

The Kingsclere Tower



What's On & Local News
JULY 2026

The Kingsclere Tower

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 COVER: Cricket match at the Fieldgate Centre *Cathy Williams*

Hello everyone, there's plenty happening this month!

On Sunday 5th July, **Comedy of Errors** comes to The Village Club (*page 16*), followed by the **Open Day** on Saturday 18th July - a wonderful opportunity to explore all that village life has to offer. For younger residents, the **Summer of Fun** starts on 29th July at The Fieldgate Centre (*see page 5*).

You can also turn to page 3 to learn more about Greener Kingsclere and discover how you can help protect our river. Then, on page 21, Lydia Harley-Tomlinson recounts her sighting of the otters in Nature Notes. An exciting note to end her writing career with The Kingsclere Tower. Many thanks Lydia.

Finally, we would like to wish Rev Rachel Borgars every success and happiness in the future as she leaves the local Methodist Circuit.

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 August 2026 to the Editor at: kingscleretower@gmail.com
 NOT LATER THAN 12th July 2026.**

If possible please submit articles as a MS Word document, A5 page size, font Times New Roman 11, single spacing. *If email not possible, post to:*
 23 Swan Street, Kingsclere, Newbury RG20 5PP.

**Will ALL contributors please include full name
 and contact phone number/email address.**

Kingsclere Parish Council

Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.gov.uk

Telephone: 07787 041829

Office: 37 George St, Kingsclere RG20 5NH

Website: <https://www.kingsclere-pc.gov.uk/>



Our AGM was held on 18th May, when Clive Mussett was re-elected as Chair. It has been a productive year with benches refurbished and notice boards and picnic benches replaced. The orchard has also been pruned and there is plenty of fruit growing. The coming year promises to be just as busy, with more projects and priorities to address.

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING – the collection dates are Wednesday 8th July, 22nd July and 5th August.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – The next Full Council Meeting is on the 27th August.

COUNCILLOR VACANCIES –

We have had 2 Volunteers but we still need more. If you love living in Kingsclere and you want to help shape its future, please come and join our team. As a Parish Councillor, you will:

- ☐ Represent the views of all residents
- ☐ Understand the needs of different community groups
- ☐ Stay well-informed about local issues
- ☐ Help deliver services that meet local needs
- ☐ Work to improve quality of life
- ☐ Attend council meetings
- ☐ Monitor and maintain village finances to ensure best value
- ☐ Represent the community externally
- ☐ Review planning applications from a community perspective

If you're passionate about making a positive difference, we'd love to hear from you.

On the opposite page (*page 3*), there is an article submitted by **Councillor David Conquest**, Member for Tadley N, Kingsclere and Baughurst, about a new initiative to preserve the chalk stream that flows through the village.

This is a wonderful example of how the village community can come together to care for something that is precious to everyone.

If you want to help shape a sustainable future for Kingsclere, learn a bit of citizen science, or simply give a few hours to protect our natural heritage, please get involved.

Restoring Our Precious Chalk Stream



On May 20th, over 150 residents attended a public meeting marking the official launch of **Greener Kingsclere**, a new community-led group dedicated to protecting and restoring our village brook. The initiative is backed by four years of funding from Southern Water and is heavily supported by Action for the River Kennet (ARK) Rivers Trust and Kingsclere Community Association.

A Globally Rare Habitat Under Threat

There are only about 240 chalk streams on the entire planet, and England is home to 85% of them. Hampshire alone holds a fifth of the world's total. Kingsclere has one of them: we need to look after it.

Unfortunately, our precious stream is under severe pressure. Historical modifications to its channel and Southern Water's groundwater extraction, necessary for the public water supply, have drastically reduced flows. During dry summer periods, this low water level heavily impacts the unique ecology and habitats that rely on the brook.

Major Restoration and Augmentation Plans

To counteract these environmental pressures, Southern Water and their expert consultant Simon Cain 'The River Doctor' propose a series of robust river enhancement schemes:

Habitat Improvement: Six key locations along the brook—including Wells Head, Brooklyn House, Island Mill, and Harridens Farm—will be targeted to improve river habitats and ecological resilience.

Restoring Natural Flow: Concrete weirs will be removed to restore natural water paths, and new gravel beds will be laid down to encourage fish spawning. Construction for these changes is slated to begin in autumn 2027.

Innovative Stream Augmentation: To protect wildlife during dry spells, a trial will run of an innovative system to pump water from the aquifer directly back into the top of the stream during low-flow summer periods.

Your Village Stream Needs You!

While the engineering plans are substantial, this project is ultimately about empowering our village. Local residents will be taking the lead with hands-on practical stream management and citizen science.

Come and get stuck in. Our programme includes citizen science, river school workshops, weed clearance, litter picks, riverfly monitoring and much more.

