#### March 2019

# BASINGA



Anna Fairs





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





- **U** 01256 36 22 22
- Beechdown Spa, Winchester Rd, Bosinastoke RG22 4ES

#### **MARCH 2019 - NOTES AND NEWS**

The cover photograph by **Anna Fairs**) is of **Andrew Howard** (left) and **Alan Turton** (right) admiring the new monument at Basing House. The monument, to the fallen of the three Civil War sieges of the House, was presented by the Friends of Basing House as their final gesture. Many residents of the village will have been Friends, and may consider themselves to have contributed a small part of this memorial. *For the latest on Basing House see page 10*.

#### **BASINGA**

We welcome both regular and occasional items for the Basinga. The very last date for copy to the Editor for the **April edition** is **6 pm** on **Sunsday, 10th March**. 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.** 

#### **OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW**

Well the **Village Show Committee** have now deliberated long and hard over the classes for this year's **Show** (**Sunday**, **8th September**, in case you have forgotten), nearly being caught out by the snow at the beginning of February, but all having managed to get home safely. Advertisements are now being finalised, thanks to all the village businesses who support the Show. So the **Schedule** will be available from the usual outlets by the **end of February/beginning of March**, don't forget it is **free**!

All the usual cups will be up for grabs again with also our new award from last year, the Dr Alan Gibberd Rose Trophy, presented for the best Rose Bloom in classes 42-48. This in memory of Alan, our President for many years and of course a keen Rose grower.

In the Floral Arrangement classes we are trying to discourage the use of floral foam, e.g. oasis, in fact there is a class, 58, for an arrangement in a container of your choice without any use of foam. This year the Men and Boys class will be incorporating a shoe or a boot.

So look out for the **2019 edition** of the **Village Show Schedule** and start planning your entries, don't forget to look at the website: **www.oblvs.org.uk** 

#### VILLAGE CAFÉ - A CAFÉ FOR THE VILLAGE, BY THE VILLAGE!

If you haven't yet had a chance to pop down to the Café do pop in and say hello sometime soon. The cakes on offer vary each week but firm favourites in the village appear to be Victoria sponge, lemon drizzle, carrot cake, coffee and walnut and cream teas. A recent offering of lavender and lemon curd cake also proved extremely popular as well as our gluten-free options. The children certainly enjoy their visit with a variety of children's cakes on offer.

All proceeds in the coming weeks (up until Easter) 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.

The Café is **open** every **Friday**, **2 to 4.30pm**, at **St Mary's Parish Room**. If you'd like to know more about the Café or get involved either as a volunteer or a baker call **07813 186328** or email **thevillagecafeoldbasing@gmail.com** – thank you for your support.

#### CARNIVAL NEWS

Carnival plans are in full swing with the Carnival Selection Disco on Friday, 8th March, and the Carnival is on Saturday, 15th June – theme for this year is Comic Characters.

The Carnival Selection Disco on Friday 8th March, from 4.30 until 6pm at the Jack Morris Hall, Royal British Legion, Crown Lane. At this event we will be choosing our Carnival Princess and Attendant, also a Prince and Escort and all children over 5 years and under 12 years may attend. To enter you must reside in the Parish. Admission is £2 per child.

Please complete the form below and bring it with you on 8th March. Parents are requested not to stay – please advise regarding any required medication or allergy issues on arrival.

Event Notice and Entry Forms will follow as inserts in the Basinga editions that are circulated at the beginning of May and June.

In the meantime, if you are interested in **booking a stall**, then please **complete the slip below** and send with a cheque to Sandie Rice by Saturday, 1st June - details below.

**Joe Croombs** (Chair – Old Basing Carnival Committee)

Tel. 07768 032936 or email: joe@croombs.org

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#### **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

# PARISH COUNCIL NEWS COUNCILLOR RESIGNATIONS

February has seen the resignation of two Parish Councillors. After 26 years Councillor **Betty Waller** has decided it is time to step down. Betty has been involved with all areas Parish Council activity, having sat on all its committees over the years. Never one to hold back in discussions, her input to meetings will be sorely missed and we thank her for her dedication over the years. We are also sorry that Lychpit Councillor, **Chris Millett**, has decided not to continue due to health reasons and hope he soon makes a speedy recovery.

With elections due in May the Parish Council will not be co-opting at this point but hopes that anyone interested in standing as a Parish Councillor will put their name forward for election on 2nd May.

#### ALLOTMENTS

For those residents with allotments, inspections this year will take place weeks commencing 29th April, 1st July and 7th October. By the first inspection at the end of April we will expect to see that work has been carried out in readiness for spring planting. If you are unable to maintain your plot due to illness or other valid reason, please let the Parish Office know so we can take this into consideration when carrying out inspections.

#### ANNUAL PARISH AWARD

It is time to give some thought to who you feel would be a worthy of receiving the annual parish award. If you know someone who has given their time voluntarily to causes within the parish let them know their efforts are appreciated by nominating them for this award. Previous nominees who have not already received the award will also be considered. The closing date for nominations is Monday, 6th May.

#### DISTRIBUTORS REQUIRED

The publishers of the Community Newsletter are seeking distributors to deliver to properties in Old Basing and Lychpit on a quarterly basis. This is a paid position and could be carried out by more than one person. If it is of interest please contact Terry the Distribution Manager at Community Ad on 07908 966296.

#### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are **Tuesdays**, **5th March** and **2nd April** at **7.30pm** 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

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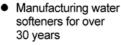
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#### **NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE**

In recent years Basing House has **opened** on **1st March**, but seen few visitors until the Easter holidays. So, this year opening is being delayed until **Monday, 1st April**, which still gives a week to get up and running before the school Easter holidays begin.

