

January 2018

BASINGA



Anna Fairs



Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Magazine
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JANUARY 2018 – NOTES AND NEWS

The cover photo this month is “A splash of red amongst the snowdrops in St Mary’s Churhyard” by Anna Fairs. The Basinga Committee would like to wish all our readers Happy New Year.

BASINGA ARTICLES

We welcome both regular and occasional items for the Basinga. The very last date for copy to the Editor for the FEBRUARY edition is by 6 pm on Wednesday, 10th January. Send emails to: editor@basinga.org.uk All advertising enquiries – classified, free adverts or inserts (flyers) to: advertising@basinga.org.uk Don’t forget that we only accept articles with 300 words maximum. All articles sent by email should be sent to the Editor as an attachment.

If we are unable to get your copy in this month’s edition please could you look on our website: www.basinga.org.uk

BASINGA EXTRA

For those of you who visit the Basinga Extra Website you may begin to notice that your browser may indicate that the website is “Not Secure”. This isn’t anything to worry about, it simply means that the information downloaded from our website is not encrypted, and could therefore be intercepted by third parties who were clever enough to do so. We don’t think that this is of too much concern. However, having said that, we will be taking measure to secure the website in the new year, to satisfy these new requirements that are being placed upon us.

We would like to thank you all for visiting our site throughout 2017, and we hope that you have found the new format pleasing. We look forward to continuing to provide you with a high quality magazine and website and improving where we we can in the coming year.

The Basinga Team

NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

Were you ever a Friend of Basing House? If so, we’d like to invite you to an event. Two years ago the Friends were wound up, but with a considerable amount of money in the bank account. The view of those who attended the final meeting was that the money should be spent on a monument to those who fell in the sieges of Basing House, back in 1645, and on some wooden benches to place around the site.

The monument is now well advanced, and we are looking at holding some kind of official unveiling, possibly at Easter, 2019. Everyone who has ever been a member should be invited to this event – because everyone who ever paid a subscription can be considered a contributor to the cost of the monument.

So, if you’d like to be on the list for an invitation, could you get in touch. The best way would be by email: fobh@howardz.me.uk or by telephone 01256 327014.

Basing House itself is currently closed for the winter. As the summer programme develops it will appear at: www.hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/venue-events/68

Andrew Howard

OLD BASING CARNIVAL UPDATE

On behalf of Old Basing Carnival Committee, I am very pleased to announce that following another fantastic year that at our **Annual General Meeting** on **11th October** we were able to award the following **amounts** to the **15 requests** received for a share of the profits to **local groups** as follows:

Amount £150: to **Basing Singers** towards sheet music; **Old Basing Pre-School** for some outside matting; **Bolton under 5's** for a trike bike and remote control cars; **Basingstoke Shedmen** towards a second-hand wood lathe and lighting; **Old Basing Methodist Church** for a kitchen blind; and **Linguatastic** to help with a specialist computer package.

Amount £200: to **2nd Old Basing Brownies** to buy some storage boxes and a trolley; **1st Old Basing Rainbows** to buy space hoppers and face paints; **Old Basing Beavers** for supplies to run sessions; **1st Lychpit Brownies** to replacement crockery and buy new storage containers; **Old Basing Senior section** for various equipment; **1st Lychpit Rainbows** towards the Christmas panto trip; **1st Old Basing and Lychpit Guides** for a new flag and towards replenishment of outdoor toys; **Old Basing DoE** for a GPRS tracker; and **Old Basing Scout Troop** towards an adventure activity morning.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the committee members, our extended support network for their continued dedication and hard work which enabled us to have another successful year. Thank you also to all our donators and advertisers for their continued support. I am also pleased to announce that all the committee was re-elected.

At the **Annual General Meeting** we decided that our **theme for next year's Carnival** will be **Book Titles**. We look forward to seeing all the fantastic outfits and having lots more fun and hopefully the sun will make another appearance too.

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Carnival Selection Disco (Friday, 10th March); Carnival Day (Saturday, 17th June)

Joe Croombs (Chair Old Basing Carnival Committee); **oldbasingcarnival@outlook.com**

OLD BASING CARNIVAL SENIOR CITIZEN PARTY 2018

I am also pleased to extend a very warm welcome to all **Senior Citizens** who reside in the parish, to join us for: The **Old Basing Carnival Senior Citizen Party**, on **Saturday, 17th February, midday for 12.30pm start** at the **Old Basing Village Hall**. Lovely food, great company, a few fun activities and a free raffle. If you would like to join us, please complete the reply slip below and return to **Sandie Rice** at the **address below** no later than **Friday, 2nd February**. Please note in last month's Basinga the date given for the Old Basing Carnival Senior Citizen Party was incorrect – apologies for any confusion.

OLDBASING CARNIVAL SENIOR CITIZEN PARTY (SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY)

Please complete and return to: **Sandie Rice, 16B Pyotts Hill, Old Basing, RG24 8AR** or email information below to **oldbasingcarnival@outlook.com** no later than **Friday, 2nd February**.

I would love to join you for the Old Basing Carnival Senior Citizen Party:

Name/Group:

Number of people attending:

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

A **Happy New Year** to all **readers** and we hope you have a healthy and prosperous 2018.

BEST NEWSLETTER

We are delighted to report that our **Spring 2017 Newsletter** won the **Hampshire Association of Local Council's award for Best Newsletter** based on its varied content, layout and interest and was considered "a good read". We now have a lot to live up to and would welcome ideas or articles from groups and individuals to ensure that future copies prove just as interesting. Our next **Newsletter** is due in **March** so if you have any suggestions or wish to submit an article, please let us know before the first week in February.

MOTORWAY SERVICE STATION

The proposed **new motorway service station** by **Moto Hospitality Ltd** at **junction 6** of the **M3** has been met with very strong opposition and rejection. To-date eight local parish councils, including ours, and 173 members of the public have submitted written objections. In addition to these a Borough Councillor and major organisations have either objected or requested significant re-work before acceptance is given. Borough Councillor Onnalee Cubitt commented "this application is not needed and not wanted. It will place intolerable pressure on an already overloaded network. It breaches no fewer than nine of our Policies in the Local Plan. On that basis this application must be refused".

