

The Kingsclere Tower

T The Kingsclere Tower

EDITORS: Mike Stokoe, Steve Steare, Steven Gaines, Cathy Williams
 ADVERTISING: Brian Elborn b.elborn345@btinternet.com ☎298704
 DISTRIBUTION: Brian Elborn ☎298704
 ASSEMBLY: Andrew Kitch ☎299743
 PRINTERS: Kingsclere Design & Print Ltd
 COVER PHOTO: Mike Stokoe

Great Britain wins gold at the Winter Olympics! It may have cost us a few million to get there but the excitement of seeing competitors throw themselves headfirst down an icy tunnel was worth it! Watching the Winter Olympics has made me think that skiing might be the best way to travel along some of the paths around Kingsclere at the moment! Having slid and slithered recently in the most challenging mud, it seems an ideal form of transport. Spring cannot arrive too soon!

On another note, I'm always impressed how much fund raising for good causes takes place in Kingsclere. Last month Friends of St Mary's had a very successful and enjoyable Quiz Night raising money for the church building, this month the Twinning Association are holding a Bingo night to raise money for their Cormicy visit and the Kingsclere Cancer Research Fundraiser are holding several events in 2026 including the Odyssey Ball which has made an exceptional amount of money for a very good cause.

The Editor

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

To all "Tower" Contributors

Copy for **April** to the Editor at **kingscleretower@gmail.com**.
NOT LATER THAN 12th March 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 & home phone number/e-mail address.

What's On & Local News
March 2026

KINGSCLERE PARISH COUNCIL (KPC)
Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.gov.uk
Telephone: 07887 041829
Office: 37 George Street, Kingsclere RG20 5NH



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARDS PRESENTATIONS – Monday 16th March in the Village Club 6.30 for 7pm. Please see the flyer within this edition for details. Please contact the office to register attendance for catering purposes.

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING – the collections dates are Wednesday 4th and 18th March, and 1st April.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – The next Full Council Meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm on Monday 30th March 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 – We are looking for 3 more Councillors to join the team.

A little more about the role and what KPC does -

- Represent the views of all residents within the parish
- Understand the views and needs of different groups in the community
- Be well-informed especially about diverse local views
- Deliver services to meet local needs
- Strive to improve the quality of life in the parish
- Attend meetings of the council
- Review, monitor and maintain the village finances always striving for the best value for money versus the budget
- Represent the local community externally
- Review planning applications and respond from a community perspective

The Parish website www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk
 @kingsclerepc  facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil

Kingsclere's Annual PARISH MEETING



AND
**MAKING A
 DIFFERENCE
 PRESENTATIONS**



To be held in Kingsclere Village Club,
 35 George Street on

Monday 16th March 2026

Arrival from 6.30pm for 7pm start

All Parishioners, Making a Difference Award Winners along with their families, friends, our Schools and Churches. Local Clubs and Organisations are warmly invited to attend.

Come and meet the people that run your community organisations.

There will be an opportunity for you to raise any matters of concern with the invited Parish, Borough, and County Councillors. Although this isn't a Parish Council meeting.



Kingsclere Parish Council is hosting the event and hope you will stay on for light refreshments and socialising after the meeting.

Please RSVP to clerk@kingsclere-pc.gov.uk
 (for catering numbers)

A funding initiative from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has enabled the Borough's Cultural Compact to launch the Creative Incubator Fund, supporting innovative artistic projects in 2026. This fund fosters collaboration among local and visiting artists, strengthens long-term partnerships, and enhances the Borough's creative sector. After reviewing 24 proposals, including immersive theatre, circus, music, fashion, and digital learning, eight projects were selected to receive a total of £82,000. Notably, Kingsclere Performing Arts and Youth Centre CIC, in partnership with Arise Emerge, will premiere a new production aimed at attracting talented creative arts graduates back to the community.



GoodGym Basingstoke Launch

A new community group, GoodGym, was launched in Basingstoke on 26th November 2025. The initiative combines physical exercise with practical volunteering to support local organizations.

Free and Inclusive Sessions: Weekly sessions are free and open to all fitness levels, funded by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

Community Impact: Volunteers will help local charities, food banks, schools, community gardens, youth centres, and isolated older people with tasks like gardening and moving furniture.

Wellbeing Benefits: Participation in GoodGym has been shown to significantly improve life satisfaction, connectedness, belonging, and reduce loneliness and mental distress, according to a study by the London School of Economics.

Contact Information: For more details, contact Jacob Harriss, Marketing and Comms Lead, at jacob@goodgym.org, or visit their website:

www.goodgym.org and social media.

