

# The Kingsclere Tower



March 2022

Your Village Magazine

# The Kingsclere Tower

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

---

Our normally quiet village experienced two very different momentous events on 15th February. Olympic gold medallist Tom Daley cycled through Kingsclere as part of his Comedy Relief Charity event, greeted by and talking with welcoming villagers including excited schoolchildren. At almost the same time on the other side of the village, multiple fire services were fighting a catastrophic house fire on King John Road, which resulted in the tragic loss of life of a long time resident. A day which will be remembered by so many with such different emotions. Our thanks to the fire services and commiserations to everyone affected by this sad event.

---

**Jubilee Plans Coordination:** To get involved and add your input please meet at the **Fieldgate 7:30 on March 2nd**; for groups or interested individuals.

---

**The Tower - YOUR Village Magazine - still needs an editor.**

If you have good language skills, have some village knowledge, and can use a computer, we can show you the rest! To edit 3-4 issues per year.

Would you like to tell the village about your club or group? Short notices are very welcome!

---

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 April 2022 issue: 12 March 2022**

Send copy to the editors at (*new address*) 23 Swan Street, 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)  
**Email:** [clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk)  
**Telephone:** 01635 298634  
**Office:** 37 George St, Kingsclere RG20 5NH  
**Public Opening:** Office is currently closed to public



**ALLOTMENT RENEWALS** – All agreements and rents are due to the office by March 1<sup>st</sup>. KPC has a couple of vacant plots which will hopefully be allocated by the time this edition goes to print.

**TREE WORKS**– During February KPC instructed a company to fell 6 dead Elm trees from the William Holding Field in the interest of safety. Also, the trees around the perimeter of the old Cemetery are being Crown lifted to enable safe passage for visitors and our grounds maintenance team.

The Parish Council plans to plant 10 native holly trees in the William Holding Field in the hedgerows before the Spring. During the winter we planted a further 5 trees in the Community Orchard as part of the Jubilee Green Canopy. There are also plans to plant a further 30 trees via grant from the Woodland Trust in various locations during the Autumn/Winter 2022/23.

**CEMETERY MEMORIAL SAFETY CHECKS**– A safety inspection has now been completed and KPC is currently in the process of trying to trace relatives of those memorials which failed. It was unfortunate that three memorials had to be laid down during the inspection, others have been issued a repair recommendation and only if KPC fails to trace relatives will these memorials then be laid down. KPC is required to comply with Health and Safety rules and for insurance purposes, to carry out these inspections which do come as a cost to the village.

**GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING** – the collections dates are Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – will be at 7:30pm on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022, in the Village Club, (unless otherwise notified). We welcome the attendance of all parishioners at our meetings and anyone who wishes to raise any matters of concern will be given the opportunity to do so.

The Parish website: [www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk](http://www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk)



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



[facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil](https://facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil)

## Police Update

This is the **Police Update** in the last 30 days for the Kingsclere area:

4 X Theft From vehicle  
 11 X Suspicious Person/Vehicle/Other  
 3 X Road Traffic Collisions  
 6 X Road related Incidents  
 1 X Making off without payment  
 3 X Concern for Safety  
 1 X Burglary Business  
 1 X ASB Personal

In regards to theft from motor vehicles, between 26 January and 2 February, a number of vehicles were broken into in areas between Burghclere and Beacon Hill. Items including number plates, Apple Air-pods, handbags and clothing were stolen.

On 5 February, officers arrested a 47-year-old man from Havant on suspicion theft from motor vehicles in Whitchurch, Micheldever, East Stratton, Dummer and Beacon Hill. He has been questioned and released under investigation while enquiries continue.

Further information and advice on how to keep your vehicle secure can be found on our website.

Please continue to report any suspicious vehicles or persons in the area as this gives the police vital information, call 999 in an emergency or 101 if you believe it not to be life threatening. You can also submit an online submission via the Hampshire Constabulary website.

**PCSO Joshua Revett, 18145, Tadley Neighbourhood Policing Team**  
[joshua.revett@hampshire.police.uk](mailto:joshua.revett@hampshire.police.uk) [www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)

## Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan



### To review our Plan

In our Neighbourhood Plan there is a commitment to review our Plan in line with the Local Plan review. This is to ensure it remains up to date by taking into account changes in Government Policy and changes to the National Planning Policy Framework.

Many of the original NP group members are willing to take part in the review but **we would like new members to join the team**. If you are resident in the Parish of Kingsclere and are interested in the future development of our village and surrounding area, please contact me on the email address below.

