

A large, bright yellow sunflower is the central focus in the foreground, with its head slightly tilted. It has large, green, serrated leaves. The background is a vast field of similar sunflowers, some in bloom and others as green stalks, stretching to a distant horizon. The sky is filled with soft, white and grey clouds. The overall scene is bright and natural.

The Kingsclere Tower

What's On & Local News
August 2026

The Kingsclere Tower

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COVER PHOTO:	Sunflowers <i>Steve Steare</i>	

Another dry, scorching, summer! It looks like we are going to have to get used to this, as climate change establishes a new normal for us all. Time to think about adapting our homes and gardens to meet the challenge in future years.

This month sees Kingsclere Gardening Association hold it's annual show at The Fieldgate Centre on Sunday 23rd August, while on Bank Holiday Monday 31st August the Kingsclere Twinning Association is holding their annual Duck Race. Looking further ahead, St Michael's Hospice is holding it's annual Moonlight Walk in Basingstoke on Saturday 26th September, whilst those preferring a countryside walk may be interested in a guided walk at Sandham Memorial Chapel on 19th September, or a guided ramble in Savernake Forest on Saturday 10th October.

Details of these events, and much, much more inside.

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 **September** to the Editor at **kingscleretower@gmail.com**.
NOT LATER THAN 12th August 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
Website: www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk



We have 2 new Councillors; Becca Pullen and Gillian Hern. We welcome them to the team.

GREEN WHEELY BINS and GLASS RECYCLING – The collection dates are **Wednesday 5th August, 19th August and 2nd September.**

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – The next Full Council Meeting is on **28th September.**

Amendments have been made to the Hybrid Planning Application for a Residential Development at Land Adjoining Porch Farm, Newbury Road, Kingsclere, Hampshire (Reference 22/01856/FUL) comprising: Outline planning application for up to 165 dwellings, public open space, landscaping, SUDS, green/blue and hard infrastructure, with vehicular and pedestrian/cycle accesses (all matters reserved except for means of access); and Details of the development of Phase 1 comprising 63 dwellings (63 of the 165 dwellings described above), internal estate roads, public open space (including LEAP), SUDS, internal footpaths/cycleway with associated parking and landscaping. These amendments comprise:

- 1) Amendments to the proposed access to include the introduction of a new roundabout in place of the originally proposed T-junction (necessitates a change in the red line on the site location plan);
- 2) Removal of the originally proposed extension to the cemetery (and the necessary change to the description of the proposed development);
- 3) Updated house types pack;
- 4) Updated proposals for pedestrian and cycle connections to the east of the site;
- 5) A Full suite of amended plans and updated technical reports to reflect the above amendments have been submitted, including (but not limited to):
 - Updated Design and Access Statement
 - Updated Landscape Strategy and Open Space Framework
 - Updated Landscape Visual Impact Assessment Addendum
 - Updated Flood Risk Assessment
 - Tier 1 Groundwater Risk Assessment
 - Updated Ecological Reports and Biodiversity Net Gain Metric
 - Transport Assessment Addendum
 - Updated Heritage Statement
 - Amended layout and parameter plans

The amended plans and application documents are available at

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/view-planning-applications>

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will take into account written comments received by 3 August 2026.

Kingsclere Gardening Association



Kingsclere
Gardening
Association

We visited two beautiful gardens in June. Many thanks go to Caroline and Alan for sharing their many roses with us and providing super refreshments. The second garden we visited, a week later, was Alison and Mark's garden. Thank you both for allowing us to enjoy your borders and Marks interesting vegetables, and not forgetting the refreshments.

The next event will our horticultural show, and probably other garden visits.

THE ANNUAL SHOW AUGUST 23rd 2026

The Fieldgate Centre

Staging: 9am – 11:30am

Open to the Public: 2:30pm

What ever you have grown we probably have a class for it. This is an open show, so why not put in an entry?

Schedules will be available from myself and venues in the village.

Denise Allen (Chairman) 01635 297966 denise.allen47@icloud.com

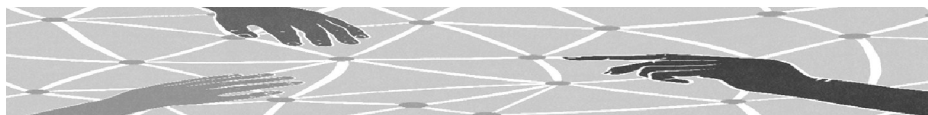
Kingsclere Ladies Group

A few members braved the heat and visited Whitchurch Silk Mill in July. After a brief dawdle around the village we headed for refreshments down by the watermill. Not as cool as we had hoped but pleasant enough and time to watch the young ducklings scavenging along the bank.

