

KINGSLERE ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Kingsclere Parish Council (KPC) Report

The Elections were held in May 2023 and sadly 4 Councillors did not stand for re-election, so we take this opportunity to thank John Sawyer, Sue Adams, Mick Farey and Ian Bowes for all that they did and achieved throughout their time on the Council. We also welcomed Mike Bound as our new Borough Councillor. In September Helen Jonas joined KPC and Helen has produced a short article on her experiences as a Councillor so far.

We would encourage anyone to make contact with one of us if you are interested in becoming a Councillor or just getting involved. The role of a councillor is a voluntary one and all Councillors give up a considerable amount of time for the village. It can be very rewarding and a great way of meeting people. There are a few projects such as a new playground that the Council would like to bring to fruition but there is considerable work required with design and site meetings, research, quotes and most importantly grant applications - please do get in touch if you can help. We are very aware of things that need doing but only have so much time between us.

It seems such a long time ago but what a wonderful memory we have of the May coronation weekend in Kingsclere. Thank you to everyone who was involved in the celebrations - Kingsclere Community Association, Park House Stables, The Village Club, St Mary's, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and of course the Parish Council. We recall everyone who made and put up bunting, all the bonkers people who congaed in the rain, everyone who came to the after party, those who took part in the lamp lighting, the community stall holders, the singers, the church congregation, the street parties, the Downs walkers and picnickers you all made a great contribution to a great village day.

The Annual Spring Clean had to be moved to May at the last minute due to the awful weather experienced on the planned April day and as a result wasn't as well attended as previous years.

The Council submitted its accounts in May to the Auditors and received an exemplary result with no issues or concerns, thanks to the hard work and diligence of our Finance Officer.

June saw the Biannual Making a Difference Awards hosted by the Parish Council with winners nominated by the Residents. We congratulate once again all the worthy winners — Jill Ainsworth, Kath Hodgson, McColls, Dilwyn Patterson, the late Maisie Phenix, John Sawyer and Debbie Upton. It is a real privilege to speak to and learn how our residents get involved.

The Notice Board on Crown Green was installed, Thank you to Ray Peach for arranging it and to Borough Councillor Mike Bound for his members grant contribution towards the two boards. At the time of writing another replacement board has been ordered to continue our plan to replace one a year around in the village. They are £2500 each so need to be budgeted for year on year but should last a lifetime.

The Summer was its usual challenge of keeping up the maintenance of the 14 acres we are responsible for around the village and We made the decision to start cutting earlier in 2024 - it was deemed too late to leave until April as the

grass was always in front of us. The contract is over £18k and we go out to tender again this year so anyone who would like to be included is encouraged to contact the office.

We now have 57 allotments and a long waiting list. We purchased new allotment software and the administration, and inspections now run more smoothly.

We purchased, using a small sum of S106 funds and a Greenham Common Grant, 3 new sensory boards for accessible play. These are now installed in the Holding Field and besides the Wildflower Meadow on the Recreation Ground. The S106 had to be spent on play equipment urgently or it would be lost and unfortunately it was not enough to fund a whole play area.

During the year KPC was able to consider Grants to local organisations and this year Kingsclere Cricket Club, Busy Bees, Kingsclere Twinning Association, Friends of Kingsclere School, The Village Club and Citizens Advice Tadley were all able to benefit.

Much of the Councillors time was spent renewing leases for both the Tennis and Bowls Club. The fees involved with the renewing of the leases, although the responsibility of the tenant, were covered by KPC. Although not strictly a grant these fees are considered to be contributions to both clubs and totalled £1625 in 2023-24 but further costs came in the current financial year. Updates in next year's Annual Report.

Thank you to Neighbourhood Plan (NP) team who are currently revisiting and refreshing Kingsclere's plan. Our NP is dependent on the review of BDBC Local Plan review which is not due for adoption until 2025. In January 2024 the Draft Regulation 18 Consultation for the new Local Plan was circulated and KPC, in very close cooperation with the NP team, put in a response. This was important as the document will impact how planners respond to proposed development in our parish.

