

The Kingsclere Tower



April 2020

Your Village Magazine

The Kingsclere Tower

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PLEASE CHECK with the organisers for any events or meetings you may be planning to attend - many are being cancelled but did not have time to notify us here at the Tower.

The Tower was finalised on 17th March, a week later than usual to allow for the changes and cancellations. Huge thanks to Claire Harris, our brand new layout volunteer, who had to cope with the most extraordinary and challenging month I have ever seen as an editor.

I'm delighted to see so many in the community stepping forward to help each other (see **Local Help notices on page 3**). This is what makes Kingsclere such a wonderful place to live.

Stay well, Nicki, April Editor

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

COPY DEADLINE for May 2020 issue: 12 April 2020

Send copy to the editors at 3 Blue Meadow, Garrett Close, Kingsclere or email: kingscleretower@gmail.com

All contributors MUST include name, address, phone number and/or email

Kingsclere Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr John Sawyer (297221)
Clerk: Louise Porton (298634)
Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk
Office: 37 George St, Kingsclere RG20 5NH
Public Opening: Mon & Wed 9.30am -11.30am



OFFICE OPENING - The Parish Office is now unmanned, but we can be contacted by phone (leave a message) & email on the above numbers and the Clerk is conducting routine business from home.

GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN POSTPONED - The first priority has always been making sure everyone stays safe and so Keep Britain Tidy has taken the decision to postpone this year's Great British Spring Clean until September. The Parish Council will look to re-organise another Spring Clean in line with this campaign later in the year.

REPORTING ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – Antisocial behaviour, crime and road traffic incidents, amongst others, can be reported online to the police via www.hampshire.police.uk. Local authority antisocial behaviour officers can be contacted directly at Basingstoke & Deane on - **01256 845245**.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS - Parish Council full meetings and committee meetings will probably be suspended but this is subject to a motion being passed on Monday 23rd March 2020. Therefore it is likely that the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will not be able to happen within the normal time frame. We will notify residents when meetings resume.

ANNUAL REPORT – The Annual Report is in the process of being compiled. Please can organisations who wish to be included in the publication send a written report to the clerk asap but no later than 18th May 2020.

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING – the collections dates are 8th and 22nd April 2020.

There will be no changes to the bin collections over the Easter Holiday period (even on Good Friday and Easter Monday) so please put your bins out as usual.

www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil
 @ kingsclerepc

Local Help

If you become unable to leave your home because you are ill and self-isolating, or vulnerable and practicing social distancing, there is some assistance from your neighbours.

People all over Kingsclere have volunteered to run essential errands, and you should have already received a card like the one below through your letterbox with a neighbour's phone number.

If you did not receive a card, or if there is no response after trying a few times, please phone one of the numbers below. Please do NOT phone for health advice – we are just your neighbours trying to help and can't advise.

HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is

I live locally at

My phone number is

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

☐ Picking up shopping ☐ Posting mail

☐ A friendly phone call ☐ Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep. #ViralKindness

(Please phone the number on your card first)

07733 164261 Helen
 07568 462197 Tracey
 07881 812788 Nicki
 074850 83874 Christine
 01635 298940 Susan

If you are able to volunteer to help with even an occasional errand, or to be responsible for part of your road, please contact the number on the card or one of the numbers above. Thank you all, and stay healthy!

SWAN STREET STORES – DELIVERY

If you are isolated at home, Raj & Monika at Swan Street Stores have very kindly offered delivery from the shop. You do not have to be over 70 or right in Kingsclere.

Please phone 01635 297035, or phone or text 07814272281 for shop delivery.

KINGSCLERE VILLAGE CLUB

Dates for your Diary...

Our **100 year anniversary celebrations** will be taking place on **17th July 2021 and 2nd October 2021**. As this occurs less frequently than Halley's Comet we ask other organisations if you would please plan events around these dates so that we do not clash!

Saturday 9th May 2020



Join us for a celebration of the end of the War in Europe, including a special screening of the fascinating documentary **Secret Spitfires**.

