

KINGSCLERE ANNUAL REPORT 2018

PARISH CHAIRMANS REPORT

APRIL 2017 – APRIL 2018

It has been a very busy third year for this Parish Council. Councillors have worked hard and are ambitious for this village and its community. Over the year a number of projects have been completed and others are ongoing, and this is in the context of reduced financial support from government. With Parish Council elections in May 2019 we have a lot to do over the next year.

The most significant achievement has been the completion of the Kingsclere Neighbourhood Plan, led with great tenacity by Cllr. Sue Adams. This huge project is now ready for a village referendum in September 2018. We urge all residents to vote. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to set out how the village will develop over the next decade. The plan has been developed through consultation with the community over a number of years to determine where and how the fifty houses required by the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan are provided. We are greatly indebted, not only to Sue, but to those volunteers who came forward from the community to give extensively and freely their time and expertise.

Many of you will have noticed improvements to the Churchyard and Malthouse Open Space. Over the last 18 months we have sought to bring these two areas together as an attractive amenity for our community. This has included the removal of the hedge separating them and landscaping so the two levels become connected. There remains work to be done on the pond, but as with all things to do with landscaping we have to work with the seasons and that takes time!

The Parish Council has also worked hard to improve the environment of the village in other ways. Cllr. Nicola Peach has been instrumental in getting the Community Orchard Project underway on the Pony Paddocks. This year was the first of this three year project and as it develops you will see more fruit trees being planted and benches appearing in that area. We hope that this will grow into a green asset for future generations to enjoy. Bulb planting has also been one of her major activities, and her work attracted many positive comments in the spring as the village "came into bloom", as it were! In the Recreation Ground, Cllr. Ian Bowes' work on upgrading and maintaining the play equipment has been much appreciated by our younger residents and their parents. His work has saved Kingsclere's taxpayers thousands of pounds; so our thanks to him. We are, as always, grateful for the regular work of the Parish Paths Partnership which keeps our extensive network of footpaths open and accessible for all to enjoy. If there are any residents who would like to support these projects in a practical way, we would certainly like to hear from you.

During the year the Council took the decision to enter Kingsclere for the Village of the Year competition. Councillor Sue Adams is leading on this and has already held two meetings of interested parties. The entry will be made in the summer.

Traffic and parking in the village remain a concern for both the Council and many residents. It is a topic that is frequently raised at meetings. The frustrating fact is that Parish Councils have no powers in this area. However we are grateful to the volunteers who continue with the Community Speed Watch scheme. As a Council we raise issues regularly with both the Borough and County Councils, but a mediaeval street layout is not a good starting point coping with the demands of 21st-century traffic!

During the year, Cllrs. Clive Mussett and Ian Bowes have been working on long-term ideas for the development of the Holding Field as a green space for the village. Over the next year you will see improvements being made to the car park. This should make life easier for the Bowls Club and users of the Holding Field, but during term times it should also provide a better facility for parents visiting the school. We are also hoping that Hampshire Highways will soon be embarking on their long promised improvements to the Love Lane footpath. We would like this central route across the village to be a safe and attractive alternative to driving, thus reducing congestion round the school at peak hours and the number of car journeys to the centre of the village. Clive has produced a useful paper on this, and it has been forwarded to Hampshire Highways for their consideration.

With 2018 marking the centenary of the end of the First World War, the Parish Council took the decision to purchase a memorial bench which will be located in the centre of the village. In addition it is working with an enthusiastic group of volunteers from the community to develop a programme for November 2018. Please look in The Tower and on noticeboards for further information nearer the time. If you are interested in supporting this initiative, please contact the Clerk.

Finally, I would like to thank all Councillors for their commitment and hard work not only on the above projects, but also on the day-to-day work of managing finances, monitoring planning and reading and responding to the mountains of material that floods into the office. Much of this work goes unnoticed, but is demanding of their time and energy which they give for no financial reward.

