

The background image is a scenic photograph of a coastal landscape. On the left, a large, leafless tree with intricate branches stands prominently. A path of light-colored gravel or sand leads from the bottom left towards the center of the image. To the right of the path is a low stone wall. In the distance, across a body of water, a small island or headland is visible, featuring a lighthouse and some trees. The sky is a pale, clear blue, suggesting a bright day.

The Kingsclere Tower

What's On & Local News
FEBRUARY 2023

The Kingsclere Tower

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Happy New Year from the Editorial Team.

We have refreshed the look of The Tower to include a colour photo on the front cover and colour adverts in addition to the traditional 'Yellow Pages' adverts. We hope you like this new format. We welcome anyone to submit a high quality digital colour photograph of the village or local countryside or wildlife for consideration for a future front cover. If selected we will of course acknowledge your contribution. Send to kingscleretower@gmail.com.

The fees from all our advertisers pay for the production of the magazine, and each year any surplus funds are available to support local clubs and organizations. At the end of last year, we had sufficient funds to award grants to Busy Bees Pre-School, Friends of St Mary's, and Kingsclere Football Club for their defibrillator appeal. Finally, we would like to thank Diana Tait and Rod Eldred for their informative "Nature Notes". Diana and Rod have been contributing their tales of fauna and flora for over 22 years. Their explorations have taken us to many places, here and abroad, and their insights on the natural world they have observed have always been an absolute pleasure. Thank you. This edition includes their last article, on Page 16

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. The Editors reserve the right to omit, amend, or condense any item submitted for publication.

To all "Tower" Contributors

Copy for **MARCH** to the Editor at kingscleretower@gmail.com.
NOT LATER THAN 12th FEBRUARY.

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.

KINGSLERE PARISH COUNCIL (KPC)

Chairman: Cllr Clive Mussett 07800 022432

Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk

Telephone: 01635 298634

Office: 37 George Street, Kingsclere RG20 5NH



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - Thank you, as always, to all those involved in the Christmas lights in the centre of the village; the display looked wonderful.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARDS 2023 – Plans are underway to present the awards in June 2023. We will be asking you to help us recognise those residents who deserve a big public thank you for their commitment and contribution to the village. Further details and the application form will be available soon.

2023 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – Elections are held for town and parish councils every four years. The next local elections will be held on the **Thursday 4th May 2023**. People stand for election for many reasons, but the aim should be to:

- Work to identify issues which are important to the lives of the residents you represent
- Improve the quality of life and the environment in your area
- Influence and shape the long-term development policy for the parish
- Work to bring about improvements through local projects, lobbying other service providers, and working in partnership with other parishes and agencies

Democratic local government is all about local people getting involved in the issues affecting their community. KPC would be delighted to hear from interested candidates in the coming months so informal discussions about the role can take place and you could potentially come along to few meetings to get an idea of the projects and commitment involved. For more information, please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk

VOTING – Please be aware you need a photo ID to vote in the 4th May Elections. Examples of this would be a driving license, passport, or older person's bus-pass. According to the website if your photo ID is out of date it can still be used if the picture still looks like you. There are many other forms of ID; please look at the website for details. Alternatively, you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate. Please check the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council website for more details, or contact customer services **01256 844844** for advice and information on any of the above if you do not have internet access.

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

@kingsclerepc facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING – The collections dates are **Wednesday 8th** and **22nd February**, and **8th March 2023**.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING– The next full Council Meeting will be at **7:30pm on Monday 27th February 2023**, in the Village Club. We welcome the attendance of all parishioners at our meetings and anyone who wishes to raise any matters of concern will be given the opportunity to do so during Public Questions.

Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan

A housing needs assessment for Kingsclere has been prepared for us by AECOM, the consultancy we previously used whilst working on the Neighborhood Plan. The final report can be found on the Parish Council web site under Neighborhood Planning. In short, the report concludes that:

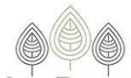


- Kingsclere's population is gradually declining however the population is getting older with fewer younger people.
- Projections suggest that the 75+ population in the parish will increase from 8.5% currently to 16.7% in 2039 – equivalent to 239 additional older individuals and a 108.6% growth rate for that age cohort.
- There has been a steady increase in house prices, the mean house price being £418,948 in 2021.
- Households on average incomes (£56,300) cannot access median or entry-level market homes.
- To purchase a median house price would require an annual income nearly double the current average. Market housing is likely to remain out of reach to most.
- Discounted homes are the only way the majority of first-time buyers can afford to buy in Kingsclere. Discounts of 40% and 50% appear most effective at bringing new entry-level homes within reach of the average earning household.
- Kingsclere's position in the Borough makes it a relatively less suitable location for specialist accommodation for older people on the basis of the accessibility criteria and the considerations of cost-effectiveness. Basingstoke is considered to have potential to accommodate the specialist housing need arising from the Neighbourhood Area.

