

April 2021

BASINGA



Geese on the Loddon by Andrew Stoker



Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Magazine
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APRIL NOTES AND NEWS

The **cover photo** this month is: **Geese on the Loddon** taken by **Andrew Stoker**.

We are very please to announce **Junior Basinga** as part of our **Basinga Extra** website. See page 4 for details and how to access. We look forward to printing photos and articles from our younger readers soon.

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 **6pm on Saturday, 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 website. **Don't forget that we only accept articles with about a 300 word maximum and articles are only published at the Editor's discretion.**

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. We now have a web form that you can use 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**' menu. Should you wish to submit multiple photos, or a photo is too 'large', they can be emailed directly to the **Editor**.

This feature should **NOT** be used for Free Ads or article photos, which can be attached to their own forms. We welcome **club** and **society logos**, with the option to use them within articles. Please send graphics to **editor@basinga.org.uk**

SITUATION VACANT – BASINGA ADVERTISING MANAGER

Our **Advertising Manager** has retired and we are therefore looking for a replacement. The volunteer role covers the administration of advertisers' enquiries (not selling) through to ordering and liaison with other members of the production team who place the advertisements into the magazine and website. The candidate should be familiar with the Word and Excel for record. Full handover training will be given. If you're interested or would like further information email **advertising@basinga.org.uk**

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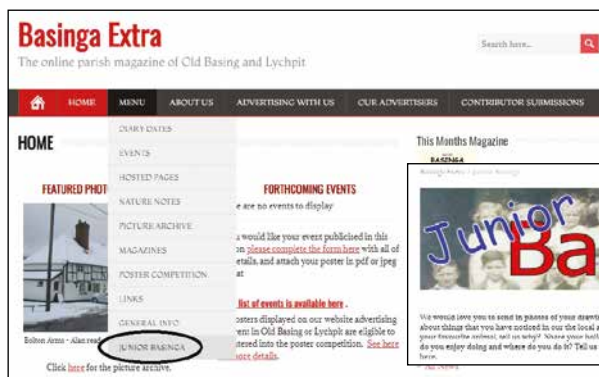
Brenda Turner has been delivering the "Basinga" for over 18 years. Unfortunately, she is no longer able to do this; many thanks to Brenda for all her effort. Is anybody able to take over the monthly task of delivering the 51 copies of the Basinga to the residents of Badgers Bank? If so, please telephone **Andree McLean**, the Lychpit area Distribution Leader on **01256 819006**.

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Basinga Extra website has introduced a new **Junior Section**. Youngsters, being far more tech-savvy than their grandparents, or even their parents, can have the chance to upload and share their successes, interests and observations.

You can submit photographs that you have taken, especially those from around the village (but not exclusively). You can upload pictures of any art and craft work that you have created, either on your own, with friends or as part of a group you belong to. And for those budding reporters out there, tell and show everyone about anything that you find interesting or are passionate about, including photos if appropriate. We will publish some of your entries in the **printed Basinga** from time to time as well so keep your eyes open for a different point of view. All we ask is that the work is your own, that you are happy to share it with anyone and you have your parents' or guardian's support in doing so.

To find the Junior Section, use **www.basinga.org.uk** follow the **MENU** dropdown and click on **JUNIOR BASINGA** at the bottom to get started.



OLD BASING WI



At our March Members' meeting, again held on Zoom, we welcomed Liz Barron OBE from the New Forest. Liz talked to us about her Granny who was born in China in 1892 and who lived a fascinating life there until 1936 when she came to live in Bridgewater, Somerset, where she joined the WI. Liz had transcripts of the talks that her Granny had given from that time to the ladies of Bridgewater, describing a life and a country that must have seemed completely alien to people in war time Britain.

Our next meeting will be held on **Zoom** on **Tuesday, 6th April**, immediately after the Bank Holiday when we will be welcoming **Ryland Lee** who will be talking to us about one of the local charities that he is connected with.

Future events planned include our **AGM** on **Tuesday, 4th May**, and our **Summer Sale** at the **Lychpit Village Hall** on **Saturday, 12th June**.

Just a reminder to Members that your annual subscription is due this month. Full details of how you can pay can be found in your March Newsletter. Details of the WI in Hampshire and other WI activities can be found at **www.hampshirewi.org.uk**

If you would like to join our long running and thriving group please contact our President **Sue Stewart** by email at **oldbasingpres@hampshirewi.org.uk**

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PARISH FACILITIES

From **29th March** outdoor activities such as Tennis and other organised sports can be resumed and we look forward to seeing our recreation ground busy with the return of the Archery Club and the start of the cricket and bowling season in addition to the Tennis Club making full use of the newly resurfaced courts. Hopefully we will have good weather to allow everyone to enjoy what the recreation ground has to offer, but please remember that barbecues should not be held on the recreation ground.

