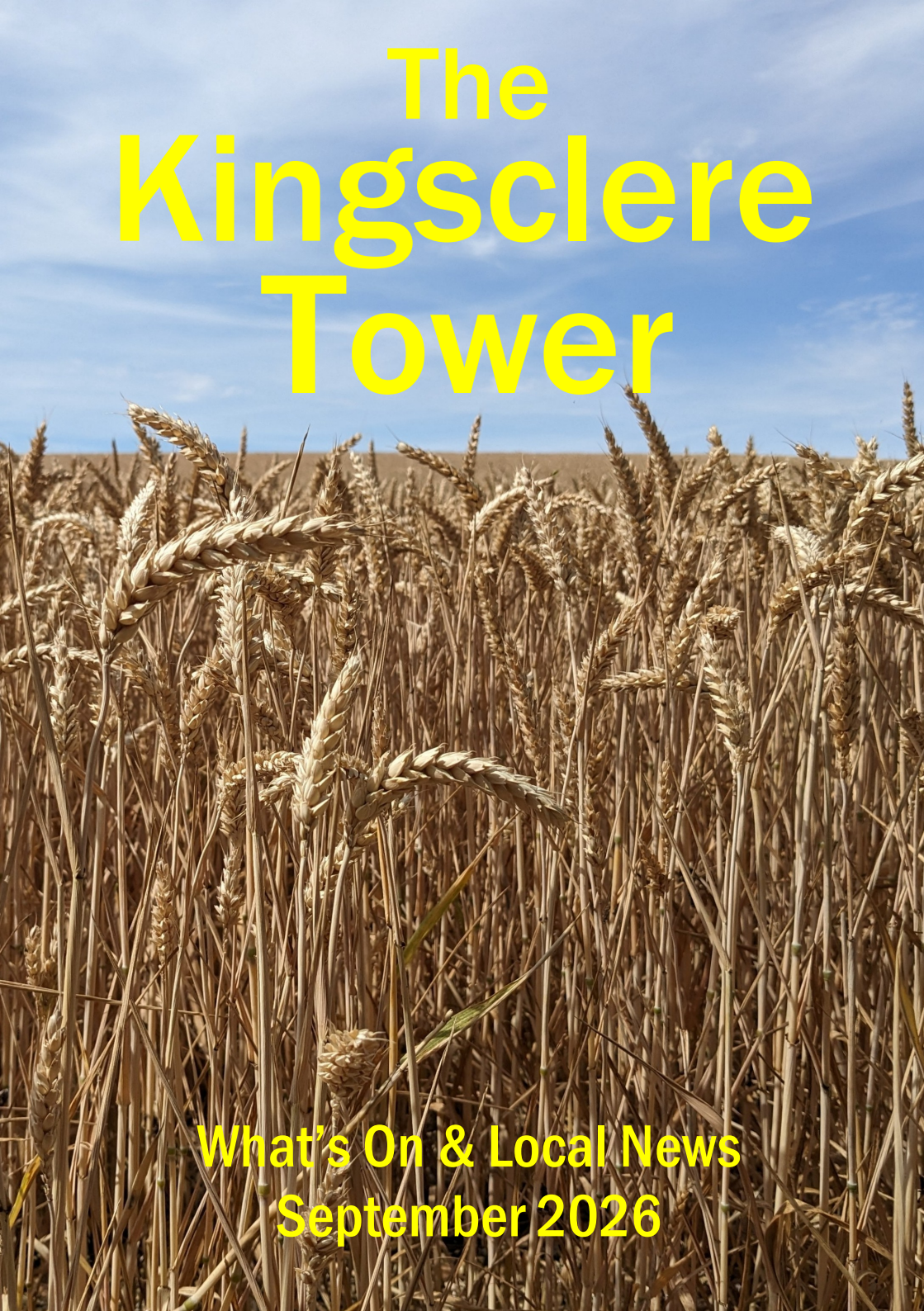


A close-up, low-angle shot of a field of mature, golden wheat. The wheat stalks are tall and dense, with their heads (ears) clearly visible. The background shows a clear blue sky with a few wispy white clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a late summer or early autumn setting.

The Kingsclere Tower

What's On & Local News
September 2026

T The Kingsclere Tower

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 COVER PHOTO: Wheat and Cirrus *Steve Steare*

This month's cover celebrates our main cereal crop, wheat. Wheat plays a vital part in our diet, environment and economy, accounting for about 30% of daily food energy intake/person in the UK. The UK is about 80% self-sufficient in milling wheat, and over the last few years has had the third highest yield globally at ~8 tonnes/hectare. However due to the hot and very dry summer this year yields are predicted to fall to 6.8 tonnes/hectare. So let's not take our 'daily bread' for granted, and always be grateful for our farmers' hard labour sowing and harvesting this essential foodstuff.

