

March 2020

BASINGA



Bob Williams



Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Magazine
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MARCH NOTES AND NEWS

The cover photograph this month is of **Basing Road Bridge** by **Bob Williams**. An Old Basings Landmark, this neat little bridge with cutwaters between three arches provides a tranquil reminder of the Parish of Old Basing's history. The river almost certainly being a reason the first settlers decided this was a good place to live, and still is today!

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 **April edition** is **6 pm on Tuesday, 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 about a **300 word maximum**.

PHOTOS 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 when appropriate. We now have a web form that you can use to send a photograph for the website archive and possible use in the magazine. Go to **www.basinga.org.uk** 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.

LOGOS FOR THE BASINGA

We are making changes to the presentation of the Basinga and would welcome **club** and **society logos**, with the option to use them within articles. Please send via the **Editor**.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The family of Mrs Valda Ball would like to thank the kind lady who was passing and helped my mum book a taxi and waited with her until the taxi arrived to take her to St Mary's Church, Eastrop. If it wasn't for this lady's kind actions I don't know what would have happened. Thank you, it's nice to know there are lovely, helpful people around.

Linda Worsfold

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

Since the New Year your **Village Show Committee** have been hard at work on the **Schedule** for this year's entries to the Show on **Sunday, 6th September**. The new Schedule will be available in the usual village outlets sometime in March. One thing to be noted for this year's Show is that, in the interests of the environment, the use of floral foam (Oasis) will be banned. More details of the classes and how to enter will be appearing on the Village Show website: **www.oblvs.org.uk**

THE VILLAGE CAFÉ

The Village café, your local volunteer-run community café for the community of Old Basing and Lychpit, is open on **Fridays, 2 to 4.30pm, in the Parish Room, St Mary's Church.**

We are in March already, spring has definitely sprung and here at the café, we have been busy planning a number of events for our lovely customers. On **Friday, 6th March**, we will host another visit from **Alison's Wonderland** so come along and have a browse at the gifts and accessories on sale whilst treating yourself to a nice cuppa and a slice of cake.

We are planning to hold an **afternoon tea** event on **Friday, 22nd May, from 2 to 4pm** (slightly reduced hours than our normal opening). Anyone interested will be able to prepay and book this event and we will offer a choice of sandwich fillings to suit all. This will be offered at a set price of **£6 per person** for a **standard afternoon tea** and **£7 per person** for a **premium version**.

After our success last year supporting the **Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning** event, we are planning to do the same this year on **Friday, 9th October**, and combine with the café's birthday. We will have been opening our doors for two years this year and plan another celebration afternoon to thank you all for supporting us, whilst raising money for such a worthy cause. As you are aware, we supported the local charity, **Julian House** during the winter months and I am pleased to say we raised over **£1,600** to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you to all our customers for helping to make a difference.

We are now raising funds to purchase an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which will be installed outside the Parish Room, and are hopeful we will have enough money to do so later this year. We would like to say thank you to all at St Mary's Church for supporting this, with a special mention to Ian Kershaw who has worked closely with a member of our team to ensure this project is successful. In addition to providing an AED within the church grounds, we will extend our fund raising with the aim of being able to install a further device elsewhere in the village to provide life saving care if ever needed and will keep you informed of our progress.

The Village Café are now selling gift vouchers, for one, two or four people, ranging in price from £2.50 to £10. The vouchers entitle the bearer to a tea or coffee and cake of their choice, and make a thoughtful gift for friends and family. Vouchers can be purchased at the café from any of our volunteers so please ask if you are interested.

The café will be **closed** on **Fridays 10th and 17th April** but will reopen after Easter on **Friday, 24th April**. As you know, we are all volunteers here at the café and if anyone is interested in joining our team, please get in touch, we'd love to have you. Get in contact by telephoning **07813 186328** or by email: **thevillagecafeoldbasing@gmail.com**

Deborah Thorne

F.O.O.B.S. TRAIL AND FUN RUNS



After the success of the previous two years, we will be holding a third F.O.O.B.S. Trail running event on **Sunday, 11th October** – although we are hoping and praying it will be third time lucky with regards to the weather. Online entries are open so why not sign up and give yourself something to train for? Just go to **www.fullonsport.com/event/foobs-trail-and-fun-run-october-11th-2020-10k-6k-2k/profile**

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SOLAR FARM – CORRECTION TO OUR FEBRUARY ARTICLE

On closer inspection the outline of the plans from the Solar Power company do include sizes and numbers of Portacabin-like structures although they are larger than the normal lorry transported temporary buildings of this nature. Also, despite further enquiry, the firm is unwilling or unable to detail their locations. They also will not comment on the connection point to the National Grid or how this will be achieved.

THEFTS FROM SHEDS AND OUTBUILDINGS

During the latter part of January there were a number of thefts from sheds in The Street and Milkingpen Lane, and possibly elsewhere. Please ensure all sheds and outbuildings are locked and do not leave valuable tools and other equipment, particularly ladders, outside.

Unfortunately, in the early hours of 23rd January the Parish Council's workshop was broken in to. Although some damage was done the enhanced security measures installed following the previous break in, including a very effective smoke cloak system, meant that only one item was stolen. Hopefully this will deter any future attempts.

COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

We are sorry to lose two of our Old Basing Councillors, **Chris Fowler** and **Kerry-Ann Chamberlain**, both of whom resigned in January. Councillors make an important contribution to the community and the minimum requirement is to attend the monthly full Parish Council meetings; however, you would be encouraged to join one or more committees and possibly become involved in other Parish issues. Additional information is available from the Parish Office.

MISSING POST BOX

Following the disappearance of the post box in Hatch Lane we contacted Royal Mail to find out when the box would be replaced. Apparently, despite a "Royal Mail" notice being placed on the box stating it had been removed due to road closure, Royal Mail informed us the box had been stolen and would not be replaced stating "As part of our regulatory requirements, we must ensure that there's a post box within half a mile of at least 98% of all 'delivery points' (usually a customer's letterbox) nationally. After checking our records I can confirm that there is another box a few hundred yards away at the entrance to Byfleet Avenue and another even closer at the entrance to Fairthorne Rise, just after the turning into Bellevue Road from Hatch Lane". We have expressed dissatisfaction at this response and this has been escalated, however it is most likely that Royal Mail will not be replacing this post box.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are **Tuesdays 3rd March and 7th April at 7.30 pm** in the **Pavilion Committee Room**. All are welcome and anyone with impaired mobility should contact the Parish Office by 11am on the meeting day so they can be accommodated.

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

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

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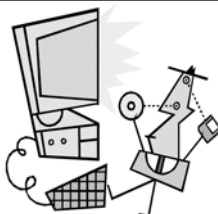
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BIG TURKEY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thank you to everyone who supported the Big Turkey Community Christmas Lunch. It was fantastic to welcome you all at the Big Turkey Community Lunch held at the Old Basing Village Hall on Sunday, 29th December. This year we had a real mix of ages with around 170 people from across the parish, enjoying the lunch and a keenly fought quiz in the afternoon. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make it run so smoothly, with cooking and preparations before the event and on the day. This year we had lots of new helpers: brilliant canapé makers; a fantastic team of young waiters; wonderful servers; and terrific cracker recycling collectors – as well as so many people who have supported the lunch every year since it started five years ago!

Thanks also to absolutely everyone who came and enjoyed the lunch, your feedback has been wonderful. It was a great celebration of our community, showing how much is possible with everyone working together!

Finally, a special thanks to the local organisations who helped make it happen: St Mary's PCC; Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Council; The Carnival Committee; Good Neighbours; Old Basing Village Hall Committee; the Basinga; and the generosity of many local shops and supermarkets who contributed to the food and crackers.

If you are interested to find out more about helping to plan the **2020 Big Turkey Community Christmas Lunch**, please contact us via bigturkeylunch@outlook.com – it is a great opportunity to be part of a small team planning something special for the whole community

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you to the community of Old Basing and Lychpit. Many of you are aware of the fire in Pyotts Hill on Thursday, 16th January. Our family's home was badly damaged and made uninhabitable and we have had to move to temporary accommodation while the site is made safe and our home is restored.

We wanted to thank friends, neighbours, the school and church, local businesses and the wider community for the amazing kindness and support that has been shown to us over the past few weeks. The fantastic generosity of so many in Old Basing and Lychpit has really touched us, and made us so proud to be part of such a wonderful community. We are now settling into our new temporary home in Lychpit, but cannot wait to be back in Pyotts Hill, hopefully at the end of this year, once the repairs are completed. In the meantime, thank you all once again!

Bruno, Jo, Fabiola and Marcel Hamel-Bond

BASINGSTOKE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The **Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra** have their spring concert '**Spring Serenade**' featuring the extremely talented cellist Rebecca McNaught, coming up in March. 'Spring Serenade' brings you three great 'classics' – Mendelssohn's 'Hebrides Overture' evokes the sights and sounds of the island of Staffa; Elgar's magnificent 'Cello Concerto' (performed by dynamic, young, British 'cellist Rebecca McNaught), promises to be a delight; whilst Brahms's spring-like 'Second Symphony' simply overflows with lush, joyful, melodies. It is taking place at **The Anvil, Saturday, 21st March, 7:45pm. Tickets** are available for purchase at www.anvilarts.org.uk or call the box office on **01256 884244**.

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NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

With our **2020 opening** now scheduled for **Easter Monday (13th April)**, plans for the new season are being finalised. And this year, the opening week, which falls in the school holidays, will be just a little bit different.

For the **opening day** the **Sealed Knot** return for the first of the **Civil War events** planned for the year – which commemorate the **375th anniversary of the fall of the House**.

This will be a **living history event demonstrating life in the Civil War era** – not just the battles but how real people lived at the time. In addition to the Civil War displays (and cannon bangs), the springtime flowers will be out.

The first week then continues with a **week-long celebration of springtime** against a background of the springtime flowers that bedeck the 14-acre site.

From the **Tuesday to the Friday** there will be **special activities for children** making the perfect spring day for all the family.

At the weekend **Hens for Live** visit, bringing their adorable chicks for cuddling and handling in the Tudor Great Barn, while they also talk about the best ways to love and care for hens of all ages. Outside, springtime activities continue with experts from charities like the **Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust** and **Butterfly Conservation Trust** exhibiting across the site.

All these April events will feature our new **Bothy Tea Room**, set close to the ruins where tea and cake can be enjoyed in a beautiful setting surrounded by stories of the past.

