

The Kingsclere Tower

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Welcome to our first issue of 2020! If all has gone to plan, we are also welcoming back the return of the yellow pages for our regular adverts. Hopefully most people will agree that separating the adverts on yellow paper makes it easier to navigate between notices and adverts, and will appreciate the change.

We have thoroughly enjoyed receiving notes and letters from recipients of the first round of Tower Grants. It's an absolute pleasure to know that some excess funds we had built up from local advertisers have been put to good uses in the community. **On Page 9** are the **Kingsclere Youth Football Club Under 9s** proudly wearing their new waterproof jackets, purchased just in time for what must be one of the wettest winters in years. We're glad to be able to play our part in keeping them dry!

We are hoping that we will have sufficient funds to be able to make some further grants in the Spring. We have already received some applications which we will review and respond to in May. If you are a local organisation and would like an application form please email the editors.

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 March 2020 issue: 12 February 2020

Send copy to the editors at 3 Blue Meadow, Garrett Close, Kingsclere or
 email: **kingscleretower@gmail.com**

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

Kingsclere Parish Council

Chairman: John Sawyer
Clerk: Louise Porton
Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk
Office: 37 George St, Kingsclere RG20 5NH
Public Opening: Mon & Wed 9:30 -11:30am



POSTER COMPETITION – Entries have been received and at the time of going to press we are arranging for them to be judged. Thank you to all the 5-14 year olds who took the time to design a poster and enter. More on this in the next issue

THANK YOU(S) – Although the Christmas lights are now long gone this is the first opportunity to thank the team of volunteers for the lovely display of lights in the trees and the star projection on the Church wall from end of November 2019 through to 6th January 2020. Thank you to all the volunteers involved who came out in the cold and wet to put up and take down the lights. Also, thank you to the volunteer who spent a couple of hours in the cold pond area at the Malthouse Open Space in January removing all the litter. Over 50 drinks cans were removed by you and we are very grateful for your effort actioning this unpleasant task.

BINS – Residents often complain that bins are not returned to their properties after emptying by the Waste and Recycling crews. Our ward member, Cllr Clare Kinnear, recently spent some time on one of the rounds and commented on the difficulty the crew have with this task if bins are not numbered. If you would like your bin returned to the edge of your property after emptying please make sure your bins are numbered clearly.

VE DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY – **Friday 8th May 2020**, has been designated by the Government as a Bank Holiday to enable as many towns, parishes, district, community and other councils, along with individuals, voluntary organisations, the holiday and hospitality industry including pubs, clubs and hotels etc, to join in the VE Day 75 celebrations, so we do hope that you will take part over the VE Day weekend of the 8th – 10th May 2020, providing you with the opportunity to pay your personal tribute to those who gave so much to ensure we all enjoy the freedom we have today.

The Parish Council is willing to produce a flyer detailing all of the events that will be occurring in the village to commemorate this important time. Please send the Clerk details of any planned events for inclusion when available but no later than 1st March 2020.

VILLAGE DIARY – The Village Diary was created as a central place to check for events, not only for those wanting to see “What’s on” but also as an aid to avoid booking an event when there is already something else going on. If you would like your event listed in the online village diary, please send the details to the clerk at the above email address.

LITTER BINS – The litter bins around the village are provided for the convenience of disposing of litter by residents and visitors while out in the village. They are not provided as overflow bins for domestic waste, particularly waste that should be disposed of at the Household Waste and Recycling Centres. Fly tipping has been occurring at several of the litter bins around the village and this matter is being investigated. The litter bins are emptied by hand and the sacks taken to the Parish Councils Eurobins for emptying by the bin lorries. Misuse of the litter bins is making this task very difficult as the sacks become very heavy to lift out of the receptacles, transport to and lift into the Eurobins.

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING – the collections dates are 12th and 26th February 2020.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – will be at 7:30pm on Monday 24th February 2020, in the Village Club, (unless otherwise notified). We welcome the attendance of all parishioners at our meetings and anyone who wishes to raise any matters of concern will be given the opportunity to do so.