If you have not already done so, please complete the **Kingsclere Housing Needs Questionnaire**. We need to know if views have changed since the NP was completed in 2018. The on-line questionnaire can be found on the Parish Council web site. It only takes 5-10 minutes. Alternatively, if you prefer a paper copy kindly email me at the address below.

Cllr. Sue Adams Cllr.sue.adams@kingsclere-pc.org.uk

The Watership Health



Watership Down Health
KINGSCLERE | OAKLEY | OVERTON

Flu and Covid Vaccinations: The Health Hub at Festival Place, Basingstoke is still offering both vaccines. Covid vaccinations can be booked via National Booking System (NHS website or phone App) or just walk in between 9 - 5. Flu vaccine will be offered to anyone eligible with their Covid vaccine, or if patients just need flu vaccine then they can walk in for this. Children aged 5-11 must book an appointment via NBS and this is for Covid vaccine only.

Health Hub at Festival Place: The Health Hub at Festival Place will shortly be offering a range of additional services: Group Consultations for Looking After Unwell Children; Blood Pressure Checks; and NHS Health Checks for eligible groups.

Electronic Prescription Service (EPS): Most prescriptions can now be signed, sent and processed electronically.

Patients have 2 choices for how this works:

1. You can choose a pharmacy to dispense all your prescriptions. When you get a prescription, it will be sent electronically to the pharmacy you have chosen. You can collect your medicines or appliances without having to hand in a paper prescription.
2. You can decide to have your prescription sent EPS Any Pharmacy. You will be given a code or you can use your NHS Number. Your prescription goes to the NHS Spine and the community pharmacy you have chosen will download the prescription from the Spine and make this up for you.

Paper prescriptions will continue to be available in special circumstances, but the majority of prescriptions will be processed electronically.

If you are on regular medication we can issue a batch of monthly scripts to the pharmacy of your choice – this means that each month you just need to visit the pharmacy and your medication will be ready to collect.

You can change or cancel your choice of dispenser at any time. Simply speak to your GP or pharmacist before you order your next prescription. You should allow time for the update to take place to avoid your next prescription being sent to the wrong place.

Get Help for children/young people 0 to 18 years: The NHS Healthier Together App provides clear information about what to look out for if your child or young person is unwell, and if needed it will directly inform your GP practice (Watership Down Health) about your child/young person's symptoms rather than having to call to get an appointment. Download the App so that you have it ready to go if your child or young person becomes unwell: <https://www.what0-18.nhs.uk/> or via Google Play or Apple App stores.



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.

The start of a new year is a perfect time to look forward to the year ahead and make plans. We hope you will include the The Fieldgate Centre in yours! Come along to a regular class, hire the venue for a party, or sit back and enjoy an evening of entertainment organised by KCA and other community groups.

If you're feeling isolated, need somewhere different to work for a couple of hours, or you'd just be glad to see some different faces, the centre is open on a Wednesday morning from around 9 am and the coffee pot will be on.

Many hands make light work and we would welcome help with anything from DIY jobs and gardening, to organising an event. We are also keen to bring our ideas for new projects to fruition - please phone or email to find out more.

Weekly Class Timetable		
	a.m.	p.m.
Monday	Pilates Songtree Music	
Tuesday	Pilates Monthly Meet-Up	Clubbercise
Wednesday	Zumba Gold	Slimming World
Thursday	Pilates	Ceroc Short Mat Bowls
Friday	Pilates	

Spaces are available for new classes: discounted rates are offered to regular hirers (6 or more sessions). Hire of the main hall, social area, and meeting rooms includes shared use of the kitchen.

Events in February

Friday 3rd February, 7 pm: **Friends of St.Mary's Quiz**
Sunday 5th February, 10 am - 12.30 pm: **Greener Kingsclere Market**

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 29th April: **Jan Jack's Comedy Club Night**

Please visit our website and Facebook page for more detailed information, where you'll also be able to provide feedback and tell us how you would like to get involved.

telephone 01635 298497 email: fieldgatecentre@outlook.com

www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk

Facebook 

Community Larder

Open **Thursdays 2.30 - 4 pm** in the **Kingsmill Room** (on the side of St Mary's Church, Kingsclere).

Are you in need of food? If so, please come along to St Mary's Church and for £3 you can choose one bag of dried/tinned items and one bag of fresh / frozen food. Enjoy free refreshments and a chat too. There are no questions asked and no proof required, we want to help all those in our local area that need support. Thanks to kind donors we are able to stock our shelves with tins and dried food each week. Fresh and frozen food is delivered by the Community Food Link, an organisation in Basingstoke that collects food nearing it's best before dates and distributes it to local food banks and larders.

Donations are always welcome – please bring along any tinned or dried goods or household items to the Kingsmill Room on a Thursday morning 11.30 -12.30. Thank you.

If you have any questions about the food bank please ring the church office on **01635 299528 or 07422 687125**.

