

The Kingsclere Tower

What's On & Local News
APRIL 2024

The Kingsclere Tower

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Happy Easter from all the Tower team

Ahhh, to feel the warmth of the sun, watch daffodils, crocuses, camellias and magnolias flower, and see the sun set after 6pm; spring is well and truly here!

The Kingsclere Garden Association celebrates the joys of spring with their 41st Spring Bulb & Flower Show on Sunday 7th April 2024, see page 3 for more details. Perhaps it's time to try a new sporting activity? Kingsclere Tennis Club is holding an Open Day & Junior Tennis Tournament on Saturday 13th April for all ages and abilities (see page 6), while Kingsclere Rugby Football Club is introducing Women's Walking Rugby for ages 18 up to 70+, with the first session on Thursday 4th April - you don't even need to be fit to play (see page 8).

Here's to a warm and not so showery April.

The Editor

Neither the Editors nor the Management Committee accept responsibility for the opinions expressed or the goods and services advertised in the Kingsclere Tower magazine. The Editors reserve the right to omit, amend, or condense any item submitted for publication.

To all "Tower" Contributors

**Copy for May 2024 to the Editor at: kingscleretower@gmail.com
 NOT LATER THAN 12th April 2024.**

If possible please submit articles as a MS Word document, A5 page size, font Times New Roman 11, single spacing. *If email not possible, post to:*
 23 Swan Street, Kingsclere, Newbury RG20 5PP.

**Will ALL contributors please include full name
 and contact phone number/email address.**

Kingsclere Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr Clive Mussett (07800 022432)

Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk

Telephone: 01635 298634

Office: 37 George St, Kingsclere RG20 5NH



DOG FOULING – We have had reports to the Parish Office regarding Dog Fouling in public areas. South Road, Longcroft Road and our Cemetery are the main reported areas this month, though KPC is aware that it happens all around our parish. All these areas have been reported to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) and we hope additional checks/visits will be made. Our local CSPO has/will also visit as often as possible. There is a link on the BDBC website which gives the option to upload digital evidence of offenders with their animals. Reporting and evidencing of this antisocial behavior will aid better profiling of the offenders for BDBC and potential prosecutions <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/reportdogfouling>. The whole of the BDBC area is under the BDBC (Dog Fouling) Public Protection Order which is now extended and in place until November 2026. Residents are encouraged to report offenders under any circumstances, including those who commit offences whilst being responsible for multiple dogs. The order states that **not having the means to pick up or being unaware of the dog's defecation are not reasonable excuses**. The fine is limited to £1000. There are instances where exemptions are held, sometimes those registered with a disability/some with Assistance Dogs; please do be mindful in your observation and reporting. Please also note dogs (unless Assistance Dogs) are not permitted in the Cemetery. KPC appreciates that most owners and animal businesses are conscientious and law abiding in our community, there must be just a few who are flouting the law. Please do look at the full Protection Order on BDBC website.

GRASS CUTTING IN CEMETERY – Grass cutting has resumed in open spaces. KPC asks that grave owners ensure their plots are tidy and in line with the rules and regulations so our contractors can work easily (i.e. no ornaments and flowers/pots on the grave itself). The ashes plots are now very difficult to maintain as contractors cannot/will not safely get between the tablets due to ornaments and flowerpots. KPC fully understands this can be a delicate issue, however the contractors have a job to do, the time taken to remove grave adornments and replace is simply too much, plus they do not wish to handle personal effects. KPC takes no responsibility for items left on graves, these go against the rules and regulations that were signed prior to burial. It is suggested you consider removing delicate items at least for the cutting months. Also be reminded glass isn't permitted, and that individual vehicles with items such as strimming and mowing equipment are not permitted graveside. The whole area is consecrated, therefore out of respect to all, no unauthorised vehicles are allowed into the cemeteries themselves. Plots should not have anything on them that cannot be carried from the car park. The Rules and Regulations are on the KPC website.

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



[@kingsclerepc](https://twitter.com/kingsclerepc)



facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil

THE D-DAY ANNIVERSARY CONVOY - Will travel through the Village on **Saturday 29th June** at approximately **10.30am**.

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING – The collections dates are Wednesday 3rd and 17th April and 1st May.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – The next full Council Meeting will be at **7.30pm on Monday 29th April 2024**, in the **Village Club**. We welcome the attendance of all parishioners at our meetings and anyone who wishes to raise any matters will be given the opportunity to do so during Public Questions.



