

The Kingsclere Tower

EDITORS:	Nicki Lee, Sarah Hewitt & Mike Stokoe	
ADVERTISING:	Brian Elborn b.elborn345@btinternet.com	☎ 298704
DISTRIBUTION:	Brian Elborn	☎ 298704
ASSEMBLY:	Andrew Kitch	☎ 299743
PRINTERS:	Kingsclere Design and Print	
LAYOUT:	Claire Harris	
COVER:	Mike Stokoe	

The last Tower issue I edited was in February. What a long time ago that seems. The teams who have worked on the last 3 issues have had a chaotic time, receiving event cancellations and new notices right up to the last minute. I think everyone did a great job – including our newest layout volunteer, Claire, who was really thrown in at the deep end!

At the start of lockdown there was a strong feeling from the entire Tower team that it was vitally important to continue communicating to our community, some of whom may not have access to the internet to keep pace with the constant changes, and have not been able to see local friends.

We hope you have found your magazine useful, and perhaps comforting, during this period. As restrictions ease we hope to start seeing events being announced, and the return of our vibrant community.

Please send us articles that might be of interest – we have pages we need to fill!

Most importantly, stay safe.

Editor: Sarah

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 August 2020 issue: 12 July 2020

Send copy to the editors at 3 Blue Meadow, Garrett Close, Kingsclere or
email: [**kingscleretower@gmail.com**](mailto: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 or 07915 950407

Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk

Office: 37 George St, Kingsclere RG20 5NH



SSE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES FUND – The Parish Council has been successful in its bid to this fund and secured £380.00 to provide PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for the Kingsclere Covid-19 volunteers. So far, we have provided hi-vis waistcoats, hand-sanitiser and reusable(washable) masks to the door/queue volunteers in Swan Street as well as disposable gloves to volunteers delivering to those who are Shielding or Self Isolating. If you require equipment for the volunteer work you are doing in response to the pandemic please contact the Clerk (contact details above).

CRISIS LINE FOR 11-17 YEAR OLDS – Havant and East Hants Mind is excited to share with you a Freephone Crisis Line for children and young people aged 11-17 years old living in Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

The service is available Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 3pm - 8:30pm including bank holidays providing immediate access to help, support and advice for young people experiencing difficulties with their mental health.

The Hampshire & IOW Crisis Line has now been running for one month and has received many calls from young people across areas, however, there is capacity to support even more young people during this challenging time.

The Crisis Line can provide:

- Immediate access to safe & confidential one to one emotional support via **Freephone 0300 303 1590**
- Crisis de-escalation
- Self-harm/suicide safety planning
- Healthy coping skills & resources such as CBT/DBT skills/mindfulness/relaxation/selfcare
- Signposting for both young people & parents

If you would like a leaflet to be able to give to a young person to make them aware of this service please contact the parish office on the above contact details and we can either provide this electronically or print out a copy for posting.

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



facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil



@kingsclerepc

BDBC GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION START DATE CONFIRMED

Garden waste collections are set to resume from Monday 15 June for existing customers as staffing levels begin to stabilise following the COVID-19 outbreak. This follows the reintroduction of the council's bulky waste collection service in May. The staggered approach has seen those services requiring the fewest staff brought back online first to ensure the existing waste, recycling and clinical waste services can be maintained for the duration of the pandemic.

Waste collections, which were reduced to a fortnightly collection on Monday 20 April and have the biggest impact on staffing, will remain on the current collection schedule until both the council and Serco are confident the weekly service can be sustained by the crews during the pandemic.

Following the suspension of the service in March, all existing garden waste customers will receive a letter advising them that the service is restarting. This will include information on their collection date, frequently asked questions including details regarding the extension of their annual subscription. **No new customers can be accepted to the service at this time but this will be reviewed.**

For more information on the services and frequently asked questions visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/covid-19-bins-and-recycling

CONTACTING HAMPSHIRE POLICE – A message from Basingstoke &

Deane Neighbourhood Watch Association – If you have a police matter to report, information needs to be passed by the witnessing person, straight to the police at the time of the incident. The 101 phone number can be very busy and that is most often because the call centre is shared with the main 999 emergency line and if something major is going on, then the 101 calls take a lower priority. It is however very important that the original person makes contact as in many cases, the police need to follow up and ask additional questions at a later date.

