

KINGSCLERE ANNUAL REPORT 2019

KINGSCLERE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018-19

What a stunning year this has been for Kingsclere and the Parish Council!

After five years of hard work the **Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan** was overwhelmingly passed by residents in the referendum of September 2018. This is now integral to the planning process which Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will apply to all planning applications in the parish. The work of Cllr. Sue Adams and the team of volunteers is to be applauded and was recognised at the Making a Difference Awards in January.

In September, Kingsclere took two awards in the **Fullers Hampshire Village of the Year Competition - 'Best Small Village' and 'Excellence in Localism'**. This was the first time the Village had entered in well over a decade and we were delighted with the results. Our thanks to all the village organisations which contributed to this, and Cllr. Sue Adams who co-ordinated the entry process and wrote the Entry Statement.

The Community Orchard on the former 'Pony Paddock', is now 75% completed with a further 20 trees to go in shortly. It should be fully planted by summer 2020. Cllr. Nicky Peach has both undertaken much of the physical work, and driven the project seeking outside funding from Hampshire County Council to enhance our Village environment and create an asset for future generations.

In November, Kingsclere commemorated the **Centenary of the End of the First World War**. Over a two week period, Village organisations staged a variety of events from a Victory Tea Party to a commemorative performance at the Fieldgate Centre and a beacon on the Downs. The village was decorated with poppies and poems, and, of course, large numbers attended the Remembrance Day Parade, filling the Square and the Churchyard. The Parish Council co-ordinated the programme, installed a commemorative bench and acted as bankers for the 'Lest We Forget' performance. The latter, involving the Kingsclere Players, Kingsclere Singers and the Dance Academy, raised £710 for the British Legion Poppy Appeal, bringing the Village total to over £8000. A truly impressive community project, involving residents from all walks of life.

Improvements continue in the **Malthouse Open Space** with the installation of benches, some tree maintenance, control of nettles and the commissioning of an environmental report from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Over the next few years, this area will become a wildlife rich habitat with a diverse range of native flora. Plans are also in the pipeline to improve the car park and pathways in the **Ecchinswell Road Cemetery**, and the car park at the **Holding Field**. The latter should be more convenient for parents who have to drop off and pick up children at the school. It would be helpful if as many children as possible could walk to ease congestion in the immediate area round the school. We are trying to persuade Hampshire Highways to assist by upgrading the Love Lane footpath as this is a traffic free route across the village. The footpath from Swan Street to **The Dell Recreation Ground** has been cleared to allow access for emergency vehicles, the play area has been refurbished, thanks to Cllr Ian Bowes, and there is more equipment to be installed. The wildflower meadow is flourishing. On 30 March, the Parish Council held the **Kingsclere Great British Spring Clean** and over 40 volunteers removed a total of 18 bags of rubbish and recycling from the outskirts of the Village. Many thanks to all involved.

As ever, **traffic and parking** remain as issues for our residents and visitors to the village. Neither of these fall within the powers of the Parish Council. However, we have been making the case for repairs and improvements to Hampshire County Council, which has now agreed to replace the broken bollards in Swan Street, fitted some years ago to offer protection for pedestrians. To monitor and encourage slower speed, the Parish Council purchased and installed a Speed Indication Device (SID) for Winchester Road. We have budgeted for another SID in the current financial year for Newbury Road. The data in these devices is shared with the Police. As the year ends, we are aware that there is a petition circulating in support of what we are trying to achieve. Many thanks for this.

Finally, I would like to thank all Councillors for their commitment and hard work not only on the above projects, but also on the day-to-day work of managing finances, monitoring planning and reading and responding to the mountains of material that floods into the office. Much of this work goes unnoticed, but is demanding of their time and energy which they give for no financial reward. I would also like to thank our Borough Councillors for their interest in our community and their continuing support, but most of all our Clerk for keeping the Council running and our residents for your interest. Please remember, our meetings are open to parishioners, and there is an opportunity to raise questions during the recess at Ordinary Meetings on the last working Monday of each month. I would also like to thank our Assistant for her hard work through the year and for the vital work of our litter warden. Our employees' tireless efforts, indeed make Kingsclere a better place for all of us.