At the time of writing, I have no further news on progress of the Local Plan review. Please keep checking the Parish Council web site and Facebook for further updates.

**Cllr. Sue Adams** [Cllr.sue.adams@kingsclere-pc.org.uk](mailto:Cllr.sue.adams@kingsclere-pc.org.uk)

### JOHN PORTER CENTENARY EXHIBITION & BOOK LAUNCH



**In the Kingsmill Room, St Mary's Church, Kingsclere.**  
**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 12.00 to 5pm** (after the coffee morning).  
**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 12.30 to 5pm** (after the church service and teas).

John Porter, legendary Kingsclere trainer and founder of Newbury Racecourse died 100 years ago, and is buried at St Mary's, Kingsclere. Come and see his story and his local connections in this mini-exhibition.

Copies of my new booklet on his life and legacy will be available, for just £5 on either day, (£6 RRP), cash only. £1 from every book sold goes to St Mary's Church

Organised by Gareth Martin, of Kingsclere Local History Association.  
**GarethAlanMartin@gmail.com or text/call 07796 217840**

## Watership Down Health



**Updates for Team:** Dr Kirsty Pollard has returned from Maternity Leave. Victoria Demiraj joins our PCN as Care Co-ordinator for Serious Mental Illness, Learning Disabilities and Dementia.

**Wearing Face Masks:** Please continue to wear a face mask when attending any of our surgeries, unless you have a valid exemption in place, in which case we ask that you wear a lanyard or bring official letter. Please remember to observe hygiene measures by using hand gel, washing your hands and remember: Hands, Face and Space. We are continuing to protect our most vulnerable and sick patients and ask that you respect that the anxiety levels of the most vulnerable are still high.

**Covid-19 Vaccination update:** Our patients aged 12+ are still able to access 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, booster (and 4<sup>th</sup> Covid vaccinations, if indicated) at Festival Place. Please note the 4<sup>th</sup> vaccination is currently only for immunosuppressed patients who will receive a specific invite. More information on the Covid-19 vaccination programme can be found on the NHS website.

### Introducing:

### The Anne Robson Helpline



### If you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us

At the Anne Robson Trust we aim to be there to listen to anyone who is struggling with the imminent death of someone they care about. We know that facing the end of life can leave you isolated and alone.

Calls are free and confidential – **Call us on 0808 801 0688**

Being able to access support whilst a loved one is dying is really important for a number of reasons. Gaining knowledge of what may happen towards the end and having a sense of 'preparedness' helps both the person dying and their family gain as much control as possible.

Please visit [www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service](http://www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service) to find out more.



The Fieldgate Centre is run by Kingsclere Community Association, a charity (No 1168366). All residents of Kingsclere over 18 are automatically members of the association, an organisation that relies on volunteers to run it. Be part of it, your support makes a difference.

### **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

Meetings are underway to plan and co-ordinate events across the village for the Jubilee. KCA is keen to play its part in the celebrations alongside other village groups and venues. Look out for details in the next few weeks and in the April copy of The Tower.

### **Public Events in March**

Ceroc Workshop      **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 1.30 – 4.30pm**  
 Monthly Meet Up      **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 2.30 – 4.30pm**

### **April**

Greener Kingsclere Market      **3<sup>rd</sup> April 10.00 – 12.30pm**

### **Office Administrator - Vacancy**

The centre has becoming increasingly busy and we rely on a small, dedicated team of staff who deal with the day to day tasks and support the trustees. Our office manager has done an amazing job for the past seven years but is now going to undertake a change of role. We are delighted that she will continue as part of the team. This leaves a vacancy for a person to work in the office for 8 hours per week. Details are available from the office.

Many of our team are volunteers who help either on a regular basis or for particular events. If you have time to spare and would like to do something for the community, please contact us.

email: [fieldgatecentre@outlook.com](mailto:fieldgatecentre@outlook.com)

telephone 01635 298497

[www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk](http://www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk)

## **Kingsclere Youth Football Club**

Kingsclere Youth Football Club was formed in 1989 and continues to provide a sporting experience for children of the village and surrounding area.

We currently have over 100 registered players, both boys and girls, some of whom participate in our training session while most also play in one of our 7 league teams. Parents also become club members when their children join us. We currently have 256 registered members making us one of the largest organisations in Kingsclere.

We are a Football Association Accredited Club. Any adult helping out with the club has to undertake DBS checks and our team managers are expected to complete FA courses so we can provide a safe environment.

We are currently training at the Holding Field on Saturday mornings while drainage work at the Fieldgate Centre is undertaken.

