



# The Kingsclere Tower

What's On & Local News  
December 2023/January 2024

# The Kingsclere Tower

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 COVER PHOTO: Winter sunrise over Kingsclere

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Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year  
 from everyone at the Kingsclere Tower!

Please don't forget the many who have struggled this year. There are families who benefit from the support that The Community Larder provides, so please consider donating groceries or money to buy supplies. Food donations are welcome on Thursday mornings between 11.30 and 12.30 or contact 01635 299528.

The regular Christmas services are to be held at St. Mary's on Christmas Eve and the morning of Christmas Day, also the Family Carol service on the 17th at 10.30am, the traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St. Paul's, Ashford Hill at 6pm and Carols at the Methodist Church at 6pm.

Locally, you will also find festive events at the Fieldgate Centre, including the very popular Nathan's Christmas Cabaret on the 9th December (see p5), and at the Village Club (p20). The Kingsclere Singers are providing their traditional Yule entertainment which you can read all about on page 18.

**The Editor**

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

## **To all "Tower" Contributors**

**Copy for February 2024 to the Editor at: [kingscleretower@gmail.com](mailto:kingscleretower@gmail.com)  
 NOT LATER THAN 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

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  
 and contact phone number/email address.**

# Kingsclere Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr Clive Mussett (07800 022432)

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

Telephone: 01635 298634

Office: 37 George St, Kingsclere RG20 5NH



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at the Parish Council

**FESTIVE BIN COLLECTIONS** - Any extra recycling that won't fit in the recycling bin can be put in clear sacks next to the bin for collection. In dry weather residents can also leave large, flattened cardboard boxes (max 1m x 1m) next to their green bin but make sure polystyrene and plastic packaging is removed first.

**CHRISTMAS TREES** - Garden Waste customers can leave real Christmas trees out for collection next to their garden waste containers from **January 8<sup>th</sup>** (on your next collection day). Trees over 6 ft should be cut in half and all decorations should be removed. Real Christmas trees can also be recycled at one of the drop-off points across the borough between Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The Fieldgate is our local point but all points are detailed here: <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/christmas-tree-2023>

**WRAPPING AND CARDS** - If you are sending cards or wrapping presents, residents are advised to choose recyclable Christmas wrapping paper and cards. Wrapping paper often has glitter on it and is generally poor-quality paper so cannot be recycled and needs to go into the grey waste bin. Brown paper, with ribbon and sellotape removed, can be recycled. Choosing Christmas cards which do not contain glitter, ribbons or bows means they can be recycled too. If you are unsure about what can and can't be recycled visit [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/recycle](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/recycle) or call the council on **01256 844844**.

## Festive Rubbish Collections - ALTERATIONS

### Normal collection date

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January

### Festive collection date

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January

There will be a two-week break for garden waste collections over the festive period. Collections will resume week of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING** – the collections dates are 13<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December and then 11<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

You can pick up a free green glass box from the council offices in London Road, Basingstoke if there are lots of bottles and jars. Visit Deanes reception between 8.30am and 4.30pm from Monday to Friday, or call 01256 844844 to request delivery. A red 140 litre glass bin can also be purchased for £40. Visit [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/glassrecycling](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/glassrecycling) for more information.

**Full Basingstoke and Deane Christmas Press release can also be found on the Kingsclere Parish Council Website [www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk](http://www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk)**

*The following details have been supplied by Hampshire County Cllr Tom Thacker*

**ELECTRICITY** - Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks have provided some useful links in the event of future power cuts.

Any loss of supply or damage to the electricity network can be reported by dialing 105. You can also obtain details of power cuts and restoration times on SEN's Track Website. Their website also contains advice and information on how to deal with a power cut and there is also a webchat service.

You can read advice online about how to **prepare for flooding** and check **The Environment Agency** web pages for updates to **flood alerts** for the area. For assistance in the event of flooding call 0345 988 1188 or text 0345 602 6340.

## REPORTING HIGHWAYS ISSUES

A reminder of some useful links

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

Pavement problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

Problems with rights of way: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

When reporting an issue, you will be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. County Cllr Tom Thacker can follow up older/urgent issues if you forward your reference number to his email.

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** – The next full Council Meeting will be at **7:30pm on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024**, in the Village Club. 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 during Public Questions.



@kingsclerepc



facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil

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

# Watership Down Health



## When to see a Musculo Skeletal First Contact Physiotherapist (FCP)

FCP's have extensive experience in the assessment and management of Musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions and see these patients as the first point of contact.

The aim of this service is to ensure timely access to a diagnosis and management of a wide range of MSK conditions, e.g. soft tissue injuries, sprains and strains, joint pains, arthritis or spinal pain. Once the FCP has completed the assessment and diagnosis made, advice and guidance will be issued regarding how best to manage the condition. This will often be accompanied with an exercise programme carried out independently by a patient. If needed, the FCP will also arrange further investigations or referral on to more specialist services.

## Adult Flu and Covid vaccination programmes

Good progress is being made on both the Covid Vaccination Autumn 2023 and Flu programmes. Covid vaccinations are still being given through the National Booking Service: <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination-services/book-covid-19-vaccination/>

If you have not had your Flu vaccination and are over 65 or have been invited (underlying health condition reason) please call the practice and book an appointment. Please note that the Flu vaccination programme goes on until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 (or as long as Flu supplies last).

Our sincere thanks to our Team and our PPG volunteers supporting the clinics.

## Child Flu Clinics

We are still working through contacting the parents of eligible children who are aged 2 – 3 yrs or aged 4 – 17 with an underlying health condition. Children in years R-7 will be vaccinated in school by the School Health Service.