For details of the objections visit the Borough Council's web page for planning applications, related documents Ref: 17/03487/FUL - Construction of a new Motorway Service Area, off Junction 6, to comprise an amenity building, lodge, drive thru coffee unit, associated car, coach, motorcycle, caravan, HGV and abnormal load parking, and a fuel filling station with retail shop, together with alterations to the adjoining roundabout on the M3 and slip roads to form an access point and works to the highway.

We also have a brief summary of the objections in the Parish Office for anyone who does not have access to the internet.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

We are seeking permission to publish a photo in the next Community Newsletter of a young lad who we think is called Charlie, marching at the front of the band at the Remembrance Day parade. If his parents read this, please contact the Parish Office and we are more than happy to provide them with a copy of the photo.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are **Tuesdays 2nd January** and **6rd February** at **7.30 pm** at the **Pavilion**. All are welcome and anyone with impaired mobility should contact the Parish Office so they can be accommodated.

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

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

Parish Clerk: Mrs Sandra Tuck **Deputy Clerk:** Mrs Heather Mountford

Address: The Pavilion, The Recreation Ground, The Street, Old Basing, RG24 7DA; Tel. 01256 462847 (Office Opening Hours: Monday to Thursday, 10 am–noon)

Email: clerk@oldbasing.gov.uk Web: www.oldbasing.gov.uk



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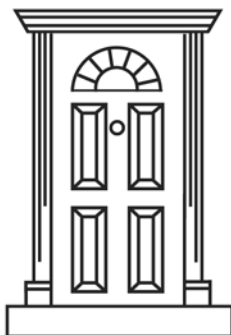


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SHOWTIME

Pantomime is returning to Old Basing this year after a lapse of nine years when productions by Jackie Deadman and Rowena Hacket played to a succession of packed houses in the Old Basing Village Hall. Christmas may just be over but plans are afoot for next Christmas 2018, when *Cinderella* will be meeting *Robin Hood* (yes) in a sparkling new production inspired by Rowena with her new partner Rosemary Kershaw.

Some aspiring local thespians will be leading the cast while the all-important backstage workers have offered their services – electricians, staging, etc. Although the enterprise is being undertaken under the auspices of the charity, The Friends of St Mary's, this exciting new enterprise is intended to involve all who live in Old Basing and Lychpit.

Peter Dark

BOLTON UNDER 5'S PRESCHOOL

Welcome back to all the children and we hope you had a wonderful Christmas! We finished the term with our fab-u-lous Christmas performances of the *Gift* and the end-of-term party which included storytime with Mrs Klaus and a visit from a certain big fat fella! Now we are looking forwards to the new year and new term, and all the exciting events we have planned.

If you are interested in your child joining our preschool, please be aware that we are already **booking spaces from September 2018 through to July 2019** (and into the next educational year – **September 2019 onwards!**), so don't delay..... but also be assured that we do sometimes have unfilled sessions, when families move or change their hours so please do contact us and see if we have spaces for your preferred sessions. We welcome you to come in and meet our staff, see our setting in action, so don't hesitate to call on **07881 920709** or **01256 326196** to arrange a time for a visit.

THE MILL FIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Have a break from weekend chores for a couple of hours and try your hand at **conservation** at your local nature reserve on **Saturday, 20th January**, instead. We are completely dependent on **volunteers** to look after the **Mill Field**, tackle the scrub and open up the paths and views for the many walkers who use the site every day.

You don't need to book in advance just come along on the day, the more the merrier. No experience is necessary just wear appropriate clothes and footwear and we will provide tea, coffee and tools. We meet at the **play area at Bartons Mill pub at 10 am** and work for about **two hours**.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS MONTH

If you are out walking the dogs at dusk you may see Linnets, Reed bunting and Yellow Hammer going to roost most nights. Redwing, Fieldfare will be shifting round with the chance of a Water Rail, Snipe or Jack Snipe or maybe a Bittern or Waxwing if the weather becomes harsher. Siskins and Lesser Redpoll can be seen along the wood edge and flocks of Long-tailed Tit will be moving through the field mixed with the occasional Chiffchaff or Goldcrest.

Anne Francis – tel. **07974 944439**; Email: **millfieldoldbasing@yahoo.co.uk**

Facebook: **Mill Field Conservation Group**

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IT'S A NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!

Firstly, the **Friends of Old Basing Schools (FOOBS) Fun Run Committee** would like to wish all Basinga readers a very happy and prosperous New Year. Secondly, we also know it's that time of year when many of us make a resolution to stop eating all the mince pies and get back into the gym to start working off the festive excess! And this year you have a very exciting goal to motivate your New Year, New You resolutions: The **FOOBS Fun Run Series** taking place on **Sunday, 14th October 2018**.

What better excuse do you need to put down the leftover trifle and put on your running shoes! We are currently in the process of finalising the **10km, 5km and 2km routes** which will be uploaded onto the **FOOBS website** shortly for readers to see.

We are also working on the online entry system and are hoping to launch that imminently so please watch this space – we should be providing **details** in **February** on **how to enter**. In the meantime, if you have any comments or questions then please do drop us an email: **foobsfunrun@gmail.com**

Michele Byrne (Race Secretary)

LINGUATASTIC LANGUAGE ACADEMY

Some might think that the world's richest man Bill Gates, has it all. A couple of years ago however, he admitted that he has one regret. He said he felt stupid for not knowing any foreign languages. Speaking in one of his "Ask Me Anything" sessions for online forum Reddit, the Microsoft founder revealed that he wished he spoke French, Arabic or Chinese.

And it seems that he is not alone since several studies have shown that not learning a different language is one of our biggest regrets. But it's never too late! The new year can encourage us to try new things, so why not consider taking advantage of the opportunity to acquire new/improve your existing language skills without having to travel far?

Here's a current Linguatastic student talking about her experience:

"If, like me, you speak French and love France and all things French, then you might consider joining **Rendez-Vous**, a class for advanced level speakers of French.

I've been going along for a couple of years now as a way of practicing my French. I wanted to keep fluent and to do something of an evening for me. **Rendez-vous** has not disappointed.

