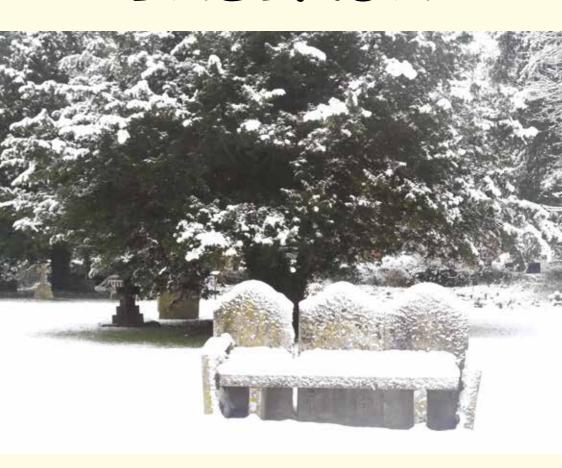
December 2019

BASINGA



Francesca Maritan





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



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DECEMBER NOTES AND NEWS

The cover photograph this month is of a bench in St. Mary's Churchyard, taken by **Francesca Maritan**. The covering of snow suggests that this isn't a recent photo but could well be contemporary by the time this magazine reaches your homes.

We would also like to thank **Tracey Braybrook** for her contributions helping us 'get it right' in our gardens every month. Unfortunately, pressure of work and time means that Tracey can no longer carry on writing her column so if anyone would like to continue supplying us with gardening wisdom we would be delighted to hear from you; please e-mail the Editor.

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 **January edition** is **6 pm on Friday**, **6th December**. 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 17 for further instructions). All **advertising** enquiries — classified, free adverts or inserts (flyers) can also be made via the **Basinga** website. Don't forget that we only accept articles with about a **300 word maximum**.

PHOTOS FOR THE BASINGA

If any reader would like to offer up a **photograph of the village environment** we would be more than happy to receive them, either for immediate use, as above, or to build up a portfolio of 'village views' that we can use when appropriate.

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'** drop-down menu. Should you wish to submit multiple or a series of photos they can be emailed but please read the instructions on the photo form for details. This feature should **NOT** be used for Free Ads or Article photos, which can be attached to their own forms.

LOGOS FOR THE BASINGA

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

ODIHAM COTTAGE HOSPITAL CHARITY SHOP

Sue Cameron (Shop Manager) and the Cottage Hospital would like to thank all the supporters and customers of our shop for making it such a great success and special thanks to our many volunteers who keep the shop well stocked and running smoothly. Help us celebrate our **Fourth Birthday** in **Belle Vue Road**, **Old Basing**, on **Thursday**, **5th December** between **10.00am** and **4.00pm**. Come and have a cup of tea and a piece of cake; a grab yourself a bargain. Everything in the shop, except Christmas items, is half marked price for the day!

The hospital provides a range of for local residents, both at Odiham Cottage Hospital and in the community. These include NHS community nursing services, a range of counselling services, social day care for older people and palliative care services.

CHINEHAM LIBRARY

With Christmas fast approaching there are a few extra activities this month. These include activities and crafts to tie-in with the events being hosted by the **Chineham Centre** on **Saturday**, **14th December**, beginning at **10.00am**. There are two bookable **slime sessions** costing £3 per child. Also, there will be the usual **Christmas Storytime**, with the date still to be confirmed.

Our regular activities for children continue for most of the month, with **Rhymetimes** taking place on **Tuesdays** for **under ones** at **10.00am** and **over ones** at **11.00am**. However, these will finish for the month on the 17th December and then resume in January. **Saturday Crafts** will take place on the **7th December** and the **4th January**, when you are invited to drop-in with your primary school age children between **10.00am** and **midday**.

Construction Club will continue every Saturday from 2.00 to 3.30pm, and also during the school holidays. Storytimes will take place on all other Saturdays at 11.00am. Chatterbooks meet on 12th December from 3.45 to 4.45pm for their Christmas session. Code Club resumes on Tuesday afternoons in January, to enquire about places please contact the library.

Age Concern continue to offer tuition for the over 50s on Wednesday mornings in term time. For information contact their office on 01256 423874. Wednesday mornings at 10.30am we host our drop-in social Cuppa and Chat sessions, which you are welcome to attend. Our general reading group has places available and meets on the last Saturday of the month at 10.30am. Further information is available from library staff.

Remember that if you are looking for a room to hire in Chineham the Acorn Room at the library has availability, including outside of opening hours. For more information please contact us at **chineham.library@hants.gov.uk**.

Chineham Library team wish you a very Happy Christmas.

Cathy Foster

NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

Basing House is now closed for the year and will re-open next Easter.

We open on one special day when we open between now and then, which is **Saturday 30th November**, the day of our **Christmas Market**. The market shall be held in the Great Barn and Cow Byre from **11.00am** until **4.00pm** and we would love to see you there. There will be over 30 stalls selling wonderful festive produce and handmade crafts. Admission is £2.50 for the market and Father Christmas will be in attendance. We'll also have the English Civil War Society giving a living history display in the main ruins through Garrison Gate.

Parking is off Barton's Lane just before you reach the Barton's Mill pub. There is then a near 500-yard walk to the barn. Parking in The Street is discouraged as we all know it just isn't wide enough.

