

The Kingsclere Tower



**December 2013
January 2014**

Your Village Magazine

The Kingsclere Tower

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Laurie Harris

One name that never appears in the credits for this magazine is that of Laurie Harris. Laurie has been the driving force behind the Tower for the past 20 years. As Chair of the Tower Management Committee he has fought, wheedled and charmed his way through numerous meetings, many crises and an inordinate number of editions of our much loved Village Magazine.

Laurie has been far, far more than just someone who chaired a couple of meetings a year. His own niche in the production team has been as the ‘man in charge of the paper’ – no paper, no Tower – simple as that! In his spare time he made sure the various machines were all in good working order....he can even charm printers into doing what it says in the manual!

Laurie will be a very hard act to follow. We all hope that he will keep on reading his continuing legacy – not seeing too many mistakes and reflecting how nice it is that someone else has to deal with those calls that start with ‘Oh Laurie - thank goodness you’re in...we seem to have a problem.’!!

Have a wonderful ‘retirement’, Laurie! We will all miss you.

The Tower Management Team

Neither the Editor, nor the Management Committee accept responsibility for the opinions expressed or the goods and services advertised in the Kingsclere Tower magazine.

To all “Tower” Contributors

COPY FOR February to the editors at 3 Blue Meadow, Garrett Close
kingscleretower@gmail.com by January 12th
Copy MUST include name, address/phone number

Kingsclere Parish Council

KINGSCLERE PARISH COUNCIL (KPC)

Chairman: Alan Denness (298376)
Clerk: Sheila Thompson (298634)
email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk

Office: 37 George Street, Kingsclere RG20 5NH

Public Opening: Mon & Wed 9:30-11:30am



KINGSCLERE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Thank you to everyone who has returned the Questionnaire posted to all households at the end of October. This is a community plan so your views are important. This document is being put together by residents from all parts of the village with assistance from the Parish Council in order to allow us all, as a community, to influence how and where Kingsclere develops. At the time of writing we have yet to analyse the responses as we have not yet reached the closing date of 30th November, but members of the group have already started looking at sites that have been proposed for development during the last ten years. When we have been through all the feedback we will let you know what issues and concerns matter most to you. This is just the first stage so if you were unable to get your Questionnaire back in time, you still can still drop it into us, we want to take account of your opinions at every stage of this process. Don't forget you can also give us your views on the Kingsclere Neighbourhood Planning Facebook page, or drop into our room at the Village Club, next to the Parish Council Office, for more information.

VILLAGE DIARY - Please remember to use the VILLAGE DIARY which is available on the village website. This can advertise events and frequently avoid clashes with others. Details to:- diary@kingsclere-pc.org.uk.

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING –December collection are the 11th and a collection between Christmas and The New Year but at the time of going to print, we regret these dates were not available. Please keep an eye on the Parish Notice Board for more information on this nearer to Christmas.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING – the next Ordinary Meeting will be on Monday 27th January 2014. 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 Councillors and Staff at Kingsclere Parish Council would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Due to the resignation of Darren Hardcastle, a vacancy has arisen for a Parish Councillor for Kingsclere Parish Council. If you feel you would be able to contribute to the running of the affairs of our village and can spare the time, we would welcome hearing from you. There are a few requirements to allow a person to sit on the Parish Council and they are that you are over 18 years of age, and fulfil at least one of the following:

- are on the Kingsclere register of electors
- reside within a 4.8 kilometre (3 mile) radius of Kingsclere
- have for twelve months been a tenant of, or own land or other premises in Kingsclere
- your principle place of work has been in Kingsclere during the last twelve months.

If you care what happens in our village, are enthusiastic and reliable, and feel you have something to offer, we would like to discuss this opportunity with you.

To find out more, or to apply, please write in the first instance to the Clerk at the Parish Office, 37 George Street, Kingsclere, Newbury, Berkshire RG20 5NH or email clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk submitting a brief CV.

Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley Care Group

Christmas Lunch

Thursday 5th December at 12.15pm

In the Kingsmill Room, St Mary's Church

just £3.50 per person

All are welcome!

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

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

How to contact your Councillors

Borough Councillors: **CATHY OSSELTON** Tel 01635 298774

Mobile 07787 150457, email: osselc@aol.com

DONALD SHERLOCK Tel 01256 782925

email: cllr.donald.sherlock@basingstoke.gov.uk

County Councillor: **KEITH CHAPMAN** Tel 0118 9700831

email: keith.chapman@hants.gov.uk

December and January at The Fieldgate (contact 01635 298497)



Special Events

14 Dec The Christmas Event Dancing to a live band. The Fieldgate Centre Get the festivities started with a swing. An evening full of prizes and surprises, dancing to one of England's premier corporate, wedding and party bands aptly named The Event. With a musical repertoire covering Soul, Rock, and Motown, from Elvis and the Beatles to The Killers and Kings of Leon, this Band plays it all. There will be a lucky Ticket Prize Draw, a balloon drop, Christmas trimmings, Mulled Wine and possibly some surprises. Tickets £7.50 Available from Swan Street Stores, Bill Cooper 01635 299293 and the centre.

15 Dec. Traditional Children's Christmas party for 0-9 Year olds 3.00 – 5.00 pm Tickets: £4 for 4-9 year olds (0-3 years free). Entertainment, tea and a present from Father Christmas

Disco party for 10-14 year olds 7.00-9.00pm Tickets £3

Tickets available from Karen: 07768937282 and the centre

21 Dec. Gary Myles entertains. Rugby club annual raffle draw, Free entry 8.00-12.00pm

11 Jan. **THE ROVING CROWS IN CONCERT** 8pm The Roving Crows have been carving a niche on the music scene since 2009. Their award winning, foot stomping live performance blends Folk, Ska, Reggae and Klezmer with a vibrant Celtic edge. The powerful live performance and unique sound has seen them receive several awards and achieve national airplay on BBC Radio 2 playing alongside such Folk legends as Steeleye Span and Bellowhead . They have released 3 albums produced by Nick Brine at Rockfield Studios. Tickets £12 from Village Butcher or Bill Cooper 01635 299293.

