



The Kingsclere Tower

What's On & Local News
JUNE 2026

The Kingsclere Tower

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There are two especially important articles this month. The first is the notice of a Special General Meeting of the local Royal British Legion to decide its future which may result in the closing of the local branch and the loss of the RBL to lead our Remembrance Day Parade in Kingsclere. (See page 18)

The second is an article from the Watership Down Medical practise introducing a new online triage appointment system that has just started. Why not check out to see how it works before you actually need it! Triage is a word that seems to have become more popular recently. All it means is that the staff will decide from the information you give them, who you can most usefully see to provide you with the best treatment. Never forget that if you are having trouble with the system you can just ask to speak to a doctor. (See page 6)

Meanwhile, whilst we enjoy this month full of wonderful sporting events, we have a Musical Festival at the Fieldgate Centre on the 20th June and don't forget the last Community Café at The Village Club on the 27th June.

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 **July** to the Editor at kingscleretower@gmail.com.

NOT LATER THAN 12th June 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.

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



GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING –

The collection dates are Wednesday 10th June, 24th June and 8th July.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING –

The next full Council Meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm on Monday 15th June. We welcome the attendance of all parishioners at our meetings and anyone who wishes to raise any matters will be given the opportunity to do so during Public Questions.

COUNCILLOR VACANCIES –

We have had 2 Volunteers, but we still need more. If you love living in Kingsclere and you want to help shape its future please come and join our team.

As a Parish Councillor, you will:

Represent the views of all residents.

Understand the needs of different community groups.

Stay well-informed about local issues.

Help deliver services that meet local needs.

Work to improve quality of life.

Attend council meetings.

Monitor and maintain village finances to ensure best value.

Represent the community externally.

Review planning applications from a community perspective.

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

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

Action Hampshire



Understanding Rural Affordable Housing

Do you know a young person who has had to move away because they couldn't afford to live locally? In many rural parts of Hampshire housing costs are high forcing younger adults, families and key workers to look elsewhere often away from their communities.

Rural affordable housing helps address this challenge by providing homes at prices local people can afford including affordable rent and shared ownership options. These homes are allocated to people with a strong local connection ensuring they benefit those who already live or work in the area or have close family ties.

Even a small development of five to ten homes can make a real difference. It can help younger people remain close to family and friends, assist those living in overcrowded housing, and enable residents to downsize while staying within the community. It also supports local workers, such as teachers, carers and tradespeople, to live near their place of work.

Affordable housing brings wider benefits too. Research shows that even a modest scheme can boost the local economy and help sustain vital services such as schools, shops and pubs.

Action Hampshire works with communities and parish councils to explore opportunities for affordable housing. If you think your area could benefit, consider raising the issue with your parish council.



Want to talk to someone about ways you can save money? Get in touch with **Citizens Advice Tadley & District**. We're an independent local charity providing free, confidential and impartial advice for local people, to help them find a way forward.

You can either drop in to our office on Franklin Avenue (RG26 4ET) during our opening hours (Weekdays 10am to 1pm, Mon + Thurs till 3pm). Alternatively, if you'd like to support the work we do, you can find out more about volunteering and donating here: <http://www.catadley.org/support-us> As well as its day-to-day service, the team hosts a drop-in service for residents at Kingsclere Village Club in George Street between 10am and 1pm every other Tuesday. The team is also partnering with local schools to provide dedicated support for families.

Call our free Adviceline on 0808 278 7987 (leave a voicemail), or fill in our form at: <https://www.catadley.org/email> or emailing admin@catadley.org.



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 long days and summer sunshine are with us 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.

June is a busy month for the volunteers who work tirelessly to keep the centre running and plan events for the whole community to enjoy.

Monthly Meet Up is taking place on **Tuesday 16th June** at an earlier starting time of **1.30-4.30pm**. This is because in June the afternoon includes a visit from the primary school which is always enjoyed by all. If you haven't come along before, why not join us? It's always a lovely afternoon with homemade cake, quizzes, crafts and chatter. The sessions are free but donations are welcome and lifts can be arranged if you need one.

