

# The Kingsclere Tower



**November 2020**

**Your Village Magazine**

# The Kingsclere Tower

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Our abnormal year continues, with well-loved traditions in November affected. The FKS Fireworks, which raise so much money for the school and sees people flocking to Kingsclere from far and wide is cancelled. The RBL ceremonies have been scaled down and there is not a parade this year. While some sports and activities have been resuming, not everyone is comfortable attending yet, and many changes have been made. No one knows what will happen for Christmas.

However it is heartening to see people pulling together and making the best of it where they can. The Fireworks is being replaced with a ‘Glowstick Trail’ for families to enjoy. Remembrance Sunday will still occur with services, and people may ‘attend’ some of the events on-line. Many organisations are shortening events or having ‘virtual’ attendance as we learn safer ways to get together. Meanwhile, the doctors and scientists continue working hard to learn more about this virus and how to combat it, which will eventually get us back together in person.

**The Editor**

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Neither the Editor nor the Management Committee accept responsibility for the opinions expressed or the goods and services advertised in the Kingsclere Tower magazine.

**COPY DEADLINE for December 2020 issue: 12th November 2020**

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

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

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# Kingsclere Parish Council

**Chairman:** John Sawyer (297221)

**Clerk:** Louise Porton (298634 or  
07915 950407)

**Email:** [clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk)

**Office:** 37 George St, Kingsclere RG20 5NH

**Public Opening:** Mon & Wed 9:30 -11:30am



**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ARRANGMENTS FOR 2020** – Due to the restrictions in place for the coronavirus pandemic, Remembrance Sunday is going to look much different this year. There will not be a parade and therefore the usual road closure has not been arranged. The Parish Council is encouraging the parishioners of Kingsclere to mark the event with a 2 minutes silence at home this year. The Royal British Legion and the Parish Council will be laying a wreath at the War Memorial and in a similar style to VE & VJ Day, the ceremony will be videoed and streamed on Parish Council Facebook page.

**CHRISTMAS PARCELS** – Each year the Lions Club in Tadley contacts the Parish Council for a list of names for elderly residents to receive a Christmas Hamper. I have not been asked to provide the list yet this year, but I hope the Lions Club will be able to continue with this much loved service this year. Please could you let me know of anyone you can think of that should receive a parcel and does not currently. Unfortunately, they are unable to deliver to anyone in Rose Hodson Court so please do not nominate anyone who lives there - I believe the Lions Club contribute to the Christmas Party for these residents instead.

**GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING** – the collections dates are 4th and 18th November 2020.

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

**BDBC CONSULTATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND AIR QUALITY STRATEGY** – Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is now consulting on a draft of their new *Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy*. A summary of the strategy is below. Further details, including the full strategy, an accompanying Action Plan, and a **survey** to gather feedback are available at <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/climate-consultation>

Climate change remains arguably the greatest threat to the world and air quality issues threaten damage to our health. The impacts of these issues are not just confined to the other side of the world but are expected to have significant impacts locally and for our residents, particularly the most vulnerable members of our community. That is why we must all step up and take action.

And tackling these issues will bring a whole host of benefits to our borough, creating a healthier place to live and work, providing new jobs and helping tackle social issues such as fuel poverty.

In summary, the strategy sets out a framework for us to take action to tackle these issues and meet the ambitious targets set out in our **Climate Emergency declaration**, in particular:

- Becoming carbon neutral in council operations by 2025
- Working towards Basingstoke & Deane borough being carbon neutral by 2030.

The proposed strategy categorises actions into 6 main categories:

**Action by all** – the need for everyone in the borough to contribute

**Buildings** – tackling emissions from heating and powering our buildings

**Transport** – tackling emissions from vehicles

**Zero carbon electricity** – supporting the transition to a decarbonised electricity system

**Waste and consumption** – reducing waste and consumption

**Natural Environment and offsetting** – maximising the climate mitigation and adaptation qualities of the natural environment

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



@kingsclerepc



facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil

# Kingsclere Community Library



We are delighted to see people continuing to use the library, and in doing so following the safety precautions in place for our volunteers and library users.

