

December 2022

# BASINGA



see page 3



Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Magazine  
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## DECEMBER COVER PHOTO, NOTES AND NEWS

The front cover photograph this month was sent to us by **Evelyn Barrett** (nee **Robbins**) who now lives in Western Australia. The photo accompanies a long article by her, reminiscing on her life in Old Basing during World War II. The photo shows the **1945 Victory Tea Party** for children of Old Basing. You might have been one of the children shown, or know someone in the photo. Please let us know if that is the case, and add your memories to Evelyn's. Part One of her childhood memories can be found on page 13, further 'episodes' in the following months.

**December** got its name from the Latin word *decem* because it was originally the tenth month of the year in the Roman calendar which began in March. The winter days following December were not included as part of any month. Later January and February were created out of this period and added to the calendar, but December retained its name.

## 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 **6pm on Tuesday, 6th December**. Please use the forms on the **Basinga** website [www.basinga.org.uk](http://www.basinga.org.uk) to get your dates, articles and letters to us (*see box on page 15 for further instructions*).

All advertising enquiries – classified, free adverts or inserts (flyers) can also be made via the website. **Don't forget that we only accept articles with about a 300-word maximum and articles are only published at the Editor's discretion.**

## PHOTOS AND LOGOS FOR THE BASINGA

If any reader would like to offer a **photograph of the village environment** we would be happy to receive them, either for immediate use or to build up a portfolio of 'village views' that we can use. We now have a web form that you can use to send a photograph for the website archive and possible use in the magazine – go to [www.basinga.org.uk](http://www.basinga.org.uk) and the form can be found on the '**Contributors Submission**' menu. Should you wish to submit multiple photos, or a photo is too 'large', they can be emailed directly to the **Editor**.

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

## BIG TURKEY IS BACK!

The **Big Turkey** is back with **Turkey Pie** on **Friday, 30th December**. We will be serving a complimentary festive meal at **Old Basing Village Hall** starting with **drinks from noon and lunch at 1pm**. Please call **Rosey** on **07544 998292** to reserve your place. Places are limited so please book now to avoid disappointment. The lunch is open to everyone in the community, including families and young people, and transport will be available if needed. This is also a great opportunity to volunteer and enjoy the festive spirit as well as delicious food! If you can spare some time on the day or evening before then please let us know. Looking forward to a fantastic village event!

## OLD BASING INFANT SCHOOL



In June 2022 our Ofsted inspection rated us as a 'Good' school. We were delighted with our report which noted: 'Pupils are full of enthusiasm for learning and are proud to belong to old Basing Infants. They arrive every morning happy and eager to learn'.

We believe the enthusiasm our children have for learning comes from the fun we put in their learning and the commitment we have to including their ideas. Recently Year 2 had a circus skills day! This included a circus show followed by workshops where children were taught skills including spinning plates and juggling. This exciting day helped the children get hooked into their topic and to challenge themselves to try something new!

### Our school is looking for governors.

Being a governor is a great way to contribute to your community and support the school in providing a high-quality education. The role involves opportunities to work with our children as well as working at a strategic level with the headteacher and senior team and attending and contributing to committees and full governing body meetings. Anyone can be a governor and we welcome applications.

Gill Woodward, co-opted governor says:

"Having recently retired, I wanted to volunteer doing something that contributed to the community. I wanted something where I could use skills I had developed in my working life. It's an interesting role and good to be part of a team of people with different experiences. There's lots of support and training to help. It's a role that you can fit in with other commitments. The staff and children in school are such an inspiration; it makes the role very enjoyable."

If you are interested in becoming a governor, please contact our **Chair of Governors, Richard Lilleker**, email: [chair@oldbasing.hants.sch.uk](mailto:chair@oldbasing.hants.sch.uk).



## BASINGA EDITORIAL ASSISTANT NEEDED

The Basinga Team is looking to recruit an **Editorial Assistant** to help the Editor in carrying out the task of producing the Basinga every month. Familiarity with Adobe InDesign and Photoshop would be an advantage but full training and support will be given. Microsoft Word and Webmail are the base applications that we use on an Apple MacBook. Proofreading, checking layout, processing photographs, following up on email enquiries are some of the activities that you could undertake.

If you are interested in finding out more about this voluntary position, a commitment of about ten hours a month, please get in touch with the editor on: [editor@basinga.org.uk](mailto:editor@basinga.org.uk) or [secretary@basinga.org.uk](mailto:secretary@basinga.org.uk)

**The Basinga Team**



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### ANNUAL PARISH AWARD

It is not too late to nominate a community group for this award – the deadline is the Parish Council meeting on **Tuesday, 6th December**.

