

KINGSLERE ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Kingsclere Parish Council Chairman's Report 2021 - 2022

As the pandemic continued into a second year, Kingsclere Parish Council found itself facing new challenges. Thankfully, we were able to meet face-to-face, a great improvement on the previous year, with a total of about 400 hours of volunteer Parish Councillor time. I would like to thank our team for their dedication and hard work.

The biggest challenge for the Council has been financial. Set against a background of a decade of grant reductions, rising costs, and minimal precept rises, we spent much of the year reviewing, revising and restructuring the Council's finances. The general situation was not helped by some significant unexpected expenditure, such as a water leak on the allotments and a traveller incursion onto the Holding Field. Policies were scrutinised and updated, and costs and commitments were revisited and, sadly, some projects will now have to wait until we have saved or found grant funding. Other costs have been transferred to the user, as in the cemetery where fees are increased, significantly for out of parish users, not least to ensure available space for village tax-payers. We found it necessary to increase the precept to put the Council's finances on a sustainable footing so that we can meet our statutory responsibilities. I would like to thank our Finance Officer for her tremendous work on this project.

The Council has continued to work hard for village interests, particularly in planning, where a number of issues have emerged.

First of all, the Neighbourhood Plan is being re-visited as the national push for more housing is now manifesting itself in greater numbers at a local level. The working group has re-convened. Any parishioner interested in getting involved should contact the Clerk.

Secondly, plans have been put in to build a fifty bed care home on the site between Fawconer Road and the A339 an area earmarked in the Neighbourhood Plan for thirteen affordable homes for local people. We have met with the developers and are opposing the application.

Thirdly, two house builders have shown interest in building large developments at Porch Farm and Yew Tree Farm. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has no five year land supply, without which developers have carte blanche to put in planning applications above and beyond the numbers enshrined in our Neighbourhood Plan, or the Local Plan. While the Parish Council believes moderate growth is in the interest of our community, we have grave reservations about such large additions, bringing with it pressure on our services and infrastructure and destruction of some of our best loved landscape.

In 2021, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council sanctioned the sale of 24 Swan Street for housing, threatening the business tenants located there, including two successful dance and performing arts schools. Cllr Ian Bowes has worked with all parties to develop a vision for the site and set up a charity. The building has been declared an 'Asset of Community Value' and negotiations continue to secure this facility for our community.

The Borough Council has now indicated its terms for the transfer of ownership of the public conveniences to the Parish Council. We will be examining the terms of the offer, but are very concerned at the potential impact of running costs on the parish precept. While we take the view that it is the civilised thing to have public lavatories in the village, it may be unrealistic for the Parish Council to take on this big commitment.

Work is on-going in the Cemetery, and there is much more to do. We have had specialists in to check on the safety of memorials ('Topple Test') and in extreme cases some have had to be laid down. Owners have been contacted where possible for repairs. The disregard of cemetery regulations has been making grounds maintenance increasingly difficult. In March, the Council took the decision to act on this, and start the process of contacting owners. While this is a sensitive issue, we have to think about the long term.

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Kingsclere Parish Council Chairman's Report 2021 - 2022

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Traffic and parking continue to concern both the Council and residents. In 2021, the Council had gateways and road markings installed to discourage speeding, adding to the Speed Indication Devices ('SIDs') already installed in recent years. We invited the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner to visit, and in November she sent her deputy, Luke Stubbs. Unfortunately, this added little to the debate and he left his job shortly afterwards.

The relaxation of Covid restrictions meant that we have been able to hold a Making a Difference Award ceremony this year, in collaboration with the Kingsclere Community Association at the festive 'Bounce back' day at the Fieldgate Centre. Over ninety residents received awards, mostly for their service at the height of the pandemic. We were also able to hold our Great British Spring Clean event and have a presence at St Mary's Fete, giving us the opportunity to seek views of villagers.

I would like to end by thanking the Tree Wardens and the Parish Paths group, and especially all our staff and councillors for the many hours of hard work put in through the year.

