

The Kingsclere Tower



What's On & Local News
JULY 2025

The Kingsclere Tower

EDITORIAL TEAM: Mike Stokoe, Stephen Steare, Steven Gaines, Cathy Williams
 ADVERTISING: Brian Elborn b.elborn345@btinternet.com tel 298704
 DISTRIBUTION: Brian Elborn tel 298704
 ASSEMBLY: Andrew Kitch tel 299743
 PRINTERS: Kingsclere Design and Print
 COVER: KCC match at the Fieldgate Centre *Cathy Williams*

Welcome to this month's Tower. I hope you're enjoying the sunny weather.

Our village offers a variety of clubs and activities this month including the Kingfest at the School (*pg 19*), the Summer of Fun at the Fieldgate (*pg 5*), Encore from the Kingsclere Singers (*pg 20*), Bingo with the Twinning Association (*pg 14*), and evening events hosted by both the Bowling Club and the Tennis Club.

Your participation is essential. Many of the village clubs and charities, including the PreSchool, rely on volunteers to function. There is a particular need for individuals to serve as trustees (*pg 17*), for helpers and for donations for the St Mary's Village Fete (*pgs 3 & 16*).

The Editor

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

To all "Tower" Contributors

**Copy for August 2025 to the Editor at: kingscleretower@gmail.com
 NOT LATER THAN 12th July 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
 and contact phone number/email address.**

Kingsclere Parish Council

Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.org.uk

Telephone: 01635 298634

Office: 37 George St, Kingsclere RG20 5NH

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



MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARDS 2025/26 - These are now open, and a Nomination Form can be found on the Parish Council website, the notice boards on Crown Green, opposite the George and Horn or we can arrange for one to be sent to you. The awards are about recognising people in our Parish who go above and beyond to help make the village a better place to live. It's about people who work hard up front and centre, but also to remember those often behind the scenes, and those who help and support others in our lovely village. The closing date for nominations is the 31st January 2026.

GREEN WHEELY BINS & GLASS RECYCLING – the collections dates are Wednesday 9th and 23rd July, 6th and 20th August.

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.

Kingsclere Charities

The Robert Higham Apprentices and Educational 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 such things as equipment, books and specialist clothing, and equipment required for learning or training in a stated subject, and expenses incurred in travelling to and from home to a place of learning. It 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 forthcoming Meeting Dates: Sep 18th and Nov 20th

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

kingsclerecharities4@mail.com

St. Mary's Village Fete

Bank Holiday Monday 25th August

12noon – 4pm

HELP REQUIRED

The Fete is almost here! All the plans and hard work are coming together and we are looking forward to another great community event. We still need offers of help from the village. We would be delighted to hear from you if you can help with setting up, running a stall or putting us in touch with potential sponsors.

RAFFLE TICKETS

We will be in the churchyard selling tickets on Saturdays 9th, 16th and 23rd August. Lots of interesting and valuable prizes to win! Draw will take place at the fete.

TIME TO LOOK OUT THOSE UNWANTED ITEMS

- ❖ Books, toys, bric-a-brac, accessories and gifts
- ❖ Bottles and new items for the tombola.

Bring these to Saint Mary's Church from Monday 18th to Saturday 24th August between 10am – 2pm.

HOMEMADE CAKES

Our cake stall and teas are always popular, so we need lots of homemade cakes to sell. We know there are many fantastic bakers in the village. Please bring your cakes along on the morning of the fete.

MYSTERY GUEST

The fete will be opened by a special mystery guest! Come and see who it is.

DOG SHOW

Once again, the dog show team have come up trumps. They have planned a fun show, so bring your pooch along to show off his or her paces. Classes for all ages of dogs and humans. Entertaining to watch, fun for the dogs.

Registration opens from 12 noon.

Any queries please call **01635 297813** or email

fete@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk

Thank you



Medlink for Recalls

We would like to say a really big thank you to all our patients who have responded to the Medlink recalls/medication reviews that have been sent out since 01 April 2025 and we have been really pleased with the high response rate. For those patients who have not yet provided us with a contact e-mail and mobile telephone number, we would encourage you to do so as, along with your consent, these details will allow us to send you any relevant information much more easily. Medlink gives you one review in the month of your birth which is of particular help if you have more than one long-term health condition.