All the staff and volunteers at Basing House we wish you a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Andrew Howard 01256 327014





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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

BOXING DAY WALK

Don't forget to don your boots and join **Tony Stoney** and colleagues for the Boxing Day Walk which will start at **Old Basing Village Hall** at **11.00am** on **26th December**. Dogs on leads are always welcome so this is a good opportunity for you and your dog to walk off all those extra Christmas treats.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS

The Parish Office will be closed from **Tuesday**, **24th December** (Christmas Eve) through to **Sunday**, **29th December** and again on **Tuesday**, **31st December** and **Wednesday**, **1st January** (New Year's Day). Telephone messages and emails will be monitored from time to time during this period and any urgent messages dealt with. Non-urgent messages will be responded to as quickly as possible when the office re-opens on 30th December.

LYCHPIT COMMUNITY HALL

We are currently looking for someone to carry out part-time caretaking duties at the Lychpit Community Hall at weekends. The role involves opening and checking the hall for incoming parties, liaising with the hirer and returning at the end of the party to close up. Most of our weekend events are children's parties that take place during the daytime, however some late Saturday evenings will be necessary to cover adult parties and cleaning duties will be required. The role may suit someone who is retired or is unable to work during weekdays and would be ideal for anyone wishing to job-share.

If you think this may suit you and would like further information, please contact the Clerk (details below).

TRAFFIC COUNTERS

You may have noticed traffic counters across roads in Old Basing throughout November. We understand Hampshire County Council are developing a new traffic model for North Hampshire and these surveys are needed as part of the update.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are **Tuesday**, **3rd December** and **7th January** at **7.30pm** in the **Pavilion Committee Room**. All are welcome and anyone with impaired mobility should contact the Parish Office so they can be accommodated.

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: CIIr Alan Renwick Vice Chair: CIIr Mark Oszczyk Parish Clerk: Mrs Sandra Tuck Assistant Clerk Mrs Kate Hope

Address: The Pavilion.

The Recreation Ground, The Street,

Old Basing, RG24 7DA.

Telephone: 01256 462847

Office Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday, 10.00am to noon

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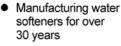
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THE VILLAGE CAFÉ

The Village Café, your local volunteer run café supporting the community of Old Basing and Lychpit, opens on Friday afternoons from 2.00 to 4:30pm in the Parish Room at St Mary's Church.

Thank you to everyone who came along to our first birthday party on 25th October, such a pleasure to see so many of our customers enjoying a complimentary glass of Prosecco to say thank you for supporting us over the past year. It was lovely to also welcome representatives of the charities we have supported over the past twelve months to this event and receive such kind praise from them for all our fund raising efforts. As a one off, the profits raised from the birthday event were donated to the **Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning** fund and I am pleased to say we raised over £380 for this worthwhile cause. Thank you all for your generosity.

We will be continuing our fund raising for the homeless charity, Julian House for the next few months, again a charity that is extremely deserving, especially at this time of year when the weather can be exceptionally cruel to those unfortunate enough to be living on the streets.

The café volunteers will be entering **St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival** again this year and we are planning to add a little **Christmas special** to our offerings on **6th December** so come along and enjoy the pre-Christmas atmosphere and some festive bakes.

A reminder that on **Friday 29th November**, we will be hosting a pop up visit from **The Glass Maidens**, local resident Penny Jubin will be selling her wonderful handmade glass so come and have a browse, you may find that special gift you've been looking for.

The café will be open for our last day before the seasonal break on **20th December** and we will reopen on **Friday 10th January**.

We wish all our customers a Happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you all in the New Year.

Deborah Thorne

OLD BASING ALLOTMENT AND GARDEN SOCIETY

The last **allotment shop** opening of the year will be on **Sunday, 1st December** from **11.00am** to **noon**. Last month, ground cover was flying off the shelves so do come along and get some if you need it.

This is the month to prune lots of your fruit trees and bushes, including apples, pears, gooseberries, blackcurrants, redcurrants and whitecurrants to keep them all as productive as possible.

Hopefully, you should be harvesting lots of veg for your Christmas feasts, including parsnips, leeks and winter cabbages as well as the obligatory Brussels Sprouts. If the soil is likely to be frozen, consider covering it with straw to help with harvesting.

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Event news: Why not have a break from Christmas shopping and try out **conservation work** for a couple of hours at your local nature reserve on **Sunday, 1st 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. Either find us or meet at the **Play Area** at **10.00am**.

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.

For regular visitors to the site you may have seen our new notice board which provides updates on our wildlife; last month's highlights included sightings of a Dormouse and Kingfisher.

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

Anne Francis (07974 944439)

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT BIG TURKEY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Sunday 29th December, 2019

Depending on when you are reading this there are less than 30 shopping days to go to Christmas. On that basis it is time to turn your attention to Christmas and put Sunday, 29th December, in the diary for the Old Basing & Lychpit Big Turkey Community Christmas Lunch. The Christmas Lunch will be held at **Old Basing Village Hall** starting with drinks served from **noon** and **lunch at 1.00 pm**. This will be the fifth consecutive year this hugely popular event will be held where the objective is to provide a complimentary Christmas meal with an afternoon of entertainment to families; young and old to unify the community of Old Basing and Lychpit especially during this special seasonal time of the year. Places are limited to 180 therefore please book early to avoid disappointment. You can either **sign up** for the event in the foyer of **St Mary's Church** from early October onwards or contact **Caron** on **07740775036** or email: **bigturkeylunch@outlook.com**.

As in previous years transport will be available for those that have difficulty attending the event. Volunteers to help are welcome and if you can spare some time on the day or before then also please contact Caron. 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 relies on the funding from the Parish Council, support from St Mary's, the generosity of local vendors and from donations on the day.

