

A close-up photograph of a hedgehog in a grassy area with scattered brown autumn leaves. The hedgehog is facing right, and its quills are a mix of grey and brown. The background is a soft-focus green lawn with several large, fallen brown leaves.

The Kingsclere Tower

What's On & Local News
OCTOBER 2024

T The Kingsclere Tower

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 LAYOUT/COVER: Hedgehog in copper beech litter (Cathy Williams)

For about 15 minutes the other day I was in the churchyard opposite the Crown watching a squirrel sorting acorns under the oak tree. Once he found one he liked he scampered off to bury it in the ground, storing it for the winter months. Planning ahead is the theme of several of this month's articles: preparation for flu and Covid on page 4, events at the club on page 16, and October in the Garden on page 20.

We'd like to wish the school choir the very best of luck when they appear at the Mayors Variety Show, page 18. There's also an interesting article on the match celebrating 250 years of Cricket in the Village, on page 6. A heartfelt thank you to Mary Knapp, who served the Guides for 15 years and died in August, is on page 9.

As always, our clubs and societies welcome all to their events organised throughout the month, be it exhibitions, talks or joining in activities.

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 November 2024 to the Editor at: kingscleretower@gmail.com
NOT LATER THAN 12th October 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

Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk

Telephone: 01635 298634

Office: 37 George St, Kingsclere RG20 5NH



COUNCILLOR VACANCY – There is currently some Councillor vacancies on Kingsclere Parish Council. Being a councillor is a great way to give back to the community and help develop our wonderful village. Seeing Kingsclere change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped make, is something that can give you a sense of achievement and pride.

For more information, contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk

BONFIRES – There are no laws about lighting a domestic bonfire however, no one is entitled to cause a statutory nuisance. Please be considerate and thoughtful to your neighbours. A nuisance can be reported to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

KINGSCLERE ANNUAL REPORT – Thank you to Ken Rhatigan for once again delivering to homes around the parish free of charge, which saved the parish money finding an alternative delivery method. Apologies, we were a few short. If you didn't receive a copy, please contact the office and we'll get it sent to you.

THE SQUARE – KPC has purchased new bench slats for the two benches by the Jubilee Lamp. Thank you to Ray Peach and Raz Zaman for installing these and to Nicki Peach for painting the bench legs. The damaged bus shelter glass panel has also been replaced. We are currently in the process of planning the refurbishment of the large flower bed here too.

MOWING AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT – it is time to go out to tender for this contract. If anyone is interested in quoting, please get in touch with the office. There are 14 acres to maintain. The relevant equipment, proof of insurance and possibly references, will be required.

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING – the collections dates are Wednesday 2nd, 16th and 30th October.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – The next Full Council Meeting is scheduled for **Monday 28th October in the Main Hall of the Village Club.** (This is subject to confirmation at the Full Council Meeting on September 30th). We welcome the attendance of all parishioners at our meetings and anyone who wishes to raise any matters will be given the opportunity to do so during Public Questions.



@kingsclerepc



facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil

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

Kingsclere Local History Association



Our next meeting will be on **THURSDAY 24th OCTOBER:**
TONY CROSS will present "**PEOPLE ON PLINTHS**".

A welcome return visit by Tony who was the curator of Alton Museum. An obvious expert on Hampshire history he will tell us of the fascinating stories behind some twelve noteworthy statues in Hampshire ranging from the "Great and Good" to the ordinary working man. We meet in the main hall at Kingsclere Village Club, 35 George Street, RG20 5NH at 7.30pm and visitors are very welcome at £3pp
Michael Leah, Secretary tel 297403

80th Anniversary VE Day

One of the best days this year was the celebration of D-Day with the procession coming through Kingsclere en route to Greenham. Around Kingsclere a lot was going on prior to the D-Day invasion in 1944.

2025 will be the 80th Anniversary of the end of the war, so it seems appropriate that we exhibit some of what was happening in Kingsclere during the war. The Kingsclere History Association would like to put on an exhibition about WW2 but we need the help of the whole village. The Village Club put on an excellent display of memorabilia of the war for the D-Day celebration but I'm sure there is more that we can discover before time erases all memories of that period.

The number of people who are old enough to remember the war is becoming, sadly, smaller. Even these villagers were very young and their memories are of family, of fathers who had gone to military service and of life disturbed by enemy aircraft.

But what was life like then? Food was rationed – perhaps you have a ration book? They continued even after the war so I still have a distant memory of my mother's ration book. In Kingsclere, whilst fathers were often away, there were British servicemen here, some replaced by Americans troops before D-Day. At the YMCA hut in Pope's Hill over a million meals were served. Dances and entertainments were given in the Albert Hall (now the Kingsclere Performing Arts Hall) in Swan Street. Not only the soldiers were entertained but also the Land Army girls who were living in Kingsclere along the Basingstoke Road, would come to the entertainments.

There is so much to unearth about our parents and grandparents' lives at that time. What was happening in Kingsclere is, of course, of most interest but details of all of our family lives are important. If you would like to research some aspect of life in WW2, let us know and we will see how we can help you. The Kingsclere Archive has some information as does the Hampshire Archive in Winchester. Perhaps you have family photos or memorabilia: tell us about them and we can bring them together. The idea would be to display different aspects of life in WW2 at the Village Club, the date to be decided. If you would like to be involved or you have useful information, please contact the **Kingsclere Local History Society**, initially through me,
mike@mikestokoe.com / 01635297234



2024/25 Flu Season (up to 31st March 2025)

We will send influenza vaccination invitation out by SMS and email, with letters being used where SMS and email is not available. We ask that you await an invitation. The Adult Flu vaccination dates will be:

Sat 5th Oct, Sat 19th Oct, Sat 16th Nov. There will be some ad hoc clinics too. Providing the Covid vaccine arrives (due to be given from 3rd October) it will be offered at the same time as Influenza where a patient is happy to have both at the same time.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

This is a new vaccination being offered this year to help protect eligible patients from the RSV virus.

