

# The Kingsclere Tower

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It's noticeable this month that we are seeing an increase in notices as many of our village organisations announce plans to reintroduce activities in line with government guidelines to ensure safety for all.

I'm sure many of us are keen to resume our interests and meet up with friends as Autumn approaches, and I'm sure we all hope that these activities are able to continue throughout the Winter too without being affected by the feared Covid-19 spikes.

Stay safe everyone.

**The Editor**

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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 October 2020 issue: 12 September 2020**

Send copy to the editors at 3 Blue Meadow, Garrett Close, Kingsclere or  
email: [\*\*kingscleretower@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:kingscleretower@gmail.com)

*All contributors MUST include name, address, phone number and/or email*

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# Kingsclere Parish Council

**Chairman:** John Sawyer (297221)  
**Clerk:** Louise Porton (298634 or  
 07915 950407)

**Email:** [clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk)  
**Office:** 37 George St, Kingsclere RG20 5NH  
**Public Opening:** Mon & Wed 9:30 -11:30am



**GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN** – The planned event in March could not take place due to Covid-19. A new date has been scheduled, Saturday 26th September 2020. KPC will continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation and will provide hand sanitiser, gloves and litter pickers. Residents who wish to participate will be required to email the clerk in advance to book a slot to pick up equipment from the gazebo station in the Churchyard. KPC will designate areas to work on to avoid large groups of people working in one area together.

To book your slot, please email the Clerk or if that is not possible, telephone – contact details above.

**HEDGES** – We are getting complaints in the office about overgrown hedges, verges and overhanging branches that obstruct the footways, paths and highways around the village. As the nesting season is over, now is a very good time of year to cut hedges. We respectfully ask all property owners with hedges, bordering the footways and highways, to cut them back to within their boundary. The full width of the footway/pavement or road should be clear of any overhanging hedge – it is not reasonable to say it is still possible to pass. The Highway Authority may serve notice requiring the cutting or felling of a hedge, tree or shrub which endangers, obstructs or interferes with the passage of vehicles or pedestrians, including the view of drivers or the light from a street lamp. The work is required to be carried out within 14 days. Note: A ‘hedge, tree or shrub’ includes vegetation of any description. (*Ref: Highways Act 1980 section 154*)

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE IT UNTIL YOU RECEIVE A LETTER OR A  
NOTICE IS SERVED

The Parish Council contractors will start cutting all of the hedges on parish owned land during September but scheduling may mean that some will not be completed until later in the Autumn.

**GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING** – the collections dates are 9th and 23rd September 2020. Weekly collections of the grey/black bins have now resumed.

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – will be at 7:30pm on Monday 28th September 2020, using Zoom Virtual Meeting Software unless government restrictions in place for Covid-19 are lifted, in which case normal meeting procedures will resume in the Village Club. Details to connect to the virtual meeting will be displayed in the Agenda.

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



@kingsclerepc



facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil

## Mystery of the Dead Red Kites



Towards the end of July, whilst out on a walk in the village, I became aware of a dreadful smell coming from a ditch on the Ecchinswell Road, between the cemetery and the footpath down to Porch Farm field. When I went to investigate I was shocked to discover the carcasses of a number of red kites. It was difficult to tell exactly how many because foxes had been at work, but I estimate 3 to 4 bodies.

As red kites are protected birds of prey, this was a distressing and alarming discovery.

I would be interested to know whether anyone is able to shed any light on who would benefit from killing the kites? Is anyone aware of any other similar incidents?

**Derek Crutchley**

### ***Editor:***

*Having enjoyed watching as many as 7 or 8 red kites regularly flying over our garden in Garrett Close this spring, we had noticed that we recently are back to seeing only 1 or 2. We had assumed that maybe youngsters had moved on, and just the parents remained. This report from Derek puts a different slant on it, which is quite disturbing.*

# Kingsclere Community Library

The library needs saving again, five years after we fought to stay open in Kingsclere. This past year has thrown up three huge challenges.

Last summer our rent more than doubled, from £2,050 to £4,566 pa. We've been told to expect another rise of over £1,000 in two more years. This was a serious blow and we were anxious about our survival.



We were delighted by a promise of a large grant, to cover up to 4 years of expenses to give us breathing room for making longer term arrangements. Unfortunately this grant did not materialise and the offer was withdrawn.

