

The Kingsclere Tower

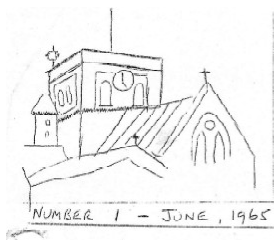


What's On & Local News
August 2025

T The Kingsclere Tower

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In June 1965 the Rev. Shearlock produced the first free Kingsclere Tower newsletter.



THE KINGSCLERE TOWER

FROM THE VICAR

WHAT'S THIS, THEN? NO, IT ISN'T JUST
 ANOTHER CIRCULAR, NOT EVEN A SORT OF
 LOCAL NEWSPAPER THEN WHAT IS IT?

The Tower has evolved progressively over the years, and we now provide a free monthly community magazine to all households in the village. Enjoy this month's edition!

The Editor

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

To all "Tower" Contributors

Copy for **September** to the Editor at kingscleretower@gmail.com.

NOT LATER THAN 12th August 2025

If possible please submit articles as a MS Word document, A5 page size, font Times

New Roman 11, single spacing. If email not possible post to

23 Swan Street, Kingsclere, Newbury RG20 5PP.

**Will ALL contributors please include full name
& home phone number/e-mail address.**

Kingsclere Parish Council (KPC)

Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk

Telephone: 01635 298634


Office: 37 George Street, Kingsclere RG20 5NH



GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING – The collection dates are Wednesday 6th and 20th August and 3rd September.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – The next Full Council Meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm on Monday 29th September. There is no Full Council meeting in August unless urgent issues such as planning applications arise. We welcome the attendance of all parishioners at our meetings and anyone who wishes to raise any matter will be given the opportunity to do so during Public Questions.

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

 @kingsclerepc

 facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil

KINGSCLERE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION



‘Kingsclere in WW2’ Walking Tours

80 years ago, on 15th August 1945, came the final ending of World War 2 in the far East, hence known as ‘VJ’ or Victory over Japan Day. To mark this anniversary, and for those that missed the earlier ones, I am again running my ‘Kingsclere in WW2’ walking tour. Dates/times as follows:

Friday 15th August (VJ Day) at 10.30am and 2.30pm

Saturday 16th August at 2.30pm only

Sunday 17th August at 10.30am only

Starting* from outside the Methodist Chapel, approx. 1½ hours, ending at the War Memorial (*subject to weather – if raining it will not take place!). FREE, however any small donations to support KLHA and the Village Archives would be most welcome.

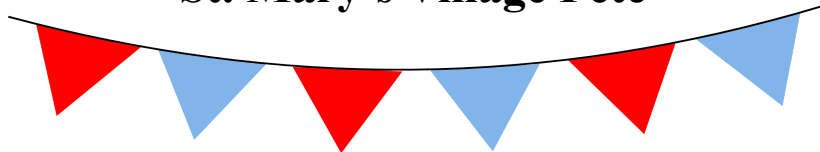
We are at St Mary’s Church Fete later in the month, do come and see us!

Gareth Martin Treasurer & Membership Secretary

kingsclerelocalhistory@gmail.com

<https://kingsclerelocalhistoryassociation.wordpress.com>

St. Mary's Village Fete



Bank Holiday Monday 25th August 12:00 – 4:00 pm

We're really excited that the Fete will be happening again on Bank Holiday Monday! Who is the mystery guest opening the fete? Come and see.

We're looking forward to a fun filled day with live music and the dog show plus all the usual stalls and great food and drink too.

Dog show registration starts at 12 noon.

We have amazing prizes for the raffle. Tickets will be on sale in the churchyard on Saturdays 9th, 16th and 23rd August from 10am – 2pm and on the day.

A huge thank you to everyone who has already volunteered or donated. We'd appreciate more help though. Plus:

- * Donations of good quality accessories, bric-a-brac, books, toys, and games, plus bottles and new items for the tombola. Bring these to St. Mary's Church from Monday 18th to Saturday 23rd August from 10am – 2pm.
- * Lots of homemade cakes to sell too - please bring them along on the morning of the fete.
- * We also need more volunteers to help with setting up and clearing away.

Come along, bring your friends and join in the fun.

Any queries or offers of help please call **01635 297813** or email **fete@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk**

St. Michael's Hospice
Saturday 27th September 2025
Starts 9pm at Festival Place, Basingstoke



Join us and light up Basingstoke in support of your local hospice!
 Take on the 10k route to raise vital funds and awareness for St. Michael's Hospice. Don your brightest outfit, sprinkle on some glitter, and grab your glow-in-the-dark accessories for a dazzling night.

www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk/event/moonlight-walk-2025/

Kings Performing Arts College Celebrates Graduates and Exciting Next Steps

As we close the academic year at Kings Performing Arts College, we are filled with pride and joy reflecting on the incredible achievements of our students. With summer break now underway, it's the perfect time to pause, celebrate, and look forward to what's next for our talented cohort.

