

February 2022

# BASINGA




Alan Morris



Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Magazine  
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## FEBRUARY NOTES AND NEWS

The cover photograph for February was taken by **Alan Morris**, one of many he took at the Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's Church in December. This tree was the entry by **Old Basing Infants School**. Photos of the winning trees and four others can be found on page 21; all the trees can be viewed on our website **[www.basinga.org.uk](http://www.basinga.org.uk)**

Before we adopted the Latin name for our second month, Old English used much more vibrant names to describe the month now known as February. The most common Old English name was Solmonath, which literally means "mud month."

A lesser-used term was Kale-monath, which meant "cabbage month." Perhaps the medieval English were eating a lot of cabbage in February? Strange.

## 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 **March edition** is **6pm on Thursday, 10th March**.

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)**

## ADVERTISING MANAGER FOR THE BASINGA

Our current Advertising Manager is stepping down and we are therefore looking for a replacement to join our group to help with the production and distribution of The Basinga. The voluntary role covers the administration of advertisers' enquiries (not selling) through to ordering and liaison with other members of the production team who place the advertisements into the magazine and website.

The candidate should be well-organised and familiar with the use of MS Word and Excel for record keeping. Full handover training will be given. If you are interested and would like further information please contact **[secretary@basinga.org.uk](mailto:secretary@basinga.org.uk)**

## YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!

**Old Basing Village Hall** is desperately looking for volunteers to become members of the **Management Committee** to help maintain the hall and keep it to the standards expected and required. This is a wonderful asset to the village of Old Basing and the Committee, due to its declining numbers and ageing members, are now seeking additional volunteers. The Committee meets approximately **six times per year** and generally hold two jumble sales per year (usually February and September) for fundraising.

If you are interested in joining our committee or would like to understand how the hall is run please contact any of the Committee members listed below for further information.

We sincerely hope we can encourage new members to join our Committee.

Committee members:

<b>Don Grassi (Chair)</b>	email: <a href="mailto:donaldgrassi@hotmail.co.uk">donaldgrassi@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Sheena Grassi (Vice Chair)</b>	email: <a href="mailto:seenagrassi@hotmail.com">seenagrassi@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Sue Ingleby (Treasurer)</b>	email: <a href="mailto:sueingleby@hotmail.com">sueingleby@hotmail.com</a>

## GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS TO BE SUSPENDED

**Garden waste collections are set to be temporarily suspended in Basingstoke and Deane owing to bin crew staff absences.**

The difficult decision to delay restarting the fortnightly collections after Christmas comes following discussions between waste contractor Serco and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. This will allow the crews to focus on the core waste and recycling services, where there is currently a backlog of collections from the Christmas and new year period.

The temporary suspension will take effect from the fortnightly collections due in the week of Monday, 10th January and will enable crews to prioritise the 216,000 weekly waste, recycling and clinical waste collections. The staffing situation will be regularly reviewed and the service will restart when the council is confident that Serco can resume a reliable service.

Garden waste subscriptions will be extended to cover the missed collections, meaning that service users will get the full number of collections that they have paid for in the year.

## OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

Your Village Show Committee has already started to plan for our next event in September (Covid permitting) – with ideas for new classes – so please pencil **Sunday, 4th September 2022** into your new diary. We will be delighted to see you again whether it is as an exhibitor or just to visit and enjoy viewing the produce of your neighbours' labour.

We believe this will be our 127th Show and we hope to be able to serve refreshments once again to make it a real social occasion.

More details and the Schedule will be available later this year from committee members, the Basinga or on-line at [www.oblvs.org.uk](http://www.oblvs.org.uk)

**Dennis Cole**



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### ANNUAL PARISH AWARD

The first award to a Group was agreed at the December Parish Council meeting and went to the **St Mary's Churchyard Conservation Group**, nominated by Rick Bourne. Many of us admire the snowdrops and primroses in early spring, but without the hard work of this group of volunteers they would probably be smothered by weeds and brambles. The Parish Council's donation of £100 will be used towards the purchase of gardening tools and other items needed to enable them to continue this valuable work.

### Local Plan Consultation

The Parish Council have appointed Consultants to assist us in preparing robust rebuttal documents against the Local Plan Proposals for 001 (East Basingstoke), 002 (Lodge Farm) and 007 (Hodds Farm). The map (*see page 13*) shows each of the three areas subject to planning outlined in red.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council have announced that the planning process has been deferred for four to six months and the formal consultation will now take place in late summer. We will provide more information once this becomes available.

### BASING ROAD AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Redrow has now started work on the 100 homes on Basing Road near the Hampshire Clinic of which forty will be affordable housing and the development project will include a footway from the Swing Swang Lane roundabout to the Loddon Bridge. This development will also provide Old Basing and Lychpit Parish with substantial cash for infrastructure improvements over several years. Possible projects might include climate change and greening measures or other footway improvements.