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



@kingsclerepc



facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil

URGENT REQUEST FROM THE TOWER MAGAZINE TEAM

Due to one of our volunteers retiring the team requires **a new delivery volunteer** to help the distribution of the magazine in the following location:

KING JOHN ROAD

This round consists of the delivery of 44 x magazines, generally around the last weekend of each month. The present distributor (Emma) has dedicated many years to this round and now wishes to hand it over to another willing volunteer. Details of the round will be available on hand over. We are sure you have appreciated Emma’s dedication and wish her well for the future.

PLEASE HELP US FILL THIS VACANCY

Please contact Brian Elborn: **Home: 01635 298704 Mob: 07741 075473**
email: b.elborn345@btinternet.com

Police Report

New Community Safety Patrol officer (CSPO)

Hello to Kingsclere residents from your Community Safety Patrol officer (CSPO) Kerri Swinfield.



For those of you who have not already met me please come and say hello to me as I patrol your beautiful village. I have been allocated to Kingsclere, Bishops Green and Winklebury and though I am still finding my way around I am enjoying every moment.

The CSPO Team are employed by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and are accredited by Hampshire Constabulary under the Community Safety Accreditation scheme with powers to deal with low level antisocial behaviour. We are also able to address environmental crimes such as dog fouling and littering through the use of Fixed Penalty Notices.

It is very important to provide us with feedback and information on current issues to allow us to deal with them effectively. As a team we work alongside other agencies such as the police, Safer North Hampshire, Schools, Neighbourhood Watch and other community organisations to promote the feeling of safety within the borough.

I hope to see as many of you as possible whilst walking around, but if you don't manage to see me and would like to chat to me about any issues you might have you can contact me on **01256 844844** or by email on **cspo@basingstoke.gov.uk**

Kerri Swinfield



**Basingstoke
and Deane**



Kingsclere Community Library

Your library is once again under threat of closure.

The County Council is reducing the budget and the Library Service of course needs to participate in this.



A proposal is to make volunteer run libraries such as Kingsclere 'Community Owned'. We would no longer be a part of the Hants County Library Service, and would not receive new books, be able to offer inter-library loans, and all of the other activities that make up being a 'true' library. All the details are in the documents which we urge you to read and then respond to the consultation.

This also affects villages that are closest to Kingsclere Library, such as Highclere, Ecchinswell, Hannington, Headley, etc.

There is a consultation form with details which takes about 15 minutes: www.hants.gov.uk/library-consultation, or collect a form from your library.

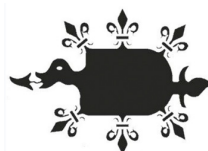
Thank you for your support. Please remember, not everyone can afford a Kindle!

Nicki Lee

Kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com

Kingsclere Heritage Association

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 20th February** when local author and historian **Bob Clarke** will visit us again and talk about his new book:



“ IMPOSTRESS; THE DISHONEST ADVENTURES OF SARAH WILSON”

Bob discovered this character during his investigations into various newspapers and court records for the latter part of the 18th century. Sarah travelled all over England, living on her wits, inventing new identities and embroidering stories to fool victims into providing her with money and fine clothes. Eventually she was transported to America where she continued a new set of adventures. A fascinating story .

We meet at the Village Club at 7.30pm. Visitors are very welcome at £3pp.

Michael Leah, Secretary
tel 297403

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.



KCA would like to thank everyone who enjoyed the Christmas festivities at The Fieldgate Centre and we look forward to seeing you all in the coming year - a new year with new opportunities to join us for health, fitness, wellbeing and fun!

We are very pleased to welcome a new fitness class, a cookery class focussing on diabetes, a new bi-monthly disco, plus Greener Kingsclere's eco-friendly market, and The Watership Down Run. Our regular Monthly Meet-Up is going so well that we need more pairs of hands. If you would like to help keep the momentum going for this popular social gathering, then please give us a call. Next Meet-Up is on Tuesday 18th February.