This is available to patients who:

- turn 75 years of age on or after 1st September 2024
- are already aged 75 to 79 years old on 1st September 2024
- All women who are at least 28 weeks pregnant on 1st September 2024, will be offered a single dose of the RSV vaccine. After that, pregnant women will become eligible as they reach 28 weeks gestation and remain eligible up to birth (midwifery services to offer initially).

We are limited in how much vaccine we can have now so we will be inviting, as and when we can, by text. This is an on-going vaccination programme throughout the year.

Patient Participation Group Committee

At the recent AGM of the PPG a new committee was elected. The committee now consists of 5 previous members and eight new members. They are:

Heather Bronks (Committee Chair)	Ashehmann204@hotmail.com
Tim Parry (Oakley)	Roz Haines (Kingsclere)
Lisette Kay (Oakley)	Amanda Russell Robbins (Kingsclere)
Ian Pryce (Deputy Chair) (Oakley)	Lucy Richards
Nigel Dean (Oakley)	Abigail Compton-Burnett (Wootton St Lawrence)
David Backers (Overton)	
Brian Elkins (Overton)	

Calling all Spanish speakers

Overton and District U3A (university of the third age) is starting a Spanish conversation group. Are there any Spanish nationals in the area who might like to join us on a voluntary basis and make sure we speak grammatically? There may also be interest in a beginners group.

U3A groups usually meet once a month for an hour or so.

Contact Diana on **treasurer.overtonu3a@gmail.com**



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.

The countdown to Autumn, Halloween and Bonfire Night starts in earnest and the centre continues its programme of exercise classes, sports club matches, blood donor sessions, activities and private events. Check our website for full details and come and join us for Pilates, Clubbercise, Ceroc, Slimming World, Badminton, Darts, Monthly Meet Up and Songtree.

The **KCA AGM** is being held on **Monday 7th October at 7pm**, come along and find out more about what happens at the Fieldgate Centre.

The **Race Night** takes place on **12th October at 7pm**. It's a fun and very popular event so please book your tickets early!

Greener Kingsclere are holding their Eco-event on **13th October at 10am**.

Monthly Meet Up takes place on **15th**. A lovely afternoon of chat, company, cuppas and cake, activities, a walk and a quiz. Come along – all are welcome!

Ceroc are holding their **Beginners Day on 27th October 1.30-4.30pm**, and is free entry. It's a great way to see if you would like to join the group, so pop along if you fancy a dance.

Preparation for the **Panto** season continues throughout October. This year it's **Babes in the Wood and Robin Hood**. Look out for full details on our website. It's going to be very popular so you will need to book early! (*See page 10*)

Contact us if you need any further information about our activities or if you would like to hold your event at The Fieldgate Centre.

email: fieldgatecentre@outlook.com

telephone 01635 298497

www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk

Facebook

Kingsclere Tennis Club



Tennis continues throughout the autumn and winter, weather permitting.

Don't forget our social tennis sessions on Thursdays. If anyone, old or young of any ability, would like to join the morning session from 9.30, please contact Daphne Snook on **dsnook339@gmail.com**. We're a friendly bunch and we just enjoy playing as long as the weather permits.

Please visit our Facebook page or website for details of the latest activities and more information **www.kingscleretennisclub.co.uk**

250 Years of Cricket in Kingsclere

What a wonderful day it turned out to be; the combination of a celebratory cricket match, a parade of Kingsclere trained racehorses and live music from Big Red seemed to hit the right note. Just over a thousand people from Kingsclere, along with many from further afield, turned out to support the celebration of 250 years since Kingsclere's first recorded game of cricket.



Kingsclere CC enlisted the help of former England cricketer Matthew Hoggard in the expectation of some stiff opposition from Andrew Balding's Park House Pirates Invitation XI. The Pirates featured Hampshire Cricketers Ali Orr and Joe Eckland, James Beattie (former Southampton Footballer), Jack Channon,

Johnno Spence and Toby and Jonno Balding alongside Stables staff. Tony Lewis (former England Cricket Captain) performed the coin toss and KCC skipper, Steve Hanney, invited Charlie Richards PHP XI to bat first. Despite some decent runs from the Hampshire lads and some lusty blows by Johnno Spence, the village team restricted PHP to 127 all out thanks to some tight spells from all the KCC bowlers.



Between innings, hundreds of people flocked across to the trotting ring and then out onto the gallops to watch a spectacular parade and display of speed from eleven Kingsclere trained horses. Andrew Balding's expert commentary on all the horses including Coltrane, The Foxes and Berkshire Nugget was fascinating to hear.

All the horses were beautifully turned out and expertly ridden by their stables work riders.

KCC then set about their task of chasing down the PHP target. Pete Frith and Dan Jones got the innings off to a steady start and the arrival of Ross Andrews and Chris Hanney at the wicket really moved the runs scoring into top gear. Jack Grove White and Henry Johnson hit the final couple of sixes that meant the match trophy went to the KCC XI.