This month's edition includes notices for two local charity fundraising events: St Michael's Hospice is hosting their annual Moonlight Walk on Saturday September 26th around Basingstoke. There is a 6K and a 10K walk to choose (see Page 18). Living Paintings is hosting "A Wheely Good Day Out" at the Fieldgate Centre on Sunday September 27th, including three circular cycle trails, entertainment, activities and refreshments (see Page 8).

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 **October** to the Editor at **kingscleretower@gmail.com**.

NOT LATER THAN 12th September 2026

If possible please submit articles as a MS Word document, A5 page size, font Times New Roman 11, single spacing.

If email not possible post to 23 Swan Street, Kingsclere, Newbury RG20 5PP.

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

KINGSLERE PARISH COUNCIL (KPC)

Email: clerk@kingsclere-pc.gov.uk

Telephone: 07887 041829

Office: 37 George Street, Kingsclere RG20 5NH

Website: www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk



Council Update

We are pleased to welcome Shiv D Dhir as our newest Councillor, bringing the Council back up to full strength.

Waste and Recycling

Green wheely bins and glass recycling will be collected on **Wednesday 2nd September, 16th September and 30th September.**

From October 2026, black/grey waste bins will be collected every two weeks.

Extra mixed-plastic recycling bins are now available at The Fieldgate.

Community Orchard

Damsons and plums should be ready from late August to early September, with apples and pears following from September onwards. Fruit is ready to pick when it comes away from the tree easily with a gentle twist. There are already plenty of fallen apples, perfect for crumbles and pies, and the hedgerows are also worth a look for blackberries, blackcurrants and gooseberries.

Next Meeting

The next Full Council Meeting will take place on **28th September**. 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.



@kingsclerepc



facebook.com/KingsclereParishCouncil

Rising Star

A sunset here
Is a sunrise there
Her light and love
Shines differently in our lives.

Paul Jenkins



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.

Back to school for all and it's hard to believe after all the hot weather autumn is finally approaching! The Fieldgate Centre continues to be busy and thriving with its full diary of classes, clubs and activities. Check our website for full details and come and join us for Pilates, Clubbercise, Ceroc, Slimming World, Kingsclere Singers, Badminton, Darts, and Monthly Meet Up.

The next **Repair Café** is due to take place on **20th September**. As always everyone is welcome to come along with your broken household items and see if they can be repaired.

September's **Monthly Meet Up** is taking place on **Tuesday 15th from 2.30-4.30pm** and is raising money for MacMillan Cancer Research. There will be the usual quiz, chatter and games, so do come along.

Any of you who attend the centre with any regularity will know we are in much need of a **New Kitchen**. The centre is used by many local groups and individuals for sports, exercise classes, weddings and large parties, children's birthdays, blood donations, the Kingsclere Players and the Singers, to name but a few! The kitchen needs updating and we are asking for donations to raise money so the Kingsclere Community Association are able to move forward with this important project. Donations can be made via the following link:

<https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/20989/kingsclere-community-association/kitchen-replacement-at-the-fieldgate-centre-kingsclere>

or via the QR code on our posters. The Good Exchange match any donations! Please do give if you are able.

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

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

01635 298497
Facebook

Save Water, Save Our Stream

Now, whenever I turn on the tap, I think about our stream. The water we use affects how much water is flowing. This matters even more during hot weather. Last year I learned that our village is on a “water island”. All our tap water comes from a borehole at the end of Swan Street. We are not linked to a national water network or any reservoirs. The borehole takes water from an underground layer of chalk called an aquifer. This aquifer also feeds the spring that supplies our stream. If you have seen the stream lately, you will know it is struggling. So, this is a plea to everyone to use less water, especially during this hot weather.



The good news is that Greener Kingsclere is working on a project to help us save water. We are working with the Fieldgate Centre and Southern Water to bring water butts and other useful kits to the village. Watering gardens uses a lot of water. I hope that next year many more of us can collect rainwater and use it instead of tap water. We will share more news soon. Would you like to help? You can support water saving, help restore Kingsclere Brook, or protect our local environment. Join us. fieldgatecentre.co.uk/greener-kingsclere.