We have a friendly French tutor and an hour on a Tuesday evening in a small group to chat, debate, joke and learn. We also play games, read and discuss articles and do some exercises (of the language type of course)! I've found it a nice way to work on my French and really useful to meet with like-minded people.

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CONCESSION ADVERTS

THE OBAGS SHOP at Riley Lane (opposite the Bolton Arms pub) will be open Sunday, 14th January, from 11 am to noon. The 2018 membership fee is £5 (this must be paid before any purchase). Tony Stoney.

ST MARY'S FLOWER LADIES COFFEE MORNING: Come and join us on Sat 24th Feb 2018 in the parish room at St Mary's, 10am to 12 noon. Everyone welcome. Raffle, gifts, tea, coffee and biscuits.

LADIES FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING: The next occasions will be at the home of Mrs Sheila Stone 8 Norton Ride Lychpit on 5th January and then at the home of Mrs Ann Price 10 Olivers Walk Lychpit on 2nd February both at 10.30 am to 12.00 noon.

OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB: At the moment it is a quiet time for the Old Basing Tennis Club before matches resume and we start to plan for the new season. Tennis is still played in January, usually at the weekend in the morning, weather permitting! If you would like to join or learn more about our club please contact Lynne Thomas on 01256 477004 or email: lynne.thomas8@btinternet.com

BASINGSTOKE GANG SHOW 2018

In September 2017 an eager cast, excited producers and many others set to work on **Basingstoke Gang Show 2018**. Now, nearly five months of hard work later, the show is almost ready. The cast are polishing and adding final touches to the show, scenery is having its final coats of paint and the last sequins are being sewn onto costumes.

If you, your family and your friends love great live music and stunning dance performances, don't miss out! The talented cast will take you on an emotional rollercoaster of entertainment with original laugh-out-loud comedy and romance accompanied by music from the decades. Basingstoke Gang Show 2018 will take you to school before showing you 'London Life' like you've never seen it before! This bestselling amateur production will have your heart racing as you watch this popular local variety show!

With the show fast approaching you are running out of time to get your tickets to support a local treasure. The Show will run from Thursday 8th to Saturday 17th February. Tickets are obtainable from the **Anvil Arts Box Office** – tel. **01256 844244**; fax **01256 366900**; email: box.office@anvilarts.org.uk or take a look at the website: www.basingstokegangshow.com

Kirsty Sayers (Basingstoke Gang Show Publicity)

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CHINEHAM LIBRARY

Happy New Year! **Hampshire libraries** are running a **Digital Options Training Support project**, and a **free session** will be held at **Chineham** on **Monday, 26th February, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm**. For more details please contact the co-ordinator, **Miles Kane-Smith**, on **07384 274760**. We already have a **four-week free iPad loan** available if you are interested.

Also on **Monday, 29th January**, we have a '**Kick start your creative writing**' course from **1 to 4 pm**, possibly of interest if you are thinking of joining our **new creative writing group**.

For **children**, there will also be more of the popular **Charlie's storytelling parties**. These are taking place on **Monday, 12th February, 1.45 to 2.30 and 3 to 3.45 pm**. They are aimed at those **aged three plus, accompanied by an adult**.

Rhymetimes continue on **Tuesdays** as usual. **Monthly craft sessions** will take place on **Saturdays, 6th January and 3rd February, between 10 am and noon**, and **preschool storytimes** on all the **other Saturdays at 10 am**.

The **Chatterbooks reading group** will meet on **Thursdays, 18th January and 15th February at 3.45 pm**.

Coding Club will run **another course**, with a **waiting list** being held at the library to which you can add your child's name.

The **crime reading group** meet again on **Saturdays, 20th January and 17th February, from 10.30 to 11.30 am**.

The **CHIPPS reading group** will meet on **Wednesday, 14th February from 10 to 11 am**. Remember we have **new reading and creative writing groups** starting up with **details available from the Library**.

Age Concern will hold sessions again on **Wednesdays between 10 am and 1 pm** to assist the **over 50s with computer queries**. To book appointments please contact the local office on **01256 423874**.

Further details of these and other activities will appear on social media.

Cathy Foster

CHINEHAM CRAFT CIRCLE

Our long-established **Chineham Craft Circle** group meets at the **Chineham Village Hall** on the **first and third Monday of each month, from 7.30 to 10pm**.

We cover a wide range of crafts including **knitting, embroidery, card making, cross stitch, quilting, crochet** and **Hardanger**. Members bring their own work but also enjoy seeing and learning about the other crafts, gain advice if necessary, have a friendly chat and progress their own projects. A **small charge** is made to cover hall hire costs (**less than £2 per meeting**), payable as an annual subscription. Our **first meeting in 2018 is on Monday, 15th January**.

We welcome **new members** so should you be interested in joining us or would like to just come for a trial visit then please contact **Lesley** on **01256 767042** for further details.

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OLD BASING WI

Gina Ireland, who never fails to give an interesting talk, asked us: “So ... who is Father Christmas?” at our December meeting. I shan’t give away the answer, in case you don’t know!

Happy New Year to all! We meet straight after New Year’s Day as our next **Members meeting** will take place on **Tuesday, 2nd January**, at the **Parish Room at St Mary’s Church** starting at **7.30 pm**. We will be providing our own entertainment as discussed at the December meeting and you will need to bring along your chequebooks as it is the month that we renew our WI membership! The **competition** on this evening is a **small bon-bon dish**. Those going to the festive meal on **Wednesday, 10th January**, at the **Bolton Arms**, will need to bring along the balance of the money for that as well.

Further **details** of our **meetings** and all **other activities** are to be found on the WI website: **www.hampshirewi.org.uk** (click on WI’s from the top of the page and select Old Basing from the list).

HAMPSHIRE POTATO DAY

This is the **20th running** of the **country’s largest and longest-running Potato Day**. It takes place on **Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th January**, both days **from 10 am to 3 pm**, at **Testborne Community School, Whitchurch**.

