

The Kingsclere Tower



December 2021/January 2022

Your Village Magazine

The Kingsclere Tower

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CAN YOU HELP? Kingsclere Tower Magazine

We are looking for one or two editors, to help out 3-6 months per year. If you are familiar with the village, are able to use a computer and access G-mail, we can easily teach you the rest. Please email the editors with enquiries. Thank you!

Delivery Volunteer Required

We are seeking a new recruit to join our team from February. If you have a hour to spare at the end of each month, (January - November) your help would be much appreciated.

Location The Dell, 34 magazines to deliver.

For further details please contact:
 Email: **b.elborn345@btinternet.com**
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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 February 2022 issue: 12 January 2022

Send copy to the editors at 3 Blue Meadow, Garrett Close, Kingsclere or email: **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
Office: 37 George St, Kingsclere RG20 5NH
Public Opening: Mon 2.30-4.30, Wed 10.00 - 12.00pm



Cllr Fiona Sawyer- It is with sadness that the Council has received the resignation of Cllr Fiona Sawyer, who feels that it is time to make way for new councillors. We sorely miss Fiona whose association with Kingsclere Parish Council stretches back at least 25 years, serving first as a parish Councillor under the chairmanship of the late Elizabeth Kay and Peter Woodman in the 1990s. She then came off the Council and worked with Sheila Thompson as Assistant Clerk, only to return in 2016 to serve a further five and a half years as a Parish Councillor.

We have greatly valued her experience and wise counsel in meetings and her hard work on the Planning and Personnel Panels, and her organisational skills on events, such as the Making a Difference Awards. We all have come to rely on her proof-reading skills and her clarity with the written word. Add to this her work as a Village Club Trustee, Secretary of Kingsclere Film Club, her volunteering with the Community Library and Victim Support and, for a while, as a school governor, we have in Fiona a significant record of voluntary public service. The Council will miss you but wish you well in your 'retirement'. **Kingsclere Parish Council**

NEW COUNCILLOR GRANT SCHEME LAUNCHED TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY PROJECTS -Community groups and organisations can now apply for funding support for small-scale items to support local groups and projects following the launch of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's new Councillor Community Grant Scheme.

Grants of between £250 and £1,000 are available to help groups and not for profit organisations purchase equipment which will make a difference to people's lives and help bring communities together following the COVID-19 pandemic. Each councillor across Basingstoke and Deane will have a £2,000 pot to support projects in their communities until 31st March 2022. The maximum grant that will be available for each project in a ward is £1,000. Funding is available for voluntary groups, charities, schools, faith groups and town and parish councils for projects which meet the scheme criteria. More information on the Councillor Grant Scheme on BDBC's website:

www.basingstoke.gov.uk/cllr-community-grants

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



@kingsclerepc



facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil

THE CEMETERY— a polite reminder regarding dogs in the Cemetery. KPC has received a few comments and concerns from residents about people walking through the ground with dogs off leads, please ensure that any dogs in the cemetery are on leads and under control. Unbelievably KPC has also received reports of people cycling through the Cemetery from the Fieldgate Centre. Please be considerate of those visiting their loved ones and remember that the Cemetery is for quiet reflection and remembrance; there are numerous other spaces available in the village for recreation.

FESTIVE BIN COLLECTIONS – Christmas can mean extra rubbish. Therefore, extra sacks will be collected on the first collection after Christmas ONLY. As normal there is no limit on how much residents can recycle. For more information on what can be recycled visit:
www.basingstoke.gov.uk/recycling

- Flatten large cardboard boxes and leave them next to your recycling bin.
- Wrapping paper cannot be recycled so please put it in your black waste bin. You can take your real Christmas tree along to one of BDBC's tree recycling drop-off points from Monday 3rd January to Sunday 30th January 2022. Garden Waste service customers can put their trees out with garden waste. Last year thousands of your trees were transformed into soil conditioner for gardens and wood chippings for parks. Visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/christmas-tree to find your nearest drop off point.

Unless bad weather affects bin rounds, there will be NO change to collection days over the festive break this year as Christmas Day and Boxing Day fall at the weekend and BDBC will collect on the bank holidays. Put out your grey bin on your usual day before 7am, together with your green bin on your normal recycling week. See collection dates further below.