### BEST NEWSLETTER AWARD

The Parish Council's Community Newsletter has, for the second time, received the Hampshire Association of Local Council award for Best Local Council Newsletter. The Autumn 2021 edition was submitted for the award and, in the view of the judges, offered a wide range of content, including local items, a children's page and articles of particular relevance such as the Climate Emergency and the environment. This and all Newsletters can be viewed on the Parish Council's website **[www.ldbasing.gov.uk](http://www.ldbasing.gov.uk)**

### LEAF CLEARANCE

The Borough Council's leaf clearance programme is now under way. You can view the clearance schedule on the Council's website **[www.basingstoke.gov.uk/leafclearance](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/leafclearance)**

Any issues with leaf fall can be reported on the Borough's website:

**[www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-grounds-maintenance-problem](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report-grounds-maintenance-problem)**

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR 2023

#### Full Parish Council

First Tuesday monthly (with the exception of May when the meeting will take place on 9th May following local elections).

#### Planning & Development Committee

Second and fourth Tuesday monthly (with the exception of May when the first meeting of this month will be 2nd May). Meetings may be cancelled if no planning applications are received.

#### Facilities Management Committee

Third Tuesday on alternate months starting on 17th January.

#### Finance & Resources Committee

Third Tuesday in February, June and October.

The **final meeting** date for 2022 is **Tuesday, 6th December** commencing at **7.30pm**. Please let us know if you are unable to manage the stairs to the meeting room so we can make alternative arrangements.



Parish Clerk: **Mrs Sandra Tuck**

Deputy Clerk: **Mrs Kate Hope**

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

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The **Basing House** ruins are closed for the winter and will **reopen** around **Easter**.

That said, the **Great Barn** does open for the weekend of **26th/27th November** – the annual **Christmas Fair**, and this Basinga may just reach you in time to allow you to visit. The barn will be decorated, with dozens of stalls offering locally

made crafts, produce and gifting ideas to browse and buy. Mulled wine and festive treats will also be available. On Saturday, visitors can enjoy our Nativity scene with animals from Mill Cottage Farm and on Sunday, re-enactors from the Marquess of Winchester Regiment will be staging an English Civil War living history event.

If you do come by car please park in our car park by Bartons Mill, as there is just not room in The Street. Fuller details about the fair can be found at Hampshire Cultural Trust's website: [www.hampshireculture.org.uk/event/basing-house-christmas-fayre](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/event/basing-house-christmas-fayre)

We can look back on an eventful year as we got back in the swing of things post Covid. The massive event staged by the Sealed Knot re-enactors must have been the high spot, but we can also remember a visit from the English Civil War Society, Tudor Day, the late Summer Fair and taking over 200 people on spooky Halloween Ghost Tours (*see photos this page*). Children enjoyed the Easter Egg trail, and later the fairy trail too.



One thing we do have occasionally, both at re-enactments and sometimes at other events, is bangs and crashes – muskets and field guns were very much part of the Civil War. If you would like know in advance when these are going to happen, we are putting together a list of people that we can email in advance. If you'd like to be on this list, please drop an email to: [Ann.Burchett@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Ann.Burchett@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk)

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## MEMORIES OF OLD BASING IN THE 1940S

I was born in Newbury in 1937, and my family moved to Old Basing in approximately 1941, when I was three or four years of age. My parents were George and Dorothy Robbins. My sister Elizabeth Ann was born in 1938. Dad was born in Sherborne St John, and my mother was born in Thatcham near Newbury.

We lived in a cottage at Lower Mill Farm, along Newnham Road in Old Basing, opposite Lower Mill, which was operating as a mill in those days. Next door lived Mrs Lucy Bridgeman with her daughter Edie, Mr Bridgeman was away in the army.

Dad worked at Thorneycroft in Basingstoke in 'War Work'. He worked night shifts and I remember my mother packing up his food and tea flask for him to take each night. But I had no idea how he went to work late at night as it is a long way into Basingstoke from Pyott's Hill. No cars or transport in those days.

In those long evenings (only candlelight because of blackout) I was put into my mother's bed and we both listened to Vera Lynn and Victor Sylvester on the radio, which was the only entertainment. My sister, still a baby, slept in her cot nearby.

Later my father went away to war. After dad had gone away, probably about 1942, our mother and Mrs Bridgeman would sit together every evening with us three children, Evelyn, Betty and Edie. My mother would read to us (by candlelight as there was no electric light). I recall the many Enid Blyton stories which we all loved so much.

After dad had gone away to war, sometime later mum and Betty and I moved to a cottage further up Pyotts Hill, which was situated at the end of the farmtrack to Ramptons Farm (I think called Home Farm). On the other side of the road in Pyotts Hill there was a house called 'The Boltons' and we used to play with the several children who lived there.

Later when dad was away at war, my mother's sister, Auntie Mim, came to live with us. She told us she was also doing 'War Work'. Though a cook by profession, she had been recruited to work on the buses where she was a bus conductress for the Basingstoke Bus Company – I think it was Hants & Berks buses.

