April 2019

BASINGA

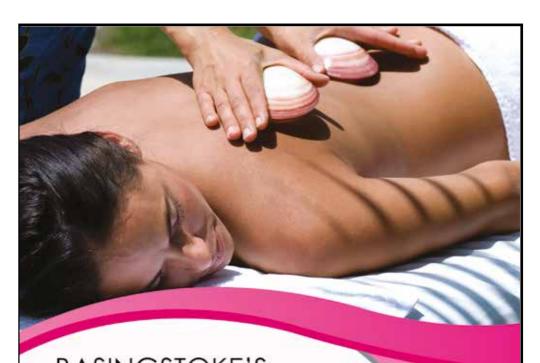


Anna Fairs





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



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APRIL 2019 – NOTES AND NEWS

The cover photograph, 'Easter Flowers', is by **Anna Fairs.** This year Easter Sunday will fall on the 20th of April, but the Christian holiday can come anywhere between the 22nd of March and the 25th of April - why is it so changeable? Early Christians decreed that it should fall on the first Sunday after the ecumenical full moon, not always based on astronomy, that is the first after the March equinox, usually 20th March. This decision was made to ensure sure that Easter would always be celebrated after the Jewish festival of Passover, because although biblical calendars are never the most rigorous, it's clear that the death, birth and resurrection of Jesus all happened after this feast. In the UK, the Easter Act 1928 set out to fix the date of Easter but this still awaits agreement from all the Anglican churches.

The earliest known reference to Easter eggs was in the 16th century when the term referred to blown or hard-boiled eggs with decorations. The UK's first chocolate egg was produced in 1873 by Fry's of Bristol. According to a recent survey, the average child in the UK receives 8.8 Easter eggs every year and 43% of children admit to giving in to temptation before Easter Day.

BASINGA

We welcome both regular and occasional items for the Basinga. The very last date for copy to the Editor for the **May** edition is **6.00pm** on **Wednesday**, **10th April**. Please use the forms on the Basinga website **www.basinga.org.uk** to get your dates, articles and letters to us (see box on page 15 for further instructions). All advertising enquiries – classified, free adverts or inserts (flyers) can also be made via the Basinga website. Don't forget that we only accept articles with **300 words maximum**.

OLD BASING ALLOTMENT AND GARDEN SOCIETY

The allotment shop will be open **every Sunday** until the **21st April** from **10.30 - 12.30pm**. From the **28th April**, the shop will be open from **10.30am - noon**.

Allotment jobs for the month include sowing the rest of your seeds potatoes. April is your last chance to sow chillies, tomatoes and aubergines, but you can start sowing courgettes, squashes and pumpkins under cover and well protected from frost. Beetroot, carrots and peas can all be sown directly in the ground, although be sure to protect the peas from mice. Weeding starts in earnest this month.

We will be holding our **annual plant sale** on **Sunday 12th May from 10.30 - 11.30am** and we would be happy to take donations of any extra seedlings that you have spare. The first allotment inspections of the year will be carried out at the end of the month.

Tracy Braybrook www.facebook.com/oldbasingallotments

BASINGSTOKE DISCOVERY CENTRE

Basingstoke Library has many events for children during the Easter Holidays, between April 8th and 22nd. Activities range from a treasure trail based on Peter Rabbit and friends, design and shake your maraca, drama for all and children's craft activity. Tickets should be booked in advance, available from the Discovery Centre, booking line **01256 478670** or online **www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home**

CHINEHAM LIBRARY

Chineham has been very busy recently with extra activities including the Harry Potter night and the table-top sale. This month, in addition to the regular Saturday on 13th April from10.00am to noon, there will be extra activities linked with the Peter Rabbit visit to the shopping centre. Do look out for final arrangements as it should be great fun. As usual, Construction Club will also take place that day, from 2.00 to 3.30pm. A busy day here!

Regular activities for children follow their normal pattern, with **Rhymetimes** on **Tuesdays** at **under ones** at **10.00am** and **over ones** at **11.00am**. **Code Club** breaks for the Easter holiday, and a new session begins after this, for which you can contact the library for further details. **Chatterbooks** will meet as usual from **3.45 to 4.45pm**, please check the date with us. **Stay and Play** will take place on **Wednesday**, **10th April from 10.00 to 11.00am**, for mums and pre-school children.

Age Concern will break for the Easter holiday, and then return afterwards, with sessions for the over 50s to have one-on-one computer sessions between 10.00am to 1.00pm on Wednesday mornings. Sessions are bookable through the local office on: 01256 423874. This month the Crime Reading Group and the General Reading Group will both meet on 27th from 10.30 to 11.30am. The Creative Writing Group meets on Thursday, 4th April and 3rd May from 5.30 to 7.00pm and new members are very welcome.

For the latest information please check social media and we hope to see you in the library soon. The team wish you all an enjoyable Easter holiday.

Cathy Foster

OLD BASING BROWNIES 40TH BIRTHDAY

On 11th April 2019, 2nd Old Basing Brownies will celebrate 40 years in the Village, having been registered with Girl Guiding on 11th April 1979. During this time the unit has offered membership to hundreds of girls aged between 7 and 10 years of age.

Over the past 40 years there have been many changes to the programme to ensure that it is relevant to the girls of the time. These activities include sport, life skills, performance, art, craft, first aid, holidays and trips, leadership development and an awareness to support others less fortunate than themselves. However, the underlying philosophy is based around the Law and Promise as outlined by Lord Baden-Powell.

