

April 2020

BASINGA



Francesca Maritan



Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Magazine
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APRIL NOTES AND NEWS

The cover photograph this month is "**In The Skatepark**" by **Francesca Maritan**. This skatepark is to be found at the southern end of the Mill Field, near Barton's Mill public house. There is a children's playground in the same area. For more information about the Mill Field see page 24

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 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 **6.00 pm on Friday, 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 about a **300 word maximum**.

PHOTOS AND LOGOS FOR THE BASINGA

If any reader would like to offer a **photograph of the village environment** we would be happy to receive them, either for immediate use or to build up a portfolio of 'village views' that we can use when appropriate. We have a web form to send a photograph for the website archive and possible use in the magazine. Go to **www.basinga.org.uk** and the form can be found on the '**Contributors Submission**' drop-down menu. Should you wish to submit multiple or a series of photos they can be emailed but please read the instructions on the photo form for details. This feature should **NOT** be used for Free Ads or Article photos, which can be attached to their own forms.

We continue to make changes to the presentation of the Basinga and would welcome **club** and **society logos**, with the option to use them within articles. Please send via the **Editor**.

SITUATIONS VACANT - HELP NEEDED

Our **Webmaster** will be stepping down from **Basinga Extra** at the end of the next month, leaving a vacancy for a capable IT person to manage the Basinga Website and photograph archive. We need someone with general IT skills and in particular, experience with **Wordpress**, which is the application we use to support our website; Basinga Extra. If you think that this might be you, please get in touch with **editor@basinga.org.uk**

In the meantime we would like to thank Brian Baker, who confidently managed the website, archive and was an excellent proof reader of the printed version of Basinga; no error escaped his critical eye!

We also need to recruit an **Advertising Assistant**. This position provides an opportunity for someone to learn new skills in processing advertiser enquiries and advert graphics. Knowledge of Word and Excel would be an advantage but full training will be available. For more information about this role please contact **advertising@basinga.org.uk**

Basinga Team

CHINEHAM LIBRARY

It's lovely to have the first signs of Spring following the long, wet Winter. There will be the usual Saturday **crafts for children** on **4th April** at **10.00am**, and **extra drop-in crafts** on **Wednesdays 8th and 15th April** from **10.00am**, during the school holiday. **Saturday Storytimes** will continue on all the other Saturdays in the month at **11.00am**. **Rhymetimes** continue as usual, with sessions on **Tuesdays** at **10.00am** for under ones and **11.00am** for over ones. Volunteer-led **coffee mornings** continue to take place from **10.30am**, with refreshments and opportunities to socialise available for a donation. These take place in the **Acorn Room**.

Regular activities for adults include the **general reading group** on the **25th April** at **10.30am**. For details of the **Writing Group** please **contact the library**. **Cuppa and Chat** continue to meet weekly on **Wednesdays** from **10.30am** and would welcome anyone wishing to join them. **Age Concern** and our **Tuesday one-on-one computer tuition** cease during the school holidays. To book a session with Age Concern please contact their office on: **01256 423874**. These sessions focus on using your own device. Please contact the library to book a Tuesday session on our PCs.

There are a couple of **special events** coming up in April. If you haven't already done so, then do book a ticket for our '**Great train Robbery**' talk on **23rd April** at **6.00pm**. Tickets costing £5 are available from the usual sources. We are also hosting a two-part course on the **20th and 27th April** entitled '**Build a Word Press Website**', between **10.00am** and **3.00pm**. The course is free to attend, and places can be booked with the library staff.

Remember that we offer hire of the Acorn Room, including outside regular opening hours. For further information please contact the library.

Cathy Foster

BOLTON UNDER 5'S PRESCHOOL

We hope everyone has a lovely Easter break – we finished the term with a wonderful Easter Egg Hunt and chocolate prizes!

Throughout the past term, we enjoyed welcoming mums and grannies into preschool to stay and play. The children enjoyed sharing some of the experiences they enjoy at preschool, baking biscuits, singing and playing in our lovely preschool garden.

Every year we like to invite people in our local community to join us at BU5's to share their skills and experiences with the children. Over past years visitors have enjoyed gardening and, sharing their occupations with the children. If you would like to join us at BU5's we would love to welcome you, please call us on the number below and we will put a date in the diary ☺

We invite all Parishioners to save the date for our **Summer Fayre** on the **16th May** from **noon**, a fun family day which we will be opening to all villagers.

If you are interested in your child joining our preschool, we would welcome you to come in and meet our staff, to see our Outstanding setting in action! Please do call on **07881 920709** to arrange a time for a visit.

Sam Leadbetter

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CORONAVIRUS

The Parish Council will be keeping up to date on the latest Government guidelines with regard to the Coronavirus and will publish any relevant information on its website and the Parish Facebook page as the situation unfolds.

COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

We were sorry to say farewell to another Councillor in March. Vera Riley-Shaw served on the Parish Council for the past eight years in addition to providing welcome support to the Cricket Club together with her husband, Malcolm Curtis. They are now moving to northern Cyprus and we wish them well in their new home. Vera's departure leaves us with another vacancy so if you are interested in what happens in your Parish and wish to be more involved, give the Office a call.