Auntie Mim living with us added a new dimension in our lives. I was always enthralled with her stories about suspected 'spies' she somehow encountered on the buses (from Old Basing to Basingstoke), and also how she had to walk in front of the bus on foggy or dark nights to show the driver the way, as the bus was not allowed to use headlights.

On the dark evenings mum would walk Betty and I up to the top of Pyotts Hill where it meets the main Reading Road. In the field opposite were the huge searchlights that would every night track for any enemy aircraft. We stayed for hours watching the searchlights which made us feel safe.

The woods just behind our house on Pyotts Hill, were our magical playground. Every day, along with other local children, we would spend hours in the woods collecting the long strands of silver paper dropped to intercept enemy aircraft.

But these adventures would temporarily cease when Granny Bradley from Newbury came to stay! We were ordered by her not to go into the woods because there were Germans hiding in there! But our play days resumed when she returned to Newbury. And no-one ever found a German in those woods.

**to be continued in January's Basinga**

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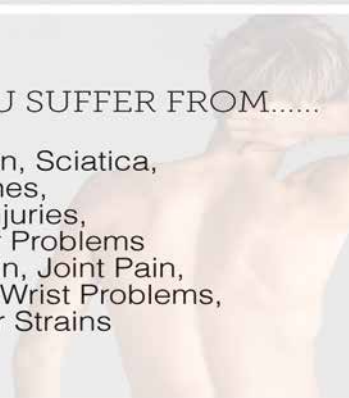


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## CONCESSION ADVERTS

### CAROL SERVICE AT BASINGSTOKE CREMATORIUM

Will be held on **Thursday, 8th December** at **7.00pm**. As well as bringing the community together we are having a collection for **Sebastian's Action Trust**.

### LADIES FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING

Why don't you come and enjoy a chat, cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit at the home of **Mrs Dusty Brough, 7 Olivers Walk, Lychpit** on **Friday, 2nd December** and **Mrs Sheila Stone, 8, Norton Ride, Lychpit** on **Friday, 6th January 2023**. Both from **10.30am to noon**. For further information phone **Sheila Stone** on **01256 350238**.

### BASINGSTOKE CONCERT BAND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Basingstoke Concert Band present their **Annual Christmas Concert** at **St Michael's Church, Basingstoke** on **Sunday, 11th December**, at **3pm**. Tickets available from **band members, on the door**, or calling **07391 032945**. Complimentary mince pie and drink.

### OLD BASING VILLAGE HALL NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

**New Year Celebration, Old Basing Village Hall, Saturday, 31st December**. Doors open **8pm**. Tickets **£30**. Party food, licensed bar. Fancy dress optional (favourite pop star/group). Contact: **sheenagrassi@hotmail.com** (all proceeds donated to Old Basing Village Hall).

### BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB -- SUSSEX JAZZ KINGS

The Basingstoke Lions Club is delighted to bring back, for the fifth time in seven years, such is the popularity of this band, The Sussex Jazz Kings. At **Old Basing British Legion Hall** on **Saturday, 3rd December** at **7.30pm**. This group of highly talented musicians, who play UK wide, combine their individual musical expertise with fun and the rapport they build with their audience to provide a first-class evening of toe-tapping traditional jazz and entertainment.

As ever, all money raised at this Lions concert goes straight out to good causes in the community as identified by the local club. **Tickets £12.50 - available from:**

**www.basingstokelions.org.uk** or

**Tony Bamberger – tony.bamberger@hotmail.co.uk – 01256 850254**

*continued on page 19*



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## CONCESSION ADVERTS



in association with the Basingstoke Railway Social Club, Station Approach, Basingstoke, presents, on **Saturday 10th December:**

### SAM PAINE BAND

Consisting of some of the finest musicians in the south of England, the Sam Paine Band is a new, rocking blues band that is starting to make waves on the circuit.

Having made a name for himself with his guitar-driven powerhouse trio, Sam has freshened and expanded his line-up. Now with a talented rhythm section of established players on the blues scene he's proud to share the stage with Emil Engstrom (bass), Robin Lowrey (drums) and Ray Drury (keys). This exciting new line up is perfectly poised to take the blues scene by storm.

All welcome - **8pm till late. £10** cash on the door. Licensed bar and low prices.

Profits to Brain Tumour Research.

See future club dates advertised on Facebook page **Basingstoke Blues Club BBC3**

## BASINGA ADVERTISERS

The Basinga magazine is distributed free of charge to over three thousand households and premises in the Old Basing and Lychpit area.

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## OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

Despite somewhat inclement weather and lower than usual visitors and entry numbers (50% down), your committee judged the 2022 event to have been a success. It was not surprising that the number of exhibits was also lower than the previous year, which we attributed to the exceptionally difficult growing season.

By now you will probably be thinking about next year – we are, and are currently working on the 2023 schedule which will be published in the Spring!