**The Parish Council is inviting suggestions from residents as to how the money might be spent to enable it to plan ahead and ensure funds are used in the way residents wish. Please send any suggestions to the Clerk (*see page 13*).**

### CLIMATE ACTION

We had hoped to be able to follow our successful November meeting at Lychpit Hall with a development session at the start of December but unfortunately Covid intervened. Our next session will probably be virtual (date to be arranged) and we will send joining details to those on our contact list. If you have not contacted us yet and wish to be involved, email [stephen.brown@oldbasing.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.brown@oldbasing.gov.uk) – copies of presentations shown at the November meeting are on our website; if you were unable to attend, or would like to be reminded of the session you can get a flavour of the content from these. Additionally, we have included a booklet from Energy Alton detailing case studies of how a variety of properties in the town can be heated more efficiently and sustainably. Energy Alton offers a range of services including the loan of a thermal camera. They will also visit residents to give a free survey and provide advice as how best to reduce energy loss and lower costs. We hope we may soon be able to do something similar for residents of Old Basing and Lychpit. Meanwhile, by the time you read this, some of us will have had a (virtual) meeting with Community Energy South to see whether they are able to help us progress and seek grant funding. We have already had some enquiries from residents on energy efficiency and are looking to move forward in providing advice in this area plus how to create energy locally, low carbon transport, recycling, and a repair café. If you have suggestions, or would like to be involved, please get in touch.

*continued on page 10*



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## COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION

We are still seeking a Councillor to represent Old Basing. If you are interested and wish to support your community in this way, please contact the Parish Office.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are **Tuesday, 1st February** and **1st March at 7.30pm**.

Clerk: **Mrs Sandra Tuck**

Deputy Clerk: **Mrs Kate Hope**

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

Telephone: **01256 462847**

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### ***New Biography of Bruce Cummings: Can You Help?***

*I'm currently researching a new biography – in fact the first biography for nearly a hundred years – of the naturalist and author **Bruce Cummings**, whose ashes are interred in the grounds of St Mary's Church, Old Basing.*

*As his daughter Penelope lived in the parish, it's possible that other family members continue to live there, and it would be wonderful if any of them felt able to share their stories with me. I would be happy to guarantee confidentiality to anyone willing to talk to me.*

*My email address is **robert.douglas-fairhurst@magd.ox.ac.uk***

**Professor Robert Douglas-Fairhurst FRSL**

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## CARNIVAL COMMITTEE RECRUITMENT DRIVE

Over the last two years because of 'Covid' times, and despite the fact we had best intentions, we have not been able to hold a carnival. This has also meant that our carnival committee has also suffered the inevitable departure of members but because we were not holding a carnival we have not made a huge amount of effort to look for new 'blood', but now we are on the hunt.

We would dearly love to hear from anyone in the area who would like to join our committee and bring some verve and vitality to the 2022 carnival this summer. There are some organisational tasks ahead, so the more people we have to help get this up and running the better. The pay is very good, we offer free healthcare and a company car ... ok, I made that bit up, but we do have a very friendly group of all ages and backgrounds but sadly not enough of us for the tasks ahead over the next few months.

Please email me for a chat at **oldbasingcarnival@gmail.com** and I will convince you to join and explain more about the help we need. Thank you.

**Gary May**



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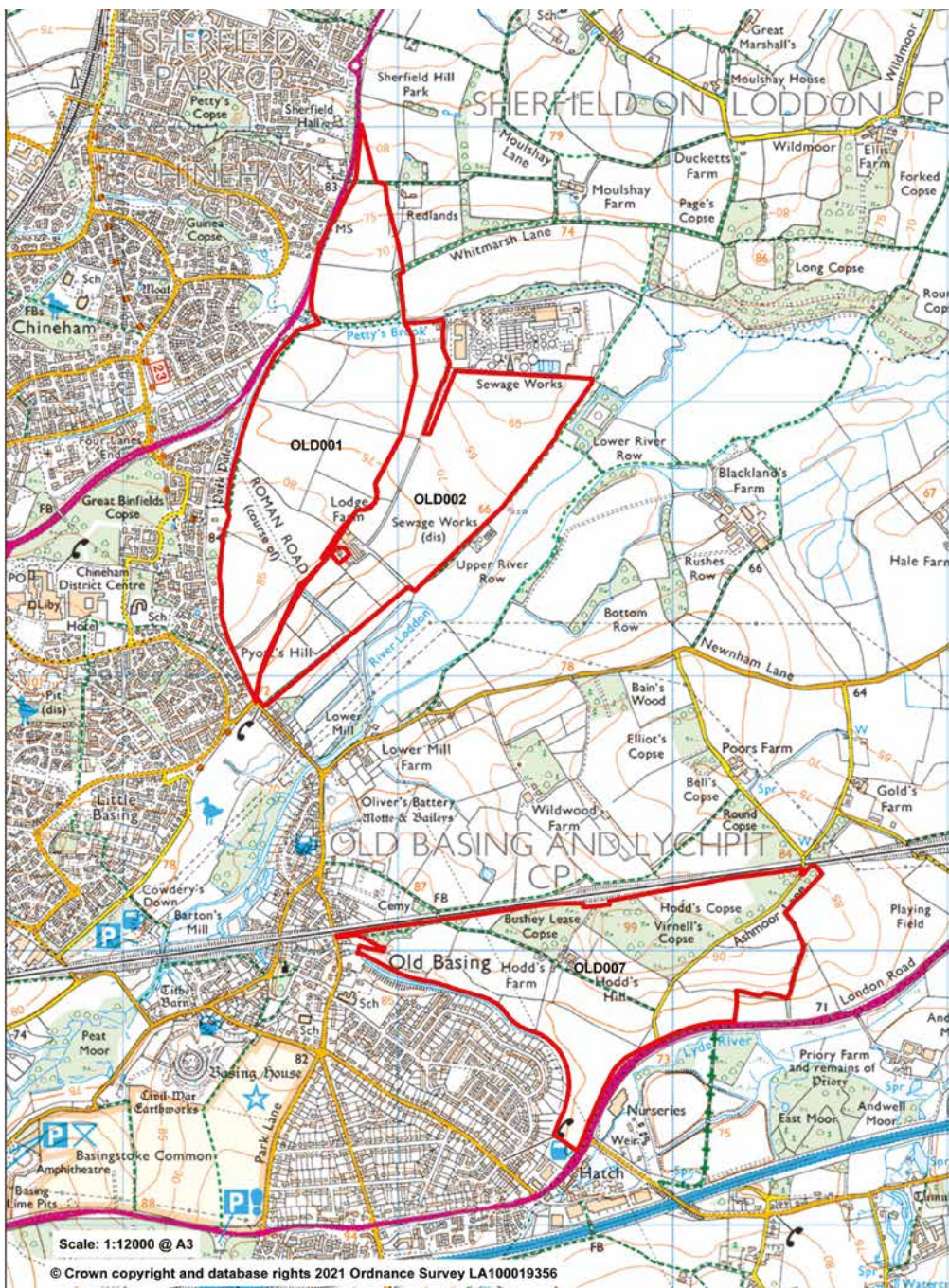
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**MAP OF LOCAL PLAN PROPOSALS:** Lodge Farm, Hodds Farm and land between Sherfield-on-Loddon and Old Basing showing the boundaries of the three proposed housing estates outlined in red. See pages 7 and 19 for further details.