All of the food stalls including Hoggy's Grill and the Pie Hole kept everyone well fed and the queue at the bar seemed never to subside for too long. Although we don't have final figures yet, the event raised thousands of pounds for the chosen charities (Lord's Taverners, Hants and IOW Air Ambulance and St Michael's Hospice) and the club.

Photo acknowledgements: Kingsclere CC, Parade of Horses, Presentation of Trophy: Liz Hammond; Pirates Invitation XI: MOL Photography

Continued on page 7...

...continued from page 6 - 250 Years of Cricket in Kingsclere

So many people helped make the event the success it was; the organising committee, the volunteers on the car parking, the gate and the bar, and all of the sponsors who generously donated funds ahead of time. We owe a huge vote of thanks to the whole of the Balding family for allowing the event to be staged on the beautiful Park House Stables Cricket Ground – and for being there!

Finally, thank you to everyone who turned out to support the event. Thank goodness the storm went through on Saturday!

Mark Hirst, Kingsclere Cricket Club

Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants

On 29th October a guest speaker, David Hurron, who is a presenter on Gardeners' World and journalist and lecturer in horticulture is here in Freefolk to talk about **planting for hotter drier summers and wetter winters**. Anyone who has heard him speak in the past will know how fantastic he is at sharing his extensive knowledge. Please book via our website:

<https://www.hardysplants.co.uk> or contact us at hardysplants@gmail.com



Clare Mitchell works with us every Tuesday during the summer here at the Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants. You can listen to her podcasts on Basingstoke Community Radio at <https://www.gardeneditor.co.uk/radio> or follow her on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/GardenEditor/>

Changes to Winter Fuel Payment



Only those receiving Pension Credit or other means tested benefits will now be eligible. If this affects you, there are other ways to get support this winter.

Grants and benefits to help you pay your energy bills

You might be able to get help if you're struggling to afford your energy bills or top up your prepayment meter. The help you get depends on how you pay for your energy, the type of energy you use and if you claim benefits

Priority Services Register

You can get extra help from your gas and electricity supplier by signing up to the Priority Services Register if you're of State Pension age, disabled or have a long-term health condition or considered 'vulnerable' by your energy network.

For more information on energy, please go to:

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/energy/energy-supply/

Please call the Citizens Advice Basingstoke Adviceline free about your energy bills or any other enquiry, on **0808 278 7829**, Monday to Friday, 9-5pm.

Kingsclere Photo Club

Friendly and thriving club covering many aspects of photography for all ages and abilities, non-competitive with an emphasis on sharing work and knowledge. We also have a darkroom for traditional black & white printing. Meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at the Village Club.



17th ANNUAL PHOTO EXHIBITION - Sat 12th & Sun 13th October 2024

Free entry, come and see our photos and vote for your favourite!

In the main hall, Kingsclere Village Club, George Street.

Saturday 10am – 5pm

Sunday 10am – 4pm



Launch of our 2025 Calendar @ just £7

Prints, Cards and Postcards for sale at reasonable prices.

Forthcoming Meetings at Kingsclere Village Club, George Street, Kingsclere, RG20 5NH, doors open 7.15pm for 7.45pm start

Weds 2nd October – ‘Water’ Challenge photos

An evening devoted to reviewing our photographs from the ‘Water’ themed challenge

Weds 6th November – Light Painting practical

Another practical session indoors, led by one of our members

For more information see our website www.kingsclerephoto.org or contact Gareth or Bob at kingsclerephotoclub@gmail.com

Kingsclere Rugby Club



Women’s Walking Rugby – Both the Wednesday and Thursday evening games are held at The Fieldgate Centre between 7.00 - 8.00 pm. The game is suitable for women from 18 to 70 +, no experience of rugby is needed.

Adults Rugby – It is not too late to start playing. If you feel the urge, you are more than welcome to come and join for training on Wednesday evenings between 7- 9 pm.

Men’s Walking Rugby – Please feel free to come and join us on Wednesday evenings between 7 – 8 pm.

Physio – The club is looking for a volunteer physio to support the adult’s team on either Wednesday evenings and/or on match days. If you are interested, contact Joanna Reed – Moreton Secretary-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com

Thank you, Mary

A tribute to Girlguiding leader Mary Knapp

Members of Girlguiding in Kingsclere are very sad to report the passing of one of our leaders, Mary Knapp. Mary passed away at home surrounded by family on the morning of 26th August 2024.

Mary was a Leader at 1st Kingsclere Rainbows and 3rd Kingsclere Brownies for 15 years, up until her retirement from Girlguiding in Autumn last year. Mary absolutely loved working with children. She was a Teaching Assistant at Burghclere Primary School and began her Guiding journey in 2009, preventing Kingsclere Rainbows from closing by taking over the running alongside her friend, and then supported new leaders to come on board. She continued at 1st Kingsclere Rainbows and helped at 1st Kingsclere Brownies before it closed, and was soon helping at 3rd Kingsclere Brownies too, supporting leaders to achieve their leadership qualifications, as well as taking on the role of Division Commissioner for Rainbows.



Mary loved Brownie Pack Holiday and Rainbow sleepovers, and always used her various crafting talents to create a variety of things related to the theme of the trip. These included flags, banners, decorations, a tiki bar with palm trees and a surfboard for a Hawaiian themed pack holiday, and a knitted Dobby and floating candles for Harry Potter themed pack holidays. There was always an amazing homemade themed cake she brought to share too.