At the moment, plans are still being finalised for the coming season, and all the major events should be able to be listed in the April Basinga. As usual the **Basing House "What's on" page** on the **Hampshire Cultural Trust** website **www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house** is the ultimate source of up-to-date information on what is planned, gives full details, and all the prices.

We never cease to be amazed by the number of people who come to Basing House telling us how long they have lived close to us but without visiting. When the weather gets warmer, do remember that the Basing House site is much more than the remains of a country house the size of Tudor Hampton Court that was destroyed after three sieges in the English Civil War. It sits in 14 acres of countryside, with a walled garden containing a formal Stuart garden and room for outdoor theatre productions with its own nature trail. The Great Barn of course ranks among the great barns of Britain. Additionally, there is the 100-metre long, one-metre high Tudor tunnel, which can often be crawled through (if you tell us you want to when you arrive), although it was originally a drain and can be horribly muddy after rainy spells and early in the season. There are also craft courses for adults and children, plus dig pit sessions in which children learn the rudiments of archaeological techniques.

Until 1st April, any enquiries about visiting or volunteering at Basing House can be dealt with at Milestones Museum on 01256 639550.

Andrew Howard, tel. 01256 327014

#### **NWR - A NATIONWIDE GROUP FOR WOMEN**

February is our planning meeting and members came along with suggestions for meetings, outings and activities. As usual there were plenty of ideas and together we agreed a lively programme for the coming year. Back by popular demand was a wine tasting in the summer. Other meetings include: puddings and poetry; inspirational women; using transactional analysis to up our communication skills; if we emigrated where would we go and why; learning more about Poland and Namibia; changes in our lives since the 70s. We will continue our regular lunches and reading rroup meetings and any other outings or activities with enough support.

This month our reading group is grappling with interesting dialect in *Buddha Da* by Anne Donovan and our lunch club will be enjoying good company and hopefully good food on Wednesday, 27th February. We will be going to the cinema and possibly theatre trips and other activities to get us through the winter months as well as more venturesome trips later in the year.

If dull winter days are getting you down then come along for some lively conversation and often much laughter. We are very social and welcome new members. We usually **meet** in the **afternoon** in **each others' homes** the **first Monday of the month**. Our lunch club meets at various venues on different days of the week and our book lovers meet 8pm every fourth Thursday. For more information about NWR look at the website **nwr.org.uk** or to find out about our group 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**.

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#### OLD BASING WI

There was a good turnout at our February meeting to listen to Mrs Debbie Wheeler and her "alter ego- Mrs Stacy" telling us how to Make Do And Mend. We were transported back to 1942 and shown how to fashion clothes from old cast offs, make delicious puddings from potatoes and how to create makeup from everyday items such as gravy powder!

There will be no such scrimping and saving at our 100th birthday party meeting to be held on Tuesday, 5th March, at St Mary's Church Parish Room starting at 7.30pm when we shall be eating cake (again!) and listening to music. The competition this evening is a table decoration.

In early March over 50 invited guests will be celebrating at our **Centenary Tea Party** at **Old Basing Village Hall**. More about this next month.

We will be meeting up for coffee at **Conkers** on **Tuesdays** as usual, and our regular monthly walks will be taking place, weather permitting. Other activities coming up include a skittles evening on **Tuesday**, **9th April**, at the **Loddon Valley Bowls Club** and visits to both **Treloar's Hospital** which is our nominated charity, and **Denman College** in **March** and **April**.

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).

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For more information about **NWR** do look at the website **nwr.org.uk** or to find out about our group 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**.

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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.

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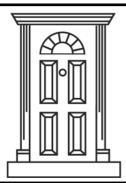
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#### THE SHERBORNES ART EXHIBITION

The Sherbornes Art Exhibition is a biennial event formed over ten years ago by artists Pat Burt and Lindsay Berry, not only to exhibit their own work but to invite different artists each year to join them in raising funds for charities close to their hearts. Lindsay Berry is a dedicated Watercolour artist while Pat works in acrylic and has close connections to the tutorial world. Works from a group of painters led by professional artist Mike Hall are included along with local guest artists including Cicelie Fry, Len Murrell and Jenny Kennish. Also showing are guest sculptural artists in wood, glass and ceramic. The aim is to keep the exhibition as "local" as possible showing quality work in a variety of artistic styles. While also supporting our own Village Hall the charity benefiting this year is Wellington & Dummer Riding for the Disabled Association.

It takes place Saturday, 20th April (10am to 5pm); Sunday, 21st April (10am to 4pm) in Sherborne St John Village Hall, Kiln Lane, RG24 9HP. Entry is free with disabled access. Refreshments: lunches, coffees and teas are available throughout the weekend. Parking is at the Village Hall Car Park, or top Car Park at the Swan Public House (opposite).

#### **CONCESSION ADVERTS – WHAT'S ON**

**LADIES FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING**: The next occasions will be at the home of Dusty Brough,7 Olivers Walk, Lychpit, on 1st March, and then at the home of Ann Price, 10 Olivers Walk, Lychpit, on 5th April. Both from 10.30am to noon. For more information contact Sheila Stone, tel. 01256 350238.

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

**THE PINK PLACE:** Will be holding a Charity Shopping Event and Solo Mia Spring Launch Fashion Show at the Apollo Hotel, Basingstoke, RG22 9NU, on Thursday, 7th March. Browsing from 6.30pm, fashion show approx 7.30pm. Tickets on sale now (£10 in advance; £12.50 on the door). For more information and sales email: events@thepinkplace.org.uk or call 07899 970841. See also our poster on the Basinga website.