Outdoor theatre – with the **Chapterhouse Theatre Company** – will return to the Walled Garden at Basing House in 2020 with **Little Women (Sunday, 28th June)** and **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (Summer Bank Holiday Monday, 31st August)**.

There will be more details in the April edition of the Basinga and on the Basing House website: www.hampshireculture.org.uk/events?venue=6

Andrew Howard (tel. 01256 327014)

OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB



Come and join us Old Basing Tennis Club as we start our **new season** in **April**, playing tennis at our lovely venue. Get fit and enjoy some fresh air and sunshine in a beautiful setting on Riley Lane, Old Basing, next to the Cricket Club. Have fun with your children or friends and family – either on your own, or join in with other members at **club nights**, on **Tuesday and Friday evenings from 6pm**.

Coaching sessions are run for adults or children, beginners or improvers with coaches Ben and Jamie of **JB Tennis Academy** on various days of the week.

Great value **membership of £100** for the whole **year** for an **adult**. Other prices for children and families. Men's, ladies and mixed teams play in the Basingstoke League throughout the year.

For more information please visit clubspark.lta.org.uk/oldbasingtennisclub or email obtc.information@gmail.com

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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
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CONCESSION ADVERTS – WHAT'S ON

LADIES FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING: The next occasions will be at the home of Mrs Sheila Stone, 8, Norton Ride, Lychpit, on 6th March and then at the home of Mrs Robyn Lewin, 49, Saxon Way, Lychpit, on 3rd April. Both from 10.30 am to noon. For more information contact Sheila Stone tel.01256 350238.

EVER PLAYED SQUASH – IT'S A GREAT GAME: Sign up as Hampshire Junior Squash Star and get 6 weeks of lessons, a free racket, goggles, T-shirt, ball and carry bag. It starts on Saturday, 29th February, at Bounty Squash Club, from 10am to noon. Note: you still sign up after the February date at www.hampshiresquash.co.uk/juniors/squash-stars/

BASINGSTOKE DISCOVERY CENTRE: For details of talks and events in March see Forthcoming Events on the website.

MAYOR'S CHARITY CONCERT Saturday 7th March and other events can be found in the Forthcoming Events feature on the website.

ST MICHAEL'S HOSPICE FUND RASING EVENTS: 5th April Farleigh Wallop 5 and 10 km walks and the Basingstoke Run of 5 or 10 km 13th May. Registration and details on the website Forthcoming Events feature.

BASINGSTOKE CROQUET CLUB: There is now an excellent facility in Basingstoke with a top-class lawn and a cosy clubhouse. Two free open days on Saturday 18 April and Saturday 9 May where you can just turn up anytime between 10am and 3pm and have a go. Equipment will be provided, just wear casual comfortable clothes and flat shoes. for more information go to www.basingstokecroquet.co.uk

TREE-MENDOUS RECYCLING

Nearly 10,000 Christmas trees have been recycled following the festive season highlighting a tree-mendous recycling effort by the borough's residents. For the first time, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's garden waste customers were able to leave their festive firs out for collection with their brown bin or sacks. This was in addition to the 22 Christmas tree drop off points around the borough that residents could take their real Christmas trees to. The 9,792 trees collected will now be transformed into ProGrow soil conditioner for gardens and wood chippings for borough council parks. For more information or to sign up for the garden waste collection service visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/gardenwaste

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CARNIVAL NEWS

Carnival plans are in full swing with the **Carnival Selection Disco** on **Friday, 6th March** and the **Carnival** on **Saturday, 20th June**. The theme for this year is “**50 Golden Years – anything goes**”. As you may have heard it's the Carnival's 50th Year and we hope you will come and help us make it the best one ever.

Carnival Selection Disco (Friday, 6th 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 the day. 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, 6th June** – details below.

Joe Croombs (Chair – Old Basing Carnival Committee)

Email: **OldBasingCarnival@outlook.com** or tel. **01256 881453**



FRIDAY, 6TH MARCH: CARNIVAL SELECTION DISCO (4.30–6PM)

NAME: AGE:

ADDRESS:

TEL. NO:

By entering your child into the disco you are agreeing that they can be chosen as a member of the Old Basing Carnival Royal Party and the terms that this involves (photographs, participating on Carnival day). Photographs are taken during the disco and crowning of the Royal Party and used for publicising the Carnival. Please let Joe Croombs (Chair of Carnival) know if you are not happy for your child to be included. Please advise regarding any required medication or allergy issues on arrival.

ONLY ONE SLIP PER CHILD PLEASE – £2 admission



SATURDAY, 20TH JUNE: OLD BASING CARNIVAL – STALL BOOKING

NAME:STALL TYPE/NAME:

ADDRESS:

TEL. NO:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

(Please note: an email or text confirmation will be sent to you to confirm receipt of booking)

SIGNED:

Cheque enclosed – £12/£15/£25 – see below for commercial rates – please circle

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



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Saturday 7th March 2020
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CARNIVAL NEWS: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Please Note:

- The standard stall sites must not exceed **4 metres (13 feet)** frontage
- **£12** for one standard stall/side-show site
- **£15** for one standard size tombola or game of chance site stall
- **£25** for larger spaces
- Please contact **Sandie Rice** (tel. **01256 477637**) if you are not sure on size
- All cheques in advance made payable to **Old Basing Parish Carnival** (name on back)
- **Access** on the day is from **9am**
- Own transport (one car/van) can be brought onto the field, however if not removed by **midday** it will have to remain **on site** until **4.30pm** due to health and safety and insurance concerns
- Alternatively transport will need to be **off site** by **midday** and will not be allowed back on site till **4.30pm**

Return to **Sandie Rice, 16b Pyotts Hill, Old Basing, RG24 8AR**, by **Saturday, 6th June**.