Headley Community Cafe

We are running a Community Cafe at **Headley Shop** every **Tuesday afternoon from 2.30pm - 4.30pm**.

Do come and join us for tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes while you have a chat with friends and make new ones too.

See you there!

Christine Allwright 07941 809567

Wolverton Village Market

The next Market is on **Saturday 4th February** in the Village Hall from **9.30 am until 11 am**.

Stalls will include Homegrown Produce, Bric a Brac, Household Products, Books, Handmade Candles and Cards and Antiques and Collectables. In addition you are now able to buy a cup of coffee or tea to enjoy while you browse.

Please come along and support us. Entrance is free and there is parking available outside the Hall.

For further information or if you might be interested in having a stall please contact **Wendy Morgan on 01635 297538**.

**Next Market, Sunday 5th
February, 10 - 12:30 at the
Fieldgate**



This market INCLUDES a 'Children's Clothing Exchange'

Children grow! Clothing is expensive, for your pocket and the planet. Bring along up to 10 good, clean children's clothes & shoes to swap. ** Further details on our website and Facebook page.

Recycling at the market: **Batteries** (not car), **Medicine blister packs**, **Plastic Milk Tops**, **Inkjet Cartridges** (originals only, not compatible or laser), **Bras**, **Eyeglasses**, and **this market only – Plastic Tubs** (sweets, biscuits, crackers) to benefit MacMillan Cancer Support via Greene King Pubs Tub2Pub programme.

REMEMBER!! Now you can **recycle your medicine blister packs** at Kingsclere Surgery! Empty packs only, please.

*Market in partnership with the Kingsclere Community Centre.

Keep up with the latest – let us know if you want to be on our email list.

Nicki, Sarah & Lucinda greenerkingsclere@gmail.com
www.Greener-kingsclere.co.uk



**Kingsclere
Film Club**

**Saturday, 11 February 2023 at
7.30pm**

**Kingsclere Village Club, George
Street.**

Doors open at 7.00pm.

La Gloire de mon Pere
(My Father's Glory - 1990 - U - 111min)

A young boy's life in turn-of-the-century France. Young Marcel and family spend their summer in a cottage in Provence, and he befriends a local boy who teaches him the secrets of the hills...

Next month: **Saturday, 11 March 2023 -
Green Book** (2018 - 12A - 130min - 3 Oscars)

Kingsclere Film Club welcomes guests at £7.50. New members welcome at any time.

For further information call **Diana Tait (Membership Secretary) 298494**

Kingsclere Community Library



YOUR Community Public Library is available **FREE OF CHARGE** to all residents of Kingsclere and the surrounding area.

We have a good number of books to borrow in all categories, including Large Print. We also have a computer available for free for public use, and a photocopier/printer at a low cost per page. Why not stop in and have a look around?

We have some exciting changes coming up soon, including new books, refreshing the collection and expanding and upgrading our Teen/Young Adult section.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are always in need of volunteers to keep our doors open, so if you have 2 hours per month (or more!) to help us out, do please get in touch.

HOURS

Tuesday & Thursday 1:00pm - 5:30pm

Saturday 10:00am - 1:00pm

Nicki Lee Library phone **01635 297464**

Kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk

Julian House - Big Basingstoke Sleep Out

Julian House is a charity that supports vulnerable and at-risk people across the South West, including our homeless outreach services in Basingstoke. You can find out more here: <https://www.julianhouse.org.uk/projects-services/>.

On **24th March 2023**, it's the return of our **Big Basingstoke Sleep Out**, with families, individuals, students, businesses and community groups all sleeping out (without tents) for one night in May's Bounty Sports Ground, Basingstoke. It's for a terrific cause and we're hoping to bring together a really diverse range of people, groups and organizations from the area for this event. To find out more, go to: <https://www.julianhouse.org.uk/support-us/events/big-basingstoke-sleep-out/>. Please feel free to email or call me.

Gavin Osborne

Senior Community & Events Fundraiser for Julian House
07946 330971 gavin.osborn@julianhouse.org.uk

The Ship Inn Arts Centre

The Ship Inn Country Hotel, Ashford Hill, RG19 8BD

Friday 3rd February 7pm – 10pm

Open Mic

Free event. If you would like to come along, please ring The Ship Inn and we can pass your name to Jon Whitfield who is organising these.

Refreshments - bread and cheese; bar open for drinks. £2 donation for food.

Tuesday 7th February 11am – 2pm

Craft event – “Come and make your own special gift for your Valentine!”

£5 a ticket. Please bring your own lunch. Coffee/Tea provided.

Tickets on Eventbrite or ring The Ship Inn.

Saturday 18th February 7pm – 9pm

Clayson Sings Chanson

This show has been on the road since 2011, initially to tie-in with the latest edition of chanteur and raconteur Alan Clayson's Jacques Brel biography, *La Vie Bohème*.