As well as the 101 phone route, many issues can be reported on line at the Hampshire Constabulary website www.hampshire.police.uk.

If a person is reluctant to or cannot report as above, then a last resort is Crimestoppers with a website at www.crimestoppers-uk.org or by freephone at 0800 555 111. However, please be aware that as an anonymous organisation, whilst crime details are passed to the police, your personal details are never given to the police. This obviously hinders investigations where officers might need to ask you further follow up questions.

Can we please ask that you make that call or report online. Do not assume that someone else will do it. Thank you for your time and co-operation.

Outlining the main principles for a new community of up to 3,520 new homes, businesses, shops and community facilities, schools and a 250 acre country park, the application will be the only one considered at the committee's virtual meeting on Wednesday 8 July at 2pm. The meeting will be live streamed through You Tube so it can be watched through the website at www.basingstoke.gov.uk in the same way as it would normally be webcast.

For more information about the application visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/manydownplanning

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – will be at 7:30pm on Monday 27th July 2020, using Zoom Virtual Meeting Software unless government restrictions in place for Covid-19 are lifted, in which case normal meeting procedures will resume in the Village Club. Any member of the public wishing to attend should email the Clerk

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Hail Our Heroes



Many people and businesses have stepped forward to help others out during this extremely trying time. Our local shops, the volunteers helping with organising safer entry to the shops, neighbours helping neighbour - examples are everywhere of people being helpful, kind and thoughtful. This is happening all over the country, and as usual, Kingsclere has risen to the challenge. Some people have written in with individuals they wanted to celebrate. We applaud their contributions and all the other unsung heroes quietly getting on with it.

“I would like to nominate Carole-Anne Dykes who has been doing my shopping since lockdown started as well as shopping for 3 other people in the street? I am very grateful to her. She is also doing Home Schooling and voluntary work in Basingstoke.”

S Davis

“I would like to nominate Mr Butt and his team at the Kingsclere Pharmacy. Not only for their continued hard work, during the current pandemic but for everything that they have done for the village before.

In 15 years of living in Kingsclere, I have never heard a bad word leveled against Mr Butt. He is one of the most decent and respected gentlemen that I have had the honour and privilege to have known. Thankyou Mr Butt.”

K Whitehouse



St Michael's Hospice - Loose change, tins and boxes appeal

Normally I would be collecting the tins and boxes this July, but because of the virus, not this summer. Depending on government advice and the Covid19 situation, I'll aim to do the January collection. Meanwhile, if anyone would like another box I can leave one on your doorstep.

If you can, please keep collecting loose change, the Hospice needs your help.
Thank you. Clare Risoe 297036

Kingsclere CE Primary School

What extraordinary times we all find ourselves in.

It has now been several months since we were first asked to close the school and I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on our progress. Also, to extend our sincere thanks to the many people without whom this would not have been possible.

Throughout this period, we have welcomed our Key Worker and Vulnerable children to school to support the wider Covid-19 effort. Numbers have steadily increased and I can report that we now have over 25% of our children, well above the national average, back in school thanks to the supreme efforts of all involved. This currently includes children in Reception, key workers and other key groups, and we are working closely with Hampshire County Council to try to get Year 1 back as soon as possible.

Of course, we are very sad not to be able to have all children back, but we continue to closely follow all of the government guidelines, and the safety of the children, staff and indeed the whole school community must come first.

An enormous amount of work has been required to get us to this stage, and we simply could not have done it without the amazing support of our entire staff team. They have worked tirelessly and given so much of their own time, embracing new technologies, and doing everything from shifting furniture, cleaning, and gardening to performing online! We have been open every day apart from three since this period began, including school and Bank Holidays. It has been a huge team effort and their work is hugely appreciated.