Firstly, huge congratulations to our graduating class of 2025! Your commitment, creativity, and resilience have been nothing short of inspiring. Over the past year, you've poured your hearts into your training, grown as performers and individuals, and now step confidently into the next chapter of your journey.

We are especially proud to announce that 100% of our graduates have received degree offers from drama schools, and almost all have accepted coveted places at some of the UK's top performing arts institutions, including: Bird College, Addict Dance Academy, Wilkes Academy, Italia Conti, and ICMT (International College of Musical Theatre). Gaining entry to these renowned colleges is a major achievement that reflects the exceptional dedication and passion of our students - as well as the strength of the training and support they've received at Kings.

To our leavers: You will always be part of the King's family. We can't wait to see the heights you'll reach and the stages you'll light up. As you begin this exciting new chapter, remember that your story is just beginning - and it's going to be a spectacular one.

To our returning students: Enjoy a well-deserved summer break. Rest, recharge, and get ready for another year of growth, exploration, and performance excellence.

With pride and anticipation, The Kings Performing Arts College Faculty

Kingsclere Craft Club Craft Fair In Aid Of St. Michael's Hospice Methodist School Room Saturday 27th September, 10 am to 4 pm

We have already publicised the above event - and hopefully most of you will have saved the date and will come along and support us in raising funds for St. Michael's Hospice. For those of you who are unable to attend, we now have a Just Giving page where you can make a donation:

www.justgiving.com/page/kingsclerecraftclub.

Pam Kitch 01635 299743



The Fieldgate Centre is run by the Kingsclere Community Association as a charity (No. 1168366). The association is made up of volunteers who rely on the support and participation of the community.

The summer is in full swing with the schools all finished and the holidays stretching ahead! The Fieldgate Centre continues to be busy and bustling with it's full diary of classes, clubs and activities. Check our website for full details and come and join us for Pilates, Clubbercise, Ceroc, Slimming World, Badminton, Darts, and Monthly Meet Up.

The bar opening on Friday evenings has been very popular and continues throughout **every Friday in August**. We'll keep you updated on social media and our website when the food vans are visiting but do pop along and enjoy the fully stocked bar and largest beer garden in Kingsclere!

The **Summer of Fun** is taking place **every Wednesday** from **6th to 27th August**. Always hugely popular, these free sessions run from **10am - 2pm**. Tons of activities, bouncy castles, arts and crafts, role play and multi-sports are all part of these fabulous days. No need to book, children from 2-12 welcome, accompanied by a responsible adult.

We look forward to welcoming the **Gardening Association** for their **Annual Show** on **Sunday 17th August**. Full details to follow on our website but save the date and pop along for inspiration for your garden, or just to enjoy the show.

Contact us if you need any further information about our activities or if you would like to hold your event at The Fieldgate Centre. Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information.

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

WOLVERTON MARKET

The next Market will be on **Saturday 2nd August** in the **Village Hall**, doors open from **9.30 am** until **11 am**. I am very hopeful that there will be some Home Grown Vegetables and Fruit for sale as well as Eggs and the super Honey produced by our own Kingsclere Bees. New to the Market will be a Photography stall and all the regular stalls will be loaded with bargains.

It was so good to see lots of new buyers in July along with our regular supporters. So do come along, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a chat while you browse, and we look forward to seeing you.

Wendy Morgan 01635 297538

Watership Down Health



Protecting Our Children – One Jab at a Time

You may have seen the recent news about falling childhood vaccination rates across the UK. At Watership Down Health, we are supported by parents and have a strong uptake locally, but we know there's always more we can do to keep our little ones safe.

If your child is due or overdue any of their routine vaccinations – or if you're just unsure – we're here to help. If you need an appointment later in the day, please ask. Give us a call or check your children's immunisation record on the NHS App and book any outstanding vaccines. Every appointment makes a difference in protecting not just your child, but the whole community.

Let's keep our children happy, healthy, and protected.

GP Connect

By 1st October 2025 Watership Down Health will be required by the Department of Health & Social Care and NHS England to ensure the following two functions are enabled in GP Connect:

The first function allows 'read only' access to patients' care records maintained by the GP Practice by other NHS commissioned providers, for the purposes of direct patient care. 'Read only' access for providers of private healthcare will also be allowed but only in cases where the private provider obtains explicit permission from the patient to access their NHS GP care record, and they are providing direct care to the patient.