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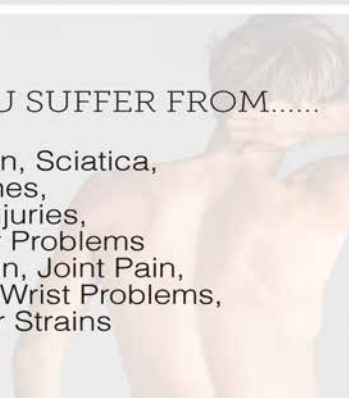


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Welcome to P.C Property Maintenance on page 18 and Harmes & Co Roofing on page 33.

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*Selection for Articles/Letters and Diary Dates will be found on the “Submissions” drop down and for Free Ads and Concession/Poster Ads on the “Advertise with us” drop down. Paid advertising enquiries can also be made from the same dropdown menu.*

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

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

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

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### PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

**Ploughman's Lunch** at the **Parish Room, St Mary's Church**, on **Thursday, 17th February, 12.25pm**. It is important to book in advance as numbers are limited. Telephone **07946 596778** to secure a place.

### THE BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB – SOUL/MOTOWN NIGHT

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## SOLVE – SAVE OUR LODDON VALLEY ENVIRONMENT

Cllr Onnalee Cubitt, Cllr Sven Godesen and Kate Tuck from **SOLVE** by the sewage overflow outlet that goes into the River Loddon

***River Contaminated by Sewage Spillage***, an article in the Basingstoke Gazette by Patrick Knox shows that since January 2010, when this article was written, we really have not made enough progress. We have built many thousands of houses and we know more houses, more people, more sewage. If you smell or see sewage please report it, otherwise it's a case of 'No Data No Problem'!



Farmers do NOT muck spread at this time of year as the crops do not need it. Wind direction is a big factor in where odour is carried. Whether you are at Blackdam ponds (known combined sewer overflows), Piggy Dam, on the footpaths in the valley, or Chineham shopping centre, if you smell or see sewage it is vital that you report it.

**Environment Agency Hotline (24-hour): tel. 0800 80 70 60**

**Thames water: tel. 0800 316 9800**

### **LOCAL PLAN UPDATE – IS THIS FAIR AND REASONABLE?**

Redrow is on site now with diggers at Swing Swang lane for 100 dwellings. The County Council continues to hold off on the 450 houses at Pyotts Hill and will probably wait for this Local Plan Update to see if they can increase to 900 houses and whether the Taylor Wimpey option on the adjacent Lodge Farm site of 900 houses is allocated.

Old Basing has 1,600 dwellings and the short-listed Hodds Farm (behind scout hut and up to A30) with 800 dwellings proposed will increase the existing village by 50% – how can this enable us to retain the character of the village? Development on this scale is neither fair nor reasonable. *See map page 13 for details of proposed developments outlined in red.*

The cumulative impact of these potential allocations on Lychpit and Old Basing is horrific in terms of traffic, access to schools and GPs, community and village feel, just to start with. We will become an urban suburb of greater Basingstoke unless we all act now.

The Council Leader's ambition is to be the 'Capital of the South'. SOLVE continues to campaign and your help and support is always appreciated. Contributions gratefully received towards professional advice. Our case will need to be made before June.

Web: [www.solveloddon.org](http://www.solveloddon.org) Facebook: **SOLVE: Save Our Loddon Valley Environment**

**Kate Tuck (Chair)**

## PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCHES

Here are this year's dates for our Ploughman's Lunches in the Parish Room – on the third Thursday of each month, except August. We will be continuing to book for the foreseeable future so phone **07946 596778**; booking starts from the 1st of the relevant month. **Doors open at 12.25pm.**

**DATES: 17th February; 17th March; 21st April; 19th May; 16th June; 21st July; none in August; 15th September; 20th October; 17th November; 15th December**

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## ST MARY'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

### CHRISTMAS CREATURES

Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas Tree Festival, helping to make it a very enjoyable and successful event, raising funds for St Mary's and commencing the festive activities.

The event was attended by Maria Miller MP and the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Cllr Onnalee Cubitt and her consort Hugo Cubitt. Visitors were entertained by the choirs from Old Basing Infant and St Mary's CoFE Junior School as well as Christmas music from the Royal British Legion Corps of Drums.