Music Festival on 20th June. It's going to be a great day with plenty of musical acts, food vendors, bouncy castle and stalls for fun. The day time events take place outside before moving into the Centre for the evening. It's going to be a great occasion so don't miss out!

Looking ahead, the **Summer of Fun** starts on **29th July** and continues through all **five Wednesdays of the summer holidays**. These days are brilliant for the children, full of fun, activities and crafts. They are very popular, so save the dates and come along. Full details on the posters and our website.

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

www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk

fieldgatecentre@outlook.com

01635 298497

Facebook



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)

Community Café

Our final Community Café will be on **Saturday 27th June**, 10am - 12.30pm featuring a fun quiz at 11am. Unfortunately, due to a significant reduction in footfall we are not able to continue. Thank you to our loyal customers. We will miss you! But we will be serving teas, coffee and cake at our Open Day

Open Day

We're excited to invite you to our Open Day on **Saturday 18th July from 10.30am**. A wonderful chance to explore everything happening within the historic setting of Kingsclere Village Club. Come and find out about the fantastic groups, activities, and clubs that bring this place to life. Whether you're new to the Village or a long-standing resident, the day offers a great opportunity to discover what's available, meet the people behind the activities, and maybe find something new to get involved in. We'd love to see you there.

Shakespeare in the Garden: Comedy of Errors

A matinee performance by the renowned Festival Players International.

Sunday July 5th 2pm. with an optional buffet at 1pm. £16 performance only, £23 including buffet lunch.

Vegetarian and 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, chair-based exercise? Particularly helpful for those of limited mobility or recovering from surgery. Thursday afternoons 1.30 to 2.30pm. Please contact Emma bookings@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk for further details.

Helping Hands Needed

We have various opportunities for volunteers, either a regular commitment or one-off. One of the latter is for the afternoon of the Shakespeare production to help with the buffet lunch and bar. Please contact Helen if you can help then or at any other time.

Helen 01635 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk



As highlighted in our last newsletter, we have now implemented our new GP Triage system.

**NEW ONLINE BOOKING
STARTING WEDNESDAY 20th MAY 2026
FOR GP ADVICE AND APPOINTMENTS**

OPENS AT 7.00am

MONDAY – FRIDAY

AVOID THE PHONE QUEUE

BY USING OUR NEW

ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM

BOOK ONLINE

SAVE TIME

CHOOSE THE RIGHT DOCTOR FOR YOUR NEEDS

<http://watershipdownhealth.com>

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 continue to be available between 08.00 – 18.30 hrs Monday to Friday, for queries and other appointments, but we encourage use of the online service for speed and efficiency, for all those able to use it.

NHS App – Change of Address Service

Please note that the NHS App developers are testing a Change of Address service. For more information, please visit this link:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/confirm-your-home-address>

RSV programme eligibility

1. Older adults

Adults aged 75–79

Adults aged 80+ (no upper age limit) - Newly added from 1 April 2026.

Anyone aged 75+ who has not yet received an RSV vaccine remain eligible on a rolling basis.

2. All residents in care homes for older adults - Eligible regardless of age due to higher risk.

This is a major part of the 2026 expansion.

3. Pregnant women - Offered RSV vaccination from 28 weeks of pregnancy to protect newborns.

4. Infants - The UK already offers nirsevimab (a monoclonal antibody) for newborns and young infants as part of the infant RSV programme.

Covid Spring Booster Update

Vaccinations will continue to be available until the 30 June 2026 for adults aged 75 and over, residents in care homes for older people and immunosuppressed patients. As we have completed all planned clinics, patients will need to call 119 until 29 June 2026 to book appointments at a range of community pharmacies.

The PPG will be running a walk-in clinic for anyone needing assistance with the NHS app on Tuesday, 30th June 2026 from 9 – 11am at the Kingsclere surgery.

Kingsclere

Community

Library



June Theme

The June theme is “National Crime Reading” month – so why not pop in and test your detective skills!

Visiting Books

The next visiting book collection will be in the library on the afternoon of Tuesday June 2nd. So do come in and browse.