Grateful thanks must be given to all the adult volunteers who have supported the Pack over the years giving freely of their time and expertise.

When the unit started their meeting place was the Scout and Guide hut in Milkingpen Lane. Sadly, in the early 2000's the hut was in a dangerous condition and all Guiding and Scouting units were forced to find new venues.

Today, the Brownies support village life at events such as Church Parades, the Carnival and various fundraising events both for charities and themselves.

The main focus of fundraising has been to work jointly with other units to raise money to provide a new meeting place for Scouting and Guiding called The Baden-Powell centre on their land in Milkingpen Lane. Planning permission has been granted but, as we are sure you are aware, costs are constantly rising. If you would like more information about this project, or to support us so that the youth of the village can have their own meeting place for at least the next 40 years, please contact **fundraising4newhut@gmail.com**.

For information about the Brownie Pack contact:- sandie.jackson@outlook.com





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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

PARISH ELECTIONS

Parish Council elections take place on 2nd May. Information and nomination forms are available on the Borough Council's website. Old Basing & Lychpit has 12 councillors – 8 representing Old Basing and 4 representing Lychpit. Any resident interested in becoming involved in local affairs and willing to play an active role in ensuring Old Basing & Lychpit is a great place to live is encouraged to put their name forward.

The first Parish Council meeting after the elections is the Annual Parish Council Meeting (AGM) when the Chairman and Committee Chairs are elected, followed by the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council. Later in May the Annual Parish Meeting is held. This is an opportunity for residents to meet their Councillors (new and those re-elected) and is when the Annual Parish Award is presented. Further information about this meeting will be published in the May Basinga.

FLY TIPPING

An incident of fly-tipping was narrowly averted recently due to the vigilance of our Groundsman who spotted two people in a vehicle on the approach to the recreation ground offloading rubbish sacks. They beat a hasty retreat when he shouted at them leaving just two of what appeared to be a car full of rubbish sacks. Personal information was found in one of the sacks which has been passed on to the appropriate authorities. It begs the question why fill a car and drive to a recreation area rather than the local tip? There is no charge for domestic vehicles disposing of general domestic waste!

SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Hampshire County Council is rolling out superfast broadband across the region enabling people to get internet speeds of 24Megabits per second or more – making streaming TV, working from home, online banking and shopping, and gaming a lot easier – to name just some of the benefits. We are informed it is currently available to 95% of the region, and is on target to reach 97.4% by the end of 2019. However, many people don't know whether they can get superfast broadband or not, or think it is more expensive than their current package – which is not always the case.

HCC's role is to provide the infrastructure to enable as many people as possible to access superfast broadband (not to sell the service). The postcode checker, which can be found at **www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com/myparish/** enables you to check if it is available where you live, and what to do to find the right package for you. You can also register to be told when superfast broadband is coming to your area.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next meeting date is **Tuesday 2, April at 7.30 pm at the Pavilion, Old Basing Recreation Ground**. All are welcome – please let us know if you have impaired mobility and wish to 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,

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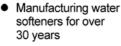
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CARNIVAL NEWS

What a lovely Post-Valentine's Day Senior Citizens Party; we ate a wonderful roast dinner, drank, played pass the parcel and bingo and enjoyed a generous raffle. **Tune for Life** provided an array of song and dance followed by a good old sing along. Then the **Boyle-O'Dowda Irish dancers** provided an amazing display. 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 2019? – 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 - details below.

We look forward to seeing you on 15th June, the theme for this year is Comic Characters.

Joe Croombs, 07768 032 936 or joe@croombs.org

SATURDAY, 15TH JUNE - OLD BASING CARNIVAL - STALL BOOKING

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Please note:

- The standard stall sites must not exceed 4 metres (13 feet) frontage
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- £15 for one standard size tombola or game of chance site stall
- £25 for larger spaces
- Please contact Sandie Rice for commercial rates 01256 477637
- All cheques in advance made payable to Old Basing Parish Carnival please write your name on the back.
- Access on the day is from 9.00am
- Own transport (one car/van) can be brought onto the field however if not removed by midday it will have to remain onsite until 4.30pm due to health and safety and insurance concerns
- Alternatively transport will need to be off site by midday and will not be allowed back on site till 4.30pm

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THE BUSES OF OLD BASING: PART 1 – THE PRE-WAR YEARS

It started early. I developed an interest in timetables. Some would say an unhealthy interest, but as far as I was concerned my geographical knowledge, certainly of Wessex, rivalled any in my class. And all from the comfort of my living room in Mapledurwell. By the age of seven I had recreated numerous Wilts & Dorset routes as I pushed my Corgi buses around the floor. That's why, fifty-something years later, when the editor of The Basinga asked me to write about Basing's bus routes I eagerly volunteered.

By the late twenties the Venture Limited bus company was well established in the Basingstoke area. Operating a fleet from their depot on Victoria Street by 1937 they had expanded to outlying communities. Ten years later they were phasing out omnibuses made at Thorneycroft and were replacing them with state of the art single and double-deckers. The timetable in my possession, dated 7th July 1938, lists bus numbers 6, 17 & 26, all serving Basing. The Barge Inn in town, at the terminus of the canal, was where all 3 buses started. The number 6, which provided an hourly service 7 days a week, left town along Basing Road, went past the old hospital, stopped at The Union (was this a pub?), over the Loddon and then entered The Street by Basing House. It then stopped at the Crown Inn, the old Post Office (which was in Finches shop, opposite the entrance to the church), the Bolton Arms, up Pyotts Hill, and left on to Bartons Lane where it terminated at Little Basing not far from where The Lychpit Community Hall now stands.