We meet again on **Wednesday August 12th at 2pm** in the **Methodist Church Hall**, George Street, Kingsclere. A chance to learn a new board or card game, catch up with friends, and make new ones. Details of our visit to **Sandham Memorial Chapel on Wednesday 9th September** will be available, lifts available if needed.

Thinking well ahead to Armistice Day in November we have plans for making a Poppy display outside the memorial hall. These can be knitted or sewn but we will need plenty.

For further information please call **01635 622683**, we look forward to seeing you.





Saturday 26 September 2026

St. Michael's Hospice

Moonlight Walk 2026



10k & 6k route!



Ticket includes a t-shirt and wristband!



Sets off at **9PM** (Gates open from **8PM**)

Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7BA



Join the festival atmosphere, light up the night, and walk in support of St Michael's Hospice.

Featuring performances and entertainment at the start line and along the route!



Proudly sponsored by



PENNINGTONS
MANCHES
COOPER



Sign up with the QR code!



Registered with
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR

or visit our website: stmichaelsospice.org.uk

Charity Reg No (England and Wales): 1002856 | Tel: 01256 848848

St. Michael's Hospice, Basil de Ferranti House, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke, RG24 9NB



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.

July gave us some incredible weather and the schools finished for the holidays. Here we are in August and the Fieldgate Centre continues to be busy and thriving with it's 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.

This year's **Summer of Fun** kicked off on Wednesday 29th July and continues throughout **August** on **5th, 12th, 19th and 26th**, running from **10 am - 2 pm**. These sessions are aimed at 2-12 year olds, accompanied by a responsible adult. They are free (but donations welcome) and include indoor and outdoor activities, arts and crafts, bouncy castles, Multi-sports and much, much more. All welcome, so come along.

Do you have any spare time this summer? If you do and can help out on any of the dates for the Summer of Fun, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the office.

The **Kingsclere Gardening Association** are holding their **Annual Show** on **Sunday 23rd August**. See Page 3 for full details of timings – always a great day.

The centre continues to be a busy and bustling place. 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



FOSM 200 Club

The winner of the July Draw was Steve Green - No.11
Congratulations, Steve.

Next month's Draw will take place at Bel and the Dragon
 at about **7 pm** on **Tuesday 4th August**

Watership Down Health



Bowel Cancer Screening

Bowel Cancer Screening was introduced in the UK 20 years ago and since then has saved thousands of lives. Bowel screening aims to find cancer early or to find changes in your bowel that could lead to cancer before they are noticeable. If you are aged between 50 and 74 you will be sent a bowel screening at home test in the post. All the instructions are included on the box and just a tiny bit of poo can help find cancer early and when it is easiest to treat. Please visit **cancermatterswessex.nhs.uk/screening-for-bowel-cancer** for more information, videos and links to charities who can support you too.

GP Triage

As we continue to work with our new GP Triage software, we would like to thank all the patients who have given us constructive feedback. Rest assured that information is being shared with the developers to enable us to tailor the system for Watership Down Health and, most importantly, our patients.

GP Triage is available from 07:00 am Monday to Friday. Our reception team will continue to be available between 08:00 – 18:30 hrs Monday to Friday, for queries and other appointments e.g. nurse appointments, but we encourage use of the online GP Triage service for those able to use it.

Advanced Notice - National Seasonal Flu & Autumn Covid-19 booster vaccinations Autumn 2026

Details of the seasonal flu and Covid-19 vaccinations clinics will be on the practice website by the middle to the end of August 2026. Please make sure we have current contact details including mobile telephone number, landline (if you have one) and email and we recommend that, if you use the NHS App, the notification feature is switched on.

NHS App Help Clinic

As of February 3, 2025, the NHS app is no longer accessible on older devices running iOS 13 and 14 and Android versions 6 and 7. Users on these older devices will need to access NHS App services through a web browser instead.

We recommend keeping your device updated to the minimum supported version to ensure continued access to the NHS App.

