

The Kingsclere Tower



April 2021

Your Village Magazine

The Kingsclere Tower

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A year ago the Tower was full of useful information about what to do and who to ask for help during the pandemic. I seem to remember our Prime Minister suggesting it might be over by August! The feeling was that if we all pulled together a temporary emergency would be overcome. We are all older and wiser I'm afraid.

Despite the Spring offering us a new dawning, the end of lockdown still seems some way off. Many of us have survived with little to complain about. More television has been watched and Zoom and Facetime have become vital. A large number have, however, suffered the worst year of their lives. Even those who have no tales of sickness or job loss feel their lives have been diminished. Our nearest and dearest have struggled. I am sure a great number of people have had a feeling of depression that has been hard to throw off. It is interesting to see how fearful many people have become of their fellow citizens. Quite rightly we avoid contact.

Let me therefore put in a plea that we start to embrace community life when it is permitted. We need to get out and do things together. Watch our local sports teams! Take part in village activities! Enjoy our new found freedom! Give us a hug! But not too soon!

The Editor

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

To all "Tower" Contributors

Copy for **May** to the Editor at 3 Blue Meadow, Garrett Close.
or kingscleretower@gmail.com

NOT LATER THAN 12th April.

**Will ALL contributors please include full name
& home phone number/e-mail address.**

KINGSLERE PARISH COUNCIL (KPC)

Chairman: Cllr John Sawyer (297221)

email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk (298634)

Office: 37 George Street, Kingsclere RG20 5NH

Public Opening: The office is currently closed please use the contact details above.



VILLAGE MAINTENANCE HELP The Parish Council are responsible for a varied portfolio of land assets, street furniture and public facilities on behalf of the community that we serve. We have an ongoing challenge to maintain our gates, fences, hedges, pathways and more. If you are multi skilled, want to earn some money whilst helping your community, then please contact us to discuss details.

DOG FOULING – This sadly remains an issue on the paths and pavements in our village. Once again, we remind dog owners to pick up after their animals and equally important, take the bagged waste home or dispose of in the correct bins placed around the village. The Parish Council continue to receive complaints regarding the conduct of some (not all) irresponsible pet owners.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – The Parish Council have taken the decision to push back the Annual Assembly this year, in the hope that it can be held after the restrictions are lifted. We feel it would be both beneficial and very welcome to come together as a village at an event in July rather than resorting to a virtual online April event. We will, of course monitor the guidelines and keep you updated. Councillors hope you will understand the thought process behind this decision and are always contactable should you have anything to raise with us that cannot wait until July.

GRAYSON TEMPORARY MORTUARY to stand down

Hampshire County Council has taken the decision to 'stand down' the Grayson temporary mortuary site from June 2021.

The site was activated in January this year to provide additional mortuary capacity for local hospitals and the county's funeral sector in response to increasing coronavirus infection rates and a rise in the number of deaths. Since that time the site has provided invaluable capacity in support of the NHS and families. While it is still being utilised, and it is anticipated that this will remain the case for the coming weeks, the impact of the national restrictions and the vaccine roll-out mean a reduction in pressure across the system and the county council is confident it will not be needed soon. The lease on the site is in place until June but will not be renewed thereafter.

FIELDGATE SPORTS PITCHES - The sports pitches at the Fieldgate Centre run by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council suffer from animals burrowing into the playing surface. The resulting holes create a significant trip risk for all users of the pitches where sprained ankles and potentially broken bones could occur. These are well used pitches with a wide range of users including many young children playing cricket, rugby and football. It is planned to hire a professional pest control company to help mitigate the problem. This is a standard practice for sports pitches across the country. If you would like more information regarding landowner responsibility and methods of control, please refer to the government website <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rabbits-how-to-control-numbers>

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – will be at 7:30pm on Monday 26th April 2021. This meeting will almost certainly be held virtually. Please see the Agenda on the Parish Council Website for the invitation link should you wish to attend the meeting.

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING

Wednesday 7th and 21st April.

Kingsclere Village Club



Despite the lockdown we have had a busy time at the Club. Our garden works (paid for by donations) are nearing completion. There is still some planting to do at the time of writing but our new pergola and arbour look amazing. We will have a lovely setting for our Centenary Celebrations on July 17th and Shakespeare in the Garden on August 24th.

Thanks to grants from BDBC, the Greenham Common Trust and the Four Lanes Trust, we have started our energy efficiency project. The roof has now been insulated and the Heritage Statement (necessary for a listed building) is in hand. A new heating system and improvements to the doors and windows are planned. In addition, we have had to have the roof repaired. This was paid for from reserves.

A very big thank you to the Library, Parish Council, Church Administrator and Police for being so understanding during times of disruption.