From **Monday, 12th April** we will be able to re-open Lychpit Community Hall for certain children's groups and from **Monday, 17th May** adult exercise and other groups can return, provided there is no change to the current Government timetable.

FOOTPATH 20 (BARTONS MILL TO SWING SWANG LANE)

A lot of work has been carried out along this footpath to shore up the riverbank and fill in the areas eroded to make it safer and we were pleased that the Hampshire County Council contractors listened to our request that a pathway remained open to enable parents and children to walk to and from school whilst the work was being carried out. This is another successful outcome along with the Milkingpen Lane Bridge drainage works and the footpath between Crown Lane and Church Lane, achieved with support from our County Councillor, Elaine Still.

LAND AT BROADHURST GROVE, LYCHPIT

Many will have read articles in the press and seen television commentary about the green space in Broadhurst Grove. Resident Sheena Grassi has reported (*page 10*) in more detail on the ongoing efforts to protect this space from development and the Parish Council is fully supportive of the residents' campaign.

PARISH COUNCIL LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

As reported on a previous occasion, the Parish Council is part of the County Council-funded Lengthsman Scheme. This was introduced a few years ago to supplement work carried out by the County or Borough Councils, mainly related to clearing footpaths, trimming overhanging trees, cleaning signs etc. We keep a list of areas that have been reported to us or that we are aware of through our own use, but with so many people regularly walking there may footpaths or other areas we have not considered, so if you use a footpath that is regularly overgrown or know of work that may qualify please let us know. Our first Lengthsman visit this year was in February when they did a very good job of clearing the bin area at the Lychpit Centre. It is therefore likely the next visit will be in the Autumn.



PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next meeting dates are **Tuesday 6th April** and **4th May at 7.30 pm**. Meetings continue to be held via Zoom – anyone wishing to join a meeting should contact the Office.

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

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

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BROADHURST GROVE / SAXON WAY OPEN SPACE

The short history of Broadhurst Grove and Saxon Way is an interesting one; at the time of building there was collaboration between Old Basing Community the developer and their designer. The biodiversity of the area, which was ahead of it time, won an award at the Ideal Home Exhibition in London. The builders were David Estate Southern Ltd. The houses are nestled within and surrounded by several different types of trees and ancient hedgerow. The open spaces, biodiversity corridors and pathways were integrated within the estate to enable the deer, foxes, hedgehogs and birds to move about safely.



On 1st May last year we had disturbing news about an upcoming auction on 21st May in order to sell the land in Broadhurst Grove and Saxon Way. We were disbelieving at first as we thought it belonged to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council as they had been maintaining the area for 40 years; cutting grass, maintaining shrubs and planting trees. On making enquiries we found out that it still belonged to the original builders. The Council should have transferred the Land from Open Space to Public Open Space as part of the Section 52 agreement. Sadly this never happened and 40 years later the situation became apparent. Naturally we are all very worried, especially as we were in the middle of a pandemic, but you can draw your own conclusion on the timing of this sale; opportunistic springs to mind.

We informed the residents and raised the money to purchase the land but two days before the auction we were advised not to bid by our solicitor. He was given this information by the Council's legal team; section 52 would be enforced by them. We decided not to proceed because of the advice given. The auction went ahead and to our dismay the land was sold for just under £16,000, despite correspondence from the Council, clearly indicating their intentions to enforce the Section 52, which we now know is unlikely to be successful. The residents can't quite believe that this catastrophic mistake happened. But we, who are dedicated and formidable, will continue campaigning to protect the beautiful open space in Lychpit for the benefit of the community.

Thanks to Cllr Onnalee Cubitt, Cllr Sven Godesen, the Parish Council, The Basingstoke Gazette and Joe Campbell (South Today) for giving us so much support. Special appreciation goes to Cllr Gillian Moore and the 'Protect The Land' group.

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We thank those of our staff giving up their spare time to work at the centre, together with all the other local practices and volunteers who are all pulling together to get this crucial vaccine administered to the patients in our community.

A vaccination programme of this size and scale will take some time to roll out in full and no two practices are the same so some might be going at a slightly different pace than others. This may be due to size and/or number of patients in different age groups or the number with underlying health issues.

Please rest assured that everyone who needs the vaccine WILL be offered it. We are working through an agreed process as best we can and as fast and fairly as possible. Just because your friend/neighbour or relative has had one, you may feel frustrated or worried that you haven't been contacted yet but please be patient – including those waiting to hear about their 2nd jab....we will be in touch!