Councillor David Conquest

Ecchinswell Village Hall



Ecchinswell Village Hall is going from strength to strength - with a new website, a new logo, branding and a range of events last year which raised much needed funds. All funds raised this year are being put towards a refurbishment of the toilets and entry hall. The events team have been busy planning the new year's events.

We kick off (literally) with a **Line Dancing Evening on Saturday 5th September, 7.00 - 10.00pm**. Tickets are available from <https://www.ecchinswellvillagehall.com/event-list> or call **07710 242654**.

There are several more events planned, including a first for us - an **Arts and Crafts Christmas Fayre on November 28th 2026**.

And don't forget that the hall is available for hire for weddings, birthday parties, exhibitions and meetings - indeed any event where people gather together! Check out the website for costs.

Looking forward to seeing you at the hoe-down and line dancing on 5th September- no experience necessary and the bar is open all evening!

<https://www.ecchinswellvillagehall.com/>

Kingsclere Tennis Club



Well done Harriet! On Saturday 1st August she raised over £1700 for her charity Diabetes UK. For 12 hours Harriet played tennis against anyone who wanted to have a 30 minute hitting session with her for which they donated as much as they could afford. There were drinks and refreshments available all through the day as well as bacon butties! It was good to see so many people, members and ex-members who came along to support her. The weather was almost too good but Harriet battled through to the final minute when she could take a very well earned rest!

Otherwise the club has been enjoying the benefit of this long hot spell and everyone has been able to play as much or as little as they want. No doubt we will be complaining again when at last it rains! Club activities continue as usual on **Tuesday nights at 6.30pm** and **Thursday mornings at 9.30am** (but please check with Daphne - dsnook339@gmail.com - beforehand as she is limited to numbers). Non-members are very welcome (please let us know you are coming); get involved and see what it's all about.

Tennis Club membership includes year-round court access, all social sessions, and use of our ball machine. Find us on Facebook or at kingscleretenniscub.co.uk.

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 such things as: equipment, books and specialist clothing required for learning or training in a stated subject. Also expenses incurred in travelling to and from home to a place of learning. The Charity also provides benefits not normally provided by the Local Education Authority to schools in the above mentioned Parishes.

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

Kingsclere Charities meeting dates: **17th September** and **19th November**.

Application forms can be found at www.kingsclerecharities.org, or contact Gill Hern at clerk@kingsclerecharities.onmicrosoft.com.

KINGSLERE RUGBY CLUB



Training:

Every **Wednesday 7.30 – 9.00 pm**. If are you thinking of playing rugby or even if you just want to get fit you are very welcome to join us.

Adults Fixtures:

Saturday 26th September, Home, Kick off 3pm vs Andover 3rd's.

Note: Due the exceptionally dry weather the start of next season may be delayed due to hard pitches. Please check for updates on the club's social media pages.

Walking Rugby:

Wednesdays Mixed 7 – 8 pm

Thursdays Women 7 – 8 pm

If you would like to improve your fitness please come along. The game can be played by people of all ages.

Kingsclere Play in the Largest Walking Rugby Festival in the World

On Saturday 5th July, Kingsclere RFC played in the largest walking rugby festival in the world, which was hosted by Kingswood Titans RFC, Bristol. The club fielded a mixed team and played 6 games. It had the honour of playing against George Taylor of Bristol Bears. A team photograph that includes him is below.

For more information, please contact:-

Joanna Reed – Moreton
or Geoff Curtis

Secretary-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com

Youth-coach-Kingsclererfc@outlook.com



Watership Down Health



Autumn Vaccination Clinics 2026

We will be holding vaccination clinics across Watership Down Health this autumn. If you are eligible for a flu vaccination, you will receive an invitation by SMS text message, via the NHS App, or by email over the coming weeks. If you have not received your invitation by mid-September, please contact the practice to book an appointment. As our telephone lines are busiest during the morning, your assistance in calling after 2pm would be appreciated. We look forward to welcoming you to one of our clinics.

Flu Vaccination Clinics

Children aged 2 – 3 years and pregnant women: Saturday 19th September 2026, from 8.30am at Overton Surgery and Kingsclere Health Centre.

Adults aged 65 years and over, and those aged 18 – 64 years in an eligible at-risk group: Saturday 3rd and 10th October 2026 at Overton Surgery and Kingsclere Health Centre.

Additional flu clinics will be held at Oakley Surgery from mid-October.

COVID-19 & Flu Vaccination Clinics

Adults aged 75 years and over: Saturday 3rd and 10th October 2026 at Overton Surgery and Kingsclere Health Centre.

