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due to the April meeting being cancelled.	

The Parish Magazine team accepts no responsibility for goods and services advertised within the Magazine or for any opinions expressed in articles or letters appearing within it.

# Advertising in this parish magazine

If you want to advertise for the short term in this magazine, our rates are as follows:

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If you are interested, please contact Graham Stewart (graham@holdrop.co.uk)

or Patrick Taylor (patrick@ourparishmag.com)

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# Revd. Rupert Shelley answers questions on Christianity

Following the the departure last month of Ben Read as our vicar and before a new one is appointed, Rupert Shelley, a local resident and member of our PCC, has agreed to respond to a series of questions put to him. If you want to ask Rupert a question, please do send them to me: patrick@ourparishmag.com.

Rupert Shelley is an ordained minister in the Church of England but currently works for the Anglican Mission society Crosslinks. He and his wife and three children live in Newtown (just south of Newbury) and enjoy being part of the St Marys Kingsclere church family and helping with the services at Ashford Hill and Headley on an occasional basis. After Bristol University, Rupert served a brief career in the British Army before training for ordination. Subsequently, he has served on the staff of a London church and worked for Christian charities. He enjoys trying to keep fit, working his springer spaniel and trying to keep up with his children.

This month's question is:

Q. What is the fundamental belief of your Christian faith? I hear people talk about the "Good News" in the Bible. What is this "Good News" and why should I believe it?

A. Well thanks Patrick! Those are brilliant questions, especially as it seems we've been short of good news in recent times. Mark, the gospel writer, actually begins his account of Jesus' life with this sentence...

Chapter 1 v1: The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Mark from the outset wants his readers to know that his account has the man Jesus right at the heart of it. Christianity is all about Jesus. However there is another word, which is of supreme importance, in this opening sentence and it is the word 'gospel'. A word that might conjur up all sorts of images (both positive and negative!) in our minds. Gospel music, gospel choirs, gospel halls, gospel preacher. Suffice to say the word gospel means 'Good news.' So we could read Mark's opening line as follows: The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

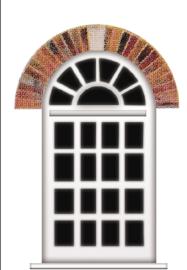
There are lots of reasons that Christianity is good news (do join us on the next Benefice Christianity Explored course to hear and discuss some more) but for now let me give you one main reason why Christianity is such good news.

Jesus offers Relationship not Religion...

Relationships are so exciting, They are the most important aspects of our lives, whether its with our parents, boyfriend or girlfriend, husband or wife or children or friends. You and I are relational beings.

Freddie Mercury, the lead Singer of Queen wrote in one of his last songs, before his death in 1991 these words, Does anybody know what we are living for? In spite of the fact that he had amassed a huge fortune, with thousands of devoted fans, he admitted in an

Article continued on next page >



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interview before his death that he was desperately lonely.

He said 'You can have everything in the world and still be the loneliest man, and that is the most bitter type of loneliness. Success has brought me world idolisation and millions of pounds, but its prevented me from having the one thing we all need – a loving ongoing relationship.

Humans we are created to relate and Christianity first and foremost is about the most important and fulfilling relationship possible. The one between humanity and our God. Its therefore NOT about keeping a set rules or living a religious life or adhering to a strict set of dogma. Rather its about a relationship with the living God who made us and loves us.

Now many don't see Christianity as that at all! With our cultural baggage, our prejudices, with people we've met and general false impressions, we can perceive Christianity as the most dull, lifeless, oppressive set of Dos and Don'ts imaginable. I certainly thought that growing up. But Mark wants to correct that misunderstanding.

I agree with Richard Dawkins on some things. He wrote his book the 'God Delusion' so that people can 'break free from the vice of religion' Well I would say a hearty Amen to that! For Christianity is good news because its about a relationship with the living God who made us and loves us... not a religion.

Next month, Rupert will be answering one or both the questions below. Once again, if you have any questions you want to put to him, please do send them to me:

patrick@ourparishmag.com.

Q1: One, now retired local vicar, referred to "Submarine Christians", people who come up for Christian air twice a year – at Christmas and Easter! Why should I go to Church more often? How should the Church make itself more relevant to more people?

Q2: For Christians, the Bible is a deeply important book. Many people don't read it very much, if at all. Why should we read it; and can you please explain the difference between the Old and the New Testaments? What is the relevance of the Old Testament given that it relates to periods before Jesus was alive?

# **Christianity Explored course being run in May**

Christianity Explored is an informal and relaxed course. It's for anyone who wants to think about the meaning of life. It's run by local Christians and is free. You don't need to know anything about the Bible, and you won't be asked to sing or pray. You can ask any question you like, or you can just sit and listen.

We will run this course in Kingsclere at 7.30pm in the Kingsmill Room on most Mondays in May. We'll begin with a light meal, then watch a video and have some time for discussion.

For more information, or if you'd like to join in, please contact Emma Rivers on 01635 299528 or <a href="mailto:administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk">administrator@stmaryskingsclere.co.uk</a>



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# Church Services & Rota - May 2022

Services in our churches this month will be as follows:

Date	1st May	8th May	15th May	22nd May
Time	9.30am	9.30am	9.30am	9.30am
Service type	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
Where	St Peter's, Headley	St Peter's, Headley	St Paul's, Ashford Hill	St Paul's, Ashford Hill
Chalice	Petronelle Eastwick-Field	N/A	N/A	Lorainne Cusworth
Sidesperson	Paddy Dring	Penny Stewart	Paddy Dring	Heather Taylor
Reader	Petronelle Eastwick-Field	Ann Hoddinott	Heather Taylor	Patrick Taylor
Intercessor	N/A	N/A	N/A	Bryony White
Altar Colour	White	White	White	White
Service Leader	Revd. Rupert Shelley	Bryony White	Emma Rivers	Neil Britton
Readings	John 3: 1-21	Psalm 113; Luke 24: 36-39	Luke 13: 18-21	Luke 13: 22-30

There is no service in the parish on Sunday 29th.