13 Jan. Blood Donor Sessions

Clubs

The Wednesday tea dance and Fieldgate Woods are always happy to welcome new members. Both clubs encourage members to socialise and include breaks for refreshments during their sessions. Come along and see what goes on!

Sports

1st Dec Kingsclere Ladies' Football Club – Home match - 2.00 pm

7th Dec, 4th and 11th Jan – Rugby Club home games

Sundays Under 8s Tag rugby – 10.30 – 11.30 am. Contact Geof Curtis on: 07919308671

Nature Notes

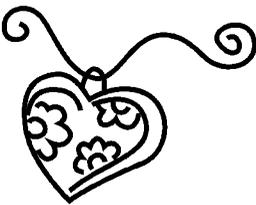
A topic on BBC Countryfile a few weeks ago was on wayside apples and we were reminded of this as our coach sped along the M4. We could see many examples quite clearly on the banks as their leaves had fallen and the fruits were plainly visible. The colour of the fruit roughly identified which type of apple had been eaten before its core had been tossed out of the car window. They would not be true to type however as they would have grown from the seed and not from a specific graft. Ramblers are great distributors of apples hence the many trees along our lanes and many are delicious- but not all.



A fine otter holt has been constructed locally by staff and volunteers of the County Wildlife Trust following otter surveys along the River Enborne last year. The site is on private land beside a feeder stream to the Enborne. Materials used were felled poplar logs and trimmed leylandii poles and it was roofed with natural materials. A fine dwelling, consisting of two rooms and a front and back door, in a country setting with river view awaits a resident!

One of our frequent gravel pit walks at Midgham made us aware of a change of occupant. Canada geese are always evident and the dominant goose species. However on this occasion not one Canada goose was present, supplanted it seems by a very large squadron of greylag geese, one of the biggest flocks we have seen.

Diana Tait & Rod Eldred



Valentines Dinner and Dance

15th February 2014, 7pm—11:30pm

Dance the night away music from Rat Pack to Rock 'n' Roll with Peter Murray aka Paul Martin - www.paulmartinlive.co.uk. Tickets £15 to include reception drinks, 2 course meal and entertainment -and can be purchased from the Village Butchers or by email from info@tmfunerals.co.uk or eileen.selsey@hotmail.co.uk.

Sponsored by L Titcombe & P J Murray Independent Funeral Directors.

All proceeds to St. Mary's Kingsclere and Ashford Hill Churches.

SAMARITANS PURSE SHOE BOX

Thank you once again to everyone who has filled a shoe box. Such care and love is taken over choosing every item. I would love to be present when your beautiful hand knitted gloves scarves and hats are tried on for the first time. Pauline and Maisie are great knitters each item lovingly decorated with individual details. Margaret is another great knitter. Philippa filled the first box and made extra brightly coloured Beanie hats so beloved by the boys.

It is now the beginning of November and there are 53 boxes waiting to be collected. I know there are several more on their way.

The amazing Baronious family who have been filling boxes each year, filled 35 boxes this year and they have already started collecting things for next years boxes.

If every person in Kingsclere could fill just one box that would be one more happy child.

Thank you for showing your love and kindness to an unknown child. You can make a difference to these children. This is sometimes the only gift they will ever receive.

You will probably never be thanked by these children, so I must say a very big thank you on their behalf.

Love and God Bless from Jane.

P.S. If you have never filled a shoe box (it is great fun) why not get a shoe box now and start collecting ready for 2014?

JANE FREEMAN 01635 298727

All I Want For Christmas - The Priory Primary School Parents' Association Christmas Fair!

Saturday 7th December, 1-4pm Postcode: RG26 5QD

Entry: By Donation

Come and enjoy the fun and festivities at the Priory Primary School in Pamber End! Santa's Grotto; outdoor Christmas Market; mulled wine, cake and other yummy treats; lots of fun stalls for the kids - tombola, lucky dip, face-painting, name the teddy, Santa-tracker and the ever popular Lucky Snowman - to name but a few! Kids can also make their own Christmas decorations. Shop for that special Christmas present at one of our lovely home-craft or special gift stalls. Lots of fantastic raffle prizes and a healthy helping of Christmas music! Join us for special performances by our school choir and sing-along to carols too. For further details please call: 01256 850 062.

Kingsclere Library

DECEMBER

It's nearly Christmas! The Christmas books are now out for related stories and great ideas for presents to make and food to cook for both children & adults.

Children's Christmas Activities: The Children's library needs some help with Christmas decorations so come in and collect your Christmas stocking cutout to decorate. There will also be a Christmas Competition with prizes and there will be a special "Christmas Twilight Storytime" on Thursday, 19th December at 4.30pm.

Author of the Month: Stephen Leather (born 1956) is a British thriller author. He has written for popular television shows and he is the second bestselling UK author worldwide on Amazon Kindle in 2011. Leather's novels frequently include themes of crime, imprisonment, military service, and terrorism. Settings are typically London and the Far East. Leather writes different series in slightly different genres.

Collections: It is that time of year to curl up with a good book! Do you enjoy Crime and History? Then the collection "Historical Crime" is for you; from Romans to Edwardians - crime is all around!