Our plans for 2024/25 include:-

- Refurbishment of the large flower bed in the square.
- Another new notice board (as previously mentioned).
- Looking at the use and potential facilities of the Holding Field in conjunction with new play area.
- The Clerk will be starting her "Certificate in Local Council Administration" qualification which whilst time consuming will help the council grow in the right direction.
- We are working with the Youth Football to help practices to continue on the Holding Field.
- Repairs are required on the Cemetery Lychgate.
- Possible rebranding and update to what is currently the Millenium Trail which could become the Heritage Trail.
- The hedge along the Basingstoke Road is due to be cut back considerably in the Autumn to recover some of the lost pavement.

For the latest updates check out our web site **www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk**

Kingsclere Bowling Club



Kingsclere Bowls Club offers an outdoor sport available and accessible to all ages, not just pensioners! Membership is available from the age of 9 and it is a game that is suitable for the whole family. Our longest serving member joined in 1964 in his twenties and is still playing at a high level in his eighties. Bowls provides low impact physical exercise and is a good way to socialise and make new friends whilst staying active.

During the outdoor season from April to September the club has a full programme of fixtures. Midweek games are played in Basingstoke (and District), Whitchurch (and District) and North Hampshire leagues. Weekend games are friendlies against local clubs or competitions within our own club. From September to March we enter teams in the indoor bowl's leagues at Whitchurch Long Meadow Bowls Centre.

If you are interested in having a go the club runs taster evenings on Thursdays during May. No experience is needed and everyone one is welcome. All we ask is that you wear flat soled footwear. Or pop along to a home fixture to say 'hello'.

For more information please visit our website

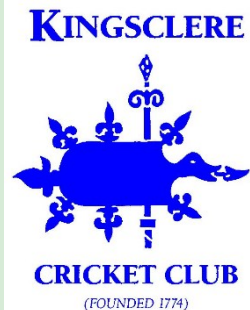
<http://www.kingsclerebowlingclub.co.uk>



Kingsclere Parish Paths

The Parish Paths volunteers meet up on the second Sunday of each month, with some ad hoc early evening meets through the summer. The group clear and maintain the paths around the village. We are supported by Kingsclere Parish Council and Hampshire County Council rights of way staff. It's a good chance to get a little exercise and enjoy the wonderful countryside where we live. Just turn up with suitable footwear and clothes and the tools are provided.

Over the last year we have cleared debris from the storms, tidied up around the Malthouse, replaced steps and handrails and generally kept the nettles and brambles back. We meet in the garden of the village hall, any questions please contact, Kingsclereparishpaths@btinternet.com



Another Successful Season

Kingsclere Cricket Club had a thoroughly enjoyable and successful season in 2023. All of our evening league home matches were played on the Park House Stables Ground – what a beautiful place to play cricket.

We won our division of the North Hampshire Evening League! This meant we went on to play in “finals day” against the winners of the other two higher divisions (let’s just put that day down to experience, shall we?)

On Saturdays, in the Hampshire League Division 4 North, we finished fifth with a record of played 12, won 8, lost 4. All home matches were played at the Fieldgate and it’s a huge credit to Norman Howe that the wicket played the best it has ever done. We had some humdingers of local derbies against the like of Ramsdell, Ashford Hill and Whitchurch. However, the most memorable match of the season was our win away against table topping Hungerford late in July. Matt Howe, Alfie Thompson and the rest of the bowling attack did sterling work to restrict Hungerford to 235 for 9. Kingsclere managed their assault on the total extremely well with great contributions from Pete Frith (62) and Ed Lyle (69). But it was left to Steve Hanney (5 not out) and the evergreen Norman Howe (14 not out) to see the team home to a 5-wicket victory with 2 overs to spare.

The end of season batting awards went to Ross Andrews (League) and Jack Grove-White (evenings). Bowling awards went to Ed Lyle (League) and Alfie Thompson (evenings). Player’s Players went to Pete Frith and the Evening League Captain’s Player award to Jack Grove-White. Clubman of the year was Charlie Richards.

The Club owes huge thanks to Anna Lisa and Andrew Balding and everyone at Park House Stables who make us so welcome for our evening league fixtures.

2024 promises to be a memorable year for the club (as a look at our logo will tell you).

Mark Hirst - Chairman, Kingsclere Cricket Club

Greener Kingsclere

Reduce Refill Re-use



Greener Kingsclere began with a sustainable market in January, 2020, with the aim of offering products and services that were more planet-friendly, and in hopes of reducing single-use plastics and carbon emissions, and encouraging minimal waste. Since then, we have hosted 5 markets per year, excepting the break during Covid.