Felons, Flappers and Foul Play, Murder Mystery Evening Friday 14th February 6.45pm

Kingsclere Players & FOSM present their first ever murder mystery, theatre and dining experience. Tickets available from Swan Street Stores, or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/kingsclere-community-association

.....See opposite for full details

Watership Down Run Sunday 12th July

To register for the run or to volunteer as a course marshall, go to <https://raceroster.com/events/2020/27555/the-watership-down>

Sponsorship opportunities are being offered to local businesses and clubs. Please call or email the office for more information.

Visit our website at www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk
tel: 01635 298497 email: fieldgatecentre@btconnect.com

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd

Our next event will reveal the Fieldgate Centre in a light not seen before, as a 1920's Prohibition era speak-easy bar!

In association with **Kingsclere Community Association** and

Kingsclere Players...

we are roaring into the '20s
with a **BANG!**



“Felons, Flappers and Foul Play”

Join the Players for a **murder mystery dinner theatre evening**.

Enjoy a night of drama, music, dancing and a simple 3-course meal.

You'll be taken back a century to the 1920s in a Chicago speak-easy Jazz club. In America, Prohibition is still in full swing and while it makes alcohol a difficult commodity to attain, it certainly isn't impossible.

The Macaroni brothers are one of Chicago's main families responsible for importing the contraband. They own Swingers, arguably the most popular speakeasy in all Chicago. From bodyguards to sassy jazz singers, alcohol to fine dining, this club has everything.

And on this night – it even has a murder. Bugs Macaroni, the big boss himself, is dead.

The only problem is – ***who killed him?***



When: Friday 14th February

Where: Fieldgate Centre

Time: Doors and bar open at 6:45pm, Dinner served at 7:30pm

£25/person for entertainment and simple 3-course meal

Limited tickets available at Swan Street store, and online at

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/kingsclere-community-association>

Tickets must be bought in advance by 9th February.

Drinks not included in ticket price.

1920s dress attire encouraged, but not required.

**Come and join us for a fantastic evening of entertainment,
supper and sleuthing!**



Kingsclere Film Club

*Second Saturday of the month at 7.30pm (doors open 7.00pm) at the
Village Club, George Street
Saturday, 8 February, 2020*

The Spy Who Came in from the Cold (1965 – Thriller -A - 112min)

John Le Carré's classic Cold War spy tale. British Agent, Alec Leamas (Richard Burton), refuses to come in from the Cold War, choosing to face another mission, which may prove to be his final one.

Next month: Saturday, 7 March – Topkapi (1964)

Kingsclere Film Club welcomes guests at £7.50, subject to space.

New members welcome at any time. For further information call:

John Sawyer (Chairman) 297221 or Diana Tait (Membership Sec) 298494

Sustainable Living Market **19th January 2020**



Thank you to everyone who made our first 'green' market a hugely successful event. We estimate that in excess of 250 people visited (we lost count!). Our Stallholders were all delighted with the interest shown, and as organisers it was a pleasure to see so many people and experience the enthusiastic buzz.

We were sorry to disappoint those who had wanted to purchase bulk food items, however that stallholder had needed to withdraw in the week leading up to the event, and we were unable to find an alternative supplier in the time.

We will be planning another market in March/April, more details in next month's Tower.

Find us on Facebook: **Greener Kingsclere**
or email: [**greenerkingsclere@gmail.com**](mailto:greenerkingsclere@gmail.com)

Overton & District U3A



Our next monthly meeting is

Wednesday 19th February, 10.00am at

St Mary's Hall, Overton, RG25 3HA when our speaker will be

John Pilkington the well known traveller, author and broadcaster. The title of his talk is **'To Eritrea and Ethiopia; Retracing a Victorian expedition.'**

In 1868 our government rescued a group of European hostages in Ethiopia by building a sea port, a railway across the coastal plain, importing 44 Indian elephants and getting 26,000 local people to serve the soldiers and carry their heavy guns. A hundred and fifty years later, John followed in their footsteps and looked at the changes that have happened since.

Our next **Extra-Curricular** is on **Monday 3rd February, 2.00pm**

also at St Mary's Hall, when Tanya Whannell, a Practitioner of

Alternative Treatments and Therapies, will talk to us about the therapies she uses and the difference that can be made to people's lives using therapies such as Reiki and the Alexander Technique and can be a real 'alternative' to conventional medicines and specialists such as Osteopaths and Chiropractors. This promises to be an interesting session.