The second function allows Community Pharmacy registered professionals to send consultation summaries into the GP practice workflow or GP Connect Update Record.

Please be advised that Watership Down Health will be activating these two functions. In all cases, where a Community Pharmacy/3rd party sends consultation summaries to the GP practice, if patients have any queries with this information they will need to approach the Community Pharmacy who initiated the correspondence in the first instance.

Any queries regarding this policy will need to be raised with **gpconnect@nhs.net** rather than the GP practice itself.

Flu and COVID-19 Seasonal Vaccination Programme: Autumn - Winter 2025/26

Patients eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine in autumn - winter 2025/26 are:

- * Residents in a care home for older adults.
- * All adults aged 75 years and over.
- * Persons aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed, as defined in tables 3 and 4 of the COVID-19 chapter of the Green Book (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67d8a1979dc953ac3bfe9382/GreenBook-chapter-14a-COVID-19-17_3_25.pdf).

The COVID-19 programme will run from 1st October 2025 to 31st Jan 2026. However, the majority of COVID-19 vaccinations should be completed by 19th December 2025.

As stated in the National Flu Immunisation Programme letter, flu vaccination dates for eligible patients are as follows:

- * Pregnant women and all eligible children will start from 1st September 2025. For school aged cohorts, vaccination in schools should be completed by 12th December 2025 with further catch-up opportunities as appropriate.
- * All other adult flu cohorts will start from 1st October 2025 and will run until the 31st March 2026 with the majority of the vaccinations to be completed by November 2025 to provide the best possible protection going into winter.

Kingsclere Singers

New Term Starts

Monday 8th September

Kin^gsc^lere Sin^gers

We at the Kingsclere Singers are a friendly, easy going group of people that just love to sing together and be social in a safe place.

If you love singing with whatever ability you have and you just want to find a friendly, inviting place to be yourself and release the stresses of repetitive or lonely weeks, please come and give us a chance to lift your spirits in song.

We are all looking forward to meeting you, you can find us on Facebook (Kingsclere Singers Group) or at our website.

www.kingsclere-singers.co.uk

KINGSCLERE RUGBY CLUB



Adults Rugby: Pre – season training started on 16th July and will continue every Wednesday evening until the end of August. If you fancy playing next season why not come and join us at The Fieldgate Centre on a Wednesday evening between 7.00 – 9.00 pm.

Men's Walking Rugby: On 25th June we hosted Thatcham and played 2 games. Please feel come and join us on Wednesday evenings between 7.00 – 8.00 pm.

Women's Walking Rugby: Now that the evenings are getting lighter and warmer why not join us and enjoy some camaraderie as well as exercise. You can either come along on a Wednesday evening and join the men for a mixed game or turn up on a Thursday evening for a women's only game. Both the Wednesday and Thursday evenings are held at The Fieldgate Centre between 7.00 - 8.00 pm.

Music Festival: We recruited new players for both men's and women's walking rugby at our stall.

For more information please visit our Facebook and Instagram pages.

KINGSCLERE TENNIS CLUB



Our adult social evenings on Mondays are now a firm favourite and proving the best way to meet members. In addition there is now a social/light coaching session for *teenage members*, ~12 years and up, at 5pm on Mondays throughout the summer. Ability is pretty much at entry level (can hold a racket and swing and hit a ball). All Junior and teen family members are welcome, just contact us through the Club WhatsApp for details.

We had a very successful Taco Tennis Tuesday run by Jessica & Matt which proved such a popular and fun evening that we are hoping to run another very soon.

Don't forget our tennis sessions on Thursday mornings from 9.30 to 11.00. Just contact Daphne Snook on dsnook339@gmail.com to let her know you would like to join in.

Keep in touch with the Kingsclere Tennis WhatsApp group as well as our Facebook page for more information and events:

www.facebook.com/kingscleretenniscub





KINGSCLERE VILLAGE CLUB

Est. 1921 CHARITY 1189234

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

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

Instagram @kingsclere_village_club

Chair Exercise Class

Would you benefit from some gentle exercise? Join our class on **Thursday afternoons 1:30 - 2:20pm**. The class consists of both seated and standing exercises to challenge your balance, improve your strength and mobility, and help your coordination. It's fun, social and interactive. Starting in September. Please contact Emma on bookings@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk for further details.

Art Club Exhibition

Our amazingly talented Art Club will be displaying and selling their creations at the Community Café, **Saturday 27th September** from **10am to 1pm**.

