



# The Kingsclere Tower

What's On & Local News  
**MARCH 2024**

# The Kingsclere Tower

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March is a busy month, not only for those of us who want to get out into the garden, it is also the month when there are several community events occurring. The Parish Council will be holding the annual Parish Meeting on March 18th which gives us all a chance to find out what is going on in the village and quiz our local councillors on what they are doing and what we would like to see done. Why not contribute your views on new housing? It is also an opportunity to find out about the clubs in the village, especially the Cricket Club, which is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year.

We will also be able to hear a talk by Professor Andy Kempe. about Greenham Common Airbase in the year of the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings when it was heavily involved in the airborne activities over Normandy. (see p.3)

The Annual Parochial Meeting of St. Mary's Church will be held in April. Those of you who wish to join the Parochial Electoral Roll must do so either on line or by completing a paper form by the 17th March. (see p.16)

Finally, as the Parish Clerk says on page 1, our Village Litter Warden does a fine job of keeping the village tidy. All villagers can also contribute by helping with the Village Spring Clean on the 30th March. **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 **APRIL** to the Editor at [kingscleretower@gmail.com](mailto:kingscleretower@gmail.com)

**NOT LATER THAN 12th MARCH 2024.**

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

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



## KINGSCLERE PARISH COUNCIL

**Chairman:** Cllr Clive Mussett 07800 022432

**Email:** [clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk)

**Telephone:** 01635 298634

**Office:** 37 George Street, Kingsclere RG20 5NH



**NOTICE BOARDS** – we would like to publicly thank Borough Councillor Mike Bound for his Councillor Community Grant contribution of £340 towards the new Crown Green Notice Boards. Cllr Bound's grant made up the required difference and enabled KPC to go ahead and order the Boards which were installed on Crown Green by Cllr Ray Peach and resident Ed Clayton.

**LITTER BINS** – KPC also thanks Cllr Ray Peach for continuing the great work of our Litter Warden over the Christmas period to cover holiday leave. Ray emptied many of the Parish's 45 bins! Very much appreciated Ray. Thank you.

### **ANNUAL VILLAGE SPRING CLEAN —Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 10.00am.**

Our village Litter Warden does an amazing job and KPC is very appreciative of his hard work, however once a year we assist and go that little bit further afield and gather items that may not be covered in the warden's areas.

Please do come along to the base in the Churchyard or very near to it, (tbc), and volunteer for an hour. Litter wands, hi-vis waistcoats and gloves will be provided but please wear sensible footwear. We look forward to seeing you. *In case of bad weather do check the KPC website and face book page for an update before attending.*

**GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING** – the collections dates are Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and 20th March and 3rd April

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – The next full Council Meeting will be at 7:30pm on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in the Village Club. We welcome the attendance of all parishioners at our meetings and anyone who wishes to raise any matters will be given the opportunity to do so during Public Questions.

**NB: The D-Day Anniversary Convoy will travel through the Village on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June at approximately 10.30am.**

## Kingsclere's Annual Parish Meeting

To be held in Kingsclere Village Club



**Monday 18th March 2024 at 7:30pm**

**'The eyes of the world are upon you.'**

Prof. Andy Kempe, Greenham Common Control Tower

On June 5<sup>th</sup> 1944, General Eisenhower addressed the troops on Greenham Common as they readied themselves to lead the airborne invasion of Normandy on D-Day with what has now become one of the Second World War's most famous speeches.

As we approach the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, Professor Kempe will talk about Greenham Common's involvement in the lead up to that momentous day and how those troops were prepared for their mighty task.

Also, we welcome Kingsclere Cricket Club  
who are celebrating their 250th Anniversary in 2024

### **Local Clubs, Organisations and The Parish Council**

Come and meet the people who run your community organisations. Representatives from many village groups have been invited to come and tell us about what they have been getting up to in the past year.

KPC Chairman Cllr Clive Mussett will also update on us 2023.

Come along and get involved.

**There will be an opportunity for you to raise any matters of concern with the invited Parish, Borough, and County Councillors.**

**All Kingsclere residents are encouraged and welcome to attend.**

Kingsclere Parish Council is hosting the event and hope you will stay on for light refreshments after the meeting.

Please RSVP in advance to [clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk) (for catering numbers)



The independent Village Housing Needs Report has been published and is available on the Parish Council website. It reveals some interesting and surprising facts. Kingsclere's population is getting smaller, the average age is getting higher and families on average income cannot afford to buy entry-level houses in the village.

The survey is still live, so if you haven't completed it yet, please do so.

By the time you read this, the NP group and Parish Council will have submitted a response to the review of Basingstoke & Deane's Local Plan. The closing date for comments is 4th March.

See <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/LPU-have-your-say>

Many policies in the Local Plan have been strengthened, particularly in light of the climate emergency and there is an emphasis on getting infrastructure in place prior to large scale builds. However, a further 14,450 new houses need to be built by 2040. This figure has been divided between settlements, Kingsclere being allocated an additional 175 new homes. In order to find sites for these homes, last year the NP group commissioned a site survey report looking at potential sites, particularly to the north of the A339. The report can be found on the Parish Council web site under Neighbourhood Planning.

The NP group will shortly commence work reviewing our NP to bring it in line with the revised Local Plan. The group would welcome additional Members, so if you are resident in the parish of Kingsclere and are interested in the future development of our beautiful village, please get in touch.