Cllr John Sawyer
Chairman



Kingsclere Girlguiding - Clere District

Over the past year members of Girlguiding in Kingsclere have been very busy. A brand new programme has been introduced across all sections which has been well received by the girls. For the first time Rainbows have interest badges to work on at home, animal lover being the most popular. Brownies and Guides also have new badges including Aviation, Archaeology, Back Woods cooking, Campaigning and Local History. There is now also a Gold award for any girl that completes all the programme and badges.

Rainbows have worked on their Communication Skills Builder badge and learnt to sing over the rainbow in sign language. They also celebrated Chinese new year, pancake day and made mini pizzas. They planted vegetable seeds and had a teddy bear picnic promise party. They also took part in parliament week 2018. Earlier in the year some of the girls attended a magical Fairy sleepover and a special trip to Marwell Zoo.

Brownies have also worked on their Communication Skills Builder badge and learnt to spell their names in British Sign Language. They explored feelings, designed their own emoji and acted out songs. They have completed an engineering badge in partnership with amey and the girls had great fun building capsules for an egg drop, looked at the cost and environmental impact building a railway line can have and built dancing robots. Brownies have also been looking at the community and planted flowers that were left on doorsteps across the village as a random act of kindness. They took part in a litter pick to help raise funds and joined in operation parcel with the Royal British Legion to send boxes to serving soldiers abroad at Christmas. Brownies had great fun at their beach themed pack holiday at Foxlease in April, where they had a go at archery, wall climbing and zip wiring as well as doing beach themed activities and having a beach party.

Brownies and Guides were very lucky to have a visit from Liz, an officer in the RAF stationed at Odiham. She talked to the girls about her career and working as part of a helicopter crew. The girls tried on her gear and asked lots of great questions.

The Guide unit has grown and are now meeting after Brownies. They are working on selection of new Skills Builders and have built field stretchers, enjoyed a night out campfire cooking and escaped from a puzzle room. Currently Shannon is working towards her Baden Powell award, the highest award a Guide can achieve, and has organised a games night, a Patrol cooking competition and an international evening on Guides in South Africa including music and food tasting. They have left positive messages in chalk around the village, went on an exciting day trip to London where they visited the Sealife aquarium, Girlguiding Headquarters, the British Museum and shops including Hamleys and M&M world and will be taking part in a large scale adventure camp at Foxlease in September.

Lastly, girls from all units took part in a "Library takeover" night at Tadley Library as part of a Regional event. They had a fun filled night of activities; Rainbows went home late while the Brownies and Guides slept between the shelves.

Our leadership team is growing strong. Jo organised a trip to Marwell Zoo in May as part of her Leadership Qualification and Eleanor has started working on her Queen's Guide Award.

Girlguiding offers opportunities for girls ages 5-7 (Rainbows), 7-10 (Brownies) and 10-14 (Guides) in Kingsclere and ages 14-18 (Rangers) and 18+ (The Trefoil Guild) locally. If you or your daughter would like to join please go to www.girlguiding.org.uk to register or feel free to email kingscleregirguiding@gmail.com with any questions.

Colleen Stables
Clere District Commissioner

Kingsclere Bowling Club

As most local residents know, we are situated on the Holding Field, Ashford Hill Road on land that is leased from the Kingsclere Parish Council.

Having originally formed in 1935, and therefore entering our 84th year, Kingsclere Bowling club must be one of the oldest continuously run clubs in the village.

The current clubhouse was built in 2000 following the fire which burnt down the original timber structure.

Bowling is a very enjoyable, social sport and as competitive as you wish to make it and can be played by all ages and abilities.

For people wishing to try the sport, we offer a month's free trial on Tuesday evenings during May followed by tuition and guidance for the rest of the summer season for a membership fee of £20.00. This gives new bowlers a chance to see if they enjoy the game before buying their own kit.

Most small clubs struggle financially to maintain their facilities, and we are no exception, relying on membership fees, bar takings, fundraising and local grants where applicable. An example of this is the cost of maintaining the high standard of the bowling green itself, averaging £4000 - £5000 even by using our own volunteer labour.

We are a well-run club and make every endeavour to increase our membership so that we are able to continue to provide this local sporting facility.