If you don't want to wait to be offered an appointment at the Hampshire Court Hotel, eligible patients can book their first vaccination appointment at the Basingstoke Fire Station or Superdrug in the town centre quickly and easily via the NHS website at www.nhs.uk

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These are very challenging times for everyone but please act reasonably and treat your GP and practice staff politely. As a practice we are working hard to support you and your family with your health needs and we remain grateful for all the support we have received so far from our patients.

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**Whether you have had your vaccination or not, please remember
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BASINGA EXTRA

We were not able to include every article that was sent to us this month, these are available on our website: www.basinga.org.uk

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EU Settlement information from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

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ADVERTISERS NEWS

Welcome to Optimum Estate Agents on page 2 and Tile & Stone Revival on page 8.

We ask for submissions to the magazine and website to 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 Ads and Concession/Poster Ads on the “Advertise with us” drop down. Paid advertising enquiries can also be made from the same dropdown menu.

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 submissions 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 GDPR requirements for publishing photographs.

Contacts for general enquiries and assistance:

Paid Advertising - advertising@basinga.org.uk

Magazine and Website - editor@basinga.org.uk

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Event News:

To make up for all the missed work parties this winter we are holding an extra one this month on **Saturday, 10th April**: The sleepers along the lower path that provide an escape route from wading through the mud, need some repairs.

If you would like to come along can you email me as we need to manage the groups in line with Covid restrictions, **no** special skills are required but you need to bring your own gloves and refreshments. **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

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Please be aware of our **Hands – Face – Space** policy when entering the shop; the latest 'rules' will be on display on the front door as you enter.

Visit **www.charity.ebay.co.uk** and search for **Odiham Cottage Hospital**. We very much look forward to welcoming back inside very soon.

Maria Bryant

LINGUASTASTIC LANGUAGE SCHOOL



We are of course all hoping that not too long after the time of publication, the country will be able to enter Stage 2 of the government's roadmap. This would mean that some of our children's classes could potentially start up again face-to-face. At the time of writing, we are in the process of considering what format such classes would take and so cannot yet provide detailed information.

Please consult our **Facebook** page (search: **LinguaTastic**) for our latest news.

Unfortunately, our German, Spanish, French and Italian classes for adults probably won't be meeting again face-to-face until September, but the learners continue to make good progress online.

So, we all hope that the nation's (indeed the world's) health situation continues to improve and that by the end of the year we'll be back to face-to-face interactions and being able to embrace our loved ones. In the meantime, maybe Finland's little Easter witches can help us on their way?

On Holy Saturday (Western Finland) and Palm Sunday (Eastern Finland), children dress up as little witches. They dress colourfully, put scarves on their heads and paint freckles on their cheeks. In normal times, the little witches go from door to door with pussy willow twigs which they have decorated with colourful feathers. If the neighbours open up, the children will recite a blessing poem "Virvon, varvon, tuoreeks terveeks, tulevaks vuodeks; vitsa sulle, palkka mulle.", which broadly translates as "I'm wishing you a fresh, healthy upcoming year, a branch for you, a prize for me!" And of course, usually they are presented with a little chocolate egg or coin!

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CHINEHAM & OLD BASING NATIONAL WOMENS REGISTER

The National Women's Register (NWR) exists to provide mentally stimulating meetings, activities and events across the country. If you would like to meet other women to share and explore thoughts, ideas and experiences, then NWR could be for you. Nationally there are 380 groups; each one is run according to what suits the local members. **Chineham and Old Basing NWR** meet on the first **Monday at 2pm**, currently by **Zoom**. We continue to flourish despite Covid restrictions and new members have joined us. For our early March meeting we discussed newspaper Good News Stories to uplift us all during these weird times. They included the National Trust planting cherry blossom trees, rescuing of whales, the use of obsolete telephone kiosks as village book swap locations and Banksy-style artwork appearing on the walls of Reading Prison. Later in March we learned about the work of the Air Ambulance, and in April will talk about our Saturday jobs when we were at school.

We look forward to restarting our lunches out and having proper face-to-face meetings. The **Book Group** continues to meet monthly by **Zoom** on a **Thursday evening**. The very proactive NWR Head Office has arranged access to theatrical productions, and dozens of Zoom talks and quizzes, all included in our £25 annual subscription.

If you enjoy lively conversation and broadened horizons whilst having fun and meeting people (according to the current guidance on social contact) please look at the website **www.nwr.org.uk** or contact **Karen** via **karen.dann@gmail.com** or telephone her on **01256 328488** for a chat. If the thought of Zooming with strangers daunts you then don't worry - you can just listen in for a couple of meetings if you don't want to talk or appear on the grid of participants.

Sandie Tapping

CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)



Until further notice there will be **no Working Parties** due to the Covid19 Lockdown, however, we hope that with the easing of restrictions they will resume soon. After what has seemed a long winter, at long last spring has arrived, the early flowers blooming and the birds are singing as they start nesting. Hopefully they are taking up residence in our nest boxes. If you would like to sponsor a nest box please contact **Tim Carr**, email: **tim@tmcarr.net** for a sponsor form.