RESURFACING WORKS

Work will take place during April to resurface the driveway to the recreation ground; parking bays either side of the driveway will be re-defined and laid with new hard core and the white lines and disabled bays in the main parking area re-marked. This will mean closing the entrance to the recreation ground to vehicles during the work and signs will be displayed and notices posted to advise users. Pedestrian access will not be affected and the car park in Riley Lane is available for those travelling to the recreation ground by car. In addition, the pathway running from Riley Lane across the recreation ground will also be resurfaced with all work finishing in time for the summer period.

FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENTS

For some time now the Parish Council, with the support of Cllr Elaine Still, has been asking Hampshire County Council to carry out improvements to two well-used footpaths (the footpath running between Crown Lane and Church Lane and the footpath running alongside the River Loddon from Bartons Mill). We are pleased to say that the necessary funding has now been found to cover the cost of resurfacing both footpaths although no firm date has yet been set. We will keep residents updated as soon as we have any further information.

SOLAR FARM SUB-COMMITTEE

This Committee has been suspended until new information is received or the Parish Council is made aware of renewed activity on this subject.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are **Tuesday, 7th April** and **5th May** at **7.30pm** in the **Pavilion Committee Room**. All are welcome and anyone with impaired mobility should contact the Parish Office so they can be accommodated.

Parish Clerk: **Mrs Sandra Tuck** Assistant Clerk: **Mrs Kate Hope**

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

Telephone: **01256 462847**

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CARNIVAL NEWS

Carnival plans are really starting to gear up and we have been busy since my last update having had the Senior Citizen Party and Carnival Selection Disco.

What a wonderful Post-Valentine's Day Senior Citizens Party it was, those who braved the weather ate an amazing roast dinner, drank, played pass the parcel and bingo and enjoyed a generous raffle. Basingstoke Tappers and Jazz Dance Company provided some wonderful dance and amazing singing followed by a sing along and the lovely voices of Carnival Chorus. Thank you to those that joined in the fun and an even bigger thank you to the Carnival Committee and Helpers.

I would normally now sayWho will be the Royal Family for 2020? Watch this space in the next Basinga. Well no need to wait as we have already held our disco and therefore I have the pleasure of announcing that the **2020 Royal Party** are **Princess - Lotty Vanlint**, 11, **Prince – Angus Haldane**, 9, **Attendant – Ella Kovacs-Czene**, 6 and **Escort – Leonard Cobbett**, 7 and they will join us in the procession at the Carnival on **Saturday 20 June**.

The theme for this year is **“50 Golden Years – anything goes”** – as you have hopefully have heard it's the Carnivals 50th Year and we hope you will come and help us make it the best one ever.

As you will have seen, Rick Bourne and the Royal British Legion Club are kindly holding the **Old Basing Team Skittles** tournament again this year. I am pleased to announce that as this is the carnivals 50th year we will be donating a £200 prize for the winning team. There are a couple of conditions – if you win then and the majority of your team live in the parish then the winning team keep £100 for themselves and then decide which parish association they wish to donate to the remaining £100 to. However, if the team do not reside in the parish (or majority of the team do not) then all £200 to be donated to a parish association of the winning team's choice. Best of luck and thanks again to Rick and the Club for supporting the carnival.

As I reported previously many of the carnival committee will be standing down after the carnival in June, as many of you will know Sandie Rice has been carnival secretary for more years than she will allow me to mention and although she will remain on committee until after this year's carnival Sandie stood down as secretary as of 7th March 2020, I am sure you will join me in thanking her for her (many) years of dedicated service, you will be sadly missed. However, we know where you live and will be asking lots of questions and borrowing things from time to time. We are very lucky that as part of the recruitment drive that Sarah Adams has taken the secretary role over, hence you will see Sarah's details going forward.

Event Notice and Entry Forms will follow as inserts in the Basinga editions that are circulated at the beginning of May and June 2020.

In the meantime, if you are interested in booking a stall, then please complete the slip on page 13 and return to Sarah Adams, Secretary by 1st June 2020, her details also on page 13.

Many thanks

Joe Croombs, Chair - Old Basing Carnival Committee

OldBasingCarnival@outlook.com or **07733 833486** (please note new number)

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- £15 for one standard size tombola or game of chance stall
- £25 for larger spaces
- All payments in advance. Cheques made payable to Old Basing Parish Carnival - please write your name on the back. BACS please quote your invoice number as a reference.
- Access on the day is from 9am
- Own transport (one car/van) can be brought onto the field however if it is not removed by midday it will have to remain onsite until 4.30pm due to health and safety and insurance concerns
- Any other transport will need to be off site by midday and will not be allowed back on site till 4.30pm
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ADVERTISERS NEWS

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We welcome a new local advertiser, Thermoflux, see advert page 41

Submissions to the magazine and website can be made via www.basinga.org.uk using the web forms: Selection for Articles/Letters and Diary Dates will be found on the "Submissions" drop down and for Free and Concession Ads on the "Advertise with us" drop down. Paid advertising enquiries can also be made in the same way.

