

The Kingsclere Tower



July 2021
Your Village Magazine

The Kingsclere Tower

EDITORS:	Nicki Lee, Sarah Hewitt & Mike Stokoe	
ADVERTISING:	Brian Elborn b.elborn345@btinternet.com	☎ 298704
DISTRIBUTION:	Brian Elborn	☎ 298704
ASSEMBLY:	Andrew Kitch	☎ 299743
PRINTERS:	Kingsclere Design and Print	
LAYOUT:	Claire Harris	

It is noticeable that more village organisations are creatively finding ways to open up their activities, with an increasing number of announcements being received by the Tower for inclusion.

During the various lockdowns we have been delighted to receive chatty updates, news and articles from a variety of our regular subscribers, keeping everyone in touch with what was, or wasn't, going on. Thank you for supporting your village magazine and our community during these difficult times.

As we return to some normality we will also be returning to our general policy of asking contributors to keep notices brief to ensure everyone is represented. (As a general rule of thumb: our preferred length is 1/4-1/2 A5 page per notice/article, with a maximum of 1 A5 page).

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 August 2021 issue: 12th July 2021

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

Kingsclere Parish Council

KINGSCLERE PARISH COUNCIL (KPC)

Chairman: Cllr John Sawyer (297221)

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

Office: 37 George Street, Kingsclere RG20 5NH

The office is currently closed, please email or call.



WILDFLOWER MEADOW ON THE RECREATION GROUND

On 19th May the Wildflower Meadow on the Recreation Ground was mistakenly cut by KPC's contractors. The Parish Council deeply regret this and is working with its contractors to put in place measures to ensure something like this never happens again. The cutting of the Wildflower Meadow at this time of year is not included in the contract of works and KPC's contractor has admitted liability. Councillors share in residents' sadness and anger regarding this incident and will work hard to ensure the Wildflower Meadow recovers in time.

Residents are asked not to scatter any seeds, including wildflower seeds, on the area in an attempt to assist in regrowth, as the area is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and this would cause further harm and complication to the conservation project.

REMINDER – KEEP HEDGES TRIMMED

Residents are reminded during this lovely warm weather (at the time of writing!) that this is also prime growing weather. Please ensure that hedges are kept tidy and under control, especially if they are by a road or path. Thank you.

HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT AIR AMBULANCE CLOTHES RECYCLING

With an increase in wardrobe clear-outs taking place over the past 12 months, the HIOWAA has launched a much-needed clothes recycling collection service in the region. Supporters can bag up their textiles and clothes, contact them, and it will be collected, free of charge! All for a great cause. For every tonne that is collected, the charity is guaranteed to receive at least £210 – this will go a long way to help keep the service fully operational.

To book your collection slot, please send your full address and the number of bags to be collected to hiowaa@recyclingsolutions.org.uk or for more information, visit www.hiowaa.org/recycle

RETURN TO FACE-TO-FACE PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Councillors were delighted to return to face-to-face meetings in the Club last month, it was a great feeling to welcome residents back to the Club after such a long time. At the time of writing the lifting of the restrictions on 21st June is under review therefore we may have to continue with the distancing and the Covid Rules for holding meetings for July too. Please continue to let us know if you would like to attend a council meeting to ensure we stay within the permitted numbers in the Village Club.

VOLUNTEERS FOR TREE WARDENS

The village currently has two volunteer tree wardens, and KPC would welcome more support for this scheme. The Tree Wardens scheme was set up by the Tree Council in association with local councils who appoint voluntary tree wardens to gather information, give advice, and encourage practical projects relating to trees in the community. No experience is necessary - just enthusiasm for trees and the local environment. Tree Warden tasks include being eyes and ears for the Parish Council on anything tree related, checking applications for work on trees with Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) or in conservation areas, doing surveys of trees and hedges, tree planting schemes and really anything else that the Tree Warden feels might be useful to the parish. Periodically in the past Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has run one day courses to bring people up to speed on subjects such as trees and the law but clearly that has not been possible recently. Sometimes other courses are notified to the Parish Council. If you would be interested in becoming a Tree Warden, please contact the Parish Council.