41st Spring Bulb & Flower Show

Sunday 7th April 2024

Village Club, 35 North St, Kingsclere, RG20 5NH

Open to the public 2 - 4pm

Refreshments available

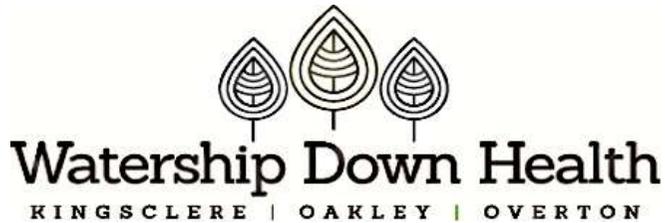
Our Spring Show always has stunning entries of daffodils and spring flowers plus classes for cooking, photography and children.

Doors open at 9am for staging. Judging commences at 11am. Full show information and how to enter can be obtained from Laura Butler, on 01256 781892 or at laura@ro-jen.co.uk

Beth Theobald (Secretary) 07916 032250.

Facebook: Kingsclere Gardening Association.

Please come and join our FB group. News, events and schedules for show entries will be advertised there first



Join the Watership Down Health Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Would you like to help improve health and wellbeing in our community? The PPG is a group of patients that works with the Watership Down Health team to improve health and wellbeing in our community by providing feedback about current services, helping to shape future services and promoting health initiatives. We welcome all patients aged 16 and over who are registered with Watership Down Health and live within the practice boundary to share their ideas, skills and enthusiasm. We aim to gather representatives from as broad a spectrum as possible. If you would like to join the PPG, please complete the PPG Registration Form on Watership Down Health's website or contact Abigail (PPG Chair) at abigail@comptonburnett.com or on **07747-111336**.

Breast Screening

Anyone registered with a GP as female will be invited for NHS breast screening every 3 years between the ages of 50 and 71. You'll get a letter in the post inviting you. Please make sure that your address and contact details are up to date with your GP Practice otherwise this important invite will not reach you. You'll automatically get your first invite for breast screening between the ages of 50 and 53. Then you'll be invited every 3 years until you turn 71. If you're a trans man, trans woman or are non-binary you may be invited automatically, or you may need to talk to your GP surgery or call the local breast screening service to ask for an appointment. You need to be registered with a GP surgery in the UK to be invited for breast screening. An easy read guide for people with a learning disability is available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/breast-screening-information-for-women-with-learning-disabilities>. For full details, go to: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/breast-screening-mammogram/>

New NHS App functionality - Waiting times in the NHS App

You can now use the NHS App to get the information you need while you are waiting for your hospital appointment or treatment. The new NHS App feature has been launched so you will know you are on waiting list and view an estimated waiting time for your hospital treatment.



The Fieldgate Centre
Kingsclere Community Association
Your community, your place

The Fieldgate Centre is run by Kingsclere Community Association, as a charity (No 1168366). The association is made up of volunteers who rely on the support and participation of the community.

With the Easter weekend being so early this year, spring feels like it is well on the way and the community centre continues to be really busy, with some exciting events coming up, private functions, as well as the regular classes and events including Slimming World, Ceroc, Clubbercise, Pilates, Badminton, Songtree, Monthly Meet Up, Racing Welfare Coffee Mornings, Youth Club and HIIT class. Check our website for full details of the times of events and classes you may wish to attend.

From 3rd April, Slimming World will be holding an additional earlier session starting at 4.00 pm along with the usual 5.30 pm session.

Monthly Meet Up takes place on **Tuesday 16th April**. We are looking at including a walk for those who are interested. Come and join us for a cuppa and a chat, activities and now a walk. We want to ensure that anyone who would like to attend can so if you would like free transport or know anyone who would please contact the office.

In **April**, on **Friday 26th at 7.30 pm**, **Saturday 27th at 2.30 and 7.30 pm**, and **Sunday 28th at 2.30 pm**, the **Kingsclere Players** present **Stepping Out**, a warm and very funny play about the lives, laughs and loves of a group of women (and one man) attending a weekly tap-dance class in a dingy church hall. Book online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/kingsclere-community-association> so you can come along and enjoy the fun! Adult tickets £12.50, children £7.50. Rehearsals are in full swing. We hope to see you.

Contact us if you need any further information about our activities or if you would like to hold your event at The Fieldgate Centre. Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information.

email: fieldgatecentre@outlook.com

telephone 01635 298497

www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk

Upcoming Blood Donation Sessions at The Fieldgate Centre

Tuesday 2nd April

Thursday 6th June

Thursday 25th April

Thursday 13th June

Sunday 26th May

Thursday 20th June

Thursday 27th June

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

Kingsclere Players

Stepping Out



Tickets are now on sale for the Kingsclere Players latest production, Stepping Out. Rehearsals are now in full flow and the group is excited to bring this production to The Fieldgate Centre.