Submissions made via the forms now provide a common input for both the magazine and website and are automatically routed to the member of the team responsible for processing them. All submission must be received by the 10th of the month (6th in December) previous to the magazine issue month.

If you have trouble finding the forms, you can of course contact us and we will advise.

Our privacy Policy is available to read on the website which includes the new GDPR requirements for publishing photographs.

Contacts for general enquiries and assistance:

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A LOCAL COMMUNITY FACEBOOK GROUP with a sometimes humorous look at the Parish. Not to be taken too seriously but with a community feel. Search "Old Basing and Lychpit parody group" on Facebook. All welcome.

BASINGFIELD COURT: Please join us for our Easter Fair on Sunday 12th April, 2-5pm. Our newly hatched chicks will be ready to handle and we will have lots of activities for children and grown ups. Entry is free, if you would like to set up a craft stall please call 01256 321494 to arrange.

OLD BASING ALLOTMENT AND GARDEN SOCIETY

The allotment shop will be open every Sunday in April from 10.30 to 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.

If all goes to plan then we will be holding our **annual plant sale on Sunday, 17th May**. We would be happy to take donations of any extra seedlings that you have spare. **The shop will be open on Saturday, 16th May to receive any donations.**

Tracy Braybrook

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BASING ROYALS FC



Following the fantastic fundraising efforts of the club before Christmas, Basing Royals FC is now the proud owner of a defibrillator! The news has covered many high-profile footballers who have suffered a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) but a lesser known fact is that 12-14 youngsters die every week from a sudden cardiac arrest – there are no outward signs, no warning and no chance of survival without a defibrillator. So having this piece of kit

is essential for our club and we can't thank everyone enough for their support including the generous customers at Tesco, Chineham at a recent bucket collection!

To support this initiative, the club has also just run a **First Aid course for kids and parents** covering all the essential first aid techniques with hands on practice too. Run by **Mini First Aid** (www.minifirstaid.co.uk), this was a hugely valuable class for all involved. Whilst we're hoping we won't need to use our new defib and skills, as a FA Charter Standard club, we're feeling confident and prepared should the worst happen! Thanks



to the Royal British Legion, Old Basing for use of their hall. To find out more about the local club, please go to www.basingroyalsfc.co.uk.

Kate Fairish

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

Everything is gathering pace for this year's **Village Show** on **Sunday September 6th** at the **Village Hall**. Details for the classes in the Schedule have been decided by the hard working Committee and advertisements are flooding in, so the Schedule will soon be available in local stores.

To give the photographers amongst you, there were 58 entries last year, the subjects for this year:

Clouds over the Parish

All creatures great and small both the above to be 18x13cm

An unframed photograph suitable for Christmas Card mounted on card not more than 30x30cm

To see further details of the Classes, please refer to the Show website: www.oblvs.org.uk

Mark Offord



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Open Evening

Wednesday 6th May 2020
4.30pm – 7.30pm

Year 3 & Reception Taster Day

Friday 1st May 2020
8.45am – 3.30pm

Senior Taster Day (Year 7 2021)

Thursday 14th May 2020
8.45am – 3.30pm



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NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

We open for 2020 on Easter Monday - 13th April. We are then open 11.00am until 4.00pm except on Mondays and Tuesdays, but sometimes we will be open all week – for example the first week of the season. Watch this space and our website.

On the opening day the **Sealed Knot** visit for the first of several events planned to commemorate the 375th anniversary of the fall of the House. This will be a living history event demonstrating life in the Civil War era – not just the battles but how real people lived at the time. In addition to the Civil War displays, the springtime flowers will be out.

The week then continues with a celebration of Springtime, against a background of the springtime flowers that bedeck the 14-acre site.

From the **Tuesday to the Friday** there is **bird feeder making for children** (£2 extra) and this continues over the following weekend when **Hens for Live** visit, bringing adorable chicks for cuddling and handling in the Tudor Great Barn, while they also talk about the best ways to love and care for hens of all ages. Outside, springtime activities continue with experts from charities like the **Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust** and **Butterfly Conservation** Trust exhibiting across the site.

All these April events will feature our new on-site **Bothy Tea Room**, set close to the ruins where tea and cake can be enjoyed in a beautiful setting surrounded by stories of the past.

There are more details (and prices) of these events and others during the summer on the Basing House website www.hampshireculture.org.uk/events?venue=6

We expect soon to announce a major Sealed Knot re-enactment event for the bank holiday weekend at the end of May. Details will be in the next Basinga or sooner on our website.

Andrew Howard 01256 327014

LINGUASTASTIC LANGUAGE SCHOOL

As we reported last month, we were joining many other schools in celebrating **World Book Day**. Well, the literary fun has continued more-or-less right up to this month, as we have joined World Book Day's campaign to "Share a million stories" in one month. Linguatastic's target was to share 630 stories and hopefully by the time you read this, we'll have achieved this. In our **language clubs** at **Old Basing Infants, St Mary's Junior** and **Great Binfields**, we've read stories in French such as "Le loup qui voulait changer sa couleur" and "Bon appétit! Monsieur Lapin" and stories in Spanish such as "Todo por culpa la gata" y "Pollito Tito".