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#### THE MILL FIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

#### **EVENT NEWS**

Winter is nearly at an end and so we are having our last scrub-bashing session of the season which is on **Saturday**, **23rd March**, before the site starts growing again. We will be continuing to clear areas for the benefit of the field's wildlife such as small mammals and the raptors who prey on them.

To join us you don't need to book in advance just come along on the day, the more the merrier and regular users of the field are particularly welcome. No special skills are required just appropriate clothes and footwear and we will provide tea, coffee and tools. We meet at the play area, Bartons Mill, at 10am or just find us.

#### WHAT'S AROUND THIS MONTH

In March we hope to see our first migrants of 2018 like the Green Finch and the last of the winter visitors such as the Redwing and Fieldfare with maybe Waxwings feeding on the remaining rose hips. If we get any spring-like weather Butterflies should start appearing such as the Red Admiral, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell or Brimstone. In January bird sightings included Kestrels, Linnets, Goldfinch, Waxwings, Peregrine and Little Egrets and if you are up early enough you could hear the Tawny Owls and in the afternoons Muntjac in the woods.

Anne Francis – tel. 07974 944439; Email: millfieldoldbasing@yahoo.co.uk Facebook: Mill Field Conservation Group

#### INITIATIVE IS A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is encouraging residents make a resolution to reduce air pollution. The Council has launched an initiative to raise awareness of the ways in which everyone can do their bit to maintain good air quality in the borough. **Clean Air Basingstoke and Deane** is encouraging residents to use their vehicles less, to stop idling their car engines and to think about the ways in which they can reduce pollution in their own homes.

Small changes can add up to make a big difference. Vehicles are the main source of air pollution, so try taking public transport when possible, think about car sharing or commit to walking or cycling short journeys instead of driving.

Visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/clean-air or follow @BasingstokeGov on social media to find out about all the ways in which you can do your bit to maintain and improve air quality in the borough.

#### MARIE CURIE COLLECTION

Thank you very much for your generosity last year despite the cold weather. Marie Curie Care provides nursing for seriously ill people in their home; unfortunately they are unable to provide nurses in the Basingstoke area at this time but there are ongoing discussions that might change this. They do have nurses in other parts of Hampshire and they also use the money to pay for research into Palliative Care.

The **Great Daffodil Day** is the major fundraising event for the year. If you have an hour or more to spare in **February/March** please call **Sally** or **Sophie** on **023 8026 3123** or go to the link below to register **www.mariecurie.org.uk/get-involved/collecting** 

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#### **GETTING BARRED FROM THE CROWN (AND OTHER ADVENTURES)**

We had moved to Mapledurwell in 1963 and many of my Sunday lunchtimes involved kicking a ball against the side of the **Queens Head** (now **The Gamekeepers**). While I was left to make my own entertainment, from inside the pub came the sound of raucous laughter and cheering. I vowed that when I was older I would see what was happening inside these hostelries. There was a strict age limit for going in to pubs and I was a long way short!

The **Queens Head** wasn't the only place I got taken to. In the days before the breathalyser dad drove to such rustic delights as the **Hoddington Arms** in Upton Grey, **The Royal Oak** at Lasham, and **The Fox & Goose** at Greywell. But my favourite was the **Red Lion** at Waterend.

The rural retreats of these north Hampshire villages, though good for a game of cribbage, or spending 50p in a fruit machine, were not really the destination of choice for an 18-year -old. Only two miles from where I lived, twinkling like shining beacons across the M3, were the busy pubs of Old Basing with the possibility of pool tables and, perhaps, girls! One fateful evening, during the long summer of 1976, my mate Chris and myself set off on a pub crawl. At the time there were only three pubs in Old Basing as the area where **Bartons Mill** now stands was undeveloped marshland. It was our intention to visit all three – **The Kings Head** (now **The Hatch**), **The Crown**, and **The Bolton Arms**. We never made it!

We set off, early on a hot Saturday evening, in our recreational clothes. What a sight we must have been! In those days we were a bit, ahem, "alternative" in our dress sense. Over-size combat gear, a bush hat, plimsolls, long greasy hair and stubbly chin growth was the order of the day. We looked like a couple of local bumpkins whose favourite band was Hawkwind. Which I suppose was true if I think about it. We got served in **The Kings Head** without incident where we had a couple of pints. The **Kings Head** on London Road (now **The Hatch**) famously features in the Beatles video "**The Ballad of John and Yoko**". You can find this on YouTube (stop the official video at 2:54 minutes and the pub can clearly be seen as the white Rolls Royce comes down the hill from the former **Cloverleaf Garage**).

Next stop for our evening entertainment was **The Crown**. But, upon entering, the pub went quiet as everyone stared aggressively at us. Yes, there was a pool table, and there even appeared to be some local lasses drinking Snowballs, or perhaps Babychams, in the corner. But we were never to be introduced because George the landlord (I think that was his name), pre-empting trouble, mumbled something about it "not being fancy dress" and promptly kicked us out!

We wisely decided that visiting the **Bolton Arms** was also not a good idea, so we wandered back down to what is now **The Hatch** where we caught the 8.40 bus to the more welcoming **Red Lion** in Waterend. Yes! There were evening buses!

Although we never visited **The Bolton Arms** that night, and it never became a regular haunt, there is a link between the pub and myself. By 1997 I had settled on a less-than-spectacular career in the Department of Employment in Sheffield. One day my boss, Graham Bambridge, asked me what I was doing over the weekend, and I told him I was going down to Old Basing to visit family. He then told me he had been born there, and when I asked where precisely, he told me it was on the first floor of **The Bolton Arms**. Small world! Does anyone have any further details? It would have been in the mid to late fifties. You can get in touch with me at **ian.maynard@gmail.com** 

Ian Maynard (formerly of this parish)!

