**April 2018** 

## BASINGA



Anna Fairs





Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Magazine www.basinga.org.uk

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#### **APRIL 2018 - NOTES AND NEWS**

The cover photo this month is of **Grace Bennett** being presented with a bouquet of flowers (in the falling snow) by the Basinga Editor, **Colin Follett**, in appreciation of her efforts in delivering the Basinga, in Park Avenue, from the very beginning of the magazine (photo by **Anna Fairs**).

Thank you to Rev. Alison for drawing our attention to the coincidence of Easter Sunday and All Fools Day on April 1st. The website: **hoaxes.org/aprilfool** has a video of the number one hoax of all time, *The Swiss Spaghetti Harvest* from the BBC in 1957, in black and white! Readers wishing to grow their own spaghetti could benefit from the advice given on page 36!

#### **BASINGA ARTICLES**

We welcome both regular and occasional items, letters and notices for the Basinga. The very last date for copy to the Editor for the MAY edition is by 6 pm on Tuesday, 10th April. Send emails to: editor@basinga.org.uk All advertising enquiries – classified, free adverts or inserts (flyers) to: advertising@basinga.org.uk We only accept articles with 300 words maximum. All articles sent by email should be sent to the Editor as an attachment. If we are unable to get your copy in this month's edition please could you look on our website: www.basinga.org.uk

#### **SITUATION VACANT - HELP NEEDED**

We are soon to lose our **Distribution Manager**, who is going to take a well-deserved break to travel the world, and need to recruit someone to continue her good work. The job involves organising the monthly receipt and subsequent distribution of Basinga throughout Old Basing and 'managing' a team of 'deliverers'. If you would like to find out more about this key post please contact the Editor, address above.

The Basinga Team are also looking to recruit an **Assistant Advertising Manager** to learn what is involved in this part of our activity and to lend support to the advertising manager when necessary. For more information contact the Editor. Thank you.

#### FUNDRAISING FOR THE BADEN-POWELL CENTRE

We have recently held two fundraising events for the building of a new centre for Guides and Scouts. The first was a Curry Night at the **Raj** which raised £500. The second event was the Auction Night at the **Bolton Arms** which raised a staggering £3,208. We would like to thank all those who attended these events and especially Duncan and Mikki for hosting the night. Also a big thank you to all those who donated prizes for the silent and main auctions.

We have a couple more fundraising events coming up in the near future; the first is the **Bottle Tombola** at the **Old Basing Carnival** and the second is another **Family Quiz Night** with fish and chip supper on **Saturday, 30th June** at the **Old Basing Village Hall**.. If you would like to book a table for the quiz night please email: **fundraising4newhut@gmail.com**. We will be booking tables for teams of a maximum of eight.

If anyone would be interested in joining us with the fundraising for the new hall please let me know on the above email. Thank you again for your continuing support

Paula McBride

#### **OLD BASING INFANT SCHOOL**

As a school, which works to promote the rights of children, we have been keen to develop global links with other schools across the world. Last year the opportunity to join the established partnership between **St. Mary's Junior School, St, Mary's Church** and **Katakala Primary School,** and **St Apollo's parish in Uganda** came to us and we seized it.

In school we have been helping the children to learn more about Uganda and Katakala in particular through their learning in Geography and a special Uganda Day. This year, having the chance to visit Uganda and spend time in the school was a real privilege and will help to strengthen the link and support our children's understanding of the lives of others, helping them consider how they can support the rights of all children through their actions here.

It was an eye-opening experience for me and made me appreciate how fortunate we are to have an education system that includes all our children. It was also clear to me that children here and there enjoy simple pleasures, are resilient, creative and have ambition for their futures. I spent just 9 days in Uganda but in that time I was able to see how the fundraising we have done as a school community will really help to improve the lives of a school community in Uganda.

Exchanging friendship bracelets between the children of the two schools is symbolic of the friendship we want to grow over the coming years. Being able to help the children understand how lives of children around the world can be similar but also different to theirs was important. Bringing back tales of how children are schooled, how they live, the language they speak and their way of life will ensure our children develop empathy and respect for others, whatever their position in life.

Mrs T McCarley - Headteacher

#### FRIENDS OF OLD BASING SCHOOLS

With Spring upon us and the days getting longer, it's the perfect time to dust off your trainers and get running in preparation for our inaugural F.O.O.B.S Trail and Fun Run, taking place later this year on **14th October**. We are very pleased to announce that the entry system is officially open! We have already received over 40 entries and counting, which is fantastic – make sure you don't miss out on your own spot by heading over to the online site to sign up, which you can access via the F.O.O.B.S website: **foobs.weebly.com/fun-run.html** 

There are three distance options to choose from – a 2k run for the younger ones in the village (4-14 years), a 5k run for anyone over the age of 14 and then the 10k which is open to anyone over the age of 16. For safety reasons each race has a restriction on the maximum number of runners allowed so please don't leave it too late to sign up!

All runs will start and finish at the Rec in Old Basing. The longer trail runs will head off along Pyott's Hill and towards Wildmoor – nearly all on footpaths and tracks. The 2k route will be around the Rec and Oliver's Battery. All finishers will receive a medal and will also be a BBQ, bar, cakes and a bouncy castle at the Rec, Other details and updates can be found on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/foobstrailrun

If running really isn't your thing but you would still like to be involved in some way, then we would love to hear from you - we will marshals on the day and your help would be so greatly appreciated. Also, if you have any general questions or comments then please do contact us at **foobsfunrun@gmail.com** 

Sarah Crowdy Race Director





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#### **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

#### COUNCILLOR VACANCY

We still have a vacancy for a **Councillor to represent Lychpit.** If you are interested contact the Parish Office.

#### MILKINGPEN LANE FLOODING

The recent snowy weather has meant Hampshire Highways having to divert resources to keeping roads gritted and clear of snow leaving little time to continue looking into the underlying cause of the flooding. However, the Highways Officer is now in direct contact with a Network Rail representative and both parties are working together. Network Rail has carried out some work which appears, for the time being, to have made a difference, at least to the level of flooding and speed at which it drains away. Meantime the Parish Council has written to Stuart Jarvis, HCC Director of Economy, Transport & Environment to press the case for funds to be allocated and the appropriate remedial action taken as soon as possible.

#### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan has been returned by the Examiner with some amendments all of which were agreed by Councillors at the most recent Parish Council meeting. A **referendum** will be held in late **May / early June** when residents will have the opportunity to vote for or against the Plan. Whatever your views, we would encourage all residents to take the time to vote.

#### LYCHPIT COMMUNITY HALL

Following two weeks of closure, Lychpit Hall has now re-opened – a new oak floor has been laid and the storage area re-built and fitted with oak doors in keeping with this Grade II listed building. The hall is a lovely setting for parties and other events and also hosts a range of adult and children's groups and activities. Full details are on the **Parish Council website**, found at **www.oldbasing.gov.uk**, together with a calendar showing availability.

#### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & PARISH AWARD

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on **15th May** in the **Parish Meeting Room** next to St Mary's Church. Don't forget to send in your nominations for the Parish Award by Tuesday, 1st May.

#### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are **Tuesday**, **3rd April** and **1st May at 7.30** pm in the **Pavilion Committee Room**. All are welcome and anyone with impaired mobility should contact the Parish Office so they can be accommodated.

Chairman: Cllr. Mark Oszczyk (contact via Parish Office)

Parish Clerk: Mrs Sandra Tuck

**Deputy Clerk Mrs Heather Mountford** 

Address: The Pavilion, The Recreation Ground, The Street, Old Basing, RG24 7DA.

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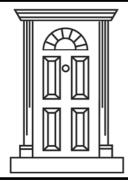


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#### KATAKALA - OLD BASING & LYCHPIT GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations and gifts which we took to Uganda last month. They were so gratefully received and hugely appreciated. Please come and hear more about the recent visit to Uganda - see videos and photos as well as children's artwork; drums and other instruments; and hear how your donations will be spent.

Join us for our 'Uganda Day' on Thursday, 19th April at Old Basing Infant School (more information via church and school newsletters), or if you cannot come during the day at 7.30pm in the Parish Room. All are welcome!

Contact Rosey Stevens, 01256 320386, roseymarshr2@gmail for more information.

#### OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

The long awaited Schedule of Classes for the 2018 edition of the Village Show will be available, if not as you read this, but very shortly. The inclusion of one or two new advertisers in the Schedule has delayed the publication slightly, we can't blame the weather but hope that your prize winning items for the Show have not been too badly affected by the recent inclement weather. On the other hand we are expecting many snowy photographs for the class "Along the Loddon".

Make sure that the date is your diary: Sunday September 9th, Village Hall, 2.30pm.

Mark Offord

#### **CHINEHAM LIBRARY**

It's unbelievable to think that Easter is already upon us and hopefully you will all be able to enjoy some extra family or rest time. If you have children why not consider taking advantage of some of the extra activities provided by the library? In addition to our regular **craft sessions** on **7th April and 5th May**, there are **extra craft sessions** on **Wednesdays 4th and 11th April**. There will be an **extra Easter Storytime** on **6th April**. For further details of timings and classes, please check social media or contact us. For adults this month we have the visit from **Jean Fullerton** on **19th April at 7.30pm**, talking about '**Inside the writer's mind**'. Jean writes historical and medical themed fiction, and the talk should also be of interest to any budding authors. **Tickets** for this costing **£6** can be obtained from the library.

As well as the extra classes above, our regular activities take place as usual. The Crime Reading Group meets on 14th April at 10.30am and the Chipps group on the 11th April at 10.00am. The newly formed Writing Group will meet on 5th April at 5.30 – 7.00pm and the group still has places available.

For details of the next general reading group please contact the library. **Age Concern** will **take a break for the Easter holiday**, but will hold their computer tuition sessions on all other Wednesdays, **to book appointments** please contact: **01256 423874**.

Children's regular activities also continue with **Rhymetimes** on **Tuesday mornings** for under ones at **10.00am** and over ones at **11.00am**. **Storytimes** are every **Saturday** except the first in the month from **10.00 – 10.30am**. Our **Chatterbooks** reading group will meet on **Thursday**, **12th April**.

For the most up-to-date information please follow us on social media.

**Cathy Foster** 

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#### **CARNIVAL NEWS UPDATE**

We had a lovely Post-Valentine's Day **Senior Citizens Party**, ate a wonderful roast beef dinner, drank, played pass the parcel and bingo and enjoyed a generous raffle. The **Boyle-O'Dowda Irish** dancers provided an amazing display, so colourful, entertaining and vibrant, followed by a good old sing along, thanks to the wonderful voices of the **Basing Singers**. Thank you to those that joined in the fun and an even bigger thank you to the Carnival Committee and Helpers.

Watch this space for the outcome of the **Carnival Selection Disco**! Who will be the Royal Family for 2018? – look out in next month's Basinga for details!!!

Event Notice and Entry Forms will follow in the May and June Basinga editions, as will the details for the 'Scarecrow Competition' and 'Tug of War'.

In the meantime, if you are interested in booking a stall, then please complete the slip below and send with a cheque to **Sandie Rice by 1 June 2018** - details below.

Look forward to seeing you on 16 June 2018, the theme for this year is Book Titles.

Joe Croombs, Chair - Old Basing Carnival Committee

Telephone: **07768 032 936 or** e-mail: **joe@croombs.org** 



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**LADIES FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING:** The next occasions will be at the home of Mrs June Brant 19 Rosehip Way Lychpit on 6th April and then at the home of Mrs Betty Lewis 8 Olivers Walk Lychpit on 4th May (both at 10.30 am to noon)

**OLD BASING ALLOTMENT & GARDEN SOCIETY:** 2018 membership must be paid before making purchases. Shop open this month on 1st/8th/15th/22nd - 10.30am to 12.30pm and on 29th - 1030am to noon.