I also want to thank the fantastic group of volunteers who joined us over the weekend to clear external pathways to allow for wider spaces and create 2m lines on pavements, all in an effort to support us in keeping the school environment safe. They worked tremendously hard and we are incredibly grateful.

It is at times like these that we are reminded of the fantastic community spirit of our village! We too are trying to do our part and have been working with a local food charity, preparing and delivering food packages to nine families who are shielding or vulnerable locally – thanks to all involved.

While the school looks different to normal, it remains our usual bright and busy place to learn. The children have been absolutely brilliant and the glorious weather we enjoyed last month meant we could enjoy much learning time outside!



In April, we launched ‘Seesaw’ as our online learning platform, which has been a big hit with many of our families! The children are receiving video messages from the staff and have specific daily learning activities available to motivate and engage them. It has been fantastic to see how many of the children are throwing themselves into it, sharing the fun and learning they are experiencing at home.

We know this has been a really challenging time for many families and we thank them again for their ongoing support and patience. At time of writing, the government’s next steps remain undecided, but please rest assured of our total commitment to supporting all Kingsclere CE Primary children, whether they are at school or at home.

Hannah Melrose

Kingsclere Tennis Club

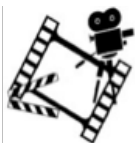
Kingsclere Tennis Club courts are open again after earlier restrictions, made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic. There are guidelines in place to help to keep everyone safe. The courts have been refurbished and there is now a simple booking system in place, to make organizing play easier for all members.



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

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

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



Kingsclere Film Club

It would be good to think that we might meet in the not too distant future, and we have been giving this some thought. Much depends on the advice when the time comes and the Village Club is reopened, but it should be possible to observe social distancing and organise safe arrival and departure. It may be necessary to operate a reservation system, if numbers in the hall are limited. We will keep you informed.

When we resume, we intend to continue the year's programme as we have the DVDs and have bought the licences for the rest of the season. So, our first film will be *The White Crow*, a drama based on the defection of Rudolf Nureyev at the height of the Cold War in 1961. Part *le Carre* style thriller, part biography with stunning ballet scenes. Let's hope we are able to screen it soon.

Please stay safe and stay in touch.

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



Kingsclere Community Library

We may be reopening the library in July, and as of mid-June we are studying how to do this safely for you as well as our volunteers, working with the Hampshire Library Service and the Village Club.

When we reopen we will post notices on the village notice boards and on our Facebook page. Please check there, or email or phone for information.

If you would like to borrow books, you may download to read online using your library card. Please go to the website - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives>

While we remain closed, our Jigsaw puzzles may still be borrowed from the Swan car park on some days. This is dependent on good weather and the car park being clear of building works, which is beyond our control.

Nicki Lee, Kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com

CAMARADERIE IN AUGUST

We are unsure at the moment whether we can go ahead with our Camaraderie meeting planned for Wednesday August 5th. It all depends on Government guidelines. There will be more information in next month's Tower. Many thanks and keep safe.

Sarah, Wendy and Pam.



It seems a long time since our 2nd Sustainable Market on 14th March, and our world has changed unrecognisably in the three month period since. It can feel as though green issues are taking a back seat while Covid-19 wreaks havoc globally.

The world had finally seemed to be taking notice of the need to reduce our dependence on single-use plastics, having viewed numerous disturbing images of the impact on the world's oceans, wildlife and habitats. Large organisations and individuals alike were taking significant steps to change things for the better.

Sadly there is now renewed emphasis on the need for single-use plastics, whether that be PPE, or plastic cups and cutlery in hospitality. NHS and key workers of course need to protect themselves and their clients, however it has been alarming to see the volume of plastic being disposed of, with every indication this will continue for some time. Images of discarded plastic face masks, gloves, and fast food cartons on pavements, in parks, and on beaches are also cause for concern.

Hopefully, for many reasons, we can all return to some sort of normality in the coming months, then we can turn some of our attention back to our planet and the importance of being better custodians of it for future generations.