There will be well over **100 varieties of potato seed** plus peas and beans, onion, garlic and shallot sets and flower bulbs from Charlton Park Garden Centre. There will also be stalls from Beans and Herbs, Edulis, Grandma’s local homemade jam, Grow Your Own cards, Hampshire Branch of the National Vegetable Society, Phoenix Perennial Plants, Thomas Etty’s Heritage Seeds and Tufton Plants. Also there will be a seed swap, run by Hampshire Organic Gardening Group – bring your seeds to swap for something different.

Alan Wilson, author of *The People’s Potatoes*, will be present with his new book, plus there will be a talk by Chris Bird of Sparsholt College. Refreshments are available from H’s Cafe and children’s activities are provided by the Friends of Whitchurch Primary School. There will also be a free coloured seed potato for under 12s. Finally there will be a catalogue of all available varieties of potatoes.

BASINGSTOKE AND DISTRICT RAILWAY SOCIETY

We will welcome the New Year on **Wednesday, 10th January**, with a presentation about one of the most exciting ‘new build’ railway locomotive projects. The ***Prince of Wales***, Britain’s most powerful steam locomotive is now under construction in Darlington. Chris Ardy from the P2 Steam Locomotive Company will tell us about the background to the project, fundraising and the progress to date.

Our second meeting of the month on **Wednesday, 24th January**, is our **AGM**. The formalities will be followed by the second part of member Andy Fewster’s presentation on **Chasing China Steam**. Expect more clouds of steam and smoke and bitter cold!

The **meetings** are held at **7.45 pm** at **The Wote Street Club** in **New Road** in **Basingstoke** town centre. Non-members are always welcome. More information about the Society, membership and future meetings can be found on our website at **www.bdrs70d.com** or telephone **01256 331002**.

WHATEVER THE WEATHER

I don't know what our weather will be like this month. I suppose that even when we think we know what to expect our wonderful climate can surprise us. I certainly didn't anticipate that last year's Old Basing Carnival was going to be such a scorcher and I got very hot and a little burnt! Perhaps at this time of year we can at least anticipate needing our gloves and perhaps our wellies but we do not know whether everything will stop for snow or the days will be full of beautiful wintry sunshine. Perhaps there will be greyness and drizzle or high winds and stormy skies.

There are lots of times in the Bible where the weather plays its part and there are graphic descriptions of storms. One of my favourites describes a storm on a lake where the disciples think they are going to die. Conditions must have been pretty awful since so many of them were experienced fishermen. Finally they wake Jesus and at his command the storm is stilled. You can find this in Mark 4:35-41. When we read this story in our bibles it is only a few short verses and there is no time to enter into the experience. However, years ago I heard a dramatic dialogue of the storm and it went on for a very long time. I have a good imagination and I felt cold and wet and very scared as we listened. We all knew the end of the story but it felt like the storm was overwhelming and never ending as we waited for Jesus to act.

I have never forgotten this experience and when storms come in my life it reminds me to ask Jesus to help and to wait for him to do so in his way and in his time. Years ago I was praying for a mother who was facing many challenges. Her situation started out bad and got worse. I felt embarrassed about meeting her eye as my prayers seemed useless. So I wasn't surprised when she told me I could stop praying for her and pray for someone else instead. I stammered something about my prayers seeming not to have helped at all. What she said next amazed me. "My situation has got worse, but God has given me the strength to cope. A change has taken place in me and I am so grateful."

When my son was in a coma for over a month the prayers of many sustained him and us and his healing is still continuing seven years later.

I do not know if you are facing storms right now. I pray that God will meet you at your point of need whatever the weather in your life.

Be blessed in 2018.

Revd. Alison

THIS MONTH AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

- Saturday 6th January** **Men's Breakfast Group from 8.45 to 10 am.** Men of all ages are invited to join us for good food and fellowship.
- Sunday 7th January** **Eucharist of the Epiphany at 9.30 am.** Traidcraft Stall immediately after the 9.30 am service in the **Parish Room** selling all kinds of Fair Trade food and craft items with the proceeds going to the producers in developing countries. *St Mary's is a Fair Trade church.*
- Thursday 11th January** **Prayer and Bears at 2 pm.** Join Rev Sarah, Myrna, Pat, and the bears in the **Bolton Chapel at St Mary's at 2 pm.** All ages welcome, particularly pre-school.
- Sunday 14th January** **Christingle All Age Service at 10 am.** Children and adults please come **9.15 am** onwards for **refreshments** and to make your '**Christingle**' for this special service celebrating Christ's light in the world and focusing on the work of The Children's Society.
- Monday 22nd January** **Tea & Talk Café** (formerly known as **The Memory Café**) at **2.15 pm**, in the **Parish Room**

After the weekly 9.30 am service at St Mary's refreshments are served in the Parish Room. All are very welcome.

For more details about the life of St Mary's please visit www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk or **St Mary's Facebook page** where you will find fresh updates including sermons. The church is **open daily for prayer** and you are welcome as you are every Sunday. **Morning Prayer** and **Evening Prayer** take place at **8.45 am** and **6.30 pm** respectively.

LOOKING FORWARD TO FEBRUARY

- Sunday 4th February** **Candlemas Eucharist, 9.30 am**
- Sunday 11th February** **All-Age Service, 10 am**
- Wednesday 14th February** **Ash Wednesday (services at 10 am and 7.30 pm)**

OLD BASING METHODIST CHURCH

Old Basing Methodist Church, The Street, Old Basing – Services And Activities:

- Tuesday 9th January** **MHA Lunch Club** with planned activity **noon until 3 pm**
- Friday 12th January** **'Coffee Break'** is our monthly coffee morning from **10.30 am**
- Monday 15th January** **Midweek Communion at 2 pm**
- Tuesday 16th January** **Craft afternoon from 2 to 4 pm.** Bring your own crafts or materials will be provided.

Our regular **Sunday worship** starts at **10.30 am.** Coffee and tea are served after the service. Children are welcomed into our junior church.

Come and join us for Worship, Friday coffee, Communion and craft – a warm welcome awaits you.

CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)

This month's **working party** will be on **Saturday, 6th January**, at **10 am** – meet in the **church lobby**. There will be **no Thursday afternoon working party in January**. We will continue our seasonal conservation work, including woodland management. All are welcome. We look forward to seeing our regular volunteers and also new participants.