**Cllr. Steven Gaines**

**[Cllr.steven.gaines@kingsclere-pc.org.uk](mailto:Cllr.steven.gaines@kingsclere-pc.org.uk)**

## Wolverton Market

The next Market is on Saturday 2nd March in the Village Hall from 9.30am until 11am. All the usual stalls will be available to browse and we also have a new stall holder selling some lovely handmade Craft items. (It's never too early to shop for Christmas!)

Coffee, tea and biscuits are available and there is parking outside of the hall.

Thank you for your continued support for the Market and we look forward to seeing you.

Wendy Morgan 01635 297538

**Join the Great British Spring Clean**

**Be part of the pick**

**The Kingsclere Spring Clean**

**Come along to St Mary's Churchyard on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Turn up between 10-12pm and lend a hand to clean our village**

**Event will end 1pm**

*Please check KPC website for updates, if adverse weather occurs on the day*

**Coffee available in St Mary's**

Hosted by Kingsclere Parish Council  
[www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk](http://www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk)

**Please wear suitable footwear and bring gloves if you have some. We will provide Hi vis, Sanitiser, Litter wand and bags.**

*We will ask you to sign a Health & Safety Awareness sheet*

Register your support **[keepbritaintidy.org](http://keepbritaintidy.org)**

**#GBSpringClean**

Keep Britain Tidy is a registered Charity No. 1071737

## M Warwick Builders

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**@mwarwickbuilders**

## Andover MIND Team



The Andover Mind team within Rural West Primary Care Network is composed of two Wellbeing Advisors (Sophie and Sharon) and one peer support worker (Carissa). The Wellbeing Advisors are able to offer an assessment to help identify what is going on for you, help you set goals and collaboratively agree on the most appropriate support for you. They can offer a further 4-6 sessions for any patients over the age of 18 years, struggling with low to moderate mental health problems. This could include depression, anxiety, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, panic attacks, stress etc. During these appointments, they will not only be able to offer tools to help understand and manage your symptoms but also signpost you on to other organisations that may be able to offer longer term support as well. Referral to the Wellbeing Advisor can be obtained via your GP or by asking at Reception.

The Peer Support Worker is able to offer support across multiple sessions for patients who have been referred by the Wellbeing Advisor. The Peer Support Worker is able to provide support in the community to help build upon the work that you will have already completed or discussed with the Wellbeing Advisor using their own lived experience of mental health problems. This may include supporting you to attend a community activity, meeting you at your home to build your confidence, or working with you in the community to reduce your anxiety.

If you would like more information on the services offered by Andover MIND, please contact Reception and ask for a referral and you will be tasked to the Team who will be in touch.

## Social Prescribing

**Are you lonely and isolated?** We can support you in choosing activities to join or having a befriender. We can give you a warm hand and go along with you for your first time.

**Are you worried about your finances? Cost of living? Right benefits in place? Housing issues?** we can sign post you to the right support and advice.

**Are you a Carer?** We will listen to you and help you in getting the support in place. This could be talking about Power of Attorney, benefit advice, getting an emergency plan in case you are unwell, looking at carer groups for you and activities for the person you care for. We can do referrals to Adult Services for a carer's assessment or a care assessment for you if you are cared for. We can provide you with **emotional support** after losing a loved one and get the right help you need.

We network with all our areas getting the right information for you about what activities and groups take place, so you can feel part of your community.

Please contact your nearest Surgery if you feel our support would benefit you.

**Stephanie Nelson Tracey Powell**



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

March is as busy as ever at the Centre and we have some really exciting events coming up, as well as the regular classes and activities at the Centre continuing with Slimming World, Ceroc, Clubbercise, Pilates, Badminton, Songtree, Monthly Meet Up, Racing Welfare Coffee Mornings, Youth Club and HIIT. Check our website for full details of the times of events and classes you may wish to attend.

For rugby fans out there, put the **6 Nations Super Saturday 16th March** in your diary! The bar will be open from 2pm and all matches will be shown on the Big Screen. In the evening, we also have the pizza van coming again so come along and enjoy your freshly made pizza to eat in whilst watching the rugby, or pop up for a take away.

The **Kingsclere Community Association AGM** is taking place on **Monday 18th March at 7.30pm**. Come along and find out what is happening at the Fieldgate Centre and the plans for the year.

**Monthly Meet Up** takes place on **Tuesday 19th March**. Come and join us for a cuppa and a chat. Free transport can be arranged, just contact the office.

On **24th March** at 3pm the **Kingsclere Singers** present **Now and Then; Singing Through the Decades**, afternoon tea and performance. Tickets are £10 on the door and children are free, and there is a 20% discount for the purchase of 6 or more. Tickets are available at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/kingsclere-community-association>

Easter is at the end of March this year, so we will then be looking forward towards the Summer events. More information to follow.

Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information.  
**www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk** **01635 298497**  
**fieldgatecentre@outlook.com** **Facebook**





## KINGSCLERE VILLAGE CLUB

Est. 1921

CHARITY 1189234

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

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

[kingsclerevillageclub](https://www.facebook.com/kingsclerevillageclub)

### Kingsclere Castaways

Join us for an evening of reminiscences and music with Daniel Hannan, Lord Kingsclere. What brought him from South America to Kingsclere? March 23<sup>rd</sup>, doors open 7pm for a 7.30 start. Tickets £10 from the Village Butcher, <https://www.wegottickets.com/event/608190>, or Helen (below).

### Community Café

This month's Café is on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10am to 1pm. Enjoy a cuppa, home-made cake and a cosy chat. Featuring the ever-popular fun quiz at 11am and a craft table for younger visitors.