The club likes to welcome new children from 6 years of age, see our website: <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/kingsclereyouthfootballclub>

We are keen to recruit more coaches and referees. Please contact Richard Hanney: [richard.hanney53@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.hanney53@btinternet.com)

The club endeavours to keep its subscriptions as low as possible to ensure all children can access football, and is therefore grateful to companies that sponsor its playing kits. If there are any companies or organisations that might be prepared to become involved with the club please drop Richard an email and he will be pleased to discuss potential ways in which help can be provided.

**Tim Hargreaves, Chair of Kingsclere Youth FC**

## **Nathan's Christmas Cabaret**

Thank you to all the supporters who came. We raised £1200 for Target Ovarian Cancer in memory of Hazel Crispin.

**Nathan Lubbock-Smith**



**HAMPSHIRE**  
CONSTABULARY



## As of 29th January 2022, The Highway Code has changed.

These advisory changes have been implemented to improve safety for people walking, cycling and horse riding.

Every road user still has a responsibility to keep themselves and each other safe, and the changes mean being ready to give priority, leave space and be considerate of others.

In summary, irrespective of your method of transport, a new hierarchy of road users has been introduced to ensure those who can do the greatest harm have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they may pose to others. This means:

- Giving priority to people crossing or waiting to cross and people cycling straight ahead when turning in and out of junctions
- Giving plenty of space when passing cyclists and horse riders
- Making sure we act with responsibility and respect to all road users

### Specifically:

- **give priority to pedestrians** crossing and waiting to cross and **cyclists** going straight ahead when turning in and out of junctions.
- **leave at least 1.5 metres when overtaking** cyclists at speeds of up to 30mph, and give them more space when overtaking at higher speeds.
- **pass horse riders and horse-drawn vehicles at speed under 10 mph** and allow at least 2 metres of space.
- **allow at least 2 metres of space** and keep to a low speed when passing a pedestrian walking in the road.
- **open car doors with the hand furthest from the door** to help car users look over their shoulder to see cyclists or pedestrians nearby.
- **cyclists may cycle in the centre of the lane or two abreast** for their own safety, whilst allowing others to overtake when it is safe for them to do so.

The changes can be viewed at: [www.gov.uk/dft/highway-code-change](http://www.gov.uk/dft/highway-code-change)

## Kingsclere Community Library



Thank you to everyone who participated in 'Have Your Say' to help us decide what new books to buy! We should begin purchasing this month with money donated specifically for this!

We are so grateful to everyone offering us their used books, but may we ask you please to hold onto them until September, when we will be collecting for the book sale 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> October? We simply do not have any storage available until then. This is our biggest fund raiser and every book helps!

**Please remember you may return books through the door slot** when we are closed. If they are overdue you may still return through the door, and pay fines when you are next in.

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

**Nicki Lee, Kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com    www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk**  
**Our new phone number: 01635 297464**

## Kingsclere Twinning Association



We are delighted to invite you to a **SPRING QUIZ** on **Saturday 30 April 2022**, from 7.30 p.m., at the Village Club!  
 Come and join us for a relaxed, friendly, evening.

- Two course supper included, with a bar serving wine, beer, and soft drinks
- Individuals, couples and teams are all welcome, and no need to be a member
- **Tickets now available** at £10 for members and £12.50 for non-members.

Please email [Kingscleretwinning@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Kingscleretwinning@yahoo.co.uk) for tickets.

## Kingsclere Bowling Club



Need more exercise? Want a new pastime? Like to make new friends and socialise? You can do all these by coming to **Kingsclere Bowling Club** and **TRY LAWN BOWLING**

Our season starts in April and continues until mid- September.

Following the green opening we shall be holding **OPEN EVENINGS** on Tuesdays during **May** starting at **6.30** for you to give bowling a try – **ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

All ages and genders will be very welcome, and novices are also invited to attend on any or all of these evenings. Tuition will be given and bowls provided. All we ask is that you wear flat soled shoes or trainers and are reasonably mobile.

We look forward to meeting you.

For further information contact **Brian Watts on 0118 981 6892** or email [brian-watts@btconnect.com](mailto:brian-watts@btconnect.com) or visit [www.kingsclerebowlingclub.co.uk](http://www.kingsclerebowlingclub.co.uk)



## WHITCHURCH SILK MILL

**Outreach:** We offer talks to groups and societies throughout Hampshire and Berkshire. Our current projects include: Winchester School of Art students designing stripes inspired by Mill's archive, Whitchurch Wildlife Project to produce an exhibition of local wildlife photography.