The NHS App help clinic run by the PPG will begin again in September 2026.

KINGSLERE RUGBY CLUB



Training

Started on Wednesday 15th July and runs 7.30 – 9.00 pm. If are thinking of playing rugby or even if you just want to get fit you are very welcome to join us.

Walking Rugby

Wednesdays: Mixed 7 – 8 pm Thursdays: Women 7 – 8 pm
Now that summer is here and you would like to improve your fitness please come along. The game can be played by people of all ages.

Summer Touch

The summer touch finished on Wednesday 8th July with just under 60 different players attending over the six weeks. The evening was finished off with a BBQ for all the participants. At each week of the tournament a player was given a Spirit of Rugby Award very kindly donated by The Crown Inn. The award was presented each successive week to: George Richards, Elliot Sloat, Elliot Holmes, James Thornton, Sarah Laurence, Tom Bradley, Toby Wynn.

For more information, please contact:

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

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

WOLVERTON MARKET

The next Market is on **Saturday 1st August**, doors open from **9am till 11am**. All the usual stall holders will be ready and waiting to welcome not just our regular customers but hopefully some new ones too. You can be sure of a warm welcome and a chat while you browse the stalls and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee.

This will be my last entry in The Tower as I am giving up the organising of the Market. However I am very pleased to let you know that Margy and Caz, who are two of my regular stall holders, have volunteered to take over from me. I am sure that things will continue, much as before (with maybe the odd tweak here and there) Watch this space! A huge Thank You for supporting both the Market and myself over the past 20 or so years and to quote Dave (from Gavin and Stacey) "It's been a Blast"

Wendy Morgan 01635 297538



KINGSLERE VILLAGE CLUB

Est. 1921 CHARITY 1189234

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

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

Instagram @kingsclere_village_club

We are always grateful for any voluntary help – contact us to find out more.

Hello to New Residents

Are you new to the village? You may not be aware that the Village Club is not a club – it is a village hall. There are a variety of clubs, societies and classes to join; rooms to hire; the community library; therapists; and events through the year. Contact us for more details.

Autumn Term Classes

Don't forget to book in for you Autumn term class. Contact bookings@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Community Café

The Trustees would like to thank the volunteers who made the Community Café possible. Particular thanks to our quiz master Grant who entertained us and got our memories working!

Calling Local Artisans and Purveyors of Quality Produce

This year's **Christmas Market** is on **Sunday December 6th**. Contact Helen (details below) if you would like to take part. Everyone else – save the date!

Helen 01635 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

KINGSLERE TWINNING ASSOCIATION DUCK RACE!



Our courageous swimmers will be back out on the water for their annual competition on **Bank Holiday Monday 31st August!**

Come and choose your lucky duck in the village near the **Crown** from **10am** for **£1 each or £5 for six**, and join us at the starting gate at **Popes Hill** at **3pm** to cheer your ducks on with us.

Cash Prizes available for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd ducks over the finishing line, and a prize for the valiant duck who comes last!

**Shipinnarts Music and Arts Venue
Ship Inn Country Hotel, Ashford Hill RG19 8BD**

Next event coming up in August!

**Summer Cream Tea with Live Music
Sunday 16th August 2026 3pm – 5pm**

A lovely afternoon for family and friends.
Homemade scones and jam, clotted cream.

China plates cups and saucers.

We will have a raffle too of a handful of special prizes.

Tickets Eventbrite on sale now: Adults £15 Child £6

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/summer-cream-tea-with-live-music-tickets-1985057586678>

Kingsclere Tennis Club

Come and Join our Tennis Club!

It's been a good month for tennis, with the weather staying fair most of the time and hopefully continuing throughout August.

Our weekly **Tuesday evenings**, starting at **6:30pm**, have proved very popular and a good way to meet members and play against different people.

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 arrange people into groups of 4 to play for a short while and then rotate them 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 **[kingscleretenniscub.co.uk](https://www.kingscleretenniscub.co.uk)**



The Church Pages

Hi,

The modern world is noisy, isn't it? Our devices clamour for our attention. Opinions and angst reverberate in the digital world, and “influencers” peddle the latest faux-health products or best things to do with our time. The sheer volume makes it hard for us to string two thoughts together, much less hear the voice of God. I'm on a personal quest to slow down and be more present with God. But then, I'm a Priest in the Church of England, so that's exactly what I should be doing! Maybe for you, it's not God that you want to be more present with. Maybe it's your partner, your kids, or yourself! I'd say give God some time too – but I would, wouldn't I?