Electric Vehicle Chargers

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has successfully installed public electric vehicle chargers in every ward, reaching a total of 54 chargers and meeting its strategic target. This initiative is part of broader efforts to reduce emissions and promote sustainable travel, supporting the council's climate emergency declaration from 2019. Additional measures include free licensing for low-carbon private hire vehicles for two years, grants for ultra-low emission taxis, and ongoing support from the council's Green Team to help residents adopt greener travel options. The council plans further charger installations and is urging Hampshire County Council to add on-street charging points for residents without off-road parking. A full list of charger locations is available on the council's website.



The Fieldgate Centre is run by the 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 rain has been incessant for the beginning of 2026, however, 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.

During March we are looking forward to the next **Repair Café** which will take place on **8th March**. Come along with any repairs and have a cuppa.

The bar will be showing some **Six Nations Rugby matches**. Check out our social media and website for details of the matches to be shown and come along to enjoy the fully stocked bar and cheer on your team.

Monthly Meet Up is taking place on **Tuesday 17th March** from **2.30-4.30pm**. The afternoon is always lovely with homemade cake, quizzes, crafts and chatter. Everyone is welcome so do come along.

Planning 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 will follow nearer the time.

With the numerous private bookings which include weddings, children's parties, rugby matches, NHS clinics and blood donor sessions, the Centre really is a busy and active place. Please contact the office if you need more information on any events or would like to make a booking.

www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk

01635 298497

fieldgatecentre@outlook.com

Facebook

Newsletter March 2026

Vaccine Update

The influenza vaccine is still available for those over 65 and for those under 65 with an underlying health condition until 31 March 2026. The Covid Spring booster will be offered from 13th April 2026.

From 1st April 2026, the eligibility for the respiratory syncytial virus vaccine (RSV) will include patients 80 years and over and all residents in care homes for older adults. It is a single dose which can be given at any time.

Team Update

We welcome several new GPs to our team, Dr Alex Copping, Dr Jake Lockard and Dr Rome Candy.

We also welcome our new treatment room nurse, Miss Rhianna England. We are sadly saying goodbye and happy retirement to Mrs. Heather Blair who retires middle of March 2026.

New Self-Check-In Screens

The new check-in screens have now been installed in Kingsclere, Oakley and Overton. Any patients who need to update their patient details will still need to do this through the practice website. For patients aged 16 yrs and over, please make sure that you confirm your contact details with the practice.

NHS App Help Drop-in Clinic

The PPG will be running an afternoon drop-in session at the Kingsclere practice for anyone needing help with the NHS App on Monday, 16th March 2026.





Home Start Basingstoke & Deane

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY



**Are You: A Good Listener?
Caring & Understanding?
A Parent/Grandparent/Carer?
Do you have 1-2 hours a week you
could spare?**



We are looking for Volunteers to support families in the Community. YOU CAN make a difference to someone's life.

The next Volunteer Training Course will be running on:-
Thursdays 23rd & 30th April, 7th & 14th May 2026
9:30am-2:30pm
 (A DBS Check will be completed during the Course).

INTERESTED? Contact us:
Telephone: 01256 242500 Email: info@hsbd.org.uk
Website: www.homestart-basingstokedeane.org.uk

Kingsclere CE Primary School – Spring News!



This Spring Term we have been busy once again, filling the weeks with exciting learning opportunities, memorable experiences and meaningful moments for both children and staff.

The term opened with staff training in First Aid, Science and Religious Education, along with a valuable session from the School Library Service to further support our work in nurturing children's love of reading.

Pupils have enjoyed a varied programme of enrichment this Spring Term: Our Key Stage 2 choir performed at the O2 as part of the Young Voices Concert; Year 3 and Year 4 launched their Prehistoric topic with a hands-on workshop; and Year 1 and Year 2 stepped back in time during a Great Fire of London drama day.

The school has introduced STAR Manners, with an aim to continue to encourage kindness, helpfulness and respectful behaviour, with staff already noticing a positive impact. The ongoing Oracy Project continues to strengthen pupils' speaking and listening skills through shared language, visual cues and structured talk.

E-Safety Week included activities exploring Artificial Intelligence and how to stay safe online. Children learned about the benefits of AI while also recognising how to tell real information from content that may be fake or misleading.

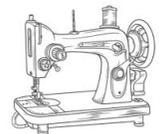
Interest in guitar lessons has grown following a performance from Good Vibes Music Academy, and our Year R and Key Stage 1 and 2 Football, Dance and Karate Clubs continue to thrive. We are also looking forward to our Key Stage 2 Cross Country Competition later this term.