OLD BASING 50TH CARNIVAL SKITTLES COMPETITION

The marvellous **Old Basing Team Skittles** tournament is being held again during **early June**, at the **Royal British Legion Club**, Crown Lane. Again this year, we are hosting the events on **Tuesdays** and hope the three planned dates are good for the majority.

The objects:

1. Raise money for the Carnival fund to assist local groups and amenities
2. Have a beer
3. Prove beyond doubt which road, shop, club, etc has the best four-person skittles team in the village
4. Have a lot of fun and build the spirit towards our 50th Carnival day on 20th June
5. Have several more beers to celebrate/commiserate.

Entry forms will be available at the **end of March**. Dates to note: **Early rounds** to be played on **Tuesdays 2nd and 9th June**. The **semi finals** and **final** will be played **Tuesday, 16th June, approx 7.30pm**. Contact **Rick Bourne** (tel. **07900 648675**) if any questions.

VOX LUCIS

Vox Lucis is a small a Capella choir of nine singers that formed in 2012. They concentrate on European music from the Renaissance and Tudor periods; from composers such as Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, Palestrina and Victoria. The music they sing was specifically written to sound best in the acoustics of a church so **St Mary's Church, Old Basing**, will be an ideal venue to hear it on **Saturday, 4th April, starting at 7pm**. **Tickets are £12 each (£8 for under 16 years of age) – wine served during the interval is included**. Money raised will be split equally between the **Combat Stress for Veterans Mental Health** charity and the **Friends of St Mary's** to raise much needed funds for the ongoing restoration work. Do come and enjoy an evening of beautiful music and appreciate the great acoustics of St Mary's Church.

HOLY GROUND

In spring 2016 I had the great privilege of visiting the Holy Land. I remember the sense of expectation as I set off that I was going to walk on holy ground. Holy, for it was the ground on which Jesus came to earth, on which he walked, prayed, ate, taught, challenged, healed, met friends...

For me, there were wonderful transforming moments where I encountered God in a new way. But of course, the Holy Land is not the only Holy Ground. There are many pilgrimage sites where people have encountered God, and been transformed by God. Pilgrimage sites closer to home include Iona or Lindisfarne. And we, along with generations before us, encounter God in our churches – Holy Ground at St Mary's Church and at Old Basing Methodist Church. Places where God is present in sacrament and symbol. Here too is a place where people meet with God, and are transformed by God. We're fortunate that our church is open during daylight hours throughout the year, and anyone is welcome to come in.

Yet, the whole of the earth is hallowed – this earth that was created and is loved by God, this earth on which God came to dwell in Jesus. There is no place on earth where we cannot encounter God. As the Psalmist says in Psalm 139: 'if I go down to the depths or up to the heights, you are there O God'. There is no place on this earth that is beyond God. We have the potential to be transformed by an encounter with God both inside and outside the church.

Maybe you encounter God in creation. Seeing the vivid colours of the sunrise over the common might reveal to you something of the beauty of our creator God. Perhaps you have encountered God in the people you have met: the generosity or kindness of a friend, a conversation that sparked hope, a loving gesture from a stranger.

Perhaps you have encountered God even in difficult places. We saw a powerful example of this in Palestine, where we met with Christians who had turned broken glass found in the debris of war into angels of hope, reminding us that God came into our broken world, transforming what appears worthless and hopeless into a beautiful and whole creation.

God is everywhere, so in a very important sense every place is holy. Yet we will probably find that certain times and places leave us with a feeling of being closer to God than others. It's important to take notice of them. So, I wonder what places have been Holy Ground for you, and significant in your life journey?

With love,

Heather



THIS MONTH AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Saturday, 29th February	Messy Church (3.45–6pm) with the focus being Unity and Global Friends
Wednesday, 4th March	The Ecumenical Lent Course begins at Old Basing Methodist Church , refreshments at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Subsequent weeks course will take place on a Tuesday , at Old Basing Methodist Church .
Friday, 6th March	World Day of Prayer (1.30pm) at Old Basing Methodist Church . This is an interdenominational service open to all.
Saturday, 7th 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).
Wednesdays	Lynsey's Little Stars (10–11.15am) – term time only
Thursday, 19th March	Ploughman's Lunch (12.30pm) in the Parish Room . Come along, either on your own or with friends, to enjoy a delicious 3-course Ploughman's Lunch (price £4).
Sunday, 22nd March	Mothering Sunday Service (9.30am) – an all-age service
Monday, 23rd March	Tea & Talk Café (2pm) in the Parish Room . All welcome, no charge.

WE'D LIKE TO WELCOME YOU TO ST MARY'S

Everyone is welcome to join us for our Sunday services which take place every **Sunday** at **8 and 9.30 am**.

There is a children's corner where young children can play and pray.

During the 9.30am service, Junior Church meets for primary school age children in the Parish Room.

After the 9.30am service 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 you can also find us on **Facebook: St Mary's Old Basing and Lychpit**. Full details of all services are available on St Mary's website and Facebook page.