Whilst you are filling out your newly acquired 2023 diaries and considering which seeds to buy for that vegetable patch, one diary entry should be the **date of next year's show**, which we confirm as **Sunday, 3rd September**.

**Dennis Cole**

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## WELCOME TO REVEREND JO!

At the time of writing we are looking forward to welcome **Reverend Jo Mulliner** as **St Mary's new Vicar** following her installation and induction on **Tuesday, 22 November**.

In the meantime we asked Revd. Jo to provide a few words; she writes:

"I've been asked to write a few words of introduction, but I'd like to start by saying a massive 'thank you' to you all - church and wider community - for such an amazing welcome! I am very much delighted to be your new Vicar and have been bowled over by the strength of welcome which I have already experienced in the village - even when the removal company caused a traffic jam in Church Lane when I moved in! I knew that I was coming to somewhere special - and each day I am able to count more and more blessings in this place.



A bit about me - I've been in ministry for eight years now - serving my curacy in Lymington - then journeying to Cornwall and Scotland before returning to my sending Diocese. Before this I was a teacher of English and History - in the Channel Isle of Jersey. I am delighted to have so much school involvement here in the village. In my spare time I can be found drinking coffee, eating cake and chatting; as well as lifting weights or chilling in or on the sea. I am very much looking forward to meeting you all, and am deeply grateful for the welcome which so many have already given. If you spot me, please say 'hello'!"

## CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)

This month's working party will be on **Saturday, 3rd December at 10am** – meet by the PIOCC noticeboard at the entrance to the Conservation Area. **There will be no Thursday afternoon working party in December.** We will continue our seasonal conservation tasks, including woodland management. We look forward to welcoming 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 three hours (with a coffee break and chance to relax).

We will be decorating a tree and our hedge at **St Mary's Church's Christmas Tree Festival, 9th to 11th December** (see pages 22–23). This year's theme is **'The Twelve Days of Christmas'**. We look forward to seeing you there.

The holly berries are now at their best, providing food for the birds especially the blackbirds. The WI seat continues to provide a quiet spot for a moment of reflection and peace.

The Conservation Area is for everyone to enjoy.

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

**Margaret Carr**

[www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](http://www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk)

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH – CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The theme this year is the **Twelve Days of Christmas**. There will be decorated trees on display both inside and outside the church.



### FRIDAY, 9TH DECEMBER

Wear your Christmas jumpers and hats and come along to our Christmas Sing-along of carols and songs.

**Tickets are £5 per adult, £2.50 per child, £12.50 for a family (up to 4 children).**

**Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start.**

Refreshments will be on sale, and there will be a raffle drawn that night.

Use [christmastreefestival.stmarys@gmail.com](mailto:christmastreefestival.stmarys@gmail.com) email address to reserve your tickets or telephone **Debbie Filer** on **07541 698235**.



### SATURDAY, 10TH DECEMBER AND SUNDAY, 11TH DECEMBER

**The church is open from 11am to 4pm** on both days. Come along and buy from our Christmas market. Enjoy the wonderful display of trees (and vote for your favourite). We will have plenty of children's activities both inside the church and outside as well as hot food, refreshments and our raffle.

## FESTIVAL WEEKEND – DECEMBER 9TH TO 11TH

### SATURDAY, 10 DECEMBER

Come for a **BBQ lunch** (see photo below) and stay until **2pm** to listen to the choirs from both **Old Basing Infant school** and **St Mary's Junior School** (see photo below). Follow that with some mulled wine and mince pies. Yummy!



### SUNDAY, 11TH DECEMBER

The festival resumes from **11am** and one highlight is the **British Legion Band** at **2pm** (see photo below). Enjoy the singing while eating a bacon roll or drinking some warming soup. Remember to get your raffle tickets before the draw at **3pm**.



## CHRISTMAS AT ST MARY'S CHURCH



### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Friday 9th December, Singalong (7pm)

**Saturday, 10th and Sunday, 11th December (11am to 4pm)**

with seasonal craft stalls and barbecue (*see middle pages*)

### CAROL SERVICE

**Sunday, 18th December (7pm).** A celebration of lessons and carols

### BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

**Friday, 23rd December (3.30pm),** followed by refreshments.

A gentle service in the Bolton Chapel for the season of Christmas

### NATIVITY SERVICES

**Friday, 24th December (2.30 and 4pm).**

Dress up and come along to hear the story of Christmas.

### MIDNIGHT MASS

**Saturday, 24th December (11.15pm)**

### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

**Sunday, 25th December (8 and 9.30am)**

Website: [www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](http://www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk) Facebook: [StMarysOldBasingAndLychpit](https://www.facebook.com/StMarysOldBasingAndLychpit)

## DECEMBER AT OLD BASING METHODIST CHURCH



**Thursdays, 1st, 8th and 15th December – Advent Bible Study at 2.30pm with Rev. David Jenkins.** Open to all, please join us.

