

January 2021

BASINGA



Jane Hitchen



Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Magazine
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JANUARY NOTES AND NEWS

Catch them young! The cover photo this month is by **Jane Hitchen** and is a **very inquisitive little 15-month-old toddler** reading the latest edition of the Basinga.

With many events such as the Carnival and the Village Show being cancelled last year, or forced outdoors, such as the Christs Tree Festival, or having to take place in a virtual 'Zoom-like' format, let us all hope and pray the the COVID-19 vaccine(s) provide the (sorry) 'shot in the arm' to restore Old Basing and Lychpit village life back to some sort of normality in 2021, with maybe even a monthly Diary Dates page once again appearing at the back of the Basinga.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BASINGA

We welcome both regular and occasional items for the Basinga. The very last date for copy to the Editor for the **February edition** is **6pm on Sunday, 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 website. Don't forget that we only accept articles with about a **300 word maximum** and articles are only published at the Editor's discretion.

PHOTOS AND LOGOS FOR THE BASINGA

If any reader would like to offer a **photograph of the village environment** we would be happy to receive them, either for immediate use or to build up a portfolio of 'village views' that we can use. We now have a web form that you can use to send a photograph for the website archive and possible use in the magazine, you simply go to **www.basinga.org.uk** and the form can be found on the '**Contributors Submission**' drop-down menu. Should you wish to submit multiple or a series of photos they can be emailed but please read the instructions on the photo form for details.

This feature should **NOT** be used for Free Ads or Article photos, which can be attached to their own forms. We continue to make changes to the presentation of the Basinga and we welcome **club** and **society logos**, with the option to use them within articles. Please send graphics to **editor@basinga.org.uk**

SITUATION VACANT – BASINGA ADVERTISING MANAGER

After 30 years involvement in various roles with the Basinga, our current **Advertising Manager** is retiring; we are therefore looking for a replacement. The role covers the administration of advertisers enquires (not selling) through to ordering and liaison with other members of the production team who place the advertisements into the magazine and website.

The candidate should be familiar with the use of MS Word and Excel for record keeping. Full handover training will be given. If you're interested or would like further information contact **advertising@basinga.org.uk**

Basinga Team

OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT CARNIVAL

Dear all in Old Basing and Lychpit

It is with a heavy heart that I advise you that I will be stepping down along with several members of the Old Basing and Lychpit Carnival, and therefore this will be my last message.

I am however incredibly pleased to advise you that we have a full, vibrant, innovative committee who are going to take the newly named Old Basing and Lychpit Carnival forward and although it may take a bit of time to get back to some form of new normal, the community spirit that has been shown over the last few months will, I am sure make sure this will happen.

On 18th November, 2020, a new committee were established, with some new and not-so-new faces and I hand the **chair** over to **Gary May**, who lives in the village and he will be supported by Hilary Todd, who is continuing as Treasurer along with Sarah Adams, who stepped in the Secretary position earlier in the year when Sandie Rice stepped down.

They will be joined by Debbie Dooley, Hannah Green, Jeremy Brace, Niall Brace and Jackie Ward who joined the committee earlier in the year. Along with Pat Brace, Peter Head, John Berger and Julie Shepherd, who have been on the committee for a number of years (some more years than they will thank me to say).

So amazing thanks to John Davie, Kath Davies, Tony Stoney, Sue Ingleby, Denise Adams and Simon Jocelyn for all their support and for some many, many years of dedication, you will be missed.

So, all there is for me to say is, thank you to all of you for supporting everything we have tried to do and we hope that you will continue to support as the Carnival Committee come up with new things to keep everyone going until we can hold the next Carnival.

Take care everyone, stay safe and I hope you have a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Joe Croombs (Ex-Chair – Old Basing and Lychpit Carnival Committee)

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

The Committee of the Village Show wish all readers of the Basinga a Very Happy New Year.

Well, we hope for a more normal year than the last! This year's **Show** will take place on **Sunday, 5th September, 2021**, everything being OK.

We are planning to have one or two classes online for 2021 as we had a number of new entrants for the classes that we ran in 2020 only online.

The Committee will be meeting this month to finalise the classes for the 2021 Show, they will be much the same as for the aborted 2020 Show. So look out for the new Schedule early in the year.

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A very happy and, hopefully, more settled new year to all residents

NEW COUNCILLOR

At the December meeting we were pleased to co-opt Murray Campbell to fill the remaining Councillor vacancy, representing Old Basing. A resident of Lychpit, Murray has lived in the Parish for over 30 years so is very familiar with the local area and his wealth of experience in the business world will no doubt be very useful when he has settled into his role.

MILKINGPEN LANE

The Parish Council has long been pressing for parking restrictions along Milkingpen Lane and adjacent areas before a serious accident happens due to congestion during school drop-off and pick-up times. Our County and Borough Councillors have also backed this and helped in persuading the Borough Council to take action. Many residents may have already seen the traffic order and proposal advertised from 4th December and residents most closely affected should have been contacted direct. Full details including a plan are on the Parish Council website and any comments should be sent direct to the Borough Council at engineering@basingstoke.gov.uk (the consultation period ends on 8th January).

SWING SWANG LANE DEVELOPMENT

Redrow Homes, based locally, have been appointed as the preferred bidder for the Swing Swang Lane site. They gave us feedback on their proposals for developing the site in line with the Hampshire CC brief. This includes a mix of housing with 40% affordable homes, materials and planting, water attenuation against flooding and provision of a footpath along Basing Road, something we have long sought.