PARISH ROOM AT ST MARY'S – AVAILABLE TO HIRE

St Mary's Parish Room is a great venue for children's parties with a fully fitted kitchen and accessible toilets. Please get in touch with **Debbie Filer**, our Administrator, either email: admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk or telephone **07541 698235** for further details.

DID YOU KNOW

If you live in Old Basing or Lychpit then:

You may have your child baptised at St Mary's

You may be married at St Mary's

You may have a funeral service at St Mary's



OLD BASING METHODIST CHURCH

Tuesday, 3rd/17th March **Craft group (2–4pm)**. Bring your own craft or items provided.

Friday, 6th March **World Day of Prayer** (see below)

Tuesday, 10th March **MHA lunch club**, followed by activities (**noon until 3pm**)

Friday, 13th March **Coffee Break** our monthly coffee morning (**10:30 until noon**).

Tuesday, 24th March **Time for prayer and reflection (2.30 to 3.30pm)**

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 for worship, mid-week prayers, Coffee Break and Tuesday craft – a warm welcome awaits you.

ECUMENICAL LENT COURSE

Wednesday 4th March, then Tuesdays 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st March (7pm for refreshments, 7.30pm start) at the **Old Basing Methodist Church**, following the course 'Setting our hearts on fire', from Churches together in Britain and Ireland. All are very welcome.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer) takes place on **Friday, 6th March**, at **1.30pm**, at **Old Basing Methodist Church**. This is an Interdenominational service open to all. This year's country focus is **Zimbabwe**, and the title is 'Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk' taken from John 5 verses 2-3, 5-9a. Refreshments available afterwards.

Women, men and children of all ages are called to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' to join this day of prayer. Women of Zimbabwe have prepared this year's service and they encourage us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future. They encourage us to 'Rise, take your mat and walk' with them as they continue their often turbulent journey towards full reconciliation.

CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)

This month's **working party** will be on **Saturday, 7th March**, at **10am** – meet in the **St Mary's Church lobby**. We will continue our winter conservation tasks. There will be **no Thursday afternoon working party this month**. We look forward to seeing our regular volunteers and also new participants. We will give you a warm welcome.

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

Next month on **Monday, 20th April**, in **St Mary's Parish Room** at **8pm**, we will hold our **AGM** followed by a talk on '**Arctic Sweden**' by Margaret and Tim Carr. Please reserve the date. We look forward to seeing you. 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

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OLD BASING VILLAGE NURSERY SCHOOL



It has been a busy and exciting start to the new year at Old Basing Village Nursery School. Our September starters are now firmly used to nursery school life with our January starters hot on their heels – it has been lovely to see new friendships starting and growing! We have spent some time considering our children's emerging needs and have the range of activities currently on offer to include Write Dance Movement and Music (a firm favourite from last year) and Active Owls (sports sessions) in addition to Mindfulness, Singers and Shakers and Wildchild. At Old Basing Village Nursery School, we celebrate diversity by exploring the home traditions and festivities of the children in our care. Last month one of our mums joined us to talk about how their family celebrate the Chinese New Year. The children heard the story of the Chinese New Year, sampled some Chinese savoury snacks and had a go at playing a game with chopsticks. Similarly, one of our children's love of buses led us to venture off-site on a double decker bus trip around our local area – this provided the children with a fantastic opportunity to see their locality from a different perspective and to point out familiar places. If you are looking for a high quality early year's setting for your little one, please contact us for a visit. We have limited availability for 1 to 4-year-olds for September 2020 and are reserving places now. Contact **Victoria** or **Andy** on **07557 642510** or **oldbasingvillagenurseryschool@gmail.com**

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

OLD BASING INFANTS SCHOOL



This half term has been a busy one in our school and the first glimpses of spring are starting to show around the school with our spring bulbs starting to blossom. Year R have been exploring different types of transport and have been out around the village participating in a traffic survey! Year 1 have launched a campaign to save Chineham Library (*see below*) and visited the consultation to hand-over their letters and posters. As you can imagine, they were very enthused and excited! Year 2 have been making bird feeders to try to encourage more wildlife into the school grounds. Both Year 1 and Year 2 have been out on school trips this half term with Year 1 walking down to Basing House to look at how the homes have changed in the village which links with our 'Best of Britain' topic. Year 2 have ventured to Marwell Zoo and had great fun animal spotting as part of their topic, the children had great fun consolidating their classroom knowledge with real life experiences!

Our governing body are looking for a new **co-opted governor** to assist the governing body. Their main aim is to maintain and improve the standard of education for pupils, of all abilities. Their role is to oversee the development of the school and work alongside the Head Teacher providing support. To be considered for this role please contact the **chair of governors (Johnathan Richards)** on **Johnathan.Richards@oldbasing.hants.sch.uk**

SAVE OUR HAMPSHIRE LIBRARIES

Local residents voiced their opinions on the proposed closure of **Chineham Library** at the Consultation drop in on Tuesday, 4th February. Hundreds of people went along to share their views on the proposed closure with the Head of Hampshire library services. For the full article go to **www.basinga.org.uk**



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

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LINGUASTASTIC LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Do you listen to BBC Radio 2 on a Saturday morning? If so, you may have heard Linguatastic children from this parish introducing Dermot O'Leary's show in their mother tongues. Mattia and Sara were heard on 18th January with their Italian announcement and Hannah, Ben and Lily were heard on 25th January with their Japanese announcement! By the time residents of the parish receive their copies of the March Basinga, there may well have been a few more local children with their voices being broadcast nationwide, but we'll have to update you on those in another issue. In any case, these multi-lingual "jingles" are going to be played throughout the year, so do keep an ear out for them!