Last year we started a Repair Cafe. The aim is to keep usable items out of landfill. We also added a clothing 'swap' to fight fast fashion and encourage re-use of items. We partner with the Kingsclere Community Association at The Fieldgate Centre.

In 2024, we moved away from markets and have created events we hope will help with the Climate Crisis. In February, our focus was Energy. In April our focus was All About Food – growing, sourcing and cooking sustainably and economically. June is a Car Boot/Table Top sale, All about Plastics is in October, and we will host a sustainable Christmas Fair in December.

Events will also include the Repair Cafe, a free Clothing 'Swap' and a Cafe, and possibly other activities.

Our Repair Cafe volunteers have done a fantastic job and we are grateful for their commitment. Moving forward we are looking for help and hope to find more volunteers to take on some tasks. Please contact us for more information. Even a couple hours per month would be very helpful.

www.greenerkingsclere.co.uk

greenerkingsclere@gmail.com

Council. This will allow KPAYC to develop the facility as a centre for the young focussing on the performing arts and as a youth hub. KPAYC will have an option to buy the facility ensuring the building can be retained by the community. There is significant costs associated with paying for the lease and undertaking essential renovations, particularly on windows and roof, to ensure the integrity of the building. Raising funds including grant funding will be necessary. We are considering options for charging for car park use as many users are not visitors to 24 Swan St.

The community and Borough Councillor support provided to enable the facility to be saved has been fantastic. We were delighted by the success of the Step Up for Swan Street festival held on White Hill during September 2023. Thank you to the Balding's at Park House Stables for allowing the use of such a wonderful location. Look out for other events and the formal launch of the Kingsclere Performing Arts and Youth Centre at 24 Swan Street. Website - <https://www.kingsclerepayc.co.uk>

Kingsclere Players



The Kingsclere Players have seen a remarkable resurgence in 2023 and 2024, overcoming the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our production of Peter Pan was a tremendous success, reigniting membership numbers and restoring community productions at the Fieldgate Centre. Partnering with the Kingsclere Community Association, we hosted seven sold-out shows, demonstrating our ability to captivate audiences and revitalise community engagement.

In April 2024, we presented Stepping Out, showcasing our dedication to artistic growth by incorporating tapping skills into our performance. We also supported the Kingsclere Community Association and Kingsclere Singers in organising the Festive Sing-Along, fostering collaboration and community spirit.

Looking ahead, we are excited to host Juniors Summer Workshops with special guest experts, teaching children onstage and offstage skills, teamwork, and confidence. Auditions for our upcoming pantomime in 2024 will take place in August. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our members, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters particularly the Crown Pub for their invaluable contributions to our success. Visit our website to get involved [kingsclereplayersgroup.com](https://www.kingsclereplayersgroup.com)

Thank you,

Jessica Craker, Chair Person

Could you be a Parish Councillor?

Kingsclere Parish Council are looking for more members to join the team. A little more about the role:-



- Represent the views of all residents within the parish.
- Understand, the views and needs of different groups in the community.
- Be well-informed, especially about diverse local views.
- Deliver services to meet local needs.
- Strive to improve quality of life in the parish.
- Attend meetings of the council.
- Review, monitor and maintain the village financial matters - always striving for best value for money versus the budget.
- Represent the local community externally.
- Review planning applications and respond from a community perspective.

A New Parish Councillor Perspective

As I sit here staring out at the seemingly never ending rain, I find myself pondering how I got myself into this Parish Council malarky. I'm not the sort of person who likes to stick their head above the parapet; I don't have a fervent political interest (other than the belief that our politicians should be honest, ethical and work hard for the interests of their community rather than their own); and I hate any sort of confrontation. The truth is, I most definitely never, ever saw myself as Parish Councillor material.

It started in the pub (doesn't it always!), with a long chat with two people who have either been on or have worked with Kingsclere Parish Council for several years. After a few months of pondering, I decided to take the plunge and was co-opted¹ onto the PC. Here are some things I have learnt since being a Parish Councillor:

- I love being able to think about, discuss and have an input in decisions that affect Kingsclere and its community.
- Other people on the PC are incredibly friendly, patient and supportive.
- I have not had to fend off complaints from people as I go about my daily business.
- It does not take over my life and (other than between one and 3 meetings a month), I am not obliged to take on any role if I don't want to or can't do so.
- I have learnt so much more about this incredible village and its people since being on the PC.