I've just got back from a lovely two-week break in Devon, and I spent some time evaluating what I'm doing in my life. I reflected that my life is the sum of the hours I spend doing things. What do I do with my time? Who do I spend my time with? Where do I spend my time? I've written before that time is our most precious commodity, and we all know that something will fill our time, for sure, the question is, what will that be? We need to be intentional, or else someone else's agenda will creep in. That's where our devices can become a challenge. The question we should be asking ourselves is, how am I *choosing* to live? This summer, why don't you take some time to reflect on your life? Is life happening *to you*, or are you living your best life? Take some time to honestly reflect on some of these questions:

- When's the last time I spent two hours without checking my phone?
- What's the first thing I do when I wake up? ... and the last thing I do before going to bed?
- What entertainment do I consume the most? Sports? YouTube? TV? Books? Who makes this content? What do they want me to do, or become?
- What's my daily screen time? Could I move half an hour of this to a habit or person I'd like to invest in?

Here's some easy things we can all do with our devices to make a start:

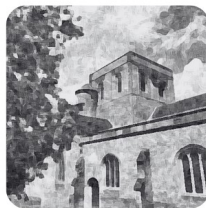
- Dumb down your smart phone: Turn off some notifications. Remove email. Pare apps down to those that are genuinely enriching your life.
- Give your phone a bedtime ritual: Put it to bed before you go to bed. Have a place where it sleeps, out of sight.
- Banish devices at certain times and places: In the car, at the dinner table, when you're out with the kids.
- Use your time intentionally: Check email, texts, and social media at set times. Have designated times that are device-free.

Choose to live your life how you want to – and don't forget to invite God along too!

Bless you,

Rev. Pete Williams

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



Thursdays at 10.30 am

6th - 20th & 27th Morning Worship
13th Holy Communion



2nd

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

9th

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

16th

9.00 am Traditional Holy Communion
10.30 am Contemporary Holy Communion with Kingdom
Kids children's ministry
6.00 pm Evening Prayer (BCP)



23rd

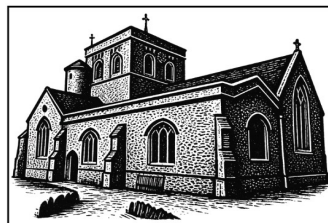
9.00 am Traditional Morning Worship
10.30 am Contemporary Morning Worship with Kingdom
Kids children's ministry

30th

10.00 am Joint Holy Communion service with Kingdom
Kids children's ministry

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 on 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 01635 299528. 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.

August 5th Remembering my beloved Mark Basset and our dear little Patterdale 'Rocket' I love and miss you both Amanda

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

Fresh brewed coffee, tea and delicious homemade cakes.

August 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th 10.00 - 12.00

If you're looking for great company,
we'd love you to join us for a cuppa and a natter!

For more info, please contact the church office on **01635 299528**.

St. Mary's Church, Kingsclere

Please join us for a service of

Evening Prayer

**according to the Book of Common Prayer
6pm, third Sunday of the month**

**16th August, 20th September, 18th October
15th November & 20th December**

Kingsclere Methodist Church

Services for August

Sunday 2nd Joint service at Whitchurch Methodist Church **10.30 am**

Sunday 9th Dr Malcolm Stone

Sunday 16th Mr Peter Frank

Sunday 23rd Revd Helen Watson

Sunday 30th Revd Lesley Martin

All services begin at 10.00 am unless otherwise stated

Coffee morning every Thursday 10.30 until 12. All are very welcome.

Hall available for hire (see directory on page 24).

Christine Westcombe c_westcombe@hotmail.com

Friends of St Marys Kingsclere (FOSM)

In the last two issues I gave an indication of the scale and cost of the urgent repairs St Mary's is facing if it is to continue to function as a place of worship and for many other community activities. To ensure its continuance as a living entity at the heart of our village will need a major fundraising effort from everybody. FOSM's start to this will be our **Summer Raffle**, with tickets on sale in the churchyard on the **Saturday mornings of 1st, 8th and 15th August**, on the last of which the Draw will take place. There are some stunning prizes, and tickets cost only £1 each, so do please support us generously.