RECYCLING BINS AND GLASS RECYCLING

14th & 28th July. 11th August.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – will be at 7:30pm on **Monday 26th July 2021**, in the Village Club, as mentioned previously we may need to continue with the distancing and other rules for another month, but we will also endeavor to put precautions in place as good practice going forward to continue everyone's efforts. We welcome the attendance of parishioners at our meetings and anyone who wishes to raise any matters of concern will be given the opportunity to do so.

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



@kingsclerepc



facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil



A Date To Put in Your Diary!
Kingsclere's Bounce Back Begins Here
14th August 2021 at The Fieldgate Centre
2.00pm onwards

An afternoon of fun activities and displays for all ages to showcase our village clubs and organisations.

3-Way Tug-o'-War competition. Why not enter your team!

During the afternoon the **Making a Difference Awards** will be presented to the many people who have made outstanding contributions to the life of the village during the past year.

Want to take part or help out with this or future Bounce Back events?
Contact fieldgatecentre@outlook.com telephone 01635 298497

200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200 200

The June Draw was made at The Crown Public House on Friday 4th June 2021

The winner was: Catherine Zaman – No. 16
CONGRATULATIONS CATHERINE

July Draw is scheduled to take place at The Crown – 8 pm on Friday 2nd July 2021

You can join The Club at any time – just give us a call

Andrew and Pam Kitch

pamkitch16@gmail.com andrewkitch16@gmail.com 01635 299743

Kingsclere CE Primary School



We are nearing the end of our final term in school and it is wonderful to look back and reflect on everything the children have learned and experienced during this unprecedented time. Children arrive in school with enthusiasm each day, excited for their next steps in learning as well as beginning to receive visitors, including PCSO, to broaden their experiences.

It is fantastic to have our swimming pool open again & see our Key Stage Two children enjoy the cool waters of our pool on sunny days and develop their style and stroke. Staff have taken on significant training to ensure safety standards are upheld, as well as quality teaching and learning.

Later this term we will hold an Olympics Week, Scooter challenge to support Cleaner Air Day, a village walk, sports day and swimming gala. Our Year 6 children will also be looking back on their memories during their time with us ready for their Leavers Service in church. It is great to have these events planned and look forward to being able to begin to return to our usual experiences as the world becomes a safer place once more.

With best wishes,
Mrs Melrose
Headteacher





KINGSCLERE VILLAGE CLUB 1921-2021

SPITFIRE FLYPAST

You are all invited to welcome the flypast of a Spitfire on the afternoon of Saturday 17th July. Arranged as part of our Centennial Celebrations, we want to make the most of this special event. Look out for posters/ social media announcements for the exact time and join us along George Street to wave our thanks to the RAF. A flag printout can be found on our website or via our Facebook page. See links opposite.

HOLDING FAMILY GRAVES

Thank you to Howe and Son who have sponsored the crosses which are marking Holding Family Graves, in recognition of the donation of the Club to the village. Thanks also to St Mary's Church for allowing the temporary crosses to be placed.

TREASURE HUNT

As part of our ongoing 100-year celebrations, take part in our Holding Family themed Treasure Hunt and find out all sorts of snippets of village history in the process. Entry forms are on our website or via our Facebook page. See links opposite.

Unfortunately, due to the on-going uncertainty around Covid-19 we have taken the reluctant decision to postpone the garden party planned for the 17th July.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Join us on Saturday 31st July between 10 am and 2pm at our monthly Kingsclere Village Club Community Café. Our opening times will coincide with the Village Library, so why not peruse the books then pop in to the Community Café for a cuppa, meet friends and catch-up. We offer a variety of soft drinks and light refreshments. Please note: masks and hand gel on entry. Table service provided once seated; seating in the garden weather permitting. Cash only at this time.

SHAKEPEARE IN THE GARDEN

The very welcome return of the Festival Players with HENRY V, Tuesday August 24th. Tickets £15 performance only (7:00pm) or £22.50 including picnic (6:30pm). Please contact Helen to reserve tickets. This is a very popular event, so don't delay!

Helen 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Website <http://www.kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/kingsclerevillageclub>

Blood Donation Sessions at the Fieldgate Centre

The Kingsclere Community Association has been able to re-establish Blood Donation sessions at the Fieldgate Centre with the intention of it being a regularly used venue.

Registered Blood Donors can use the NHS Blood Donation website and select the Fieldgate Centre as the venue for a blood donation session. These will not be turn-up sessions, so please ensure you have booked an appointment in advance.