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

The **Conservation Area** is a community space for all to enjoy. As the days lengthen signs of spring are starting to appear. The white snowdrop buds are beginning to show, the catkins lengthening and the birds starting their spring songs. The WI seat offers a calm spot for reflection and relaxation. You are welcome to visit.

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

Margaret Carr – www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

WHO CARES? HAMPSHIRE INITIATIVE RESULTS

The **‘Who Cares?’** initiative in Old Basing and Lychpit launched during the summer months and people from **St Mary’s Church Old Basing and Lychpit** joined **59 churches across Hampshire** to ask the question **‘What hurts you the most?’** We wanted to find out from our local communities what you find the most difficult to deal with?

There were **4,769 responses** across **Basingstoke**, and the survey found that top three types of hurts were linked to **‘Negative Emotions’ (17.85%)**, **‘Family’ (17.69%)** and **‘Relationships’ (15.23%)**.

We now are thinking how we might respond and what we can do to help? We want to signpost people to the local organisations and initiatives already happening and to come up with some new, creative ways we might meet people’s needs.

If you are interested in getting involved in the response, or if you have ideas yourself, we are planning a morning **meeting**, on **Saturday, 3rd February, at 9.15 am**, in the **Bolton Chapel of St Mary’s Church**. All are welcome. For more information, please contact **Steve_Sakakini@yahoo.com** or on **07812 145987**.

YOUR LOCAL RADIO STATION NEEDS YOU!

Hospital Radio Basingstoke is actively recruiting **new members** to join our award-winning team. We have **vacancies** for **Presenters** and **Ward Visitors**.

For more information go to our website at www.hrbasingstoke.co.uk and complete the online application form. For further information, or to ask a question, please phone **01256 313521** during weekday evenings.

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JULIAN HOUSE

Homelessness is devastating, dangerous and isolating. On average, homeless people die at just 47 years old. People sleeping on the street are almost 17 times more likely to have been victims of violence and more than one in three people sleeping rough have been deliberately hit or kicked or experienced some other form of violence whilst homeless.

Becoming homeless can happen to any one of us. People become homeless for many different reasons. Life events like a relationship breaking down, losing a job, mental or physical health problems, or substance misuse can be the trigger. Being homeless can in turn make many of these problems even harder to resolve. Rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness. Many people who sleep rough will suffer from multiple health conditions, such as mental health problems and drug misuse they are also in greater danger of violence than the general population.

Julian House is a new project in Basingstoke and we provide Outreach sessions seven days a week. Outreach involves being out on the streets and engaging people experiencing homelessness, who may be disconnected and alienated from mainstream services and support. Outreach workers engage individuals experiencing homelessness and assist them in accessing health, housing and social services.

Once a person finds themselves sleeping rough it is extremely difficult to get back into an everyday routine of secure housing and employment. Returning to a structured life and re-engaging with society can be a long process.

If you would like to help reach out to our homeless and rough sleeper community all we ask is a commitment of just two hours, even just once a month can really make a difference in someone's life.

For more information please contact **Michelle.Martin@julianhouse.org.uk** Follow us on **Twitter @julianhouse** or **Facebook Julian House South East**. Together we can make that difference.

NEW YEAR – NEW CHALLENGE!

St. Michael's Hospice and **Odiham Cottage Hospital** is recruiting **volunteer befrienders**. This **Befriending service** operates in the **Odiham, Hook, Hartley Wintney** and **Old Basing** areas and is looking for **home-visiting volunteers**. Our volunteer befrienders provide social companionship to people who are lonely and isolated and living with long-term and/or life-limiting illness. By building a trusting relationship they help to restore the person's emotional wellbeing, confidence and revive feelings of self-worth.

If I want to become a Befriender what is expected? For just two hours a week, you can make a real difference to someone living in your local community. Relevant **training**, as well as regular and ongoing **support** will be held locally at **Odiham Cottage Hospital**. The next **three-day training course** will be held in **February**.

For more information please contact **Maria Bryant, Befriending Coordinator**, tel. **01256 393609** or email: **och.befriending@stmichaelshospice.org.uk**

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THINK WARMTH TO SAVE LIVES THIS WINTER

Older people, their families, friends and neighbours need to think **WARMTH** across Hart, Basingstoke & Deane this winter to save lives, leading home care provider **Bluebird Care** has urged.

We love to talk about the weather in this country, but we are often unaware of the real threat to life that our winters can cause for older and vulnerable people.

Our winters can be quite sudden and catch us off guard, which means people have little time to take precautions against the cold. It's important to start planning for the cold weather now by taking simple precautions like making sure you are getting any benefits you're entitled to, speaking to your neighbours about how to cope with heavy snow or ice, and talking to your GP about getting your flu jab.

Bluebird Care is urging people in Hart, Basingstoke & Deane to make sure that they keep in regular contact with their friends and neighbours to make sure that they stay safe this winter. Simple measures like helping a neighbour stock up on food ahead of a cold snap could save them from a nasty fall if they try to venture out in bad weather.

The threat of another severe winter has lead Bluebird Care to issue a reminder for people to prepare for the cold weather. Bluebird Care is urging the public to think **WARMTH** this winter:

WRAPUP indoors and outdoors. Wearing extra layers indoors can help you keep warm. If you need to go outside, sturdy shoes with good grip or attachable grips to wear over your shoes can help prevent falls, and an insulated waterproof coat will help keep you warm and dry.

ALERT Keep an eye on the weather forecast and stock up with nutritious food and speak to your GP about medicine in advance of a cold snap. If you have vulnerable neighbours, try and check up on them during cold weather.

RISK Minimise the risk of falls or becoming ill by taking the weather into account when you plan activity when severe weather is forecast. Plan ahead for the cold weather by talking to your GP about getting a flu jab, and talking to your neighbours about clearing snow in front of your home.