Cllr. Helen Jonas

i) A Parish Council can co-opt a person onto the Council to fill a casual vacancy when the requirements to hold an election have not been met.

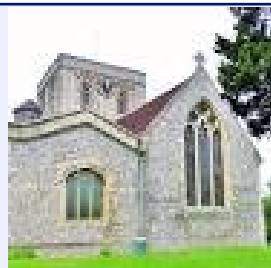
Areas of Responsibility

The Parish Council looks after approximately 14 acres of land around the village, including the Holding Field, the Recreation Ground, the 2 Cemeteries', Allotments, the Churchyard, the Malthouse Open Space, Crown Green and we are going to refurbish the large flower bed in the Square later this year (its ownership is unclear). Many grass areas in the village are maintained by Basingstoke and Deane or Local Housing Authorities. Hampshire County Council look after the verges and the roundabout. Hedges should be maintained by the owner of the property they adjoin.

KPC needs help. There are always projects which need to be driven forward, the majority of KPC members work full time, We would be pleased to hear from anyone who may like to get involved either in becoming a Councillor or volunteering for a project.

St Mary's Church

The church community had a busy year in 2023! We continued to worship each week on Thursday and Sunday mornings and held special services for Easter, Christmas and celebrated the coronation of King Charles. We enjoyed welcoming the children from Kingsclere Primary School into church for celebrations throughout the year too, and visiting every week to lead Collective Worship. Our House Groups and Prayer Group have met to pray, study and share time together throughout the year. Our Coffee morning – held in the Kingsmill Room on most Saturdays throughout the year provides a friendly welcome to visitors and regulars alike.



We have supported three people from our church family in their work to be awarded the "Bishops Commission for Mission", a scheme which provides training for people to become lay leaders in the parish. We now have a team of 7 people who play an important part in the leadership of the church here in Kingsclere. Coupled with a local retired minister, they lead services for the beginning of 2023 while we were without a vicar, and then continued to support when Rev Pete was appointed in June.

We ran an Alpha course at the end of 2023, which gave an opportunity for people to think about some of the big questions in life. We chatted in small groups about faith and God, and enjoyed delicious desserts each week as well!

The Community Larder continues to support those in the village who are in need. We now have a team of nearly 30 volunteers who between them cover each Thursday. Thanks to kind donations of food and money from villagers we have been able to continue to provide this valuable service.

As always, details of events and information about our church is available at www.stmaryskingsclere.co.uk.



Girlguiding members in Kingsclere have been having an amazing time this last year.

Rainbows have worked on their Rustle Bustle and Squeak badges, as well as interest badges at home, such as the Family Tree and Helper badge. We held an open evening for Rainbows that saw

two new members join, and have made mother's day gifts as well as monsters out of clay.

Brownies went rock climbing last year, and had a go at different styles of cooking for our Skills for My Future skills builder. We made remembrance wreaths, learning about the different animals that helped in the war, and celebrated Burns Night weaving our own tartan designs; and celebrated Chinese New Year making dragon puppets and trying our hand at eating smarties using chopsticks. We attended our Division Thinking Day event in Tadley on 24th February which was also attended by over 100 Guiding members from the Kingsclere and Silchester Division.

Rainbows and Brownies joined to celebrate the King's Coronation last year with a royal tea party and family and friends joining too, and in December had a joint Christmas party with food, dancing, and games.

On Saturday 16th March we held an Easter Fayre with a raffle, tombola, craft stall, and children's crafts, as well as an easter bonnet competition, and a cake stall and refreshments. This was well attended, and we raised about £230. We'll use this to purchase replacement equipment and help with the cost of our next Brownie Pack Holiday.

Some news from our leadership team: after an incredible 15 years' service, Mary retired as a Rainbow Leader last autumn. We thank her for all her help and the ideas and fun she brought with her.

Colleen was awarded a Guiding Thank You from our Division Commissioner, for her work as District Commissioner, and then Assistant District Commissioner, for Rainbows.