GP Triage

GP Triage, our online appointment and care request service, is available from 07:00am Monday to Friday. Our reception team will continue to be available between 08:00 – 18:30 hrs Monday to Friday, for all your other medical needs. Please note that if you are unable to use the online system or do not have digital access, you can let the reception team know as they are best placed to help you. The GP Triage system can be accessed via our website by one patient at a time only at: [http://](http://watershipdownhealth.com)

watershipdownhealth.com. An up-to-date video of the upgraded system is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQ-f_VmJUBA

Health Kiosks

The Oakley surgery now has its own Health Kiosk which works the same way as the other kiosks in the practice. We encourage patients to use these for a range of health checks such as height, weight, blood pressure along with questionnaires for issues like asthma, mental health etc. Please note that if the appropriate check is completed, the information goes directly into the patient's record and is saved ready for our clinical team to review. The kiosks are available during surgery hours with no booking needed.

Living Paintings Wheelie Good Day Out 2026!

Raising funds to transform the lives of children who are blind

Sunday September 27th 2026 11am 'til 4pm

The Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere RG20 5SQ

Whether you're a seasoned cyclist or looking for a fun day out with the family, this is the event for you! Whilst we send the cyclists off for a fabulous ride around the Wessex Downs, there will be entertainment, activities and refreshments all day at the Fieldgate Centre.

For cyclists

There will be three different marshalled, self-guided, circular routes to choose from, over various terrains.

Entry for cyclists includes automatic entrance to the Family Fun Day, plus one adult and up to three child admissions.

Butterfly Route 12kms - £15

Kite Route 28kms - £25

Hare Route 40kms - £35

For families

Hugless Douglas, the children's book character, will be with us all day, along with his creator David Melling who will read and draw!

Cycling activities for younger children.

Delicious food and drink. Fun games and creative activities like face painting, tombola, hook-a-duck and more.

£5 per adult with up to three children

livingpaintings.org



Scan for tickets and info



Living
Paintings

Registered charity number - 1049103



KINGSCLERE VILLAGE CLUB

Est. 1921 CHARITY 1189234

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

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

Instagram @kingsclere_village_club

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”

Elizabeth Andrew

*A big **thank you** to those who helped at our recent Open Day.*

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

Autumn Term

Welcome back to all our regular exercise class members. We hope you had a good summer break and are ready to further develop your fitness and flexibility. All class queries should be sent to Emma at:

bookings@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Introduction to Painting

Our lovely art tutor, Tracey Larkin, is offering a short introductory course to watercolour painting. Four weeks starting **Wednesday 7th October 1.30 to 3.30 pm, £80**. You will be amazed what you can achieve! Contact Emma (above) for further details. Check out Tracy's website on <https://traceylarkindesign.com>.

Christmas Market

We have a few spaces at our annual Christmas Market. Do you produce quality items, gifts, food, drink or produce? We would love to hear from you. **Sunday December 6th, 10 am to 1pm**. Contact Helen (details below) if you would like to take part. Everyone else – save the date!



Helen 01635 297390 or events@kingsclerevillageclub.co.uk

Here for Kingsclere: Advice That
Makes a Difference.

Contact us

Phone: 0808 278 7987 (including a voicemail service)



Basingstoke

Kingsclere Community Library

Summer Reading Fun

Just a reminder that there is still time to sign up for Summer Reading Fun. Open to children of all ages – read six books and get a medal and a certificate, a prize and a treat from Spar Swan Street Stores. It still counts if you have the books read to you or you listen to them. So, what are you waiting for, come into the Library and sign up and start reading.



Beatrix Potter

Tickets for The Newbury Dramatic Society's production of Beatrix Potter on the evening of **Thursday 3rd September at 7.00pm** are selling well. Tickets are still available from the Library or from Evenbrite and are £8.00 for adults and under 16s are free. You will also be able to purchase tickets at the door on the night. Please note that entry is by ticket only, so under 16s will still need a ticket but will not be charged.

Giant Book and Picture Sale

Our annual book and picture sale will be held at the **Fieldgate Centre** from **9th to 11th October**. BOOK donations will be accepted **from Tuesday September 1st** in the library, but not before please as we have limited storage space. Forms to enter PICTURES in the sale, will be available online and paper copies in the library also **from Tuesday September 1st**. Please do not take pictures to the library as they will not be accepted. Pictures need to be delivered to the Fieldgate Centre at a later date; details will be on the form.

Storytime Dates: 10th and 24th September at 3:30pm.

