

The Kingsclere Tower



December 2020/January 2021

Your Village Magazine

The Kingsclere Tower

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The Tower team is delighted to announce a grant from excess funds has been made to the **Third Kingsclere Brownies**.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas although it may feel very different this year, and a better 2021!

Delivery volunteer required

Due to one of our dedicated volunteers relocating our team requires a new recruit to start January 2021 to help deliver the magazine in the following area.

Location: Little Knowle Hill, 10 x Magazines. If you have a few minutes to spare at the end of each month to continue this round it would be much appreciated.

Please contact: Brian Elborn

Email: b.elborn345@btinternet.com, Tel: 01635 298704, Mob: 07741075473

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

COPY DEADLINE for February 2021 issue: 12 January 2021

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

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

Kingsclere Parish Council

Chairman: John Sawyer (297221)

Clerk: Louise Porton (298634 or 07915 950407)

Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk

Office: 37 George St, Kingsclere RG20 5NH

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



PUBLIC CONVENIENCES – Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) wrote to the Parish Council (PC) in September this year to advise that under the council’s (BDBC) Medium-Term Financial Strategy, which was approved by Full Council on 27 February 2020, BDBC undertook to review the public conveniences operated by the council. This review has now been completed.

Given the low level of usage and the financial costs associated with their maintenance, the council (BDBC) is likely to close the Kingsclere public toilets on 1 April 2021. However, BDBC wish to explore whether the PC would be willing to take over the operation of the public toilet themselves. The average annual maintenance costs is £5,000 which is largely the cost to open and close them each day, and the provision of consumables and cleaning costs. In order to fulfil this requirement, the PC will need to increase the council tax. The effect of this for residents will be an increase of approximately £3.91 per year or 32.5p per month. NB. This increase is based on a property in Band D.

If residents have a strong view either way on whether or not the PC should take on the management of the Public Conveniences in order to keep them open and therefore subsequently pass this cost on to the residents, please could you advise by emailing clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk or in writing to 37 George Street, Kingsclere, RG20 5NH. Thank you.

DOG FOULING – The Parish Council has received a complaint about a persistent offender allowing their dog to foul the path from Basingstoke Road down to Sandford Close (opposite Poveys Mead). This has been reported to the Dog Warden in the Borough Council who will patrol the area. If anyone sees the culprit please do report this to the Dog Warden. **Thank you to all the responsible owners who pick up after their dogs.**

MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARDS – In light of the 2nd lockdown the Parish Council has decided to delay the plans for recognizing those residents who deserve a big public thank you for their commitment in helping our community during the Coronavirus pandemic, until later next year. More details will follow in the New Year.

‘TIS THE SEASON TO RECYCLE – Christmas can generate plenty of extra household waste and BDBC is urging residents to recycle more and waste less during the festive season. There is no limit to how much you can recycle and any extra recycling can be put in cardboard boxes or clear sacks next to your green bin for collection. If you are recycling large cardboard boxes, make sure they are flattened next to your recycling bin and please remove the polystyrene and plastic packaging before leaving cardboard out. Items that can be recycled include cardboard packaging, paper, newspapers and magazines, food tins, drinks cans, aerosols and plastic bottles. Christmas wrapping paper cannot be recycled and needs to go into your grey waste bin. Christmas cards can be recycled but only if they do not contain glitter, ribbons or bows. If you are unsure about what can be recycled visit: www.basingstoke.gov.uk/recycle or call the council on 01256 844844.

Garden waste customers may put their real Christmas trees out with their fortnightly garden waste. Trees over 6ft need to be cut in half and decorations removed. **Real Christmas trees** can also be recycled at several drop-off points across the borough between Saturday 2 January and Sunday 31 January. At press time, the locations are yet to be confirmed but hopefully we will have the facility at The Fieldgate Centre again this year. Details at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/christmas-tree

Your **glass recycling** box or bin should be placed next to your green recycling bin by 7am on your collection day. All bottles and jars should be rinsed out and any corks or tops removed. Make sure you don't overfill your glass box or bin as it will not be emptied and do not put bottles or jars in any other container. You can order a 140 litre red glass bin for £28.15 if you have a lot of glass; order at 01256 844844 or www.basingstoke.gov.uk/glassrecycling.