**Friday, 9th – Christmas Coffee morning, 10.30am to noon,** with mince pies, chat and laughter.

**Wednesday, 14th – MHA members enjoy their Christmas Tea (noon to 3pm).**

We hope to arrange a church lunch during the month.

### SUNDAY SERVICES AS FOLLOWS:

**4th** – normal worship time of **10.30am**

**11th** – No service at the Chapel. We join with **Oakridge** for their **Nativity** at **10.30am**

**18th** – **Carol Service 10.30am**

**25th** – Our **Christmas Morning Worship** at **10.15am** will be led by Revd. David Jenkins

## THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Thank you to everyone who supported the coffee morning on 15th October in aid of The Children's Society. With an amazing cake stall, a generous raffle, the sale of Christmas cards and gifts, there was also lots of coffee and chat. With donations and much goodwill from everyone, the total raised for the charity was **£1,110.50!** This wonderful result will go to help many vulnerable young people. Thank you!

**Rosemary Kershaw (Parish Representative)**



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## DEAR FRIENDS

Advent is here! A somewhat paradoxical statement perhaps, since Advent is all about the waiting. It's that purple-vested season in the church calendar when we prepare and anticipate the coming of Christ as a baby born in Bethlehem. Indeed, the word Advent means arrival or coming and is packed full with a sense of expectancy.

Now if you're like me, waiting does not always come easily. It can be hard living with unfulfilled desire, keeping hope alive in the dark, with a growing sense of longing. In church we use candles (at our Christingle service and in our Advent wreath) to symbolise our hope in Christ's coming as the Light in the darkness. It focuses our hearts and strengthens our faith. And that's another aspect to our preparation.

As well as making physical preparation for Christmas at Church and in our homes, by buying cards and gifts, putting up trees and lights, getting in celebratory food and drink, we also want to give time to the interior work of preparing our hearts by putting things right and making things ready. The promise of this season after all, is this, that the Christ-child may be born again in our hearts. As the achingly tender verse of the famous Carol, O Little Town of Bethlehem says:

*How silently, how silently,*

*The wondrous gift is given.*

*So God imparts to human hearts*

*The blessings of his heaven.*

*No ear may hear His Coming*

*But in this world of sin,*

*Where meek souls will receive Him, still*

*The dear Christ enters in.*

So this Advent, we extend a very warm welcome to you all, to our regular Christmas services in Church - including our **Blue Christmas Service** (see page 24) for those who find this time of year particularly hard- as well as to our **Christmas Tree Festival** (see pages 22-23). Let's come with expectation and wait together for His Coming - He won't disappoint, He will come to every seeking heart!

With love

*Helen Holley*

## FLOWER ARRANGERS NEEDED 2023

If you have a creative streak or just love flowers, do consider joining **St Marys Church Flower Arrangers**, we are a very friendly group and will welcome you. No previous training needed but guidance will be given if requested.

Our next rota will be distributed in February 2023, ready to start in April, but we would like to hear from you as soon as possible.

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With the **Village Café** opening **monthly** for the **winter**, a reminder that our next cafe is **2nd December (2 to 4pm)**, in the **Parish Room**. We will have a visit from lovely local florist, Daiva and some festive bakes on offer. We are then open on **6th January 2023** for our first café of the **New Year**.

The cafe has recently started a new initiative: '**Bake you Smile**'.

We are asking you to nominate anyone you think deserves a treat, someone who goes the extra mile, volunteers locally or just someone who deserves a treat for whatever reason. This can be an individual, a group of people or a family. We will chose from the nominations and deliver a little something to them. To nominate an individual, a group of people or a family please message us with details and why you think they deserve a slice of cake and we will deliver a smile.

I would like to introduce you all to another member of the cafe team, **Gillian Peer**.

Gillian is a long time personal friend and has been involved with the cafe since it first began. Some of you may know from her time as a governor at the junior school and long serving staff member at the infant school. Once again, I asked Gillian a few questions to help you all get to know her a little better.



**What got you involved with the cafe?** The opportunity to help to expand on what had been in place for a long time and to extend a welcome to everyone in the community to enjoy a chat over a tea or coffee and homemade cake.

**Favourite pastime?** Cross stitch - I have far too many cushion covers etc, but can't resist making more.

**Netflix or book?** A book every time. Audiobooks too as I can listen/stitch at the same time, win/win!

**Favourite tippie?** Gin and tonic, ideally mixed by my neighbour (you know who you are!)

**Signature dish?** Steak and kidney pie, following my mother's pastry method.

**Dream dinner guest?** Would have to be guests. My family, past and present, gathered together once more, and eating steak and kidney pie.

For most of us this year, it will be the first without the Queen's Christmas broadcast, and we will be greeted this year by the new King. This wonderful lady dedicated her whole life to the service of this county, the Commonwealth and it's people. In the words of her majesty, "It is worth remembering that it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change". Wise words indeed!

On behalf of all of us at the Village cafe, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with new possibilities, health and happiness.

