January 2019

BASINGA



Anna Fairs





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



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JANUARY 2019 - NOTES AND NEWS

The cover photograph this month is of **St Mary's Church in the snow,** by **Anna Fairs**. Will this snowy scene be replicated in January 2019?

Christmas my be a distant memory. Now we are in January, this supposedly the bleakest of months, but with the nights drawing out, if you sniff really hard you might just be able to discern a whiff of spring in the air.

Happy New Year to all our readers as we are almost at the end of another decade with 2019! The start of the new Millennium seems like only yesterday! Frightening!

BASINGA

We welcome both regular and occasional items for the Basinga. The very last date for copy to the Editor for the **February edition** is **6 pm** on **Thursday, 10th January**. Please use the forms on the Basinga website **www.basinga.org.uk** to get your dates, articles and letters to us (*see box on page 15 for further instructions*). All advertising enquiries – classified, free adverts or inserts (flyers) can also be made via the Basinga website. Don't forget that we only accept articles with **300 words maximum**.

BASINGA EXTRA

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

YOUR BASINGA NEEDS YOU!

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

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

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

The Committee of the Village Show wish the all readers of the Basinga a very Happy New Year and are looking forward to their renewed efforts in gardening, cake making, hobby making and photography, to make the Village Show of 2019 one the best ever.

The date for the **2019 Show** is **Sunday, 8th September**, the Committee looks forward to seeing you there as an entrant or as a spectator. It seems a long way off but please look out for the February edition of the Basinga for further details of the schedule of classes for the Show.

OLD BASING DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD UPDATE

Hi to all and a Happy New Year! So, 2018 was a fantastic year with three Bronze teams and three Gold teams out on expedition. The bronze teams in the New Forest and Savernake Forest with the Golds practice in the Brecon Beacons and the assessed expedition in Dartmoor. All had fantastic weather although a bit "warm" for our boys team in the New Forest with temps hitting 33 degrees C!

Those participants who still have outstanding sections to complete are we hope working through these and many will be looking to receive their certificates and badges for the full award at our annual presentation on Tuesday, 7th May. Last call to anyone interested in taking part.

This year we have a strong Bronze uptake with a few spaces left. It's not too late to join us if you want to be involved in this fantastic achievement program and have some fun doing so.

We are also running two Silver teams and a Gold but we do need a couple more participants for both. Golds will probably be heading to Brecon and Dartmoor but for the Silvers, we are planning some thing a little special. It's still in the early stages but we hope to take two teams to Normandy, France and the Normandy Beaches, so, if you're up to the challenge why not get in touch for more information: oldbasingoac@aol.com or call Bob and Jackie on 01256 470583.

CARNIVAL NEWS

I am very pleased to extend a very warm welcome to all senior citizens who reside in the parish, to join us for the Old Basing Carnival Senior Citizen Party on Saturday, 16th February (noon for 12.30 pm start) at 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, 8th February – thank you.

KEY 'DATES FOR YOUR DIARY'

Carnival Selection Disco – Friday, 8th March

Carnival Day – Saturday, 15th June (theme: Comic Characters)

If you interested in joining the Old Basing Carnival Committee or helping on the day. Please contact Sandie Rice, Secretary, on 01256 477637 or Joe Croombs (Chair, Old Basing C

Carnival Committee), email: oldbasingcarnival@outlook.com				
OLD BASING CARNIVAL SENIOR CITIZEN PARTY, SATURDAY, 16TH FEBRUAR				
Please complete and return to: Sandie Rice, 16B Pyotts Hill, Old Basing, RG24 8AR or emainformation below to oldbasingcarnival@outlook.com no later than Friday, 8th February				
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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL READERS.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Despite the spate of recent break-ins to cars, recorded criminal activity levels in Old Basing and Lychpit are very low in comparison to other areas of the borough. A recent meeting between Borough Councillors, Sven Godesen and Onnalee Cubitt with the local PCSO indicated this may be due to residents not reporting such crimes because they feel there is little the police can do. If nothing else it enables the police to accurately monitor criminal activity and, if possible, implement preventative measures, and any insurance claim requires a crime reference number from the police. Residents are therefore encouraged to report such activity via the police 101 service.

BUS SERVICES

Cllr Doust attended the Basingstoke Passenger Transport Forum in November when Stagecoach announced its intention to reduce the frequency of the No. 14 bus from hourly to two hourly. This will severely affect Lychpit residents and Cllr Doust has suggested consideration is given to the No. 7 bus that normally serves businesses in Wade Road running through Lychpit once an hour during the middle of the working day. He will continue to pursue this to ensure that Lychpit residents are not left without a regular bus service. On a happier note, the No. 55 bus is now being well used and it is proposed to extend the service for at least another year.

LYCHPIT COMMUNITY HALL

We currently have space during weekdays for regular groups. If you currently run a regular class and are looking for a new venue, or if you are just starting a new group, give us a call to check availability and rates and arrange a viewing if you are not already familiar with the hall and its facilities.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are **Tuesdays**, **8th January** and **5th February**, at **7.30 pm** in the **Pavilion Committee Room**. All are welcome and anyone with impaired mobility should contact the Parish Office so they can be accommodated.

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

Parish Clerk: Mrs Sandra Tuck

Deputy Clerk: Mrs Heather Mountford

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

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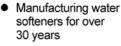
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OLD BASING'S GOT TALENT - OH YES IT HAS!