Next Time: Forgotten Old Basing Bus Routes

#### **HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL**

Meteorologically speaking, 1st March is the first day of spring. Depending on your point of view and experience of our increasingly erratic weather patterns, does this fill you with hope or the expectation of being disappointed?

Hope springs eternal. How often have we heard that familiar phrase; but does it for every-body?

Maintaining hope can be challenging, particularly today.

As we look around our world with so many intractable problems that we have no possibility of influencing, we can feel that we are condemned to stand by, watching powerlessly. Or our personal lives may feel devoid of any worthwhile future.

And if there is no hope, despair sets in. We see it on the faces of refugees, the bereaved and those on the margins of society who can all too often seem beyond our ability to help them.

As Christians, hope is one of the three most important aspects of our faith; as St. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians, 'And now, faith, hope and love abide'. Love may be, quite rightly, the greatest of these but can we exist without hope?

As one late to the joys of gardening I never cease to thrill at the anticipation of what the next season will bring. Just after Christmas in my garden the Hellebores were blooming, braving the cold and cheering to see (through the window), but what excited me most was the sight of the chunky little dark green shoots of the snowdrops, just pushing their heads above the ground. I felt such joy in the expectation of seeing them that even on the coldest, dreariest early January days they gave me hope of getting through the winter and that spring would follow in good time. Now, as I write, they flower joyously and abundantly around the base of a tree in my garden and elsewhere, and I know that my hope was not in vain.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, the 6th March.

For us at St. Mary's it is a time for denial and reflection on the story of the suffering of Jesus as he went towards his fate on the cross, but we still carry with us strong hope in the message that we will celebrate on Easter Sunday. Redemption, forgiveness and love, offered freely to all nations and peoples.

But hope is not exclusively a Christian gift, it is for everyone. We can all find some small way this spring of bringing hope into the lives of those who have none.

Tricia Renwick Churchwarden

#### THIS MONTH AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Friday, 1st March World Day of Prayer Service at 2pm. This year's focus is on

Slovenia.

Wednesday, 6th March Ash Wednesday – services at 10am and 7.30pm, including the

imposition of ash (please return any palm crosses from 2018 to the blue box at the welcome table before this date, thank you).

**Tuesdays in Lent** Lent Course 2019 – "The Mystery of God". A five-week Lent

course created by Churches together in Britain and Ireland to take place at **Old Basing Methodist Church (7pm for refreshments) 7.30 to 9pm**. Any queries please contact **Tracey Darling**, Ministry Assistant at Old Basing and Oakridge Methodist Churches (email:

drtdarling@gmail.com or tel. 07543 876043).

Sunday, 31st March Mothering Sunday All Age Eucharist (10am)

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

Sunday, 3rd March Revd. Malcolm Surman (8am - Holy Communion and 9.30am

- Sung Eucharist)

Sunday, 10th March Revd. Canon Ken Batt (8am – Holy Communion and 9.30 am

- Sung Eucharist)

Sunday, 17th March Revd. Jill Bentall (8am – Holy Communion and 9.30 am –

Sung Eucharist)

Sunday, 24th March Revd. Canon Ken Batt (8am – Holy Communion and 9.30 am

- Sung Eucharist)

OTHER DATES TO NOTE AT ST MARY'S

Saturday, 2nd March Men's Breakfast, 8.45am 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, 25th March Tea & Talk Café, 2pm in the Parish Room. All welcome, no

charge.

After the weekly **9.30am 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 the 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 TO APRIL

Sunday, 14th April Palm Sunday

Monday, 15th April Holy Week begins

#### OLD BASING METHODIST CHURCH

Tuesdays, 5th/19th March Our craft afternoons from 2 to 4 pm. Bring your own crafts or

items will be provided.

Friday, 8th March Come and join us for our 'Coffee Break' from 10.30 am until

noon

Tuesday, 12th March MHA lunch club followed by music and games (noon until 3pm)

Tuesday, 26th March Join us for prayer time from 2 until 3pm

**Sunday, 31st March Mothering Day service**. Come and join us for a relaxed cafe-style

church service with tea and coffee.

Our regular **Sunday worship** starts at **10.30am** – 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)**

This month's working party will be on **Saturday, 2nd March** at **10am** – meet in the **church lobby**. There is **no Thursday afternoon working party this month**. We look forward to seeing our regular volunteers and also new participants. We would love to see you. All are welcome. We will continue our winter conservation tasks. Last month our working party was cancelled due to the snow! The Conservation Area looked beautiful under a white blanket, but the snow felled a hawthorn, blocking the path, and dragged some yew branches down. This was quickly rectified so with better weather we hope you enjoyed the snowdrops.

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

Next month on **Monday 1st April** in **St Mary's Parish Room** at **8pm**, we will hold our **AGM** with a talk by Lydia Knight – "Tigers and Temples". Please reserve the date. We look forward to seeing you. This will be a special evening. We will be celebrating our Silver Anniversary and hope that many of our supporters from the 25 years will join us.

The Conservation Area is a community space for everyone to enjoy. You are very welcome to visit. As the days lengthen the early daffodils, primroses and bright yellow lesser celandines are appearing. Visit the Conservation Area, take a moment to sit, relax and enjoy the churchyard, a haven for us all.

For further information please ring Fay Farrant on 01256 476863.