The 17 was a Wednesday and Saturday (Basingstoke market days) service which continued to Newnham, Rotherwick and Lyde Green via Crown Lane, the newly built-up area known then as the "Byfleet Estate", and the A30/London Road. The 26 ran to and from town on market days and Sundays but only as far as the Bolton Arms. The journey time from the Bolton Arms to The Barge was about 12 minutes. Far quicker than today! Some early morning services continued to the Thorneycroft works. The return fare was 4d which was also the price of 10 cigarettes. Or about 2 pence in today's money.

On Friday and Saturday evenings a late "Dance" bus was in operation. This did not appear in the timetable but was provided for late night revellers. Not that late though. 10.30pm was chucking out time. Also, a footnote in the schedule shows that the "11 pm bus on Saturdays from Basingstoke will wait up to 15 minutes for the conclusion of second house cinema". Can you imagine Stagecoach doing that today?

Venture didn't just carry passengers. Like many operators of the time it also had a thriving parcels business. Pre-paid parcels, up to 56 lbs(!) could be sent anywhere their buses went. The parcel agent for Basing is listed as Mr F W Stephens at Byfleet Stores.

During the war Venture Ltd struggled as many of its buses were requisitioned to move troops around the nearby Aldershot area. It was still a profitable business however, and in 1945 it was taken over by the expanding, and some would say predatory, Chepstow-based Red & White Services, although the fleet retained the Venture name and logo.

Just in time for nationalisation in 1948 where we take up the story next time!

lan Maynard

If you have any further information about this era email me at ian.maynard@gmail.com

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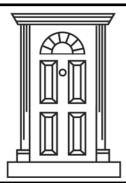
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BASINGSTOKE DISCOVERY CENTRE: See Extras on the Basinga website for main events, children's events and courses.

BASING SINGERS SPRING CONCERT: Old Basing Village Hall on 6th April at 7.30 pm. Music from the shows and films with guest artists the Hannington Silver Band. Tickets: Adults £7.00, Children (Under 16 years of age) £1.00, available on the door, or call 01256 460612.

BASINGSTOKE MALE VOICE CHOIR: Open evening on Tuesday April 23rd at 7.30 pm at the United Reformed Church, London St Basingstoke. Email basingstokemvc@outlook.com for further information.

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Contacts for general enquiries and assistance:

advertising@basinga.org.uk or editor@basinga.org.uk or webtech@basinga.org.uk

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NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

Basing House reopens on **Monday**, **1st April** and will be open every day except Friday from **11.00am to 4.00pm** until the end of October (we are not open on Good Friday). Tickets give 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 re-enactors of the Sealed Knot is subject to separate admission charges. Tickets are available online or at Basing House. They are valid for the duration of the weekend, from 11:00 on Saturday 20 April March to 5:00pm on Monday 22 April, so you can come back to enjoy the activities 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 **11.00am onwards**. On the Sunday and the Monday there will also be **military action**, the armies entering the main site around 2:30pm and engaging in skirmishes as they progress to the main encounter at about 3:00pm. 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.

Full details about Basing House, guided tours, events, parking, access and how to book are at www.hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/venue-events/68. Otherwise 01256 463965 or call in at the visitor centre, next to the Great Barn between 11.00am and 4.00pm, Saturday to Thursday from 1st April or Milestones museum on (01256 639550) at other times.

Andrew Howard 01256 327014

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 turn-outs 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 and other raptors to use the field more.

What's around this month: With spring underway watch out for the very early migrants; the swallow and 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 (07974 944439)

Email: millfieldoldbasing@yahoo.co.uk Facebook: Mill Field Conservation Group

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CELEBRATING BOOK WEEK AT OLD BASING INFANT SCHOOL

Book Week was a very exciting and busy time in school with lots of activities centred on giving our children a love of reading books. Prior to the official 'Book Week' starting we held a Winter Warmer session which gave children the opportunity to come to school, in the evening, in their pyjamas and have a bedtime story and a delicious cup of hot chocolate! During this time children and parents were able to visit our Travelling Book Fair and purchase new books to share at home.

During **Book Week** we held a **Whole School Writing Day** when children wrote their own amazing stories, a 'no pens Wednesday' (which meant we all had to find other ways to communicate) and of course, the highlight of the week, celebrating **World Book Day** by dressing up as our favourite book characters. There were some fantastic costumes and it was great to see so many entering into the spirit of the day. Thanks go out to the hardworking parents who sewed, glued and constructed some impressive costumes!

On **World Book Day** we were fortunate to have a visit form the Canadian author **Alison Donald** who shared her experiences of being a published author and read us her most recent book 'Adorabull'. Alison also did a workshop with each class in the school exploring how characters in stories demonstrate empathy and this will hopefully help our children not only practise empathy with each other in our general school life but also help them include it in their own story writing.

I think it is safe to say that a love of reading is thriving at Old Basing Infants and we are also nurturing some future authors who will hopefully remember their Book Weeks at school.

Alison Attenborough

FOOBS TRAIL RUNS – 13TH OCTOBER 2019

After the success of last year's rain-soaked inaugural event, we are delighted to let Parishioners know that FOOBS will be organising another set of 10k/6k/2k trail runs around the beautiful Wildmoor area's footpaths and fields, to raise funds for our local schools. RJS Builders and Go Walkies have both confirmed as our main sponsors again this year, and we thank them for their generous support; if any other businesses want to be involved, please do let us know; the more the merrier!