**RBL WOMEN'S SECTION MEETING:** 26th April at 7.30pm in the Jack Morris Hall, Royal British Legion. General Meeting, followed by Sue Chewter telling us of her days as a Life Guard. Competition: a bowl of bulbs in bloom.

#### **FOUND**

Covered in snow, around **2.00 pm Friday 2nd March** in **Crabtree Plantation** car park, toboggan sledge which might be special to its owners. Please phone me with description, (especially anything that might make it unique) will happily return to owner if description confirmed. Phone number is **07967638594** 

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## ODIHAM & OLD BASING HEALTH CENTRES PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

#### KEEPING ACTIVE TO STAY STEADY AND STRONG AND PREVENT FALLS

We've all heard about the importance of regular exercise for general health. As we get older, our muscle strength and balance reduce. Keeping physically active can help us to feel more confident and stay independent for longer. It can also reduce our risk of some common health conditions, as well as falls.

No matter what your age or health condition, there are lots of ways to add more physical movement to everyday life and it's never too late for exercise to have a positive effect. Some research has shown that in 3 months a person aged between 65 and 95 years can regain 20 years of strength by doing resistance exercises

If you'd like to get active with a friendly group, why not try your local **Steady & Strong** class? Your nearest class takes place at **Odiham Cottage Hospital** on **Fridays at 2.30pm.** It lasts an hour and covers warm up, stretches, strengthening and balance exercises, some fitness work and coordination exercises. The class will finish with a cool down which will ensure you feel relaxed and comfortable before you leave. The cost is £3.50 per session. If you would like to join them or have more information, please phone **Julie** on **07849 248846** 

Steady and Strong is designed to help you regain and maintain strength, balance and coordination and help you to live independently for longer. Steady and Strong instructors have specialist training to deliver exercises proven to reduce falls. Regardless of your age you will be made very welcome.

If you'd rather try something at home, there are lots of simple exercises you can do. All you will need is a sturdy chair, adequate space to move about, flat supportive footwear and light comfortable clothing. To find out more, download the Better Balance for Life exercise booklets at www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/fallsprevention.

The Chief Medical Officer recommends older adults should do strength exercises on two or more days a week and older adults at risk of falls should also do exercises to improve balance and co-ordination on at least two days a week. Leaflets are available at the Surgery.

#### HEARING LOSS

Many of us are not prepared to admit we suffer from a loss of hearing and can even become irritated when family and friends remark the sound on the TV is very high or we shout on the phone. Apparently about 50 percent of the over 50's suffer with some degree of hearing loss. In the serious cases this can give is a feeling of isolation.

Don't put up with it. If you have any concerns about your hearing your GP should always be your first port of call. A company called Scrivens provide a hearing test and hearing aid service at the Odiham Health Centre, to which referrals can be made.

#### **SUNFLOWER CAFE**

For people living with dementia, their carers, family and friends. The Sunflower Cafe is at the Old School, London Road, Odiham, RG29 1AJ. We are open every Wednesday, between 2.00 and 4.00pm. Free refreshments and activities. See our new poster in Basinga Extra.

Elaine Kent



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#### **NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE**

Basing House has changed its ticketing arrangements for 2018 with tickets giving all year admission, rather than for just one day. The adult ticket costs £7, with concessions £6, children £5 (5-15), under fives free and family tickets (for up to 5 including 2 adults) at £18. Some special events though will be charged separately.

As usual, Easter Weekend is Civil War Weekend. This special Basing House living history event run by the Sealed Knot Society is subject to separate admission charges. Tickets are available online or at Basing House. They are valid for the duration of the weekend, from 11.00am on Saturday, 31 March to 5.00pm on Monday, 2nd April, so you can come back to enjoy the battles and skirmishes each day. These tickets for adults are £10.00, children £5.00 and families £20.00.

**Saturday Sunday and Monday** see living history demonstrations from **11:00 onwards**. On the **Sunday** and **Monday** there will also be military action, the armies entering the site around 2.30pm and engaging in skirmishes as they progress to the main encounter at 3.15pm. They then leave before 4.00pm. Do bear in mind that the visitor centre is 500 yards from the car park and then a further 500 yards from the site for the "big battle". As usual there will be bangs and crashes, especially during the battles. Why not stay all day?

**Thursday craft mornings** continue through April, along with a wide range of family courses for the Easter holidays and "older" courses later in the month.

Full details about Basing House, guided tours, courses, events, parking and how to book are at www.hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/venue-events/68. Otherwise ring 01256 463965 or call in at the visitor centre, next to the Great Barn between 11.00am and 4.00pm, Saturday to Thursday.

Andrew Howard Tel: 01256 327014

#### LES MISÉRABLES: SCHOOL EDITION.

**BATS Next Gen** are proud to bring this author-approved edition of the musical to Basingstoke, performed entirely by students. This epic story of poverty, justice and love, set against adversity in 19th Century France, has been deemed one of the best musicals of contemporary day. The cast of students come from across our Borough, with two being local talent from Old Basing: Briony Hibbard Jenkins and Pip Simpson.

The show is running at **The Haymarket Theatre**, **Basingstoke**, from the **12th** to **14th April**. Evening performances at **7.30pm** and a **Saturday matinee** at **2.30pm**.

To book tickets call the call Box Office 01256 844244 or book online www.anvilarts.org.uk

#### OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB

The evenings are getting longer and we are making full use of the extra daylight at our club nights on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays** (6.00pm until dusk). On **Friday**, 20th April we are holding a social evening at the club after play. Summer League matches are starting and soon we shall organise our Summer Tournament. If you would like to know more about the club and are interested in joining please contact Lynne Thomas: lynne.thomas8@btinternet.com we would love to meet you!

Lynne Thomas

#### **EASTER FOOLISHNESS**

I could not resist a smile when I saw that Easter Sunday this year coincides with April Fools' Day. I discovered when I researched it that this has not happened previously in my lifetime. The last time was 1956.