### ABB

The fabulous ABB are returning on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Doors open 7.30pm for an 8pm start. Tickets £17 (including supper) from [www.wegottickets.com/event/605838](http://www.wegottickets.com/event/605838) or email Helen (below). Let us know if you have any dietary requirements or would prefer the non-chilli option.



### Tuesday Yoga

We have spaces in our Tuesday Iyengar Yoga class, 7.30pm to 9.00pm, focusing on detail, precision and alignment of poses to develop strength, mobility and stability. Experienced students and beginners catered for. Please contact [bookings@kingsclerevillageclub](mailto:bookings@kingsclerevillageclub) for further details.

### The Hall Floor

Users of the Club will be aware of the recent problems with the hall floor. Investigations indicate that this is the result of a long-standing problem leading to rising damp. The floor is sound and a temporary floor covering is in place. We are in the process of seeking quotes for a new floor and damp-proofing so that we can apply for grant funding. However, matched funding will be required. We are appealing for help through our Floor Fund. If you are able to contribute, donations can be made at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/newfloor>

Thank you

**Helen 01635 297390 or [events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk](mailto:events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk)**



## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Saturday, 23rd March, 2024 at 2.00pm

### LITTLE WOMEN

(2019 - U - 135 min - Drama - 1 Oscar)

### After the Community Cafe at the Kingsclere Village Club

Refreshments from 1.30pm

*Jo March reflects back and forth on her life, telling the beloved story of the March sisters - four young women, each determined to live life on her own terms. Based on Louisa May Alcott's American classic novel. Stars Emma Watson.*

Guests (£7.50) welcome at any time.

27th April - Gigi (1958)

**Extraordinary General Meeting.** All members, please attend.

### STATEMENT FROM KINGSCLERE FILM CLUB COMMITTEE

It is with great sadness that after more than twenty years, the Committee has decided to close Kingsclere Film Club. We will show two further films (March & April) and hold an Extraordinary General Meeting of members to confirm the closure on 27 April. The current committee does not have the resources to continue running the Club. If there are people in the village who would like to take on the task, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Currently the Club is solvent and owns the cinema equipment installed in the Village Club.

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

## Kingsclere Singers

### NOW & THEN: Singing through the Decades

Join the Kingsclere Singers this Spring as they sing through the decades! Starting from present day hits all the way back to wartime classics, you'll be taken on a musical journey through time.

### Sunday 24th March 3pm Fieldgate Centre

Tickets £10, Kids FREE, Table of 6+ get a 20% discount

Ticket includes Cream Tea and a performance by the Kingsclere Singers

Tickets can be bought in advance on our website,

on the Fieldgate website or on the door

[www.kingsclere-singers.co.uk](http://www.kingsclere-singers.co.uk)

Follow us on Facebook!



## Kingsclere CE Primary School News!

We have had a super half term at Kingsclere CE Primary School with so many great opportunities for the children.

### Kingsclere CE Primary School perform at the O2!

Our choir performed at the O2 in January with the largest children's choir in the world as well as famous artists such as the soul-jazz singer Natalie Williams who performs regularly at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club. The children performed a variety of musical genres superbly and each child sung with energy and enthusiasm. Well done to all the children who took part and thank you to Mrs Bowden, our Music Lead, who taught the children the many songs over the Autumn Term.

### Parents/Carers Partnership

We have been inviting parents and carers regularly into school to see the children's learning in action. Some of the highlights have included our Year 5 and Year 6 geography quiz in which the children shared the knowledge they had learnt over their enquiry learning. We also held a maths multiplication and division workshop which was led by our Maths Lead, Mrs Bentall, and our brilliant Maths Ambassadors. Our Calligraphy Club, led by Mrs Williamson, also shared their calligraphy gallery with parents and carers which showed the excellent calligraphy progress the children made last term.

### Sports

Our football and netball teams have been competing against other Hampshire schools and our girls' Key Stage 2 football team are in the quarter final! We wish them all the best of luck in their next competition!

### Farewell Mrs Titcomb!

This half term we said farewell to Dawn Titcomb, our caretaker, who has retired after working at the school for thirty-one years. During this time, Dawn has been a brilliant caretaker. Her weekly trophy, 'Mrs Titcomb's Tidiest Classroom Award' has been an exciting moment each week for the children and staff! Dawn will be greatly missed and we thank her for her contribution and commitment to the school over the last 31 years. Dawn is still popping into school most weeks until our new caretaker starts - thank you Dawn!

### Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing

During the last week before half term, we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week based on the theme, 'Your Voice Matters'. Children were taught about the power to talk and work together as a team to have a bigger



impact and bring positive change to our school, community and world. The children had many great ideas about changes they would make and pursue in the future to improve the world we live in.

### New Library

We have been enjoying our new library and the children have been keen to select and read new books. Recently we asked Hampshire Library Services to carry out a diversity audit. We have also recently raised £600 through our school Book Fair which will enable us to buy new books to ensure we have adequate diversity coverage in our school library.

### Volunteers Welcome!

If you would like to volunteer to hear readers or test children on their times tables, please do get in touch. We will ask you to complete a Disclosure and Barring Service check which is a routine procedure to enable any adults to work with children. Please do get in touch if you would be interested in helping. Thank you.

**Jo Messenger (Acting Headteacher)**

## Kingsclere Preschool

As many of you may be aware, **Busy Bees** is now **Kingsclere Preschool**. We reopened for the spring term with the same staff, location and hours, and providing the same service, but with a new name and a new charity structure. The preschool has been running in the village since 1976 with charitable status since 1994, and is now a CIO (charitable incorporated organisation). This is a more modern legal charity entity and offers a more sustainable structure.