This month is going to be a slightly quieter one, not least because half of it is taken up by the Easter holidays. Before we do break up though, the children will be enjoying some Easter-related games and probably also an egg hunt or two!

But did you know, not all countries have the Easter Bunny hide the eggs? In Australia, it's the Easter Bilby who might come instead! This animal, like the rabbit, has big ears. Sadly, it is endangered, ironically, partly because of rabbits taking over the places where they would usually live!

After the Easter holidays, we are hoping to start a new beginners' Italian class for adults and an Italian "Rhyme-Time"-type activity. e-mail: info@linguatastic.com or telephone **01256 471 474** for details on days and times.

I wonder if you're of an age to remember those BT adverts, fronted by Bob Hoskins, that used to proclaim to us that 'it's good to talk'? It turns out that the campaign started all of 30 years ago, which is plenty enough to make me feel my age!

I certainly remember many an hour spent on the phone in the 1990s, coming home from a day at school with friends, only to spend the evening on the phone to them. Fortunately for my parents' phone bill, we had a package at the time that allowed the first hour of any call to be made for free, and I used to have a stop watch going so I knew when I needed to put the phone down and redial!

Phone calls seem to have gone out of fashion in recent years. We so often arrange meet ups via email or text these days rather than over the phone. At a Governors' meeting at the Junior School recently we were hearing about how children were learning to use maps in their geography lessons. Childhood memories came back of drawing maps for friends to find my house, or giving them directions over the phone before they set out. These days we tend to use Google Maps (other map Apps available too!)

But I'd like to give the telephone a little plug here – and no, this article isn't sponsored by any particular telecommunications company. Recent weeks have seen an increase in anxiety and isolation among members of the community as the coronavirus pandemic has spread across this country and around the world. For many there has been the need over recent weeks to balance the risk to physical health of meeting up with others against the risk to mental health of becoming isolated.

Isolation – lacking the human contact that we all need – can hit any of us at any point in our lives. Global pandemics aren't usually to blame, but illness or infirmity often play their part. Perhaps, and especially if you're having to self-isolate, it might be time to pick up the phone. I wonder who you know, family or friend, who might appreciate someone to talk to at the moment? Is there someone who you know who would appreciate a call so that they feel less alone?



With love and prayers,

Reverend Heather

THIS MONTH AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Wednesdays	Lynsey's Little Stars, 10.00 to 11.15am (term time only).
Saturday 4th April	Men's Breakfast, 8.45am in the Parish Room . If you fancy a full English breakfast do pop along; you'd be most welcome (price: £4).
Sunday 5th April	Palm Sunday Meet at The Jubilee Tree by The Bolton Arms at 9.20am . to process to the church if you would like to.
Holy Week	
Thursday 9th April	Maundy Thursday Service at 7.30pm Eucharist of the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altars & Watch of the Passion
Friday 10th April	Good Friday noon to 1.00pm Silent Prayer, 1.00 to 2.00pm the Last Words of Jesus including reflections and jazz music, 2.00 to 3.00pm liturgy with hymns.
Saturday 11th April	Easter Vigil at 8.00pm
Sunday 12th April	Easter Day Services (8.00am Holy Communion, 9.30am Easter Eucharist) . Please bring a cut flower to dress the Cross if you wish and join us for an Easter Egg Hunt after the 9.30 am service.
Thursday 16th April	Ploughman's Lunches, 12.30pm in the Parish Room . Come along, either on your own or with friends, to enjoy a delicious 3 course Ploughman's Lunch (price: £4)
Sunday 26th April	Annual Parochial Church Meeting at 11.15am followed by lunch.
Monday 27th April	Tea & Talk Café, 2.00 pm in the Parish Room . All welcome, no charge.

WE'D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO ST. MARY'S



Everyone is welcome to join us for our **Sunday services** which take place every Sunday at **8.00am** and **9.30am**.

Please visit www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk for details of all services or visit our Facebook page: St Mary's Old Basing and Lychpit

- There is a children's corner where young children can play and pray.
- During the 9:30 am service, Junior Church meets for primary school age children in the Parish Room.
- After the 9:30 am service refreshments are served in the Parish Room.

CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)



Spring has arrived, 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, 4th April at 10.00am** and **Thursday 23rd April at 2.00pm** – meet in the church lobby. We will complete the final winter conservation tasks. 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 three hours (with a coffee break and chance to relax) and our Thursday afternoons about two hours.

Our **AGM** is on **Monday, 20th April** in **St Mary's Parish Room** at **8.00pm**. We will keep the business short. Then **Margaret** and **Tim Carr** will give their illustrated talk on **"Spring in Arctic Sweden"** showing us the landscape and wildlife, especially the flowers they saw last July. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Conservation Area is a community space for everyone to enjoy. The WI seat is a lovely spot for quiet contemplation. The cowslips are flowering, 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? For further information please ring **Fay Farrant** on **01256 476863**.