With a diverting supporting programme by songwriter and vocalist Andy Lavery, the show is prefaced by an explanatory talk that is as amusing as it is educational.

As well as works, famous and obscure, by Brel, Charles Aznavour, Scott Walker and other Gallic and British chansonniers, Clayson with Lavery on keyboards venture into curious but connected realms to perhaps the most sophisticated form of popular song during a show that will appeal to chanson devotees, those interested generally in Gallic culture, and anyone who just wants to be thoroughly entertained.

Light refreshments will be served during the interval. Please note, the refreshments are not included in the ticket price, donations much appreciated thank you.

Early book is essential as seating limited to 40.

Tickets £12 on Eventbrite or ring The Ship Inn.

Ring **01189 814504** for tickets

Please also see our website: <https://shipinnarts.org/>



KINGSCLERE VILLAGE CLUB

Est. 1921 CHARITY 1189234

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

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

An Evening with Lady Carnarvon

Lady Carnarvon talks about her book, *The Earl and the Pharaoh*, the thrilling behind-the-scenes story of the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun and the unparalleled life of family ancestor George Herbert - the famed Egyptologist, traveller, and 5th Earl of Carnarvon. Plus, a display by our own Local History Society. **Thursday 2nd March, doors open 7.15 pm.** Tickets £10 from Helen (below) or www.wegottickets.com/event/568306. Proceeds to our greener heating fund.

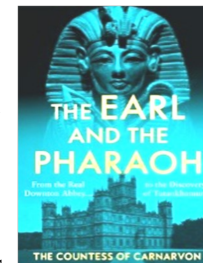


ABB (formerly the Average Blues Band)

♪♪♪ The ABB guys are back! Join us for a great evening of live music, hot supper and good company. **Friday 31st March, doors open 7.30 pm.** Tickets £17 from Helen (below) or on-line at www.wegottickets.com/event/568297.

Community Café

The February Café is on **Saturday 25th, 10 am to 1 pm.** Quiz at 11 o'clock and children's craft table making butterflies and dragonflies. All welcome.

Glowing Bright

You may be in time for last minute tickets to Alison Neil's one-woman show telling the story of Marie Curie. **Saturday February 4th at 7.30 pm** (doors open at 7 pm). Tickets £17 from Helen, below. Supper included, please inform us of any dietary requirements.

Chair Pilates

Exercise class for those of limited mobility on Thursday afternoons. Contact bookings@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk for details.

Children's Parties

Kingsclere Village Club, with its hall, kitchen and garden, is a great venue for a children's party. Details and booking on our website.



Save the Date:

Markets **21st May & 9th July.**

Shakespeare in the Garden **June 9th.**

Helen 01635 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

The Church Pages

Dear Friends

Back in 1967 the Beatles released the single *All You Need Is Love*. Although it was associated with the “summer of love” and the flower power anarchy of the time, one commentator felt that

“...the times fitted [the Beatles] like a glove. Everyone was getting the feel of the world as a global village – as us, one species. The whole human race was becoming unified under the shadow of death ... One of the most heartening things about the Beatles was that they gave expression to a shared sense of celebration around the world, a sense of the same sensibility.” (R. D. Laing)

Two lines (from different verses) in particular stand out for me...

“Nothing you can do, but you can learn how to be you in time” and

“There's nowhere you can be that isn't where you're meant to be”

Both are followed the repeated refrain,

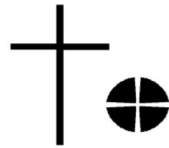
“It's easy... All you need is love”

As I watch the news unfold at the beginning of this year, I sense the need for that unification of humanity once again to be at the forefront of our public life. We can no longer pretend that we are unaware of what is happening across the globe. We cannot deny that what we do in our part of the world has an impact on people thousands of miles away. Some news stories still believe that it is acceptable to dehumanise people with different belief systems, religions and national identities. Some politicians seem incapable of understanding stress and anxiety of living in a society where “growth” and “profit” are the driving forces rather than compassion and humility. There are too many people who feel that there are places they shouldn't be because of their gender or sexuality; their financial or educational status. There too many people who are afraid to be themselves because they fear “what the neighbours will say” at best, or outright persecution at worst.

This month, some of us will send cards to mark Valentine's Day. If you send or receive such a card look at the sentiments expressed, in particular comparing them to the love as described in the Bible and lived out by Jesus. What is the kind of love spoken of in the cards? The love described by the Beatles in their song was a love that saw people as equals, free to be themselves and excluded from nowhere. The love that Jesus taught and lived out is a sacrificial love, where others are considered before self, and the well-being of community and creation are of the upmost importance. What are the messages of love that need to be heard by the people around you this year?

