from home if we can. Their joint statement reads:

Local councils have the powers to hold public meetings remotely by using video or telephone conferencing technology until May 2021 and so most councils will have no need to meet in person. Furthermore, local councils have the duty to allow the public to observe council meetings without placing restrictions on the number attending, which many council meeting venues will not be able to accommodate in a safe way at this time.



Hail Our Heroes!

Can we add someone to the Hail our Heroes page? Because we are of the “older generation,” during the early weeks of the “lockdown”, we received lots of help, especially from Sam (Wilson) and we would like to add our thanks to her and to those published last month.

Alan and Heath Denness

Now that some of the urgency to isolate has lessened it is a good time to thank those who have helped create the local help network.

Although a great many people were involved in setting up help in

Kingsclere, the main organisers were Mark Hirst, Joanna Smith and Helen Aymes.

As Mark says “Raj and Monika kicked it all off by advertising a delivery service from Swan Street Stores for the elderly and vulnerable. Within days a network of volunteers started to form focussed on Swan Street Stores but quickly taking in Mr. Butts Pharmacy.”

At the same time a second group evolved created by Helen Aymes “hijacking” a Facebook group called “Kingsclere Gossip Girls”.

As Helen explains “I put out a request for help and organised delivery of 1400 postcards (one to every house in the village) giving a local contact who could help those who were shielding with shopping, errands etc. Through this group we also arranged 2 large donations to the North Hampshire Trust of toiletries for those staff who were having to shower many times a day whilst on shift due to the virus. We used the bus stop in the Square as our donation collection point.”

Before long, the two groups amalgamated into one volunteer team of around 60 people. Shopping, delivering, queue monitoring, collecting and delivering prescriptions, even stacking shelves, the volunteers seem to have taken it all in their stride. The estimates are that in a typical week, prescriptions collections and shopping deliveries were made for around 50 households. In total there’s been a volunteer monitoring the queue outside Swan Street Stores for more than 750 hours.

Mark concludes “As life returns to the new normal, although the queue monitors have been replaced by traffic lights, volunteers continue to collect prescriptions and shop for those who are still coming to terms with the persisting risk.

It’s been a real team effort!”

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



@kingsclerepc



facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil

Kingsclere Gardening Association



As there is no significant change to the health risks posed by this virus, the Summer Show which should have been held on August 23rd has been cancelled. It was also decided that all meetings booked for this year would be cancelled. Our view is that not many members would risk being in a room with several others in the current situation. Speakers might also not be willing to come to our hall. When we can hold a committee meeting, we will make new arrangements for the future. A great pity as we had a good programme this year with open gardens and garden visits.

At this time of year show exhibitors are ordering bulbs for next year. Will there be a show? Shall I be optimistic and buy for one or take the other view that all is over until a vaccine has been found for this virus?

Many gardeners will be thinking about what to plant for next year. Fellow competitors at shows will be wondering whether to spend money on fairly expensive varieties of bulbs or plants. Being a bit of an optimist, I expect that I will buy some new stock. My bulbs for this year have been sorted and found to be in good condition but will they be good enough? I could also decide not to buy the best in seeds. I have found Wilkinson’s quite good, sometimes outperforming other seeds.

John Eckton 01256 850017

The Dell By Gareth Martin



Thank you to everyone who has ordered via the 'Kingsclere Past & Present' Facebook Page.

I've been working on this booklet for the last 3 years or so, lots of maps, photos and stories on this unique and fascinating corner of Kingsclere. The price is a reasonable £5, including free delivery within Kingsclere Village

If anyone else would like to order a copy please email GarethAlanMartin@gmail.com and I will advise on electronic payment, alternatively write to Gareth Martin, 24 The Dell, Kingsclere, Newbury, RG20 5NL enclosing a cheque for £5.00 made out to G Martin.



Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

A 'Big Thank You' is being planned to celebrate all those in Basingstoke and Deane who volunteered to help others and the amazing acts of kindness that have taken place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Love Basingstoke and Basingstoke Voluntary Action are calling on residents, groups and businesses to send in their messages of thanks to local heroes who have gone above and beyond throughout the pandemic to support vulnerable people in the community, either by volunteering or by carrying out thoughtful and kind deeds.