Healthier Together website

Please be aware that the Healthier Together website has been updated at: <https://www.healthiertogether.nhs.uk/>

Skin Cancer Awareness

We are raising awareness of the risks of skin cancer and ways you can help to reduce your risk. 86% of cases of melanoma are preventable yet increasing numbers of people are being diagnosed with this type of skin cancer. There are now more than 16,000 new cases each year in the UK.

Being sun-safe and regularly checking your skin for any changes are two really important ways you can reduce your skin cancer risk.

Risk factors:

- a previous non-melanoma skin cancer.
 - a family history of skin cancer.
 - pale skin that burns easily.
 - a large number of moles or freckles.
 - taking medicine that suppresses your immune system.
 - a co-existing medical condition that suppresses your immune system.
- Regularly checking your skin for signs of skin cancer can help lead to an early diagnosis and increase your chance of successful treatment.

More information:

<https://melanomafocus.org/about-melanoma/skin-check-leaflet/>
<https://melanomafocus.org/about-us/may-is-melanoma-awareness-month/>
<https://www.britishskinfoundation.org.uk/are-you-at-risk-of-skin-cancer>

With more and more foreign holidays being taken as well as sunny days in the UK, it is really important to check your skin regularly.



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.

Summer is in full swing, the early good weather a welcome treat! The Fieldgate Centre continues to be busy and bustling with its full diary of classes, clubs and activities. Check our website for full details and come and join us for Pilates, Clubbercise, Ceroc, Slimming World, Badminton, Darts, Monthly Meet Up and Songtree.

The bar opening on Friday evenings has been very popular and continues throughout **July, excluding the 4th**. 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 see our brand new furniture!

Monthly Meet Up takes place on **Tuesday 15th July from 2.30-4.30pm**. It's a lovely friendly afternoon of chat, cuppas, cake. Everyone welcome. Free lifts are available if needed.

The **Kingsclere Singers** are pleased to present **Encore!** at the centre on **Sunday 13th July from 12pm-2pm**. See below and advert pg20. BYO picnic and stay for the afternoon to watch the **Wimbledon Men's Final**. The bar will be open.

The **Summer of Fun** gets going, starting on **Wednesday 23rd July** and continuing every Wednesday throughout the summer holidays **until 27th August** which is the final session. 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).

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.

email: fieldgatecentre@outlook.com
www.thefieldgatecentre.co.uk

telephone 01635 298497
Facebook

Kingsclere Singers



The Kingsclere Singers will present **Encore, Songs from the Shows**, at The Fieldgate Centre **12-2pm on Sunday 13th July**. All welcome. Use the QR code for tickets or contact us via email or Facebook.

FB: Kingsclere Singers Group Email: kingscleresingers@gmail.com

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/kingsclere-community-association/t-xmeazoo>

Kingsclere Rugby Club



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 - 8.00pm. The game is suitable for women from 18 to 70+. Walking Rugby is a very easy game to learn, no experience of rugby is needed and can be played with just 4-a-side. It's a great way to exercise, walking as fast or as slow as your body allows with low impact on all your joints. You don't need to be fit to play. The main aim is to enjoy yourself, make some new friends and get a little bit of exercise at the same time.

For more information, please contact Joanna Reed – Moreton
Secretary-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com or Geoff Curtis
Youth-coach-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com

Charity 10's Tournament – The club is pleased to announce that £1,400 was raised at the Steve Damiral charity 10's tournament. A cheque was presented to Sarah Webb, St Michael's Hospice on 5th June, 2025 by Brian and Rita Damiral, Sally and Francesca Damiral together with Catherine Peach, Dilwyn Patterson and Stefan Morsley from the rugby club. Additional thanks to Jamie Knight for helping to organise the event and Nicky Peach for helping to organise and run the raffle on the day.

Men's Walking Rugby – Please come and join us on Wednesday evenings between 7.00 – 8.00 pm.

Summer Touch Tournament – This will now be held every Wednesday evening until 9th July. The tournament is open to males and females from 15 years old and upwards. The event will run from 7.00 – 8.30 pm. It is not too late to come along and join in.

Rugby Pitch – Notice to Dog Owners and Walkers – The rugby pitch is currently roped off as a reminder that dog owners (always) and walkers should not walk on the rugby pitch. The reasons are that a programme of annual maintenance which included re-seeding has recently been completed at a cost in the region of £5,500 and the grass seed needs time to germinate and establish good quality roots in readiness for next season.