Brian Watts - Chairman



Kingsclere Village Club

In 1921 the building now known as the Kingsclere Village Club was given to the people of the Parish of Kingsclere in perpetuity by the family of William and Mary Holding, and since 1994 it has had Village Hall status. As a result the Trustees are tasked with the provision and maintenance of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of Kingsclere for meetings, lectures and classes, and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

As regards the provision and maintenance of a village hall, leases to maintain the Police Office and Parish Offices have been successfully renegotiated meaning that we continue to accommodate services that contribute to improving village life. A new income stream has developed with the therapy room starting to attract regular bookings, which means a previously disused part of the building is being used in a way that can improve the lives of local inhabitants. Maintenance of the listed building is ongoing. This year we have upgraded the hearing loop system in the main hall with a grant from the Four Lanes Trust and upgraded our fire alarm system. We are getting near to being able to replace the Parish Office front door, and works are due to start in the garden in April to reaffirm the boundary, improve security and discourage fly tipping and dog fouling which have become issues this year. In the spring, the Stannah Stair lift had become so unreliable that it is unusable. Replacing it is complicated by a need to replace the main stairs, which have been damaged by furniture beetle. Options to resolve are currently being considered.

Turning to use for meetings, lectures and classes, a good number of community groups such continue to hire rooms in the building regularly for meetings. Our classes continue to be popular, especially the new NHS endorsed 'Move it or Lose it' exercise class for people with health issues, or limited mobility or who are new to exercise has proven to be enjoyable, with some participants staying on for a post session social meet up. The classes being run by teachers themselves continue to be well attended including the new Tai Chi for people with limited mobility, meditation and monthly restorative yoga. A full winter events programme, which is one of the other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupations that has taken place this year was reinstated. The most notable events were the theatrical productions such as 'Brilliance' by Farnham Maltings, and the volunteer run WW1 style tea party with its authentic menu. This year we also offered a summer event: A Winter's Tale by the Festival Players, who enthralled the audience in our garden. The events programme was made possible by sponsorship from Bluebird Care, Calla Salon and Wiltshire Farm Foods as well as grants from Howe and Son as well as the Covenant Trust.

Our plans for 2019-2020 include concluding our change to an Charitable Organisation. The maintenance of the building is ongoing – both in relation to routine servicing and repairs as well as ensuring it is fit for modern purposes. The maintenance and repairs mentioned earlier in this report are just the tip of the iceberg as regards the works that are needed. The works needed have been scoped, and a programme is being devised so that we can undertake the fund raising that this needed. Over the next year we will be looking to undertake a consultation with local people so that we can be sure that our plans match up with local needs and interests; revisiting and updating key policies; and undertaking a Heritage Plan to help us gain the necessary planning permissions. The Heritage Plan is a large document looking at the historical value of the building, which will require some professional input as well as a group of volunteers to research difference aspects. We are looking for another one or two people with an interest in old buildings and conservation to help with this.

The Tower

The Tower magazine continues to be an extraordinary success in the way it keeps the residents of Kingsclere informed of local activities, notices and church events.

It is produced by a huge team of volunteers each month who not only edit a steady flow of local content, organise advertisers, arrange printing, insert monthly flyers and deliver to nearly 1600 households. It's a well-oiled machine which works very well and thanks to all our local advertisers ensures that its print and production costs are covered.

We have a small committee which meets two or three times a year and ensures we keep the village at the heart of what we do and that the Tower stays an important and informative document. We want to hear about what your group or organisation gets up to each month.

We currently have a waiting list of local advertisers and the temptation is to make the Tower 'bigger' or add colour pages but we feel that's its current format is the right one.

Any item which needs to be included needs to be with the editors by 12th of the month and preferably in 'word' format.

Keeping pace with technology we now provide an on-line version in PDF format on the parish council website: www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk/tower.html

If you need to contact the Tower we have all the necessary contact details printed at the front of each months copy of the Tower or email us on: kingscleretower@gmail.com

Kingsclere Youth Football

The club entered its 30th year and continues to provide a sporting environment for boys and girls of the village and surrounding areas. The club continues to hold the FA Charter Status – the kite mark of a quality club.

The club is running organised football in 5 age groups from Under 7 to Under 12 with training available to youngsters as they turn or approach 6 years of age. In all the club has just over 80 playing members.

Saturday morning training is held at the Fieldgate Centre in the early and large part of the season as poor drainage generally makes it an unreliable venue mid-season. Training is then moved to Michaels Field in Hannington where all matches are played as the Fieldgate cannot provide the pitches the club requires. The good news is that there is a major push to improve the drainage at the Fieldgate which may mean training can be held there throughout the season. If the work is successful small sided pitches might be created to allow for some matches to be played there but Hannington will probably have to remain the clubs main playing venue.