Volunteers

We are always on the look-out for volunteers to keep our wonderful library open – so if you have a couple of hours to spare, even if it’s only once a month, we would love to hear from you. Thank you.

HOURS **Tuesday** **1.00am - 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

Kingsclere CE Primary School – Summer Term News!

We were delighted to welcome our new Local Authority Lead Learning Partner (LLP) for an audit visit at the end of last term. The report highlighted many strengths across our school, and we are incredibly proud of the feedback received. Key successes included:



- **Leadership** - praised for providing a *'clear and consistent direction'* across the school.
 - **Teaching and learning** - described as secure and consistent, with pupils showing strong independence, pride and positive attitudes.
 - **Early Years** - recognised as rich, purposeful and nurturing, with children demonstrating kindness and excellent communication skills.
 - **Inclusion** - strong provision ensuring *'all children benefit from well-designed strategies, scaffolds and resources.'*
- Governance** - governors were praised for their strong understanding of the school and their thorough, effective monitoring.

Overall, the report confirms Kingsclere as a school with high expectations and a strong culture of care, ambition and success for every child.

Year 3 and Year 4 enjoyed a fantastic visit to Ufton Court this half term as part of their Ancient Greece enquiry, exploring the question: 'What mattered most to the Ancient Greeks – mind or muscle?' The children took part in workshops on trading, democracy and justice, and life in the Greek army. The day was full of role play, hands-on learning and excitement. The children's recounts back in school have been a joy to read.

A huge thank you to our PTA for another brilliant Frosty Friday ice lolly sale, as well as the pre-loved school uniform stall and all their ongoing support. We have lots of exciting PTA events coming up, including our Kingsclere Music Festival - Kingsfest – on 11th July, plus School Discos and Wacky Hair Day!

We are now looking ahead to swimming lessons in Summer Term 2. Our Site Manager, Mr Derbyshire, is busy preparing the pool, and we're excited to see all year groups continue to grow in confidence with their swimming.

Wishing you a super summer ahead.

Jo Messenger (Headteacher)

Kingsclere Preschool



We have been learning all about the Great Outdoors and beyond! We have made a role play rocket where we went into space and have made our own rocket models out of junk modelling. In the sunshine, the children have loved planting a range of flowers, herbs and vegetables in the garden which they care for by watering them every day.

As we move into the summer term, we will be moving on to the topic of "All about me" where we will be making school passports and painting portraits.

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 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.

*We will be holding our **Swap Table on 2nd June**. Bring baby items no longer used to swap for something new to you! We do ask please could donors take home anything left on the table at the end of the session.

The library will be opening especially for Bunnies on 9th June.

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

Nature notes

I bought my husband a wildlife camera for his birthday in January and, having very small children, anything beyond their immediate needs takes six months to complete, we have only recently left it out overnight. We were instantly rewarded however, with videos showing a variety of nocturnal wildlife in our garden. Watching one of the first videos, we were delighted to see a hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) snuffling around near our pond. We started leaving a dish of hedgehog food out in the same spot, in the hope that he or she would become a regular visitor. Sure enough, each night we had a dozen videos of a hedgehog coming for the food (as well as a wood mouse, a rat and some bolshy jackdaws). Watching one video, we were astonished to see a second hedgehog barrel in from out of shot and knock the first hedgehog off its feet, where it immediately rolled into a defensive ball. I had no idea that hedgehogs could become aggressive over food, but we have seen this same scenario play out over more than one night.



One wildlife visitor to our garden this month we were forced to evict. Our birdbox had not been visited by bluetits this spring, as we had hoped. We had noticed a bumblebee entering the hole but avoided investigating until one day we realised that what we thought was a solitary, nosy bee was, in fact, several bees, buzzing in and out of the hole with alarming regularity. The birdbox is on the wall immediately outside our sliding patio doors, and the idea of a nest of bees so close to our young children and dog was not a comfortable thought. I consulted our neighbour who is an expert in bees, and he confirmed we had roughly a hundred tree bumblebees (*Bombus hypnorum*) nesting in the box. The species are relatively new to the UK, their first recorded sighting was in 2001, in the New Forest, and they spread rapidly throughout the country. Most bumblebees nest under or on the surface of the ground, but tree bumblebees are unusual in that they nest above the ground, in tree holes, the eaves of houses, cavity walls and – birdboxes. We are very grateful to our neighbour who kindly removed the box and nest to a safe location, where the bees are going about their business undisturbed by us, and we undisturbed by them.