## Christmas and New Year Opening Times:

Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023	Normal hours
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> , Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> , Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> , Tue 26 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Closed
Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> , Thur 28 <sup>th</sup> , Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Normal hours
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup> , Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	Closed
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2024 (Bank holiday)	Closed
From Tue 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2024 onwards	Normal hours

**Call NHS 111 for advice when the practice is closed**

From All Our GP Partners, Doctors, and Team, we wish all our Patients and their Families a Very Happy and Festive Christmas and New Year.



## The Fieldgate Centre

Kingsclere Community Association  
Your community. your place.

The Fieldgate Centre is run by 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.

It's hard to believe Christmas is nearly upon us! The regular classes and events at the centre continue and the full schedule includes Slimming World, Ceroc, Clubbercise, Pilates, Yoga, Badminton, Songtree, Monthly Meet Up, Racing Welfare Coffee Mornings, HIIT and Zumba. Check our website for full details of the times of events and classes you may wish to attend.

December is full of Christmas events and fun at the centre! **The Kingsclere Players Panto, Peter Pan**, has shows on the first weekend in December; **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11am and 7.30pm** and the final show **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2.30pm**.

On **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December** we have **Nathan's Christmas Cabaret**. Show times are **2.45pm and 6pm** and doors open 30 minutes before. It's sure to be a fantastic show. Full details of how to get tickets will follow on our website.

On **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** the **Christmas Sing-a-long** is taking place, supported by the Kingsclere Singers. Come and join in the fun and singing – everyone welcome! Christmas jumpers or a bit of festive sparkle are also welcome! Full details of the times are on our website.

The **Monthly Meet Up** is on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** and will be a Christmas party with carol singing and games! As always, if you need a lift or know someone who does, please contact us as this can be arranged, free of charge.

We then look forward to **January 2024** where, after the break, all our regular activities start up again. **The Monthly Meet Up** takes place on **16<sup>th</sup> January**.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy and peaceful 2024.

email: [fieldgatecentre@outlook.com](mailto:fieldgatecentre@outlook.com)

telephone 01635 298497

[www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk](http://www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk)



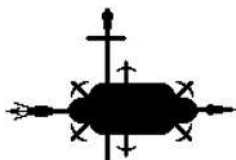
## FOSM 200 Club

The winner of the November Draw was John Castelli – No.119  
**Congratulations, John**

Next month's Draw will take place at The Crown at approximately 7pm on  
**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December**  
[200clubkingsclere@gmail.com](mailto:200clubkingsclere@gmail.com)

## Kingsclere Rugby Football Club

### Want to Get Fit and Have Fun?



Please feel free to join us at the rugby club at the Fieldgate Centre. **Fitness for Rugby** is still going on and runs every **Wednesday evening, 7.00 - 8.00 pm**, followed by training for matches. Even if you have not played the game before or not since your school days, you are more than welcome to join us.

The adults' season is well underway. We lost to Petersfield 2<sup>nd</sup>'s away 79-33 on 28<sup>th</sup> October in an end to end game of open play and won against Winchester Knights on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 45-34 in a thrilling match at home. On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November, we won away against Alresford 2<sup>nd</sup>'s 38-7.

The next **home games** are on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023** against Alton 2<sup>nd</sup>'s and on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024** against Petersfield 2<sup>nd</sup>'s. Both games will kick-off at 2 pm. You are very welcome to come and support.

For those who are not so energetically inclined, there is **Walking Rugby** which can be played by both men and women of all ages. The club runs **every Wednesday evening between 7.00-8.00 pm**.

Our **mini session** is held **each Sunday morning** for ages 5 -10 years olds between **10.30 - 12 noon**. If your children would like to play sport and you would like to get out on a Sunday morning, please come along and meet other children and parents. We shall be hosting Aldermaston minis on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** at the Fieldgate Centre and the Christmas session will be on **10<sup>th</sup> December, followed with a party**. This will be the last one this year. The next minis session will be on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

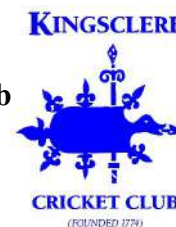
At the Chris Smith memorial /Old Boys charity fund-raising game on 7<sup>th</sup> October, a total of £1,275 was raised for the Busy Bees Preschool, Kingsclere. A very big thank you to everyone who made this possible.

The Club is currently looking for:

- A **first aider** to support out adult team on Saturday afternoons during the season. This will be a shared role with two other persons. If required a training course will be provided.
- A **physio** to provide treatment to injured players on a Wednesday evening at the same time as the regular training session.

To find out more information contact either **Dilwyn Patterson** by email **Chairman-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com** or by mobile **07831 161163** or **Stefan Morsley** by email **coach-kingsclererfc@outlook.com** or mobile **07815 670782**, or alternatively via the club's Facebook and Instagram pages.

## Kingsclere Cricket Club



### Another Successful Season for Kingsclere Cricket Club

The nights are well and truly drawing in and the first frost has just given the early morning a proper bite – but The Cricket Club is already looking forward to next season.

We had a fantastic end of season dinner (pie, mash and peas) and awards with nearly 40 people in attendance. The speeches of the two skippers, Steve Hanney and Charlie Richards, reflected on our Saturday and midweek league seasons.

All of our evening league home matches were played on the Park House Stables Ground – what a beautiful place to play cricket. We won our division of the North Hampshire Evening League! This meant we went on to play in “finals day” against the winners of the other two higher divisions. (Let's just put that day down to experience, shall we?)

On Saturdays, in the Hampshire League Division 4 North, we finished fifth with a record of played 12, won 8, lost 4. All home matches were played at the Fieldgate and it's a huge credit to Norman Howe that throughout the season the wicket played the best it has ever done. We had some humdingers of local derbies against the like of Ramsdell, Ashford Hill and Whitchurch. However, the most memorable match of the season was, without doubt, our win away against Hungerford late in July. Hungerford were then top of the table (eventually finishing second). Matt Howe, Alfie Thompson and the rest of the bowling attack did sterling work with the ball to restrict Hungerford to 235 for 9 off their 45 overs. Kingsclere managed their assault on the total extremely well with great contributions from Pete Frith (62) and Ed Lyle (69). But it was left to Steve Hanney (5 not out) and the evergreen Norman Howe (14 not out) to see the team home to a 5-wicket victory with 2 overs to spare.