Open Garden 2

Did you enjoy spending time in our garden on 26th July? We are hoping to hold another, free, Open Garden event. Details have not yet been confirmed, so look out on social media and the notice boards for more information.



Don't Miss This!

Tickets are selling for the ever-popular blues band **ABB**, on **Saturday 25th October**. Great live music and a chilli supper (vegetarian/vegan and non-spicy available by request!). Doors open 7.30 for an 8pm start. Tickets £17 (including supper) from <https://wegottickets.com/event/659960> or Helen (below).

Christmas Market

Calling all local artisans and suppliers of quality goods and produce. Our Christmas Market will once again be held on the first Sunday in December (7th). Please contact Helen (below) for more details. Everyone else – save the date to ensure you don't miss out on some special Christmas shopping!

Contact Helen for more information or to be put on the advance ticket list.

Helen 01635 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Kingsclere Community Library



So August is all about children!

Summer Reading Fun started on Saturday 12th July - there is no official finishing date, but it will run until at least the middle of September. There is no lower age limit for children to join, it's open to children of all ages – books can be read by the child, by the parent to the child or listened to on a CD – it all counts! – so sign up and read 6 books and receive a certificate, a medal and a chocolate treat. Get your entry wallet and stickers from Kingsclere Community Library and start reading!

Don't forget that Chris is running Stories and Songs sessions for children of any age on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 2.30pm, so pop in and join the fun!

Finally, if you have a couple of hours to spare and would like to help to keep the Kingsclere Community Library open, please come and talk to us about volunteering! It doesn't matter whether it's every week, every month or just every now and then, it all helps to keep our doors open. Thank You!

HOURS Tuesday and Thursday 1.00pm – 5.30pm
Saturday 10.00am - 1.00pm

Nicki Lee, Library Phone 01635 297464
kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk

KINGSLERE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION APPEAL FOR INFORMATION ON KINGSLERE PEOPLE IN WW2



Following our successful 'Kingsclere in WW2' exhibition and tours in May, we are working towards a WW2 special edition of our occasional Bedbug Recorder publication. We have gathered much information since the beginning of the year, but there are some gaps.

If you have any photos, certificates etc for any Kingsclere men and women who served in the forces, Red Cross, Home Guard, ROC or ARP, we would be most interested to see and copy. We are particularly keen to see any photos or certificates for any of the 100 volunteers from the village working in the YMCA canteen at the bottom of Popes Hill, which served over million meals from 1939 to 1946. Seventy nine volunteers were presented with certificates after the war. Does someone have one that we can copy please?

Gareth Martin 01635-299227 gareth.martin24@btinternet.com

The Church Pages

Hi,

I'm sure you've recognised that how we work has changed in recent years, especially since the COVID lockdowns. Decades ago, people went to work from 9 to 5 and then came home to their personal lives. Nowadays, although some still work traditionally on-site, others now work fully remotely, or in a hybrid fashion, and for many, the work-life boundary lines have become blurred. This ease to connect with our work from home means the workday is less defined, leading to longer days of blended work and personal activities.

I wonder how this could be affecting our mental wellbeing? An unhealthy work-life balance can make it feel like work is taking over your life. It can lead to feelings of exhaustion, disconnection, and even depression.

To maintain a healthy work-life balance it's important to be intentional with our time, especially when we're not working. If you work at home, the daily commute has disappeared from your day, and with it the opportunity to reflect on, and decompress from, your workday. This means whatever we do next doesn't have our full attention, as work still occupies our minds. It's essential, then, that we find a way to compartmentalise our work and personal lives. Having healthy boundaries can go a long way to achieve this. Regular working hours, defined breaks, decompression time, and leaving work behind when we've finished are just a few examples. It's important also to recognise that sometimes a particular project at work might need some "overtime", so our boundaries need to be movable, but they should only be *moved*, never *removed*.

So, how do we determine where our boundaries should be? Proverbs 4:23 says, "*Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it*".

What has your heart's attention? If you're single and just starting out at work, maybe it's your career. If you're newly in love, then it's probably your partner. Maybe your young children are your world. Different seasons will require different boundaries.

The writer of the proverb says we should guard, or protect, our hearts. This means prioritising the things that matter most to us, giving them the best of our attention, and then letting other things fit around, or "flow" from them. Our boundaries therefore help us safeguard our priorities, and maintain a healthy work-life balance, which is vital to our overall wellbeing in the long run. If your current systems aren't working, then I encourage you to reflect on what's going wrong, so you can build better habits and boundaries. I bless your search for the right balance!