To find out more and join the group, please scan the QR code or visit: fieldgatecentre.co.uk/greener-kingsclere





GP Triage

We would like to thank all patients who have given constructive feedback on the new system. This is being shared with the developers. GP Triage is available from 7.00am Monday to Friday and can be accessed via our website by one patient at a time only at <http://watershipdownhealth.com>

Please see below for videos of the new system available via Youtube:

How to Use GP Triage - For Patients:

(Short Version): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIfpB47Xwx8>

(Full Version): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KuSKDoyETg>

Our reception team will continue to be available between 8:00 – 18:30 hrs Monday to Friday, for queries and other appointments.

Sun Safety

Please remember to use sunscreen. The heat can be too extreme for some people, so please look out for anyone vulnerable in your life or community.

The NHS website has further information at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/sunscreen-and-sun-safety/>

Ticks and What to Look out for!

Ticks are small, spider-like parasites (1 mm–1 cm) that feed on the blood of animals and humans. They live in grass, wood and park areas across the UK. NHS guidance emphasises preventing bites, removing ticks safely with fine-tipped tweezers, and watching for symptoms such as a circular rash that may indicate Lyme disease.

Tick bites: symptoms

Usually painless but may cause a red lump, swelling, itchiness, blistering or bruising. Seek medical advice if you develop:

- A pink/red rash
- Fever (38 °C or above)
- Flu-like symptoms
- Swollen lymph nodes

For more information on tick removal and Lyme disease see:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/injuries/skin-injuries/tick-bites/>

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

We are planning for patients to be able to book an appointment by the middle to end of August 2026. Further information will be in the August 2026 newsletter. Please make sure we have current contact details and we recommend that, if you use the NHS App, the notification feature is switched on.

The next **NHS App help clinic** will be run by the PPG at the Overton practice on **28th July 2026 from 9 – 11am.**



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 the summer holidays are nearly upon us again! The Fieldgate Centre continues to be busy and bustling with its full diary of classes, clubs and activities. Check our website for full details and come and join us for Pilates, Clubbercise, Ceroc, Slimming World, Kingsclere Singers, Badminton, Darts, and Monthly Meet Up.

July has numerous bookings for blood donors, choirs, coffee mornings and the Kingsclere Singers, as well as numerous private bookings which include everything from family fun days to weddings.

This month, **Monthly Meet Up** is taking place on **Tuesday 21st** from **2.30-4.30pm**. The afternoon is always lovely with homemade cake, quizzes, crafts and chatter. Never come along before? Everyone is welcome so do join us and see what it's all about.

Wednesday 29th July sees the first of 5 dates for this year's **Summer of Fun**.

Due to the way the summer holidays fall, we can only hold 5 sessions this year and they will be taking place throughout **August** too, on **5th, 12th, 19th and 26th**. These sessions are aimed at 2-12 year olds, accompanied by a responsible adult, running from **10am-2pm**. They are free (but donations welcome) and include indoor and outdoor activities, arts and crafts, bouncy castles, ball sports and much, much more. Look out for the posters for full details.

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

The centre continues to be a busy and active place. Please contact the office if you need more information on any events, or would like to make a booking.

email: fieldgatecentre@outlook.com

telephone 01635 298497

www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk

Facebook



FOSM200 Club

The winner of the June Draw was Doris Wallace – No. 54

Congratulations, Doris

Next month's Draw will take place at Bel & the Dragon at about 7pm on **Tuesday 7th July**

Kingsclere Rugby Club



Training – Will start on Wednesday 15th July and will run from 7.30 – 9.00 pm. If are thinking of playing rugby or even if you just want to get fit you are very welcome to join us.

Walking Rugby

- Wednesdays mixed 7 – 8 pm
- Thursdays women 7 – 8 pm

Now that summer is here and you would like to improve your fitness, please come along. The game can be played by people of all ages.

Summer Touch

The summer touch started on Wednesday 3rd June at which there were 30 players. It will continue until Wednesday 8th July with a BBQ for all the participants. It will run from 7 – 8.30 pm on each Wednesday. Everyone is welcome to join in from 14 years old upwards. You are very welcome.

Annual Awards Dinner

This was held at Sandford Springs, Kingsclere on 16th May, 2026 and an enjoyable evening was had by everyone. The awards presented were :-

- Captain's Player -Jacob Aldridge
- Coach's Player – Jon Ware
- Most Improved Player – Joe Collin
- Top Try Scorer – Harry Keatley
- Best New Player – Connor Thompson
- Supporter's Player – Oscar Harris
- Player's Player – Joe Collin
- Club Person of the Year – Michael Lethbridge
- Dilwyn Patterson also received an award for serving 30 years as Chair of the club.