The end of season batting awards went to Ross Andrews (League) and Jack Grove-White (evening league). Bowling awards went to Ed Lyle (League) and Alfie Thompson (Evening League). Player's Player award in League matches went to Pete Frith and the Evening League Captain's Player award to Jack Grove-White. Clubman of the year was Charlie Richards.

The Club also owes huge thanks to Anna Lisa and Andrew Balding and everyone at Park House Stables who make the club so welcome for our evening league fixtures.

2024 promises to be a memorable year for the club (as a look at our logo will tell you). Look out for our next piece in the Tower early in the spring to see what we have planned!

**Mark Hirst, Chairman, Kingsclere Cricket Club**

## Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

### New fund launched to support rural communities and businesses



The Basingstoke and Deane Rural Fund aims to support rural community organisations and micro and small businesses with new and innovative projects to benefit their area. Community organisations and businesses can apply for a capital funding grant of up to £30,000 for projects to support the diversification of the rural economy, improve the visitor infrastructure and experience, enhance community facilities and accelerate the adoption of new production and green technologies.

The funding could be for e.g. machinery to modernise production, technology to improve energy efficiency, converting buildings into accommodation or facilities for tourists, or improvements to facilities to enhance access for disabilities. Organisations are encouraged to think creatively and discuss their ideas with grants team at the council.

Before applying, organisations and businesses need to email: **ukspf@basingstoke.gov.uk** to discuss their project idea. For more information visit **www.basingstoke.gov.uk/uk-shared-prosperity-fund**.

**The deadline for applications is Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December** and all projects must be completed by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025. To register for webinars or any other enquiry, email **ukspf@basingstoke.gov.uk**

*The funding is from the UK government through the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.*

## Awards for Imogen, Kingsclere Dental Practice

Dr Neel Tank and his team at Imogen dental are celebrating after being named “Best dental practice” and “Best dentist” in the South East of England at the International Awards of Excellence 2023.



This is Imogen dental's 20th prestigious award since 2017. They have become a team not only known locally and nationally but are proud, internationally recognised winners.

## Kingsclere Players... Neverland and Beyond!



With the final shows of Peter Pan coming to a close in early December, we'd like to thank the community for your support and attendance! We hope you had as much fun as we did!

Kingsclere Players have been providing entertainment to Kingsclere and the surrounding area for nearly 60 years. We've had a recent burst of new life into the group with the successful production of Peter Pan. Now, it's your turn to get involved! We encourage anyone with an interest or curiosity with theatre and production to come along to one of our meet-ups, even if the only event they take part in are the entertaining social events.

### Save the Dates

Did you enjoy the laughs of Peter Pan? Feeling a sense of missing out?! Join the Kingsclere Players! On **Wednesday the 17th and 31st January 2024** we will be doing play readings at **the Crown Pub at 7:30pm**. Please join us to help select our next production for 2024. Everyone is welcome!

**<https://www.facebook.com/kingsclereplayers/> @kingsclereplayersgroup**  
Email: **kingsclereplayersgroup@gmail.com**

## Citizens Advice Bureau



### Have you changed your mind about something you've bought?

If you just change your mind, no matter how expensive - it's down to the seller whether they offer you anything.

#### If you bought the item from a shop

Check the shop's returns policy. Shops may say you can return items within 14 or 30 days, as long as they're not used. You'll always be protected if something is faulty. Take your receipt with you and return the item in its original packaging.

#### If you bought the item online, over the phone or by mail order

Check the seller's terms and conditions to find out if you can return the item. Check who will pay for the return postage and if the original delivery cost is refunded. Your rights might be different for purchases from abroad.

You get a 14-day '**cooling-off period**' from the day after receipt when you buy something you haven't seen in person (unless bespoke/made to measure). There doesn't need to be anything wrong with the item to get a refund. If you paid for standard delivery, the seller has to refund it. Some items don't have a cooling-off period, e.g. perishables, bespoke items, anything from a private individual (social media or online auction site), CD/DVD/software if you break the seal on the wrapping, an item with a broken hygiene seal - like an earring.

**[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/changed-your-mind/changing-your-mind-about-something-youve-bought/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/changed-your-mind/changing-your-mind-about-something-youve-bought/)**

## Kingsclere Local History Association

Our next meeting is:

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 14th**  
when **DAVE STUBBS** will present



### " THE HISTORY OF THAMES VALLEY POLICE "

Dave has visited us previously and talked to us about the First Battle of Newbury. This time Dave will be using his considerable experience as a serving police officer. In April 1968 the police forces of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Reading Borough and Oxford City were amalgamated to form Thames Valley Constabulary. All these original forces were founded in the 19th Century and Dave will tell us of the development and history of this force into what it is today.

Our first meeting in the New Year will be:

**THURSDAY 25th JANUARY 2024**  
when **SUE ELLIS** will present

### " MAGNA CARTA : THE DAWN OF BRITISH DEMOCRACY "

This will be a return visit by Sue who is Chair of Thatcham Historical Society and Secretary of Newbury District Field Club.

Magna Carta was granted in June 1215 and was the first document to put into writing the principle that the king and his government were not above the law and sought to prevent the king exploiting his power. 1215 is a date known by most of us and Sue will tell us of the problems that led to Magna Carta its significance and legacy.

All meetings are held in **Kingsclere Village Club, George Street at 7.30pm** in the main hall. Visitors are always very welcome at £3 pp.