The most urgent repair is the entire replacement of the Nave roof, for which the estimated cost is £185,000. The Parochial Church Council are actively pursuing other sources of grants, but often these are dependent on the church having first secured pledges for at least one third of the overall cost. **To get the ball rolling, the FOSM Board has recently pledged to provide up to £50,000 – the greater part of our current reserves – for this project.**

Peter Turner, Chairman

Website: **friendsofstmaryskingsclere.org.**

For membership & FOSM enquiries contact **fosmkingsclere@gmail.com**

Kingsclere Community Library



Summer Reading Fun

Our annual reading challenge started again on July 18th and continues through into September. Open to children of all ages – read six books and get a medal and a certificate, a prize and a treat from Spar Swan Street Stores. It still counts if you have the books read to you or you listen to them. So, what are you waiting for, come into the Library and sign up and start reading.

Beatrix Potter

The Newbury Dramatic Society are presenting a show about Beatrix Potter on the evening of **Thursday 3rd September at 7.00**. As we are expecting this to be popular, rather than holding it in the Library as we would normally do, this performance will take place in the **Village Club Hall**. Tickets are available from the Library or from Eventbrite and are £8.00 for adults and under 16s are free. **Please note that entry is by ticket only, so under 16s will still need a ticket but will not be charged.**

Giant Book and Picture Sale

Our annual book and picture sale will be held this year at the Fieldgate from **9th - 11th October**. Donations will be accepted from early September but not before please as we have limited storage space.

Storytime

Storytime dates for August will be advertised when they have been confirmed.

Volunteers Needed

We are always in need of volunteers to keep our wonderful library open. If you can spare a few hours, even if it is once a month, we would be enormously grateful. Details of how to sign up can be obtained via the contact details below. Thank you.

HOURS	Tuesday	1.00pm – 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

Living Paintings Wheelie Good Day Out 2026!



Kindly supported by the Kingsclere Community Association

When: Sunday September 27th 2026 10.30am 'til 4pm

Where: The Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere RG20 5SQ

Join us for a fun-filled family day and cycling festival. Whether you're a seasoned cyclist looking for a 40km ride through the stunning Wessex Downs or a little pedaller who'd love a scavenger hunt in the safety of The Fieldgate Centre grounds, there's something for all ages and abilities to enjoy.

Celebrated author and illustrator, David Melling will be giving special Hugless Douglas book readings and interactive drawing sessions as part of the family fun. Relax and take in the other family-friendly activities and delicious food and drink. Come along and create lasting memories with family and friends. Something for everyone!



Click here to be kept in the know about this fantastic pedal powered fundraising day for local charity, Living Paintings who bring pictures and books to life for blind children. REGISTRATIONS for cyclists and Family Fun Day passes GO LIVE SOON. Spaces are limited.

livingpaintings.org



Living
Paintings

Registered charity number - 1049103

u3a
Overton & District



We are a lively organisation centred in the Overton area including members in Whitchurch and Oakley, for people no longer working full-time who want to keep learning. In addition to the many interest groups, members are able to enjoy group trips out to events such as Newbury Races and venues such as Fort Nelson and Kelmscott Manor. There's something for everyone!

Joining our u3a is easy, it costs just £15 a year. Everyone is welcoming and friendly! Take a look at our webpage for information on Talks, Outings, Groups and how to apply for membership. <https://overton.u3asite.uk/> or email direct on infou3aoverton@gmail.com

If you aren't able to look online you would be welcome at one of the monthly talks (next meeting 16th September, St. Mary's Hall, Overton at 10 am) where we can provide more details.

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group



Where: The Village Club When: Tuesdays 9.00 - 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

***Please note:** From 8th September 2026, the Bunnies cost will increase to **£3.00** for the 1st Child. Extra children will still be 50p each and extra adults will still be £1 each.

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

The library will be opening especially for Bunnies on **Tuesday 11th August**.

Summer Closure dates: We will be closed on Tuesday 1st September.

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

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

Lydia Harley-Tomlinson

lydia.harleytomlinson@gmail.com

Kingsclere Preschool

We have enjoyed learning all about ourselves and others. The children have loved using the water soakers in the hot weather and have enjoyed an ice pop, or two.