Hours:	Tuesday	1.00pm – 5.30pm
	Thursday	10.30am – 4.30pm
	Saturday	10.00am - 1.00pm

Nicki Lee Library Phone 01635 297464

Need urgent mental health support?

Call 111 Select Mental Health Option 2

We're here for you 24/7.

NHS

HERE TO HELP

Church Pages

Hello Kingsclere! By the time you read this, I will be the new Methodist Minister here in the village, so it is good to say hello!

For some of you, I may not be an entirely new face. My name is Revd Andy Fitchet and from September I have the privilege of becoming the Methodist Minister with responsibility for Kingsclere Methodist Church, alongside Andover and Whitchurch too. Some of you may recognise my name for a slightly different reason. Two years ago, I spent time knocking on doors around Kingsclere because I was a candidate for North West Hampshire at the 2024 General Election. I came within a few thousand votes of becoming our MP - close enough to be exciting, although not quite close enough to require me to find out where my office in Westminster would have been! So, having previously arrived at your doors asking for your vote, I come now in a rather different capacity but hopefully with the same desire to serve our area.

I have been a minister for 14 years now, first serving in the Baptist tradition and now in the Methodist Church. At the heart of both my ministry and my politics is actually much the same conviction: people matter first and foremost.

Jesus was once asked what the most important commandment was. His answer was beautifully simple: love God, love your neighbour and love yourself. Of course, the difficult bit is actually doing it! For Jesus, our neighbour is not simply the person who lives next door. Our neighbour is the person who needs us; the person who is lonely; the person who is struggling; the person who is different from us; even, rather inconveniently, the person with whom we profoundly disagree. That seems particularly important at the moment. We live in a world where it has become remarkably easy to divide ourselves into camps. Politics can do it. Religion can do it. Social media certainly does it.

Yet Jesus continually crosses those boundaries. Again and again in the Gospels, we find him sharing tables, speaking with people others ignored and insisting that those pushed towards the edges belonged right at the heart of God's love. Perhaps that is something churches can still offer our communities today. Not simply buildings in which 'holy' people gather on Sundays, but places which help build community; places of friendship and conversation; places where questions and doubts are welcome; places where people are noticed and valued.

(continued overleaf)

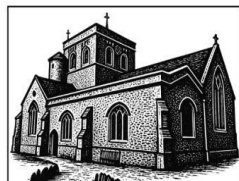
As the new Methodist Minister, I am looking forward to becoming part of that life and, more importantly, becoming part of the wider life of Kingsclere. You certainly don't have to be a Methodist - or have a faith at all - to come and say hello.

Christian faith, at its best, begins with the conviction that every human being is of extraordinary worth. Before all the labels we give ourselves and one another, we are people sharing this little corner of the world together. So, Kingsclere, I look forward to sharing this little corner with you.

Revd Andy Fitchet Minister, Kingsclere Methodist Church

St. Mary's Floodlights

We love to see St. Mary's lit up in the evenings; it is such a beautiful sight in the centre of the village.



If you would like to dedicate having the lights on for a particular evening, be it a birthday, wedding, anniversary, or some other meaningful occasion, please email us at administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk or call **01635 299528**. We ask for a minimum donation of £15 per evening. If you would also like to include a short tribute in the Tower magazine, please send it to us by the 12th of the preceding month.

- August 20th In loving memory of Stewart Vaughan who died two years ago.... You are still in our thoughts and the cherished memories you gave us all. Forever in our hearts. With love from Pam, James, Laura, Robin, William and Alex. Xxxx
- August 21st To celebrate the marriage of Olivia Barnes and Henry Rees on 22 August. With love and congratulations from Cara and Oliver.
- August 31st In memory of Janet Lavina Cox on your birthday. Always in our hearts and minds. Love from all the family.
- September 11th Ann Harmsworth (Annie). It's been 3 yrs but still miss you, most of all on my 70th birthday. Love Roger.

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

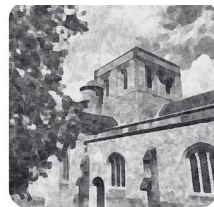
Fresh brewed coffee, tea and delicious homemade cakes.

September 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th - 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**.