**Deborah Thorne**



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## U3A



Did you know that the first motor car journey on Britain's roads was driven from Micheldever Station to Datchet in June 1895? Well, one of our new members did!

### A New U3A Transport Group

It's little known about the U3A that if a member wants to start an activity which isn't currently available, we'll support them to find people to share and develop their interest. New member Paul has spent a career in various areas of transport, and wants to keep learning about it. So he's just set up a Transport Group for us here in Basingstoke, and we've already found twenty other members wanting to join in. They're meeting monthly, and will be covering all forms of transport: buses and trains, cars, boats & planes, and more! Indoor meetings will have a single theme, with time to reminisce and chat about issues past and present; but trips to transport places of interest will be in the pipeline too. Do get in touch if you'd like to know more.

And if you have an interest and no-one to share it with – membership of our u3a could be just what you need to get started!

Many of our members still like to study a little and we've a wide range of learning on offer. The Transport Group has joined Science & Technology, Art History, Latin, Literature, Film Studies, History, Local History, Modern Languages, Environment, and Art or Poetry Appreciation. But of course others still prefer to dance, walk, cycle, play games, sports, or join in with some of our arts and crafts groups.

**So do think about joining us and have a Happy Christmas**

**Madeline Hussey**

email: [basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com)

phone: **07787 520 281**

website: [www.basingstokeu3a.org](http://www.basingstokeu3a.org)

[facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a](https://www.facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a)

## OLD BASING WI



A very well attended November meeting saw us being entertained again by ex WPC Jackie Dimmock who gave us "Part 2" of her experiences as a policewomen in Hampshire. We will certainly be inviting her back for Part 3! Later in the month a number of our Members joined in the Remembrance Day Parade to the Church and at the end of the month we took part in the Basing House

Christmas Fair where we sold our cakes and bakes, jams and preserves and craft items.

Our **December meeting** takes place on **6th December at 7.30pm** at the **Parish Rooms St Marys Church** when our speaker will be **David Stiles** talking about his experiences as a **Southampton Boy Evacuee**. The competition that evening is an item of WW2 Memorabilia.

Later in the month we will be enjoying a festive lunch at Avenue Nurseries and we have plans for an evening meal at the Bolton Arms at the end of January. Details of the WI in Hampshire and other WI activities can be found at [www.hampshirewi.org.uk](http://www.hampshirewi.org.uk).

If you would like to join our long running and thriving group, please contact our President **Sue Stewart** by email at [oldbasingpres@hampshirewi.org.uk](mailto:oldbasingpres@hampshirewi.org.uk)

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## Christmas Countries Quiz

Let's test your knowledge about Christmas traditions in different countries! Which country has the following traditions? Hint: they're all in Europe. A bonus point

per answer if you can name the subject country in the language of that country!

The Three Kings visit on the 6th January and put toys in clogs left on the balcony.

Saint Nicholas comes on the 6th December with his donkey.

Presents are given out on 6th January by an elderly, white-haired lady.

This is the birthplace of the Christmas Tree, 400 years ago!

Father Christmas leaves presents in children's shoes.

Children receive presents from a Saint on 1st January.

So, how many of you got 12 out of 12 ?!

« Feliz Navidad » from España !

« Zalige Kertfeest » from la Belgique !

« Buon Natale » from Italia !

« Frohe Weihnachten » from Deutschland!

« Joyeux Noël » from la France !

« Eftihismena Christougenna » from Ελλάδα

**And a very Happy Christmas to you from LinguaTastic!** Where we help you to discover cultures as well as languages. Why not gift language-learning lessons to a loved one for Christmas? A new hobby for a new year! **See you in 2023!**

## THE MILL FIELD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



**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, 4th December** instead. We are completely dependent on volunteers to look after the Mill Field, keep the scrub in check for the wildlife and open up the 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. You will find us on the lower path, **starting at 10.00am.**

Both the group and the council are focused on clearing dog wood this winter, its taken over the site and a variety of methods are being used to remove it. The more help we have the more we can clear, so if you can make it, it would be very appreciated.

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.

**Anne Francis**

Email: [millfieldnature@gmail.com](mailto:millfieldnature@gmail.com)

Facebook: **Mill Field Conservation Group**



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## ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY SERVICES IN BASINGSTOKE



Our **Singing for the Brain** group is held on **1st and 3rd Wednesdays** from **2.00 to 3:30pm**, in the **Parish Room of St Mary's** and we run a **Virtual Singing for the Brain** group every **Friday morning (online)**. We also offer a **one-to-one Dementia Support Service** for anyone affected by dementia and can advise, signpost and assist you and your loved ones through the dementia journey.