We are hoping for better weather this year, so that our BBQ & bouncy castles can be enjoyed by spectators and runners alike. Watch this space for more details of how to enter.... you've got all Summer to get fit and ready to trot.

Catriona Coveney

SPRING PHOTO WALK

Would you be interested in a photo walk around our village? I'm thinking of organising one for April when the weather picks up a little. I would be there to offer advice/guidance and some tips and tricks to improve your photography. I have lots of ideas for children too, so could be a fun, family outdoor activity!! No charge; although if we happen to finish near a pub around lunch time, I won't say no to a pint of Guinness!!!

If you are interested please email me at **anna@annafairsphotography.co.uk** indicating whether it's just for you or you and a child/children.

Anna Fairs

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Easter is a time to enjoy hot cross buns, Easter Eggs and two bank holidays.

At St. Mary's we will be celebrating the last week of Jesus' life, his death and his resurrection.

Holy Week starts on Palm Sunday when Jesus entered Jerusalem.

On Maundy Thursday Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his apostles. Maundy is derived from the Latin "mandatum" or commandment and at the Last Supper Jesus commanded "and now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." We remember the Last Supper in the Eucharist Service held in church every Sunday.

Good Friday is a commemoration of the crucifixion and is treated as a day of mourning.

Holy Saturday is the day that Jesus lay in his tomb and is a time for contemplation.

On Easter Sunday we celebrate his resurrection. This is one of the most important days in the church calendar and is a joyous event when we look forward to a new life.

We hope you enjoy the Easter break but please do bear in mind what it celebrates.

At St Mary's we have an additional reason to look forward to summer 2019 with the arrival of our new vicar the Reverend Heather Leppard.

She grew up in Fleet and is married to the Reverend Dominic Thornton. They have two young children. She is currently serving as Assistant Curate in Hanham in the Diocese of Salisbury.

At a service on 26th June in St. Mary's Church she will be instituted by the Right Reverend David Williams, the Bishop of Basingstoke, and inducted by the Venerable Richard Brand, the Archdeacon of Winchester, as Vicar of the Parish of old Basing and Lychpit.



Churchwarden

THIS MONTH AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Saturday, 6th April Men's Breakfast Group from 8.45 to 10.00am. If you fancy a

full English breakfast do pop along to the Parish Room -you'd be

most welcome (price: £4)

Methodist Church, 7.00pm for refreshments, 7.30 to 9.00pm. (Any queries contact Tracey Darling: drtdarling@gmail.com,

(Any queries contact **Tracey Darling: drtdarling@gmail.com**, telephone: **07543 876043**, Ministry Assistant at Old Basing and

Oakridge Methodist Churches)

Palm Sunday, 14th April Meet at 9.20am at The Crown if you wish to or are able to process

to the church.

Holy Week

Thursday, 18th April Maundy Thursday Service at 7.30 pm Eucharist of the Last

Supper, Stripping of the Altars & Watch of the Passion.

Friday, 19th April Good Friday. noon to 3.00pm. Noon to 2.00pm: A time of

reflections and silent meditation followed by the Service at

2.00pm.

Holy Saturday, 20th Easter Vigil at 7.00pm.

Easter Day, 21st April Holy Communion at 8.00 am. Sung Eucharist of the

Resurrection for All Ages at 9.30 am, with the flowering of the

cross and Easter egg hunt

Sunday, 28th April Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 11.15 am.

Monday, 29th April Tea & Talk Café, from 2.15 to 3.45 pm. Anyone who would like

some company and a chat is welcome. A monthly free group.

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 St Mary's Facebook page 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, 16th May Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St Mary's, 7.00pm

in the Parish Room

Saturday, 18th May Christian Aid Gift Day (preceded by camp-out and Barbecue on

evening of 17th May)

OLD BASING METHODIST CHURCH

Tuesday, April 2nd Craft Afternoon from 2.00 to 4.00pm. Bring your own crafts or

items will be provided.

Tuesday, April 9th MHA lunch club followed by music and games, noon to 3.00pm.

Tuesday, April 16th Craft Afternoon from 2.00 to 4.00pm. Bring your own crafts or

items will be provided.

Good Friday, 19th April Reflections followed by hot cross buns from 2.30pm.

Easter Sunday, 21st April Worship at 10.30am, with Holy Communion led by Mrs Sarah

Whithorn.

Tuesday, April 30th Prayer time from 2.00 to 3.00pm. led by Rev. Valerie Fisher.

Our **regular Sunday worship** starts at **10.30am**, coffee and tea are served after the service. Children are welcome into our junior church. Come and join us - a warm welcome awaits you.

CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)

Spring is here, the grass is growing, there is more to be done. This month the **Thursday afternoon working parties will resume**. The working parties will be on **Saturday, 6th April** at **10.00am** and **Thursday 25th April** at **2.00pm** – meet in the church lobby. We will finish our winter conservation tasks and woodland management. All are very welcome. We look forward to seeing our regular volunteers and also new participants. We are a community project, not just for churchgoers, so please come along if you would like to be involved. We will welcome you warmly. 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** on **Monday, 1st April** in **St Mary's Parish Room** at **8.00pm**, celebrates our **Silver Anniversary**. We hope that many of our supporters from the 25 years will join us. This will be a special evening. We are delighted that Brian and Lydia Knight will give their illustrated talk "Tigers and Temples". We look forward to seeing you.