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



Thursday's at 10.30 am

3rd - 17th & 24th Morning Worship
10th Holy Communion



6th

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

13th

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

20th

9.00 am Traditional Holy Communion
10.30 am Contemporary Holy Communion with Kingdom
Kids children's ministry
6:00 pm Book of Common Prayer Evening Prayer



27th

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

Friends of St Mary's Kingsclere Ltd (FOSM)

Thank you to all of you who bought tickets for, or donated to, our **Summer Raffle** to raise funds towards the costly emergency repairs to the fabric of St Mary's. These repairs will have to be done if the church is to remain open and functioning, both as a place of worship and for many other community activities. Your generous support, and sizeable donations from several local businesses, raised a very useful sum towards this end. Our warm thanks also to those who kindly donated prizes for the Raffle including; Whitchurch Silk Mill, Highclere Castle, Sandford Springs, Mad Swans Blacknest, and Iconiq Gym.

Peter Turner, Chairman

Website: friendsofstmaryskingsclere.org



FOSM 200 Club

The winner of the August Draw was Wendy Morgan – No. 80

Congratulations, Wendy.

Next month's Draw will take place at Bel and the Dragon at about
7pm on Tuesday 1st September.

Kingsclere Methodist Church

Services for September

Sunday 6th Rev Hazel Martin

Sunday 13th Rev Andy Fitchett

Sunday 20th Worship Leaders

Sunday 27th Mr Peter Frank

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

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

Hall available for hire (see directory on page 24).

Christine Westcombe c_westcombe@hotmail.com

Kingsclere Walking Group



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

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

Forthcoming walks:

Sat 5th Sept Whitechurch Silk Mill to Freefolk along the River Test and back.

Sat 3rd Oct TBA

For more info or to request to be added to our mailing list please contact Suzy Stokoe and Gareth Martin on **kingsclere.walking@gmail.com**

Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere

Heritage Open Day Event

Saturday 19th September, 11am – 3pm

Free Entry

In depth exploration of the iconic paintings
Uncover the realities of life on the Macedonian forgotten front
Experience live First World War poetry
Art activities & Pop-up Tea Room
Picnic in the orchard
Guided "Walking in Spencer's Footsteps" Walks *

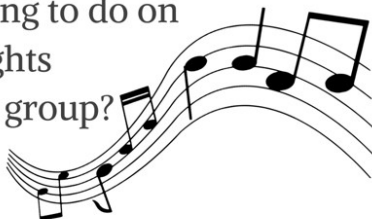
History, Art & Poetry – All Free!

* Pre-booking is essential on **01635 278394** or at **sandhamevents@nationaltrust.org.uk**

Kin^{sc}lere Sin^{sc}lers

Looking for something to do on
Monday nights
or a new social group?

- Great Music
- Great company
- No Experience Needed
- All abilities are welcome



Fieldgate Centre, Kingsclere
Monday Evenings
7:30 – 9:15

Contact us

Email – kingscleresingers@gmail.com

Facebook – Kingsclere singers group

Website – www.kingsclere-singers.co.uk

We are starting our new term on the **Monday 7th September 7:30pm** at the **Fieldgate Centre**. All abilities welcome; we can't wait to see you and sing our hearts out.



The Story Behind Crosswords

Crosswords aren't only about fun and killing time! Compiler and editor of crosswords, Susan Purcell talks about their history, tricks to solving them and why intelligence services are interested in them. This light-hearted talk will entertain everyone, whether they do crosswords or not.



Join us for this talk on
Wednesday 16th September at 10am
St Mary's Hall, Overton
Free to members - Non-members £3 on the door

Kingsclere Local History Association



Our first meeting this season is on **Thursday 24th September at 7.30 pm** when we hold our **Annual General Meeting**. This will be immediately followed by **Members' Short Talks**.

We meet in the main hall at **Kingsclere Village Club**, 37 George Street, Kingsclere, RG20 5NH, doors open 7 pm to start at 7.30 pm

Book sales and raffle.

All members and supporters are very welcome.

Gareth Martin, Hon. Secretary
01635 299227 / 07796 217840 kingsclerelocalhistory@gmail.com

Plantation Farm and Richard Bandey Racing Open Morning

Plantation Farm and Richard Bandey Racing are hosting our annual Open Morning on **Sunday 20th September** between **9.30 - 11.30am**.

Come see our racehorses in action as we get ready for the 2026-27 National Hunt season. You will watch them working on the gallop with refreshments available throughout the morning before seeing a RoR (Retraining of Racehorses) demonstration.

There will be plenty of opportunities to talk with the team and ask questions, as well as learn about how you can become a racehorse owner.

Spaces are limited so please register your interest via the QR code or by visiting our website:



<https://www.plantationfarm.co.uk/2026-open-morning/>

Address: Plantation Farm, Wolverton, Tadley, Hampshire RG26 5RP

TRACEY JAMES HEARING (Advert on Page Q)
 Please note email address has changed to **admin@tjhearing.co.uk**

Saturday 26 September 2026

St Michael's Hospice

Moonlight Walk 2026

10k & 6k route!