For more information visit our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Kingsclere Tennis Club



Our Social Tennis Evenings have been very popular and we have been lucky with the weather most Mondays. It's a great way to meet new members too. It starts at 6.30 pm and anyone who would like to come along, just needs to let Ian & Pam know through the Club WhatsApp.

Don't forget our tennis sessions on Thursday mornings from 9.30 to 11am. Just contact Daphne Snook on **dsnook339@gmail.com** to let her know you would like to join in.

And remember, our ball machine is ready for you to play against at any time! With or without a partner it's good fun and good practice! If you need some help using it, do ask on the WhatsApp and someone will be able to meet you on court and show you.

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

WALK IN STANLEY SPENCER'S FOOTSTEPS

and enjoy refreshments at the Vintage Tea Room in Sandham Memorial Chapel
 A gentle circular walk through the countryside that inspired one of Britain's greatest war artists

Trail Overview: 2.5 miles - Footpaths, paved roads, grassy fields, and a footbridge with steps. Some muddy sections in wet weather. Uneven paths and slopes make the full walk challenging for some, but a shorter paved alternative is available.

Walk Directions:

1. **Begin at the Chapel:** Admire Spencer's murals in the chapel before starting
2. **Cross the Railway Bridge:** Turn left outside the chapel. Cross over the old railway. Take the first left down Pound Lane. Spot Sandham House (second on the right).
3. **Ox Drove Track:** Continue to the end of Pound Lane, curving onto the Ox Drove. Walk straight for 100 yards until a kissing gate appears on your right.
4. **Footpath to Church:** Go through the gate and follow the tree-lined path across fields to the Church of the Ascension.
5. **Route Options:** Shorter Route: Exit churchyard via the main gate onto Harts Lane. Turn left to return to the chapel.
 Full Trail: Exit near the war memorial. Follow the path behind the church, through fields and gates, down Jacob's Ladder, and over the footbridge. Arrive at Spring Lane.
6. **Old Station House:** Return up Spring Lane. Old Station House on left.
7. **Return to Chapel:** Turn left at the top, cross the bridge, and finish your walk back at the chapel.

Sandham Memorial Chapel

Harts Lane, Burghclere Newbury RG20 9JT Grid ref: SU463608
 Open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11am – 3pm

Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands W.I.

Kingsclere Village Club, 35 George Street



It's amazing that we are already halfway through the year and isn't the weather wonderful?

Last month we got our new WI year off to a flying start with Sharon Chapman from the Newbury Coming Together project. This garden centre is located close to Cottesmore Business Park and holds plant sales twice a year in May.

For July, we have a complete change of topic when we have a talk by a fellow WI member from Berkshire, Pat Bailey, telling us of her DNA journey, something that is completely new to us. I'm certainly very interested in hearing about Pat's journey and how it came about.

As usual, we meet at **1.45pm on Wednesday, 9th July at 35 George Street**. Tea, coffee and biscuits are always on offer. This month we also have a friendly quiz involving our sister WI institutes on the **24th July at 2pm, also at the Village Club**. We would love to welcome visitors to our monthly meetings, we are a very friendly bunch and our members love to chat!

Margaret Geary, President tel 01635 297197

CRAFT FAIR IN AID OF ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPICE Saturday September 27th 2025

The members of Kingsclere Craft Club are busy preparing for the planned Craft Fair to be held in The Methodist School Room from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday 27th September 2025.

Three of our members have lost husbands/partners recently and have said that without the help of the Hospice at Home Service, they would not have been able to cope. As a group, we have decided to raise much-needed funds for St. Michaels by making and selling craft items.

Please put the date in your diary and come along to purchase some early Christmas Gifts. There will be stalls selling hand-crafted items, artwork, soaps, etc., willow work, cakes and preserves. There will be a tombola and we have already obtained some excellent raffle prizes. Refreshments will be available too.

If you are a crafter and would like to donate some of your makes, have contacts who could donate a raffle prize or would just like to help on the day or make a donation, please contact:

Pam Kitch 07425 126427

Kingsclere Community Library

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



Consultation

We are currently running a short consultation, only six questions, and the main thing we are looking for is feedback about our opening hours. There are paper copies of the consultation for you to complete in the library or alternatively you can find it on our website at www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk The consultation will run until the middle of July, so please don't delay, have your say!