Three sell-out performances of *Cinderella and The Merry Men* brought forth a trove of talent. In the heat of last summer (remember?) producer Rosemary Kershaw and director Rowena Hackett conceived a pantomime with a difference which maintained the traditional "It's behind you!" and "Oh no you're not!" to the great enjoyment of the enthusiastic audiences.

Throughout the gestation period of many months Rowena led rehearsals in the Parish Room, David Stevens designed an ingenious set which changed from woodland to palace and back again whilst Claire Roberts created fabulous costumes, all ably assisted by teams of willing chippies, painters, seamstresses and creative props makers.

This all came to fruition in the Old Basing Village Hall when local "sparkies" and sound engineers brought light and sound to the storytelling, enabling the actors to shine, which they did!

There was music aplenty, with lyrics to suit the occasion, led by the rustically-dressed Basing Singers and conducted by Stuart Hicken in his guise of the Sheriff of Nottingham. But there is one person more I must name because he is unique. He played from start to finish, largely unseen, one-man-band, jazz pianist and our very own church organist: Paul Wright.

All these local folk came together to give birth to a show hugely enjoyed by all who filled the auditorium. It ended with a flourish of *There's No Business Like Show Business*. In Old Basing, oh no there isn't!

Peter Dark (Showbiz Correspondent)

NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

The **Christmas Fayre** was again a great success and enjoyed by all, in spite of it happening on a pretty grotty, wet and miserable day. There was a rumour that our guest of honour, King Henry VIII was seeking the head of the organiser for choosing such a day but that has yet to be substantiated.

Although during its season Basing House opens in almost all weathers we accept that we get minimal attendances when it is wet and horrid. So this year's **Christmas Fayre** – a major event on a wet day – was a little unprecedented and we appreciate that people parking nearer the site than our car park may have caused residents a problem. We apologise. We are looking into solutions for future years but do have to accept that many people know that there are places closer to the barn than our car park (down by Bartons Mill) and which don't involve a walk along a muddy and puddled track.

The **Christmas Fayre** brings our 2018 season to a close, and the House is now a-slumber until re-opening in March. We thank those of you who visited, and hope to see more of you next year – it is amazing how many people arrive saying they have lived in the village for x years but have never been. And we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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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** 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 and 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

OLD BASING ALLOTMENT AND GARDEN SOCIETY (OBAGS)

On **25th November OBAGS** held its **AGM** where **Tracy Braybrook** and **Les Orvis** were voted unanimously to be our new chairperson and treasurer respectively.

The **shop** (**off Riley Lane**) will be open on **Sunday**, **13th January from 11 am to noon**. You can buy seed trays and compost to start your chillies off indoors.

There will also be the opportunity to renew your membership for the year. **OBAGS** is not just for allotment holders but for all parish gardeners. Membership is only **£5 annually** and with it you can access the shop and allotment toilet, as well as getting a code for discount with Suttons Seeds.

Tracy Braybrook (Chairperson)

BASINGSTOKE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The present **Basingstoke Horticultural Society** has been in existence for around 50 years and aims to encourage enjoyment and knowledge in horticulture. It is open to everyone and new members are always welcome.

You do not have to own a garden to join. Activities during the year include a programme of talks (some with practical demonstrations); member competitions; garden visits in summer, plant sales and fundraising social gatherings. Members also take part in a variety of fundraising activities throughout the summer.

We meet at Kempshott Village Hall, Stratton Park, Pack Lane, Basingstoke RG22 5HN (normally on the third Monday of the month at 7.30 pm). The next meeting is on Monday, 21st January: Recycling Green Waste (Veolia). Visitors £3 including refreshments. For further details go to: www.bhsociety.btck.co.uk

Phillip Wraight (Vice Chairman)

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Submissions to the magazine and website can be made via www.basinga.org.uk using the web forms:

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

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

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

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

Contacts for general enquiries and assistance:

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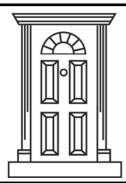
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LADIES FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING: The next occasions will be at the home Sue, 3 Whitehead Close, Lychpit on 4th January 2019 and then at the home of Sheila Stone, 8, Norton Ride, Lychpit on 1st February 2019. Both from 10.30 a.m. to Noon.For more information contact Sheila Stone, tel.01256 350238.

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

BASINGSTOKE DISCOVERY CENTRE: See Extras on the Basinga website for main events, children's events and courses.

ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPICE: See the 'Mad Hair Day' poster on the website and join in the fun.

BASINGSTOKE AND DISTRICT RAILWAY SOCIETY

Our programme for the new year starts at **7.45 pm** on **Wednesday, 9th January,** with a **London Underground Miscellany – Part 1**. Paul Joyce, chairman of the Reading Transport Group, will start with the 'cut-and-cover' Metropolitan line, travel south over the District/LSWR line to Wimbledon and then take the City & South London/Northern Line. Paul will look briefly at the history of these lines and explore the variety of architecture of some of the stations.

The second meeting of the month, at 7.45 pm on Wednesday, 23rd January, is the Society AGM to be followed this year by a pictorial railway quiz prepared by David Brace.