We are following the most up to date advice available, and are now opening windows and the front door periodically to change the air in the room.

Please remember that an appointment is not required, but you may find it helpful to book your library time. If you attend without booking, you may need to wait outside, since we are keeping numbers restricted for everyone's safety. Appointments may be made on the library phone number below (texts but not voice mails accepted) or the email.

We are having our delayed Annual General Meeting On-line on Wednesday, 18th Nov. at 7:30 pm. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to the library email and you will receive joining instructions.

We have started an appeal to once again 'Save Kingsclere Library' with a fund raising drive. Our increased rent, impending loss of Hampshire County support and inability to hold our fundraising activities this year puts our financial survival at risk, and your help is needed. We are grateful for any amount : [www.gofundme.com/f/save-kingsclere-library](http://www.gofundme.com/f/save-kingsclere-library)

**Nicki Lee, Kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com 07899 623872**

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

Entries drawn first week of each month, various village venues

St Mary's 200 Club Winner November 2020, No. 68, **GR Fincham**  
**Well done, George!**

# Kingsclere Primary School



Despite the chill in the air following a turn of the seasons, our school remains a warm and vibrant place filled with excitement & learning. Our Year R children have settled into school with tremendous poise & are thoroughly enjoying the newly purchased resources and furniture in their classroom. We have had a re-vamp of our classroom spaces and have set up the environment to support purposeful choices in learning ensuring high levels of engagement and development. Together with the Year 1 pupils in class, they have already made fantastic progress and we are delighted to see how settled they are into our school routines and expectations.

Our new reading books are being well utilised across the school and children are enjoying accessing e-books as part of our subscription service. We have purchased new maths resources to support high quality teaching and learning leading to high levels of engagement and understanding in maths. Our sports provider, Active 360, continue to deliver our maths booster programme to enable the children to make mathematical links in their learning whilst enjoying physical exercise and playing games.

As Fireworks night is sadly cancelled due to the current situation, FKS have been busy organising alternatives for the children to enjoy. Join us in our **‘Glowstick Trail’** around the village from Friday 6th – Sunday 8th November with options for a £5 goodie bag per family! Please contact the school office for more information.

Mrs Hannah Melrose  
Headteacher





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

People coming together in a range of social gatherings and activities is at the heart of what the Kingsclere Community Association (KCA) aims to do, so it's good to see some organised activities and small social groupings (of six or less) here, along with the organised sports teams using the fields again.

Working with other groups to put on large activities and events within the Centre is on hold at the moment, so we are keen to bring them out into the community. We hope that many of you will have taken part in our Halloween Puzzle Trail on 31st October; congratulations to those who won prizes donated by a variety of businesses. For Christmas we are organising entertainment to add to the festive spirit. Details will be in the next Tower and our website.

Despite restrictions, organised activities and businesses can (at the time of writing) still operate at the Centre. The centre is ideal for use as a base for local community support groups, or for socially distanced business meetings so give us a call. There are also a range of tasks that need to be done to keep the centre functioning. If you are looking to spend some time volunteering, which can include practical work experience, or if you have an idea about community support, please contact us.

We have been focusing on making sure the centre is in good condition for the past couple of years, and we have been fortunate in being awarded grants for capital work. A grant from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (B&DBC) will go towards upgrading the electrical system. Previous funding from B&DBC, Greenham Trust and Hampshire County Council will now upgrade the heating system. KCA has been managing the improvements to the sports facilities, owned and operated by B&DBC, and has recently been awarded a grant by them for the drainage of the sports pitches planned for Spring 2021. It is encouraging that B&DBC continue to support our community facilities.

A notice and invitation for the KCA's Annual General Meeting towards the end of November will be published when the date is confirmed.

[www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk](http://www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk), 01635 298497, [fieldgatecentre@btconnect.com](mailto:fieldgatecentre@btconnect.com)



# Kingsclere Rugby Club

*Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline,  
Sportsmanship*



Kingsclere Rugby Club would like to invite you to come along and join us - inclusive of all ages 17+ and no matter what level of experience you have you will get a great welcome. Due to Covid-19 restrictions we are working through the RFU Return to Play Roadmap. We are currently at Stage D of a six-stage recovery plan allowing Touch Rugby and must wait until Stage F before we are back to full-contact rugby.