Jo Messenger (Headteacher)

Kingsclere Craft Club

We are in need of a Sewing Machine.

Is there anyone out there who has one that they do not use, or perhaps has inherited one from a family member? If so, would you be willing to sell or donate it to Kingsclere Craft Club.



Does not matter how old it is, as long as it is in good working order.

If you can help, please contact:

Pam Kitch 07425 126427

Kingsclere Local History Association



Our last meeting of the current programme is on
Thursday 19th March 2026
 when **Sarah Somerville, Visitor Services Officer at Shaw House,**
 returns to give us a talk on:

‘A GUIDE’S GUIDE: WORKING IN HISTORIC HOUSES IN THE 21st CENTURY’

From pouring champagne and leading guided tours to catching escapee sheep and finding buckets for water leaks, Sarah says there’s never a dull moment working in heritage! With over 14 years of experience working alongside dukes, lords and ladies, curators, event staff and television crews, Sarah will be pleased to share with us the charming history and intriguing day-to-day stories of iconic heritage sites including castles, palaces, manor houses, chapels and museums.

We meet in **The Kingsclere Village Club, 37 George Street, Kingsclere RG20 5NH. Doors open 7pm to start at 7.30pm**

Book sales and raffle.

Visitors are very welcome @ £3 pp

Gareth Martin, Hon. Secretary
 01635 299227 / 07796 217840
kingsclerelocalhistory@gmail.com

Kingsclere Twinning Association

Join us for a friendly **Bingo Night** on

Friday 6th March at the Village Club.

Doors open at 7pm., Eyes Down at 7.30pm!

£15 for 8 games of Bingo – the money you pay becomes the Prize Pot.

The more people who play, the higher the winnings!

£5 entry fee including Hot Dog and light pudding.

Bar serving wine, beer, soft drinks and dabbers!

Proceeds from the entry fee, bar and raffle will go towards the Kingsclere Twinning Association to facilitate visits and establish connections between Kingsclere and Cormicy.

Please note that this is an over-18’s only event.

If you would like to attend, please email kingscleretwinning@yahoo.co.uk to reserve your tickets, or for further information about the Kingsclere Twinning Association and Kingsclere’s connection with the beautiful village of Cormicy in the Champagne region of France!



KINGSCLERE VILLAGE CLUB Est. 1921 CHARITY 1189234

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

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

Instagram [@kingsclere_village_club](https://www.instagram.com/kingsclere_village_club)



This month’s Community Cafe will feature a bingo session at 11am. Just £1 per game. Cash prizes! Saturday 28th, café open 10am to 12.30pm.

If you want to book a table for the table-top sale (just £5) please contact Helen, details below.

NB: the date of the May café has changed to the 23rd to avoid clashing with the plant sale at the Church.

Servery

The servery (aka the small kitchen) has had a make-over. Thanks to the donation of kitchen units, materials and time, we have been able to bring this project in at a reduced cost. Many thanks to all those who were involved.

Staircase

At the time of writing, work is being carried out to repair the ceiling on the main staircase. As the Club is a listed building, all repairs have to be carried out using similar materials and techniques. This repair requires lath and plaster plus the replacement of oak joists, so will take some time. Apologies for the disruption and thanks to our users for their understanding.

Spring Clean

Want to lend a hand? Join us at **10am on Sunday 19th April** to help with our spring clean.

Shakespeare in the Garden – Comedy of Errors

Some changes this year: **a matinee performance, Sunday July 5th 2pm.** with an optional **buffet** lunch beforehand.

Details in next month’s Tower.

Booking

If you want to book a room, please visit our website (see above) where you can see details of the rooms and prices, and make a direct booking request. Booking enquiries to Emma bookings@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Helen 01635 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Kingsclere Charties – Grants

The Robert Higham Apprentices and Educational Charity : This Charity promotes the education and training of young people aged 16 – 25 who are resident in the Parish of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley. Grants are awarded to assist with the cost of such things as equipment, books and specialist clothing and equipment required for learning or training in a stated subject. 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 hospitals.

Kingsclere Charities forthcoming Meeting Dates for 2026:

16th April, 18th June, 17th September and 19th November.