The winner of the Favourite Christmas Trees as voted by those who attended were: **Beasts of The Stable – Old Basing Brownies & Rainbows (Children's Entry)** and **Santa Paws is Coming to Town – The Dog's Trust (Adult's Entry)**.

We now start to plan our **Flower Festival** to be held over the weekend of **25th and 26th June**. Please save the date.

### The Christmas Tree Festival Team



Brownies and Rainbows



The Dog's Trust



Penny Potter



Drama Tots



PIOCC



Doves

All photos by Alan Morris

I was recently reminded of the story of a young black boy, growing up in South Africa, who at the beginning of apartheid, was walking along the street with his mother one day, and was astonished when a white man stopped to let them pass. Not only that, but the man doffed his hat in respectful greeting to the boy's mother, a black woman.

It just so happened that the white man in question was a priest. Now, it was a kindness to move aside for the woman and her son, but it was also a radical act for a white man to honour a black woman in that society.

We know that the little boy never forgot that kindness and that respect, because he talked about it in an interview many, many years later. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, as the boy had become, said that he had honoured that example of kindness all his life in his work to overcome the hatred between different races in South Africa.



A little kindness can seem insignificant, but kindness changes things – whether it gives somebody a little extra spring in their step for a day, or changes the fates of nations, isn't important. Somebody's life is still being changed for the better.

I've witnessed the wonderful kindness displayed here in Old Basing and Lychpit and it inspires me. Remember that kindness is for ourselves, too, so be kind to yourselves - it really does make it easier to be kind to others.

With love,

*Reverend Heather*

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

The Church continues to be open **Monday to Saturday** from **10am to 4pm** and **Sunday 11am to 4pm**.

We continue to ask that you wear face masks in the church.



### REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8am	<b>BCP Communion</b>
	9.30am	<b>Sung Eucharist with Junior Church</b>
Monday	9.15am	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
Wednesday	10am	<b>Holy Communion</b>
Thursday	9.15am	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
Friday	9.15am	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
	10am	<b>Diddy Disciples</b> (term time only)

If you have any prayer requests you can contact Reverend Heather – text or telephone **07745 731729**.

### CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AT ST MARY'S

We have recently launched a new group for **0 to 4 year olds**, called **Diddy Disciples**, which is an opportunity to celebrate God's love through singing and storytelling followed by stay and play. The group meets every Friday during term time in the **Bolton Chapel** from **10 to 11.15am**. Just turn up – no need to prebook.

**Junior Church** has now resumed during our **9.30am service** in the **Parish Room**. New members welcome!

### WEDDINGS AT ST MARY'S

Did you know that if you live in the parish of Old Basing and Lychpit, or have a strong link to the parish (what we call a 'qualifying connection') you may be able to marry at St Mary's. Please do get in touch if you'd like to explore the possibility of having your wedding at St Mary's.

### FLOWER ENTHUSIASTS

We are looking for anyone with a love of flowers to come and join the team of **Church Flower Arrangers**. You do not have to be a florist, or trained in any way, just someone who enjoys creating an arrangement of flowers for all to enjoy in St Mary's.

If this is you, you would be most welcome to have a chat with one of the team who can give you more information on what is involved.

Please call Debbie, St Mary's Administrator, on **07541 698235** or get in touch via email: **admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk**

### HALL FOR HIRE

The Parish Room at St Mary's Church, including the kitchen, is available for hire. There is availability for both regular bookings and one-off bookings. All enquiries to Debbie: **admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk** or phone **07541 698235**.

## CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP – PIOCC



This month's **working party** will be on **Saturday, 5th February at 10am** – **meet by the PIOCC noticeboard** at the entrance to the Conservation Area. There will be **no Thursday afternoon working party this month**. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing our regular volunteers and also new participants. We will continue our winter conservation tasks, including woodland management.

Churchyard Conservation is a community project, not just for churchgoers, so please come along if you would like to be involved. We will give you a warm welcome, 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 were delighted to hear the surprise news that we had been nominated for, and subsequently awarded, **Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Councils 'Parish Award'** – a wonderful surprise and great recognition of our work and that of our wonderful volunteers.

The Conservation Area is a community space for everyone to enjoy. You are very welcome to visit. With the longer days wonderful signs of spring are appearing. The snowdrops are now at their best. Come and enjoy them! It is a lovely time to visit. On a warm day the WI seat offers a quiet spot for a moment of peace in this busy world.

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

**Margaret Carr** – [www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](http://www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk)

## THE MILL FIELD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



Why not have a break from weekend chores for a couple of hours and instead try your hand at conservation at your local nature reserve on **Sunday, 20th February, at 10am**. This month we will be clearing back scrub adjacent to the narrow upper path which runs from the steps entrance opposite Little Basing to the corner gate (near the lane to the

pub). This path has got quite overgrown and so needs opening out again. No experience is necessary just wear appropriate clothes and footwear, meet us at the play area or where we are working if you know the site.

Due to current Covid restrictions, can you let me know if you are coming using the email below so I know numbers and I can advise how we will be managing the work party safely. Any last minute changes will be posted on Facebook and the field notice board, and if you can email that you are coming then I can provide updates.