Cllr. John Sawyer
Chairman

Addendum

Since the end of the reporting year, I have retired as Chairman. It has been a pleasure and an honour to chair a council of such talent and to work with three highly professional clerks over my seven years in office. I wish the Council well, and have every confidence that it will continue to work enthusiastically for the best interests of the people of Kingsclere under its new chairman, Cllr Clive Mussett.

JS - 30 May 2022

Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan



Throughout the year the Parish Council (PC) has continued to comment on all planning applications to ensure the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) are adhered to.

Due to the Borough Council's inability to meet the Government's five-year housing land supply criteria, all policies both in the Local Plan and our NP that relate to the number and siting of new development are under threat. Developers have shown interest in sites not allocated in our Plan, in particular land at both Porch Farm and Yew Tree Farm. The PC have met with both developers to discuss their proposals and have informed both that we intend to uphold policies in the NP until such time as we are given an additional housing

allocation from the Borough Council. However, at the time of writing, planning applications have yet to be submitted for either site so there is little we can do at this stage.

In addition, last year another developer bought the site at Fawconer Road, where outline planning permission for 13 affordable homes had previously been granted. They completely ignored the policy in the NP for much needed housing and, with minimal consultation both with the PC and residents, submitted a planning application for an upmarket palliative care home for the site. We submitted a strong letter of opposition to the Local Planning Authority and are now waiting for the case to come before the Economic, Planning and Housing Committee where we have notified them of our intention to speak. The Borough Council have commenced a review of the Local Plan and as a consequence we recently re-convened the Neighbourhood Planning Group. Three original members have left however we have three new members from the village who have joined. Our intention is to review the NP and suggest possible changes taking account of changes to the Local Plan, particularly as seems likely, an additional housing allocation. I expect that during the next 12 months we will be engaging with residents once again about development within our parish.

Kingsclere Film Club

Kingsclere Film Club continues to operate on a monthly basis, usually on the second Saturday of each month. The audience arrives in time for a glass of wine (personally imported!) and some nibbles, before settling down to the film. In spite of lockdowns we managed to show a number of films, including Victoria and Abdul; The White Crow; The Spy who came in from the cold; Cabaret and The Red Balloon. New members are always welcome, as are guests.
Fiona Sawyer (Secretary)

Kingsclere Photo Club

We are a creative club, run by members for members. Presently we have 34 members, of all ages and abilities, from Kingsclere and surrounding areas.

With the Covid-19 pandemic still affecting our lives, we continued to hold our meetings via 'Zoom' until June, which worked well being an image-based medium, and we actually found more members attended than for our 'real' meetings.

Meetings were our usual mix of talks, challenges, practicals and critiques.

- ◆ For our April 2021 meeting we had 'PechaKucha', a story telling format, where members showed a sequence of 20 slides for 15 seconds each, some to music, for a variety of subjects.
- ◆ In May we had guest speaker/ photographer Sam Gregory give two of his talks on Landscape photography – 'What makes a Compelling Photograph' and 'Creative Storytelling in Landscape Photography'. We also launched our own Landscape challenge.
- ◆ For June we had a selection of our digital images critiqued by Peter Orr, a professional judge.
- ◆ In July we enjoyed a Photowalk along the River Test in Whitchurch (and a 2-1 win against Denmark in the Euro 2020 semi-final).
- ◆ For September we reviewed and discussed our photographs taken on the July Photowalk and the Landscape challenge.
- ◆ In October we had guest speaker/ photographer Robert Harvey talk on macro (close-up) photography. October also saw our 14th annual exhibition, and launch of our 10th calendar. Visitors enjoyed 18 panels of member's work plus guest images from Cormicy, the winning picture from the public vote being Mary Ferguson's 'Wreck of the Helvetia' taken at Worm's Head, Wales.
- ◆ In November we had a Food Photography practical, and launched our Self Portrait challenge.
- ◆ December brought our AGM and 'Best Photo of 2021' competition, won by Paul Enters with 'Misty Morning' taken in Kingsclere.
- ◆ January was a review of our Self-Portrait challenge photos, followed by a critique, and the launch of our Abstract challenge.
- ◆ For February we had guest speaker/ photographer Peter Crane talking about his street photography.
- ◆ And for March 2022 we had a Photographing Glass practical

Anyone with an interest in photography is welcome to join, membership £10 for the season, £2 per meeting attended, and darkroom on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Watch out for this year's exhibition at the Village Club on 15th & 16th October 2022!