For an application form please contact the Clerk, Gill Hern,
email : Kingsclerecharities4@mail.com www.kingsclerecharities.org

Sandham Memorial Chapel

This world famous chapel will be welcoming visitors again when it opens for the new season on **Thursday March 5th at 11am.**

Opening times: Thursday—Sunday/Bank Holiday Mondays 11am to 3pm

Admission: adult £12, child (5-17) £6.60, Family (2 adults up to 3 children) £30. Entry free with National Trust Membership

Three walls of the Chapel are home to 19 oil paintings and are considered by many to be the artist Stanley Spencer's finest achievement inspired by Spencer's own wartime experiences as a medical orderly at the Beaufort Hospital in Bristol and as a soldier serving on the Salonika front

Things to see and do in March:

5th March to 3rd May Hampshire artist Ed Saye's new exhibition

Daily Quests

7th March Poetry and Paintings – an immersive deep dive into a Stanley Spencer painting, followed by a reading of poetry from the First World War. Each talk and poetry reading lasts approximately 15minutes

14th & 15th March Everyday Wonders: Nine Objects from Stanley Spencer's Paintings Join us for a series of object-led talks that explore Spencer's wartime paintings through the humble items that shaped his daily war time experiences – this month's object a scrubbing brush

Email: sandham@nationaltrust.org.uk or call 01635 278394



The Church Pages

Dear Friends

Elie Wiesel tells the story of a prophet who came to a city and delivered his message every day in the marketplace. After a time, his ranting became a fixture of the city's life and people regarded him with amusement when they regarded him at all. Finally, a small boy, pitying the old man, approached him and said, "Sir, why do you keep crying aloud like this every day, year after year? The people here will never listen to you."

"I gave up hope that they would listen to me a long time ago," said the prophet. "I go on crying lest I begin to listen to them."

Listening or watching to the news in recent weeks, I have some sympathy with the prophet in the story. I long to put my fingers firmly in my ears and sing "La, la, la!" However hard I try, it doesn't seem to change the daily torrent of hatred, intolerance, abuse and violence. All too often it seems perpetrated by those whom one would have thought more of and who would have "known better".

As we journey through the penitential season of Lent, I am absolutely convinced that as disciples of Christ, we are called to stand up and be counted against the prevailing culture of "them and us", however those boundaries are drawn. The season asks of us a far deeper reflection and reorientation than giving up chocolate or alcohol for a few brief weeks.

Just two months we were celebrating the coming into the world of Jesus, also called Emmanuel (God with us). Much has been written about what Jesus would be doing if he was in the neighbourhood today, in Minneapolis, in Washington, in Ukraine or Russia, to name just a few. But what are the signs of intolerance, judgement and prejudice in our community that we should be standing up against?

Do we see things happening and worry more about what the neighbours will say if we get involved? Or are we prepared to take our fingers out of our ears, confess our part in the wrongs we observe and listen to the words and follow the actions of the One who is still very much in the neighbourhood.

I believe it would be good to get our priorities sorted out before we start remembering his death and resurrection in April. The message of hope of that season will then truly be worth celebrating and sharing in a world transformed by the "love that wilt not let us go" (George Matheson).

Peace

Rachel Borgars (Methodist Minister)

Rachel

Worship in our Churches March 2026



Sunday 1 st	9am Traditional Morning Worship 10.30am Contemporary Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thursday 5 th	10.30am Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 8 th	9am Traditional Holy Communion 10.30am Contemporary Holy Communion	St Mary's, Kingsclere St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thursday 12 th	10.30am Holy Communion	St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 15 th	10am Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thursday 19 th	10am Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 22 nd	9am Traditional Morning Worship 10.30am Contemporary Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thursday 26 th	10.30am Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sunday 29 th	10am Holy Communion	St Mary's, Kingsclere

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

Fresh brewed coffee, tea and delicious homemade cakes.

March 14th and 21st - 10am – 12 Noon

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**.

Kingsclere Methodist Church March 2026 Services



Sunday 1 st March	Mrs Paddy Jose
Friday 6 th March	World Day of Prayer Service- 7pm
Sunday 8 th March	Rev Rachel Borgars
Sunday 15 th March	Mrs Hazel Barker
Sunday 22 nd March	Mrs Rosie Greenhalgh
Sunday 29 th March	Rev David Jenkins

All services begin at 10 am unless otherwise stated

Coffee morning every Thursday 10.30 -12 Noon. All are very welcome

Hall available for hire see page 28 of this magazine for details.

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.

March

- 15th Remembering Paula Tait. Four years have passed and you are thought of and missed every day. Love from all your family
- 21st In memory of Thomas Cranmer, Anglican martyr, Archbishop of Canterbury, compiler, writer and editor of the first two editions of the Book of Common Prayer (1549 and 1552), who was burnt at the stake in Oxford on 21 March 1556, aged 66.
- 24th Dear Judy. Happy Heavenly 60th Birthday. We miss you so much every day. Love from Teresa, Win & family xx
- 28th Dear Patricia. Happy 60th Birthday. We miss you so much every day. Love from Teresa, Win & family xx



Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd (FOSM)



I'm delighted to say that our annual Quiz Night last month was, once again, completely sold out well before the event. Thank you all for your support, and I'm sorry that we had to disappoint several people who enquired about the availability of tables late on.