JANUARY

Author of the Month: Kate Atkinson She was born in York, and studied English literature at the University of Dundee. Her first novel, *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*, won the 1995 Whitbread Book of the Year. She has since published another eight novels, one play, and one collection of short stories. Her work is often celebrated for its wit, wisdom and subtle characterisation, and the surprising twists and plot turns.

Collections: The latest one has a Hampshire connection! "Hampshire Writers Past & Present" covering a wide range of subjects from novels to food, gardening & battlefields!

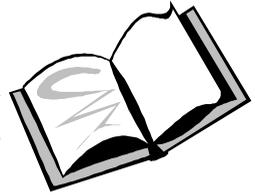
Jigsaws: Come in and have a go to help complete the one on display in the library!

I hope to be returning to Kingsclere library for December and am looking forward to seeing you all again.

The Library is situated within the Village Club on George Street, Kingsclere and is open:

Tuesday and Thursday	1.00 – 5.30pm
Saturday	10.30 – 3pm

Rowena Hensman, Kingsclere Library Assistant, 0845 603 5631



Kingsclere Scout Group

Having had a fantastic summer of outdoor activities and a fabulous Summer Camp for all sections we are now actively looking for volunteer leaders to help with running the Scouts Section - this is the 10 to 14 year olds section. Our Leader numbers are about to drop below a level where we can continue to operate this age group. This is a fantastically rewarding opportunity where you have the chance to join in the adventure that is scouting whilst helping to grow the life skills of the youngsters in our community.

Next year is the 50th Anniversary of scouting in Kingsclere and we plan to celebrate that fact. We already have plans to join in with 2 county camps, one of which is at Jamboree level in the summer and is open to all sections. So you can see the activity and excitement is already growing for what looks like being a special year for scouting in Kingsclere.

If you would like to hear more then please speak to any of our Leaders or Executive committee, or please feel free to contact me on 298317, mebeaver@btinternet.com.

Emma Rivers

Kingsclere Heritage Association

Our December meeting will be on Thursday 12th December when Mike Har-netty will be making a welcome return this time to give us a presentation "Cider Making, Ancient and Modern". We know we can guarantee an interesting and entertaining evening. Seasonal nibbles will be provided.

On 23rd January our speaker will be Mervyn Annetts who will give us an illustrated talk entitled " The Life of a Coachman". Mervyn will cover the history of coaching and his own personal professional involvement.

Kingsclere Village Archives. Do contact us if there is any area on which you require historical information. We may be able to assist from our ever increasing store of material.

Michael Leah 297403

Village Market

As the year comes to a close I am looking to 2014 to be as good as 2013, having now managed to secure good stalls selling quality products. All cakes, jams, pickles, bread etc, are all hygiene certificated and a constant quality reflected by the amount sold at each market. Also we have wool, silks etc, household products, fresh eggs, plants, hand made cards, aloe vera skin care, and craft items. Also a sales table on behalf of St Michaels Hos-pice run by Janet. The next market will be on Saturday 25th January 2014 10am-12noon. Entry is free, so come along, see you there.

Alan Gore 299118.

Kingsclere Whist Club

I and my fellow trustees are concerned at the decline of the Whist Club.

This club has operated at 35 George St since the days when it was the Coffee and Reading Rooms before legally becoming the Village Club in 1921. It is therefore a village organisation of some antiquity. In the 'doldrum years' of the Club during the 1970s and 80s it continued playing every Wednesday helping to keep us in being when virtually everyone else had abandoned us.

They now face the possibility of having to wind up having lost their two key organisers over a short period and with rapidly declining membership as their elderly members fall away.

For many years they have provided a valued social evening each week. Whilst exercising skills at cards you could 'set the world to rights' in congenial company. All this will disappear unless the fall in members can be reversed.

If you are new to the village you will be very welcome and you will rapidly become part of the community. Join us to start our New Year on Wednesday 8th January at 7:30pm. We need to know if you are coming so please call by 18th December. Janet Jones 01635 299950

Peter Woodman, Chairman, Managing Trustees, Kingsclere Village Club

Feel the BEAT!

On Saturday 26th October – 48 excited and nervous performers from Feel the BEAT! travelled to Kent to take part in the Kent Dance Challenge 2013.

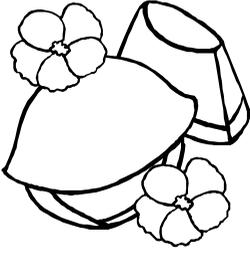
We had 11 entries to provide the children with a 'taste' of competition, instead we went one better and came home with FIVE awards. StreetBEATZ took 1st place in the Baby Stars Street & Hip Hop section! A superb achievement seeing as some of the crew members are only seven years old! Tamara Johnson was placed 3rd in the Snr Vocal Solo open – she was utterly amazing! Dance trio Ashleigh Thompson, Sophie Brown & Chloe Randall brought the house down and were awarded a 2nd place! Fusion tried something new with a Musical Theatre entry and they took 2nd place! A great performance by everyone and a big well done Joe Thompson for the vocals on this entry.

Our Snr dance crew Friction were AWESOME. In the highly contested toughest section they smashed it and were awarded 3rd place.

All the acts that took part did themselves proud, you were FAB and regardless of trophies you are ALL stars to me!

A massive thank you to our sponsors; Old Briars Property Services, J Verney Plumbing & Property Services, RPS Boiler Support, AVNO Heating, Kingsclere Parish Council, Royale Refrigeration and Air Conditioning and The Rodney Lawrence Trust.