Everyone recognised will be celebrated during Basingstoke and Deane's Big Thank You Week, from Monday 10 August to Friday 14 August. Throughout the week of celebration, there will be a spotlight on:

- Unsung heroes on 10 August
- Volunteer organisations, community hubs and community associations on 11 August
- The business community with two categories – community support and adapting operations on 12 August
- Local artists, art organisations and the heritage sector on 13 August
- Key and essential workers on 14 August.

People can take part by nominating others for their support and acts of kindness during lockdown from Wednesday 8 July until Friday 31 July. This can be done by tweeting @lovebstoke using #thebigBDthankyou, online at www.thebigbdthankyou.co.uk, by calling the council on 01256 844844 or by post to The Big Thank You, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH.

As well as encouraging people across the borough to share their thanks, a children's drawing, poetry and spoken word project on the theme of kindness has also been launched.

Open to anybody under the age of 18, it aims to inspire young people to focus on the acts of kindness they may have seen or carried out during the past few months in lockdown, and to interpret it through art, a poem or spoken word. All artwork will be displayed as part of a digital art projection project that will take place later this year and will be available to view on the website as a lasting memory of this time.

Schools, youth groups and individuals are encouraged to get involved.

Submissions can be made by email to mypart@thebigbdthankyou.co.uk or post to The Big Thank You, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH.

Businesses across the borough interested in supporting the event should contact mypart@thebigbdthankyou.co.uk.

The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane Cllr Diane Taylor said: "So many wonderful people in the borough have gone the extra mile to help others who may be struggling or vulnerable throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Whether it was making up and delivering food parcels, collecting medical supplies, being a friendly voice for somebody to chat with on the phone or key workers across the borough who have worked tirelessly to keep services we often take for granted running, our local heroes deserve to be recognised and thanked.

"The Big Thank You is a chance for everybody in the borough to recognise volunteers and unsung heroes in their communities and I hope you will join in this opportunity to give them our well-deserved thanks.

"And don't forget to encourage any young budding artists, poets or public speakers to get creative, focusing on acts of kindness that have been taking place in our community during lockdown."

Basingstoke Voluntary Action's Chair of Trustees Carol Bode added: "On behalf of Basingstoke Voluntary Action I thank every single one of you who has stepped forward to volunteer over the past few weeks to support and help your local communities and vulnerable people. It has made such a difference and rekindled a true community spirit. I also thank the many hundreds of volunteers who have given, and continue to give, their time freely for the benefit of others for many years. Volunteering comes in many forms and can take as little or as much time as you have to give. I hope that you consider future volunteer opportunities as our local communities and groups continue to need the ongoing support of your skills, experience, expertise and kindness as they recover."

For more information visit www.thebigbdthankyou.co.uk

Henry Hankey (Hank)

It is with sadness that we let you know of the death of a dear friend.

Hank passed away on 4th June following a short illness in Milford House Care Home in Derbyshire near his family.

Hank and his late wife Betty moved to Cedar Drive in 1970 and moved to the Litton in 1989. Sadly, Betty passed away in 2006.

Hank was known for his great sense of humour and cheeky personality. He will be sadly missed by his friends and family.

Mrs. E. Fowler



The Fieldgate Centre is run by Kingsclere Community Association, a charity (No 1168366). All residents of Kingsclere over 18 are automatically members of the association, an organisation that relies on volunteers to run it. Be part of it, your support makes a difference

We were able to open the Community Centre on 4 July and are available for use. Just like all venues there are strict guidelines as to what can be done and the measures that have to be put in place. We have started discussions with those that run regular activities in the centre to establish what can be restarted, how it needs to be organised and when. We want to be able to welcome as many back as it is safe to do. We rely on users to generate the income needed to run the centre. Check our website for information.

During the lockdown we have carried out some projects and plan to start work on upgrading the heating system. The major improvements to the centre are mainly funded by grants. The heating project is being funded by B&DBC, HCC and Greenham Trust. We want to continue the improvements. After the heating project we plan to upgrade the electrical system and have applied for funding for this project. Our next target is detailed in the box below.

Local Businesses - The Fieldgate Centre needs your help! Big Give Charity Challenge

Kingsclere Community Association need to raise £37,000 for improvement works to the Fieldgate Centre. This phase is to decorate, install new flooring and build a safe gantry access. We need companies and individuals to pledge £9,250 by 28th August. Your pledge will be doubled by the scheme. Pledges start as low as £100 and will be collected in January 2021.

The Fieldgate Centre is a valuable village facility and improvements over the last 4 years have made it an up-to-date and welcoming place for everyone.