Our thoughts now turn actively towards the **Plant Sale in St Mary's Churchyard on the morning of Saturday 30th May**. The prolonged wet weather since Christmas has not been conducive to getting out into the garden, but we hope, nevertheless, to offer a good selection of flowering perennials, annuals and young vegetable plants. As ever, if any of you are splitting clumps or sowing seeds, we would welcome any plants you can spare. Please email Jane Royle at jane.b.royle@gmail.com or Sarah Mussett at sarah.mussett@hotmail.co.uk.

As many of you will know, several major and costly problems with the fabric of St Mary's have recently become evident, the retiling of the nave roof, the complete replacement of the rotting wooden nave floor, and the urgent reattachment of the outer cladding of the south wall of the Church to the original inner wall.

By supporting our events, and by joining the Friends, you can make a small but meaningful contribution towards the survival of this much-loved landmark at the heart of our community.

Individual membership is a modest £10 a year, or £20 for family membership. **Do please consider becoming a Friend and contact us as below.**

Peter Turner, Chairman Website: friendsofstmaryskingsclere.org.
For membership & FOSM enquiries contact fosmkingsclere@gmail.com



FOSM 200 Club

The winner of the February Draw was
Gareth Martin --- No.35

Congratulations, Gareth.

Next month's Draw will take place at Bel and the Dragon

Kingsclere and Headley Woodlands WI



We started 2026 with a cream tea and games afternoon followed by a very well-received speaker, David Wickens, telling us about Cadbury's World. I know that our speaker on **March 11th, Richard Anderson**, will be equally as enjoyable as he has talked to us on previous occasions. This month he will be telling us about the life of Wallis Simpson. I know that many people have heard of this lady, however, I'm sure that we will learn something new about her.

As usual, we meet on the second Wednesday of the month, starting at **1.45pm at the Village Club, 35 George Street**. Why not come along and join us? We are always looking for new members and I can assure you that you will receive a very warm welcome from our very friendly ladies with tea, coffee and biscuits on offer. As well as a monthly meeting, we often go out to lunch which our members enjoy very much as it's such a social occasion. The competition letter for March is V.

Margaret Geary President, 01635297197

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group

Where: The Village Club

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.

The wet weather has **definitely not** dampened our fluffy tails! Last month we enjoyed lots of love-themed craft sessions and even some pancake making.

The library will be opening especially for Bunnies on 10th March.

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

SWING INTO A HEALTHIER & SOCIAL 2026!

Looking for an activity that's good for your body & your mind?

1 Hour Taster Sessions - £10

Everything you need is provided,
Plus coffee and time to chat

Wednesday 15th April 6.15pm – 7.15 pm
Saturday 18th April 10am – 11am
Wednesday 22nd April 10am – 11am

5Week Programme - £100

Sessions tailored to develop your skills
Start on either of the following days

Wednesday 29th April 6.15pm – 7.15pm
Sunday 2nd May 10am – 11am

For more information or to book your place email
WiG.ss2026@gmail.com



Complete the course to access discounted
2026/27 Memberships at Sandford Springs Golf
Club with active support from our Lady Members

SANDFORD SPRINGS HOTEL & GOLF CLUB, KINGSCLERE, HAMPSHIRE, RG26 5RT



Whitchurch Silk Mill



Free Entry for National Lottery Open Week

Enjoy complimentary access to Whitchurch Silk Mill on 7 & 8 March and 10–15 March. Explore the historic Georgian mill, watch weavers at work on Victorian machinery, and discover the fascinating bobbin-winding machine and waterwheel. After your visit, relax in the award-winning café or browse the shop. See the website for terms and conditions.

Family Easter Trail

On 31 March and 2 April, children can embark on an Easter-themed adventure through the mill and riverside grounds. The trail includes fun activities and a chocolate treat at the end, with options for vegan and allergen-free diets. Tickets are £7.50 per child, with a free accompanying adult.

Become a Patron in 2026

Support the Mill's heritage by joining the new patron scheme for £3/month or £30/year. Patrons receive exclusive newsletters, behind-the-scenes videos, and free entry for a year. Your support helps preserve rare weaving skills—two of the UK's five silk ribbon weavers work here—and funds the training of Heritage Skills students. Donations are vital, as profits alone aren't enough to sustain the mill.