**The Hide Family Heritage:** More than 100 objects from Geoff Hide's collection have been donated to the Mill. Two interesting ones are James Hide's safe and his bowler hat.

**Edgelarks: Out of the Ordinary II, Friday 11 March:** Edgelarks (BBC Folk Award winners Phillip Henry and Hannah Martin) combine folk music with blues, Indian classical and beatboxing. Tickets £15 (Friends of the Mill £13.50), doors open 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

**Pins & Needles:** Our Pins & Needles adult crafting sessions are on the first Thursday of each month. Tickets £10, including tuition, materials and a hot drink. Past sessions have included silk painting, embroidery and silk bead-wrapping. Booking is essential.

**Current Exhibition, until 27 March 2022:** Our current exhibition showcases work by Basingstoke Creative Stitchers, and shows their diverse skills including traditional embroidery techniques and contemporary textile and mixed media art pieces.  
**Sue Tapliss 01256 892065**

## The Church Pages



My friend is dying. He is in his late thirties and has a wife and three children under 10. Many have prayed for healing over the last few months, for hospital appointments to go well and scans to be clear, but healing doesn't appear to be coming. This is really tough and we may ask ourselves why and where is God in this. And yet as Christians, even when surrounded by pain and suffering, we choose to believe that God has an everlasting love for us, that He works everything out for the good of those who love Him. And we choose to believe those things, because they are promises God makes us in the Bible and because of His work in our hearts, helping us to experience His love and goodness. For my friend, I pray he will continue to remember and trust these things even in his final days, remembering the glorious hope he has, life forever with a God who loves us with a love unimaginable.

Last month, I wrote about making faith a priority and not putting off the big questions. My friend's situation reminds me that we have limited time in this life. So please don't dismiss faith questions but take time to consider them properly and if you'd like anyone to talk to, then please do get in contact.

As I also mentioned last month, we will be moving from our home in a few weeks' time, and this is partly prompted by our conviction that we must make the Lord, our faith if you like, a priority. We've taken this decision having prayed and thought through what we believe the Lord is calling us to. We want to take the opportunity to invest in deepening our relationship with Him and learning what it means to serve Him in a different context, perhaps, we think, overseas where people haven't had the opportunity to hear about Him. We'll be moving to do some training for 5 months with an organisation called Youth with a Mission at their base The King's Lodge in Leicestershire. During that time, we'll be praying that the Lord would make clear the next step. We'll also go on praying for our friend. We believe we are being called to 'Go', but we will miss many in these villages and are so grateful for the support we've received over the years.

**Blessings,**

**Ben**

## St Mary's Church Worship in our Churches MARCH

Services in our churches will be as follows:



Thur 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's Kingsclere	
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Holy Communion St Peter's, Headley	10.30am Holy Communion/Junior Church, St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's Kingsclere	
Sun 13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Morning Worship St Peter's Headley	10.30am All-Age Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's Kingsclere	
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Morning Worship St Paul's Ashford Hill	10.30am Morning Worship/Junior Church, St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's Kingsclere	
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Holy Communion St Paul's Ashford Hill	10.30am Morning Worship/Junior Church, St Mary's, Kingsclere

### St Mary's Church - Saturday Coffee

Fresh brewed coffee, tea and delicious home-made cakes. All welcome!

**10.00-12.00**, Kingsmill Room, **March 5th , 12th and 19th**

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

### St Mary's Church – Platinum Jubilee Celebration

**Save the Date:** Everyone is invited to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, **Sunday 5th June** at St Mary's Church.

We will give thanks for her reign during a celebration service at 10.30am, and then move into the churchyard for a Big Jubilee Lunch.

## Lighting up St Mary's

The sight of St Mary's Church when it is floodlit is truly beautiful. Many people sponsor these lights (£12 per evening) to celebrate an occasion, such as a birthday, wedding, anniversary, christening, or some other special day in their lives.



To book, contact Emma, our Church Administrator on **07422 687125** or email **administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk**

### February

21<sup>st</sup> To the memory of our legendary local trainer John Porter, who died 21<sup>st</sup> February 1922

### March

28<sup>th</sup> Remembering Jim Soper on his birthday. With love from all the family.

## Kingsclere Methodist Church

Services for: March

Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Rev Rachel Borgars
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Rev Andy Fitchett
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Helen Watson
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Worship Leaders

All Services begin at 10am and all are welcome

**Christine Westcombe** tel **07485 083874** email **c\_westcombe@hotmail.com**

## Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd

We now have a new date for the deferred **Quiz Night with Ploughman's Supper – Friday 22 April** at the Fieldgate Centre. With regret, due to circumstances beyond our control, it will no longer be possible to hold the long-deferred Biennial Art Exhibition, kindly organized by Jane Baikie.