Rugby Pitch – The annual maintenance has been completed which included reseeding. To give the grass seed the best chance of germinating and growing the pitch is roped off to prevent any foot traffic including pets. Can you please kindly observe this request.

For more information, please contact:

Joanna Reed – Moreton **Secretary-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com**

Geoff Curtis **Youth-coach-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com**

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

Kingsclere Tennis Club



Come and join our tennis club!

Please note: We have changed our weekly Social Tennis Sessions to **Tuesday evening** starting at **6.30pm** at the courts on the Holding Field.

This is a friendly session for adults, with all abilities welcome, whether you're a regular player or just fancy giving it a go. We will arrange people into groups of 4 to play for a short while then we will rotate around.

Non-members are very welcome, so come along, get involved, and see what it's all about.

Tennis Club membership includes year-round court access, all social sessions and use of our ball machine.

Find us on Facebook or **kingscleretenniscub.co.uk**

Kingsclere Walking Group



We are an informal group of friends (and friends of friends) from Kingsclere and surrounding villages, who enjoy walking and getting together for social events too!

We have a walk on the first Saturday of the month at 10am, and others more adhoc, all from a variety of local starting points, arranged by the walk leader.

For more info or to request to be added to our mailing list please contact: **kingsclere.walking@gmail.com**

WOLVERTON MARKET

The next Market is on **Saturday 4th July from 9am until 11am**. There will still be some Herbaceous Plants and Succulents available, along with some Handmade Garden Ornaments. Our delicious local Honey will be for sale at only £6 a Jar and this sells out very quickly. Available and produced locally are Greeting Cards and Notelets, Wood Turned Items, Jewellery and some beautiful and unusual Craft Items, including some made from recycled Sea Shells. All the usual Bric-a-Brac stalls could hold a bargain not to be missed, so do come along and support this local Market.

We look forward to seeing you.

Wendy Morgan 01635 297538



Thank you so much for such a wonderful turnout and all your generosity at the Musical Interlude concert on 7th June. Thank you especially to Ben Wheeler Pianos for supplying the beautiful Yamaha piano, and Helen at the Village Club for being as helpful as ever with logistics. **We raised £968.75 for Cancer Research UK.**

PLEASE HELP!

This is a plea for donations of high-quality prizes for the Online Silent Auction, held on the night of the Odyssey Ball but also live online for anyone anywhere to participate in. Support has been much harder to secure this year, and every gesture no matter how small means the world. **Even if you do not own a business or have access to valuable goods or services you could, for example, purchase a nice bottle of something or a small shop-bought item for us to auction off.**

Please do contact us if you can help!

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

Tickets are still available for the Ball. Reception drinks, three course meal, Silent Auction, dancing and entertainment: Tickets £90 from the website.

Aldermaston Coaches event and will once transport from and



are sponsoring the again provide back to Kingsclere.

Thank you, Kingsclere, for getting behind us.

Beccy, Claire, Mandy and Sean

Prize donation, sponsorship and ball tickets:
<https://kingsclerecrf.org.uk/>
 Email: admin@kingsclereCRF.org.uk
 Call Sean: 07787 527326



Kingsclere Community Library

July Theme

July's theme is Harry Potter so don't forget to come in and experience the magic – Expelliarmus!!

Dates for your diary

The Newbury Dramatic Society are putting on a show about Beatrix Potter on the evening of Thursday 3rd September – more information to follow shortly.

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

Storytime

Storytime will take place at 3.30pm on Thursday 9th and Thursday 23rd July in the library.

Change of Hours: Our new opening hours on **Thursdays** are now from **10.30 am to 4.30 pm** for a three-month trial period.

HOURS	Tuesday	1.00pm - 5.30pm
	Thursday	10.30am - 4.30pm
	Saturday	10.00am - 1.00pm

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

Kingsclere Local History Association



Do come and see us at the **Village Club open day on Saturday 18th July, 10.30 to 2.30pm**, and see what we do for local history!

We maintain the Village Archives which is open every Monday afternoon (except Bank Holiday) 2 - 4pm in the Holding Room (above the library) in the Village Club, where archive material (photos, cuttings, booklets, etc) can be viewed, or considered for donation.

There is also much information and archive material on our website:
<https://kingsclerelocalhistoryassociation.wordpress.com>

Gareth Martin, Hon. Secretary

kingsclerelocalhistory@gmail.com

01635 299227 / 07796 217840

Discover Sandham Memorial Chapel – group and school visits or visiting talk to interest group

Sandham Memorial Chapel offers an inspiring destination for special interest groups and schools. Surrounded by beautiful gardens and orchards, the chapel combines art, history, architecture and spirituality. Home to Sir Stanley Spencer's internationally important First World War murals.