She enjoyed dressing up to entertain the children, whether as Dumbledore or the Queen of Hearts, or as a snowman or fairy at Christmas. She helped on many day trips: Legoland, visiting London and 10 Downing Street, Marwell Zoo, and trips on the Kennet and Avon Canal. She also supported large scale Guiding events such as the Hampshire North Brownie Torch Relay in 2014, and the Kingsclere and Silchester Division Rainbows 30th birthday celebration in 2017.

On 17th March 2017, she received the Girlguiding Hampshire Thank You Award for her service to Girlguiding members in Hampshire; and in 2018 her contribution to Kingsclere was recognised when she was presented with a Making a Difference Award, for her continued dedication to Girlguiding in the village.

Please look out for details of a fundraising event we will be holding to raise money for a chosen charity in memory of Mary. Also, on 18th October the lights on St Mary’s Church will be lit in her honour.

Thank you, Mary; for your years of friendship, and for everything you did for Girlguiding members in Kingsclere and beyond.

Colleen, Eleanor, Lucie, Terri and every Girlguiding member you have supported and inspired; past and present, young and old.



Kingsclere Community Library

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



Summer Reading Fun

Our annual Summer Reading Fun was much enjoyed by all the children who "took up the challenge" to read six books! They received their certificates, medals and chocolate treats and hopefully they all enjoyed the whole experience!

Volunteers!

We are always in need of volunteers to keep our doors open, so if you have a couple of hours a 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 Players in partnership with
Kingsclere Community Association presents...

Babes in the Wood and Robin Hood



King Ricky goes on a crusade leaving his brother John in charge of England and his children -the Babes. John is greedy and doesn't like children, so the Sheriff devises a cunning plan to help John get rid of the Babes. He wants Maid Marion's hand in marriage in return!

Set in and around Kingsclere, they haven't reckoned upon the arrival of a new man in town - Robin Hood (albeit before he was famous!)

Will their dastardly plan work? Will the Sheriff marry Marion? Will John become King? Will Robin save the day? Is that a talking horse?!! And what are the lobsters doing at the market? All will be revealed!

With plenty of fun characters, laughter, boos, frivolity, song and dance and audience participation, join the journey of Babes in the Wood and Robin Hood to see how the tale unfolds....

TICKETS NOW ON SALE Don't leave it late to book and miss out!

Tickets can be purchased in advance on the Fieldgate Centre website or at www.kingsclereplayersgroup.com or by QR code (here):

Performances

Fri 29 th Nov	7.30pm	Fri 6 th Dec	7.30pm
Sat 30 th Nov	2.30pm & 7.30pm	Sat 7 th Dec	2.30pm & 7.30pm
Sun 1 st Dec	2.30pm	Sun 8 th Dec	2.30pm



Ticket Prices Adults: £12.50 Children (16 and under): £7.50

The Church Pages



Dear Friends

Within the life of our local churches, many of us will be marking the annual celebration of Harvest – a tradition stretching back many centuries of giving thanks for God's provision in creation and the skill and hard work of those who cultivate and produce our food.

In the times described in the Old Testament, the Israelites each year reaped their crops just as farmers do across the world, presuming that the crops have grown. They put some in storage to last them until the next harvest, they sold some to buy the necessities of life and from the rest they made their freewill offering in thanksgiving to God. In a good year a lot would be given. In a poor year less. The offering was to be in proportion to the blessings received. However, before the offering could be made, there had to be a reckoning up. They had to look to see how good the harvest was and calculate how much they needed for themselves until the following year. Nowadays of course, most of us buy, rather than grow our food. Nonetheless the money we use is still just as much the fruit of our labours as the produce of the land once was and, we like them, need to do our own reckoning up. The process of reckoning up is necessary before the amount to give needs to be ascertained. The process requires both a looking back and a looking forward. Looking back the first thought is that this should be done thankfully, in response to all that we are privileged to benefit from (and sometime take for granted).

When doing the reckoning up, an honest assessment of needs is called for. But not only that, let us be hopeful for the future, knowing that God loves and cares for us. Let us not be overly concerned. Let me explain. I have many responsibilities. I have a house with an oldish heating system. I'd better put £10 a month away in case it breaks down. My car makes a funny noise sometimes and needs servicing twice a year. I'd better put £10 a month away for that. My job isn't as secure as it might be another £10 to be put away in case I'm made redundant. Before I know it, I've become so obsessed with tomorrow that I've nothing left either for today or to make a meaningful thank offering. In short I have left God out of my calculations, completely. I have taken no account of hope. I have assumed that all possible disasters will occur at the same time. In conclusion, we need, in our reckoning up to look forward hopefully and honestly and to look back thankfully. And when we have done our reckoning up then, "Honour the Lord your God, by bringing him a freewill offering, in proportion to the blessings he has given you."

Peace,

Rachel

**Rev Rachel Borgars
Methodist Minister**

St Mary's Church

Worship in our Churches



October 2024

Thur 3 rd		10.30am Holy Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 6 th	9.30am Holy Communion St Peter's, Headley	10am Harvest in the Barn Strattons Farm (see ad opposite page)
Thur 10 th		10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 13 th	9am Bubble Church St Paul's, Ashford Hill 9.30am Harvest Worship St Peter's, Headley	9am Traditional Worship 10.30am Contemporary Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 17 th		10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 20 th	9.30am Morning Worship St Paul's, Ashford Hill	9am Traditional Communion 10.30am Contemporary Communion St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 24 th		10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 27 th	9.30am Holy Communion St Paul's, Ashford Hill	9am Traditional Worship 10.30am Contemporary Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 31 st		10.30am Morning Worship St Mary's, Kingsclere

www.clerewoodlands.org.uk

Saturday Coffee

Fresh brewed coffee, tea and delicious home-made cakes.
All welcome – please do pop in!