I am not sure how I feel about April fools' day generally, but I have enjoyed it in the past when genuine humour has been used to disrupt the powerful and make people recognise that they do not have all the answers. If people use it to be cruel that worries me but sometimes we may need to be taken down a peg and I am all in favour of real laughter that can result from carefully orchestrated pranks. Of course these things work because we do not expect them.

Easter reminds us that God is always doing things in ways that we do not expect. When Jesus appeared to his friends after his tragic and violent death they were surprised and confused even though he had told them this was going to happen. It took a while for them to really grasp what was happening.

Sometimes with jokes on this day we are initially caught out and it takes us a while to work out what is happening. Can you remember any television reports or newspaper articles that caught you out at first? If you want some examples you could check out hoaxes.org/aprilfool

Was it the same on that first Easter morning?

When I asked people to help me think about these two dates coming together I got the following response:

"I can't recall Easter Sunday falling on April Fools' Day before, though some years ago Palm Sunday was on the 1st. It was a memorable occasion, in one of the villages there was a tradition of meeting at the chapel and marching to the parish church, led by Beth the donkey. In the shared service that followed, Beth joining us, I was preaching and was just referring to 'the foolishness of God' when Beth released her floods. Nothing like timing". And a reminder why Palm Sunday always happened at the stone floored church rather than the carpeted chapel.

The letters in the New Testament were written before the Gospels, and Paul writes of the cross and resurrection sounding like foolishness to many, yet to those that believed it is something of immense power and importance. For the first followers of Jesus the news of an empty tomb might have felt like a joke in very bad taste, but then they explored for themselves, and encountered a risen Christ.

Suddenly the joke is on those that had sought to crush this expression of God's love, because his love will not be silenced by death, but rises in us all."

I say Amen to that and may God bless you all,

Rev. Alison

#### THIS MONTH AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Easter Eve 31st March Easter Vigil Eucharist at 8.30pm. Welcome in Easter with a

glorious burst of light, scripture and music.

Easter Day 1st April Holy Communion at 8.00am

Sung Eucharist of the Resurrection for All Ages at 10:00am.

Saturday 7th April Men's Breakfast Group from 8:45 to 10:00am. Men of all ages

are invited to join us for good food and fellowship.

Sunday 8th April All-Age Eucharist at 10:00am.

**Traidcraft Stall** after the **9.30am** service in the **Parish Room**, selling all kinds of Fair Trade food and craft items with the proceeds going to the producers in developing countries. *St* 

Mary's is a Fair Trade church.

Thursday 19th April Sharing Katakala! Come and find out about the recent visit to

Uganda at 7:00pm in the Parish Room and earlier at Old Basing

**Infant School** (See separate article on page 10)

Sunday 22nd April St Mary's APCM at 11:15am.

Monday 24th April Tea & Talk Cafe at 2:15pm.

After the weekly 9:30 am service at St Mary's refreshments are served in the Parish Room which is an informal setting in which to meet other members of the congregation. If you have time after the service do join us, you will be very welcome.

For more details about the life of St Mary's please visit **www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk** or find **St Mary's Facebook** page and follow us on Twitter (@**OB&L\_St Marys**) where you will find fresh updates including sermons. The church is open daily for prayer and you are welcome as you are every Sunday.

#### Looking forward to May:

Thursday 10th May Ascension Day

#### **OLD BASING METHODIST CHURCH, THE STREET**

Tuesday, 10th April MHA Lunch Club with planned game activity from noon until

3.00 pm.

Friday, 13th April 'Coffee Break' is our monthly coffee morning from 10:30 am.

Tuesday, 3rd / 17th April Craft afternoon from 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Bring your own crafts or

materials will be provided.

Tuesday, 24th April **Prayer-time** from **2.00 pm**.

Our regular **Sunday worship** starts at **10.30 am**., coffee and tea are served after the service. Children are welcomed into our junior church.

Come and join us for **Worship, Friday coffee and Tuesday craft** - a warm welcome awaits you.

#### **CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)**

Spring is here so there is more to be done. This month the **Thursday afternoon working** parties will resume. The working parties will be on **Saturday, 7th April** at **10.00am** and **Thursday 26th April** at **2.00pm** – meet in the church lobby. We will be finishing our winter conservation tasks and woodland management. All are very welcome. We look forward to seeing our regular volunteers and also new participants.

This is a community project, not just for churchgoers, so please come along if you would like to be involved; we will give you a warm welcome. Just turn up in gardening clothes and bring gloves. The tools are provided. Our Saturday morning sessions last about 3 hours (with a coffee break and chance to relax) and our Thursday afternoons about 2 hours.

Our **AGM** with a talk "A Newfoundland Summer" with flowers, birds and icebergs by Tim and Margaret Carr will be held on **Monday, 23rd April** in **St Mary's Parish Room** at **8.00pm**, we look forward to seeing you.

The Conservation Area is a community space for everyone to enjoy. As I write this with snow on the ground and fieldfares in the garden I long for April days and wandering through the churchyard with a swathe of cowslips at my feet, butterflies on the wing and birds singing as they start to pair up hopefully taking up residence in our nest boxes. Why not come and see what you can find? The Conservation Area is a community space for all to enjoy. The WI seat is a lovely spot for peaceful relaxation. For further information please ring **Fay Farrant** on **01256 476863.** 

Margaret Carr www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

#### THE BRACE FAMILY

The Brace family were pleasingly overwhelmed with messages of sympathy and support during the attendance of friends and family at the crematorium for the funeral of Margaret (Brace) on Monday 19th February. So comforting!

Most of these kind friends returned to the Royal British Legion for refreshments and a warm welcome by Tracey who provided for all.

A donation of £700 was made to our Hospitals' Medical Equipment Fund. Thank you all!