We are fundraising for the short term, and looking at other premises for the longer term, since this rent amount is not realistic for our small volunteer organisation. If anyone knows of space available, please contact us.

We also found out last month that we are losing our branch status with Hampshire County Council library service, effective April 2021. We are now exploring various options for continuing. A bit of good news is that we have secured a promise for new books on a rotating quarterly basis.

Of course Covid has affected our opening and also our fund raising events planned for the year. We are open now, but fundraising events are on hold. Next month we will be starting a fund raising drive, and hope the village will support us.

The volunteers are working hard to keep our library!

**Nicki Lee, [Kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:Kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com)**

**200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200**

Entries drawn first week of each month, various village venues

**St Mary's 200 Club Winner August 2020, No 98, Pam Evans**

**Well done, Pam!**



We have been working with the Village Club to see if it is feasible to show *The White Crow* on **Saturday, 12 September**. The main issue is distancing and limited numbers. If we are able to go ahead, we shall be in touch with members individually to let you know the new arrangements; it will be different, but still fun, we hope.

Please stay safe and stay in touch.

**John Sawyer (Chairman) tel 297221 or [jrsawyer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jrsawyer@hotmail.co.uk)**

## Village Heroes - A Very Big Thank you

Can I give a thank you to everyone who has kept us fed, collected prescriptions & shopped for us during the lockdown. Especial thanks to:

- Raj, staff & all the volunteers at Swan Street Stores
- The Village Butchers
- Friends and Neighbours

A big thank you to everyone who sent me, gifts, cards & messages, that kept me going during my chemotherapy and to Dr Still & everyone at the medical practice for their support.

**Chryssie & Steve**

**St Mary's Kingsclere would like to thank Emma Rivers** for being their covid hero. She has organised a food bank for a number of people and families both within Kingsclere and across Headley and Ashford Hill. Emma has personally delivered to some families and logistically managed all the donations. This has been a true lifeline for many people in these difficult times. We would also like to thank all those people that have donated items, please keep them coming as they are desperately needed.



The sun continues to shine and some of our regular groups have continued to hold classes by using the ample outside space here. Evenings and weekends are noisy again with sporting activities on the playing fields. When we do open the Centre's doors to classes and small gatherings, we will have put measures in place that, in conjunction with hirers' own precautions and the Government's guidelines, will provide a safe and hygienic environment. For this to be both successful and sustainable we must rely on every visitor to comply with the instructions they receive so that the building can remain open. All of the measures and restrictions are available to view on our website.

During lockdown our volunteers have been busy sprucing up the bar, social area, darts/chill out area and the foyer. Larger improvement works will commence in the Autumn, using grants and match funding.

KCA is grateful for your continuing support and we look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Email: [fieldgatecentre@outlook.com](mailto:fieldgatecentre@outlook.com) Telephone: **01635 298497**

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

**The Fieldgate Centre** is run by Kingsclere Community Association as 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 Rugby Club

*Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline,  
Sportsmanship*



Kingsclere Rugby Club would like to invite you to come along and join us for the new 2020 - 21 season. Inclusive of all ages (17 to as old as you like!) No matter what level of experience you have you will get a great welcome.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions we are working through the RFU Return to Play Roadmap. We are currently at Stage C of a six-stage recovery plan allowing Touch Rugby, and must wait until Stage F before we are back to full-contact rugby.

We train with RFU qualified coaches from 7:00pm on Wednesdays at The Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere RG20 5SQ, and play our matches on Saturday afternoons.

For further information please contact **Aurie Woodley on 07733 367900** or email [info@kingsclererfc.co.uk](mailto:info@kingsclererfc.co.uk), or find further details at [www.kingsclererfc.co.uk](http://www.kingsclererfc.co.uk)

facebook

Please follow us on Kingsclere RFC



## Kingsclere Minis Rugby Club



Mini rugby is a fantastic way of gradually introducing children to the great game in a carefully structured format in line with their physical development and motor skills. It helps keep children fit, and creates a bond of friendship and mutual respect for team mates and for opposition players and the rules of the game.

Minis Rugby is currently for Ages 4 to 10 years (but please feel free to contact us regarding any other age groups).