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING— the collections dates:
 December: Wednesday 15th, Wednesday 29th
 January: Wednesday 12th, Wednesday 26th

STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2022 – If your child is 4 or will turn 4 before 1st September 2022, they can start school in September 2022. For more information go to www.hants.gov.uk/admissions where you will also find information about schools in Hampshire. Alternatively, parents can phone 0300 555 1377 for further support. The application deadline for starting primary school in 2022 is 15th January 2022

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – will be at:
 7:30pm on Monday 31st January 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.

Watership Down Health



Christmas and New Year

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking our patients for their kind words and support that we have been given during what has been for all our Team another very challenging year. Covid sadly still exists and we need to continue to observe a number of requirements to keep our surgeries safe for patients and our Team. On behalf of our Partners and Team, we wish everyone a restful and safe Christmas and New Year season.

Please check your stock of Repeat medications in good time, especially if you are going away over Christmas, as we do need up to 5 working days notice to fully process a repeat prescription safely.

Covid Vaccination Programme

We are now working through the Cohorts from highest risk down for Covid Boosters. The Covid Booster can only be given 6 months after the 2nd vaccination; should the policy change we will contact patients as quickly as possible. All patients who are immunosuppressed and eligible for a 3rd Covid vaccination have now been offered a booster.

Any new patients joining our practice and who have not had a first or second Covid vaccination elsewhere can still get a vaccination.

Flu Clinics

Please note that all patients over 65 will be able to have their Flu vaccine and Covid Booster at the same time through Jameson House in Basingstoke. Patients who do not wish to have a Flu and Covid booster at the same time can have their Covid Booster at Jameson House and then will need to book their flu vaccination with one of the wide range of Pharmacies also able to offer Flu vaccinations.

Under 65 clinics for patients with Underlying Health Conditions will be offered at Kingsclere or Overton. We will contact patients as vaccine supplies become available.

Child Flu Clinics

We are working through contacting the parents of eligible children who are aged 2 – 3 or aged 4 – 17 if they have a condition which puts them at greater risk if they get flu. Any patients who have eligible children who have not yet been given a date for an appointment, please give us a call. Children in years R-7 will be vaccinated in school by Schools Health.

Boardgamers of Kingsclere



There's a new club in town! We met for the first time on 13th November and had a great mix of experienced board gamers and those who were curious to find out more. We played a broad selection of games including **Concordia** - a game where you lead your Roman dynasty and build the greatest trading empire in the Mediterranean, **Jamaica** - a game where you race around the island of Jamaica collecting gold and hiding in pirate coves, and **Skull** - a bidding and bluffing game that always ends with laughter.

With the success of our first gathering, we're planning to have an event every 4 weeks. Our next two sessions will be **11th December** and **8th January**. Games start at 7pm until 11pm in the Holding Room at the Village Club. Bring a game or just turn up and see what there is to play.

Tickets are £5 in advance. See the village club site or facebook page for more details.

James Cruickshank 07803 616162, boardgamersofkingsclere@gmail.com

Sunday 28th November
10:30am – 1:30pm
Fieldgate Centre



Our first CHRISTMAS market! Our stall holders will have holiday gifts, decorations and food, plus many of our usual planet friendly alternatives for every-day needs.

Entry is FREE! Meet up with friends to enjoy a coffee and refreshments, too.

In partnership with the Kingsclere Community Centre.

Nicki, Sarah & Lucinda greenerkingsclere@gmail.com
www.Greener-kingsclere.co.uk



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.

Kingsclere Community Association Trustees would like to wish you all Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year.

We hope that you have been able to reunite with friends and family to celebrate, exercise, or take part in our events during the year. The support from our regular hirers at the centre has been tremendous and our repertoire of classes continues to expand. After a challenging period for everyone, it's fantastic to welcome back so many of you.

KCA Trustees and volunteers continue to explore links and collaborate with a wide range of local groups and organisations to maximise the benefit we can jointly offer to the community.

We would like to thank all our volunteers, sponsors and supporters and look forward to a successful 2022.

Christmas Sing Along Friday 17th December 7.30pm. Raise the roof with the Kingsclere Singers! Festive drinks and nibbles. Bar open. Please book your FREE ticket in advance at www.ticketsource.co.uk/kingsclere-community-association or contact the office.

'A Christmas Carol' KCA in partnership with the Kingsclere Players and Kingsclere Singers, bring a special audio downloadable edition of 'A Christmas Carol'. The Christmas audio show can be purchased for £5 via a link on our website.

Monthly Meet-Up 2.30 – 4.30pm Tuesday 11th January. Pop in for tea, chat and cake. All welcome.