For more information on any of these services or to request a call from one of our local support team please contact us by phone through the **Alzheimer's Society Dementia Connect Support Line** or directly by email. Telephone: **0333 150 3456: 9.00am to 8.00pm Monday to Wednesday; 9.00am to 5.00pm Thursday and Friday; 10.00am to 4.00pm Saturday and Sunday.** email: **HIP@alzheimers.org.uk** Please visit our website for full details of all **Alzheimer's Society Services: [www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)**

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**Your item was delivered by a courier** then check your terms and conditions or account details – they might include other places for delivery, like your porch or a neighbour's house. If you agreed to them, it's not the seller's responsibility if your order has gone missing. If your item wasn't delivered to the location you agreed, it's the seller's legal responsibility to sort out the issue. You can ask them to redeliver your item. You can ask for a full refund if: a delivery date was essential and wasn't met; a delivery date was agreed but wasn't essential, and a second date also wasn't met; no delivery date was agreed and a second chance to deliver was not successful

A delivery date is essential if you told the seller you needed your delivery by a specific date. An item can also be considered 'essential' if it's obvious from the circumstances. For example, a wedding cake that was ordered for the day of a wedding.

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If you would like help dealing with a consumer problem, the cost of living or any other issue, please contact **Citizens Advice** to see how we can help.

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## DECEMBER IN YOUR GARDEN

December weather is often the worst of the year in that it is grey, wet, cold, and dank. However, if we get cold, frosty weather then the garden can be transformed into a glittering wonderland and suddenly all kinds of winter jobs are possible from winter pruning, gathering up those papery leaves and tidying up those messy borders. As we approach the shortest day of the year you will need work to keep you warm outside, such as digging and tree pruning. Check your winter protection and if you have a greenhouse make sure the heater is working.

- Dig over empty borders and prepare your soil for next year's planting.
- Group potted plants together and on trestles in a sheltered spot in the garden to protect them from the harshest winter weather.
- Get pruning! Apples and pears but not plums, roses and Japanese maples are just some of the plants that benefit from a winter prune.
- Look after the birds - clean feeders, stock up on wild bird food (squirrels permitting) and make sure they have access to fresh water.
- Look for your surplus plants for Christmas gifts.

Try making your own Christmas wreath. It may not quite have the professional finish but there is something about using whatever you can find to create a thing personal to you. Yes, the holly can be very painful to use, Japonica sometimes "loose" their berries before we get there but the birds are welcome to them and making a wreath to hang on your front door is a lovely welcoming gesture at Christmas. Just have a go yourself, its free and creative.

This is an opportunity to bring our outdoors in! Garden foliage and other odds and ends found in the treasure trove that is the back garden, can make stunning festive displays, centre pieces and even the main event – the Christmas tree itself! Consider a Christmas tree in a pot that you can use year after year. You never know what you might unearth if you go for a forage in the foliage or root around in the rough. Logs, twigs, stones, pebbles, leaves, and branches can make super versatile Christmas objects. Try making a window box with silver foliage plants and bright red cyclamen - it will look fabulous! Relax in the knowledge that as well as creating stunning, one-of-a-kind festive masterpieces, you are also doing your bit for the planet and bring your own potpourri of natural fragrance to your home. Its never too early (in December) to get

Hopefully there are not too many jobs left to do this year so you will have time for some fireside garden planning. Take stock of your gardening year. Do not be disheartened by your gardening imperfections or failures, but devote some time to pondering what you will do differently in the coming year. Unfortunately, the world is changing and this has the impact on all our plants. We just must be smarter in what we do with what we have. December can be dark and wet but its also a month of wonder and opportunity to reflect on what we can do for ourselves and others in the new year.



**Alan Caswell**



## NATURE NOTES FOR DECEMBER

As becomes the British weather, we went from hose pipe bans to floods in a matter of weeks but as long as you were not hit with a soaking you have to say 'the garden has never looked greener.

However along with torrential rain and high winds there have been days of lovely warm sunshine, so much so that butterflies have taken to the wing with Stephen Thair spotting a Peacock last weekend (29th Oct) and Pat Brace noting a Red Admiral basking in his garden too.

Now is the time for cleaning your nest boxes, bird tables and feeders. For the former task, its good if you can rake out the old material which might well be damp and contain remains of dead chicks, egg- shells or mites. Dry the box out of necessity and replace (assuming you're happy with its location), perhaps adding a little bit of dry grass or dead leaves. As for grubby feeders, well, they can spread many diseases to birds and when the food gets wet, it does end up with an extremely unpleasant smell so bin it and start again! Your feathered friends will love you this coming winter if you treat them right.

One big bonus about westerly storms at this time of the year is that many species of birds get blown here from the USA east coast and Atlantic areas so keen twitchers check their pagers etc for news of a sighting. Last week there was a UK first reported from Bryher in the Scilly Isles in the form of a Blackburnian Warbler, a bird named after a British naturalist in the 18th century but now regarded as one of America's most beautiful birds ( it acquires a fiery orange throat as a mature bird, the bird seen was a juvenile). Meanwhile, at the other end of the country in Shetland, birders flocked to get a sighting of a Swainson's Thrush, one of several Myrtle Warblers (*photo right*) or perhaps glimpse a few of the twenty Hornemans Arctic Redpolls that had arrived on the wind (no, me neither!)