JC – Feel the BEAT! 07833 430009 feelthebeat@live.co.uk
www.feelthebeatdance.co.uk



August 4th 1914

The outbreak of the First World War almost 100 years ago affected our village as it did almost all communities. Like them, we in Kingsclere wish to commemorate this most significant event in meaningful and appropriate ways. Already ideas are coming forth and plans are starting to be made by groups and individuals and I believe that it is important that there is co-ordination so that there is no conflict of dates or events which could be upsetting and unproductive.

To this end I have asked a small group of representatives of village organisations to form a working group to bring together ideas, plans and preparations. The former editor of the Tower, Fiona Sawyer, has agreed to chair this group, with the aim of ensuring that Kingsclere's commemorations are fitting, engaging, respectful and memorable. She will be in contact with groups and the working group will produce a programme of events to take place throughout 2014. Further information will reach you via The Kingsclere Tower including the first update below.

Alan Denness, Chairman, Kingsclere Parish Council

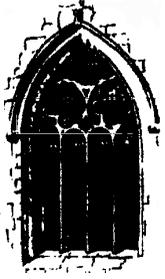
Commemoration of the First World War Centenary

I have been asked by the Parish to lead a working group to co-ordinate the various plans and ideas for this commemoration and am in the throes of putting this group together.

We are aware that a number of ideas are already being developed, and we would be very grateful if ANY suggestions, ideas or plans could be put to the group before too many commitments are entered into. At the very least we want to ensure that dates do not clash and that there are not too many 'versions' of the same event, as this is, above all, a commemoration for the whole community working together and respecting our shared past.

In the first instance would anyone with suggestions or ideas please contact Fiona Sawyer, 01635 297221, fmsawyer@hotmail.com.

The Church Pages



As I write this I am struck by the contrast of two sets of images that are currently appearing on my TV. The first consists of scenes of complete and utter devastation coming from the Philippines following the horrific typhoon which has swept through those islands in the last few days. The second set are those which flash up during the commercial breaks inviting me to get caught up in a fairytale Christmas full of ‘magic and sparkle’ (you know who).

Of course, the advertisements are much more enticing to watch. Those from the Philippines tell a story which is frankly unbearable to imagine. And by the time you read this, the ads will still be running but the images of the typhoon will almost certainly have disappeared from the front pages of our newspaper though the extent of human misery will be no less great.

The question I am left with is this: what is an appropriate way to celebrate Christmas in such a world? I do not believe that being miserable oneself is the answer. Yet neither do I think it morally justifiable to collude with the kind of extravagance which the marketing departments of our big supermarkets hope we will succumb to.

After all, magic and sparkle need not cost much. There is magic to be found in the face of a child enchanted by the telling of the Christmas story of the baby born in a stable or in that of an elderly neighbour surprised by an unexpected visit and a home made card; a handful of tea lights flickering in a darkened room will provide as much sparkle as any elaborate outfit.

There are so many people in the world who need our extravagance at Christmas more than we do. Indeed, perhaps through sharing, we can give a bit of magic and sparkle to others and by so doing, experience some of the true joy of Christmas which is usually to be found, as the birth of Jesus tells us, in the most unexpected places.

May that experience of true joy be God’s gift to you this Christmas.

Rev Lucy (Vicar)

Services in December 2013

Sunday 1 st December Advent 1	8am	Holy Communion – St Paul's, Ashford Hill
	10.30am	Parish Communion with Junior Church – St Mary's, Kingsclere
	3pm	Christingle All-Age Café Style Worship – St Paul's, Ashford Hill
Sunday 8 th December Advent 2	8am	Holy Communion - St Mary's, Kingsclere
	10.30	Holy Communion – St Peter's, Headley
	3pm	Christingle Service – St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 15 th December Advent 3	8am	Holy Communion - St Peter's, Headley
	10.30am	Parish Communion - St Mary's, Kingsclere
	6pm	Carols in St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 22 nd December Advent 4	8am	Holy Communion - St Mary's, Kingsclere
	10.30am	All-Age Worship – St Peter's, Headley
	6pm	Candlelit Lessons & Carols – St Paul's, Ashford Hill
Tuesday 24 th December Christmas Eve	4pm	Blessing of the Crib – St Mary's, Kingsclere
	4pm	Blessing of the Crib – St Paul's, Ashford Hill
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion – St Peter's, Headley
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion – St Mary's, Kingsclere
Wednesday 25 th December Christmas Day	9.30am	Christmas Day Communion – St Paul's, Ashford Hill
	11am	Christmas Day Communion – St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 29 th December Christmas 1	10.30am	Benefice Communion – St Peter's, Headley
ABC services Monday 16th December, 9.30 am – St Mary's		
St. Mary's Church		(See also back cover)
Vicar	Rev. Lucy Thirtle, lucythirtle@btinternet.com	☎ 299489
Curate	Rev. Trish Bancroft	☎ 269180
Churchwarden	Janet Sturgess	☎ 298079
Churchwarden	Eileen Selsey	☎ 42962

Services in January 2014

Sunday 5 th January Epiphany	8am 10.30am	Holy Communion – St Paul’s, Ashford Hill Parish Communion with Junior Church – St Mary’s, Kingsclere
Sunday 12 th January Baptism of Christ /	8am 10.30am 10.30am	Holy Communion - St Mary’s, Kingsclere Holy Communion – St Peter’s, Headley Second Sunday Service at St Mary’s, Kingsclere
Sunday 19 th January Epiphany 2	8am 10.30am	Holy Communion - St Peter’s, Headley Parish Communion - St Mary’s, Kingsclere
Sunday 26 th January Epiphany 3	8am 10.30am	Holy Communion - St Mary’s, Kingsclere All-Age Worship – St Paul’s, Ashford Hill
Sunday 2 nd February Presentation of Christ	8am 10.30am	Holy Communion – St Paul’s, Ashford Hill Parish Communion with Junior Church – St
ABC services Monday 20th January, 9.30 am – St Mary’s		

Adults, Babies, Children

A short (approx. 20 minutes) service for pre-school children and their carers in St Mary’s Church on the third and fifth Mondays in the month at 9.30am

Watch out for the dates in the Tower, follow the St Mary’s Facebook Page, or contact emma.rivers@virgin.net to receive a reminder!