Our meetings are held at **The Wote Street Club** in **New Road** in **Basingstoke** town centre. We welcome new members to the Society and are always pleased to see non-members at our meetings. We have a very varied programme for 2019 embracing historical interest, modern rail issues, steam and modern traction and British and foreign locations. Something for everyone with an interest in railways. Why not join us?

More information about the Society, membership and our programme of meetings in 2019 can be found on our website at **www.bdrs70d.com** or telephone **01256 331002**.

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OLD BASING WI

Happy New Year! Our next meeting is a Members meeting at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, 8th January in St Mary's Church Parish Room, when our annual membership of £42 will be due. At this meeting we will be considering the resolutions that we wish to put forward for 2019. The balance for our festive meal which is taking place on Wednesday, 16th January at the Bolton Arms, is also due on this date. The competition will be home-made biscuits.

Our December meeting was well attended and we were all fascinated by the beautiful large owls brought in to see us by Michael Harman and his wife who had travelled all the way from the Forest of Dean. They showed us their European Eagle Owl and their Indian Eagle Owl. Members got to hold a Barn Owl and we all asked plenty of questions about how they first got into keeping birds of prey and how they looked after them.

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

NWR - A NATIONWIDE GROUP FOR WOMEN

To get us into the Christmas spirit our meeting for December was a festive lunch. We held this in the marvellous Lychpit Village Hall which is a brilliant space with lovely facilities and excellent atmosphere, so do check it out if you have any celebrations coming up and are looking for a venue – just up from Tesco Express. As usual there was plenty of delicious food, topped off with the traditional flaming Christmas pudding. We had gifts and crackers and a Christmas Quiz that had us scratching our heads and a good time was had by all.

Our reading group will also be moving away from the usual format by having a book swap instead of discussing one particular book.

If you are finding dull winter days getting you down then come and join us for some lively chatter. We welcome new members, so if you want to make new friends do come along to meet us. We are very social and meet in the **afternoon in each others' homes** on the **first Monday of the month**. As well as cinema and theatre trips we will consider any activity that has enough support. We have a regular lunch club, meeting at different venues on different days of the week and our **book lovers meet 8 pm every fourth Thursday**.

For more information about NWR do look at the website **nwr.org.uk** or to find out about our group do come along to any of our meetings (to check us out with no obligation to join) please contact **Evelyn Jones** (email: **evelyncjjones@hotmail.co.uk** or tel. **01256 816636**).

OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Annual Quiz in November. It was a great evening! Sandie and Terry Rice certainly challenged us with some searching questions. The winter months are quiet, but tennis is still being played at the club.

If you would like to find out more about Old Basing Tennis Club please look at our new website: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/OldBasingTennisClub or contact Jan, our Secretary, by emailing: OBTC.Information@gmail.com or you can also find Old Basing Tennis Club on Face Book. If you are thinking about playing tennis this year, please do get in touch!

Lynne Thomas (Chair)

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CHINEHAM LIBRARY

We hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas. How about taking up a new interest for the new year? There are spaces in both our **general reading group** which meets on the **last Saturday of each month**, and in our **writing group**, for which more **details are available from the library**. You are very welcome even just to come for a trial session.

The **December** event with **Longdog Brewery** was very successful, and already events are booked for the new year. **Thursday, 21st February**, we have **'Drama for All'**, with two free bookable sessions of drama for your children. There will be the regular **craft session** on **Saturday, 5th January, 10 am to noon**, and **storytimes** at **11 am** on all **other Saturdays**. **Construction Club** providing Lego and Duplo takes place from **2 to 3.30 pm**.

All the other children's activities take place as usual, with rhymetimes on Tuesdays for under ones at 10 am and over ones at 11 am. Chatterbooks meets on Thusday, 17th January, from 3.45 to 4.45 pm for primary-school-age children. Coding club is full for this term, places can be booked for after Easter. The Stay and Play reading group for mums and preschool children meets on Wednesday, 9th January, from 10 to 11 am. Crime reading group meet on Saturday, 19th January, and the general reading group on Saturday, 26th January, both 10.30 to 11.30 am. Writing group meets on Thursday, 10th January, from 5.30 to 7 pm. Age Concern will be providing computer tuition for the over 50s on Wednesday mornings from 9th January. Places need to be booked with the area office on 01256 423874.

As well as all these activities the library has much to interest everyone. We have colourful, changing displays and an extensive book stock available for adults and children. Also we offer free computer and wifi access. Happy New Year.

Cathy Foster

BASINGSTOKE BLUES CLUB

Basingstoke Blues Club, in association with the Basingstoke Railway Social Club, Station Approach, Basingstoke, RG21 5NB, presents Robert Hokum/ Dave Stone Band, on Saturday 19th January, from 8pm till late.

Robert Hokum is highly acclaimed by the press and well worth seeing. A regular at Basingstoke Blues Club, he has varied styles from electric and acoustic to Delta Blues and jazz blues. He has been active at the Ealing Blues Club alongside The Rolling Stones, The Who, The Animals and Jack Bruce. He founded The Ealing Blues Festival and hence was included in a recent successful film about the development of the rock scene. His music has even been included in British Airways in-flight music.

Dave Stone, originally jazz-trained, toured in the '90s as 'road guitarist' with several big names of the day. A fine guitarist/vocalist whose playing is influenced by diverse influences, a sort of 'Robben Ford meets Johnny Marr', he came off the road to focus on his song writing. He gigged locally in Hanwell as frontman of 'indie band' The Kings of Wonderland and The King Buster Blues Band. He is founder of The Hanwell Hootie (now London's biggest free music festival).