We are looking forward to reopening to various activities over the next couple of months, following Government rules and guidance. As we welcome back old favourites and start new projects, we hope to see many of you soon.

Helen 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Kingsclere CE Primary School

We have welcomed the children back following what will hopefully be the final lockdown for us all and what a joy it is to have the buzz of learning return. Classrooms are full of engaged and enthused learners alongside staff who are supporting pupil wellbeing as well as guiding them to their next steps.



Later this month our new Year R families will be notified about their places and we look forward to welcoming them to joining the school later next academic year. We have recently purchased some new learning resources and had a mix of tyres donated to the school to support our outdoor learning.



We have recently celebrated National Science Week and looked closely at the world around us, bringing high levels of awe and wonder with the children. The children in Year 1 and Year 2 explored making their own rainbows with a mixture of resources, whilst our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils studied the concept of 'herd immunity' using a jenga tower.

Hoping you all keep safe and enjoy exploring the village once more as lockdown eases.

**Mrs Melrose
Headteacher**

House of Commons 4 March 1830

A Petition of Owners and Occupiers of lands and other Inhabitants of the several parishes within the division of Kingsclere, in the County of Southampton; and of Parishioners of the out parish of Leominster, in the County of Hereford - were presented, and read; praying, That the House will take the deplorable state of the Nation into their most earnest and immediate consideration and laying aside all prejudice or preconceived opinions, to inquire into all the cause of these unprecedented difficulties which threaten, if no speedy remedy be found to overwhelm the poor, the middle classes and the affluent in one common ruin.

And the said Petitions were ordered to lie upon the Table and to be printed.

(Taken from Parliamentary Papers)



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.

We have the space for you!

Are you thinking of somewhere to get-together with friends and family? We would be delighted to welcome you to The Fieldgate Centre. A variety of indoor spaces are for hire, all of which have double doors leading to the outside, allowing independent access and plenty of fresh air. Our large private patio and garden next to the hall is perfect for socialising al fresco (shelter can be provided on request). Our spacious social area is available to hire too, with options to use the kitchen and a licensed bar. Contact the office and we will help you organise a safe and relaxed return to socialising.

Village Puzzle Trail 2 Winners

Congratulations to the many people who returned correct answer sheets. Two lucky teams won prizes from the draw of correct answers: Team Kitty and Billbow Baggins. We would like to thank everyone who took part and to thank Raj from Swan Street Stores for his donation.

And Another...

Look out for our Easter trail from Sunday 4th – Tuesday 6th April. This one will be a bit different from the others - you will need to use your eyes to spot posters along the way to solve the anagram! Download a pre-set route map or pick up a copy from The Fieldgate Centre entrance on those dates. Entry is free.

PLUS an Easter art competition for children. Take a photo of your original artwork and email it to The Fieldgate Centre 4th – 6th April, clearly marked with name, age and contact details. Good luck!

fieldgatecentre@outlook.com telephone 01635 298497
www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk

1st Kingsclere Scouts



It has been an unusual year, to say the least, and it has been hard to plan with the many changes affecting the possibilities of section meetings.



We were all incredibly sad to cancel the **Summer Camp** and we know so many of our young and older members were looking forward to getting away for a week in sunny Dorset. Let us hope we can have a camp in summer 2021!

The **Beaver Section** got close to restarting but then we were hit with the second lockdown. This was frustrating for the section leaders who had worked hard on COVID compliance, safe processes and getting risk assessments in place. The Beavers section are now awaiting to restart but need permission from the National Scout Association before commencing meetings.

At the request of some parents, we have agreed that due to not having a cub group at present Beavers can remain until they are 8 years and 6 months old.

Please be aware that due to changes in leader availability, **Beaver meetings will be moving to Mondays from 6 to 7 when the restart happens.**

Our **AGM** was held by zoom, the formalities were concluded, and we have a new Exec. to run the group.

We **look forward to 2021** with hope that the vaccine(s) will enable scouting to return and return safely. We have been pleased that the group had good financial reserves and we were able to obtain a grant which means we are in a sound position. This also means **we can continue to waive subs** whilst the sections are closed and reintroduce as the sections reopen.



New Leader Recruitment

After 5 years with our youngsters our Scout and Cub Section Leaders have

decided to hang up their scouting shirts for a while. We thank them very much for everything that they have done.

This leaves us with ***too few leaders to run those sections*** and so we are looking for new leaders.

Leader duties include:

- Delivery of a safe, exciting, stimulating and balanced programme.
- Actively supporting and promoting the achievement of badges and awards to advance and enhance youngsters' skills.
- Ensure regular opportunities are provided for young people to enjoy the outdoor adventure that is scouting.