This month, services will be held at St Mary's, Kingsclere as follows:

Date	Time	Type of service
1st May	10:30am	Holy Communion with Junior Church
8th May	10:30am	Morning Worship with Junior Church
15th May	10:30am	All-age Worship
22nd May	10:30am	Morning Worship with Junior Church
29th May	10:30am	Morning Worship
Every Thursday at 10:30am, there is a Morning Worship held in St Mary's, Kingsclere		

# **Other Church Activities**

Please continue to look out for notices on email (contact 07422 687125 or administrator@stpaulsashfordhill.co.uk if you are not signed up to our mailing list). Our online calendar is also updated regularly so please look there for the most up to date information.



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# WHAT SAINT IS REMEMBERED IN MAY? SAINT AUGUSTINE - 26TH MAY - WHO WAS HE?

Almost nothing is known of the early life of the man who brought Christianity to medieval England. Augustine was living as a monk in Rome when in 595, Pope Gregory the Great chose him to lead a mission to convert the pagan Anglo-Saxons to the Christian faith. Christianity had been present in England during Roman times, but with the arrival of the Saxons, most of the country had once again reverted to paganism.

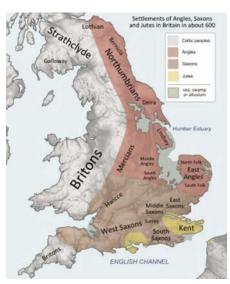
England in the 6th century was divided into many warring kingdoms. Of these, it was Kent that was chosen as the place to begin Augustine's mission in England, most likely because of the powerful position of its then pagan ruler, King Æthelberht.

King Æthelberht's wife, Queen Bertha. was a Frankish princess who was already a Christian, despite her marriage to a pagan king. It is thought that the presence of Bertha may have been another reason for Augustine to begin his mission in Kent.

King Æthelberht did not immediately convert to Christianity, but he did treat Augustine and his companions with hospitality. They were given freedom to preach and invited to reside in Canterbury, the capital of Kent. Augustine and his companions held services in the ancient church of St Martin's, which is believed to be the church that Queen Bertha herself worshipped in.

Eventually, King Æthelberht did convert, and the abbey of St Peter and Paul (later rededicated to St Augustine) was founded in Canterbury in about 598. Augustine became the first Archbishop of Canterbury, a role that to this day is still the most senior cleric in the

There were many advantages for Augustine in gaining royal support for his mission. King Æthelbert's gifts enabled the creation



of a school and a library at the abbey, which in turn established it as an important seat of learning.

Æthelberht also provided protection to the new Christian church. He made laws that protected church property and punished transgressions against the Church even more harshly than those against the Crown.

It is known that Augustine died on 26 May, though scholars still argue over whether the year was 604 or perhaps 609. Christianity continued to spread throughout the other English kingdoms in the years that followed St Augustine's first mission, but its progression was not smooth. The Christianisation of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms was finally completed at the end of the 7th century, when the Isle of Wight's last pagan king, Aruald, died in 686.

St Augustine's Abbey is the burial place of several Anglo-Saxon kings and Archbishops of Canterbury, including St Augustine himself.



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# Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Update May 2022

I hope that you have had an opportunity to look at the draft Plan and related documents. Please do send in any comments or suggestions that you have. Remember the consultation period ends at 4pm on Tuesday 3 May.

As of the middle of April, Basingstoke & Deane told me that they had not received any substantive comments, which is good news. However, they did warn me that the people most likely to try and throw a spanner in the works tend to leave it until the last minute! We shall see.

When the comment period closes, the next stage is the Independent Examiner's review and report thereon. We are told that this will take about two weeks. The report will tell us what we must change.

Let's hope that we are not sent back to the drawing board. Depending on the date of publication of the report, I may be able to update you in next month's article.

**Caroline Hellings** 

To remind you where you can find the proposed neighbourhood plan, Caroline wrote in the April issue of this magazine:

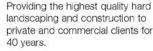
"All the consultation documents can be found on our website together with details of how you can comment.

# https://ashfordhillheadley.wixsite.com/neighbourhoodplan

Copies of the documents are also available for inspection in the shop in Headley and in Butlers in Ashford Hill with a small supply of comment forms for those who prefer to comment by post.

Please do take the opportunity to comment if you would like something to be changed. It is important that we have a Plan that includes what the residents of the Parish would like."





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# **Ashford Hill Cricket Club**

Summer is almost upon us and everyone at Ashford Hill Cricket Club is getting excited for the new season. The Spring is a period of renewed hope and excitement for many people – and cricketers are no exception. Ashford Hill's league players are optimistically setting their sights on promotion this year, while the social Sunday team hopes to bring through young cricketers and get people of all ages enjoying the game. Players have been dusting off their kit at pre-season net practice, with everything building towards the first ball on April 23rd. We are also preparing another season of Friday night youth coaching for local boys and girls

and look forward to welcoming them back later in May.

The club is very aware there has been an influx of new faces to the village in recent times and wishes to extend a warm welcome to all newcomers. If you are interested in trying out cricket for the first time, or returning to the game after a period away, please do consider coming down to join us. Our club captain - Ben Osborne is available to contact on 07410975888 should you have any enquiries about playing cricket. Alternatively, if playing does not interest you, feel free to join us for a refreshment in our licensed bar on home match days.

# CHANGES AT THE PARISH EMAIL LIST

After many years of running the Parish Email List, David Henning has decided the time has come for him to pass the running of this useful facility on to someone else. Given its relevance to this magazine. David has asked me to take on the mantle and I have agreed.

To remind you what this list is: firstly, it is a means of communicating with anyone who is interested to hear about noncommercial things that may be of interest to those of us who live in our parish. This may be news of any planning issues; events that are happening within the parish; an appeal for help on a particular issue. The subjects are limitless, but they must not be of a commercial advertising nature, and they must be deemed to be of genuine interest to many, but not necessarily all, those people who have elected to be on the list.

The great advantage of this email list is that it is quick; it can happen at any time, i.e. it is not dependant on a publishing timetable as with this magazine: and it reaches a fair number - well in excess of 150 households at the moment - of other local people. It costs nothing to be on the list. Historically, the number of emails that are sent in a year is pretty limited; so, we are not bombarded with a load of unwanted posts as might be the case if this was a WhatsApp group.

The way it works is simple. If you want to be on the list, all you have to do is send an email to me patrick@ourparishmag.com - asking to be put on the list. Under GDPR rules, I need to make sure, at least once every 3 years, that anyone on the list is happy to stay on it. If at any time you want your name to come off it, you only have to email me to say so and I take your name off it.