Bless you,

Rev. Pete Williams

Worship in our Churches

August 2025



Sun 3rd	9:00am Traditional Morning Worship 9:30am BCP Holy Communion 10:30am Contemporary Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere St. Peter's, Headley St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 7th	10:30am Traditional Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 10th	9:00am Traditional Morning Worship 9:30am Traditional Morning Worship 9:30am Bubble Church 10:30am Contemporary Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere St. Peter's, Headley St. Paul's Ashford Hill St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 14th	10:30am Traditional Holy Communion	St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 17th	9:00am Traditional Holy Communion 9:30am Traditional Morning Worship 10:30am Morning Worship & Baptism Service	St Mary's, Kingsclere St. Paul's Ashford Hill St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 21st	10:30am Traditional Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 24th	9:00am Traditional Morning Worship 9:30am Traditional Holy Communion 10:30am Contemporary Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere St. Paul's Ashford Hill St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 28th	10:30am Traditional Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 31st	10:00am Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere

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

Fresh brewed coffee, tea and delicious homemade cakes.

August 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st 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**.

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 mark an occasion, such as a birthday, wedding, anniversary, christening, or some other special day in their lives. To book, please email

administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk or call **01635**

299528. To include your tribute in the Tower, please let us have your words before the 12th of the preceding month.



August

- 5th In loving memory of Mark Bassett and Rocket. Always in my heart. You are loved and missed. Amanda
- 15th To the child we loved but never met, forever in our hearts. Mummy and Daddy x
- 20th A much loved husband, father and grandad. We miss your smile and huge personality and treasure all the memories we all have, and you are forever in our hearts. With love from Pam, James, Laura, Robin, William and Alex.
- 30th Congratulations and best wishes to Joe and Luci Newbery on their first wedding anniversary. With lots of love mum, dad, Em and Joe, and nanny xxxxx
- 31st In memory of Janet Lavina Cox on your birthday. Always in our hearts and minds. Love from all the family.

Kingsclere Methodist Church

Services for August

Sunday 3rd Rev Rachel Borgars

Sunday 10th Rev Jenkins

Sunday 17th Joint service at Whitchurch Methodist Church at 10.30am

Sunday 24th Mrs Alyson Read

Sunday 31st Mrs Rosie Greenhalgh

All services begin at **10am** unless stated.

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

Hall available for hire (see directory on page 24)

Christine Westcombe c_westcombe@hotmail.com

Friends of St Marys Kingsclere (FOSM)

As indicated in past issues of The Tower, our next event will be a return visit to **Frith Herb Farm at Wheathold**, on **Saturday 16th August**, at peak harvest time. The visit will start promptly at 10am, and will finish at about 3.45 to 4 pm. Individual tickets are priced at £25, with a slight concession for couples, at £45. The price includes a substantial picnic, with a glass of wine or soft drink (at rustic tables, and chairs, rather than at ground level!).

Dictated by tractor-trailer capacity, tickets for this unusual experience are limited to 40, and although Friends are being given first opportunity, anyone may enter their names on a Reserve List being drawn up. Those wishing to do this, please contact **Jane Royle** on **01635 297430**, or at **jane.b.royle@gmail.com**. All on the Reserve list will be notified by the beginning of this month at the latest whether or not tickets are available, payment details, and directions on how to get there.

The format of the day is that the party splits into two - one half being shown the drying and oil distillation processes while the other half is taken by trailer out to the herb fields about to be harvested. Then after lunch the two parties swap over. Our past two visits to Frith Farm have been greatly appreciated by those attending, offering a fascinating glimpse into a different world.

Peter Turner, Chairman

Website: **friendsofstmaryskingsclere.org**.

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

FOSM 200 Club

The winner of the July Draw was Wendy Morgan, No. 27

Congratulations, Wendy.

Next month's Draw will take place at
Bel and the Dragon at about **7 pm** on **Tuesday 5th August**.

Kingsclere Royal British Legion (RBL) & Poppy Appeal

We would like to thank you for visiting us over the VE 80th Anniversary weekends where we raised just over £130.

We are looking to work the Parish Council to understand what is required to renovate the memorial and hope to share an update on this soon.

Your local RBL Branch meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 7pm at the Kingsmill Room, St Marys Church. Anyone wishing to become a member or to see what the RBL is all about is welcome to join us.



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www.tadleyfloraldesign.co.uk

Kingsclere and Headley Woodlands WI

One year ago I wrote that we hadn't really had a summer; at that time rain was the order of the day! What a difference a year makes!