Meet the film-maker and the Spitfire engineer who helped uncover the amazing story behind Hampshire's war effort. 2pm: readings, songs & refreshments. 3pm: film followed by Q&A. Tickets £5 from events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk, tel. 297390, or the Village Butcher. Early booking is recommended.

Summer term:

Our Summer Term starts on 13th April. If you are a new or returning student please contact Tracey now via: education@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk, or 291248 to reserve your place.

Classes on offer are:

- Art - Monday 1.30pm -3.30pm and Thurs 7.00pm - 9.00pm
- Iyengar Yoga - Tues 7.30pm - 9.00pm
- Yoga - Wednesday 10.00am -11.15am and 7.00pm - 8.00pm,
- Move it or Lose it - Thurs 2.00pm - 3.00pm.

In other news, we are being awarded grants by Basingstoke and Dean Council and Greenham Common Trust to undertake 'energy efficiency' works at the club, including new heating system, improved insulation plus exterior doors and windows. We have a way to go before the full amount needed is raised, and works cannot start until we reach that. But we are well on the way and thankful to those who have and are supporting our fund raising efforts.



Kingsclere Community Library

The library closed temporarily on Tuesday 17th March, to help stop the spread of the virus and to keep our volunteers and visitors safe and well.

As of now (mid-March), we are looking at ways we may be able to get books to people, perhaps by dropping books outside front doors.

If you are interested in getting some books to read, please phone or email the library, details below, and we will let you know what we may be able to do.

Please also check our Facebook page, which should have the most up-to-date information.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Hants County Council consultation about the library, signed our petition, or wrote to your elected officials. We should receive a decision in June.

Nicki Lee, 07899 623872

Email: Kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com

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

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Entries drawn first week of each month, various village venues

St Mary's 200 Club Winner March, is No 74, **Ann Mytton**

Well done, Ann!

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.



KCA sends its sincere condolences to the family of Colin Harvey. Colin was a well-known and respected personality at the Fieldgate Centre. A former Vice Chairman of KRFC and a past President of the KCA, Colin was always generous with his support. His resourcefulness and skill at gaining support from local businesses was a huge asset. Colin will be sadly missed by all who knew him. *Andy Bates, Chairman.*

Events & Classes - Coronavirus

KCA has put in place an increased hygiene protocol and has requested that all hirers introduce measures to minimise risk to users whilst at the centre. KCA organised events are currently under review and will change in response to the Government's advice regarding social isolation. Please check our website and facebook for updates.

The Watership Down Run - Sunday 12th July

KCA is pleased to announce that Kingsclere's very own 'The Attentive Barber' is the first major sponsor of the event.

Register – Sponsor – Marshal

<http://www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk/events/watership-down-run/>

The Fieldgate Centre is proud to be home to many local sports clubs and groups with a busy season of fixtures planned. Unfortunately, an increasing number of owners let their dog(s) foul on the sports pitches and surrounding areas. The resulting hazard to health is both alarming and obvious. Under no circumstances are dogs allowed onto the playing areas. Monitored CCTV cameras are in place and offenders will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Visit our website at www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk
tel: 01635 298497 email: fieldgatecentre@btconnect.com



Thank you to everyone who attended our March Sustainable Eco-Market, held at the Fieldgate which Greener Kingsclere hosted together with the Kingsclere Community Association.

It was another busy day with shoppers enjoying a wide selection of planet-friendly products including personal care and beauty, kitchen, cleaning and household goods, dried foods and pantry items and much more! We also had information from 'Love Food Hate Waste' and Terracycle giving advice, and the Thatcham Repair Cafe explained what items they can repair to be kept out of the landfill.



Bread and Beyond, the bakery associated with Prior's Court School, provided delicious muffins and other treats and we were happy to support a local good cause.

Our first market in January

Due to the current situation we are not able to announce the date of our next market, which normally would be in about 2 months. Watch this space, or email us or follow on Facebook to be kept up to date.