Margaret Carr - www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

#### THE BARREL ORGAN BOYS

May we, through your pages, thank all friends and relatives for their help and support during Richard's recent serious illness. He is now making a good recovery and, God willing, we will certainly be attending the Carnival and Church Fete with our street organs. Many thanks and love to you all,

Keith (Hilson) and Richard (Kerridge) - The Barrel Organ Boys

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#### **BASINGSTOKE BLUES CLUB**

Basingstoke Blues Club, in association with the Basingstoke Railway Social Club, Station Approach, Basingstoke, RG21 5NB, presents Nigel Bagge Band, on Saturday 16th March, from 8pm till late. Smoky vocals, fiery but sensitive guitar, from classical acoustics to contemporary electric blues and a touch of soul with enormous depth and variety. Not to be missed.

**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**.

#### **BASING SINGERS**

For those of you who like to plan ahead this is a date for your diary, **Basing Singers** are putting on a concert in **Old Basing Village Hall** on **Saturday, 6th April**, starting at **7.30pm**, the theme is music from the shows and films both stage and screen, there will also be a guest appearance from another local organisation, more details next month.

Tickets are £7 for adults and £1 for children under 16 and will be available on the door on the night or by telephoning 01256 471493. We look forward to seeing you.

Sue Wilson, Publicity

#### BASINGSTOKE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA - 'THE SOUNDS OF SPRING'

A new year is upon us and we have our first exciting concert of the year 'The Sounds of Spring', where we are collaborating Farnham Youth Choir. Farnham Youth Choir, one of the UK's leading upper voice choirs for 11 to 18 year olds and twice winner of the Sainsbury Youth Choir of the Year. They will be joining forces with the orchestra on the Anvil stage to perform two movements from Vaughan-Williams's quintessentially English Folk Songs for Four Seasons Suite and Fauré's beautiful Cantique de Jean Racine. They will also be singing a number of items with piano.

The orchestra will also be performing movements from Handel's ever-popular Water Music Suite and Dvorak's 7th Symphony, described by Dvorak specialist John Clapham as 'without doubt ... his greatest Symphony.' The symphony is arguably Dvorak's most ambitious in structure and the most consciously international in its message.

It takes place on **Saturday, 9th March, 7.45pm**, at **The Anvil** and **tickets** are available from **www.anvilarts.org.uk** or you can tel. **01256 884244**.

#### OLD BASING BOWLING CLUB

We invite you to come and try out the game of outdoor bowling and sample our facilities at Old Basing Bowling Club, free of charge, on one of our Open Days. These will be held on Saturday/Sunday the 13th/14th April and Sunday 21st April between 10.30am and 2pm.

Beginners and existing bowlers are very welcome. Equipment will be provided and supervision where required. Please try and have flat-soled shoes. We look forward to seeing you at our club which is located in Old Basing just off The Street, on the recreation ground, by the Parish Council offices.

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- . Visit the walled garden and learn about Basing House's fascinating history in the museum
- . Walk your dog or find a picnic spot.

#### INFORMATION

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







www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house

#### HAVE A GO AT CROQUET AND BOWLS

For the first time in Basingstoke you can now play two very different games at the same place. The merger of **Thornycroft Bowls Club** with **Basingstoke Croquet Club** means that both games are being played on the bowls green – although not usually at the same time! Most people have a fair idea of bowls and how it is played: croquet is a closed book to most, but is a wonderful game that makes you think as well as giving some gentle exercise.

On Saturdays, 13th April and 11th May, we shall be holding Open Days at our site beside the large car park, off St Andrew's Road in South Ham (RG22 6PT). You can come and have a go at either bowls or croquet – or both, if you wish – at any time between 10am and 4.pm. You don't need any special kit other than flat shoes to wear on the green.

If you can't make those dates, why not just come along on any **Saturday morning** at **10am** (**from 6th April**), and you will be made most welcome. You can find out more on our website at **www.basingstokecroquet.co.uk** – we shall be delighted to see you!

#### **OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB**

We are very excited to tell you that we have just started Junior Coaching sessions at the club! We are delighted to welcome Ben and Jamie from JB Tennis Academy. Both Ben and Jamie are LTA Level 4 Coaches and have been working with young students and adults for many years. As you read this they will have started a six week Junior Coaching programme on Tuesday evenings from 4 until 5pm. After Easter we are hoping that adult coaching will also take place. Please contact them directly for coaching information.

We hold our first Club Night on Tuesday, 2nd April, from 6pm until dusk, and from then on every Tuesday and Friday until the autumn. If you would like to find out more about the club, please do get in touch – we would love to hear from you! For more information please email Jan, our Secretary, at OBTC.Information@gmail.com or you can find us on Face Book @oldbasingtennisclub or visit www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/OldBasingTennisClub

Lynne Thomas (Chair)

# CONGRATULATIONS TO BASING ROYALS FC ON WINNING THE HAMPSHIRE CUP PLATE FINAL!

The local **Under 9's team** fought well on Sunday, 13th January, to come out on top against **Hatch Warren Sparks Phoenix**. Some great play by all the children involved despite the particularly windy and chilly day! It was lovely to see so much local support cheering the children on from the sidelines. The final comes following a number of tough games including a semi-final against our other Basing Royals team.

On behalf of the club and parents, we're all immensely proud of what both teams have achieved and wish them every bit off success going forward for the rest of the season.

Huge thanks to our sponsors, ASUS and the Old Basing Royal British Legion for all their support and to Sherfield School for providing us with fantastic pitch and training facilities.

If you'd like to cheer the kids on, home games are played on alternate weeks, or you can visit www.basingroyalsfc.co.uk to find out more about what the club is up to. Look out for details of our upcoming Race night at the Old Basing Royal British Legion, coming soon.

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#### **OLD BASING VILLAGE NURSERY SCHOOL (OLD BASING VILLAGE HALL)**

Our spring term is in full swing and it has been a pleasure to welcome our new starters as well as three new members of staff. We kicked off the new term by hosting an inspiring training day with Anna Ephgrave who pioneers the 'In the Moment Planning' approach that we implement in our setting. The training consolidated our belief in a child-initiated approach and inspired us to audit our environment to ensure that we are always providing the very best opportunities for the children in our care.