We look forward to seeing you all in December.

Rachel Jones

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CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE: Thursday, 19th December 2019, in the chapel at Basingstoke Crematorium, Manor Farm, RG25 2BA. Arrival drinks at 6.45 p.m. The service begins at 7.15 p.m. and will be accompanied by members of the Salvation Army Band. All money raised will be donated to the Sebastian's Action Trust.

LODDON VALE INDOOR BOWLING CLUB: Invite you to join them at Basingstoke Leisure Park, Churchill Way West, Basingstoke, RG22 6PG To enjoy some light healthy indoor exercise for all ages-and meet new friends. Comfortable air conditioned premises with restaurant and bar. Open from 10.00am to 10.30pm.

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BASINGSTOKE LADIES' CHOIR (BLC) CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2019: Please come and join us for our Christmas Concert where we will perform a variety of festive songs as well as enjoying some traditional carol singing. We will also share our concert with "A Splash of Red" - a wonderful Choir from Fairford, Gloucestershire. We shared a concert with them earlier in 2019 and could not wait to invite them to Basingstoke. The concert is on Saturday 14th December All Saints Church, Southern Road, Basingstoke, RG21 3DX, at 7 pm. Tickets are £5 each and are available from Margaret Allen on 01256 325457 or email magsbaz@ntlworld.com (some on the door). The concert will raise funds for BLC's chosen charity, Home Start North West Hampshire who provide support to families of Basingstoke.

BASINGSTOKE DISCOVERY CENTER: Talks and Events for December can be found on the website www.basinga.org.uk, see Forthcoming Events feature

ADVERTISERS NEWS

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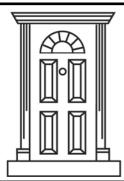
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Selection for Articles/Letters and Diary Dates will be found on the "Submissions" drop down and for Free and Concession Ads on the "Advertise with us" drop down. Paid advertising enquiries can also be made in the same way.

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

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

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

Contacts for general enquiries and assistance:

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OLD BASING WI

On 5th November we welcomed Deborah Wheeler back again. Deborah has worked for the Museum Services for over 20 years, most recently at Milestones Museum where she can be seen dressed in costume as a Victorian or Tudor. She regaled us with some of the funny stories and questions that she has been asked by children and adults over the years.

On 10th November we were proud to march alongside the Royal British Legion to pay our respects at the Remembrance Day Service and to lay our own hand-made Poppy Wreath. On **30th November** we will have / had a stall at the **Basing House Christmas Fayre** selling craft and food items produced by our members.

Our December meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 3rd December** at the **Parish Rooms** when we will be hearing from Ms Rowan Suart about Festive Fayre for Christmas. The competition on that evening will be a Wrapped Decorated Box 6" x 4". We are also asking Members to donate something festive for our Christmas raffle.

We always welcome new members to our WI group. For further details of our activities this 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.

OLD BASING CARNIVAL

On behalf of **Old Basing Carnival Committee**, I am very pleased to announce that following another amazing year, that at our Annual General Meeting we were able to award the following amounts to the 17 requests received for a share of the profits to local groups:

£300 to Basingstoke Shed to buy and convert a double decker bus into a mobile Shed.

£200 to: Old Basing Scouts for camps and camping equipment, Old Basing Cubs x 2 groups for outdoor games equipment/subsidise an activity day, Old Basing Brownies for handbooks and craft equipment, Old Basing Rainbows for handbooks, badges and storage, Unit 55, World Scout Jamboree for Reunion camp, Lychpit Rainbows for new craft materials and Old Basing DofE.

£150 to: Bolton Under 5's Preschool for toys and storage, Old Basing Infant School for outdoor learning, Linguatastic for radio microphone headset, Old Basing Village Hall for new taps for the kitchen, Old Basing & Lychpit Big Turkey Community Lunch for ingredients for Christmas Lunch, Millfield Conservation Group to replace tools, Basing Singers for pull up banners, Old Basing Methodist Church for new bibles and Old Basing WI for plaque for tree.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the committee members, our extended support network for their continued dedication and hard work which enabled us to have another successful year. Thank you also to all our donors and advertisers for their continued support.

I am very pleased to extend a very warm welcome to all Senior Citizens who reside in the parish, to join us for **The Old Basing Carnival Senior Citizen Party** on **Saturday**, **15th February** 2020, **midday for 12.30pm start** at: **Old Basing Village Hall**. Lovely food, great company, a few fun activities and a free raffle. We will be doing our usual welcome sherry/ orange juice – however do feel free to bring a bottle of wine to have with your lunch if you would like too.

Joe Croombs

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Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is urging residents to recycle more and try to waste less during this festive season. There is no limit to how much you can recycle. Any extra recycling can be put in cardboard boxes or clear sacks which are available from larger supermarkets and general stores. Leave the cardboard box or clear sacks filled with recycling and large, flattened cardboard boxes next to your recycling bin. Please remove the polystyrene and plastic packaging before leaving cardboard out.

There are lots of items that can be recycled including cardboard packaging, paper, newspapers and magazines, food tins, drinks cans, aerosols and plastic bottles. Remember that Christmas wrapping paper cannot be recycled and needs to go into your black waste bin. Try wrapping presents with brown paper instead, it's recyclable and can look beautiful when decorated. Christmas cards can be recycled but only if they do not contain glitter, ribbons or bows. If you're unsure about what can and can't be recycled visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/recycle or call the council on 01256 844844.