Nicki, Sarah & Lucinda
greenerkingsclere@gmail.com



Kingsclere Film Club

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

CANCELLED THIS MONTH

Next month: Saturday, 9 May – Mr Smith goes to Washington (1939)
John Sawyer (Chairman) 297221 or Diana Tait (Membership Sec) 298494

KINGSLERE BOWLING CLUB OPEN EVENINGS - COME AND GIVE IT A TRY

**We are holding open evenings on every Tuesday in May
from 6:30 p.m. onwards, absolutely FREE.**

Bowls and tuition will be provided. We just ask that you wear flat soled shoes or trainers. Bowls is a very enjoyable and social game. It can be played by all ages, abilities, and sexes. New members would be very welcome. Please come along to any or all of these Tuesday evening taster sessions in May and give bowls a try (and possibly have a FREE month's trial). Also sample and enjoy our club's facilities.

If you are unable to attend any open evenings and would like further information about membership, or to arrange a convenient trial session then please contact our Chairman Brian Watts on 0118 981 6892, email brian-watts@btconnect.com or visit www.kingsclerebowlingclub.co.uk.

**Kingsclere Bowling Club, William Holding Field, Ashford Hill Road,
Kingsclere RG20 5NY**

St Mary's Church Fete - Monday, 31st August 2020 12-3pm

Plans are under way for this years church fete; we will have the usual popular dog show and fabulous stalls but there will be some new attractions as well.

Calling all cake bakers - the Cake Stall is one of the most popular stalls at our church fete, however every year we have to turn away villagers when we run out of cakes for sale. If you are able to bake a cake (or two or three) for the fete, please can you contact Pam Kitch 01635 299743

Calling all Kingsclere Clubs and Associations - we would like to invite all Kingsclere's many clubs and associations to take a stall at this year's fete to promote your society. We would ask you not to sell memberships, or similar, on the day, but to use the day as an opportunity to raise awareness of your group. As part of the day, we would love it if your group could run a competition.

If you would like to reserve a place for your club or society, please contact Sarah Mussett - sarah.mussett@hotmail.co.uk

Thanks very much, we look forward to seeing you on the day!

Ecchinswell Quiz Evening

Saturday 25th April, Ecchinswell Village Hall

Doors open 6.30 p.m. Starts promptly at 7p.m.

Bar, fish, sausage, sausage in batter or vegetarian option and chips £10.00
Supper pre-booked via Ecchinswellhall@gmail.com or Gill on 07920420442
No supper, £4.00

Up to 8 in a team. Teams can be arranged if there are not 8 of you. We look forward to welcoming you to Ecchinswell Village Hall.

POSTPONED POSTPONED POSTPONED

Please be aware, due to current circumstances many planned events in the village have been cancelled or postponed. We suggest contacting the organisers of any events in the magazine before planning to attend.

Camaraderie in April is cancelled

There will be a further notice in the May Tower regarding the June meeting.

Community Concert St Paul's Ashford Hill - postponed

(originally Saturday 25th April 2020)

It is with regret that this concert will have to be postponed until the Coronavirus risk is over. We hope to hold the concert on 24th October 2020 7.00pm, please put this in your diaries. Will so look forward to welcoming you all in October. Warmest wishes,
Vanessa Martin (on behalf of St Pauls Church)

The Silchester Concert with the Kingsclere Singers - postponed

Scheduled for 28th March this concert has been postponed, probably until at least September.

Methodist Church

Most Methodist Services are cancelled until further notice. We are hoping we may still have the outdoor service below, but please check with Wendy Morgan before attending: **Sunday 12th April (Easter Sunday) 6.00am Sunrise Service on the Downs** at White Hill. Led by Hazel Barker. It is advisable to bring a torch and to wear Boots!

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

Roman Catholic

Rev Patrick Tansey	tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	0118 981 4572
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The Church Pages



"What a complete and utter disgrace! How could he do that? I said I'd be there for him. I go and try and help him and he stops me. There's no helping him. He has fixed his own course and it will end in his destruction."