#### LETTER - CUFAUDE LANE DEVELOPMENT

I have set up a petition against the destruction and developing of the farm on Cufaude Lane, also known as Widgit's Farm. I am a local resident who feels passionately about the countryside and farmland. I desperately want to save Widgit's Farm from development, not only is this a hard working farm but also accompanied by nature-filled fields and beautiful surrounding countryside. Cufaude Lane, which is listed as a 'National Cycle Route', is slowly losing its identity and in my view, and I'm sure many others, this is a damaging and irretrievable change to our precious environment.

The link to the online petition can be found in the article of the same title in Basinga Extra. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Mrs Tanya Salah

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#### THE MILL FIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

#### **Event News:**

We've now finished our winter work, and as usual we have nothing planned for April, giving us a chance to take a breath before the summer events start. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who came along to our work parties over the winter. There were good turnouts every month made up of our regular helpers and the results are exceedingly worthwhile as every person who comes along really does make a difference. This cracking team devoted their time to opening up overgrown areas restoring views across the reserve and allowing our wildlife to flourish. In particular by clearing the central meadow we hope this will encourage Barn Owls to use the field more.

#### What's around this month:

With spring underway watch out for the very early migrants; visibly the swallow and also you should be able to hear the breeding Blackcap and Chiffchaff singing. Other birds to listen out for are from the finch family – Bull Finch, Gold finch and Greenfinch. There is a last chance to see the Fieldfare or Brambling before they head north.

Another sign of spring are the first butterflies of the year, such as Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Red Admiral and maybe Orange Tip or Holly Blue as the supply of their food builds up. With longer days you should also see some of the mammals moving through the field, such as the roe deer or a fox.

Anne Francis Tel: 07974 944439

email: millfieldoldbasing@yahoo.co.uk

#### **NWR - A DISCUSSION GROUP FOR WOMEN**

Are you spontaneous or do you like to plan? When you make decisions do you use your head or your heart? In our meeting this month we explored our personality using the Myers Briggs Type Indicator. This is usually used in business but can be equally useful for understanding our communication style and how, and why, we can sometimes find ourselves at cross purposes with others due to the different ways we take in information, process that information and then make decisions. It was quite a large meeting and members had completed a brief questionnaire beforehand to identify their particular type.

Activities planned for this month include a bluebell walk followed by lunch and a night at our local theatre to see *Les Miserables*. Also under discussion was a trip to attend the Annual National Conference to be held in Chester in June. Our meetings are held mostly in the afternoon on the first Monday of each month, unless there is a Bank Holiday and our **next meeting** on **Monday, 9th April** will look at the lives and actions of the suffragettes and suffragists. Our **Reading group** meets on the **fourth Thursday of the month**, in the evening and this month we will be discussion *A God in Ruins* by Kate Atkinson.

If you want to check us out, our meetings are very friendly and informal, usually but not always, in the afternoon in each others' homes.

There is information about NWR at: **nwr.org.uk** or to find out more about our group in particular, or to come to any of our meetings (with no obligation to join) then please contact:

Avril Keable, email: avrilkeable@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01256 322832 or Evelyn Jones, email: evelyncjjones@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01256 816636

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#### **BASINGSTOKE AND DISTRICT RAILWAY SOCIETY**

This month's first meeting on **Wednesday**, **11th April** will see a welcome return for a popular speaker as ex-railwayman Geoff Burch brings us more Rambling Railwayman's Recollections. Geoff will continue with his entertaining stories following the path of his working life as he moved to Woking as a 'second man' and then on to Waterloo training school.

Our second meeting on **Wednesday**, **25th April** will feature a different side of railway activity with Steve Beamon from the British Transport Police History Group. Steve will talk on Railway, Dock and Canal Policing from 1948 to the present day.

Our meetings are held at **7.45pm** at **The Wote Street Club, New Road, Basingstoke.** We welcome new members to the Society and we are always pleased to see non-members at our meetings at a cost of just £3. More information about the Society, membership and future meetings can be found on our website at **www.bdrs70d.com** or telephone **01256 331002.** 

**Tony Wright** 

#### BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

As members arrived for the meeting on 7th March there was the opportunity to look at a variety of artwork done by John Howson which included some of his WW1 pen and ink drawings that had been on display at the Willis Museum last year. At this meeting the Group held their AGM and the Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and commented on the help given to him by both the members of the committee and all the others who helped at the monthly meetings. This meant that the group had another successful year with a wide range of speakers and outings while still maintaining a steady membership and ensuring financial stability. The Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Welfare Officer all gave their reports and the officers and committee members for the coming year were appointed.

After the formal business was concluded Claire Eastick a Consultant Nurse in Frailty from Southern Health gave a presentation on **Frailty Awareness**. She gave details of the campaign being carried out by the North Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group which highlighted why it is so important to be able to identify frailty not only in oneself but others so that something can be done to avoid it getting worse. The campaign is backed up by talks, literature and a web site at **www.frailtyfocus.nhs.uk**. She then went on to talk about the ReSPECT process which is a Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment and gives people the right to have their wishes carried out in times of illness or accident. She followed this up by giving information about the new "RED BAG" initiative in the area whereby when a care home resident is admitted to hospital all their details, medication and belongings are kept together in the bag. Funding for this project has up until now been provided by Brightaway and Basingstoke Rotary but it is hoped that other organisations will also contribute in the future in order to expand the scheme to make this provision available for more people.

Our next outing is to Chartwell House on Thursday, 26th April and at the next meeting on Wednesday, 4th April the speaker will be Alan Copland on Eccentric London. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10.00 am to noon and all retired Civil Servants and their partners are welcome. Further details about meetings can be obtained from the Secretary Tony Brazier on 01256 418770.

**David Cowling** 

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#### PROBUS - BRINGING THE STONE AGE TO LIFE,

Probus members were taken back to pre-historic times when Katy England from Salisbury museum gave a talk about times in early Britain. The earliest UK remains were discovered at Boxgrove near Chichester in the 1990s, around 500,000 years old. Consisting of a leg bone, two teeth, wooden spears and hand held flint axes. It is calculated that they originated from a 6 feet tall and well built male.