Christmas can mean extra rubbish which can't be recycled, so extra sacks will be collected for the first collection after Christmas only.

If you're thinking of getting a **real tree**, you can **recycle** it at one of a number of drop off points across the borough between **Thursday**, **2nd January** and **Sunday**, **26th January**.

For the first time those people signed up to the Garden Waste service will be able to put their real Christmas trees out for collection with their fortnightly garden waste. Christmas trees over 6ft need to be cut in half and decorations must be removed from all trees.

For more information visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/christmas-tree.

This year bin collections will be affected over two weeks and, unless adverse weather affects bin rounds, collections should return to normal from Monday 13th January 2020.

Normal collection	Festive collection date
Monday 23 December	Monday 23 December
Tuesday 24 December	Tuesday 24 December
Wednesday 25 December	Friday 27 December
Thursday 26 December	Saturday 28 December
Friday 27 December	Monday 30 December
Monday 30 December	Tuesday 31 December
Tuesday 31 December	Thursday 2 January
Wednesday 1 January	Friday 3 January
Thursday 2 January	Saturday 4 January
Friday 3 January	Monday 6 January
Monday 6 January	Tuesday 7 January
Tuesday 7 January	Wednesday 8 January
Wednesday 8 January	Thursday 9 January
Thursday 9 January	Friday 10 January
Friday 10 January	Saturday 11 January

Check your bin collection day on the website www.basingstoke.gov.uk/bincollections or call 01256 844844.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Dear Friends,

I imagine most of us will have heard Christmas songs played on the radio already this year – it seems that once the clocks go back and the nights draw in, the Christmas music begins! Some of my favourite music I sang in choirs when growing up was Christmas carols, and



it brings a smile to my face when I hear carol singers out and about. There's something wonderful about how these joyful songs fill our hearts with warmth and joy. For carols have a celebratory tone - they are about the celebration of one divine, love filled event that took place some 2000 years ago, and that lives on in the lives of Christians today.

Through words and music, each carol tells part of the story of God entering the world to be with us in Jesus Christ. God coming to be with us, live alongside us, in the whole of our human experience, the good and the bad. God coming to be with us that first Christmas night, and with each one of us for evermore. One of my favourite carols is O Holy Night which tells of Jesus 'in all our trials born to be our friend' and who

'taught us to love one another.' For me, these words sum up some of the pearls at the heart of the Christian faith.

Yet there are many, many great carols and the theme for our Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church this month is 'A Christmas Carol.' I'm very much looking forward to seeing the creative ways in which the trees are decorated to depict different Christmas carols and songs. The festival will be on over the weekend of 7th and 8th December, and you are all most welcome to come and take a look.

If you enjoy singing Christmas carols, there will be plenty of opportunities for a good sing this Advent and Christmas. The Christingle Service and Crib Service are particularly suitable for children and their families; and at both Old Basing Methodist Church and St Mary's Church you will find carol services this month, as well as services on Christmas Day.

And so, I hope and pray that the carols you hear fill your hearts with joy and hope this Christmas-time, and that you know God's love surrounding you this Christmas time.

With love,

Reverend Heather

THIS MONTH AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Sat 7th / Sun 8th Christmas Tree Festival (11.00am to 4.30pm Saturday 7th,

11.00am to 4.00pm Sunday 8th - please see separate item on

the next page)

The Festival will conclude with the Christingle Service at

4.00pm on Sunday 8th

Sunday 15th December Community Carol Service at 4.00pm

Wednesday 18th St Mary's CE Junior School Carol Service at 6.00pm

Friday 20th December Blue Christmas Service at 6.00pm. A gentle service for those

bereaved or feeling loss during the period of Christmas, with

refreshments from **5.15pm**.

Christmas Eve Nativity Services at 2.30pm and 4.00pm Come along to hear

the story of Christmas. Children are invited to come dressed as characters from the Nativity story. You can be a king, shepherd,

Mary or Joseph or even a sheep or an angel.

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:

Mondays in December Advent Compline at 7.30pm. A quiet, meditative service.

Monday 16th December Tea & Talk Café, 2.00pm in the Parish Room. All are welcome.

Full details of all services are available on St Mary's website and Facebook page. The church is open daily for prayer and you are welcome as you are every Sunday.

Sunday services take place every week at 8.00am and 9.30am. All are welcome. There is a children's corner where young children can play and pray. During the 9:30 am service, Junior church meets for primary school age children in the Parish Room.

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

For more details about the life of St Mary's please visit www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk or find us on Face-book: St Mary's Old Basing and Lychpit

THIS MONTH AT OLD BASING METHODIST CHURCH

Tuesday, 3rd December Craft Group from 2.00 to 4.00pm.

Tuesday, 10th Decembe MHA Carols and Christmas tea on at 2.00 to 4.00pm Friday, 13th December Christmas Coffee Break from 10.30am until noon.

Sunday, 22nd December Carol Service to be held at 10.30am.

December 25th Christmas Day Worship at 10.00am led by Rev. Alison Parker.

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

CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)

This month's **working party** will be on **Saturday**, **7th December** at **10.00am** – meet in the church lobby. There will be no Thursday afternoon working party in December. We hope for good weather as we have already lost two working parties due to rain this autumn. We will continue our seasonal conservation work, including woodland management. We look forward to seeing our regular volunteers and also new participants. All are welcome.

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).