Margaret Carr www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

THE MILL FIELD CONSERVATION GROUP



Event News:

To make up for cancelling February's work party due to the excessive mud conditions we will be holding an **extra work party** this month on **Saturday, 18th April**. The sleepers along the lower path that provide an escape route from wading through the mud, need some repairs.

To join us you don't need to book in advance just come along on the day, no special skills are required just appropriate clothes and footwear and we will provide tea, coffee and tools. You will find us on the **lower path** from **10.00am**, the location will be marked on the notice board near the entrance opposite Little Basing.

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 (07974 944439)

Email: millfieldoldbasing@yahoo.co.uk

Facebook: **Mill Field Conservation Group**

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OLD BASING BOWLING CLUB



Do you fancy giving Bowls a try? With summer just around the corner why not try a new sport ?

Lawn green bowls is a popular sport for all ages and abilities played in lovely surroundings at the Old Basing Recreation Ground.

At **Old Basing Bowls Club** we have three **Open Days** at which beginners and interested bowlers are warmly invited to give bowls a try free of charge, see our great club facilities and mix with our friendly club members.

The **Open Days** are on **Saturday, 11th April, Sunday, 12th April and Sunday, 19th April** from **10.00am to 2.00pm**.

We have over 70 members and nearly 20 new members joined last summer alone. You can choose to bowl in a variety of ways – from informal friendly matches, to local league games and competitions right up to County standard. We play through the summer from mid-April to mid-September.



New members benefit from half price membership in their first year and access to free coaching from qualified colleagues. There are many health benefits to outdoor bowling too! We are a friendly and sociable club who continue meeting through the winter months via games evenings, bingo and quizzes. The well-stocked and cheap bar is a further attraction! The Club also arranges an annual residential tour to play other clubs at a seaside location. We would be very pleased to see you at one of our Open Days – you will be sure of

a friendly welcome from our sociable members. Bowls are provided for you to try, though it would be great if you could wear flat soled shoes.

For further information, please contact **Maurice Hockley** on **01256 421867** or check out our website at **www.ldbasingbowlingclub.co.uk**

Malcolm Christian
Chairman, Old Basing Bowling Club

CONCERT IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH

On **Saturday, 18th April at 7.30pm** there will be a concert in aid of church funds by **Harmony Music**. Harmony Music is a wind quintet playing music from the early 19th and 20th century on the Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, French Horn and Bassoon. **Tickets will be £10**. Do come and hear them and support St. Mary's as a centre of the community.

Ian Kershaw



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- Visit the walled garden and learn about Basing House's fascinating history in the museum
- Walk your dog or find a picnic spot

INFORMATION

Play days, visit all year! With your ticket, you can enjoy unlimited visits to Basing House and return as many times as you like for a whole year! See our website for full details, admission prices and opening times.

Re-opens 13 April with the Sealed Knot living history day

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www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house
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OLD BASING SCOUTS AND GUIDES



Thank you to everyone who has supported us in the long journey to build a new hall for Scouting and Guiding in Old Basing. We have had a few setbacks but are set on continuing with our progress. Our online Virgin Money Giving page explains the detail

Charlotte observed that we still have a mountain to climb in fund raising; she is one of our Brownies. She went further to suggest that if we could climb to the height of an ascent to the Summit of Mount Everest that would show that our young people are up for the challenge. **Everest Challenge 2020** will happen at **Fanum House** on **Sunday 17th May**. Please support us via the Event option on Virgin Money Giving page bit.ly/2TPhGQP
For more information please email bpcproject@gmail.com

Andy Molloy

PROBUS - BIRDS AND PLANES



Do many people realise the connection between birds and planes? Stephen Thair, an Old Basing resident, outlined to Probus Club members by combining his dual interests of bird watching and aviation he easily makes the connection between these two flying objects; one ornithological and the other aeronautical.

Many sea birds have aircraft named after them. Gannets dive into the sea at great speed. In the 1950s the Fairey Aviation Company built a high-powered plane used for anti-submarine and a version for airborne early warning surveillance. This was called the Gannet.

Gulls abound throughout the world and appreciating their flight capabilities the Percival Aircraft Company made their Gull series of high-performance light aircraft in the 1930s. The Mew Gull version raced from UK to South Africa and back in 4 1/2 days, a record that stood for seventy years.

Some gliders have gull shaped wings. Famously, although with an inverted gull wing, was the WW2 German Stuka Dive Bomber. A US Navy fighter, the Corsair, had the same wing configuration.

The Lockheed Company made the Blackbird SR 71A spy plane, painted as black as a Blackbird, which could fly at Mach 3 at 85,000 feet. This was reconnaissance prior to the advent of satellites. It was targeted by 1,000 missiles without being hit. Some readers will remember that was different when Gary Powers, in 1960, was shot down over the Soviet Union, in his U2 spy plane.