The play is about eight people from very different backgrounds and different motivations who attend the same weekly tap dancing class. At first they show little co-ordination but later develop a level of skill. The dance routines are a background for the focus of the play, the relationships.

The show has some mature content and is suitable for children over 12 years old.

Stepping Out will be on at **The Fieldgate Centre** on **Friday April 26th (7.30pm), Saturday April 27th (2.30pm and 7.30pm) and Sunday April 28th (2.30pm).**

Tickets are £12.50 for adults and £7.50 for children.

Tickets can be purchased from the Fieldgate Centre

www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk or from www.kingsclereplayersgroup.com



Kingsclere Tennis Club



OPEN DAY & JUNIOR TENNIS TOURNAMENT
Saturday 13th April, 9.30am to 5pm

Tennis is one of the best activities for your physical and mental health. Come and give tennis a try for the first time or perhaps rediscover your love for the game. There's something for everyone at our open day!

Fun Junior Tennis Competition 10am – 2pm

Open to children between the ages of 5 and 11, the competition will be run by LTA qualified coaches. All abilities are welcome and the emphasis is on fun and participation. There are prizes to be won and refreshments will be available. Entry is £4 per child. Register online using the QR code above or at www.kingscleretennis.eventbrite.co.uk

Adult and Teenage Social Tennis 2pm – 5pm

Join in with some social tennis and give our new ball machine a try. We'll supply rackets and balls, so all you need is appropriate footwear. All ages and abilities are welcome and refreshments will be available in our club house. Simply turn up and play!

We're situated on the Holding Field off Basingstoke Road and we look forward to seeing you there.

OUR CLUB WANTS



Training is
OPEN TO ALL
Girls & Boys
Y1 - Y11

*"You just need shin pads, boots, a water bottle and a smile
You don't even need to book - just turn up!"*

We are always happy to welcome new players to our football club.

We have teams for U8's up to and including U13's.
Boys & Mixed (All) Girls (U12's).

If you are interested in joining our club

TEXT 07833430009
or email

kingsclereyouthfc@gmail.com
for more information

Mrs V - KYFC Parent Liaison

**We have a friendly, dedicated team of coaches & managers.
We welcome all parents/carers to attend our AGM, which will be held at The Fieldgate Centre on 24 April 2024 at 8pm.**

Kingsclere Local History Association



Our monthly speaker meetings have now finished until we start our new programme in late September.

In the meantime we will continue to open the Village Archives upstairs in the Holding Room at the Village Club on Monday afternoons, 2 – 4 pm. Enquiries and visitors always welcome.

Michael Leah Secretary tel 297403

To All Clubs and Associations in Kingsclere

The monthly Ashford Hill with Headley Parish Magazine includes a page entitled the "Kingsclere Page". Our residents do not receive a copy of the Kingsclere Tower, so this is done to advise our readers of what's going on in Kingsclere. If you wish to send any dates of events to be included on our "Kingsclere Page" please send details to Patrick Taylor at patrick@ourparishmag.com by the 10th of the preceding month.

Kingsclere Rugby Football Club



Introducing Women's Walking Rugby

For ages 18 up to 70+. The first session is on **Thursday 4th April 7- 8 pm** at **The Fieldgate Centre**. Walking Rugby is a very easy game to learn; no experience of rugby is needed and can be played with just 4-a-side. It's a great way to exercise, walking as fast or as slow as your body allows with low impact on all your joints; you don't need to be fit to play. The main aim is to enjoy yourself, make some new friends and get a little bit of exercise at the same time. For more information, please contact Joanna Reed-Moreton at **Secretary-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com**, or Geoff Curtis at **Youth-coach-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com**.

The adults team has had mixed fortunes, winning convincingly at home 82-7 against Alresford 2nds on 17th February, only to lose 66-5 against Alton 2nds on 2nd March. The man of the match for Alresford game was Skaljte van Jaarsveld and for the Alton game was Oscar Harris. The next home game in on **Saturday 13th April, kick-off 3 pm**, against Chineham in the first round of the Village Cup. You are very welcome to come and watch.

Our minis play/train every Sunday morning at The Fieldgate Centre between 10.30 – 12 am. If your child/children would like to play sport and you would like to get out on a Sunday morning please come along and meet other children and parents.