We will be displaying a tree at **St Mary's Church's Christmas Tree Festival 7th** to **8th December**. This year's theme is 'Christmas Carols' so we have chosen "The Holly and the Ivy". If the weather is pleasant when you visit, please come and see our Conservation Area. The holly berries are at their best and if you look high up in the yews trees redwings may be feeding on the berries. Or, you may simply prefer to sit quietly on the WI seat for a moment of reflection and peace. 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

A CHRISTMAS CAROL – ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

You haven't booked your tree space yet? This is your last chance, you may already be too late!, 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, 7th December, 11.00am to 4.30pm, and Sunday, 8th December, 11.00am to 4.00pm).

There is still time to book and we will fit you in with pleasure, making the Christmas Tree Festival even more spectacular. Trees cost £7.50 to sponsor.

On **Saturday**, **7th 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, children's activities 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 **20th December**. Not only will we be serving tea, coffee and light refreshments, but mulled wine and mince pies at lunch time. Entrance is free or purchase a programme for £1 which will contain a voting form for your family's favourite tree to be announced on Sunday at 3.45 pm.

Join us on **Saturday** for the combined **Schools Choirs and Basing Singers Concert** at **2.00pm.** All information will be in the Church Lobby.

We are asking for donations of baked goods, raffle prizes, 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 the start of a truly wonderful Christmas.

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

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DISCOVER A WINTER WONDERLAND THIS CHRISTMAS



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The fire is glowing. You've eaten your own weight in turkey. The Grinch has discovered the true meaning of Christmas for the fifth time today, and you feel yourself

slipping into sofa-bound oblivion. A waft of warm pudding rouses you, and so the cycle continues.

Perhaps it's the perfect day. But after a week or so you may start to feel like the pudding you love so well, and that is no way to start the New Year! Break the cycle and discover a winter wonderland near you...

Refresh your senses and go on wildlife hunt. Who will be the first to hear woodpeckers drumming, robins singing, or spot the unmistakable red berries of a holly tree?

Visit one of our wetland nature reserves like Lower Test near Totton or Farlington Marshes near Portsmouth. Watch the overwintering wildfowl foraging for food or coming in to roost – some, like our visiting Brent geese, have flown here all the way from Siberia!

Play Poohsticks with friends and family on a bridge over a river. Collect a stick for each person of similar size and weight, but make sure they look different so you can recognise them. Drop the sticks on the upstream side of the bridge, then turn around to the other side and see whose stick arrives first. Endless fun for everyone!

Unleash your inner explorer and look out for wintry animal tracks and signs – pine cones that have been stripped by hungry squirrels, animal fur caught on fences and footprints in mud, sand or snow.



Robin © Mark Hamblin 2020VISION HIWWT

Bring joy to the natural world and help our feathered friends through the cold weather. Keep feeders well stocked, and provide fresh water for birds and other animals (don't forget to check it each morning to make sure it hasn't frozen over!)

Alice Ashcroft Communications Officer HIWWT

THE STREET BAKEHOUSE

Have you recently walked or driven past the Old Basing Bakehouse and wondered what is going on? In big letters the word 'closed' jumps out from miles away, yet there is a steady hustle of people going in and out, and vans arriving and leaving, that suggests that the Bakehouse is not so 'closed' after all. Yes, we have been busy! We are returning the Old Basing Bakehouse to what it has been known for in the village for decades: a proper BAKERY! We are passionate about honest, real food. This means that we make everything ourselves, here on site, from scratch. We develop our own recipes, source the best ingredients and make delicious cakes, pastries and hand-crafted sourdough breads. We are so excited to change the sign from 'closed' to 'open' very soon, and welcome you to The Street Bakeshop with the delicious smell of locally roasted coffee and freshly baked bread. We look forward to meeting you.

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- . Explore the ruins and imagine what the house would have looked like
- . Visit the walled garden and learn about Basing House's fascinating history in the museum
- . Walk your dog or find a picnic spot

INFORMATION

Basing House is now closed.

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www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house

BASING ROYALS FOOTBALL CLUB

We did it! **Basing Royals FC** want to say a **HUGE** thank you to the generous shoppers who donated to their bucket collection at Tesco, Chineham on 20th October. The funds from this as well as sponsorship from the club's participation at the local **FOOBS** trail run and a



fun-filled race night, will cover the cost of a lifesaving defibrillator for the club to support their U8/U10 and U11 teams. With less than one in ten people surviving an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in the UK, this is an essential piece of kit for the club.

www.basingroyalsfc.co.uk is the contact for more information. Thank you as always to our sponsors; Eden Motors, ASUS and the ongoing support of the Old Basing RBL.

Kate Fairish

CHINEHAM AND OLD BASING NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER

Autumn seems to have turned to winter rather quickly so it is good that we have a full programme of topics to discuss and events and activities planned to keep us going.

Five of our members enjoyed a short break in Valkenburg at the beginning of the month and a good time was had by all. Already looking forward to further short breaks in the future.

Our November meeting was the nationwide telephone quiz that always has us scratching our heads and hoping to win the £100 prize. Our starter clue this year was: skirt foundation without the drink at the end. Will give you the answer next time!

Philip Roth's The Human Stain is the book for this month's read and the lunch group will be going to The Wellington Farm Shop. As Christmas will soon be upon us we will be having our annual festive lunch on 2nd December.