Fire developed around 400,000 years ago, perhaps coinciding with a change in weather patterns. Over the next 200,000 years, as the weather became colder, the original Boxgrove man developed into Neanderthal man. He was shorter and stockier and more able to cope with the colder conditions.

About 50/40,000 years ago another species arrived from Africa that we call Homo Sapiens. Despite some interbreeding, gradually the Neanderthals died out. Flint and antlers were made into tools including needles which allowed animal skins to be sewn together for clothing. Cave painting started about 30,000 years ago when ochre and charcoal were used as the basis for colour.

The Great Ice Age came 20,000 years ago and after its departure rising sea levels created different continents as the weather became similar to what we enjoy today. Mammoths and reindeer were replaced with deer and wild boar. The invention of a form of glue and the development of the bow with the "string" made from animal sinews and arrows, with flint arrow heads and swan feather flights, the hunter/gatherer became prevalent.

A significant change of life style started 12/10,000 years ago, in a period known as the Neolithic Stone Age. They domesticated plants and animals, created permanent villages and crafts such as pottery and weaving developed. It is recognised that this is the most significant change in all of human history.

See www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com for more information.

**Paul Flint** 

#### ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPICE BASINGSTOKE RUN

St. Michael's Hospice has opened registration for its 5K and 10K Basingstoke Run at **Down Grange Sports Complex**, on **Wednesday**, **16th May** starting at **7.00pm**.

The event is growing in popularity every year and last year saw over 700 runners take part, raising over £25,000. Registration is quick and simple at **basingstoke-run.co.u**k where you can save money, and avoid the queues, by signing up in advance. Runners will again be able to enjoy chip timing in both the 5K and 10K events with medals handed out to all participants. **Children** can register **from £8** and prices start at just £12 **for adults.** 

There is always a wonderful mix of abilities from parents and children running together, fun runners, first timers, speedy club runners, with Basingstoke and Mid Hants Athletic Club taking the first three places in 5K in 2017, and everything in-between. The focus is on the community coming together to have some fun, support the Hospice and enjoy an evening run.

There will be entertainment from **The Breeze** during the whole event, plenty of on-site parking, lots of friendly marshals to show you where to go, and refreshments will be available. We are thankful to our event sponsors **The Breeze** and **Uninterruptible Power Supplies Ltd (UPS Ltd)**, and our supporter **Up & Running Basingstoke**, your local running shop.



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#### RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

The North Hampshire Downs Ramblers group, is part of the Ramblers Association. We walk mostly in Hampshire and the surrounding countryside. In the last few months our group has enjoyed both walks and social activities, we enjoyed the snow at Frensham ponds on 27th February. We also had a Christmas lunch and the ladies are looking forward to a lunch in Basingstoke at the beginning of March.

The group walk on both Tuesday and Saturday and cover areas in and around Basingstoke as well as sometimes going further afield. We have had some lovely Autumn and Winter walks, enjoying the changing landscapes and of course the snow just recently. We are also expert at walking round mud and trying not too take too much of it home on our boots.

Our Tuesday morning walks, which are typically six to seven miles, we continue to attract many walkers. We have recently walked around Frensham Ponds, Fleet ponds and around Victoria water (no mud), to name but a few. We usually end up with an end of walk pub stop, to give people time for a catch up.

Our Saturday walks tend to be longer, with fewer walkers, and can sometimes take most of the day. This last quarter our walks have included from Basingstoke to Greywell, along the Basingstoke canal, and Salisbury to Downton using the Avon Valley path

As well as the walks, the group also enjoys social activities, this includes an Annual Summer Picnic, Christmas Lunch ,Boys lunches, Ladies walks, and lunches and the group occasionally organise weekends and days away.

The group have an active path patrol group, who report problems to the local council and also do some work on the paths, which can be as varied as checking waymarking and replacing waymarking discs, minor clearing or even repairing stiles and gates. To date this group has replaced 20 plus gates in conjunction with the local council. The latest task was building a sleeper bridge at Silchester.

If you are interested in finding out more about the North Hampshire Downs group, there is more information on our Website. www.northhampshiredownsramblers.org.uk.

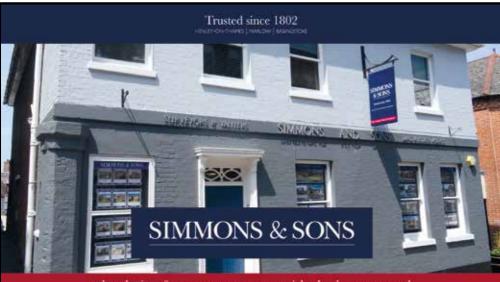
If you are new to walking and want to give us a try, or already walk, you would be given a very warm welcome by the Group. We hope to see you soon!

If you are interested in joining the Ramblers we suggest you come along for a couple of walks with the group first to get a taster. Membership details are available from the Ramblers' national website: www.ramblers.org.uk

**Marion Sharp** 

#### WOODLAND FLORA

Woodland wildflowers are synonymous with springtime, laying out a colourful welcome for a brand new season. Visit your local Wildlife Trust nature reserves and discover the spectacular range of wildflowers in your local area. Alice Ashcroft, of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust has written in detail about some of the wild flowers that can be found at this time of year. To read her article please visit Basinga Extra at www.basinga.org.uk and to find out the location of your nearest nature reserves, many of which are on your doorstep, access their website at www.hiwwt.org.uk



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#### OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION UPDATE

#### Temporary clubroom closure

The club committee wishes to apologise to members and visitors to the RBL during the first two weeks of March for any inconvenience caused by a temporary closure of the club. This was a self-imposed action taken after advice from the local licensing authority but the issue has now been resolved and we re-opened on March 9th.

However, valuable income was lost during this period so the club is appealing to all members to show their support over the coming weeks to help rectify the financial dip!

#### Monthly Branch meeting

April's meeting will start at the regular time of 7.45pm for 8pm on Thursday, 5th April.

#### Poppy Appeal

The amount raised for the **Poppy Appeal** by **Old Basing, Chineham and Hook** now stands at £25,822.19. Thank you for your efforts as we are close to beating last year's total already.