**Michael Leah Secretary tel 297403**

## WALKING THE DOG

Professional & Personal Dog Walking Service  
in Kingsclere and surrounding areas

**£8 per hour**  
20% discount for regular walks, fully insured

**Contact Barrie** 01635 299837 or 07843 335629  
Email: barrie.knapman@btinternet.com

## Kingsclere Community Library



**HOURS** Tuesday & Thursday 1.00pm - 5.30pm  
Saturday 10.00am - 1.00pm

### Fancy playing a board game?

Every second Thursday in the month with effect from Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January, a selection of board games will be available in the library for anyone who would like to play a game. So, come in and borrow some books and stay for a while and enjoy a game with other borrowers or with our volunteers.

### Calling all Jigsaw Lovers!

Every Tuesday during opening hours, with effect from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January, a jigsaw will be out for anyone who fancies trying to add a couple of pieces! We have bought a new Jigroll, so the jigsaw will be put away when we close and will remain safe and intact and will be brought out again the next Tuesday!

### Visiting Books Programme!

Out Visiting Books are proving very popular and by the time you read this, the latest one hundred books will be ready for you to borrow and enjoy – so come on in and browse!!

### Volunteers!

We are always in need of volunteers to keep our doors open, so if you have 2 hours per month (or more!) to spare and would be interested in helping out, please let us know.

**Nicki Lee, kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk**  
**Library phone number: 01635 297464**



kingsclere vets

**Open Day**  
**18 Dec**  
**2023**

A brand new, family-owned  
veterinary surgery with onsite  
24 hour emergency service  
opening the 8th January 2024  
in the Kingsclere Business Park.

Please join us for our open day  
between 3pm & 9pm for a walk  
around, mulled wine and  
some festive snacks!

For more information & pre-registration, please visit:

**www.kingsclerevets.co.uk**

## Try the new look Film Club



**Kingsclere  
Film Club**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 2.00pm**  
Kingsclere Village Club, George Street

### MRS HARRIS GOES TO PARIS

(2022 - PG - 115 min - Comedy, Drama)

**After the Community Cafe at the Kingsclere Village Club**

Refreshments from 1.30pm

*A widowed cleaning lady in 1950s London falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress and decides that she must have one of her own.*

*Adapted from Paul Gallico's novel.*

New members and guests (£7.50) welcome at any time.

**January - no film.**

For further information call: **John Sawyer** (Chairman) **297221** or  
**Diana Tait** (Membership Secretary) **298494**

## Kingsclere PHOTO Club



Friendly and thriving club covering many aspects of photography for most ages and abilities, with an emphasis on sharing work rather than competition.

**EXHIBITION PHOTOS** – We hope you enjoyed seeing our recent exhibition. If anyone missed it you can see the panels of photos on our website at [www.kingsclerephoto.org/2023-exhibition](http://www.kingsclerephoto.org/2023-exhibition)

**2024 CALENDAR** – Now a Kingsclere tradition, with local images, available while stocks last from the following outlets @ just £7:

SPAR Kingsclere (Swan Street Stores)

M.O.L. Photography, George Street

### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

At the Village Club, George Street, doors open 7.15pm to start at 7.45pm

**Weds 6<sup>th</sup> Dec Annual General Meeting** followed by 'Best Photo of 2023'

**Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan Member talks on 'Western Canada & the Rockies'** by  
Chris Brown and **'The Pantanal'** by Tony Matthews.

Membership only £10 for the year (January – December), members £2 entry per meeting, guests £3 (first visit free for prospective new members)

[www.kingsclerephoto.org](http://www.kingsclerephoto.org) or email [kingsclerephotoclub@gmail.com](mailto:kingsclerephotoclub@gmail.com)

# The Church Pages



Hello,

December is upon us, and with it the close of another year. I wonder how 2023 has been for you? It has certainly been a big year for us, moving from Cambridgeshire to become your new vicar, getting to know so many new people, and creating a new home among you.

December also brings the shortest day. The speed with which the days shorten once we've put the clocks back always surprises me, and on the 22nd it will get dark by 3:30 pm! With colder and wetter weather too, it can be a troubling time of year for many, especially for anyone suffering from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). The charity, Mind, quotes a sufferer describing the symptoms on their website, "it's like having your own portable black cloud". There really is something we dislike about the dark. We use the term to describe things which worry us or that cause us fear. "These are dark times" is a familiar sentiment, especially if you read or watch the news. The headlines today, as I write, are about the Israel/Gaza conflict, the protests and counter-protests this has caused, Storms Ciaran and Debi, and the cost-of-living crisis.

December also brings us Christmas, when we celebrate God coming to earth in human form in the birth of Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." In the book of Genesis in the Bible, at the very creation of the world, we're told that "the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters". At the very beginning, there was just emptiness, darkness, and God. Then God said, "Let there be light". And there was light. Where did it come from? Certainly not from the emptiness or the darkness. No, the light came from God Himself. Jesus is the light of the world because it is an inherent part of who God is. This Christmas, I hope you will come to one of the many special services and events we're putting on across our churches, and that you will experience His light for yourselves.

There is much "darkness" around us, and this can affect us in many ways. But there is a light here too! Albert Einstein once said that darkness doesn't exist – it is just the absence of light. If we accept Jesus into our lives, He says we will never walk in darkness. His light makes everything look different, even storms or wars, nothing will be the same again when you have Him as your light. As we head into 2024, I pray that each of you will have the new year illuminated by the Greatest Light, and that darkness will be a thing of the past.