Our speaker in July was certainly excellent. A new to us speaker, Pat Bailey, told us about her DNA search for her birth family. All our members were really interested. In July we also greatly enjoyed our annual friendly fun quiz; our quizmasters are really excellent.

August is the one month of the year when we don't have a monthly meeting (we must hold 11 meetings a year) so this month we are doing what all our ladies enjoy and that is having lunch at a local pub/restaurant. This year we are going to the George and Horn (or Ceylon Curry House). Some villagers might think that is all we do and why not, if it is an enjoyable occasion, as it always is! So, on the **13th August** we will be donning our glad rags and meeting up for lunch (never mind the calories!).

September, when it comes, will be a chance to say what other activities members have done during the summer and once again, enjoy a speaker. Enjoy the sunshine everyone.

Margaret Geary, President 01635 297197

Kingsclere Preschool

This month the children have been observing the life cycle of a butterfly, They loved watching the caterpillars grow, build their chrysalis and then emerge as butterflies before letting them go. We have spent lots of time outside enjoying the warm weather; playing in water and ice to keep cool

Our school leavers are looking forward to a trip to the farm and have a graduation party. We wish them lots of luck as they move up to their 'big school'.

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

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

Kingsclere Charities

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

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

Kingsclere Charities 2025 Meeting Dates: Sep 18th and Nov 20th.

For an application form please contact the Clerk, Gill Hern at:

Kingsclerecharities4@mail.com



What is the u3a?



It is the “University of the Third Age”. We are a lively organisation centred in the Overton area 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 10 am (our next meeting is on 17th 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 infou3aoverton@gmail.com. If you aren't able to look online you will be welcome at one of the monthly talks where we can provide more details.

Kingsclere Almshouse Charity Vacancy

No 8 The Durbridges, Galley Lane, Headley RG19 8EP

Kingsclere Almshouse Charity operates and provides accommodation for local residents facing hardships in their lives. The Durbridges in Galley lane, is a quiet community consisting of 10 one bedroom bungalows occupied by elderly people around a small green with an onsite Warden. The Charity now has a vacancy at 8 the Durbridge and we are asking local residents from Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley areas to apply. All applicants must be able to live independently, not own or part own their own property. Should an applicant become a resident they will be required to make a monthly maintenance contribution to the Charity, which helps towards the running costs of the properties. All applications will be reviewed by the Trustees, and successful applicants will be invited for an interview at the property.

For further information or an application form please contact the Clerk, Gill Hern at: Kingsclerecharities4@mail.com, 07884 182696.

Nature Notes

July and early August are often described as the Dog Days of summer. The phrase can be traced back as far as the Ancient Greek and Roman belief that when Sirius, a bright star whose name means ‘large dog’ in Latin (Harry Potter fans nod in earnest), rises alongside the sun in late July, the heat from the two stars combined creates the hottest days of the year. The Dog Days were also thought to create feverish and catastrophic phenomena...

Whilst watering the front garden, my daughter and I noticed particular plants were crawling with dozens of yellow-and-black-striped caterpillars. They were Cinnabar moth (*Tyria jacobaeae*) caterpillars, whose favourite food is Common Ragwort, the golden yellow headed – poisonous - wildflower. Once transformed into moths, they display a vivid red hue on their wings to warn predators of the poison levels they have accumulated. The name ‘cinnabar’ comes from the red mineral, an ore of the metal Mercury.

A beautiful moth I spotted this month was the Scarlet Tiger (*Callimorpha dominula*) - I saw it three times in two days and I haven’t seen it since. These moths are day-flying, and only hatch one generation between May and July, so they are a precious sight, especially as they are only present in specific parts of the UK.

One natural phenomenon in the hot, dry weather is the so-called ‘Flying Ant Day’. Our patio is infested with ants – my husband tells our daughter there is an ‘ant city’ underneath the slabs. One afternoon this week, she suddenly cried out: ‘Bugs everywhere, mummy!’ - the ants were on the move, crawling over the pots and grass in their hundreds, their tiny wings glinting in the sunshine. Flying ants are ordinary black garden ants - the male drones and young queens grow wings and leave the nest to start new colonies elsewhere. Last week, the Met Office radar picked up a cloud of winged ants over a mile long.

Lydia Harley-Tomlinson lydia.harleytomlinson@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR GRAZING LAND – KINGSCLERE AREA

We’re seeking 2+ acres of grazing land in or around the Kingsclere area. Ideally with fencing, a water trough, and a field shelter; private stables would be a huge bonus!

Flexible with arrangements – We are ideally looking for a long-term setup, but happy to chat about options.