This year **bin collections** will be affected over two weeks and, unless adverse weather or lockdown restrictions affect bin rounds, collections should return to normal from Monday 11 January 2021.

Normal collection date
 Wednesday 23 December
 Wednesday 30 December
 Wednesday 6 January

Festive collection date
 Wednesday 23 December
 Thursday 31 December
 Thursday 7 January

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING – the collections dates are 2nd, 16th and 31st December 2020 plus 13th and 27th January 2021.

STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2021 – If your child is 4 or will turn 4 before 1 September 2021, they can start school in September 2021. For more information go to www.hants.gov.uk/admissions where you will also find information about schools in Hampshire. Alternatively, parents can phone 0300 555 1377 for further support. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 15th January 2021.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – will be at 7:30pm on Monday 25th January 2021, using Zoom Virtual Meeting Software unless government restrictions in place for Covid-19 are lifted, in which case normal meeting procedures will resume in the Village Club. Details to connect to the virtual meeting will be displayed in the Agenda. 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.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL AT
KINGSCLERE PARISH COUNCIL**

Kingsclere Parish Clerk

It is with great sadness that in November we said ‘Goodbye’ to Louise Porton, our Parish Clerk for the last five years. Louise has been an outstanding clerk to this Council and both councillors and residents will miss her cheerfulness, effectiveness and efficiency. From the start she was a fast learner and her advice and expertise was sought by many. She brought many innovations to the role, including, most importantly, the introduction of new bespoke accounting software saving many hours of work. Louise was also happy to go that extra mile, so she might be found helping to put up the Christmas lights in the Churchyard, filming the Remembrance Day wreath laying, planting trees or ensuring that the Village Spring Clean ran smoothly.

We shall miss her immensely and wish her well in her new post, working on software for Parish Councils!

To tide us over until we are able to get a new clerk in post, hopefully in January, we have been lucky to secure the services of Sarah Jones, an experienced local parish clerk, as our Locum Clerk. Although working largely from home as is currently advised, she may be contacted by email and phone in the usual way. However, as she is working fewer hours, it may take a little longer for her to return calls.

Cllr John Sawyer, Chairman



Best wishes to all our members as we approach Christmas in this extraordinary year. Let's hope that 2021 gives us the opportunity to watch films together again and perhaps a belated Christmas party?

We will be in touch as soon as we are able to go ahead. In the meantime, remember we are happy to lend DVDs to members for home viewing.

Please stay safe and stay in touch.

John Sawyer (Chairman) tel 297221 or jrsawyer@hotmail.co.uk

Kingsclere Gardening Association

Another month of lockdown so no plans for any activity except in the garden, just remembered this is for January as well so our AGM is very unlikely to be held. Some clubs are looking ahead to next year; I have had two requests to judge shows and have accepted them. Who knows, they may well happen. Also the speaker I had booked for November is prepared to come next November so that has been booked.

Regrettably our President Harold Thrower died last month, very sad to hear about this he was always supportive of us exhibiting at our shows. I am sure roses were his favourite, often turning up with exhibits he had forgotten to enter. At prize giving he always had the right words. He was a keen countryman and loved the trees. We shall miss him.

At home I sowed sweet pea seeds about 1st November they are nearly all up and looking well. They will be kept in a cold greenhouse singly in pots until end of February next year when they will be hardened off ready for planting out end of March.

Must wish everyone a happier new year and a return to what was normal. Maybe a couple of jabs in the arm will achieve this - Who Knows?

John Eckton 01256 850017

A message from Age Concern Village Agent

Our Village Agent volunteer is supported by Age Concern Hampshire, to help people – and their family, friends and carers – find the information and support they need to stay living safely and independently.

- **Find** – Provide information on a range of topics, such as finding help to manage around the home, social activities locally or what government help you may be eligible for.
- **Help** – When appropriate, provide a bit of tailored support to help you connect to the service you need, such as making a phone call or filling in a Blue Badge form or attendance allowance.
- **Connect** – Can put you in touch with the right help, such as charities and local support groups, at the right time.
- **How to stay well in winter.**
NHS <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/keep-warm-keep-well/>

You can **contact Yvonne**, Kingclere’s Village Agent,
on 07813 368259 or vakingsclere@ageconcernhampshire.org.uk

Kingsclere Village Club

At the time of writing, the Club is closed due to lockdown. Unfortunately, as well as our existing classes, this affected two yoga classes which were about to start. Thanks to everyone for their patience and understanding. We will not know the exact position for resuming bookings after the lockdown until nearer the time but hopefully we can get going again very soon.