For any further info please contact us at kingsclerephotoclub@gmail.com
Club Website: www.kingsclerephoto.org
Club Facebook: www.facebook.com/kingsclerephoto

Girlguiding Kingsclere

Girlguiding in Kingsclere has had a great year after returning to face to face meeting in May 2021.

Rainbows have been working on their Feel Good skill builder, exploring what they liked about themselves, learning how to be kind to themselves and each other, and exploring healthy eating. They have done some den building and have been "everyday inventors" inventing objects for everyday jobs such as tying your shoelaces or making a jam sandwich!

In addition, our Young Leader for rainbows has finished her Young Leaders qualification.

Last summer, Brownies worked on their camp skill builder. Learning how to pitch a tent, what to take, and what not to take when camping, and having fun campfire cooking. They made Halloween lanterns, took part in Remembrance Parade, and did some Christmas crafts in the Autumn term. More recently they made Easter egg cheesecakes for Easter and the girls had a go at baking cookies without any adult input (apart from the oven usage!), learning how to read and follow instructions independently while working together as a team.

Sadly, the Clere District was dissolved in the Autumn and our two units have been absorbed into the Kingsclere and Silchester Division. This, however, will give leaders more support and the girls access to more opportunities on a division level.

As a last Clere District event, we had a Harry Potter fun day and among many other activities, the girls visited Olivanders to purchase wands, went on a magical scavenger hunt to find a hidden key and unlock the mysterious treasure chest, and attended potions class; ending with a Hogwarts feast for tea.

There are spaces in both Rainbows and Brownies, for girls aged 4 - 10.

For more information, please contact us on:
kingscleregirlguiding@gmail.com

Kingsclere Community Library

The Kingsclere Community Library is a free public library service available to residents of Kingsclere and the surrounding villages. We have been volunteer-run since 2015, lost our status as a Hampshire Branch library in 2021, and became a registered charity (Charity Number 1195292) in July 2021. Throughout these changes we have continued to raise the funds needed to keep our doors open and provide library services to our community.

Thanks to a grant from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, we are celebrating the Platinum Jubilee with a Scavenger Hunt for children that will take them around the village to find questions and clues. Each child receives a commemorative book bag and a small reward for finishing.

Thanks to a kind donation from The Tower – the Village Magazine, our Summer Reading FUN programme will be giving each participating child a T-shirt promoting reading. One of our biggest challenges is of course funding, and we still need to raise most of the core costs for this year including rent and our increasing energy bill. We have an appeal through The Good Exchange, and are grateful to have been offered matching funding from The Greenham Trust. We hope this will prove successful.

We would like to thank all our volunteers and readers who continue to support us. We could not keep the library open without the strong community support we continue to receive.

Our opening hours are:

Tuesdays & Thursdays 1 - 5:30pm and Saturdays 10am - 1:00pm

We are always happy to welcome new volunteers and members. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please email us on: kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com. One session of 2 ¼ hours per month is all you need to do, or more if you like. We hope to hear from you.

Kingsclere Community Library Trustees

The Tower

The Tower, Kingsclere's village magazine, has been around for over 50 years providing over 1600 households in Kingsclere and the surrounding area a regular window into what's going on in our village. We managed to keep things going all through the pandemic, even though village life had been disrupted. Historically the Tower had been associated with St Mary's, although operating independently. During 2021 it became apparent that our commercial activities did not fit with the church's charitable status and so from January 2022 we became fully independent.

Changes over recent years have seen us using a local printing company, rather than printing copies of the Tower In-House.

We have also introduced Tower Grants whereby we have been able to offer the opportunity to local groups and organisations the chance to apply for a grant to help with equipment and running costs (especially helpful during the last two years with Covid reducing fund raising events etc.) The monies for these grants are generated using any excess from our advertising revenue enabling us to continue as a Not-For-Profit organisation. Grants given out so far exceed £10,000. We hope to continue and evolve our current Tower offering to ensure it remains a respected and valuable addition to our village life.