Ticket includes a t-shirt and wristband!

Sets off at **9PM** (Gates open from **8PM**)
Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7BA

Join the festival atmosphere, light up the night,
and walk in support of St Michael's Hospice.
Featuring performances and entertainment at the
start line and along the route!

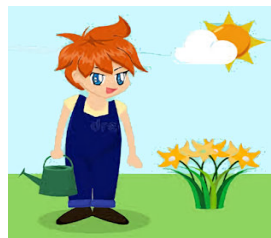
Proudly sponsored by
PENNINGTONS MANCHES COOPER

Sign up with the QR code!

or visit our website: stmichaelsospice.org.uk
Charity Reg No (England and Wales): 1002856 | Tel: 01256 848848
St. Michael's Hospice, Basil de Ferranti House, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke, RG24 9NB

SEPTEMBER IN THE GARDEN

The heat from the sun has been a disaster for the gardens. Lawns are brown and very sad looking, but hopefully they will recover when the rain arrives. The only attention our lawns have had is to take the strimmer over the grass seed heads to make it look tidy, no way is there any grass to be cut.



Many perennials are best cut down. So many of the plants have dried up through lack of water; watering has been difficult with the hosepipe ban. When the garden is large, watering only selected plants is the priority. It is probably time to rethink the plants that we will be able to grow with hot and dry summers; roses have performed well as have sedums.

Cuttings can be taken this month; fuchsia, hydrangeas, weigela and forsythia are some of the plants to try.

Main crop potatoes should be lifted now, dried for a couple of hours then stored in paper bags in a dark place to prevent them becoming green and poisonous. Lift and dry onions that are still in the garden. Plant out spring cabbage plants, winter lettuce, garlic, and autumn onion sets.

Pick autumn raspberries and harvest any tree fruit remaining.

When the soil is moist enough plant new trees, shrubs, and climbers.

Collect any available seed heads for next year, placing them in envelopes or paper bags. They are best stored somewhere cool until required for planting in the spring.

As the growing season comes to an end it is time to clean the greenhouse, wash the used flower pots, and generally tidy up.

Now is the time to think about planting bulbs in pots for Christmas time; well worth the effort.

Flowers to enjoy in September include dahlias, sedums, asters (Michaelmas daisies), heleniums, golden rods, sea holly and verbena.

Denise Allen

Kingsclere Gardening Association

We begin our autumn/winter program this month.

The September meeting will be held at the **Village Club** on **Thursday September 10th**, commencing at **7:30 pm**.

The speaker for the evening is Dr Cheryl Butler, and the title for her talk is

Marmalade, Spuds and Bags of Gold

Dr Butler is a renowned historian; hopefully her talk will appeal not only to the members of the Kingston Gardening Association but to anyone who enjoys history. We would be delighted to welcome members and guests for this event. Entry fee for guests is £3. The evening will conclude with questions followed by refreshments.

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



Kingsclere
Gardening
Association



Wolverton Market

The next markets will be held on **Saturday 5th September & Saturday 3rd October 9am until 11am** at the **Wolverton Village Hall, RG26 5RU**.

Come along and enjoy a coffee/tea whilst perusing our stalls of locally produced honey and handmade candles, locally drawn artwork & cards, home grown vegetables (in season) and plants, local eggs, handmade crafts and gifts, local wood crafts and handmade cards, along with our stalls selling bric-a-brac where you may find yourself a bargain.

We are looking for new stall holders to join us; if you have / make your own produce and would like a table please get in touch. If any local groups would like a table to showcase their group we would love to have you join us.

A big thank you to Wendy Morgan for 20+ years dedication. Thank you,
Wendy.

Margie 07772 747102

Kingsclere Preschool

It is with great pleasure we can share with you the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection. We received Expected standard in all areas and Strong standard in inclusion. Our full report can be found online.



As we prepare for another year, we will be welcoming some new children and their families to the pre-school. We will be starting the term with an 'All things Wild' topic.

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!

If you're interested, email: committee@kingsclerepreschool.co.uk to learn more.

Kingsclere Village Bunnies Baby and Toddler Group



Where: **The Village Club** When: **Tuesdays 9.00 - 11.00am**

Cost: £3.00 for 1st Child (including snack for child and a hot drink and biscuit for adult), 50p per extra child, £1 per extra adult

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

Summer Closure dates: We will be closed on **Tuesday 1st September**.