Lydia Harley-Tomlinson, lydia.harleytomlinson@gmail.com

We have been fortunate to have had Lydia write the Nature Notes for several years. Her curiosity about nature and that of her children's, has been a considerable pleasure for our readers. Thank you, Lydia.

Now we are losing her services, we would like someone to come forward to replace her. Would you be prepared to write Nature Notes on a regular basis? Nature encompasses an enormous number of topics. It doesn't have to be just a single person; a variety of views are welcome. If you can, please contact us at kingscleretower@gmail.com

The Church Pages



Hi,

You may have heard the common Christian greeting, used at the beginning of many Sunday services across the country, "*This is the day the Lord has made – let us rejoice and be glad in it*". It comes from Psalm 118, written around 3,000 years ago, and is still so relevant for us today.

Every day is set before us, and we *get* to inhabit it.

I know that most of us have huge chunks of each day already mapped out – school runs, the commute to and from work, set times to be at work, or for a carer visiting, breakfast, lunch and dinner to sort out and consume, shopping, vacuuming, cutting the grass, bedtime, not to mention appointments, hobbies, and family time.

Sometimes our schedules can feel depressing. Like Sisyphus in Greek mythology forced for eternity to roll a huge boulder up a hill, only for it to immediately roll back down again, we can wonder, "What's the point? Same dross, different day".

But we can approach each new day with an open heart and mind. What lies before us is a never-before-lived-in Monday, or Thursday, or Sunday. There are some things we absolutely must do, but there are also times each day when we get to choose what we do.

Whatever time we wake up, we all start our day in much the same way. I love this from Tish Warren, an Anglican Priest in Austin, Texas: "*Whether we're children or heads of state, we sit in our pyjamas for a moment, yawning, with messy hair and bad breath, unproductive, groping toward the day. Soon we'll get buttoned up into our identities: mothers, business people, students, friends. We'll spend our day conservative or liberal, rich or poor, earnest or cynical, fun-loving or serious. But as we first emerge from sleep, we are nothing but human – unimpressive, vulnerable, newly born into the day, blinking as our pupils adjust to the light and our brains emerge into consciousness*".

So why not take a moment, however short, put your phone down and just sit in your messy bed, at the dining table, on the loo, in your car before you start the engine, wherever, and take control of this little piece of your day.

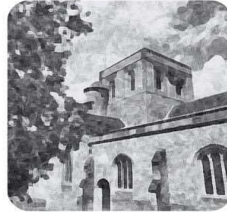
If you believe in God, invite Him into your day. What might happen today? What can I do with the small pockets of free time I have today? What will bring me joy or peace? How can I bring these to someone else?

Try to see each day as a gift, not another mundane repetition of yesterday or last week, and as the Psalmist writes, "*be glad in it*".

Cultivate a posture of gratitude for the possibilities of the new day before you and then step into it. Today could be amazing!

Bless you, Rev. Pete

What's on this month at St. Mary's



Thursdays at 10.30 am

4th, 18th and 25th - Morning Worship
11th - Holy Communion



7th

9.00 am Traditional Morning Worship
10.30 am Contemporary Morning Worship with Kingdom Kids children's ministry

14th

9.00 am Traditional Holy Communion
10.30 am Contemporary Holy Communion with Kingdom Kids children's ministry

21st

9.00 am Traditional Morning Worship
10.30 am Contemporary Morning Worship with Kingdom Kids children's ministry



28th

9.00 am Traditional Morning Worship
10.30 am Contemporary Morning Worship with Kingdom Kids children's ministry

Kingsclere Methodist Church June 2026 Services



Sunday 7th June – Morning Worship
Sunday 14th June – Morning Worship
Sunday 21st June – Morning Worship
Sunday 28th June – Morning Worship

Due to circumstances beyond my control it is not possible to say who will be preaching at each service during June. Please check the Methodist church notice board for details.