Britain has one type of Kingfisher although throughout the world there are 86 species. The Museum of the Revolution in Cuba houses a Vought Kingfisher aircraft captured by Fidel Castro's revolutionaries in 1958 and then used against government forces.

Papua New Guinea has 39 varieties of Birds of Paradise, the males having distinctive plumage. Papua New Guineans use the feathers in their head dress which demonstrate their prowess with a bow and arrow.

The RAF Red Arrows display team use a training aircraft, the BAE Hawk, to great acclaim. Stephen commented, "Their previous mount, the Folland Gnat was named after an insect, as were many other planes, but that could be the subject for another talk on another occasion".

Paul Flint

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OLD BASING WI



At our March meeting we were entertained by Dennis Bryant who is a Hampshire poet and raconteur who had us in fits of laughter with some of his poems and jokes, some of which were a little risqué! As it was the Old Basing WI's 101st Birthday, we celebrated as usual with a glass of wine and a piece of homemade cake as well as a cup of tea or coffee.

Other activities this month included a trip to Whitchurch Silk Mill, a visit to "My Fair Lady" at the Haymarket, a trip to the Hampshire WI Meeting in Portsmouth to hear Ben Fogle speak, coffee mornings and lunches and a walk along the Basingstoke Canal at Odiham.

Our **April meeting** takes place on **Tuesday, 7th at 7.30pm** in the **Parish Rooms**. Mr Nigel Knott will be speaking to us about "The Bootleg Years" - experiences from 40 years as a Customs Officer at Dover. The competition that evening is "A Wine Glass". On **14th April** we will also be playing **skittles** and having an **evening meal out**.

For further details about what your local WI is up to please go to the Hampshire WI website at **www.hampshirewi.org.uk** New Members are always very welcome, so do come along and see what we have planned.

Linda Frawley

VILLAGE CAFE

The Village cafe, your local volunteer run community cafe for the community of Old Basing and Lychpit, is open on **Friday afternoons, 2.00 to 4:30pm**, in the **Parish Room**,

Thank you to everyone who came along to our afternoon session on 6th March when we hosted the ever popular Alison's Wonderland pop up shop. We raised over £200 towards the purchase of the AED we are currently fundraising for which is great news. We are well on the way with this very worthwhile project and will hopefully, be in a position to purchase and install in the coming months.

On **3rd April** the cafe will feature an **Easter themed afternoon** with appropriate bakes for the season, please come along and enjoy before our scheduled closure for the following two weeks. **We will reopen on 24th April**.

A reminder that we are organising an **afternoon tea event** on **Friday, 22nd May**, rather than our normal cafe with slightly reduced hours between **2.00 and 4.00pm**. This will be available to prepay and book and we will supply a choice of sandwich fillings to suit all. We are offering this at a set price of £6 per person or £7 for a premium afternoon tea.

In light of the ongoing **Coronavirus** situation, we would like to assure you all that we are, as always, adhering to strict hygiene regulations. In line with NHS England guidelines may we ask that if you are feeling unwell you do not visit the cafe for the safety of yourself and all our customers and volunteers. We are hoping that the current health crisis does not cause the cafe to close for a while but we will follow national guidelines and keep you advised.

If you are local and love to bake or would like to join our family of baristas, please get in touch. We are a friendly bunch who always welcome new volunteers. Contact details are, phone: **07813 186328**, email: **thevillagecafeoldbasing@gmail.com**

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As the weather gets warmer, ladybirds are becoming increasingly active. On sunny days you may see them exploring bushes and flowers in search of aphids, which are a pest for gardeners but a favourite snack for ladybirds. In fact, they like them so much that a single ladybird can eat 5,000 aphids in a year!

There are 46 different species of ladybird in the UK, but the most common is the bright red seven-spot. This cheerful beetle is the one that springs to mind when we think of the classic ladybird in a children's storybook, but ladybirds come in a wide range of colours and patterns.

For more information about Ladybirds read the full article from **HIWWT** in **Basinga Extra**

Ladybird © Alan Price.

CHINEHAM AND OLD BASING NWR

We are lucky enough to have a marvellous singer in our group and for our meeting this month she was kind enough to introduce us to the joys and indeed the many unexpected benefits of singing. Much encouraged by the information that "everyone can sing", we did a few breathing exercises before singing some well know pieces from song sheets provided. Some other members also belong to various choirs and all extolled the virtues of singing, especially in a group. The afternoon was great fun so from a rather nervous and reluctant start we were soon converted, so watch this space for an NWR Choir to be added to the mix!

Our book group are reading *Afterwards* by Rosamund Lupton and our lunch group will meet up for their usual monthly lunch as well as a few trips to the cinema organised by popular demand.