Kingsclere Youth Football Club U9s in new jackets



Bell Ringing

On Wednesday 13th November a quarter peal of 1260 Plain Bob Doubles was rung in thanksgiving for the life of Robert Newbery. It was also the first quarter peal for Martin Newbery, son of Robert, and also in memory of Robert Davis, uncle of Martin, who was a bellringer who lived in Somerset.

Helen Piper

Christmas Day Lunch in the Kingsmill Room

Following our fifth and final successful Christmas Day Lunch in the Kingsmill Room, we would like to pass on our thanks to everyone who *set-up, picked-up, cooked-up, dished-up, ate-up, sung-up, washed-up and cleared-up with us for the very last time!!* Thanks also to everyone who kindly made donations – you know who you are!



Finally, a special mention to The Kingsclere Tower for their very generous donation which enabled us to make the day even more memorable for everyone – thank you.

We have been hosting these lunches since 2011 and we are so grateful to Kaye, Vicky and Bill who are keen to carry on the tradition.

Happy New Year to you all and best wishes.

Gavin, Pippa and Harry Ashton

The Church Pages



Hiding Place

You will have memories, like me, of your heart beating, squeezed into some tiny space somewhere, trying to keep the sound of your breathing down, as a friend sought to find you whilst playing hide & seek. What great times many of us have had playing that game, and keeping a secret that place that's impossible to find that only we know about!

But hiding isn't always a game, and often we do it because we are afraid or we don't want to face something. We avoid the colleague at work we've hurt, or we put off dealing with a problem because we don't want to have to deal with it. It can sometimes feel like a weak or cowardly thing to do.

But I want to talk to you this month about 'hiding in' rather than 'hiding from'. It's a very different thing. The song book of the Bible, the book of Psalms, talks about God being 'my hiding place'. To make God your hiding place does not demonstrate cowardice but courage. It displays a self-awareness that we need God's help; we need His protection; we need Him as our place of refuge. It says that if I want to live life the best I can, if I want to live life as fulfilled as I can, if I want to live life as lovingly as I can, then I need God's help, God's wisdom, God's strength.

Hiding in God means that when we face the challenges and problems of life, we can depend on One who has infinite wisdom and power, One who can guide and steer, One who can protect and watch over. To hide in God means to put our faith in Him, to trust Him for the way ahead, to allow Him to take the lead in our lives.

And in Jesus Christ, we can 'hide' from the shame and guilt we feel when we've mucked up, hurt others or damaged ourselves. Jesus Christ is the hiding place of the Christian and He can be that because of He hid in Himself our shame and guilt, our pain and sorrow, our selfishness and wrong. He took those things and died so that all who trust Him can live fully now but also for all eternity.

So this month, I pray that you might find in Him your hiding place whatever you face.

Blessings, Ben

Services in February 2020

St Paul's, Ashford Hill

23rd February 11am Holy Communion

St Peter's, Headley

2nd February 8am Holy Communion

9th February 11am Holy Communion

16th February 8am Holy Communion

26th February 4pm Ash Wednesday Communion

St Mary's, Kingsclere

Breakfast every week at 8.45am in the Kingsmill Room

2nd February 9.15am Communion

9th February 8am Communion and 9.15am Morning Worship

16th February 9.15am Messy Worship and 11am Communion

23rd February 8am Communion and 9.15am Morning Worship

For more information on services and events in our churches:

www.clerewoodlands.org.uk

Methodist Services

2nd February 10am Holy Communion : Rev. David Read

9th February 10am Morning Worship : Malcolm Stone

16th February 10am Morning Worship : Rev. Rachel Borgars

23rd February 10.30am Joint Service at Whitechurch

All are welcome to attend

St Mary's Church

Vicar	Rev Ben Read, The Vicarage, Fox's Lane	01635 298471
Church Wardens	Andrew Kitch, andrewkitch16@gmail.com	01635 299743
	Sarah Mussett, sarah.mussett@hotmail.co.uk	01635 291900
Adminstrator	Emma Rivers	07790 934972
	administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk	

Methodist Church

Chief Steward	Wendy Morgan	01635 297538
Secretary & Hire of Hall	Jeanette Billington	01635 297585

Roman Catholic

Rev Patrick Tansey	tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	0118 981 4572
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Lighting up St Mary's

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

For more information contact

Emma, our Church Administrator on 07790 934972.

