December 2018

BASINGA



Anna Fairs





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





01256 36 22 22

 Beechdown Spa, Winchester Rd Basingstoke RG22 4ES

DECEMBER 2018 – NOTES AND NEWS

The cover photograph this month, by Anna Fairs, is a record of Basinga presenting its first **Basinga Community Spirit Award** to the **Old Basing & Lychpit Big Turkey Community Christmas Lunch Committee**. See page 26 for more detail.

BASINGA

We welcome both regular and occasional items for the Basinga. The very last date for copy to the Editor for the **January edition** is **6 pm** on **Thursday, 6th December**. This early deadline allows our printers to accommodate the Christmas closures. Please use the forms on the Basinga website **www.basinga.org.uk** to get your dates, articles and letters to us (*see box on page 15 for further instructions*). All advertising enquiries – classified, free adverts or inserts (flyers) can also be made via the Basinga website. Don't forget that we only accept articles with **300 words maximum.**

Basinga is distributed free to more than 3000 households and outlets in the Old Basing and Lychpit area. Hosting the advertising for local business and services generates the income to allow us to maintain and develop the magazine. Our finances are healthy at the moment and copies of our accounts can be made available to anyone wishing to see them

BASINGA EXTRA

Our **Webmaster** will be retiring from Basinga Extra at the end of the year, leaving the day-to-day maintenance of Basinga Extra with our new **website technician**, **Brian Baker**, who is doing an excellent job. However, going forward, we do still need someone with knowledge and experience with **WordPress** and with general IT skills for setting up and maintaining email addresses with our Internet Service Provider. If you think that this might be you, please get in touch with **webman@basinga.org.uk**

YOUR BASINGA NEEDS YOU!

A new **Treasurer** is required for the Basinga. Their role will be to maintain the simple accounts of the magazine, and to be a key member of the Basinga committee. Prospective candidates need to be organised and able to work on their own initiative. The position is voluntary and the time commitment varies depending on the time of year, as most advertisers pay annually.

The candidate needs to be able to use a spreadsheet for recording income and expenditure, access the Basinga's internet banking and visit the bank occasionally. Full details and a handover will be given to the successful person. If you are interested please contact the editor by e-mail: editor@basinga,org.uk

ODIHAM COTTAGE HOSPITAL AT THE HATCH

Sue Cameron, manager of the OCH Charity Shop in the parade on Belle Vue Road would like to thank the management and staff of **The Hatch**, her shop volunteers and all other participants in the **Monday Quiz Night** in mid-November. The evening was dedicated to fund-raising for the Odiham Cottage Hospital and the generosity of all concerned raised in excess of £200 for the organisation. Shop opening hours are 10.00am to 4.00pm on Monday to Saturday. Bargains galore!

OLD BASING INFANT SCHOOL

At Old Basing Infant school, our children have many opportunities throughout the year to participate in various types of competitions with other local schools such as skipping, gymnastics and Scatterball (a fielding game). The children are always thrilled to be selected to attend competitions and represent our school, and they are always great ambassadors; demonstrating excellent sportsmanship and fair play.

Last year, we held an entire week of sport in the lead up to **Sport Relief**, for which we held a sponsored 'Marathon Mile'. Everyone was welcome to join us on our run of 15 minutes per class to do as many laps of our playground as possible; we had lots of parents, aunties, uncles and grandparents who came to join us. It was a great opportunity for our children to get active with their families.

We love exploring opportunities for our children to experience more unusual sports, which they may not have done before, as well as sessions with specialist coaches. In recent years, the children have had the chance to try out sports such as Judo, Cricket, Fencing and Rugby. If you have any special sporting skills and would like to come to do some work with us or let us know about a club you run, please get in touch!

During the past year, we have been very fortunate to have had our old balance trail replaced with a new one. Our new balance trail is hugely popular with all children across the school and really encourages them to test out their balance, agility and coordination as they negotiate their way across it.

Ensuring our children are physically active is of huge importance to us and we have recently changed our playtimes so that our Year 1 and 2 children can go into our woodland area to build dens and use the field to run around during the winter months, as long as they have their wellies!

Miss Sarah Fish P.E. Leader

LINGUATASTIC LANGUAGE ACADEMY

As it is for many people, December is a busy month for us at Linguatastic. Maybe you have already seen our Christmas display in Tesco, Chineham? And then we've also been putting a lot of effort into our Christmas tree for St Mary's Church.

On 6th December, we'll be celebrating St Nicolas at our French playgroup and with our German bilingual group.

In France and Germany, children leave their shoes by a window or door on the night of December 5th, in the hope of finding in the morning that Saint Nicolas/ Nikolaus has filled them. If they haven't been well-behaved over the year, then they may awake to find a bundle of twigs or a lump of coal left by Père Fouettard or Knecht Ruprecht. Let's hope our children have been on their best behaviour!

In the early evening of **Thursday, 13th December**, we'll be carol singing in Tesco, Chineham to help raise money for its Toy Appeal. Please do come and support us, either by donating some spare change and/or joining us for the singing!

On 15th December, we'll be going to the pantomime at The Anvil and then it's the holidays! We'll be starting again on Monday, 7th January. In the meantime, we wish you a pleasant and peaceful holiday period.