Perhaps this is how Peter felt after Jesus was arrested before He was condemned to die on a cross. He'd tried to defend him by taking his sword and slashing at those who'd come to take Jesus away. But Jesus tells him to put it away and heals the man who'd been injured.

As Peter sits in the courtyard waiting to see what might happen, he must have felt angry and confused, but also deeply worried about his friend. After all, even if he was annoyed with him, this was a man he'd spent three years with and who he had put so much hope in. It looked like it was all going to be thrown away. But he was also scared of what might happen to him if he admitted that he was with this Jesus and so when asked, he denies any knowledge of him. He does this not just once but three times and as he says it for the third time, Jesus, who was bound and humiliated, looked up at him. Finally Peter realises what he's done and he runs away and breaks down in tears.

Fear and anger can have a powerful effect on us. They can influence us to make decisions we wouldn't normally make. They can push us to do things we wouldn't normally do. Once we've calmed down again we can seriously regret our actions motivated by fear or anger. The crucifixion of Jesus was motivated by the fear and anger of the religious authorities, fear that he would threatened their privileged position and anger at his claims about God. But amazingly through Jesus' death, hope for the future and peace between us, God and one another was made available to all who trust in Him.

At this time of fear, and possibly anger, as a nation, let's remember the hope and peace that Jesus brings as we celebrate Easter.

And, as a church, we'd love to be able to support anyone who because of this crisis is facing significant strain, however that might show itself. Please get in contact.

Blessings, Ben

Services

Regrettably the below Services have been **cancelled** until further notice. More information will be available on the Church website: www.clerewoodlands.co.uk

St Paul's, Ashford Hill

5th	April	8am	Holy Communion
12th	April	11am	Easter Day Communion
26th	April	11am	Holy Communion

St Peter's, Headley

9th	April	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Communion
10th	April	2.30pm	Good Friday Reflective Service
12th	April	8am	Easter Sunday Communion
19th	April	8am	Holy Communion

St Mary's, Kingsclere

5th	April	9.15am	Communion
10th	April	10am	Good Friday Walk of Witness (Begins in Village Club)
12th	April	9.15am	Easter Day Communion
19th	April	9.15am	Messy Worship and 11.00am Communion
26th	April	8am	Communion & 9.15am Morning Worship

St Mary's Church Contacts

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

Lighting up St Mary's

The sight of St Mary's Church when it is floodlit is truly beautiful. Many people sponsor these lights to celebrate an occasion, such as a birthday, wedding, anniversary, christening, or some other special day in their lives.

To book contact : **Emma, Church Administrator, tel 07790 934972**

Mar 7th	With loving treasured memories of Karl Anthony Jones on his birthday - Mum, Dad, Beverley and Julian.
April 17th	In loving memory of Nigel Westcombe, so sadly missed by all his family.
April 24th	For Aimce on what would have been your 30th Birthday. We love and miss you every day. Love always, Mum and Dad x x x
April 25th	For our lovely sister's 30th Birthday – we wish you were here to celebrate. We love you very much. Love forever, Samuel, William, Meghan and Jude x x x

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting for St Mary's, Kingsclere

To be held on the **27th April at 7.30pm in the Kingsmill Room** (refreshments 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.

All who are on the Electoral Roll for St Mary's Church are welcome to attend. If you are not yet on the electoral roll, the deadline for applying to be added is 3rd April, and can be done by visiting our website: www.clerewoodlands.org.uk and click on Electoral Roll Form (under "What 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.

April in the Garden

Now we have the longer days and hopefully better weather, we can get on with some jobs needed to be done in the garden. With so much rain this winter very little has been achieved. Inclement weather can still occur, so be aware it's too early for bedding plants and anything tender unless protected.

With warmer weather the dreaded slugs increase, and as a Hosta grower they are a real problem. A good way of keeping them at bay is to boil 2 bulbs of garlic in water for 10 minutes, leave to cool, strain. The liquid that remains will be concentrated. Mix 1 tablespoon of concentrate with 4 litres of water and spray every 7-10 days. Best used early evening and also after rain. Referring back to Hostas, divide now if needed.