Peace,

Rachel Borgars
Methodist Minister



Worship in our Churches February



Thursday 2 nd		10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Sunday 5 th	9.30am Holy Communion St Peter's, Headley	10.30am Holy Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Thursday 9 th		10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Sunday 12 th	9.30am Morning Worship St Peter's, Headley	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Thursday 16 th		10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Sunday 19 th	9.30am Morning Worship St Paul's, Ashford Hill	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Wednesday 22 nd		10.30am Ash Wednesday Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere	7pm Ash Wednesday Worship with Imposition of Ash, St Peter's, Headley
Thursday 23 rd		10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Sunday 26 th	9.30am Holy Communion St Paul's, Ashford Hill	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	

www.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 (£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 **07422 687125** or email **administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk**.



December

19th Remembering Hildres Alderman. Missed you Mum, through all the years.

January

30th In loving memory of Gloria Olariu-Stead born sleeping 30th January 2019; always in the hearts of Oana, Michael, Emily, Vasile, Cornelia, Gina and Andrew.

31st Remembering Paula Tait on her birthday. Dearly loved and missed by all her family.

February

14th Happy Birthday Lillums.

20th Remembering John David Wesson on his birthday. Lots of Love Karen and Paul xx.

Kingsclere Methodist Church

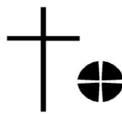
Services in February:

Sunday 5 th	Malcolm Stone
Sunday 12 th	Charlie Philips
Sunday 19 th	Rev'd. Rachel Borgars
Sunday 26 th	Rosie Greenhalgh

Services begin at 10 am and all are welcome. Our hall is available to hire. Coffee morning every Thursday 10.30 -12.00; a warm space to come and chat with your friends!

Look out for fund raising events later in the year to raise much needed funds for our beautiful little church which has stood in the centre of the village since at least 1826.

Christine Westcombe c_westcombe@hotmail.com



Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd

At the time of writing there are still some places at our popular **Quiz Night** on **Friday 3rd February** at the **Fieldgate Centre**. Tickets are £15 each, to include a generous Ploughman's supper and a glass of wine. Contact **Raj and Monica**, or **Jane Royle** on **297430** or at **jane.b.royle@gmail.com**.



Our next event will be **Friends' Lunch** on **Sunday 5th March** at **Sandford Springs**, offering two courses and coffee for £25 a head. All Friends, and anyone interested in joining FOSM will be warmly welcomed. Again, please get in touch with **Jane Royle**.

Later dates for your diary are:

- The annual **Plant Sale in St Mary's Churchyard**, held in conjunction with Kingsclere Gardening Association, on the morning of **Saturday 20th May**.
- An Open Gardens Trail on the weekend afternoons of **24th and 25th June** with a variety of gardens, big and small, many of them never previously opened.

Further details will be provided in future issues of the Tower.

For membership & other enquiries contact **fosmkingsclere@gmail.com**.

Peter Turner, Chairman

FOSM 200 Club

The December and January Draw winners were **Mary Cleghorn** – No. 91, and **Ian Bowes** – No.125, respectively.

Congratulations, Mary and Ian.

Next month's Draw will take place at The Crown at approximately **7 pm on Tuesday 7th February**.

Jane Royle jane.b.royle@gmail.com **01635 297430**

Bell Ringing



On **Tuesday 22nd November** a Quarter peal of 1260 Plain Bob Minor was rung in celebration of the life of **Ivy Piper** whose funeral was held at St Mary's church earlier in the day.

Helen Piper

Christmas at St Mary's Church

We welcomed many villagers and visitors to worship with us at Christmas throughout December at St Mary's Church. Services and events were led by members of our worship team while we are still without a permanent vicar, but gave people the opportunity to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas amongst the busyness of the season.

Our "Remembering at Christmas" service meant people could celebrate while still acknowledging the loved ones that have died and we greatly miss, particularly at Christmas time. Children and adults alike had the pleasure of meeting "Chris Tingle" and learning about Jesus being the light of the world at our Christingle service and then enjoyed a party afterwards with plenty of food and a goody bag to go home with.

Traditional Carols sung at The Crown attracted a record number of people this year and we were warmed with drinks and mince pies. Thank you Suzanne and Nigel for your hospitality and for the delicious mince pies!

Then on Christmas Eve a Shepherd and an Angel came to tell the Nativity story, encouraging younger members of the congregation to get involved. We were given special permission to be able to hold a communion by extension service at midnight which was very special and then a visiting priest led our traditional Christmas Day communion service which rounded off the celebrations.

Thank you to everyone that organised, led services, decorated the church and volunteered in so many ways to make everything run so smoothly. We hope those that came along are able to join us again in St Mary's soon.

Saturday Coffee

Fresh brewed coffee, tea and delicious home made cakes.
All welcome – please do pop in!

10.00 - 12.00

February 4th, 11th and 18th

In the Kingsmill Room, St Mary's Church

Volunteers welcome – if you're able to pour coffee, welcome people or make cakes occasionally please do contact the church office on **01635 299528**.