**What to Look Out For This Month:** Look out for Winter Finches, particularly larger numbers of Siskins, Bramblings and Redpolls, in particular see if you can spot the Meally Redpoll which is slightly bigger than the normal Redpoll. We should also be seeing the Winter Thrushes such as the Fieldfare, large numbers of Linnets will be roosting in the field too and the Waxwings should still be around. This winter we have had good numbers of Little Egrets coming in both onsite and around the fish ponds by the barn where the Yellowhammer maybe roosting amongst the reed beds and Kingfishers are seen regularly.

**Anne Francis** – tel. **07974 944439**

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

Facebook: **Mill Field Conservation Group**



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## NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

Basing House is currently closed for the winter and will reopen in April. Obviously, the opening date will be in a future edition of the Basinga.

Things at Basing House don't just go to sleep for the winter, as arrangements are being made for the programme for summer 2022, and again more about that will appear in future editions of the Basinga. And you may be able to help us run them.

Like all museums and historic monuments Basing House needs volunteers. Broadly speaking we have two types – gardening volunteers and what we call 'Welcome Volunteers'. I'm one of the latter group.

Anyone who has visited the Basing House site over the last year or two will have seen the huge difference that our gardening volunteers have made, and that doesn't just mean the formal gardens, with new flower beds appearing around the site and a pretty spectacular collection of potted plants around the Great Barn. And the huge difference could become even huger if we had more gardening volunteers.

Basing House is open five days a week (Wednesday to Sunday), from 11am until 4pm, and we need people at these times to help run the site, and learn about the site so they can help visitors. These volunteers are even more important when we have special events, when tickets need to be checked and a myriad of other jobs need carrying out – often within easy sight of what is going on.

So, if you want to get involved with something exciting this summer, we're always ready to welcome new members to our Volunteer Team at Basing House.

Find out more at [www.hampshireculture.org.uk/about-us/volunteer](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/about-us/volunteer) or give us a ring on **01256 639550** and our Visitor Engagement & Volunteer Coordinator will be in touch.

**Andrew Howard (tel. 01256 327014)**

## OLD BASING WI



Unfortunately, we had to move our January meeting to Zoom, instead of meeting in person as planned, because of concern over Covid. We will hold the promised bingo session later in the year. Nevertheless, 17 Members enjoyed a chat and catch up and we made our selection for the NFWI resolutions for 2022, which have now been submitted to HFWI.

We very much hope to hold our **February meeting** on the **1st**, as usual, at the **St Mary's Church Parish Room** at **7.30pm** where we will be delighted to welcome Jackie Dimmock to talk to us about 'The Good, the Bad and the Downright Funny'. The competition that evening will be 'a piece of quilting'. Members should monitor their emails and answerphones for further information prior to the meeting.

Details of the Womens Institute 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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- 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

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

**BASING HOUSE** | Barton's Lane | Basingstoke | Hampshire RG24 8AE

Please call 01256 639550 or email [basing.house@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk](mailto:basing.house@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk)



[www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house)

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### HOW TO IDENTIFY THE UK'S FIVE OWLS

Owls are among our most captivating birds and, with a good view, are easily distinguished from other UK birds. But how to tell one owl from another? Here's a guide to the UK's five resident species:

#### **Barn owl** (see photo, right, by Tony Matthews)

A very pale, slender owl, typically white on the underparts and golden-brown with grey markings on the upperparts. It has a white, heart-shaped facial disk with dark eyes. Usually seen over grassland or farmland at dawn and dusk, though can be seen at night or even during the day. Its call resembles eerie squeals and a shrieking 'shreeee'.



#### **Tawny owl**

A mostly brown owl with a large, rounded head. Slightly larger than a barn owl and usually seen in woodland. Plumage is mottled brown but can vary from greyish to reddish brown.

In flight, it shows broad, rounded wings and flies with quick wingbeats in long, straight glides. The tawny's rich vocal repertoire includes a short 'ke-wik' contact call and a quavering 'hoo, hu-hooo' advertising call.

#### **Short-eared owl**

A sandy-brown owl similar in size to a tawny, but with longer wings. It has a streaked breast, but a pale belly with thick dark barring on the tail and piercing yellow eyes.

In flight, it shows long, narrow wings that are slightly longer and slimmer than long-eared owls, with black wingtips. Flies with slow wingbeats and wavering glides.

Males perform display flights at breeding grounds, giving a fast series of deep hoots and short, quick wing-claps. Other calls include rapid, rasping barks when alarmed.

#### **Long-eared owl**

This streaky brown owl looks very similar to a short-eared owl but has darker feathers and less of a yellow hue. The facial disk is buff with a well-defined blackish border and white 'eyebrows' extending towards the beak. It has deep orange eyes and long 'ear-tufts' atop the head.

In flight, it's tricky to tell from the short-eared owl. Slightly shorter and more blunt-tipped wings, with fine black barring on the wingtips and no white trailing edge to the upper wing.

Males advertise with deep, soft hoots without inflection given every few seconds, while females have a more nasal call.

#### **Little owl**

A small owl with a flattened crown. The upperparts are dark brown with whitish streaks and spots, with whitish underparts featuring bold brown streaks. Facial disk is greyish brown with prominent whitish 'eyebrows' giving a stern expression. Eyes are yellow.

Flies with a fast, bounding flight like a thrush. Hunts by swooping from perches but will also run across ground to pursue prey.

The little owl's various calls include a fast 'chi-chi-chi' alarm call, a low-pitched hoot and a mewling call.