We would like to wish our Butterflies all the best as they start their next part of leaning journey at Big School!

We have childcare spaces available from September! If you are looking for a childcare space, or ways you can support the Preschool, please contact **admin@kingsclerepreschool.co.uk** or visit our website **www.kingsclerepreschool.co.uk**.

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

Kingsclere CE Primary School



As we reach the end of a very warm term, we want to thank our whole school community for pulling together to keep everyone safe, comfortable and happy. With fans in every classroom, careful use of mechanical ventilation, plenty of hydration breaks, lighter clothing and thoughtful adjustments to activities, the children have continued to learn, play and enjoy school life. We are especially fortunate to have our own swimming pool, which has been in full use each day for lessons and water-based activities. A huge well done to all our Newbury and District Swimming Gala competitors, and to every child who took part in our in-house swim gala. The water polo matches and races were great fun, made even better by parents and carers cheering from the poolside.

This term also brought a wonderful evening of music at our annual Music Soirée. Children from our junior choir, infant choir and samba band performed beautifully, and many pupils showcased their talents with solos on drum kit, guitar and flute. It was a truly joyful event. More recently, our Year 6 pupils took to the stage for their final production, *Shakespeare Rocks!* Their enthusiasm was infectious, and the performance was full of smiles, energy and humour. Families were treated to a special bloopers reel at the end, capturing memorable rehearsal moments!

Year 6 have also been busy preparing for their Leavers' Service at St Mary's and attending transition visits to their new secondary schools. These sessions help them become familiar with the layout, routines and staff they will meet in September. Across the school, children have also taken part in transition activities with their new teachers, spending time in their new classrooms and beginning to build relationships for the year ahead. We are also delighted to be welcoming a full class of new Year R families in September and thoroughly enjoyed meeting everyone at our recent Teddy Bears' Picnic.

We have also welcomed our new PE Sports Lead, Ms Dray Ford, who has already enriched our sports provision with additional clubs in rounders, athletics and netball, as well as organising friendly tournaments with local schools. Alongside our swimming programme, these opportunities help children develop teamwork, healthy lifestyles and new skills. A group of Year 4 pupils have also completed Sports Leader training with Active Me 360 and will support activities across the school.

Wishing all our families and community a happy, restful and sunny summer.

Mrs Jo Messenger Headteacher



The Odyssey Ball, Fri 6th Sept 2026 6pm, Oakley Hall Hotel

Reception drinks, three course meal, Silent Auction, dancing and entertainment. Tickets £90 from the website.

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

Ball out of budget, or not your thing? Here's how you can contribute:

- Add a name to the Map of Hope (a tribute to those living with or taken by cancer) - live online and on the big screen at Oakley Hall
- Gift or buy a prize to donate to the Silent Auction
- Make a donation

You can do all the above on the website <https://kingsclerecrf.org.uk/> or contact us (email admin@kingsclereCRF.org.uk or call Sean on 07787 527326) if you need assistance. 1 in 2 of us will be affected by cancer in our lifetime. Please help us help Cancer Research UK fund research into better outcomes for us all.

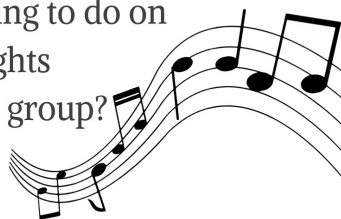


Beccy, Claire, Mandy and Sean

Kingsclere Singers

Looking for something to do on
Monday nights
or a new social group?

- Great Music
- Great company
- No Experience Needed
- All abilities are welcome



Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere
Monday Evenings
7:30 - 9:15

Contact us

Email - kingscleresingers@gmail.com

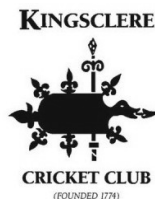
Facebook - Kingsclere singers group

Website - www.kingsclere-singers.co.uk

KINGSLERE

CRICKET

CLUB



The cricket club returned to winning ways on Saturday 4th July. Life in Division 3 was always going to be a meaningful test of resources - and so it has proved. Our last win was on 16th May - and that was a convincing win against Amport by 7 wickets. In between times, we've scored 300 runs on a couple of occasions already this season but have not managed to bowl the opposition out to close the games out.