Can you help? Pledge at - <https://www.thebiggive.org.uk/s/pledge?campaignId=a051r00001fFvrVAAS> and see our website for more information

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

THE VILLAGE CLUB IS COMING BACK TO LIFE

After our enforced Covid-19 closure, we are working on opening the Club in a safe way, closely following Government guidance and advice from ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England). We are very much looking forward to welcoming people back to this thriving village amenity.



Hopefully, the **library** was able to open on the 25th July as planned. Most **clubs and classes**, including **yoga**, are planning to restart in September or October – check our website or Facebook page for further information. We will also advertise any changes on the village notice boards.

We are happy to accept **individual hiring** so long as we can comply with social distancing and hygiene requirements.

Please contact our reopening coordinator Helen
events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk or tel. 297390 if you have questions.

Hair in need of a cut? Are you shielding or in a vulnerable group and nervous about travelling to your usual hairdresser? **Cuts and blow dries for men and women** are now available at the Club. Please contact **Donna 07789 180585** to arrange an appointment. Donna is a stylist from Newbury who has her own salon which she does not share with other stylists. She complies with government standards, including use of PPE.

Statement on Recent Events

The Village Club has considered in good faith suggestions expressed by a local villager aimed at reducing the rent burden on the Community Library paid to the Club over many months. The trustees have received notice of a related petition due to be presented at the next AGM. The petition is being listed as an agenda item, and the trustees look forward to resolving issues raised with those present. The AGM, which is likely to take place in the Autumn, will be advertised locally in the usual way. Anyone wishing to ensure they receive notification, please contact clerk@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Do you have any other questions about how the Village Club is run? Wondering about why a decision was made? The Trustees are always happy to answer questions – don't think you have to wait until the AGM! Please contact chairman@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk with your query.

Helen 297390



Kingsclere CE Primary School Governor Vacancy

Do you have an interest in education? Are you good at analysing data? Do you speak out in meetings? Then why not consider becoming a governor at Kingsclere Primary School?

We currently have a vacancy for a co-opted governor.

Our governors are a team of volunteers who work together for the benefit of the school. They come from a range of different backgrounds, bringing different skills and experience to the team.

Being a school governor is an enjoyable, stimulating and rewarding experience. It is an opportunity to work with other governors and the Senior Leadership Team of the school to develop an understanding of school management issues, the well-being of the children and staff, as well as being involved in the life of the school.

Meetings of Governors include discussion and presentations in a range of school matters including curriculum, recruitment, finance and welfare and safeguarding of children and staff.

The Governing Body's role is:

1. Setting strategic direction of the School
2. Holding the headteacher and senior leaders to account for the quality of teaching and learning, pupil progress, behaviour, health and safety and safeguarding
3. Ensuring good financial governance – ensuring sound financial Management, overseeing the school's budget and ensuring that resources are allocated to the pupils' priorities and needs

The requirements of the governors' role include:

- An interest in children's education and the performance of the school
- An open and enquiring mind and the ability to be objective
- A willingness to listen and make informed judgements
- The ability to work well with others
- Commitment to undertaking training to be better informed and understand the role and its responsibilities.

As a member of the Governing Body, you would be expected to attend 4-6 meetings a term in the evenings. This may involve both full governing body meetings and committee meetings.

If you are interested and would like further details, please contact the Clerk to the Governors by email at 3088Governors@kingsclere.hants.sch.uk

Reflections



Terror was etched on their faces and in the shrill sound of their voices as they fought the wind and the waves. This was no ordinary storm but one which sent terror even into the hearts of the most experienced sailors on board. It was dark and they were soaked through, wondering how they might get out of this ferocious storm. But then they saw something. It must have been hard to make out in the dark and with the spray stinging their eyes. But something was coming on the water towards them. In their terror, they assumed it was a ghost - perhaps this was their final voyage and this was death coming to take them. As they screamed out in fear, suddenly they heard a most comforting sound, the voice of one they knew and loved. Unable to believe their eyes or ears, they hear the words, "Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid". One of the seasoned fishermen, unsure of who or what is before them speaks up. "Lord, if it's you, command me to come to you on the water." A gamble perhaps by Peter to see if the figure they could just about see was really their dear friend and master. "Come" is the one word reply which launches him onto the water. He begins incredibly to walk on the water towards His friend. But then that potent emotion, fear, arises again in his heart and he begins to sink. "Lord, save me", he screams as the water rises. Immediately, a strong hand takes hold of him and brings him back to the boat. As he and his companion board the little fishing boat, there is a sudden calm - not just in the relief of the sailors but in the ceasing of the wind and the waves. It's an awe-inspiring calm...