Matteo Roberto Spallone 07588 083430 Matteo.Spallone@outlook.com

Kingsclere Gardening Association

In late June members were invited to visit two gardens in Kingsclere; the weather was perfect, which is always a bonus. Thanks to Les and Maggie Wallace and Pat and Hazel O'Leary. In July we visited Brenda Sharp's garden, also in Kingsclere. Despite the very dry summer, the gardens were a delight to visit, with a riot of colour including roses and clematis. These visits are a very social event, enabling the members to enjoy good company and exchange gardening knowledge. We have more gardens to visit planned and an evening meal to look forward to.

After the annual show this month, we will resume our autumn/winter evening meetings. In September we will have a talk by Deb Heath, a wildlife photographer. We look forward to welcoming members and guests to our future program. New members are always welcome, for a very small membership fee.

The society does have a number of 6ft tables available for hire at a very reasonable cost - unfortunately we do not deliver .

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



Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group

Where: The Village Club

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 been having lots of fun in the sunshine, including water play and our fabulous annual summer party.

The library will be opening especially for Bunnies on Tuesday 5th August. We welcome sibling bunnies all through the summer holidays!

Bunnies will be CLOSED on 26th August.

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 CE Primary School



As we approach the end of the summer term, there is much to celebrate at Kingsclere CE Primary School. Work on our new roof is well underway and expected to continue until around October, though this may be extended if we experience poor weather.

Swimming lessons have been a highlight for all pupils. The children have enjoyed our end of term swimming galas, featuring races and water polo. Several children have also qualified for the inter-school finals at Northcroft Leisure Centre to compete against other Newbury schools. Congratulations to all involved!

We say a fond farewell to our wonderful Year 6 cohort. They recently gave a fantastic performance of 'Darwin Rocks!', with excellent solo and choral singing, dancing, and stage presence. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We're also proud of their academic success - this year's SATs results were outstanding, with Reading, Writing, Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar, and Greater Depth in Maths all above national averages. Well done to the children and thank you to our dedicated staff.

We are currently seeking a Clerk to the Governing Board. This valued role supports our governors. If interested, we would love to hear from you.

Wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable summer break!

Jo Messenger Headteacher

We are seeking a proactive, organised Clerk to support our Governing Body. The role involves approx. 18 meetings per year, with flexible hours. Key duties include preparing agendas, accurate minute-taking, maintaining records, and ensuring statutory compliance. You may work from home or use the school office. Join our team and support our vision for our children to be confident and thoughtful individuals with a love for learning.

Salary: Grade D (£13.95–£15.35/hr) | FTE £26,918–£29,616

Hours: 126 hrs over 52 weeks per year (flexible working based around meetings)

Essential Skills: Strong IT, admin, and communication skills; Proven clerking experience (preferred); Ability to work independently and meet deadlines; Commitment to confidentiality and safeguarding (all roles are subject to DBS and safeguarding checks); Willingness to undertake training via Hampshire Governor Services.

Contact adminoffice@kingsclere.hants.sch.uk for an application form

AUGUST IN THE GARDEN

The heat that we have experienced this summer has been intense, unfortunately the gardens have suffered. It does not seem possible at this time last year I mentioned in my article that hopefully we will get some warm weather this month.

Watering has been exhausting, but without the effort, many plants would not have survived, the vegetable garden in particular. Runner beans have looked very sad; an autumn vegetable they really dislike the heat. My cauliflowers were looking distressed, also black fly has started to attack them. This is what happens once a plant is distressed - the black fly invades. I had no alternative but to dig them up.

The tomato and cucumber plants in the greenhouse are doing well, but again need to be watered well. Irregular watering results in the tomatoes going black at the base, better known as blossom end rot, which is frustrating after waiting for the tomatoes to grow and ripen.

We had good broad beans this year and have a few left to harvest. Courgettes are prolific just now but need to be harvest before they become too large. Courgettes can be used in cake making, cucumbers can be pickled and broad beans can be made into hummus; projects for a spare moment or two!

There has been very little growth on the lawns these past few weeks. The grass will recover as soon as the rain arrives, with the dry weather it is best not to cut any growth too short.

Many flowers have not lasted long, deadheading is essential to encourage new blooms. We just hope it will rain soon so that plants can make some sort of recovery.

This is this time of year to take cuttings to increase your stock, and to gather seeds for next year. Fuchsias and pelargonium are among those that cuttings may be taken, as well as penstemons and salvias. Lavender should be clipped later this month to remove deadhead and reshape the plants. Sow hardy annuals which would include poppies and nigella.