We train with RFU qualified coaches from 10:30am on Sundays at The Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere RG20 5SQ - followed by a hotdog!

For further information regarding the Kingsclere Minis please contact **Nikki Shouesmith on 07958 568620** or email [secretary@kingsclererfc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@kingsclererfc.co.uk)

facebook

Please follow us on Kingsclere RFC Minis



## Frankie Young

It was with great sadness we learnt that Frankie Young passed away in July. Frankie was a founding member of the group, and a keen member of the Kingsclere Players for over 40 years. Others may have known her from her role as Practice Manager at the Health Centre.

Many of us have taken Frankie's theatrical advice over the years, she was a very competent actress. One of her starring roles was playing "Beverly" in Abigail's Party, she also was a fabulously wicked Snow Queen, and a rather sophisticated "Ugly Sister" in Cinderella. In later years she enjoyed coaching us in our various roles, and we relied upon her support when learning lines, and movements on stage. She has been backstage at almost all productions over the past few decades, prompting actors when lines were lost and helping organise front of house.

Frankie was also involved with The Heritage Society and the Cormicy Twinning team. She loved the fact it was in the Champagne region and always had a bottle of "Cormicy Juice" at home. The Players will miss her enthusiastic involvement very much.

Thank you Frankie for all you did to promote the Kingsclere Players. We also enjoyed a lot of laughs over the years, we will all miss you. Our thoughts now are with her husband Gordon, and family.

**Hazel Crispin for the Kingsclere Players**

# Royal British Legion - VJ Day



Photo: ©Gareth Martin, Kingsclere PHOTO Club

Your branch of the Royal British Legion held a socially distanced service to mark VJ Day on the 15th August. A number of wreaths were laid to honour those lost and those who came back but were not the same.

We are unsure yet of the direction regarding our act of remembrance in November but we are expecting to not be able to hold our traditional parade church service. Plans are being developed to cover a number of options and details will be distributed soon.

We have also been warned that this year's Poppy Appeal will also be impacted by Covid. Although details have yet to be formally announced it is very likely that we will not be able to raise funds face to face in the village, or place our collection tins in the shops, schools and other businesses, which is a sad consequence but totally understandable in these times. Again, details will be confirmed once we know more.

**Mark Holden**

## Flu Campaign

### Autumn 2020



The flu season plans are already well advanced at Watership Down Health Surgeries. This year, they will be running things a little differently to allow for social distancing and the safety of our patients and staff. We considered drive-through clinics but decided, for many reasons, to vaccinate inside our current premises. Booking will open in September - we will update the website with more information as it becomes available.

Patients will be asked:

- To walk or cycle to the surgery wherever possible – or to the village, then walk from there. We hope to find volunteers to help us marshal car parking and organise queues of people on foot.
- To arrive promptly – neither early nor late.
- To wear a mask or face-covering.
- To wear suitable clothing that allows easy access to the shoulder area yet protects you from wind/rain while waiting outside – bring an umbrella!
- To observe social distancing rules while standing in the car park.
- To expect to have their temperature taken on arrival – no-one with a temperature or symptoms of Covid-19 will be admitted.
- To expect to enter/exit by a route other than the front door. If you have mobility problems or other concerns which mean you are unable to navigate steps, please let us know.

Patients over 65 and anyone below 65 who is in an “at risk” group (eg asthma, diabetes, COPD, heart disease etc) or who is a Carer is eligible for the flu vaccination. The vaccine arrives in batches so clinics will start at the end of September and continue throughout October and November.

The government has announced that all over 50s should be vaccinated against flu this year but have not yet indicated when the vaccine might arrive for this group of people. Please do not call the surgery: arrangements for 50-64 year olds will be advertised later. Please note that there is currently no vaccine for Covid-19.

Please help us to organise the campaign by letting us know your mobile number and email address so that we can inform you quickly of any changes.

# The Church Pages



“I can’t make any plans”. “Things keep changing – one minute you’re allowed to do something the next you’re not. I can’t keep up”. “Everything is so uncertain”.

I guess many of us have accepted and got out of the habit for now of making plans too far in advance with the frequent changes to restrictions designed to help the nation deal with the coronavirus pandemic. But it has still been frustrating at times, particularly when things have been planned a long time in advance. Our family, I’m sure will be one of many who have had to change holiday plans.