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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

BREAK-IN AT WORKSHOP

Yet again, despite increased security measures, the workshop at the recreation ground was broken into at the end of October. Police and our Grounds Manager were promptly on the scene but the intruders had left. Items stolen included hedge cutters and other grounds maintenance equipment needed at this time of year. It is likely the equipment will not be sold on but will be used by unauthorised individuals touting for grounds maintenance work. This is therefore a plea to all residents not to give work to anyone who does not have legitimate credentials and preferably to use one of several local grounds maintenance companies that advertise in the Basinga or other local publications.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP EVENING

This event will now take place on **Monday, 10th December** and **NOT Tuesday 18th December** as previously advised. Invitations have now been sent to representatives of clubs and organisations but if you represent a local group on a voluntary basis and wish to join us, please let us know.

BOXING DAY WALK

The Boxing Day Walk will again be led by **Tony Stoney** and will start and finish at Old Basing Village Hall and will cover approximately 5 miles. Anyone wishing to take part should be at the **Village Hall car park** by **11.00 a.m**. Boots or heavy duty shoes are recommended and dogs on leads are welcome.

PAVILION IMPROVEMENTS

We are pleased to say that work has now commenced on Phase 1 to replace all windows and doors to improve insulation and energy efficiency and the addition of ramps to improve wheelchair access to the building.

Councillors and staff would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are **Tuesday, 4th December** and **8th January** at **7.30 pm** in the Pavilion Committee Room. All are welcome and anyone with impaired mobility should contact the Parish Office so they can be accommodated.

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

Parish Clerk: Mrs Sandra Tuck

Deputy Clerk Mrs Heather Mountford

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

462847 Office Opening Hours: Mon – Thurs 10am to 12 noon)

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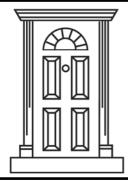


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CHINEHAM LIBRARY

Amazing to think Christmas is approaching fast. If you need any last-minute present ideas, how about attending our next event, 'From Barley to Beer', at 7.30pm on Thursday, 6th December? As well as learning more about more about our local Longdog Brewery, there will be the opportunity to purchase Christmas gift packs. Tickets costing £5, which include free samples, are available from the Library or the online shop.

For our younger clientele, the regular **Christmas Storytime** (hopefully including an appearance from Santa with sweets!), will take place on **Friday, 21st December** at 3.00pm. All children are welcome to attend. As the month progresses more of our regular events, including the **craft session** at **10.00am** on **1st December**, will take on a festive flavour. Regular **Storytimes** continue the other **Saturdays** at a new time of **11.00am**. **Rhymetimes** continue weekly as normal, with **under ones** at **10.00am** and **over ones** at **11.00am**. The **Chatterbooks** group for primary school age children meets on the **13th December at 3.45 to 4.45 pm**.

Our regular adult groups continue to meet, with the **crime reading group** at **10.30am** on **Saturday, 8th December**, and the **general reading group** at **10.30am** on **29th December**. The **Chipps** group will meet at **10.00am** on **12th December**, for details of the next **writing group** meeting please contact the library. **Age Concern** will continue to offer **computer assistance** for the **over 50s** on **Wednesday mornings** during term time. Slots are available between **10.00am** and **1.00pm** and are bookable through their local office on: **01256 423874**. There is good availability of places at present for just a £5 donation.

During the festive period the library will be seasonally decorated and there will be displays of festive fiction and non-fiction available to borrow, so do come and visit us.

Happy Christmas

Cathy Foster and the Chineham Library team

OLD BASING WI

At our November meeting Members were greatly entertained by Fiona Birchall who is a traditional story teller. Fiona explained how she had become interested in folk tales and how stories are regarded as the oldest form of family home entertainment. Our next meeting will take place on **Tuesday**, **4th December at 7.30pm** in the **Parish Room** and is different to the one previously advertised. We will have a visit from Michael Harman who will be talking to us about his owls and he will be bringing some in for us to admire. The competition on this evening is a pantomime programme. Members who are interested are reminded to bring their £10 deposit for the WI Festive meal which will be taking place in January.

Apart from our monthly meetings we will be holding our regular walks, coffee mornings at Conkers and regular lunches at a local garden centre.

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

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FLU

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Flu symptoms

Symptoms come on quickly and can include: a sudden fever with a temperature of 38C or above; aching body; feeling tired or exhausted; dry, chesty cough; sore throat; headache; difficulty sleeping; loss of appetite; diarrhoea or tummy pain; nausea or being sick

The symptoms are similar for children, but they can also get pain in their ear and appear less active.

Telling the difference between cold and flu

Flu: appears quickly within a few hours; affects more than just your nose and throat; makes you feel exhausted and too unwell to carry on as normal

Cold: Appears gradually; Affects mainly your nose and throat; makes you feel unwell, but you're OK to carry on as normal (for example, go to work)

How to manage flu

Rest and sleep; keep warm; take paracetamol or ibuprofen to lower your temperature; drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration (your pee should be light yellow or clear); antibiotics don't work for flu (as antibiotics are for bacterial infections, not viruses)

Your pharmacist can give treatment advice and recommend flu remedies but be careful not to use them if you're taking paracetamol and ibuprofen tablets as it's easy to take more than the recommended dose.

Speak to a pharmacist before giving medicines to children.