The Conservation Area is a community space for all to enjoy. It remains open for everyone to enjoy, but please remember to adhere to the latest coronavirus guidelines, take care and stay safe. The cowslips are flowering giving quite a show and the spring butterflies on the wing. These include Peacocks, Brimstones, Small Tortoiseshells, Red Admirals, Holly Blues, Speckled Woods and Orangetips, all of which can be seen in the Conservation Area if you are lucky on a sunny spring day.

For further information please ring **Fay Farrant** on **01256 476863**.

Margaret Carr

www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

EASTER

Over the past few months we have seen the seedbed of hope that lies in our dark earth start to spring forth. First the snowdrops, then the crocuses, and now the daffodils find their way above ground and bring joy to those who see them. There is also as I write a tangible sense of hope in the air with the pace of the vaccine roll-out and the gradual lifting of restrictions – the hope that very soon we will be able to meet loved ones again.

Soon we will celebrate the great Christian festival of Easter. We will hear again that hopeful story of a love so great that it triumphs over death. Easter is a hopeful and joy-filled celebration.

However, in the moments before the resurrected Jesus appears once again to the disciples, there is a great deal of fear and anxiety. The disciples hide away from the world, fearing arrest, their whole world collapsing with the death of Jesus. Easter is always a celebration that holds these two parts of the story in tension; the fear and the eventual, overwhelming hope and joy.

Much like that first Easter there is, amidst the hope that we feel, a great deal of anxiety and fear for the future. No one knows for certain what the future of the pandemic holds; all we can do is keep playing our part in keeping one another safe. In many ways the timing of Easter feels very apt this year, as it offers us a story, a space where fear and hope are held side by side.

Of course, the Easter story moves from darkness into extraordinary hope, and so I pray that as we approach and celebrate Easter this year, may we continue to notice the signs of hope in the beauty of nature that surrounds us. And may we know that Jesus is with us, holding us in our times of fear and filling us with hope.

The words of Desmond Tutu sum up that Easter hope well:

Goodness is stronger than evil;

Love is stronger than hate;

Light is stronger than darkness;

Life is stronger than death

Victory is ours through him who loves us.



May I wish you all a very happy Easter.

With love,

Reverend Heather

We are really pleased to be able to move some of our services back into church from **Monday, 29th March**. Attendance at any service in church must be pre-booked. We also realise how valuable worshipping at home has been for some, and will continue to live-stream services. In addition some services remain online only for now. We would love you to join us as we journey together through **Holy Week** and **Easter** together this year.



Sunday 28th March, 9.30am	Palm Sunday service (Online)
Monday 29th March, 7.45pm	Compline (In church and online)
Tuesday 30th March, 7.45pm	Stations of the Cross (on Zoom)
Wednesday 31st March, 10am	Holy Communion service (In church and online)
Wednesday 31st March, 7.45pm	Taize Prayer (on Zoom)
Thursday 1st April, 7.45pm	Maundy Thursday service (In church and online)
Friday 2nd April, 2 to 3pm	Good Friday service (Online)
Saturday 3rd April, 7.45pm	Easter Vigil (In church and online)
Sunday 4th April, 8am	BCP Holy Communion service (In church)
Sunday 4th April, 9.30am	Family Communion service (In church and online)

For services in church please pre-book by contacting Debbie on **07541 698235** or via email to **admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk**

For the **Zoom code** for services, please contact Debbie.

Our online services can be found live on our **Facebook** page '**St Mary's Old Basing and Lychpit**' and are later uploaded to our YouTube Channel.

Individual Prayer: The Church continues to be open for individual prayer **daily** from **10am to 4pm** and **Sundays 11.30am to 4pm**. **Please continue to wear a facemask in the church.**

We continue to pray for the parish, the country and the world. Over the course of a month we pray for every street in the parish. If you have any prayer requests you can contact **Reverend Heather**: text or call **07745 731729**.

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Our **Annual Church Meeting** takes place on **Sunday, 25th April** following on from the 9.30am service. At this meeting the election of churchwardens takes place as well as the election of representatives to St Mary's Parochial Church Council, who oversee the governance of St Mary's. All are welcome, however we request that you pre-book by contacting Debbie, telephone: **07541 698235**. The meeting will be live-streamed via Zoom.

continued on page 24

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Every Friday we send out a bulletin with information about what is happening at the church. If you would like to be added to our distribution list please email Debbie at:

admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

We are also able to hand deliver bulletins to those without internet access. Please phone **Debbie** on **07541 698235** if you would like one.

BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK – THANK YOU

A huge thankyou to everyone who is supporting the Foodbank at this time. The donations via the box on the driveway at The Vicarage totalled an amazing 202Kg in February. The Foodbank is trying to keep the numbers of visitors to their warehouse to a minimum, therefore, please do continue to drop items off to The Vicarage (located on the corner of Church Lane and Milkingpen Lane) or one of the other local collection points: the Co-op on Linden Avenue, and Tesco at Chineham. For a list of items that are in particular short supply please visit **www.basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk**

SUPPORT DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

DO CONTACT US IF YOU NEED HELP IF SELF-ISOLATING

St Mary's continues as a local hub working with Basingstoke Voluntary Action and Basingstoke Council for those needing support at this time, whether that be in terms of practical help such as shopping and the collection of prescriptions or if you are feeling isolated and would welcome a friendly phone call. Please contact **Rev'd Heather** directly on **07745 731729** or email **basinghub@gmail.com**

REV'D ALISON PARKER

The people of the Methodist Church at Old Basing would like to express our gratitude for the lovely tribute paid to Rev'd Alison Parker by Rev'd Heather in the March edition.

They would also like to thank people for all the personal messages received.



We would like to add our own tribute to Alison, recognising the same qualities in her that Rev'd Heather expressed so well. To those of us who were privileged to know Alison through a number of years it was her joyousness; her smile; her thoughtful care; her depth of commitment; her closeness to God; her treasuring of prayer; her creative, flexible approach to every aspect of her life and work; her sense of humour; her positive, can-do outlook; her approachability; her listening; her humanity; her warmth, that were essential elements in the considerable inspiration of her whole life, that we, too, will recall with great gratitude.

Her sudden death rippled like a shockwave throughout the Basingstoke and Reading Methodist Circuit and especially among those who had been privileged to know her as their minister.

Like Heather I knew Alison as a close and supportive colleague.

Please remember in prayer her family, her parents, sisters and brother, and particularly her husband, Michael, their children Chris and Emma (her husband Spencer) and grandson Leo.

Rev'd. David Jenkins

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PROBUS HEARS ABOUT COMMUNIST CZECHOSLAVIA

Prague, capital of today's Czech Republic, is a popular tourist destination. Few western tourists were seen forty years ago when Probus Club member, Paul Flint, became a regular visitor over the following twelve years.



Czechoslovakia was part of the Eastern Bloc controlled by the Soviet Union. The 1968 Prague Spring, led by Alexander Dubcek, was overwhelmed by Warsaw Pact troops as protection against imagined invasions by NATO.

Democracy started in late 1989 with the Velvet Revolution, led by playwright Vaclav Havel when 73,000 Russian troops departed. At Prague airport it proved that money had been exchanged on the black market. Many goods

were seized and any Czech Crowns confiscated. Special shops had western goods that could only be bought with hard currency – no questions asked.

Meetings in Prague were with a trading house, my company being their UK-venture partner for selling and servicing Czechoslovak-made printing presses. European dealer meetings were held at the factory near to Brno, in the south of the country. To entertain their guests, trips were made to glass engravers and vineyards which produced some excellent wines and champagne-style products.

Once we collected a rental car from Vienna airport and drove to Brno. One day we were stopped by a Russian soldier aiming a machine gun. Fortunately, we had with us a lady from the trading company who spoke Russian, but I wondered what might have happened to us if we had been on our own. Representatives from the manufacturers and trading company visited the UK annually. Despite being forbidden for them to be entertained we saw many West End musicals and dined well.

There was substantial investment by western companies in businesses with the most well-known being the takeover of Skoda by Volkswagen. As the owner of two Skoda cars over the last six years I can certify their reliability and quality. The Velvet Revolution worked.

www.probusbasingstoke.club

BASINGSTOKE AND DISTRICT RAILWAY SOCIETY

With 'live' meetings cancelled for the last 12 months we have arranged a series of monthly, hour-long, online presentations on railway subjects for Society members. These sessions have been valuable social occasions for many of our members and we have enjoyed presentations by our own members and by a variety of outside speakers. The next one is at **7.45pm on Wednesday, 28 April**, topic yet to be decided. We do not yet know how soon we will be able to meet safely again at the Wote Street Club, but when restrictions are removed we will reschedule many of the presentations that we have missed.

If you are interested in seeing these presentations, do join the Society and be ready for when we are able to resume our regular meetings. For more information, please keep an eye on our website at www.bdrs70d.com or telephone **01256 331002**.

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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

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Our Great Binfields School community hopes that everyone continues to keep safe and well during these unsettling but more hopeful times. Our community continues to blow me away with their support, generosity and commitment to our children and staff. Thank you to you all.