Coffee morning every Thursday 10.30 until 12, all welcome.

Hall for hire see page 24 of this magazine for details.

St. Mary's Floodlights

We love to see St. Mary's lit up in the Evenings; it is such a beautiful sight in the centre of the village.



If you would like to dedicate having the lights for a particular evening, be it a birthday, wedding, anniversary, or some other, meaningful occasion, please email us at administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk or call 01635299528. We ask for a minimum donation of £15 per evening. If you would also like to include a short tribute in the Tower magazine, please send it to us by the 12th of the preceding month.

April 22nd In loving memory of Simon Oxley, who sadly passed away on 4th April 2026. Rest in peace, Simon. Thank you for giving the world wings

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd (FOSM)



Our warm thanks to the many of you who have grown, split and donated plants for the Plant Sale, and the team who'll be helping set up on the day. All we need now is the hope of fair weather, and your usual loyal support in buying the end results. We look forward to seeing you!

We are now gearing up for our major **Summer Raffle** and have already received various generous offers of sponsorship and major prizes.

Tickets will be on sale in St. Mary's Churchyard on the mornings of Saturday 25th July and 1st, 8th and 15th August with the Draw taking place on the 15th August.

Please support this venture, as all funds raised will go towards the major urgent works to the Church fabric outlined previously, which will have to be done if the Church is to remain open for worship and for many other village activities. **Your village heart needs you!**

Peter Turner, Chairman

Website: friendsofstmaryskingsclere.org.

For membership & FOSM enquiries contact fosmkingsclere@gmail.com

FOSM 200 Club

The winner of the May Draw was

Janet Dunn --- No. 37

Congratulations, Janet.

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

at about 7 p.m. on

Tuesday 2nd June

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

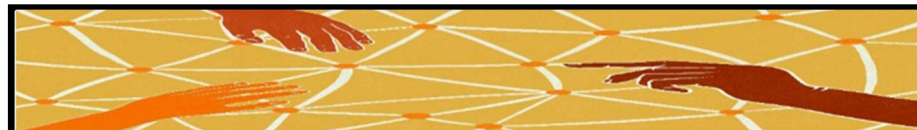
Fresh brewed coffee, tea and delicious homemade cakes.

June 6th, 13th and 20th - 10.00 - 12.00 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 Ladies Group

This new group held its first meeting on Wednesday 13th May at the Methodist Church Hall, Kingsclere.

Future meetings will be on the second Wednesday each month between 2 pm and 3.30 pm. Venue to be decided depending on the activity.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 10th June.

Our aim is to create a friendly atmosphere and space for ladies to meet up once a month either for a chat and refreshments

or to visit places of interest of which there are many within this area.

The meetings will be informal, there will be a small charge when we are using a venue, just to cover the cost of hire.

We are open to new ideas and following your interests.

If you would like further information please contact:

mblennon@hotmail.com or call 01635 622683.

We look forward to meeting you.

Kingsclere Charities – Grants

The Robert Higham Apprentices and Educational Charity :

This Charity promotes 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 : books and specialist 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: 18th June, 17th September and 19th November. Application forms can be found on our website www.kingsclerecharities.org

Or contact Gill Hern at kingsclerecharities4@mail.com who can either email or post a copy to you.

June in the Garden



Glorious June arrives with roses, long a national favourite for their beauty and versatility. Roses grow well in most soils, even chalk, though they do attract greenfly. These can be controlled with soapy water if you prefer to avoid chemicals. Black spot is another common problem; clear up fallen leaves to reduce its spread. Dead-head regularly, cutting back to a leaf joint to encourage fresh growth and keep plants manageable. Roses tolerate hard pruning well and usually only fail through great age or prolonged drought.