Call NHS 111 or speak to your GP if:

You're worried about your baby's or child's symptoms; you're 65 or over; you're pregnant; you have a long-term medical condition (for example, diabetes or a heart, lung, kidney or neurological disease); you have a weakened immune system (for example, because of chemotherapy or HIV); your symptoms don't improve after 7 days/seem to be getting worse

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continued on page 19

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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:

advertising@basinga.org.uk; editor@basinga.org.uk; webman@basinga.org.uk

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The Basinga thanks Gwyneth and Russell for supporting the magazine for many years and wishes them the best for the future.

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OLD BASING ALLOTMENT & GARDEN SOCIETY: Shop open 2nd December 11.00am to noon only.

THE PINK PLACE AND THE BLUE SPACE CANCER CHARITY are hosting their annual Burns Night on the 25th January 2019 at The Apollo Hotel, Basingstoke. Hampshire. RG24 9NU at 7pm till midnight. See Forthcoming events on the website for full details.

BASINGSTOKE DISCOVERY CENTRE: For Decembers events see the Extras on the website.

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Flu

To reduce the risk of spreading flu: wash your hands often with warm water and soap; use tissues to trap germs when you cough or sneeze; bin used tissues as quickly as possible

Flu vaccination:

A flu vaccine is available each year and is developed based on the most common strain of flu seen in the previous years flu season.

This year the NHS flu vaccination programme has been rolled out further to include children age 2 to 3, and then school age children from year R up to and including year 5. Children up to age 18 can also be vaccinated if they have a long-term health condition, for example asthma or diabetes.

Adults under age 65 are eligible for the vaccine on the NHS if they have a long-term health condition, please see the NHS website if you are unsure or speak to your GP surgery. All adults over age 65 are eligible for the flu vaccine free on the NHS.

If you are not eligible for a flu vaccine on the NHS please speak to your local pharmacist as many are offering the flu vaccine for a small fee.

CHINEHAM AND OLD BASING NWR

Have you just moved to a new area? Have you experienced some other big life change. Enjoy lively, stimulating conversation, broaden your horizons and make new friends. National Women's Register (NWR) has over 400 social groups across England, Scotland and Wales that connects women who are interested in everything and talk about anything! NWR HQ arrange interesting national and regional meetings, but local groups plan their own programme when we pool ideas for topics (some serious, others light-hearted) we want to explore. We are interested in all issues, but we do not campaign or fundraise.

The Chineham and Old Basing NWR meet at 2.00pm on the first Monday of the month in the relaxed atmosphere of someone's home. We also meet for lunch or trips to the cinema. Our Reading Group meet in the evening every 4th Thursday.

In November a car-load visited Bletchley Park, once the top-secret home of the World War Two Codebreakers for a private guided tour of the park arranged by National NWR. There were also two stimulating hands-on workshop sessions led by Bletchley Park educators.

Our local November meeting was held in the evening when we participated in the National NWR Telephone Quiz, competing against hundreds of NWR groups to give our collaborative answer to a fiendishly-cryptic general knowledge quiz. We give our brain cells a rest with our Christmas lunch on Monday, 3rd December. On 7th January we meet to discuss anything beginning with C.

Not a member? For information please look at the website: nwr.org.uk. If after trying a couple of meetings you want to join the membership is a modest £23 per year. Please phone **Evelyn Jones** on **01256 816636** or via **evelyncjjones@hotmail.co.uk** for more information.

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F.O.O.B.S. TRAIL AND FUN RUNS – 14TH OCTOBER 2018

It feels a long time ago now so I hope you have all dried out ... it was fantastic to see the number of people who turned out to run on 14th October despite the torrential rain!

Over 150 adults and teenagers set out on a 10km route which went through fields, along tracks and, due to the flooded river, included wading through the flood plains at Wildmoor! First home was **Rob Wood** with a time of **41minutes**, **25seconds**, closely followed by **Alex Bigg** and Old Basing's **Cameron Coveney**. **Sue Evans** won the female race, coming in 9th overall, with **Gemma Bigg** and **Cat Coveney** (a key member of the organising team) finishing second and third.

The 6km race had over 50 children and adults running and this was won by **Aiden Leavey**, aged 13, with **John Bigg** (Male 40-49) and **Charlie Coveney** (age 11) coming in fast behind him. **Claire Sarell** came in 9th overall to be the first female home, with **Isobel** and **Cam Powell** coming 2nd and 3rd.

Once all the 10k and 6k runners were in, after an amusing false start, the children's 2km race went off around the Rec and Oliver's Battery with 100's of little ones (and their parents) giving their all in the rain and racing each other to cross the line and get a wonderful medal!

The event raised over £4,000 for St Mary's and Old Basing Infant Schools and we would like to sincerely thank everyone involved for their contributions of time, money, prizes and enthusiasm. We hope to run the event again next year, so please put Sunday, October 13th 2019 in your diaries.

Sarah Crowdy Run Director

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT BIG TURKEY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Come and celebrate Christmas together on **Saturday**, **29th December**, at **Old Basing Village Hall** with our complimentary Big Turkey Community feast! Drinks will be served from **noon** with lunch starting at **1.00pm**.

Places are limited and filling up really fast, so please book now to avoid disappointment. You can either **sign up** on the list in the **foyer of St Mary's Church**, or contact **Rachel Jones** via email: **rachelj.broadwater@googlemail.com** or call on **07717 002651**. All ages welcome, with transport provided if needed. We are also grateful for any volunteers who would like to help, if you can spare some time on the day or before then please contact Rachel to join our friendly team, and of course enjoy lunch as well!