If anyone wants to use the facility to send a post about anything to the list, then all you have to do is send me what vou want forwarding and I simply forward your email to everyone on the list. It's that simple. There are no charges for using this facility.

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# **Ambling Around**

# Let's get Going!

At the time of writing, a month after the storms, it's really pleasing that almost all of the Rights of Way which were obstructed by fallen trees have been cleared. Many thanks to those Estate Managers and farmers who have responded so quickly at what is, for them, a very busy time of the year. If you spot a problem on a Right of Way do let us know by emailing us on ahahrightsofway@gmail.com



The local Rights of Way wardens has been further strengthened by lan Rowland joining the team, bringing our total to nine wardens. Sounds like a lot of wardens, but there are over

60 bridleways and footpaths to both monitor and maintain. Ian is our first Ashford Hill resident to become a warden and we are delighted to welcome him onto the team. Ian is very community minded and may be known to some of you as the Chairperson of the AH&H Garden Club. Ian's first project with us was rather a baptism of fire as we were all more than ankle deep in liquid mud, but fortunately this didn't dampen his enthusiasm!

We're slowly making steps towards being a self-sufficient team of wardens. Four of us have been trained to the required standard to use the battery strimmer/ brush cutter which was purchased in December. Also purchased was a battery hedge trimmer and training for this will be completed in late April. This certificated training allows us to use this equipment to clear surface vegetation from Rights of Way with the reassuring cover of Hants CC public liability insurance. Recently we've installed a handrail to assist walkers on a muddy and slippery slope on a footpath and also replaced a rotted out way marker post. Both of these were in Ashford Hill.





There are lots of other things that need doing, and we'd like to do, but we're limited by "the rules". We can only undertake a project, like installing a handrail, once we've been assessed as being competent to do so.

Article continued on next\_page >



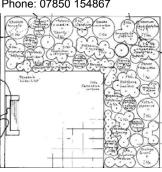
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The assessment is done on a real project and not necessarily in our parish; so this causes both timing and logistical problems. We have the technical specifications for all Rights of Way 'furniture' (stiles, posts, etc.), and as, collectively, we have many years' experience of engineering, construction and DIY it's very frustrating that we can't do more right now. It's a slow process and even obtaining timber (to construct boardwalks and ditch crossings) requires us to apply for grant funding after an external assessment f the need and materials required!

As we move into late Spring, with its promise of better weather, this is a good time to be thinking about taking advantage of the lighter evenings and using the network of Rights of Way we have in our parish. In future articles we're planning to include a suggested walk – hopefully a circular route.

We're hoping we'll be able to include interesting bits of information about features on the walk. If you have a favourite walk do let us know the route with any additional information of interest. If you do the talking, we'll do the writing with a credit to you! Initially contact us at ahahrightsofway@gmail.com with your name and phone number and we'll call you.

Arguably May is the most uplifting month of the year with its range of fresh green hues in the trees and variety of flowers. In our parish we are fortunate to have so many footpaths that criss-cross wooded areas where you can appreciate this reawakening of nature.

This is especially true in Ashford Hill where a walk-through Butler's Copse and Sleepers Copse provides the opportunity to see many species of trees and a carpet of native Bluebells. If you fancy a walk further afield then the Alton Walking Festival will provide you with a lot of options. Running every day throughout May the festival is now in its tenth year with over 100 walks planned.

Walks are designed as short, medium or long and each day has at least three different walks, all led by a knowledgeable volunteer. There is something for all the family, from the early morning dawn chorus to a ghost walk. You can review the full schedule of available walks at http://www.alton.gov.uk/. Note that for nearly all the walks you have to book; so don't just turn up in the hope you can join in. If you want to make a day of it there's a very good street market in Alton on a Tuesday and there's always the excitement of taking a picturesque trip to Alresford and back on the heritage steam railway: The Watercress Line https://watercressline.co.uk/.

Keep to the designated rights of way and enjoy the magic of May!



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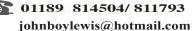
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# **Jobs in the Garden for May**

What a strange few weeks of weather again! Remember, I am writing this on 11th April. First it was quite warm, sunny but dry, then a few days of early morning frost, and since the weekend it has become grev, warmer and damp. Gardeners are never happy with the weather! Now is the time to scarify the lawns, weed and feed and encourage the grass to grow. Greenhouse sown broad beans and onions can now be planted out into their final growing positions after hardening off. Early potatoes should be planted, and it is warm enough to set the carrot seed into the veg garden. Leave parsnip seed until the ground has warmed a little about the last week in April. Most seeds will now germinate successfully in the garden.

Remember, sow a little but often. This will help save on seed and extend your production period.

Here are a few jobs for the coming month.

# Lawns

- · If you have not yet applied something like weed and feed, now is the time to do it and possibly 8 weeks later if feeling wealthy.
- · The cutting height can now be reduced, but remember that if cut too low the surface may be scalped (we all mostly have the odd bump in the surface) and if the weather should be really warm the grass benefits from

the shade provided by longer grass. Cut at least once weekly.

# Shrubs, roses and climbers

- · The early flowering shrubs, (Forsythia, winter Ionicera, vibernhams etc.) will have finished flowering and can be cutback to shape before lots of new growth arrives. Remove roughly a third of the oldest stems down to ground level, remove all damaged/crossing growth and shorten the remaining by a third to half length to promote a bushier shrub. The plant will flower on the new growth next year.
- Roses should be growing strongly now and if these have not been fed vet, this is the last time available before the flowering period commences. Fish, blood and bone, tomato feed or one of the standard rose fertilizers are suitable. As it is a late feed perhaps the liquid tomato feed will reach the roots the auickest.
- Climbing roses are mostly getting ready to flower now in mid-June. A good feed now could be beneficial.

### Flower borders

· Perennials will be growing away. Provide support before too much growth has appeared. A ring of galvanised stock wire 18ins-24ins high and 15-18ins diameter is just right. The plants will soon grow through and above the wire.

Article continued on next\_page >

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- Plant out dahlias and bedding after the 22nd May.
- Cut back spring flowering plants (aubrietias etc.) and split up polyanthus/ primroses after flowering.
- Deadhead the spring bulbs to prevent bulb deterioration and feed with bone meal or fish/blood and bone.