Recent weeks have been dry, making watering essential, though nothing benefits the garden more than rainfall. With few heavy frosts this year, blossom on trees and shrubs has been exceptional, particularly horse chestnuts. Late frosts are still possible, so protect tender plants if cold weather is forecast.

There is plenty to do in the garden. Remove hellebore flowers to prevent self-seeding and take out rose suckers while they are still soft. Dead-head lilac, rhododendron and camellia. Hanging baskets and containers can now be planted, and once daffodil foliage has died back it can be cut down. With frost risk now low, bedding plants may be planted out safely.

In the vegetable garden, sow turnips and salad crops at two to three-week intervals for a continuous harvest. Lettuce seed will not germinate well in high temperatures, so timing is important. Pak choi, such as 'Canberra', can be sown this month for something a little different. Early peas should be ready for picking; when finished, cut plants down but leave the roots to enrich the soil with nitrogen, then follow with leafy crops.

June is a good month for taking softwood cuttings of fuchsia, salvia and verbena. Ponds may need thinning, and older aquatic plants can be lifted and divided. Most plants will benefit from liquid feeding once the weather is warm enough.

Plants to enjoy this month include peonies, hardy geraniums, lupins, lavender, achillea, honeysuckle, bearded irises, weigela, mock orange and rock rose.

Denise Allen



Hannington Country Fair

Sunday, 28 June, 2026, 12pm-4pm

An afternoon of fun & entertainment for all ages

Arena attractions, fun dog show, sideshows, tea and cakes, tombola, stalls, plants, raffle & silent auction with amazing prizes, farm animals, cow pat bingo, sheaf tossing, live music, dance act, food, drink, and much more!

The Fieldgate Centre

**SUMMER OF
FUN
2026!!**

A huge thank you to everyone involved in producing incredibly successful play sessions every year at The Fieldgate Centre: our supporters and collaborators; the energetic local volunteers who make it all happen and not forgetting the children and parents/grandparents/carers who participate. It's

wonderful to see so many young children and families joining in with all the activities and making special memories together on Wednesdays during the school summer holiday.

Kingsclere Community Association has the challenge of raising around £8,000 so that it can continue to offer the summer programme to you all - FOR FREE! Please help us, if you can, by making a donation using the QR code below, or by visiting www.thegoodexchange.com (project ref. 21314) where your donation will be match funded by Greenham Trust.

If you are a local business interested in offering sponsorship or volunteer helpers, we would love to hear from you.

Let's get ready for our 8th fantastic... **SUMMER OF FUN!!**

Kingsclere Community Association
email: fieldgatecentre@outlook.com
telephone: 01635 298497



THE BASE'S FESTIVAL OF

ARTS & Crafts

FREE PARKING

50+ STALLS
ARTISAN FOOD & DRINK
ART EXHIBITION
WORKSHOPS
LIVE MUSIC

Suggested entry donation
£2 per person
(all proceeds go to The Base charity 1199188)

FR Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

THE BASE Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th June 10am - 4pm

Kingsclere Royal British Legion Future

Since 1922, for more than 100 years, the Kingsclere Branch of the Royal British Legion has supported local veterans, organised memorial services, and led Remembrance activities within our community. As Chairman of the Kingsclere RBL, I have recently advised both Branch members and Hampshire County of my intention to stand down. Last year, I also took on the role of local Poppy Appeal Organiser, a role I will continue to carry out.

As a veteran and having fulfilled the role of Chairman for a number of years, this has not been an easy decision to make. There have been several contributing factors, but unfortunately both the Branch, and the RBL nationally, have seen a significant decline in membership and volunteers in recent years. Like many community organisations, we now face increasing challenges in maintaining the key roles required for the Branch to continue operating independently. Despite repeated appeals for support over the past 12 – 18 months, there has not been enough local support to sustain the Branch in its current form.

At the beginning of June, the Branch and representatives from Hampshire County RBL will hold a Special General Meeting to vote on the future of the Branch. It is proposed that the Branch moves under County control in the hope that it can remain in existence, hopefully temporarily, while new members and volunteers are found. As a minimum, the Branch requires a Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Additional committee members are also essential in helping to share the workload and keep the Branch active within the community.