Our **Plant Sale, held jointly with Kingsclere Gardening Association**, remains a firm fixture, and will be held in the Churchyard on the morning of **Saturday 21 May**. As in pre-pandemic times, the two groups will between them be offering a good range of flowering perennials and young vegetable plants, on which our members are beginning to get working now as the days start to draw out. Please remember us if you can offer any 'spare' plants when you are sowing or dividing clumps, and contact Jane Royle on 01635 297430.

**Peter Turner, Chairman**

## Kingsclere Gardening Association

Our next meeting is on **10 March at The Village Club:**

**"Conservatory Plants"** presented by **Wilf Simcox**

The doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm. Refreshments are included and we hold a raffle; any donations for the raffle are always welcome. £3 for non-members. Membership is £8, and £6 for seniors.

We hold a **Members' Competition** at our talks and entries are awarded points. The member with the most points are awarded a prize at the AGM. The competition starts this month and you can enter any or all of the following categories (all to be home/allotment grown): A vase/bowl of flowers, a container of bulbs, a single stem from the garden, a single vegetable, a pot plant.

### Upcoming events:

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Spring Show** at the Village Club, affectionately known as the Daffodil Show. We would love to have entries from lots of Kingsclere residents. If you have some amazing specimens in your garden, bring them along for judging. Show entries close a week before the day unless the class specifically says "Entry on the day". For a copy of the show schedule, see our Facebook page or email [laura@ro-jen.co.uk](mailto:laura@ro-jen.co.uk)

**Saturday 21 May - Plant Sale with FOSM**, in St Mary's Church Yard. (See more details above).

**Beth Theobald (Secretary) 07916 032250.**

Facebook: Kingsclere Gardening Association. Please join our group. News, events and schedules for show entries will be advertised there.



## Kingsclere Film Club

**Saturday, 12 March at 7.30pm** at Kingsclere Village Club, George Street.  
Door open at 7.00pm.

### *The Personal History of David Copperfield* (2019 - PG - 119 minutes)

*A modern take on Dicken's classic 'orphan makes good' story. Stars Dev Patel, Hugh Laurie, Tilda Swinton and Peter Capaldi. Screenplay by Armando Iannucci.*

Next Month:

**9 April 2022**

**'A bout de souffle' (Breathless)**

*A classic 1960 Jean-Luc Goddard film, starring Jean-Paul Belmondo.  
A foreign language film with subtitles.*

Kingsclere Film Club welcomes guests at £7.50, subject to space.

New members and guests are welcome - please call in advance. Further info:  
**John Sawyer (Chairman) 297221** or **Diana Tait (Membership Sec.) 298494**

## Charity Ball at Sandford Springs - Silent Auction In aid of Cancer Research UK

We are organising a Charity Ball which will take place at Sandford Springs this September. Having lost loved ones to cancer and recent brushes with this disease ourselves, we want to raise an absolute ton of money for CRUK.

Tickets to the event itself have sold out. However, we hope to raise much more money by holding a silent auction on the night. To this end we are looking for attractive donations from local businesses. In return, donors will receive much gratitude, and as much publicity for you as we can drum up.

Please email [claireellis.email@gmail.com](mailto:claireellis.email@gmail.com) with details if you can offer a prize for our auction.

Thanks so much for your consideration, and thank you again to all the people and organisations locally who have already promised their support.

**Beccy, Mandy and Claire**

If any member of our community would like to show their support in the form of a cash donation they can do so here:

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/kingsclere-vs-cancer>

100% proceeds from the event, the auction and the Just Giving page will go to Cancer Research UK.

# u3a Overton and District

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00am St Mary's Hall, Overton

## Human & Animal Relationships - Medical Research

The Humanimal Trust is a charity focused on One Medicine with vets, doctors and researchers collaborating so that humans and animals benefit from medical progress but not at the expense of the life of an animal.

*Free to members – non-members £3 on the door*



There has been a great deal of publicity about adults who struggle to read as a result of Repair Shop presenter, Jay Blades, taking part in a recent BBC documentary. This follows his journey as he faces up to the challenge of learning to read as an adult with his local branch of Read Easy, and in particular, his patient and encouraging Volunteer Coach, Emma.