As we look to the final four months of the year, uncertain about what challenges await us, what can we hold onto to give us the strength to face them? Though we might not know what’s coming, there is One who knows the end from the beginning, who knows what will happen, who knows the plans that will be changed. In a particularly bleak time for the people of Israel in the Old Testament, when their nation had been defeated by the Babylonians and many of their people had been deported to serve brutal masters, a prophet shares these words to encourage them: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Even at that time, when it seemed like all was lost, God had plans to prosper them and give them a hope and future.

And we too can have that hope through faith in Jesus Christ. He has been an anchor to many of us as we’ve faced the storms of life and He has remained constant even throughout the lockdown, the uncertainty and the changes. And He can give us hope for the future, no matter what might happen, because as we put our trust in Him, He can make us eternally secure – not just safe for now, but safe forever starting now. That eternal security and certainty can be ours because of the cross, where Jesus, prompted by God’s love for us, gave up His life, so we could receive eternal life as we put our trust in Him.

I pray that this month you might know that eternal safety and the hope of a future planned by our loving God.

**Blessings,  
Ben**

# St Mary's Church

## Worship

We are delighted that we have been able to open for public worship on Sundays since 5th July. We have made sure that all our churches have followed government and Church of England guidelines and have put measures in place to keep everyone safe. For more details on what to expect when you come to worship, see our website: [www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk](http://www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk)

### Services in our churches during September

	8am (Book of Common Prayer)	9.30am (Common Worship)	10.30am
6th Sept	<b>Headley</b> Holy Communion	<b>Kingsclere</b> Holy Communion	<b>Kingsclere</b> Morning Worship
13th Sept	<b>Kingsclere</b> Holy Communion	<b>Headley</b> Morning Worship (Lay-led with Homily)	<b>Kingsclere</b> All-Age Messy Worship
20th Sept		<b>Ashford Hill</b> Morning Worship (Lay-led with Homily)	<b>Kingsclere</b> Communion Service
27th Sept		<b>Ashford Hill</b> Holy Communion	<b>Kingsclere</b> Morning Worship (Lay-led)

We are also making sure that those who are unable to come to worship in person are still able to watch the service on YouTube (link on our homepage)

### Private Prayer

St Mary's Church will be open each Thursday between 10am and 4pm for those that wish to use it for private prayer or quiet reflection.

### Prayer and Friendship

We have a team of volunteers who have offered to be available to speak to those who might need a phone call. Perhaps you are isolating at home alone and just want to speak to someone occasionally? Perhaps you would like someone to pray with? If so please contact Emma (details opposite) who can put you in touch with someone.

We are here for our community now, as always.  
Please do get in touch if there is anything we can help with.

## 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, Church Administrator**

**tel 07790 934972**



### August

14th	In memory of Frankie Young - To a dear family friend who will be sadly missed, all our love from the Dolmans
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### September

1st - 4th	A big thank you to everyone for their support during the lockdown. Chryssie & Steve
16th	Remembering Neil (Westcombe). In our hearts forever. Love always Elaine, Christopher, Suzanna, Helen, Chris, Thomas and Oliver
28th	For Nicola on her birthday. We love you so much and miss you every day. Mum

## Food donations

Thank you to those who have donated food and toiletries/household products which we have been able to distribute to those in need locally during the coronavirus restrictions. We are continuing to support these families over the summer, and so if you are able to donate any dried or tinned food or household/laundry products please get in touch with Emma (details below). If you know of someone in need (or are in need yourself) of these items please contact us. Any items that are donated which are unused when restrictions are lifted and we stop collection donations will be donated to the Foodbank.

## Other Church Activities

At the moment, all other mid-week services, groups and events are not meeting.

**Contact us:** see Back Cover

**[www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk](http://www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk)**

## Kingsclere Methodist Church

We are very pleased to let you know that from 1st September we are to be allowed to open our Church and be able to share worship together again.

Following strict Government and Methodist Church guidelines our Services will however, to begin with, be held less frequently and of a shorter duration (lasting about 30 - 40 minutes) and may be of a different format.

Social Distancing will be in place and Face Masks must be worn at all times. No singing is allowed and Coffee will not be served after the Service.

The Steward on duty will guide you through the procedure of entering , seating and leaving the Church.