Kingsclere Royal British Legion April 2019 to March 2020

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



April 2018 started with a bang as your Kingsclere Branch of The Royal British Legion held its first ever "Fete Day" in late April which proved very popular with funds being raised for the branch which allows us to deliver more support to the community throughout the year.

Wreaths were laid throughout the year for village men who were killed in action during the First and Second World Wars and others to commemorate VJ Day, VE Day and the Battle of Britain Day events.

A number of "Away Day Saturdays" were also conducted throughout the year, with Fort Nelson and the D Day museum at Southsea visited by members of the branch and more are planned for 2019.

Recruitment is up! We have had 9 new members joining our branch since January 2019 making a for a great start to the year, which for a branch with only a relatively small number of members last year is a great achievement and is testament to the hard work the whole branch is putting into our publicity and media campaigns and the local support we are receiving.

The Remembrance event in the village had the largest attendance in memory, with support coming from all across the community and village organisation including a superb number of youngsters marching with us on the parade and we were honoured by Sgt Jim Beasant marching with us. The village was dressed with a number of Silent Soldiers and large lamp post mounted poppies, including one up our church tower and poppies were illuminated against the church wall (thanks to the Parish Council for this).

In December we undertook an idea to send Christmas parcels to servicemen and women who would be serving overseas on operational duty over the festive period. With the help of many villagers, the Scouts and Brownies the branch put together and mailed to various location 128 parcels; a feat which we are very proud of and we hope to increase on this number in 2019. The parcels were created and self-funded by branch members and donations from the community.

In late November we laid and dedicated a stone in the small garden opposite The Crown to remember and honour Lt Cdr Darren Chapman, Royal Navy; a village man who was sadly killed in action in Iraq. Attendance was made by family members as well as serving personnel from Darren's old unit.

We have also started 2019 off with a bang, winning two awards at the Royal British Legion Hampshire County Conference in January; our first ever won as a branch and it is superb to have some recognition of all the hard work our branch has put into raising our profile over the last year.

In an attempt to bring the community together more, we have established a Brunch Club which we intend to run on the first Saturday of each month at 11am in The Crown here in Kingsclere. The first Brunch Club was held in January with 18 attendees taking part, many who have shown interest to join the RBL. Brunch Club is planned to run on the first Saturday of each month and all are welcome however numbers of attendees are required the day before. Further details can be obtained from either our Facebook page (Kingsclere Royal British Legion) or from the Branch Chairman at Kingsclere.Chairman@RBL.Community

Planning is well underway to deliver a number of events over the year, including various branch "Saturday Club" outings and WW2 themed village "Bake Off" as is the plan to widen our interaction with the youth groups across the village this year.

All members of the community who are over 18 are welcome to join the Kingsclere Branch of the Royal British Legion. Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month from 7pm at The Crown, or join our Facebook page at "Kingsclere Royal British Legion".

Mark Holden
Chairman
Kingsclere Royal British Legion



Kingsclere Community Library

Kingsclere Community Library has had a successful year with support from HCC helping with book rotation and a weekly visit from Tadley library staff. Library membership has increased, and the library is now open one morning a month for the Village Bunnies. There is also a jigsaw library now running.



Kingsclere Community Association

It has been another good year for the community association. The number of people visiting the Fieldgate Centre increased, the financial position has stabilised and major improvements have been made in the building.

The Kingsclere Community Association (KCA) is a charity that runs the Fieldgate Centre and our objective is to provide for the benefit of the people of Kingsclere and the neighbourhood facilities that promote social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation, improving the well-being of those who live in the area. We are run by volunteers, not by the council, and rely on the support of many people to ensure we all can make the most of this fantastic community asset.

The number of people going to the Fieldgate continues to increase with 2018-19 seeing over 42,000 visiting the facility. This has been achieved by increased use by regular users who run classes at the centre and one-off hires for events and parties including five wedding receptions. Activities include Ceroc dancing, pilates, fitness classes, gentle aerobics, badminton and short mat bowling. There are Slimming World group sessions on Wednesday. The Youth Club is well attended and we ran the National Play Day event in August. The Christmas Sing Along saw the centre full of festive spirit and we were delighted to hold the "Lest we Forget" event to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War 1.