In the Basingstoke & Deane Council area, we have been helping adults with their reading skills for the past two and a half years, and we have seen at first-hand what a difference that learning to read makes. We have had a number of our Readers now graduate from the Read Easy programme. Paul from Tadley, only learnt to read in his 40s and is now encouraging others who may be struggling, to ask for help. He wanted to make his wife and daughter proud, and he has certainly achieved that. Joelma, is so pleased to be able to help her children with their homework, and a third Reader says that learning to read "is the best thing that's ever happened to me". We are very proud of all of our Readers.

We have trained Volunteer Coaches ready and waiting to help, providing free one-to-one reading coaching for adults who are unable to read or who find it difficult. If you know anyone who would need our help or to find out more about learning to read as an adult, please **contact Read Easy Basingstoke** on **07592 450789** or email **basingstoke@readeasy.org.uk**



## KINGSCLERE VILLAGE CLUB Est. 1921 100 years and counting...

**Recent developments** Thanks to generous donations, particularly from the Peter Barker Foundation, we now have tables and chairs to use in the outdoor area. These will help us make maximum use of our lovely garden. A big thank-you to Mike Morris for putting the tables together.

**Community Café** The next Community Café is : **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March**, 10am to 2pm. Enjoy the friendly, relaxed atmosphere – and the homemade cakes! An Easter themed **Creative Corner** will be available (with a small charge for materials) if you wish to take part in some creative craft.



**Dates for the Diary** Following the great success of the **Christmas Market**, we plan to hold markets on **24<sup>th</sup> April**, **17<sup>th</sup> July** and **4<sup>th</sup> December**, offering quality goods from independent traders and craftspeople.

**Opportunities Available** Would you like to run a class at the Village Club? We have an opening for a Pilates teacher but would also be interested in any other ideas. Please get in touch.

**Helen 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk**  
<http://www.kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk> or [www.facebook.com/kingsclerevillageclub](http://www.facebook.com/kingsclerevillageclub)

## Boardgamers of Kingsclere



We took a little break but we're back and ready to play some more games. Our next two sessions are on **5<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 7pm at The Village Club**. Tickets are £5.50 in advance - see the Village Club facebook page for details.

Whether you're a seasoned gamer, curious about the world of modern board games, or just want a new social activity then come and join us. We'll be playing games like Catan, Ticket To Ride, and many others. Come along and roll some dice, play some cards and place some tiles.

**James Cruickshank 07803 616162, boardgamersofkingsclere@gmail.com**

## March In The Garden

March may bring bitter cold winds, it also is the month when the garden begins to come to life. Many spring bulbs are giving a lovely show, but there is always the chance of some snow.

Now is the time to mulch, this will help to keep the moisture in the soil as the warmer weather soon dries it out. Compost is the best option if you are fortunate to have the space to make your own. If using farmyard manure make sure it is well rotted, otherwise you can introduce unwanted weeds into the garden. If a good layer of mulch is applied this should hopefully help to suppress weeds.

At this time of year the grass needs to be cut regularly to keep it in good condition. The first few cuts will need the mower blades set high.

This really is the last opportunity to plant bare-rooted plants. Of course pot grown plants can be planted through to the autumn, as long as they are well watered in.

Prune roses now, taking out any stems that crossover, the aim is to open up the plant so that it is cup shape. Most people worry that over pruning will kill the plant, but roses are tough. The shrubs to prune now are Dogwood, Eucalyptus and Willow.

Perennials that have become large can be divided; if left the centre of the plants often die. Once divided and replanted water and feed to encourage new growth. Primulas that have flowered can be divided now; this will make the plants tidier and also increase your stock. Climbing plants will need supporting plus any tall growing perennials. Plants look more natural growing through the supports rather than tying in later.

Sow hardy annuals; these can be grown outside now. Many vegetable seeds can be sown now, including broad beans, parsnips, early potatoes, onion sets and herbs. Make sure that the soil is well prepared.

There are lots of lovely plants flowering now. If you have the space for them to spread Scilla Siberica Spring Beauty is worth growing. Other star plants are the flowering cherry tree, crocuses, and narcissus "Cheerfulness". How lucky we are to have such varieties in our gardens.



**Denise Allen**

## Nature Notes

There has been concern for some time about the decline in the numbers of eels in our waters. The time was when one could peer into the Test and see good sized eels swimming happily with the trout and in similar numbers, but you would be very lucky to see the same sight now. Interesting fish and surrounded by folklore and yes, they can survive and travel overland between waters, under the right conditions. Many years ago, I was a keen angler and on very rare occasions would hook an eel. Things to quickly learn about them-they are very lively, they are very strong, and they are very SLIPPERY. Experienced anglers who regularly encountered them would often include a newspaper in their tackle on which to drop the fish to limit its writhing whilst being unhooked. The decline is not limited to UK but Europe-wide and it would be sad if a fish that is the Epitome of sleek beauty and had been a mainstay of people over centuries should just fade away. They are now listed as Critically Endangered.