Saturday's game, away against Basingstoke 4th, was a really gritty, fighting team performance. Batting first on a difficult looking wicket it was down to the middle order to contribute the bulk of the runs. Dan Jones (31), Ross Andrews (20) and Jack Grove White (47 not out) did a great job of suring the innings up after some early wobbles. Roger Jones was the batting star of the show with an unbeaten 85! When Basingstoke batted, all of the Kingsclere bowlers displayed much more control than in previous matches. Zach Grant and Matt Howe opened up with very economical spells. These were followed up by Ross Andrews and Dan Jones who did excellent containing work. Ed Lyle's 5 for 34 sealed the victory and some well earned gyros! The win against Basingstoke means we now sit in seventh place (out of 10).

Tuesday evening league T20 cricket seems to have been interrupted rather too frequently by either the weather or some football tournament on the other side of the pond! We have had a notable success / a convincing win in the Guy Jewel knock out competition against Medstead.

Saturday home games at the Fieldgate in **August** are on 8th v Basingstoke, 15th v Overton, and 29th v Tichbourne Park. There's also a T20 home game on 4th v Odiham. If you fancy an afternoon in the sun, or are interested in playing, come up and join us.

Mark Hirst Kingsclere Cricket Club Chairman
c.mark.hirst@btinternet.com 07901 118818

Kingsclere Charities

The Robert Higham Apprenticing Charity: This Charity promotes the education and training of young people aged 16 – 25 resident in The Parish of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley. Grants are awarded to assist with the cost of such things as: equipment, books and specialist clothing 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 hospital.

Kingsclere Charities meeting dates: 17th September and 19th November.

Application forms can be found at www.kingsclerecharities.org, or contact Gill Hern at Kingsclerecharities4@mail.com.

Discover Nature at Sandham Memorial Chapel in Burghclere

Many people visit Sandham Memorial Chapel to admire Sir Stanley Spencer's remarkable paintings, explore a National Trust property, or simply enjoy a peaceful stop just off the A34. But Sandham is also a wonderful place to reconnect with nature. Beyond the chapel lies the beautiful view towards Watership Down, a landscape that inspired Stanley Spencer himself. Walk through the lychgate and you'll find an historic orchard, the wildflower meadow, mature lime trees and native hedgerows, much of which dates back to the chapel's creation in the 1920s.

This summer, the meadow will be managed using traditional scything, helping wildflowers thrive while providing valuable habitat for insects, birds and small mammals.

Whether you come for the art, the history or simply a place to sit beneath the oak tree and enjoy the birdsong, Sandham offers the perfect opportunity to slow down and experience the wellbeing that nature can bring.

You can also join one of our guided Walking in Stanley's Footsteps walks, exploring the landscape that inspired Spencer. Booking is essential on **01635 278394** or at sandhamevents@nationaltrust.org.uk. The next walk takes place on **19th September**. We look forward to welcoming you.

AUGUST IN THE GARDEN

The intense heat in July has been very harsh on the garden. With ongoing watering restrictions many plants will have suffered badly. Hopefully by the time August arrives, the heat will have receded and the rain will have come. This is the month that we harvest crops from the vegetable garden. Once the foliage has collapsed onions are ready to be lifted out of the soil, dried off, and stored for the winter use in a nice dry place. Other vegetables continue to be harvested; excess carrots can be left in the soil or can be stored in sand. Tomato and potato plants can suffer from late blight, brown patches appear on the stems and leaves. Remove offending plants quickly as this can spread rapidly. Early apples and pears do not always store well, so best used as soon as possible, or freeze for later use, or make into jams and chutney. Spring cabbage seeds can be sown now, ready to be transplanted in October.

Weeding is an ongoing chore, not only in the vegetable plot, but the rest of the garden. Hoeing on a hot dry day will get rid of some of the weeds; remember to pick up the dried out plants, otherwise if left any rain will encourage the weeds to re-grow.

Plants grown in pots will benefit from a liquid feed, as will late flowering clematis, which are hungry plants. They also like to be well watered. Lavender plants will need a small trim; cut back 2.5 cm below the flowering stem to keep them neat. Take semi ripe cuttings of shrubs, and cuttings can be taken from flowering plants. Not all take, but it will be rewarding to get even a small result. Keep dead heading to prolong the flowering period. It is always good to let a few seed heads to develop, the seeds can be used for next year if kept dry and cool. Often there are lovely surprises, as they do not always replicate the parent plant. I have enjoyed the result of delphiniums producing many shades of blue from the same seed heads.