Forthcoming Dates:

- Thursday 15th July
- Tuesday 10th August
- Tuesday 7th September

Kingsclere Community Library



“Your local FREE library”

Summer Reading F U N !

All children are welcome to join our Summer Reading FUN programme, starting from Saturday 3rd July throughout the summer.

IT'S FREE!

Sign up, read 6 books, and win a medal, certificate & a prize!

(Parents: Summer slide is the slide backwards that many children make in reading and math skills over the summer. Reading in the summer can help to prevent this.)

The Library has a photocopier and printer available, 10p black and white and 20p colour copies.

NEW HOURS

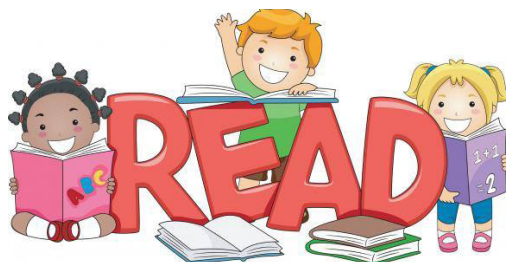
Tuesdays 1:00pm-5:30pm

Thursdays 2:30pm-7:00pm

Saturdays 10:00am – 1:00pm

Nicki Lee,

Kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk



Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group

It has been so lovely to be open again and to meet lots of new Bunnies throughout May and June. The weather has been kind to us and meant that we can enjoy the garden and outdoor toys and the adjusted format has worked well. At the time of writing, we don't know which restrictions are still in place for July, so please do keep an eye on our Facebook page for changes.

Where: The Village Club, George St

When: Tuesday, 9:15am – 10:15am

Cost: £1 per adult – cash (correct) or bank transfer on arrival

Snacks/ drinks: bring your own

Face masks for adults indoors and social distancing required

Max. 15 adults on a first come, first served basis

We need you!

If you have any spare time and would like to come and help out with Bunnies, we'd really appreciate it. You don't need to have children attending and we don't need a big commitment. Especially at the moment, half an hour at the end of the session to help clean toys, or even just coming along to chat to new parents is really useful, so please do pop in if and say hello or email us if you think you could help, thank you!

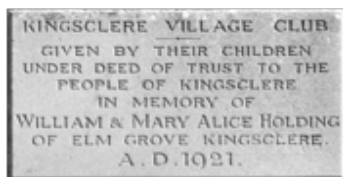
Check out our Bunnies Facebook site – as well as our local buying and selling site “Kingsclere Bunnies Preloved”, where locals often have bargains to pass on.

villagebunniestoddlergroup@gmail.com



LOCAL LEGEND - WILLIAM HOLDING 1836 – 1921

We have a lot to thank William Holding for ... the one who's name is immortalised on the plaque above the entrance to the Village Club, and whose family were so involved with and gave so much to the village.



The Holding family were large, stretching back many generations, and principle landowners in and around the village. 'Our' William was actually the fourth in six generations of William Holdings, such was the name handed down!

Originally born in London, he studied Law and Modern History at St John's College, Oxford, becoming a barrister. He married Mary Alice Fielden in London in 1869. They initially raised a family in Kensington, with a weekend residence at Hyde End House, Brimpton. Around 1874 they moved to Beenham Court, Headley (now Cheam School), later moving again to Burghclere Manor. By 1891 he was retired, and around 1898-9 came to Elm Grove, Kingsclere, after the death of his aunt Miss Frances Holding, the last of the nine children of William and Mary.

In 1920 William resigned from the Board of Guardians for the Kingsclere Union workhouse, having served for 45 years (42 of those as chairman). He had also been Chairman of the local Petty Sessions from 1878, and a County Councillor from 1888 to 1921.

Mary Alice, died on 16th June 1918, age 73, and William passed away on 20th July 1921 aged 84. They are both laid to rest outside the West door of St Mary's church. Unfortunately, his gravestone was removed in the 1966 clearing, however he will be remembered by a temporary memorial in its place for a year, and forever more by the plaque above the Village Club.

Gareth Martin, Kingsclere Heritage Association, June 2021.