For our classes and events, how to become a volunteer, donate to a project, or to hire our venue, please contact us or visit our website and facebook pages.

email: fieldgatecentre@outlook.com

telephone 01635 298497

www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk



Kingsclere Players

The Kingsclere Players in partnership with the Kingsclere Community Association and Kingsclere Singers, bring a special audio downloadable edition of 'A Christmas Carol' this holiday season. The recording brings to life the famous Charles Dickens story of Ebenezer Scrooge who is haunted by three ghosts to help him find himself and reconnect with the true meaning of Christmas.

The Christmas audio show can be purchased for £5. To donate and receive your downloadable copy of A Christmas Carol, visit:
<http://www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk>

It is with great sadness The Kingsclere Players mourn the loss of Hazel Crispin. Over the past 30 years, Hazel brought her creativity, energy and love of life to the group both on and offstage. She will be missed by all.

This year's production will be donated to Target Ovarian Cancer charity in memory of Hazel.*

**See Page 10 for memories of Hazel Crispin*

Kingsclere Singers

The Kingsclere Singers are excited to be back this year and are fa la la-ing all the way this Christmas with their annual Yule Sing events.

Join the Singers for traditional Christmas carols at their annual Yule Sing event at **Kingsclere St Mary's on the 11th December at 4pm**

Community Carol sing along in partnership with the Kingsclere Community Association at the **Fieldgate Centre on Friday 17th December at 7:30pm**

Both events are free with Christmas charity collection. We will be following COVID safety guidelines to keep everyone safe.

For more information visit our Facebook page.



Kingsclere Film Club

Saturday, 11th December, 2021

From 7.00pm at the Village Club, George Street

Annual 'Christmas Do'

(Pre-booked and pre-paid only - call Fiona 297221)

Followed by

The Red Balloon ('Le ballon rouge')

(1956 - U - 34min - 1 Oscar)

A red balloon with a mind of its own follows a little boy around the streets of Paris - a classic!

15th January, 2022 - Note - this is the third Saturday of January.

What We Did On Our Holiday (2014 - 12A - 95 min - 1 BAFTA - Comedy)

A family of five is off to Granddad's big 75th birthday in rural Scotland. The parents are separated and hope their kids won't mention it. The kids love, can talk with, and will do anything for Granddad..... Outrageous and funny! Stars David Tennant, Celia Imrie & Billy Connolly.

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

Programme for 2022

Feb 12	Suspicion (1941)	A shy young heiress begins to suspect that her charming new husband is not all that he seems
Mar 12	The personal history of David Copperfield (2019)	A modern take on Dicken's classic 'orphan makes good' story
Apr 9	Foreign language film to be confirmed	
May 14	The Awful Truth (1937)	A married couple file an amicable divorce, but find it much harder to let go than they expected
Jun 11	Official Secrets (2019)	The true story of a British whistleblower leaking details of an illegal NSA spy operation in Iraq in 2003
Jul 9	1917 (2019)	Two soldiers in a race against time to deliver a message that will foil a deadly trap in enemy territory
Aug 13	The Big Sleep (1946)	Private detective Philip Marlowe hired by wealthy family. Classic Bogart involved in blackmail, murder and love
Sep 10	Film stars don't die in Liverpool (2017)	Based on a true story of a friendship/romance between a young Liverpoolian actor and a Hollywood leading lady

Kingsclere Community Library



Book Sale Success!

Our thanks to everyone who donated books, helped to set up and sell, and those who bought books! We raised a record £1,200 – roughly double what we earned previously and so well worth moving to the larger venue.



Thanks also to The Kingsclere Community Association at the Fieldgate for all of their support.

We asked – you answered!

Our plea for volunteers to help out at the library was also very successful, and thank you to all of you who volunteered to help keep our doors open! Eleven people came forward which was an amazing result.

HOURS

Tuesdays 1.00pm - 5.30pm
Thursdays 2.30pm - 7.00pm
Saturdays 10.00am - 1.00pm

CLOSED: 25th December, 28th December, 1st January

Nicki Lee, Kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk

Hazel Crispin

On the 10th November we lost our mischievous, naughty, fun loving, Wife, Mother and Grandmother Hazel. She spent her life making people laugh and be happy, she loved bright colours and that was reflected in her garden, her art, her love of theatre, and in her fashion sense. Always ready for a laugh and a joke, she was also very loving and caring of others, always ready to help a friend in need.