To find out more information about the club please visit our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Wolverton Market

The next Market is on **Saturday 6th April** in the **Village Hall** from **9.30am until 11am**. All the usual stalls will be available to browse, and as the chickens are laying well at the moment there will be lovely fresh eggs to buy, along with some delicious honey produced by our own Kingsclere bees. Coffee, tea and biscuits are available to purchase and parking is available outside the hall.

It was lovely to see not only our regular customers last month but lots of new faces too and we thank you for your continued support.

Wendy Morgan 01635 297538

Kingsclere Community Library



HOURS Tuesday & Thursday 1.00pm - 5.30pm
Saturday 10.00am - 1.00pm

Let's Get Quizzical!

We will be running our Quiz Night on **Saturday 11th May** at the **Fieldgate Centre**. Tickets £7.00 pp to include snacks will be available soon. Teams up to a maximum of 8 people. There will also be a raffle with great prizes – put the date in your diary now!

Wessex and Hardy

Newbury Dramatic Society will be presenting “Wessex and Hardy, On the Cusp of Change” on **Tuesday 28th May** in the **Kingsclere Community Library** – tickets will be available in due course – be sure to save the date!

Graphic and Young Adult Novels

Just a reminder that we have a new selection of Graphic Novels and Young Adult Novels for our younger (or older!) readers – come and have a browse!

Volunteers!

We are always in need of volunteers to keep our doors open, so if you have 2 hours per month (or more!) to spare and would be interested in helping out, please let us know.

Nicki Lee, kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk
Library phone number: 01635 297464



Tadley Elderly Day Care

Registered Charity No. 1192821

Ambrose Allen Centre, Franklin Avenue, Tadley

We provide much-needed respite for carers and their families in the local community 3 days per week (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday).

We cater for a variety of needs including Dementia, Stroke and Parkinson's and those who are lonely or isolated.

We have a daily programme of activities, tailored to suit all abilities. The day includes a hot two-course lunch and refreshments on arrival and in the afternoon.

A daily fee is charged which includes all activities, lunch and refreshments. No referrals are needed.

We care so that you can care for longer. If you want to find out more, contact Beverley. Call: **07501 406573** or email:

info@tadleyelderlydaycare.co.uk or visit **www.tadleyelderlydaycare**





**Kingsclere
Film Club**

Extraordinary General Meeting

All members please attend

Saturday 27th April at 2.00pm

GIGI

(1958 - A - 115 min - Comedy/Musical/Romance - 9 Oscars)

After the Community Cafe at the Kingsclere Village Club

Refreshments from 1.30pm

Weary of the conventions of Parisian society, a rich playboy and a youthful courtesan-in-training enjoy a platonic friendship which may not stay platonic for long. Stars Maurice Chevalier.

STATEMENT FROM KINGSCLERE FILM CLUB COMMITTEE

It is with great sadness that after more than twenty years, the Committee has decided to close Kingsclere Film Club. We will hold an Extraordinary General Meeting of members to confirm the closure on 27th April. The current committee does not have the resources to continue running the Club. If there are people in the village who would like to take on the task, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Currently the Club is solvent and owns the cinema equipment installed in the Village Club.

For further information call: **John Sawyer** (Chairman) 297221 or
Diana Tait (Membership Secretary) 298494



FOSM 200 Club

The winner of the March Draw was Emma Rivers – No.44
Congratulations, Emma

Next month's Draw will take place at The Crown at approximately 7pm on
Tuesday 2nd April
200clubkingsclere@gmail.com

The Church Pages



Dear Friends

In the light of seemingly endless bad news and reports of situations that we can often feel helpless to change, I bring you something that may make you smile. The words are from Garrison Keillor...

"We make fun of Methodists for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed, and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like them. If you were to ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Methodist-less place, to sing along on the chorus of "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Methodists, they'd smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road! Many Methodists are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony, a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Methodists to sing in harmony. We are too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this: People, these Methodists, who love to sing in four-part harmony, are the sort of people you can call up when you're in deep distress. If you're dying, they will comfort you. If you are lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you are hungry, they'll give you a casserole. Methodists believe in prayer but would practically die if asked to pray out loud. Methodists like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four verses. Methodists believe their ministers will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there. Methodists usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins. Methodists drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament. Methodists believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

And finally, you know you are a Methodist when: it's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service; you hear something funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can; and lastly, it takes twenty minutes to say good-bye!"

Peace,

Rachel.