We very much look forward to welcoming you back and of course all are welcome to attend.

### Service dates for September

6th Sept	Maggy Wallace	Morning Worship
13th Sept	<i>No Service</i>	
20th Sept	Revd Rachel Borgars	Morning Worship
27th Sept	<i>No Service</i>	

**Contact details:** see Back Cover

## Respect for Graves in our Churchyard

I was walking through the church grounds yesterday afternoon, the 14th July, and I observed children running over graves and marking on grave stones. The two adults were just watching them doing this and made no attempt to stop them. I think this is disrespectful.

People might think about the individuals interned in these graves, as I am sure they would not like children running over their own family members' graves.

Using the graves as a playground does not seem to be a very Christian act, which seems to be lost when it comes to holding Fetes in the grounds of the church as well. I hear this comment from other villagers too.

**Michael Wootton**

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# Kingsclere Gardening Association

Another month, so it goes, nothing to think ahead to. Our meeting for this month cancelled, must tell the speaker! No point in booking what would have been my last speaker for next March.

However gardens go on. Onions are now ripening; the tops are flat and faded, time to pick up, dry off, not in hot sunshine as this will cause the skins to split, and in a greenhouse they may even get cooked. The dahlias are flowering well. I still disbud to get good blooms, though no one is going to see them on display. In the veg garden Runner beans still flower and I find some good beans but more twisted short ones due to the heat. Watering is a constant job. A few days without and many things would be over. The tomatoes in the greenhouse are stunning. I have Gardeners Delight with probably 12 trusses on; picking a couple of times a week so neighbours are getting quite a few. I usually have produce for Wolverton Market but of course that has gone too.

I always hope things will restart but who knows. Unless there are people to lead the way these things will not happen. Some plants are being grown for next year. One benefit to me is that as plants go past their best I can replace them with something else, only trouble is the mind keeps thinking of improvements. As yet I have not ordered bulbs for next year but think I may do as soon as I have potted up last year's.

Let's hope that there may be something to look forward to another month, a new year's meal perhaps with £10.00 paid by the government.

**John Eckton**



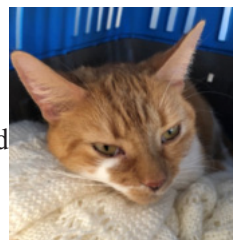
For homing, fund raising and volunteer enquiries;

Telephone: **0345 260 1501** or Email: [sylvia.cp@outlook.com](mailto:sylvia.cp@outlook.com)

To view cats currently for adoption [www.andover.cats.org.uk](http://www.andover.cats.org.uk)

Little Rose has been lucky enough to find her forever home and has settled in really well. This beautiful ginger cat is Annie. Annie is 6 years old and looking for a new home with no young children. She has lived in a flat but we're sure she would love a garden to explore once settled into her new home.

Just like many other charities, we have been hard hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. For anyone interested in donating to help the cats and kittens within our care, we have an Amazon wishlist. Any gift ordered off the list would be most welcome and a big help to us. A link to our wishlist can be found on our Facebook page.



## Kingsclere Village Club



At the time of writing, we continue to work on the safe re-opening of the Club following the Covid-19 closure. A limited number of activities have already been able to restart and it is good to see the library back in operation.

We are hoping that most **clubs and classes** can restart in September or October – check with your tutor, our website or Facebook page for further information. We will also advertise any changes on the village notice boards. We are happy to accept **individual hiring** so long as we can comply with social distancing and hygiene requirements. Take a look at our advert on the back page for the range of activities we normally host.

**Hair in need of a cut?** Are you shielding or in a vulnerable group and nervous about travelling to your usual hairdresser? **Cuts and blow dries for men and women** are available at the Club. Massage also available. Please contact **Donna 07789 180585** to arrange an appointment.

Contact reopening coordinator Helen [events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk](mailto:events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk) or tel. 297390 if you have questions.

Please wear a **face covering** when visiting the Club. This is now the law unless you are exempt or are taking part in exercise.

### AGM

Our annual AGM is planned for **Thursday October 22nd at the Village Club** if social distancing rules can be followed. If necessary, a virtual meeting will be held and details of this will be advertised accordingly. Please let us know if you are planning to attend (or are giving apologies) by contacting [clerk@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk](mailto:clerk@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk) so that we can ensure the numbers do not exceed social distancing capacity. Do you want to stand for nomination as a Trustee? Then please contact our Clerk as above.