Hazel was a Dynamo that made things happen, both in our family life, and everything else she chose to do. We'll all miss her very much, and so will Kingsclere. Lots of love Darling Hazel.

Paul, Rachel and Andrew



**VOLUNTEER BEFRIENDING
SERVICE**

We are looking for Volunteers in your Community

Could you be a 'Befriender'?

What will I be doing?

As a Volunteer Befriender your role will be to provide social companionship to patients who have a chronic or life limiting illness and who are isolated or lonely. Visiting patients in their own homes, you will help them to feel more supported and help to improve their emotional well-being and confidence.

How much time do I need to commit?

Just 2-hours a week, or less, can make a real difference to a patient living in your local community.

What support will I be given?

All relevant training will be given, as well as regular and on-going support and supervision.

Interested?

For further information contact Caroline Nash, Befriending Manager on: tel: **01264 835293** email: **Caroline.Nash@hhft.nhs.uk**

Interested volunteers will be invited to an informal interview and the role is subject to references, simple health checks and DBS clearance.

The Church Pages



“The news was life-altering. My parents had been in a terrible car accident in South Africa... My mother had been killed along with two colleagues and friends... and my father was in a critical condition.”

J. Swinney, *The Whole Christmas Story* (Abingdon: 2021), p.13

So writes the author of our Advent book this year, who was only just beginning to write when she lost her mum. She speaks in the introduction of her immense pain and grief, and the comfort and strength that her faith brought. She also shares of her family's struggle to celebrate Christmas without her mum, who so loved it.

I wonder how Christmas will be for you this year. Are you anticipating large family gatherings, days of festivities and parties, making up for the very limited celebrations of 2020? Are you hoping to revive some of those traditions that were stifled by Covid? Or are you worried about how it might play out?

Christmas for all of us, I guess, will have been impacted – for some the loss of someone dear will mean it will never be the same. If that's you, I'd love to invite you to our Remembering at Christmas service this Sunday, 5th December at 4pm at St. Mary's Church, Kingsclere. This service offers an opportunity to remember a loved one through lighting a candle and acknowledges something of the pain of grief that is especially felt around Christmas.

I guess for many of us the pandemic has changed our perspective on things, possibly even on what we believe. Perhaps we're no longer content with the superficial answers given by the media or prevailing culture. If so, I'd encourage you to read *The Whole Christmas Story*. It is designed to take you on a journey day by day to understand how Christmas fits into the big picture of the Christian story. Each day there are about 3 pages to read concluding with some direction for reflection and a prayer if you would like to use it. It would also be ideal for someone who too often finds the rush and busyness of the festive season crowd out what it's really all about. If you'd like a copy, please let me know and I'll happily get one to you.

Whatever anticipations or preparations you are making this year, I hope and pray you have a peaceful, fulfilling Christmas and New Year.

Blessings,

Ben

St Mary's Church

Worship in our Churches

DECEMBER & JANUARY

Services in our churches will be as follows:



December	Headley & Ashford Hill	Kingsclere	Other Services
Sun 5 th	9.30am Holy Communion St Peter's Headley	10.30am Holy Communion/ Junior Church, St Mary's	4pm Remembering at Christmas, St Mary's
Sun 12 th	9.30am Family Carol Service, St Peter's Headley	10.30am All-Age Worship St Mary's	4pm Christingle & Christmas Party, St Mary's***
Sun 19 th		10.30am Morning Worship/ Junior Church, St Mary's	6pm Car Park Carols St Paul's Ashford Hill
Fri 24 th		4pm 'The Impossible Promise' Nativity, St Mary's	11.30pm Midnight Communion, St Mary's
Sat 25 th	9.30am Christmas Day Communion St Paul's Ashford Hill	11am Family Worship for Christmas Day, St Mary's	

*** Please book at:

www.clerewoodlands.org.uk/event-info/christingle-service-childrens-christmas-party-3

Note: There are no Services in our churches on Sunday 26th December

Sunday 2 nd January	9.30am Holy Communion St Peter's Headley	10.30am Holy Communion with Junior Church St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 9 th January	9.30am Morning Worship St Peter's Headley	10.30am All-Age Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 16 th January	9.30am Morning Worship St Paul's, Ashford Hill	10.30am Morning Worship with Junior Church St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 23 rd January	9.30am Holy Communion St Paul's, Ashford Hill	10.30am Morning Worship with Junior Church St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 30 th January		10.30am Morning Worship with Junior Church St Mary's, Kingsclere

Private Prayer & Mid-Week Service

St Mary's Church will be open each Thursday between 10am and 1pm for those that wish to use it for private prayer or quiet reflection.