MONEY Winter bills can be very expensive. Make sure that you're receiving all of the benefits you're eligible for. In addition to the **Winter Fuel Payments (Helpline 0845 915 1515)**, if it gets very cold you could be entitled to additional **Cold Weather Payments (Helpline 0800 731 7898)**. Or via website: www.gov.uk/browse/benefits/heating

TEMPERATURE Keep your bedroom heated to **18°C (64°F)** and your living room around **21°C (70°F)**. If you prefer to heat just your living room during the day, to keep you warm through the night try heating your bedroom just before you go to sleep.

HOT MEALS One hot meal a day, and hot drinks throughout the day can help to keep you warm. Eating nutritious food regularly can help to keep up your energy levels and support your immune system in the cold weather.

For more details about the **Bluebird Care WARMTH campaign** call **01256 762324**, email: hook@bluebirdcare.co.uk or visit their website: www.bluebirdcare.co.uk/hook/home

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BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB

Our fundraising programme for this year is nearly complete and our first offerings are:

SATURDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY (7 for 7.30 pm): Moscow Drug Club at Queen Mary's College – very entertaining. This group are receiving accolades wherever they play and this was the only date they had available. So come and see them with us before they hit the big time. Contact **Maurice Hockley** (email: mauricehockley@hotmail.com or tel. **01256 421867**).

SATURDAY, 3RD MARCH: Swimathon at Town Centre Pool – This is an early opportunity to get a team together and get “summer” fit. It's a tough event, but the enthusiasm on the night is hard to beat! Contact **Tony Bamberger** (email: tony.bamberger@hotmail.co.uk or tel. **01256 850254**).

SATURDAY 17TH MARCH: Murder Mystery at St Leonards, Oakley – Well-known and popular Oakley resident Ann Davis is organising the murder and mayhem for us. Her reputation (and that of her local team) is such that Oakley may very well become the next ‘Midsommer’. You can bring your own picnic and we will be running our usual competitively priced bar. Contact **John Hibberd** (email: jhibberd440@btinternet.com or tel. **01256 461086**).

Details of each event can be found on our website: www.basingstokelions.org.uk

LIONS CLUB MEMBERSHIP: Put your contact details on the ‘Contact Us’ page of our website and someone will get in touch.

BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

The meeting on **6th December** was the group's **Christmas buffet** when the Chairman, David Cowling, welcomed 45 members and 2 visitors to the last meeting of the year. The Secretary, Tony Brazier, remarked on the enjoyable trip to the Portsmouth Dockyard Festival of Christmas last week and reminded everyone of the arrival time for the Christmas lunch at BCOT the following week. Following this the Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent gave her up-to-date report. The Christmas entertainment was supplied by Gary Myles who not only played and sung some of the old favourites in the usual style but also gave a modern twist and beat to some of them while everyone enjoyed the buffet lunch. A bumper number of prizes supplied by the group and members resulted in all present leaving with something from the raffle.

The programme of speakers and trips for 2018 is now available with talks on Cycling USA; Eccentric London; Amazing Berlin; Travellers' Tales; Life on Board Britannia; My Family & Other Meerkats; Victorian Sports; 40 Years on Catching Smugglers; and Fire Safety from Hampshire Fire & Rescue. Trips are planned to The Watermill Theatre; Chartwell House; Windsor; St. Mary's House; Painshill Park; The Weald and Downland Museum; Polesden Lacey; Basildon Park and in October there is the ever-popular Mystery Trip.

The **next meeting** is on **Wednesday, 3rd January**, when **Wiltshire Farm foods** will be giving a presentation, and the first trip for 2018 is on **Tuesday, 20th February**, to **Kensington Palace**. The group meets on the **first Wednesday of each month** at **Brookvale Village Hall** from **10 am to noon** and all retired Civil Servants and their partners are welcome. Full details of further meetings can be obtained from the Secretary **Tony Brazier** on **01256 418770** or at bjmapbr@ntlworld.com and if you would like to join us on any of our trips please contact **Kate Lambeth** on **01256 328791**.

David Cowling



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Tuesday, 2nd January (12.30–2.30 pm): Basingstoke Disability Connections. Informal get-together for people affected by disability.

Tuesday, 2nd January (10 am–noon): Disability Signpost Service. Drop-in for information on topics including transport, benefits, housing and more.

Saturday, 6th January (from 10 am): Children's Crafts. Ages 3 plus, free.

Wednesday 10th and 24th January (2–6 pm): Board in the Library. Bring out your competitive streak with games like *Scrabble* and *Carcassonne*, work co-operatively in *Pandemic* or use you little grey cells with *Cluedo*! Free.

Wednesday 10th and 24th January (4–5 pm): Wonderful Wordsmiths. A fun creative writing club, for 8 to 13 olds; free.

Friday, 12th 26th January (10.30 am–12.30 pm): Memory Box Project. The memory box project is an exciting reminiscence project open to all. Drop in and share some stories around the interesting objects on display.

Saturday, 13th and 27th January (10 am–1 pm). Discover Board Games. Ages 3 plus, free.

Saturday, 13th January (9.30 am–12.30 pm), Young Embroiders Club. Learn new skills and meet new friends. Ages 6 to 17,

Tuesday, 16th January (10 am–noon): Family History Drop-in. Free.

Wednesday, 17th January (2–4 pm): Creative Writing. New members are welcome at this supportive group for writers of all genres and ability.

Saturday, 20th January (2–3 pm): Chatterbooks. A book group aimed for 8 to 11 year olds. Books, activities, quizzes and lots more. Free.

Saturday, 27th January (10 am–1 pm; drop-in). Family Chess Coaching. David Graham and members of the Basingstoke Junior Chess Club will be visiting to offer hints, tips and guidance for complete beginners as well as to those with some knowledge and experience. Free.

Saturday, 27th January (10 am–4 pm). Nintendo Basingstoke. Experience a new level of social gaming with your Nintendo and other gaming consoles. Free.

AND AT TADLEY LIBRARY

Wednesday, 24th January (7.30 pm): The Life of Robert Burns and the Annual Tradition of the Burns' Supper. Bill Copland leads a relaxed and informal presentation about the extraordinary short life of Burns, including recitations, demonstration and explanation of the traditions of the Burns' suppers. He will explain why Burns' means so much to Scots exploring some of the Scots language used and the subject matter of Burns' varied works. Bill speaks many times each year at Burns' Suppers from small private gatherings to Grand Military Events as well as on Radio Berkshire at this time of year. He also plays the bagpipes with the Reading Scottish Pipe Band and is currently leading a project to recruit and develop a junior band.