And finally, after many years of hard work, Eleanor completed her Queen's Guide Award last October and was presented with this at the Division Thinking Day event in February.

There are spaces in both Rainbows and Brownies, for girls aged 4 - 10. For more information, please email us on: **3rdkingsclerebrownies@gmail.com**

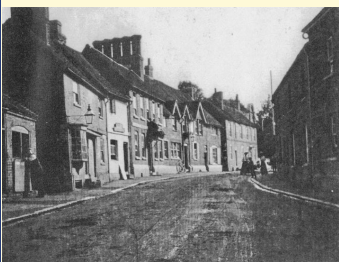
Kingsclere Local History Association

Our year runs from 1st September to 31st August.

In June 2023 we enjoyed a conducted tour of Whitchurch Silk Mill by Deborah Wheeler who had given us a very interesting presentation on the mill the previous winter. It really brought to life all we had heard and seen in Deborah's talk enhanced by a lovely sunny day and an excellent tea.

Our monthly speaker programme commenced in September with a talk by David Rymill on the Hampshire Record Office, followed by a variety of talks such as research on a crashed WW11 German Messerschmitt 110 off the Dorset coast and a detailed presentation on Magna Carta.

We are pleased to report that the numbers attending our meetings have increased considerably in the last two or three years and we are averaging about 35 per meeting. Visitors are always very welcome.



We are responsible for maintaining the Kingsclere Village Archives and our archivists are in the Holding Room upstairs in the Village Club most Monday afternoons from 2pm til 4pm. We are pleased to receive enquiries.

Michael Leah, Secretary Tel: 297403

Kingsclere Community Library

The Kingsclere Community Library is a free public library serving Kingsclere and the surrounding villages. We have been volunteer-run since 2015, and became a registered charity in July 2021.

We are adding more books; new purchases plus loans from the Hampshire Library service. We have built up the Young Adult Books, and began a new collection of graphic novels, including some comic books.

One of our biggest challenges is funding, and like everyone we have seen our expenses rise significantly. Our annual book sale is very popular, but raises less than 20% of our budget. The rest comes from donations and charitable trusts.

We would like to thank all our volunteers and readers. We could not keep the library open without the strong community support we continue to receive.

Our events for this year so far are a fund raising Quiz, on Saturday 11th May, and a production by the Newbury Dramatic Society about Thomas Hardy, on 28th May. Our annual book sale is the weekend of 14th-15th September, and we are grateful to the continued support we receive in donations and purchases.

Our opening hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays 1 – 5:30pm and Saturdays 10am – 1:00pm and we are happy to welcome new members. We always need more volunteers; if you are interested please contact us to discuss, even a couple hours per month is welcome.

www.kingsclerelibrary.co.uk

kingsclerelibrary@gmail.com





The Fieldgate Centre

Kingsclere Community Association

Your community, your place

The Kingsclere Community Association (KCA) is delighted to report on a successful year of activities and events run at the community centre. During 2023 visits to the Fieldgate Centre facilities returned to above pre-pandemic levels with over 48,000 visits, an increase of over 10% on 2019 levels. As well as the range of routine classes run at the centre a variety of events have

been run and supported by the Association including the Monthly Meet-Up, the Coronation Community event, the Summer of Fun Play Days, the Kingsclere Players Pantomime, Greener Kingsclere activities including the Repair Cafe, the Kingsclere Library Giant Book Sale, Kingsclere Singers' events and the Christmas Sing-Along.

KCA has to generate all of the revenue required to operate the community centre, this is mainly achieved through hire income. We have been pleased to welcome a range of NHS based activities including regular Blood Donation sessions and Mother and Baby Clinics. The vast majority of the time put in to running the centre and KCA activities is provided by volunteers which is greatly appreciated. In order to be able to sustain what we currently do and to potentially add to our activities we welcome any support people are able to offer.

The Summer of Fun 2024 Play Days will be running every Wednesday during the school summer holiday. We plan to extend these highly popular events to include activities for older children. Further information on these events will be published in The Tower, on our website - fieldgate.co.uk and FaceBook.