Andrew Kitch
Tower Committee Chairman

Kingsclere Players

Whilst COVID put a lot of ambitions on hold, we're grateful the group was able to get creative over the past year with new initiatives.

2021 saw our first ever radio show of A Christmas Carol! The cast and crew enjoyed the opportunity to try something new. From October we rehearsed on Zoom and recorded mid November - creating a fantastic and very professional recording of A Christmas Carol. We welcomed new participants into the group with this production and we hope they will continue to participate in future productions.

As part of this - we are bringing us back to our core essence -

Why are we all here? Because we all enjoy it!

As part of this we are looking to -

- ◆ Recruit new members with a variety of talents - this is not just about performing - all talents and creativity are needed
- ◆ Create more opportunities for social activity, like tonight
- ◆ Provide opportunities to get us back out in the community
- ◆ Jubilee parade participation to recruit new members (in costume) (4th June) plus sing along with the Singers at the Fieldgate at 3pm - more singers required!
- ◆ Partnership with the library for storytelling performance (date tbc)
- ◆ Partnership with the Ship Inn performing arts for a 'unique' murder mystery experience (November 19th - rehearsals to start in October)

If anyone wishes to be added to the Players mailing list, or would like to volunteer services as producer / director, actor or behind the scenes, please contact: kingsclere.players@yahoo.co.uk

Kingsclere Bowling Club

Kingsclere Bowling Club is situated on the Holding Sports Field in Ashford Hill Road and is accessed by the car park entrance opposite Love Lane. It is a members club with annual fees (which are very reasonable) run on a voluntary basis, open to all above the age of 9yrs. If you've never played before, you can join for around £20.00 for your first year, which gives you access to our clubhouse and playing facilities, including our fully stocked bar. Our membership is drawn from all around the local area including Newbury, Basingstoke and Tadley, as well as Kingsclere itself. You can borrow basic equipment or buy second hand at discounted prices to get you going.

Although the playing season outdoors only runs from April to September, the club is open all year, and some of our members also play bowls during the indoor season (October to March). To do this you would have to join one of the local indoor facilities at Whitchurch, Newbury or Basingstoke. Currently the club has a couple of teams playing indoors on both a Monday and Friday evening mixed league at the Whitchurch venue, open to all our members, which means you can play indoors without having to join an indoor club, although a match fee would be payable. During the indoor season the clubhouse in Kingsclere is open most Friday evenings to all members for social use – you can play darts and cards etc. or just have a drink and a chat.

In the outdoor season, we operate a full fixture list made up of friendlies against other clubs at weekends, along with various one day club-based competitions. During the week we have teams playing in district league competitions. We are currently reigning champions in the men's triples league and we also play in the men's fours league. We have a team in the local ladies' league and 2 teams playing in a mixed league on Wednesdays. Some of our more competitive bowlers are reigning or former district champions in various disciplines, and we also have members who enter competitions at county and national level, achieving great success over the years.

We also operate some knockout competitions which run throughout the season culminating in our own finals weekend, usually held early in September. It's not all about winning however and the social side to bowling is very important too! After a game there is the opportunity to sit in our clubhouse or around the green, and chat about the match over refreshment with your teammates, and more importantly your opposition, and discuss where it all went wrong (or right). Additionally our fundraising committee organises a range of non-bowls activities such as quiz nights, race nights, bingo and skittles, which are open to members and family or friends as guests for the evening, and we would like to take the opportunity to thank the local community for supporting us so fervently over recent years at these events.

Fortunately we have managed to keep the club viable throughout the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic, getting back to full play in 2021. We spent the non-playing time in 2020 and 2021 carrying out a lot of refurbishments to our clubhouse and surrounds, and we are soon replacing the flood lighting as our next project. This makes the bowls club a very pleasant and up to date venue for the game of lawn bowls, and is the envy of most of our local rivals.