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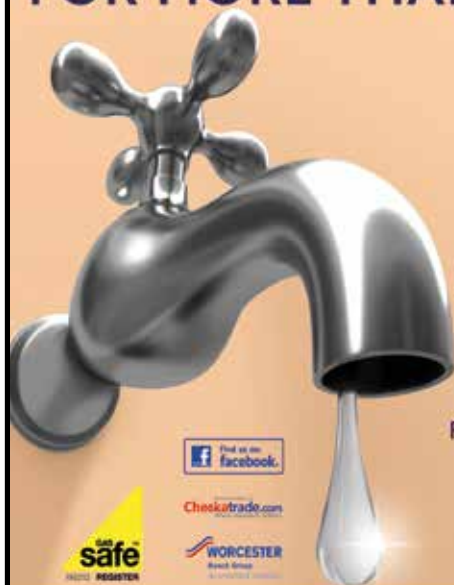


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OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION UPDATE

MONTHLY BRANCH MEETING

The **monthly meeting** will be on **Thursday, 4th January, 7.45 for 8 pm** in the **Jack Morris Hall** of the **Royal British Legion**.

Rick Bourne

NEWS FROM THE POPPY APPEAL

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that the amount raised for the **Old Basing, Hook and District this Poppy Appeal** and **Remembrance** time is **£22,768.29**.

We are waiting on the figure collected from the **contactless machine**, so the final figure is going to be larger. I cannot thank everyone enough for making this amount possible.

This year we have been collecting **foreign coins** which have been converted into cash for the **Poppy Appeal**, we can also accept **pre-decimal coins** as well so please bring your old coins to the **Old Basing Royal British Legion** or contact me directly – **Hon Poppy Appeal Organiser Tim Russell** on either tel. **07772 883964** or email: **Hampshire.chairman@rbl.community**

PROBUS VISIT TO WADSWORTH'S BREWERY

The Probus Club of Basingstoke, whose members are retired professional and business managers, has been in continuous existence for over 39 years. As well as business-type meetings with guest speakers and social lunches and dinners involving wives and partners they also visit places of interest within a day's ride.

The latest visit was a coach trip to Devizes in Wiltshire, ostensibly to have a guided tour around the **Wadsworth Brewery**. It is still family owned since its foundation in 1875. However as it was market day and the brewery tour was scheduled for 2 pm there was ample time to wander around this ancient market town, browse the many individual shops and enjoy a spot of lunch.

Some went to look at the Caen Hill rising lock system on the Kennet & Avon Canal that runs at the rear of the brewery, while others sampled the delights of this old town that houses an impressive indoor market as well as the extensive, and, what appeared to be, attractive value to be had from the outdoor market. There were visits to a flea market and a museum that displays Roman artefacts, including reference to the Emperor Probus, before the brewery tour commenced.

Because of the many steep stairs in this old building some excused themselves from the brewery tour but joined later to visit the stables and see the shire horses that are used to pull the drays to the pubs within two miles of the brewery. These handsome beasts go on display at several shows in the south western region during the summer. All then adjourned to the Harness bar for a free tasting of the ales on display. An enjoyable visit and well recommended.

You will find more information about the **Probus Club of Basingstoke** look at their website: **www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com** or phone their Secretary **Paul Flint** on **07770 886521**.

JANUARY IN YOUR GARDEN

If the predictions are to be believed, then this winter is set to be one of the coldest in 5 or 10 years. If this turns out to be the case be prepared to be on constant snow patrol, especially if you have large coniferous trees or a greenhouse, snow must be brushed or knocked off as soon as possible to avoid damage due to excessive weight.

But let's think positively. The cold weather will not come as harshly as feared, and we are able to get out into the garden. There is much planting to be done, Raspberries, Gooseberries and currants can be planted, as well as Roses, so long as the soil isn't frozen or too waterlogged. If you are thinking of growing peas this year, and would like them earlier than usual, place a cloche over the soil to allow it to warm up. (tip: if you had a real Christmas tree, the stripped down branches can make an excellent pea support)

The most pleasing course of action is of course to stay inside where it is warm! If you need an excuse to do so, turn your mind to browsing the seed catalogues and online shops. As well as the usual varieties, why not have a look for some more exotic or newer species. Pluots are a mixture between a Plum and an Apricot, and do well in the south of England. Self fertile varieties are available too. If you fancy something a little different try a Medlar tree. Medlars are ornamental, flowering trees with pretty blossom, good autumn colour and fruits which are edible, although not to everyone's taste. Their fruit is tart if eaten raw, but makes pleasantly flavoured jellies or can be used in desserts. Left to soften the fruit mellows and is a traditional, if unusual, treat. It is a gorgeous tree.

If you are lucky enough to have an electric propagator then plant Tomatoes, Aubergines, Chillies and other crops that need a long hot growing season, providing you have an indoor area that receives a lot of light to pot onto. Keeping them starved of light as they grow will result in leggy, useless plants.

I must give you your annual reminder to visit **Hampshire's Annual Potato Day** (*see page 21*). Look out for 'Charlotte' potatoes, which can be sown immediately in containers under cover for a super early crop. Make sure you protect any foliage from frosts or it will kill the plant! Otherwise chit your potatoes normally by placing in an egg box with the 'eye' facing upwards and keep in a light, frost free place. If my potato has more than one eye that produces growth, I knock off all but the strongest one, which I find helps produce healthy looking growth.

SITUATION VACANT: WRITER "THIS MONTH IN YOUR GARDEN"

A new writer of the **"This Month In Your Garden"** feature (as above) is urgently required by the **Basinga**.

Ideally the candidate will have knowledge or be able to write about four aspects of gardening: flowers, fruit and vegetables, lawns and pond care. He or she will be able to offer unusual tips or tricks to help grow a variety of popular fruits vegetables and flowers. Also to be aware of the seasons and what are the main jobs to do from month to month. They should try to give advice and what would benefit most people (no point writing about plants that no one is growing). Lastly, they should try to encourage people to try new gardening ideas or plant new things.