Price £8 on the door. Licensed bar and low prices. Profits to Brain Tumour Research. For further details please contact **Rex** on **01256 321837**; mobile **07979 422590**.

WELCOME TO 2019

Have you made a New Year Resolution yet? If so have you broken it before you received your copy of the Basinga?

According to a YouGov poll the most common resolutions for 2018 were:

Eat better, exercise more, spend less money, focus on self-care, read more books, learn a new skill, get a new job, meet new friends, take up a new hobby.

A large number of those surveyed were realists and did not plan on making any New Year resolution.

We all know that it is unwise to take too much notice of such polls but it does seem to me this list is focused on "me".

Could we add to this list at least:

Make someone's life better;

Contribute more to charity whether in money or time;

Join a local organisation needing volunteers.

Working for the benefit of others may be time consuming but it is very rewarding.

A favourite phrase of my wife's aunt was "Cast your bread on the waters and it will come back a ham sandwich."

There are numerous passages in the Bible about this – for example "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" or "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others".

At St Mary's we hope to set an example by working for the good of others and would hope that example will encourage others to share our vision.

January can be a dreary month. The excitement of Christmas is over. It is cold and probably wet and the television is full of advertisements for sales and sunny summer holidays. However the days are getting longer and spring is round the corner.

All at St.Mary's offer you a very happy and rewarding New Year.

Jan Kershaw, Churchwarden

THIS MONTH AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Sunday, 6th January Epiphany Service. This service commemorates three events—the Magi, or Three Wise Men, arriving in Bethlehem to see the baby Jesus; St. John baptizing Jesus in the Jordan River; and Jesus performing his first miracle, changing water into wine at the marriage feast at Cana. The service will be taken by **Revd. Canon Michael Kenning.**

We look forward to welcoming visiting ministers who will be leading our other services in the coming weeks:

Sunday, 13th January Revd. Canon Ken Batt (8 am Holy Communion and 9.30 am

Sung Eucharist)

Sunday, 20th January Revd. Malcolm Surman (8am Holy Communion and 9.30 am

Sung Eucharist)

Sunday, 27 January Revd. Canon Ken Batt (8 am Holy Communion and 9.30 am

Sung Eucharist)

Other Dates to note at St Mary's:

Saturday, 5th January Men's Breakfast at 8.45 am in the Parish Room. If you fancy a

full English breakfast do pop along to the Parish Room – you'd be

most welcome (price £4).

Monday, 28th January Tea and Talk Café, 2 pm in the Parish Room. All welcome, no

charge.

After the weekly **9.30** am service at St Mary's refreshments are served in the Parish Room which is an informal setting in which to meet other members of the congregation. If you have time after the service do join us, you will be very welcome.

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

LOOKING FORWARD

Sunday, 4th February Candlemas Eucharist, 9.30 am

OLD BASING METHODIST CHURCH

Tuesday, 8th January MHA lunch club followed by music and games (noon until 3

pm)

Friday, 11th January Come and join us for our 'Coffee Break' (10.30 am until noon)

Tuesday, 15th January Craft Afternoon (2 until 4 pm). Bring your own crafts or items

will be provided.

Tuesday, 22nd January Mid-week communion (from 2 pm)

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

Come and join us – a warm welcome awaits you.

CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)

Happy New Year! This month's working party will be on Saturday, 5th 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. Perhaps your New Year resolution could be to join us; we'd love to see you.

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 open for everyone to enjoy. Already the days are lengthening and signs of spring are starting to appear. Despite the cold, the snowdrops are starting to show tiny white buds, the catkins lengthening and the birds starting their spring songs. The WI seat offers a calm spot for reflection and relaxation. You are very welcome to visit.

For further information please ring Fay Farrant on 01256 476863 or you go to our website: www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

Margaret Carr

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

A huge "Thank You" to everyone for your fantastic support since the Village Café's grand opening on 12th October. At the time of going to print nearly £800 has been raised for the Ark Cancer Centre. This is a huge achievement by everyone involved.

The **café re-opens** on **Friday, 11th January**, and is open **every Friday 2 to 4.30 pm**, serving delicious cakes and refreshments at St Mary's Parish Room. From then until Easter all proceeds will be going to The Pink Place, a charity based in Basingstoke that provides support and services for those with any form of cancer in the Hants/Berks area.

If you'd like to know more about the café or get involved either as a volunteer or a baker please call **07813 186328** or email **thevillagecafeoldbasing@gmail.com**

NEW YEAR - NEW OPPORTUNITY

St. Michael's Hospice and Odiham Cottage Hospital is recruiting volunteer befrienders. The Befriending service operates in the Odiham, Hook, Hartley Wintney and Old Basing areas and is looking for home visiting volunteers. Our growing service provides social companionship to people who are lonely and isolated and living with a long-term health condition.

We are looking for people who appreciate the value of companionship, be it chatting, enjoying a pastime together or taking a trip out. 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 at **Odiham Cottage Hospital**. The next **three-day training course** will be in **March**. For more information and an application form contact **Maria Bryant**, Befriending Coordinator, tel. **01256 393609**; email: **och.befriending@stmichaelshospice.org.uk**

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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 *What a Star!* and the end-of-term party which included story-time with Mrs Klaus and a visit from a certain big fat fella!