The Trustees would like to thank all those who attended the recent AGM. The Club will be releasing statements in due course to explain the position on the Library rent and our response to matters raised at the meeting.

It just remains to say

*MERRY CHRISTMAS &
* * * * *
HAPPY NEW YEAR * * * * **

from all of us at the Village Club

Helen 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Basingstoke & District Disability Forum



BDDF, the local charity for our disabled community, continues to run regular free activities. Please follow us on social media and check the latest news on our website www.bddf.org.uk.

Activities include walking groups, online winter coffee mornings called *Friday Tea Break Club*; and weekly mobility improving seated yoga (both online and face to face). Note all require pre booking.

We are keen to start up a new in person support group for those affected by disability who would like to meet new people in a safe environment. If this is something you would be interested in, please email info@bddf.org.uk.

Do you have a disability related question and don't know which way to turn? We have extensive signposting information and can point you toward the service or local organization who will be able to help.

Volunteer opportunities - BDDF are looking for Walk Leaders (one hour per week commitment) to lead fully accessible & inclusive gentle walks in your local area.

Keep in touch – You can sign up to be a BDDF Member (free) and will receive our regular newsletter detailing our latest events and services.

Thank you to everyone who has kindly supported and joined BDDF during a very difficult year for charities.

BDDF wish you and your families a very merry Christmas.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My wife and I would, through the Parish Magazine, like to thank the **Kingsclere British Legion** for all their efforts in the village center in encouraging and helping us all remember, those who have given their lives in the service of this country.

Steve and Eva Jones

Kingsclere Community Library



We hope we will reopen on 2nd December, but of course no one knows. If you'd like to check before coming down at any time, you are welcome to ring or email to ask. We will continue to make the space as safe as possible for our volunteers and library users.

Please remember you may book an appointment so you do not need to wait outside if others are in the library. Doing so the day before is best. You are very welcome to come along without an appointment, but you may need to wait to go in. Appointments may be made on the library phone number below (texts but not voice mails accepted) or the email.

Our fund raising appeal to 'Save Kingsclere Library' continues. We don't know when we will be able to hold our book sale and other events so we are looking for £4,566 to cover our rent bill. Any amount will be very gratefully received. Go to www.gofundme.com/f/save-kingsclere-library

We wish everyone a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year!

Nicki Lee, Kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com 07899 623872

VK HOUSEKEEPING

Cleaning company, Est 2006

We would like to say **Thank you** to all our clients

and

Wish You a Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year.



Veronika and VK team

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd

No sooner had our Newsletter been despatched at the end of October than our plans for a part-attended and part-Zoomed AGM were overtaken by the restrictions imposed for the second national Covid lockdown. We shall now aim to hold the AGM, on traditional lines, as soon as practicable after all constraints are eased.

The continuing uncertainties have inevitably impacted on our fund-raising events as well, and with considerable regret we have cancelled both the usual post-Christmas Village Walk and our January Quiz Night at the Fieldgate Centre.

As we have no means of knowing how things will be even in late Spring, and because of the long lead-time in preparing for it, FOSM will not be taking part in the usual Plant Sale in May 2021. If, nearer the time, the Kingsclere Gardening Association, our usual partners, decide to mount the Sale in some form, details will be given in a future issue of the Tower.

Let us hope for merrier news in the New Year!

Peter Turner, Chairman



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Entries drawn first week of each month, various village venues

St Mary's 200 Club Winner November 2020, No 37, **Janet/Denis Dunn**

Well done, both!

Maisie Lawrence

Maisie Lawrence, one of Kingsclere's well known and oldest residents, died on 8 November 2020 at the North Hampshire Hospital, aged 92. Born in Ditchling, in Sussex, Maisie arrived at Kingsclere via Winchester, Steventon and Wolverton: many of the moves due to her husband Alf's work. They were happily married for 40 years before Alf's untimely death in 1990. They had two daughters, Helen and Jean.