Nature Notes

A small ornamental crab tree planted in the garden last year produced tiny crimson fruit; hard as stone but very attractive, too hard for any creature too eat surely? Several days of hard frost however rendered them really soft and it was a joy to see every last one taken by blackbirds. It had been a good choice of tree; dark foliage, crimson bark, pink flowers and a bonus for birds.

December 25th - Two robins perched atop the hedge in close proximity and showing no animosity could be assumed to be a pair. Robins hold territories all the year around and are fiercely protective. They pair-up in December and establish a nesting territory. The wonderful penetrating song heard in December announces ownership of a territory; melodious and welcome to us, but a warning to rivals.



A rook with nesting in mind was seen wrestling determinedly with a sappy ash twig with a persistence one could only admire...the twig won.

After twenty-two years of compiling Nature Notes we have decided to call it a day. It has been a joyful experience but circumstances change. Readers have been kind and appreciative and we would like to thank them all, but February 2023 will be our final contribution.

Diana Tait and Rod Eldred

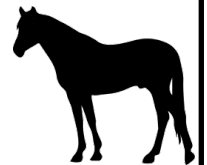
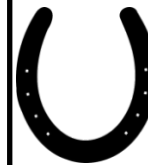
The Editorial Team would love to hear from anyone who would like to contribute regular Nature articles for The Tower. Please contact us at kingscleretower@gmail.com.

Farrier

Bob Creedy DipWCF

Over 30 years experience. Relocated from Somerset to be nearer family. Wanting to build up a small clientele in the Kingsclere and surrounding areas. Prompt and reliable service.

Telephone: 07735 491070



FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN

February brings hope that the garden can be worked on again. We have had a difficult winter; harsh frosts and a great deal of rain have made it difficult to even gather up fallen leaves. The days will be noticeably longer this month which also is more encouraging, especially when the weather can be a little milder, so that we can begin working in the garden hopefully.

Now is the time to turn the compost heap, a good job to do on a cold day. If you have well rotted compost or manure, this can be added to the vegetable beds as you lightly dig them over. Lime any vegetable plots that you plan to plant with brassicas e.g. brussels sprouts, cabbages, and cauliflowers, as all of these prefer alkaline soil. A soil testing kit is always useful to determine the pH of the soil.

There are a few jobs that can be done at the moment; planting shallots, sowing peas, chitting potatoes. These can be placed blunt end up in an egg box; pop the tray somewhere frost free. They need to be started about six weeks before they are needed to be planted out in the garden.

If you were unable to check your gardening equipment in the autumn, now is a good time to check everything as it is really a nuisance to find a tool that's not working properly when you go to use it. Also it is a good idea to check on any products that are on shelves that need throwing away, as some of these deteriorate with age, as do old packets of seeds.

Plant bare rooted trees and shrubs any time between November and March. Prune overgrown evergreens, and late flowering shrubs such as Buddelia. Late flowering clematis can also be pruned. If you grow Jasmine, prune after flowering. Dahlia tubers that were dug up and have survived the winter may be placed in pots or put into trays to start them off to shoot. The same procedure will apply to any new tubers. If you wish to divide snowdrops, do so when the flowers have died down and the leaves are still green.

Have a go at growing a lemon plant from a pip; it will take a few years to flower and produce fruit, but in the meantime it will make a nice house plant and it will be fun for the children to see it grow. The planted pips will need to be kept in a warm place to germinate once placed in a pot with compost.

Another fun plant I grew last year in the greenhouse was ginger. Every time I brushed past the leaves they gave off a lovely scent, and I had some very nice root ginger for cooking when I emptied the pot.

Early flowering narcissus, hardy cyclamen, dwarf iris, heather and hellebores are flowering in the garden now; lovely to see after the long winter months.

Denise Allen

Kingsclere Players



Spring Production Script Readings

The Kingsclere Players will be putting on a series of 3 mini plays at the Fieldgate Centre in April. We invite you to join us at **The Crown, Kingsclere** to read through scripts and see if you're interested in participating:

Wednesday 1st February, 7:30pm

Thursday 9th February, 7:30pm

We are exploring three comedy scripts including *Only Fools and Horses*. Rehearsals will start from mid to end of February (date tbc).

If you're interested in getting involved, but cannot make the script readings, email kingsclere.players@yahoo.co.uk.



Read Easy
Helping adults learn to read

A New Year – A New Skill To Learn

Do you know any adults who struggle with reading. We have been helping

adults in Basingstoke to learn to read or to improve poor reading skills for over three years and have seen the difference that it can make not only to self-confidence and belief, but to employment prospects and general health and wellbeing.

Learning to read confidently as an adult really is life-changing in so many ways. At Read Easy Basingstoke, we offer a **FREE**, friendly and completely non-judgemental approach to learning to read to any adult who lacks confidence with basic reading. We provide each Reader with a trained volunteer coach to work on a one-to-one basis.