Rev Rachel Bogars

St Mary's Church

Worship in our Churches



April 2024

	9.30am	10.30am
Thur 4 th		Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 7 th	Communion St Peter's, Headley	Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 11 th		Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 14 th	Morning Worship St Peter's, Headley	Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 18 th		Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 21 st	Morning Worship St Paul's, Ashford Hill	Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 25 th		Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 28 th	Communion St Paul's, Ashford Hill	Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere

www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

**Saturday
Coffee**

**10 - 12 Noon in the Kingsmill Room
St. Mary's Church**

**April
6th ~ 13th ~ 20th
May 4th**

**Please join us for freshly brewed coffee,
homemade cakes & a warm welcome**

Free Wi-fi

Lighting up St Mary's

The sight of St Mary's Church when it is floodlit is truly beautiful. Many people sponsor these lights (£12 per evening) to celebrate an occasion, such as a birthday, wedding, anniversary, christening, or some other special day in their lives. To book, contact Emma, our Church Administrator. email: administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk tel: **07422 687125**



March

18th For Roy on his birthday. Dearly loved and missed by all xx

April

- 2nd Happy birthday Mum - remembering you on your Birthday. With love from all your family xx
- 2nd Sonja Whitehouse on our 30th Wedding Anniversary. Thank you for everything. Love Keith xxxxx
- 12th Remembering Jimmy Miller on his birthday. With love from his wife Pam and all of the family.
- 13th Remembering Richard on his birthday, miss you so much, love you xx Mum and Dad.
- 17th In loving memory of Nigel Westcombe gone five years but missed every day. Chris, Ryan, Sarah, Darren and Lucy.
- 19th Dear Michael, missing you so much. All our love on your birthday. Gloria, Frances and John.
- 20th Happy Birthday Chryssie. Love for today and every day from all your Green, Speed and Barclay Family xx
- 25th In Loving Memory of Aimee Hardy on what would have been her 34th Birthday. We love you so much and include you in our everyday lives. You are very special to us all. Please give Gran and Hopey a kiss from us - Mum, Dad, Samuel, Willum, Meghan and Jude xxx
- 29th Great Nanny Biscuit. We still can't believe you are gone. So many happy memories - thank you xxx

Kingsclere Methodist Church

Services for April 2024

Sun 7 th	Mr Jeff Britt
Sun 14 th	Rev Canon Jill Bentall
Sun 21 st	Worship Leaders
Sun 28 th	Rev Rachel Larkinson

All services begin at 10 am and all are welcome.
Coffee Morning every Thursday 10.30 until 12am
Hall available for hire (see back cover of this magazine)

Christine Westcombe email c_westcombe@hotmail.com

St Mary's Church Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The annual meeting of St Mary's Church council will take place on **15th April at 7.30pm** (refreshments served from 7pm) in the **Kingsmill Room, St Mary's Church**. All are welcome to attend to find out what has been happening at St Mary's over the past year, and our plans for 2024.



St. Mary's Church
THURSDAYS 2.30 - 4pm
FREE refreshments

Donations are welcome from 11.30 am - 12.30



**COMMUNITY
LARDER**

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd

At the time of writing, tickets for our **USA Staycation** at the **Village Club** on **Wednesday 17th April** are going fast. If you still hope to come for a fun afternoon event, including a two-course lunch and Country and Western entertainment for only £15 a head, please phone Jane Royle on **01635 297430** or e-mail her at jane.b.royle@gmail.com to check on availability.

Our annual **Plant Sale** with Kingsclere Gardening Association will be held in **St Mary's Churchyard** on the morning of **Saturday 25th May**. Hopefully by then all thoughts of the cold, wet, early months of the year will be far behind us, and spring will be in full, cheerful gear. As always, we will have a wide range of perennial and some annual flowering plants for sale, as well as a good selection of sturdy young vegetable plants. If any of you are splitting perennials, or will have spare young plants grown from seed, please do bear us in mind and get in touch with either **Jane Royle** on **01635 297430** or **Beth Theobald** on **07916 032250** to discuss collection or delivery.

Peter Turner, Chairman

Website: friendsofstmaryskingsclere.org

For membership and other enquiries contact: fosmkingsclere@gmail.com



AMERICAN STAYCATION
WEDNESDAY 17th APRIL

Back by popular demand!
This year we are off to the Wild West of the USA.

The Wagon Train leaves from The Village Club at 12 Noon
Check in from 11.45am
A two-course lunch will be served
(special diets can be catered for if notified in advance)

Live Entertainment with Country and Western Music
Saddle up and come dressed for The West.
Raffle and lots and lots of fun!