If you had ever met Maisie, you will remember her well! Her sense of humour, love of the countryside and ability to 'tell it like it was' were legendary. Over time she had had active involvement with many local issues and organisations, including Guiding, Ramblers, Red Cross, Gardners and WEA. Probably not so well known was the fact that she was also an early enthusiast/player of Women 's Cricket – just imagine Maisie behind a dangerous weapon – bat or ball!! St Mary's church was very important to her: both the inner life of her faith and the flora and fauna of the churchyard. Her love and knowledge of wildlife, plants and birds in particular, were legion and she and her friend Ralph Cook were trusted guardians of St Mary's wildflower area in the churchyard for many years.

Maisie 'retired' to Rose Hodson Court in the 1990s, and continued to take an active part in many aspects of village life....organising and helping with a variety of events or activities to make them go with a swing. She read 'The Tower' from cover to cover each month and will be delighted to think she now features.....

Maisie we will miss you!

Maggy Wallace on behalf of Helen, Jean and family

New Date for Growing2gether

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 5th December, 10-3pm



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

This is a timed ticket event. Book your free ticket
www.eventbrite.ca/e/growing2gether-christmas-fayre-tickets-124254425331
or follow the link on Facebook @gr0wing2gether

Growing2gether, Cottismore Park, Newbury Road, Kingsclere
RG20 4SY, 01635 299949, Registered Charity 1082243

The Church Pages



Thoughts raced through her head as she rushed along the road.

“Am I imagining things? Was it real? Could it really be?

What does it mean?” She certainly had an incredible

experience, one which she had never expected or imagined.

She had so much of life ahead of her and to have such a vision so early on

must surely mean something. As she arrived at the house, she called out

“Shalom”, a greeting, and in response she heard the friendly warm voice of

one she knew well. A deep sense of relief rushed over her. Finally someone I

can trust, who I can talk to; who will listen and try and understand. But what’s

this she’s saying, words of blessing and full of delight and joy, and of praise.

I think she knows what I’ve seen; she understands what’s happened. Perhaps

this is confirmation. Her trip has been worthwhile and rejoicing in that

moment, she begins to sing, “My soul magnifies the Lord...”

Mary sings, rejoicing in the message of the angel and the reassuring words of

her cousin, Elizabeth. She will bear a king, one like no other, one who is the

Son of the Most High, Son of God. An astounding vision, and an awesome

privilege, but also perhaps an overwhelming task, the bearing and raising of

One so crucial for the plight of humankind. What is stark in the account in

Luke’s gospel is Mary’s trust in the words of the angel she hears, “let it be to

me according to your word”.

Despite the challenges that she will face over the next months and indeed

years as she raises and watches Jesus flourish and then have the world turn

against him, plummeting down to death, she continues, albeit fitfully at times,

to trust in the God who called her by the vision of an angel some months

before that first Christmas.

This year as we approach Christmas, we will be conscious of a challenging

and traumatic past year. We will be concerned about the impact of

restrictions on our celebrations, and we may be struggling to contemplate

festivities, given loss experienced this year, or anxiety about the year ahead.

Given all that, let’s see in Christmas the hope of a life without these challenges

– that’s why Jesus came into the world, and let’s trust in His goodness and

love as we approach 2021.

I hope you have a happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Ben

St Mary's Church

Worship

As we go to press, we are in a national lockdown, and worship in our church buildings has been suspended. We hope to be able to gather again for services starting 2nd December, as per the outline below. However, if the lockdown is extended we will move all of these events online. Join our mailing list to be kept up to date with the latest information: www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

Services in our churches during December

	8am (Book of Common Prayer)	9.30am (Common Worship)	10.30am	Afternoon & Evening Services
6th Dec	Headley Holy Communion	Kingsclere Holy Communion	Kingsclere Morning Worship	Kingsclere 4pm Christingle**
13th Dec	Kingsclere Holy Communion		Kingsclere All-Age Messy Worship	Ashford Hill 6pm Candlelit Carols**
15th Dec				Kingsclere 7pm Remembering at Christmas
20th Dec		Headley Family Carols	Kingsclere Communion Service	Kingsclere 6pm Carols in the Churchyard
24th Dec				Kingsclere 2pm,4pm Nativity** 11.30 pm Midnight Communion
25th Dec		Ashford Hill Christmas Day Communion	Kingsclere Christmas Day Communion	
27th Dec			Kingsclere Morning Worship	