#### Tea Afternoon

On Saturday, 7th April we have our ever-popular **Cream Tea and Cake Sale** from **2.00pm until 4.00pm** in the **Jack Morris Hall** at The British Legion in Crown Lane. This is a joint Women's Section and Poppy Appeal Event features our famous Cream Teas and a selection of the finest homemade cakes. **Entry is £4.00** including Cream Tea. 30p entry without Cream Tea All money collected goes to the Poppy Appeal.

For all enquiries, please call me on 0777 2883964 or hampshire.chairman@rbl.community

#### **Armed Forces Golf day**

Yes, its time for this again. On **Monday, June 25th** one of the **Sherfield Oaks** courses has been booked for the RBL to run another Poppy Appeal fund raising golf day.

The cost for the day has decreased from the past three years, now being £42 per person (£168 team of four) and this includes a donation to the Poppy Appeal. Cost for members will be £22.50. Please phone me, Rick Bourne for an entry form on 07714 289157, by e-mail to: rbourne@glenair.co.uk or by collecting a form from the RBL bar.

Rick Bourne, Tim Russell and Tracey Merritt on behalf of Old Basing RBL

#### **OLD BASING WI**

At our March meeting we celebrated the 99th birthday of the Old Basing WI with homemade cakes and a drink. Then we were entertained by Julie Horton, a Jazz Vocalist, who told us all about the history of Jazz from 1895 and the people who have influenced her. Julie played us excerpts of Jazz classics and was impressed with the knowledge from our members! Julie has been singing jazz for 20 years and we all joined in with her rendition of "Summertime" at the end of her highly entertaining talk.

Our **next meeting** will take place on **Tuesday, 3rd April** when our speaker, Jill Daniels, will be talking to us about the New Forest. The competition this evening will be "A New Forest related item". Other events coming up are a skittles evening in April, a walk around Brockenhurst in May, and a trip on the Watercress Line in June.

For further information **www.hampshirewi.org.uk** click on **WIs** from the top of the page and select **Old Basing** from the list.

#### APRIL IN YOUR GARDEN

I hope you have all recovered from the fall out of when "Beast from the East" met "Storm Emma" last month. The gardens of Old Basing and Lychpit certainly looked pretty under a blanket of snow! However, what damage was caused by these extreme cold conditions? Late cold snaps can cause a lot of problems for plants starting into growth after winter, particularly tender evergreens, but fortunately this winter has been colder than recent winters and many plants would have stayed dormant and been less likely to have been severely damaged. Also snow is a natural insulator and can be useful at protecting plants from the cold and frost. Plants flattened by snow the will have righted themselves and bulbs carry on regardless. Hopefully by now spring will have burst into life and the "Beast" but a distant memory.

There's an old saying in fish-keeping world that states that "you don't look after the fish, you look after the water," and a similar statement is true for gardeners. If you take proper care of the soil, then you have looked after the plants. April is the perfect month to put this mantra into practice. In the flowerbeds dig in a two-inch layer of well-rotted manure, blood fish and bone or chicken pellets to add nutrients for the coming season. Mulch around perennials, trees and shrubs also, before warmer weather arrives. In the vegetable garden it is a good idea to gently work in blood fish and bone to overwintering onion and garlic beds, to give them a boost. If the soil is dry, it is time to plant more onion sets.

As the warmer weather comes, there is plenty to be sowing now – parsnip, radish, cabbage and much more.

Houseplants are becoming more active now the hours of daylight are increasing. They may put on a lot of growth and require more watering than usual. Citrus plants will be doing the same; they will need more regular feeding and much more regular watering (always use rainwater). It is a good idea to re-pot a lemon tree each spring, increasing the pot size by three inches each time, until it sits in a 50–60cm wide pot.

The coming of spring means we start to say goodbye to the much-loved tulips and daffodils. Deadhead these as the flowers die, but leave the foliage intact. If you had forced daffodils and hyacinths indoors over winter, they can be planted outside into the flowerbeds now.

Should your rhubarb show signs of flowering, cut off the stem near the base to avoid the plant wasting resources on the flower rather than stalk production. Older rhubarb plants are much more likely to bolt, and it may be time to replace this one, or divide it later in the year.

Traditionally potatoes would be planted on Good Friday, as it is still cool, and the soil is soft enough to work. We have a fairly early Easter this year, so it may be worth waiting a little while. If it is looking particularly cold or the soil is very waterlogged then it is best to leave it until it is warmer and/or drier.

Finally, there is a website GardenFocused which is packed full of growing tips and advice, mainly for vegetable growers. It has the useful feature of allowing you to tailor the sowing and growing information to a specific location, which is incredibly helpful, as the advice on the back of the packets is not always suitable for our location. The link you need to follow is: www.gardenfocused.co.uk

#### NATURE NOTES FOR APRIL

Both me and my fellow Gardening correspondent had the temerity to suggest spring was on its way when we wrote our respective pieces last month. Brrr, so yes you can blame us for the recent icy blast that gripped us and the rest of the country if you like and it's a relief to see the back of it, for the time being at last and hopefully for 12 months.

So here goes, as I'm a firm believer of the March adage, 'In like a lion out like a lamb' then Easter is going to be great and we are all having barbecues!

I'm sure we all felt really sorry for the wildlife, in particular the birds scouring every nook and cranny in the garden. Many of you sent messages and photos so thanks to all for that. Nearly all featured Fieldfares, a big multi coloured Northern European thrush that had appeared in numbers stripping any remaining berries or hunting out windfalls under fruit trees. We had up to 8 at any one time over the three worst days as well as a single Mistle Thrush, squabbling between themselves as they scoffed the last holly tree berries. I'd stored some cookers and eaters in a spare fridge but as they'd gone past their best I crushed them up and placed them under the tree and on the back lawn. Immediately, a bird took up guard on each pile and absolutely would not let any other members of the flock take a morsel. This was survival of the fittest and strongest in clear focus.