I would also like to thank our Borough Councillors for their interest in our community and their continuing support, but most of all our Clerk for keeping the Council running and finally our residents for your interest. Please remember, our meetings are open to parishioners, and there is an opportunity to raise questions during the recess at Ordinary Meetings on the last working Monday of each month. We are also planning to run a stall at the Church Fete at the end of August, so do come and see us there for an informal chat.

The Parish Council will be up for re-election in May 2019. If you would like to get involved, please contact me or the Clerk to find out more about the role of Parish Councillor.

Cllr. John Sawyer
Chairman



Over the past year members of Girlguiding in Kingsclere have been busy. We have seen the Guide unit reopen after being closed last year, we have welcomed 3 new leaders - Lucie, Jo and Nina into our team, and Eleanor was awarded with the Young Adult Leaders Award from Girlguiding South West England.

Rainbows have worked on their festival badge and completed a unicorn challenge badge. They learnt about being healthy and completed a sponsored skipping session. They also went bug hunting, attended a magical fairy sleepover in Tadley and finished the term with a trip to Pizza Hut.

Brownies have looked at the community this year. They took part in a sponsored litter pick around the village to raise funds for a trip to Legoland that was enjoyed by all, potted 60 flowers and left them on people's doorsteps as a 'random act of kindness' and attended remembrance parade last November. They have been on an adventurous Harry Potter theme pack holiday at Thirtover Place, learnt some first aid skills, had a visit from the local vet (plus some furry friends) and finished off the term with a water fun night.

Guides have worked towards their Party Planner and Chocolate badges and organized a party for the Brownies, and guests from the Royal British Legion, to celebrate the royal wedding. They joined Brownies on the sponsored litter pick and Legoland trip and have also made armpit fudge, learnt first aid, did blind chocolate taste testing and finished the summer term with a campfire cookout.

We are always in need of more volunteers to help with the many different aspects of guiding - not just leaders! If you think you can help or have any questions, please email kingscleredistrict@gmail.com for more info.

Girlguiding offers opportunities for girls aged 5-7 (Rainbows) 7-10 (Brownies) and 10-14 (Guides) in Kingsclere and ages 14-18 (The Senior Section) and 18+ (The Trefoil Guild) locally. If you or your daughter would like to join go to www.girlguiding.org.uk to register.

Colleen Stables
Clere District Commissioner

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH – FOSM

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd (FOSM) is an independent Charity, formed in 2001/02, to help with the costs of preserving and maintaining the fabric of our ancient parish church of St Mary's. Under its constitution, FOSM may not contribute to the day-to-day running of the Church, nor to the Parish share of the Diocesan quota, but the Friends are able to make significant financial contributions towards work on maintaining and restoring the actual structure of the building, and to such elements as renewal of the heating and electrical systems.

The Charity was set up with the joint aims of helping with the cost of present repair works and building up a fund for such needs in the future. Since it was formed FOSM has contributed more than £100,000 towards various projects to repair the Church fabric, including part-funding of projects such as the replacement of the creaking ancient boilers, and major roof repairs, specialist repairs to weathered or damaged stonework, and a grant of £32,500 towards the complete overhaul of St Mary's electrical wiring and lighting systems. We will also be contributing to the much-needed re-plastering and redecoration of the Nave due to be carried out later this year. We are now looking to re-build our financial reserves in order to contribute to further works in the 5-year rolling works schedule drawn up by the Parochial Church Council.

Anyone is welcome to become a Friend and thereby help to play some part in safeguarding this important and much-loved landmark at the heart of the village. Money is raised both by membership subscriptions (a bargain £10 a year for individual membership, and £20 a year for families) and by our organising a variety of fund-raising events throughout the year, such as Quiz Nights, an annual Plant Sale, visits to local wineries or herb farms, occasional joint ventures with other village organisations, etc. Some events are exclusive to, or have preferential terms for, our members. We are always looking for new people with ideas for, or to help with, our fund-raising activities.