This is an event organised by volunteers from Old Basing and Lychpit for the families and residents of our community, in order to create a greater identity and community spirit. It receives some funding from the Parish Council, support from St Mary's Church, the Basinga and the Four Lanes Trust, the generosity of local vendors, and from donations on the day.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 29th.

Rosey Stevens

DECEMBER AT ST. MARY'S

December is a very busy month at St. Mary's. We start with a visit from Archdeacon Richard Brand to lead our 9.30am Advent Service on the 2nd.

This is closely followed by our very popular Christmas Tree Festival on the weekend of 8th and 9th where all the community can participate in lighting up the Church with beautifully decorated trees. The choir from both Old Basing Infants and St. Mary's Junior Schools will sing for us and there will be stalls and refreshments available on Saturday 8th.

The weekend will culminate in the Christingle Service at 4.00pm on Sunday 9th. This is a very special service for children who receive a decorated orange with a lighted candle – it is magical. Donations will be received on behalf of the Children's Society.

On Thursday, 13th December Naomi House Hospice will hold their annual Carol Service at 7.00pm. This is such a special cause and all are welcome to come and support the staff and volunteers and sing your favourite carols. Singing will be accompanied by the Basing Singers, Bishop Challoner Choir and St. Mary's Junior School Orchestra.

Sunday, December 16th is our Community Carol Service at 4.00pm. What better way to prepare for Christmas than to sing carols in our beautiful church, still decorated with trees from the festival?

St. Mary's Junior School hold their Carol Concert on Wednesday 19th at 6.30pm. Please come and join in their Christmas celebrations. On the morning of Friday 21st the whole school will come to church for their final assembly before term ends.

For those for whom Christmas is a far from celebratory and happy time we have our reflective Blue Christmas Service on Friday 21st at 6pm. This will be preceded by refreshments at 5pm.

The Nativity Story is the most loved and treasured of all the Christmas stories.

Children, of all ages, are invited to come and join in Jesus' Christmas Party at 3.00pm and 4.30pm on Christmas Eve, Monday 24th. Come dressed as characters from this the most famous of stories or delve into our own dressing-up boxes for inspiration. There is no shortage of choice: you can be a King, Shepherd, Mary or Joseph or even a sheep or an angel.

Christmas is welcomed in at Midnight Mass at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve and by Christmas Sung Eucharist at 9.30am on Christmas Day.

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given

Have a very Merry and Peaceful Christmas from us all at St. Mary's

THIS MONTH AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 December

Christmas Tree Festival. Please see separate item within this

edition on page 26.

Thursday 13th Naomi House "Light Up a Life" Service at 7.00pm

Sunday 16th A Service of Lessons & Carols at 4.00 pm

Wednesday 19th St Mary's CE Junior School Carol Service at 6.30pm

Friday 21st Blue Christmas Service at 6.00pm

Christmas Eve 3.00pm and 4.30pm.

Midnight Mass at 11.30pm

Christmas Day Holy Communion at 8.00am

Sung Eucharist at 9.30am

Other Dates to note at St Mary's:

Saturday 1st December Men's Breakfast, 8.45am in the Parish Room. If you fancy a full

English breakfast do pop along to the Parish Room, you'd be most

welcome (price: £4)

Monday 17th December Tea & Talk Café, 2.00pm in the Parish Room. All welcome, no

charge.

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

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

Looking forward to January

CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)

We reach an important milestone this month. Our bank account was opened 25 years ago! From the initial bramble patch with dead elms, through much hard work by many volunteers the area has been transformed into a community space for all and a wonderful space for nature. We hope you all enjoy it! We would like to thank all our volunteers, especially those stalwarts who have been involved for every one of those 25 years!

This month's working party will be on **Saturday, 1st December** at **10.00am** – meet in the church lobby. There will be **no Thursday afternoon working party** in December. We will continue our seasonal conservation work, including woodland management. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing our regular volunteers and also new participants.

Churchyard Conservation is a community project, not just for churchgoers, so please come along if you would like to be involved. Just turn up in gardening clothes and bring gloves. The tools are provided. Our Saturday morning sessions last about 3 hours (with a coffee break and chance to relax, there may even be mince pies this month!).

We will be displaying a tree at St Mary's Church's Christmas Tree Festival 8–9 December. This year's theme is 'A Family Christmas'. To celebrate our 25th anniversary our "tree" will be "Silver Anniversary". If the weather is pleasant when you visit, please come and see our Conservation Area. The holly berries are now at their best, redwings may be present feeding on the yew berries. Or, you may simply prefer to sit quietly on the WI seat for a moment of reflection or prayer. The Conservation Area is a community space for everyone to enjoy.

For further information please ring Fay Farrant on 01256 476863.

Margaret Carr www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

OLD BASING METHODIST CHURCH

Craft group is held on **Tuesday, December 4th** from **2.00 to 4.00pm**. You can bring your own craft or items will be provided.

On Tuesday, December 11th the MHA Christmas carols and afternoon tea will take place from 2.00 to 4.00pm.

Friday, December 14th; join us for our Christmas Coffee Break from 10.30 until noon.

Christmas carol service will be held on Sunday, December 23rd at 10:30am.Christmas day worship will be led by Revd. Alison Parker and starts at 10am.

There will be no worship at the chapel on Sunday, 30th December.

Our regular Sunday worship starts at 10:30am. and coffee and tea are served after the service. Children are welcome into our junior church. Come and join us for worship, Friday 'Coffee Break' and Tuesday craft - a warm welcome awaits you.