As part of delivering on the Association's areas of charitable benefit we are extend our activities on tackling loneliness. Lack of transport is an issue in rural areas, particularly for the elderly. At present we offer free transport to any who need it to allow them to attend the Monthly Meet Up run at the Fieldgate Centre on the third Tuesday of the month at 14.30. We are offering this transport service for other events run at the community centre. This will include the Kingsclere Singer's events run with the KCA at the Fieldgate Centre as well as productions presented by the Kingsclere Players - look out for the pantomime that will be staged in the run up to Christmas. Please contact our office, 01635 298497 or email fieldgatecentre@outlook.com, if you or someone you know would like us to arrange transport to enable attendance at these events at the Fieldgate Centre.

The Kingsclere Singers had a remarkable year filled with memorable events and outstanding community engagement. Our 2023 summer event featured songs from musicals, with the Kingsclere Primary School Choir joining us for a spectacular performance. Collaborating with St. Mary's Church, we celebrated the Harvest season and spread festive cheer with the Yule Sing Christmas event. Raising £800 for MS charity.

Kingsclere Singers

A highlight was the Community Festive Sing-Along, organised with the Kingsclere Community Association and support from the Kingsclere Players (with Santa and the famous panto lobsters as a special guests), drawing an incredible turnout from the community. In February, we delighted audiences with an Old Tyme Music Hall production in partnership with the Ship Inn Arts Centre.

Our Spring Community Event showcased music through the decades, culminating in a fantastic turnout and widespread acclaim, complemented by afternoon tea and cakes. We are grateful for the support that made these events possible and look forward to continuing to enrich the community through music in the coming year.

Our 2024 summer performance will be held at the Fieldgate centre on the 14th July. Thank you for your unwavering dedication to the Kingsclere Singers. www.kingsclere-singers.co.uk

Kingsclere Preschool

In December 2023, Busy Bees Preschool became Kingsclere Preschool. Operating since 1976 as "Busy Bees", our Trustees made this change to reflect our place in the village and as part of restructuring our charity into a Community Interest Organisation (CIO). This has not affected the great care and educational development we provide to the children in our community.



We have had success as we navigated recent challenges - COVID, underfunding, rising costs, etc. However, we have also seen four preschools in our area close due to similar challenges, with another in Overton closing in December. Our Committee, staff, and volunteers fundraised over £40,000 allowing us to continue on and to grow our resilience over the last year. But there is still work to be done to preserve our only remaining preschool.

This year our focus is "Community". We need community members to join our governing Committee to strengthen our long-term sustainability, and we will partner with community groups on events and fundraising. Greener Kingsclere joined our first event of the year and we will join the Village Club, Fieldgate, St. Mary's and other community group events and activities in the coming months. We look forward to seeing you at these events, and we thank you for your continued support.

Youth Football Club



Kingsclere Youth Football Club has a clear 3-point strategy, Build Teams, Build Skills & Build Facilities underpinned by good communication. We utilise Whats App and the Match Day App. We have also moved to a mainly cashless system.

Build Facilities

It's been a strange season so far. The best way to describe it is wet! Multiple games were cancelled locally and by Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council across the county. Fieldgate drainage in a better place. Hannington steady. New 'Groundsman' on the committee.

A huge thank you to the Parish Council for allowing the club to train on the Holding field in an attempt to preserve our game pitches at the Fieldgate and Hannington. I know discussions are still on going for future usage as well and a positive outcome of this would be equally welcomed.

Build Teams

8 teams ranging from tots (U6s) to U13s. This season has also seen the start of a new girls' team which we are very proud of. 120 children play football in this village every week. 20 volunteers help coach, prepare and support them to be able to do that.

Build Skills

More coaches getting qualified every season. Parents step up when needed although we could always do with more support as I am sure is the same for any village organisation.

Finally, for those who do not know this, Richard Hanney has decided to step down as club secretary after nearly 30 years of dedication towards Kingsclere Youth Football Club. I would like to place on record my heartfelt thanks to him for being an absolute stalwart over the years. Richard, you will be sorely missed. Enjoy not having to chase for refs, kick off times and results.

Thank you

Kingsclere Charities

The Trustees of the Kingsclere Charities meet four times a year to oversee the management of the Almshouses and consider welfare and educational payments to residents and schools of the Parishes of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley.

The Welfare Charity provides grants to residents that cannot be provided by the NHS or Social Services. Grants were given towards items such as wheelchairs, sanitary ware and various aids that make life easier for sick and less mobile residents.