These are rewarding volunteer roles and they do need a commitment of time for both planning and running section meetings.

There is a training programme and support from within the group to get ready for our return to scouting.

Please join us in **actively looking** for the next group of leaders to take Kingsclere scouting forward.

If you are interested or if you know of someone who might be interested, please contact us at kingsclerescoutden@gmail.com

Kingsclere Tennis Club

On 29th March 2021 Kingsclere Tennis Club courts open again after earlier restrictions made necessary by the COVID-19 pandemic. There are guidelines in place to help to keep everyone safe. The courts have been refurbished and there is now a simple booking system in place to make organizing play easier for all members.

If you would like to play tennis locally, Adult, Junior and Family memberships are available at very reasonable rates. ALL WELCOME!



Adults interested in playing organized social tennis sessions contact:
Thursday mornings - Daphne Snook on 07768 664347
Sunday mornings – Nigel Baker on 07785 763967

For **Tennis Club Membership** contact:
Adam Price on 07725 901362 or email: adamprice27st@gmail.com

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group

At the time of writing we don't yet have firm plans for reopening Bunnies, but please follow us on social media for updates.

Where: The Village Club, George St
Every Tuesday, 9am-11am when allowed.
villagebunniestoddlergroup@gmail.com



**We want to wish all of our bunnies a Happy Easter.
Can you colour in our Easter bunny?**



Kingsclere Youth Football Club



Kingsclere Youth Football Club - U10s Need you!! Players for other age groups also welcome!

Fed up of seeing good sporting talent go to waste in front of a screen? Maybe you just fancy getting the kids out of the house at long last? Whatever your reason, wherever you're from, we'd love to welcome you to Kingsclere Youth Football Club.

There are opportunities for U8s, U10s, U11s and U13s to take part in fitness training, learn skills and to represent Kingsclere Youth FC in matches.

So, if your son or daughter is aged 8, 10, 11 or 13 this school year, and would like to join a friendly team to get fit again after lockdown, improve their skills and have fun on the pitch, get in touch.

You'll be part of a team with a great ethos of inclusivity with quality playing time and less substitutions than most other clubs.

We train at the Fieldgate in Kingsclere on Saturday mornings and play at Hannington on Sundays.

We have FA-trained and DBS-checked coaches.

For more details,

Please message or phone me (Rob) on my mobile, 07901 825444.



Do you remember
Garrett's Garage?

The Garretts are a well known village family whose members were variously. builders, wheelwrights, blacksmiths, undertaker and registrar.

Nature Notes

The Rat City, that is passed on a high walk locally, is thriving. It is situated in a low bank that runs beneath the roots of wind-swept beech trees and the safety of their roots and is extensive. In the many years of walking this path we have never actually seen a rat but they are there in their hundreds or possibly, thousands. Evidence abounds from what lies adjacent to their burrows. Stripped corn cobs, harvested from a cover crop in an adjoining field, run the length of the colony and wide tracks, compacted by a multitude of tiny feet lead from burrow to nearby field. Assisting their good life is a grain feeder within comfortable commuting distance. Rats of course are a fact of life and are better in a remote site rather than the garden shed.



We saw our first brimstone butterfly on 26th February, a bright flash of yellow dancing along a sunny, winter hedgerow. It was known to early entomologists as 'The butter coloured fly' and it is thought that the contraction of this gave us the word 'butterfly'. A large, old, section of trunk has lain beside a village footpath for many years, origin and identity, unknown but possibly oak or sycamore. In time the bark loosened and fell away exposing the population of resident invertebrates. As time marched on wind and weather and tiny inhabitants reduced this once mighty, solid wood to a wonderful crumbly mass of brown powder, to be absorbed into the soil. This will nourish more life - a miracle of recycling.

Diana Tait and Rod Eldred

Dear Editor,

We have moved to Everton near the New Forest and Milford on Sea. The time just flew by, and with COVID restrictions in place, there are so many neighbours and friends whom we have known for over 30 years that we didn't get to say goodbye to properly.

We spent the longest time of our lives in Kingsclere, our children grew up here, and we joined in with many of the wonderful opportunities on offer and have lovely memories of events that happened, Kingsclere and its residents are very special to us and will always remain so.

Thank you Kingsclere for being home to us for the last 33 years.
Pauline and Steve Combes.

Reflections

"As He said her name, she realised that this was no stranger, and what happiness rose in her crushed heart..."