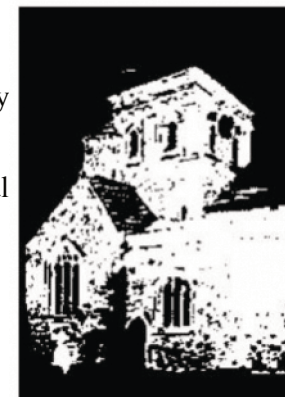
Do join us for worship at 10.30am each Thursday in the side chapel, with hymns, readings and prayers. The service is followed by refreshments. There will be no Thursday service on 30th December.

www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

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



October

30th for Hazel and Pat O'Leary's Golden Wedding Anniversary

November

3rd In loving memory of Rosemary West, who passed away peacefully at home on 30th September. With love from all the family

December

9th Angela & Ron Butler Douai Abbey 9th December 1961. Many congratulations on your Diamond Wedding Anniversary. With love and best wishes, Winn, Alan, Beverley, David, Caroline & Adrian
15th Paul Read. Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear. "Always", Alyson, Eleanor and James. xxx
18th Remembering my darling Mark who would have been 57 today. We love and miss you Mark. Amanda and Rocket

19th for Marjorie

January

14th Dearest Eileen... On 8th Anniversary of your death, Remembering and Loving you Always, Anne x

Carols in the car park

St Paul's Church, Ashford Hill, Sunday 19th December, 6:00pm

Come along with your family and friends in your car and enjoy listening and singing to some of your favourite carols. The number of cars that fit into the car park is restricted to 50, so we ask you to reserve your space online. Go to: <https://www.clerewoodlands.org.uk/> and scroll down the page to Upcoming Events to book your place.

We hope you will come and enjoy a great evening with us.

Kingsclere Methodist Church

Services for December 2021

Sunday 5 th December 10am	Rev Andy Fitchet
Sunday 12 th December 10am	Rev Rachel Borgars
Sunday 19 th December 10am	Helen Watson
Sunday 19 th December 6pm	Carol Service
Christmas Day 10am	Maggy Wallace

Services for January 2022

Sunday 2 nd January 10am	Worship Leaders
Sunday 9 th January 10am	Rev Rachel Borgars
Sunday 16 th January 10am	Maggy Wallace
Sunday 23 rd January 10am	Christine Thomas
Sunday 30 th January 10am	Rev Rachel Borgars

We are pleased to say that our Thursday coffee mornings will resume from Thursday 2nd December 10.30 to 12.00 - everyone welcome

Christine Westcombe tel 07485 083874 email c_westcombe@hotmail.com

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The November Draw winner was: Ann Mytton – No. 99
Congratulations, Ann

The December Draw is scheduled to take place at The Crown –
approximately 8 pm on Friday 3rd December 2021

Andrew and Pam Kitch
pamkitch16@gmail.com andrewkitch16@gmail.com 01635 299743

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd

Our next event will be:

Post-Christmas Village Walk on Monday 27th December, mustering in St Mary's Churchyard from 10 am, for a 10.30 start. Afterwards, we will gather in a marquee back at St Mary's, for mulled wine and other refreshments. It's an ideal way to walk off the effects of the celebrations, and all are welcome.

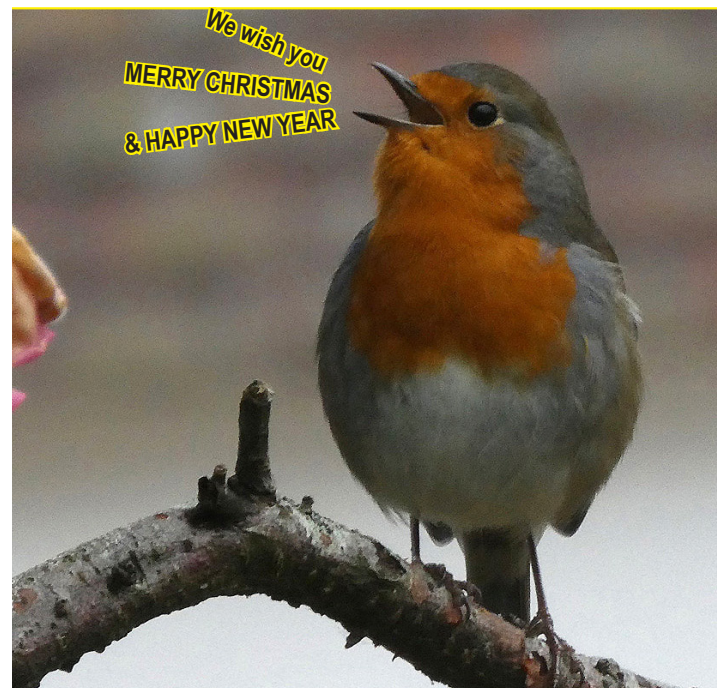
Our first event in the New Year will be our popular:

