

The Kingsclere Tower



What's On & Local News

MAY 2026

T The Kingsclere Tower

EDITORIAL TEAM: Mike Stokoe, Stephen Steare, Steven Gaines, Cathy Williams
 ADVERTISING: Brian Elborn b.elborn345@btinternet.com tel 298704
 DISTRIBUTION: Brian Elborn tel 298704
 ASSEMBLY: Andrew Kitch tel 299743
 PRINTERS: Kingsclere Design and Print
 COVER: Orange tip butterfly resting on forget-me-not *Cathy Williams*

The Women’s Institute, once a cornerstone of village life, has sadly, held its last meeting. Once famous for knitting and marmalade, it has become a stalwart for promoting women’s issues and widening their interests. It must be remembered how important its contribution was to the Home Front during WW2. WI members not only were providing clothing and goods for our troops but were essential for working in organisations such as the WVS and the Red Cross. The WI is the last of a number of women’s groups that no longer exist in Kingsclere, The Mother’s Union, Women’s Fellowship, St Mary’s Guild, Young Wives, the National Housewives' Register to name but a few.

Another cornerstone of village life has been the Royal British Legion. According to the article in this month’s Tower, it is in danger of folding if more people don’t join. In our increasingly secular society, Remembrance Sunday has become a focus of our community and this occasion has always been led by the RBL. The minute’s silence, the salute and the Last Post are such a part of our village life. How will it be held without them?

The Editor

Neither the Editors nor the Management Committee accept responsibility for the opinions expressed or the goods and services advertised in the Kingsclere Tower magazine. The Editors reserve the right to omit, amend, or condense any item submitted for publication.

To all “Tower” Contributors
Copy for June 2026 to the Editor at: kingscleretower@gmail.com
NOT LATER THAN 12th May 2026.
 If possible please submit articles as a MS Word document, A5 page size, font Times New Roman 11, single spacing. *If email not possible, post to:*
 23 Swan Street, Kingsclere, Newbury RG20 5PP.
Will ALL contributors please include full name and contact phone number/email address.

Kingsclere Parish Council

Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.gov.uk

Telephone: 07787 041829

Office: 37 George St, Kingsclere RG20 5NH

Website: <https://www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk/>



THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING was held on the 16th March. There was a good turnout of residents, and we hope everyone enjoyed the meeting. Once again Congratulations to Anne Buckingham, Benjamin Esprit, Helen Andrew, Ian Bowes, Louise Porton, Mike Leah, Rahil Butt, Ray Peach, and Sarah Davis for their “MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARDS”.

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING – the collection dates are Wednesday 13th May, 27th May and 10th June.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – The next Full Council Meeting is scheduled for **7:30pm on Monday 18th May 2026**. We welcome the attendance of all parishioners at our meetings and anyone who wishes to raise any matter will be given the opportunity to do so during Public Questions.

COUNCILLOR VACANCIES – Do you love living in Kingsclere? Do you want to help shape its future? We are looking for **three new Councillors** to join our team. As a Parish Councillor, you will:

- Represent the views of all residents & represent the community externally
- Understand the needs of different community groups
- Stay well-informed about local issues
- Help deliver services that meet local needs and improve quality of life
- Attend council meetings & monitor and maintain village finances
- Review planning applications from a community perspective

If you're passionate about making a difference, we'd love to hear from you.

Kingsclere Royal British Legion (RBL) & Poppy Appeal



We warmly welcome new members and visitors; no prior experience is necessary just a willingness to help and a passion for supporting our veterans and the local community.

For over 100 years, the Kingsclere Branch of the RBL has been at the heart of our community, supporting local veterans, organising memorial services and organising the Remembrance Parade and Poppy Appeal activities.

Without the commitment of volunteers, we will no longer be able to carry out these services or preserve the legacy of Remembrance for future generations

If you're interested in volunteering in any way, joining us or would like further information, please get in touch with us via email at Kingsclere.Chairman@rbl.community. Thank you.



Access to Appointments will be changing – a new approach

Over the next month, we will be introducing an upgraded way for you to manage your medical needs: GP Triage. This simple online tool, accessed through the practice website www.watershipdownhealth.com is designed to make contacting us easier, reduce waiting times, and ensure your query reaches the right clinician or service straight away.

Patients without electronic means will be able to call our Reception team who will complete the triage on their behalf. Nurse appointments will go through Reception as normal.

What Does This Mean for You?

The system will guide you through a short set of questions about your symptoms or request. This information is then reviewed by a trained professional and directed to the most appropriate member of our team, whether you need medical advice, a prescription, or help with an administrative query. The triage system will not be replacing our clinicians. The information you provide will allow the practice to deliver the best possible care and will always be handled securely.

We will be going live with the new GP Triage system on 20th May 2026

Please see below for videos of the new system available via YouTube:

How to Use GP Triage - For Patients (Short Version):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RlfpB47Xwx8>

How to Use GP Triage - For Patients (Full Version):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KuSKDoyETg>

Please note that our Reception team will, as always, be available between 08:00 – 18:30hrs Monday to Friday.