Reflections

I'd left in good time and was driving down the A339 to have my first Covid vaccine. I was a bit nervous, a bit wary of the injection. I'd put the appointment into my calendar and was following directions on my phone when suddenly my phone battery died. I panicked. I couldn't miss this jab and yet I could remember nothing of where my appointment was apart from that it was a hotel in Lychpit. Immediately, I began to think how stupid I'd been not to make sure it was charged or at least to have read the name of the hotel properly.

I drove on guessing where I was meant to be going, stopping first in Popley to ask someone if they knew where the vaccination centre was. But I then ended driving halfway to Hook and coming back in the other side of Old Basing before coming to the hotel in Lychpit which was deserted. I went to the door and seeing no-one inside, thought the worst, until thankfully someone came to the door and directed me to a building across the road, where I received my jab.

Getting lost on the way going to something as important as a vaccine is not much fun at all. It's a waste of time and an inconvenience to others. Thankfully the Covid centre were very gracious.

My aimless wanderings to the East of Basingstoke remind me of the people of Israel in the wilderness. Having come out of Egypt, a land where they were slaves, and miraculously been saved from the pursuing army by the parting of the Red Sea, they find themselves about to enter a wonderful land, a place prepared for them by God. He said to them, "I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared". And yet they do not enter it because they are afraid and end up instead wandering around the desert for 40 years, most never getting the chance to see that place of promise.

At a time when we are still struggling with all we've experienced over the last 18 months, it's a great comfort to know and to trust that the Lord Jesus is looking out for us each day, loves us with an everlasting love, and to trust in Him to bring us through.

**Blessings,
Ben**



Sunday Worship in our Churches

JULY

Sunday 4th July	8am Holy Communion St Peter's, Headley	10.30am Holy Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 11th July	9.30am Morning Worship St Peter's, Headley	10.30am All-Age Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 18th July	9.30am Morning Worship St Paul's, Ashford Hill	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 25th July	9.30am Holy Communion St Paul's, Ashford Hill	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere

Private Prayer

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.

Other Church Activities

We are reviewing our other activities and opening back up where possible. Please continue to look out for notices on email (contact 07422687125 or **administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk** if you are not signed up to our mailing list). Our online calendar is also updated regularly so please look there for the most up to date information.

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**

June

12th	In memory of the amazing organ donor that saved my life. Laura Shurgold.
------	--

July

15th	Remembering Roy Hazell on his birthday. Always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts. With love from Wendy, Nicholas, Matthew, Victoria, Gosia, Anna & Lara.
15th	Treasured memories of Roy who was dearly loved by us all. Norma, Julie & Neil.
25th	Rev. David John Carter 28th February 1937 - 25th July 2013. Eight years since you left us but we all still feel the loss. Gone from our sight, but never our memories. Gone from our touch but never our hearts. Pauline, Nick, Helen, Kev, Jo, Mark, Sam, Tom, Abbie and Elliot.

Kingsclere Methodist Church

Services for July:

- Sunday 4th July - No service
- Sunday 11th July - Morning Worship led by Maggy Wallace
- Sunday 18th July - No service
- Sunday 25th July- Morning worship including holy communion led by Revd Rachel Borgars

All services begin at 10am

All welcome, we look forward to seeing you.



ST MARY'S VILLAGE FETE

Bank Holiday Monday 30th August 2021

The Fete organising Committee would like to thank all of those people who have donated items, volunteered or generally offered their support for this annual village event. We have been delighted with the response to our request, both from the village and the wider community. We are very grateful to Claws and Paws for their sponsorship of The Dog Show and to Downer and Co. (Estate Agents), who have kindly agreed to sponsor the main event. We are now looking forward to a fun-packed afternoon.

The Only Band in the Village are booked to perform in the Churchyard and The Thames Valley Chorus are scheduled to perform inside the Church. Whatever your tastes, you will be fully entertained.

We are still in need of help on the day and if you feel that you can contribute in any of the following ways, please contact a member of the Fete Planning Committee. Volunteers are required for:

- Registered First Aider to be on duty between 12 noon and 4 pm (If you can only do a couple of hours, then we would still like to hear from you.)
- Stallholders to help with: Books, Toys, Cakes, Bric-a-Brac, Accessories, Plants, Tombola and Refreshments.
- General help with setting up during the morning and clearing away after 4 pm.

We are still accepting donations of bric-a-brac, good quality ladies, gents and household accessories, toys, books, CDs and DVDs. We also require bottles and new items for the Tombola. We have now received some very good and interesting prizes for The Grand Raffle. Tickets will be available to purchase very soon.