Quiz Night with Ploughman's Supper on Friday 21st January at the Fieldgate Centre. This is always good fun, so put the date in next year's diary now, and be sure to buy tickets early when they go on sale in January! As ever, you can either make up your own team of eight, or we'll group you with others on the night.

We look forward to seeing you!

Peter Turner, Chairman

Season's Greetings from the Tower Team!



u3a Overton and District



**Wednesday 15th December,
10.00am St Mary's Hall, Overton**

Community Action Nepal

Speaker: **Dr Lorge**

For 20 years he has been involved with this charity which works with remote mountain communities to deliver education, healthcare and agriculture programmes to help raise standards of living, whilst strengthening and protecting their indigenous cultures.



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



Read Easy Basingstoke set up in August 2019 as a **FREE** service to help adults who struggle with reading. We were delighted to have received a very generous Grant from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council recently. This will provide funding for the cost of training Volunteer Coaches and paying for reading manuals and books for our phonics-based programme.

How can **Read Easy** help? By providing free 1-1 tuition from a trained Reading Coach with half hour sessions twice a week, on a confidential, non-judgemental basis. Coaches help Readers for as long as it takes to become confident in their reading ability - our Readers can generally learn to read fluently in 9 months to 2 years.

Here is a quote from a Reader who learnt with Read Easy:

"I didn't think that I would ever be able to read a book, but when I heard about Read Easy I thought I would give it a go. My confidence has grown thanks to an amazing and patient teacher. It's really changed my life."

Please get in touch if we can help you or anyone you know by calling:
07592 450789

Kingsclere Village Club 1921 - 2021



CHRISTMAS MARKET SUNDAY, 12th DECEMBER 2021 10:00-16:30

Looking for the perfect present – or a treat for yourself? See an amazing range of exclusive, handmade and irresistible items at our **Christmas Market**. Try your luck in the raffle and you might get something special! Refreshments available when you want a break from shopping.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ

One Saturday a month, 10a.m. to 2p.m. All are welcome; you can join in with the activities or just have a quiet cuppa and a chat. If you have mobility issues, please contact 07813 368259 and we will try to arrange transport.

On **December 11th** there will be pre-Christmas cheer, with a quiz and tombola. We will also be collecting items for the **CAMROSE CENTRE**(see below); we hope you will support this worthy cause. The **January Café, Saturday 29th**, will feature musical entertainment.

THE CAMROSE CENTRE is a drop-in centre for anyone who is sleeping



rough, homeless or vulnerably housed within Basingstoke and surrounding areas. Our aim is to promote fulfilling lifestyles, emotional wellbeing and support long-term changes for those experiencing

homelessness, mental and physical ill-health, poverty, substance misuse, domestic violence, unemployment, exploitation and social isolation.

We are often in need of donations to help us continue to provide this much needed service, for example items that are easily prepared such as tins with ring pulls, snacks, pot noodles etc. pasta sauces, coffee, long life milk and juice.

We also welcome money donations; please go to info@thecamrosecentre.org for further information on how to donate.

Helen 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

<http://www.kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk> or www.facebook.com/kingsclerevillageclub

December In The Garden

We may get a few mild days in December, but mostly the weather is cold, frosty, and we often get bitter winds. The better days enable us to tidy up the garden, picking up the remaining leaves. The frost hopefully will kill a few of bugs and break up the soil in the vegetable garden that has been dug over. While tidying up the garden, don't forget to leave a few safe Havens for the creatures that hibernate in the winter.

Fences, sheds, and wooden raised vegetable beds will need protection from winter weather. These days there is a good choice of wood preservatives that are not harmful to plants, particularly if you have climbing plants on wooden fences or frames.

Cleaning moss from paths is a must, as this time of year they can become treacherous. Using a solution of household bleach will do the job, taking care to keep it away from plants. Leave for a few minutes, then scrub away the moss.