She was at the tomb of her friend. She had been deeply devoted to Him, supporting His work out of her own pocket and not only financially but also accompanying Him on his mission. When opposition built, she watched as previous followers deserted and defected, as His work was criticised, as He Himself was ostracised. She stood by Him as He faced public humiliation, a show trial, and felt the full force of the brutal justice meted out by the governor and the corrupt religious officials. She was there as He suffered, pinned to posts by his hands and feet, and even then enduring the continued mocking of His opponents. She watches, unwilling to leave, as He struggles for breath, making plans for the care of His mother in His final hours. And then, through the strange darkness, she sees His final cry, earth-shattering and tearing her heart as if in two. They lay Him to rest, and she leaves determined to return at first light, when permitted to do so on the third day.

And it's later on that day, as she contemplates the loss not only of the life of her friend but the theft of His body, that we meet her inconsolable, stood by the grave unwilling to leave, crying and crying and crying. But when she hears, "Mary" in that warm, familiar voice, she knows He is no longer dead but alive.

Mary Magdalene saw with her own eyes, as did the early disciples, Jesus resurrected, risen from the tomb. And it is this key event which we celebrate at Easter. It is an event which gives Christians a solid basis for hope even after an engulfing pandemic and crushing lockdown. The living Jesus knows our name, your name, my name, like He did Mary's. And He longs for us, like her, to turn and look to Him, even when, or especially when, we find ourselves at rock bottom, inconsolable as Mary was that spring morning.

This Easter, as the pandemic, we pray, eases, let's look to Jesus Christ for our hope and strength. We'd love you to join us for our Easter celebrations at 9:30am in Ashford Hill and 10:30am in Kingsclere.

I pray you might know God's peace and hope this Easter.

Blessings,

Ben



Worship in our Churches APRIL

We are pleased to be able to worship in person again in our church buildings. Our churches have followed government and Church of England guidelines and continue to review the regulations as they change.

Services in our churches in April will be as follows:

1st April (Maundy Thursday)		8pm Prayer & Praise St Mary's, Kingsclere & Online
2nd April (Good Friday)		10.30am Good Friday Worship in the Churchyard St Mary's, Kingsclere
4th April (Easter Day)	9.30am Easter Day Communion St Paul's, Ashford Hill	10.30am Easter Day Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere & Online
11th April		10.30am St Mary's Kingsclere & Online
18th April		10.30am St Mary's Kingsclere & Online
25th April	9.30am St Paul's, Ashford Hill	10.30am St Mary's Kingsclere & Online

If you are not yet comfortable coming to the church buildings to worship, do join us online. The 10.30am service will be streamed via zoom each Sunday. The link is on our homepage www.clerewoodlands.org.uk

If you do not have internet access you can either join in by phone, or have a recording made for you of the service on a CD. Please do get in touch with Emma, our administrator, on 07422 6887125 if either of those options would be useful.
www.clerewoodlands.org.uk

Kingsclere Methodist Church



We are so pleased to be able to let you know that we are to be allowed to open our Church for Worship.

On Offer for Re-Opening !

A clean and safe environment in which to worship.

Hand sanitiser, face masks, disposable gloves and sanitising wipes are all available in the vestibule.

Socially distanced, comfortable chairs just waiting for your arrival.

And most importantly, a very warm welcome !

SERVICE DATES FOR APRIL

4th	Holy Communion	led by Revd. Rachel Borgars
11th	NO SERVICE	
18th	Morning Worship	led by our Worship Leaders
25th	NO SERVICE	

Services begin at 10am.

We look forward to seeing you.

Wendy Morgan

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd



Even though we have been unable to mount our usual programme of events, the continuing donations and subscriptions of Friends have been most encouraging, and much appreciated. Thank you.

The Covid restrictions have of course impacted severely on our fund-raising income during this period, despite the PCC's continuing needs. We have been able as a Committee to meet only once since the national restrictions came into force, but be assured that we shall gear up again as soon as we are able.

In terms of grants to the Church, we had earlier pledged the sum of £8,000 towards the refurbishment of the Kingsmill Room. The scale of the work to eliminate the persistent ingress of water is now clearer, estimates have been received, and we have recently increased the amount pledged to £20,000.

Now that the vaccination programme is going so well, we look forward to resuming FOSM's 'normal service' and hopefully being in a position to hold one or two fund-raising events from Autumn onwards.

We greatly look forward to seeing you!

Peter Turner, Chairman

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 0779 0934972.

February

14th Remembering Lillums on her birthday

March

26th Bob Martin - Always in our thoughts. Love Maureen, Pat, Darren & family

April

13th In loving memory of Conrad Pennington, a very dear husband and father who departed thirty years ago, but is forever in our hearts. Sylvia, Julie and family

13th Remembering Richard Hale on his birthday. Missing you so much. Love Mum & Dad x x

17th In memory of Nigel Westcombe dearly loved, and never forgotten, Chris, Darren, Ryan and Sarah.