February 2020

- 11th For Chris, remembering our special day. With love always, Sue
- 14th Michael Hopkins –Never out of my thoughts. Loved forever, Jac xxx
- 14th Happy Birthday Lillums
- 20th Remembering John David Wesson on his birthday. With love from Karen & Paul
- 25th Congratulations Chris on gaining your dolphins. Very proud of you! Love Mum, Dad and Sophie

St Mary's Kingsclere Garden of Remembrance

In the interests of keeping the Garden of Remembrance in St Mary's Churchyard neat, tidy and safe and making it a fitting resting place, there are regulations set by the church council which were last updated in September 2017. A copy of these regulations is available on the noticeboard inside the main doors of the church, or by contacting Emma Rivers, Administrator.

Unfortunately there are some plots with flowers and ornaments which make the plots difficult to maintain. We gave notice in the Tower in May 2019, and during June 2019 removed the items which did not adhere to the regulations. Some more items have been left over the last few months, and during March we will again remove them. We have contacted families where we are able but of course can't contact everyone who might want to leave a tribute on the graves. If you have a loved one whose ashes are buried in the Garden of Remembrance and wish to remove and keep any items yourselves please do so before the end of February.

If there are any queries relating to the Garden of Remembrance regulations please contact Emma Rivers, Administrator on:

administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk or tel 07790 934972

Kingsclere Twinning Association

2020 Visit from Cormicy

Our Cormicy visitors will be arriving **Friday 1st May to Sunday 3rd May**. Plans for the weekend are well underway, and we are looking for hosts for our French guests (including children). There is no necessity to speak French, since we will aim to match non-French speakers with English speaking guests. Hosts have found it a stimulating and rewarding experience, making new friends from the beautiful Champagne region of France.

If you are interested in hosting please email:

Kingscleretwinning@yahoo.co.uk or call **Sue Watson** on **01635 298940** for any further information.

Camaraderie

Our Christmas Camaraderie on the 4th December was such a lovely afternoon. We were entertained by the Kingsclere Ukulele Group and were encouraged to join in with singing some familiar songs. We then enjoyed a delicious Christmas Tea and Father Christmas was able to take time from his busy schedule to help distribute some gifts which had kindly been donated by Howe and Son. We were so pleased to see Maria and Ruth (from Howe and Son) who came and helped serve Tea and did the washing up! Thank you both so much for your continued support.

Our next Camaraderie is on **Wednesday 5th February at 2.30 pm** and at the moment the afternoon looks as though it might be a bit of a Puzzle!!

We look forward to seeing you all.

Wendy Morgan
tel 297538

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Entries drawn first week of each month, various village venues

St Mary's 200 Club Winner December, No 101, **John Price**

Well done, John!

and St Mary's 200 Club Winner January No 53, **Olive Wallace**

Well done, Olive!

St Paul's Church, Ashford Hill

Table Top Sale Saturday 15th February 9am to 2pm!

Sellers: Tables £5 each (must be reserved in advance)

Book yourselves a table and sell your quality unwanted or excess items.

Someone else may love them and you'll make some money for yourselves and support the church!!

Buyers: entrance fees: 9 am -10 am @ £1

10 am onwards @ 50p

Refreshments available. All proceeds in aid of St Paul's church funds.

On the day there will also be a small area for us to sell any quality individual items either donated or on a commission basis.

Please contact Lorainne on loricusworth@hotmail.com for information and to book a table

Fund Raising for Heart Re-Habilitation Unit at North Hampshire Hospital

Our Craft Fair in November raised £1000.00, which has been passed to The Heart Rehabilitation Unit. This will enable them to purchase chairs to use in their Lifestyle Seminars.