Grace & Peace,

*Pete*

**Rev. Pete Williams**

# St Mary's Church

## Worship in our Churches

**December 2023**  
**9.30am**                      **10.30am**



Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Holy Communion St Peter's, Headley	Holy Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere	<b>Christingle Service</b> 4pm St Mary's Kingsclere
Thu 7 <sup>th</sup>		Holy Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	Family Carols St Peter's, Headley	Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Thu 14 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Worship & Christmas Lunch 11am St Mary's, Kingsclere		
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>		<b>Family Carols &amp; Nativity</b> St Mary's, Kingsclere	Traditional 9 Lessons & Carols 6pm St Paul's, Ashford Hill
Thu 21 <sup>st</sup>		Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>		Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	Midnight Communion 11.30pm St Mary's, Kingsclere
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Family Worship **</b> St Paul's, Ashford Hill	<b>Communion **</b> St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Thu 28 <sup>th</sup>		Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere	
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	Morning Worship St Paul's, Ashford Hill		

**\*\* Christmas Day services**

### January 2024

Thu 4 <sup>th</sup>		10.30am Holy Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Holy Communion St Peter's, Headley	10.30am Holy Communion and Baptism St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thu 11 <sup>th</sup>		10.30am Holy Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Morning Worship St Peter's, Headley	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thu 18 <sup>th</sup>		11am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am Morning Worship St Paul's, Ashford Hill	10.30am Morning Worship and Baptism St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thu 25 <sup>th</sup>		10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Holy Communion St Paul's, Ashford Hill	10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere

[www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk](http://www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk)

## 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, our Church Administrator . email: [administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk](mailto:administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk) tel: **07422 687125**



### November

4<sup>th</sup> Happy 30th birthday, Chris. Love from Mum and Dad

### December

- 3<sup>rd</sup> For the 8th Baron Bolton, Harry Algar Nigel Orde-Powlett (1954 - 10th June 2023). Lord Bolton's ancestors, were local magnates, Lords of the Manor and Lay Rectors for four hundred years, circa 1540 to 1940. Rest eternal grant him, O LORD; and let light perpetual shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen
- 8<sup>th</sup> For our lovely Ted. We miss you every day. Love Mel and Ollie x
- 15<sup>th</sup> Paul Read. Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear. "Always", Alyson, Eleanor and James. xxx
- 16/17 For "Shine your Light" – when churches across the country join together to remind our communities about Jesus – the light of the world.
- 19<sup>th</sup> For Marjorie.
- 21<sup>st</sup> In loving memory of Arthur (Peep) Look & devoted wife Sue Look. Forever in our hearts x x x
- 25<sup>th</sup> Happy memories of Jean and Mervyn Hiller at Christmas time and always. All our love from Susan & Mark, Julie & Bob, Gina & Tom.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Neil: Remembering all the lovely Christmases. Loved and missed very much. Elaine, Christopher, Suzanna, Helen, Chris, Tom and Oliver. Love always x
- 26<sup>th</sup> Peggy (Mum) a year has passed without you, and Allen (Dad ), 47 years since you left. Loved and missed. Richard, Elaine and family x

### January

- 8<sup>th</sup> In honour of Katharine Merriel Wormal, of blessed memory (who died 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023), on the 89<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her nativity on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1935. Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Dearest Eileen. On the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of your death. Loving you Always, Anne x
- 30<sup>th</sup> In loving memory of Gloria Olariu-Stead born sleeping 30 January 2019; always in the hearts of Oana, Michael, Emily, Vasile, Cornelia, Gina and Andrew.
- 31<sup>st</sup> Remembering Paula Tait on her birthday. Dearly loved and missed by all her family.

## Kingsclere Methodist Church

### Services for December 2023

Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30am	Mr Jeff Britt
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	Carol Service (No morning Service)
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>		No Service
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Christmas Day - Mr Tim Gardner
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Rev Andy Fitchet

### Services for January 2024

Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Mrs Christine Thomas
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Rev Canon Jill Bentall
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Rev Rachel Borgars (Covenant Service)
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Dr Malcolm Stone

We welcome new friends to our church

Coffee Morning every Thursday 10.30 until 12.00

Hall available for hire (see details at the back of this magazine)

**Christine Westcombe** email [c\\_westcombe@hotmail.com](mailto:c_westcombe@hotmail.com)



## Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd

Thank you all for your support to our fund-raising events over the year. We start 2024 with our **Quiz Night at the Fieldgate Centre on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**, an event which is always very popular and great fun. Last year we sold out and had to disappoint a number of people who left booking rather late, so now is the time to be thinking of recruiting your team of up to eight. Individuals or smaller groups are also most welcome, and where possible will be grouped together to form teams. We have held the **ticket price at £15 a head**, which includes not only the Quiz and a good Ploughman's Supper but also two bottles of wine for each full table. There will also be a cash bar and a raffle. Tickets will be available from early January, from Swan Street Stores or by contacting **Jane Royle on 01635 297430** or at [jane.b.royle@gmail.com](mailto:jane.b.royle@gmail.com).

Events already scheduled for later in Spring include an **American Staycation at the Village Club in April**, and the **Plant Sale** with Kingsclere Gardening Association in St Mary's churchyard on the morning of **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May**. Watch this space for details and later fixtures!

**Peter Turner, Chairman**

Website: [friendsofstmaryskingsclere.org](http://friendsofstmaryskingsclere.org)

For membership and other enquiries contact: [fosmkingsclere@gmail.com](mailto:fosmkingsclere@gmail.com)



## Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands W.I.

Kingsclere Village Club, 35 George Street



The November demonstration by Denise Allen was most enjoyable and all the table decorations made by Denise were raffled at the end of the meeting, making the meeting even more enjoyable.

In December we have our Christmas celebrations with a buffet lunch prepared by two of our members, with the Woolton Hill hand bell ringers in attendance for our entertainment. This is the occasion when we invite two members from each of our sister institutes to join us. Our meeting is on the **13th December at the Village Club** and, on this occasion, the meeting starts at **1pm**. Just a reminder to our members that there will not be a competition this month.

We revert to our usual format, meeting on **Wednesday, 10th January, 1.45pm** and we will welcome Tony Hersh telling us about **'A Magistrate's Life'**. Tony assures us that we will find his talk interesting and entertaining.