We are looking for volunteer trustees to join the current team and support the running of the charity. As a CIO we have the opportunity to open our committee up to the wider community and would welcome involvement from any interested party as well as our current parents and families.

The preschool is currently very busy, and we are pleased to have had several new children join us. This does mean if you have a child or children approaching 2 years old and are considering preschool enrolment, please do get in touch so we can get their names on our waiting list. We look forward to hearing from you!

Our updated contact details:

Email – [admin@kingsclerepreschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@kingsclerepreschool.co.uk)

Phone – 01635 299566

[www.kingsclerepreschool.co.uk](http://www.kingsclerepreschool.co.uk)

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



## Nature Notes



It's been very cold the last few months, so I haven't been out for as many walks as usual but I have still managed to see some amazing things around the village.

While waiting to go into school one morning in January, lots of little birds were flying above the playground and out of nowhere, a brown blur darted across the sky and grabbed one of the small birds with its feet! We think it must have been a sparrow hawk but it all happened so quickly, it could have been anything.

I always thought caterpillars only came out in the summer. Surely it's too cold for butterflies or moths to be flying around in winter, but throughout December and January, I have been finding them in the strangest of places. In December while cleaning out the rabbits, I found two small furry caterpillars hiding in the hay and one climbing up the side of the fence. I think they may have been trying to get warm. In January I saw a really long, bright green caterpillar sitting on Mum's raspberry bush. It is just twigs at the moment with no leaves and definitely no raspberries, so I wonder what it was going to eat?

We have a new visitor to the garden. We think it is a buzzard. It circles high above our house for ages and then it flies into an oak tree just behind our garden. Mum is convinced it's eyeing up the rabbits and has been running outside with a tea towel to try and scare it away... it takes no notice of her!

Lily K

## Shipinnarts

The Ship Inn Country Hotel, Ashford Hill <https://shipinnarts.org/>

**What's on in MARCH 2024**

**March 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Open Mic 7pm**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 3 – 5pm FAMILY EVENT**

**'The Hands-On Company Puppets with Jo'**

The children enjoy a puppet show with Jo Bryant, they make sock puppets and use them to create their own puppet shows. **Tickets £10 for children, Adults FREE. Children must be accompanied by an adult.**

**Biscuits and drinks. Tea and Coffee.**

**<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-hands-on-company-puppets-with-jo-tickets-785713800127?aff=oddtcreator>**

**March 12<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Crafts at Shipinnarts 11am – 2pm**

**Tickets on Eventbrite, or direct from The Ship 01189 814504 – if paying on the door on the day, please bring cash – thank you**



## The Church Pages

Hello,

I was recently at a church leadership conference in Leicester, where one of the keynote speakers declared that “2024 is the year of open doors”. He went on to talk about how important it is that we close the doors from 2023 to step through the open ones in 2024 and encouraged us to think about the difficult things we'd experienced last year, and whether we can “close the door” on any of these, to leave them firmly behind us. This may well be far easier said than done, but choosing to let go of the effects of hard times – the resentment, hurt, unforgiveness, anger even – is something we do have control over.

Making a choice, for example, to leave the anger of an injustice behind us and instead to look forward with optimism and hope is a liberating thing to do. It may take a few attempts; we may find ourselves back in old thought patterns a few times before we're truly free, but if we can manage it, then we are far more able to embrace the new thing that may come our way – the open door of 2024, even.

As we head towards Easter, I've been thinking afresh on this idea of closing and opening doors.

On Good Friday we remember the flogging and crucifixion of Jesus Christ, and His death. It seems to me that if we do a good job of leaving difficult times behind us – of firmly closing the door, if you will – then the effects that an event have had on us should be as good as dead.

So, this Easter, on Good Friday specifically, I'd like to challenge you to name your “deaths” – what are the things from last year, or even from years ago, that you are consigning to the grave? How are you going to bury them, once and for all? What doors are you closing, locking, and throwing away the key to?

Then, on Easter Sunday, as we celebrate Jesus' rising to new life and the hope that brings us, certain that light has overcome darkness, I'd like to encourage you to claim your new “births”.

What new life are you going to embrace? How will your hands and heart be free to give yourself fully to this new birth? What doors are you going to boldly walk through, unencumbered by baggage from your past?

Easter Sunday is a glorious day for the church, a day that points to the new life we have in and through Jesus, with all the opportunity and expectancy that comes with a new venture. My prayer for you, as you read this, is that you too can use this Easter as a springboard into a new, brighter future and that there are open doors ahead of you that will lead to life, joy and peace.

Happy Easter!

Bless you,  
Pete.



## Worship in our Churches March 2024

Services in our churches will be as follows:



Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	9.30am Communion St Peter's, Headley	10.30am Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March		10.30am Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> March (Mothering Sunday)	9.30am Morning Worship St Peter's, Headley	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March		10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am Morning Worship St Paul's, Ashford Hill	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March		10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am Holy Communion St Paul's, Ashford Hill	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March		10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March		10am Good Friday Service St Mary's Kingsclere followed by refresh- ments in Methodist Church	2.30pm Good Friday Service St Peter's, Headley
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> March (Easter Day)	<b>9.00am</b> Easter Day Communion St Paul's, Ashford Hill	<b>11am</b> Easter Day Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere	

[www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk](http://www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk)

## Kingsclere Methodist Church

### SERVICES AT KINGSCLERE METHODIST CHURCH FOR MARCH 2024



Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 7pm World Day of Prayer Service  
 Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March Rev Rachel Borgars  
 Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March Rev Howson  
 Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March Dr Malcolm Stone  
 Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March Rev Andy Fitchett  
 Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March (Easter Sunday) Rev Roger Larkinson