# **Tubs and containers**

- These can all be placed outside towards the end of the month. Pinch out the centres of the plants to promote bushy plants and remember to feed regularly (every 14 days with a liquid tomato feed or 6 weeks with a solid feed.
- · Water tubs and baskets daily.

# Vegetable Garden

- Sow all your favourite vegetables, carrots, beetroot, winter cauliflowers, cabbage, peas etc.
- Transplant brassicas grown undercover in modules.
- · Plant out leeks.
- · Earth up potatoes.
- · Continue sowing lettuces.
- Sow runner and French beans.
- Keep veg patch watered in dry periods.
- Plant out sweetcorn and courgettes grown undercover after the 22nd.

### In the Greenhouse

- · Continue growing on bedding plants.
- · Set out the greenhouse tomato plants.
- Apply greenhouse shading.

- Take cuttings of fuchsias, pelargoniums etc.
- Water and ventilate the green house daily.

The garden club meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The April meeting was a discussion meeting. At these meetings, we all sit around, drink wine, eat nibbles and talk about our problems and successes in the garden, swop ideas and try to encourage our members to garden success. Most of all, to enjoy their gardens.

The May meeting is on Wednesday 11th May at Ashford Hill Village Hall at 7.45pm. We have a member of Basingstoke & District Bee-Keepers Association visiting to give a talk on bees. Why not come along? New members are always welcome. Michael Everitt





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# Ashford Hill School News - May

As I write this, the Easter holidays have started and the sun is shining how lovely! Our term ended in typical Ashford Hill style with our annual Easter egg hunt. It has been the first one for several years; we were able to welcome parents to join us too.

The afternoon began with one of our Head Girls, Hollie, completing her fund raising challenge for The Pink Place. I asked Hollie to write a little something for this article:



Fundraiser - Hollie's 60 within 60 (peoplesfundraising.com)

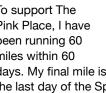
www.peoplesfundraising.com/ fundraising/hollies 60 within 60

My name's Hollie, and I am in year 6 at Ashford Hill. After I was given a book about how important it is to support your mental health and help others around. I set myself a challenge to raise money for an amazing charity called The Pink Place.

This charity provides a warm and friendly environment away from the hospital to support people dealing with cancer. They offer:

- · Complementary therapies;
- · Classes:
- Counselling;
- · Social activities:
- · And a friendly face.

To support The Pink Place, I have been running 60 miles within 60



days. My final mile is at my school on the last day of the Spring term. During my time running I have found out lots about The Pink Place and how they support their quests. I have learnt that the Pink Place is somewhere, for those with cancer, to visit any time and talk with either a counsellor or other guests to help them through this tough time. They discuss anything from tips to deal with the treatment, funny stories from hospital, or general conversations.

I was lucky enough to join them one Wednesday for a craft morning, where I saw for myself the positive impact they have on their guests. They spoke about how the charity is a special place where they are able to discuss with one another their worries, rather than burdening their families and friends.

The Pink Place volunteers and workers have been very supportive of my fundraising and have been sending messages, emails and gifts to encourage me over the two months during my challenge.

I started the challenge on 16th February and plan to complete on 7th April in time for Easter holidays.

The school has been arranging a celebratory final mile for the end of term, which I am really looking forward to.

Article continued on next page >

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The Pink Place will also be supporting this final mile. So far I have raised over £1,300, which I am so happy about.

To learn more about my fundraising and running, how the money will help, and if you would like to donate, please go to the link or scan the QR code at the bottom. Any donations you can afford would be gratefully received for this unique local charity.







Following this, the children took part in the Easter egg hunt. This consisted of them charging around the school grounds collecting 6 different coloured pegs which were exchanged for an egg. As always, there were two extra pegs: a gold peg and a silver peg. Evey from Hornbeam class found the gold peg and Cora from Maple class found the silver one – they were exchanged for cuddly chicks. Whilst the children were busy hunting, the parents enjoyed refreshments on the playground with Easter craft bags on sale too.

This was the final event of the term for our amazing PTA. They have raised an incredible amount of money for our school adding 'the icing' to the cake. Next term, they are going to be holding the following events: ice cream Fridays, film clubs and our annual summer fayre on Saturday July 3rd to support the installation of new interactive whiteboards for the classrooms.

Our curriculum continues to evolve with staff and children embracing the changes. Next term, Oak and Hornbeam will be exploring biomes whilst Chestnut and Maple will be celebrating the life of our Queen in a topic entitled 'Long Live the Queen'. These topics will culminate in a show case – in school – where parents will be invited into school to share their children's learning both in school and at home.

Sadly, we had to say our goodbyes to both Jo Purton (Oak Class teacher) and Katie Baines (learning support assistant) – we wish them all the best in their new roles. We look forward to welcoming new members to the team after Easter.

As always, we welcome visitors to our school. If you have any spare time and would like to volunteer your help, it would be gratefully received. Please feel free to email or call the School Office on 0118 9813822.

Sue Yockney (DHT)





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# **Headley with Ashford Hill Community Shop Association**

On Friday the 8th April, The Shop staged its first Soup and Roll lunch for over two years. A trio of delicious soup and well filled rolls were enjoyed by 37 people. Many thanks go to Val Wright, John and Jill O'Reilly, Marion Hunt and Penny Stewart for organising it all. The proceeds including donations came to £490-00, a great result. The money has gone directly, and through our very own Post Office, to The Disaster Emergency Committee. Anyone, who in future wishes to donate to help Ukraine can do it through our PO.

To avoid any confusion with regard to the shop's second hand book department; as from now anyone who brings a book or books as a donation may take a single book for no cost. This is a one off and cannot be repeated. The idea being to generate more turnover.

Given the cost of fuel, the Strap Line "Why go to Newbury when you can come to Headley" is most appropriate. At the Shop we now have an expanding Delicatessen and numerous regionally sourced cheeses.



Raymond Blanc was quoted in the Times recently describing The Tunworth, made by The Hampshire Cheese Co in Herriard near Basingstoke, as the best Camembert in the world! High praise indeed, since in France, Camembert is the most popular cheese. No other shop sells The Tunworth cheaper than us,

I hope everybody is enjoying the Easter holidays.