That account of Jesus walking on the water and Peter's step out of the boat seemed fitting as we begin this month. Perhaps this month will see the beginnings of re-joining the world outside for some of you. Perhaps the thought of leaving home which has been your place of safety and security, a place where you can control the hygiene, fills you with dread, like facing a storm which threatens your life. And yet as you step out, may you know the presence of Jesus and who says to you, "Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid".

Blessings,

Ben



St Mary's Church

Worship

We are delighted that we have been able to open for public worship on Sundays since 5th July. We have made sure that all our churches have followed government and Church of England guidelines and have put measures in place to keep everyone safe. For more details on what to expect when you come to worship, see our website: www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk.

Services in our churches during August will be as follows:

	8 A.M. (BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER)	9:30 A.M. (COMMON WORSHIP)	10:30 A.M.
2 nd August	Headley Holy Communion	Kingsclere Holy Communion	Kingsclere Morning Worship
9 th August	Kingsclere Holy Communion	Headley Morning Worship (LAY LED WITH HOMILY)	Kingsclere All-Age Messy Worship
16 th August		Ashford Hill Morning Worship (LAY LED WITH HOMILY)	Kingsclere Communion Service
23 rd August		Ashford Hill Holy Communion	Kingsclere Morning Worship (LAY LED)
30 th August			Kingsclere Communion Service

We are also making sure that those who are unable to come to worship in person are still able to watch the service on YouTube (link is on our homepage at www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk)

Private Prayer

St Mary's Church will be open each Thursday between 10am and 4pm for those that wish to use it for private prayer or quiet reflection.

Other Church Activities

At the moment, all other mid-week services, groups and events are not meeting. We will review this during August as government guidance changes, with the hope that we can start to gather again in September.

Food donations

Thank you to those who have donated food and toiletries/household products which we have been able to distribute to those in need locally during the coronavirus restrictions. We are continuing to support these families over the summer, and so if you are able to donate any dried or tinned food or household/laundry products please get in touch with Emma (details below). If you know of someone in need (or are in need yourself) of these items please contact us. Any items that are donated which are unused when restrictions are lifted and we stop collection donations will be donated to the Foodbank.

Prayer and Friendship

We have a team of volunteers who have offered to be available to speak to those who might need a phone call. Perhaps you are isolating at home alone and just want to speak to someone occasionally? Perhaps you would like someone to pray with? If so please contact Emma (details below) who can put you in touch with someone.

We are here for our community now, as always. Please do get in touch if there is anything we can help with.

Contact Us

Rev Ben Read: 01635 298471 or vicar@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk
 Emma Rivers (administrator): 0779 0934972
 or administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

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 0779 0934972.



August

- 5th For my darling Mark. Time passes, love remains. Amanda & Rocket
 10th Remembering Mum (Tina Knight) a year after we lost you. Our memories of you will never fade. Loved forever Tanya, John, Petra and families xxx
 31st In memory of Janet Lavina Cox on your birthday. Always in our hearts and minds. Love from all the Family.

Thank you

For all your kind messages of sympathy.

For sharing so many happy memories of Sue.

For joining us in spirit at the cremation service.

For your generous support of Parkinsons UK (over £1000 raised in Sue's memory)

Our love and thanks Peter Woodman, Anne Louise and the family



200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200

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

**St Mary's 200 Club
 Winner July 2020, no 93, Eileen Dobney**

Well done, Eileen!

CAMARADERIE

It is with much regret that we are going to have to cancel yet another afternoon of Camaraderie.

Due to the on-going situation with Covid-19, it will not be possible to host our Camaraderie afternoon scheduled for August 5th.

Our Camaraderie events are all about friendship and social activities – we feel that this would not be possible when we still have to adhere to social distancing guidelines. There is still some uncertainty as to when the Methodist Schoolroom will be available to hire.

We hope to be able to report more in the September issue of The Tower. Fingers crossed for a return to normality in time for our meeting scheduled for 7th October.