We would like to thank everyone who helped us raise this sum. To all of those who worked hard to provide craft items to sell, people who booked tables, made and sold cakes and refreshments, & provided prizes (including very generous donations from local businesses). Lots of people donated on the day and we received several donations after the event.

Not only were we able to help out in this way – but we had a lovely, social time, with many people coming together to help. Just confirmed what a wonderful, caring village we are fortunate to live in.

Many, many thanks
Brenda Sharp, Pam Kitch
01635 299743

February in the Garden

If weather permits, there is plenty of pruning that can be done i.e. late flowering shrubs and overgrown evergreens. Do not prune Spring flowering shrubs until immediately after flowering. Bare rooted trees and shrubs can now be planted it is a good time to trim back winter flowering heathers.

Weeding and digging can always be done and now is a good time to add organic matter to the soil.

The snowdrops should be giving a welcome display. If new plants are required find plants after flowering with leaves still intact, hence the advice to plant in the green. Friends will always be pleased to share their bulbs as they increase quickly. If bulbs are purchased later in the year they are rarely successful.

This is also the time to enjoy the Helleborus Orientalis. Do cut back the old leaves so the flowers are visible.

There is also some sowing and planting that can be done in the vegetable garden: peas, broad beans and sweet peas can be sown, and shallots can be planted. Prune Autumn fruiting raspberries, leaving a few canes which will give summer fruits without affecting the autumn crop.

If you enjoy having mint in a pot it's a good time to plant it up.

The weather may be too awful to work outside - a cup of tea and a seed catalogue is a good way to spend an afternoon. Happy Gardening!

Denise Allen

Kingsclere Gardening Association

Thursday February 13th 2020 at the Village Club. Meeting starts at 7.30pm, doors open at 7.00pm

Our speaker tonight is Mr Malcolm Broadsword from Oxfordshire. His talk is Butterflies and Orchids of the Berkshire Downs.

Members free, visitors £2.00. Subscriptions are now due, Diana will be collecting on the night.

Competition: a vase of flowers, a container of bulbs, a single stem from the garden, a single vegetable, a pot plant.

John Eckton
tel 01256 850017

Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands WI

Venue: Kingsclere Village Club, 35 George Street



This month's meeting: **Wednesday 12th February**

Members & Visitors: Please sign in at 1.30 for a prompt start of business at 1.45.

Our speaker this month is **Joyce Meader**, a military & knitting historian whose specialities make for an unlikely but entertaining mix. How do we know? Joyce did a presentation for us last year on the history of military knitwear which left us with some hilarious visual images. Best of all was her silent display of a jersey she had specifically knitted to the exact measurements, ply, tension and all other criteria specified by the authorities for any 'foot soldier' during the Great War of 1914 - 1918. Who would have expected to find humour in that? With her inimitable wit, in funny and/or serious mode, this month Joyce will guide us through :

"The History of Knitting - 1950 to the present day"

Visitors: Non-members are welcome to attend one or two Kingsclere WI monthly meetings for a fee of £2 per visit which includes tea, biscuits and a raffle ticket.

Members please note: Letter-clue for February is 'T' (for 'Tango')

Nova Saunderson
tel 299570

Kingsclere Village Club



A special **sing-a-long** screening of this fantastic film.

Saturday 29th February, 6:30 opening for 7pm start.

Tickets £7:50, under 16s £3:50

(PG - accompanied children only please)

events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk or tel 297390

With grateful thanks to the Kingsclere Film Club for their help and support.

Save the date: **Saturday 21st March, 7:30pm** Meal and Magic

Thank you to those who responded to our November consultation. We were pleased to hear our events are so positively received. There is demand for us to run another open day which fits with plans to work jointly with the Fieldgate Centre during 'Village Halls Week' - watch this space! 22% of you mentioned the heating and lighting as areas for improvement. Other themes were: a more welcoming entrance hall; improvements for disabled users; new ideas for classes and activities for young people.



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 are always pleased to welcome back our bunnies in the New Year. What better time of to make new friends, venture out with your newborn or let your toddler get creative with our weekly craft? If you are thinking about coming along, why not give us a try - your first session is free so well worth a visit.