Again – thanks to everyone for the support we have been shown. It is very encouraging.

Andrew or Pam Kitch – 01635 299743

Sarah Mussett – 01635 291900



St Mary's Church,
Kingsclere are excited to be running
another **Holiday Club** for children
aged 5-11 this summer.

It takes place for the week of **16th -20th August between 9.30am and 12.30pm**, with a special celebration service on Sunday 22nd at 10.30am.

There will be lots of fun including games, bible stories, craft, and prayer.
Cost is just £25 per child for the week.

For more information call 07422 687125 or email:
holidayclub@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk. Places are limited to ensure we are
covid-compliant. To book your place see www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk.

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd

Although we have been unable to mount events during Covid restrictions, we have been encouraged by and much appreciate continuing donations and subscriptions; thank you. 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.

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

Our first public appearance will once again be at the August Bank Holiday Fete. Do come to see us there for details of the works to the church fabric which FOSM has part-funded. We'd also be delighted to discuss any ideas you may have for future fundraising. Details of all events will appear in future issues of The Tower.

Peter Turner, Chairman

PROPOSED BUG RECIPE BOOK

Plans are going well for our Recipe Book. Thanks to all from home, far and wide for supplying us with so many recipes. I have tried some of them and they have been delicious.



Keep them coming – all will be considered.

We now need support with the cost of printing. If any local business would like to advertise or support us by sponsoring the printing of a recipe – then do please get in touch. We are aiming to sell 500 copies – All profits will go towards solving the damp problem in the Kingsmill Room.

Pam Kitch – 01635 299743

KINGSLERE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

We are pleased to advise that the Village Archives are open again from 2pm to 4pm on Monday afternoons upstairs in the Holding Room at the Village Club.

Our increasing amount of material includes many photographs, scrapbooks, documents and papers relating to the history of Kingsclere and area.

If there is any subject on which you require information, or would just like to see some of our material, we will be pleased to see you.

Please telephone our Chairman Richard Croft on 298114 in the first instance to arrange an appointment. This is currently particularly relevant due to the covid situation.

We are hopeful that we will be able to commence our winter programme of monthly speaker meetings in September. We shall begin with our AGM followed by the next instalment of Richard Croft's History of Kingsclere.

Wildflower Meadow Dell Recreation Ground – shock cut in late May!

At the time of writing quite a lot of us are reeling at the baldness of the inopportunately cut meadow, a contractor error apparently. Thanks to the exceptionally cold spring all is not lost because most of the chalk downland specialities had sensibly kept their heads down. The lovely display of cowslips has gone and of course none will set seed this year but at least there are rosettes of leaves left so hopefully they will survive and flower next year. The all-important hay rattle is only just showing so that should be fine (it is an annual so such a late cut could have been much more serious in warmer conditions). Hay rattle is a semi-parasite that feeds off the roots of some of the undesirable grasses (such as Couch grass and False Oat-grass) and weakens them so that the rich mixture of special chalk downland plants can thrive. Let's hope we can still look forward to a summer display of orchids, scabious, knapweeds (and the quite rare broomrape that is associated with them), quaking grass, ladies bedstraw and so many more.

Sarah Ball



We all enjoyed *The White Crow* on 12 June; a great film and wonderful to meet up after all this time, even if still distanced and very sanitised!

Our next film will be *Mr Smith goes to Washington* on Saturday, 10 July at 7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm) in the Village Club, George Street. This is a 1939 comedy starring James Stewart.

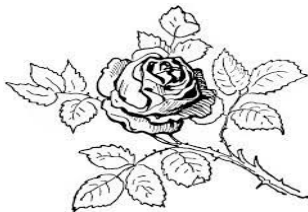
Please call to let us know you're coming, so we can make the appropriate COVID preparations.

New members welcome.

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

July in The Garden

As July slips around, we are rewarded with so many lovely plants in flower. Roses will be putting on a wonderful show. Sometimes if I have a bunch of bought roses I particularly like, I will try and get one to strike. The only



drawback is if the stem does root the blooms that are produced by the cutting will not have a scent, but usually the flower is good, because they are bred purely for the flower. This is just a fun thing to do, but you need patience, because very often you may only get one stem to take out of ten. Cut off the faded flower and a small amount from the bottom of the stem, pop into soil, keep well watered and wait. Now is also the time to take clematis cuttings.