We have missed you all and hope you have all managed to stay safe and well during these strange times. We cannot wait until we all get together again. In the meantime, if you would like any further information or assistance, of any kind, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Wendy, Sarah and Pam
 01635 299743**

Kingsclere Tennis Club

Kingsclere Tennis Club courts are open again after earlier restrictions, made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic. There are guidelines in place to help to keep everyone safe. The courts have been refurbished and there is now a simple booking system in place, to make organizing play easier for all members.



If you would like to play tennis locally, Adult, Junior and Family memberships are available at very reasonable rates. ALL WELCOME!

Adults interested in playing organized social tennis sessions contact:
 Thursday mornings - Daphne Snook on 07768 664347
 Sunday mornings – Nigel Baker on 07785 763967

For Tennis Club Membership contact:
 Adam Price on 07725 901362 or email: adamprice27st@gmail.com

Kingsclere Community Library to re-open on Saturday 25th July

We are delighted to announce that the Library will be open again from the 25th July and we look forward to welcoming our customers back!



However, due to the Coronavirus, things are going to be a bit different, initially at least. This may well change in line with Government and Health advice.

- Visits to the library will be by appointment. You can make an appointment by sending an e-mail to kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com or ringing **07899 623872**. Appointments will be restricted to 20 minutes.
- If you wish to visit both the main and the children's library, you will need to make two appointments
- We are following strict social distancing policies (2 metres), so if you turn up without an appointment, if there is room you can of course come in, but if not, you will have to wait outside or return at another time.
- We are intending to open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon and Saturday morning as was the case before lockdown. However, the library will be open to the public at 1.20pm on Tuesday and Thursday and close at 5.10pm and Saturday hours will be 9.50am until 1.40pm in order to allow volunteers to complete the additional tasks made necessary by coronavirus.
- Face coverings must be worn at all times whilst in the library. Please make sure to bring one!
- There will be no access to public toilets
- Hand sanitiser will be provided at the door and anyone entering the library must use this.
- Books can be returned when the library is open without an appointment by placing them on the table which will be located just inside the door, so you do not need to enter the library nor will you need to wait
- Please note that fines are being re-introduced from 1st August so if you have any overdue books, make sure you return them before that date either by putting them through the library letterbox or handing them in when the library re-opens to avoid being charged!
- All returned books will be quarantined in line with Hampshire Library Service guidelines for 72 hours before being returned to the shelves.
- The RFID machine, computer, photocopier, door handles and all other touch points will be regularly cleaned by our library volunteers.

Looking forward to seeing you all – stay safe

Nature Notes

Our local walks have brought us visions of wonderful fields of pink. The blue of flax, red field poppies and yellow rape are familiar but was this? It proved to be sainfoin, named after the French Saint Foyn and known as Holy Hay, it was introduced in the seventeenth century as a fodder plant, a wonderful sight. Around the field edges were swathes of bird's foot trefoil named after its clusters of seed pods resembling a bird's foot. There are many descriptive names for the plant but often called eggs and bacon from the yellow and orange-brown flowers or even Granny's toenails. The same plant has been noteworthy, peppering the mown village verges with bright colour.



A stand of nettles provided a base for a mass emergence of six-spot ladybirds from their slightly sinister looking black and yellow larvae. Newly emerged adults spangled the greenery with their pale orange wing cases, the colour deepening and the spots darkening as the process developed. Some twenty or so we estimated.

Pyramidal orchids are enjoying a bumper year and many seen where expected and in unlikely areas.

It is a lot quieter now. The jackdaws still favour the large oak tree but their youngsters are more mature now and there is less of their sharp, high pitched CHA! Jackdaws are so common that we tend not to pay attention to them, but they are handsome birds with a black body, charcoal-grey head and a glittery pale eye which continually appears to be sizing us up. They strut rather than walk and like all 'crows' their diet is wide ranging. A BBC Nature talk revealed that although they exist in flocks, most birds within will be in pairs and are likely to remain so. Their choice of building nests in unguarded chimneys has not endeared them to those who still have open fires.

Diana Tait and Rod Eldred

Editor's Note

Sanfoin was grown for use in hay that was thought especially good for horses. It is believed that it was sometimes used instead of hops in beer-making though it never became popular.

There was a farm called Sanfoin shown on the 1894 map of Kingsclere just north of Park House which must have become incorporated into the stables at sometime. Perhaps hay from this farm was first used to feed horses at Sir Joseph Hawley's stables on Cannon Court Heath which was moved in 1867 to new premises at Park House directly next door to Sanfoin Farm.