Moles! The bane of lawn lovers and vegetable growers. Our attention was drawn to an immense molehill accompanied by a chain of more modest ones in a friend's garden. 30cm high and approximately 75cm across it was hard to believe that a creature only 14cm long and weighing only 110gm could create such a mound-an average molehill weighs approximately 1kg of soil. These extra large heaps are thought to be the result of extra activity but are also cover for the football sized nest chamber, lined with grass and leaves, where the young are born in late Spring. Researching mole lifestyle can only arouse respect for these unique little creatures, nuisance though can be. What we could not find was any gender specific word for male, female or young. Any ideas?

**Diana Tait and Rod Eldred**

## Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands W.I.

Kingsclere Village Club, 35 George Street



It is amazing that we are already into March and things seem to be quieter on the Covid front, which is great. It is also great that we continue to see our lovely WI ladies each month as they come for tea/coffee, biscuits, chat and a chance to listen to an interesting speaker. Dr Paul Sievers, our speaker in February fulfilled all our expectations, as we are sure Mike Brook with his talk 'Musing from the Amateur Stage' will. Mike is a re-booking from December 2020 so we are delighted to be able to welcome him in 2022. It's always interesting to hear from someone telling us of their life which is completely different to anything that we might have experienced.

Did you know that many Women's Prisons have WI groups, which are very popular. These provide a way of introducing these ladies to some sort of normality and give them skills that they can use once they leave prison.

Our WI, along with all institutes in England and Wales, voted on a number of resolutions, so we are now waiting to see if the one selected by our Kingsclere ladies is the same as the one selected nationally.

A very warm welcome awaits any lady who would like to come along on **9th March at 1.45pm**. Do come and introduce yourselves, it's a chance to join an organisation offering friendship and community.

Margaret Geary tel 01635 297197

## Basingstoke Choral Society

### Spring Diary Dates 2022



**Saturday 2nd April 2022** Fairfield Halls, Croydon at 7.30 pm  
Basingstoke Choral Society and Croydon Philharmonic Choir perform *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff, Dockland Sinfonia conducted by David Gibson.  
Tickets from £15; [bhlivetickets@bhlive.org.uk](mailto:bhlivetickets@bhlive.org.uk)

**Saturday 25th June 2022** The Anvil, Basingstoke  
A Celebration of English Composers

Our next market is  
**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 10:00 – 12:30 at The Fieldgate Centre**



Come shop for everyday and special items which will help keep your household 'greener' and prevent packaging waste too.

We will also be accepting for **recycling** at this market:

**MILK BOTTLE TOPS**

**BRAS**

**EYEGLASSES**

**INKJET CARTRIDGES**, original only, not compatible, or laser.

**Do you want to do more?** Remember 'Think Global, Act Local'? We are looking for more ways to make Kingsclere sustainable. We are already planning a Repair Cafe, Clothing Swap and Toy Exchange –but we need your ideas too!

Please contact us if you would like to be involved in any way – from helping out with repairs if you are handy, helping at events, or with any ideas YOU have for a Greener Kingsclere.

Market in partnership with the Kingsclere Community Centre.

**Nicki, Sarah & Lucinda** [greenerkingsclere@gmail.com](mailto:greenerkingsclere@gmail.com)  
[www.Greener-kingsclere.co.uk](http://www.Greener-kingsclere.co.uk)



## FOSM 200 Club

The February Draw winner was Tony Pounds – No. 5.  
**Congratulations, Tony.**

The March Draw will take place at The Crown at approximately 7 pm on  
**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March.**

**Jane Royle** [jane.b.royle@gmail.com](mailto:jane.b.royle@gmail.com) 01635 297430

## Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby & Toddler Group

**Where:** The Village Club, George St

**When:** Tuesday, 9:00am – 11:00am

**Cost:** First visit free, £1 for bumps & unweaned babies, £2 for 1<sup>st</sup> child (including snack) and 50p for additional children



With a new year a new influx of bunnies arrived! It has been great getting to know you all. We are very pleased to welcome some more dads who bring their little ones regularly and as always would be happy to welcome more dads, mums and bunnies if you have a spare Tuesday morning free. Hopefully this month will be the last of the colder months and we can look forward to spring weather and more outdoor play.