Hampshire Highways have indicated that undue pressure on the existing roads once these houses are built is unlikely. However, increased 'Rat Running' along Bartons Lane could be an issue and we will seek to explore this further with Highways.

LYCHPIT COMMUNITY HALL

We were pleased to welcome back our regular hirers, including two new groups, at the start of December once the November lockdown period ended. The past year has, unfortunately, proved too difficult for some and we do have space for new groups, particularly during weekdays. Strict protocols are in place to ensure users are as safe as possible so if you are looking for a venue and can comply with Covid regulations, give us a call. Sadly, it is still not possible to allow party bookings to resume but we are constantly reviewing the regulations and will re-open for children's parties as soon as we are able.



PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two **meeting dates** are **Tuesday 5th January** and **2nd February at 7.30 pm**. Meetings continue to be held via Zoom – anyone wishing to join a meeting should contact the Office.

Parish Clerk: **Mrs Sandra Tuck** Deputy Clerk: **Mrs Kate Hope**

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

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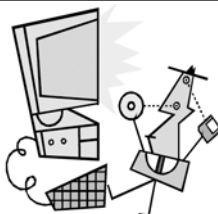
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NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

The sad demise of the annual Christmas Fair brought the Basing House season to a close – a season which had started on a sadly similar note with the cancellation of our first Tulip Festival.

We did, however, manage to open for July, August, September and October, hold our Tudor Day, open air cinema evenings and Halloween walks, and welcome more visitors than we would ever have expected. We hope they enjoyed their visits, will remember that they have annual tickets and return next year.

Great minds are being turned to next year's programme, and all things being well, we expect to reopen around Easter 2021.

Obviously, I will keep you up to date on developments in future articles.

In the meantime, may I send you season's greetings on behalf of all the staff and volunteers at Basing House

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

OLD BASING WI



Hampshire

Happy New Year to all our Members. I sincerely hope that 2021 will turn out to be a happier year all round than 2020.

Firstly, a big thank you to all Members who stepped up at fairly short notice, and made, baked and donated some fantastic items for our **Christmas Fair** on **Saturday, 5th December**. Thank you also to the Parish Council for wholeheartedly assisting us with a venue. We had a steady stream of customers on what was a very cold day. At the time of writing, we have made well over **£300** which will go some way towards paying for our additional cost of Zoom meetings in 2021.

Our WI Christmas tree looked splendid at the St Mary's Christmas Tree festival. Thank you to everyone who voted for us. It was great to take part in this community event.

Earlier in December we tried our hand at running our first Zoom meeting. Sarah Delves is an antique dealer and an expert in ladies' handbags and their accessories. She is also a lecturer at the V&A museum. She spoke to us about the history of compacts and showed us many from her collection. We recognise that 40 minutes was not long enough to do the subject justice, but we have got Sarah booked again for later in the year and we really hope to meet her in person, because she was a very engaging speaker.

Our next **meeting** will take place on **Tuesday, 5th January**. Would Members please look out for details dropping into their inbox.

Please remember to vote for the **Resolutions** that you wish to be carried forward in **2021**. Details for doing this were provided in your December Newsletter. The **closing date** for receipt of votes is to be received by me by **Friday, 15th January**.

For details of the WI in Hampshire and other WI activities go to **www.hampshirewi.org.uk**

If you would like to join our long -unning and thriving group please contact our President, **Sue Stewart**, by email at **oldbasingpres@hampshirewi.org.uk**



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CONSULTATION ON DRAFT VERSION FOR LAND NORTH OF THE M3

Residents, local community groups, businesses and other organisations are being urged to have their say on a **draft vision for the area north of junction seven of the M3** to help strengthen the final version.

Starting **20th November**, the consultation on the draft will run until **January 2021**.

A number of proposals have been put forward for the area, including it being highlighted as a potential location for a new hospital, a planning application for a distribution hub and land owners putting forward possible development sites for consideration for the **Updated Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan**.

Work is already underway on building new homes on sites allocated in the area in the current **Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan to 2029**, with planning applications approved for others.

Aiming to set out a joined-up-approach to the area, the vision identifies the types of infrastructure needed, for example transport improvements, facilities and utilities.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is already working with highway authorities to move forward the transport strategy for the borough, discussed by councillors on 19th November at the Economic, Planning and Housing Committee. This includes a 21st-century public mass rapid transport system connecting the area to the town centre and bus and railway stations, along with road network improvements, cycle and walking links.

The draft vision highlights areas where investment or more detailed work would be needed, helping other local services to plan ahead in a coordinated way. It aims to put addressing climate change at the heart of future proposals.

Recognising that this area is an important gateway to the town with nearby historic villages with their own distinctive identities, the vision sets out the need to reflect the characteristics of the local environment and the potential concerns of nearby communities. New strategic gaps around villages such as North Waltham and Dummer are proposed.

The aim of the vision is to guide early discussions, helping to set the direction for future planning policy which will emerge as the new Local Plan is developed.

Cabinet Member for Planning Infrastructure and the Natural Environment Cllr Mark Ruffell said: "We want to hear lots of opinions, ideas and comments to make this a shared and joined-up proactive vision for this area. There are so many parts of this, with land owners, residents, groups, other organisations and levels of government involved. We need views on the issues and opportunities for this location in our borough so we can set out our shared ambitions to get the right infrastructure and protection for existing villages and the natural environment."