We are now looking forwards to the new year and new term with our 12 new starters and their families, and also with a new management team in place – Louise, our Preschool Manager, has sadly left us but Sam Leadbetter has returned as our new Business Manager, working alongside Tina, our Room Manager. The whole team has lots of exciting events planned for our children to enjoy.

We are also delighted to announce that during January and February, Tescos in Chineham are supporting our village preschool with their Bags of Help scheme and we would encourage all villagers to use the tokens you will receive with every shop to vote for our preschool's appeal!

If you are interested in your child joining our 'Outstanding' preschool, we have plenty of spaces from September 2020, and we may be able to find odd sessions and can offer wait listing next year as circumstances are always changing! We would welcome you to come in and meet our team. Please do bring your little one with you; they can get involved playing with the children and exploring our toys, whilst a member of the management team shows you around and explains our daily routine, whilst also allowing you to see the setting in action. Please do call us on **07881 920709** or **01256 478141**.

LINGUATASTIC LANGUAGE ACADEMY

How do you like to celebrate the New Year? The Spanish celebrate La Nochevieja by eating a grape with every clock bell's chime – 12 grapes in 12 seconds. Sound easy? Well, try it and you might change your mind! The tradition dates back to the early 1900s and it is believed that those who manage to eat all 12 grapes at the right time, will have twelve joyful months in the coming year.

And in Spain, the fun and festive food don't end on 1st, since "La Epifanía/El Día de los Reyes Magos" is also an important celebration, commemorating the three kings bearing gifts for baby Jesus.

On 5th January, huge parades or 'cabalgatas' featuring hundreds of actors are held around Spain and are broadcast live on television. One of the biggest in Madrid, draws crowds of over 100,000, including thousands of children eager to catch the sweets thrown into the crowd by the three kings themselves.

On the evening of 5th January, children leave out their polished shoes and some sweets, wine and milk for the kings and their animal transportation. The next morning, their shoes and the house will be full of presents. Indeed, for many families, it'll be the 6th January when gifts are exchanged instead of, or in addition to 25th December. Families will eat a "Roscón de Reyes", a ring-shaped sweet bread, covered with candied fruits. Hidden inside the Roscón is a figurine and a dried bean. Whoever ends up finding the figurine becomes "king" or "queen" for the day and whoever finds the bean is supposed to buy next year's Roscón!

Although it wasn't us who found the bean in the Roscón last year, we hope to be offering Roscôn to our Spanish groups when we start up again on Monday, 7th January. ¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

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- . Walk your dog or find a picnic spot.

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NEW BASINGSTOKE LODDON ROTARY

Have you wanted to volunteer but weren't sure where to start? Can you share your skills or some of your time to give back to others? Now is the perfect time. **New Basingstoke Loddon Rotary** is expanding and recruiting **younger members** (18 plus) who want to make a difference. We are non-political, non-religious, inclusive and a catalyst for getting things done both locally and globally. Rotary is the largest and most powerful networking service organisation.

We communicate on social media and/or at meetings, which we hold anywhere and at times to suit. Start off with **Associate Membership (free)** and, as soon as you are ready, progress to **Full Membership for just £2.31 per week** (less than a cup of coffee)! For a busy person who has difficulty committing to meetings this is ideal.

To find out more please come along for a chat over a complimentary coffee at **Starbucks in Festival Place** (by NEXT, 1st floor) on Saturday, 26th January, between 10 am and 12.30 pm.

For more information email us: **rotarybasingstokeloddon@gmail.com** or visit us on Facebook: **Basingstoke Loddon Rotary Club**

BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

The meeting on **5th December** was the **Christmas buffet** with musical entertainment supplied by Gary Myles who brought a modern twist to some seasonal favourites. David Cowling, the Chairman, welcomed everyone including Joshua Hammond and Michelle Bilcock from the Southern Health Frailty Awareness team who had come to tell members about becoming a Frailty Friend. He also thanked Tesco's for supplying the crackers. Tony Brazier, the Secretary thanked everyone who had brought food and raffle prizes and also helped in setting up the room. Christine Broadbent, the Welfare Officer, gave her up-to-date report in which she mentioned members who had sent their apologies.

The **programme** for the **2019 meetings** has been prepared with a Candle Making demonstration in February; the AGM followed by lunch in March; talks on "The Body Thro the Porthole" in April; The Mid Hants Railway in May; My Life as a Journalist in June; Queen Victoria in July; Florence Nightingale in August; Eccentric London in September; My Family and other Meerkats in October; and then a presentation on Home Safety from Hampshire Police in November; followed by the Christmas buffet in December.

Proposed outings are to the Postal Museum on 27th February; a matinee performance at The Theatre Royal Winchester on 20th March to see The Verdict; The Bombay Sapphire Distillery and Hinton Ampner on 18th April; Kew Gardens on 8th May; Afternoon Tea at BCOT on 22nd May; The Watercress Line on 13th June; Bosham Arts and Crafts Centre on 10th July; Cowes during Regatta week on 15th August; a River Cruise from Oxford on 12th September; the Mystery Trip on 11th October; Millets Farm Centre on 21st November; and Christmas Lunch at BCOT on 12th December.