You can learn more about us by viewing our website www.kingsclerebowlingclub.co.uk or you can contact our Chairperson, Brian Watts on brian-watts@btconnect.com or telephone 0118 981 6892. We are always happy to welcome prospective new members, and we organise open evenings throughout May each year, when you can just drop in and give bowls a try. We are re-introducing these evenings in 2022, after the Covid interruptions, so if you are passing by and want to come in to see what goes on you'll be more than welcome any time.

Kingsclere Community Association - KCA



The last year has seen the activities of the KCA gradually re-establish. It is fantastic to see that in 2022 the numbers of people visiting the Fieldgate Centre, operated by the KCA, are back to pre-pandemic levels. In 2021 we had a major push to run activities as part of Kingsclere bouncing back and people getting back together again. The Fun Day in August saw over 700 enjoy a whole range of activities and entertainment and it was coupled with the Parish Council Making a Difference Awards ceremonies. Play Days for children were held every week during the school summer holiday. The Monthly Meet-Up held on the third Tuesday of the month is now back in the routine. Greenham Trust provided grant funding to support these activities.

The KCA is a charity run for the benefit of all who live in Kingsclere and the surrounding area. We rely significantly on volunteer support to run the centre and stage activities to ensure that the centre remains a thriving hub of community activity. Offers to help are always welcome as the more hands we have the more we can do.

Replacing the ageing infrastructure of the community centre is a key objective for the KCA to ensure that this valued community asset remains for many years to come. Recent works include an upgrade to the heating and electrical system and the next improvement will be the installation of solar panels and batteries that will help manage the spiralling energy costs. B&DBC, Greenham Trust, HCC, Garfield Weston Foundation and Sovereign Housing have all provided grant funding for the improvement work.

We are a social enterprise and hire income is our main revenue that covers our operating costs. The Fieldgate Centre is a great flexible facility to hold your activity or event.

<http://www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk>

01635 298497

fieldgatecentre@outlook.com

Kingsclere Local History Association (formerly Kingsclere Heritage Association)

Because of covid we cancelled our planned programme for 2020/1. However we were able to proceed with our programme for 2021/2.

We held our full programme of monthly speaker meetings from September 2021 through to March 2022. At our September meeting our Chairman, Richard Croft, delivered the next instalment of his popular series on the history of Kingsclere. Then followed our AGM the main item of note being our change of name as research had shown that we needed a title which told more of what we are about. KINGSCLERE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION was unanimously approved and our Constitution accordingly amended. The subsequent speaker meetings were varied in topic and well received.

In November we enjoyed a tour of the Control Tower at Greenham when two of their experts gave us a detailed history of the base,

The Village Archives are up and running. We have opened on most Monday afternoons from 2pm until 4pm upstairs in the Holding Room and we have been pleased to welcome a record number of visitors. Our material is ever increasing and is available to all who have enquiries on the history of the village and area.

We have been very pleased with the numbers attending our meetings and support in general. All in all a successful year for the Association.

St Mary's Church

St Mary's has been through change during 2021/2022 as many other organisations have. We started the year under strict Covid regulations and with Rev Ben on long-term sick leave. However, we still met for worship online and then slowly started to meet again in person as restrictions lifted. We ran online courses for those exploring their faith, and kept in touch with people throughout the village with phone calls and doorstep visits.

The food scheme which had delivered essentials to those in need during the first lockdown evolved into the Community Larder – meaning we have been able to help more local people in need. By the summer when restrictions were lifted further we welcomed 45 children to our week-long Holiday Club and then enjoyed a Fete which not only raised a record amount of money for the church but also provided a chance for people to get together after such a long time without such events. Rev Ben left the parish in March 2022 and the process is now underway to find a new vicar to take our parish forward.

Kingsclere Performing Arts and Youth Centre Community Interest Company

With the aim of saving 24 Swan Street as a community facility, Kingsclere Performing Arts and Youth Centre Community Interest Company has been set up as the charitable community organisation to hopefully take over control of 24 Swan Street - a Grade 2 Listed Building. This will allow the creation of a base for Kingsclere's Youth Club and develop the facilities for the extensive performing arts training that already takes place.