If you know someone who has difficulty reading and who we can help, do please get in touch:

Contact us at basinstoke@readeasy.org.uk or **07952 450789**

Upcoming Blood Donation Sessions at The Fieldgate Centre

Thursday 9th February

Thursday 23rd February

Thursday 16th March

Thursday 30th March

Thursday 6th April

Thursday 4th May

Register, check availability of appointments, and book at blood.co.uk

Basingstoke Choral Society

Our next concert:

Bach Mass in B minor

The Anvil, Basingstoke

Saturday 1st April 2023 7.30 pm

Basingstoke Choral Society with Croydon Philharmonic Choir and the Hanover Band, conducted by David Gibson.

Tickets: from £15 Anvil Box Office: anvilarts.org.uk **01256 844244**

Join us at rehearsals on **Wednesday nights – 7.30** at The Vyne School.

www.basingstoke-choral.org.uk



Basingstoke and District Disability Forum

All About Financial Health

Do you have worries or concerns related to finances - either whether you're accessing the correct benefits, queries about grant entitlements, knowing where to access free training courses, debt advice or maybe you're troubled over the current cost of living crisis?

BDDF would like to invite you to attend a meeting 'All About Financial Health' we are hosting in partnership with the Citizens Advice Bureau on **Thursday 23rd February**. This will be a Forum meeting for local disabled people to come together to share their experiences on any financial issues you might require assistance with whilst living and/or working in Basingstoke. We hope by bringing together our members and local organisations you will get support with your individual issues. BDDF will be taking away the most common issues and looking to escalate and raise awareness of barriers and will share what we learn in a future newsletter to help our members who cannot attend.

**Registration opens 10am,
the event begins at 10:30am and ends 12:30pm.**

**Oakridge Hall for All, Forsythia Walk,
Oakridge Village, Basingstoke, RG21 5RG.**

Free parking, and free tea, coffee & biscuits will be available.

Please pre-book for this event so that we can monitor numbers attending, please email office@bddf.org.uk or telephone **01256 423869** (leave your name and number of free tickets you require on the voicemail if call not answered).



Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance



Wednesday 15 February at 10 a.m.

St Mary's Hall, Overton

For our next talk we will be joined by **Ryland Lee**, a volunteer with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance.

Many people do not realise Air Ambulance services are charity-funded, or that it costs £15,000 a day to keep the Critical Care teams flying.

Ryland's talk will cover the history and operations of the charity as well as the equipment and training, and most importantly the expenditure and fundraising needed for this vital service.

Free to members, non-members £3 on the door.

Kingsclere Local History Association

THURSDAY 16th FEBRUARY at 7.30pm “ THE SWING RIOTS IN THE NEWBURY AREA “ A presentation by **Dr DAVID PEACOCK** of West Berkshire Heritage Forum and Chair of the Newbury Society. The Swing Riots were a widespread uprising in 1830 by agricultural workers in Southern and Eastern England in protest against agricultural mechanisation and harsh working conditions. David will tell us of the history of the riots and the effects locally in West Berkshire and North Hampshire.

Entry £1 members, £3 visitors

Look forward to seeing you there!

Mike Leah Secretary

Tel 297403

KINGSLERE TWINNING ASSOCIATION SATURDAY 18 MARCH 2023 – SAVE THE DATE!

A Beetle Drive with a Kingsclere twist at Kingsclere CE Primary School!

Families and non-members welcome; details to follow in the March Tower.

If you would like further information please email.

Contact kingscleretwinning@yahoo.co.uk

Kingsclere CE Primary School



Christmas 2022 now seems a distant memory but we thoroughly enjoyed the events at the end of the term. We were so proud of all the children that took part in the school nativity, 'Babushka' and the Christmas Service at St. Mary's. It was lovely once again to welcome parents and carers into the school and church at this time of year to experience the Christmas festivities.

We had a Year R moderation visit near the end of last term which we organised with the county to help audit our early years provision.

We were so proud of the report which reflects the excellent practice in place. Well done to Mrs Bowden, our Year R teacher, and her excellent Year R team! We are also very proud of our Year 5 and 6 football team who competed in the West Berkshire Schools tournament near the end of last term, and finished second in the league - well done children!

The children have headed into the New Year eager to learn. This Spring Term, we have launched a new learning programme called Times Tables Rock Stars – a fun and engaging tool to help children learn their tables. Our Year 3 and Year 4 children, their teachers and Learning Support Assistants dressed up as rock stars for the day, and Year 3 and 4 parents and carers spent time with their children in class experiencing the range of activities in place at school to support children's times tables learning.

Next week our Key Stage 2 Choir is off to perform at the O2 Arena in London. They will be taking part in the largest children's choir in the world! This experience will provide a lifelong memory for all of those involved - we cannot wait to go.