Covid Spring Booster Update

Vaccinations will continue to be available until the 30th June 2026 for adults aged 75 and over, residents in care homes for older people and immunosuppressed patients.

Patients are also able to call 119 until 29th June 2026 to book appointments at a range of community pharmacies.

Cervical Smear results

Please be aware that NHS England now have a ‘Digital First’ approach for patients to receive their results via the NHS App and we encourage all patients with the NHS app to switch their notifications on. If your results do not go through the app, you will receive a letter from NHS England, not your GP practice.

NHS App support Drop-In clinic:

The PPG will be offering support at a drop-in clinic for those who need help with the NHS app at the Oakley surgery on Tuesday, 26th May 2026, 9 – 11am.



We have two events coming up soon at the Kingsclere Village Club. Everyone is welcome and there is no need to book - all donations to CRUK via QR code or cash.

1. **Coffee Morning**

Sat 9th May 2026 10:30-12pm

2. **A Musical Interlude:** an informal concert with local musicians Bethany Miles and Claire Ellis.

Sun 7th June 2026 2pm

If you are able to help bake or serve refreshments for either event please call or WhatsApp Claire on 07919 894795.

Tickets are still available for the **Odyssey Ball, 6pm on Friday 4th September 2026 at Oakley Hall Hotel**. Aldermaston Coaches will once again provide transport to and from the venue from the village.

We are still seeking donations of high-quality prizes and sponsorship for this event. Please contact us if you can help. We can't do it without you!

Beccy, Claire, Mandy and Sean



Prize donation, sponsorship and ball tickets:

<https://kingsclerecrf.org.uk/>

Email: admin@kingsclereCRF.org.uk

Call Sean: **07787 527326**

Wolverton Market

The next Market is on **Saturday 2nd May in the Village Hall from 9.30am until 11am**. The Stallholders look forward to meeting and greeting not just our regular and much appreciated visitors, but hopefully a few new faces. You can be sure of a warm welcome and you can buy and enjoy a cup of Tea or Coffee while you shop (there will also be cake as I believe it is someone's Birthday) and if it is chilly the candles on the cake will help keep us warm !

Do try and pay us a visit, you never know what treasure you might discover on one of our stalls!

As always, we thank you for your ongoing support for this small but important event.

Wendy Morgan 01635 297538



The Fieldgate Centre is run by Kingsclere Community Association, as a charity (No 1168366). The association is made up of volunteers who rely on the support and participation of the community.

The Easter weekend has come and gone and The Fieldgate Centre continues to be busy and bustling with its full diary of classes, clubs and activities. Check our website for full details and come and join us for Pilates, Clubbercise, Ceroc, Slimming World, Kingsclere Singers, Badminton, Darts, and Monthly Meet Up.

On **7th May** the centre turns into the local **Polling Station**; this will be accessed via the back of the building so follow the signs to cast your vote.

The **Kingsclere Players** present the **Show Must Go on – a Musical Revue** at the centre on **15th, 16th and 17th May**. Tickets cost £12.50 for adults and £7.50 for children. Full details on the Kingsclere Players and Fieldgate websites. (*See poster on page 8*)

Monthly Meet Up is taking place on **Tuesday 19th May** from **2.30-4.30pm**. The afternoon is always lovely with homemade cake, quizzes, crafts and chatter. Everyone is welcome so do come along. The sessions are free but donations welcome and lifts can be arranged if you need one.

The next **Repair Café** is taking place on **Sunday 31st May**. Bring your broken household items to see if they can be fixed, and your recycling.

Looking ahead, **save the date 20th June** for the **Music Festival**. Plenty of musical acts, food vendors, bouncy castle and stalls for fun will be present. It's going to be a great day so don't miss out! Full details to follow nearer the time.

Please contact the office if you need more information on any events, or would like to make a booking.

email: fieldgatecentre@outlook.com

www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk

telephone 01635 298497

Facebook

Summer of Fun '26 Helpers needed!

Can you to help on Wednesdays during the school summer holidays with:

- Keeping an eye on craft activities?
- Preparing a free food snack?
- General supervision?

If you could help out with these fun events for families, even for a couple of hours, please contact us at The Fieldgate Centre on:

Email: fieldgatecentre@outlook.com Phone: **01635 298497**

Kingsclere Cricket Club



KCC looking forward to a summer of cricket.

A couple more nets sessions and then the league season kicks off for real. The club is looking forward to the challenge of moving up a league on Saturdays and to Tuesday evening league cricket. All home games are at the Fieldgate this season. Home fixtures in May and June look like this:

Saturday 2nd May v Basingstoke 4ths
 Tuesday 12th May v Ashford Hill
 Saturday 16th May v Amport
 Saturday 30th May v Odiham and Greywell
 Tuesday 2nd June v Aldermaston Rugby
 Tuesday 16th June v Basingstoke Hockey
 Saturday 20th June v Hungerford

Saturday games start at 1pm and Tuesday games at 6pm.