In the meantime, do follow Greener Kingsclere on Facebook, where we are posting updates on local sustainable organisations as they modify their businesses to enable them to safely re-open.

Stay safe everyone,

Sarah, Nicki and Lucinda

greenerkingsclere@gmail.com

Reflections

It would have been difficult to imagine at the beginning of the year being fearful to leave home and walk into the village or indeed to be out and about in Newbury or Basingstoke. We live in such a safe area that any such thoughts would have been a long way from our minds. We'd identify such feelings with living in some far flung place torn apart by war, perhaps Syria, or somewhere where corruption reigns supreme in government, perhaps Columbia. Or maybe we might think of some of London's toughest areas for knife crime. But not here where things are so safe.



And yet that is the situation we find ourselves in with many of us feeling a heightened sense of caution, if not fear, of going out. As lockdown eases then, I wonder how you feel about beginning to meet people face to face and even to gather together. Perhaps you are delighted to do so finally or perhaps you feel things have been opened up too quickly. Perhaps you've quite enjoyed the time spent a little more isolated, a little more in control of who you interact with, and worry about everything going back to how it was.

As we emerge from these challenging few months, there will be things that we want to hold onto, perhaps a slower pace to life, perhaps a more responsible approach to the environment, perhaps a greater priority on family and friends. I wonder though if there also might be something that God might be saying to us individually. I wonder if we've realised a need when we felt most scared that we perhaps didn't know was there. I wonder if we've woken up to our need for God, as Protector and Saviour. If so, then why not call on the Lord; He is always listening. And He is the One, as the Bible puts it, who alone can 'make me dwell in safety' (Psalm 4:8).

And He longs to be that place for you today. I looked back to my first article this year before I knew anything about Covid-19, and the topic was God as our 'hiding place'. I talked about the courage of hiding in Jesus, acknowledging our need for Him, surprisingly appropriate. I pray you might know Him as your place of safety, and hiding place, even as we emerge from such troubling times.

Blessings, Ben

St. Mary's Church

Worship

As we write this in early June, we are beginning to receive guidance on how the church can begin to open for private prayer. We're looking at how we can start to gather again for worship once the restrictions allow, but as yet we don't have a date. Until that time, we will continue to live-stream worship every Sunday at 10am on Youtube.

Join us via our website www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk.

As soon as we decide when services will resume, we will publish details on our website as well as putting posters up around the village and sending out an email to our newsletter subscribers (please contact administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk if you would like to be included).

When we are able to gather, our services will follow a new pattern:

	8 a.m. (Book of Common Prayer)	9.30 a.m. (Common Worship)	10.30 a.m.
First Sunday	Headley Holy Communion	Kingsclere Holy Communion	Kingsclere Morning Worship
Second Sunday	Kingsclere Holy Communion	Headley Morning Worship (Lay Led with Homily)	Kingsclere All-age Messy Worship
Third Sunday		Ashford Hill Morning Worship (Lay Led with Homily)	Kingsclere Communion Service
Fourth Sunday		Ashford Hill Holy Communion	Kingsclere Morning Worship (Lay Led)
Fifth Sunday			Kingsclere Communion Service

We aim to continue to live-stream services to those who are unable to get to the church, and offer recordings of the sermon on CD for those who don't have the internet.

Food donations

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

Prayer and Friendship

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

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

Contact Us

Rev Ben Read: 01635 298471 or vicar@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

Emma Rivers (administrator): 0779 0934972 or

administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

Website: www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

St Mary's Church Fete

It is with great regret and disappointment that we have decided to cancel the church fete this year. As we are still in partial lockdown and not allowed mass gatherings due to Covid 19, we have had to make this difficult decision. Those of you that have organised this large event will know, it takes many months preparation well ahead and with the uncertainty we are running out of time. Watch this space for future events hopefully later in the year.