Group visits include exclusive access to the chapel, exhibition and gardens, with guided talks tailored to individual interests. Visits are available for groups of 15 to 40 people and can be arranged outside normal opening hours. Visitors can learn about Spencer's life, his wartime experiences and the creation of the chapel. Groups can also enjoy the gardens, exhibition space and village walks

Sandham also offers illustrated visiting talks for local organisations at their own venues for a donation to help us look after the Chapel.

For schools and students, the chapel provides valuable learning opportunities across art, history and social studies, with visits tailored to curriculum needs.

Advance booking is required for all visits and talks, for further information: Sandham.events@nationaltrust.org 01635 278394

The Church Pages



Dear Friends

Last time I wrote an article such as this was when I left Bath to come to the Kennet and Test Valley Methodist Circuit, now part of the Berkshire and Hampshire Borders Methodist Circuit. It has been an absolute privilege to serve in both community and church during the past ten years. Thank you for the kingdom partnership we have shared – both the joys and the challenges! Thank you for your love and support of our family. It is right that the Revd Andy Fitchet will have 'unfinished business' to pick up and take forward, for that is the nature of much of our human existence – we cannot pack things into nice, neat boxes, for we are human and that means there are always loose ends. It is very much a time of mixed emotions...

Our contemporary life always seems to be in a state of flux for one reason or another. Family life, work, politics, church and community involvement: there is always some kind of movement happening in our lives. But still, it is often at times such as these that we allow ourselves to rely more fully on the power of God to see us through and to guide us as to the next step to take. The disciples were not a confident bunch of people when the Holy Spirit came to them so powerfully at Pentecost, *but* they lived lives in the expectation of something happening *and it did!*

So, can I invite you, as a community, to work together for the well-being of all members of society across Kingsclere? On occasion, that will be a community-led initiative; sometimes that will be a church-led initiative; sometimes a group of people, independent of any organisation, will have a great idea. No one group or person has the monopoly on good ideas – where the outcome is focussed on the common good, we can all support and take part and learn about other ways of being and doing – above all, live in expectation and hope. The world is a better place with you in it...

And so, a blessing...

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
May the rain fall soft upon your fields,
And, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Irish Blessing

Peace,

Rachel

**Rev Rachel Borgars
Methodist Minister**



Living Paintings Wheelie Good Day Out 2026!

Kindly supported by the Kingsclere Community Association

Join us for a fun-filled family cycling festival. Whether you're a seasoned cyclist looking for a 40km ride through the stunning Wessex Downs or a little pedaller who'd love a scavenger hunt in the safety of The Fieldgate Centre grounds, there's something for all ages and abilities to enjoy. Take part in family-friendly activities including a special book reading by a famous children's author, and relax with delicious refreshments.

It's the perfect opportunity to get active, enjoy the great outdoors, and create lasting memories with family and friends.



Click here to be kept in the know about this fantastic pedal powered fundraising day for local charity, Living Paintings who bring pictures and books to life for blind and visually impaired children. Spaces are limited.



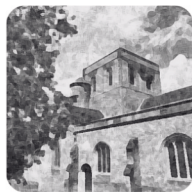
Living Paintings

Registered charity number - 1049103

When: Sunday September 27th 2026 10.30am 'til 4pm
Where: The Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere RG20 5SQ
livingpaintings.org

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

01635 299528 - 07422 678125
www.clerewoodlands.org.uk



Thursdays at 10.30 am

2nd - 9th - 23rd & 30th Morning Worship
16th Holy Communion



5th

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

12th

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

19th

9.00 am Traditional Holy Communion
10.30 am Contemporary Holy Communion with Kingdom
Kids children's ministry

26th

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

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

Fresh brewed coffee, tea and delicious home-made cakes.

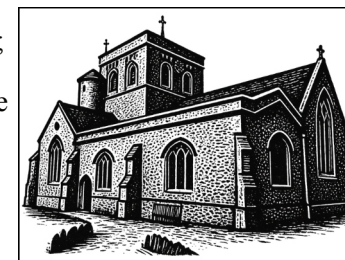
July 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th 10.00-12.00

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

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

St Mary's Floodlights

We love to see St. Mary's lit up in the evenings; it is such a beautiful sight in the centre of the village. If you would like to dedicate having the lights on for a particular evening, be it a birthday, wedding, anniversary, or some other occasion, please email us at **administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk** or call **01635 299528**.



We ask for a minimum donation of £15 per evening. If you would also like to include a short tribute in the Tower magazine, please send it to us by the 12th of the preceding month.

July

15th Lovingly remembering Roy Hazell on his birthday.

Gone from our sight, but forever in our hearts.

With love from Wendy, Nicholas, Matthew, Victoria, Gosia, Anna, Lara, Austin and Lily xx.