We're very grateful to our sponsors, Kingsclere Vets, The Crown and The Retreat for their generous support this season.

Mark Hirst, Chairman, Kingsclere Cricket Club 07901 118818

Kingsclere Tennis Club



Fancy a game of tennis this summer?

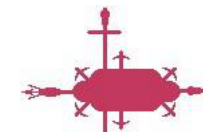
Our weekly social tennis sessions start at **6.30pm on Monday 11th May** at the Holding Field.

All sessions are informal and open to players of all abilities - whether you're a regular player or just fancy giving it a go. Non-members are very welcome, so come along, get involved, and see what it's all about.

Tennis Club membership includes year-round court access, all social sessions and use of our ball machine. Find us on Facebook or kingscleretennisclub.co.uk



Kingsclere Rugby Club



Training Wednesday's 7 - 9pm

Walking Rugby

Wednesdays mixed 7 - 8pm
 Thursdays women 7 - 8pm

Summer Touch

The summer touch will start on Wednesday 3rd June and last for 6 weeks, finishing on Wednesday 8th July with a BBQ for all the participants. It will run from 7-8.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to join in from 14 years old and upwards.

Fixtures and Results

21st March Andover 3rds's Won 62 - 39 Player of the match was Jon Ware
 28th March Chichester 2nd's Lost 52 - 5 Player of the match was Joe Collin
 11th April New Milton 2nd's Lost 35 - 15 Player of the match was Conor Thompson
 2nd May Charity 10's Tournament/Walking Rugby
 Unfortunately, the club has to postpone this event due to unforeseen circumstances. It will be rescheduled at the start of the new season in September.

For more information, please contact:

Joanna Reed - Moreton, Secretary-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com or Geoff Curtis, Youth-coach-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com

The Show Must Go On
Musical Revue

Dates:
15th May - 7:30pm
16th May 2:30pm & 7:30pm
17th May- 2:30pm

at
The Fieldgate Centre Kingsclere

SCAN ME

TO BOOK

The hits you love from the shows you adore

Tickets: £12.50 - Adults / £7.50 - Children

www.kingsclereplayersgroup.com

Kingsclere Community Library



Change of Hours

It appears that the information about our new opening hours has not reached everyone yet, so just a reminder that on **Thursdays we are now open from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm.**

Monthly Themes

As already advertised, we are running “monthly themes” throughout the year where we will be putting books on display relating to that theme. To celebrate the Chelsea Flower Show, May’s theme is Flowers and Gardening so come in and have a look.

HOURS	Tuesday	1.00pm - 5.30pm
	Thursday	10.30am - 4.30pm
	Saturday	10.00am - 1.00pm

Nicki Lee, kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk
Library phone number: 01635 297464

Kingsclere Twinning Association



- Come for a friendly and convivial evening, to sample some wines and see whether you can spot truth from lies with our panellists, with prizes for the winning palates!
- **Two course supper included as well as the wine tasting**, and cash bar also available, and Raffle with prizes from Cormicy!
- **Saturday 6th June 2026, 7.30 pm** at the Village Club.
- All are welcome: tickets are £17 for members, and £20 for non- members.

Please contact kingscleretwinning@yahoo.co.uk or telephone Sue Watson on **01635 298940** for tickets for further information.

Walking in Stanley Spencer's Footsteps

Join us at Sandham Memorial chapel on this free guided circular walk through the village of Burghclere - a place that deeply shaped the life and work of Stanley Spencer.



Follow in Spencer's footsteps as we explore the landscapes, paths, and quiet corners that inspired his work. Along the way, your guide will bring his story vividly to life—sharing the moments, memories, and local scenes that found their way into his paintings.

After the walk, you'll have the option to visit Sandham Memorial Chapel, where Spencer's remarkable paintings can be seen in their full glory (standard admission applies).

When: 5th May or 5th June or 20th September meet on the steps of Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere RG20 9JT at 10.30a.m.

Spaces are limited, so be sure to book in advance:

📞 **Call 01635 278394**

✉ **Email sandhamevents@nationaltrust.org.uk**

TOWER MAGAZINE DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Magazine delivery: Little Knowl Hill
10 Magazines
Residential and Business units

We are also looking to update our list of reserve and regular and volunteers.

A few of our long serving and dedicated volunteers are wishing to hang up their magazine bags in the near future. They have delivered the magazines to you with details and information of local events and services, come rain or shine each month January - November for many years. To enable us to continue with the distribution of the magazines into the future your help will be much appreciated.

If you are available to offer any spare time at the end of the months (January - November) we will be pleased to hear from you, it will be greatly appreciated.

Contact: **Brian Elborn** (Distribution & Advertising Co-ordinator)
email: b.elborn345@btinternet.com tel: **07741 075473**.