Thank you for your understanding and support to St Mary's.
Sarah Mussett

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, Church Administrator, tel 0779 0934972**

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| 15th July | Remembering Roy Hazell on his birthday. Always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts. Wendy. Nicholas. Matthew. Victoria. Gosia. Anna & Lara. |
| 15th July | Treasured memories of Dear Roy on his birthday. Norma. Julie & Neil. |
| 21st July | For Hope Hardy - We said hello and goodbye at the same time, we will love you forever and miss you always, Love Nanna and Papa x |
| 25th July | Thinking of you Murph on what would have been our 50th Wedding Anniversary. Love and miss you always, Den |
| 25th July | Rev David John Carter 28-2-1937 - 25-7-2013. Seven years now since you left us - Always missed and never far from our thoughts. A loving Husband, Father and Grandfather. Loved so much by all. Pauline, Nick, Helen & Kev, Jo & Mark, Sam, Tom, Abbie & Elliot. |
| 5th August | For my darling Mark. Time passes, love remains. Amanda & Rocket |

Sue Woodman [1935-2020]

My beloved wife, of 62 years, Sue has died peacefully on Friday 12 June. She was suffering from the effects of Parkinsons disease which she fought bravely for over twenty years. Sue was a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother whose charm and good humour made her friends wherever she went.

We lived in Kingsclere for over 33 years and she was Parish Clerk from 1984 to 1999. She loved the village and the community and devoted much of her time to it. We will be holding a simple, small cremation service here in Kent.

Peter Woodman

Sue was an excellent Parish clerk for 15 years. She was a loyal helper on the Parish Paths team, and also in the sewing/embroidery group in the Village Club. She was in the WRENS and met Peter, who was in the Navy, when they were both serving in Malta.

Heath Denness

METHODIST NOTES

Pauline Trowbridge (Betty)

It is with great sadness that we let you know of the death of a very dear friend and supporter of Kingsclere Methodist Church. Betty passed away on the 3rd June 2020 after a short illness and a day after her 89th birthday.

She was a regular at our Thursday Coffee Mornings and always arrived looking Absolutely Fabulous ! Her hair was always beautifully done and her (sometimes) very colourful outfits and her jewellery always matched. I remember on one occasion I was wearing a necklace which she thought would go extremely well with the outfit she was wearing. She told me so - in no uncertain terms and I duly handed it over. She put it on and of course she was right , it looked lovely.

She liked her Tea strong and served not in a Mug but in a proper Cup and Saucer. So we bought her her own set which was kept at Church for her personal use only!

Betty moved to Rose Hodson Court in 2012 , having previously lived in Dunstable , Cornwall and Witney. She married Albert (Trow) Trowbridge who was in the Army and for 20 years they lived in married quarters, both in this country and in Cyprus.

She was the proud Mother of four children, Richard , Jennifer , Jayne and Dawn and she had 14 Grandchildren and 18 Great Grandchildren. Betty was also the eldest of seven sisters , most of whom would come to the Coffee Mornings with her and afterwards take her out for Lunch when they were usually joined by some good friends .

As an avid supporter of Bournemouth Football Club she tried never to miss a televised match and could be found sitting in front of the T,V, wearing her supporters Shirt and Scarf , cheering them on.

Betty had a huge personality , a great zest for life and a lovely sense of humour. It was always a pleasure to be in her company and she leaves a huge hole in the lives of her family and numerous friends.



Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands WI

Venue: Kingsclere Village Club,
35 George Street

While we wait and hope for success in the fight against the Coronavirus pandemic - enough to allow us to resume our monthly meetings - we are doing our best to keep in touch with our W.I. members and with those booked speakers whose talks had to be put on hold. To our delight, presenters have responded in kind.

One such person is **Tom McInulty**, a Senior Regional Manager of the Macular Society who was to have been our speaker this month. Tom lost his sight 37 years ago due to an accident; a life-changing event in anyone's books. His response to this catastrophe was remarkable. He got involved with first one then a good many other charities that required steady fund-raising. His efforts through the years have involved, among many other feats, abseiling the Spinnaker Tower in Southampton, running a couple of London Marathons and climbing Australia's highest mountain.