Cut back soft fruit as soon as crop has been picked, summer prune trained apple trees and prune herbs. Hedges continue to grow regardless of the weather, these can be trimmed, keeping them to a level that is easy to retain.

Plants to enjoy this month are Japanese anemone, hydrangea, salvia, pelargonium, roses, sweet peas, clematis and perennial nemesia.

Denise Allen

Shipinnarts

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



AUGUST

No Recorder Choir during August

Saturday 16th August 3pm – 5pm: A Summer Cream Tea with Music

Come and relax and have a very special afternoon! You will be served a delicious cream tea and Angela Moore (local harpist) will play in the background some magical music on her beautiful harp!

Tickets: £15 <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-summer-cream-tea-with-music-tickets-1056930901779>

Food Allergies: Please contact us on email, or ring us to let us know of any special dietary requirements at least a week before the event.

If you would like to be on our mailing list please email us.

Kingsclere Youth Club

Where: The Fieldgate Centre
 When: Mondays 5.30pm-7.30pm
 Entry fee: £3.50 First session is free.



This past month at Youth Club we have been battling with water pistols, baking cakes and making pipe-cleaner crafts.

*****Youth Club will be closed for the summer holidays,
 re-opening on Monday 8th September.*****

Youth Club welcomes **all** young people aged between 7- and 14-years-old. We host a broad range of activities including craft, sports, cooking and games. Come along to try it out - the first session is free.

Lydia Harley-Tomlinson

lydia.harleytomlinson@gmail.com

Dear Editor,

After a year of lobbying I am pleased to say that anyone visiting Basingstoke Hospital who finds travelling along the internal path from the back door car park to outpatients department difficult due to disability can now ring the switchboard and ask for a porter with a wheelchair.

Janet Bond

Whitchurch Silk Mill

Fundraising Highlights

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who opened their gardens and to the 365 visitors who joined us for June's Open Gardens event. The day raised an impressive £4,600 through ticket sales, plant stalls, and tea & cake. Returning visitors appreciated seeing how the gardens had evolved since 2023, while newcomers were impressed by the creativity and variety. One guest remarked on the beauty and imaginative design, as well as how fascinating it was to glimpse behind familiar houses.



Our summer raffle, drawn during Open Gardens, raised £1,400, thanks to all who bought or sold tickets and donated prizes. Our stint at the Rotations charity shop brought in over £1,600, and the Spring Fayre in May raised nearly £900. We're grateful to everyone who contributed time, goods, and enthusiasm.

George Washington Suit Project

We're excited to be weaving silk for a replica of a suit worn by George Washington, commissioned by a university in New York. The yarn has arrived and been prepared for weaving. Using images of the original fabric, our team carefully analyzed the weave to match the specifications.

Exhibition: "Fascination of Trees": 23rd July – 7th September

Textile artist Jen Best showcases her nature-inspired work, especially trees, through knitting, crochet, and buttons. Free with Mill admission.

Silk Production Tour: 16th September, 11am – 12pm

Go behind the scenes of Victorian silk production, see the looms in action, and hear stories of past and present weavers. Tickets £25, online booking only.

Michaelmas Fayre: 28th September, 10:30am – 4pm

Enjoy artisan food, crafts, family activities, and competitions for best autumn-themed Victoria sponge and biggest pumpkin. Free entry; donations welcome.

Stay Connected

Tickets for events are available at the Mill Shop or online via our "What's On" page. Follow us on social media or subscribe to our newsletter to stay updated: info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk

01256 892065

www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk

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: Gillian Hern

07884 182696

kingsclerecharities4@mail.com

Dial-a-Ride

01256 462101

St. MARY'S CHURCH:

Vicar Peter Williams vicar@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

Church Warden:

John Price johnsaprice@hotmail.com

01635 297780

Administrator:

Natalie Follett

01635 299528

administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

07422 687125

METHODIST CHURCH:

Minister: Rev Rachel Borgars

07889 905753

Rachel.Borgars@methodist.org.uk

01256 895878

Secretary & Hire of Hall Jeanette Billington

01635 297585

ROMAN CATHOLIC: Rev Patrick Tansey

0118 9814572

tadley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Bas & Deane

01256 844844

Kingsclere Library

01635 297464

Buses

0345 8101000

Swan Street P O

01635 297035

Trains

0845 7484950

Kingsclere Vet

01635 896330

Gas Emerg.

0800 111999

Berkshire Vet

01635 896333

Chemist

01635 298419

Dentist

01635 299981

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MP for N.W. Hampshire:

Kit Malthouse 01264 401401

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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**