# Crusade

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## GOLF DAYS IN OLD BASING 2022 – ADVANCE NOTICE

A belated Happy New Year to all you golfers out there and despite the chilly, damp conditions, it's time to look forward to getting back on to the golf course with the sun on our backs! So, to enable the negotiation of competitive rates, I have already booked three provisional dates for golf days during 2022, especially for residents of Old Basing and Lychpit, although friends and families from afar will be very welcome also.

The annual **Good Old Basing Charity Golf Day** will take place on **Friday, 16th September** at **Sherfield Oaks Golf Course** and the cost is likely to be **around £55 per head**, for which you will enjoy 18 holes of golf, coffee and bacon roll, and two-course dinner including a free pint, plus contribution to prizes.

As the pandemic has damaged the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal efforts, I'm running two events this year, also at **Sherfield Oaks**, to try and raise some extra funds. The first will be a **Team Texas Scramble** which is always a lot of fun so get three other mates and enter a team on **Monday, 21st March**. This event will cost you just **£180 for a team of four** with lunch etc, though there will be opportunities to donate to the Poppy Appeal during the day. Entry forms are available from me now.



Then, to coincide closely with **Armed Forces Day** I have booked **Sherfield Oaks** for **Monday, 22nd June**, and this day will consist of coffee and bacon roll to begin, 18 holes and a late lunch along with the prize giving. There will also be cash prizes for **Nearest the Pin** and **Longest Drive** holes plus a raffle/auction. The cost of this, remembering we are raising money for a fantastic charity, will be **£47.50**.

Fees are substantially reduced for members of Sherfield Oaks Golf Club.

So please support these events by putting the dates in your diary NOW and request entry forms nearer the time for each. I very much look forward to seeing many of you there.

**Rick Bourne – tel. 07900 648675; email: [rickbourne@yahoo.com](mailto:rickbourne@yahoo.com)**  
(Hampshire RBL Golf Secretary)

## BOLTON UNDER-5 PRESCHOOL

### NEWS UPDATE!

We are looking for a new leader to take over our wonderful preschool!

After many highly successful years, our awesome senior managers are retiring, so we are looking for someone special to lead us into the next chapter of the Preschool's 46-year history in Old Basing. We are looking for someone, who is an expert in the Early Years' Foundation Stage, but is also fun, caring and full of ideas, with the 'know how' and skill to make it a pleasure to be in preschool every day.

If you are interested, or know someone who would be perfect for us, get in touch, or better still, come and find us for a chat and show around. We're waiting for you!

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## VILLAGE CAFÉ

By the time you read this, I hope the first signs of spring are beginning to show, one of my favourite sights is the gorgeous colours of crocuses poking their heads above ground and swathes of glorious yellow daffodils.

**Sadly for us at the café, we have taken the tough decision not to reopen until Friday, 4th March.** In light of current circumstances and the much more easily spread Omicron strain of the virus, for the safety of all we have delayed our reopening.

The good news is that the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) purchased by our fund raising to be installed in the church grounds is now imminent and we will look at providing training sessions to those who wish to learn how to use this lifesaving piece of equipment. Again, we will provide dates and venues as soon as we can so look out for our announcements.

We are always looking to add more volunteers to our friendly team so if there is anyone who would like to join us as a barista, please contact us. We would be more than grateful for any help serving beverages and cakes and generally helping so if you have a free couple of hours on a Friday afternoon please come and join us. Contact via **messenger** on our **Facebook page** or by calling **07901 531152**

Thank you to all our customers who continue to support the Village Café, it is a pleasure to see you all on Friday afternoons and we look forward to welcoming you back very soon. In the meantime, keep an eye open for further information on reopening and AED training and stay safe.

**Deborah Thorne**

## CHINEHAM AND OLD BASING NWR



It's a sign of the times that before our first meeting of the New Year we all took a lateral flow test so that all could feel as safe as possible in these strange times. We were then able to enjoy a lively meeting and were pleased to welcome a potential new member.

As is now our custom we started the year continuing through the alphabet where we have now reached the letter 'F'. Our discussions started with Frenulum (no we didn't know what it was either!) and went on to talk about Fossils and Feathers, France and Freedom, Fun, Friends and Family and finally Fiction, where we were told that just six minutes reading can reduce stress by 68%, according to someone called David Lewis.

This month our lunch club will resume and the **Reading Group** will discuss ***The Other Bennet Sister***. Our next meeting will be to plan our activities for the coming year where everyone puts forward their ideas for discussions, outings and social events to hopefully have something for everyone.

As well as our own local group, NWR's National Group provides a mixture of talks and activities so if you would like to take advantage of all that our organisation offers do come along. We meet in member's homes at **2pm** on the **first Monday of the month** and the **Reading Group** at **8pm** on the **fourth Thursday every month**. You are welcome to any meetings with no obligation to join and you can be sure of a warm welcome.