In the last twelve months the Education Charity has provided grants to two of our schools and the Apprentice Charity has provided several grants for 16- to 25-year-olds towards travel costs to school, college, or university.

Last year a new tenant moved into one of the Kingsclere Almshouses and work continues on both properties to make them more energy efficient and better insulated.

Applicants are not means tested so provided the appropriate criteria is met, payment will be made. The money is there so if you feel you could benefit, please submit a claim. Claim forms are available on the Kingsclere charities web site.

For further information see www.kingsclerecharities.org or contact The Clerk, Mrs Jan Pearce: 01635 269184 kingsclerecharities@iname.com

Kingsclere Photo Club



We are a creative club, run by members for members, with around 30 members, of all ages and abilities, from Kingsclere and surrounding areas.

Our monthly meetings included talks on such diverse subjects as 3D Photography, travel in Western Canada & the Rockies and The Pantanal (Brazil), photo critique, and digital processing.

We also had two wonderful guest speakers presenting inspiring talks entitled '*Woodland Photography*' and '*Photographing Water: Beyond the Surface*'

Practical meetings included a Cyanotype workshop and light painting.

We reviewed our 'Travel' and 'Flower' photography challenge images, and set new photographic challenges for 'Urban Architecture' and 'Water'

Our 2023 exhibition was very successful, with 21 members exhibiting, and 3 guests from our twin-village Cormicy. The 'favourite photo' as voted by visitors was '*Loch Sligachan, Isle of Skye*' by Mary Ferguson, and 'best panel' as voted by members was Rebecca hedges with *Venice in Winter*'

These can be seen on our website at <https://www.kingsclerephoto.org/2023-exhibition/>

Our 2024 calendar was as popular as ever, and pays for the staging of the exhibition, for which entry is free to visitors.

Our annual print competition was won by Chris Brown with his wonderful '*Abandoned boats on Salen beach, Isle of Mull*'.

Anyone with an interest in photography is welcome. Annual membership is only £10, plus £2 per meeting attended, use of the darkroom for black & white printing is on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Watch out for this year's exhibition at the Village Club on 12th & 13th October.

For more information please contact us at kingsclerephotoclub@gmail.com or see our website: www.kingsclerephoto.org.



Above—Light painting practical.



Right—Newbury Photo Walk

Kingsclere Parish Council Financial Report 2023/2024

Expenditure:

Salaries and related costs	£ 61,034
Office & Admin costs	£ 9,264
Grants to Local Charitable Orgs	£ 1,605
Allotments	£ 1,052
Recreation Ground and Play Area	£ 1,946
Cemetery	£ 3,950
Churchyard	£ 5,746
Malthouse Open Space	£ 578
Holding Field	£ 1,487
Community Orchard	£ 1,035
Crown Green	£ 145
Street Lighting	£ 767
General Maintenance	£ 188
Legal Fees	£ 1,625
Making a Difference Awards	£ 110
Other	£ 707
S137	£ 0
Sub Totals:	£ 91,239

Income:

Precept:	£ 84,695
Revenue Grants	£ 13,470
Other Grants	£ 385
Burial Ground	£ 11,795
Allotments	£ 2,022
Other Rents	£ 1,534
Other income	£ 501

£119,980

Capital Account

Office Printer	£ 207
Feather Flag	£ 178
Crown Green Noticeboards	£ 4,123
Sensory Boards x3	£ 1,567
New Battery and Pads for Defib	£ 299
Total Capital	£ 6,374

Total Expenditure	£ 97,613	Total Income	£114,402
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Reserve Balance at 31st March 2023: £ 66,692

Other expenditure includes:- Christmas Lights £279; Spring Bulbs £83; PPE £71; Annual Assembly £23; Remembrance Wreath £25; Jubilee Lamp £22; Key Cutting 41; Maintenance Materials (Paint, Postcrete) £163.

Reserves Balance:- The Council is required to maintain between 6 and 12 months expenditure in reserves. The expenditure budget for 2024-25 is £128,279 and therefore the Council is required to keep between £32,070 and £64,139 in the general fund. The council has ring fenced money for specific projects totalling £34,621 leaving £32,071 in the general fund.

N.B. All figures are reported Net of VAT unless it cannot be reclaimed and therefore the VAT Refund has not been included