**Graham Stewart** 

# **SHOP** 6:00am - 5:30pm **MONDAY TUESDAY** 6:00am - 5:30pm **WEDNESDAY** 6:00am - 5:30pm

**THURSDAY** 6:00am - 5:30pm **FRIDAY** 6:00am - 5:30pm **SATURDAY** 6:30am - 12:30pm

**SUNDAY** 

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# PLIGHT OF AN AGEING PEASANT FARMER

'Well done boy, you have just inherited the worst farm in Berkshire'. Those were the very first words that greeted me when the land agent appeared on the farm for our very first valuation. Was he correct? – well so it seemed so at the time because the whole 420 acres from the soil up had been exploited, depleted and neglected for a number of years. That was forty years or so ago and if I may say so I think that the boy done good.

The unforgiving land required nurturing with a bit of TLC and over time a sustainable system of rotational arable crops and grass leys was established. Together with a closed herd of pasture fed suckler cows rearing progeny to finishing, careful crop husbandry and an environmental scheme, a series of ecosystems was created in order to provide environmental protection not only for the fields, but also for the two rivers, the ancient woodland and other features such as the dry moats. The wild flower meadows, beetle banks, tussocky grass buffers and bird food mixes became a haven for all types of flora and fauna - and crops yielded well and the livestock thrived. The farm is neither organic nor intensive, merely a sensible in-between. The soils have reasonable organic matter levels and the cattle do not receive any concentrate feeds throughout their life. We do what our elite leaders ask of us - we produce quality food at an affordable price.

All well and good you may be thinking, but without realising it, we as farmers were becoming forever reliant upon subsidies. We were also providing, by way of the Common Agricultural Policy, cheap food for the public resulting in huge amounts of food wastage from a throw away society. Hood-winked into farm assurance schemes, farmers soon became box-ticking servile morons with annual inspections from glorified tin pot inspectors led by a bunch of button pushing champagne Charlies who would not know the difference between a blade of corn and a blade of grass. What next?

What next was in fact Global Warming and Climate Change and all of a sudden us farmers with our chemically induced crops and our methane belching cattle were in the spotlight. Sustainable farming fell by the wayside and is being replaced by the new buzzword - Regenerative Farming. Ploughing the soil is now deemed as a sin as it releases carbon, nitrate fertilisers are bad (yes, but they are also good) and fungicides and herbicides should not be needed in a regenerative system whereby good soil microbial health and nature alone is all that is required. Lemmings over the cliff comes to mind.

And so, after slogging my guts out for four decades my guilt laden past of immoral destruction of our very own Earth has been laid bare. The powers that be are at least allowing me the easy way out and I shall indeed feel more virtuous as a result.

Article continued on next page >



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For FREE Quotes Call Chris (01635) 35664 or 07887725998 Consequently, all crops are being replaced with a patchwork quilt of nectar flower mixes, flower legume grass mixes and winter bird food mixes. Cattle numbers are to be reduced and our carbon capturing, carbon sequestering net zero mission shall be underway. Methane, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions reduced, hydrocarbons reduced and me myself – well I shall of course be elevated to a respected self-proclaimed eco warrior saving the planet from probably what is going to happen to the planet in any case.

As for all you my friends in Headley and Ashford Hill, you shall no doubt be ecstatic to know that each and every one of you, as loyal taxpayers, shall be paying for all this by way of yet another government subsidy paid to us directly to make up for our lost income from producing beef and your daily bread. However, no need to panic yet, well at least not until the supermarket shelves run dry. Oh, and by the way, that is assuming that you are able to afford the food in the first place!

The author has asked to remain anonymous.



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# THE KINGSCLERE SINGERS AT ST PAUL'S CHURCH

The Kingsclere Singers gave a lovely and much enjoyed concert at St Paul's Church on Friday 8th April.

Jon Whitfield, as soloist, performed some fun country songs as well as reciting some quirky poems. And, as always, the evening was inspired and conducted by Hazel O'Leary, whose enthusiasm is so wonderfully infectious.

Their next concert will be "A Tribute to Broadway" to be held at St Mary's Church, Kingsclere on Saturday 16th July at 6:00pm









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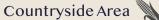
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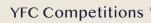


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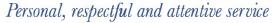
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# **QUEEN'S JUBILEE PICNIC PARTY**

Thursday 2nd June 2022

Headley Common 12pm onwards

Fun & entertainment for children & adults, including magician, face painting, birds of prey & races.

Bring your own food, drinks & chairs.

We will have a bar selling beer, wine & soft drinks & also a BBQ & ice creams.

# Children's Flag Design Competition

Open to children under 12, with 3 age categories

Design a Jubilee inspired flag to win a prize. Designs with your name and age need to be dropped off at the Village Shop by 30th May.

Time Table of Events

12.00pm: Kick Off 1.00pm: Magic Man **2.30pm:** Birds of Prey

3.30pm: Races



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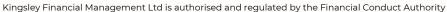
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# Яквини випивана



# A chance to learn about the culture and history of Ukraine

Thursday 19th May 2022 8pm All Saints Church, Hannington

From The Friends of All Saints Church

We are delighted that Rosamund Bartlett, who has been travelling to Ukraine for over thirty years, and is an acclaimed author and an acknowledged authority on the culture of Russia and Ukraine, is coming to share her extensive knowledge with us - from contrasting the characters of Odesa and Lviv to exploring links to the Byzantine Empire to cossack dancing and more. Rosamund Bartlett is a cultural historian who has lectured around the world.

All donations will go to Ukraine - via Direct Aid for Ukraine

To reserve a place please email Claudia Hoare on <u>claudiaaehoare@gmail.com</u>

websites: ua-directaid.uk and rosamundbartlett.com

# Help shape Hampshire's new Local Transport Plan

The County Council is asking for views on a draft Local Transport Plan (LTP4) that aims to support the county's economic prosperity, decarbonise the transport system, and help people in Hampshire live healthy lives

The LTP4 will define the future of travel and transport in Hampshire to 2050. If adopted, it would guide the County Council's transport and travel infrastructure planning and design in favour of improving travel choices for people by transforming and widening the appeal of walking, cycling and use of public transport.