If you are interested please contact the **Editor** in the first instance at **editor@basinga.org.uk**

NATURE NOTES FOR JANUARY

Well firstly a Very Happy New Year to you all and I hope you had a superb Christmas break. As you read this we will already be past the shortest day and are on the path to springtime, well almost!

But joking aside, as I write (5th December) there are already signs of the seasons changing earlier than ever in this crazy climate of ours. Daffodil bulbs are showing 4 inches out of the ground, blossom sits slightly frost scorched on some flowering shrubs and polyanthus are blooming alongside a rose bush in a Cavalier Road garden. I heard today also that a RSPB study shows that summer migrants such as Swallows are arriving some 19 days earlier and leaving a week later than they were 30 years ago and whilst this might seem fine, the status quo for available food and nest sites needed for this extended period can be compromised and might spell long-term problems for their requirements.

My better half and I ticked a bucket list item two weekends ago when we jaunted off to Brighton in the hope of seeing a Starling murmuration, and we were not disappointed! On a cold clear and still Sunday evening we sat on the shingle beach among about 500 other watchers near the West Pier awaiting the arrival of the small flocks that congregate to roost in the rusting metalwork of the fire-gutted structure. Safety in numbers is the idea and sure enough about 10,000 birds collected over about 30 minutes and begun swirling and twisting in the air before eventually settling just as darkness fell. This prompted a ripple of appreciative applause from the audience which we thought both amusing yet deserved by the stars of the show. I encourage you to go and see what we did too!

For the first time ever we also walked across some of the Hackwood Estate, a well-overdue adventure and very nice it was too. Entering the Estate at the junction of Dickens Lane and the Alton Road, we headed toward Winslade and then back as unfortunately there is no circular walk. Having said that, one can turn left inside as well and make towards Tunworth but perhaps this would be for a nicer day than the very fresh conditions we endured on the 26th November! There wasn't a great deal to see, a large flock of noisy Jackdaws, a close encounter with a Buzzard, two Kites and the captive Fallow Deer herd, that were all very inquisitive about our presence. However, the Estate does boast some very old oak trees and it's anyone guess what age one might have been but its trunk girth was enormous.

Regular contributor Phil Males has been busy perambulating recently and sent me a good list of observations: The sight of a Kingfisher doing what it does best is always brilliant on a gloomy winter's day so the little chap diving into the Loddon not far from the Bartons Mill pub gladdened Phil's heart. A day or so later in the same spot the ominous sight of an adult Mink offset the joy of the previous day, so clearly despite trapping these deadly predators are still here. Phil then ventured up Pyotts Hill and headed to Park Pale where a couple of Roe Deer scampered away when they spied him. Then finally a low-flying Red Kite showed all of its aerial prowess with the blue sky and weak sunshine illuminating its russet and white primary feathers. Awesome stuff!

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

Richard Bourne – tel. **01256 321108**; email: rbourne@glenair.co.uk

For 'Bird Drop-ins', use answerphone **01256 842722**

DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY

(For details of services and events as St Mary's Church, please refer to page 23)

Mon 1

NEWS YEAR'S DAY

Tue 2	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting, Pavilion Committee Room
	7.30 pm	WI Members' Meeting, Parish Room, St Mary's Church
Thu 4	7.45 for 8.00 pm	Royal British Legion Branch Meeting, Jack Morris Hall, RBL, Crown Lane
Fri 5	10.30 am – noon	Ladies' First Friday Coffee Morning, 8 Norton Ride, Lychpit
Sat 6	10.00 am	PIOCC Working Party, meet church lobby, St Mary's Church
Wed 10		LAST DATE FOR COPY TO EDITOR (SEE PAGE 3)
	7.45 pm	Basingstoke District Railway Society talk, Wote Street Club
Sun 14	11.00 am – noon	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop, Riley Lane
Mon 18	7.30 pm - 10.00 pm	Chineham Craft Circle, Chineham Village Hall
Thu 18	12.30 pm	Ploughman's Lunch, Parish Room, St Mary's Church
Sat 20	10.00 am	Mill Field Work Party, meet play area, Bartons Mill
Wed 24	7.45 pm	Basingstoke District Railway Society talk, Wote Street Club
Sat 27	10.00 am – 3.00 pm	Hampshire Potato Day, Testborne Community School, Whitchurch
Sun 28	10.00 am – 3.00 pm	Hampshire Potato Day, Testborne Community School, Whitchurch

Looking Ahead To February

Fri 2	10.30 am – noon	Ladies' First Friday Coffee Morning, 10 Olivers Walk, Lychpit
Tue 6	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting, Pavilion Committee Room
Sat 10	7.00 for 7.30 pm	Moscow Drug Club, Queen Mary's Hall, Queen Mary's College
Sat 17	noon	Old Basing Carnival Senior Citizen Party, Old Basing Village Hall
Sat 24	10.00 am – noon	St Mary's Flower Ladies Coffee Morning, Parish Room, St Mary's Church

Looking further ahead in 2018

The dates for **2018** for the **Ploughman's Lunch** in the **Parish Room, St Mary's Church**, the **third Thursday in the month (except August)**, starting at **12.30 pm**, are:

18th January, 15th February, 15th March, 19th April, 17th May, 21st June, 26th July, August no lunch, 20th September, 18th October, 15th November and 20th December.

Please note the date for **July** does not follow the normal third Thursday in the month rule, it is the **fourth Thursday in the month**, for that month only.

BASINGA EXTRA

Please note, you can view **past editions (the last 12 months)** of the **Basinga**, online at the Basinga's website: **www.basinga.org.uk** where you can read all the latest news and there are also photos to look at.

On the website you can download a **PDF version of the magazine**. This will open a new browser window for you containing the magazine. **You can then save the magazine to your device so that it is always available to you.**

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Tel: 816122

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OTHER DAYS: Wednesday 10am Holy Communion.

2nd Thursday 2pm Bears & Prayers (except April and August)

*Changes to the regular service pattern and other weekday services are shown
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Tel: 465064

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