**** Please book places via our website**

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

****Christmas Services - Booking**

You will see that we are planning to hold as many of the usual Christmas services as we are able to this year. We will have to make adjustments to ensure that we are safe for everyone to attend, but want to celebrate the birth of Jesus with as many people from our villages as possible. Some of the services in our churches which usually have large numbers of people attending need to have tickets “booked”. This will mean that people aren’t turned away at the door when we reach our capacity, and everyone who comes along is able to social distance from each other. For Christingle on 6th December it will also mean we know how many oranges to buy! Please book via our website www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk, scroll down and click on the event you want to come to, then follow the instructions.

If you don’t have internet access but would like a ticket, please call Emma, our administrator, on 0779 0934972

Private Prayer

St Mary’s Church will be open each Thursday between 10am and 4pm for those that wish to use it for private prayer or quiet reflection. This is able to continue during the lockdown too, so please do come along alone or with those in your household. Please follow the social distancing measures we’ve put in place to keep you safe.

Thursday Worship

Once we are able to gather again for worship, we hold a worship service each Thursday at 10.30am in the side chapel of St Mary’s. It has prayers, music and a short bible study and is particularly for those who are not yet confident in coming to Sunday worship & for those who are feeling isolated and would like to meet others mid-week for worship. Please do join us.

Food donations

Thank you to everyone who has so generously donated food, household and hygiene items to our food donations scheme. We are pleased that we’re able to continue to operate even during a lockdown, so if you have things to donate, please pop to the Kingsmill Room (on the side of the church) 11.30-12.30am on Thursdays and Fridays. All the families we support are local, and are really grateful for the additional support. If you would prefer to order items through our Amazon Wish List, please do – the link is:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2G6XREPO8DF6E?ref_=wl_share

St Mary's Church

Worship

All our churches have followed government and Church of England guidelines and have put measures in place to keep everyone safe. For more details on what to expect when you come to worship, see our website:

www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

Services in our churches during January

	8am (Book of Common Prayer)	9.30am (Common Worship)	10.30am
3rd Jan	Headley Holy Communion	Kingsclere Holy Communion	Kingsclere Morning Worship
10th Jan	Kingsclere Holy Communion	Headley Morning Worship	Kingsclere All-Age Messy Worship
17th Jan		Ashford Hill Morning Worship	Kingsclere Communion Service
24th Jan		Ashford Hill Holy Communion	Kingsclere Morning Worship
31st Jan			Kingsclere Communion Service

We are also making sure that those who are unable to come to worship in person are still able to watch the service live on YouTube (link is on our homepage)

If you'd like to sign up to receive a weekly newsletter, detailing the things going on in church and the needs for our food donation scheme, please sign up via our website.

Bell Ringing Accomplishment Recognised

Many congratulations are due to Miss Helen Piper who has now been bell ringing for 50 years. What a fantastic achievement this is and we hope she will be able to continue ringing in the not too distant future.

Well done Helen.

Pamela Pearce

Lighting up St Mary's

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

To book contact :

Emma, Church Administrator
tel 07790 934972



December

15th	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
18th	For my darling Mark who would have been 56 today. You are forever in our hearts, Amanda and Rocket
19th	for Marjorie

Kingsclere Methodist Church

Having looked forward to and enjoyed being able to worship together again for a few months, November found us having to once again close our Church. We very much hope and pray that we will be able to re-open in December but as this notice goes to press we cannot be entirely sure.

Please accept our apologies if the information given is unable to go ahead.

As always, we extend a very warm welcome to all who come and join us in our worship and we look forward to seeing you.

We send you our best wishes for a very Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Service dates for December & January

6th Dec	Rosie Greenhalgh	Morning Worship
20th Dec	Revd Rachel Borgars	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
25th Dec	Tom Gardner	Morning Worship
3rd Jan	Jeff Britt	Morning Worship
17th Jan	Revd Rachel Borgars	Morning Worship with Holy Communion
31st Jan	Worship Leaders	Morning Worship

Kingsclere Royal British Legion



By the time you receive this edition of The Tower our COVID compliant Poppy Appeal launch and Act of Remembrance will be over for another year.