The **next meeting** is on **Wednesday, 9th January**, when the speaker is Dan Allen on "What did you do in the War Granny? The group **meets** on the **first Wednesday of each month** (**except January when it will be the second**) **at Brookvale Village Hall from 10 am to noon** and all retired Civil Servants and their partners are welcome. Details can be obtained from the Secretary **Tony Brazier** on **07715 640171** and for information about our trips please contact **Kate Lambeth** on **01256 328791**.

David Cowling

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PROBUS CLUB HAS NIGHT AT THE THEATRE

A party of 16 members and their spouses/partners enjoyed an excellent evening out at the Mill Theatre at Sonning. The evening started with a drink at the bar followed by an excellent buffet-style meal before the performance. The highlight of the meal for some was the bread and butter pudding and custard.

The production was *A Night in Provence* a comedy about an English couple who have booked a luxury villa for a two-week summer holiday, only to find that there has been a mix-up by the agents who had not told the owners about the booking. The trouble – or entertainment – starts when the owners arrive from Paris expecting to use the villa for their own holiday. Shortly afterwards the English couple's Irish friends turn up as well. They decide that they will have to share the villa, and the play is about the stresses and strains that this causes – a heady mixture of champagne, sexual attraction, and cultural differences.

The play was well cast, performed enthusiastically and with good comic timing. This is perhaps just as well, as the "stage" is effectively a pit, with the audience in a semi-circle looking down on them, rather like a classical Roman or Greek theatre.

Find out about **Probus Club of Basingstoke** at **www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com** or phone their secretary, **Paul Flint**, on **07770 886521** for an informal chat.

HAVE FUN ON 'MAD HAIR DAY'!

St. Michael's Hospice is delighted to announce their fun campaign 'Mad Hair Day' which will take place once again and in 2019 it is on Friday, 15th February, to raise much-needed funds for the Hospice. The local community are encouraged to wear crazy wigs and style their hair in weird and wacky ways.

"Mad Hair Day is the perfect excuse to go wild and have fun with your hair", says Lynne Grimshaw, Community Campaigns Co-ordinator at the Hospice. "Maybe you have always wondered what your hair would look like pink, permed or in a beehive, or perhaps ladies, you have always wanted to be brave enough to have your head shaved, or gentlemen your legs or chest waxed. Well Friday, 15th February, is the day to give it a try! You can have great fun and really help your local Hospice at the same time by getting sponsored too." In the past, the Hospice has had wonderful support from schools and hairdressers but individuals and businesses are always welcome to join in too.

St. Michael's is the local Hospice for North Hampshire, providing care and support through the In-Patient Unit, Day Service and Hospice at Home services. All services are completely free of charge to people with life-limiting illnesses. The running costs of the Hospice last year were £3.9 million of which only around 20% is funded by the North Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group. The support of the local community in campaigns such as Mad Hair Day really does make a huge difference to our fundraising.

For all the information you need for supporting Mad Hair Day, or if you feel you would like to hold an event, please call **Lynne** in the Fundraising Department, tel. **01256 848845**, or email ;**lynne.grimshaw@stmichaelshospice.org.uk** for a fundraising pack.



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BUILDING YOUR DREAMS

COME AND JOIN YOUR LOCAL CORPS OF DRUMS

If you are planning to make any New Year Resolutions, or would like to try something different, then come and join **Old Basing Royal British Legion Corps of Drums** and you would be most welcome. The Corps of Drums was formed in 1985 and has been performing for 33 years.

The emphasis is on having fun and enjoying the music, with members from 10 to 80 plus years old. We are always keen for new musicians to join us, either experienced musicians or those wanting to learn. We have drum, bugle, trumpet and glockenspiel sections, and any musician who wants to join our marching band is very welcome.

We meet at 10.15 am most Sunday mornings for rehearsals and drill practice at the Royal British Legion Club, Crown Lane, Old Basing, RG24 7DN.

Most of our engagements are carnivals, fétes, care homes and fund-raising events. So if you and your friends and family would like to join us, please contact **Diane Matthews**, Secretary, tel. **01256 461460** or **Mick Richards**, tel. **01256 353924**.

Diane Matthews

SSAFA - THE ARMED FORCES CHARITY

The **Hampshire/Basingstoke branch** of the UK's oldest armed forces charity **SSAFA** will be out in force again in 2019 commencing with **The Basingstoke Festival of Transport** at **The Memorial Park** in **May** and collecting for local heroes and their families at various **Superstores**.

SSAFA provides lifelong support for our Forces and their families. Each year the charity helps over 60 families in Basingstoke, Hook, Tadley and surrounding area..... over 50,000 nationally.

"These funds are vital if SSAFA is to continue to support those who have served their country and ensure that they are not disadvantaged by their service. We are finding that our cases are becoming increasingly complex with younger veterans coming forward for help in greater numbers. We offer a range of support from practical and financial assistance to emotional care and befriending."

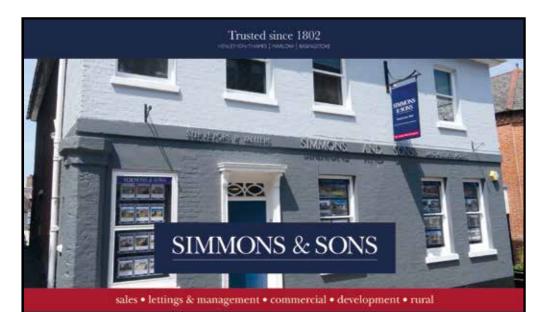
If you would like to know more about how **SSAFA** can help you or someone you know, please get in touch at **07807 668398** or visit **www.ssafa.org.uk**

As well as SSAFA being able to assist those in need, we have a need for more caseworkers.