As a result of the threat from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (B&DBC) to sell the building for residential development the Parish Council successfully applied to B&DBC for the building to be registered as an Asset of Community Value. This status provides a certain amount of protection but at the time of writing there still have not been discussions with B&DBC about potential arrangements such as Community Asset Transfer to secure the building for the community. Protecting the facility will also allow for parking that is needed to support working and living in the Conservation Area.

The support received has been amazing and highlighted in April at the Gala Fundraiser at the Anvil Theatre. This showcased the talent of the students trained at 24 Swan St and demonstrates so much more can be achieved by developing the facility and establishing the Youth Club. Fundraising continues, the Youth Club has committed funding and more events are planned. Agreement with B&DBC will establish the overall financial requirements.

The Kingsclere Performing Arts and Youth Centre team has exciting plans for 24 Swan Street some of which can be seen on the website - <https://www.kingsclerepayc.co.uk>

We look forward to opening the doors for the Youth Club, growing the training of the performing arts and ensuring that 24 Swan St is an enduring community facility.

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Limited

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd (FOSM) is an independent Charity, formed in 2001/2002, to help with the costs of preserving and maintaining the fabric of St Mary's Church. It gives all those who value our ancient parish church at the heart of the village - including those who otherwise might not be active as part of the church community - a chance to contribute to preserving this important building for future generations. Under its constitution, FOSM may not make grants towards the day-to-day running of St Mary's, nor to the Parish Share of the Diocesan quota, but the Friends are able to make very significant financial contributions towards work to maintain and restore the actual structure of the church.

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 formed, FOSM has already contributed some £130,000 towards the Church fabric. This has included part-funding the replacement of the creaking ancient boilers, major repairs to the main roof, 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, £14,000 towards the redecoration of the Church, and £7,875 towards the re-roofing of the two chancels. Most recently we have made a contribution of £20,000 towards the major drainage and damp elimination works affecting the Kingsmill Room.

We raise funds for all this from modest membership subscriptions (£10 a year for individual membership/£20 a year for families), and by organising a number of varied events each year, - some regular annual fixtures, and others such as visits to local wineries or herb farms, concerts, picture sales, etc. As with many organisations, our fundraising has been very severely impacted by the restrictions on movement and gatherings during the last two years of the Covid pandemic. Now that restrictions have eased, we are just beginning to arrange events again, with our Quiz Night held in April and our Plant Sale in May. Other events this year are in the pipeline, as we need urgently to re-build our financial reserves if we are to contribute to future projects on the Parochial Church Council's rolling 5-year works programme.

All are most welcome to join the Friends, and by doing so can help play a part in safeguarding this important and much-loved landmark at the centre of the community. Every new subscription helps --- why not join in? We are also always looking for new people with ideas for, or to give practical help with our varied fund-raising activities. If you are interested, please 'phone me on 01635 298434, or e-mail me at fieldcorner@hotmail.com.

Peter Turner - Chairman



Kingsclere Village Club

The ongoing pandemic meant that our centenary celebrations were lower profile than we had hoped - but the RAF Spitfire Flypast ensured it was a memorable occasion, and meant people from across the entire village were able to be part of the celebrations. The excited atmosphere, plus the videos and photos shared on social media were rewarding to see.

This year we completed changes to our legal structure and the 1994 Deed of Trust has been replaced by a new constitution. The terms of the original gift of the building to the village has largely been preserved, meaning the significant changes have been to the governance arrangements.

The key task for our Trustees remains the 'provision and maintenance of a village hall'. On the maintenance front, the energy efficiency project has continued to progress slowly. The Heritage Audit shows the Club is a treasure trove of Georgian and early 1900s features, and preservation of these has increased the complexity and cost of the project. We hope to conclude this project during this financial year. Much work has been undertaken in the garden to make it a more useful space to hirers, largely funded by a private donation. And the works to replace a large section of the original Georgian roof were completed just as this year started.

As regards what has been provided within the building, obviously some clubs and classes have not returned since the pandemic, but for the most part most have returned. The monthly Community Café is proving to be a friendly and popular event, a four weekly evening for board gamers has emerged, and the Christmas market was a great success too. The Parish Office has taken out office space too.