Our teaching and support staff have over the past few months thrown themselves into a full-on Remote Education Learning Plan as well as teaching a much larger number of key worker and vulnerable children this lockdown in school. Both groups of children are rightly receiving the same full curriculum entitlement for all subjects with a huge emphasis on wellbeing throughout too.

We ensure our children learning at home can access this remote package effectively through well-thought out adaptations. Our children have had a mix of mostly recorded, some live sessions and rich activities via our online learning platform. It has been wonderful to see the imagination from both staff and children in their learning (our teachers and learning



support assistants have had to contend with steep learning curves too!) over the past number of weeks and I am truly in awe of their creations. It has been incredibly important to us to work hard to maintain a wide variety of learning experiences for our children at home and in school as well as maintaining high standards of English and Maths Learning – introducing lots of new content as well as consolidating previously taught concepts.

Here is just a snippet of what the children have been up to:

Making small scale volcanoes erupt in EYFS;

Pop art in the style of Andy Warhol in Year 1;

Narnia themed baking in Year 2;

Composing music using household items and dancing/drawing/painting to various styles of music throughout the school;

Listen to Me Music with Hampshire music Service for Year 3;

The Great Wave by Hokusai inspired art in Year 4;

Mummifying dolls to learn about The Egyptians in Year 5;

Making a house for Lilliputian from *Gulliver's Travels* as part of a book focus in Year 6

Forest School Friday

We are now extremely excited to have everyone together again on the 8th March – our GBP family back in school. It just isn't the same when we can't hear 420 children's chatter and laughter. Our staff team are resolute in their determination to continue to work tirelessly to ensure our children remain inspired and enthused to learn as well as most importantly, making sure they are safe and happy.

Jules Rogers, Headteacher

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MARIE CURIE CARE

Firstly, thank you very much for your tremendous support last March, 2020. Despite all, we managed to raise an amazing **£500.23** at the Chineham Shopping Centre before we were all forced to lock down. I hope you all managed to stay safe.

Usually, the **Great Daffodil Appeal** would be happening now; this is the main Marie Curie Care fundraising event of the year. It raises much-needed funds to provide nursing for seriously ill people in their home, unfortunately, they are unable to provide nurses in the Basingstoke area. This year Marie Cure Care have had to cancel the collections but would be very grateful if you could consider one or more of the following:

Ordering a Daffodil pin badge by emailing daffodils@mariecurie.org.uk

Display a Daffodil in your window;

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For further details contact **Sally Sansom** by email sally.sansom@mariecurie.org.uk

MINDFUL MUSIC

Mindful Music is a small community group, established in 2017, to provide weekly singing sessions aimed at those living at home with dementia and their carers.

The songs we sing are many and varied; new and exciting plus old favourites, incorporating harmonies and small movements. Each themed session is designed to enhance physical and emotional well-being.

We recognise the impact of loneliness, plus the frustrations and lack of stimulation often associated with this cohort of our society, not to mention the resulting affect this has on their carers. The publicised effects of music on the brain are regularly observed, leaving us with a smile on face, a song whirling in our head, and looking forward to the next week.

Covid 19 has meant us evolving to online sessions using the Zoom application but it is hoped to be able to resume in person sessions when restrictions are eased. Currently there is space for newcomers and a Taster Session is being offered for anyone who thinks they would benefit from their services. For more information or to book a Taster Session, contact susanmmkcg@btinternet.com or telephone **07580 621104**.

Susan Shapland

PLAY CROQUET

Croquet: six hoops, four balls, a mallet and a patch of grass. Sounds easy enough?

However croquet is a game of skill and strategy, angles, tactics and guile. A bit like snooker on grass. It is enjoyable at all levels and you don't need to be an athlete to play it.

There is now an excellent facility in Basingstoke with a top class lawn and a cosy clubhouse.

If you would like to give it a try get in touch with us via the contact form on our website. Equipment will be provided, just wear casual comfortable clothes and flat shoes. There is no charge for an initial tryout. While you are waiting we have some excellent training videos on the website well worth a look. We are based in **St Andrews Road** in **South Ham**, please see our website for more information: www.basingstokecroquet.co.uk

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What is a nature reserve?

If you've ever visited a nature reserve, you'll know how special they can be. Nature reserves are treasure troves of wildlife wonders, often hosting exciting rarities which have sadly become uncommon in the wider landscape. They enrich our lives, are essential for wildlife, and form part of our natural heritage.

The Wildlife Trusts collectively put a great deal of time and resource into protecting the rich and diverse habitats in our nature reserves – part of our effort to create a thriving natural world. By caring for these unique, ecologically valuable sites we safeguard them, and the wildlife that depends on these places, for the future.

The Wildlife Trusts manage around 2,300 nature reserves across the UK, ranging from an entire mountain in Scotland to a single ancient hawthorn tree in Norfolk. Locally, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust manage over 50 nature reserves, including expansive moorlands, ancient forests, stretches of coastline, wildflower meadows, and small patches of wildness in urban areas.