Upcoming Events & Workshops

- 6 March** **Warping Workshop:** Learn to make your own three-metre warp with expert guidance. Tickets £60.
- 7 March** **Embroidery Workshop:** Create a nature-inspired keepsake with Abigail Rose Creative. Tickets £65.
- 14 March** **Beginners' Crochet Workshop:** Master granny squares with Heather. Tickets £45.
- 24 March** **Silk Production Tour:** Go behind the scenes with the weaving team. Tickets £25.
- 24 March** **Levi Strauss & Co. Talk:** Historian Tracey Panek shares stories from the denim archive.
- 11 June** **Online Talk:** Philip De Paola discusses recreating George Washington's 1789 suit with Whitchurch silk.

Stay Connected

Book tickets via the mill shop or website. For updates, follow Whitchurch Silk Mill on social media or subscribe to the newsletter.

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

Horatio Nelson: Life and Loves by Dr James Taylor



Learn about the extraordinary life and loves of Vice-Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson through period paintings, drawings and prints, presented by Dr James Taylor, a former curator of pictures at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.



Join us for this talk on
Wednesday 18 March at 10am
St Mary's Hall, Overton

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



Here for Kingsclere: Advice That Makes a Difference.

Last year **Citizens Advice** helped people in Kingsclere gain over £130,000 in financial benefits. Although much of our advice covers

non-financial issues, money concerns remain the most common reason people come to us for help.

Whether you're worried about money, housing, benefits, work, or something else entirely, our trained advisers can help you understand your options and find a way forward. We're an independent charity, so everything is free, confidential, and completely impartial — no judgment, just practical support.

Sessions will be held on **Tuesday 3rd and 17th of March between 10am and 1pm at The Village Club.**

To avoid any delays, we can make appointments - just contact us using the details below and we can book a suitable time.

Alternatively, just pop in, have a chat, and see how we can help. Sometimes a bit of friendly advice can make all the difference. If you do drop in, please be aware that you may have to wait for an adviser to be available.

Contact us

Phone: 0808 278 7987 (including a voicemail service)

Contact: outreach@catadley.org

Online: <https://www.catadley.org/email>

Gambling

If you are worried about someone's gambling, it's normal to feel stressed, anxious, angry, or hurt. Support is available from organizations like **GamCare**, which offers resources and a dedicated support group for women affected by someone else's gambling. Talking to the person about their gambling can be difficult, but it may help to express how their behavior affects you and encourage them to seek help. Guidance on having these conversations is available on the **GambleAware** website.

If the gambler's behaviour makes you feel anxious or threatened, it could be domestic abuse, and there is help available through Citizens Advice. Additional support includes advice on limiting gambling, managing debt, and accessing mental health resources. Citizens Advice Basingstoke provides free, confidential, and impartial advice, with contact options including a free advice line and online enquiry services.



March in the Garden

How disappointing February has been, with the constant rain, making it difficult to work in the garden. The one joy of February were the delightful snowdrops, an exceptional display, regardless of the rain. Hopefully, March will bring better weather, although it can still be unsettled, even producing snow. On the brighter side, we can look forward to longer days with the clocks changing to Summertime.



It is going to be catch up time, as gathering the Autumn leaves was difficult, so those that are still in the garden will need to be removed. Winter flowering heathers will need trimming back after flowering and before they start back into growth. Also, winter flowering shrubs need to be cut back to keep the shrubs neat and under control. Late flowering clematis should be cut back now as new growth will appear soon.

As the snowdrops will have finished flowering this month, dig up and divide the clumps before the leaves disappear. Prune any damaged branches on trees and shrubs. Prune the dogwoods, elderberry, hardy fuchsias, lavender, mahonia and roses. A reminder that with roses, it is advisable to take away any stems that crossover aiming to keep the centre of the plant open. Take away stems that are less than a pencil thick as these will not produce any blooms. If you have a shrub that you wish to remove to another location in your garden now is a good time to get the job done.

Perennials can be divided, keeping them tidy and giving you extra plants that can be useful elsewhere in the garden. New roses can be planted now plus summer bulbs, trees, shrubs, and climbers. This is also a good time to mulch around trees and shrubs. It is also time to tidy the greenhouse, making sure it's cleaned before new plants and seeds are placed inside.

In the vegetable garden, broad beans, carrots, leeks, parsnips, peas and turnips can be sown outside, also asparagus, Jerusalem artichokes, onion sets and strawberries can be planted outside. Replacing onion sets pulled out by birds can be a constant job. Cabbages, cauliflowers, forced rhubarb, sprouting broccoli and Swiss chard will be ready to harvest.