We would like to thank the volunteers who have helped keep the building alive during the pandemic including the recently retired trustees, our course administrator (now retired) and those who have provided time, catering, building, and gardening skills. If you would like to get involved and contribute to the sense of community in the village, do get in touch.

Chairman - Kingsclere Village Club

chairman@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk 01635 297390

Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands W.I.

Kingsclere and Headley Woodlands W.I. are back!

Members were delighted to meet for tea, coffee and cake in the garden at the Village Club in August 2021 after 17 months of only having contact by telephone or letter (email for those with internet access). This was followed in September with lunch at the Crown pub in the village when we held our long awaited Annual meeting and was greatly enjoyed by 18 members.

In October we really started our usual meetings, with a quiz as our speaker was unable to attend; November saw us making Christmas wreaths with demonstrator Cynthia Morris whilst we had an American supper style meeting in December when we celebrated three big birthdays.

January saw us welcome a very popular speaker, Joyce Meader, she is so good; February we heard from Dr Paul Sievers telling us of his exploits in the Himalayas; March was Mike Brooks with Musings from the Amateur Stage followed by an outstanding speaker, James Haddow, the taxi-driver poet. Everyone enjoyed listening and laughing with him.

This month saw us hold our Annual meeting to elect our committee and president for 2022 / 2023. Everyone agreed that after being in lockdown and everything being cancelled, it was lovely coming to meetings and chatting, having tea and cake or biscuits and generally just being sociable. We also welcomed four new members and would love to welcome more; we really are a great crowd. Come and see for yourselves, ladies.

Youth Football Club

Finally, we seemed to have a season with some stability! With COVID - 19 still with us but life very much returning to normal, football has once again managed to play its part. Training throughout the season and games flowing.

As the season draws to a close it seems we will have tournaments to look forward to and a small individual team awards day in July. This will be held at the Holding field and be a small gathering with no stalls etc. We have taken this decision due to the Fieldgate being out of action (see Build facilities)

We continue to focus on 4 key areas:

1) Build teams

We continue to work towards 9 coaches, c.100 children and a consistent committee brings great pride to the way we approach the beautiful game. We also ran some girls training sessions in the evenings when it was lighter. We aim to do the same this spring / summer hopefully.

We are also exploring having some Disability football sessions. There are ongoing discussions and I hope to bring news soon.

2) Build skills

FA Level 2 coaches on their way but delayed due to the pandemic and availability, new qualified coaches, all first aid and CBS up to date and our charter status renewed.

3) Build facilities

As some of you may have noticed the Fieldgate pitches are going through some major drainage works and is expected to be out of action until next season. Our long-term aspirations of having all training held there (including the MUGA) is within sight. Ideally, we are looking to have small sided pitches marked out.

During the period when the Fieldgate has been out of use we have been very grateful to the Parish Council for allowing us to train at the Holding Field and to the Bowls Club who allowed us access to their toilets.

We are delighted to say that we now have a container at the Fieldgate for storage.

4) Communication

The new communication and payment systems have worked well so thank you to all the parents who have embraced this. Ideally every team will use the same app for team news, results and updates. Messaging will, I am sure, play a part as will the occasional email.

Keep safe.

Tim Hargreaves, Chair

Kingsclere Charities

The Trustees of the Kingsclere Charities continued to meet via Zoom until such time as we could meet again face to face. The trustees normally meet four times a year. We continue to make payments to residents of both the Parishes of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley.

A major refurbishment of one of Kingsclere's Almshouses was completed during the year. Three applicants were interviewed and the Almshouse now has a new occupant.

Following the launch of our website in 2021 it is now easier for residents to find information on the Charities and applications can now be made online. Having said that we have not received many applications of late. It's worth noting that applicants are not means tested so provided the appropriate criteria is met, payment will be made.

As well as the Almshouse Charity (we have Almshouses in Kingsclere and Headley), the Welfare Charity provides assistance to residents that cannot be provided by the NHS or Social Services. Grants are given towards items such as motorised wheelchairs and mobility scooters, stairlifts including installation costs, medical equipment and various aids that make life easier for sick and less mobile residents, as well as travel costs to and from hospital.