There are 7,000 volunteer workers throughout the United Kingdom and on service bases. SSAFA caseworkers operate in Europe and overseas British bases where there are expatriate communities.

Being a caseworker is a voluntary job to undertake at times to suit the volunteer, qualification is by attending a fully funded residential course and working with other trained personnel.

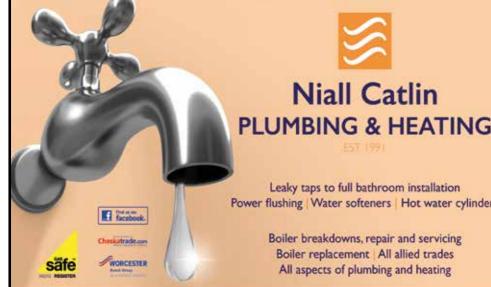
If you feel that you would be able to give a few hours per week to undertake this very rewarding work please contact **SSAFA**, tel. **07807 668398**. We need you.



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OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION UPDATE

MONTHLY BRANCH MEETING

It has been decided that no January meeting is necessary so the next **RBL Branch meeting** will be on **Thursday**, **7th February**, **7.45 for 8 pm**, in the **Jack Morris Hall** at the **Royal British Legion** in Crown Lane.

Rick Bourne (on behalf of Old Basing Royal British Legion)

RBL COMMITTEES THAT REALLY DO NEED YOU

The **Old Basing RBL Branch** and **Club AGM's** were held on **Thursday, 29th November**, and from a membership that currently sits at just over 400 the princely number of 25 people attended. So from having praised the parishioners for their support over Remembrance time last month, now, a certain amount of shame should be felt when I add that there are NO Old Basing residents serving as table officers or committee of the Branch, a body without which means there is NO RBL.

We are only too aware these days that attaining volunteers for any type of community work is a task but the RBL is nearing its 100th anniversary and it absolutely must survive until then, and beyond 2021, to continue the invaluable work it does.

If you are already a member but were perhaps unaware of the dire need for help then you can still be co-opted on to either committee and if you're not but have been considering joining for a while then please do it now at https://selfservice.britishlegion.org.uk/addmember/details and once successful please then approach us here at the HQ in Crown Lane. Perhaps you have ideas for events that the RBL could run and if so just consider joining the Entertainments Committee? This would be a relatively low key position yet very rewarding.

Liz Woods is Branch Chairman and would love to hear from you. tel. **07968 599845** or email **vintageliz82@hotmail.com** as would **Tracey Merritt** who is outgoing Chairman of the club but who continues on that committee **socialclubentertainments@gmail.com**

Please don't just think someone else will fill committee places, it's YOU that can do this job and which you would find simple yet rewarding.

Rick Bourne (on behalf of Old Basing Royal British Legion)

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 £25,843.50.

I cannot thank everyone enough for making this amount possible.

There is a lot planned for 2019 to increase this total but we do need additional volunteers to make this possible so, if you are interested in helping please contact me: Hon Poppy Appeal Organiser Tim Russell, tel. 07772 883964 or email: Hampshire.chairman@rbl.community

JANUARY IN YOUR GARDEN

Hopefully we do not have a repeat of last year's 'Beast From The East', but if we do, 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 be excessive weight.

But let's think positively. The cold weather will not come as harshly as last year, 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're feeling adventurous 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.

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 Potato Day**, which is in its twenty first year and is on **Saturday 26th** and **Sunday 27th January (10 am to 3 pm)** at **Testbourne Community School**, Micheldever Road, Whitchurch, RG28 7JF. Over 100 different varieties of potatoes are available, some of which are also available as organic seed potatoes. These can be purchased in 2.5 kg nets or, more interestingly, as individual tubers, so people can enjoy experimenting by growing a few plants of varieties that are new to them.

The potatoes on offer range from 'heritage' varieties dating back to the 19th century, through to the most recent introductions. Look out for 'Charlotte' potatoes, which can be sown immediately in containers under cover for a super early crop. Alan Wilson, author of books on potatoes and other members of the National Vegetable Society, will be attending, and there will be talks on potatoes by Chris Bird of Sparsholt College. For more details of the potato weekend go to www.potatoday.uk

If growing potatoes, 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.

NATURE NOTES FOR JANUARY

From best memory, and with assistance from former editor Irene Allaway, I think I've now been writing Nature Notes for some 25 years, or, if anyone remembers precisely when he left the village, it was from when Peter Sibley finished his stint as the 'birdman'! The point is that looking back over many years of saved notes (not all unfortunately) it's amazing how weather conditions and therefore animal and bird behaviour, follow a very close pattern.

Though we hear of rapid climate change and milder wetter conditions ahead, go back more than a decade and you'll find that things were much the same, for instance, the Boxing Day walk has not required thermals, ice picks and crampons for 30 years, just wellies, sou'westers and jolly good weatherproofs!