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A FAMILY CHRISTMAS – ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2018

You haven't booked your tree space yet? Don't leave it too long or you may be disappointed, the closing date for entries will be two weeks before St Mary's Church lights up in the run up to Christmas with the St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival (Saturday, 8th December, 11.00am to 5.00pm, and Sunday, 9th December, 11.00am to 4.00pm).

There is very little time left to book and we will try to make room for you. Entrance with a programme will be £1. Trees cost £7.50 to sponsor, to include a programme, which will contain a voting form for your family's favourite tree to be announced on Sunday at 4 pm.

On **Saturday, 8th December**, there will be **Christmas Stalls** selling homemade cakes, sweets and preserves, stationery, glass and crafts, just right for those last-minute Christmas presents. We will also have a raffle and a stall selling candles for you to inscribe with a loved one's name to be lit in their memory at the **Blue Christmas service** on **Wednesday, 21st December**. Not only will we be serving tea, coffee and light refreshments, but mulled wine and mince pies at lunch time.

Join us on **Saturday** for the combined **Schools Choirs Concert** at **2.0pm** along with children's activities, including guess the number of marbles in the jar and a bran tub. All information will be in the Church Lobby.

We are asking for donations of baked goods, raffle prizes, small toys for the childrens' bran tub and your help in stewarding the Festival. Can you spare one hour of your time for this? We need your help to make this much-loved festival a truly family Christmas.

To book your tree space or find out more on the weekend's events contact Jeanette Edwards at jdedwards38@hotmail.co.uk

BASINGA COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD

The Basinga presented its first Basinga Community Spirit Award to the **Old Basing & Lychpit Big Turkey Community Christmas Lunch Committee** and will be championing their cause by assisting them with their publicity and fundraising. The Basinga Committee selected them for the Award in recognition of the hard work and the huge logistical operation encountered in bringing together, and providing a complimentary Christmas Lunch, for some 180 residents of the Parish.

The Old Basing & Lychpit Big Turkey Community Christmas Lunch (see page 19) was initiated in 2015 by the Rev Sarah Lloyd, the then Curate of St Mary's Church, to bring together residents, without qualification, to join together to celebrate and provide fellowship at Christmas. When Sarah moved on, the challenge was taken on by the current, independent, small team of committee members to continue the event and make it sustainable for the future.

The committee is supported by a band of volunteers who help with preparations beforehand and on the day. If you would like to get involved or can help in anyway please email **Rachel Jones** at **rachelj.broadwater@googlemail.com** or telephone her on **07717 002651**.

The Basinga Committee will be reviewing articles submitted to the magazine to select future Award winners.

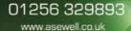
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TRADITIONAL TUDOR CHRISTMAS FAYRE AT BASING HOUSE

Set inside the majestic **Tudor Barn** at **Basing House**, the **Christmas Fayre** (**Saturday**, **1st December**, **11.00am to 4.00pm**) is a wonderfully festive shopping experience with a Tudor twist. In the presence of Henry VIII, his queen and company of Tudor and Stuart re-enactors, this is your chance to purchase a wide range of locally made crafts and gifts for Christmas, or maybe even treat yourself.

There will be over **30 stalls** selling a selection of unique handmade crafts and local produce. Eat, drink and be merry with a selection of Christmas food and treats. You will have a chance to meet **Henry VIII** and his queen at the Christmas Court while loyal servants will receive a gift from the king (ideal for ages 3 to 12 but as subject to space, the **Henry VIII Christmas Court Experience** must be booked online in advance at: **www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house**

This is your chance to experience Tudor and Stuart Christmas traditions, such as ribbon tying on the yule log and other festivities while having your photo taken in the Tudor Kissing Wreath photo booth. Also learn about Christmas before Oliver Cromwell with demonstrations from Tudor and Stuart re-enactors. You will also be able to listen to live recitals from local choirs.

Ticket prices: adults (18+) £2; teen (16 to17) £1; children (15 and below) free. All entry tickets must be purchased on the door. All adult admission tickets will be entered into a raffle, for a chance to win one of the following amazing prizes: A three-night, four-star hotel, break in the Channel Islands; Afternoon tea with Prosecco for four at the four-star Crowne Plaza, Basingstoke; Complimentary lunch for two at Grade-II listed Tylney Hall Hotel; A gift basket worth £50 from John Lewis; Two children's tickets for Marwell Zoo; Family ticket to Milestones; Two tour tickets to Bombay Sapphire Distillery.

Vicky Glanville

VILLAGE CAFÉ - A CAFÉ FOR THE VILLAGE, BY THE VILLAGE!

Thank you all for your tremendous support of the new Old Basing Village Community Café. So far we have raised in excess of £500 for The Ark Cancer Centre - your generosity has been amazing! All proceeds up until Christmas will continue to go to The Ark. Thank you too to our fabulous bakers and volunteers. A reminder that we're open every Friday 2.00 to 4.30pm, serving delicious cakes and refreshments, at St Mary's Parish Room. We shall be taking a break over the Christmas period, the last café of 2018 being on 21st December, re-opening Friday, 11th January. To contact the café please call 07813 186328 or email: villagecafeoldbasing@gmail.com

PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

Huge congratulations to **Tom and Florrie Barrett** who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on 13th November. Tom and Florrie married young (Tom was 17, Florrie 16) at Marylebone Registry office. They have 5 children, 10 grand-children (the eldest of which is now 46), 23 great-grandchildren (eldest of which is 25) and 1 great-great grandchild!