Ladies, as it's a New Year, why not do something different and give our WI a try? We love to welcome visitors to chat, have a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits. We have a monthly raffle and competition, the letter for which is E this month. Do come along and meet us.

**Margaret Geary, President tel 01635 297197**



### “Yule” Sing with Kingsclere Singers this Christmas!

**Christmas fun for the entire family. Both events are FREE  
with Christmas charity collection**

**Traditional Christmas Carols / Kingsclere St Mary's  
Saturday 16th December at 4pm**  
*Mince pie and refreshment included with donation.*

**Community Festive Singalong / Kingsclere Fieldgate Centre  
in partnership with Kingsclere Community Association**  
**Friday 22nd December at 7:30pm**  
Open Bar

For more information:  
**www.kingsclere-singers.co.uk or our Facebook page**

## Our next BIG EVENT

**Sunday, 25th February, 10am-12:30pm**

**The Fieldgate Centre**



We are discontinuing our regular markets and will be exploring and promoting other ways to live more sustainably. Thank you to everyone who has supported our markets. We will be hosting various other events throughout the year.

This next event will be comprised of:

**Energy Solutions – Learn how to save money and save fuel**

**\*\*Repair Cafe \*\* Fight Fast Fashion!**

Free clothing 'swap'

**Cafe – coffee, tea, cakes!**

We are very grateful for the support from our partners at the Kingsclere Community Association.

### Postponing Medicine Blister Pack Recycling!

As of Monday 13th November, we learned that Superdrug was no longer willing to accept our big bags of medicine blister packs. We hope to provide this service again in future. In the meantime, there are some individual and household opportunities for recycling these blister packs, please visit our website and Facebook page for the latest updates and information.

**Nicki, Sarah, Lucinda & Sue greenerkingsclere@gmail.com**  
**www.Greener-kingsclere.co.uk**

## Wolverton Market

Our next two Markets: **Saturday 2nd December & Saturday 6th January.**

The Markets will be held in the Village Hall from 9.30am until 11.00am. We have several new stall holders selling items ideal for Christmas gifts, as well as all our regular stalls. Tea, coffee and mince pies will be available and there is parking available outside the hall.

We look forward to seeing you and would like to thank you all for continuing to support the Market.

For further information please **contact Wendy Morgan 01635 297538.**



## KINGSCLERE VILLAGE CLUB

Est. 1921 CHARITY 1189234

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

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

Don't miss **Kingsclere's Christmas Artisan Food & Craft Fayre, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 10 to 12.30am.** See you there for a mince pie and a warming glass of mulled wine!



### Community Café

**December's Café is on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 1pm**, with Christmas Craft for adults and children, a quiz 11-12am, mince pies, sausage rolls, mulled wine and seasonal cheer. **January's Café is on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>** with a quiz, craft table, Christmas Card recycling and the opportunity to make a lantern for ...



### Lights & Lanterns

Join us for a magical display in the Club Garden. Free entry. Help us to light up the garden and banish the January gloom! Make a lantern at the Café or at home (ideas on our website) and drop it off at the Café.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 5pm to 7pm.** Hot & cold drinks available – you are welcome to bring your own snack. All ages welcome.

### Coffee & Craft

Our Monday craft sessions return on **8<sup>th</sup> January, 10am to 1pm**, for 11 weeks. Bring your own project and/or choose from a range of other craft projects lead by experienced crafters. Early Bird discount - £30 if booked by Christmas Eve, after that £33. Contact Helen (below) to reserve your place.



### Tuesday Yoga

We have some vacancies on our Tuesday Iyengar Yoga sessions. 7.30 to 9pm. Please contact **Emma on [bookings@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk](mailto:bookings@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk)** for further details.

**Helen 297390 or [events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk](mailto:events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk)**

## Shipinnarts

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



Tel: **01189 814504**

**See Events 2023** on website: <https://shipinnarts.org/>

*QR code link to events*



**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 6.30–8.30pm FAMILY EVENT - Talent at The Ship!** Performers of music/arts/theatre are invited to come share their talent.

This is not a competition, so no judging involved. Please email Hazel O'Leary on [hazeloleary@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hazeloleary@hotmail.co.uk). Cut off date 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

£3 for performers, £5 for a group, £5 for adults (Audience), children free.

Seating for 40 only, book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets available on Eventbrite or cash on the door.

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 11am - 2pm Tuesday Crafts at Shipinnarts**

Christmas Theme – Making a Christmas decoration to beautify your home.

Alternatively bring a craft you are continuing, or just come and have a chat.

Tea and Coffee provided. Please bring your own lunch.

Tickets £5 on Eventbrite/ring The Ship 01189 814504

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 6.30–8.30pm Carols and Cake**

**Nigel Butler** will bring his wonderful band to sing carols. There will also be delicious cakes, made by Nigel! **Free event.**

**2024**

**No Open Mic or Craft Session in January 2024** – will resume in February

**January 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday 3 – 5pm Celtic Singing with Laura Wilcock**

***This is not a Shipinnarts event, Laura is running this independently***

Come and sing round an open fire. Discover and intone together the ancient songs and stories of these lands. We will explore easy to learn vocable chorus lines and songs in Scottish and Irish Gaelic, English, Proto-Celt and Welsh dialects. Bar open and teas and coffees available. Children who enjoy singing are also welcome.

Tickets: on Eventbrite/01189 814504 Earlybird Tickets, £10 and on the door, £12, please bring cash.

***We will put Laura's Eventbrite link on our Shipinnarts website.***

*Thank you to all who have come to any events over the year. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you to the village magazines who have so kindly accommodated advertising our events.*

**Shipinnarts Team**

## Kingsclere CE Primary School



Nearly 800 people attended our Fireworks Festival on 4<sup>th</sup> November raising just over £10,000 for the school and new projects. The firework display was superb! Thank you to all.