24th Happy 70th Birthday to our superhero Don Milborrow. You are loved by so many, thank you for being you. Love Sarah, Samuel, Willum, Meghan and Jude

25th For Aimee Hardy-Biggs on what would have been your 31st birthday. Forever loved and missed. Mum, Dad, Samuel, Willum, Meghan and Jude



It is so frustrating to have half a year's programme of films ready to go but unable to show them! However, at time of writing it does seem that there is a possibility of opening our doors in the not too distant future. We will be in touch as soon as we are able to go ahead. In the meantime, we are happy to lend DVDs to members for home viewing.

Please stay safe and stay in touch.

John Sawyer (Chairman) 297221 or jrsawyer@hotmail.co.uk



Royal British Legion



Throughout lockdown your village branch of the Royal British Legion has continued to support our local veterans and their dependants in a COVID safe manner and we have been busy planning for when restrictions are relaxed.

We hope to restart our face-to-face meetings as soon as we can but ensuring, of course, that we abide by government regulations.

Plans are being formed to mark a number of key dates in our diary, including VE Day, VJ Day and the Battle of Britain Day. Of course these and the village Act of Remembrance in November will be dependent on the rules at the time.

We hope that you have enjoyed our "pop up" story boards that have been out and about the village this year, each marking the story and history of a name of the fallen on the memorial. We plan to do more through the year, so please keep an eye out for them!

I can also report that at the Hampshire County RBL Conference in January the branch was awarded the "Hampshire Chairman's Certificate" (only 1 is presented each year). This is a great honour for the branch and recognises the work we have all put in over the past few years to make a useful and constructive contribution to our community.

Our village branch continues to grow steadily in numbers and in our planned events and socials, so why not come along to a meeting when we are able which we hold every first Tuesday of the month in The Crown, starting at 7pm or join us for Brunch! This is a great way to support our community!

Our Facebook site remains popular and very active, with nearly 300 members. Please come and see what we do and are planning by searching Facebook for "Kingsclere Royal British Legion".

If you have any questions, please contact me on either my RBL email, Kingsclere.Chairman@RBL.Community or via 01635 628004.

Mark Holden

Chairman

Kingsclere Royal British Legion

The Parish website www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk
 [@kingsclerepc](https://twitter.com/@kingsclerepc)  facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil

Kingsclere Cricket Club

Kingsclere Cricket Club is already looking forward to a “near normal league season” in 2021 – hurrah! Despite the global pandemic, during the 2020 Summer we still managed to play a good deal of cricket.

We started the season with an interclub 12 over tournament involving 3 teams of colts and adults which was a great success. So much so that we played a few more interclub T20 evening games during the summer. We finished 3rd in a “local Saturday league” organised by Oakley CC and involving the likes of Whitchurch, Odiham, Donnington and East Woodhay. The season was drawn to a close late one evening in September with a 12 over game between the club and Kingsclere Stables. We won’t mention who won! Many thanks to Andrew and his team for their hospitality.

So - the 2021 season looks like it’s well and truly on.

We have an U17s team entered in the North Hampshire league thanks to John Rose’s continued commitment to Colts cricket.

The Adults team will again be playing in Hampshire League Division 4 North.

The club held its AGM on Zoom on 29th March – club members only.

We are planning to hold nets at the Fieldgate every Thursday evening from 22nd April.

We’ll kick the season off with an Interclub game on Sunday 2nd May
The adult league season runs from 8th May to the end of August.

As always, we are delighted to welcome new players. We play the game to enjoy it – and to win!

You can find us at <https://kingsclere.play-cricket.com/Aboutus>.

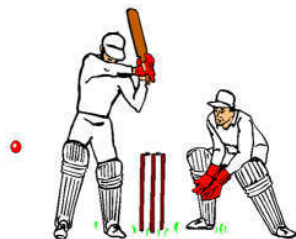
Or you can contact:

Steve Hanney, Club Captain, on 07856 584711

Johnathan Rose, Colts Manager, on 07917 820476

Mark Hirst, Club Chairman, on 07901 118818

Roll on summer!



Mark Hirst

Kingsclere Community Library

“Your local FREE library”



We are all crossing our fingers that we will be able to reopen from 12th April if all goes as planned. We hope our first day open will be Tuesday 13th April, but you may want to check before coming down.

You should be able to enter even if the scaffolding is still up at the Club. We are waiting for permission from B&DBC to put up a new sign, so don’t be alarmed at the lack of the sign – we are still there!

We are completing our transition into becoming an Independent Community Library, and so there will be some changes when we reopen. You will need to be given a Kingsclere Library card as the Hampshire cards will no longer work. There is just a short form to fill out. As always, everyone from Kingsclere and any surrounding villages are very welcome to join, and there is NO cost.