**All services begin at 10am and all are welcome**

Coffee morning 10.30 am every Thursday  
 Hall available for hire. Please see details in back of this magazine

**Christine Westcombe**  
**07485083874 c\_westcombe@hotmail.com**

## Lighting up St. Mary's



The sight of St Mary's Church when it is floodlit is truly beautiful. Many people sponsor these lights (£15 per evening) to celebrate an occasion, such as a birthday, wedding, anniversary, christening, or some other special day in their lives. To book, contact Emma, our Church Administrator on 07422 687125 or email [administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk](mailto:administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk)

### February

20<sup>th</sup> In memory of Joan

### March

- 1<sup>st</sup> Eleanor Read - Congratulations on your Queen's Guide award. You have worked incredibly hard over many years to accomplish this. It is a huge achievement and we are so very proud of you. With all our love Mama, James, Ollie, family and friends.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Remembering Paula Tait two years since you left us. So loved and so sadly missed everyday by her family & friends xx
- 17<sup>th</sup> In remembrance of Patrick Truman
- 28<sup>th</sup> Remembering Jim Soper on his birthday. With love from all the family xx
- 31<sup>st</sup> Love you Dad x



## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Full Revision of Electoral Roll for St Mary's Kingsclere**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to be held on the **15<sup>th</sup> April 2024** in the Kingsmill Room, St Mary's Church at **7.30pm** (drinks from 7pm). This is the occasion when we celebrate what has been happening in our church community over the past year, and conduct business such as elections to the posts of churchwardens and the Church Council.

By enrolling on the electoral roll, you become a voting member of the Church of England and are able to attend and vote at the meeting. It also gives an indication of the real membership and strength of the church in our parish.

If you would like to be added to the roll, please visit the Benefice website: [www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk](http://www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk) and click on Electoral Roll Form (under "We Believe").

If, however, you do not have access to the internet, paper forms can also be found at the back of St Mary's Church. Please complete and return to the Church Electoral Roll Officer or Churchwarden before the deadline.

The deadline for applying to be on the Electoral Roll is **17<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

*The requirements for joining the roll are:*

*\*Being baptized and over the age of 16, willing to declare yourself a member of the Church of England **AND***

*\*Either resident in the parish or have habitually attended worship in the parish for six months prior to enrolment.*

**Les Wallace – Church Electoral Roll Officer**

### **Readers welcome!**

Would you like to join a book club? George Street Readers are a friendly group who meet in Kingsclere Community Library. 7:30pm on the last Thursday in the month. New members very welcome. Email [Georgestreereaders@gmail.com](mailto:Georgestreereaders@gmail.com) or phone 07711 732672 if you'd like to join us.

**Saturday  
Coffee**

**10 - 12 Noon in the Kingsmill Room  
St. Mary's Church**

**March  
2nd ~ 9th ~ 16th ~ 30th**

**Please join us for freshly brewed coffee,  
homemade cakes & a warm welcome**

**Free Wi-fi**

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**The  
Lighthouse**

**Wednesdays  
from 10-12 noon  
St. Mary's Church, Kingsclere  
(Kingsmill Room)**

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**Bumps and Babies  
Mums & Toddlers  
Carers & Dads Welcome  
Age from 0-4**

**Playtime      Refreshments  
Sensory Play      Bible Story  
Singing      Lots of Fun**

**Term time only**

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**Contact**

01635 299528 or 07422 687125  
[administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk](mailto:administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk)

## Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd

Many thanks to all who came to our **Quiz Night at the Fieldgate Centre** on 2<sup>nd</sup> February and so generously supported the Raffle and the fun Heads and Tails game. We were again sold out – even with more tables -- and it was a most enjoyable evening, contributing a useful amount to funds towards repairs to the fabric of St Mary's.



Our next event, by public demand, is the **USA Staycation at the Village Club, on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, with wheels rolling at 12 noon.** There will be Country and Western entertainment, and a Cowboys and Indians theme (see the advert below). Tickets at £15 per head, include a two-course meal and drinks, and are available now from Jane Royle, at [jane.b.royle@gmail.com](mailto:jane.b.royle@gmail.com), or by 'phoning 01635 297430. Come suited and booted, and have a great afternoon!

Our always popular **Plant Sale** with Kingsclere Gardening Association will be held in St Mary's Churchyard on the morning of **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May**. If any of you are splitting perennials or will have spare young plants from seedlings, please bear us in mind. Details of where to give them will be in next month's Tower.

**Peter Turner, Chairman**

Website: [friendsofstmaryskingsclere.org](http://friendsofstmaryskingsclere.org). For membership & enquiries contact [fosmkingsclere@gmail.com](mailto:fosmkingsclere@gmail.com)



### AMERICAN STAYCATION

**WEDNESDAY 17th APRIL 2024**

Back by popular demand! This year we are off to the Wild West of the USA.

The Wagon Train leaves The Village Club at 12 Noon.  
Check in from 11.45 am  
A two-course lunch will be served.  
(Special diets can be catered for if notified in advance).

**Live Entertainment with Country and Western music.**  
Saddle up and come dressed for The West.  
Raffle and lots and lots of fun!

Tickets are selling fast - £15.00 - available now from:  
Jane Royle on 01635 297430 ([jane.b.royle@gmail.com](mailto:jane.b.royle@gmail.com))  
Pam Kitch on 01635 299743 ([pamkitch16@gmail.com](mailto:pamkitch16@gmail.com))





## Kingsclere Cancer Research Ball

We warmly invite the community to get involved in the Kingsclere Cancer Research Ball on

**6th September 2024 at Oakley Hall Hotel.**

Thank you to those who have already bought tickets or pledged support.