The Conservation Area is a community space for everyone to enjoy. With the spring warmth the cowslips are out, butterflies on the wing and birds singing as they start nesting. Hopefully they are 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

BASING SINGERS

Our Spring Concert is on Saturday, 6th April at Old Basing Village Hall at 7.30pm with guest artists Hannington Silver Band. The theme will be music from the shows and films. Tickets cost £7.00 for adults and just £1.00 for children under the age of 16, and will be available on the night at the door or by telephoning 01256 460612. If you thought you would like to sing with a choir, we would welcome new members, we meet each Wednesday, from 7.45 to 9.45pm in St. Mary's Parish Room: it would be great to see you.

Sue Wilson - Publicity

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*From an inspection on 14 February 2018.

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

The Schedule for the this year's Village Show is now at the printers and as you read this article you should be able to pick up your free copy at the usual outlets in the Village, our thanks to all those businesses who help to distribute them.

Do look out for your particular interest or hobby in the Schedule and then enter in this year's Show, the Committee do try and cater for all the many pastimes that keep you all so busy. Also check out the Village Show website for further details of how to prepare and process your entries. www.oblvs.org.uk

Mark Offord

Sue Wilson

THE IVY CLUB

We are holding the first of this year's outings and we are off to The Cotswolds, it will be a two centre trip; Moreton in the Marsh (Market Day) and then after lunch to Bourton-on-the-Water, where you might like to treat yourself to a cream tea. The date to remember is Tuesday, May 21st, leaving at 9.00am and returning at 4.30pm. Pick up points will be The Co-Op, Belle Vue Road, the Royal British Legion and Oakfields. The cost is £15.00 per head. If you are interested can you please complete the form below and return to Sue Wilson, either at The Ivy Club on a Wednesday afternoon at the RBL or to 21 Fairthorne Rise, Old Basing, RG24 7EJ You are welcome to bring guests, but please note we cannot accept a booking unless we have a completed form due to insurance purposes.

Another note for your diary: our seaside trip to Weymouth will be on Tuesday, 16th July. Cost £15.00 per head. Please register your interest on the form below.

*					
	THE	IVY CLUB			
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- . Walk your dog or find a picnic spot

INFORMATION

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CHINEHAM AND OLD BASING NWR

The Chineham and Old Basing National Women's Register (NWR) meet at **2.00pm on the first Monday of the month** in the relaxed atmosphere of someone's home. We also meet for lunch or trips to the cinema. **Our Reading Group meet in the evening every 4th Thursday**. The current book is State of Wonder by American author Ann Patchett.

Our March meeting was "How Much Do We Know Each Other?" We each came with three statements about our self, two true and one false. Most statements seemed plausible so we had a hilarious time trying to guess which was the false statement, and then learning more about the true statements. We enjoyed talking about ourselves, and then going off at tangents so the meeting ran for much longer than usual. In April one of our members will lead the Group with a session on "Transactional Analysis: How do you communicate and are you in touch with your inner child?"

NWR is a national group, so that as well as a local programme you can join day or weekend conferences. The National Conference will be in Plymouth in June, and there is a day conference in Nantwich in September to discuss internet, telephone and media safety in the digital age. Full details of the conferences and other NWR information can be found at nwr.org.uk.

Not a member? You would receive a warm and friendly welcome to find out if NWR could be for you. For more information please phone **Evelyn Jones** on **01256 816636** or via her email: **evelyncjjones@hotmail.co.uk**

Sandie Tapping

OLD BASING WI

On Saturday 2nd March over sixty Members and invited guests, including the Mayor and Mayoress, attended the **Old Basing WI Centenary** celebrations at the Village Hall. We were entertained by the Basing Singers who sang songs from Andrew Lloyd Webber followed by a medley of popular songs from 100 years ago. Then we all tucked into a delicious afternoon tea with an amazing array of cakes baked by Members. Afterwards the Mayor, accompanied by our President Chris Hall, unveiled a framed wall hanging created by our craft group, using a variety of craft techniques, depicting 100 years of the WI in Old Basing. This will be displayed at the Parish Rooms for all to admire.

On Tuesday 5th March we continued the celebrations with another party at our regular meeting. This time the entertainment was provided by Billy Clayton who sang and played his guitar whilst we danced. There was plenty more cake including an amazing birthday cake created by Christine Ashworth which featured models of all our members on the top!

Our **next meeting** takes place on **Tuesday, 2nd April** at **7.30pm** in the **Parish Rooms** when we will be having a talk from Mr G Richardson on the subject of Medical Detection dogs. The competition on this evening will be a dog ornament.

For details of all our activities during the next month please go to the Hampshire WI website at www.hampshirewi.org.uk Click on WI's from the top of the page and select Old Basing from the list.

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VOLUNTEERING IN MALAWI

Last October I went to Malawi for three months as an International Citizenship Service (ICS) volunteer with VSO. ICS is a scheme that provides overseas volunteer placements for 18-25 year olds from the UK. As UK volunteers we worked alongside 'in country' counterparts to contribute to sustainable projects focused on long term impact. During my placement I worked with 30 other volunteers from the UK and Malawi to deliver education on sexual and reproductive health, and rights to the youth of Mzuzu, the town where we were based.

The UK government's Department for International Development funds 90% of the ICS programme. The other 10% is fundraised by volunteers. I met my £800 fundraising target by doing a little bit of everything including gardening, dog sitting and selling ice creams at St Mary's Flower Festival. I would like to thank everyone who donated, all the money raised by volunteers allows ICS to continue to do its amazing work.