Our most exciting development this half term has been the successful trial of a 2-year-old room for our youngest children (Owlets). By making use of the hall's Trevor Dyer room and the smaller front nursery garden, we have been able to welcome our new starters with a cosier, scaled-down version of our larger room. With a focus on natural resources, heuristic play and *hygge* our Owlets can also look forward to free-flow access to the smaller nursery garden which is being developed throughout the spring. Meanwhile, our pre-school children (Little Owls) continue to develop and grow in our main room under the care and guidance of our qualified teachers and early-years practitioners who support them by encouraging independence, promoting risk and preparing our eldest children (Fledglings) for their transition to school.

We consider ourselves to be a little family down at the village hall and our staff and children continue to join together for our family lunch each day. It has also been a pleasure to continue to work alongside members of the community to plant bulbs and celebrate festivals such as the Chinese New Year. If you have a skill, hobby or interest that you think might benefit our children, we would really love to hear from you.

Looking ahead, we are almost at capacity for the summer term. However, we do still have a couple of sessions available. Similarly, if you are starting to consider nursery school education for the 2019–2020 academic year (and beyond!) we are rapidly filling up and operating a waiting list for our 2-year-old spaces. Please contact **Victoria** on **07557 642510** or email **oldbasingvillagenurseryschool@gmail.com** for a show around.

Victoria Grayson (Owner and Manager, Old Basing Village Nursery School)

#### **BOLTON UNDER 5'S PRESCHOOL**

We had a busy start to the year, resettling into our preschool routines and welcoming all our new starters and their families. We had our AGM at the end of January and we would like to thank all our committee and volunteers for the time they so kindly give in helping our dedicated staff run our outstanding preschool!

At the end of January, we were delighted to be visited by Julie from Tesco in Chineham, who came to share her healthy-eating produce with the children, and helped them make Mr Potato Heads! Then in February we celebrated the Chinese New Year and the children made lovely cards and crafts with hearts for Valentine's Day. As the weather warms up, we will be visiting the allotments and getting inspiration for refreshing our garden and the flower/vegetable beds, using the funds raised from the Tesco "Bags for Life" scheme. Looking forwards to March, we will be celebrating World Book day with a week of dressing up as our favourite characters, and we will also be doing fun activities for Comic Relief to raise funds for this worthy charity. If you are interested in your child joining our preschool, please do come in and meet our staff,

and see our Outstanding setting in action - call us on 07881 920709 or 01256 478141.



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The month of March is a busy one in terms of celebratory days. We shall be kicking off with World Book Day on Thursday, 7th March, by dressing up as book characters, reading our favourite books and thinking about the titles of well-known books and working out what they are in other languages.

On Friday, 15th, we'll be doing some more dressing up, but this time in aid of Red Nose Day. Our Spanish preschoolers will be playing games, baking and raising money for Comic Relief which supports vulnerable people and communities in the UK and internationally.

On Wednesday, 20th March, it's International Day of Happiness. Of course, we at Linguatastic are keen to keep our learners happy, but in fact, numerous studies suggest that just by learning another language, they may well already be boosting their moods. Consider how increased self-esteem can help you to feel happier. Well, researchers at the University of Cambridge reviewed multiple studies and reported that there was "robust evidence that adult learning leads to increases in self-esteem and self-efficacy".

And finally, on 31st March, it's Mother's Day here in the UK, so we'll be preparing some treats for our lovely "mères", "Müttern" and "madres"!

#### CHINEHAM LIBRARY

Following on from the successful 'Drama 4 All and Harry Potter' events, **Tuesday, 2nd April**, we have an event for adults entitled **'Who Killed Pamela Ware'**. Commencing at **6.30pm**, the evening takes the form of a presentation by former police officer Graeme Sheppard expounding his theories about the crime. **Tickets** costing £3 can be obtained from the library or the online shop. Should be a very enlightening evening.

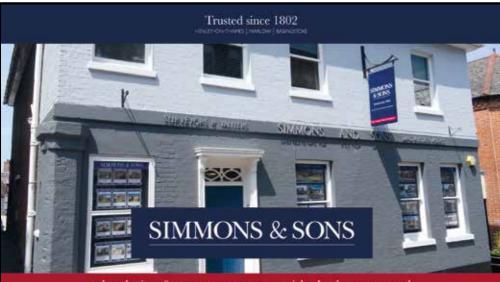
All our regular adult activities will take place this month, with the **crime reading group** on **Saturday, 16th March**, and the **general reading group** on **Saturday, 30th March**, both meeting at **10.30am**. The **writing group** will meet on **Thursday, 7th March**, at **5.30pm**. The **Stay and Play reading group** for preschool parents meets on **Wednesday, 13th March**. Both these groups would particularly welcome new members.

Age Concern will continue to offer computer tuition for the over 50s on Wednesday mornings. To book places please contact their office on 01256 423874 and availability is good at present.

Children's activities also continue in their normal pattern. Rhymetimes take place on Tuesday mornings, with sessions for under ones at 10am and over ones at 11am. Saturdays there is a craft session on the first Saturday of the month to drop in between 10am and noon, and all other weeks we hold preschool storytime at 11am. Construction Club providing Lego and Duplo to play with runs from 2 to 3.30pm every Saturday. The Chatterbooks children's reading and craft group will meet on Thursday, 14th March, at 3.45pm. Places for the next term's code club can be booked via the library.

We hope to see you in the Library soon and remember to check social media for the latest details of our activities.