Treasured memories of Roy Hazell on his birthday. With love from Julie and Neil xx.

Kingsclere Methodist Church

Services for July 2026

Sun 5th Mrs Maggy Wallace
Sun 12th Rev Rachel Borgars *
Sun 19th Ms Linda Hoe
Sun 26th Rev Lesley Martin

*(Sunday 12th July will be Rev Rachel Borgars last service with us before she goes off to pastures new)

All services begin at 10.00am unless otherwise stated

Coffee Morning every **Thursday 10.30 until 12 noon**, all are welcome.
Hall available for hire (see Directory on Page 24)

Christine Westcombe email **c_westcombe@hotmail.com**

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd (FOSM)

Our next event will be our **Summer Raffle**. Tickets at £1 each will be on sale from a gazebo in St. Mary's Churchyard on the mornings of Saturdays 25th July and 1st, 8th, and 15th August, with the Draw taking place on the last of these. The top three prizes are a Road Angel Dash Cam, a case of wine, and £100 cash, but there will be other prizes too!

As ever, your generous support for this venture is particularly important, given the urgent need to replace the nave roof and the bulging south and west walls, where the Victorian flint cladding is detaching from the preexisting structure. These two repairs alone are estimated to cost some £325,000, and are the priorities if the Church is to remain open for worship and other community activities. **This iconic building needs help from all of us, so please do come and buy tickets!**

Dates for next year are the **Quiz Night** on Friday 26th February, **Plant Sale** on Saturday 22nd May, and, we hope, an **Open Gardens Trail** on the afternoons of Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th June.

Peter Turner, Chairman

Website: friendsofstmaryskingsclere.org

For membership and other enquiries contact: fosmkingsclere@gmail.com

Kingsclere Charities - Grants

The Robert Higham Apprenticing Charity: This Charity promotes the education and training of young people aged 16 – 25 resident in The Parish of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley. Grants are awarded to assist with the cost of equipment, books and specialist clothing required for learning or training. Also expenses incurred in travelling to and from home to a place of learning. The Charity also provides benefits not normally provided by the Local Education Authority to schools in the above mentioned Parishes.

Welfare Charity: This Charity helps anyone resident in the Parish of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley regardless of age or means. Grants have been given towards mobility aids, medical equipment such as nebulisers, aids to make life easier for the sick and less mobile, and travel costs to and from hospitals.

Kingsclere Charities Meeting Dates for 2026:
17th September and 19th November.

Application forms can be found on our website: kingsclerecharities.org or contact Gill Hern at kingsclerecharities4@mail.com who can either email or post a copy to you.

Kingsclere Ladies Group

Our meeting on Wednesday 10th June was held at the Kingsclere Bowling Club thus giving us an opportunity to try our hand at Lawn Bowls. Several of their members gave up their time to help us understand the game, it was fun and those not participating were able to encourage those 'having a go'. There was a welcoming atmosphere and we all enjoyed tea and cakes to finish off the afternoon.

On **Wednesday July 8th** we are visiting **Whitchurch Silk Mill**, an opportunity to browse the museum, enjoy the wildlife on the river and refreshments from the café. For further details call **01635 622683**.

We meet again on **Wednesday August 12th at 2 pm** in The Methodist Church Hall, George Street, Kingsclere. A chance to learn a new board or card game and catch up with friends and make new ones.

Our group will be hosting the **North Downs WI Quiz at the Village Club on Thursday 23rd July starting at 2 pm**. All ladies are welcome to this annual fun quiz and there will be homemade cakes for you to enjoy.



Kingsclere Gardening Association Kingsclere Gardening Association

We would like to thank all the people who supported our coffee and plant sale on Saturday, 16th of May. We are pleased to be able to send a donation to Alzheimer's Research UK. We were also able to donate surplus plants to FSOM, all worth while to keep our beautiful village church in good repair.

The Association members are looking forward to garden visits this summer, hopefully the weather will be kind.

Saturday 18th July we will be in attendance at the Village Club. This is an **open morning** 10am till 1.30pm. We will be pleased to welcome new members to our association and answer any questions.

THE ANNUAL SHOW AUGUST 23rd 2026

The Fieldgate Centre 9am - 11.30am

Open to the public 2.30pm

This show is open to all who wish to enter home grown produce. Schedules will be available from myself and venues in the village.

Denise Allen Chairman 01635297966 denise.allen47@icloud.com



KINGSCLERE VILLAGE CLUB

Est. 1921 CHARITY 1189234

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

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

Follow us on Instagram @kingsclere_village_club

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

Last Call ...