Much of my time in Malawi was spent running sessions in local youth groups, on topics from gender equality to pregnancy prevention. While there were some difficulties along the way, with our giant interactive pie-chart almost blowing away at one point, these sessions were the most fulfilling part of the project. Seeing the young people relax around us and get comfortable asking all their questions was amazing. But the thing I am most proud of is organising a community event with my Malawian counterpart, Arafat. Despite having only one week to plan, the event was a success with dramas and quizzes promoting sexual and reproductive health education for over 400 attendees. On the day everything ran just about on time despite a broken-down van, and some emergency roadside welding!

Something that really sets ICS apart is that during the placement everyone stays with a local host family. I had the pleasure of staying with the Chiuye's and it quickly began to feel like home. This really embeds you in the culture, and we learnt so much more than if we were staying in a hostel. I was really surprised how quickly I felt at home walking around the town, shopping and bartering at the markets with my new friends.

Being an ICS volunteer is one of the best things I have done in my life, and I would encourage anyone who wants to volunteer to investigate it. You can take part as a volunteer (18–25 years) and as a team leader (23–35 years). All you need to apply for ICS is the ambition to make a difference. More information can be found at **www.volunteerics.org**. If you would like to find out more about my experience, contact me: **rachael-stevens@hotmail.co.uk**.

Rachael Stevens

HAMPSHIRE ALERT

There have been reported garage breaks in the area in early March.

Police would like to remind residents of the following advice: Place all tools and garden equipment in locked sheds and garages; Secure more expensive items to an anchor point within the shed or garage; Mark all items with postcode and record serial numbers. e.g. UV pens or forensic marking kits. Register the details for free on **www.immobilise.com**; Take photographs of items for easy identification at a later date; Fit a shed alarm; Keep the structure in good repair; Consider covering windows with curtains to obscure the view of the contents; Consider external lighting; Ensure the garden fences are in good repair between neighbours to prevent unlawful access; Ensure side gates are locked to prevent access to the rear of the property.

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PROBUS HEARS IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE A HOBBY

Experts advise that retirees maintain both physical and mental capacity. Probus Club member Alan May follows this with boyish enthusiasm. While he plays golf once a month and with his wife regularly enjoys ballroom dancing he told the members of the Probus Club of Basingstoke of his more cerebral hobbies, one being completely unexpected.

Attendees at the Probus Club Spring Ladies' lunches and Christmas dinners are entertained by his pictorial and brain teaser quizzes. Clearly his interest in doing crosswords comes to the fore.

A bi-lingual answerphone message indicates his wife has Belgian parentage. Several family trees displayed Alan's expertise in genealogy from investigating the Kent side of his family to that of his in-laws in Belgium. In 2018 Alan and his wife were invited by the Belgian local council to a naming ceremony of a road containing her family name of Faes.

A 1959 GCE "O" level in art was put to good use in retirement when he bought some watercolour paints. In the U3A he progressed from Beginners to Improvers concentrating on flowers and birds. "I enjoy the peace and quiet together with the calming effect and it is very relaxing. You meet others who are always willing to help and comment."

This artistic bent has comes in useful with his "secret hobby" of Cross Stitch. Usually a female pastime his wife taught him to such a degree that he featured in the Cross Stitcher magazine. A regular cruiser he can often be found in the lounges with a small design. "I get a few raised eyebrows but I am too old to worry what people think. I bet they can't do it!"

Alan is a classic example following the expert advice that people should get out of their comfort zone and try something new. See www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com

Paul Flint

THE LATEST COLD CALLING - LOFT INSULATION SCAMS

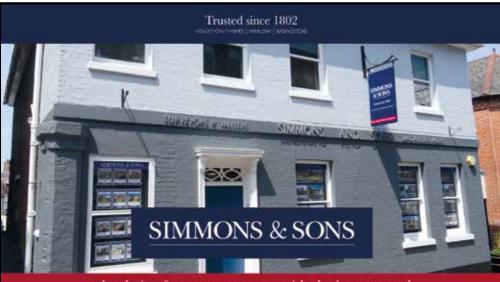
Trading Standards and Hampshire Police have been receiving reports of companies which are actively cold calling on elderly residents, quite often using scare tactics and misinformation to pressure them to sign up for a loft insulation spray foam. This foam is totally unnecessary for homes, and the homeowner will be charged thousands of pounds. The people they target are not being advised of a cooling off period (14 days) or their consumer rights once they have signed up, and then contractors will turn up the very next day to do the work.

Once the foam sets (like concrete) it traps moisture so the wood in the roof starts to rot, meaning the foam will need to be removed. Not only will the homeowner have paid thousands for the unnecessary work, they will then have to pay thousands to remove the foam, then pay again for repairs.

These companies have websites and are registered on Companies House, but this is no means a confirmation that they are reputable. Trading Standards are investigating these companies, and have seen company directors jailed in the past.

Our advice is to never buy at the front door, and never feel pressured to accept an appointment from someone who has telephoned you. Always seek the advice of a trusted friend, relative or neighbour, or if you have no one to ask, please call **Hampshire Police** on 101 or the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 04 05 06.

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SOCIAL CLUB UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday,6th April from 3.00pm - Gin and Ale afternoon. Come and enjoy a

fine selection of Gin and Ales, with live Jazz band. Everyone

welcome.

Friday, 26th April from 7.30pm - Horse racing night - Great fun, 8 races plus

'Play Your Cards Right Game' and raffle. Food available, tickets

in advance or on the door. Adults only.