We train from 7:00pm on Wednesdays at The Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere RG20 5SQ.

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



Please follow us on Kingsclere RFC

## Kingsclere Minis Rugby Club

Great news KRFC Minis is back on - 10:30am on Sundays at the Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere RG205SQ. Minis Rugby is currently for Ages 4 to 10 years (but please feel free to contact us regarding any other age groups).

We are running sessions with a revised format based on the latest approved RFU Covid-19 guidelines and following all relevant risk assessments. All activity is outside, all training equipment is cleaned before and after each session and we have hand sanitizer stations set up for each group to use every 15 mins.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the sessions over the coming weeks, but if you don't yet feel comfortable to do so then we look forward to seeing you as soon as you do.

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



Please follow us on Kingsclere RFC Minis

# A Community Christmas

with the Kingsclere Players and the  
Fieldgate Centre



Santa's elves are busy working on a COVID safe way for us to put on a 2020 Christmas Community event to remember. Whether we're at home or can gather together, be ready to be entertained with live and pre recorded performances in Kingsclere this Christmas season! Kingsclere Singers may participate and we welcome other groups to get involved too.

Follow us on the Fieldgate Centre Facebook page or visit the Fieldgate website for dates and details on how you can participate.



## **Growing2gether Christmas Fayre**

Saturday 21st November, 10-3pm

Lots of gorgeous handmade gifts.  
Come and support small local independent makers.

This is a timed ticket event. Book your free ticket  
[www.eventbrite.ca/e/growing2gether-christmas-fayre-tickets-124254425331](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/growing2gether-christmas-fayre-tickets-124254425331)  
or follow the link on our Facebook page @gr0wing2gether

Cottismore Park, Newbury Road, 01635 299949  
Registered Charity 1082243

## Royal British Legion

Planning has now been completed to conduct a short but dignified act of remembrance on **Sunday the 8th November 2020**, which will, at the time of writing, keep us within the Government guidelines and directions regarding COVID 19.



Key points are:

- There will be no street parade this year from the old Council Office Car Park to the memorial.
- We will be unable to hold the traditional indoor church service at St Mary's. Rev Ben will be holding Sunday service following the outside Act of Remembrance.
- There will be a short but dignified service outside, at the memorial from just before 11am, similar in format to that held to mark VJ Day in August. Attendance will be strictly managed for those with an active part in the service (Standard Bearer, Vicar etc). Four wreaths will be laid as a part of the service. Any additional wreaths will be laid following the main service.
- Due to current restrictions we would discourage attendance at the memorial at 11am, this is in line with the current RBL guidance.
- If you need a wreath for either your organisation or individually, please contact me on 01635 628004 as soon as you can to aid planning.
- Although there will be no large scale Poppy Appeal launch this year, you will see collecting tubs and goodies in the local shops and a table top sales from the 24th October, so please stop by and pick up some goodies and help out a great cause.

## Kingsclere Medical Centre Retirements

It is with considerable sadness that the village has said goodbye to two of our doctors recently. Dr. Alison Steare retired in June this year after 25 years working from the Health Centre and Dr Sarah Bond retired at the end of September.

Sarah has been with the practice for 33 years joining not very long after the surgery move from the Rookery in Swan Street to the present premises. Those of us who remember the Rookery will know it bore some resemblance to the fictional Tannochbrae surgery of Dr Finlay. Friendly but distinctly out-dated.

Sarah's husband Dr David Pollard was responsible for the planning of the new surgery which made such an improvement to the medical services in the village. Sadly, David died in 2004 and it has been under the leadership of Sarah and the support of colleagues like Allison that the medical services in Kingsclere have developed.

Sarah's connection with medicine in the village has not finished entirely as her stepdaughter Dr Kirsty Pollard is one of The Watership Down Health doctors based at the Overton practice.