After all the rain we have had, fertilizing is much needed; most fertilizers need warmth to work. When the daffodils have finished flowering, I give mine a sprinkling of potash to promote next year's flowers. Spring flowering shrubs e.g. Forsythia, Ribes, can be cut back now after flowering.

Lawns have grown a huge amount with the mild winter and mowing has been impossible with the wet. Most lawns will need to be cut with the blades set high to begin with, as cutting too short will result in the grass going yellow. It's time to start feeding and weeding the grass.

There is still time to plant evergreens and hedging, at least they won't blow down as wooden fences do. Tying climbers as they grow will keep them tidy. Planting and dividing perennials can still be done, and the planting of summer bulbs, e.g. Gladioli and Dahlias, and sowing hardy annuals. The wonderful, much loved sweet peas can be planted, which are well worth the work involved to keep them flowering.

This is a busy time in the vegetable garden thinning out any seedlings that have germinated. Sow leeks, tomatoes, courgettes and herbs. Potatoes should be planted, fruit bushes need feeding, and planting strawberries in a pot would be fun, if unable to grow them in the ground.

This is a wonderful time of the year, the early flowering clematis alpine has arrived, and the Epimediums, Erythroniums, Jasmine, Snakes head Fritilla and Rhododendrons are all giving us a huge splash of colour.

Enjoy your garden.

Kingsclere Gardening Association

In the light of the ongoing developments and government recommendations with regard to the Coronavirus (Covig 19), an early decision has been made to cancel the Spring Show on 12th April.

John Eckton 01256 850017

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere



St. Mary's Church in 1840

We had hoped in this issue to give details of and extend an invitation to the next Kingsclere Art Exhibition in mid-April. Sadly, because of the Corona virus, we have had to postpone this, possibly to a date this Autumn, to be announced in due course.

Our next planned event will be the **Plant Sale** in St. Mary's Churchyard, **from 9.30am on Saturday 23rd May**, but again this is dependent on how the situation develops in the next few weeks. We are once again joining forces with the Kingsclere Gardening Association, and we hope - despite the pandemic and the recent unsettled weather - to be offering a good selection of healthy vegetable plants, and a range of perennial and annual flowering plants, all at reasonable prices. Contributions from other gardeners will also be most welcome.

Please 'phone Jane Royle, on 297430.

Peter Turner, Chairman

Sandham Memorial Chapel Events:

Papercraft Workshop -

Friday 3rd April, 11am, Cost: £17

Work with local artist Helen Mortimer to learn about this varied artistic medium and to create your own unique projects.

Tel: 0344 249 1895

Easter Wreath Workshop -

Saturday 4th April, 10.30-12.30 and 1.30-3.30, Cost: £30.

Use a range of greenery and decorations to create a beautiful Easter wreath.

Tel: 0344 249 1895

Of geometry and gods, side by side – art exhibition

8th –26th April. 11am-4pm. Admission free (usual entry charges apply to chapel.) An exhibition of work by James Dunnett and Robert Fitzmaurice that considers the human form in planar terms.

Tel: 01635 278394

Knitted Newbury, 29 April –3 May, 11am-4pm, Admission free

- usual entry charges apply to chapel. Newbury and the surrounding countryside brought to life in this unique piece of needlework, created by local people as part of a community project.

Tel: 01635 278394

Website: nationaltrust.org.uk/sandham-memorial-chapel/whats-on

Overton & District U3A



‘JOURNEY IN BIOLOGY - DNA REVOLUTION’

Our next monthly meeting is Wednesday 15th April 10.00am at St Mary’s Hall, Overton, RG25 3HA when our speaker will be DR Darren Gowers, from the University of Portsmouth, and his topic will be ‘Journey in Biology - DNA Revolution’.

SUN, MOON, TIME AND TIDE - EVERYTHING I THOUGHT I KNEW ABOUT TIDES TURNED OUT TO BE WRONG!!’.