In our nature reserves wildlife is the top priority. You may notice that they differ from your standard country park, in some cases certain areas may be closed to the public, or dogs might not be allowed or have to be kept on leads. Some species are highly sensitive to disturbance – if you see a 'no entry' sign, it could be because ground-nesting birds, vulnerable to trampling, are just beyond. If we ask for dogs to be kept on leads, it might be that wetland birds are roosting nearby, or cattle are grazing.

Our Reserves Officers are responsible for looking after the sites in the Trust's care. They are experts in their field, and they manage their reserves sensitively to benefit specific species or improve habitats. Sometimes, old-fashioned methods like coppicing and hay cutting are employed, or conservation grazing takes place to encourage certain plants. This will often be explained in signage as you enter the nature reserve.

We want all our nature reserves to reach their full potential, so while you're walking in them and enjoying the wildlife, take note of any signs you see, and encourage those you're with to behave responsibly. With the cooperation and support of local communities, our nature reserves can create invaluable opportunities for wildlife, and people, to flourish.

To find out more about our nature reserves visit: hiwwt.org.uk/nature-reserves

Claire Thorpe

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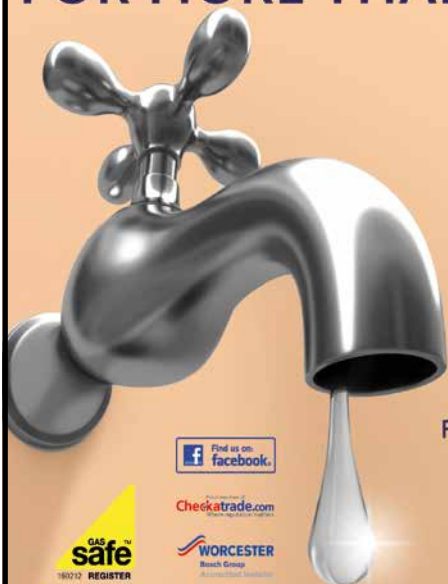
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RBL ARMED FORCES / GOOD OLD BASINGS GOLF DAYS

Without wishing to tempt fate, I have begun to plan the 'usual' golf events for the Parish for the up-coming summer, assuming we can hopefully return to a bit of normality!

The former-titled golf day above is pencilled in for **Monday, 28th June at Sherfield Oaks Wellington** course, a venue that is now in new ownership and where a significant amount of investment has taken place over the past 12 months despite the lockdown.

It might be exciting therefore to see the improvements and the new clubhouse and I'd therefore like to invite you to join this fundraising day out, meeting old friends and new in the process. Meantime, I'd welcome any expressions of interest from you intending to play, sent to me by phone/text or on the email address below.

The second golf day is the **Good Old Basing Parish** event, planned for **Thursday or Friday 16th/17th September**, playing for the perpetual trophy on the **Waterloo** course and giving the winner chance to nominate his or her favourite charity for any proceeds to be sent. Details and entry forms for both these events will be available from next month when we should be a little more certain that we can proceed.

Rick Bourne, tel: **07900 648675** email: **rickbourne@yahoo.com**

NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

Although this is the time of year when one would expect Basing House to reopen to the public it remains closed and will remain so for the whole of April. At the moment plans are being drawn up for a reopening in May and obviously full details of these will appear in the May Basinga.

Basing House is so well enclosed, by garden walls, fortifications and all sorts of other earthworks dating back to Norman times that nobody will be able to see the tulips, deliberately planted for our first **Tulip Festival** that should have taken place last Easter. Similarly the annual blooming of our primroses and cowslips will go unnoticed, although a few yellow patches may be visible on the banks if you look carefully from afar.

Here's hoping that I can bring better news next month.

Andrew Howard, tel: **01256 327014**

OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

The **Schedule of Classes** is now available on the Village Show website, see below. Now is the time to start thinking about what **YOU** are going to enter the Village Show this year, don't forget that this will be the only event of its type to take place in Old Basing this year.

So if you are a gardener, allotment holder, flower arranger, cook, artist, embroider, cake maker, wine maker, photographer or child prodigy get cracking on what **YOU** will enter the Show this year.

The **printed Schedule** will be available as soon as the Committee are sure that the Show will go ahead as scheduled on **Sunday, 5th September**.

Mark Offord

APRIL IN YOUR GARDEN

“April is the cruellest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain”, according to T S Eliot in *The Waste Land*.

I don't know about the cruellest, April is the busiest time in the garden, but you shouldn't panic, tackle one job at a time and you'll get it all done. Remember to take time to enjoy this most precious of months. If we are blessed with fine weather spend some time out to sit in the sun and admire any colour you have in the garden. While you are sitting there no need to be totally idle, take a note of any gaps in your spring planting to order any bulbs in the autumn for next year.