A special thank you to Swan street stores for their weekly donation of snacks for the bunnies, it is so lovely to have such a sense of community in the village.

Keep an eye on our Bunnies Facebook site for what's on information.

[villagebunniestoddlergroup@gmail.com](mailto:villagebunniestoddlergroup@gmail.com)

## Kingsclere CE Primary School



Our term continues to fly by with more visitors joining the children to enhance learning experiences across the school. Our younger children have received a visit from 'Daisy the Cow' to enhance their Design & Technology learning, providing real experiences to understand the Farm to Fork process.

Our additional clubs after school are in full swing and many children have explored sports clubs, music clubs as well as building on their STEM knowledge by attending Science Club. The children have explored debate skills and impact of space development on the eco-system.

We continue to develop our quality of teaching and learning experiences as a result of the pandemic and are proud to share with you the recognition of this from the local authority. They have identified that the progress of learners in school is very positive and we have been asked to support another local school, particularly with Maths provision. A huge well done to all the pupils, staff and parents/carers.

Should you wish to visit to see us in action, please do contact the school office: [adminoffice@kingsclere.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@kingsclere.hants.sch.uk). We look forward to welcoming you!

**Mrs Melrose, Headteacher**

## Governor Vacancy

### Kingsclere C.E. Primary School

Are you interested in supporting your community? Then why not consider becoming a governor at Kingsclere C.E. Primary School? We currently have a vacancy for a co-opted governor.

Our governors are volunteers who work together for the benefit of the school. They come from a range of different backgrounds, bringing different skills and experience to the team.

Being a school governor is an enjoyable, stimulating and rewarding experience. It is an opportunity to work with other governors and the Senior Leadership Team of the school to develop an understanding of school management issues, the well-being of the children and staff, as well as being involved in the life of the school. Both initial and on-going training are available and encouraged.

Meetings of Governors include discussion and presentations in a range of school matters including curriculum, recruitment, finance and welfare and safeguarding of children and staff.

As a member of the Governing Body, you would be expected to attend 4-6 meetings a term, normally in the evenings. This may involve both full governing body meetings and committee meetings.

If you are interested and would like further details, please contact the Clerk to the Governors by email at [3088Governors@kingsclere.hants.sch.uk](mailto:3088Governors@kingsclere.hants.sch.uk)

---

### Would you like to read your monthly Tower online or on your device?

Simply email the editors at [kingscleretower@gmail.com](mailto:kingscleretower@gmail.com) and ask to subscribe.

You will receive your Tower through your email. Why not tell friends and relations who may have moved away?  
(At the moment, you will still receive paper copies through the door as well.)

## THE KINGSCLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

### **POLICE, FIRE or AMBULANCE**

Police Enquiries/Information

**Emergency 999**  
**non Emergency 101**

**Kingsclere Health Centre:** 01635 296000  
**North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke** 01256 473202

**Parish Council:** 37 George Street (see page 2) 01635 298634  
**Dial-a-Ride** 01256 462101

### **CHURCH CONTACTS**

#### **St. MARY'S CHURCH:**

**Vicar** Rev Ben Read, The Vicarage, Foxs Lane 01635 298471

#### **Church Wardens:**

Robert Shotliff rjshotliff@gmail.com 07918 076630

Sarah Mussett sarah.mussett@hotmail.co.uk 01635 291900

#### **Administrator:**

Emma Rivers  
administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk 07790 934972

#### **METHODIST CHURCH:**

**Minister:** Rev Rachel Borgas 07889 905753

Rachel.Borgas@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	Kingsclere Library	07899623872
Buses	0345 8101000	Swan Street P O	01635 297035
Trains	0845 748 4950	Vet	01635 297557 or 40565
Gas Emerg.	0800 111999	Dentist	01635 299981
Chemist	01635 298419	Age Concern Local Agent	07813368259

### **BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

**Ken Rhatigan** 07850530319 cllr.ken.rhatigan@basingstoke.gov.uk

**Stuart Frost** 07961265719 cllr.Stuart.Frost@basingstoke.gov.uk

**Geoff Poland** 07967 444137 cllr.geoff.poland@basingstoke@gov.uk

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

**Tom Thacker** 01264 738464 tom.thacker@hants.gov.uk

### **MP for N.W. Hampshire:**

**Kit Malthouse** 01264401401 kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk

2, Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP

**There is a more comprehensive list of local contact numbers on the Parish Council website. Go to [www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk/directory](http://www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk/directory)**