Did you forget to order your tickets for the Festival Players International's **Comedy of Errors**? You won't want to miss this tale of twins, more twins and total confusion! Don't panic - we can usually squeeze in a few extras. **Sunday July 5th, 2 pm** (with an optional buffet before the performance at 1pm). £16 performance only, £23 including buffet lunch. Children half price. Vegetarian & vegan catered for - please let us know of any allergies/special dietary requirements. Tickets on sale from <https://wegottickets.com/event/693279> or Helen, details below.

What's Going On?

So much happens at the Village Club that we are having an **Open Day** to showcase our many groups, classes and opportunities. **Saturday 18th July, 10.30am to 2.30pm**. Whether you're new to the Village or a long-standing resident, the day offers a great opportunity to discover what's available, meet the people behind the activities, and maybe find something new to get involved in. We'd love to see you there

The Staircase

Regular users of the building will be aware that we recently had work done on the ceiling above the main staircase. The next step is to replace the plaster on the walls. As this is a listed building, we have to use traditional methods so the work will take some time, has to be done in phases and will be considerably more expensive than plasterboard. The Trustees are dedicated to preserving this unique building so it can continue to serve the community.

Marquee

Got an event coming up? We have a large (10m by 4m) marquee available for hire. Contact Helen for further details.

Helen 01635 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Kingsclere Twinning Association



VISIT TO CORMICY - OCTOBER 2026 – COACH BOOKED!

- The dates for the 2026 visit of Kingsclere to our Twinned Village of **Cormicy**, near **Rheims, France**, have been confirmed as **Thursday 29th October to Sunday 1st November**.
- During the weekend there will be a schedule planned by Cormicy Twinning Association, with also free time to explore the area and to take advantage of the local retail opportunities! Accommodation is provided by host families, and we have never found language to be a barrier to a very enjoyable weekend.
- Although visitors are free to make their own travel arrangements, a **coach** has been booked to provide easy and partially subsidised transportation.
- If you are interested in visiting this beautiful area of France (just after the **Champagne harvest!**), and to meet the friendly and welcoming Cormicy inhabitants, please email Kingscleretwinning@yahoo.co.uk or telephone Sue Watson on **01635 298940** ASAP so we can register your interest with the Cormicy Kingsclere Twinning Association.

TOWER MAGAZINE DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are updating our list of reserve, regular and volunteers members.

A few of our long serving and dedicated volunteers are wishing to hang up their magazine bags in the near future. They have delivered the magazines to you with details and information of local events and services, come rain or shine each month January - November for many years.

To enable us to continue with the distribution into the future your help will be appreciated.

If you are available to offer any spare time at the end of the months (January- November) we will be very pleased to hear from you.

Contact details:

Brian Elborn (Distribution & Advertising Co-ordinator)

Email: b.elborn345@btinternet.com

Tel: 07741075473

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby & Toddler Group

Where: The Village Club, George St

When: Tuesdays, 9.00am – 11.00am

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



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

The library will be opening especially for Bunnies on Tuesday 14th July.

Summer Closure dates: We will be closed on Tuesday 28th July and Tuesday 1st September.

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

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

Lydia Harley-Tomlinson lydia.harleytomlinson@gmail.com

Kingsclere Pre-School



We have been preparing for transitions this half term. Our Butterflies will soon be going to school- so we would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the best as they spread their wings.

We have also been learning all about ourselves by painting pictures, creating collages of where we live, comparing height amongst our friends and making school passports. We have spoken about the importance of physical activity and will continue to teach our children about Healthy eating too.

Kingsclere Preschool Needs Trustees!

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

Kingsclere CE Primary School



What a wonderful June we have been enjoying at Kingsclere CE Primary School. The month began with a truly special visit from Bishop Kelly, who toured the school, met staff and children, and joined pupils for a thoughtful Question and Answer session. The children asked a fantastic range of questions, and Bishop Kelly shared her favourite rule for life - *'to love one another'* - which resonated with us all

Our Samba Band gave a super performance, and Bishop Kelly even joined in as the whole school sang two of our much loved songs. The children were amazing, and it was a joy to see them enjoying their time with the Bishop of Basingstoke.

This half term also brought the excitement of Sports Day, always a highlight in our school calendar! Children took part in a carousel of activities and a full programme of races, showing wonderful determination, teamwork and sportsmanship. We were delighted to be joined by fantastic students from The Hurst, supervised by Mrs Randall-Bird, who supported with setting up races and scoring. They were excellent ambassadors for The Hurst. Our staff inflatable race caused plenty of laughter, and it was brilliant to see so many parents, carers and toddlers joining in the additional races.

We have also welcomed the start of swimming season. Every year group is now enjoying weekly lessons in our school pool, and several pupils represented Kingsclere at the Newbury and District Swimming Gala. Their encouragement of one another made us incredibly proud.