Some good news came to us through our county councillor Tom Thacker. He was able to give us a grant of £600 for the purchase of some new books, which will help us to keep the collection alive and up to date.

We would also like to thank everyone who has donated to our Appeal for one year’s rent. We have received generous donations by cheque and through Go Fund Me, and we are extremely grateful for every bit of support.

Nicki Lee, Kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com 07899 623872

Census 1921-2021

Have you filled in your census? Well, if you haven’t, you better get on with it! One significance of 2021 is that the 100-year-old census of 1921 becomes available though, sadly, not until the beginning of next year. General details are already available, however:

1921 was a low point in Kingsclere’s history. In 100 years the population had fallen 3% to 2243 whilst the UK population had risen 300%. Obviously the 1st World War and the Spanish Flu had taken their toll. Agricultural mechanisation had also played its part in reducing the number of workers required. Nevertheless from 1921 onwards Kingsclere began to grow.

Censuses started in 1801, though they have only given us personal details since 1841. With the addition of the 1921 information we will have an unparalleled opportunity to discover our ancestors. Many of us have used the lockdown to find time to access the various web sites dealing with genealogy.

Mike Stokoe

Kingsclere Gardening Association

AT last! Something to write about. Although covid restrictions still influence everything we do we have to hope that normality may slowly return.

We are planning a plant sale for Saturday May 22nd to be held in the church grounds, sale to start at 10.00am. We are asking our members to contribute plants for this and will be pleased to receive contributions from anyone with spare plants. We will of course abide by any rules regarding distancing or the use of masks but hope most of these may have passed by this date.

Sylvia Pennington has agreed with the owners of Weirs Barn at Hartley Witney to take up their offer of a garden visit which should have taken place last year but was of course abandoned due to the pandemic. This will be on Thursday evening June 24th. Transport will have to be sorted/arranged according to the rules in force at the time. We hope restrictions on car sharing will be relaxed by then. As all organisers of events know every thing can change but let us hope these are just a start. Other clubs are beginning to plan ahead.

I have been asked to judge in August. Burghclere have said they will have show on August 14th so things are moving.

John Eckton 01256 850017



Park House Stables and the Mysterious Doping Scandal

On the 21st April 1892, a few days before the Two Thousand Guineas at Newmarket was due to run, the favourite, Orme, was discovered by his trainer John Porter, to have a badly swollen mouth.

The diagnosis was an infected tooth and Mr. Leoffler, a famous dentist was summoned from Newmarket. The affected tooth was removed. Porter's view was that the tooth was sound and Leoffler, resenting the contradiction of his diagnosis went off in a huff. Orme's condition worsened and John Porter concluded he had been poisoned. Williams, a well-known veterinary surgeon, was summoned, and concluded Orme had been poisoned by mercury. Orme struggled between life and death for a few days but eventually pulled through.

Various theories were put forward for the poisoning. The main one was that it was part of a betting coup against Orme in the Two Thousand Guineas although there was never any rush of betting against Orme prior to the horse being poisoned. The most likely theory was that it was a stable lad who looked after another horse at the stables. When it came to The Derby, La Flèche, another horse from the stable, started as 1-2 on favourite but it was beaten by the outsider Sir Hugo. La Flèche's loss resulted in a celebration by the Orme camp at Kingsclere, a possible indication of the bitter rivalry between the two groups of stable lads at Kingsclere.

Richard Croft Chairman Kingsclere Heritage Association

April In The Garden

We are truly into Spring, and the garden is growing rapidly. There are lots of jobs to attend to. If you have not already done it, there is still time to divide perennials. The weeds continue to grow so that is a job that is almost continuous. Early flowering plants need dead heading and also early flowering shrubs will benefit from a prune.

As the weather is very changeable in April, we need to take the opportunity to garden when we can. Never take it for granted that wind, rain and snow can no longer damage our much treasured plants.

Finish pruning roses. Hydrangeas need attention. Cut just below the old flower head to the nearest bud and cut away congested growth to open up the bush.

Time to tidy the flower borders, digging up any plants that have died, for instance old foxgloves and taking out any plant that isn't happy in its situation. It happens sometimes, gardening is all about trial and error.

This is a good time to sow annual climbers. There is quite a range to choose from. Morning Glory, for instance, is very popular. Continue sowing hardy annuals which are good space fillers. Try to leave the daffodils to die down naturally just taking off the dead flowers.

If you have a pond in the garden now is the time to put your wellies on and clean it out. This is a job that only needs to be done when the pond plants become overcrowded so it is not necessary to do it annually.