If conditions allow, the lawns will be ready to be cut, they have made a lot of growth over the winter. The first few cuts will need the blades high on the mower to prevent damage. Edges which have been damaged through the winter can be repaired by cutting out a turf and turning it around to give a nice straight edge.

There are lots of lovely plants flowering this month, daffodils will flower for weeks as there are many varieties. Several shrubs will flower this month including japonica, forsythia, daphne, and flowering cherry. Primroses, bergenia, clematis, crocus, grape hyacinth, pulmonaria, scalia all add colour to the flower beds and borders

Denise Allen

Kingsclere Gardening Association

March Meeting: March 12th

Speaker will be Carol Gubler from Little Brook Fuchsias. This should be an interesting evening for the fuchsia enthusiast, a really useful plant to grow in the garden in pots and hanging baskets. If a member or guest requires a particular variety, please get in touch with me. Carol would be delighted to bring plants with her and hopefully, she will have plants to sell besides those that are requested. As usual, there will be a tabletop competition, information for this is on the membership card. The evening will conclude with tea and biscuits.

On **Sunday April 5th** we have our spring show at the Village Club. It is always interesting to see so many varieties of daffodils. The doors are open to the public at 2pm. All are welcome

Saturday May 16th, we are planning a coffee morning plus plant sale. Also available will be horticultural advice. If you have a plant or garden enquiry, please come along and we will do our best to answer your questions. We will be making a donation to our chosen charity. Please support this event which will be held at the Methodist Church Hall commencing 10am

During the summer months, we are hoping to repeat last year success with garden visits. Hopefully, we will be fortunate to have good weather again

The association has a number of tables that we hire out for a very reasonable fee. Unfortunately, we do not deliver. We look forward to welcoming members and guests to our next meeting.

Denise Allen (chairman)

01635 297966.denise.allen47@icloud.com



Wolverton Market

The next Market is on **Saturday 7th March, in the Village Hall from 9.30am until 11am**. There will be some Spring flowers and fresh vegetables for sale and I suggest you arrive early at the Market as these items tend to sell out very quickly. Some delicious locally produced honey will be available and a jar of this will make a lovely Easter gift instead of a chocolate egg (and will last longer!)

Stalls will be selling an assortment of antiques, books, Bric a Brac, cards, curios, gifts, garden items and jewellery. You can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit while you shop. We look forward to seeing you and as always we appreciate your support.

Wendy Morgan 01635 297538

Nature notes

In early February, a raven (*Corvus corax*) was perched on an electric pylon out near Porch Farm, its throaty 'cronk' echoing through the oak trees at the field's edge. These enormous birds cut an impressive black silhouette against the grey skies of the season. I often see ruddy-coloured buzzards out in the same location, hunched, solid: scanning the stubble fields. But even they look on the slim side compared to the dinosaur-like raven. He was likely calling to attract a mate, as ravens are early starters in the breeding cycle, and by this time of year courtship displays are well underway.



Flashing a torch in our pond last week rewarded us with the exciting sight of four smooth newts (*Lissotriton vulgaris*), lying still in the water. After hibernating on land during the winter, newts now start to return to the water to breed. Incredibly, female newts can lay up to 400 eggs and wrap them individually in the leaves of pond plants for protection. We hope our quartet will have some success and that we may be lucky enough to see juveniles leave the water by the summer.

There are some conifer trees that drape into the brook near our house, and one day I spotted a tiny Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*) flitting in and out between the branches. Weighing in at just 6gms, these little olive-coloured birds with black and yellow caps are even smaller than wrens; their thin, pointed beaks are ideally adapted to pluck insects out from between pine needles – a skill which I am particularly envious of when I'm expected to extract miniature Playmobil flowers from the gap underneath the fridge!

Lydia Harley-Tomlinson lydia.harleytomlinson@gmail.com

Shipinnarts

March at The Ship Inn Country Hotel,
Ashford Hill RG19 8BD



Sunday 8th March 2026 2pm – 4pm

“Spring Creations and Music”

Come and jump into Spring with us here at Shipinnarts.

Decorate a flowerpot and plant it up.

Music will be performed while you create! What fun!

Delicious homemade bakes, hot/cold drinks included.