Based upon comments received and any additional technical evidence available, the vision is set to be updated for adoption by the council's Cabinet in **March 2021**.

To read the draft vision document and give views see **www.basingstoke.gov.uk/visionM3-j7-land**

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We ask for submissions to the magazine and website to 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 Ads and Concession/Poster Ads on the “Advertise with us” drop down. Paid advertising enquiries can also be made from the same dropdown menu.

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

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

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

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Basingstoke Deane Rotary Club are celebrating a landmark charitable achievement as one of hundreds of Rotary clubs from across the country to jointly contribute over £1million to **Lendwithcare**, a microfinance charity which enables people in the UK to make small loans to entrepreneurs from poor communities around the world.

Since October 2011, Rotary clubs across the UK have been raising funds to make small loans to entrepreneurs in developing countries, enabling them to start or expand their small businesses and work their way out of poverty, feed their families and send their children to school. Basingstoke Deane Rotary has been part of this since early 2020.

More than £1 million has now been lent by Rotary to farmers, tailors, market stallholders and food producers to name just a few of the types of businesses Rotary have helped in 11 countries across Africa, Asia, and South America.

Basingstoke Deane Rotary Club initially lent £345, which contributed towards the national £1 million landmark, with the club loaning to nine groups/entrepreneurs in Malawi, Philippines, and Rwanda. Basingstoke Deane Rotary have helped 78 entrepreneurs, and 298 family members, and assisted in the creation of 43 jobs.

A relatively small investment by us goes a long way in developing countries and we have already agreed to increase our investment to £1,000 so that we will be able to help more emerging businesses and entrepreneurs

Club President Alf McCarthy said “Basingstoke Deane Rotary Club are proud to be a part of this fantastic initiative. Lendwithcare is a great way to help people out of poverty. You see exactly who the money is going to, and what they will use it for.”

Rotary is one of the world’s largest and most successful global membership and humanitarian service organisations, with 1.2 million members in over 200 countries volunteering their time and their talents to tackle challenges at home and abroad to promote peace, fight disease, provide clean water, support education, save mothers and children and grow local economies.



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VOTING EARLY AT NEXT YEAR'S ELECTIONS

On **Thursday, 6th May, 2021**, residents in Basingstoke and Deane will go to the **polls** to have their say on who represents them in the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, parish council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

While these elections may not be until May, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is already making plans to help residents stay safe while casting their vote and is keen to remind people of the options available to them.

There are a number of ways people can have their say during the elections:

- vote in a polling station
- by post
- or by appointing someone you trust to vote on your behalf, which is known as a proxy vote

The borough council's electoral registration officer Rebecca Emmett said: "The elections next year will see residents in Basingstoke and Deane voting on who will represent them on the borough council, county council, possibly their parish council and as Police and Crime Commissioner. This is an opportunity for people to have their say and we have already starting planning now so that however residents choose to cast their vote in May, they can do so safely. We are putting arrangements in place to help people stay safe at the polling station but we also want to remind residents that they have the option to vote by post or proxy and applying to do this is very simple."

Residents must be registered to vote to have a say at the elections.

For more information and to apply for a postal or a proxy vote visit **www.basingstoke.gov.uk/postal-proxy-voting** or call **01256 844844**.

CHINEHAM & OLD BASING NWR (NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER)

Our national group continues to provide a huge variety of quizzes, speakers and other activities to keep us occupied and this has been much appreciated through these challenging times. More locally, as not possible to meet for our usual Christmas lunch, we compromised with a Zoom party, all wearing suitably festive jumpers and jewellery. We pulled crackers and shared the awful jokes, had a Christmas quiz and then related our best and worst Christmas experiences. Although a little different from previous years we all had a good time with lots of laughter.

Our Reading group continues on Zoom and on 17th December we have chosen Adam Kay's *Twas the Nightshift before Christmas* which seemed appropriate. To get into the Christmas spirit we will raise a glass and share any other good reads we want to recommend.

We will continue to be creative with our meetings and activities as we start 2021 but are delighted to have had a few new members join our group and look forward to meeting them properly when we get back to normal.

If you would like to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities and lively conversations, then check us out. New members are always welcome, if only virtually at the moment. For more information look at the website: **nwr.org.uk** or get in touch with our Local Organiser for this year, **Karen Dann** – tel. **01256 328488** or email: **karen.dann@gmail.com**

YEAR 7 ENTRANCE EXAMINATION – 8TH JANUARY 2021



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TOUGHER PENALTIES FOR DOG-FOULING OFFENDERS

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is cracking down on dog owners who fail to clear up after their pet has fouled in a public space by introducing tougher penalties. Anybody caught not cleaning up after their dog has fouled in a public space, or not carrying with them a way of clearing up after their dog, such as dog poo bags, faces an **on-the-spot fine of £100 or a court prosecution**. This is double the previous Fixed Penalty Notice of £50 which could be issued for dog fouling offences.

A borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for dog fouling will enable the tougher penalties to be enforced. It is an offence for dog owners to not clear up after their dog has fouled in a public space and requires they carry an appropriate means to pick up their dog's poo.

The council is reacting to growing concern and numerous complaints from borough residents about an increase in dog fouling in their neighbourhoods. A public consultation on plans to introduce the order saw 97% of the 848 respondents agree that people who fail to pick up after their dogs have fouled is a problem in the borough and supported the proposed powers to deal with this.