Our next extra-curricular talk is on Monday 6th April, 2.00pm also at St Mary’s Hall and will be given by Mike Whittle and his subject will be ‘Sun, Moon, Time and Tide - Everything I thought I knew about tides turned out to be wrong!!’.

Visitors are welcome to both talks and pay £3 on the door.

Email lizbettlelewis@outlook.com Tel 07858465901

FUNDING SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES:

The Tower is once again accepting applications from local groups for funding support.

Our advertising more than covers our printing and other costs, and we would like the surplus to go back into our community. Please email the editors at kingscleretower@gmail.com for an application form.

We plan to review all the applications at our May meeting.

The Tower Committee

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group



Sadly Bunnies will be closed until further notice - please see our Facebook page for updates. Stay safe bunnies!

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.

You do not need to have had your baby to join us – come along to as many sessions as you want to before his or her arrival. Once your baby is here, we have a protected baby area with bouncy chairs, rugs and baby toys for them to use, as well as toys and activities, both indoor and outdoor, for older babies and toddlers.

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

Email: villagebunniestoddlergroup@gmail.com

Saturday Market and Tabletop Sale

Wolverton Village Hall

Saturday 4th April, 9.30am-11.00am

Admission Free

The various stalls include local grown home produce, plants, bric-a-brac to name a few, and refreshments are available whilst you browse the stall.

New stallholders are welcome – if you would like a stall of your own please contact Julia or Tony Drake on 01486 608594

Chris Curtis



Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands WI

Venue: Kingsclere Village Club, 35 George Street

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL OF OUR W.I. MEMBERS & POTENTIAL VISITORS:

Increasing national warnings in respect of the Coronavirus pandemic, the resulting ever-intensive precautions being suggested PLUS our deep concerns for the safety of our members & visitors - all of these have inevitably lead to the CANCELLATION OF THIS MONTH'S MEETING.

The nature of this international crisis makes it impossible to predict just when we will be able to return to our normal patterns of activity but we will attempt to stay in touch as far as is possible.

We look forward to meeting up again - the sooner, the better. In the interim, we say “Do take due care and continue in safety.” A wee portion of an Irish blessing says it even better:

*‘May you always have a sunbeam to warm you,
Good Luck to charm you
and a sheltering Angel so nothing can harm you.’*

Nova Saunderson

Tel: 299570

LIVING PAINTINGS

Friday, 1st May: Charity Golf Day

In the breath-taking grounds of Donnington Grove Golf Club. This will be a four-ball event and you are guaranteed a day on the greens like no other. A champagne breakfast awaits with refreshments served throughout the competition, followed by a hearty lunch and luxury auction. The Charity has a few surprises too and guarantee this is a day not to be missed by any keen golfers.

Details on the Living Paintings website, 01635299771
<https://getonboard.livingpaintings.org/> or annied@livingpaintings.org

Saturday 6th June: Botanicals Lounge

Calling all GIN LOVERS! The fabulous Botanicals Lounge is back with an evening of gin cocktails and an amazing botanical experience hosted by the infamous 43Club with the ultimate cocktail service.

The Fieldgate Centre will once again be transformed into an experiential gin bar and an apothecary cocktail bar. Join us for an evening of music and the definitive gin experience.

Tickets £20 which include bubbly on arrival.

Email Louisej@livingpaintings.org or phone 01635 299771

Hannington Gin Festival - Save the date!

Saturday 20th June, 7 – 11pm Hannington Gin Festival

Live music, food and other drinks, raising funds for the village hall. Early bird tickets £10 until May, then £12, and £15 on the door.

Email: HanningtonGinFestival2020@gmail.com

Nature Notes - April 2020

For the second time in a month we attempted a walk around Wasing lakes but were frustrated by flooded paths. Water was streaming over the path from lake to river which in turn, was emptying into a lower lake. We were determined to get to the Bailey bridge over the Kennet and doubled back to take the higher level canal footpath and with a bit of wading, reached the bridge. The river was speeding beneath us and actually scouring the girders on the underside and sweeping away accumulated debris. Fish could be having a hard time except that even a river in flood has areas of slack water where they can shelter, not so good for voles and earthworms though. Where widespread flooding takes place, as in The North and West fish are widely dispersed and follow the water back to the river/lake once flood recedes although occasionally they are found marooned.