The library will be opening especially for Bunnies on **Tuesday 8th September**.

Swap Table: Tuesday 29th September. Bring any unwanted baby/toddler items that someone else could use and swap for something that you need.

Thank you as always to Swan Street Stores for their continued support of a weekly donation of fresh fruit snacks for the Bunnies. For information visit our Facebook page, or regular visitors can join our WhatsApp group for weekly updates.

Lydia Harley-Tomlinson

lydia.harleytomlinson@gmail.com

Ecchinswell & Sydmonton CE Primary School



Ecchinswell & Sydmonton School have returned for the new school year abuzz with success from the last year.

The Governors are delighted to announce that the Phonics Screening Check outcomes were outstanding with 100% of the pupils passing (Year 1) - what a brilliant achievement with all our young readers. We await confirmation of the KS2 outcomes with baited breath.

Not only are the academics strong but so also is the focus on mental health at ESPS. For some time the school has been following the curriculum from 'myHappymind'. Grounded in science and dedicated to building positive mental wellbeing, myHappymind helps children understand how their brains work and creates a culture that helps to build children's resilience, confidence, and self-esteem. myHappymind also teaches the children how to self-regulate and manage their emotions in stressful times, allowing them to be their very best selves. As a consequence of the school's hard work in this area, we are applying for the bronze level award in recognition of their success.



Lastly, in the arts, at the end of July the Open Studios West Berkshire and North Hampshire Education Prize recently awarded its annual school drawing competition winner to Poppy, a Year 6 student from Ecchinswell and Sydmonton Primary School.

Some of you may have seen this in the Newbury Weekly News.

Congratulations Poppy - a well-deserved award for some brilliant artwork.

So many successes - and if you'd like your child to be a part of this family focussed, nurturing school, do call the office as there are places available:
01635 298288 or email

adminoffice@ecchinswellsydmonton.hants.sch.uk.

The Governing Board of Ecchinswell & Sydmonton Primary School

Whitchurch Silk Mill

Autumn Festival, 23th – 25th October

Following the success of our Flower Festival this summer, we're excited to be planning an Autumn Festival at the Mill. Over three days, visitors can enjoy seasonal craft displays, workshops and family-friendly activities throughout our historic site. More details will be announced soon....

Crowdfunder Appeal: Keep Britain's Silk Weaving Heritage Alive

This summer we launched a Crowdfunder appeal to help secure the future of Whitchurch Silk Mill and protect one of the UK's rarest heritage crafts. Donations will support the maintenance of our historic looms and help us continue training future generations of silk weavers. We are one of the very few places in the country where traditional silk weaving skills are still practised every day. As the UK's oldest working silk mill, we bring history to life through the sights and sounds of working Victorian machinery and the expertise of our weaving team. Income from visitors, retail sales and events helps support our work, but additional funding is vital if we are to preserve these irreplaceable skills for the future. The Crowdfunder appeal runs until 20th September. To support the campaign, visit: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/keep-britains-silk-weaving-heritage-alive>.

Upcoming Workshops and Experiences

September offers several opportunities to learn new skills and discover more about the Mill. On **8th September**, visitors can join our exclusive **Silk Production Tour**, a behind-the-scenes experience exploring the weaving process and the stories of those who have worked at the Mill. Booking is essential. Creative workshops during the month include a **Beginner's Crochet Workshop** on **12th September**, a **Sea Glass Pendant Workshop** on **14th September**, a two-day **Beginner's Weaving Course** on **24th - 25th September**, and a **Corn Dolly Workshop** exploring a traditional rural craft on **26th September**. Full details and booking information are available on our website.

Could You Help Shape the Future of the Mill?

We are currently seeking a volunteer Trustee with legal knowledge or experience to join our Board. We welcome interest from people with legal expertise in the broadest sense, whether qualified professionals, trainees or those who have worked in legal environments.

For information about events, volunteering opportunities and the latest Mill news, visit our website www.whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk, contact us at info@whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk, or phone **01256 892065**.

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)

07887 041829

Kingsclere Charities Clerk: Gillian Hern

07884 182696

Clerk@kingsclerecharities.onmicrosoft.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: Revd Andy Fitchet

revandyfitchet@outlook.com

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 291923

Trains

0845 7484950

Kingsclere Vet

01635 896330

Gas Emerg.

0800 111999

Berkshire Vet

01635 896333

Chemist

01635 298419

Dentist

01635 299981

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 07712 695468

tom.thacker@hants.gov.uk

MP for N.W. Hampshire:

Kit Malthouse 01264 401401

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**