For more information about this nationwide-organisation go to **[www.nwr.org.uk](http://www.nwr.org.uk)** or for our local group **[www.basinga.org.uk/wp/national-womens-register](http://www.basinga.org.uk/wp/national-womens-register)** or contact our Local Organiser, **Karen Dann** – tel: **01256 328488** or email: **[karen.dann@gmail.com](mailto:karen.dann@gmail.com)**

**Diane Hope**



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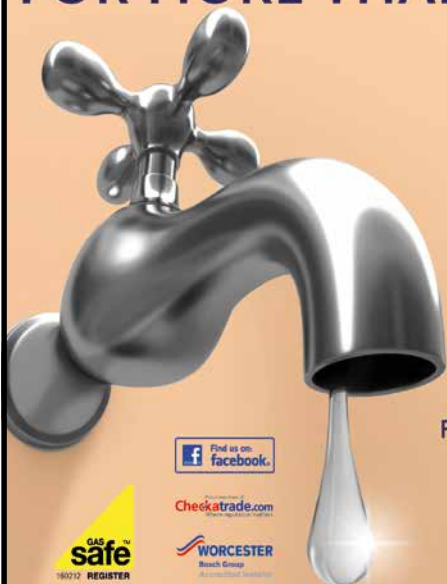
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**Chinese New Year** falls on **Tuesday, 1st February**, this year (well at least that's when the celebrations officially start). The celebration is actually also known as **chunjie**, the Spring

Festival, when people say goodbye to the wintery colder days and look forward to new beginnings and fresh starts.

There are all sorts of ways of celebrating, but just like many festivals in other parts of the world, there is a great emphasis on food. Many of the desserts eaten around this time of the year have special meanings behind them, often deriving from the puns in their names. For example, there is dessert called **tangyuan** which literally means 'soup balls'. But it sounds like **tuanyuan**, which means reunion. And then there's **fa gao**, which is a type of steamed cupcake, dyed in festive colours. The **fa** is the same as in **fa cai**, which means 'to get rich'. Indeed, one of the cake's characteristics is that it often splits at the top when cooked. Some people therefore call it the 'smiling steamed cake'. And what makes it even more curious for those interested in languages is that the Hakka people, call the split at the top of the cake '**xiao**', which means smiling, which in Chinese characteristics resembles a sign of a coming fortune. And so yes, you guessed it, the bigger the '**xiao**', the better!

If you find this kind of thing interesting, then don't forget that there is so much more LinguaTastic could share with you through our language lessons in not only Mandarin, but French, German, Spanish, Italian and Japanese.

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## ODIHAM COTTAGE HOSPITAL



### Befriending Service New volunteering opportunity for 2022

Odiham Cottage Hospital's Befriending Service is a volunteer-led service run and managed by the Hospital and covers the areas of Odiham, Hook, Hartley Wintney and Old Basing and surrounding villages. Our clients are those who have become lonely and isolated due to living with a long-term health condition, or are receiving palliative care.

The service recruits, trains and supports volunteers who on a weekly basis visit people in their homes, as well as provide befriending via the telephone. All clients are referred to the service through their GP practice, community health team or another medical professional.

We are currently recruiting new volunteers to be Befrienders for the service. For just two hours a week, you can make a real difference in someone's life within your local community.

For more information or an application pack, please contact:

**Una Tilt (Befriending Manager)**

Tel. **01256 393609**

Email: [befriending@odihamcottagehospital.org.uk](mailto:befriending@odihamcottagehospital.org.uk)

## FEBRUARY IN YOUR GARDEN

February can be a very mixed month, from sunshine warm enough to be in the garden without a coat, to heavy snow. Take advantage on good days to get out in to the garden to work or to survey what needs to be done later in the year. As the weather can be unpredictable just be patient! If nothing else, you can spend time finishing off any trimming of dead growth, clipping back and general preparation for the new growing season.

An interesting tip I was given in regard to growing Tomatoes is to search for Crimean varieties, such as 'Black Krim.' Not only do they taste superb, most Tomato varieties are grown for warmer climates, whereas the South Ukraine has a similar climate to our own, allowing them to grow better in cooler conditions, and in theory, crop longer.

A last-chance warning: now is the last month you can sow garlic. To form good cloves it needs to spend ten consecutive days at a temperature below 10°C (50°F). You can of course place them in a fridge if you so desire.

Continue to prepare beds for planting. Those that have been completed can have black sheeting put over the top of them to keep them warmer and drier for springtime. Another advantage is that as the soil warms, weeds will start to grow, giving you a clean crack at the whip of removing them before anything is planted.

If you are looking for an easy crop to grow, that crops in winter when little else grows, gives fantastic flowers and tastes fantastic, then look at growing Jerusalem Artichokes. They are related to the sunflower family rather than Globe Artichokes, they grow in most soils and are the definition of plant and forget! The tubers make a fantastic soup.

I don't know why but when I think of Artichokes I also think of Asparagus. Now is a good time to start preparing the site where they are to grow, ensuring the ground has been dug thoroughly and weed free. It is also a good time to order the Asparagus crowns even though delivery may not be until late March or early April.

If the ground is not frozen, cane fruits can be planted now. Blueberry and gooseberry plants may be stirring into life; check the soil isn't too sodden or bone dry, especially container plants. Blackcurrant bushes should be inspected for swollen buds, caused by big bud mite, and disposed of.

Protect the blossoms of fruiting trees should they flower early again this year. Peach and Apricot are notoriously early anyway, and may need hand pollinating as there little else to do it for you! I also hand pollinate my pear trees, as they can also blossom before the bees.

If you are planning to grow climbing French or Runner beans this year, give them the best start by digging a trench where you plan to grow, lining with shredded newspaper and filling with kitchen waste (vegetable peelings, uncooked fruit and vegetables, tea bags, but not cooked meats, bones, cheese or milk) and back fill with soil. This gives the beans a much-needed nitrogen boost come summer.

With regards to lawns, in frosty or snowy weather, keep off the grass as it can cause significant damage and lead to disease later in the year. Otherwise, you can brush off any worm casts with a stiff broom, besom or rake, so it's ready for its first cut. So now is an opportune time to get your lawnmower serviced. If you're planning on sowing a new lawn, weeds growing on areas of ground prepared for grass-seed-sowing should be brought under control before sowing begins in April.