W.G Grace Played Cricket at Kingsclere

W.G. Grace, the most famous cricketer of the 19th century, played cricket in Kingsclere on two occasions. The Newbury Weekly News wrote on the 25th September 1879 that the previous Saturday he had played for John Porter's Kingsclere eleven against Newbury. John Porter was by then a highly successful racehorse trainer based at Park House with many winners including the Ascot Gold Cup winner that June, Isonomy.



"On Saturday last a large and fashionable company were present to watch the contest and though, so late in the season, a number of ladies bravely assembled and graced the field with their presence." W.G. Grace brought with him his brother Fred, also an English team player and his cousin W.R. Gilbert who was a well-known Gloucestershire cricketer. Sadly, the Newbury team were no match for Porter's eleven. Porter's team batted first and opening the innings, W.G. Grace made 35 runs before hitting his wicket. His cousin made the highest score of 79 in their total of 191. In reply Newbury were skittled out for 24 with W.G. Grace taking 9 wickets for 12 runs! Put in again, Newbury made a paltry 64 with W.G. taking another 5 wickets. A year later, on the 31st August, the village entertained the three cousins again playing for John Porter's eleven. "The weather was brilliantly fine and the invigorating air on the Kingsclere hills combined with some good cricket, was enjoyed by the spectators, not fewer than 1,000 present." To the disappointment of many, W.G. Grace, was dismissed for 4 runs in the second over by G. Wintle. Nevertheless, his brother and cousin then put on a stand of 160 in a total of 225 runs whilst Newbury in two innings could only make 130. W.G. Grace again taking 10 wickets.

The week after playing for Kingsclere the two Grace brothers plus their elder brother Edward played for England against Australia winning at the Oval by 5 wickets. W.G. scored 152 runs in the first innings.

A tragic footnote is that 2 weeks later Fred Grace died of pneumonia in the Red Lion hotel in Basingstoke having been taken ill on the train enroute to Winchester for another cricket match. Their cousin W.R. Gilbert was to end his cricketing career in disgrace 6 years later having been prosecuted for stealing from his fellow players' clothing during a cricket match. He emigrated to Canada.

The most extraordinary thing about W.G. Grace is that he was so much better than any other of his cricketing contemporaries. His first-class career spanned 44 seasons during which he scored 54,000 runs and took 2800 wickets at 19 apiece. In 1871 he scored 2739 runs, the first player to score more than 2,000 runs where the next highest total was 1068.

Richard Croft and Mike Stokoe Kingsclere Heritage Association

Kingsclere Cricket Club

The season has now started!

Fixtures

August

1st	Whitchurch	Home	8th	St Mary's	Home
15th	East Wooday	Home	22nd	Whitchurch	Away
29th	Overton 2	Home			

September

5th	Donnington	Away	12th	Odiham	Away
19th	Overton 2	Away			



Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands WI

Village Club, 35 George Street, Kingsclere



"There is no members' meeting this month." The first sentence of this, our monthly article in the August issue of the Tower magazine, is pretty much what it has been for many years now. That used to be because our WI has long taken this month as our 'furlough' period - long before the term took on a less cheerful tone. But I hope that readers will forgive that touch of irony, particularly since I will risk another by adding "Well, at least that's *one* thing that hasn't changed!"

Change there *has* been of course and continues to be. For all readers - and among them many of our members - much of the changes seem alarming. Now, not everyone owns or operates a computer and in individual WIs such as ours the age demographic of membership often defines that. But, we would like to reassure members and potential visitors that while computerisation is not within the scope of all, the science is proving itself a most effective tool in sustaining the structure of Women's Institutes throughout the world. This is evident in Hampshire County Federation WI headquarters which has been a hive of activity, maintaining inter-committee communication within the 200 WIs in its remit and promoting craft courses and other fields of interest via computer to those members who could participate.

Most of all, HCFWI is making sure that structures remain intact so that individual WI groups like ours can eventually emerge from isolation to continue functioning in the way most sympathetic to their own membership. We look forward to that and know that when we resume meetings our joy in greeting members and visitors will be immense - if necessarily disciplined. Virtual hugs all round, then!

Nova Saunderson - 299570

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group

Happy holidays everybody. Whether you are jetting off for some last-minute sun or enjoying a staycation, we hope you all have a lovely time – stay safe!



While Bunnies is closed, the committee has been busy behind the scenes putting plans in place for reopening. We will be cleaning all of the toys and, hopefully, building a new shed to store them all and keep them protected, especially over the winter months. We will keep you updated on when we will be reopening in accordance with government guidelines, but hopefully it will be sooner rather than later!