We wish Sarah and Alison a long and happy retirement and a very big "Thank You" for their years of service to Kingsclere.

**The Editors**

### Mystery of the Dead Red Kites - Update



Regarding the dead red kites, reported in September: We have been advised by PC Lee Stanbrook of Hants police country watch team that a crime number has now been created, ref 44200397592, if anyone has any further details of this incident, or others relating to dead red kites in the village.

# The Church Pages



“Lord, please may it end, please may it end, Lord...” That was my repeated prayer as I felt myself being spun around and around and around. I knew when I sat down and pulled down the restraint that it was a bad idea. But I’d impulsively jumped onto the waltzer with my two eldest daughters not really thinking until it was too late.

It began gently, falsely reassuring me, but got faster and faster, matching the pace of the music. Each time the fairground attendant span the car, it felt like we were going to fly off, and I held onto to the bar for dear life, finding it absolutely unbearable. The girls laughed and laughed, untroubled by their dad’s panic and discomfort. Finally, we felt it slow and, with a deep feeling of relief on my part, it came to an end. As I left the ride, smiling weakly at the grinning fairground attendant, I vowed never to go on the waltzer ever again!

That prayer, ‘Lord, please may it end, please may it end’, probably will be a prayer many of us have prayed over the last six months as we’ve prayed about the pandemic. And I guess it’s a prayer that has been prayed many times down through history as people have faced situations which they have found unbearable, perhaps in times of war or famine or oppression. As we remember those who lost their lives in war this month, horrors seen and experienced must have prompted that prayer.

In the Bible, we find that prayer answered many times as Jesus heals those with long-standing health conditions, and as He brings hope to those who felt rejected by their society. Yet at other times, we see that prayer seemingly go unanswered as Jesus’ followers face hardship, pain and persecution.

But God does promise an end: “There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain” as Revelation, the Bible’s final book, puts it. Believing that day is coming should enable us to live today without fear, not because Coronavirus won’t touch us, though we pray it won’t, but because we know that no matter what, even if it hits us hard, we will be safe eternally as we put our hope and trust in Jesus.

Faith in Him makes all the difference – live it and keep praying, “Lord, please may it end”.

Blessings, Ben

# Sunday Worship at St Mary's Church

## November

All our churches have followed government and Church of England guidelines and have put measures in place to keep everyone safe. For more details on what to expect when you come to worship, see [www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk](http://www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk).

	8am (Book of Common Prayer)	9.30am (Common Worship)	10.30am
1 Nov	<b>Headley</b> Holy Communion	<b>Kingsclere</b> Holy Communion	<b>Kingsclere</b> All-Age Messy Worship
8 Nov			<b>Remembrance:</b> Kingsclere 10.50am Ashford Hill 10.50am Headley 3.00pm
15 Nov		<b>Ashford Hill</b> Morning Worship	<b>Kingsclere</b> Communion Service
22 Nov		<b>Ashford Hill</b> Holy Communion	<b>Kingsclere</b> Morning Worship
29 Nov			<b>Kingsclere</b> Communion Service

If you're unable to worship with us in person please join us via our livestream every Sunday at 10.30am on YouTube (link via [www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk](http://www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk))

### Private Prayer

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

### Thursday Worship

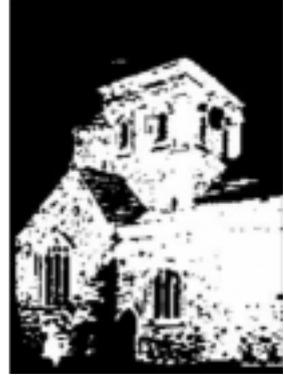
Every Thursday at 10.30am there will be a worship service held in the side chapel of St Mary's with prayers, music and a short bible study, particularly for those who are not yet confident in coming to Sunday worship & for those who are feeling isolated and would like to meet others mid-week for worship.

## Lighting up St Mary's

The sight of St Mary's Church when it is floodlit is truly beautiful. Many people sponsor these lights (£12 per evening) to celebrate an occasion, such as a birthday, wedding, anniversary, christening, or some other special day in their lives.