If you are looking for something a little different, enjoy some lively conversation and a variety of activities to choose from then do come along and meet us. We usually meet in the afternoon in each others' homes on the first Monday of the month. **Our Lunch Club** meets at various venues on different days of the week and our **book lovers** meet **8.00pm every 4th Thursday**.

For more information about **NWR** do look at the website: **nwr.org.uk** or to find out about our group do get in touch. You can be sure of a warm welcome at any of our meetings so come and check us out with no obligation to join.

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FOORS TRAIL AND FUN RUNS



Despite our hopes and prayers, it was grey and drizzly and the sunshine once again declined to join in with our **Friends Of Old Basing Schools Trail and Fun Runs**. However, we had over 130 adults and teenagers take part in the 10km route, and over 100 runners in the 6km route, both of which went through the fields and tracks around Wildmoor!

First home was 16 year old **Cameron Coveney**, followed by **Alex Bigg** and **Mark Soane**. **Dawn Hunt** won the female race, coming in 11th overall, with **Gemma Bigg** and **Mitch Lloyd** closing in fast on her heels.

The 6km race had more runners joining in this year than last year, with about 100 children and adults running and this was won by **Michal Bursak**, with Jack **Hedderly** and **Charlie Coveney** coming in fast behind him. **Izzy Powell** came in 9th overall to be the first female home, with **Ella Marston** and **Nicole Fuller** coming in 2nd and 3rd for the Women's race.

Once all the 10k and 6k runners were in, **Julian Goater**, a Great Britain athlete, presented the prizes - a glass trophy and voucher prize kindly donated by Petra Jewellery, Pizza Express and Atmosphere Trampoline Park.

After a fun warm up session, the children's 2km race went off around the Recreation Ground and Oliver's Battery, with 160 little ones giving their all in the muddy conditions, slipping and sliding with their parents, as they raced for the finish line where they received a wonderful medal, a water bottle and some well-deserved sweeties!

The event raised about £3,500 for the village schools and we warmly thank our headline sponsor, RJS Builders Ltd, plus all the other sponsors and volunteers for their generosity of



time, monies and donations; not forgetting the wonderfully cheerful marshalls who stood out in the cold and rain!

It was so wonderful to see hundreds of local children and adults joining in, despite the weather, and having fun running and getting muddy while raising money for our local schools - roll on next year, when it surely has to be sunny, doesn't it?

Catriona Coveney

BASINGA EXTRA

There are a number of articles of interest that we can't find room for this month. They are, however, available on-line on our website, **Basinga Extra, www.basinga.org.uk**

Autumn Leaves BDRS Blues Club Crime Prevention

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DRAMA TOTS

Drama Tots have been announced as winners in the prestigious 'What's On 4 Kids Awards 2019'. Classes have been running for the last two years at both St Marys Parish Room as well as Lychpit Community Hall and local nurseries and preschools on a weekly basis and we are thrilled to have been recognised at these national awards.

Drama Tots was announced as the winner of the UK's Most Loved Performing Arts Activity category and I would like to thank all of my lovely families who come and have been to classes over the last two years for voting and for the ongoing support.

Drama Tots provides interactive, educational and fun weekly sessions for children aged 18 months to 4 years. Our aim is to create a fun and nurturing environment at our classes and allow children to build confidence and an ability to express themselves through Drama and imaginary play. For more information please see our website- www.dramatots.co.uk or contact Kate: kate@dramatots.co.uk

ROTARY CLUB

ROTARY SHOEBOX, THANK YOU

A huge thanks to all who contributed shoeboxes for our annual appeal, more than 500 boxes full of toys and warm gloves and hats etc. are on their way to under-privileged children abroad

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER 2019

Teams from our club will be in action prior to Christmas providing hands-on support to **St Michael's Hospice Light up a Life** event on **December 1st** This event gives individuals and families the opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of a loved one or someone special. The special commemorative service offers time to reflect and share memories with those closest to us. See the Hospice website for further info.

And on **December 18th** just to get you in the Christmas spirit, **Basingstoke Samaritans** will hold their **fundraising Carol Concert** at the **United Reform Church**, **London Street**, at **7.30pm**, until about **9.30pm**, £7 per ticket. Includes mulled wine and mince pie.

HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL MARINES ARE IN TOWN

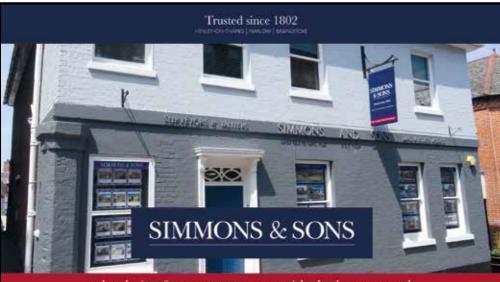
It is a real privilege to welcome the 48 strong full concert band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines for their annual visit to Basingstoke.

The Royal Marines Band of HMS Collingwood will be accompanied by the Royal Corps of Drums and everyone's favourite - The Chelsea Pensioners from the Royal Hospital Chelsea. In recent years we have been entertained with themes from the movies, including Star Wars and James Bond as well as Big Band music, popular music and good old fashioned patriotic tunes known by all generations. Unashamedly patriotic, a fabulous concert!

The Concert takes place in **mid-January** and tickets are already available from **The Anvil Box Office**. They will make a great Christmas present for that hard to buy for person.

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A way of following what's going on at the Basingstoke Discovery Centre is to use the Twitter feed http://twitter.com/BasingstokeDC or @BasingstokeDC from Twitter.