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BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE CHRISTMAS RUBBISH COLLECTIONS

Christmas can mean extra rubbish. Therefore, extra sacks will be collected on the first collection after Christmas ONLY.

As normal there is no limit on how much residents can recycle. Please flatten large cardboard boxes and leave them next to your recycling bin, and remember that wrapping paper cannot be recycled so please put it in your black waste bin.

This year bin collections will be affected over two weeks and, unless adverse weather affects bin rounds, collections should return to normal from Monday, 14 January 2019.

Normal collection	Revised collection
Tuesday 25 December	Thursday 27 December
Wednesday 26 December	Friday 28 December
Thursday 27 December	Saturday 29 December
Friday 28 December	Monday 31 December
Monday 31 December	Wednesday 2 January
Tuesday 1 January	Thursday 3 January
Wednesday 2 January	Friday 4 January
Thursday 3 January	Saturday 5 January
Friday 4 January	Monday 7 January
Monday 7 January	Tuesday 8 January
Tuesday 8 January	Wednesday 9 January
Wednesday 9 January	Thursday 10 January
Thursday 10 January	Friday 11 January
Friday 11 January	Saturday 12 January

If necessary, double-check your bin collection day, in the event of bad weather, on the website www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bincollections or call 01256 844844.

More bottles this Christmas?

Let the council know if you need a free second glass collection box for extra bottles over Christmas. Residents are also able to buy a glass bin as an alternative to a box if they often have lots of bottles and jars to recycle. Alternatively a red 140 litre bin can be ordered for £26.63 online at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/glassrecycling.

More information on what can and can't be recycled is available on the council's website at **www.basingstoke.gov.uk/recycle** or by calling the council on 01256 844844.

Thinking of getting a real Christmas tree this year?

Don't forget to recycle it after Christmas at one of the drop-off points across the borough from Wednesday, **2nd January** until **Sunday**, **27th January 2019**. For more information visit **www.basingstoke.gov.uk/christmas-tree**



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FLOWER ARRANGERS NEEDED FOR 2019

If you love flowers, enjoy colour and creative pursuits, the volunteers who arrange flowers at **St Mary's Church** would welcome you. The Congregation and visitors to the church enjoy the flowers and often comment on them, but we need more arrangers to join us. No previous experience is necessary as help will be given and demonstrations will be arranged if requested.

Our new rota will be done in the New Year ready to start at Easter, so if you would like to find out more, please ring me on **01256 465636** for an informal chat . If no reply please leave a message with your name and phone number and I will ring you back.

Bridget Innes-Ker

THE MILL FIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Have a break from Christmas shopping and try out conservation work at your local nature reserve on **Sunday**, **2nd December** instead. We are completely dependent on volunteers to look after the Mill Field, tackle the scrub and open up the paths and views for the many walkers who use the site every day. You don't need to book in advance just come along on the day, the more the merrier. No experience is necessary just wear appropriate clothes and footwear and we will provide tea, coffee and tools. **We meet at the Play area at 10.00am and work for about two hours**.

What to Look out for this month: Considering its December, it will be quite busy on the bird front, so binoculars to the ready: the numbers of Fieldfares and Redwings will build up with groups of Siskin and Goldfinches moving around. The Linnets should be grouping as they start to roost and if you are lucky you may see some lesser Redpoll, Brambling or the giant of finches the Hawfinch, all of which have already been spotted this autumn. Little Egrets will also be grouping in the evening by the pub, or you might see a Green Sandpiper or Snipe in the lower meadow.

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

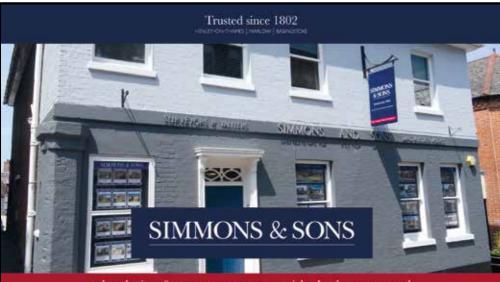
Anne Francis (07974 944439)

BASINGSTOKE MALE VOICE CHOIR - CHRISTMAS CONCERT

BMVC will be staging their traditional Christmas Concert on **Friday, December 14th** at the **United Reformed Church, London Street** in Basingstoke. The concert will feature the usual mix of Christmas songs and carols and there will be opportunity for the audience to join in. There will be a guest appearance from the quartet Quadrangle – it promises to be a great concert. Take this early opportunity to get in the Christmas spirit. Entrance is free but there will be a retiring collection for a local charity. In recent years we have raised money for Basingstoke Samaritans and the Camrose Centre and from our last concert in October we donated £1000 to the Ark Cancer Charity.

So join us on the 14th and start the run-up to the festive season, supporting a good cause.

Malcolm Gallani



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OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Remembrance Day in OUR village

The **Old Basing RBL** wishes to extend a huge and heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in, helped to arrange or attended last months Centenary Remembrance Day parade. Not only were we blessed with a beautiful day, much to our surprise and delight, but Old Basing Parish showed just how proud it was of its World War Fallen by turning out in their hundreds to pay their respects.