Territory arguments will soon be breaking out amongst our garden birds, especially Robins, but one little job I did during December was to put some nest box hole-reducing plates over boxes that had large or damaged holes. Whilst this was in preparation for the Blue Tit nesting season, it was also so these boisterous little birds could use the boxes during the long cold winter nights in which to roost, otherwise they might not do so if the fear of a larger species taking control of their home existed. Talking of Blue Tits, and Coal for that matter, we suddenly had a literal invasion of each species in the past couple of weeks, all frantically feeding themselves up two or three times a day so we are getting through the songbird and sunflower hearts at a rate of knots.

A lovely email was received from Mary Lovejoy in Oakfields, Lychpit, and some accompanying pics of a three-legged Roe deer and her fawn, shots that were taken during the early summer. The lady also shared a pic of a Moorhen which found its way into her garden, the property which is about half a mile from water (as the Moorhen flies)! Odd.

John Watson here in Cavalier Road spotted a hedgehog out and about during a sunny November day but two Magpies had also seen it and began some mischief, pecking at it and generally annoying the prickly chap. Unperturbed he scuttled off but it was an unusual occurrence and as John jokingly said afterwards it's a pity Magpies cant treat wood pigeons in the same way. This might perhaps reduce the huge numbers that blight our gardens and rooftops every day, endlessly defecating as they plod on!

Stephen Thair sent some photos in of owl pellets, which for the uninitiated, are little oval shaped balls of fur, teeth and bones regurgitated from the birds previous meal of mouse or vole. If you're not squeamish these pellets are fascinating objects to break apart and examine and tell us so much about what the bird has hunted for.

Hopefully I've not put you off your turkey and trimmings so just time to wish you belated seasons greetings and a very happy New Year.

Don't forget to send all your nature-related photos to emails: rickbourne@yahoo.com or naturenotes@basinga.org.uk or ring 01256 321108 for news.

For all your **bird food** requirements, order it from me at **'Bird Drop-ins'**. Use the former email address or ring me on **07900 648675** to place an order or get a form.

Rick Bourne

DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY

(For details of services and events at St Mary's Church and Old Basing Methodist Church, see page 23)

Charen	, see page 20)	
Fri 4	10.30 am-noon	Ladies' First Friday Coffee Morning (3 Whitehead Close,
		Lychpit)
Sat 5	10.00 am	PIOCC Working Party (meet church lobby, St Mary's Church)
Tue 8	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting (Pavilion Committee Room, Recreation
		Ground)
	7.30 pm	Old Basing WI Members Meeting (Parish Room, St Mary's
		Church)
Wed 9	1000 am -1.00 pm	Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship Meeting
		(Brookvale Village Hall, Basingstoke)
	7.30 pm	Basingstoke & District Railway Society talk (Wote Street Club,
	•	Basingstoke)
Thu 10		LAST DATE FOR COPY TO EDITOR (SEE PAGE 3)
Fri 11	2.00 pm - 4.30 pm	n Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Sun 13	11.00 am – noon	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop (Riley Lane)
Thu 17	12.30 pm	Ploughman's Lunch (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Fri 18	2.00 pm - 4.30 pm	n Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Sat 19	10.00 am	Mill Field conservation project (meet play area, Bartons Mill)
	8.00 pm	Robert Hokum/Dave Stone Band (Basingstoke Blues
	1	Club, Basingstoke Railway Social Club, Station Approach,
		Basingstoke)
Mon 21	7.30 pm	Basingstoke Horticultural Society Meeting (Stratton Park, Pack
	1	Lane, Basingstoke)
Wed 23	7.30 pm	Basingstoke & District Railway Society talk (Wote Street Club,
	1	Basingstoke)
Fri 25	2.00 pm - 4.30 pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
		t The Pink Place and the Blue Space Cancer Charity Burns Night
	1 8	(The Apollo Hotel, Basingstoke)
Sat 26	10.00 am-12.30 pm	New Basingstoke Loddon Rotary (Starbucks, Festival Place, by
	ī	NEXT, 1st floor, Basingstoke)
	10.00 am – 3.00 pm	Hampshire Potato Day (Testbourne Community School,
	1	Whitchurch)
Sat 27	10.00 am – 3.00 pm	Hampshire Potato Day (Testbourne Community School,
	1	
		Whitchurch)

LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY

Fri 1	10.30 am – noon	Ladies' First Friday Coffee Morning (8 Norton Ride, Lychpit)
Tue 5	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting (Pavilion Committee Room, Recreation
		Ground)
Thu 7	7.45 pm	Royal British Legion Branch Meeting (Jack Morris Hall, Royal
		British Legion, Crown Lane)
Fri 15		St Michael's Hospice 'Mad Hair Day'
Sat 16	Noon	Old Basing Senior Citizen Party (Old Basing Village Hall)

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OFFICE AND HOURS: The Pavilion, The Recreation Ground.

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• CHURCH INFORMATION FOR THE AREA

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

VICAR: Please direct any enquiries to the Parish Administrator.

ADMINISTRATOR: Debbie Filer. 07541 698235
CHURCHWARDENS: Tricia Renwick. 01256 326155

Ian Kershaw. 01256 355500

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

SUNDAY: 8am Holy Communion. 9.30am Sung Eucharist and Junior Church Evening Service 5.30 pm.

OTHER DAYS: Wednesday 10am Holy Communion.

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

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