The Limerick Competition

So, the results are in! All entries were sent to Andy Murrill, the Editor of the Newbury Weekly News who kindly agreed to judge this competition, and the winners are as follows:-

Winner of the 10 and under category is Poppy Preston who submitted this wonderful limerick:-

I was reading a good book
Do you want to take a look
I read it with my Mum
It was so much fun
About Peter Pan and Captain Hook

Sadly, there were no entries in the 18 and under category, but the winner in the adult category is Sharon Morris who submitted this equally brilliant entry:-

There once was a library near here
Where the ethos was totally clear
Usage is free
Do come and see
On George Street, right here in Kingsclere

The lucky winners will be receiving their well-deserved prizes in due course.

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

Kingsclere Royal British Legion

We meet 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.

Email: kingsclere.chairman@rbl.community



What's on at Shipinnarts

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



JULY

Friday 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th July Recorder Choir (18 years and up)

Come and join us! 7.30pm start - Bring your recorder if you have one, Alison has some to lend if not. Please bring £5 cash each practise.

Contact Alison Pickering, email: alisonpickering30@gmail.com

Saturday 19th July 3 – 5pm – Courtlye Musick 'Threading through Time and Place' with Anita and Martin Felton, Anne and Gareth Jones - a Medieval tea will be served

Step back in time with Courtlye Musick (a group of versatile musicians specialising in instrumental music and song from the Renaissance and late medieval periods), as they weave a pattern of music and composers through the courts of Europe and through the 15th and 16th centuries.

Tickets: £15 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 you are attending – thank you.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/threading-through-time-place-with-courtlye-musick-medieval-tea-served-tickets-1056851795169?aff=oddtcreator>

Open Mics – have now moved to another venue locally.

Please email: shipinnarts@gmail.com if you want to come along and join in. We will then forward your details to Jon Whitfield who runs these evenings. All welcome.

If you would like to be on our mailing list please email us at the shipinnarts address above. We have events coming up in July, August and September here at Shipinnarts.

Wolverton Market

The next Market is on **Saturday 5th July in the Village Hall**, doors open from **9.30am until 11am**. There will still be some Plants available and also the locally produced Honey and fresh Eggs. Do come along and browse the many stalls. There is always the chance of a great bargain or that overlooked item which might end up on the Antiques Roadshow! This time next year you could be a millionaire !

As always, we appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you.

Wendy Morgan 01635 297538

The Church Pages



Dear Friends,

In thinking about what to share with you this time, as we approach the time of year when some of our regular activities take a break, I began looking for a hymn that refers to holidays and rest. Sadly, I have failed to find any suitable examples other than *Summer suns are glowing* and a few offerings rejoicing about the delights of summer in New Zealand!

This has made me think about how we regard the place of rest and relaxation in the church. There are many hymns and songs about work and commitment and church unity and creation (especially when it is linked to the harvest season), but very little material praising God for his gift of Sabbath, of a holy day.

We live in a society that is 'on the go' twenty-four hours, seven days a week – if you feel the need to go shopping at 2.00am, there will be places to go, albeit for a fairly limited selection of items. The constant pressure to deliver results and replies as quickly as possible is becoming the 'norm' and emails are regularly flagged as urgent, demanding they immediately jump to the top of the priority list, no matter what else the day might have held.

Our faith is based on the life and teaching of one who 'from time to time... would withdraw to remote places for prayer' (Luke 5:16). This is not just about stopping the regular routine to find space, which is important for the recharging of batteries, both physical and emotional, it is also about an intentional move to engage with God through his gift of prayer. It is about the opportunity to explore and experience the prayer that we do not share in corporate worship; the kind of prayer that encourages us to simply spend time in God's presence without feeling that we have to say or do anything: the prayer of a human being, rather than a human do-ing.

So, in these 'summer' months, whatever the weather decides to do and wherever you find yourselves, may I commend to you the sentiments of William Henry Davies and invite you to 'withdraw to [a] remote place to pray'...

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

Peace,

Rachel.