Tickets £12 from Eventbrite. Alternatively, phone 0118 981 4504 to reserve a ticket (please bring cash on the door)

<https://shipinnarts.org/>
email: shipinnarts@gmail.com
Tel: 01189 814504

Kingsclere Preschool

Despite the rain, the children have enjoyed being outside and jumping in the puddles. We keep our fingers crossed for some drier weather so we can see some Minibeasts using our newly refurbished Minibeast Hotel. We had great fun going on a Bird Hunt. We now want to get messy and dig in the mud whilst on a Bug Hunt. The children will be learning all about the creepy crawlies they find. I wonder how many you can find in your garden?



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.

Natalie

Kingsclere Rugby Club

Training – Wednesdays 7 – 9 pm

Walking Rugby

Wednesdays mixed 7 – 8 pm

Thursdays ladies 7 – 8 pm

Fixtures and Results

7th January Winchester Knights Loss 42 - 21.

Player of the Match was Bradley Munslow

14th January Tottonians 3rd's Won 24 – 22.

Player of the Match was Louis Coppi

21st January Locksheath Pumas Loss 22 – 12.

Player of the Match was Henry Davis

7th March Farnham 4th's League Away 3 pm

21st March Andover 3rd's League Home 3pm

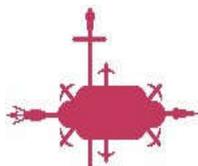
28th March Chichester 2nd's League Away 3pm

For more information, please contact:-

Joanna Reed – Moreton Secretary-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com

or Geoff Curtis Youth-coach-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com

To find out more information about the club please visit on Facebook and Instagram.



The Kingsclere Cancer Research Fundraiser 2026

This month I wanted to say a few words about KCRF's origins.

KCRF was born in 2022. Four of us here in the village were brought together through the painful and challenging situations we were each going through as a result of cancer. To say thank you for all the support we received we decided to throw a party, but there were so many people to thank we needed a venue. It was a short step from here to making our party a fundraiser, and the rest, as they say, is history.

With your support, we have raised £80,000 since 2022 through two Balls and a small selection of other events. This year we hope to break six figures with our Odyssey Ball, a coffee morning, a concert and the Map of Hope. Hopefully you will have seen posters for these popping up on village noticeboards and in windows. Thank you to these volunteers.

We are just four ordinary people from the village who are raising funds for CRUK. We aren't a professional events team, and between our jobs and families we don't have an awful lot in the way of spare time or resources but we care about the cause. Every gesture of support from the community in whatever form that takes means such a lot.

We would love everyone here to feel ownership of this fundraising in one way or another, be it by displaying a poster in your window, attending an event, sponsoring the Ball, donating a prize for the Silent Auction, making a cash donation, or adding a name to the Map of Hope. Just get in touch by whatever means.

Thank you for reading!

Beccy, Claire, Mandy and Sean
<https://kingsclerecrf.org.uk/>
 Call Sean: 07787 527326



Kingsclere Community Library

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2026

Children - Come into the library dressed as a character from your favourite book; have your photo taken for us to share and get a goodie bag!

Adults and Children – Come into the library during opening hours and write a few words about your favourite book and why you like it. These will then be pinned on a board in the library for other borrowers to look at and who knows, you might inspire someone to read a book they would not otherwise have considered reading!

National Year of Reading

2026 has been designated National Year of Reading. To celebrate this, our theme throughout the year will be focussed on Goodreads list of “50 books to read before you die”. We will put the complete list on display and every month we will select a couple of books from the list as suggested “reads” for those of you who maybe want to try something new – so come in and see how many books on the list you have already read and how many more you might like to consider reading!

In addition, we will also be running a “monthly theme” where we will be putting books on display relating to that theme. March’s theme is “World Book Day” (see above) and April’s theme will be “April Fools”, so come on in and have a look.

Change of Hours

In our Consultation which took place last year (and a big thank you to all those who took part), it emerged that a number of people would like the library to be open in the morning. We listened to what you said and as a result we are trialling new opening hours. **Therefore from March our opening hours on a Thursday will be 10.30 am to 4.30 pm.** Initially this is a three-month trial to see if this works better for our community.

HOURS

Tuesday 1pm – 5.30pm

Thursday 10.30am – 4.30pm

Saturday 10.00am - 1.00pm

Nicki Lee, Library Phone 01635 297464 kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com
www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk



THE KINGSCLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

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

Kingsclere Health Centre: 0333 034 1033
North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke 01256 473202

Parish Council: 37 George Street (see page 2) 01635 298634
Kingsclere Charities Clerk: Gillian Hern 07884 182696
kingsclerecharities@iname.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 cldr.david.conquest@basingstoke.gov.uk

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

Kerry Morrow 07725 819021 cldr.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