The plan proposes transformational changes which:

- Shift away from planning for vehicles, towards planning for people and places
- Reduce reliance on private car travel
- Support economic development and regeneration
- Meet national priorities to decarbonise the transport system
- Promote active lifestyles

The consultation runs until 26 June 2022 and people can take part at:

https://www.hants.gov.uk/localtransportplan

Subject to the results of the consultation the new Local Transport Plan is expected to be adopted by early 2023.



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# The Ship Inn Arts Centre opens

At the Ship Inn Country Hotel, Ashford Hill RG19 8BD

The Ship Pub may have closed but it's now an Arts Centre, holding a variety of concerts through the year. Run by Georgie Selby and Vanessa Martin, they write:

"Our next concert will be on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm with Sf Sax. We are so delighted that they can come and play! — tickets £12.00 If you would like tickets please email: <a href="mailto:shipinnarts@amail.com">shipinnarts@amail.com</a> or phone The Ship Inn Country Hotel on 01189 814504



# More concerts/events coming:

Saturday 18th June 7pm Kingsclere Singers with Hazel O'Leary and soloists

Saturday  $23^{rd}$  July 3pm - 5pm - Tea and scones and with Angela Moore on harp playing in the background.

Further events are already planned for later in the year.

Follow us with updated information of events/concerts: Website:www.shipinnarts.org
Tickets for future events: Eventbrite (6 weeks before only), or if prefer to pay earlier, or by cash,
Georgi Selby 0118 981 4504 (all tickets £12 unless specified free)

# WANT A NEW INTEREST THIS SUMMER? TRY LAWN BOWLING AT KINGSCLERE

The Kingsclere Bowling Club's season started in April and continues until mid-September.

Following the green opening, we shall be holding **OPEN EVENINGS** on Tuesdays during **May** starting at 6.30pm for you to give bowling a try – **ABSOLUTELY FREE!** All ages, genders and novices will be very welcome to attend on any or all of these evenings. Tuition will be given and bowls provided. All we ask is that you wear flat soled shoes or trainers and are reasonably mobile. We look forward to meeting you.



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# WHAT'S ON IN MAY & BEYOND

If you are arranging any event which you would like mentioned in this magazine, please do let me know. Send details to patrick@ourparishmag.com Please take note of the following:

Neighbourhood Plan – deadline for submission of comments – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – 4:00pm: see page 13 for details.

**Kingsclere Photo Club** – Wednesday May 4th – Kingsclere Village Club, 35 George Street, Kingsclere – doors open at 7:15pm; finish around 9:45pm

'Abstract Challenge' images and photo critique. Review of members 'Abstract Challenge' images and a 'Glass' practical image. The second half will be a critique session, up to three images each. Launch of the narrative challenge – telling a story with up to 6 images, using a sentence or two to set the context and let the pictures do the talking.

June 1st - Vintage Lens practical evening

Artists at Headley Shop - 7th - 15th May - 10:00am - 4:00pm

Open Studios 2022 – Jane Baikie, Gill Banks, Charlotte Glynn, Anne Hoddinott, Paula White

Parish Council meeting - Monday 9th May - starts 7:30pm - Ashford Hill Village Hall.

If you have any issues or questions you want to put to our Councillors, this is your chance to do so. They work for our good. Attend the meeting and show your support.

Annual Parish Meeting of the Ashford Hill with Headley Parish Council -

Will be held at the Ashford Hill Village Hall on Monday 9th May starting at 7:30pm.

Reports from local clubs & organisations are welcomed to be presented at this meeting either in person or sent to the Clerk: ashfordhillheadleypc@hotmail.co.uk

Ashford Hill Garden Club – Wednesday 11th May at Ashford Hill Village Hall at 7.45pm.

We have a member of Basingstoke & District Bee Keepers Association visiting to give a talk.

**The Ship Inn Arts Centre** — Saturday 14th May — starts at 7:00pm - Concert played by Sf Sax — see page 43

**Ukraine's culture & history** – Thursday 19th May; starts at 8:00pm – All Saints Church, Hannington – A lecture by leading authority, Rosamund Bartlett

**Berkshire County Fayre** — Sunday 22nd May — 9:00am — 5:00pm — Newbury Showground, Nr Hermitage, RG18 9QZ — see page 37

**Queen's Jubilee Picnic Party** – Headley Common – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June - from 12 noon onwards – see page 29 for details

Greener Kingsclere - Sunday 26th June, 10:00 - 12:30 at The Fieldgate Centre.

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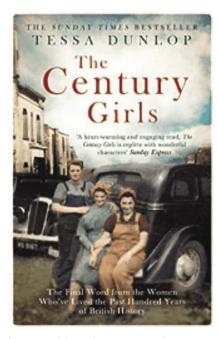




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# **Book Review**

# **CENTURY GIRLS BY TESSA DUNLOP**



In recognition of 100 years of women having the right to vote, 'Century Girls' is a fascinating insight into those 100 years from a woman's perspective.

Based on interviews with six women born in 1918 or earlier, this social history looks at the political and social changes that occurred during the 20th century, including suffrage, the Second World War and the Thatcher-era, from a female perspective. It explores how women from all backgrounds began to build independent lives for themselves in the modern world of post-Great War Britain.

The six ladies were chosen from a variety of walks of life, background and class and more crucially, at the time of writing the book, were all still alive to tell the tale.

Alongside Phyllis Ramsay, who moved to Scotland from British India after marrying a Scottish seaman, Dunlop's "Century Girls" include domestic servant Edna Cripps; Olive Gordon, originally from British Guiana, who was one of the first black women to migrate to London after the war; Cambridge academic Joyce Reynolds, who is still working, aged 101; Bohemian, pioneering career woman Ann Baer, who remained single until later in life; and Helena Jones, a teacher from a Welsh crofting family.

Although their life experiences may have been different, these ladies all portray dignity and stoicism, whatever life threw at them they just got on with it often in tough circumstances.

Century Girls provides an easy to read and inspiring depiction of our recent history. I wonder what we could write about the next 100 years!!

Sheena Crisford on behalf of the Ashford Hill Book Club.