Despite lockdown and awful weather the village Poppy Appeal launch for 2020 and 2021 went extremely well and we hope to have an initial total very soon for you. The Poppy Appeal Team is busy sending out “thank you” notes to those shops and businesses that kindly supported this year, which will include a total amount raised by that location. If you would like to help with the on-going village Poppy Appeal fund raising for 2021 please do get in touch either via the local RBL or via our Facebook page at “**Kingsclere Royal British Legion**”. There is no requirement to be a member of the RBL to help raise much needed funds and all are most welcome (over 18 years of age). The generosity and support of the community has been humbling again this year and on behalf of the whole team I pass on our thanks.

Remembrance in the village went well adhering to the strict limitations on numbers imposed on us by the COVID lockdown. Thank you for all those who supported, attended and those who viewed the service via the St Mary’s internet feed from home.

We have had positive feedback and some great new ideas for next year to dress the village ready for Remembrance 2021. The named poppies and storyboards seem particularly popular and a similar theme will be created for next year.

All the storyboards are included in our booklet which has been painstakingly researched and produced by our Branch Secretary. A second edition of the book is being produced should you wish to purchase a copy, any profit being put into the Poppy Appeal. Please contact me if you are interested.

We hope to get back to our regular branch meetings in 2021 and we would encourage all to attend to see what we are about. There is no need to have been in the military or be a member of the national RBL to attend.

Mark Holden tel: 01635 628004

December in the Garden

The last of the fallen leaves need to be swept up. If you have Hedgehogs in the garden find a space in an odd corner where you can leave a pile of leaves for them to sleep under for the Winter.

Give protection to any plants that the frost could spoil. Some Penstemons will benefit from straw or fabric made for the purpose. As the Winter progresses, food disappears for the garden birds so they need a little help. Make sure the feeding area is cleaned regularly otherwise the rats will visit too

When weather is dry enough clean moss and lichen from paths. A weak solution of bleach will do the job, if not there are products on the market.

Shed and fences need to be protected from the winter weather and there are several products on the market that work well. Remember to buy a product that isn't harmful to your plants.

Some hedges seem to constantly grow. There is no reason that they cannot be cut back now as long as they are not Spring flowering. Tall bush roses can be cut back now and this will help to keep them from rocking in the winds. If we get snow try to shake it off taller trees and shrubs as it can break the branches.

Winter brassicas will probably need earthing up as the wind tends to push them over. Some I stake as the trees in our garden draw them up. Remove yellow or damaged leaves regularly. Bay trees grown in pots should be taken inside or put in a sheltered spot in the garden. The leaves do not like the cold winds.

Prune Blackcurrants now as they fruit on new and old wood. About one third of the bush should be removed every year to maintain vigour.

There are still a few flowering shrubs looking good. Mahonia Charity gives a really lovely show, as does winter Jasmine and Viburnum. Most winter flowering shrubs have a strong perfume to attract the few insects available to pollinate.



The Fieldgate Centre is run by Kingsclere Community Association, a charity (No 1168366). All residents of Kingsclere over 18 are automatically members of the association, an organisation that relies on volunteers to run it. Be part of it, your support makes a difference.

Hallowe'en Village Trail

We would like to thank all those who took part in the Hallowe'en Village Trail. It was a very enjoyable event in spite of the awful weather!

Kingsclere's Got Talent – Be part of the Show!

Saturday 12th December 2.30 pm and 7.30pm. Live and virtual tickets on sale on The Fieldgate website from 2nd December. See below for details.

Support your community and gain experience

Providing the community space operated by the KCA along with community events and activities needs people. We rely on volunteers. Volunteering can be satisfying and provide benefits to you that can be transferred to other areas including the world of employment. If you are willing to give some of your time to supporting the community association, we have desk, facility-based and activity-based work. You can use your experience with the KCA as a step towards new or different employment and we will provide references to support you.

**We wish all users of the centre and residents of Kingsclere
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

fieldgatecentre@outlook.com Tel 01635 298497 www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk

Kingsclere Players & KCA Christmas Event

Kingsclere's Got Talent: COVID Christmas Edition

A Christmas event live from the Fieldgate or virtually in your home. Hosted by Panto Characters of Christmas Past

Kingsclere Virtual Talent Show: Let's see your talents! Submit a video or photo of your talent to be featured in the Show – music, dancing, singing, art, gardening, cooking – have you learned a new skill in 2020? Tell us about it!