**Helen, tel 297390**

## September in the Garden

The days are getting shorter, and we could get early frosts in exposed areas, plus the chance of high winds, so it's important that plants are secure if we want to enjoy the last of the herbaceous borders or the vegetables.

This time of the year there is plenty of material to put into the compost heap or bin. Try not to include woody and diseased material; the last thing you need is to spread diseases on to the garden when you use the compost.

There is work to be done with the lawns, if they have survived the heat of the summer. Thatch can be a problem at this time of year, but can be removed with a spring tined rake. A scarifying machine will be quicker if you have a large lawn. After this process the lawn will probably need feeding and reseeding.

If the soil is moist enough it's a good time to plant trees, shrubs, and climbers, as there should be some warmth still in the soil. This is a good time to divide perennials and take cuttings. And, although it doesn't seem possible, now is the time to plant up pots of bulbs for Christmas. Daffodils and narcissi can be planted outside at the end of the month. Some hardy annual seeds can also be sown outside. They will probably need to be thinned out in the spring. Foxgloves, wallflowers, and other biennials should be planted now.

Break off the lower leaves of Brussel sprout plants now. Main crop potatoes will be ready for lifting; onions will also be ready; and onion sets can go into the ground before the winter. A variety that can be used is Swift. If under cover sow a few lettuces for the winter: Winter Density is a good variety. Plant out spring cabbage; protect from the dreaded pigeons, they think they own the garden. Time to take some of the runners from strawberry plants, making sure the new plants you select are disease-free.

There should still fruit to be picked. It seems a lot of fruit has been spoilt by bugs, no doubt through stress from the heat. There should still be colour in the garden to enjoy, with Sedums, berries, and much more.

And, if you have a few moments, there is always the potting shed to tidy up, putting away the pots and things we won't need until the spring.

**Denise Allen**

# Kingsclere Primary School



With our September start just around the corner we have been busy re-organising the school in anticipation of welcoming back all of our pupils and staff after what has felt like an exceptionally long time!

Classrooms have been risk assessed and hold a slightly different layout, most with front facing tables & personalised resources to minimise contact. We continue to have many cleaning routines, one way systems and 'bubble' groups in place as part of our measures to keep everyone as safe as we can, but we are determined to still deliver an exciting and engaging curriculum! Staff have spent the summer revamping our curriculum, looking closely at Personal, Social & Health Education in particular, to support the return of pupils. We will begin this term with our new enquiry based curriculum whereby a clear progression of skills has been mapped for all year groups. Pupils will explore, investigate & discover new knowledge inspired by an enquiry question, leading them to delve deeper into concepts and ideas.

We will be welcoming our New Year R pupils into school for the very first time as the usual transition sessions to visit the school had to be postponed. It was quite exciting meeting many of them via Zoom, listening to them sharing news of their pets or toys at home and asking fascinating questions about school; ranging from 'Where do I eat lunch?' through to 'What colour is the carpet?' Children are delightful! We hope to invite prospective families to visit the school during the next term, Covid-19 dependent, please look on our website for further details later this month.

We have been incredibly fortunate to receive a £4500 donation towards a new reading scheme by our parents association: Friends of Kingsclere School. These texts match our curriculum more closely, are more engaging to read for pupils and carefully follow our phonics teaching supporting pupils with early reading development. FKS have also provided us with some much needed funding for new playground equipment, laptops & new maths resources. We are incredibly grateful for their support and look forward to the children utilising the new equipment.



Many of you may remember our petition to Hampshire County Council to keep a school crossing patrol following the retirement of Ms Penny Hunt after 15 years of service. We were incredibly grateful for the support of our parent body and wider community and Hampshire have agreed to keep the patrol. They are still looking to appoint someone to this role, please contact HCC via email at [school.crossing@hants.gov.uk](mailto:school.crossing@hants.gov.uk) if you are interested in applying.

We know this has been a perplexing time for many families and have been so grateful for the relentless support and kindness shown by our community. We look forward to starting the Autumn Term successfully and celebrating with you all throughout the year!