Come and join us in our friendly club in the centre of your community. Visit our website at: branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/old-basing for more information about what's on, or e-mail us: socialclubentertainments@gmail.com or phone: 01256 465800

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

Thursday, 25th April 7.30pm General Meeting of the Women's Section, in the Jack

Morris Hall. Talk on working with young adults with learning disability in a Respite Centre. Competition: a photograph of the strangest animal to visit your garden. All are welcome.

Sue Wilson - Publicity

RBL AND ARMED FORCES GOLF DAY, PROCEEDS TO THE POPPY APPEAL

On Monday, June 24th, the **Sherfield Oaks Wellington** course has been booked for the Royal British Legion to run another **Poppy Appeal**, **Fund Raising Golf Day**.

The cost for the day has been held yet again at £45 per person (£180 team of four) by the kind generosity of the Sherfield Oaks. Please ask me, Rick Bourne for an entry form on 07900 648675, or e-mail: rickbourne@yahoo.com or by collecting a form from the RBL bar.

Closing date is 10th June so DO NOT DELAY as only ten teams of four can take part!

Rick Bourne

OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB

The summer season of tennis has started! As the clocks spring forward we can now enjoy some lighter evenings and club nights are now taking place every **Tuesday** and **Friday** from **6.00pm until dusk**. If you would like to dust off your racket and join us please get in touch - we welcome new members! Contact details below.

We shall be hosting a **social evening** at the club after club night on **Friday, 12th April** and will soon be starting to organise our Summer Tournament. This summer we are entering five teams into the Basingstoke and District Tennis League, so we wish our teams luck in their matches.

Junior coaching with JBTennis continues and adult coaching is also available. Please contact Ben and Jamie directly for more information: **jbtennisacademy1@gmail.com**

Email us at: **OBTC.Information@gmail.com** We are on facebook and Instagram and our website is: **www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/OldBasingTennisClub**

Lynne Thomas, Chair.

APRIL IN YOUR GARDEN

We start this month with some inspiration from literature with an excerpt from the poem "Two Tramps in Mud Time" by Robert Frost (1926):

The sun was warm but the wind was chill. You know how it is with an April day.
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You're one month on in the middle of May.
But if you so much as dare to speak,
a cloud come over the sunlit arch,
And wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you're two months back in the middle of March.

Wise words. Although the poet's name is Frost, gardeners hope for no more of that white icy surprise on April morns, though always be prepared.

Due to the cold and wet soil at this time, early sowings outside may prove difficult, but by warming up the soil of prepared areas with cloches it will protect from not only frost but also rain. It's advisable to leave the cloches in place for at least two or three weeks. Remove them temporarily to rake the soil prior to seed sowing and planting out of young seedlings, then replace the cloches to give the young plants a good start.

For carrots sown under cover last month, now is the time to thin them out! You will achieve much bigger crops this way. For those without the luxury of a greenhouse, or other such covers as cloches as just described, you may plant your carrot seeds out in the soil. Carrot fly can be a real pain; they will burrow in and destroy your carrots. Although they are a fly, they have poor wings and cannot fly above 15 cm (6 ins) off the ground; therefore one such way to combat them is to grow in pots off the ground! Avoid thinning out in the daytime, as the smell will attract them, wait until evening. Speaking of smell, it can be masked by sowing carrots between rows of onions and garlic in an attempt to confuse the fly. If all else fails, cover with fleece!

There are many more things to sow in the vegetable garden, beetroot, peas and broccoli to name but a few. Plant out new strawberry beds this month, making sure to incorporate plenty of well-rotted manure to get them off to a good start. I find that the slugs and snails get to ground-grown strawberries however, I prefer to grow mine in hanging baskets, where they trail over the edge in a lovely display, or if you fancy a fun project, you can grow them in an upturned pallet. (Look online for detailed instructions!)

Remember to feed your plants this month, after a long winter shrubs, trees and hedges are putting out a lot of new growth and are hungry! Use a slow, balanced fertilizer for shrubs, trees and hedges, and fork it into the soil around the trunk. Roses are very greedy and really do well with a good feed as they put out new growth. I like to sprinkle blood, fish and bone powder around my over-wintering onions and garlic, and work that in very gently to the soil.

Plant chitted-potatoes when the weather allows, it does not want to be too cold, I usually leave it until the last week in April, better to be late and let them catch up than risk having no potatoes at all!

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 to 60 cm (1ft 8 in to 2 ft) -wide pot.

A final reminder to watch out for frosts when fruit trees are blossoming. Pear is especially vulnerable as it blossoms early. Protect with fleece as necessary.

NATURE NOTES FOR APRIL

So, who spotted the deliberate mistake?? No, it wasn't ground-hog day, but you did read February's notes again in March due to an unfortunate editorial faux pas. The real submission was quickly uploaded to Basinga Extra and it may be appearing in this month's Basinga alongside Aprils notes, depending on space. If not and you missed them then apologies from everyone here.

I'd been talking about birds and animals in the snow (remember the plastering we had a few weeks back?) but now it's about the imminent spring and that fabulous warm blast we got from the south in late February. I even cut my back lawn, the earliest I ever have!

The first frog spawn observation came from Stephen Thairs pond on 1st March which was good news because we know that the frog population took a hammering last year when the beast from the east obliterated millions of spawn, tadpoles and adult frogs. Stephen also reported the first Skylarks singing over the Common and had noticed Starlings and Jackdaws collecting nest material

There were butterflies aplenty too, mainly Brimstone, which are always the first to hatch, but there were Red Admirals and a Comma reported too. Phil Males was in the right place (top end of Pyotts Hill) on 23rd February as he witnessed a whole hatch of Brimstones counting 12 in a 200 vd stretch. Phil's walk to Basingstoke from Lychpit alongside the main line railway 2 days earlier produced a common lizard sighting, the reptile basking on a paving stone in a sunny sheltered spot and it is really early to see such a thing. Sadly it's all too a rare sight now around the village too but I have fond memories when I was a lad of looking for lizards and slow-worms is so many places virtually all holiday long but development and change of habitat has

made both all too scarce now.