*continued on page 38*



## NATURE NOTES FOR FEBRUARY

The dexterity a bird has in making a nest using just its beak is astonishing, but this, and its ability to migrate (where applicable) or sing a song is of course inherited from its genes. What fascinates me is how birds and indeed certain species of mammal, get to learn complex tricks to secure a meal. Waiting for the lights to change at the Reading Road roundabout, I observed a Common Gull scratching around in the grass verge looking for grubs. What it did next I have seen before but it nevertheless made me smile, and that was to stamp its feet quickly on the spot to 'worm-charm'.

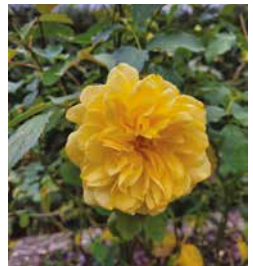
Just in case you've don't know what this is but if you go out onto your lawn when its damp and tap the ground firmly with say the back of a spade, eventually large worms will work their way to the surface believing its rain. Anglers might do this to collect worms for bait but of course birds, ie gulls, do it for a quick snack! I've also seen footage of a wader bird offer a piece of bread into the waters edge where there are small fish to tempt them closer to eat said offering. Once they're nearer the surface, and the birds beak, the bread gets dropped and the fish is inside the wader before it knows what's happening.

Regular correspondent Stephen Thair reported a couple of Redwings in his garden around Christmas time plus 16 Blackbirds all feasting on crab apples. We know that the Redwings are northern visitors but its highly likely that some of the Blackbirds could be too. Ringing for the past decade or so has proven that they, plus even the 'British' robin, often turns out to be a Dutch or Belgian bird.

The hundred or so crab apples on our tree were small and bright red and I wondered if they might tempt some Thrushes, or dare I say, Waxwings to the garden, but no such luck. It was Wood Pigeons that ate the majority though a pair of Blackbirds did try a few.

Tony Stoney who as many of you know is a very keen walker and wildlife observer even in the foulest of conditions, reported some 50 to 60 Siskins performing a little murmuration between trees near the Incinerator last week, and yesterday (5th January), watched a pair of 'mad March hares' chasing each other around in a sunshine-soaked field near South Warnborough. It would seem that the spring-like conditions (which lasted exactly one day!) stirred their juices temporarily early before they probably realised that it was not yet the time to start thinking about a family.

We and the natural world can be forgiven however for getting occasionally confused about the seasons. The seriously mild spell over the New Year could spark trees and plants to start budding which could have devastating effects on dormancy, hibernation, and breeding cycles resulting in numerous species eventually dying out. But seeing the odd flower bloom out of season isn't new so when Alan Williams in Park Lane sent me the golden rose photo (see *right*), I wasn't surprised that it was called Molineux, as per the home of his beloved Wolverhampton Wanderers.



Alan says it's a sign that his team will be outstanding this year. We will see!!

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

**Rick Bourne**

## FEBRUARY IN YOUR GARDEN *(continued from page 36)*

It is not too early to give your compost heap a 'spring turn' this month. This will aerate and stimulate the heap. If it's too dry, adding wet kitchen waste and watering occasionally will help. If too wet, adding more carbon-rich materials such as twigs, cardboard and paper waste, will aerate the heap.

Next month the garden really starts to get going, so any preparation work that can be done now will save time later. It may be cold and miserable you will thank yourself for the effort.

## DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY

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

### FEBRUARY

Tue 1	7.30pm	Old Basing WI meeting (Parish Room, St. Mary's Church)
Fri 4	10.30am – noon	First Friday Coffee Morning (4 Lambs Row, Lychpit)
Sat 5	10.00am – 1.00pm	PIOCC Working Party (meet by noticeboard)
Sat 5	7.30pm for 8.00pm start	Basingstoke Lions Club present – <b>A joyous evening of Motown and Soul Music</b> (Royal British Legion, Old Basing). <i>See page 17 for details</i>
Wed 9	7.45pm	BDRS talk 'Tramway Systems' (Wote Street Club)
Thu 10	6.00pm	<b>DEADLINE FOR MARCH COPY TO EDITOR</b> ( <i>see page 3</i> )
Thu 17	12.25pm	Ploughman's Lunch (Parish Room, St. Mary's Church)
Sun 20	10.00am	The Mill Field working party (meet at Play Area)
Wed 23	7.45pm	BDRS talk 'Rail Blue' (Wote Street Club)

### MARCH

Fri 4	10.30am – noon	First Friday Coffee Morning (10 Olivers Walk, Lychpit)
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## 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)

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## **CHURCH INFORMATION FOR THE AREA**

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

<b>VICAR:</b> Rev'd Heather Leppard, The Vicarage, Church Lane, Old Basing Email: vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk	01256 363612 07745 731729
<b>ADMINISTRATOR:</b> Debbie Filer	07541 698235

### **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

St Mary's

Church Hall,

Old Basing

### Sunday Morning Yoga

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### Sunday's

09.15 - 10.15

Lychpit

Community Hall

### Sunday Night Satsang

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of the month

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Lychpit

Community Hall



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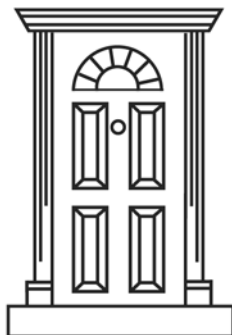
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