**Mrs Hannah Melrose, Headteacher**

## Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group

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

**When:** every Tuesday, 9am-11am

**Cost:** first visit free. After that, £1 for bumps and unweaned babies. £2 for first child (including snack donated by Swan St Stores) and 50p for additional children.



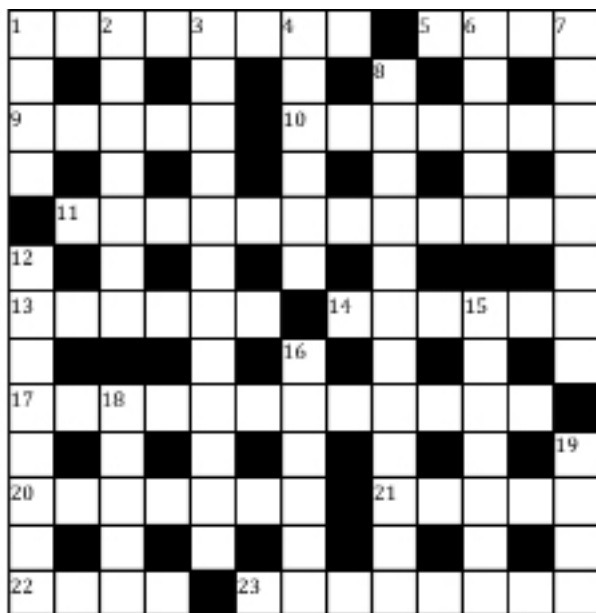
We would like to wish all of our bunnies starting school this September the best of luck. Things are far from normal, but we hope you all settle in well and enjoy making new friends.

Hopefully we will be in a position to open Bunnies again soon (if not already) and when we do, it would be lovely to recruit some new mini members to begin their bunnies' journey with us. We have a dedicated baby area with bouncy chairs, play mats, baby toys and cushions for them to enjoy. It is also a great opportunity for new mums, dads and carers to meet other local parents and families over a cup of tea (don't forget your reusable cup if you have one!). The first session is free, so please do come along when you can.

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

**[village.bunniestoddlergroup@gmail.com](mailto:village.bunniestoddlergroup@gmail.com)**

# September Cryptic Crossword



## Across

1. Encompass with dour runs (8)
5. Is the drop tart (4)
9. Capital for Lutyens (5)
10. In an allegro 'Wings of Song' are increasing (7)
11. Strangely I deter a sting and then break up (12)
13. A motor dealer provides a hard test (6)
14. A mess after a short advert could lead to high regard (6)
17. Broken glass (3,9)
20. Tea in the main can give life (7)
21. Perfection is found in horrid Ealing (5)
22. In want, sounds painful even when initial honour removed (4)
23. Less rages produces a gift (9)

## Down

1. A team with a pretentious air (4)
2. Competitive driver recovered (7)
3. Did the creation have one of these? (8, 4)
4. Deny a rickety gate in a turbulent north-easterly (6)
6. Crockery country? (5)
7. Offerings of a comic rhymers? (8)
8. Did 3 need one of these? (5,7)
12. In command with a nautical guide and young lover. (8)
15. A learner in opposing directions confused by untruths leads to poor health. (7)
16. A rash from former E.U. leads to confusion in maze (6)
18. In a board riven with division advance can be made. (5)
19. Stuck on the mixed luge (4)

Solution on Page 23

## Nature Notes

We walked the river path in New Alresford recently and found people feeding the mob of ducks not with bread but with pelleted food available from a nearby dispenser, there is a campaign to reduce the use of bread which is said to be bad for ducks and waterways. The ducks were enthusiastic feeders and swirls on the surface showed fish to be also. One duck had a very late brood of four ducklings. It was good to see more grayling in the river than on a previous visit as they are equally attractive as brown trout. Their long dorsal fins were laid flat against the current.

*Mallards with ducklings*



An ancient alder tree with eleven trunks on the bank of a stream in Pamber Forest caught our attention. All the trunks were dead and rotting with sheets of bark loosening and falling away. While the tree was dead it hosted a veritable city populated with countless tiny invertebrates sheltered by the bark and living off the decaying wood or each other. Hundreds of little holes peppered the bark where a variety of beaks had foraged for a meal, a great example of natural recycling.