Thanks to Mike Taylor, Steve Leyland, Chris and Trish Banks, Katie Wenlock, Malc Leavey (on behalf of Derek and Jenny Showler) plus Chris and Heather White in Pelham Close for their Fieldfare messages and photos.

Chris also recorded Blackcaps, Long tailed and Great Tits plus Wren, all keen to grab whatever food was available to them.

Another creature rudely awakened by hunger before the recent really cold snap was a Hedgehog in Phil Males garden and he has sent a photo of the 'pig' to Basinga Extra. The spiky chap found a load of mealworms that Phil had left out for the birds and it stayed for many minutes clearing them up before finding a sunny sheltered spot to snooze them off. Hope he found somewhere as good last week too. Phil also spotted some Lapwings in the Millfield in the snow, confirmed by Anne Francis too, and this once commonly seen farmland bird is now considered a good find.

Two reports of frog spawn sighting Lets hope it has survived the arctic conditions.

My good lady and I spent a day at the Arundel Wetland Centre this week and though we didn't seen anything we'd not seen before it was great to see, and hear, about a dozen Lapwings feeding happily on one of the many lake islands there. There were Oyster Catchers, Shelduck, Goldeneye, Tufted and Pochard on view too, just to name a few. Around the feeders located nearer scrub and wooded areas were Goldcrest, Reed Warbler and Redpoll as well as the 'usuals'.

Well worth a visit and a good three hours of entertainment for about £11 each.

Don't forget to send all your nature related photos to naturenotes@basinga.org.uk

**Richard Bourne** Tel: **01256 321108** 

e-mail: rbourne@glenair.co.uk)

For 'Bird Drop-ins', use answer-phone 01256 842722

#### **DIARY DATES FOR APRIL**

(For details of services and events at St Mary's Church, please refer to page 23)

(F	or details of services a	and events at St Wary's Church, please refer to page 25)
Sun 1	10.30 am - 12.30 pm	OBAGS Shop open (2018 membership must be paid)
	11.00 am - 5.00 pm	Sealed Knot - Civil War Re-enactment at Basing House
Mon 2	11.00 am - 5.00 pm	Sealed Knot - Civil War Re-enactment at Basing House
Tue 3	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm	Craft Afternoon at Old Basing Methodist Church
	7.30 pm –	Parish Council Meeting at Pavilion Committee Room
Thu 5	7.45 pm –	for 8.00, RBL Branch meeting in Jack Morris Hall
Fri 6	10.30 am – noon	Ladies' First Friday Coffee Morning. 19 Rosehip Way, Lychpit
Sat 7	10.00 am -	PIOCC Working Party. Meet in Church Lobby.
	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm	Cream Tea and Cake Sale at Royal British Legion
	7.00 pm –	Basingstoke Lions Quiz Night at Cliddesden Millenium Hall
Sun 8	10.30 am - 12.30 pm	OBAGS Shop open at Riley Lane
Tue 10	midday - 3.00 pm	Old Basing Methodist Church MHA Lunch Club
Wed 11	7.45 pm –	BDRS Talk: Rambling Railwayman's Recollections, at Wote
		Street Club, Basingstoke Town Centre
Fri 13	10.30 am -	Old Basing Methodist Church Monthly Coffee Morning
Sat 14	10.30 am - 2.30 pm	Old Basing Bowls Club Open Day. Recreation Ground.
	7.00 pm –	Basingstoke Lions Double Bill at QMC see Basinga Extra
	7.30 pm - 9.30 pm	Basingstoke Concert Band and Farnham Big Band held at The
		Elizabeth Hall, Hook. 07503 881241 for tickets
Sun 15	10.30 am - 12.30 pm	OBAGS Shop open at Riley Lane
Tue 17	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm	Craft Afternoon at Old Basing Methodist Church
Thu 19		Uganda Day at Old Basing Infant's School and later
	7.30 pm –	Katakala in Parish Room, St Mary's Churck.
Sat 21	8.00 pm –	Pete Harris Blues Band, Basingstoke Railway Social Club
Sun 22	10.30 am - 12.30 pm	OBAGS Shop open at Riley Lane
	10.30 am - 2.30 pm	Old Basing Bowls Club Open Day. Recreation Ground.
Tue 24	2.00 pm –	Old Basing Methodist Church Prayer Time
Wed 25	7.45 pm –	BDRS Talk: Railway, Dock and Canal Policing
Thu 26	2.00 pm –	PIOCC Working Party. Meet in Church Lobby.
	7.30 pm	RBL Women's Section Meeting. Jack Morris Hall.
Sun 29	10.30 am - noon	OBAGS Shop open at Riley Lane
May		
Fri 4	10.30 am - noon	Ladies' First Friday Coffee Morning. 8 Olivers Walk, Lychpit
Sat 12 a	and Sun 13	Rotary Club Family Festival at Down Grange in aid of local
		Cancer Charities.free entry and parking, music stalls, funfair,
		petting farm, games

#### Additional articles can be found on the Basinga Extra website - www.basinga.org.uk

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#### CHURCH INFORMATION FOR THE AREA

Church of England (Parish of Old Basing & Lychpit).

Tel: 354707 VICAR: Rev Alec Battey, The Vicarage, Church Lane, Old Basing

ASSISTANT CURATE: Rev Sarah Lloyd

Tel: 816122

ADMINISTRATOR: Debbie Filer

Tel: 07541

**CHURCHWARDENS:** Tricia Renwick 698235 Ian Kershaw Tel: 326155

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#### Regular Services at St. Mary's Church, Old Basing.

SUNDAY: 8am Holy Communion. 9.30am Sung Eucharist and Junior Church Evening Service 5.30 pm.

OTHER DAYS: Wednesday 10am Holy Communion.

Changes to the regular service pattern and other weekday services are shown in the weekly news-sheet, a copy of which is displayed on the noticeboard in the church porch

#### Old Basing Methodist Church

MINISTER: Rev Alison Parker alison.m.parker@googlemail.com Tel: 465064

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