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 foot) -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.

APRIL NATURE NOTES

Hands up everyone who spotted the deliberate mistake in the March edition of Nature Notes? Yes, I did it again, failing to check details of things I'd seen weeks earlier then publishing them without a second look. I refer of course to the MUNTJAC that sneaked into Tim Shaplands Norton Ride garden for a cheeky plant nibble, that I then nominated as a young Roe Deer. Oh deer oh deer!! Thanks to Sven Godesen and Malcolm Leavey who did contact me to point out the error, by which time I had already seen my March copy in the flesh and by then had had my head in my hands.

A month can be a long time when the seasons are changing, with one minute ravenous Redwings are to be seen desperately stripping every shiny red berry from our Holly Tree (in three days to be exact), the next week we are all in our gardens giving the lawn a first trim and watching wildlife begin to do, well you know, **those** things. A swaying male Robin finally convinced his fancy lady that they really should pair up and hey presto, nesting material has been disappearing into the open-face nest box on one of our fences. Most years previously it is occupied but with mixed success as magpies and the like have raided it at the crucial time of fledging. Fingers crossed for this pair.

During that lovely warm sunny interlude at the end of February, Stephen Thair noted a Brimstone butterfly on 1st March, a species which is always the first to appear on the wing on a sunny spring day. His Park Lane garden also drew in a Blackcap, a Goldcrest and a male Siskin, but Stephen also observed lots of nest building material being gathered by many, with top marks going to the Starlings that seemed to have tidied his garden nicely!



Picture of the month (left) from **Mike Freer** is a macabre one but is of an event that happens every day in a Parish garden somewhere, you might just not see it at the time but probably do get to clear up the remains. A **female Sparrowhawk** reduced the pigeon population by one on a Linden Avenue lawn and fortunately a camera was to hand to snap the scene. The raptor

didn't hang about but came back several times to continue its meal, leaving the carcass on a hedge meantime. Unusual behaviour for sure but fascinating.



As forecast, **Pheasants** have been turning up in gardens everywhere. We had one perched on a fence two doors along, its plumage lit up by the morning sun, **Alison Hawksworth** pictured one wandering amongst pots in her Belle Vue garden (left) and Jane Drabble sent a picture of another cock bird in her Park Lane abode. It was sat comfortably on the stump of a recently cut down diseased Ash Tree and looked like a statue but sadly, as Jane remarks, he didn't want to stay there and become a nice garden feature!

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continued from page 37

Rarity of the month was a Great White Egret, as the names implies, a larger version of the Little Egret which we see here frequently. This bird, about the size of a Heron, was reported around the Blacklands area but was later seen by Jim Andrews flying around the Millfield later on. Images taken are grainy so aren't included but look it up, it's a super bird to be frequenting this area.

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/text me on **07900 648675** to place an order or get a form.

GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

Spring is the perfect time to sign up to the **Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's garden waste collection service.**

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- Year-round collections, only stopping for two weeks over Christmas and the New Year period
- Collection of real Christmas trees after the festive period.

Customers have the option of buying a **240-litre brown wheeled bin for a one-off charge of £35.** These are easier to put out for collection and offer an extra 60 litres of space compared to the sacks. Residents can have both a brown bin and the sacks if required.

Find out more at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/gardenwaste

HOME COMPOSTING

After a whole year of lock-down I needed to hire a skip to get rid of the huge pile of garden waste that I had managed to create. To try to avoid the high cost of skip hire or multiple visits to the tip in the future I've calculated that a brown bin (see above) and a couple of large compost containers for suitable waste would be the answer, and much cheaper.

What to compost was the next consideration: vegetable and fruit peelings are high in nitrogen and carbon; tea leaves, coffee grounds and crushed egg shells; weeds, but avoid couch grass, bindweed and the like; grass cuttings are high in nitrogen but avoid thick layers as they could compact; hair, human or pet; paper and soft cardboard like egg trays, torn and in small amounts; small amounts of evergreen clippings; straw and hay but soak well before adding; vegetarian animal manure, mixed with straw; vacuum dust.

What to avoid: leaves take a long time so consider a separate pile or bin; branches and pruned twigs take a long time to decay and are destined for the brown bin; no dog or cat waste as this is sure to attract vermin. **Happy composting.**



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Email: vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk 07745 731729

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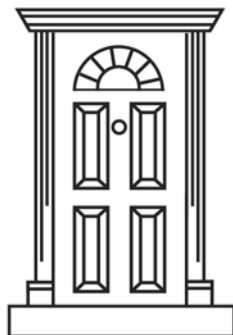
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