**Rev Rachel Borgars
Methodist Minister**

St Mary's Church

Worship in our Churches

July 2025



Thur 3rd	10.30am Traditional Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 6th	9.00am Traditional Morning Worship 9.30am BPC Holy Communion 10.30am Contemporary Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere St Peter's, Headley St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 10th	9.00am Traditional Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 13th	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 17th	10.30am Traditional Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 20th	9.00am Traditional Holy Communion 9.30am Traditional Morning Worship 10.30am Contemporary Holy Communion	St Mary's, Kingsclere St Paul's, Ashford Hill St Mary's, Kingsclere
Thur 24th	10.30am Traditional Holy Communion	St Mary's, Kingsclere
Sun 27th	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 31st	10.30am Traditional Morning Worship	St Mary's, Kingsclere

www.clerewoodlands.org.uk

Kingsclere Methodist Church

Services for July 2025

Sun 6th	Mrs Alyson Read
Sun 13th	Rev Canon Bentall
Sun 20th	Mrs Hazel Barker
Sun 27th	Mr Jeff Britt

All services begin at 10am unless otherwise stated

Coffee Morning every **Thursday 10.30 until 12noon**, all are welcome.

Hall available for hire (see Directory on Page 24)

Christine Westcombe email c_westcombe@hotmail.com

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, 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.



July

- 6th In memory of Peggy on her birthday. In our thoughts and hearts. With love from her family. Richard, Elaine, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.
- 15th Remembering Roy Hazell on his birthday. Your smile and your memory will never fade away. Forever in our hearts. With love from Wendy, Nicholas. Matthew, Victoria, Gosia, Anna, Lara, Austin and Lily
- 15th Treasured memories of Roy who was dearly loved by us all. Norma, Julie and Neil.
- 21st Dear Rahul, thank you for showing us that victory is unchanced... when our understanding, compassion and love is without conditions. Rashmi



FOSM 200 Club

The winner of the June Draw was Alistair Green – No. 13

Congratulations, Alistair

Next month's Draw will take place at Bel & the Dragon at about 7pm on
Tuesday 1st July

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

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

July 5th, 12th, and 19th 10am-12noon

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**

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd (FOSM)

I'm delighted to say that our Plant Sale on 31st May raised over £2,000, all of which will be spent in due course on repair and restoration work at St Mary's. This is our best result ever, and reflects the generous plant contributions given by so many people (and then bought by others!). Our warm thanks to all.

We haven't quite gone firm yet on the date of our planned return to **Frith Herb Farm at harvest time, although it looks likely to be in the third week of August**. Our past two visits there have been amongst the most popular events we have ever run, giving a fascinating glimpse into a totally different world. The format of the day is that the party splits into two, with one half being shown the processes of drying the herbs, and distilling oils from them, while the other half is taken by trailer out to the herb fields about to be harvested. Then after a picnic lunch, the two parties swap over. Numbers will be limited, and first offered to Friends by means of a Newsletter. Should there be any spaces not taken up by Friends, there will be the opportunity to put your name on a reserve list, on a first-come basis (or why not consider just joining the Friends – individual annual subscription only £10, or £20 for a family!)

Precise details of the herb farm visit will appear next month's Tower.

Website: friendsofstmaryskingsclere.org

Peter Turner, Chairman

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

Kingsclere Twinning Association



Join us for a friendly **Bingo Night** on **Friday 4th July** at the **Village Club**.
Doors open at **7pm**. Eyes Down at approx. **7.30pm**!

- **£15 for 8 games of Bingo** – the money you pay becomes the Prize Pot
The more people who play, the higher the winnings!
- **£5 entry fee** including Hot Dog and light pudding.
Bar serving wine, beer, soft drinks - and dabbars!
- Proceeds from the entry fee, bar and raffle will go towards the Kingsclere Twinning Association to facilitate visits and establish connections between Kingsclere and Cormicy.
- Please note that this is an over-18's only event.

If you would like to attend, please email kingscleretwinning@yahoo.co.uk to reserve your tickets, or for further information about the Kingsclere Twinning Association and Kingsclere's connection with the beautiful village of Cormicy in the Champagne region of France!

Kingsclere Gardening Association



The members of Kingsclere Gardening Association were invited to visit the beautiful garden of David and Manda Russell Robbins in May. Our thanks to our hosts for a very lovely evening. The evening was well supported and we were blessed with good weather. We will continue with garden visits for members. Members will be informed as and when the arrangements are made as these visits are mostly arranged at short notice and will not be on our membership cards.