We have to generate all of the revenue to keep the centre running as we receive no funding from the council or other bodies to do this. Hire fees now make up 80% of our operating income with income from the bar making up the remainder. Hiring the centre out and running activities is therefore essential for the financial viability of the community association.

Replacement of aging infrastructure is now one of the key activities of the association to ensure that we have a facility for many years to come. This year has seen the replacement of doors and windows and next we plan to upgrade the heating and the electrical system. This work has been made possible by Local Infrastructure Fund grant from Basingstoke & Deane BC and a Community Building fund grant from Hampshire County Council. To fund further work we were delighted to be awarded a £100,000 matched funding grant by the Greenham Common Trust. The challenge we have is to raise the matched funding to allow this grant to be made available and we are making grant applications and running our own events to raise funds. We have been able to refresh the look of the centre with the installation of new curtains throughout, some new carpets and refurbished benches and we have also bought equipment all with the help of grants from Greenham Common Trust and the Four Lanes Trust. The financial assistance of our grant providers is vital as the expense of upgrading the centre is well beyond what we currently raise through operating revenue.

Although the playing fields are owned and run by B&DBC the KCA has been managing the upgrade of the outside sports facilities. The first upgrade has been the installation of an all-weather artificial turf surface in the Multi-Use Games Area court. This is now a great facility for many different types of sports activities including netball and football. We are currently working on the project to improve the drainage of the pitches.

The year ahead is packed with events and activities. There will be play sessions every Wednesday during the school holidays and we are starting up the Monthly Meet Up @ The Fieldgate, an event open to all. Look out for the Last Night of the Proms event to be held along with a Pantomime, a Rock Night, Racing Night and the Christmas Sing-along.

Thanks needs to go to all who provide their time to do so many different things for the KCA including managing day to day activities, running events, raising grants, decorating, repairing and refurbishing such as the great work on the benches. We could not operate without the support of the community and we would be really pleased to welcome anyone one who would like to help. Email – fieldgatecentre@btconnect.co.uk Website – www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk Phone - 01635297498

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd (FOSM) is an independent Charity, which was formed in 2001/2002, to help with the costs of preserving and maintaining the fabric of our ancient parish church of St Mary's. Under its constitution, FOSM may not contribute to the day-to-day running of the Church, nor to the Parish share of the Diocesan quota, but the Friends are able to make significant financial contributions towards work on maintaining and restoring the actual structure of the building.

The Charity was set up with the joint aims of helping with the cost of present repair works and building up a fund to meet such needs in the future. Since it was formed FOSM has contributed more than £110,000 towards the Church fabric. This has included part-funding the replacement of the creaking ancient boilers, major roof repairs, specialist restoration of weathered or damaged stonework, a grant of £32,500 towards the complete overhaul of St Mary's electrical wiring and lighting systems, and more recently one of £14,000 towards the redecoration of the Church. We have pledged further contributions towards the repairs to the Kingsmill Room, and the re-roofing of the Lady Chapel.

We are now looking to re-build our financial reserves in order to contribute to later projects in the 5-year rolling works schedule drawn up by the Parochial Church Council. To this end we organise a number of fund-raising events each year, such as Quiz Nights, an annual Plant Sale, visits to local wineries or herb farms, occasional joint ventures with other village organisations, etc. Funds are also raised from modest membership subscriptions, which are £10 a year for individual membership and £20 a year for families. Some events are exclusive to, or have preferential terms for, our members.

Anyone is welcome to become a Friend and thereby help to play a part in safeguarding this important and much-loved landmark at the heart of the village. We are also always looking for new people with ideas for, or to help with, our fund-raising activities. Those interested in becoming Friends should please contact Alan Denness, by phone on 01635 298376, or by email at alandenness@btinternet.com.

Peter Turner - Chairman

Kingsclere Village Bunnies

If you aren't familiar with Bunnies, we are a welcoming baby and toddler group based at the village club. We are open every Tuesday morning from 9am until 11am and are run by a small committee of volunteers. We welcome expectant parents who would like to meet others in a similar position, through to under 5's getting ready to go off to school. It is a great opportunity to meet local families, especially as the children often end up socialising with future classmates.