Refreshments, chat and toys after the service in the Kingsmill Room

From the Registers of St Mary’s

Baptisms *We welcome you into the Lord’s family*

13 Oct Sky and Alfie Fenton

Wedding *Those whom God has joined together*

9 Nov Helen Ainsworth & Duncan Hyde

Methodist Chapel		(See also back cover)
Steward	Keith Williams	☎ 299894
Secretary and Hire of Hall	Jeanette Billington	☎ 297585

Methodist Notes

Sunday Services 9:30

1/12 Mrs Jean Frost;

8/12 Rev. Alastair Bissell

14/12 (Saturday 4:30) Nativity Presentation, Mrs. Emma Wells

22/12 Rev. John Beadle (Holy Communion)

29/12 United Service at Newbury

Christmas Events

21/12 6 pm Carols by Candlelight, Rev. Chris Cole

Christmas Day 10am Mr. Marlcom Spencer

3/01 Epiphany Carols by Candlelight 6pm with Rev. John Beadle

5/01 Mrs. Christine Thomas,

12/01 Rev. John Beadle, Covenant Service and Holy Communion

18/01 (Saturday 4:30) Mr. Derrick Norton

26/01 Deacon Shirley Mackintosh

Thursday Communion 10am 12/12 and 17/01

Junior Church meet on the second and fourth Sundays

Coffee Mornings are held each Thursday from 10:30 – 12:00

Everyone welcome to these events and services. When you are shopping on a Thursday morning why not call in for a cup of tea or coffee to warm you?

As we approach the end of the year may I take this opportunity of thanking all those who have knitted during the year for Romania or the Christmas Shoe box. Your knitting skills have been greatly appreciated. Oxfam will take the knitted blankets. Does anyone know of a charity that will take children's' knitted garments?

A happy and blessed Christmas to you all and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Margaret Ingram

The Friends of St Mary's

We are most grateful to the organisers of the recent art Exhibition, who have once again very kindly donated all the profits from the event - £1,200 - to the Friends. Thank you all for your support during 2013. We look forward to a good programme in 2014, and to being able to give further financial support as the next phases of remedial work at St Mary's get under way. We hope to see you at our next event, which will be another **QUIZ NIGHT** At the Fieldgate Centre Friday 31st January. Doors open 6.45 p.m. Quiz starts at 7.30 p.m. prompt. Team forms and Tickets at The Village Butcher, or from 01635 297430. £12 per person, to include Ploughman's Supper and a glass of wine. Make up a team of up to 8, or join one on the night! Happy Christmas!

Peter Turner, Chairman

Lighting Up St Mary's

December

- 1st For Irene and Bill Cooper in celebration of their 50th Wedding Anniversary on 2nd . We bless you both in the times ahead with love as strong as when you wed. We pray your love will always hold a solid bond as good as gold. Love from all the family.
- 2nd Remembering Jack Pollard, dearly loved husband and father.
- 5th Happy Birthday Amelia Eden Rope.
- 7th Edward and Kate's wedding.
- 8th Happy Birthday Douglas Woolley
- 10th For Mrs Barbara Jones. Although you have left us Mum you are not forgotten, we all love you Tessa, John and Lindsay, Lyndon, Neil, Nicholas and their family.
- 19th For Marjorie
- 25th For Sheila, Bob and Debbie Swaine. Christmas is a time when thoughts turn to families and those you love, well we don't need Christmas you're in our thoughts every day, Christmas just makes those thoughts more poignant and makes missing you harder to bear. Loving you always, in our hearts forever. Tiggy and Jim xxxxx

We would like to thank The Crown for their generosity in lighting up St Mary's for fourteen days over the Christmas and New Year Period.

3rd and 8th January Thinking of Mum and Dad (Gladys and Ron Verney) - what wonderful memories we have! Always in our hearts. Pat, Anita and families.

For all bookings, messages, cheques and enquiries please contact Sarah and Andy Bates, Brook House, Popes Hill, Kingsclere RG20 5SJ. 01635 299710. For hand deliveries please use the black post box next to the front door. Dead line for February Tower is 10th January. £12 per evening, sliding scale for 5 or more bookings. Cheques payable to St Mary's Kingsclere PCC, gift aid welcome. Also at www.clerewoodlands.org.uk

From January if we receive more than one booking per night all bookings will be accepted. Entries will appear in the Tower for the relevant date and funds will be used to light the church on a later date. We are keen to keep the Church lit as much as possible throughout the winter. If any businesses would like to sponsor the lights please contact Sarah and Andy Bates on the number above for details of block booking discounts.

St Mary's Guild

In October, Emma Rivers entertained us with her presentation on 'Weddings'. By sheer coincidence, the meeting had to be held in the Lady Chapel, as the Kingsmill Room had suffered water damage after the storm. Emma gave a gift to Joan Walker, as she had been married the longest. Joan Witcher won the raffle prize (a mini manicure). Congratulations to both members.

We shall be hosting our Christmas Tea on THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER (please note change of date). The Kingsmill room is now back in action, so we shall be meeting here, commencing at 2.15 pm. Rumour has it that we shall have a couple of V.I.P. visitors joining us. Please come along and join in the festivities - all welcome.

January meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd January 2014, 2.15 pm in the Kingsmill Room. Revd. Lucy Thirtle has kindly agreed to come along and speak to us about her recent Study Leave. This meeting will also be our AGM - so do please come along to find out what interesting things are planned for 2014. We would especially like to hear from anyone who has contacts with speakers. We are interested in ANY subject.

Pam Kitch (Secretary), 01635 299743

St Mary's 200 Club

What is it? A registered lottery whose profits are shared between the participants (in prize money) and St Mary's Church.

Can I join? Anyone can join – the more the merrier ... it may mean a higher cash prize.

What might I win? £50 minimum in the monthly draw: first Friday of each month, The Swan, Swan Street.

What will it cost me? Just £12 once a year for 12 entries in the draw.

Good news?? Certainly.....

So what next? If you are already a member of the 200 Club, please send your renewal £12 to Maggy/Les Wallace, Jada, Union Lane, Kingsclere RG20 4SS as soon as possible, and no later than 31 December 2013. If you are a new member please let us have your name, contact details (phone, postal and email addresses) and money (cheques to St Mary's Kingsclere) as soon as possible and no later than 31 December 2014)

For more info contact Maggy Wallace 01635 298794 or mjwwater-shipdown@msn.com

November Winner:

November 2013 Ticket no: 19 Heath Denness

Congratulations Heath

Entries drawn first Friday of each month - The Swan Hotel, Swan St



Kingsclere Film Club

Saturday, 7 December, 2013

Christmas Social*

followed by

The Artist (2011)

(Cert PG 100 minutes)

Winner of 5 Oscars and 7 Baftas

A silent movie star meets a young dancer, but the arrival of talking pictures sends their careers in opposite directions.

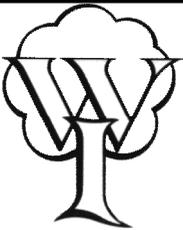
Kingsclere Film Club shows films on the first Saturday of each month at 7.30pm on the big screen at the Village Club.

Guests: £7.50 (subscription averages at £4.16 per view)

*NB Please phone Fiona (297221) in advance if bringing guests.

More information: John Sawyer (Chairman) 297221

or Diana Tait (Membership Sec.) 298494



KINGSCLERE & HEADLEY WOODLANDS WI

The Village club 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 1-45pm

Our next meeting on December 11th will be our Christmas meeting (members only I'm afraid)

This will start at the earlier time of 12-30

Our first Meeting of 2014 will be a Social gathering, details

TBA

If you think you would like to join us as a visitor for a meeting or become a member please ring Betty Eckton on 01256 850017 for more detail

Kingsclere Singers Yule Sing 2

Community Charity Carol Event (proceeds to The Rodney Lawrence Trust)

Come sing carols with us on Saturday 14 Dec. at St. Mary's Kingsclere

Starting at 6pm, so kids, don't be late. Bring your parents, too! FREE

With young guest soloist Freya Collington www.kingsclere-singers.co.uk

GARDEN CLUB



Our December meeting will be on the first Thursday of this month, December 5th, 7.30pm in the Village Club. Our speaker is Mr. Paul Sievers from Newbury. His talk is about Madeira, where he has lived so can speak about the island's natural flowers as well as the gardens.

The competition for the evening is a table decoration, a vase of flowers, one kind or mixed, two vegetables, each different, a single stem from the garden, a vase of flowers, foliage and berries.

We still have some bulbs for our competition at the spring show. £1.00 a time. Varieties are Bantam and Quail.

January 9th, 2014, is our AGM, 7.30pm in the Village Club, followed by cheese and wine.

Our Social evening meal is again at Sandford Springs, on Saturday February 1st. 7.0pm for 7.30 start.

John Eckton 01256 850017

Defibrillators

These machines are a life saver in some cases where a person has a life threatening incident (cardiac arrest) to start resuscitation until a qualified ambulance person arrives. The Parish Council is facilitating the acquisition of two defibrillators to be placed in the Village. They will be available at any time day or night and will be accompanied by trained personnel who have volunteered to help.

Now comes the hard part – we need more funds! We have applied for grants and are hopeful of funds for one of the machines but ideally we would like to have two. The total cost would be £3400 which includes training. If anyone would like to donate towards these lifesavers the Parish Clerk will be available to take your donation when her office is open on Monday and Wednesday morning and at other times if you ring her on 298634.

Some time ago around six people expressed an interest in training for the use of the machines and being a front line responder. Would you now ring me if you are prepared to help with this life saving activity and I will run through the arrangements with you.

Janet Bond, 01635 297610 Kingsclere Parish Council



THE PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION OF KINGSCLERE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thank you to all who attended Kingsclere Fireworks and Bonfire Display. This fantastic community event raised approx. £6,000 which will provide much needed support to your local school. A very special thank you to our generous sponsors Finkley Down Farm Park, Autocraft, Jason Verney plumbing, MPM signs, Swan Street stores, Feel the BEAT, A Sewell Lighting & Electrical, Paul Harrap decorator, Kingsclere Design & Print, Costco, Jason Morely Thatchers, Charles Lucas & Marshall solicitors, C Castelli decorators, Howe & Son, The Crown, The George & Horn, Alan Abinger joinery, Phil Baker, Dave & Mary Berry, Lord & Lady Lloyd Webber, Rivar Sand & Gravel, Fencing & Landscaping Services, PKN Consulting, GC Randall decorator, Pro-Tech, Whitesands Aviation, Knightsbridge Garage, Clive Reygers, Keith Pegdon, P Davis, Malcolm Bull, Pro Bike Fit, Jewsons, Greenham Tools, Stoveworld UK, Clere Identities, Paul Rosier Plastering, Downers, Steve Voke Catering Services, Newbury Tools, Steve Clinch Motors, RDS Appliance Repairs and everyone on the FKS Firework sub-committee!