The Church Pages



Dear Friends

In recent days and weeks, we have heard the word “conflict” used over and over again in a variety of scenarios from local neighbour disputes to international threats of annihilation. I thought I would look at the root of the word to better understand where it comes from and how its meaning might transform its usage, especially from a theological point of view.

The Oxford dictionaries explain that it comes from late Middle English: from Latin *conflict-* ‘struck together, fought’, from the verb *confligere*, from *con-* ‘together’ + *fligere* ‘to strike’; the noun is via Latin *conflictus* ‘a contest’. I reflected on the concept of “striking together”, in the context of ancient humanity striking rocks together to make smaller pieces to use as tools. I began to wonder whether one of the issues facing our world is that so much has become bigger and more complex, because we are constantly encouraged to believe that growth is the answer to all our problems. Yet, in conversation with people, time and again, we end up wishing that companies were smaller and not so impersonal, that there were still named individuals one could contact at the bank; the surgery and all those places where the first thing to remember is not your name but your number or your password.

Isn't this then the context where the church (and other faith groups) has a really important role to play? The Easter story comes alive when Mary is called by name in the garden – it is personal. No crowd, no highest bidder to get the full “Easter Experience”, but a life-changing encounter on a one-to-one basis within the meta-narrative of God's love for and involvement in the created world.

How about seeing the communities of which we are a part as individuals, not just groups (it can be too easy to remain “us” and “them”)? How about learning each other's names and using them when we speak of others? I know not everyone can remember names, but surely, we each manage a few and help each other out if we are stuck!

The post-Easter gospel encounters with the risen Christ were all very personal, very contextual and utterly transformational. I am left wondering what our communities and (on an optimistic day) the whole world could be like if every encounter we have throughout the day began by using the person's name and asking how they were doing today and then really listening to the answer? It could serve to remind us that the whole mission of God was, and is, underpinned by love. This has become the mission of the church: demonstrating that faith is about relationship, grace and trust – one individual at a time.

Peace,

Rachel.

**Rev Rachel Borgars
Methodist Minister**

St Mary's Church

Worship in our Churches



May 2026

Sun 3rd	9.00am Traditional Morning Worship 10.30am Contemporary Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 7th	10.30am Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 10th	9.00am Traditional Morning Worship 10.30am Contemporary Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 14th	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 17th	9.00am Traditional Holy Communion 10.30am Contemporary Holy Communion	St Mary's, Kingsclere St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 21st	10.30am Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 24th	9.00am Traditional Holy Communion 10.30am Contemporary Holy Communion	St Mary's, Kingsclere St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 28th	10.30am Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 31st	10.00am Holy Communion	St Mary's, Kingsclere

www.clerewoodlands.org.uk

Kingsclere Methodist Church

Services for May 2026

Sun 3rd	Rev Amy Walters (CF)
Sun 10th	Rev Jenny Dowding
Sun 17th	Rev David Jenkins
Sun 24th	Rev Rachel Borgars
Sun 26th	Mr Symon Turner

All services begin at 10am unless otherwise stated.

Coffee Morning every **Thursday 10.30 until 12 noon**, all are welcome.

Hall available for hire (see Directory on Page 24)

Christine Westcombe email c_westcombe@hotmail.com

Lighting up St Mary's

The sight of St Mary's Church when it is floodlit is truly beautiful. Many people sponsor these lights (£15 per evening) to mark an occasion, such as a birthday, wedding, anniversary, or some other special day in their lives. To book, please email administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk or call **01635 299528**. To include your tribute in the Tower, please let us have your words before the 12th of the preceding month.



April

19th In loving memory of Michael Sharman 19.04.1936 - 12.05.2022

25th Happy Birthday dear Aimee Hardy 36 years today. We all love and miss you every day. We hope Aunt Sharon has found you and given you all our kisses. Love always Mum, Dadon, Samuel, Willum, Meghan. Jude and Margo xx

May

4th Loving memories of Moira on her birthday xx

11th Remembering Mark Krystman on his birthday. You will always be in our thoughts and hearts. We love and miss you every day. With love from Mum, Brian, Anne, Gavin and all the family xx

13th Happy 90th birthday Joyce Gliddon lifelong resident of Kingsclere love from Susan, Stephen, Michael, Mick & Daniel xx

31st Remembering Hazel Soper on her birthday. With love from all the family xx

Saturday Coffee in the Kingsmill Room, St Mary's Church

Fresh brewed coffee, tea and delicious home-made cakes.

May 2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th 10.00-12.00

If you're looking for great company,
we'd love you to join us for a cuppa and a natter!
For more info, please contact the church office on: **01635 299528**



Help with fuel costs

If you use alternative fuels such as oil, coal or wood to keep your home warm, you might be able to get extra help if you can't afford to buy fuel. Please see more details on: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/get-help-paying-your-bills/help-with-bills-if-you-use-alternative-fuels/

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd (FOSM)

Now that things are at last warming up, we are busy amassing material for our **Plant Sale in St Mary's Churchyard on the morning of Saturday 30th May, starting at 9.30am**

As previously, if any of you are sowing seeds or splitting perennials and have a few to spare, we should very much welcome donations. Please contact Jane Royle at jane.b.royle@gmail.com or Sarah Mussett at sarah.mussett@hotmail.co.uk

The Church Fete is now biennial, and not scheduled for this year, but FOSM will again be holding a **Summer Raffle**, with tickets available in the Churchyard over several weekends in high summer. Details will appear in future issues of The Tower. We are also considering other ways of raising funds to help towards the major urgent works to the Church fabric outlined in last month's issue.