Tom and his current guide dog Toby (his third such companion in 30 years) have recently had to 'take it easy' after going on Furlough for 3 weeks in turn with other Macular Society members. What to do, then? He explains how during extended walks they discovered a previously unexplored section of their local woods and describes the joy of unwinding totally for a brief period amid birdsong and wildflowers, just soaking up the Springtime sounds & smells of the place. Never one to rest for long, he adds that having joined neighbours in his village to applaud NHS workers each Thursday evening (and to celebrate VE Day) he's fired up with another idea: to establish a Street Committee for future events.

Now back in harness at Macular Society, he wraps up his message to us: "Tom & Toby are back and raring to go!" Well, you know what, Tom? We at W.I. could do with a revitalising blast of your & Toby's energy and optimism and cannot wait to get more news of you & your Society's plans for the future. Now that is something to look forward to.

Nova Saunderson - 01635 299570

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group



Now the summer is here and lockdown has begun to ease (at time of writing), we are really excited to get out and about visiting our local country side – respecting all social distancing. There are so many lovely places to visit around us, one that a friend recommended recently was Crabtree Plantation near Old Basing. We hadn't been there before but it was a great place to play for children with lots of fallen trees to balance on and log shelters to hide in and a big open space for picnics. If you come across a new destination that is great for kids, why not share it on our Kingsclere Bunnies Facebook page!

We hope you all have a lovely summer and would love to be back in September, all being well.

Where: The Village Club, George St

When: Every Tuesday, 9am-11am

Cost: First visit free. After that, £1 for bumps and unweaned babies. £2 for first child (including snack donated by Swan St Stores) and 50p for additional children.

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

July in the Garden

July can be a hot month, so watering plants is helpful to keep them healthy and growing well. If plants are struggling in dry weather this will encourage pests and diseases, which will weaken them further.

Mowing and feeding lawns is ongoing in the growing months. Having to wait for rain to be forecast so that grass feed can be applied is a challenge in itself as rainfall levels in these months seems to be non-existent for our area in recent years.

If you enjoy wildlife in your garden they too could need some water. Ponds will need topping up and a good idea is to have a couple of large stones at the pond edge so that frogs can get out of the water easily.

Roses will need dead heading. I usually prune a small amount, cutting back to a bud leaf axil as this encourages new growth.

Now is time to cut back conifer hedges and unwanted shoots from tree trunks. There will be a number of flowering shrubs that can be cut back now they have finished flowering. I do have a couple of Clematis that I cut back, but you need to know if they are varieties that flower again in the late summer/autumn. Vyvyan Pennell is one variety that works well.

Irises can be lifted and divided. If left the result is that you get lots of rhizomes and no top growth, plus plenty of weeds. Having just finished this exercise I regret leaving this job undone for too long. If you feel inspired, finished spring bulbs can be dug up and dried, ready to plant in the Autumn. Early potatoes should be ready to lift. Onions and shallots can be harvested. Leeks need to be planted out. Carrots and spring cabbage can be sown. Don't forget to give runner beans plenty of water.

Raspberries will need watering. Gooseberries and currants should be ready to be picked. When strawberries have finished give the plants a good chop.

Tomatoes will be producing fruits, and the plants will need to be feed regularly. Outside-grown plants really only need four flowering trusses. If more are left they are unlikely to ripen, unless you are growing bush varieties.

Sow foxglove seeds now and any other biennial plants. Do have a go at gathering seeds. I've had some really lovely delphiniums this year that come from an old plant, giving me a variety of different blues, very rewarding.

Denise Allen

Kingsclere Gardening Association

Regrettably nothing to report due to government advice. We have been unable to hold committee meetings, run outings, hold shows or have plant sales. Soon we must decide if there will be a show in August. I have already had two judging commitments for August cancelled and one for July. I expect another one fairly soon to be cancelled. Will we be having meetings this winter? Who knows? If still in place the two metre rule will give us problems.

I hope that all the plants grown for the sale in May found homes. All of mine did except a few runner beans going into the compost bin this week. Those of us fortunate enough to have gardens have enjoyed more time in them. The weather has been good but not enough rain. Still, why complain?