To book contact :

**Emma, Church Administrator**  
tel 07790 934972



### October

11th	In memory of my beloved wife, Valerie Panting. You'll always be in my heart because there you're still alive. Love and miss you so much, Bas.
31st	Congratulations Catherine and Raz on your wedding today. Wishing you many happy years of married life together. Lots of love Mum, Dad, Nicki, Ashley & Nanny xxxxx

### November

11th	Happy birthday to Maisie Phenix, 102 years old on November 11. Very best wishes and all their love from her daughters and granddaughters and their families in Canada, and her great grandson and fiancée in New Zealand.
23rd	Dearest Eileen.. Forever in Our Hearts... Anne & Bill xx

# Kingsclere Methodist Church

We are still able to enjoy worship together on a fortnightly basis and the Service begins at 10am. We very much hope that you will be able to join us and look forward to seeing you.

Wendy Morgan. Senior Steward. 297538

## Service dates for November

1st Nov.	Revd. Rachel Borgars	10.00 am
8th Nov.	<i>No Service</i>	
15th Nov.	Jeff Britt	10.00 am
29th Nov.	Revd. Rachel Borgars (Advent Sunday)	10.00 am

**Contact details:** see Back Cover

## CAMARADERIE

Once again, it is with much regret that we have to report the cancellation of our December Camaraderie Meeting. Indeed, we are afraid that the meetings are cancelled until further notice.

In the current uncertain times, we cannot plan anything. The Methodist School Room is not currently in use. We are unable to book speakers and current legislation states that we cannot get together in groups of more than 6.

However, we are all still here for you, our loyal members. Please do not hesitate to call the number listed below if you need anything or just fancy a chat.

Rest assured that as soon as we are able, we will be back in full force. We will announce the return to normality in The Tower but until then we wish you well and hope you all have a good Christmas.

Wendy Morgan – 01635 297538  
Sarah Davies

# Kingsclere Gardening Association

The Garden Club put on a small display of fruit, flowers and vegetables in St Marys Church for the Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 4th. Les Wallace was the organiser, Denise Allen and Sylvia Pennington and myself helped with the supply and arranging of the produce on the Saturday afternoon. I brought some vegetables, Les brought his dahlias and Denise the floral material. It was good to be involved with doing something instead nothing at all as has been the case this year.

Other positive things to note, I am told Chelsea flower show will go ahead next year and our neighbouring village of Burghclere have arranged flower shows for next year and have booked our tables for the summer one. Let us hope these events can take place and a little normality resume.

With the changing season the garden changes, tender plants taken in to the greenhouse, what good colour the succulents are after a summer outside, and the black aeothiums are spectacular as well. The large holly tree is simply smothered in berries and will be scarlet at Christmas, the birds often leave these berries alone until very late or the weather gets severe - some trees are stripped well before Christmas.



The cyclamen are still flowering well, I think the rain did them good, am told we had 4 and a half inches over three days, a record I think. Cyclamen leaves begin to show now, and with many different patterns create interest without the flowers. The ongoing battle with ground elder I will never win, the michaemas daisies seemed to flower later this year but are now well in flower and most welcome. When one has perennial plants it becomes necessary to thin out and discard. Some will take over completely so a lot of Japanese anemones etc are going. I want everything to earn its place.

## Kingsclere Village Club



We are delighted to announce that we have secured £34,000 of funding from Greenham Common Trust which unlocks a £34,500 grant from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Local Infrastructure Fund gained earlier in March this year. The funds will together help us to improve insulation, upgrade heating systems and put in place other energy efficiency measures.

These will improve the comfort of the building in the winter for users, and be 'greener', by reducing the amount of energy we use. The project was also supported by a Kingsclere Parish Council grant of £250, and £3,000 from our own funds. Our huge thanks go to all of these organisations, as well as our local Councillors for their support. The Grade II listed building is well loved and used by many of you and adds to the special character of Kingsclere but it is always in need of practical care and repair! We have already undertaken minor structural repairs this year and will also be fixing a leaking part of the roof as soon as possible. We have been busy over the summer in the Club's lovely garden, putting in a new flower border - many thanks to all of those who have helped plant it up so far.