The annuals that were planted last month will be starting to flower. Delphiniums should be at their best just now, and if cut back right to ground level after flowering they should flower again in the autumn.

Be aware that in July we often get storms and possibly hail, so make sure tall plants are well supported, it can be devastating to see beautiful flowerbeds and borders flattened by a storm. Unfortunately when we get the rain at this time of year it doesn't always penetrate. There is always a discussion on how to water in dry weather. I remember speaking to a farmer who grew strawberries, he didn't water the plants, he maintained that the plant roots would go deeper to find moisture, maybe he was right, but sometimes watering is necessary.

There are plenty of pests around this month. Blackfly and greenfly can be a problem, but by planting something that attracts predators it can keep them under control.

The growth on lawns should be slowing down now; try to leave the grass a little longer when the weather is hot and dry. If the grass begins to look brown, no need to be alarmed, it will recover very quickly once the wetter weather returns.

Time to feed the late flowering perennials and dry any spring bulbs that you have lifted from the ground; store until required for planting in the autumn. After the rain that came in May there seems to be a huge amount of weeds. Continue to hoe to keep them under control.

Some vegetables will be ready to harvest. Shallots need lifting and left to dry out in the sun or somewhere dry if the weather is wet. Early potatoes should be lifted. If the first plant dug up has produced very small potatoes, leave the other plants to develop further.

When the onion leaves turn yellow and flop, it's time to lift and dry them. Plant out brassicas, and sow Spring cabbage.

Raspberry canes needed to be tidied up, cutting out the old canes, and strawberries need the old leaves removed to prevent disease. After three years old plants will probably need to be replaced as the yield tends to decline.

Continue deadheading in the flowerbeds and borders and you will be rewarded with a longer flowering season. Many plants that have finished flowering can be cut back to the ground, they may not flower again this year, but they will produce a cushion of lovely fresh leaves. For all the Sweetpea growers I hope we have a better year, they really don't like it when the weather is dry.

Denise Allen

Nature Notes

The sight of several terns wheeling and dipping gave us hope that they were back and breeding again this year and, as we moved farther around the lake, it became evident that the raft was once again in use: two nests so good news. Well, only two cheers as sharing the raft a black headed gull had also nested and where there is one, others frequently follow, fingers crossed for a happy outcome.

A delightful scene was of a swan family with very young cygnets which were being fed by their mother. She was immersing her neck to pluck weed from the lake bottom and carefully selecting choice pieces to feed to her offspring which were bobbing around her. The cob meanwhile was on guard nearby and watching us warily. Good to report cuckoos calling persistently.

A nearby willow has produced a veritable snowstorm of seed-bearing fluff over five to six days. Borne on the wind, tiny seeds drift about and may land on any surface such as walls, fences, paths etc. even cobwebs: So prodigious is the output that wastage is inevitable. To germinate moist soil is essential and then in no time pinhead-sized leaves emerge but hazards are numerous, drying out, competition, cold and disturbance otherwise we would be overwhelmed with willow. Some of our pots have tiny forests growing on their surfaces.

While heading to a car park in Newbury recently a familiar bird call (but in the wrong place surely?) caused a glance skywards to see a pair of peregrine falcons wheeling above the tall buildings. A nestbox has been installed and chicks are being raised. There are plenty of pigeons as a handy food source.

Diana Tait and Rod Eldred

Kingsclere Gardening Association

Another month goes by with nothing forthcoming to report, at least not immediately. People are still fearful of getting together and not knowing what rules will be in place when we can. Good news: our Plant Sale in St Marys Churchyard went extremely well. We had a good number of customers who mixed together well. So good to feel that one is not taking up another's space. It was great to see so much on the tables produced by our members; we were afraid of having a non-event with barely anything presented, so well done to all concerned, and thanks to Les Wallace who did all the promotional work. The goods were excellent; the hostas on sale outstanding. Very lucky with the weather, good to do something.

Our committee meeting went as expected; nothing happening this year but a spring show was pencilled in for next year. We hope there will be an A.G.M. in January next year.