Looking ahead to 2027, the always popular **Quiz Night and Ploughman's Supper** will be held slightly later in February than usual. We are also planning another **Open Gardens Trail** in late June, to include several gardens that have not previously been opened as well as familiar lovely favourites.

Peter Turner, Chairman

Website: friendsofstmaryskingsclere.org

For membership and other enquiries contact: fosmkingsclere@gmail.com

Kingsclere Charities - Grants

The Robert Higham Apprentices and Educational Charity

This Charity promotes the education and training of young people aged 16 – 25 resident in The Parish of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley. Grants are awarded to assist with the cost of equipment, books and specialist clothing required for learning or training. Also expenses incurred in travelling to and from home to a place of learning. The Charity also provides benefits not normally provided by the Local Education Authority to schools in the above mentioned Parishes.

Welfare Charity: This Charity helps anyone resident in the Parish of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley regardless of age or means. Grants have been given towards mobility aids, medical equipment such as nebulisers, aids to make life easier for the sick and less mobile, and travel costs to and from hospital.

Kingsclere Charities Meeting Dates for 2026:

18th June, 17th September and 19th November.

For an application form please contact the Clerk, Gill Hern, email:

Kingsclerecharities4@mail.com.

Kingsclere Gardening Association Kingsclere Gardening Association

The March meeting of the Association was very informative. We had Carol Gubler speaking on how to propagate and grow fuchsias, Carol had been successfully growing fuchsias for 30 years. We were fortunate that she had plants for sale after her talk.

The Spring Bulb and Flower Show in April at the Village Club produced a wonderful display of daffodils, tulips, flowering shrubs, and much more despite the unforgiving winds days before the show. Congratulations to John Eckton, who received well deserved awards for his Beautiful exhibits. Many thanks to all who exhibited, it was very rewarding to see new people entering the show.

COFFEE AND PLANT SALE AT THE METHODIST CHURCH ON SATURDAY MAY 16th AT 10AM

We will be donating to THE ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY. Please support this event, also hopefully we will be able to help with your garden problems.

Denise Allen Chairman 01635297966 denise.allen47@icloud.com

Join Dementia Research

Every 3 minutes, someone in the UK develops dementia. There are many unanswered questions about the causes, prevention and treatment of dementia. Only research will help us to find these answers. This research is reliant on people like you volunteering to take part to make a difference.

Join Dementia Research is a service which enables people to register their interest in national dementia research. It helps people with dementia, their carers or those who support them, and anyone over 18 interested in dementia research to make a difference and take part in vital research studies.

Once signed up, you will receive email notifications about studies you can take part in. There is no obligation to take part in any of the studies you are matched to.

To find out more about how the service works watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJi5eQbPmaA>

To sign up on the Join Dementia Research website:

<https://www.joindementiaresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>



KINGSCLERE VILLAGE CLUB

Est. 1921 CHARITY 1189234

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

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

Follow us on Instagram @kingsclere_village_club

Table-Top Sale & Community Cafe

Calling all bargain hunters! Saturday 23rd May (note the earlier than usual date) **10am to 12.30pm**. Vendors set up 9.30am. Come along to enjoy hot and cold drinks, homemade cake and grab a bargain! Just £5 to book a table. Please contact Helen, details below.

Shakespeare in the Garden – Comedy of Errors

A matinee performance by the renowned Festival Players International, on **Sunday July 5th, 2pm** with an optional buffet lunch beforehand. Tickets £16 performance only, or £23 including buffet lunch. Vegetarian & vegan catered for - please let us know of any allergies/special dietary requirements. Tickets on sale from <https://wegottickets.com/event/693279> or Helen, details below.

Gentle Pilates

Would you or anyone you know benefit from some gentle exercise? Particularly helpful for those of limited mobility or recovering from surgery. Thursday afternoons 1.30 to 2.30 pm. Contact Emma bookings@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Hiring a Room

Despite the increase energy prices and other costs, we are not intending to increase our prices and hope to hold them at the current level for the foreseeable future.

The best way to check on availability and book a room is through our website diary page **Kingsclere Village Club - Club Diary**

Booking queries should be directed to our bookings secretary on bookings@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Helen 01635 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk



FOSM200 Club

The winner of the April Draw was Ian Bowes– No. 8
Congratulations, Ian

Next month's Draw will take place at Bel & the Dragon at about 7pm on
Tuesday 5th May



Greener Kingsclere Hosts a Public Meeting with Southern Water

Southern Water are planning major bio-engineering works on our Gailey Brook chalk stream.