What becomes of these vagrants in time one shudders to think but for the die-hard bird spotter these once in a lifetime sightings are tremendous news.

So, like me, there is zero chance of many of us seeing or recognising anything as rare as the above but closer to home the same can be said for one of this country's favourite mammals. I refer to the badger. How many people have actually seen a live one? Well, Alan Williams from Park Lane can now claim this as, last week, whilst being driven along Tunworth Lane near Polecat corner, a young bruin was spotted trotting alongside the road before zipping up and over the bank. The cub being small enough to probably be one of this year's offspring was at least sensible enough to turn THAT way rather than out into the road where many meet their end, and where sadly, is often the only place we get to see one. **PLEASE NOTE:** I have done away with my landline so for all Nature notes or bird food requirements please use mobile **07900 648675** or email as below.

**Rick Bourne.**

Don't forget to send all your nature related stories and photos to [rickbourne@yahoo.com](mailto:rickbourne@yahoo.com) or [naturenotes@basinga.org.uk](mailto:naturenotes@basinga.org.uk) For all your bird food requirements, order it from me at 'Bird Drop-ins' use the former email address or ring/text me on **07900 648675** to place an order or get a form.

## DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER

For details of services and events at St Mary's Church please see page 24

### NOVEMBER

Sat 26	11.00am	Basing House Christmas Fayre, in the Great Barn.
Sun 27	11.00am	Basing House Christmas Fayre, in the Great Barn.

### DECEMBER

- Fri 2	10.30am – noon	Ladies First Friday Coffee Morning. 7 Olivers Walk, Lychpit.
	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Village Cafe, Parish Room, St. Mary's Church.
Sat 3	10.00am – 1.00pm	PIOCC Working Party. Meet by PIOCC noticeboard.
Sat 3	7.30pm	Sussex Jazz Kings. Old Basing Royal British Legion.
Sun 4	10.00am	Mill Field Working Party, meet on lower path.
	6.00pm	St. Michael's Hospice Light Up A Life. RG24 9NB.
Tue 6	6.00pm	<b>Deadline for January Copy to Basinga Editor. See page 3.</b>
	7.30pm	Old Basing WI, Parish Room, St. Mary's Church.
	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting. See page 7.
Wed 7	10.00am – noon	Civil Service Retirement Fellowship. Brookvale Village Hall.
Thu 8	7.00pm	Carol Service at Basingstoke Crematorium.
Sat 10	7.30pm	Basingstoke Blues Club. Basingstoke Railway Social Club.
Sun 18	9.00am	St. Michael's Hospice Reindeer Run. Festival Place.
Sun 18	3.00pm	Basingstoke Concert Band. See page 17.
Fri 30	noon	Old Basing Big Turkey at Old Basing Village Hall.
Sat 31	8.00pm	New Year Celebration, Old Basing Village Hall. See p17.

### JANUARY 2023

Fri 6	10.30am – noon	Ladies First Friday Coffee Morning. 8 Norton Ride, Lychpit
	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Village Cafe, Parish Room, St. Mary's Church.

## BASINGA EXTRA

This month we were unable to include every article that we received, or submitted long after the deadline. Content listed below is available on our website: **[www.basinga.org.uk](http://www.basinga.org.uk)**

<i>Basingstoke and District Railway Society</i>	<i>Civil Service Retirement Fellowship</i>
<i>Basingstoke Gang Show</i>	<i>Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust</i>
<i>Lions Club of Basingstoke</i>	<i>PROBUS</i>
<i>Rotary Club</i>	<i>School Readers</i>
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## ● BASINGA

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## ● OLD BASING & LYCHPIT PARISH COUNCIL

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## ● CHURCH INFORMATION FOR THE AREA

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

<b>VICAR:</b> Revd. Jo Mulliner	email: <a href="mailto:vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk">vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk</a>	01256 363612
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### Regular Services at St Mary's Church, Old Basing

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

**OTHER DAYS:** Wednesday, 10am – Holy Communion; Monday, Thursday and Friday, 9.15am – Morning Prayer

*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

<b>MINISTER:</b> Rev'd David Jenkins	0118 3271592
	07973 195566
<b>SUNDAY SERVICE:</b> Morning Service 10.30am	

### Roman Catholic

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### Tuesday's

19.15 - 20.15

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Church Hall,  
Old Basing

### Sunday Morning Yoga

*This class is for all levels of ability and focuses on strength and flexibility.*

### Sunday's

09.15 - 10.15

Lychpit  
Community Hall

### Sunday Night Satsang

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### 1st Sunday

of the month

18.30 - 19.30

Lychpit  
Community Hall



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