10.00-12.00

in the Kingsmill Room, St Mary's Church

October 5th, 12th and 19th

Volunteers welcome – if you're able to pour coffee, welcome people or make cakes occasionally please do contact the church office on:
01635 299528

Lighting up St Mary's

The sight of St Mary's Church when it is floodlit is truly beautiful. Many people sponsor these lights (£15 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 tel: **07422 687125**



October

- 18th In honour and remembrance of Mary Knapp. Girlguiding leader at Kingsclere Rainbows and Brownies for 15 years. Greatly missed. From her Girlguiding family.
- 21st In memory of Neil on his birthday. Loving husband, father and grandpa. In our thoughts and hearts forever. Love always Elaine, Christopher, Suzanna, Helen, Chris, Tom and Oliver

St. Mary's Kingsclere
would like to invite you to their
Harvest Celebration

Harvest in the
BARN

Sunday, October 6th at 10 am

Family harvest crafts, tractor, animals
and refreshments

Harvest gifts will go to the St. Mary's Community Larder

Strattons Farm Barn, Newbury Rd,
Kingsclere, RG20 4SZ
Parking available

Please note ~ There will be no service inside the church that morning

Kingsclere Branch of the Royal British Legion now meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the Kingsmill Room at St Mary's Church.

We welcome new members. Please feel free to visit or reach out on Kingsclere.Chairman@rbl.community



Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd (FOSM)

Our visit to Park House Stables was a great success; thank you to Anna Lisa Balding and all her team for their warm hospitality and a fascinating tour.

Enclosed with this edition of the Tower is a FOSM membership application form. FOSM raises much needed funds to help maintain this ancient and beautiful church building in the centre of our village, through its membership, donations, and fundraising activities.

Please do join us by filling in the form and returning it to 10 North Street. Anyone with any queries can telephone me (298434). As a member you will receive two newsletters per year and priority access to tickets for a variety of events. FOSM now has an excellent website where you can find out more about our activities and projects, both past and present.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 20th November** at 7pm in the Kingsmill Room, St. Mary's Church, Kingsclere. All welcome

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

Peter Turner, Chairman

Kingsclere Methodist Church

Services for October 2024

Sun 6 th	Rev Lesley Martin
Sun 13 th	Rev Canon Gill Bentall
Sun 20 th	Rev Jenny Ellis
Sun 27 th	Worship Leaders

All services begin at 10am unless otherwise stated
Coffee Morning every Thursday 10.30 until 12noon - all welcome
Hall available for hire (see back cover of this magazine)

Christine Westcombe email c_westcombe@hotmail.com

Kingsclere Singers

with guest organist Will Goodfellow

proudly present a programme of music for everyone

St Mary's church, Kingsclere at 3pm on Sunday 27th October

This is a non-ticket event with a retiring collection to be shared between Will, the church and the choir.
Tea and cake will be served after the event.

Kingsclere Gardening Association



THE ANNUAL SHOW AT THE FIELDGATE CENTRE

The show proved to be very successful. The largest class was the Luscious Lemon cake with the total of 8 entries. There were a good variety of dahlias, and some wonderful knitted garments. We also had a good show of vegetables. There were several vases of beautiful mixed flowers. The flower arranging section had a fun class of a flower arrangement in a teapot, that proved to be popular. Well done to all who entered the show and thank you to all who supported us on the day, including the lovely person who delivers our show tables and equipment, and all the visitors on the day who came to enjoy the displays.

Thursday October 10th 7.30pm, Meeting at The Village Club

Kathy and Keith Flanagan - British Cacti and Succulent Society, a talk on their huge personal collection.

The table competition for October:

A vase of flowers 1 kind A vase of flowers, foliage and berries
Fruit - 1 kind, maximum 4 A single stem from the garden
A cactus or a succulent

Denise Allen Chairman 01635297966 denise.allen47@icloud.com

Facebook: Kingsclere Gardening Association. Please join our FB group

Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands W.I.

Kingsclere Village Club, 35 George Street



After our members enjoyed a cream tea in August, in September we met in the Methodist church where we heard about the life of Eva Braun. October sees us again meeting in the Methodist church as we are unsure whether the new flooring in the Village Club will be dry.

In October we have a complete change of topic when John and Fiona Sawyer show slides and tell us of their many visits to New Zealand. This talk was delayed from last year and we are delighted that John and Fiona are able to come this time. Our meeting is on **Wednesday, the 9th October** and as usual, our meeting starts at 1.45pm but at the Methodist church in George Street.

Normally in October we would also have a Group meeting of our local W.I's, however, we are in the process of having a change of officers and the date for the next Group meeting has yet to be decided.

Do come along to our monthly meeting on the 9th and meet our lovely members, who would love to meet and chat to some new ladies at our meetings.

Margaret Geary, President tel 01635 297197



KINGSCLERE VILLAGE CLUB

Est. 1921 CHARITY 1189234

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

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

Christmas Market

Make a date in your diary to visit Kingsclere's Christmas Market on Sunday 1st December, 10a.m. to 1p.m. Lots of lovely stalls selling locally made produce and craft items. Find that special gift or treat yourself. Enjoy a mulled wine, tea, coffee, mince pies and other snacks.