Year 3 and 4 Enquiry question this term was, 'Where do rivers start and where do they end?' Year 3 and 4 visited the river at Gailey Mill and carried out river flow analysis, drew maps of the landscape and carried out water tests. The rain had been quite heavy leading up to the trip so the river was certainly interesting to study!

If you have a child due to start school in Year R in September 2024, please do visit us and we can provide you with a tour of our lovely school to see the teachers and children in action. We have so much to offer the children. The school has superb grounds providing plenty of space for outdoor learning opportunities and sports including swimming due to our heated swimming pool. Our data for statutory assessments are in line or above national and Hampshire averages and we have highly skilled teachers who not only provide excellent day to day teaching and learning but also lead a wide variety of extra-curricular activities including Italian, Calligraphy, Thinking Club, Dance, Football, Choirs and Outdoor Activities. Please contact the school via email: [adminoffice@kingsclere.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@kingsclere.hants.sch.uk) to find out more.

**Jo Messenger, Acting Headteacher**

## Kingsclere Fireworks



What a great night we had this year! A superb display by our team once more with thanks also to our committee firer from STAR Fireworks. Burgers, sausages, pizza & chips, candy floss and the outdoor bar offered something for everyone. Families and friends enjoyed the winter fayre stalls with Hook a duck, Hoopla and Target Practise plus our ever popular GLOW stall.

We are proud to say that with the monies raised on the night and support from match funding, we will have raised over **£10k** this year which is fantastic. Thank you to everyone for their support\*\*. All monies raised go to helping and supporting Kingsclere CE Primary School.

As a team we are very grateful to those who pitch in on the day to set up, help throughout the evening and come along for clear up. We are actively seeking new members of our core committee for next year's event. If you are interested in joining, please contact [fksfireworks@gmail.com](mailto:fksfireworks@gmail.com) or message **07833430009**

**Kingsclere Fireworks Team**

*\*\* We are so very grateful to all our supporters and sponsors. A full list is on the opposite page...*

## Busy Bees



Our **Christmas fair** is being held on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 12-3pm**. Please come along and visit us at the Scout Hut for some festive fun! We will have face paints, craft activities, food and drink, "reindeer" (pony) rides, Santa's grotto, raffle prizes, local stallholders, and more. We look forward to seeing you!

The staff and committee at Busy Bees wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy new year.  
**The Busy Bees Committee**

## Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby & Toddler Group

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

**When:** Tuesdays, 9:00am – 11:00am

**Cost:** £2.50 for 1<sup>st</sup> child (including snack for child and hot drink and biscuit for adult), 50p per extra child, £1 per extra adult



The Bunnies are looking forward to our **Christmas party!** Come along on **Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** for soft play fun and the chance to meet Santa. We love welcoming new visitors to our play sessions.

We'll also be hosting another **swap table on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**. Please bring along baby items, clothes and toys to this session.

We'd like to say a big thank you to Monique Feane, who took some amazing photographs at the Bunnies' Halloween party in October. Thank you Monique, for capturing such lovely photos of the children in their Halloween costumes! We've had a wonderfully busy year at Bunnies, and we're looking forward to lots more fun and games in 2024. Bunnies will be **closed on 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December**. We will **re-open** for the New Year on **Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>**. 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.

**Tess Watkins 07905 624679**

*... Friends of Kingsclere School continued*

**Kingsclere Fireworks** would not have been possible without the support from our community and our sponsors. We would like to thank Raj & Monica at Swan Street Stores for their support in selling tickets for the event again this year. Our huge thanks and appreciation go to our sponsors for this year: BBQ Bits, WhiteRok Architecture, J Verney Plumbing & Property Services, Selective Motors, Attentive Barber, Protech, Castle Windows, AF Gas, Kingsclere Youth Football Club, Budgens, L Titcombe & Family Funeral Directors, Swan Street Stores, OKH Exterior Cleaning, KDH Cleaning Services, Imogen Dental, Kingsclere Community Association, Geoff Chef and Forest Traffic Management - their support is vital and we are so very grateful to them all.

## The Garden in December

As the year comes to an end, gardening has been difficult this winter. Rain has delayed gathering up the fallen leaves. The result of this can be seen when it's been dry enough to gather them up, the grass has turned slightly yellow and, in some cases, areas more bare. When retrieving the leaves that are on the lawn, a plank could be used to stand on to prevent damage to the grass.

If the weather permits, a few jobs can be done, sow hardy broad beans under cloches or in the greenhouse, also sow winter lettuce. Bare rooted roses can be planted now as can deciduous shrubs and trees. Last chance to plant tulips. Pot up amaryllis bulbs for the house, they grow quickly and make a lovely plant.

When the weather gets really cold and frosty, protect plants grown in pots. If you have some sacking, this will help.

The plants in the borders and beds that have finished flowering should be cut back, most have been spoiled by the rain, so will look unattractive if frosted. Take a moment to look at any brassicas that are in the garden, brussels sprouts will be ready to harvest. Yellow leaves on brassicas need to be removed to prevent diseases, also makes them look very untidy.

Trim any branches from trees and shrubs if they become a nuisance, taking into account, that some shrubs flower early in the spring, so avoid these as you will be cutting away the flowering shoots.

As we store our tools away now till the spring, consider having any sharpening done before they are stored, so they are ready to use for the new season, as we all know good tools make a job easier.

Planting and winter-potting is a nice thing to do: Heuchera, outdoor Cyclamen, Skimmia and Ophiopogon (which is a black grass like plant) - all will look great in the winter. This time of year, the garden depends on good foliage to give colour. Many of the hardy shrubs are variegated, so they stand out well on dull days.



The lovely autumn colour of the trees that seemed to be late this year have finished. We are grateful for the winter flowering Viburnum, Mahonia, Elaeagnus, Winter Jasmine, plus the berries of the cotoneaster and holly.