Come & join us at our Christmas Fair - Friday 6th December 2013 - Kingsclere Primary School Hall - 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Visit santa in his amazing grotto, many stalls (including tombola, cakes, cuddly toys, cards and gifts), games with prizes, crafts (including make your own decorations and make your own reindeer food), face painting, refreshments, sealed bids and a fantastic raffle with 1st prize of £150 kindly donated by Castle Windows (Newbury) Ltd plus other great prizes including 8 food hampers. Raffle tickets available from school office

FKS would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for supporting our events in 2013. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We will have lots of exciting fundraising activity in 2014 plus news of our new projects so please continue to support us!

Rachael Knight, FKS - Tel: 268160- e:knightrachael@hotmail.co.uk

Kingsclere Twinning Association

We were delighted that two photographers from Kingsclere Photo Club, Tony Matthews and Gordon Fawley, took first and second place, respectively, in the photographic competition in Cormicy in September. Our congratulations to them both.

We are sorry that we have not been able to organise a wine tasting as planned. However, we will be holding a “Christmas Sparkle” evening at the Village Club at 7.30p.m. on Friday, 6th December. This will be a chance to meet up with friends, enjoy a French-themed Christmas buffet and a glass of wine as well as a Christmas quiz – not necessarily French based – note the title! Tickets will be on sale from Sue Watson (01635 298940), via our email, kingscleretwinning@yahoo.co.uk or from any committee member and will cost £8 for members (£10 for non-members) to include a two course buffet, one glass of wine and a quiz. We look forward to seeing you there.

The French theme will continue when we take over the Eco Café at the Village Club on Saturday, 7th December. Do come along and join us there for a cup of tea, coffee, chocolate or even a “citron pressé” and a French delicacy to accompany it. The café is from 9.30a.m. until noon.

The association holds a monthly French conversation group and all members are welcome to take part in this. Please contact us to find out more.

We still have young people in Cormicy who would like to communicate with similar young people up to the age of 18 years. If your son/daughter would like to find a pen-pal, please contact us on our email as above for further details.



The Cottages PlayAway after school club, 3-6pm Mon– Fri term time only and DayAway Holiday club, school holidays 8-6pm are looking for a fun reliable person to help out.

Please contact Gemma 07788 424622 or Necia 01635268570

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Toddler Group

We meet every Tuesday (including school holidays) from 9.15am until 11.15am at The Village Club.



Join our friendly group of parents/carers with their babies and toddlers. We are open all year round and have a dedicated baby area with changing mat, toys and bouncy chairs. We have indoor and outdoor play areas for toddler. Weekly activities include arts & crafts, physical play, story time and singing.

£2.00 per family (healthy snacks for children and tea and coffee for adults)

Thank you to Swan Street Stores for providing our Bunnies with fruit every week to keep them healthy and happy.

A successful Brew 'n' Bake night with a brilliant turn out and a fantastic amount raised for St Michaels Hospice.

“Here's to next year!” Well done everyone!

Bunnies Christmas party- 10/12, in session at Village Club - bring a plate of food to share.

Grown-ups Christmas dinner- 14/12 - Buffet evening at the Crown (Only pay for your drinks!)

Felicity felicity_bignell@yahoo.co.uk 01635 298492.

Facebook: Kingsclere Village Bunnies (Open group)



Fund Raising for St. Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke

At the beginning of January 2014 it will be the time for the Loose Change boxes to be collected. If you can bring them to me it would be a help, otherwise I will collect.

If during the winter months you are having a tidy up of cupboards, wardrobes, etc., please do not throw anything away. If you can fill a black bin bag with items i.e. torn sheets, thin towels and tea towels or anything that can be classed as rags, put a large label "rags" on the outside and the Hospice can collect £7.50 per bag. Please bag clothes in good condition which can be sold in the Hospice Shops. Bric-a-brac, china, glass items can be individually wrapped in paper and put in a cardboard box and all items can be delivered to me or if you give me a ring I will collect.

Josie Norton 298059

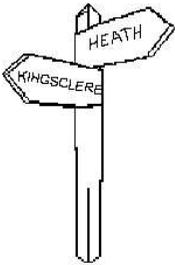
Royal British Legion

When this Tower comes out Remembrance Sunday will be gone and all Collections in. May we thank all those of you who have supported us in whatever way. We will enter total money raised in the next Tower.

It is important that we carry on the Poppy Appeal so that the RBL can keep up their work in supporting all Service Men and Women past and present.

Most of you will have heard that 2014 is the Centenary of the start of the First World War. Kingsclere, like most people across the UK, will be commemorating this in some way and Hampshire County Council is asking for names of anyone who is related to anyone lost during 1914/1918, if they would like to be included in a Service to remember their ancestors. If you would like to take part in this please contact, the Parish Council Clerk on; 01635 298634 or email at clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk

Maureen Martin (Secretary) 299003



KINGSCLERE PARISH PATHS.

On Sunday Oct. 27th, we worked on Footpaths 68 and 53, from the school to Longcroft flats, and round towards the by pass. Many thanks to all who helped, especially Gavin and Harry Ashton, who joined us for the first time. We are trying to improve the drainage by the school and have asked Hampshire County Council Highways Dept. for help. Towards the by pass on FP 53 we cut down a lot of saplings,

which in a few years time would have grown into large trees.