Special thanks must go to the local community groups who clearly worked very hard on their many tributes and to members of St. Mary's choir and clergy for their huge co-operation to make this particular service what it was. Thanks too to the RBL Band who led the parade, the police who marshalled the parade and of course to the RAF for the exhilarating Chinook flypast a few moments after 11am.

Our Poppy Appeal Organiser and Hampshire Chairman Tim Russell will write next month to put his own words of thanks in respect of the monies collected, not only on the 11th, but locally over the past few weeks. However, Tim has been to tell me that the collection at the Church Service raised a staggering £734-08.

The sense of occasion and thus the generosity extended to our many collectors has been remarkable and we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Rick Bourne - on behalf of Old Basing RBL

COUNTRY WATCH - EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS NEEDED

Country Watch was founded in 1973 to protect our Area. Its purpose under the constitution is to consider any developments or proposals which may adversely affect the environment and catchment of the Loddon, Lyde and Whitewater river valleys, ("the Area") protect the rural environment, prevent the loss of natural amenity within this Area, campaign and lobby on issues which affect the environment and way of life within the Area and to remain non-party political at all times.

We are in debt to a "few good men" for the enormous work they have done for us. Maurice Chapman, Harry Mansfield, Alan Read, Nigel Bell and the late Dr Alan Gibberd have worked tirelessly for our community for 30 years. They have been outstanding executive members and we thank them from the bottom of our heart. Sadly they will step down on 21st January, 2019. If no replacements are found then Country Watch will be dissolved on that same date. Please spread the word. Please help us find some new Executive Directors to take the baton. Our Area continues to be under great threat from development. Country Watch was founded under the threat of dual-carriaging the A33. This grave threat has re-emerged and remains very real today. There is a reference to the possibility of upgrading the A33 as an integrated corridor with an eastern by pass in the latest draft of the Basingstoke Transport Strategy Consultation produced by Hampshire County Council. This would make Basingstoke a dormitory town for Reading. This consultation will be launched at the end of November, 2018. Your Area needs you. Please help protect our Area and save Country Watch.

Contact Onnalee Cubitt; telephone 07762 067 411 as soon as possible or e-mail her: onnaleecubitt@icloud.com

DECEMBER IN YOUR GARDEN

How can it be December already? It seems like just a few weeks ago I was harvesting my holly for the Christmas decorations, and it's time to do it all again! The berries are a valuable winter food for birds, so make sure you don't strip the holly bush bare. A tip to preserve them is to stand the holly in a bucket of water until you are quite ready for them.

Of course there are a lot of living indoor plants that can help make the home look all 'Christmassy'. Cyclamen is a classic. They prefer a cool room, and being watered from below, try not to water their leaves. Likewise, Hyacinths and Christmas Cacti like it in the cool; if they are kept warm the flowers will finish earlier in the case of the Hyacinth, for the Christmas Cacti, it may not set any flowers at all.

Over the winter some plants may benefit from being moved to a lighter position, such as nearer a window, though it is important to avoid sun through glass which can scorch the leaves of tropical plants. Cacti and succulents need a period of dormancy over winter, keep barely moist and apply no feed. Resume watering and feeding in Spring.

Out in the garden there are still jobs to be done. Some species of Broad Bean can be sown now, traditionally Shallots are sown in pots on the shortest day, but do check the weather conditions!

Apple, Pears, Gooseberries, Currant bushes as well as most other soft fruits, and Grape vines can all be pruned, as they are dormant. Japanese Maples will enjoy a good pruning too, any later and they will bleed sap. While there is no practical way of stopping the flow of sap from a bleeding wound, in most cases, this bleeding is completely harmless.

Alpine plants will need care also, spread fresh grit around them to encourage re-growth and ensure leaves do not gather around the plants, they will die if left to get damp for too long.

Mostly other jobs outside in the garden involve clearing leaf debris and other sticks away. Globe Artichoke plants ought to have their foliage cut down and the crown covered with a thick layer of straw or mulch. Dead Asparagus foliage should be cut down, as well as the top growth of Jerusalem Artichoke.

I have just advised you to clear and tidy the garden, and it is important as slugs and snails can overwinter easily in leaves, however many other beneficial animals rely on similar habitats to keep them alive throughout the cold, so do consider leaving an area of the garden 'wild' or relocate all sticks and leaves to one corner and let them take shelter there. You may be rewarded with a high variety of animal species next year!

Cold, wet, windy winter weather can damage trees, shrubs and fragile garden structures such as trellis. Plants can be protected from cold, wet weather by wrapping with horticultural fleece. Meanwhile, keep containers in dry, sheltered areas, grouped together for protection. You can prevent roots freezing in containers by wrapping with bubble polythene or straw, alternatively bury the pot with the rim just showing into the ground.

If there is to be a return of the "Beast From The East" and snow sits on hedges or the crowns of trees there is a danger of branches breaking. Simply shake off excess snow as it starts to collect on branches. You can also prune hedges to taper at the top to minimize snow damage.

Hopefully that is enough to be getting on with! All that is left for to say is to hope that you have a Merry Christmas, and a very happy New Year!

NATURE NOTES FOR DECEMBER

Many of you saw and heard a strange green bird around various parts of the village during October and these reports kept coming right up until last week. Among the witnesses were Pete Wooldridge, Allison Wells, Jim Andrews and Mike Saunders plus lots more, recognising the culprit(s) as a pair of Ring Necked Parakeets that had either escaped, or more likely, had migrated down from Richmond Park where they flourish in large flocks. Whilst spectacularly different from UK birds both in sight and sound it might not be a good thing if they hang around here as it would spell trouble for other tree dwelling birds such as Starlings, Woodpeckers and Owls.