We are a small friendly group, so if you would like to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities to choose from then come along with no obligation to join. We usually meet in the afternoon in each others' homes on the first Monday of the month. A Lunch club meets at various venues on different days of the week and our **book lovers** meet **8.00pm every 4th Thursday**. For more information about NWR look at the website: nwr.org.uk or to find out more about our group. Contact : **Sandie** by email: sandra.tapping@gmail.com or telephone **Karen Dann** Tel: **01256 328488**

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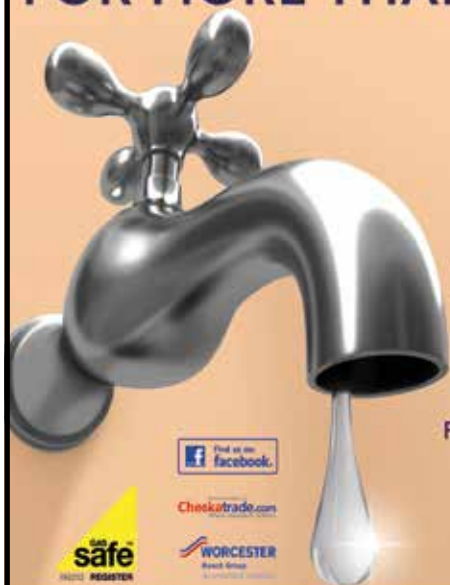


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OLD BASING 50TH CARNIVAL SKITTLES

As you may have read last month and from Carnival Chairman Joe Croombs' notes in this Basinga, the Old Basing team Skittles tournament is being held again during early June, at the Royal British Legion Club, Crown Lane, Old Basing, AND with the added incentive of a possible cash prize .

We are hosting the events on Tuesdays and hope the three planned dates are good for the majority.

The objects:

- 1) Raise money to assist local groups and amenities.
 - 2) Have a beverage
 - 3) Why not enter if you think you're hard enough!
 - 5) Have a lot of fun and build the spirit towards our 50th Carnival on June 20th.
- (But no hand shaking or kissing the opponents to celebrate/commiserate!) Joke.

Entry forms will be available now and here are the dates you should note:

Early rounds to be played on **Tuesdays, 2nd and 9th June**. The **semis** and **final** will be played on **Tuesday, 16th June** at **7.30pm** approx.

Contact **Rick Bourne** on **07900 648675** if you have any questions.

THE IVY CLUB

The Ivy Club is held at the **Royal British Legion Hall, Old Basing** from **1.30 to 4.00pm** every Wednesday afternoon.

If on a Wednesday you want a treat, a cup of tea and nice people to meet, play some bingo and enter a quiz, have a bring and buy and even some keep fit, then The Ivy Club is the place to go. For information and things to know, they are very helpful and kind as well.

If you are lonely and feeling blue and you don't know what to do, there is a place where you can come for a cup of tea as well as a bun. We have some

Outings and places to go and a day at the seaside which is fun, so pop in and see us on a Wednesday afternoon and see how you get on. All welcome.

We primarily cater for the over 60's but if you feel you could spare a couple of hours to help with the running of the club that would be great.

Want to know more then please telephone me on **01256 328196**

Sue Wilson, Chairman

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - WOMENS SECTION

On **Thursday, 23rd April 7.30pm** in the **Jack Morris Hall** at the Royal British Legion, Crown Lane, a **General Meeting** will take place, The meeting will followed by a talk by Rick Bourne, and the Competition this month is **"A wildlife photo"**.

Sue Wilson

NATURE NOTES FOR APRIL

Repeating the country saying about March as 'coming in like a lion and out like a lamb' may not be true this year as its been relatively calm and dry here anyway compared with the drowning we got in February, and there have clearly been very few frosts. In fact, when the sun has come out its felt quite pleasant, so much so that all the daffs are out, trees are blossoming everywhere and Pat Brace in Cavalier Road put a note through my door while I was away saying that a Brimstone butterfly was seen here on 14th February, Valentines day!

Talking of romance, there's been a number of birds pairing up now and Allison Wells in Belle Vue emailed to notify me of Greenfinches swapping food with each other, Wrens eyeing up a nest box, as were a pair of Blue Tits plus two Blackbirds were looking to build again right next to where they successfully bred last year.

I'm waiting for the fun to start here too as I watch a pair of Magpies building their big stick structure near the top of a large conifer in my rear garden, which is also the favourite perch of the Red Kites. I can't wait to see the commotion that'll surely follow when / if the Magpies have eggs or young as they won't tolerate raptors near them, and I doubt very much that the Kites will give up their favourite viewing point!

A few willing and (just) able bodies continued with the stream cleaning near the viaduct last month and we are beginning to see the fruits of our labour with all sorts of debris being found and disposed of. The sunlight can now get into places it couldn't, meaning weed growth might now be encouraged, mud and sticks dragged away to the edges of the stream means the flow can increase which in turn will help flush some of the silt away. If gravel beds can be exposed again then fish and invertebrates that need this to breed upon might return.

You might ask why am I concerned about this? Well, call it a boyhood memory revival if you like. Before Network Rail fenced the stream off and before it was as bad as it now, kids could get into the water and catch sticklebacks, bullheads, frogs and tadpoles from the water and on the embankment and would spend hours in the summer months looking for lizards and slow-worms. The reptiles might well still exist 'up there' but to go and search for them now would of course be trespassing and they're better left alone anyway. But the deteriorating state of the natural spring that held such an abundance of fantastic water creatures is frankly a crime so I'm doing my best, with a lot of help, to try and reverse this. If you agree and want to help, please contact me.