Last year they came to the Fieldgate Centre and told us it would be happening. They promised to come back and tell us more.

Date: **20th May**

Time: **7pm for 7.15 start**

Where: **The Fieldgate Centre**

The bar will be open before and after the event.

There are two items on the agenda:

1. Southern Water's plans for chalk stream restoration

2. Launch the new Greener Kingsclere ecology group

If you care about the natural environment of the village

If you care about our rare chalk stream and want it to continue in good health for future generations

If you want to know how you can help

Please come along on 20th May. listen to the plans, ask questions and consider joining us.

We look forward to talking to you there.

Kingsclere Local History Association

The Pride of Wellington Forester's Court, Kingsclere

This is a local society which is now part of the Forester's Friendly Society. The Foresters were set up nationally in 1834 to help poor workers by providing a mutual insurance to cover sickness and death benefits. Poverty and illness were to be found both in cities and rural environments. Farmers sought to restrict labour to seasonal work and enclosure of land meant it was harder for poor people to use common land to sustain their families. The Foresters were extremely popular in Kingsclere with approximately 200 members in the late 19th century having started locally in 1864. They organised fetes, held meetings in the Albert Hall and dinners in local hostleries. Most importantly they built a number of houses in the village which were rented out and provided mortgages to villagers.

There are current members in the village and they still provide outings.

(see <https://www.forestersfriendlysociety.co.uk/membership/event-search>)

Do you have any information about the Forester's Court, Kingsclere? The Kingsclere Local History Association would like to know about this important part of our village history. Contact mike@mikestokoe.com

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby & Toddler Group

Where: The Village Club, George St

When: Tuesdays, 9:00am – 11:00am

Cost: £2.50 for 1st child (including snack for child and hot drink and biscuit for adult), 50p per extra child, £1 per extra adult



We are a friendly group of parents, grandparents and childminders with children from tiny babies to energetic toddlers! We love welcoming new visitors to our play sessions. We enjoy outdoor and indoor play, craft, toys and singing together.

We had a wonderful Easter celebrating together with special games and activities. Thank you to the fantastic Easter Bunny for visiting us again this year.

The library will be opening especially for Bunnies on 12th May.

Thank you as always to Swan Street Stores for their continued support of a weekly donation of fresh fruit snacks for the Bunnies.

For information visit our Facebook page, or regular visitors can join our WhatsApp group for weekly updates.

Lydia Harley-Tomlinson lydia.harleytomlinson@gmail.com

Kingsclere Pre-School



We would like to introduce Jill Cann as our new Deputy and SENCo. She is a fantastic member of the team who has chosen to progress from a practitioner into these new roles. Congratulations!

We have started to learn about 'The Great outdoors,' and have been trying to get outside in the sunshine as much as possible. We have been watching the journey of our plants which include sunflowers, tomatoes and wild flowers for the bees. The children are eager to play in the mud kitchen with the water and herbs to make some delicious mud cakes.

Kingsclere Preschool Needs Trustees!

Kingsclere Preschool is a charity run by a volunteer committee, but our trustee numbers are declining. We're looking for new volunteers to help keep this vital part of our village thriving. You don't need any prior connection to the preschool - just a DBS check (covered by us) and a few hours each month for meetings and follow-ups. Without trustees, the preschool can't operate. If you're interested, email: committee@kingsclerepreschool.co.uk to learn more.

Kingsclere CE Primary School



Spring News!

Spring has finally arrived, and we are enjoying the warmer weather and the chance to use our outdoor spaces without battling the elements! This has been especially welcome during our recent Grounds Day and in day-to-day outdoor lessons. Activities have included gardening and planting bulbs and seeds, supporting environmental conservation and Science learning, creating creatures using natural materials and chalk for Art and English description writing, making Easter gardens to deepen understanding of the Christian Easter story, estimating distances and perimeters in mathematics and ongoing PE lessons developing children's fundamental PE skills.

Our Year R children prepared a very special afternoon for the important ladies in their lives to celebrate Mother's Day. They spent lots of time planning and preparing, and a wonderful time was had by all. The children proudly shared food they had made, alongside songs and dancing. "Well done, Year R!"

We were incredibly proud of the 56 children who took part in the Newbury Showground West Berkshire Cross Country event. Every participant ran with resilience and enthusiasm, supporting one another to achieve their best. A special mention goes to those who achieved top placings; we are proud of all who took part.

We also welcomed parents and carers into school for a special Reading Morning, giving families the chance to see their child's learning in action. Our English Lead Mrs Stephenson and School Library Service delivered an informative talk about the value of reading, how to support reading at home, and the SORA App, which provides access to a wide range of online fiction, non-fiction and educational magazines.

We ended the Spring Term with a very special Easter Service, at St Mary's, where the children performed a cantata at the church telling the Easter story. The samba band opened the event brilliantly, and the children sang with enthusiasm and read their parts with confidence and care. A huge thank you to Mrs Lindsey Bowden, our Music Lead, for bringing the event together, and to the St Mary's team for their support.