COVID Community Thank You Messages Is there someone you think should be thanked and recognised for helping the community during 2020? Send us a video or thank you letter to share with the community.



Send your videos and messages by Monday 7th Dec to be in the show, to kingsclerechristmas2020@gmail.com

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group



Where: The Village Club, George St

When: every Tuesday, 9am-11am

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

After the most exceptional year, we would like to wish all of our bunnies and their families and carers a very Merry Christmas. However far from normal it may be, we know that Father Christmas will be sure to visit (and make sure the bunnies stay on his good list in the run up to the big day) and we hope that you are all able to celebrate in some way.

As we all may have some extra time this Christmas, why not get festive at home in the following ways:

- Get the elf on the shelf out – flour snow angels, sledging down the banisters, sack race in paper bags, mini marshmallow bubble baths?
- Hand make your Christmas cards - if you have a lot to send, why not make a stamp or stencil, you could also use these for wrapping paper
- Shop local – help out our local shops and businesses with your Christmas shopping
- Get crafty – make tree decs, snow globes with jam jars or festive wreaths for bedroom doors

We look forward to seeing you all early in 2021 – hopefully!

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

villagebunniestoddlergroup@gmail.com

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. We also have a darkroom for traditional black & white printing. Group meetings the first Wednesday of the month, normally at the Village Club, George Street (though on 'Zoom' during the present COVID-19 restrictions).

Annual Exhibition - We hope you enjoyed seeing work by 20 of our members, the picture panels are still viewable on our website at <http://www.kingsclerephoto.org/2020-exhibition/> Please do take a look.

2021 Calendar - Now a Kingsclere tradition, sent to friends and family all over the globe as well as pinned up in kitchens and hallways around the village, just **£6.00**

With local images from 13 members, available from the following outlets:

SPAR Kingsclere
(Swan Street Stores)
M.O.L Photography, George Street
Tony Matthews,
contact on 07854 377091 or
email@kingsclerephoto.org



2021 Programme

Our programme of events for 2021, though subject to change, is on our website at: <http://www.kingsclerephoto.org/2021-programme/>

As well as our website, for more information on the club also:

See our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/kingsclerephoto>
or contact us at email@kingsclerephoto.org
or call Gareth Martin and leave a message on (01635) 299227

Nature Notes

Two weeks ago a circle of pigeon feathers was found in the rear garden, a sparrow hawk strike no doubt. They swoop on ground feeding birds so swiftly that the victim has no chance to rise and are pinned to the ground with the hawk on top. Invariably it is a hen bird, they being so much larger than the male. This was confirmed recently with another strike but this time viewed through the living room window. She was just delivering the final stabs to kill her prey and then set about stripping the bird of its feathers, scattering them with flicks of her head. Left undisturbed, she was still feasting an hour later. Examining the site, there was no sign of the carcass but presumably it had become light enough to be carried away.

Little egret hiding in the branches



The elegant little egrets are well established in the South and can be seen in the gravel stretches of the Gaily brook. In between lockdowns we revisited the WildlifeTrust reserve at Fishlake Meadows at Romsey. Our hopes of seeing the magnificent great egrets were well rewarded. A pair of these large species of heron was patrolling over the reed beds between the lakes in full view. Apart from swans they are the largest all white birds in Britain and truly impressive. Planning permission is being sought to erect a nesting platform for the ospreys now visiting the reserve.

The raucous calls of ring necked parakeets could be heard from the roadside plane trees during quiet moments of the BBC 1 Cenotaph television service of remembrance.

A new website? Seen, dew spangled spider webs flung randomly across the mesh of a netted fruit cage and sparkling like diamonds.

Diana Tait and Rod Eldred

Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands WI

Venue: Kingsclere Village Club, 35 George Street



We take this opportunity to wish all of our W.I. members, plus others who read our loved and respected little Tower magazine and so importantly, the remarkable team of volunteers who keep this publication alive in such harsh times, a peaceful and blessed Christmas and New Year. .