Each week there are a range of activities available including indoor and outdoor toys, a craft and often messy play in our tuff tray. We also have a special area for babies with bouncy chairs, rugs and baby toys. At 10:30, we tidy up the toys ready for a snack, gratefully provided by Swan Street Stores who offer a range of fruit each week. This is followed by singing, before we say farewell.

Over the last year we have enjoyed some extra events, beginning last July with our summer outing to 4 Kingdoms Adventure Park. Spotting farm animals on the tractor ride was great fun and there was plenty to keep all of the children entertained from the toddlers to pre-schoolers. We all cooled down with a much-needed ice cream, a treat from Bunnies!

We are also busy fundraising and held two successful table top sales. It was really lovely to welcome stallholders and shoppers, with many familiar faces supporting the events. There were some delicious cakes donated by group members and a fantastic tombola, all adding to our fundraising efforts.

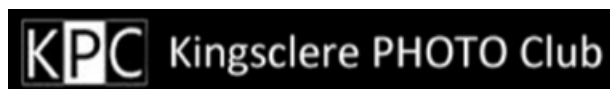
We were really pleased to welcome Rita from Songtree Music to our Christmas party this year. She entertained the children with a festive rhymetime while the children enjoyed dancing, singing and playing the musical instruments she provided.

Whilst we have a small group of committed volunteers running Bunnies, we are always looking for more helpers. If you are interested, please do pop in to find out more. You don't have to have children attending bunnies to join us – in fact the support of those committee members without children in session is crucial as often the demands of a toddler or pre-schooler can be enough!

If you have a preschool age child or are expecting, please do come along to one of our sessions for a free taster session.

We are a friendly group and look forward to welcoming you and your family.

Please get in touch at villagebunniestoddlergroup@gmail.com



Kingsclere Photo Club

During 2018, our 19th season, Kingsclere Photo Club met on the first Wednesday of the month at the Village Club and continued to offer a variety of events from speakers to practical workshops. In-house and external speakers covered topics including mobigraphy (mobile phone photography), travel to the West Indies and wildlife photographer Tom Way and underwater photographer Lena Roy instructed and entertained us with the fabulous images from all around the world.

Our practical workshop in September was well attended and the subject for the evening was 'oil and water' as well as objects for still life photography.

Our photography 'challenges' indeed challenged our creativity; 'Beyond' producing the most varied results. 'Inspired by....' Challenged members to reproduce a favourite work of art or photography and works by Constable, Monet and Escher to name a few were recreated, some members using post processing to achieve the desired result.

Photos from all of our challenges and workshop were displayed at our 11th exhibition, alongside photographs from our annual photo walk, this year from Hannington back to Kingsclere together with panels of 20 members photographs, the criteria being that the photographs must have been taken during the year. As well as our calendar of photographs taken in the Kingsclere area, members notelets, cards and postcards were also on sale as well as a number of mounted photographic prints. Entry to the Exhibition was free, and approx. 150 people attended in spite of a very wet weekend. Also included were three panels of photos from the photographic club in Cormicy. Chris Brown's photo of Wells cathedral won the public vote competition.

The darkroom was used 10 times between November 2017 and October 2018. New members have joined to use from Basingstoke, Southampton and Hungerford.

Kingsclere Walking Group

Kingsclere Walking Group continues to provide a varied programme of walks for members from the village and surrounding areas. Each month we publish a programme of 2 to 3 walks, varying in distance of between 5 – 10 miles. We are now entering our 14th year with a membership of approximately 60 people.

During the past 12 months the group have had walking trips to the Derbyshire Dales and the Lake District. Both trips were hugely successful with everyone enjoying the varied programme of walks on offer. For this coming September we are planning another walking weekend in the Brecon Beacons, where we have as a group enjoyed numerous trips before.



Kingsclere Film Club

Kingsclere Film Club continues to thrive thanks to its hard-working committee and enthusiastic members. Each year a range of films from different eras and genres is selected and shown. This year the programme began with 'Forrest Gump'. It included the excellent classic 'It happened one night' (released in 1937) which was thoroughly enjoyed by all; the joyous 'Paddington 2' the centre piece of the Christmas party) and 'Finding your Feet', a recent 'feel good' film. Our members are encouraged to suggest titles, although not all are easy to licence. They also appreciate the excellent wine and nibbles available, and enjoy the opportunity to chat before and after the films. Films are shown in the hall at the Village Club on the 2nd Saturday of each month (except October, when we meet on the first Saturday to accommodate the Photo Club exhibition).