The Kingsclere Cancer Research Fundraiser was born in 2021. Our first event in 2022 began life as a party to thank our community for their unbelievable support during our journeys with cancer, and grew into a huge gala ball which raised £40,222.35 for Cancer Research UK.

### How can you help?

Buy tickets (or even organise a table of 8, 10 or 12)

Sponsor the event

Donate a prize to our Silent Auction

Make a monetary donation

Spread the word

You can do all the above, plus find out more about us and the event, via the pink buttons on our website: <http://kingsclerecrf.org.uk/>. If you prefer a person, Sean is lovely, and can be contacted on 07787 527326.

Thank you so much from us, from Cancer Research UK, and from all those who stand to benefit from the advances in medicine funded by CRUK.

**Beccy, Claire, Mandy and Sean**

## Kingsclere Local History Association



Our next meeting, the last in our winter programme, will be on **THURSDAY 21st MARCH** when **IAN PORTER** will give us an illustrated presentation entitled

### **THE REAL DOWNTON ABBEY**

**What it was really like to be in domestic service .**

Ian is a professional historian, novelist, public speaker and walks guide. His particular expertise is in 19th and early 20th century women's history.

Ian will include the relationship between upstairs and downstairs, what all the jobs entailed, and leisure time. TV inaccuracies will also be covered. He will also talk of " The Servant Problem " from 1901 and how the Great War changed things.

We meet at Kingsclere Village Club commencing at 7.30pm. Visitors are very welcome at £3 p.p.

**Michael Leah Secretary tel 297403**





**Kingsclere  
Gardening  
Association**

Our next evening talk :  
**Thursday 14th March 2024.**  
**Carol Watson**  
**Yellowstone and Grand Teton Parks-**  
**a tour of two different adjoining US Parks**

The doors open at 7pm and the talk will commence at 7.30pm for approximately an hour. Refreshments are included and we hold a raffle. Any donations for the raffle are always welcome. £3 entry for non-members and under 18s are free. We are unable to take card payments, please bring cash.

We would love to welcome new committee members and in particular, we are looking for an Advertising Secretary who can use social media and other platforms to help us promote our association. Please get in touch with Beth if you would like to help.

Last month we welcomed 6 new members. We were treated to a fabulous talk on soil by Geoff Hawkins. From a recap of school geography and chemistry lessons to the impact of soil erosion globally, and some great solutions on how the soil management in gardens and allotments can have a huge impact on the condition and health of your soil. One allotment holder changed their plans to dig their allotment and will swap to the “no dig” method. A very thought-provoking talk.

You can join or renew your membership this month and it remains at £8, £6 for seniors, and under 18s are free. We have a new Membership pack for 2024 that includes:

- A new membership renewal form to include your email address so we can contact you with updates on meetings and events.
- A Talks and Events leaflet detailing everything scheduled for 2024 and early 2025.
- A Membership Booklet giving information on the KGA Committee and Specialist Knowledge, Member's Competition Table Show and our affiliated Associations' members.
- A full 2024 Show Schedule for the two flower shows in 2024.

The Members' Competition Table Show. You can enter any or all of the following categories (all to be home/allotment grown): A vase of flowers – one kind, a container of bulbs, a single stem from the garden, a single vegetable, a pot plant. Points are awarded for each class and the points added up at the end of the year. More information is in the Membership booklet. Simply bring them with you on the night.

**Beth Theobald (Secretary) 07916 032250.**

Facebook: Kingsclere Gardening Association. Please come and join our FB group. News, events and schedules for show entries will be advertised there first.

## Growing seasons greetings from Ingham's Plant Nursery.

I am Robert Ingham and have been privileged to take on the lease of the old Cottismore Garden Centre near Headley.



My passion, and subsequent plan, is to provide an extensive range of high quality vegetable plants and seeds at reasonable prices for anyone in the who wants to grow their own food. We started sowing on 1 March 2023 and, by early May, we opened our doors to sell the first of our plants - seven varieties of tomatoes. We followed on with cucumbers, peppers, chillis, courgettes, squash, beans, beetroot, sweetcorn, cabbages and lettuce.

In this first year we have made a good start. Some of you have found us and some of you have come back several times. Some of you are beginning to enquire about the coming season and reporting on the success you have had with our plants in 2023. We have listened carefully to what you would like us to grow for your gardens and allotments. Many of you have reported that seeds failed to germinate for you in 2023, so decided to go for established small plants instead.

Starting in February we intend to plant a much wider variety (up from about 20 last year to over 80 in this coming season) and are excited to welcome you as soon as plants are ready, either for your greenhouse, or for your gardens and allotments once the threat of frost has passed.

Our first major event of the coming season will be our big Tomato Plant Sale in May ([inghamsnurseries.co.uk](http://inghamsnurseries.co.uk) for details). We are aiming for 13 different varieties to cater for all tastes and growing spaces including bush varieties like Tumbling Tom for your hanging baskets, sweet cherry and salad tomatoes, and bigger ones for salads and cooking.

We are also starting to contact local schools to help in any way we can with promoting the habit in our children of producing their own food. Mindful of school budgets we will be offering our complete range of plants, together with pots, compost and canes at competitive prices so that schools have all they need to get growing.

We were advised last year by allotment holders that some of them would appreciate us loading our van with a range of plants and bringing them to you on your allotments. We are certainly hoping to incorporate this into our schedule if it is something that will help. Let us know.