Do you supply high quality items, food or drink? Please contact Helen (below) for further details about booking a table.

Craft Club

Our Craft Club is in full swing, so why not sign up for the second half of the Autumn term, starting on **Monday, 4th November 10am to 1pm**. Bring your own project to work on, just £24 for 7 weeks. You can also participate in a variety of workshops and learn new crafts (additional fee payable). Book through Helen (below) or <https://wegottickets.com/event/633352/>

Art Classes

There may be a space on the watercolour classes with Tracey Larkin starting on October 7th 1.30pm-3pm, **£60 for five sessions**. Contact Emma on bookings@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk to reserve your place. Visit Tracey's website at <https://www.traceylarkindesign.com>

Community Café



This month's Café is on Saturday 26th, 10am to 12.30pm, featuring home-made cake, table-top games, a fun quiz (11am) and a Halloween themed craft table for younger visitors. All welcome.

Hall Update

The hall floor has been dried out and by the time this is published we should be back in full working order. A big thank you to our regular users for being so understanding and accommodating.

Helen 01635 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

FOSM 200 Club

The winner of the September Draw: Sheila Openshaw – No.78
Congratulations, Sheila

Next month's Draw will take place at Bel & the Dragon at about 7pm on
Thursday 10th October

What's on in October at Shipinnarts

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

Tel: 01189 814504 Website: <https://shipinnarts.org/>



October 4th Friday Open Mic 7pm

Free event. Come and join us. The bar is open, why not pop in for a drink?

October 5th Saturday Flautissimo II with Alison Pickering 12 – 1pm

Come and join us for our monthly rehearsal! We are a lovely group of 4 Flute players and we would love to encourage more people to come and join us even if you are able to play just a few notes on your flute. Please bring £5 cash when you come.

October 8th Tuesday Crafts at Shipinnarts 11am – 2pm

Please bring £5 and your own packed lunch. Teas and Coffees provided

October 11th, 18th and 25th Friday Recorder Choir with Alison Pickering

18 years and up – 7.30pm – 9pm

Come and join us! Please bring £5 cash. Even if you can't read notes, or have limited knowledge of recorder, come along! If you don't have a recorder you will be advised which one to get. Alison is hoping to have the full range of recorders eventually! Soprano, Descant, Tenor, Treble and Bass recorders

Contact Alison Pickering for Flautissimo and Recorder Choir email:

alisonjpickering30@gmail.com



NEXT EVENT

Sunday, 13th October, 10am-12.30pm
at The Fieldgate Centre

- **REPAIR CAFÉ:** keeping broken household items out of landfill eg toasters, trimmers, clothing etc. *Please register repair on our website beforehand so our fabulous volunteer repair team are aware.*
- **THE CLOTHES RAIL:** come and peruse our donated pre-loved clothing items and take away whatever you can use.
- **RECYCLING COLLECTIONS:** ink toner cartridges (manufacturer only, not duplicates); spectacles; small household batteries, bras (washed & good)
- **HOUSEHOLD TOOLS:** we will be collecting on behalf of the charity **Tools for Self Reliance** who welcome:
- **Hand & Power Tools** – good quality, 240v, metric or imperial.
- **Haberdashery Items** – knitting needles, crochet hooks, pins/needles, scissors, fastenings, wool, thread etc.
- *The charity cannot accept sewing machines, gardening tools, typewriters, nails, nuts & bolts, paint, oil or chemicals.* See their website for more details of what can & can't be donated, and how the tools are used: www.tfsr.org
- **CAFÉ/REFRESHMENTS:** the lovely Solent Coffee team will be with us serving teas and coffees, plus cakes & sweet treats to purchase.

We look forward to seeing you!

Nicki, Sarah, Lucinda & Sue

greenerkingsclere@gmail.com

www.Greener-kingsclere.co.uk

Kingsclere CE Primary School



Today the school was a buzz of excitement as children and staff took part in putting together a video all about Kingsclere CE Primary School. The video will be displayed on our website front page so new families joining the school can find out more about our ethos, teaching and learning, and enrichment activities.

We are also holding a number of Open Days on the below dates, and warmly welcome new parents/carers and their children to visit and see the staff and children in action! If you are unable to make one of the tours below, then please do contact Jo Messenger (Headteacher) on adminoffice@kingsclere.hants.sch.uk or by phone on **01635 298583** - we would be more than happy to give you an individual tour of the school.



OPEN DAY

Friday 11th October at 9.30am

Friday 8th November at 9.30am

Tuesday 19th November at 1.30pm

Hand in hand we learn, we grow, we soar

Kingsclere CE Primary School

Contact the school to book our open day or a private tour during the school year

01635 298583

adminoffice@kingsclere.hants.sch.uk

www.kingsclereprimary.com

Mrs Joanna Messenger - Headteacher
Kingsclere CE Primary School, Ash Grove, Kingsclere, Newbury, RG20 5RE

Recently, our choir have been rehearsing in preparation for their performance at The Mayor's Variety Show at the Anvil in October. The children are performing three songs. They are excited to be on stage at such a lovely venue and are also looking forward to watching many of the variety acts. Good luck on your performance children!