Lawns have suffered badly in the heat, but will soon recover when the wetter weather appears. When feeding lawns in the late summer use a fertilizer high in phosphate, this should help the grass to toughen up for the winter months, giving stronger root growth. This is probably the last time to trim any hedges this year, many of us will be relieved that they will not need any attention until next year.

Hopefully dahlias and hardy chrysanthemums have not suffered too badly in the July heat, this is the month when both should be flowering, giving good colour in the garden. Other plants in flower are hydrangeas, fuchsia, salvias, scabious and sweet peas.

Denise Allen

Whitchurch Silk Mill

Whitchurch Silk Mill is delighted to welcome visitors this Summer, following a recent Visit England assessment that awarded the Mill an impressive 91% rating. As part of the Government's Great British Summer Savings Campaign, admission prices have been reduced for the season, making it an ideal time to explore this unique historic attraction.

The Mill is alive with activity during the school holidays, offering something for all ages. Visitors can experience the fascinating processes of silk production first-hand, from bobbin winding and ribbon finishing to weaving on our historic looms. Across the different floors, guests will discover both working production areas and an archive space showcasing aspects of the Mill's 210 year history. Tickets are valid for a full year, encouraging repeat visits to enjoy everything on offer.

The Mill Shop features a wide selection of gifts, with handcrafted silk scrunchies proving especially popular during the warmer weather. Both practical and elegant, silk is gentle on hair and ideal for keeping cool in the Summer. Alongside these, visitors will find a variety of locally inspired gifts, including toys, books, honey, and silk products.

For those wishing to support the Mill more closely, the Patron scheme offers a rewarding way to contribute to its work. With options starting from £3 per month or £30 annually, Patrons receive exclusive behind-the-scenes content, quarterly updates, and free entry to the Mill for a year.

Several special events are also planned. The **Silk Production Tour**, taking place on **8th August** and **8th September**, offers a unique behind-the-scenes experience with the weaving team in the Mill's authentic Victorian setting. Visitors can see the looms in action, hear the stories of past and present weavers, and gain a deeper understanding of this remarkable craft. Advance booking is essential. **Creative Workshops** led by local silversmith Lou Sargent also form part of the summer programme. On **24th August**, participants can create their own silver stacking rings, with opportunities to personalise their designs. A second workshop on **14th September** focuses on making a beautiful sea glass pendant. Both sessions take place in the Mill's café and include all materials, making them suitable for beginners as well as those with some experience.

Whether you are discovering the Mill for the first time or returning for another visit, this Summer offers a wonderful opportunity to experience the heritage, craftsmanship and creativity of Whitchurch Silk Mill.

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

THE KINGSLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

POLICE, FIRE or AMBULANCE

Police Enquiries/Information

Emergency 999

non Emergency 101

Kingsclere Health Centre:

0333 034 1033

North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke

01256 473202

Parish Council: 37 George Street (see page 2)

07887 041829

Kingsclere Charities Clerk: Gillian Hern

07884 182696

kingsclerecharities4@mail.com

Dial-a-Ride

01256 462101

St. MARY'S CHURCH:

Vicar Peter Williams vicar@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

Church Warden:

John Price johnsaprice@hotmail.com

01635 297780

Administrator:

Natalie Follett

01635 299528

administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

07422 687125

METHODIST CHURCH:

Minister: Rev Rachel Borgars

07889 905753

Rachel.Borgars@methodist.org.uk

01256 895878

Secretary & Hire of Hall Jeanette Billington

01635 297585

ROMAN CATHOLIC: Rev Stephen Vooght

0118 9814572

tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Bas & Deane

01256 844844

Kingsclere Library

01635 297464

Buses

0345 8101000

Swan Street P O

01635 291923

Trains

0845 7484950

Kingsclere Vet

01635 896330

Gas Emerg.

0800 111999

Berkshire Vet

01635 896333

Chemist

01635 298419

Dentist

01635 299981

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Kerry Morrow 07725 819021

Cllr.Kerry.Morrow@basingstoke.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Tom Thacker 07712 695468

tom.thacker@hants.gov.uk

MP for N.W. Hampshire:

Kit Malthouse 01264 401401

kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk

2, Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP

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