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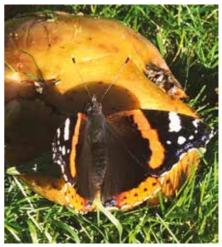
NATURE NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

I may be aiming this final report of the year for December but its early November as I write and I've just been admiring the brilliant array of colours that adorn the countryside at the moment. The very chilly night a week ago has had its terminal effect on the millions of leaves on every tree thus producing a myriad of yellows, golds, reds and browns. Trouble is that all these leaves will soon be on the ground and that's not only a mess but can be treacherous to walk on, so as they say, be careful out there.

Worse is the fact that many trees are in some danger and did you know that it's estimated that 42% of 'conker' trees across Europe could face extinction from the moth larvae that burrows its way through the leaf of many each summer? Conker games might not be quite as popular as they used to be but it would be tragic if this British tradition came to an end in this way.

With falling leaves comes falling fruit and I snapped a Red Admiral (picture) on a lovely warm sunny afternoon last month, one of five or six butterflies that flitted and settled on over ripe windfall apples.

I hardly need to tell you that it's getting colder now and the bird feeders have been a hive of activity. Allison Wells in Belle Vue Road emailed me to say she has literally dozens of Goldfinches, Long Tailed and Blue Tits scrabbling over every morsel being offered. In addition early winter visits from Bramblings have occurred too so that's a great garden spot for her. So if you want to get birds like this in your garden you need to get the right kind of food into your feeders and I would be happy to supply or advise.



My thanks to Chris White who sent me several good notes in September which I couldn't include in October. However something else worth reporting came along a couple of weeks back and he is sure he spotted a Peregrine Falcon when he was driving near the Black Dam. This is certainly feasible as there are plenty of waterfowl there which an alpha raptor like a Peregrine would travel miles to get. A Sparrowhawk has also recently been trying to lower the Wood Pigeon population in Chris's Pelham Close garden leaving a huge pile of grey feathers behind. Another regular 'spotter' Stephen Thair in Park Lane also witnessed a Collared Dove coming to a sticky end at the talons of a female Sparrowhawk last month. And he thinks that the Skylarks he saw and heard singing towards Lasham either thought it was spring again or were just happy with the warm sunny conditions that day.

As this is the last feature of 2019 may I wish all my readers and customers a Very Happy Christmas but there will be a flavour of Bird Drop Ins at St Mary's Christmas Tree festival on 7-8th so hopefully I may see you there.

Rick Bourne

Don't forget to send all your nature related photos to **rickbourne@yahoo.com** or **naturenotes@basinga.org.uk** Or ring **01256 321108** for news. .For all your bird food requirements, order it from me at 'Bird Drop-ins' use the former email address or ring me on **07900 648675** to place an order or get a form.

DECEMBER JOBS THE GARDEN

Having already lost a greenhouse pane in the high winds at the beginning of November, I would highly suggest that you continue to check on greenhouses, polytunnels and other outside structures through the winter to ensure that they are sturdy enough to withstand anything the weather can throw at them. While you are at it, it is also a good time to check the protection on tender perennials so that the cold doesn't creep in and destroy them. Pots should also be raised onto feet or bricks if you haven't already done so lest they become waterlogged. Any tubs or pots that are liable to cracking due to frost should be wrapped in bubblewrap, hessian or fleece to prevent this from happening.

Continue to clear flower beds of leaves and cut back plants that have gone over, unless vou want to leave these as winter habitats for insects. It is particularly important that alpines are not left with decaying plant matter on them as thy will die off if left damp for too long. You can mulch around them with gravel to help with drainage and for other plants that will suffer with mud splashes, then bark chip mulch can be used to keep them at their best. If your soil tends towards being heavy and claggy, or even filled with big lumps of chalk like mine, then you can work in lots of composted organic matter to help improve it for next year. This will have the added bonus of keeping you warm with lots of digging!

Waterlogging can also be a problem on lawns, if you can't help walking on it when it is wet it will eventually die back and therefore it might be worth considering installing some stepping stones or a path to allow access to the areas you need to reach without causing damage to the grass in the process. If you lay the stones or pavers at a low enough level, they won't interfere with mowing, which might still be necessary if the weather stays above 5 degrees or

so as the grass will keep growing at this temperature. Damaged lawn patches can be repaired with turves cut from other areas of the garden and all lawn edges should be re-cut to keep them tidy and to save work next season.

If you have a pond heater, make sure you use it to keep the water from freezing over which can be fatal for fish and other pond life. If you don't have a heater, please don't be tempted to crack the ice as this can damage the fish. Instead, use a saucepan of hot water to melt a hole and allow an air hole. Foraging herons can be deterred using nylon strings at least 15cm from the ground and in from the edges of the pond. If you would like to make your pond more wildlife friendly, now is a good time to do it in preparation for next season.

Now is a good time to prune apple and pear trees that are ground in open ground (not against a wall). You are aiming to achieve a balanced, open goblet like structure but better to prune to lightly than too hard. There is always next year! Acers, birches and vines can also be pruned now as they need to be done before Christmas to avoid bleeding. You can take hardwood cuttings of plants now if you need to increase your stock. You can also continue to plant deciduous trees and shrubs.

On a personal note, this will be my last gardening article as work and time commitments prevent me from continuing. I would like to say that it has been a pleasure and I hope someone else will take on the mantel for the future. If anyone is interested, please contact editor@basinga.org.uk

Happy gardening!