And from radio to books... It's **World Book Day** on **Thursday, 5th March**, and we at Linguatastic will be celebrating the day, as most schools in the UK and Ireland will be. With our French preschoolers, we've been looking at the book *Brown Bear, What Do You See? (Ours brun, dis-moi ce que tu vois?)* and with our Spanish preschoolers, another animal-themed book *¿Las ranas vuelan? (Do Frogs Fly?)*, but on Thursday 5th, the children can dress up as any book character they'd like to. And on **20th March**, it's **International Day of Happiness** and this year's theme is close to Linguatastic's heart since it's "Happier Together", which focuses on what we have in common, rather than what divides us. Of course, we'd argue that learning a language helps us to have more in common with more people.

So, if you would like to give language learning a go, you might be interested to know that we are looking to start a new **Italian for beginners** class in due course – for further information on this or other classes email: info@linguatastic.com or tel. **01256 471474**.

CHINEHAM LIBRARY

Regular activities follow their usual pattern in March, with **children's rhymetimes** for **under ones** at **10am** and **over ones** at **11am** on **Tuesday mornings**. There is also now a volunteer-led **coffee morning** from **10.30am** which those attending are welcome to visit. This offers a chance to meet others with young children in the **Acorn Room**. On **Saturdays 7th March** and **4th April**, we are holding the monthly **drop-in craft session**, commencing at **10am**, and at **11am** on all other **Saturdays** a **storytime** will take place. Our **Cuppa and Chat** group continue to meet weekly on a **Wednesday morning** at **10.30am** and would very much welcome some new faces.

Our **reading group** continue to meet monthly at **10.30am** on the **last Saturday of the month**. The **writing group** next meets on **Thursdays 5th March** and **2nd April** at **5.30pm**. We now have two sources of IT tuition/guidance available, the **Wednesday morning Age Concern** sessions which focus on working with your own device are bookable through their office on **01256 423874**. A donation is requested. In addition, **Tuesday mornings** we have a volunteer available to **assist with using the library terminals** (sessions with her bookable through the library).

The trio of crime talks finished last month and has been a great success. We have two more crime-related talks coming up. There is a '**Scenes of Crime**' talk with former police officer Ken Wells on **Thursday, 26th March**, and a '**Great Train Robbery**' talk with Tony Keep on **Thursday, 23rd April**. Both take place at **6pm** and tickets costing can be booked through the library or the online shop.

Cathy Foster

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OLD BASING WI



Fiona Birchall kindly stepped in at short notice to replace the advertised speaker. Fiona is a traditional story teller who had visited us before, this time enthralling us with tales from China and Japan.

In a change from previously advertised, our speaker at our next **meeting on Tuesday, 3rd March**, at the **Parish Room, St Mary's Church**, at **7.30pm** will be Dennis Bryant who is travelling up from Southampton to talk to us about "Making People Laugh and Cry with Verse". The competition will remain the same – 'Most different items in a Matchbox'. Later in March, a number of us will be going to the Haymarket to see BAOS perform *My Fair Lady*. Six Members will also be travelling to Portsmouth for the Hampshire WI Spring Conference to hear Ben Fogle speak about his latest travels.

We will be dedicating our tree at the **Recreation Ground on Friday, 27th March**. We thank the Carnival Committee for its generous donation, and to our Members for the fundraising effort towards purchasing our disease-resistant native Elm tree which is planted to celebrate the Old Basing WI Centenary.

For further details about what your local WI is up to please go to the Hampshire WI website **www.hampshirewi.org.uk** (click on WI's from the top of the page and select Old Basing from the list). New Members are always very welcome.

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

This month we took a trip down memory lane discussing food and games from our childhood with shared memories of sherbet dabs and liquorice pipes, shrimps, flying saucers, chocolate bananas and many more. On the food front not so happy memories of school dinners and tapioca pudding with mixed responses to spam fritters. We also talked of those playground games of fives, hop scotch, cats cradle as well as skipping, handstands and cartwheels. Happy days indeed and all without the aid of technology. Mixed reviews for *After You* by Jo Jo Moyes, our book of the month so higher hopes for *The Girl in the Blue Dress* by Gaynor Arnold our book for February. We are a small friendly group, so if you would like to come along and, enjoy some lively conversation with a variety of activities to choose from then check us out with no obligation to join. We usually meet in the **afternoon in each others' homes on the first Monday of the month**. We also have a lunch club which meets at various venues on different days of the week and our **book lovers meet 8pm every 4th Thursday**. For more information about NWR look at the website **nwr.org.uk** or to find out more about our group get in touch (contact **Sandie**, email **sandra.tapping@gmail.com** or **Karen Dann**, tel. **01256 328488**).