Unlike our first season, this year we will be able to open all week. You are welcome to visit to see what we are doing, watch the progress of the plants so you can plan what you want to grow and decide on a selection to order.

We are really excited to meet you all in the coming months. Meanwhile, follow us for updates on our website [inghamsnurseries.co.uk](http://inghamsnurseries.co.uk) and sign up to our emailing list.



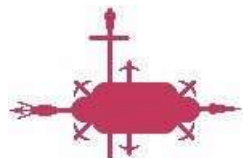
## Kingsclere and Headley Woodlands WI

We started 2024 with two excellent speakers and I'm sure that our speaker for March will be equally as enjoyable. This month in a complete change of topic, **on Wednesday 13th March**, we will be welcoming Ian Margette from Summerdown Peppermint Farm in Oakley. Summerdown have been growing and harvesting their very own rare Black Mitcham peppermint for almost 30 years. Ian will be telling us how they grow the peppermint and he will bring some of the peppermint products that they produce to show us and some to purchase.

As usual, we are meeting on the second Wednesday of the month, with the meeting starting at 1.45pm at the Village Club, 35 George Street. Why not come along and join us. We have had several new members recently and I can assure you that you will receive a very warm welcome from our very friendly members with tea, coffee and biscuits on offer. The competition letter for March is S.

**Margaret Geary President, 01635297197**

## Kingsclere Rugby Club



The adults did not have as good a start to its league campaign after the festive season as they would have liked with losses against Petersfield 2nds and Winchester Knights in January. Despite the sluggish start, we are still second in the league behind Petersfield. The man of the match for the Petersfield game was Dominic Maclean and for the Winchester game, Neil Wigmore. The next home game is on Saturday 16th March against Farnham 4ths. Kick-off will be at 3pm. You are very welcome to come and watch.

Feel like getting fit in 2024 – Come and join some like-minded individuals for some exercise and cardio workouts with Walking Rugby. A fitness workout with a ball for everyone from 16 to 70+, every Wednesday evening between 7.00 and 8.00pm.

Our minis made a return visit to Aldermaston RFC on Sunday 4th February which also hosted Chineham. It was a well-attended session with 41 children participating. The minis meet every Sunday morning between 10.30am and 12 noon. If your child/children would like to play sport and you would like to get out on a Sunday morning, please come along and meet other children and parents.

To find out more information, please contact either Dilwyn Patterson by email [Chairman-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com](mailto:Chairman-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com) or by mobile 07831 161163 or Stefan Morsley by email [Coach-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com](mailto:Coach-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com) or mobile 07815 670782 or via the club's Facebook and Instagram pages.

## Kingsclere Tennis Club OPEN DAY & JUNIOR TENNIS TOURNAMENT Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 9.30am to 5pm



Don't miss our flyer in this month's edition giving you all the information about our Open Day and how to apply for the Junior Tennis Tournament!

We will have two LTA qualified coaches on hand to help you brush up your tennis skills, and if you have never held a racket before, now is your chance to try it out! It's a fun and healthy game for all the family.

For the younger ones we are holding a fun junior tennis tournament for all abilities, and they will not want to miss out on winning a prize!

Refreshments will be available too, so come along and enjoy a family day.

Rackets can be provided so all you need is appropriate footwear.

We are situated at the Holding Field on Basingstoke Road  
Come and join us!



## Easter Fayre

Saturday 16th March 1–3pm  
Kingsclere Methodist Church Hall



Grab your Easter bonnets and come along for some seasonal fun. Easter themed crafts for children (and big children!) to make and take home.

Plus a raffle and tombola; tea, coffee, and squash available to have along with cakes from the cake stall; and an Easter bonnet competition with a prize for the best homemade Easter bonnet brought along on the day.

Raising funds for 1<sup>st</sup> Kingsclere Rainbows and 3rd Kingsclere Brownies. •

**Easter Bonnet Competition**

**Cake stall**

**Tombola**

**Children's crafts**

**Raffle**

**Refreshments**

Girlguiding in Kingsclere provides opportunities and adventures for girls aged 4 to 10 in Kingsclere.

Opportunities for girls aged 10 to 18+ are available locally.

Go to: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

To sign up your child as a member (or to sign up yourself up as a valuable volunteer!) please email us with any questions at:

[3rdkingsclerebrownies@gmail.com](mailto:3rdkingsclerebrownies@gmail.com)

**200 200 200 200 200 FOSM 200 Club 200 200 200 200**

The winner of the February Draw was  
Sandy Liddeatt --- No. 30

**Congratulations, Sandy.**

Next month's Draw will take place at The Crown at approximately 7 pm on Tuesday  
5<sup>th</sup> March. [200clubkingsclere@gmail.com](mailto:200clubkingsclere@gmail.com)



## Kingsclere Players

Following our sold out panto, our next production is

### Stepping Out!



The play is about eight people from very different backgrounds with very different motivations who attend the same weekly tap dancing class. At first they show little co-ordination but later develop a level of skill. The dance routines are a background for the focus of the play, the relationships!

Auditions have been held and we have our cast, however we are always on the lookout for more people to get involved. So if you are interested in lighting, props, costumes, music, or you'd like to help front of house, please email us. We'd love to hear from you.

**Stepping Out** will be at **The Fieldgate Centre** on **April 26th, 27th and 28th** with two shows on Saturday **April 27th**.