My bird feeders have been well used: goldfinches in numbers of at least two dozen, and now the young tits and sparrows have arrived and demand attention from the parents. All winter there were no chaffinches around. I thought they had gone where endangered species go, but no, spring arrived and so did they, along with the odd greenfinch. One blackbird has claimed sole rights to the strawberry patch and fights off all others, The woodpeckers must have their young as now the adults are continuously on the peanuts, doubtless carrying them back to their young, who no doubt will be brought along to find their own food soon.

New potatoes have been harvested and runner beans, also some peas grown in the greenhouse. Sweet peas are flowering well, and dahlias planted out. Will I be able to show them?

The chickens have done well with extra demands placed upon them - no eggs in shops! How strange it was at the beginning of lockdown to go into supermarkets and find empty shelves. One realised there is no certainty in life. Please note I use the term harvested as everything nowadays is harvested; never collected, or dug, or taken. Strange times for older folk.

John Eckton

St Mary's Churchyard Wildflower Area

The wildflower area in the churchyard is a very special place, a little patch of nature that we in Kingsclere can be proud of. Some people think it looks untidy in comparison with the war memorial next to it, and while that demonstrates a different horticultural approach, both areas are very much loved and cared for in different ways. For the wildflower area the grass cutting is done just once or twice a year to allow the rich assemblage of native chalkland flower species to flower and seed here; the churchyard is on the same chalk soil as the surrounding downlands.

In 2016 it was designated a site of special interest for nature conservation (SINC) by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. And this year it has already been spectacular, showing how much it deserves its designation.

In the spring there were primroses and cowslips. Then it became white with a magnificent display of meadow saxifrage: exciting because they are not very common around here, there was a rival display in Ecchinswell churchyard but otherwise just a scattered few on Watership Down and Ladle Hill.

Even better, now as I write in early June, there are about 20 spikes of greater butterfly orchid which is not anywhere else nearby – the numbers are up on previous years, another feather in the Kingsclere cap! There are also pyramid orchids, common spotted orchids, twayblades and hopefully there will soon be beautiful bee orchids and perhaps some fragrant orchids. Six orchid species on that tiny patch of ground is amazing! (There used to be seven but we did not see any white helleborines this year, maybe they will reappear another year). Yellow rattle is flowering, most important because it is partially parasitic and weakens some of the ‘thuggish’ species of grass which could overrun the site if left to their own devices.

Other typical plants include two species of knapweed and the distinctive yellow-brown, knapweed broomrape which has no green colouration because it is parasitic on the roots of greater knapweed; it is fairly frequent around here but rare in UK generally. Chalk-loving non-flowering plants are also scattered across the plot, see if you can spot the very pretty quaking grass, glaucous sedge and field wood-rush. I have counted over 40 different species in total which is remarkable for such a small churchyard plot and makes it welcome to beneficial insects such as bees and butterflies and therefore good for birds and bats too.

Sarah Ball



Nature Notes

The first lines of a 1958 hit song put it so well: ‘The day that the rains came down, Mother Earth smiled again’. After a record breaking May for sunshine and lack of recorded precipitation, a sudden heavy shower in early June brought enough rain to bring a smile to Farmer, Gardener and Southern Water alike. Afterwards, plants stood to attention and the soil looked viable once more rather than like dust.

In late May we managed a distanced walk around our favourite lake after three attempts, thwarted by floods in Spring and lockdown due to Covid19. Fluff, from the seeds of the great willows lay along the tracks like grey snow and formed a pale surface on the lake edge. The lake surface was alive with damselflies, larger dragonflies and other flying insects but we were disappointed not to see swallows and martens taking advantage of the feast. Hopes of spotting hobbies were dashed also but cuckoos were calling. The tern raft was occupied again and three well grown chicks were present, two were practising short flights from the raft.