Some of our Eco Warriors recently presented at the Greener Kingsclere event in support of the Kingsclere Brook. They spoke confidently about their learning through our work with Action for the River Kennet (ARK), and it was wonderful to see them representing the school with such enthusiasm. We are proud to be part of this important community project and look forward to taking our water samples soon.

We are also excited for our Kingsfest Camp Out on Saturday 11th July, set in the school grounds. Families can enjoy food, drinks, music and swimming activities - a lovely opportunity to come together and celebrate the summer. Wishing you a happy summer!

Mrs Jo Messenger, Headteacher

July in the Garden

Many plants peak in June, but with continual deadheading of flowering plants, July will still be full of colour. We have been known to have heavy rain in July that often bash down tall, growing plants. Giving support to those plants is essential.

Bedding plants, tubs and baskets should be at their best this month. Bedding plants are so useful in filling in the gaps that are left when the spring flowering bulbs die back. Tulip bulbs can be lifted and dried out to plant again for next year if you need their growing space to plant something else.

Clematis and hydrangea cuttings may be taken this month. Collect lupin and delphinium seeds. They do not always come out the same colour as the parent plant, but that is the fun part. With both lupins and delphiniums, another way is to take basal cuttings in spring. This will guarantee you will have a plant the same as the parent. It is worth the effort as lupins plant will only last about three years in our area. Cut back delphiniums to the ground after flowering to produce flowers again in the autumn. I was once told by a delphinium grower, not be tempted to grow them at the back of a flower bed or border as they will perform so much better at the front.

Most plants will benefit from a feed now, as they will have used a lot of energy at this time of the year. Tomato plant feed works well with most things in the garden. Irises can be lifted and divided this month. If left, you get lots of rhizomes and no top growth. Sow foxglove seeds and any other biannual plants.

Gooseberries and currents should be ready to be picked. When strawberries have finished producing fruit, give the plants a good chop. Discard plants that are three years old and get new ones, as if left longer, they will yield poorly.

Tomatoes will be producing fruit, feed regularly for best results. Outside grown plants really only need four flowering trusses. If more are left on the plant, they are unlikely to ripen unless you are growing bush variety. Some vegetables will be ready to harvest - courgettes, etc. Shallots need lifting and left to dry. Early potatoes should be lifted. Pick and dry herbs. French and runner beans seeds can be planted now for a late harvest. Plant out winter brassicas. When summer fruiting raspberries have finished fruiting, cut back and cut out old canes.

Mowing and feeding lawns is ongoing in the growing months. Do wait for rain to be forecast before you apply feed. Trim conifers and remove growth from trees: the shoots on the trunks can be untidy. Keep hoeing the weeds, particularly on a dry day. This hopefully will shrivel them up.

Flowers to enjoy this month: hollyhocks, sunflowers, phlox, poppies, verbascum, zinnias, campanula, alstromeria, hebe, astrantia, verbena and roses.

Denise Allen

Nature Notes

Recently, my daughters and I were walking along the brook when we had one of our most exciting wildlife encounters. We had heard about an otter (*Lutra lutra*) sighting at the bridge where the brook goes under the A339. No sooner had the words 'We should keep an eye out for the otters' came out of my mouth, when I spotted two brown shadows – one large and one smaller – gliding just under the surface of the water. Almost disbelieving my eyes, we rushed (as fast as you can with a companion with very small legs) alongside the brook to follow them. The smaller one disappeared but we found the larger shortly afterwards, scrambling up the weir. By the time my husband had dashed from home to join us, it had disappeared under the bridge that takes Newbury Road over the brook. We looked over the edge and saw the otter standing on a concrete island nearly directly under the bridge. She (likely to be 'she', if she was with a young otter, as females tend to raise kits alone) looked straight up at us with beautiful little beady black eyes, fur dripping wet, chewing loudly on something crunchy – then disappeared again.

The otter is a top predator and eats just under a kilo of food per day. It mostly eats fish, waterbirds, amphibians and crustaceans but they will also look for food on land, including birds, eggs, insects and small mammals. When we caught sight of her for the last time, she had passed back under the bridge and was sitting on the bank. We could now clearly see the remains of a large bird in her front paws, and she sat calmly finishing her breakfast as we all looked on. I could see the bird's clawed foot clearly, and I suspect it was a pigeon or similar – perhaps a fledgling that had strayed too far from its parents. I will remember those moments for a long time.

Otters need clean rivers with plenty of prey, and plants to hide their waterside burrows, or 'holts'. If we want to see more of these beautiful animals, we all have an opportunity to help restore the ecology of the brook – this incredibly rare chalk stream. The Greener Kingsclere community volunteer group are looking for people to get involved. If you are interested, check out their Facebook group to find out more.

Thank you for reading my Nature Notes over these past few years. I hope they have given you as much pleasure reading them as I have had writing them.