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# A recipe for May

As we have a couple of Bank holidays this month, this is a great and super simple recipe to serve at the table for friends and family. It serves 4 but you can easily add more chops and veggies to please all. Its great served with a bowl of fresh mint yoghurt. I hope you enjoy it. **Toby Barrett** (Head chef, Dolphin pub, Newbury)

# Moroccan tray baked lamb - serves 4

# Ingredients - Tray bake

- 500 g butternut squash (roughly half a large squash), chopped into thick slices
- · 1 red pepper sliced
- 1 small aubergine chopped into thick slices
- · 1 large red onion chopped into 8 wedges
- 8 garlic cloves skin on but well bashed (optional)
- · 1 tablespoon olive oil
- · Salt and pepper
- 8 lamb chops

### Marinade

- · Juice of half a lemon
- · 1 tablespoon harissa paste
- 1 tablespoon honey
- · 1 tablespoon olive oil
- · Salt and pepper

# Couscous

- · 200 g couscous (or bulgar wheat)
- · 400 ml boiling water
- · Salt and pepper

# Garnish

- 1 tablespoon dried rose petals (if you can get them, try Waitrose or M&S)
- · 25 g pistachio kernels roughly chopped
- 2 tablespoons flat leaf parsley roughly chopped
- 2 tablespoons fresh coriander roughly chopped

### Method

1. Preheat your oven to 220C / 200C fan / gas mark 7. Put the butternut squash, aubergine, pepper, onion and garlic (if using) in a roasting tray and add a tablespoon of olive oil, plus some salt and pepper.



Toss the veggies in the oil and then put the tray in the preheated oven for 15 minutes.

- 2. Meanwhile mix together the marinade ingredients and add the lamb. Turn the lamb in the marinade to ensure it is thoroughly coated and leave for 10 minutes (do this earlier and marinade for longer if you can).
- 3. When the veggies have been roasting for 15 minutes, remove them from the oven and give them a stir. Arrange the lamb on top and tip over all of the marinade.
- 4. Cook for a further 15 minutes and then remove from the oven and allow to stand for 5 minutes.
- 5. While the traybake is cooking, prepare the couscous. Weigh out the couscous into a large bowl, add salt and pepper to taste (I do about 10 twists each) and then pour over the boiling water. Cover with a plate and leave to stand for 10 minutes. Fluff with a fork.
- 6. Finally prepare the garnish by mixing together the garnish ingredients.

To serve, tip the couscous out onto a large serving platter, arrange the veggies and then the lamb on top and scatter over the garnish. Enjoy with a good bottle of red or rose wine!



# Now accepting entries for our 2022 auctions

Were your relatives collectors of something unusual? Have you anything of interest hidden under the stairs, or in a drawer that might be of worth?

If you want to find out more about it's history and discover its value, we encourage you to get in touch.

Our team will be very pleased to offer a complimentary auction valuation, with realistic advice on selling.

# Marc Anderson

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The Blue Lamp Trust is a Hampshire based registered charity (charity number 1137786). It is a unique partnership between Hampshire Police, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, business and the community.

The Trust promotes community safety and security in Hampshire through two schemes The Bobby Scheme and the Cyber Bobby Scheme:

# The Bobby Scheme

The Bobby Scheme operates throughout Hampshire. It provides practical help with home safety and security to those over 65, vulnerable due to circumstance, disabled (over 18) and victims of burglary and domestic abuse.

A full crime prevention and fire safety survey is carried out by one of our trained, police-vetted fitters. They will provide both general and specific crime and fire prevention advice to improve home safety. When appropriate our fitters will fit such items as locks, spy-holes, door chains and smoke alarms, etc. This service is completely free.

The Trust can also supply and fit the Supra C500 Key Safe, an ACPO Police Accredited Key Safe. The cost to supply and fit is £75 inc VAT.

# The Cyber Bobby Scheme

One of our police checked and trained Cyber advisors will visit the client in their own home and give advice and guidance on basic IT security and how to avoid being affected by a cyber crime or a cyber enabled crime. The service is open to those over 65, disabled (over 18) and victims of cyber crime

They will cover such things as; What is cyber crime, cyber and scam prevention advice, how to check privacy settings, signposting to other advice and resources, how to report issues and how to recognise scam emails and text messages. As with the Bobby Scheme the service is completely free.

As well as visits the team can do talks about both schemes to local community and social groups.

If you would like a visit for either scheme or to arrange a talk, either go to our website <a href="https://www.bluelamptrust.org.uk/bobby-scheme-choice/">https://www.bluelamptrust.org.uk/bobby-scheme-choice/</a> or

email the team at info@bluelamptrust.org.uk or call 0300 777 0157



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# **OPENING TIMES**

Thursday: 8:30am - 3pm

Friday: 8:30am - 3pm

Saturday: 8am - 2pm

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Big News! We have signed up with the international Repair Cafe and are getting organised to be able to repair your items and keep them out of the bins!

If you have skills to mend anything from electrical items, to small furniture pieces, toys, clothes etc. and would like to work with a cooperative team, please get in touch with us!!

Also, if you would like to be on our mailing list to hear about our exciting new ventures, or would like to volunteer to help, please email to sign up. We promise not to bombard you.

Our next market, in partnership with the Kingsclere Community Centre, will be held on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June**, **10:00 – 12:30** at The Fieldgate Centre.

We will be accepting for **recycling**: Batteries (not car): Medicine blister packs: Plastic Milk Tops: Inkjet Cartridges (originals only, not compatible or laser); Bras (last time collecting): Eyeglasses (last time collecting).

Nicki, Sarah & Lucinda <u>greenerkingsclere@gmail.com</u> <u>www.Greener-kingsclere.co.uk</u>



**The Queen's Jubilee - FREE Scavenger Hunt Game** for children to celebrate the Jubilee!

**Collect your Hunt questions/activity sheet** at the library during opening hours, between Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May and Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June. You will explore Kingsclere to find clues, answer questions and there are some things to find and make! Children may do this on their own or with their parents' help. Prizes for everyone who completes their 'Hunt'!

We have had our application for funding our core costs accepted by The

Good Exchange. If you would like to donate and help keep our doors open, you may do so here: <a href="https://bit.ly/3v9MnTr">https://bit.ly/3v9MnTr</a> or, go to The Good Exchange website and look up Kingsclere Library.

We still need a few more volunteers. Do you have some time to help once a month or more?

**HOURS** Tuesday & Thursday 1:00pm-5:30pm

Saturday :00am - 1:00pm

Nicki Lee, Library phone 01635 297464

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Citizens Advice Tadley are based in the Turbary Building in Franklin Ave, Tadley RG26 4ET.