Recently we have been looking for ways to raise money to help keep Bunnies running and allow us to make larger spends such as repairing the shed that stores all of the children's toys, and to contribute towards the ongoing hall hire costs. We are very grateful for the support of local organisations in helping us do this. The Tower has recently given us a grant, which we are really thankful for. In addition, The Crown have started a monthly Quiz night, giving all funds raised to our group which is so generous. We are very grateful for having their support.

So if you want some entertainment for a cold winter's night why not join the quiz night?! (see website/social media for details.)

village_bunniestoddlergroup@gmail.com



Girl Guides

Girls from Rainbows, Brownies and Guides had a great year. We joined in with Parliament week, took part in Future Girls Act on Plastic and made our plastic promises, and attended Remembrance Parade.

Rainbows enjoyed a Christmas themed sleepover doing Christmas crafts sharing a Christmas dinner and a special visitor came to see us with his jolly Elf. Also this term we made musical instruments, celebrated Diwali and pretended we were Brownies on camp. Brownies also celebrated Diwali by making clay lamps. We practised our sewing skills and made pencil cases.

As part of Parliament week Cllr Claire Kinnear and Cllr Ken Rhatigan came and visited Brownies. They spoke to the girls about recycling and what could be recycled here in the borough. They then played a game with the girls before handing out recycling bags for the girls to take home. We finished off the term with some Christmas cooking and crafts.

Guides are continuing to grow and we welcomed 2 new members this term. The girls have continued to work on the new programme. They put on a shadow puppet show, completed their backwards cooking badge, cooking sausages popcorn and cakes in oranges on an open fire. They had a messy fun night over Halloween and finished off the term making yule logs and gingerbread houses as well as Christmas crafts. All the girls joined together for a Christmas party. We are looking forward to another term of fun and games.

We still have spaces available. If you would like to find out more please contact:
1stklingsclerainbows@gmail.com 3rdklingsclerebrownies@gmail.com
1stklingsclereguides@gmail.com

The Basingstoke & District Disability (BDDF)

Opportunity to join the Board of Directors as voluntary Trustee

The Basingstoke and District Disability Forum (BDDF) was set up in 2008 to support the local disabled community to reach its potential. With 1 in 5 people identifying as having a disability, and no clear organisation representing them, there was a gap in the accessibility of services available, as well as a lack of inclusion opportunities for less-abled people. The BDDF was founded by a group of residents with disabilities to support the community, give them a voice and address the stigma.

Our vision: To create a community that sees the person, values the difference and embraces awareness.

Our mission: To facilitate increased awareness, active involvement and healthy promotion of disability and those who live it.

Our core: With 36,000 people in Basingstoke and Deane living with disability we're committed to offering a programme of core services that are relevant, impactful and empowering. Our 'ConneXions' programme has been running for a year and has complimented our existing range of services:

Signposting; an information service for people with a disability, their family and friends

Talk; a monthly networking programme promoting inclusion and alleviating social isolation

Learning; a bite-sized training and development programme focused on education, personal skills, confidence and employability

Disability Awareness Days; partnering with local organisations, an event highlighting disability services in the community

Health and well-being; opportunities to take part in free activities promoting health and well-being of people with a disability.

Want to be part of it?

In return for just 5 hours per month, a unique opportunity has arisen to join the Board of Directors as a voluntary Trustee. You can help shape the future of a local charity and be part of the future for disabled people in our community.

To know more, contact:

Tony (Chair), Basingstoke & District Disability Forum, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke, RG21 4AF

Tel: 01256 423869 Email: tony@bddf.org.uk Web: www.bddf.org.uk

Nature Notes

We took a walk around our favourite local lake in late December to shake off post Christmas lethargy and get some gentle exercise. It was one of those rare winter days when the air was still, no branch stirring and the surface of the water like glass. Ideal conditions for bird watching then; well no; there were very few birds about, a few great crested grebe, some coots, a moorhen and no geese. The lake was bank high with water spilling over from the swollen river and we wondered if, with no shallows available, dabbling ducks had moved off the lake and onto flooded pastures.