THE ANNUAL SHOW 17th AUGUST

The Fieldgate Centre 9am-11am

Open to the public 2.30pm

We have a large vegetable section, including a fun class for the Longest Runner Bean. This can be entered on the day. There is also a good variety of flower classes. Last year we had a very successful domestic section: we would be delighted if we could repeat it again this year. I'm sure we have plenty of good cooks locally capable of exhibiting their talents on the show benches. There is a challenge for the flower arrangers, with an arrangement in a cabbage, and for the budding photographer, we have a section for photography.

What ever your talents, please come along and enter a class that appeals to you. It can be a learning exercise as there are people available to give advice. Schedules will be available at several venues in the village or from myself.

September is the start of our evening meetings and we look forward to some interesting speakers for the winter months. New members are always welcome for a small membership fee. We have a busy schedule for the enthusiastic gardener.

Denise Allen Chairman 01635297966 denise.allen47@icloud.com



The Life of Service of the 1st Duke of Wellington

Free to members - Non-members £3 on the door



This presentation by Richard Bennett and John Missenden includes many illustrations covering the Duke's life, long successful military career under three different sovereigns, and later as a politician and statesman.

Join us for this talk
**Wednesday 16th July, 10am at St Mary's Hall,
Overton**



KINGSCLERE VILLAGE CLUB

Est. 1921 CHARITY 1189234

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

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

Follow us on Instagram @kingsclere_village_club



@KINGSCLERE_VILLAGE_CLUB

Community Café

This month's Café is on **Saturday 26th**, 10am to 12.30pm. Homemade cakes, teas & coffees in a warm, friendly atmosphere. Plus, a fun quiz at 11 o'clock. All welcome.

Open Garden (free event)

Our lovely garden will be open to all from 10am to 2pm on **Saturday 26th July**. Why not bring a picnic? Teas, coffees and soft drinks will be on sale.



Water-play activities for children will be provided.

ABB



The ever-popular blues band ABB, with a new line-up and some new songs, are returning to the Club on **Saturday 25th October**. Great live music and a chilli supper (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

Our Christmas Market will once again be held on the first Sunday in December (7th). If you make or supply quality goods or produce, we would love you to take part. Please contact Helen (below) for more details. Everyone else – save the date to ensure you don't miss out on some special Christmas shopping!

Helen 01635 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Accessories Stall

**St Mary's Kingsclere Village Fete
Bank Holiday Monday August 25th 2025**

Please can you donate good quality gifts, handbags, hats, scarves, pashminas and jewellery for our Accessories Stall this year.

**Please start putting accessories and gifts aside
and contact me from the beginning of July.**

Many thanks!

suzystokoe@btinternet.com 01635 297234 07930987026

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 been having lots of fun this month, and we were delighted to welcome some older Bunnies back with their siblings during half-term week. Many of the Bunnies made beautiful Father's Day footprints for their Daddy Buns.

Bunnies will be CLOSED on Tuesdays 29th July and 26th August

The library will be opening especially for Bunnies on Tuesday 1st July.

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



This month we have been doing some gardening with the children. They have planted their own sunflower seeds and we can't wait to see the progress on how they grow at home! The children have been learning how to plant flowers carefully and how to look after them to enable them to grow. We have also been celebrating Father's Day, creating gifts and talking about the men in our lives and why we love them.

Over the next month, we will be enjoying some sports activities and races in our sports week. We are also starting to make plans for our graduation ceremony and the school leavers trip.

As always, thank you to all of our families for your continued support and the staff for their hard work. 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 CE Primary School

Summer Term News!



We are having a vibrant and exciting summer term here at Kingsclere CE Primary School, full of learning, creativity, and community spirit!

This term, our whole school took part in *Mental Health Awareness Week*, focusing on the power of breathing techniques to support our wellbeing. It was wonderful to see how thoughtfully the children engaged with this important theme. Across all year groups, we continue to deliver *My Happy Mind* – an NHS-approved programme that builds children's resilience and supports positive mental health.

We also celebrated our *Wildlife Photography Competition*, inspired by an assembly from Lorna Crowther. Huge congratulations goes to Lillith and Jake, whose incredible photos reached the competition final – a fantastic achievement!

Year R had a fabulous trip to *Wellington Country Park*, where they explored animal life cycles and enjoyed plenty of fun in the great outdoors. A highlight of the trip was the children walking back to the coach with a line of geese waddling along behind them!

Each year groups are now enjoying *weekly swimming lessons*, in our school swimming pool and we are looking forward to our upcoming *Key Stage 2 Swimming Galas*, which will include exciting races and water polo matches.