Hopefully, December will be a dryer month and we will have the opportunity to catch up in the garden.

**Denise Allen**

## Nature Notes

I like Autumn. It gets colder, the leaves change colour and I get to wear my woolly hat and gloves. During October half term, I went on a bike ride with my family through a forest in Farnham. The woods were very mysterious, dark and had a very earthy smell. I found out afterwards that the Mary Rose was built using oak trees from the same forest and Romans used to make pottery there. It must be a very old place.

While cycling through, we stopped and saw so many different types of mushrooms growing in all sorts of places. Purple mushrooms growing around a chestnut tree. Tiny translucent (that means light shines through, but you can't actually see through) mushrooms growing on just one stick that was laying on the forest floor. Thousands of little yellow tube-like mushrooms, growing along the roots of pine trees and all over the moss. There were even three mushrooms growing out of one small pinecone! They were my favourites.



Recently, I have seen lots of robins in my back garden. I have left bird seed outside for them to eat but they don't seem to be interested in it. I went outside to see what they were all doing, and I noticed that they were flying into a clump of ivy growing up a tree and eating wasps straight out of the air. I even saw one robin eat a few of our honeybees! I don't think my dad will notice the bees are missing from the hive, but I haven't told him yet just in case he gets sad.

**Lily K**



## Kingsclere Gardening Association Membership

### CALLING ALL GARDEN, ALLOTMENT, GREENHOUSE AND WINDOWSILL GROWERS.

Kingsclere Gardening Association started in its present form in 1962. (There have been various gardening clubs and societies in Kingsclere for over a century). We are a friendly bunch who are passionate about plants and growing them.



You can join at any time and membership renews in February. The cost is currently £8 for adults, £6 for senior citizens and under 18s are free. Come along to any evening meeting to join or renew. You can also contact me on the number below. Membership is amazing value for money and includes:

- 5 evening talks with a raffle and free refreshments afterwards.
- Members' "Points Competition" for exhibits brought to the evening talks. The winner is announced at the AGM.
- An exclusive summer members visit to a private or public garden with a nominal entry fee.
- Two flower shows, one in April and one in August, judged to RHS show standards with experienced judges.
- Club membership of Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies (HFHS), The Daffodil Society, The Dahlia Society, and the RHS including 2-for-1 entry saving £18.20. (RHS Wisley in Surrey is the nearest and a fantastic day out!).
- Access to members with vast plant and cultivation knowledge and specialisms in dahlias, daffodils, pelargoniums, allotment/vegetable growing, flower arranging, gardening for flower arranging, orchids, hostas and succulents.
- **New for 2024 - Open Garden Social – Members open their gardens exclusively for other members.**

**Our next meeting is the AGM on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

**Location - Kingsclere Village Club, doors open 7pm,  
the AGM will commence at 7.30pm.**

There will be cheese, wine, soft drinks and nibbles afterwards. We would love to welcome new members. If you would like to join the committee, you are always welcome. Please contact me or make this known at the meeting.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members.

**Beth Theobald (Secretary) 07916 032250**

**Facebook: Kingsclere Gardening Association**

**u3a**  
Overton & District

**CHRISTMAS  
MISCELLANY**

The poems and prose pieces are mainly humorous, and most will probably be new to most listeners. Add in some Betjeman and T. S. Eliot's Journey of the Magi for a fun-filled and meaningful recital.

*Mince pies and mulled wine will be served after the talk*

Join us on  
**Wednesday 20 December at 10 a.m.**  
St Mary's Hall, Overton  
*Free to members - Non-members £3 on the door*

## HANDEL'S MESSIAH

A candlelit performance  
given by the singers and players of the  
**BURGHCLERE BAROQUE  
ENSEMBLE**

Directed from the violin by  
**THERESA CAUDLE**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 7.00pm**  
**Church of the Ascension, Burghclere**

Tickets £25 (under 18s free)  
Includes complimentary wine or soft drink

Box office: email  
[theresa@burghclerebaroque.com](mailto:theresa@burghclerebaroque.com)

tel: 01635 276009

Further details at  
[www.burghclerebaroque.com](http://www.burghclerebaroque.com)

Do you live in Kingsclere or the surrounding area? Why not come along to our social group that is designed for older people, looking for weekly activities and companionship?

**Kingsclere  
SOCIAL GROUP**

**AGEconcern**  
Hampshire

**EVERYONE  
welcome...**

**Tuesday 10am to 12pm**  
Rose Hodson Court, Kingsclere, RG20 5TR

Call: **01962 868545** or email: [kim.stone@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk](mailto:kim.stone@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk)

## **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

**Kingsclere Charities Clerk:** Jan Pearce

01635 269184

kingsclerecharities@iname.com

**Dial-a-Ride**

01256 462101

### **CHURCH CONTACTS**

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

**Vicar** Peter Williams vicar@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

**Church Warden:**

John Price johnsaprice@hotmail.com

01635 297780

**Administrator:**

Emma Rivers

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 Patrick Tansey

0118 9814572

Bas & Deane 01256 844844

Swan Street P O 01635 297035

Buses 0345 8101000

Vet 01635 297557 or 40565

Trains 0845 748 4950

Dentist 01635 299981

Gas Emerg. 0800 111999

Age Concern Local Agent 0800 3287154

Chemist 01635 298419

Watership Down Health 01635 296000

Kingsclere Library 01635 297464

### **BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

**Ken Rhatigan** 07850 530319

Cllr.Ken.Rhatigan@basingstoke.gov.uk

**Mike Bound** 07833612735

Cllr.Mike.Bound@basingstoke.gov.uk

**Kerry Morrow** 07422 651172

Cllr.Kerry.Morrow@basingstoke.gov.uk

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

**Tom Thacker** 07712695468

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)**