The vegetable garden soil is still cool for planting seedlings but the earth can be warmed by covering it with a sheet of plastic for a couple of weeks. Sow french and runner beans always using good quality compost for sowing. Last year it was difficult to obtain compost. Unfortunately I purchased something that didn't work very well, so buy the best you can afford. Seeds will definitely benefit from quality soil.

Spinach is a very versatile vegetable. It can be cooked or used as a salad leaf. Spinach is best sown directly into well prepared soil. This will prevent it from bolting as it often does if sown in trays. Seeds can be sown at three or four week intervals from February to July which will give plenty of plants to harvest.

Sow brassicas including cabbage, cauliflower and kale. It is also time to sow leeks and courgettes. Any potatoes you have growing will need earthing up. Many plants will benefit from a sprinkling of chicken manure pellets giving them a nitrogen rich feed. Don't forget to feed any fruit bushes and trees. Lawns will need attention as they will have put on a fair amount of growth. Feeding with a spreader makes the job easier.

There are so many lovely plants flowering this month besides late flowering daffodils, Erythronium, Epimediums and Snakes-head fritillary are among my favourites,



Denise Allen

Whitchurch Silk Mill

Post-lockdown Re-opening

Following the government's 'roadmap out of lockdown' announcement in February, we are looking forward to a lovely summer at the Mill. For now, the Mill and its grounds and shop are closed. The Mill will open its outdoor café service on 12 April, Tuesday to Sunday, 10.30am to 5pm. If everything goes to plan we will reopen the Mill on 17 May, but if this cannot happen we'll let you know.



More Ripping Yarns

Have you seen our new Ripping Yarns videos about the possible derivations of the expression 'pop goes the weasel' and the origins of 'to pull the wool over someone's eyes' and 'died in the wool'? They are great fun and are available on the Mill's Facebook page. The expression 'to pull the wool over someone's eyes' has two possible sources: a legal one and a Parliamentary Act. Lawyers have historically worn woollen wigs, and pulling the wool might have referred to metaphorically pulling a lawyer's wig over his eyes, obscuring the truth. In the 17th century epidemics badly affected the health of the population and the country's economy and led to a decline in the wool and weaving trades. In 1667 an Act of Parliament designed to kickstart these industries made it compulsory for bodies to be buried in woollen shrouds. And so, people saying 'Don't think you can pull the wool over my eyes' may have meant 'I'm not dead yet!'.

Objects in Focus

In 'Objects in Focus' we'll be revealing the hidden history behind everyday items in and around the Mill. New episodes will be released every two weeks. The first episode is now available to view on our YouTube channel and focusses on the weaver's bench on the Mill's third floor. In the past we believe it may have been used to spin silk: a spinning wheel would have been fixed into the various holes visible in the removable centre panel of the bench. Taking the panel out and looking at the underside reveals signatures dating back to the early 20th century. The story behind this is that when a new weaver started at the Mill they would write their name on the back of the panel as a sort of 'initiation' process – a hidden record – and in our video we show you the signature of Valerie Nash, dated 1 April 1948. Both Valerie Nash and her sister Pat worked at the Mill. Pat worked upstairs but remembers going down to see Valerie where she worked on the looms in the din of shuttles flying backwards and forwards.

Contact: info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk – 01256 892065 – www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk

Kingsclere Duke of Edinburgh Open Centre Bronze Award Applications



The Kingsclere DofE Open Centre is inviting applicants to apply for a place on the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Scheme starting this April. The Kingsclere Open Centre operates under Hampshire County Council DofE Centre rules. There is currently space in this first intake for 6 young persons who are currently in School Years 9, 10 and 11. Further Bronze intakes will happen later this year.

In applying for a place on the Bronze Award, a young person will need to commit to spending at least one hour of their time per week within three separate areas of Skills, Volunteering and Physical over a period of three months with an additional three months spent in one of those areas of their choice. In addition, they will also take part in an overnight expedition towards the end of the scheme.

If you require more information about the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme then please go to <https://www.dofe.org/>.

There is a cost for a place on the scheme of £35 that is paid to DofE and Hampshire County Council and there may be a small charge by the Kingsclere Open Centre to cover costs for the expedition. Grants may be available to assist with those costs.

If you wish to apply for a place then please email kingscleredofe@yahoo.com with your name, current age, contact details of a responsible adult and a paragraph about yourself and why you wish to do the scheme.

If we have more applicants than places, then you and your responsible adult may be asked to come for a chat and discuss your application.

James Cairns kingscleredofe@yahoo.com

Reading Chronicle Jan 12th 1798

EDUCATION

MARKET PLACE, KINGSCLERE

Miss Moody's begs leave respectfully to inform their Friends and the Public that their school recommences January 22ⁿ.

Terms Thirteen Guineas per annum- Admission one Guinea

Washing half a Guinea per quarter.