BASINGSTOKE CONCERT BAND

Basingstoke Concert Band is delighted to present a **spring concert on Saturday, 28th March, 7pm, at St Michael's Church, Basingstoke**. The programme of music consists of a wide range of musical styles including music from the big screen and superb solo items. Tickets £10 (under 16 free) available from **www.ticketlab.co.uk/event/id/4501** or tel. 07503 881241 (Tim), or group members or on the door. Website: **www.bcband.org.uk**



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EVENT NEWS

Winter is nearly at an end and so we are having our last **work party** of the season and cutting back scrub before the site starts growing again on **Saturday, 21st March**. We will be continuing to clear areas for the benefit of the field's wildlife such as the Field Mouse, Yellow Necked Mouse, Bank Voles and Shrews 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. You will find us on the **lower path** from **10am**, the location will be marked on the notice board near the entrance opposite Little Basing.

WHAT'S AROUND THIS MONTH

In March we hope to see our first migrants of 2020 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 before dawn and in the afternoon Muntjac barking in the woods.

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

Facebook: **Mill Field Conservation Group**

OLD BASING GARDEN AND ALLOTMENT SOCIETY (OGAGS)

The **allotment shop** will be **open every Sunday in March from 10.30am to noon**. 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 **2020 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. For more information please go to **www.obags.uk** or **www.facebook.com/oldbasingallotments**

Tracy Braybrook

PEOPLE LOVE LIVING IN BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE

People love Basingstoke and Deane as a place to live, according to the latest residents' satisfaction survey. The borough council carries out research with a representative sample of residents from across the borough to give a picture of what matters most to them, how well the council is doing and what it could do better. Over 1,100 face-to-face interviews for the latest survey took place in November and December last year. For the full article go to **www.basinga.org.uk**

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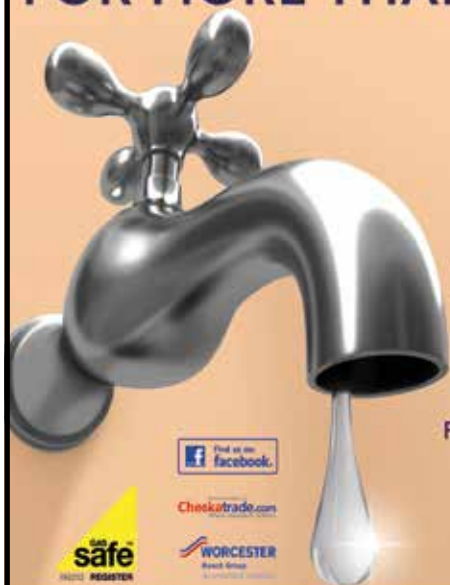


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LIVE ON



BRANCH MEETING

The **Branch Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, 5th March, 7.45 for 8pm**, in the **Jack Morris Hall, RBL. JUMBLE SALE Saturday, 28th March, 2 to 4pm** (see below for details).

Rick Bourne

OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

WOMEN'S SECTION MEETING

The **Women's Section Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, 26th March, 7.30 pm**, in the **Jack Morris Hall, RBL**. There will be a Quiz Night competition: a commemorative china item.

CREAM TEA

Who doesn't love a cream tea, always goes down well with a lovely cup, or cups, of tea whatever the case, therefore we cordially invite you to join us for a **Cream Tea** on **Saturday, 7th March, 2 to 4pm**, in the **Jack Morris Hall, RBL**. This event is held jointly with the Branch and the Women's Section to raise funds for the **Poppy Appeal**.

JUMBLE SALE

Spring is fast approaching, although with the weather we have seen lately, I am not sure if I was a spring flower I would like to pop my head above ground! It is time however to have a good clear out and donate your unwanted goods, clothes, etc. to the **Women's Section Jumble Sale** which is being held on **Saturday, 28th March, 2 to 4pm**, in the **Jack Morris Hall, RBL**. Refreshments will be available. **Entrance 50p**. All donations can be left at the Jack Morris Hall, RBL, during the previous week or on the morning of the sale.

Sue Wilson (Publicity)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I came across this photo on the archive section of the online Basinga. I believe it to be sometime after 1932 as my father moved to the village then, when he was 12. My mother and her twin brother, my uncle are also in the photo, as is the child who became my aunt. I am wondering where the original is held, and whether there are any others. I myself went to the school 1962 onwards. **Joyce Stevens**

Editor, I wonder if any readers are able to throw any more light on this photo, maybe even have it in their possession?

To see this photo more clearly go to:

[www.basinga.org.uk/picture_archive/
StMarysFestival2008/yourpictures/
stmaryscofe/school%203.jpg](http://www.basinga.org.uk/picture_archive/StMarysFestival2008/yourpictures/stmaryscofe/school%203.jpg)



NATURE NOTES FOR MARCH

It's been a very quiet period so quite a short edition of Nature Notes this month.

An intrepid band of seven souls braved the drizzle, chill and mud on 26th January for a couple of hours to make a start on the huge job of **cleaning up the stream by the railway line and behind Bexmoor Way** (see photos before and after, right and below). Years of neglect meant that it was full of mud, sticks and overhanging branches, not to mention the ten sacks of rubbish discarded by thoughtless people. The following week a couple of the guys revisited the footpath along Piggy Dam and collected ANOTHER six bags of discards, and this, only a year after their last litter pick!

We have only made a dent but it's a start and as I alluded to last month it would be wonderful if we can make a real impact before spring arrives when we will need to stop so as not to disturb nature too much. If you fancy helping, please give me a call.