Helen 297390

### Made in Kingsclere by

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studio

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now available at SPAR Swan Street

Find us on Instagram & Etsy  
PICOLOCO STUDIO  
Picolocostudio@gmail.com

## November in the Garden

Now is the time to tidy the garden for the winter. If you like to cut back the herbaceous borders, since most plants have finished flowering, it can be done now, weather permitting, as the days can be frosty with cold winds.

When there is a dry day without the wind, rake up the remaining leaves. Try to keep off lawns when wet, use a plank to stand on if needed, and avoid treading on frosted lawns otherwise the result will be burns that damage the grass.

With so little work to do in the garden, cleaning and maintaining our tools is good idea, particularly as we now have a business in the village that will sharpen our tools. It's so nice to take out sharpened tools to start work on the garden in the Spring.

Bare rooted roses can be planted, as can deciduous trees and shrubs; weather permitting, these can be planted from now until March. Plant tulips in the garden or pots before the end of the month. If you grow in smaller pots they can be sunk into the garden in the spring if you find you have a spot that is lacking in colour.

Tie in any climbers to secure them from further winds through the winter, and also remember to check any tree ties and stakes.

Large pots with suitable plants that cannot be moved easily may be insulated with hessian sacking and bubble wrap .

Carry on digging in the vegetable garden, lift parsnips, harvest Brussel spouts, and protect cauliflower heads by bending over inner leaves to prevent the curds from going yellow. Remember to net any brassicas that will over winter, as they will become welcome food for the birds.

Pruning established apple and pear trees can begin now. Any branches that cross or rub against one another should be cut away completely, keeping the centre of the tree open. Other leader branches should be cut back by one third.

There are a few colourful plants and shrubs still in the garden, including winter flowering honeysuckle, small flowers with a wonderful scent, the smoke bush with deep red leaves, many interesting grasses, and Pyracantha, with lovely orange berries. If you are fond of foliage plants, I recommend Arum Italicum Pictum. It makes an appearance at this time of year, stays all winter then dies back for the Summer, and its leaves are good for cutting to use in the house .

## Bill Cooper

Irene Cooper and Tracy would like to thank all our neighbours and friends who came out to say farewell to Bill as he passed through the village on Wednesday 7th October.

As we passed down Swan Street, the Kingsclere players gave him a rousing cheer and clapped loudly. It made my heart sing to think he had the send-off he deserved, a big thank you from us both.



We would like to thank Howe and son Funeral Directors, who made everything so easy for us.

Anyone wishing to make a tribute on Bill's timeline can still do so on their website. So far, he has raised £1186.25 for his chosen charities, Kingsclere Village Club and Kingsclere Community Association. <https://williamcooper.muchloved.com/>

And lastly, the wonderful Rev Rachel Borgars who I am sure is an angel in disguise...

From Wendy Morgan - Bill and I met at Kingsclere Secondary Modern School in September 1954. Soon after leaving, Mr Ted Dredge who had been one of our well liked teachers, asked us leavers if we would be interested in forming an Amateur Dramatic Group. Quite a few, including Bill and myself agreed to give it a go and so "THE KOPADS" ( Kingsclere Old Pupils Amateur Dramatic Society) was born.

We put on plays and entertainment in what was then The Albert Hall in Swan Street and of course played to packed houses and huge applause! I like to think that this was perhaps the start of Bill's lifelong passion and enthusiasm for Amateur Dramatics and Entertainment. There are probably very few of us who have not at sometime attended one of the many functions that he organised on behalf of the Hog the Limelight Acts, in the Village Club.

I well remember Irene and Bill, Rock and Rolling to the music of Ricky Cool and the Gang! Thank you Bill for giving so many people so many hours of laughter and fun and of course, Thank you for the Music!