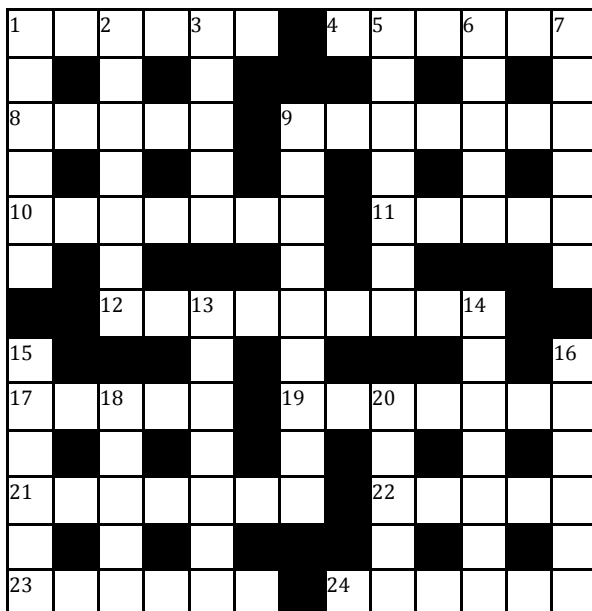


On the same outing we were confronted by a swan column on the rutted track that lies between the lakes, Dad leading six tiny cygnets in single file and Mum in the rear with a weaker cygnet behind her desperately trying to keep up. We eyed each other and decided to stand quietly to the side of the track whereupon they continued their journey past us, watchfully but calmly.

A recently re-potted outdoor plant has sprouted two sunflower seedlings. A coal tit, seen investigating the potting compost is the likely little gardener as they are known to cache seeds.

Diana Tait and Rod Eldred

Kingsclere Cryptic Crossword



Across

1. An ohm does this naturally. (6)
4. Growth in Brussels. (6)
8. In a worried ram attitudes can suggest a play. (5)
9. A letter in a pint – there must be a message there somewhere. (7)
10. Against the lab in Switzerland - there is a worry. (7)
11. A croupier's perfect job. (5)
12. Likely to give one a sticky hairdo. (9)
17. _____ Hay from Huxley. (5)
19. Does the sin seem to warrant their downfall? (7)
21. Anticipate confusion over the rose fee. (7)
22. From the earlobe see signs of being corpulent. (5)
23. In Hamlet halberds have a fatal part. (6)
24. He said he made me an offer; in part it was a put down. (6)

Down

1. A diminished Italian leader follows a short reference. (6)
2. Loyally stemming the flow. (7)
3. Fish for ice? (5)
5. A stipulation is needed. (7)
6. The confused shell is unusual. (5)
7. A youthful sound – three of them? (6)
9. A nonce in any model causes irritation. (9)
13. A coin is discovered for divided capital. (7)
14. How honey producers gain territory – by the sound of it! (7)
15. With added direction unpleasantness becomes legal. (6)
16. Eric's sainted partner is definitely behind. (6)
18. A pack of 78 helps foresee events in the right hands. (5)
20. O some upset for transatlantic elk. (5)



For all 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
andover.cats.org.uk

Although we are still closed for rehoming due to the Covid-19 outbreak, we are hopeful that it won't be long until we are able to reopen.

We are currently trying to raise funds online whilst the branch is closed. If you can spare anything to help our cats and kittens, please visit the following link to donate.



<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Andover-and-District>

Thank you.

This handsome mog is Murphy, he's just over a year old and is a little nervous. He has come from a multi-cat household so would appreciate being the only cat in an adult home. If you think you can offer Murphy a home once we reopen, please get in touch.

Kingsclere Cryptic Crossword – answers:

Across: 1. Resist. 4. Sprout. 8. Drama. 9. Apostle. 10. Concern. 11. Ideal.
 12. Honeycomb. 17. Antic. 19. Nemesis. 21. Foresee. 22. Obese. 23. Lethal.
 24. Demean.

Down: 1. Reduce. 2. Staunch. 3. Skate. 5. Proviso. 6. Outre. 7. Treble. 9. Annoyance.
 13. Nicosia. 14. Besiege. 15. Lawful. 16. Astern. 18. Tarot. 20. Moose.