Mrs Jo Messenger, Headteacher

May in the Garden

May is a wonderful month in the garden, with many plants bursting into flower. Clematis is one of my favourites and will need regular watering during dry spells. With so many varieties available, flowering can continue for months, and cuttings can be taken in July if you would like to grow more.

Warm weather has brought some flowers on early this year, but late frosts are still possible, so some caution is needed. May is also the time for the Chelsea chop, when tall, late-flowering plants such as sedums and asters (Michaelmas daisies) are cut back to encourage bushier growth and slightly later flowering.

Longer days make it easier to catch up on garden jobs. Moss has been a challenge this year, although nesting birds have helped reduce it. Shrubs that have finished flowering should be cut back, and formal evergreen hedges can be trimmed. Keep dead-heading spring bulbs and feed them with potash to promote strong flowering next year. Biennials such as sweet williams, foxgloves and wallflowers can be sown now but avoid planting wallflowers repeatedly in the same bed as they can suffer from club root that remains in the soil for years.

Now is a good time to plant summer bedding in hanging baskets, tubs and troughs. Baskets can be kept off the ground on a bucket until plants establish, and bedding plants can be planted out once the risk of frost has passed. Lawns will need regular cutting, feeding is recommended, and mower blades can now be lowered.

As temperatures rise, pests become more active. Ladybirds are plentiful and help keep aphids under control, but soapy water is a useful alternative if you prefer to avoid chemicals.

Sow runner and French beans, plant out leeks, and plant marrows and courgettes. Net brassicas to protect them from cabbage white butterflies. Keep hoeing to control weeds and earth up potatoes to prevent them turning green. Pinch out tomato side shoots to improve fruit quality.

Plants to enjoy this month include spirea, aquilegia, wisteria, alliums, foxgloves, camassia and lilacs.

Denise Allen

Dorothy Burrows celebrates her 100th birthday

Dorothy, who for years delivered the Tower, has just celebrated her 100th Birthday. She would like to thank her friends in the village and church for her birthday card. She celebrated her special day with family including her 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

The Mayor visited on the day with his card, and also gave Dorothy the card from the King and Queen. She had a wonderful day and particularly enjoyed a special cake made by her Care home, Cherry Blossom Manor.

Nature Notes

A brood of fluffy yellow Mallard ducklings (*Anas platyrhynchos*) is surely one of the best sights of springtime. Last month, my 4-year-old was in a very cross temper while we were walking along by the lake in the village, but the sight of a tiny duckling in the middle of the path soon chased the bad mood away. I grabbed her to stop her running forward and we crouched down together to watch. It waddled forward - a little shakily - then flopped down into the grasses near the water; as soon as it had disappeared, another duckling popped out from beneath the fence on the other side of the path and started to cross. In the sudden quiet, we tuned in to the sound of urgent quacking on the lake and lots of high-pitched cheeping. Mum, who was out of sight, must have been on the lake, calling her young to follow her there.



The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust state that in these first hours after hatching a female Mallard may call 200 times a minute to orientate her clutch. One after another, we watched ten tiny ducklings straggle out from the fence and cross the path to find their mother. They were very unsteady on their feet, wobbling and some losing their footing and rolling head over heels into the greenery, like little tennis balls – I suspect they were very newly hatched, and this was their maiden trip from the nest. Ducklings can run and feed themselves within a few hours of emerging from their eggs though it can take fifty days before they are fully self-sufficient.

We were fortunate enough to take a little holiday in the Wye Valley over Easter. Early one morning the children and I found ourselves waiting in part of The Forest of Dean for their daddy to finish a Parkrun. We started exploring the woods to look for fairy doors and were surprised to see the forest floor covered in bright red sprouting acorns. Reading up on this, it seems that acorns of some non-native species like the North American Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) contain high levels of tannins, and some research indicates that when the acorns burst open and are exposed to sunlight and oxygen, these tannins turn a beautiful scarlet. The shallow caps also make brilliant fairy cups to leave outside their doors, 'ready for a party'.

Wild Flowers

Walking in the village	Going close so softly
And through the countryside	Body still and bent
Wild flowers bobbing there	Lifted into other worlds
Are calling me aside.	Infused by sacred scents.

Their colours and their forms	Other worlds awoken
Are subtle and so bright	Within my searching soul
But there's a bigger secret	Furnishing new pathways
That's hidden out of sight.	To all that's good and whole.

Paul Jenkins



Sherlock Holmes versus Jack the Ripper

The reason they never caught Jack the Ripper was that detectives in Victorian London were simply not up to the job. So imagine if Sherlock Holmes had been around to investigate the case?

Actor and historian Tony Harris brings Conan Doyle's detective to life in this period murder mystery night.



Join us for this talk on
Wednesday 20th May at 10 am
St Mary's Hall, Overton



Free to members - Non-members £3 on the door

Cali Kids Swim Lessons Return to Kingsclere!