Pruning may still be done on tall bush roses to prevent the wind from rocking them, also any overgrown hedges can be cut back. Ornamental vines will need pruning to keep under control and prevent overcrowding. If you own a pot grown bay tree, this will need protection from cold weather. Move it to a sheltered part of the garden or greenhouse as the leaves do not enjoy cold weather.

December is the latest that Tulips can be planted. You may be able to find some bargains as stockists will be wanting to get rid of any bulbs they have left. Remember to make sure bulbs are still firm and do not have any mould.

Brassicas may need canes to give support otherwise the wind can blow them over. Remove yellow leaves as they can encourage disease.

I have just planted winter sowing broad beans, these seem to do rather well in our garden, and the shallots that I planted a few weeks ago are growing well, no doubt it's the mild weather we have had this Autumn.

Prune blackcurrants now as they fruit on new and old wood, and remove one third of the bush to maintain vigour.

The amaryllis bulbs are available now, and make spectacular houseplants. Do not plant deeply when putting them into the pot. If you have the patience and the space to keep them after flowering, they will flower again the following year. The secret is to let them dry out for a short period, timing is important.

We can still enjoy winter flowering shrubs, the winter box is budding up ready to give a wonderful scent in the garden, as will the mahonia and viburnum, and if the weather permits the odd rose can often perform up until Christmas.

Denise Allen

Nature Notes

What is wrong with the berries? Both pyracantha and cotoneaster have been loaded with juicy fruit and would usually by now have been picked clean but much of it remains. Blackbirds are always the first to stake acclaim but have chosen to stay away. Is there such an abundance of natural food this year that they do not need to brave the prickles or fewer birds? Send for the heavy brigade, the ever-dependable wood pigeon. They have taken to sitting on the pyracantha hedge and systematically grazing the area within their reach then moving on, the result being the upper half is well picked but the lower part remains loaded.

The current spell of fine afternoons has produced some wonderful sunsets and skyscapes. Coming over the brim of Ashford Hill with its view across the valley, the sky looked huge, a canvas of pure pale blue on which streaks of white, stained with orange from the setting sun had been loosely drawn. A simple scene but very beautiful.



Left: Jackdaw

Right: Blackbird



In late October a brightly coloured caterpillar was found in the garden – black and hairy with lines of red and white spots, a 'touch me not' warning. October seemed late for caterpillars and two more appeared on a variety of plants; oregano, iris and strawberry. Research proved it to be the larva of the Yellow Tail Moth, a common species but unusual in that it overwinters as a caterpillar and was certainly not feeding on its normal tree-based plants.

Strange little conical pits have appeared in the lawn lately. Having observed families of jackdaws strutting over roadside grassy areas, they are mostly likely to be the cause as they forage in the turf. Their larger cousins the rooks are useful in digging out leatherjacket grubs which damage grass. The grubs emerge as crane flies or daddy longlegs of which we have seen few this year.

In October we mentioned our predecessor Betty Shaw; coincidentally a booklet of a year of her writing has come to hand, marvellously lyrical and descriptive and a joy to read.

Diana Tait and Rod Eldred



Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands W.I.

Kingsclere Village Club, 35 George Street

First, I would like to wish all readers of The Tower magazine a joyous Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year.

Our speaker was unable to come in October due to illness, however, we were delighted to welcome Cynthia Morris in November, showing us how to decorate Christmas wreaths. Many members decorated oasis wreaths that Cynthia brought whilst other members watched (and commented on our efforts, in some cases!).

In December we have our 'big' birthdays, Nancy reaching the grand age of 102; she is always up for joining in whatever is going on. So on **8th December** starting **at 1.45pm** we are celebrating both her and two other ladies who have big birthdays (just not that big) with a competition to identify members from their baby or infant photographs. We will also have refreshments of mince pies, sausage rolls, crisps and, of course, cake. Do come along and join us, we have already had three new members since we restarted meetings in September.

In January we will welcome the return of Joyce Meader, who will be bringing us up to date with **the history of knitting** and I'm sure, bringing many garments that she has knitted. She has knitted garments for many historical films such as 1917. Her long johns are visions to behold! We are so pleased that she is able to come to our meeting on **12th January 2022**. The meeting starts **at 1.45pm** and we would love to see some more new faces. Come along and see what we are about, I'm sure that you won't be disappointed.