No entrance is required of ladies who have been at a boarding school before

Tea allowed every afternoon.

Basingstoke & District Disability Forum (BDDF)



Your local disability charity has launched a brand-new website.

<https://www.bddf.org.uk> is the address of our new website. It contains information about the charity, about our services and events. There is a whole section dedicated to disability signpost information, resources and an amazing gallery full of photos of past events. You can use the sign-up form to become a (free) Member of BDDF to ensure you receive our regular newsletters and details of our free services such as mobility improving yoga, social walks, coffee mornings etc.

As the disability champions for Basingstoke we have links with statutory bodies who regularly ask us to participate in planning stages of services which are important to people with a disability. As a member of BDDF you will be offered the opportunity to be part of these equality connections within the community, ensuring accessibility, diversity and inclusivity are at the forefront of the decision-making process.

On Friday 26th March we held an online disability awareness and information day fully packed with information about the charity services available within Basingstoke, relevant to anyone who is affected by disability either directly or as a carer. Over 35 local organisations got involved and created a short video showcasing their services, these are available to watch now via our website, Facebook page or YouTube channel. Take a look at the amazing charities here in Basingstoke who are available to support you.

Get in touch & keep up to date Please get in touch with regards to any of our updates via email info@bddf.org.uk or via Facebook Messenger.

We offer regular newsletters via email, paper version is available by post if you do not have internet access. To be added to our postal mailing list please call 01256 423869 leaving your home address, name & telephone number.

Information on all our free services are updated regularly on our **social media** and **website**. Keep up to date by liking our page on Facebook @BDDForum, Insta @BasingstokeDisabilityForum via, or tweet us @BDDForum.

From Amanda, Sarah, Ani & the team of Trustees

Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands WI



Let's double up on famous quotes, shall we? **Tom Way**, an award-winning wildlife photographer of international renown, was to have been the 'prize catch' for the April 2020 Group Meeting of our North Downs quartet of WIs. Then came the pandemic. Here comes Quotation Opportunity Number One: "*The best laid plans of mice & men often go awry!*" We rebooked, optimistically, for February 2021 - only to be thwarted by the next official Lockdown. Cancellation Number Two then generated Quotation Number Two: "*It's an ill wind that blows no one any good.*"

Enough of quotes and cancellations. We *can* explain what good *did* come out of this double-trouble - in itself, a *two-fold* benefit. Firstly, on booking Tom's services back in 2019 we became subscribers to a cyber-publication - his email Newsletter. And, *what* a newsletter! Apart from the high standards of each edition they give previews of Tom's latest work, some full-colour and others in high-quality monochrome. As good as it is, this newsletter is but a microcosm of what could be better seen projected onto a large screen or what could be most fully appreciated visiting an exhibition of his finest work.

The second bit of good news, the newsletter tells us how this fine artist who's among the very best of wildlife photographers has had to cut back on travel, a mainstay of his profession. Though based in the UK, Tom Way's craft has long identified Africa as his artistic or even *spiritual* home. Zambia, Zimbabwe and more particularly East Africa are his natural tramping / camping grounds. Originally famed for his wildlife photography safaris, he's had to reconstruct his artistic and business life during a ruthless pandemic. It's a case of "come Covid, comes change". He drives himself hard. He conducts a range of online workshops, formal presentations and runs mentoring programmes. His cyber-presentations include lectures to high-ranking groups like the Photography Experts Platform. He is also busy planning private safaris for guests geared hopefully for the 2021/2022 season. This photographic perfectionist is successful because he is honest and tough on himself. The title of his 'live' talk just last month was '*Nearly is not Enough*'. We must aim for perfection.

What a treat we have missed! But, let us keep looking forward to new opportunities and fresh possibilities. The cover of our organisation's most recent issue of the magazine named *WI Life* states it best and says it all: **"Hold onto hope. We're still here and we'll meet up again."**
KEEP THE FAITH!

Nova Saunderson - 299570

THE KINGSCLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

POLICE, FIRE or AMBULANCE	Emergency 999
Police Enquiries/Information	non Emergency 101

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

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

CHURCH CONTACTS

St. MARY'S CHURCH:

Vicar Rev Ben Read, The Vicarage, Foxs Lane	01635 298471
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Administrator:	
Emma Rivers	
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METHODIST CHURCH:

Chief Steward Wendy Morgan	01635 297538
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	0300 555 1387
Buses	0345 8101000	Swan Street P O	01635 297035
Trains	0845 748 4950	Vet	01635 29557 or 40565
Gas Emerg.	0800 11999	Dentist	01635 299981
Chemist	01635 298419	Age Concern	07813 368259

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MP for N.W. Hampshire:

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