Lydia Harley-Tomlinson

lydia.harleytomlinson@gmail.com



Tickets available at:
<https://linktr.ee/HexaConBasingstoke>
 or just scan the QR code



All proceeds go to:  Mind Andover



What is the u3a?



It is the "University of the Third Age". We are a lively organisation centred in the Overton area including members in Whitchurch and Oakley, for people no longer working full-time who want to keep learning. There is no minimum age and no requirement for qualifications. Our aim is to have fun, make friends, stay fit and exercise the mind.

Our u3a branch has over 30 interest groups and over 200 members.

Our interest/study groups are run by members e.g. languages, crafts, history, games, lunch clubs and gardens. There are monthly talks which are held on the third Wednesday of each month, in St. Mary's Hall, Overton at 10am. (Next meeting: 16th September)

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

If you aren't able to look online you would be welcome at one of the monthly talks where we can provide more details.

What's on at Shipinnarts

The Ship Inn Country Hotel, Ashford Hill, RG19 8BD
Tel: **01189 814504** Website: <https://shipinnarts.org/>
Email: shipinnarts@gmail.com



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

A lovely afternoon for family and friends. Homemade scones and jam, clotted cream. China plates cups and saucers

We will have a raffle too of a handful of special prizes. Tickets Eventbrite on sale now: Adults £15 Child £6 Book now as usually a very popular event. (If you have any dietary requirements, please ring us on 01189814504 a week before).



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

The Story of Levi Strauss & Co. a talk, 7th July, 6.30–8pm

Levi Strauss & Co.'s historian, Tracey Panek, will tell the story of the origin and evolution of the company from its roots in the California Gold Rush to its rise as a global fashion powerhouse, including the invention of blue jeans, the company's pioneering use of rivets, and the cultural impact of denim across generations. Tracey will also talk about the work of digitising Levi's legacy for future generations. Tickets must be booked in advance: £15 per person. Tea and coffee will be available for a donation.

Whitchurch Silk Production Tour, 7th July, 11am–12 midday

This exclusive guided tour takes you behind the scenes of silk production in an authentic Victorian setting. You'll see looms in action, hear the stories of weavers past and present, and be able to immerse yourself in the artistry that keeps our Mill alive. For your safety, you need to wear sensible footwear. Please check for specific access requirements. Tour duration approximately one hour. Booking in advance is essential. Tickets £25 per person. This tour will be repeated throughout this year.

Heritage Craft Workshops

Weave a Wall Hanging, 6th July, at Hobbycraft Salisbury, 10.30am–1.30pm
(2A Dolphin Retail Park, Southampton Road, Salisbury, SP1 2LA)

Learn from our weaving team in a small group with time to create your own patterns and textures. The resulting wall hanging will be yours to take home. Suitable for beginners. Tickets £60 per person. **We're also running our usual workshop at the Mill on 8th July.**

Beginner's Crochet Workshop: Granny Squares, 11th July, 11am–2pm

Workshop for beginners or those wishing to revise their crocheting skills. Fully qualified teacher Heather of Arthur's Craft Corner will teach you how to create a classic granny square. All materials and tools provided. £45 per person.

Creative Patching Workshop, 24th July, 11am–1pm

A hands-on workshop designed especially for young makers to discover simple sewing techniques for repairing, decorating and transforming clothes. For more detailed information see our website. Tickets £35 per person.

Silver Ring Workshop, 27th July, 10.30am–1.30pm

This will be run by Lou Sargent, a local silversmith who makes contemporary silver jewellery and runs workshops using traditional hand tools. You'll make a personalised chunky silver ring. All materials and tools will be provided. Suitable for beginners who are 16+. Tickets £60 per person must be booked in advance from **Chunky Silver Ring Workshop Tickets, via Eventbrite.**

Tickets for our events are generally available from the Mill Shop or from our website via the 'Events' page. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram or subscribe to our email newsletter via the link on our website.

THE KINGSCLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

POLICE, FIRE or AMBULANCE

Police Enquiries/Information

Emergency 999
non Emergency 101

Kingsclere Health Centre:
North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke

0333 034 1033
01256 473202

Parish Council: 37 George Street (see page 2)

01635 298634

Kingsclere Charities Clerk: Gillian Hern

07884 182696

kingsclerecharities4@mail.com

Dial-a-Ride

01256 462101

CHURCH CONTACTS

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01635 297780

Administrator:

Natalie Follett

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01256 895878

Secretary & Hire of Hall Jeanette Billington

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Rev Stephen Vooght

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01635 297464

Buses

0345 8101000

Swan Street P O

01635 291923

Trains

0845 7484950

Kingsclere Vet

01635 896330

Gas Emerg.

0800 111999

Berkshire Vet

01635 896333

Chemist

01635 298419

Dentist

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