Arable fields around Brimpton are blessed with broad margins devoted to wild flowers and seeding grasses. Awash with insects and especially butterflies we noted the abundance of Gatekeepers. These are small brown butterflies with a border of darker brown on the upper side of the wings. A black spot on each forewing contains two tiny white spots. It is also known as the Hedge Brown butterfly for its preference for hedgerows.

## Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands WI

Venue: Kingsclere Village Club, 35 George Street



*We have said it before: we stay in touch with those speakers originally booked from March of this year through to April of the coming year.*

*And, they continue to respond in kind to concerns as to how they are faring during these difficult times. A lovely reaction. That's the 'human factor' - a currency to be undervalued only at our peril.*

One of these speakers is **Joanna Edge**, originally booked for this month of September; a local resident and qualified yoga teacher within the many tiers of Yogic philosophy & physical exercise. Her presentation was to be titled: “*Seated Yoga*” to show how anyone with minor disablement or those over a certain age can combat and delay some of the challenging mental and physical factors by practicing even the simplest of Yoga regimes. Before Lockdown she had been working with groups of varying numbers in premises within reasonable distance of home. Adjusting to circumstances has been difficult for some and impossible for others. In Joanna’s case, the culture & use of computers is helping her not merely to continue teaching but to ‘widen her reach’. She is as busy now as ever before with one exciting extension: Having started as a teacher in front of a class within a hall as she had done in North Hampshire, West Berkshire and surrounding areas, she is now often joined in her teaching via computer (Zoom) by ‘students’ from all over the UK, Scotland, France, the Netherlands and even as distant as Australia! These newer sessions are offered free of charge via social media such as, but not exclusive to, *Facebook*. Joanna may soon be resuming other methods for similar courses that are only just beginning to open up in smaller, permissible on-site groups.

### **Two thoughtful suggestions from our very own local teacher are:**

- (a) that beginners might best explore Yoga’s healing aspects via a sector called ‘Yoga Wellness’ - a gentle introduction;
- (b) that whether this course is undertaken by a previously inexperienced person as merely a stand-alone, ‘relax-and-restore’ method in itself or as a step towards moving further into ‘*Hatha Yoga*’ and meditation, would always be a personal decision.

We wish Joanna Edge the very best in her endeavours. We only hope that she reserves a date for us to rebook her services for a good old-fashioned class-in-physical-presence once conditions permit.

**Nova Saunderson, tel 299570**

# Wildflower Meadow St Mary's Churchyard

## *Prequel by Ralph Cook*

*Diana Tait and Rod Eldred, the volunteers who currently look after the wildflower area in the churchyard, found the following article by the late Ralph Cook which must have been written for The Tower in the early 2000s:*

### **St Mary's Churchyard flower meadow**

Our churchyard wild flower area began just after the beginning of this 21st century in an unexpected way. It was a year when the first contract mowing of the grass had been delayed until April for climatic reasons. Rare Meadow Saxifrage flowers suddenly appeared at the base of a pollarded lime tree. Our Parish Council graciously agreed for a yard wide strip under the limes to be left uncut until the autumn.

Over the next few years that narrow strip was gradually widened until it reached the War Memorial fence line. Removable protective post and chain fencing was set up at the end of February and removed at the end of September to allow the annual cutting and clearing of the herbage.

Volunteer hand raking then followed to remove the fallen leaves and lingering hay remnants as well as reducing the carpet of moss to ensure the area was tidy for the Remembrance Sunday service.

These activities ensured that the soil was not enriched and that dominant grasses and other plants were controlled. This intensive winter maintenance for ten years [now nearly 20] has enabled the wild flower area to mature and become the wildflower gem that is God's Acre.

*Ralph had comprehensive knowledge of the nature around him and gently enthused others to appreciate it too. He was also modest; he of course was the Volunteer who did the hand raking, helped by Maisie Lawrence.*

**Sarah Ball**

### **Cryptic Crossword – answers:**

**Across:** 1. Surround 5. Acid 9. Delhi 10. Growing 11. Disintegrate 13. Ordeal 14. Admire 17. Sad spectacle 20. Animate 21. Ideal 22 Need 23. Largess

**Down:** 1. Side 2. Rallied 3. Original Plan 4. Negate 6. China 7 Doggerel 8. Rough drawing 12. Coxswain 15. Illness 16. Eczema 18. Driven 19. Glue