Tickets are selling fast - £15.00 - available now from:
Pam Kitch on 01635 299743 (pamkitch16@gmail.com)

Image: Freepik.com



KINGSCLERE VILLAGE CLUB

Est. 1921 CHARITY 1189234

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

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

Coffee & Craft

Our Monday craft sessions return on **15th April 10am to 1pm**. Bring your own project and/or try other crafts, lead by experienced crafters. Fourteen weeks for £40 (less than £3 per session). The guided craft projects will be charged separately.



Tea/coffee included. Contact Helen (below) for more information and to reserve your place, or go to www.wegotickets.com/event/613738

Local History at the Community Café

This month, the Local History Association will be displaying some of their fascinating pictures and documents at the Community Café on **Saturday 27th, 10am to 1pm**, with a fun quiz plus a craft table for younger visitors. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be available. All welcome.

ABB



The fabulous ABB are returning on **Saturday 20th April** for a night of blues & rock. Doors open **7.30 for an 8pm start**. Tickets £17 (including supper) from www.wegotickets.com/event/605838 or email Helen (below). Let us know if you have any dietary requirements or would prefer the non-chilli option.

Hall Floor Up-date

Investigations are continuing. Following advice, we are fixing a roof leak first to eliminate that as the source of our problems. We are carefully monitoring the situation and can assure you that the floor is sound. This is going to be expensive to fix so we would appreciate any contributions towards our appeal <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/newfloor>. Every little helps!

Save the Date – Shakespeare in the Garden

The Festival Players will perform the Tempest on the evening of **Wednesday 21st August**. Always a popular event – look out for more details in next month's Tower.

Helen 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Shipinnarts

The Ship Inn Country Hotel, Ashford Hill, RG19 8BD
Tel: **01189 814504** Website: <https://shipinnarts.org/>



No events in April. Looking ahead to May our next main event:

“Cabaret and Cocktails” with Kitty Mazinsky! on **Saturday 18th May**, at **7pm**. Come and relax and unwind listening to Kitty Mazinsky, a talented vintage singer. A black tie and evening dress event. Cocktails will be served at the bar. **Tickets £10** direct from **The Ship 01189 814504** or at **Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cabaret-and-cocktails-with-kitty-mazinsky-tickets-856469893507>**

Shipinnarts Team

Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands W.I.

Kingsclere Village Club, 35 George Street



After a very successful start to our WI our March meeting was even more successful and greatly enjoyed by all the members there; Jackie is such an entertaining speaker. We look forward to seeing/hearing Part 3 of her life as a policewoman.

In April we have a complete change of topic when we welcome John and Fiona Sawyer telling us of their travels in New Zealand; we may well have something a little extra, I understand! Do come along to our meeting on **Wednesday 10th April at 1.45pm** at our usual meeting place in the **Village Club**. You can be sure of a very warm welcome from our lovely ladies.

Also this month Kingsclere WI sees the twice yearly North Downs Group Meeting at Vernham Dean WI on **Thursday 25th at 2pm** at **Vernham Dean Village Hall**. The speaker has not yet been confirmed. Do come along and meet ladies from Burghclere, East Woodhay and Vernham Dean as well as our own lovely Kingsclere ladies.

Margaret Geary, President tel 01635 297197

Correction to Advertisement for **M.O.L. Photography Studio** (Page R)
The correct email address is: markmolphoto@outlook.com

Kingsclere CE Primary School



Outdoor Learning

The whole school enjoyed a Grounds Day event where children took their learning outside and explored the outdoors. The outdoor learning supported children's learning in many curriculum subjects including art, history and science. Activities included making model Amazon villages, prehistoric art, Easter gardens and finding ways to make large bubbles! Our school has also recently achieved a grant award from 'Learning Through Landscapes' who are providing training and support for outdoor learning activities at our school.

Sports

Our Key Stage 2 football teams and netball team have competed with other local schools. We were proud of all our children who were able to take part in the competitions. Our girls team reached the quarter finals in the Basingstoke and Deane schools' competition. They lost to penalties in their final game but played brilliantly as a team, taking on board the skills they had learnt and working collaboratively with their team players. We have 70 children who have been training to take part in the West Berks and North Hants Primary Schools Cross Country Championships at Newbury Showground. Good luck to all involved!