Our school governors have been a wonderful support this academic year, meeting and helping senior and subject leaders in the strategic running of the school. We are so lucky to have a governing team with such a wealth of experience and skill to help ensure that children are getting the best possible school experience. We currently have a vacancy for a co-opted governor. We are particularly looking for someone who has financial skills. If you would be interested (or if you know of anyone who would be interested) and would like to find out more about the role, please contact Sue Watson (Chair of Governors) via the school office: adminoffice@kingsclere.hants.sch.uk.

Jo Messenger Acting Headteacher



WHITCHURCH
SILK MILL

Whitchurch Silk Mill

2022 Was a Busy and Successful Year

What a busy year we had, with some notable successes: The weavers wove more than a dozen silks. That's far more than we've woven for over a decade. We hosted five exhibitions and held events and workshops every month.

Our café has become a popular venue for the local community, touring cyclists, as well as visitors to the Mill. The café also won several awards including a silver in the 'Best Café And Tearoom Of The Year' category at Visit South East England's Beautiful South Tourism Awards in December.

At the same awards Marie Colgrave, our Welcome Building Supervisor, won gold in the 'Unsung Hero' category, and The Mill gained a bronze in the 'Small Attraction Of The Year' category.

Wine Tasting with Tales

On **Friday 10 February** Linda Palmer, Chair of the Mill's Trustees, will be guiding us through a selection of well-known wines and telling their stories, exploring the history, landscape and characters who made them.

Begins **19:00** and includes six small glasses of wine plus canapés and nibbles. Tickets £30 per person (18+).

February Half Term Activities

- **Tuesday 14th Feb, 10:30 – 12:30 pm**, Spring Make & Take, drop in anytime, free with admission.
- **Wednesday 15th Feb, 10:30 – 12 pm**, Make a Miniature Garden workshop, £8 per child + 1 adult free.
- **Thursday 16th Feb, 10:30 – 12 pm**, Print it! workshop, £8 per child + 1 adult free.
- **Friday 17th Feb**, Fun with Lego Bricks, multiple sessions, £8 per child + 1 adult free.

Bookings are open and the workshops are filling up quickly, so please check our website or follow us on social media to check availability.

The Mill at Rotations Charity Shop

Please save items and donate them to us during our residency at the Rotations Charity Shop, **6 – 20 April**. Please take them straight to the shop rather than bringing them to the Mill, as we don't have room to store them.

We typically raise about £1500 at the charity shop, which makes a considerable contribution to our running costs.

www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group

Where: **The Village Club**

When: **Tuesdays 9.00am-11.00am**

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

The Bunnies are looking forward to lots more fun and games in 2023, and we hope to meet many new visitors this year!

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

Kingsclere and Headley Woodlands WI

Our meeting in December was an excellent way to round off 2022. All our ladies (plus two guests) enjoyed a very nice buffet lunch and were entertained by Woolton Hill Handbell Ringers; a good time was had by all. Our opening meeting in 2023 in January was well attended and we were very pleased to welcome Jackie Dimmock, ex Hampshire police officer, telling us of her 30 years in the service.

A change of topic for **February 8th** when we are delighted to have Ailsa Claybourn, a retired teacher, telling us about Gardening. Ailsa is a keen ornithologist and a volunteer at Thatcham Natural Discovery Centre where she gives talks and walks around the lake and area. I'm sure our members will be most interested. As usual we meet at the **Village Club, George Street at 1.45pm**; do come along and listen (and watch on the screen) Ailsa give her illustrated talk. You will receive a very warm welcome.

Margaret Geary
President
01635 297197



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

Parish Council: 37 George Street (see page 2) 01635 298634
KingsclereCharities Clerk: Jan Pearce 01635 269184
kingsclerecharities@iname.com

Dial-a-Ride 01256 462101

CHURCH CONTACTS

St. MARY'S CHURCH:

Vicar TBA

Church Warden:

Administrator:

Emma Rivers 01635 299528
administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk 07422 687125

METHODIST CHURCH:

Minister: Rev Rachel Borgars 07889 905753
Rachel.Borgars@methodist.org.uk 01256 895878
Secretary & Hire of Hall Jeanette Billington 01635 297585

ROMAN CATHOLIC: Rev Patrick Tansey 0118 9814572
tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Bas & Deane	01256 844844	Swan Street P O	01635 297035
Buses	0345 8101000	Vet	01635 297557 or 40565
Trains	0845 7484950	Dentist	01635 299981
Gas Emerg.	0800 111999	Age Concern Local Agent	0800 3287154
Chemist	01635 298419	Watership Down Health	01635 296000
Kingsclere Library	01635 297464		

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Ken Rhatigan 07850 530319 cllr.ken.rhatigan@basingstoke.gov.uk
Stuart Frost 07961 265719 cllr.Stuart.Frost@basingstoke.gov.uk
Kerry Morrow 07422 651172 cllr.Kerry.Morrow@basingstoke.gov.uk
COUNTY COUNCILLOR
Tom Thacker 07712 695468 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