We also had a fun *Sports Day*, with so many families joining us to cheer the children on. The day was filled with energy encouragement, and brilliant sportsmanship from each pupil – well done to all who took part!

Jo Messenger, Headteacher

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 playing board games and re-designing our logo – watch this space! We've also baked seriously chocolatey brownies and had a go at badminton.

Youth Club welcomes **all** young people aged between 7 and 14 years. 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



Friends of Kingsclere School Kingsfest 2025

Sat 12th July 2pm - Sun 13th July 10am

Past, present and future KPS families are invited to join us for a weekend of fun, friendship and live music from The Only Band in the Village and others, with the option to use the pool and camp on the school field. Hot food included inticket price. Sweets, toys and bar available.

We would like our community to be advised that there will be intermittent live music over a PA system from 3pm - 10:30pm. This event takes place once a year, is enjoyed by many, and raises funds for Kingsclere schoolchildren. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Current & future KPS parents: use What's On tab on Classlist for tickets.



**Ticket QR code for
Past KPS families**



**Anyone can use this QR
code to make a donation
to FKS. Thank you!**

That's a Wrap on an Incredible Year at Kingsclere Performing Arts!



As the academic year draws to a close, we at Kings PA are filled with pride and gratitude. It's been a busy, inspiring, and achievement-filled year, and we couldn't be more proud of how far our students have come.

To our graduating class—congratulations! You've worked incredibly hard, and we wish you every success as you move forward into the next chapter of your creative journeys. We hope you take the summer to relax, reflect, and celebrate everything you've achieved.

To finish off the academic year, we enjoyed a lovely "full circle" moment where Kings PA Alumni, and Urdang graduate Alex Kranz came back to Kingsclere to deliver a West End masterclass to our students, following his recent UK tour with the smash hit musical *& Juliet*. Alex's journey from Kingsclere into the profession was inspiring for all to see.

We're also excited to be welcoming a brand new cohort of talented performers this September, as well as seeing our returning students step into their second year with fresh energy and ambition.

Thank you to our students, staff, families, and the wider community for your continued support. We look forward to another exciting year ahead!

The King's PA Team info@kings-pa.co.uk www.kings-pa.co.uk



Kingsclere Singers

ENCORE!

FIELDGATE CENTRE
12-2PM SUNDAY 13TH JULY
OPEN BAR & BYO PICNIC

SONGS FROM THE SHOWS

SPECIAL GUESTS
KINGSCLERE PRIMARY SCHOOL

TICKETS £10 | UNDER 16 FREE
WWW.KINGSCLERE-SINGERS.CO.UK

Working in partnership with



Kingsclere Community Association
 The Fieldgate Centre
 Your community, your place

Nature Notes

This past month has been one of nests and eggs. It began with our neighbour showing us a frame from his beehive in which a wasp had begun building its nest. The greyish little cone-shaped structure was abandoned half-finished, so perhaps the wasp realised its mistake! Seeing a comb up close was such a privilege – we could see a queen's cell, about the size of a cashew nut, that hangs vertically from the rest of the worker bee cells.



Most of the blue tit chicks fledged without us seeing them, though we spotted one hopping uncertainly on the patio immediately beneath the bird box. The parents were in the vicinity, so hopefully it was well cared for and found somewhere safe eventually. Once we know the family had moved on, we checked the box and sadly found one under-developed chick had passed away in the nest, as well as a tiny unhatched egg. Blue tit broods can hatch in asynchrony, meaning that earlier-born nestlings can out compete their younger, weaker siblings for food.



There is a mysterious hexagonal formation of white eggs on the underside of our pond plants – I wonder if they are shield bug eggs, but we will have to wait and see if we can catch them hatching. We certainly have lots of shield bugs in the garden, which we love to spot as they have some beautiful colours on their 'shield'-shaped backs.

Another kind neighbour alerted us to a new family of ducklings on the brook, and the next day I *heard* them first – cheeping away with mum quacking reassuringly in reply – then spotted them swimming downstream, darting in and out of the foliage. I counted ten in total – good luck mummy duck!



Lydia Harley-Tomlinson

lydia.harleytomlinson@gmail.com

July in the Garden

The summer is rushing by. Gardens have been wonderful, with only a few light frosts this year, and this has enabled many plants to exceed themselves. Roses have been exceptional, and clematis have been complementary to the roses. When grown close together, I just think that they are such a good combination.