Jo Messenger, Headteacher

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



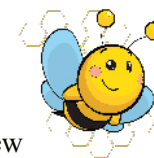
The Bunnies have stayed in their burrows for much of September due to repair works taking place in the hall. We hope to be bouncing together again this month. Please keep an eye on the WhatsApp group for regular updates. In October we look forward to our Swap Table happening on the first Tuesday (1st) and the library opening especially for the Bunnies on the 2nd Tuesday (8th). **Please note that these dates are provisional until we know when we have access to the Hall again.**

Swap Table - bring any baby or toddler items in good condition that you no longer use for others to make use of, and swap them for something you need. 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



As we start a new school year we are pleased to welcome our new and returning children and families to Kingsclere Preschool.

We would like to congratulate Natalie Hill who is starting this year as our new Deputy Manager. Natalie has been with the preschool for several years and we are delighted that she has taken up the position.

We have also been joined by new committee members, and we would welcome any other current preschool parents or community members who would be interested to get in touch with us at committee@kingsclerepreschool.co.uk.

We have continued our fundraising efforts, having completed the drawing for the £250 prize for our online 100 Square. Congratulations to our winner, #96, who chose to donate their prize to Swings & Smiles, a charity supporting disabled children and their families. Preschool committee members and our volunteers will be organising events for this term and into the holiday season. Be sure to check our Facebook page for updates and information about these fun community activities.

October in the Garden

Many leaves have been falling in September, but hopefully some will remain on the trees to give a good show of Autumn colour. It seems impossible that the ground has been so dry, after the amount of rain we have had this year. Many lawns have suffered, but grass recovers from the dry weather quickly when cooler and wetter weather arrives. More important this time of the year is to remove any thatch, as this causes bare patches in the grass. The lawns will be improved with a top dressing and being kept leaf free, as fallen leaves will cause yellowing, and encourage slugs and snails. Worms will take some of the leaves, but a very limited amount. Now is the time to sow a new lawn from seed, it is more economical than laying turfs.

Ponds need to be tidied up now, keeping them free of fallen leaves and removing the dead growth of marginal plants, and any blanket weed.

Container grown climbers can be planted this month, making sure that the hole is deep enough, also giving the plant a support. A little bonemeal worked into the hole is ideal as it will condition the soil without adding too much nitrogen. If the ground condition allows it, plant deciduous and evergreen hedging.

It is sad to see the summer flowering tubs and baskets finishing, but we can still make them attractive in the winter months, before the bulbs come through. Small grasses, hardy cyclamen, heathers and also small variegated shrubs, these can be planted in the garden when they become too large for a tub or basket.

Take rose cuttings now, also ribes, cornus, forsythia, and philadelphia. It is also seed collecting time. Dry them out before storing in paper bags.

Prune roses, just to stop them rocking in the winter winds, leaving the main pruning till April. Prune tall shrubs and trim conifers if necessary, cut back perennials, lift and divide if clumps are old. New perennial plants can be planted this month.

The vegetable garden needs attention, after removing any of the last crops e.g. runner beans. The ground can be dug over to allow the winter weather to break the soil down, particularly heavy clay. If you are fortunate enough to have a compost bin, the vegetable garden will benefit from the compost, as long as the compost is a good year old, making sure it's well rotted down.

Remove yellow leaves from Brussel sprouts and other winter brassicas, plant spring cabbage, autumn onion sets, and sow broad beans. Most root vegetables are ready to be harvested including potatoes and carrots.

Plant bulbs for the spring and bring pots of tender patio plants inside to the greenhouse.

Plants to enjoy this month: hardy chrysanthemums, nerines, kaffer lilies, autumn crocus, rowan and acer (Japanese maple).

Denise Allen

Nature Notes

In this month's article I must report some anti-social behaviour. As we walked through St Mary's churchyard toward the duck pond, my daughter said 'It's raining'. Sceptical, I looked up at the cloudless sky and a sudden small shower of green debris fell around us. I inspected an item that had landed on the pram hood and found a tiny green piece of nibbled nutshell. An anaemic-looking walnut half had landed in my baby's lap. We looked up again to spot two squirrels high up in the branches of the common walnut tree, cracking the hard little green shells and discarding their litter down on us.

From littering to public disorder; later that week, when washing up at the kitchen window I saw two blue tits suddenly fall from the sky, locked in combat. They bundled onto the lawn, pecking at each other furiously. Then, in a flash of yellow and blue they flew up - still entwined together - and disappeared over the fence like a feathery ball battered back to the neighbour. It isn't nesting season, so presumably the fight was over food.



Vapourer moth (also called 'rusty tussock' moth) caterpillar

Our garden has certainly been host to plenty of insects this month, particularly caterpillars - a blue tit favourite. We found a Vapourer Moth (also called a 'rusty tussock' moth) caterpillar hiding on a leaf in a shrub. A grey body with extraordinary tufts of ochre hair - setae - along its back, like the puffs of smoke from a steam train.

We have let many of the wildflowers go to seed in our front garden and the reward for our neglect has been a wonderful chorus of chirruping as we rush in and out of our front door. One day I felt a light impact on the top of my head and saw a brown spec launch into the hedge along the driveway. I searched the hedge and found my assailant - a gorgeous field grasshopper, sitting defiantly on a leaf.

We have also had peaceful encounters with nature this month - watching the trout swaying in the brook, patiently waiting for food. On our way into the village, we often stop to smell late white roses hanging over a garden wall. Each day more petals fall onto the pavement, and the increasingly bare branches brace themselves for the brisk new season.

Lydia Harley-Tomlinson



**WHITCHURCH
SILK MILL**

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

'Weave a Wall Hanging' Workshop, 10th October or 8th November, 10am–1pm

Would you like to learn how to weave a wall hanging? In a small group, you'll learn tips and techniques from our weaving team and also have time to create your own patterns and textures. Suitable for beginners. Tickets £60 per person.