Blue Tits on a garden bird feeder

The towering rook nest we mentioned in last year's notes is occupied again this year flanked by those of normal size. Curiously a neighbouring tree has not a single nest whilst the next in line, a conifer, is increasingly favoured. How these nests have survived the severe buffeting of recent high winds is a tribute to the building ability of rooks.

There are two styles of roadside hedge cutting. One is done leaving a neatly trimmed line of inter locked twiggy growth offering cover and nesting opportunities: The other results in a mangled mess of branches ripped and twisted off by a flail and resulting in a bare skeletal structure.

Warmth and bright lights in a local church encouraged a bat to join the service recently, a few flickering flights from end to end and it was gone.

Diana Tait and Rod Eldred

Photo appeal for The Vyne's fallen bridge



The National Trust Vyne Estate is appealing to local people for their memories of the Victorian cast iron bridge that used to span the lake.

The bridge, built in the mid-nineteenth century used to be the main access to the property, and collapsed in severe storms in 1986.

The Vyne is hoping to reinstate this landmark bridge but first needs to commission a survey of the foundations and conserve the iron railings.

“We are keen to hear from visitors who remember the Fallen Bridge,” said Hollie Ryan, Visitor Experience and Fundraising Manager at The Vyne. “We’d love to hear about their memories of the bridge and see any photos they may have. It will help us build a more comprehensive visual history.”

National Trust employee and volunteer Mary Chatburn has fond memories of the bridge. “We lived locally and walked to the estate regularly with our dog Blue,” explained Mary. “I have a black and white photo from 1985 of me standing on the bridge in the snow with Blue.”

Please send any photos and memories of the Fallen Bridge to:
TheVyne@nationaltrust.org.uk



For homing, fund raising and volunteer enquiries;
Telephone: **0345 260 1501** or
Email: **sylvia.cp@outlook.com**

To view all cats currently up for adoption visit **www.andover.cats.org.uk**



Meet Holly, she is about 14 years old and in good health for her age. Her owner is sadly in hospital so unable to keep her. She is very friendly and loves attention. We feel at her age she would be more suited to a quiet household with no dogs or young children.

Snowy is still looking for his forever home and has now had lots of dental work done so we're hopeful he'll find a new home soon. please get in touch if you think you can offer Daisy a home. The vets estimate her to be about 2 years old.

We have a coffee morning coming up on Saturday 2nd May at Cholderton Village Hall, use the postcode SP4 0DN to find us. This will run from 10am-12noon, we will have plenty of cake on offer as well as a raffle and a bric-a-brac sale. Please come along to join us and help us to raise money for the cats in our care. There will be free parking opposite the hall, on the grassed area behind the pub car park.

THE KINGSCLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

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POLICE, FIRE or AMBULANCE **Emergency 999**

Police Enquiries/Information **non Emergency 101**

Kingsclere Health Centre: 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) 298634

Dial-a-Ride 01256 462101

Churches: *see contact details within Church Pages inside*

Bas & Deane	01256 844844	Cub Scouts	298413
Buses	0345 8101000	Girl Guides	299875
Trains	0845 748 4950	Kingsclere Library	0300 555 1387
Gas Emerg.	0800 11999	Swan Street P O	297035
S.Electric	08000 727282	Vet	29557 or 40565
S.Water	0845 278 0845	Dentist	299981
Busy Bees	299566	Fieldgate Centre	298497
Chemist	298419	Village Club	297913

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

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Clare Kinnear 07970 400864 cllr.clare.kinnear@basingstoke.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Tom Thacker 01264 738464 tom.thacker@hants.gov.uk

MP for N.W Hampshire:

Kit Malthouse 01264 401401 kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk
2, Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP

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