*There were also tributes sent to the Tower, from KCA (Fieldgate Centre), Kingsclere Players and The Village Club which we do not have space to print but have been shared with the family. ~ Editors*

# Kingsclere Village Bunnies

## Baby and Toddler Group



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

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

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

We hope that if not already, Bunnies will be in a position to reopen soon, as we are taking guidance from various other local groups to make sure we are safe and ready for your return. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

A few autumn/firework activity ideas for your under 5's:

- Firework painting - take a drinking straw and cut slits about 5cm long, so that you can spread the sections out (to look a bit like a chimney sweep brush). Dip this in paint and print your fireworks onto paper.
- Make your own sparkler – cut up strips of shiny and coloured paper and attach to the end of a stick
- Toilet roll rockets, add a cone to the end of a toilet roll and some fire out of the bottom using tissue paper
- Make a leaf crown – go collecting leaves and stick to a paper crown
- Fir cone hedgehogs – collect some fir cones and add googly eyes and faces to make friendly hedgehogs

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

## St Michael's Church West Door

The three verses of Christina Rossetti's poem above the West Door of the Church are now legible again. The inscription was proposed and funded by Mr John Porter (Kingsclere Stables) in 1920 and has been unreadable for many years.

Thank you to Alan Denness, Chris Legge, George White and F.O.S.M. for arranging and funding the repair.



*They lie at rest, our blessed dead;  
The dew drops cool above their head,  
They knew not when fleet summer fled.*

*Together all, yet each alone;  
Each laid at rest beneath his own  
Smooth turf or white allotted stone.*

*God be with you, our great and small,  
Our loves, our best beloved of all,  
Our own beyond the salt sea-wall.*

Christina Rossetti

### ***Volunteer for Home-Start NWH!***

Our volunteers provide positive and friendly support to families with young children. The volunteering roles are varied, increasingly flexible and always tailored to fit around our volunteers own life.

We are currently recruiting for new volunteers to join our team. Volunteers undertake a 25hr training course. **During these uncertain times, there may be a mixture of face training and online sessions.**

Our next Volunteer Course will run every Tuesday over 5 weeks starting **19th January 2021 from 9:30am-2pm!**

01256 325793, [info@homestart-nwhampshire.org.uk](mailto:info@homestart-nwhampshire.org.uk)  
[www.homestart-nwhampshire.org.uk](http://www.homestart-nwhampshire.org.uk)



## Nature Notes

We were watching three well grown cygnets on the lakes by the river Anton when they suddenly clattered into flight and flew for over 100m: Not elegant flight, with feet still trailing in the water for much of the way but the power of their wings was evident. They then paddled back to the start, swam a little then off they went again. It was such an impressive display that we sat in the September sun and enjoyed five performances until they turned their attention to feeding. A little further along the path was the rather flattened nest on which the parent birds were leisurely stretched but not for long, as the young aviators arrived to spoil their tranquillity..

Wasps were still very active and were to-ing and fro-ing in a well rotted alder stump down at water level, the nest being tucked within and out of sight. In most Summers groups of tiny mining bees, of which there are several species, can be seen energetically digging into light soil along lawn and border edges. Eggs are laid in the burrows, supplied with pollen, sealed and left to hatch. This year hundreds of lawn bees as they are described could be seen flying low over whole lawn areas. The soil beneath was known to be sandy and this was evident in the tiny piles of evacuated material brought to the surface. This activity lasted for several weeks and now only small patches of sand remain. The sheer numbers of bees had been exceptional.

There was concern about the sudden absence of red kites locally especially as four were found dead recently. Certainly we noticed that buzzards had the sky to themselves for nearly a month. Happily these beautiful birds are back in full strength again.

*Mallards with ducklings*



## **Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands WI**

Venue: Kingsclere Village Club, 35 George Street



This is as good a time as any to look back on the month of March 2020 - that month-of-months which none of us is likely to forget for all the worst reasons. But, there IS a good-sense story here, if not a simply good-news one, involving the speaker we had booked for that month.