As I write (4th February) the winter so far has remained mild so unless there's been a big change between now and when you read this hopefully we will have seen the season off. Of course, 'Beasts from the East' hit us in March previously and even stayed until early April as I recall one year but fingers crossed for us gardeners and spring lovers that won't be the case this year. So many plants were damaged, early bird eggs and young lost as well as frog spawn damaged that a repeat

would be hard to take. Right now there are many flowers showing and buds appearing plus I'm hearing skylarks starting to sing to attract a mate and watching robins scrapping for their territories!

I hope some of you joined along with the 'Big Garden Birdwatch' back in late January and had a successful watch. It was a little disappointing here in our garden with just the usual suspects putting in an appearance but it was fairly damp and miserable whereas some frosty weather might have encouraged more little brown job (name used by birdwatchers for any of the large number of species of small brown passerine birds), to have ventured to the feeders. Blackbirds, robins, dunnocks, pigeons and house sparrows made up our collection and I noted on-line a week after the results started to come in that over six million sparrows had been counted so clearly they are recovering from the slump a decade ago.



We have just invested in two new sparrow colony boxes (three 'houses' per box) so hopefully us doing our bit will continue to assist this particular bird's revival. Although it's now March as you read this you still just about have time to put up any box and if you need any advice of what to buy and where to locate then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Rick Bourne

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.

MARCH IN YOUR GARDEN

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 (2-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. Summer-flowering 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 lawns 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 than the November-sown crop.

Finally, unlike past years let's hope that this growing season will have some normality to it for once!

DIARY DATES FOR MARCH

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

Sun 1	10.30am – noon	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop (Riley Lane)
Tue 3	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (Pavilion Committee Room, Recreation Ground)
	7.30pm	Old Basing WI Meeting (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Thu 5	7.45pm	RBL Branch Meeting (Jack Morris Hall, RBL)
Fri 6	10.30am–noon	Ladies' First Friday Coffee Morning (8 Norton Ride, Lychpit)
	2.00pm–4.30pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
	4.30pm–6.00pm	Carnival Selection Disco (Jack Morris Hall, RBL)
Sat 7	8.45am	Men's Breakfast (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
	10.00am	PIOCC Working Party (meet church lobby, St Mary's Church)
	2.00pm–4pm	RBL Cream Tea (Jack Morris Hall, RBL)
Sun 8	10.30am – noon	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop (Riley Lane)
Tue 10		LAST DATE FOR COPY TO EDITOR (SEE PAGE 3)
Fri 13	2.00pm – 4.30pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Sun 15	10.30am – noon	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop (Riley Lane)
Thu 19	12.30pm	Ploughman's Lunch (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Fri 20	2.00pm – 4.30pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Sat 21	10.00am	Mill Field Work Party (meet lower path, location marked on the notice board near the entrance opposite Little Basing)
	7.45pm	Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra 'Spring Serenade' (Anvil)
Sun 22	10.30am – noon	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop (Riley Lane)
Fri 27	2.00pm – 4.30pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Sat 28	2.00pm–4pm	RBL Jumble Sale (Jack Morris Hall, RBL)
	7.00pm	Basingstoke Concert Band Spring Concert (St Michael's Church, Basingstoke)
Sun 29	10.30am – noon	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop (Riley Lane)
LOOKING AHEAD TO APRIL		
Fri 3	10.30am–noon	Ladies' First Friday Coffee Morning (49 Saxon Way, Lychpit)
Sat 4	7.00pm	Vox Lucis concert (St Mary's Church)
Tue 7	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (Pavilion Committee Room, Recreation Ground)
Mon 13		Basing House re-opens

BASINGA EXTRA

A number of articles have been in competition for a place in this month's printed magazine. For those for which space couldn't be found go to www.basinga.org.uk

Basingstoke Blues Club; Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship; Basingstoke and Deane Rotary Club; Basingstoke and District Railway Society; Charities Receive £173,000 in Memory of Loved Ones; Mad March Hares (Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust); People Love Living in Basingstoke and Deane; Probus Hears Tales of a Roving Reporter; Put A Spring in Your Step and Get Healthy!; Save Our Hampshire Libraries; Mayor's Charity Lunch; St. Michael's Hospice Farleigh Wallop Woodland Walk; Update from Chineham Medical Practice Patient Participation Group February 2020

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● OLD BASING & LYCHPIT PARISH COUNCIL

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● CHURCH INFORMATION FOR THE AREA

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Email: vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk 07745 731729

ADMINISTRATOR: Debbie Filer 07541 698235

CHURCHWARDENS: Tricia Renwick 01256 326155

Ian Kershaw 01256 355500

Regular Services at St Mary's Church, Old Basing

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

OTHER DAYS: Wednesday 10am Holy Communion

*Changes to the regular service pattern and other weekday services are shown
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Old Basing Methodist Church

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07973195566

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Tuesday's

19.15 - 20.15

St Mary's
Church Hall,
Old Basing

Sunday Morning Yoga

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Sunday's

09.15 - 10.15

Lychpit
Community Hall

Sunday Night Satsang

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1st Sunday

of the month

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Lychpit
Community Hall



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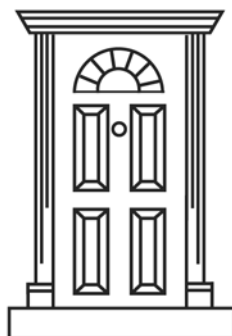
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