The Education Charity provides grants to schools for equipment, books etc.

The Apprentice Charity provides grants for 16- to 25-year-olds towards the cost of books, IT equipment, stationery and specialist clothing as well as travel expenses to school, college or university.

The money is there so if you feel you could benefit, please submit a claim.

For further information see www.kingsclerecharities.org or contact The Clerk, Mrs Jan Pearce: 01635 269184 kingsclerecharities@iname.com

Greener Kingsclere

Greener Kingsclere began with a sustainable market in January, 2020, with the aim of offering products and services that were more planet-friendly, and in hopes of reducing single-use plastics.

Stall holders meeting this remit were invited, and in partnership with The Kingsclere Community Association, two events were held at the Fieldgate Centre in 2020 before the pandemic interrupted.

Since then, two markets were held in 2021, and five are scheduled for 2022. We started back slowly, as some businesses closed down, but as of the June market, are now continuing to expand. We charge a very low fee to stallholders, and encourage anyone who meet our criteria of minimal waste and packaging and no single use plastics to apply. Recycled products are very welcome.

Our non-profit community organisation is excited to be expanding beyond the markets. We are working with the Parish Council to become a 'Plastic Free Community' and will soon be looking for local businesses and Community Allies to join us in this aim. We wish to remove as much plastic use as possible in Kingsclere.

We have signed up to become an official 'Repair Cafe' as part of our desire to keep usable items out of landfills, and will be setting up our first repair shop soon. If you can 'make do and mend' almost any items, please contact us if you would like to help out.

Our website will soon launch a section listing where many items can be recycled locally. We are also working to have speakers and stalls at our future markets to give visitors information on more eco-friendly choices.

www.greenerkingsclere.co.uk

Kingsclere Parish Council Financial Report 2021/2022

Expenditure:

Salaries and related costs	£45,437
Office & Admin costs	£9,547
Grants made (S137)	£1,100
Allotments	£4,431
Recreation Ground and Play Area	£5,612
Cemetery	£5,889
Churchyard	£1,296
Malthouse Open Space	£424
Holding Field	£2,690
Community Orchard	£1,856
Crown Green	£199
Street Lighting	£819
Other	£3,040
S106	£0
S137 (other than grants)	£0

Sub Totals: £82,340

Income:

Precept:	£50,106
Revenue Grants	£12,187
Burial Ground	£7,335
Allotment Rents	£2,044
Other income	£21
VAT Reclaim	£3,824

£75,517

Capital Account

White Gates Project	£12,775
Competition Dog Fouling Signs	£781
Wild Flower Meadow Sign	£162
Padlock & Chain	£28
Litter Bins	£610
Extension Lead	£13
Bus Shelter Perch Seat Panel	£582

Total Capital £14,950

Total Expenditure £97,290

Total Income £75,517

Balance in General Reserve at 31st March 2022: £29,525

Other expenditure includes:- Christmas Lights £90; PPE £289; Training £114; Making a Difference Awards £250; Legal Fees £1500; Defibrillator Pads £50; Green Waste Removal £139; Spring Bulbs £223; Image Scanning £90; Remembrance Wreath £19; Pots and Compost £76; Contribution to new road sign £200.

Kingsclere Parish Council Meeting Dates 2022 - 2023

Council meetings are held at 7:30pm in the main hall at Kingsclere Village Club

27th June 2022	31st October 2022	27th February 2023
25th July 2022	28th November 2022	27th March 2023
26th September 2022	30th January 2023	24th April 2023

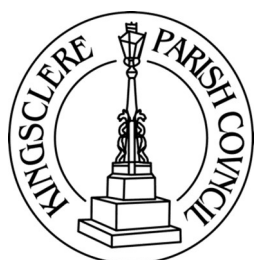
Kingsclere's Annual Parish Meeting 20th March 2023

Kingsclere Parish Council would like to thank all those who have contributed to the Kingsclere Annual Report 2022.

If you would like to contribute next year and are not on our contact list, please get in touch.

Tel: 01635 298634

Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk



www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk



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