The next work day is on Jan. 27th 2014, when we will have a short business meeting and sort out all our equipment.

Please meet behind the Village Club at 10 a.m.

Heath Denness 298376

Bellringing

On Christmas Eve the bells will be rung to celebrate Joan Walker's birthday.

Helen Piper.

Dear Editors,

I have just become a trustee of the Village Club and I am delighted to see all the good work and support to keep this important asset a valuable part of the Kingsclere community. However I am so disappointed to learn that several items are 'going missing', most recently a newly purchased hoover. One of the reasons the club runs so well is that there is a great deal of trust placed upon the use of the Club, it would now appear the Trustees need to investigate the cost of installing a programmable lock to ensure we keep out unwelcome visitors and of course to buy a new replacement hoover. We would of course prefer to be spending money on improving the facilities or supporting activities within the Village Club.

Alison Collington

Dear Editors,

Is everyone supporting our local Post Office? Do all the readers of the tower always buy their stamps and post over seas mail at Kingsclere Post Office?

I have just made a discovery. I had not realised travel insurance could be made through the Post Office. I had just booked a 5 day coach holiday to Jersey for next year, but discovered because of my age and a couple of health problems the insurance for 5 days would be £37, which I was prepared to pay, but, oh dear, the excess of £1,500 made it impossible. But I was advised to seek a quotation from the Post Office where I was given a leaflet and one quick telephone call and I have booked the insurance for £16.70 and the excess is £80. Paying another £16 there would have been no excess should I need medical treatment.

The people who serve us in Kingsclere Post Office are always friendly, polite and helpful. I do believe 'use it or lose it'. What would we do if we lost this service, as some other villages have lost theirs?

Margaret Ingram

Kingsclere Photos—past and present

I've just created a 'set' of photos on Flickr (the photo sharing website) for a handful of events in Kingsclere in 2013.

You can view these, along with other event and historical images, at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/65199364@N07/sets/>

Please take a look! I'll try and capture some different events next year.

Gareth Martin 299227 gareth.martin24@btinternet.com

Index to Advertisers

May 13

50plus, Handyman	E	Jardine Moore Fabrics	H
Account Right, Accountants	N	D.P. Jolliffe, Plumber	C
Active Heating & Plumbing	G	Kingsclere Garden & Property Services	I
AFGAS Heating	J	Kingsclere Garden Care & Landscapes	K
AGB Automation, Garage Doors	S	Kingsclere Motor Services	R
Alan Abinger Ltd, Joiners	I	Kingsley Financial Management	P
Amigo, Window Cleaning	L	Knightsbridge Garage	R
Ashford Hill Pre-School	A	Locksmark, Locksmith	N
Autucraft, Vehicle Servicing	S	Looking Good, Property Maint.	K
Dave Berry, Painter & Decorator	F	MGP Removals	P
Brett Biggerstaff, Painter & Decorator	F	N & J Meadham, Builders	D
K. Bone, Heating Services	G	Ben Norris & Co, Antique Restoration	L
Paul Butler, Construction	D	Oakley Windows	D
Jenna Burlingham, Fine Art	H	Oova, General Maintenance	J
Busy Bees Pre-School <i>inside front cover</i>		Opus Tree Care	K
Calla Salon, Beauty Salon	B	Overton Bathroom Centre	I
CaroSell, Upholstery & Fabrics	G	Dudley Pearce, Electrical Contractor	E
Graham Carter, Accountant	N	W.F. Pearce & Co, Builders	C
Cejays, Garage Door Repairs	C	Peoples Plumbers	G
Child Minder, Terri Hudson	A	PHD, Decorator <i>inside back cover</i>	
Chiropractor, Mrs C. Tipple	H	Phoenix Driving School, Dave Austin	S
Chiropractor, Melanie Hamilton	M	Pilates/Nordic Walking, Joanna Lewis	B
Christine Scott Interiors	H	PKN Consulting, Accountants	P
Clarke & Son, Solicitors	N	Pincott, Plumbing & Heating	F
Cooper, Domestic Appliance Repairs	C	Arthur Rampton, Garden Maint.	C
Cottages Day Nursery <i>inside front cover</i>		GC Randall, Painter & Decorator	F
Cottages Playaway After School Club	A	R.A.W & Son Home Maintenance	E
Cottismore Garden Centre	O	R.D.S., Domestic Appliance Repairs	C
Country Helpline	P	R•R Logs, Coal & Kindling	M
Cover Up Designs Ltd, Furnishings	H	Sandford Springs Golf Club	Q
CP Property Maintenance	E	Sarah Sladen, Computer help	M
CS Computer Services	M	RC Smallbone, Funeral Directors	T
Mike Davis, Computer Care	M	M.J. Sly, Stonemason	T
Dinmore Tree Surgery	J	Smarthire, Vehicle Hire	R
The Dog Hotel	E	Amanda Taylor, Leatherwork	S
Ecchinswell Village Hall	P	Test Valley Pest Control	I
Elysium Massage Therapy	B	Mark Townsin, Antiques	L
Emma's Coffee Shop	A	The Positive Reception Company	T
Foxes Tree Services	J	The Snappy Dresser	B
J.P.H. Forestry	K	The Village Club <i>inside back cover</i>	
Horizon, Aerials and Satellites	B	The Village Dental Practice	O
Howe & Son, Funeral Directors	T	The Wellington Arms	Q
Hugofox, Community Noticeboard	T	Ben Wheeler, Pianos	N
Curative Hypnotherapist	Q	C.P. Willoughby, Tree & Garden Maint.	O
Ironing Service	Q	Woodlands Day Nursery	A