**Mrs Valerie Dubben**, had the wisdom to cancel her presentation ‘**Quilts & the Underground Railroad.**’ The talk was to have blended practical elements of Val’s own professional skills in quilting (including a display) with some historical references concerning the last days of slavery in America. A substitute speaker was fortunately found. Val’s cancellation was necessarily a last-minute one - phone call on the 10th - but she made her reasons clear. Her daughter’s friend was a doctor in London, among the first to witness admissions for patients taken ill with the ‘new Coronavirus’. He told her, “Take great care. Cancel any bookings you’ve made & do it sooner rather than later.” Val’s entire family took heed. We at W.I. were to hear more after we’d had to cancel subsequent speaker-bookings and started keeping in touch with all individuals involved.

Val’s two sons moved in with Mum & her puppy and with 3 dog-walkers now in residence they say they’re surprised Border Collie Lettie hasn’t ended up looking like a dachshund! Val remarks, “We are all keeping well. My sons are still here and they’re good company even if they are a bit big for the nest!”

In March Valerie Dubben had spoken wisely: “It’s all about minimising risk,” she’d said. “Caroline’s doctor-boyfriend ended up in ICU, on a respirator. He was very, very ill but pulled through and is making a recovery, albeit quite slowly.”

**IT’S ALL ABOUT MINIMISING RISK. Is that not a good thing to keep in mind?**

**Nova Saunderson, 299570**

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## CANCELLATIONS THIS MONTH

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As I write, sadly Film Club's activities remain suspended, and it seems that the trend is towards further restrictions. We will be in touch as soon as we are able to go ahead. In the meantime, remember we are happy to lend DVDs to members for home viewing.

Please stay safe and stay in touch.

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

### **KINGSCLERE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**

We had hoped to commence our winter programme of speaker meetings last month with our AGM followed by a further presentation by our Chairman Richard Croft on the Continuing Story of Kingsclere. However after full consideration we decided to cancel that meeting and our proposed meetings in November and December. The increasing incidence of the corona virus is such that we feel that in spite of Government guidelines it would not be sensible to continue as previously planned due to the obvious health risks involved.

At the end of the year we will review the position in respect of the rest of our programme. In the meantime we will continue to open the village archives from 2.00pm - 4.00pm on Monday afternoons in the Holding Room at the Village Club. If you wish to enquire please telephone Richard Croft on 298114.

### **St Michael's Hospice Coffee Morning on Saturday 7th November**

It is with regret that I am cancelling the second St Michael's Hospice Coffee Morning of 2020 on Saturday 7th November. Unfortunately, it's impossible to social distance this event. I very much look forward to holding our lovely coffee mornings again in 2021 and hope you will all come along and support this very worthwhile cause.

Sarah Melling

## THE KINGSCLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

### **POLICE, FIRE or AMBULANCE**

Police Enquiries/Information

**Emergency 999**  
**non Emergency 101**

**Kingsclere Health Centre:**

01635 296000

**North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke**

01256 473202

**Parish Council:** 37 George Street (see page 2)

01635 298634

**Dial-a-Ride**

01256 462101

### **CHURCH CONTACTS**

#### **St. MARY'S CHURCH:**

**Vicar** Rev Ben Read, The Vicarage, Foxs Lane

01635 298471

#### **Church Wardens:**

Andrew Kitch andrewkitch16@gmail.com

01635 299743

Sarah Mussett sarah.mussett@hotmail.co.uk

01635 291900

#### **Administrator:**

Emma Rivers

administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

07790 934972

#### **METHODIST CHURCH:**

**Chief Steward** Wendy Morgan

01635 297538

**Secretary & Hire of Hall** Jeanette Billington

01635 297585

**ROMAN CATHOLIC:** Rev Patrick Tansey

0118 9814572

tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Bas & Deane

01256 844844

Kingsclere Library

0300 555 1387

Buses

0345 8101000

Swan Street P O

01635 297035

Trains

0845 748 4950

Vet

01635 29557 or 40565

Gas Emerg.

0800 11999

Dentist

01635 299981

Chemist

01635 298419

### **BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

**Ken Rhatigan** 07850 530319

cllr.ken.rhatigan@basingstoke.gov.uk

**Clare Kinnear** 07970 400864

cllr.clare.kinnear@basingstoke.gov.uk

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

**Tom Thacker** 01264 738464

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](http://www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk/directory)**