We are an independent charity that offers free, confidential and impartial advice and information to those in the community with whatever problem they face.

# Do you need help?

Call our advice line on 08082 787987; or take look at our website: www.basingstokeandtadleycab.org.uk

# Kingsclere Charities - Welfare Charity Reg no: 237218

The Charity helps those in need in the Parishes of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley. Grants have been given towards the provision of Motorised wheelchairs and mobility scooters; Stairlifts and installation costs; Medical equipment, such as nebulisers; Various aids to make life easier for the sick and less mobile; and Travel costs to and from hospital.

This help is available for all ages regardless of means. Please apply in the first instance for an application form to: Mrs Jan Pearce The Clerk, Kingsclere Charities, Russell House, Ashford Hill Road, Headley, Thatcham, Berks. RG19 8AB

Email: kingsclerecharities@iname.com Website: www.kingsclerecharities.org

# Ashford Hill Educational Trust

Whatever you are studying, your local Educational Trust is here for you.

The Trust was set up to assist with educational activities and recreational training for all people living in Ashford Hill and Headley, irrespective of age or means.

# **Dates of remaining Trustee meetings in 2022:**

20th July; 19th October

www.clerewoodlands.org.uk

Contact Julie Bassett on 07500 927707 for an application form or email julie.bassett1@btinternet.com

The deadline for applications is two weeks before the date of each meeting. All applications must be accompanied by itemised receipts.

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# **Local representatives**

# PCC members & officers

Vicar - Position vacant

Churchwarden - Headley - Penny Stewart - penny@holdrop.co.uk - 07831 851094

Churchwarden - Ashford Hill - Patrick Taylor - patrick@pitthousefarm.com - 07584 322832

PCC Treasurer - Colin Scott-Malden - colin@scottmalden.plus.com - 0118 9813767

### Other PCC members

Lorainne Cusworth - loricusworth@hotmail.com

Jane Loveless - hodgen.jane@yahoo.co.uk - 07961 048122

Rachel Chamings - rchamings69@gmail.com - 01635 268294

Terry Richardson - tedbeddoes@yahoo.co.uk - 07768 795666

Church Administrator - Emma Rivers - administrator@stpaulsashfordhill.co.uk - 07422 687125

Organists Headley - Evelyn Hiscock, Vanessa Martin

Organist Ashford Hill - Hazel O'Leary - hazeloleary@hotmail.co.uk

Flower rotas, Headley - Jane Loveless - hodgen.jane@yahoo.co.uk - 07961 048122

Flower rotas, Ashford Hill - Heather Taylor - heather@pitthousefarm.com - 01635 298250

# Parish Magazine team

Publisher - Patrick Taylor - patrick@ourparishmag.com - 07584 322832

Designer – Anna Liddeatt – a.liddeatt@btinternet.com – 07788 604415

Advertising - Graham Stewart - graham@holdrop.co.uk - 07713 158503

Distribution, Headley - Penny Stewart - penny@holdrop.co.uk - 07831 851094

Distribution, Ashford Hill - Philip Crisford - philipcrisford1@gmail.com - 01189 813085

# **Parish Council**

Chairman - Joe Woodford - irwoodford 1@btinternet.com - 01189 814074

Ashford Hill ward councillors - Position vacant

### Headley ward councillors -

Kathryn Saunders – kathrynsaunders2510@btinternet.com – 01635 269408

Graham Stewart - graham@holdrop.co.uk - 07713 158503

Steve Dunn - stevedunn34@yahoo.co.uk - 07802 911112

Stephen Hoskins - stephenhoskins1@btinternet.com - 07774 226518

Clerk - Steven Marshall - ashfordhillheadleypc@hotmail.co.uk - 07714 001778

# **Basingstoke & Deane Bourough Councillors**

Ken Rhatigan - cllr.ken.rhatigan@basingstoke.gov.uk - 07850 530319

Geoff Poland – cllr.geoff.poland@basingstoke.gov.uk – 07967 444137

Stuart Frost - cllr.stuart.frost@basingstoke.gov.uk - 07961 265719

# **Hampshire County Councillor**

Derek Mellor - derek.mellor@hants.gov.uk - 07712 695491

### **Member of Parliament**

Kit Malthouse - kit.malthouse.mp@parliament.uk - 01264 401401

### **Hampshire Police & Crime Commissioner**

Donna Jones - www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/contact-us - 01962 871595



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# Village Hall contacts & hire rates

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Mrs J Maylen	Main Hall	£8.50 per hr
01189 813653	Committee Room	£6.00 per hr
	Children's parties	£60.00
	Evening Party	£75.00
	Afternoon/evening	£105.00
	All day	£130.00
Headley		
Mrs K Saunders	Hourly rate	£8.50
01635 269408	Children's afternoon party	£50.00
www.headleyvillagehall.com	Evening letting	£60.00
headleyvillagehall@gmail.com	Afternoon & evening	£90.00
	All day	£110.00

# Other useful contacts

Ashford Hill Book Club	Mrs S Crisford	0118 981 3085
Ashford Hill Cricket Club	Mr R Evans	01635 36773
Ashford Hill Education Trust	Julie Bassett	07500 927707
Ashford Hill Primary School	Mrs S Yockney	0118 981 3822
Ashford Hill with Headley Garden Club	Mrs S Everitt	01635 268619
Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council		01256 844844
Basingstoke Police Station		101
Hampshire Mobile Library Service		0845 603 5631
Headley Community Shop		01635 268849
	headleyshor	@hotmail.co.uk
Kingsclere & Headley Woodlands W.I	Mrs P Howard	01635 299286
Holmwood Health Centre		0118 981 4166
Kingsclere Health Centre		01635 296000
Kingsclere Singers	Mr B Watts	0118 981 6892
Morland Health Centre		0118 982 6661
North Hampshire Hospital – Basingstoke		01256 473202
Police/Fire/Ambulance Emergencies		999 or 112
The Clere School		01635 278372
The Hurst Community School		0118 981 7474
Ashford Hill & Headley Buying Group	ahahsynd	icate@gmail.com
Parish Rights of Way Wardens	ahahrightso	fway@gmail.com
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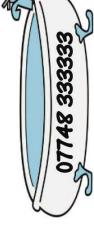
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