Cabinet Member for the Environment and Enforcement Cllr Hayley Eachus said: "We have introduced the Public Space Protection Order across the borough in a bid to eradicate the unsightly and dirty problem of dog fouling and to respond to public concern. The majority of dog owners act responsibly and clear up their pet's mess but there are a minority that still do not and this lazy and selfish behaviour cannot be condoned. We hope these tougher measures, which include a £100 on-the-spot fine and the prospect of prosecution, will act as a deterrent to those owners who do not clear up after their dogs. Residents have told us that clean streets, parks and open spaces is a priority for them and the pandemic has highlighted the importance of these areas in enhancing physical and mental wellbeing. We will continue to work hard to tackle this antisocial and irresponsible behaviour in our borough."

For more information visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/PSPO-dog-fouling

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

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At **Great Binfields Primary School** we are looking for someone to join our friendly team of **Governors**, following the resignation of a governor after many years of service. If you would like to contact us to chat about how you can shape and challenge the future of your local primary school please contact **Mrs Janet Cullinane** (Chair of Governors, email: janetmcullinane@gmail.com or **Mr Martin Biermann** (Vice Chair), email: m.biermann111@gmail.com

Dear friends,

As Christmas is cleared away for another year on the Feast of the Epiphany, we celebrate the coming of the wise men to the infant Jesus. And as we think about the wise men, I can't help but think of the old meme that if the three wise men had been three wise women, they would have arrived on time, helped deliver the baby Jesus, brought practical gifts, cleaned the stable and made a casserole.

Scripture, in fact, does not tell us how many wise men there were, but since three gifts are mentioned – gold, frankincense and myrrh – we often talk of three wise men. They are, indeed, unusual gifts to give to a baby, yet each is significant, pointing to Jesus' kingship, divinity and suffering.

Goodness knows what Mary and Joseph thought of it all. If we follow the accounts in the gospels of Luke and Matthew about the birth of Jesus, by the time the wise men turn up Mary and Joseph already know that Jesus is no ordinary child. These extraordinary – and very valuable – gifts can only have strengthened their sense of this.

The word 'gift' has many meanings. Along with physical gifts, we often talk of having gifts, by which we mean talents, skills, aptitudes for certain things. Somebody who possesses many desirable skills in this way might be described as 'gifted'. In the Christian tradition it is emphasised that it is not only the chosen few who possess gifts, but that we all do.

It is also important in the Christian tradition that the gifts we are given are used for the good of others, and that we take time to hone our gifts, to become better and better at using them. In so doing we honour God who, we believe, has given our gifts to each of us.

The new year traditionally means resolutions, attempts to do better at something, or, perhaps, to be a better person, whether that is in relation to something trivial, or something very serious. Perhaps it should also be a time to reflect on the gifts that we each have, a time to take stock, and to look for ways that we might better use these gifts in the weeks, months and years to come. Whatever this year may bring, I pray that we will each flourish in the use of our gifts, and in so doing find joy in all that we do. And so – a joyful and flourishing new year to you all!

With love,

Reverend Heather



Due to regular changes in government guidelines, please do check our noticeboards, website: www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk or Facebook: **St Mary's Old Basing and Lychpit** for any further updates.

CHURCH OPENING TIMES

The church is open **Monday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm and Sunday 11.30am to 4 pm.**



You are welcome to come and enjoy sitting in the peace and stillness of the building, and for private prayer. Please wear a facemask (unless exempt), use the hand gel, and observe social distancing.

REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

We look forward to welcoming you at St Mary's.

Sunday 8am Book of Common Prayer (1662) Holy Communion

Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 10am Holy Communion

There are a couple of festivals we celebrate in January:

Sunday, 3rd January Epiphany Service, 9.30am. Continue to celebrate the Christmas story with the arrival of the Magi (Wise Men) at the crib.

Sunday, 10th January Baptism of Christ, 9.30 am. The service will include a celebration of our baptisms.

We also live-stream a number of services on our Facebook page: **St Mary's Old Basing and Lychpit**

If you would like to join us in church you are strongly encouraged to pre-book by contacting St Mary's Administrator, Debbie, either by telephoning **07541 698235** or by emailing admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk (in line with government regulations, please wear a facemask – unless exempt – use the hand gel, and observe social distancing).

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Every Friday we send out a bulletin with information about what is happening at the church. If you'd like to be added to our distribution list please email Debbie, our administrator at admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK – DONATION REQUEST

The Foodbank continues to face a high level of demand and would appreciate any support you can give in terms of donations. St Mary's continues to be a collection point. Please leave items in the crate on the **Vicarage porch** (the Vicarage is on the corner of Church Lane/Milkingpen Lane). There is also a collection box in **Tesco** at Chineham. For a list of items that are in particular short supply please visit www.basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk

SUPPORT DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Do contact us if you need help if self-isolating. St Mary's continues as a local hub working with Basingstoke Voluntary Action and Basingstoke Council for those needing support at this time, whether that be in terms of practical help such as shopping and the collection of prescriptions or if you are feeling isolated and would welcome a friendly phone call. Please contact **Rev'd Heather** directly on **07745 731729** or email basinghub@gmail.com

CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)



Happy New Year! We were delighted to welcome our volunteers back last month after the second lockdown ended. They worked hard to tidy the Conservation Area and make it safer for everyone. Our volunteers make a real difference.