Cathy Foster



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#### **OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION UPDATE**

#### MONTHLY BRANCH MEETING

The monthly branch meeting will be on Thursday, 7th March, 7.45 for 8 pm, in the Jack Morris Hall at the Royal British Legion in Crown Lane.

Rick Bourne

#### NOTICE FROM OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

I am pleased to announce that so far this year we have **collected £25,843.50** for the **Poppy Appeal**, thank you everyone for your generous donations.

It's spring cleaning time and Old Basing Royal British Legion can convert your **old clothes**, **shoes**, **foreign or pre-decimal coins** into **Poppy Appeal donations**.

I have collection bags and a coin collection bucket at the Jack Morris Hall at the Royal British Legion in Crown Lane and would welcome your donations. When you have some to donate please contact either Tracey or Kyle Merritt after 5pm at the club or myself (Tim Russell) and we will be happy to see you. All proceeds go to the Poppy Appeal, if you have any questions please contact me, Hon Poppy Appeal Organiser Tim Russell; either tel. 07772 883964 or email: Hampshire.chairman@rbl.community

Tim Russell

#### OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

There is a **General Meeting** of the **Old Basing RBL Women's Section** on **Thursday, 28th March, 7.30 pm** in the **Jack Morris Hall** of the **Royal British Legion**. The speaker is Andrew Davies – "Estate Planning"; competition – "Your school photo" (to guess who is who).

On Saturday, 30th March (2 to 4 pm) is the RBL Women's Section Jumble Sale, in the Jack Morris Hall of the Royal British Legion. All donations welcome which can be left at the hall from Monday, 25th March, after 6pm and on the morning of the sale.

**Sue Wilson** (Publicity)

#### OLD BASING ALLOTMENT AND GARDEN SOCIETY

The allotment shop in Riley's, opposite The Bolton Arms, will be open on Sunday, 3rd March (from 10.30am to noon) and 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st March (from 10.30am to 12.30pm).

Allotment jobs for the month include planting early potatoes, beetroot, peas, broad beans and spring onions. Strawberry plants should be protected from frost by a layer of fleece (available by the metre from the OBAGS shop). Any unfinished digging or winter pruning should be completed this month.

If you haven't already renewed, the **2019 membership fee is now due and costs just £5**. It gives you access to purchases from the shop along with a discount from Sutton's Seeds and ability to use the toilet facilities.

Tracy Braybrook - www.facebook.com/oldbasingallotments

#### MARCH IN YOUR GARDEN

After the deluge of snow in early February – according to the Met Office snow at a depth of 19cm (7.5 inches) was recorded at RAF Odiham on 2nd February (nationally the highest), with Old Basing not far behind – it is hoped that Spring has arrived.

What a wonderful time of year for the gardener. The snowdrops are out, daffodils poking their heads up and crocus' making a gorgeous display all over the village.

To prepare for the growing season ahead, it is a good idea to fertilise your beds. Once your soil is workable, dig a 5-cm (1-inch), or more, layer of compost or well-rotted manure into your beds. At the same time work in a general-purpose fertiliser, such as pelleted chicken manure, or the old faithful – fish, blood and bone!

There is a lot of sowing that can be done. Some flowers can be started off in the greenhouse, but hardy annuals such as Poppies, certain varieties of Sweet Peas and Cornflowers can be sown directly into the ground. Apple and Cherry trees can also be planted, but be sure to be ready with the horticultural fleece in case of frosts! They will damage the young leaves. Silver and grey leaf shrubs are the most at risk of frosts at this time of year.

March is the time when our thoughts drift to rhubarb. To encourage long, tender stalks it is a good idea to cover the crowns with old buckets, or similar, which will exclude any light. Meanwhile you can still make late plantings of soft fruit such as gooseberry, raspberry and strawberry.

Ornamental grasses should have dead foliage cut back to allow for new growth. Summerflowering bulbs can be planted now, as can snowdrops for next year. If the weather stays nice and dry, lawns may need a mow, not too short, just removing the leaf tips. Where moss is a problem on moss killers can be applied.

Roses will do well being fed with a balanced fertiliser or special rose feed. Now is an ideal time for roses to be pruned – stems should be cut back to an outward facing bud by about a half on bush varieties.

Greenhouses can suffer from condensation in springtime, open any vents on warmer days. Whilst you are out, and preferably before the month gets going, search round your pots, bricks and all those nooks and crannies for hibernating snails and slugs and dispose of them before they run amok.

Onion sets can be planted this month but sow under some netting to prevent inquisitive birds from undoing all your hard work. If you planted broad beans back in November and they haven't shown themselves yet, not to worry, more can be sown now, however they will do battle with black fly, more so then the November-sown crop.

Pond life will start to stir; fish become more active and may be thinking of breeding. As a result, water quality may deteriorate, so get those pumps and filters back on if they have been turned off over winter. Start feeding fish moderately when the water temperature reaches a happy 7°C (45°F) for a week, and more regularly when the temperature is over 10° C (50°F).

Have you thought about growing asparagus? Rumour has it that it is one of the vegetables that have superior flavour when grown at home compared to when bought at the supermarket. They are easy to grow, as long as the conditions are correct. They like light, well-draining soil, free of weeds and big stones. If you have such a space then by all means start buying crowns. They need to be planted this month. If not then why not bear it in mind for next year?

Let's hope that this growing season will have some normality to it for once!

#### NATURE NOTES FOR MARCH

The first European (winter) visitors in the shape of Redwings appeared in the area around Christmas and fittingly it was the numerous juicy red berries in our holly tree that attracted them in. Not big numbers but two or three every time I looked so by now the quantity of fruit should have been distinctly reduced but not so as the thrushes seem to have moved on. It would therefore be a treat if in this current chilly snap (9th January) that some of their country-folk, i.e. Waxwings, would turn up.