Tickets are £12.50 for adults and £7.50 for children. Tickets can be purchased from the Fieldgate Centre [www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk](http://www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk)

Our email is [kingsclereplayersgroup@gmail.com](mailto:kingsclereplayersgroup@gmail.com)

## Kingsclere Village Bunnies

### Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group

Where: The Village Club

When: Tuesdays 9.00am-11.00am

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



We have had a busy start to the year, with lots of fun, games, and crafting! The Bunnies really enjoyed creating colourful lanterns, which went on display at the Village Club's Lights and Lanterns event in January.

Our popular swap table will be returning on Tuesday March 5<sup>th</sup> - please bring along baby items, clothes, and toys to this session.

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

**Tess Watkins 07905 624679**

## March in the Garden



We can look forward to longer days as the clocks are changed to summertime this month. Hopefully, the weather will improve after a long, wet winter. With all the rain that we have had, there are many jobs in the garden still to be done, even some of the autumn leaves remain in areas that were too wet to walk on. The worms help with some of the jobs but not all!

The spring bulbs have been giving a good show and will continue to do so as the season is extended with the different varieties of daffodils and Narcissus. When the flowers have died, try to avoid cutting the leaves as they are best left to die down naturally. Just remove the dead flowers. It does look untidy, but it is better for the bulb by providing nutrients.

Plant dahlia tubers in pots, They will need some heat if the weather becomes very cold. Cuttings can be taken from the new shoots, these will make new plants that will flower the same year. Time to divide perennials. They will grow much better if they are not choked, as the centre often dies, spoiling the look of the plant.

At the end of the month split up polyanthus-type primulas when they finish flowering. It will smarten them up and give you some extra new plants.

Sow hardy annuals towards the end of the month. Some seeds may soon be sown outdoors, this works for cornflowers, poppies, and calendulas. Some pruning may be done now, dogwoods, ornamental Rubus, and willow, to keep them under control and encourage new growth. Roses also can be pruned now.

In the vegetable garden, sow parsnips outside, and plant onion sets. The birds are very fond of pulling up the onions, so regular inspection is advisable. Early potatoes also can be planted now. Sow herb seeds outside and divide chives, these can make an attractive edging plant for beds.

Weather permitting, the grass will need cutting, making sure the mower blades are high for the first few cuts, otherwise the mower and the grass can be spoiled.

The greenhouse will probably need a tidy up and disinfecting before you start filling it with new plants.

Hoe young weeds on a warm day when the weeds are dead. Remove and mulch the borders and beds. This should retain some moisture in the soil for when the weather warms.

There are many lovely flowering plants to enjoy this month, crocus, hyacinth, forsythia, pulmonaria, epimedium, bergenia and anemone blanca.

**Denise Allen**



**Greener Kingsclere**  
Reduce Refill Re-use

## BIG EVENT

**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 10am-12:30pm,  
The Fieldgate Centre**

**All about FOOD! Buying, growing, preparing sustainably!**  
**Repair Cafe** – register your repair on our website  
**Fight Fast Fashion!** Free clothing ‘swap’ – kids & adults.  
**Recycling** (no medicine blister packs accepted sadly)  
**Cafe** – coffee, tea, cakes!  
 Come along and learn how to save money AND the environment.  
 Volunteers always needed – please contact us.  
 Nicki, Sarah, Lucinda & Sue [greenerkingsclere@gmail.com](mailto:greenerkingsclere@gmail.com)  
[www.greenerkingsclere.co.uk](http://www.greenerkingsclere.co.uk)

## Kingsclere Community Library

### Which?

Just to remind you that we now have a Which? account for your use at the library. It's on our public computer (you will find an icon on the home page) and anyone is welcome to come along and check out the website. We also have paper copies of Which? on the table in the library for those who prefer to get their information this way. It can save you time and money, especially on bigger purchases.

### Board Games and Jigsaws!

Our Board Game Bonanza is going very well every second Thursday in the month and the next one will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March, a selection of board games will be available in the library for anyone who would like to play a game. Our jigsaw afternoons are also proving very popular and one will be out every Tuesday during opening hours for anyone to “have a go”. A very kind lady has now donated a very smart and sturdy jigsaw case, so we can put the partly completed jigsaw away at the end of the session and know that it will still be intact when we get it out the following Tuesday!

### Visiting Books!

The Visiting Books are continuing to prove very popular and one hundred new books have recently arrived in the library!

### Volunteers!

We are always in need of volunteers to keep our doors open, so if you have a couple of hours a month (or more!) to spare and would be interested in helping out, please let us know.

**HOURS**      Tuesday and Thursday    1.00pm – 5.30pm  
                  Saturday                            10.00am - 1.00pm

Nicki Lee, Library Phone 01635 297464

[kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com)    [www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk](http://www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk)





**FIRST PORT**  
Retirement  
Property  
Services

## Visiting Development Manager

We are recruiting a Visiting Development Manager to work in a modern residential development in Kingsclere.  
 You will work 2 hours per week.

We are looking to speak to people who have the following experience:

- Working within a face to face customer service environment
- Self-motivated but also enjoy working as part of a team
- IT savvy and are confident using laptops / tablets

If you think this sounds like you and are currently looking for a varied role where you get to work with people on a daily basis, get in touch today!

For more information please contact Zara Jennings at [careers@rstport.co.uk](mailto:careers@rstport.co.uk)



**THE BERKSHIRE VET**

**Opening March  
11th 2024**

Located in  
Greenham Business Park

Locally owned independent practice

Purpose built fully equipped site

24/7 complete care from one location

Healthcare plans

[www.theberkshirevet.co.uk](http://www.theberkshirevet.co.uk)  
01635 896333







@theberkshirevet