When it comes to reopening we would really appreciate any help anybody can give us with sessions. You don't have to have children attending the group to support us, in fact it often helps not to! Equally you don't need to join the committee, it is just brilliant to have the extra pairs of hands, as it is likely we will have to do a lot more in terms of keeping toys clean and collecting information for the NHS track and trace when we reopen. Please do get in touch if you would be interested in joining us.

If you are looking for something to do with your bunnies, have you tried smoothie making? So easy and a great way to encourage fruit eating (not that our bunnies have a problem at snack time usually!). Why not try this recipe from BBC Good Food:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| ☐ 2 apples, cored | ☐ 150g frozen raspberries |
| ☐ 150ml natural yogurt | ☐ 2 tbsp porridge oats |
| ☐ ½ lemon, juiced | ☐ 100ml milk |

Tip all ingredients into a blender or smoothie maker and blitz until smooth, adding 50ml water or milk if it's too thick.

Or why not come up with your own inventions and let us know how tasty they are on our Bunnies Facebook page!

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.

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

villagebunniestoddlergroup@gmail.com

Gardening Notes

August In The Garden



This is the month that we harvest crops from the vegetable garden. Once the foliage has collapsed the onions are ready to be lifted out of the soil and dried off to be stored in a nice dry place. Other vegetables continue to be harvested. Excess carrots can be left in the soil or can be stored in sand.

Early apples and pears don't always store well, so best used as soon as possible. Later varieties can be stored for several months if carefully looked after and checked regularly.

Spring cabbage seeds can be sown now ready to be transplanting in October. Weeding is an ongoing chore not only in the vegetable plot, but the rest of the garden. Watering and feeding is necessary at this time of year particularly for container-grown plants.

Many annuals and perennials have finished flowering. It's very satisfying to collect the seeds to increase your plants for next year though they don't always come true to the parent, but that's the fun of seeing the results.

Take semi ripe cuttings, for example pelargoniums and fuchsia. Many plant cuttings will take easily in damp, horticultural sand as they do not require to be fed. I used this method for a number of years. Once roots are established they can be transferred to compost and the sand can be reused after being sterilized.

If hardy geraniums are cut back now, they will grow back to give a nice tidy cushion of leaves. Lavender needs to be cut back now. If flowers have not been removed for drying, clip with hand shears, taking about an inch of foliage off to encourage new growth. If you have clay soil then before planting lavender add some grit to the soil as this will help them to survive. Chrysanthemums and dahlias will be giving lots of colour to the garden. Do be aware of the horrible earwigs as they can damage the plants badly. The upside down flower pot seems to be the most popular way of catching them. Lawns can be fed with a fertilizer with high potash content as this encourages root growth. This probably is the last time you will need to trim any hedge that needs attention until next year.

Continue dead heading to prolong flowering time. There are some bulbs that can be planted such as Madonna lilies and cut back any perennials that have flopped onto the lawn, making it difficult to cut the grass. Enjoy your gardening.

Denise Allen

Great Britain's Oldest Father?

From the Reading Mercury for the 5th April 1790.

"Tuesday last was married at Kingsclere, Hants, Mr. Richard Duckett, a gentleman, of the advanced age of 81, to Miss Winifred Webb, aged 18, an amiable young lady, with a fortune equal to her accomplishments, and possessed of every charm to render the union completely happy and comfortable to her aged Lord. A more numerous assembly of persons attended the performance of the hymeneal ceremony, than was ever known there on a similar occasion, whose repeated shouts, were evident tokens, of the great pleasure and satisfaction every one present felt, on this joyful occasion."

You might think that Winifred would have to be remarkably amiable to take on a husband 63 years older than herself!

A search of the Parish Registers for more information reveals a fascinating story.

Richard had previously fathered

9/5/1742 Mary Duckett with wife Mary

12/5/1745 Richard Duckett with wife Mary

After his marriage to Winifred Webb they had:-

24/12/1790 Thomas Duckett, 23/6/1793 Charlotte Duckett

10/6/1796 Martha Duckett 25/4/1798 Ann Duckett

4/9/1799 Richard Duckett was buried

24/8/1800 Hannah Duckett was baptised, mother Winifred, widow. Father not Known.

26/6/1803 Winifred Duckett married Thomas Bear, labourer.