Darning Workshop, 12th October, 2–4pm

In this beginners' workshop you'll learn how to rebuild a hole and be guided step-by-step to darn it. You'll also be given an overview of the different kinds of mending. All tools will be provided, including woven and knitted fabrics to practise on. Tickets £35 per person.

Two-day Weaving Course, 15th & 16th October, 10.30am–4pm

This new weaving course for beginners will introduce you to the entire weaving process, with training provided by our silk weavers. You'll learn how to design and create a warp, thread up a loom, and get weaving. Along with your newfound skills you'll take home your own creation: a fabulous wall hanging. Tickets £150 per person.

The Friendship of Jane Austen and Martha – a theatrical talk by Jane Glennie, 16th October, 7–8.30pm

Martha Lloyd, 'experimental housekeeper' and Jane Austen's best friend, gossips with her neighbours as she packs up their house in Castle Square, Southampton. Tickets £15 per person, must be booked in advance. Doors open at 6.30pm and tea and coffee will be available for a donation.

Halloween Fun at Half Term 30th/31st October, 11am–12 noon or 1–2pm

These special magical printing activities are suitable for children aged 5–12. Artists from the Alchemist's Needle (see above) will help participants to make either a super spooky pencil case or a tote bag, printing it with ghosts, bats, spiders and webs or just one or some of those spooky things. Cost £3 per child. Booking is essential as there are limited places in each session. Children should wear clothes that won't matter if acrylic paint is spilled.

Two-day Stitching Workshop, 9th & 10th November, 10am–4pm

Relax and join Becky from Willow and Hare Stitching, enjoying tranquil views of the River Test from the Mill's first floor while you sew and learn. Booking is essential. For more information or to book please contact Becky at

info@willowandharestitching.co.uk

Pins and Needles Craft Group

Our adult crafting group meets 2–4pm on 7th November. We'll be teaching how to make an advent calendar from colourful felt. Tickets £12.50 per session including tuition, materials and a hot drink. Booking is essential.

Tickets for our events are generally available from the Mill Shop or from our website via the 'What's on' page.

On Twitter, Facebook, Instagram or our newsletter via our website.

u3a
Overton and District

**Brilliant British Humour in the
Forgotten Art of the Picture Postcard**

Free to members - Non-members £3



Artist-drawn postcards were the most popular art-form from the Edwardian era to the outbreak of World War II. They entertained, inspired, instructed, motivated, persuaded and lifted spirits. Dr James Taylor's talk covers the popular subjects and styles by the masters of the medium.

Wednesday 16th October at 10am St Mary's Hall, Overton

The Dummer Fair – 9th and 10th October 2024

Join us at Dummer Cricket Ground, on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th with over 85 stalls ranging from crafts and food, to clothing and gifts. There will be a delicious real coffee pop up van and our popular café on Thursday lunchtime. There is ample parking on site - RG25 2AR.

All proceeds go to Treloar's, a local highly specialist school and college supporting young people with physical disabilities.

Tickets are on sale now. For more information, contact Treloar's Events Team: events@treloar.org.uk or see website: www.dummerfair.org.uk

Hampshire Medical Fund Charity Events

Christmas Fair

Date: **Thurs 14th, Fri 15th November**

Time: 18.30 - 21.00, 9.30 - 16.00

Location: Black Chalk Winery

Live at the Vineyard - Comedy Night

Date: **Sat 16th November**

Time: 18.00 - 22.30

Location: Black Chalk Winery

For more details on these events, please visit:

Christmas Fair: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/medicalfund/1116626>

Comedy Night: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/medicalfund/1116627>

Ticket proceeds go directly towards essential equipment for our local hospitals.

Wolverton Market and Table Top Sale

The next event will be on **Saturday 5th October** in the Village Hall from 9.30am until 11am. There are lots of stalls selling items including handmade cards, wood turned gifts, local honey, antique and collectables, crafts and household goods. There will also be lots of bric-a-brac to root through!

Tea, coffee and biscuits served by our Entertainer (Jokes-are-my-thing) Graham. We look forward to seeing you and we thank you for your continued support.

Wendy Morgan 01635 297538

The Village Sale

St Paul's Church, Ashford Hill Saturday, 5th October, 1pm - 2.30 pm

Good quality bric-a-brac, clothing, hats, shoes, toys, cushions, books, etc.

Entrance Fee 20p

Free Parking, Refreshments

Contact: loricusworth@hotmail.com or Terry on 07768 795666

All Proceeds towards Church Funds

THE KINGSCLERE TOWER DIRECTORY

POLICE, FIRE or AMBULANCE

Police Enquiries/Information

Emergency 999

non Emergency 101

Kingsclere Health Centre:

0333 034 1033

North Hampshire Hospital, Basingstoke

01256 473202

Parish Council: 37 George Street (see page 2)

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

01635297780

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

tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Bas & Deane

01256 844844

Swan Street P O

01635297035

Buses

0345 8101000

Kingsclere Vets

01635 896330

Trains

0845 748 4950

Dentist

01635 299981

Gas Emerg.

0800 111999

Age Concern Local Agent

08003287154

Chemist

01635 298419

Berkshire Vets

01635 896333

Kingsclere Library

01635 297464

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

David Conquest 07887 871105

Cllr.David.Conquest@basingstoke.gov.uk

Mike Bound 07833 612735

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 01264401401

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