Due to New Year, this month's **working party** has been moved to the second Saturday, **Saturday, 9th January**, at **10am** – meet by the **Conservation Noticeboard**. As there is still no access to the church or parish room, we cannot use the lavatories or provide the usual refreshments so our Saturday working parties now finish earlier at **noon**. Volunteers are asked to bring their own gloves, wear face coverings and bring a pen for signing in. Tools, which will be disinfected before and after use, will be provided. This month we will continue our seasonal conservation work, including woodland management. There will be **no Thursday afternoon working party in January**.

The Conservation Area is a community space. It remains open for everyone to enjoy, but please remember to adhere to the latest coronavirus guidelines, take care and stay safe. Already the days are lengthening with signs of spring 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**.

Margaret Carr – www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

THE MILLFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP



Why not have a break from weekend chores for a couple of hours and instead try your hand at conservation at your local nature reserve on **Saturday, 23rd January**. This month we will be clearing back scrub adjacent to the upper path which runs from the entrance opposite Little Basing to the corner gate (near the lane to the Bartons Mill pub). This path has got quite overgrown and so needs opening out again. No special skills are required but volunteers are asked to bring their own gardening type gloves and own refreshments. Tools, which will be disinfected before and after use, will be provided. We meet at the **play area near the pub** from **10am** and work for about **two hours**. Any last minute changes due to COVID-19 will be posted on Facebook and the field notice board, and if you can email that you are coming then I can provide updates.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS MONTH

If you are out walking 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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CERVICAL SCREENING

A simple test that can save lives. Cervical screening is one of the best ways women aged 25 to 64 can protect themselves from developing cervical cancer. Recent scientific advances mean that today's NHS smear test is much more sensitive and advanced than before.

The smear test is now tested for traces of a virus called Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) which causes nearly all cases of cervical cancer. If HPV is found on a smear test, the test is examined further to look for any changes in the cells taken during the smear. If cell changes are found these can be treated before they get the chance to turn into cervical cancer. This new way of processing smear tests means that cervical screening is even more sensitive and allows us to treat women for early cell changes, way before any evidence of cervical cancer is detected.

So, although the smear test is not something any woman looks forward to it really is one that can save lives. The Health Centre's screening programme has been running throughout the pandemic. There are Saturday clinics as well as appointments during the week – please contact reception to book or book online if you are due or overdue your smear test. The test itself takes less than ten minutes and the results usually come back within two weeks, so it really is simple to have peace of mind that you are looking after your health.

Screening invites are sent out every three years to women aged 25 to 49 and every five years to those aged 50 to 64. If you think you have missed an invite or have been putting off going for a smear test, then please do get in touch with the Health Centre. You can find out more about the screening programme at www.nhs.uk/conditions/cervical-screening

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Health Centre is very much open for normal business during this pandemic. Like everywhere else it is having to work differently. **Telephone triage** makes sure patients get seen by the right person, **e-consult** has become very popular and more and more patients are using the **NHS App** to book appointments and request their medication. The now well established COVID precautions are working well at keeping both patients and staff safe from the virus.

The key message from all the doctors and staff is that the most important thing we can all do is to get in touch when we have a concern about our health. It is easier to treat things at an early stage rather than letting them develop into a more serious issue.

PROBUS

Probus Club member **Alex Marianos** is a highly qualified civil engineer and told of his time when, in 1969, he was responsible for several building projects around Benghazi in Libya. Libya was a peaceful place and Benghazi was an important business city with first class hotels, banks, restaurants and good shops. Libya was liberated from the Italians in 1951 when King Idris declared it a Kingdom. All religious places of worship were permitted, and several European schools served the expat community. On the morning of 1st September, 1969, a radio announcement declared a military coup headed by Colonel Gaddafi had ousted King Idris. *(To read more see www.basinga.org.uk).* For more information about the Probus Club of Basingstoke see www.probusbasingstoke.club

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

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LINGUATATSTIC LANGUAGE SCHOOL

As we write this article and possibly as you are reading it, we are coming to the end of a strange and difficult year. Hopefully though, some joy will have been had at St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival, our preschoolers will have had fun at their Christmas parties and language enthusiasts will have enjoyed our digital countdown to Christmas (if you haven't seen it yet, search "Linguatastic" on Facebook and watch the educational and entertaining videos). Another thing to celebrate is the £70+ which we raised for Children in Need in November and the Christmas hampers we packed with our little ones and donated to Basingstoke Foodbank. Thank you to all who contributed.

As for 2021, we are looking forward to getting back to seeing more of our learners in person and engaging in more community activities.

On **24th January**, it's **International Day of Education** – the name of which includes two words close to our heart. Our activities are all about embracing the international world, its different cultures, traditions and languages. And educating is what we do, not only in languages, but also in life skills.

2021 isn't going to be all plain-sailing. We're entering into a new era outside of the EU and we still have lots to deal with in terms of the virus. Maybe now more than ever, we need to remember the importance of the international world and be open to educating ourselves about other cultures and not forget the benefits of working together for the common good.

Maybe we could start off by experiencing another country's traditions? A good one for this year would be Colombia's tradition of burning an "año viejo" (old year) puppet, filled with notes of what you want to say goodbye to from 2020.

Wishing everyone a healthy (in every way) 2021!