Those interested in becoming Friends should please contact Alan Denness by 'phone on 01635 298376, or by e-mail at alandenness@btinternet.com.

Peter Turner - Chairman

KINGSCLERE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

The last year proved another successful one for Kingsclere Heritage Association.

Our Winter Programme commenced with an Open Evening in September when we exhibited various items from our Archives. In October we held our AGM after which Richard Croft gave another of his interesting presentations on the history of Kingsclere and area. There then followed our monthly speaker meetings on a variety of thought provoking as well as entertaining subjects.

In November, after many months of research and toil, we launched our World War 1 Commemorative Edition of our Bedbug magazine. This took place at the Village Club with an accompanying display of WW1 material. The magazine and display were very well received and the magazine continues to be available for purchase at the various village outlets.

We meet at the Village Club usually on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm from September onwards. Our 2018/9 programme is in the course of preparation so stay posted for further information. Do remember, also, that the Village Archives are normally open on Monday afternoons for your use.

Michael Leah
Hon Secretary



Kingsclere Film Club: Annual Report 2017-8

Kingsclere Film Club continues to thrive, showing films on the second Saturday of the month at the Village Club. Membership is stable and the range of films shown is very good, whether classics, such as the recent showing of 'It Happened One Night' from 1934 up to 2017 releases such as 'Lion', and such genres as historical and biographical, comedy, thrillers, drama and foreign language. Members enjoy the social aspects of the club, sharing conversation over a glass of wine and some nibbles before the start of the show, and the annual Christmas party. New members are always welcome; the annual subscription is payable in two instalments. Contact 297221 for further details.

PARISH PATHS

The Parish Paths Work Group meet every month. This is usually on the last Sunday of the month. The dates are posted in the Tower magazine. We meet in the garden of the Village Club at 9.45 am and we are normally finished by midday. We have our own tools and equipment and our mission is to keep the 24 miles of public footpaths in the Kingsclere Parish as accessible as possible, for all to enjoy.

We are a small friendly group and we always welcome new volunteers so please come along and join us or email us on kingsclereparishpaths@btinternet.com for more details.

KINGSCLERE PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT 2017/8

Expenditure:

Mowing and Maintenance	£13,363
Salaries and related costs	£27,614
Office & Admin costs	£6,568
Grants made	£1,150
Allotments	£1,008
Recreation Ground and Play Area	£30
Cemetery	£840
Churchyard	£510
Malthouse Open Space	£10,450
Holding Field	£845
Street Lighting	£717
General Maintenance	£997
Neighbourhood Plan	£175
Parish Paths	£109
Minor other costs	£2807

Totals: £67,183

Income:

Precept:	£43,187
CTS Grant	£2,578
Revenue Grants	£10,883
Burial Ground	£3,703
Allotment Rents	£1,022
Lease Rents	£781
Other income	£337
VAT Reclaim	£4,644

Sub Totals: £67,135

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

Laminator, Keyboard and Mouse	£104
Christmas Lights	£180
New Play Equipment	£2,019
Total Capital	£2,303

Other Grants 0

Total Expenditure £69,486

Total Income £67,135

Balance in General Reserve at 31st March 2018 £69,409

Note: * The expenditure listed above for Allotments, Recreation Ground, Cemetery, Churchyard, Malthouse Open Space and Holding Field are in addition to the regular Mowing and Maintenance costs

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Sue Adams – 299242

Mick Farey – 297159 (Vice Chairman)

Nicola Peach – 298998

Adam Price – 298658

John Sawyer – 297221 (Chairman)

Ian Bowes - 297491

Clive Mussett – 07800 022432

Ray Peach – 298998

Fiona Sawyer – 297221

Parish Clerk: Louise Porton – 298634

Office: 37 George St, Kingsclere RG20 5NH

Public opening Monday and Wednesday morning 9:30 – 11:30, excluding Bank Holidays

Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk

Website: www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Ken Rhatigan – 07850 530319 & Cllr Donald Sherlock – 01672 521247

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Tom Thacker – 01264 738464