However, residents should understand that if the Branch moves under County control, it will no longer be in a position to formally organise the village Remembrance Parade, memorial services, or other local Remembrance activities that have taken place for many years. For the last four years, I have personally organised and conducted Remembrance within the village, with the support of other members. As Remembrance is ultimately a civic event, responsibility for organising these activities would instead fall to the Parish Council.

I am certain many of you will have seen or have been part of the hundreds of people that have attended our village Remembrance Parade over the years, including schoolchildren, youth organisations, veterans, and local community groups. It would be incredibly sad to see this tradition no longer continue. Last year alone, more than 20 community organisations took part in the village Remembrance Parade.



We warmly welcome new members and volunteers. No prior experience is necessary only a willingness to help support veterans and continue the important work and traditions we have carried out in our community for over a century. If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please contact us at:

Kingsclere.Chairman@rbl.community

I would also like to thank everyone who has supported the Branch, the Poppy Appeal, and Remembrance activities over the years. Your support has been greatly appreciated and has helped keep the spirit of Remembrance alive within our community.

Thank you

Chairman, Kingsclere Royal British Legion



Now the Summer months are upon us, the members of the Association can look forward to garden visits. Hopefully, we will be fortunate to have good weather again this year. These visits are for members only, and are arranged at short notice. Members will be informed of dates and times when appropriate.

Other events planned this summer are a coffee morning and plant sale. The Village Club will have an open morning and we will be in attendance for that event.

THE ANNUAL SHOW AUGUST 23rd 2026
THE Fieldgate Centre 9am – 11.30am.
Open to the public 2.30pm

For those who grow their own vegetables and flowers, this is an opportunity to display your skills. Schedules will be available at several venues in the village and from myself.

WOLVERTON MARKET

The next Market is on Saturday 6th June, doors open from 9am until 11am. There will be some unusual succulent plants for sale and of course the delicious locally produced honey. To make your visit worthwhile there will be the usual stalls selling a variety of gifts, cards, books, Bric a Brac, garden items and much more. We look forward to seeing you and as always thank you for your continued support.

Wendy Morgan

WHITCHURCH SILK MILL – JUNE EVENTS

Whitchurch Silk Mill has an exciting programme of events this June and early July, offering something for everyone, from creative workshops and talks to family activities and community celebrations.



A highlight is the **Flower Festival** (19–21 June, 10.30am–5pm), celebrating creativity, nature and the local community. Visitors can enjoy a wide range of floral displays throughout the Mill and grounds, including fresh, crafted, stitched and recycled designs. There will be demonstrations, family activities, plant and honey stalls, and an opportunity to explore soil health with the Soil Smiths, who will examine soil samples under a microscope. Tickets are £10 for adults, with children under 16 free, and pre-booking is essential.

Earlier in the month, the Mill hosts a **Regency Picnic** on 6 June (3–7pm) beside the River Test. This popular event returns with refreshments, performances and craft activities, along with the chance to explore the Mill. Visitors are encouraged to dress in Regency costume for a fully immersive experience.

For those interested in history and textiles, an online talk on 11 June explores the recreation of a suit worn by George Washington in 1789, using silk woven at Whitchurch. This project highlights the Mill's continuing role in historic textile production.

The Mill's popular craft workshops run throughout the month, offering hands-on opportunities to learn new skills. Sessions include beginner crochet, weaving a wall hanging, and a full-day willow workshop to create a decorative sculpture. These workshops are suitable for all abilities, with materials provided.

Visitors can also join a **Silk Production Tour** on 23 June to see the historic looms in action and learn about the Mill's skilled weavers.

Looking ahead, a talk on 7 July will explore the history of Levi Strauss & Co. and the global story of denim, presented by the company's historian.

Most events require advance booking via the Mill shop or website. Whether you are looking for a relaxing visit, a creative activity or something new to learn, Whitchurch Silk Mill offers a varied and engaging programme this summer.