Cali Kids swim lessons are back at Kingsclere CE Primary School after May half term! Cali Kids offers small, friendly classes for children aged 4 – 12, with levels ranging from complete beginners to advanced swimmers.

Running **June 1st – July 17th**, these popular after-school lessons take place on **Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays** from **3:30 – 6:00 pm**, making it easy to fit swimming into the school week.



Whether your child is just starting out or ready to refine their technique, there's a class to help them build confidence and skills in the water. Spaces are limited and these sessions fill quickly, so early booking is recommended. Book your place now: bookwhen.com/calikids

Give your child a skill for life this summer!



info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk
Tel: 01256 892065
www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk

Call for Flower Festival Displays:

The Festival runs **19th – 21st June 10.30am – 5pm**. We are inviting gardeners and creative individuals of all ages to help us make floral installations. Please contact Jess or Sue at info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk. Further information is available on our website.

Whitchurch Folk Festival, 9th May, 10.30am–5pm

The Mill is joining the town's vibrant folk festival by hosting an array of folk-inspired experiences, from live performances and interactive workshops to family friendly activities and artisan crafts.

Weave a Wall Hanging, 13th May, 10am–1pm OR 2–5pm

Play on one of our Louet table-top looms and learn tips and techniques from our weaving team. Tuition will be in a small group and there will be time to create your own patterns and textures. The resulting wall hanging will be yours to take home. Suitable for beginners. Tickets £60 per person.

Whitchurch Silk Production Tour, 23rd May, 11am–12 midday

Guided tour with our weaving team behind the scenes of silk production in an authentic Victorian setting. Tickets £25 per person.

Paper Pots & Paper Flowers: Half-term Fun, 28th May, 10.30am–12.30pm

Make your own paper pots and paper flowers using simple, sustainable materials and we'd love you to leave your creations at the Mill to be displayed as part of the Flower Festival. This workshop is aimed at children aged 5+ and parents must be prepared to help. Tickets £7.50 per person.

Regency Picnic, 6th June, 3–7pm

Bring your parasol and a picnic blanket and join us for a glorious afternoon of eating, drinking and Regency-inspired crafts and delights. Ticket price includes a drink on arrival, picnic on the lawn, Regency performances, a chance to explore the Mill and to take part in craft workshops. Full details on our website. In case of inclement weather we'll provide shelter. Ticket availability limited: £65 per person.

Dressing the First President, Online Talk, 11th June, 7–8pm

Join us online as we cross the Atlantic to hear from Philip De Paola, the bespoke tailor behind the project recreating a suit worn by George Washington in 1789, with silk cloth woven at Whitchurch matching the original fabric. Tickets £15 per person. A Teams link will be emailed on ticket purchase. Please book via our website and provide us with your email address.

Beginner's Crochet Workshop: Granny Squares, 13th June, 11am–2pm

A workshop for beginners or those wishing to revise their crocheting skills. Fully qualified teacher Heather of Arthur's Craft Corner will teach you how to create a classic granny square. Materials and tools provided. £45 per person.

THE KINGSCLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

POLICE, FIRE or AMBULANCE

Police Enquiries/Information

Emergency 999
non Emergency 101

Kingsclere Health Centre:
North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke

0333 034 1033
01256 473202

Parish Council: 37 George Street (see page 2)

01635 298634

Kingsclere Charities Clerk: Gillian Hern

07884 182696

kingsclerecharities4@mail.com

Dial-a-Ride

01256 462101

CHURCH CONTACTS

St. MARY'S CHURCH:

Vicar Peter Williams vicar@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

Church Warden:

John Price johnsaprice@hotmail.com

01635 297780

Administrator:

Natalie Follett

01635 299528

administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

07422 687125

METHODIST CHURCH:

Minister: Rev Rachel Borgars

07889 905753

Rachel.Borgars@methodist.org.uk

01256 895878

Secretary & Hire of Hall Jeanette Billington

01635 297585

ROMAN CATHOLIC:

Rev Stephen Vooght

0118 9814572

tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Bas & Deane	01256 844844	Kingsclere Library	01635 297464
Buses	0345 8101000	Swan Street P O	01635 291923
Trains	0845 7484950	Kingsclere Vet	01635 896330
Gas Emerg.	0800 111999	Berkshire Vet	01635 896333
Chemist	01635 298419	Dentist	01635 299981

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

David Conquest 07887 871105 cllr.david.conquest@basingstoke.gov.uk

Mike Bound 07833 612735 cllr.Mike.Bound@basingstoke.gov.uk

Kerry Morrow 07725 819021 cllr.Kerry.Morrow@basingstoke.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Tom Thacker 07712 695468 tom.thacker@hants.gov.uk

MP for N.W. Hampshire:

Kit Malthouse 01264 401401 kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk

2, Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP

There is a more comprehensive list of local contact numbers on the Parish Council website. Go to www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk/directory