WI ROCK CAKES

One of our WI Members, **Janice Weeks**, made these rock cakes to sell at our Christmas Fair in December and they were very popular! Janice says "They're very simple". This usually makes 10 to 12 cakes depending on the size you want. You will need:

8 oz self raising flour

4 oz butter

4 oz castor sugar

4 oz sultanas (I wash them)

1 egg

milk

Rub the butter well into the flour until it's light. Mix in the sultanas and sugar.

Beat the egg with about a couple of teaspoons of milk and slowly add, bringing the mixture together by hand. Be careful not to let it get too wet but if it's too dry, you can add a little more milk. (If it's too wet, the cakes will flatten and won't be "rock" cakes – but they're still good to eat!).

On a baking tray lined with greaseproof, separate the mixture into little cakes using two forks and poke any sultanas on the top in a bit so that they hopefully don't get burnt. Bake in a fan oven at 190 degrees C for about 12 to 15 minutes, but keep an eye on them.

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CHINEHAM LIBRARY

It's the time for New Year's Resolutions – if you want some inspiration for doing something new this year then pop into the library and check out our craft and hobby books (any current restrictions permitting, of course). Or if you ate too many mince pies (like me) then have a look at our selection of cookery and exercise books.

If you want to learn something new over the next few weeks there are a number of courses available online as part of the 'Learning in Libraries' scheme. To find out more and to book a course visit the Hantsweb shop on www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home.php?cat=369 and click on 'Online learning'. Be aware you may need to download Zoom for course access.

We are still running the **Ready Reads scheme** if you would like us to pick your books for you – if you would like to register, either ring **01962 454747** or go to www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/ready-reads to fill in the online registration form. You can specify particular genres such as Crime, Romance or Biographies, as well as choosing how many books you'd like for both you and/or children.

Hampshire Library offers a **Home Library Service** to support those who cannot visit a library due to ill health, disability, or caring duties. If you do not use the Home Library Service but are taking additional health precautions, Ready Reads selections and reservations can also be collected on your behalf. Go to www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/resources/homelibraryservice to find out more, or ring **01962 454747**.

Please remember that joining the library is **FREE**, browsing is **FREE**, the Ready Reads and Home Library Service are **FREE**, and our e-offerings through BorrowBox and RBDigital are **FREE**! We are **open on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10am to 4pm**.

BASINGSTOKE – OLD BASING U3A



Early in December our **Needles and Pins Group** waved off eighty gaily wrapped shoeboxes, filled with toys, sweets, stationery and toiletries. These were destined for countries in Eastern Europe and accompanied by bags of hand knitted blankets too. They will eventually be opened by under-privileged children who receive very little else at Christmas time. Mustard Seed Relief Missions organise an annual appeal and with a team of willing helpers, Sue and John Richards, spent much of the year collecting and sorting, knitting and crocheting to help support it. Many others in Chineham have helped Needles and Pins out too. If you'd like to lend a hand next year, why not join this very friendly and sharing U3A group. Members bring along their own work, any form of knitting, crochet, tapestry, cross stitch, bead work etc. They exchange advice, patterns and ideas, and if members need nothing themselves, they have lots of ideas for charities, often a supply of donated wool too. There's usually a workshop or demonstration each month so lots to do and their work carries on through lockdown on Zoom too.

All our U3A activities can be found at www.basingstokeu3a.org if anyone is looking for something to cheer them up throughout the winter. There's even a holiday in Croatia planned for 2021 www.basingstokeu3a.org/excursion-and-holiday-details

Membership will be **£15 for January to August 2021**, with unlimited access to all the groups, so do give us a try. Joining instructions for new members' applications can be found on our Home Page.

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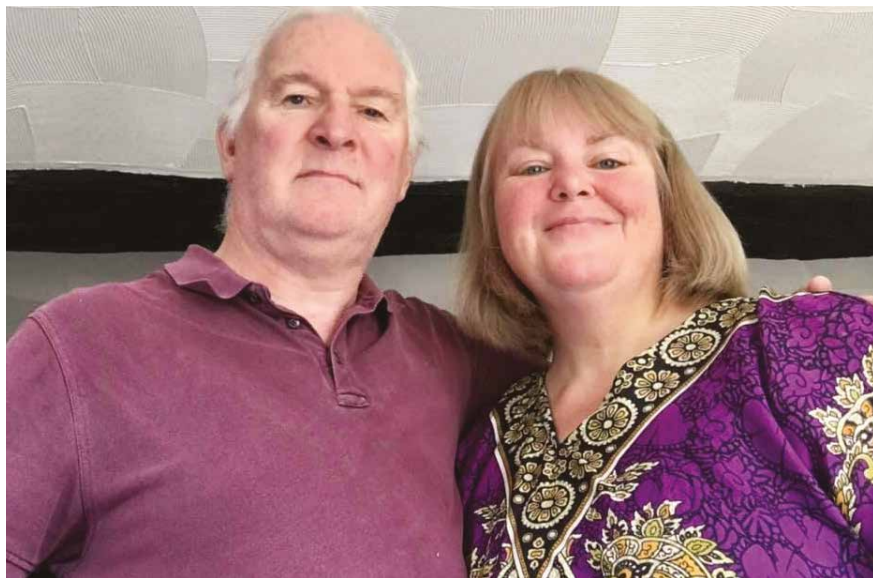
My name is **Stephen Poulter**. I and my family have lived in the village of Old Basing for many decades. I was born in the shrubbery in 1958, and was brought to Old Basing in a couple of days. I like to help out where I can – I was the guy who closed off Milkingpen Lane when the bridge flooded, saving many vehicles and helping the kids make their way to school.