Moorhen on a misty morning

Better luck on our really local water in Kingsclere. Scanning bankside bushes, there appeared to be a shred of blue plastic caught in a bush. Our binoculars soon revealed that it was a kingfisher, a wonderful splash of colour amidst the brown twigs.

Moses was astounded by a burning bush but on a lesser level a chirping, singing bush was quite remarkable. An eight foot, compact holly tree in a local garden resounded with an incredible volume of ‘sparrow talk’ as they settled to roost. When approached the sound promptly died away only to burst forth again as soon as safety was assumed. It would be hard to guess how many birds roosted there to produce such volume.

It was charming to see both pied and grey wagtails feeding over flooded grassland locally. Pied wagtails seem to be less frequently seen now but were once common on any open grassland, parks, sportsfield etc.

The latest Hampshire Wildlife reserve, near Romsey, has already attracted rarities; Great White Egret, Bittern and Hen Harrier have been seen.

Diana Tait and Rod Eldred

Wolverton Village Hall Market

The next **Saturday Market and Tabletop Sale** to be held at Wolverton Village Hall will be on **Saturday 1st February**. Doors are open from 9.30 am until 11.00 am. Admission is free. The various stalls include local grown home produce, plants, bric-a-brac to name a few, and refreshments are available whilst you browse the stalls. New stallholders are welcome.

If you would like a stall of your own please contact:

Julia or Tony Drake on 01486 608594.

WEA Tadley Seminar: February 28th

Italy to England – The Spread of Renaissance Architecture

Presented by Keith Hasted: Keith has an MA in History of Architecture from Reading University and lectures at Oxford Continuing Education and for the WEA (Workers' Educational Association).

Synopsis: Learn how the influence of Italian Renaissance architecture spread to England. What began as gentle incorporation into Elizabethan building, changed dramatically with the work of Inigo Jones in the seventeenth century. Among others we will look at the work of Wren and Hawksmoor and how key figures like Lord Burlington became absorbed by architecture. Plentiful slides and opportunities for questions and interaction are key to this presentation. No previous subject-matter knowledge is assumed, but participants often benefit from the insight of others.

The seminar runs from **10am – 4pm in the Ambrose Allen Centre in Tadley, RG26 4ER**. The £35 fee/seminar includes lunch

To Enrol: quote ref: **C3744210** online at <https://www.wea.org.uk/> or by ringing **0300 303 3464**.

For further information email **Jan Smith** at Tadley.branch@wea.ac.uk

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are the key to our success: our volunteers come from all walks of life and are what makes our service unique. Our recent internal survey showed that our volunteers gain a great deal of satisfaction from helping others and feel happier themselves as a result of being involved in the wider well-being of the community.



Registered Charity Number 1118080

Current Vacancies

Volunteer advisers

We provide all trainee advisers with a comprehensive accredited training programme that will give you the skills you need to deliver a high quality service to clients.

Volunteer Office Administration & Reception staff

One or two mornings/afternoons a week. Greeting clients, arranging appointments, office administration. Good basic computer skills would be needed but full training will be given.

If you are interested in either of these roles, to discuss further please phone the office on **0118 981 7567** or email admin@tadleycab.cabnet.org.uk

For homing, fund raising and volunteer enquiries;
Telephone: **0345 260 1501** or
Email: sylvia.cp@outlook.com

To view all cats currently up for adoption visit
www.andover.cats.org.uk



Lovely Poppy from last month has been lucky enough to find a new home and is settling in well.

This beautiful, friendly and very energetic young lady is Daisy who was handed into our care as a stray. Unfortunately we have been unable to trace her owner so she is now ready to find a new home. We are confident she would make an ideal family pet, please get in touch if you think you can offer Daisy a home. The vets estimate her to be about 2 years old.

Helpful tip - If the weather becomes particularly cold, keep your cat indoors. While they might seem bored or restless, pet cats aren't used to extreme temperatures and can even develop frostbite or hypothermia. Keep them entertained and exercised with enrichment toys and feeders.