World Book Day

The whole school dressed up as their favourite book character for World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. Throughout the day we saw Percy Jackson, Little Miss Sunshine, Hermione Granger, Matilda, Miss Honey, Tom Gates and characters from many different book genres! During the day we also held book sharing sessions where children read with children in different year groups and shared their favourite books. Children also took part in a special library challenge and had a special assembly in which one activity included listening to the World Book Day song by MC Grammar - this was enjoyed by many children!

Volunteers Welcome!

Thank you to everyone who has got in touch with us to volunteer in school to support with hearing children read and testing times tables in the afternoon. We are extremely grateful for your time. Please do get in touch if you haven't yet volunteered but would be interested in helping. Our school email is adminoffice@kingsclere.hants.sch.uk. We will need to carry out a DBS check but can support you in completing this. Thank you.

Jo Messenger, Acting Headteacher

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby & Toddler Group

Where: The Village Club, George St

When: Tuesdays, 9:00am – 11:00am

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



The Bunnies had a brilliant time at our fun-packed Easter party! With an egg hunt and Easter-themed arts and crafts, there were plenty of activities for everyone. As always, older siblings are welcome along to Bunnies during the Easter holidays. And the excitement continues, as we are now looking forward to exploring new stories at Kingsclere Village Library! The library will open its doors on the first Tuesday of the month, during usual Bunnies hours, so little ones can peruse the wonderful children's section and choose some new books.

We are a very friendly selection of mums, dads, grandparents, and child minders with children, from tiny babies to energetic toddlers, and we love welcoming new visitors to our play sessions. We enjoy both indoor and outdoor play, with a craft table, plenty of toys and singing time too. Thank you as always to Swan Street Stores for their continued support of a weekly donation of fresh fruit snacks for the bunnies. For information visit our Facebook page, or regular visitors can join our WhatsApp group for weekly updates.

Tess Watkins 07905 624679



The Lighthouse



Wednesdays 10~12 noon St. Mary's Church

Bumps and Babies

Mums & Toddlers

Carers & Dads Welcome

Age from 0-4

Playtime	Refreshments
Sensory Play	Bible Story
Singing	Lots of Fun
Term time only	



The Lighthouse will be taking a break on



April 3rd & 10th ~
The fun returns on the 17th

April in the Garden

This is a busy month; with the longer days we have a chance to catch up with jobs that the weather and short days have delayed.

Early flowering shrubs that have finished flowering will need pruning; forsythia, chaenomeles, and flowering currant are in this pruning group. Ferns will need cutting down, taking away the old fronds to leave room for the new growth. These are good plants for shady and difficult places in the garden, the leaves give another texture in the garden, early growth can be interesting, and there is a huge variety.

Plant up hanging baskets this month; keep them somewhere under cover to protect from frost. They will take a few weeks to become established. If you are without somewhere to keep them frost free delay the planting until May.

Time to plant out sweet pea seedlings, keeping well watered until established. They will tolerate some frost, but slugs and snails can demolish them. A beer trap might help, otherwise hope that hedgehogs, frogs, toads, and thrushes visit your garden.

Thin out perennials and sow annuals now for summer flowering. Prick out young seedlings into pots; this will give them space to develop.

Tomato seedlings grow fast and are hungry feeders so will need to be potted on as soon as they have a good root system growing through the containers. Peas, spinach, parsnips, carrots, beetroot, spring onions, leafy brassicas, and broad beans can be sown outside now - sow in succession to avoid a glut.

Feed and mulch currents and berries, as these plants make a lot of growth. Container grown fruit trees may be planted and strawberry plants can be potted up.

There is still time to plant evergreen hedges and container grown trees and shrubs. Tie in any climbers; much easier to start early in the growing season before the plants become untidy.

Keep on mowing and weeding the lawns. Later this month the blades on the mower should be lowered, as the possibility of the grass yellowing passes.

This is a lovely time of the year for flowering plants. Lily of the valley is a highly fragrant plant, but beware they can spread rapidly so needs to be contained. Other plants in flower now are snakes head fritillaries, erythroniums, rhododendron, alpine clematis and bergenia, plus many trees will be full of blossom.

Denise Allen

Nature Notes

A shorter entry from me this month, as a week today I gave birth to our second beautiful baby girl, and have not had much time to venture out into nature. In the intense and seemingly never-ending few hours before our daughter's arrival into the world, I was struggling in a dark hospital room with the window open when I heard the birds begin their dawn chorus - a much needed note of hope and a reminder that change is always around the corner.