3/7/1803 Sarah Bear Baptism, father Thomas Bear, mother Winifred

There is no record of the death of Thomas Bear in Kingsclere.

13/8/1809 Winifred Bear married George Keepe, labourer

11/7/1810 Baptism of Leffy Keepe, father George Keepe, mother Winifred

Keepe abode The Common

George died 24/2/1837 age 82 abode The Dell

Winifred died 24/7/1840 age 69 abode Alms House

What are we to make of these records? Did Richard really have 4 children in his 80s? The last when he was 88? This would make him the oldest man in Great Britain to have a child. Why did this not make the newspapers as his marriage had done? The fact that Hannah was born 11 months after Richard's death suggests an unseemly haste to cast off her widow weeds or does it suggest that she had had another lover all along?

Certainly, Richard would have been a financially attractive spouse. He was a Brickmaker with his own premises, the only Brickmaker in Kingsclere. He paid 8/- in the Land Redemption Tax of 1894, not an enormous amount, but

this was at a time when very few people owned their own property. The period at the end of the 18th century was one of increasing poverty. By 1803 the money spent on the poor had doubled from that spent in 1784/85 and 86 locally. 19% of the population in Kingsclere was receiving Poor Law money in 1803. With over 60% of men working as agricultural labourers at less than 10/- per week, maybe an elderly suitor did not seem so appalling.

An advantage of Thomas Bear, born in 1771, was that he was her age but why did they wait until a month before their child was born to get married? Illegitimacy rates varied across the country but generally were about 6%. It appears, however that 40-50% of women were pregnant when they got married so it may not have been so unusual as we might think.

We do not know why or when Thomas Bear died but a twice widowed Winifred with 6 children would have found life very difficult. Marrying a man 16 years older than yourself when you have already been married to someone 63 older may not seem so unusual! However, having married and then living on the Common with George Keepe may well have been a precarious existence. You could not own a house on common land and you ran the risk of it being destroyed by the authorities. Indeed, between 1831 and 1841, just before the Common was enclosed in 1843, over 70 houses were destroyed in Kingsclere, mainly, one presumes on the Common. By the time George Keepe died in 1837 they had moved to the Dell where at least they would have had more security. Winifred died in the Alms Houses 3 years later. They were originally built in 1586 as a charity by the Rev. Thomas Brown where the present ones now stand, subsequently rebuilt in 1853. A sad ending but better than the Workhouse where many died. It should be noted that incumbents had to be "of good name" so maybe any doubts about her past had been long forgotten.

But was Richard Duckett the father of her first 4 children? Is he the oldest person in Great Britain to have fathered a child?

How we would love a personal record of her life. Until one is found you can invent your own version of Winifred's life.

Sources and more details available from mike@mikestokoe.com.

Let's hope we will be able to meet soon. When the time comes, we shall be in touch to let you know the new arrangements; it will be different, but still fun, we hope. As numbers will have to be limited, we shall probably have to ask you to phone to reserve your place.



Our first film will be The White Crow, a drama based on the defection of Rudolf Nureyev at the height of the Cold War in 1961. Part le Carre style thriller, part biography with stunning ballet scenes.

Please stay safe and stay in touch.

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

THE KINGSCLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

POLICE, FIRE or AMBULANCE **Emergency 999**
 Police Enquiries/Information **non Emergency 101**

Kingsclere Health Centre: 01635 296000
North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke 01256 473202

Kingsclere & Ashford Hill with Headley Care Group:
 General Enquiries 01635 298794 *Transport only* 07388 539 730

Parish Council: 37 George Street (see page 2) 01635 298634
Dial-a-Ride 01256 462101

CHURCH CONTACTS

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Church Wardens:
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 Sarah Mussett sarah.mussett@hotmail.co.uk 01635 291900
Administrator: Emma Rivers
 administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk 07790 934972

METHODIST CHURCH:
Chief Steward Wendy Morgan 01635 297538
Secretary & Hire of Hall Jeanette Billington 01635 297585

ROMAN CATHOLIC: Rev Patrick Tansey 0118 9814572

Bas & Deane	01256 844844	Kingsclere Library	0300 555 1387
Buses	0345 8101000	Swan Street P O	01635 297035
Trains	0845 748 4950	Vet	01635 29557 or 40565
Gas Emerg.	0800 11999	Dentist	01635 299981
Chemist	01635 298419		

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MP for N.W Hampshire:
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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**