The gaps in the borders, where the spring bulbs have died back, can still be filled in with bedding plants. It is always a good idea to sow some late seeds for this purpose. Continue deadheading, and cut back plants that will give you a second flush late summer – autumn, e.g. delphiniums

Time to cut back irises and divide, before the clumps become too large and difficult to work with. Conifer hedges can be cut back now, also cut off all that unwanted growth that appears on tree trunks. The sorbus species of trees have this growing habit.

At the moment of writing this, we have had little rain, so ponds will need topping up, and many plants in the garden would welcome some watering. Feeding would also be beneficial with all the growth plants have made this year. When cutting lawns in the dry weather, try not to take the blades too low, otherwise the grass can go brown. Grass will recover very quickly when it rains again, but brown does not look good if the grass is taken too short.

The vegetable garden will be producing plenty to harvest now: beetroot, courgettes, onions, peas, potatoes, spinach, garlic, and salad leaves. Tomatoes will be ready; do take care with watering as this will affect the fruit, remember to feed regularly as tomatoes can become diseased with blossom end rot and tomato blight. Herbs can be dried now for winter use.

Strawberries have been huge this year. If your plants are three years old, it could be time for some new ones, this will give you better results for next year rather than struggling with the old plants. Runner beans that have reached the top of their support, pinch out the tips of the leading shoot, this will encourage side shoots that will produce more beans. Sow spring cabbage and winter salad leaves.

Weeds are always a problem. Where it is possible, hoe on a dry day, hoping the sun will shrivel the seedlings. I have read mulching the soil with a layer of dry grass mowings suppresses weeds. This could work, but have not tried it yet.

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

Denise Allen



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

Wall-hanging Workshops

If you'd like to try out a variety of weaving patterns and experiment on our Louet looms to create your own wall-hanging, the next beginners' workshops are on **12th and 16th July**. Intermediate and advanced workshops are available in September. For more information, see 'What's on' page of the website.

Jane Austen Country Fair, 6th July in Steventon village

The Mill will be at Steventon's Jane Austen Regency Country Fair, which celebrates the 250th anniversary of her birth and will feature a variety of performances, demonstrations and activities inspired by the Regency era. We'll be showcasing traditional crafts and engaging with the community. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to step back in time and enjoy a day filled with history, culture, and fun!

Riches to Ribbons Exhibition, until 20th July 2025

Learn how we make our silk ribbon broadcloth and cut it into ribbon strips, and see and hold the ribbon collection celebrating the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. Learn about the historical significance of silk ribbons in fashion. Exhibition entrance is free with Mill admission

Fascination of Trees: Exhibition, 23rd July to 7th September

Jen Best of Beaker Buttons in Dorset is an author and textile artist with a particular focus on knitting, crochet and buttons. This exhibition of Jen's work celebrates trees through the medium of textile art inspired by the world around her, particularly nature, trees and the sea. Entrance is free with Mill admission.

Michaelmas Fayre, 28th September, 10.30am to 4pm

This should prove to be a popular event, offering artisan food, craft stalls from which to buy Christmas presents, and autumn crafts and family activities to enjoy. What's more, we'll be holding cake-baking and pumpkin-growing competitions. We invite bakers to bring an autumn-themed decorated Victoria sponge to the Fayre. Sponges will be judged on both taste and decoration and there will be two categories: adults and children. Can you grow Whitchurch's biggest pumpkin? Bring along your prize specimen at 10.30am on the day of the Fayre. Judging will begin at 3pm. This is a free event but any donations will be welcomed and will help us preserve the living weaving heritage at the Mill.

Volunteer Opportunity: Meetings Secretary

We are looking for a volunteer to join our team as a Meetings Secretary. This involves arranging and supporting the Mill Director, Board, and Committees. With estimated commitment of just one day per month, this is an opportunity to contribute to our community. Board Meetings are held four times a year on Saturdays, Committee Meetings occur eight times a year during the week on Teams. The role's time demands are concentrated around these meetings, and you'll receive assistance from the Mill Team as needed.

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

CHURCH CONTACTS

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

Swan Street P O

01635 297035

Buses

0345 8101000

Kingsclere Vets

01635 896330

Trains

0845 748 4950

Dentist

01635 299981

Gas Emerg.

0800 111999

Age Concern Local Agent 0800 3287154

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 07725 819021

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