With the warmer weather plants are now growing. Just managed to cut my first sweet peas. I had almost given up on them. Most flower plants are now planted out; a few strawberries picked. The outside ones looking good. Tomatoes sown too early and now very leggy, hope they will be OK. Two lots of chicks hatched out and running loose much to the pleasure of neighbours and visitors. Several videos seem to have been made of them. Hoping to hear lockdown ends, but not with much confidence. By the way, a few phone calls about things shows that the magazine is read!

John Eckton 01256 850017





Third Kingsclere Sustainable Living Market
Sunday 11th July, 10:30am – 1:30pm
Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere

Greener Kingsclere's Market is back!

Our first priority remains offering alternatives to plastic and wasteful packaging. We will have dried foods (pasta, rice, fruits, grains, etc.) and cleaning products (handwash, washing up liquid, laundry detergent, etc.) that you may purchase using your own containers. **NOTE: Cleaning products may ONLY be decanted into non-food/drink containers which have all labelling removed and with the size noted.**

You do not have to bring your own containers, some will be for sale which you may reuse next time.

We have many of the previous stall holders plus some new, and this market will be bigger and better than ever. We're delighted to welcome back Bread & Beyond, Prior's Court's in-house bakery. **Teas and coffees will be available.** Some of the stalls will be outside under cover. In the event the lockdown restrictions continue past 21st June, we still expect the market to be open and following all health guidelines. Please contact us if you have any questions.

We remain grateful to The Kingsclere Community Association for their support in hosting this market.

If you would like to be on our mailing list to receive occasional emails with more up-to-date information, please email us at: greenerkingsclere@gmail.com

Nicki, Sarah and Lucinda greenerkingsclere@gmail.com
 Facebook: Greener Kingsclere



The Fieldgate Centre is run by the Kingsclere Community association as a charity (No. 1168386). The association is made up of volunteers who rely on the support and participation of the community.

Kingsclere's Bounce Back

Keep your fingers crossed for sunny days and put these dates in your diary:

Wednesday 28th July and every Wednesday until 1st September 10am-2pm

Fun@TheFieldgate Play Days and National Play Day 4th August.

FREE PLAY ACTIVITIES for children aged up to 12yrs
(accompanied by an adult).

Saturday 14th August **Community Celebration Day**

2pm until late. Fun for all the family!

Activities Games 3-Way Tug-O-War Making A Difference Awards Music
Entertainment Food Archery ... and more! FREE ENTRY.

See Page 4 for more details.

Monthly Meet-Up @The Fieldgate

Every third Tuesday of the month, from 2.30pm-4.30pm.

(Start date to be confirmed.)

The safety of attendees is a priority in our planning. All being well, these popular social afternoons will return in July (Stage 4 permitting)

The events we organise can only take place with your help. We're appealing now for:

Donations - Every £1 you give will be gratefully received and doubled by match funding! Please go to thegoodexchange.com and search for project 18767.

Helpers* - needed for all events, either on the day or in advance, in front of and behind the scenes.

*A certificate or letter of recommendation given for 10hrs or more.

website: www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk | tel: 01635 298497 |

email: fieldgatecentre@outlook.com | facebook



Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands W.I.

*The venue we will hopefully be returning
to very soon:*

Kingsclere Village Club, 35 George Street

Any ‘news’ of a ‘revitalised’ programme of meetings & events which we might have hoped to put out in this month of July 2021 was always hamstrung by not knowing whether the 21st of June, official easing-up date of the current lockdown, would stand firm or not. In addition, submissions to this magazine are deadlined for the 12th of the month prior to publication which also impacts on forward planning & advance-notices.

What we can report upon: Of the speakers initially booked then cancelled due to Covid 19 in respect of that fateful & defunct old W.I. ‘business’ year of June 2020 to May 2021 all but 3 have just diarised fresh booking dates that will take us well into 2022. These acceptances lend hope for the chance to return to a new Members’ Meetings Programme with definite dates and subject matter to be advised monthly in this paper and in pamphlet form to our membership.

A Special Meeting, scheduled for 8 September, will focus on W.I. Elections, but although potential details exist ‘on the drawing board’ we cannot be more specific at this point except to say that our current President and Committee members of Kingsclere W.I. have all agreed to stand for re-election. There is another, open-air event being considered that may allow larger attendance but with persons strictly separated into smaller, allowable sectors, but here again it’s a case of “watch this space”.

Nova Saunderson - 299570