I've noticed Blue Tits very actively cleaning out nest boxes of old debris and mites as they begin to select their breeding sites and with 4 or 5 boxes around my garden, and all being investigated, I'm hoping that a couple might get used. A pair of Tits will need to find around 800 insects or grubs per day to sustain their brood so a decent sized territory in which to forage for them is essential.

Belated thanks to Sue and Frank McKenna of Paddockfields for their sightings and photographs last month. Their back garden, backing on to the Loddon, has always been a haven for all sorts of wildlife and the snowy photos were of Egrets, plumped up Pheasants, singing Blackbirds and, over the river, two female Muntjacs.

Finally, it was with sorrow I learned of the passing of Nikki Parker of Paddockfields. A lovely lady and customer of mine, Nicky was always keen to know what was being seen around the village and was rightly proud of the Swallows that nested every summer at the top of her car lean-to. She loved having them, though not their droppings, which she said was a small price to pay for the privilege. She will be greatly missed.

Rick Bourne

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

Or ring **01256 321108** for news. For all your bird food requirements, order it from me at 'Bird Drop-ins' use the former email address or ring me on **07900 648675** to place an order or get a form.

DIARY DATES FOR APRIL

For details of services and events at St. Mary's Church and The Methodist Church please see pages 22 and 23

Mon 1		Basing House re-opens. See page 19
	8.00pm -	PIOCC AGM (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Tue 2	6.00pm - dusk	Old Basing Tennis Club 1st Club Night (Recreation Ground)
	7.30pm –	Parish Council Meeting (Pavilion Committee Room, Rec)
	7.30pm –	Old Basing WI. Meet in Parish Room - Talk.
Thu 4	7.45pm –	for 8.00 - RBL Branch meeting, Jack Morris Hall
Fri 5	10.30am - noon	Ladies' First Friday Coffee Morning - 10 Olivers Walk
Sat 6	10.00am - 1.00pm	PIOCC - meet in church lobby
	3.00pm - 7.00pm	Gin and Ale Festival, Live Music, All Welcome
	7.30pm –	Basing Singers Concert (Old Basing Village Hall)
Wed 10	6.00pm	Deadline for May copy to Editor. See page 3
Wed 10 Fri 12	•	Deadline for May copy to Editor. See page 3 Old Basing Tennis Club Social Evening
	6.00pm _	
Fri 12	6.00pm _ 10.00am - 4.00pm	Old Basing Tennis Club Social Evening
Fri 12	6.00pm _ 10.00am - 4.00pm 10.30am - 2.30pm	Old Basing Tennis Club Social Evening RBL Children's Survival Day Event. See Basinga Extra
Fri 12 Sat 13	6.00pm _ 10.00am - 4.00pm 10.30am - 2.30pm 10.30am - 2.30pm	Old Basing Tennis Club Social Evening RBL Children's Survival Day Event. See Basinga Extra Old Basing Bowling Club Open Day (Recreation Ground)
Fri 12 Sat 13 Sun 14	6.00pm _ 10.00am - 4.00pm 10.30am - 2.30pm 10.30am - 2.30pm 10.30am - 2.30pm	Old Basing Tennis Club Social Evening RBL Children's Survival Day Event. See Basinga Extra Old Basing Bowling Club Open Day (Recreation Ground) Old Basing Bowling Club Open Day (Recreation Ground)
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Fri 12 Sat 13 Sun 14 Sun 21	6.00pm _ 10.00am - 4.00pm 10.30am - 2.30pm 10.30am - 2.30pm 10.30am - 2.30pm 10.30am - noon 2.00pm - 4.00pm	Old Basing Tennis Club Social Evening RBL Children's Survival Day Event. See Basinga Extra Old Basing Bowling Club Open Day (Recreation Ground) Old Basing Bowling Club Open Day (Recreation Ground) Old Basing Bowling Club Open Day (Recreation Ground) OBAGS Shop opening, Riley Lane, opp Bolton Arms PIOCC - meet in church lobby

BASINGA EXTRA

We have not been able to include every article that we received for this month's printed Basinga. These extra articles can be found on our website, Basinga Extra using the address www.basinga.org.uk

Link to the Old Basing RBL WebsiteCivil Service Fellowship

St. Michaels Sunflower Appeal Basingstoke Male Voice Choir

Basingstoke Discovery Centre Gang Show recruitment
Linguatastic RBL Survival Day poster

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• OLD BASING & LYCHPIT PARISH COUNCIL

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OFFICE AND HOURS: The Pavilion, The Recreation Ground.

Mon. to Thur. 10.00am to noon.

• CHURCH INFORMATION FOR THE AREA

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

VICAR: Please direct any enquiries to the Parish Administrator.

ADMINISTRATOR: Debbie Filer. 07541 698235
CHURCHWARDENS: Tricia Benwick 01256 326155

lan Kershaw. 01256 355500

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

STUDENT MINISTER: Mrs Tracey Darling. drtdarling@gmail.com 07543 876043

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Roman Catholic

PRIEST: Fr Christopher Rutledge. 01256 465214

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