Margaret Geary tel 01635 297197

Kingsclere Local History Association

(Formerly Kingsclere Heritage Association)

Our next meeting will be on **THURSDAY 9th DECEMBER** when **Colin Pawson** will present:

**" COACHES AND COACH HORNS:
Their story from the Golden Age to the Present Day "**



Royal Coach

Picture courtesy of Wikipedia

Colin is an authority on coaches and coaching and has been driving ponies and horses for over 30 years. Initially as a hobby and then commercially he is a qualified Light Harness Instructor and also works extensively for the Riding for the Disabled Association. As a four-in-hand coach guard he will tell us of the history of coaching, be attired accordingly and demonstrate the coach-horn.

We can promise an very interesting and entertaining evening just right to round off the our programme for this year.

Our first meeting of **2022** will be on **THURSDAY 20th JANUARY** when **Dave Stubbs** will present:

" LORD FALKLAND, HIS LIFE, DEATH and MEMORIAL."

A welcome return visit by Dave who is a local English Civil War expert. Last time Dave gave us a detailed presentation on the First Battle of Newbury and this time he will tell us all about Lord Falkland who died in that battle. The memorial to Lord Falkland is on the Andover Road at Wash Common and his life was most interesting as we will hear.



Picture courtesy of Wikipedia

We meet in the main hall at Kingsclere Village Club at 7.30pm and visitors are very welcome at £3 p.p.

The village archives which we maintain are upstairs in the Holding Room at the Club on Monday afternoons from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Drop by if you wish to consult our archivists on any area of interest to you.

Michael Leah, Secretary tel 297403

Kingsclere CE Primary School



The term continues to thrive as winter months draw in, we have been really impressed with all of the children's progress so far this term after many months of interrupted learning. Staff expectations remain high and pupil engagement is strong. It has been fantastic to hold events for parents in school and welcome visitors through our doors once more!

We had a prestigious visit from The Worshipful Madame Mayor of Basingstoke & Deane who has officially opened our Health & Wellbeing Suite! The children asked fantastic questions and were very excited to have such an important visitor, the choir sang one of the songs from their concert at The Anvil earlier this term. It was a privilege to also have the Designer of the area join our special opening who had taken the ideas from the children and turned it into something magical!



We have held some open events for prospective parents as well this term and it has been a pleasure to share all the wonderful learning with members of our community, including some families out of catchment who are choosing our school for September next year. We are incredibly proud of our school! Should you wish to book a school tour, please do contact our school office.

A huge thank you to the FKS Firework Team for putting on a fantastic show in the school grounds. We are incredibly grateful to the time and effort from them & other volunteers as well as members of our community who supported our event. Thank you also to our neighbours for their understanding. We have raised nearly £5000 for the school, this is incredible!

Wishing you all a safe & happy Christmas, **Mrs Melrose, Headteacher**

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 & babies,
£2 for 1st child and 50p for additional children



Face masks optional, please wear one if you would like to.

Check out our Bunnies Facebook – as well as our local buying and selling site “Kingsclere Bunnies Preloved”, where locals often have bargains to pass on.

It's Christmas party season and we are really looking forward to the Bunnies Christmas party on Tuesday 7th December. We'd love to welcome you whether you are a regular or new to Bunnies, join us for some festive fun!

We'll have some super soft play for the children to enjoy and a special party buffet. Bring a plate of food along with you, there will be sign-up sheets in advance if you want an idea of what to bring. We'll be running a little later for this session only: 9:30am – 11:30am, but as usual, stay for as little or as much as you can.

We also want to wish all bunnies and their families past and present a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year. We will share opening hours over the festive period in session and on Facebook so keep an eye out for details.

villagebunniestoddlergroup@gmail.com

Kingsclere Gardening Association



November meeting: Our first since March 2019 went well. It was very nice to meet and catch up with the members there, about 20 in all, there to hear Chris Bird give his talk on 'Right Plant, Right Place' with plenty of interaction with audience. It was a really enjoyable night. It was a great surprise to see the new chairs which were so smart and a great plus for the Village Club.

No more action this year other than a committee meeting. **The AGM** will be held on the second **Thursday, January 13th**, in the Village Club, usual format, all are welcome with a glass of wine and nibbles. Volunteers are needed for the committee or to help welcome. Normality will resume next year with meetings in February and March with a show in April.

John Eckton 01256 850017

THE KINGSCLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

POLICE, FIRE or AMBULANCE

Police Enquiries/Information

Emergency 999
non Emergency 101

Kingsclere Health Centre:
North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke

01635 296000
01256 473202

Parish Council: 37 George Street (see page 2)
Dial-a-Ride

01635 298634
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**