1st Kingsclere Beavers: Fun Adventures for Busy Beavers



At 1st Kingsclere Scout Group, our Beavers section is a brilliant way **for children aged 6–8** to start their adventure, make new friends, and have loads of fun along the way. Beavers get stuck into all sorts of activities, trying new things together in a friendly, supportive setting. We **meet on Monday evenings** during term time **at our Scout hut**. Inside, there's a warm, well-equipped space for games and crafts; outside, Beavers can explore, light small fires, cook, and grow plants.

Last term, a significant focus of the programme was the Team Working Challenge Badge, where each Beaver had the opportunity to take the lead for their team. In addition, the Beavers enjoyed a Burns Night celebration featuring Scottish food and country dancing, and a session on tying shoelaces and reef knots. The final stretch of term was dedicated to the Space Activity Badge, covering what we can observe in the sky, the scale of the Universe, constellations (including Orion), telescopes from Hubble to James Webb, and our solar system.

When we asked a few parents to send us what their kids think, we received, *"I like doing new, fun things that I don't do at school or at home. I like making new friends and earning my badges by doing new things."* Another told us, *"I have been enjoying Beavers as we have made delicious bread and I have enjoyed the team games, they have been so exciting and fun."* It's clear that Beavers are full of fun, friendship, and memorable experiences that children can't wait to be part of.

If you are interested in your child joining Beavers, or if you would like to help as a volunteer, please get in touch. None of this would be possible without our dedicated leaders and volunteers. Volunteering only a few hours a month makes a huge difference.

Other Sections : We also have a small number of spaces available in our other sections, Squirrels (ages 4–6), Cubs (ages 8–10½) and Scouts (ages 10½–14½) and are seeking leaders there as well.

Contact:

James Cairns – Kingsclerebeavers@gmail.com

Martin Beaver – Kingsclere@bwds.org.uk

Kingsclere Tennis Club



Come and join our tennis club!

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

This is a friendly session for adults, with all abilities welcome, whether you're a regular player or just fancy giving it a go. We will arrange people into groups of 4 to play for a short while then we will rotate around.

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](https://www.kingscleretennisclub.co.uk)

Kingsclere Rugby Club

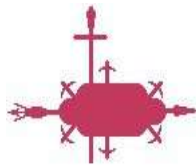
Training –will restart on 15th July.

Walking Rugby

Wednesdays mixed 7 – 8 pm

Thursdays women 7 – 8 pm

On 11th April a mixed team attended a festival at Reading RFC and played games against Reading, Slough and Thatcham.



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 – 8.30 pm.

Everyone is welcome to join from 14 years old and upwards. You are very welcome to come along join us.

Fixtures and Results

11th April New Milton 2nd's Lost 28 – 15. Player of the Match was Connor Thompson

17th April Tadley Bandits Won 40 – 14. Players of the Match were George Davis and Harry Keatley.

For more information, please contact:

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



Thank you so much for such a wonderful turnout and all your generosity at the Coffee Morning on 9th May. **We raised £1,075.42 for Cancer Research UK.**

A special thank-you to our bakers and those who worked so hard helping on the day. We literally do not have the capacity to do these things without volunteers. Our thanks and appreciation must also go to those who work hard to maintain the Village Club and its garden. It was the perfect venue.

Our next two events are:

A Musical Interlude

An informal concert with local musicians Bethany Miles and Claire Ellis.
Sun 7th June 2026 2pm at the Village Club.
Free entry, donations to CRUK.

If you are available to help serve refreshments at the interval please contact Claire on 07919 894795.

The Odyssey Ball

6pm on Friday 4th September 2026 at Oakley Hall Hotel.
Tickets £90 from the website.
Last ticket orders: Fri 3rd July 2026.

Aldermaston Coaches are sponsoring the event and will once again provide transport from and back to Kingsclere.

We are still seeking donations of high-quality prizes for the Online Silent Auction, as well as sponsorship for this event. Please contact us if you can help.

Beccy, Claire, Mandy and Sean

Prize donation, sponsorship and ball tickets: <https://kingsclerecrf.org.uk/>
Email: admin@kingsclereCRF.org.uk
Or call Sean: 07787 527326