I also run, probably, Old Basing's longest disco/roadshow, the **Osprey Road Show**. Infact we were the first to play in the Old Basing Village Hall, even when it was not officially open. We started back in 1978.

During the first lockdown many disco's and clubs had to shut down but we decided to do a two-hour show every Thursday, from 2 until 4pm. We posted them on Facebook and got a lot of good responses. Then out of the blue, we got asked if we would like to join **Helping Hands Community Radio (HCR)**. It has always been a dream for me to do a radio show so the answer was a big yes! Along with my darling Jayne (*see both below*), who came down from Manchester in 2013, we did our first broadcast on the 5th September this year, and we love doing the show.

Jayne and myself go out on the digital format every **Saturday** afternoon from **2 until 4pm**. We play all kinds of music and love to have a muck about, whilst informing people in the Basingstoke and surrounding areas all kinds of information. You can ask your smart speaker to play HHCR or you can go to our website **www.hhcr.org.uk** – you can find out everything about the radio station there. You can also look us up on **Facebook** or **text us** on **60060**. Start each message with **HHCR**. Or you can find us on other platforms.

HHCR has won three awards for its work and is now Basingstoke's only true radio station. If anyone wants to pass on any information about Old Basing or Lychpit, please see our website for details.



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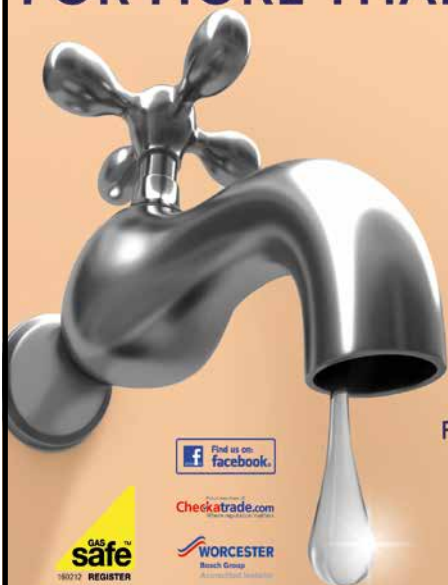
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OUR SERVICES

We offer seated exercise for mobility and wellbeing; walking clubs for health and social interaction; Friday Teabreak – a safe online club for chat, laughter and creativity. All of our activities are free and fully inclusive.

NEW SUPPORT GROUP

As soon as it is safe to do so we are keen to offer face-to-face support groups. Looking for feedback on how our disabled community would like for these to run we would welcome your thoughts via this two-minute survey www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KXCLZL9

OUR LOCKDOWN ONE MEMBERS SURVEY RESULTS

Driving force behind the new support group is addressing the needs identified by the survey which BDDF conducted to understand the impact of the lockdown on disabled people. Top three challenges faced by our disabled community were: 1. Psychological distress/mental health (50%); 2. Social isolation and loneliness (45%); 3. Difficulties accessing NHS healthcare and treatment (35%).

KEEP IN TOUCH

Information on all our free services are updated regularly on our social media and website. Keep up to date by liking our page of Facebook: [@BDDForum](https://www.facebook.com/BDDForum) or Instagram: [@BasingstokeDisabilityForum](https://www.instagram.com/BasingstokeDisabilityForum) or via our website www.bddf.org.uk or tweet us [@BDDForum](https://twitter.com/BDDForum) We offer regular newsletters, and are offer a paper version by post if you do not have internet access. To be added to our **postal mailing list** please call **01256 423869** leaving your home address, name and telephone number.

DISABILITY AWARENESS EVENT

BDDF are preparing to host our annual **Disability Information and Awareness Day**, in **The Malls** shopping centre on **Friday, 26th March**. For the first time we will be hosting physical stalls and sessions virtually in the hope we can reach as many people as possible. If you are a charity who would like to be represented either via physical stall or online or if you are a key speaker on issues affecting disabled people because of COVID, please get in touch by emailing info@bddf.org.uk

NEW 1-2-1 DIGITAL/IT SUPPORT

Our survey results highlighted digital exclusion of the disabled and some of our older generation was adding to isolation. To address this, BDDF have been offering our members a free 90-minute, 1-2-1, session with an IT expert. Aim of the session is to ensure they can be involved in online activities and keep in contact with friends and loved ones if isolating, by teaching how to get online and how to use Zoom. Know someone who would benefit BDDF are happy to offer further sessions – please get in touch.

NEW WELLBEING COURSE

Start January in a positive way by joining our free wellbeing course aimed at reducing anxiety, increasing your confidence and finding inner calmness. The commitment is **two hours per week** on **Tuesday mornings**. Open to all. To take part please contact us.

NEW MEMBER CARE CALLS

Many commented on our survey what they really want right now is a call, a friendly voice on the other end of the line. We currently have three wonderful volunteers calling our members and making a difference to their day. If you know someone who is isolated or lonely who would like to hear from us please let us know.

JANUARY IN YOUR GARDEN

You never can be sure what the weather is going to be like, whether we will get a repeat of the 'Beasts From The East' from past winters or not, 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 excessive weight.

But let's think positively. The cold weather will not come as harshly as recent winters, and we will be 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.