However, this sighting did coincide with the escape of a Blue Crowned Conure (a green and blue small parrot) so whilst he (George) has been reported missing, but seen at least once, the parakeets appearance rather threw a spanner in the works as far as tracking and possibly trapping young George, something his distraught lady owner was understandably keen to do. I have no further info as to whether he has been recaptured or not but if not the chances of survival probably lessen with each colder, wet day that passes.

Then, last week reports filtered in of a Harris Hawk that had decided to do a runner from his 'place of work' as a pigeon scarer at Houndmills Business Park. 'Pluto's owner Max Bell put up a £500 reward for the safe return of his companion and sure enough after five days on the loose, and one sighting of the raptor near Black Dam, he was eventually lured down from Sainsburys depot close to where he had departed from. Apparently Pluto was 5ozs overweight so he had caught and eaten something during his holiday. Bad boy.!

Stephen Thairs regular reports brought some interesting sightings as usual. A walk in the Mapledurwell area in late October not far from Five Lanes End a roost of 200 or so (best estimate) Starlings were noisily obvious in a group of larch trees. Further around between the village and the motorway footbridge at the Hatch was a flock of about 20 Meadow Pipit, all probably about to migrate somewhere as they weren't around during the following week when he and Mrs T repeated the walk.

Stephen also emailed me on 30th October to say that 18 Collared Doves had descended into his garden, which he is claiming a local (12 Park Lane) record!

Despite my good lady and I being away in Spain for a couple of weeks during October we kept up with local nature news and heard that there was a mini invasion of Harlequin Ladybirds around the parish. Did you notice these little aphid vacuum cleaners or did they remain inconspicuous amongst the stunning Autumn colours we have enjoyed this season?

Finally, now is the ideal time to inspect, repair or replace those nest boxes around one's garden. Clean out old nesting material and remove that parasites, and ensure the entrance hole faces east or north when relocating the box. Stock up on good quality bird food before the really cold weather arrives!

Rick Bourne

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

For all your bird food requirements, order it from me at 'Bird Drop-ins' use the former address or ring me on 01256 842722 to place an order or get a form.

DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER

For details of services and events at St. Mary's Church see pages 22 and 23, and for the Methodist Church please see page 24.

Decemb	er 2018			
Sat 1	11.00am	- 4.00pm	Tudor Barn at Basing House, The Christmas Fayre	
Sun 2	10.00am	- noon	Millfield Conservation Group. Meet at Play area.	
	11.00am	- noon	OBAGS Shop opening. Riley Lane.	
Tue 4	7.30pm	_	Old Basing WI. Parish Room, St Mary's	
Wed 5	7.45pm	_	BDRS Presentation: Steam Locomotives Western USA at The Wote Street Club in New Road in Basingstoke.	
Thu 6 LAST DATE FOR JANUARY COPY TO EDITOR - see page 3				
			There will be NO Royal British Legion meeting this month,	
Fri 7	10.30am	- noon	Ladies First Friday Coffee Morning. 8 Norton Ride, Lychpit	
	2.00pm	- 4.30pm	Old Basing Village Community Café. Parish Room	
Fri 14	2.00pm	- 4.30pm	Old Basing Village Community Café. Parish Room	
	7.30pm	_	Basingstoke Male Voice Choir Christmas Concert at United Reformed Church, London Street.	
Sun 16	3.00pm	-	Basingstoke Ladies' Choir Afternoon Christmas Concert at Carnival Hall, Council Road. RG21 3DH	
	3.00pm	-	Basingstoke Concert Band and Basingstoke Choral Society at St Michael's Church Basingstoke.	
Fri 21	2.00pm	- 4.30pm	Old Basing Village Community Café. Parish Room	
January 2019				
Thu 3	7.45pm	_	for 8.00pm start. RBL Branch meeting	
Fri 4	10.30am	- noon	Ladies First Friday Coffee. 3 Whitehead Close, Lychpit	

BASINGA EXTRA

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

Basingstoke and District Railway Society

Civil service Retirement Fellowship

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Lions Club Report

December 2018

Probus

St. Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire) New CEO appointment: See News items.

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CLERK: Sandra Tuck. 01256 462847

OFFICE AND HOURS: The Pavilion, The Recreation Ground.

Mon. to Thur. 10.00am to noon.

• CHURCH INFORMATION FOR THE AREA

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

VICAR: Please direct any enquiries to the Parish Administrator.

 ADMINISTRATOR:
 Debbie Filer.
 07541 698235

 CHURCHWARDENS:
 Tricia Benwick
 01256 326155

lan Kershaw 01256 355500

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

SUNDAY: 8am Holy Communion. 9.30am Sung Eucharist and Junior Church

Evening Service 5.30 pm.

OTHER DAYS: Wednesday 10am Holy Communion.

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

Old Basing Methodist Church

MINISTER: Rev Alison Parker alison.m.parker@googlemail.com 01256 465064

SUNDAY SERVICE: 10.30am Morning Service.

Roman Catholic

PRIEST: Fr Christopher Rutledge. 01256 465214

St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke.

SUNDAY MASSES: 9.00 am, 11.00 am and 6.30 pm

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