Tracy Braybrook

OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Old Basing RBL wishes to extend a great big thank you to everyone who participated in, helped to arrange or attended this years Remembrance Day parade. We were very lucky with the weather again and Old Basing Parish showed just how proud it was of its World War Fallen by turning out in big numbers.

Special thanks must go to the local community groups who clearly worked very hard on their many tributes and to all at St. Mary's for their hard work to ensure the service went smoothly, with particular congratulations to Rev Heather on her first Remembrance day. 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 before 11.00am.

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 locally over the past few weeks and indeed the Poppy Year. However, Tim has already informed me that the **collection at the Church Service raised a superb £612.75**. The generosity extended to our many collectors again has been superb and we thank you very much.

If you would like to help the Appeal next year with a few hours collecting we would be delighted to hear from you. It's a fun and rewarding job and you'll want to do it again!

OLD BASING RBL CORPS OF DRUMS CONCERT

Old Basing Royal British Legion Corps of Drums would like to invite you to their Christmas Concert from 2.00 to 4.00pm on Sunday, 15th December at the Royal British Legion Club, Crown Lane, Old Basing. Come and join them for a number of musical acts together with Carols to get you in the Christmas spirit, and watch the drummers' amazing black light show. There will also be a raffle included. Tickets are £7.00 each and can be bought from the RBL Club or by contacting me. This will be an extremely popular event, so buy your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

OLD BASING RBL CLUB GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW

Great prizes will again be on offer for participants in our super Christmas draw and YOU can get your tickets right now for a £1 each from any of the club bar staff. Come down to the club on 20th December commencing at 7pm to enjoy the excitement of the draw.

Members may wish to note also that the club will be open EVERY day from lunchtime between Christmas Eve until New Years Day. Look forward to seeing you and your families.

(Polite reminder: If your membership expired end of September, please renew it if you haven't !!)

Rick Bourne, on behalf of Old Basing RBL

SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN

A brand new Santa float, built by the **Rotary Club of Basingstoke** will be coming to our area in early December. Raising monies for local charities and giving children a thrill as well as giving all the family a Christmas sight and entertaining them with traditional carols the Basingstoke Rotary Santa float will be out and about **between 6.00 pm and 8.00 pm**.

Friday, 13th Chineham Tuesday, 17th Lychpit
Thursday, 19th Lychpit Friday, 20th Chineham

DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER

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

2.00pm – 4.30pm Village Cafe with The Glass Maidens glass craft work.

November

Fri 29

Sat 30	11.00am – 4.00pm	Basing House Christmas Market. Barn and Cow Byre.	
December			
Sun 1	10.00am	Mill Field Working Party. Meet in play area.	
	11.00am - noon	OBAGS Shop open in Riley Lane.	
Tue 3	7.30pm	Old Basing WI meeting in St. Mary's Parish Room.	
	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, (Pavilion Committee Room, Rec)	
Wed 4	7.45pm	BDRS Talk: Old Dalby Test Track. Wote Street Club.	
Thu 5	10.00am - 4.00pm	OCH Charity Shop, Belle Vue Rd. Fourth Birthday see p3	
	7.45pm	for 8.00pm. RBL Branch Meeting. Jack Morris Hall.	
Fri 6	10.30am - noon	Ladies' First Friday Coffee Morning. 8 Norton Ride, Lychpit	
	2.00pm _ 4.30pm	Village Cafe pre- Christmas Special!	
6.00pm LAST DATE FOR COPY TO EDITOR - see page 3			
	7.45pm	Sounds of Hope (All Saints Church, Basingstoke	
Sat 7	10.00am - 1.00pm	PIOCC Churchyard Conservation. Church lobby.	
Sat 7	11.00am - 4.30pm	St. Mary's Christmas Tree Festival - see page 24	
Sun 8	11.00am – 4.00pm	St. Mary's Christmas Tree Festival - see page 24	
Fri 13	2.00pm - 4.30pm	Village Cafe (Parish Room, St. Mary's Church	
Sat 14	8.00pm - late	Basingstoke Blues Club. TRAFFICKERxl	
Sun 15	2.00pm – 4.00pm	OLD Basing RBL Band Concert. Jack Morris Hall	
Tue 17	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Rotary Club Santa float travelling through Lychpit.	
Wed 18	7.30pm – 9.00pm	Samaritans Carol Concert. United Reform Church.	
	7.45pm	BDRS members-only buffet and movie evening	
Thu 19	6.00pm - 8.00pm	Rotary Club Santa float travelling through Lychpit.	
Fri 20	2.00pm - 4.30pm	Village Cafe (Parish Room, St. Mary's Church	
Sun 29	noon	Old Basing and Lychpit Big Turkey Community Lunch	

Basinga Extra entries can be found on page 30

OLD BASING VILLAGE HALL

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• OLD BASING & LYCHPIT PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK: Sandra Tuck 01256 462847

OFFICE AND HOURS: The Pavilion, The Recreation Ground

Monday to Thursday 10am to noon

• CHURCH INFORMATION FOR THE AREA

Church of England (Parish of Old Basing & Lychpit)

VICAR: Revd. Heather Leppard, The Vicarage, Church Lane, Old Basing
Email: vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

ADMINISTRATOR:
Debbie Filer

CHURCHWARDENS:
Tricia Renwick
Jan Kershaw

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Regular Services at St Mary's Church, Old Basing

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

5.30pm Evening Service

OTHER DAYS: Wednesday 10am Holy Communion

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

Old Basing Methodist Church

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