For houseplants, reduce watering now as plants aren't growing much, and leaves don't lose moisture in cool conditions, all you need to do is keep plants just moist, and there is no need to feed plants until March.

OLD BASING ALLOTMENT AND GARDEN SOCIETY (OBAGS)

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation the shop will remain in hibernation until at least March because of the logistical problems with protecting volunteers from the virus. In addition, the decision was made not to proceed with the date for our AGM due to the problems of meeting. So we will be calling **Special General Meeting** once it is safe to do so. In the meantime, this year's activities such as correspondence, memberships, sales figures and a profit and loss account from our treasurer have been uploaded to the website www.obags.uk

Top tasks for January are to continue harvesting winter brassicas, keep spreading manure of compost over empty beds and prune any established apple and pear trees that haven't already been tackled. You can also buy and chit your seed potatoes and work out your sowing plan for this year.

Tracy Braybrook – www.facebook.com/oldbasingallotments

NATURE NOTES FOR JANUARY

I do hope you all had a wonderful Christmas, as far it was allowed, and that you perhaps enjoyed your own Boxing Day walk seeing as the organised event had to be shelved. We probably all view 2021 with some trepidation but let's stay positive (but tested negative!!) that we will kick Covid into the very long grass.

Talking of long grass, I encountered plenty of that this week (3rd December) on the resumption of the pheasant season where I 'beat' for the local shoot. I appreciate that it's a hobby that might not appeal to everyone especially when conditions were resembling the monsoons of the Far East, as per yesterday, but the ability to walk in areas off the beaten track and see wildlife that might be otherwise missed, is brilliant.

Yesterday's event whilst a slog in the pouring rain, didn't prevent two Woodcock, several Snipe and a Barn Owl from being temporarily flushed from whatever cover they were taking at the time. Certainly, I haven't personally seen a Woodcock for perhaps 50 years but the quick flight and long downward pointing bill was unmistakable. There would have been a time once when this gamebird would have been a target but not these days as people that participate in the sport are very aware of the frailties of certain species numbers.

So, whilst pursuing their love of country sports they also help to fund the management of the countryside, maintaining and restoring conditions for birds like the Woodcock to recover.

The inevitable cold weather means that our feathered friends rely on us to not only keep them fed and watered until the spring but also to provide shelter, especially very small birds.

Terry McAnish has a camera box and sent me this photo of a **Blue Tit** snuggled down for the night (*see right*), apparently arriving at 4.30pm each afternoon and staying til gone 7am. As Terry said, 'It gets more sleep than I do!'



Many thanks also to **Nick Harris** in Milkingpen Lane who sent me this great photo of a literal charm of **Goldfinches** on his seed feeder (*see left*) and this looks like the sort of picture that one might see on a publicity advert for a Bird Feeder company, so good is it!

The cold snap has also produced reports of numbers of Redwings now moving in and feasting on plump red berries on Holly, Pyracanthus and Cotoneaster. Unfortunately wood pigeons are also partial to these and although I know I shouldn't deny them 'their right' to feed on these, most of us I'm sure you'll agree want to see 'good birds' like Mistle

Thrushes, Redwings and Waxwings. Expect to see lots of Blackbirds too, many of which will also have come over the Channel from colder mainland Europe.

And anyway, if they come now they'll avoid the passport queues from 1st January! Happy New Year to you all.

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

Rick Bourne

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The sight of your fridge or cupboards full after a trip to the shops can be very satisfying, but did you know humans aren't the only ones who like to keep a well-stocked larder over the winter months? All sorts of animals have been

hiding food away, ready to eat in the depths of winter when other food sources get scarce.

IN THE WOODS

Some of the first animals that we might think of when we hear the words 'winter larder' are squirrels. These furry mammals hide high-fat food in a scattered fashion, either burying their hoard or stuffing it into hollows in trees. Their stash often includes nutritious meals like acorns and hazelnuts, but red squirrels have also been seen keeping fungi in dry spots between branches to eat later. Squirrels hide so much food in preparation for winter that they inadvertently help woodlands to grow, with many of the forgotten seeds germinating in spring.

Looking to our feathered friends, acorns are also a firm favourite with jays. They cache their food in a similar way to squirrels, scattering it throughout the forest and often forgetting some of the piles. If not buried or hidden well, their stores may be eaten by mice before the jays ever get the chance.

UNDER THE GROUND

Perhaps more unexpectedly, some British subterranean species also keep food stores in winter. Moles keep stores of earthworms at this time of year, in preparation for the ground freezing and becoming too hard to feed. A mole's storage method is rather gruesome; they bite the heads of worms, immobilising them and then keep their meal in chambers off their tunnels. In areas where flooding is likely the moles might also store their prey in a 'fortress' above ground. Some worms have a lucky escape, if they haven't been eaten by the time the weather warms up, they can heal their heads and tunnel their way out.

Helping wildlife stock up for winter can be really simple. Putting out food for birds and letting your garden grow wild, with log and rock piles provides food and places for wildlife to wait out the cold.

Claire Thorpe (Communications Officer – Publications & Media)

BASINGA EXTRA

We were not able to include every article that we received; these (*listed below*) are available online on our website: www.basinga.org.uk

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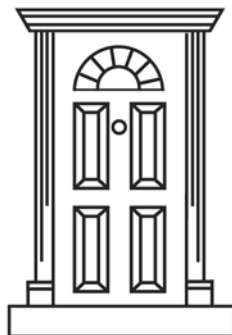
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