For further information contact the membership Secretary, Diana Tait (298494) or Chairman John Sawyer(297221).

Kingsclere Heritage Association

The aims of KHA are to find out about the history of Kingsclere and the local area and to build an archive. Around 25 people attend however they are members of an aging population and younger people are needed to look after the archive for the village. Last November KHA appealed to residents for photos of Kingsclere soldiers killed in WW1 and WW2. They have had a major breakthrough with the discovery of a gunnery range on the road from Kingsclere to Sydmonton consisting of 30 buildings and a railway. This information was received from an ex-Kingsclere resident now living in Canada. The KHA has also managed to date some old photos, a photo of George Street dated to 1897 celebrating Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee and a photo of Kingsclere Square possibly being the same date. Last May there was a group trip to the Houses of Parliament and there was a trip to Reading Abbey advertised in the Tower however this opportunity wasn't taken up by anyone. A website is hopefully in development, if anyone has any information about the village or local area please inform the KHA, likewise if anyone wishes to be part of looking after and adding to the archive please get in touch.

Kingsclere Singers

The Kingsclere Singer's Annual General Meeting is a time to review our achievements and 'learnings' over the last year. To look to the future and how we work towards our share goals.

Our repertoire has expanded. As usual we have worked hard on the variety of music. We have sung with enthusiasm and gusto. Our events have been varied, challenging and enjoyable. They ranged from afternoon tea with music to evening concerts, weddings and other events.

We are most grateful to our Honorary President Jon Whitfield, who also supplies ideas, music and sorts out the sound system at our events. Our choir members work together to organise the advertising, raffle, stage, refreshments - all that makes the event successful. Thank you everyone.

Good news, the choir membership has increased, Not only more sopranos and altos; we now have an impressive number of basses. More tenors will be good. The Kingsclere Singers have developed soloists and conductors who have enhanced our concerts, and given the choir an additional dimension, Thank you.

During the year members have coped with difficult life events. It was a great shock that our helpful, efficient, lovely secretary Hannah was very ill. It is great she is recovering and supports us at our events.

Our dedicated musical director Hazel as always enthuses and inspires the choir. She has encouraged and supported all aspects of the choir. Thank you for everything, you are incredible.

Our very talented accompanist Paul enables the choir to learn our pieces quickly through his ability to play all combinations of the parts as required. Thank you for all you do for Kingsclere Singers.

During the year the choir has met many challenges, and supported one another through the difficult and fantastic times. The future of K/S is our shared responsibility guided by our music director and committee.

Kingsclere Charities

Kingsclere Almshouse Charity

The Charity owns two Almshouses in George Street Kingsclere known as Browns Cottages. These are both one bedroom bungalows.

Both the bungalows are occupied once more after the sad demise of Mrs Doris Field on the 30th October 2018.

We have ten one bedroom bungalows in Galley Lane Headley, known as The Durbidges. There is also an on-site Warden at The Durbidges

The Almshouse Charity was set up primarily to help those in need in the Parishes of Kingsclere, Headley and Ashford Hill. The criteria then and now is the need to have a connection with the said Villages.

Robert Higham Apprenticeship and Education Charity

We welcome and receive applications for Grants from students in the above Parishes ages 16 - 25 in full time education and further education assisting financially with books, travel expenses, equipment associated with their courses. We do not pay towards course fees however. Application forms can be obtained from the Clerk using kingsclerecharities@iname.com

Kingsclere Welfare Charity

We welcome and receive applications for Grants from persons of all ages, non means tested, for medical aids, disabled equipment, hospital travel for patients, palliative care aids etc: from the above Parishes. Application forms can be obtained from the Clerk using kingsclerecharities@iname.com

The Trustees meet five times a year on the third Thursday of February, April, June, September and November in the Holding Room Kingsclere. We have 9 Trustees and one Clerk. The trustees are from the said Parishes.

Parish Paths

The Parish Paths keep 24 miles of well used paths accessible and meet every month at the village – dates are in the Tower. The Small friendly group is grateful of the support of the Parish Council, everyone is welcome please come and join.

Kingsclere Players

The WW1 performance last November was a big event for the Kingsclere Players. Many social events have been held and we are looking to put on events such as a murder mystery with St Mary's Church and a pantomime in November.