In the normal course of events we would have shared news last month of our W.I. speaker originally booked for November. But, there were reasons for Neil Littleales' delay in responding before deadline: He had come across a half-acre 'bit of heaven' in Devon - idyllically rural, right down to an elderly cottage crying out for TLC. He and his family cannot wait to move in and will be doing so imminently.

Neil and his wife Kerry now have immediate and long-term plans 'on the drawing board'. They share arts & crafts hobbies and are very keen gardeners; so keen in fact, that they will be developing the plot to high standards in terms of the National Garden Scheme and already have their opening date for paying visitors hopefully scheduled for 2022 to bring in monies for NGS supported charities. The couple currently do talks on the history and the purpose of this organisation via Zoom. They're aware that NGS will face another tough year in 2021 but like all of us, they hope & pray that our collective world might then be settling down to a more compassionate level.

Not content with his involvement in all the tasks that lie ahead, Neil himself has a personal project underway. He is a services veteran and confides that the book he is writing has autobiographical features - "some funny, some sad, some frankly ludicrous." The main character in his novel will guide the reader through an increasingly complex life of service that eventually builds up to a diagnosis of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and the effect that this has on his family.

We of the Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands W.I. cannot stress enough how thoroughly we admire Neil and Kerry Littleales's grit and dedication. We commend them for their courage, endurance and commitment to causes. We wish them good health and peace of mind; may all of their plans run to fruition. They deserve that much and more.

Nova Saunderson, tel 299570

Kingsclere Primary School



As autumn turns to winter the children's spirits remain uplifted. They have returned since October half term ready to learn and it is a joy to see how grown up the children have already become so early on in the year. We currently cannot have visitors to school so it has been really important to us to showcase to parents and the wider community all the wonderful things that the children are exploring. We have created a **VIRTUAL TOUR**, available at www.kingsclereprimary.com/newyr202122.html please do come and take a look! If your child was born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017, they will be eligible to start school in the school year beginning September 2021. Online applications are open until midnight 15th January 2021 at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions>. We do have some spaces in some other year groups across the school, please contact us as we would be delighted to hear from you!



We held our Remembrance Service this year within each of our 'Bubbles' in school. The children presented offerings of art, poems and stories taking the time to consider all those that have sacrificed things for us, whether it be soldiers in wars or key worker staff supporting the NHS and other emergency services through the current pandemic. We held our 2 minutes silence on the playground as a whole school in their Bubble groups. As our final poem was read, the church clock chimed 11 o'clock, bringing an incredible sense of awe and wonder to the final Service of the day, reminding us all how lucky we are to live and learn in such a beautiful village.

Mrs Hannah Melrose, Headteacher

THE KINGSCLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

POLICE, FIRE or AMBULANCE **Emergency 999**
 Police Enquiries/Information **non Emergency 101**

Kingsclere Health Centre: 01635 296000
North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke 01256 473202

Parish Council: 37 George Street (see page 2) 01635 298634
Dial-a-Ride 01256 462101

CHURCH CONTACTS

St. MARY'S CHURCH:

Vicar Rev Ben Read, The Vicarage, Foxs Lane 01635 298471

Church Wardens:

Andrew Kitch andrewkitch16@gmail.com 01635 299743

Sarah Mussett sarah.mussett@hotmail.co.uk 01635 291900

Administrator:

Emma Rivers
 administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk 07790 934972

METHODIST CHURCH:

Chief Steward Wendy Morgan 01635 297538

Secretary & Hire of Hall Jeanette Billington 01635 297585

ROMAN CATHOLIC: Rev Patrick Tansey 0118 9814572
 tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Bas & Deane	01256 844844	Kingsclere Library	07899623872
Buses	0345 8101000	Swan Street P O	01635 297035
Trains	0845 748 4950	Vet	01635 29557 or 40565
Gas Emerg.	0800 11999	Dentist	01635 299981
Chemist	01635 298419	Age Concern Local Agent	07813 368259

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Ken Rhatigan 07850 530319 cllr.ken.rhatigan@basingstoke.gov.uk

Clare Kinnear 07970 400864 cllr.clare.kinnear@basingstoke.gov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Tom Thacker 01264 738464 tom.thacker@hants.gov.uk

MP for N.W. Hampshire:

Kit Malthouse 01264 401401 kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk

2, Church Close, Andover, SP10 1DP

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