As the grip of winter loosens, tiny green leaves begin to appear on hedges; buds swell; it feels as though there is a gentle softening of the earth into vitality again. As my baby's tiny crumpled ears gradually unfurl with each day, so do the petals of the daisies hidden in the lawn.



daffodils

Spring is certainly starting to reveal her colours, with the bright yellow daffodils nodding to us from the roadsides and the branches of the cherry trees popping with pink and white blossom. We were surprised to already hear - and then see - two large bumblebees busy collecting nectar from crocuses in our front garden.



honeybee on crocus

On one tentative walk with the new pram, I spot a female blackbird tearing moss from a damp brick wall; the birds are busy preparing for the next generation. The crows have returned to the hollowed branch in the oak tree opposite our house and I watch them return again and again with twigs in between chasing off nosy starlings.

We have always encouraged our elder daughter to smell flowers and, until last week, she has been fairly ambivalent about the experience. Our efforts were vindicated when she encountered her first hyacinth and gave it the type of energetic sniff that only a toddler can; she was bowled over by its sweet scent and now looks out for them wherever we go. I can't wait to introduce her to all the other wonders that spring will bring.

Lydia Harley-Tomlinson



BIG EVENT

Sunday, 14th April, 10am-2:30pm

The Fieldgate Centre

All about FOOD!

Buying, growing, preparing sustainably!
Workshops, demonstrations, food stalls, and more!

Repair Cafe – register your repair on our website

Does your **Bicycle** need some work? Bring it along!!
Lessons in **Mending** – learn to replace a button, repair a tear

Fight Fast Fashion! Free clothing 'swap' – kids & adults.

Recycling (no medicine blister packs accepted sadly)
Cafe – coffee, tea, cakes!

Come along and learn how to save money AND the environment.
Volunteers always needed – please contact us.
Information about living more sustainably is on our website.

Nicki, Sarah, Lucinda & Sue

greenerkingsclere@gmail.com www.greenerkingsclere.co.uk

Sandham Memorial Chapel

Harts Lane, Burghclere, RG20 9JT

Now open Thursday to Sunday, and Bank Holiday Mondays 11 am - 3 pm

Special Event 21st March – 23rd June: Life on Watership Down

An exhibition of Watership Down Paintings by Aldo Galli.



The Whole World © Aldo Galli

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/hampshire/sandham-memorial-chapel

Do you live in Kingsclere or the surrounding area? Why not come along to our social group that is designed for older people, looking for weekly activities and companionship?

Kingsclere
SOCIAL GROUP

AGEconcern
Hampshire

EVERYONE
welcome...

Tuesday 11am to 1pm

Rose Hodson Court, Kingsclere, RG20 5TR

Call: **01962 868545** or email: kim.stone@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk

u3a
Overton & District

Parents at War



David Bickerton is a retired civil engineer living in Waterlooville, Hampshire, who will share with us an amazing chronicle of his parents' wartime experiences gleaned from nearly 150 letters written by them between 1942 and 1945.

This talk will be followed by the AGM. Join us on
Wednesday 17th April at 10 am, St Mary's Hall, Overton
Free to members - Non-members £3 on the door

THE KINGSCLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

POLICE, FIRE or AMBULANCE	Emergency 999
Police Enquiries/Information	non Emergency 101
Kingsclere Health Centre:	01635 296000
North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke	01256 473202
Parish Council: 37 George Street (see page 2)	01635 298634
Kingsclere Charities Clerk: Jan Pearce	01635 269184
kingsclerecharities@iname.com	
Dial-a-Ride	01256 462101

CHURCH CONTACTS

St. MARY'S CHURCH:

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Church Warden:

John Price johnsaprice@hotmail.com 01635297780

Administrator:

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

METHODIST CHURCH:

Minister: Rev Rachel Borgars 07889 905753
 Rachel.Borgars@methodist.org.uk 01256 895878

Secretary & Hire of Hall Jeanette Billington 01635 297585

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

Bas & Deane	01256 844844	Swan Street P O	01635297035
Buses	0345 8101000	Vet	01635 896 330
Trains	0845 748 4950	Dentist	01635 299981
Gas Emerg.	0800 111999	Age Concern Local Agent	08003287154
Chemist	01635 298419	Watership Down Health	0333034 1033
Kingsclere Library	01635 297464	Berkshire Vets	01635 896 333

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

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Mike Bound 07833612735

Kerry Morrow 07422651172

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Cllr.Mike.Bound@basingstoke.gov.uk

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tom.thacker@hants.gov.uk

MP for N.W. Hampshire:

Kit Malthouse 01264401401

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2, Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP

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