Michael Freer sent me a nice photo of one of a pair of Treecreepers he spied inching around a tree overhanging the Loddon last month. Its quite unusual to get close to these secretive birds and Id have loved to have included the shot of this bird but it just wouldn't show on the thumbnail print that we can print. Regardless, Michael was well pleased with his sighting. So too Laura Haystaff who noted a slight movement in a tree in her Moor View back garden and could just make out the bright orange headstripe of a Goldcrest seeking out insects amongst the foliage. Being Europe's smallest bird these guys need to eat a good percentage of their body weight a day to survive but thankfully this mild winter should mean that their numbers will have been maintained and at the end of this year's breeding season perhaps we will all see more of them.

Rick Bourne

next page

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

Ring **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.

APRIL IN YOUR GARDEN

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 them 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.

DIARY DATES FOR APRIL

For details of services and events at St Mary's Church see *pages 23 and 24*

Wed 1	10.00am – noon	Civil Service Retirement Fellowship talk. Brookvale
Thu 2	7.45pm	for 8.00pm. RBL Branch Meeting in Jack Morris Hall
Fri 3	10.30am – noon	Ladies' first Friday Coffee Morning. 49 Saxon Way.
	2.00pm – 4.30pm	Village Cafe in Parish Room - Easter Theme
Sat 4	10.00am – 1.00pm	PIOCC Working Party
Sun 5	10.30am – noon	OBAGS Shop open in Riley Lane
Tue 7	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Old Basing Methodist Church - Craft Workshop
	7.30pm	Old Basing WI in Parish Room, The Bootleg Years.
Wed 8	7.45pm	BDRS Talk. Paris 'Metro' Wote - St. Club, Basingstoke
Fri 10	2.30pm	Old Basing Methodist Church - Good Friday Reflections

6.00pm Deadline for May Basinga copy to Editor - see page 3

Sat 11	10.00am – 2.00pm	Old Basing Bowls Club Open Day see page 26
Sun 12	10.00am – 2.00pm	Old Basing Bowls Club Open Day see page 26
	10.30am – noon	OBAGS Shop open in Riley Lane
Mon 13	11.00am – 4.00pm	Basing House Opens. See page 21
Tue 14	noon – 3.00pm	Old Basing Methodist Church - MHA Lunch Club
Sat 18	10.00am – 1.00pm	The Mill Field Conservation Group Working Party
	7.30pm	Harmony Music Concert in St. Mary's Church
Sun 19	10.00am – 2.00pm	Old Basing Bowls Club Open Day see page 26
	10.30am – noon	OBAGS Shop open in Riley Lane
Mon 20	8.00pm	PIOCC AGM. St. Mary's Parish Room
Tue 21	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Old Basing Methodist Church - Craft Workshop
Wed 22	7.45pm	BDRS Talk - Maurice Dean, photographer. Wote St.
Thu 23	2.00pm – 4.00pm	PIOCC Working Party
	7.30pm	RBL Womens Section general Meeting + Rick Bourne
Fri 24	2.00pm – 4.30pm	Village Cafe reopens after Easter Break. Parish Room
Sun 26	10.30am – noon	OBAGS Shop open in Riley Lane
	10.30am	Old Basing Methodist Church _ Annual Church Meeting
Tue 28	2.30pm – 3.30pm	Old Basing Methodist Church - Prayer and Reflection

BASINGA EXTRA

*Articles for which we could not find space can be accessed on **www.basinga.org.uk***

<i>Blues Club</i>	<i>Basingstoke and District Disability Forum</i>	<i>Divorce Recovery</i>
<i>Civil Service Retirement Fellowship</i>	<i>Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust</i>	
<i>I-Volunteer</i>	<i>Probus (II)</i>	<i>Rotary Club BDRS St. Michael's Hospice</i>

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● OLD BASING & LYCHPIT PARISH COUNCIL

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● CHURCH INFORMATION FOR THE AREA

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Email: vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk 07745 731729

ADMINISTRATOR: Debbie Filer 07541 698235

CHURCHWARDENS: Tricia Renwick 01256 326155

Ian Kershaw 01256 355500

Regular Services at St Mary's Church, Old Basing

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

OTHER DAYS: Wednesday 10am Holy Communion

*Changes to the regular service pattern and other weekday services are shown
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07973195566

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Lychpit
Community Hall

Relax Yoga

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Tuesday's

19.15 - 20.15

St Mary's
Church Hall,
Old Basing

Sunday Morning Yoga

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Sunday's

09.15 - 10.15

Lychpit
Community Hall

Sunday Night Satsang

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1st Sunday

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Lychpit
Community Hall



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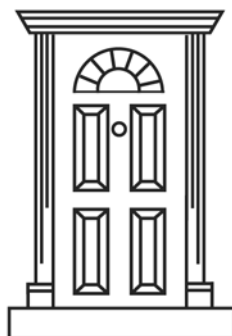
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