A Facebook message and photo showed a couple of these great-looking birds in Eastrop Park yesterday and these guys just love red berries of every kind. Supermarket carparks were often the place Waxwings could be found in really cold spells as such areas usually had small trees planted along the dividing lines of the parking spaces. Lack of TLC to the trees over years means these 'bird magnets' are sadly no longer there.

Things seemed mainly quiet over the holidays but thank you to those who did have something to report. Diane Matthews was walking up the path through Daneshill woods on New Year's Day and saw a photo of a Nuthatch and a Tree Creeper on the Daneshill nature reserve information board at the top of the hill. The board depicts a variety of possible sightings to be had in the area but when Diane showed the picture to her husband who noticed that there was an error in regard to these birds. This was that the names had been transposed and clearly this has been so since the boards were erected. I thought about letting the relevant department within the council know but I guess they have many larger fish to fry. However, now we know we are informed, the Tree Creeper isn't the Nuthatch!

For the first time ever I received a copy of a lady's 'nature blog', recording her experiences on perambulations around the village and it was great reading. Rachel Mitchell who resides in Pyotts Hill, is clearly a walker, observer and thinker and whilst I cannot replicate all of what she says in this column, I have sent it in to the Basinga Team to ask it to be placed in the Basinga Extra at **www.basinga.org.uk** so you can share her stories. Thank you Rachel.

I hope you all received presents that you wanted or were surprised by and I'm pleased to say I was, particularly in the form of a new camera box from my better half. My old faithful camera of 20 years gave up the ghost a year ago so this up-to-date, colour and IR version, was most welcome. I duly installed it in early January, connected it to a big HD TV and within three days, or more specifically, three nights, a Blue Tit had taken up residence in which to roost. I'm quietly confident therefore that he or she will find a partner and use the dwelling for its main purpose come early May.

Rick Bourne

Don't forget to send all your nature-related photos to:

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Of

naturenotes@basinga.org.uk

Of

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for news

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#### DIARY DATES FOR MARCH

For details of services and events at St Mary's Church see page 23 and for Old Basing Methodist Church see page 24

Fri 1	10.30am – noon	Ladies' First Friday Coffee Morning (7 Olivers Walk, Lychpit)	
	2.00 pm - 4.30 pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)	
Sat 2	10.00 am	PIOCC Working Party (meet church lobby, St Mary's Church)	
Sun 3	10.30am - noon	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop (Riley Lane)	
Tue 5	7.30 pm	Old Basing WI 100th birthday meeting (Parish Room, St Mary)	
	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (Pavilion Committee Room, Rec)	
Thu 7	7.30pm	Pink Place Charity Shopping Event (Apollo Hotel, Basingstoke)	
	7.45pm	Royal British Legion Branch Meeting (Jack Morris Hall, RBL)	
Fri 8	2.00 pm - 4.30 pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)	
	4.30 pm - 6.00 pm	Carnival Selection Disco (Jack Morris Hall, RBL)	
Sat 9	7.45pm	Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra 'Sounds of Spring' (Anvil)	
<b>Sun 10</b>		LAST DATE FOR COPY TO EDITOR (SEE PAGE 3)	
Fri 15	2.00 pm - 4.30 pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)	
Sat 16	8.00pm	Nigel Bagge Band (Basingstoke Blues Club, Basingstoke	
		Railway Social Club, Station Approach, Basingstoke)	
Sun 17	10.30am – 12.30pm	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop (Riley Lane)	
Thu 21	12.30pm	Ploughman's Lunch (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)	
Fri 22	2.00 pm - 4.30 pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)	
Sat 23	10.00am	Mill Field conservation project (meet play area, Bartons Mill)	
Sun 24	10.30am – 12.30pm	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop (Riley Lane)	
Thu 28	7.45pm	RBL Women's General Meeting (Jack Morris Hall, RBL)	
Fri 29	2.00 pm - 4.30 pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)	
Sun 31	10.30am – 12.30pm	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop (Riley Lane)	
LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL			

#### LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL

N	Ion 1		Basing House re-opens
		8.00pm	PIOCC AGM (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
T	ue 2	6.00pm – dusk	Old Basing Tennis Club 1st Club Night (Recreation Ground)
		7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (Pavilion Committee Room, Rec)
F	ri 5	10.30am – noon	Ladies' First Friday Coffee Morning (10 Olivers Walk, Lychpit)
S	at 6	7.30pm	Basing Singers Concert (Old Basing Village Hall)
S	at 13	10.30am - 2.00pm	Old Basing Bowling Club Open Day (Recreation Ground)
S	un 14	10.30am - 2.00pm	Old Basing Bowling Club Open Day (Recreation Ground)
S	un 21	10.30am - 2.00pm	Old Basing Bowling Club Open Day (Recreation Ground)

#### **BASINGA EXTRA**

A number of articles have been in competition for a place in this month's printed magazine. Those for which space could not be found are available at www.basinga.org.uk

Basingstoke and District Railway Society; Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship; Hampshire & Isle Of Wight Wildlife Trust; Odiham and Old Basing Health Centres Patient Participation Group; Probus; St. Michael's Hospice House to House Collections; St. Michael's Hospice Farleigh Wallop Woodland Walk; Thousands of Pounds Raised for Local Charities; Volunteers Needed to Help Change Lives in Basingstoke

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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 Benwick 01256 326155

lan 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.

#### Old Basing Methodist Church

STUDENT MINISTER: Mrs Tracey Darling. drtdarling@gmail.com 07543 876043

**SUNDAY SERVICE:** 10.30am Morning Service.

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