

March 2021

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Rev Heather Lappard



Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Magazine  
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## APRIL NOTES AND NEWS

The **cover photo** this month (taken by **Rev'd Heather**) is '**Held in a Burst of Colour**', a splendidly joyful fabric artwork in the form of a rainbow, created by former Old Basing resident, **Gill Sakakini**. This dramatic prayer installation will greet you as you enter the church for individual prayer (until 21st March). *For more details see pages 22 and 23.*

## 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 **6pm on Wednesday, 10th March**. Please use the forms on the Basinga website **[www.basinga.org.uk](http://www.basinga.org.uk)** to get your dates, articles and letters to us (**see box on page 15 for further instructions**).

All advertising enquiries – classified, free adverts or inserts (flyers) can also be made via the website. **Don't forget that we only accept articles with about a 300 word maximum and articles are only published at the Editor's discretion.**

## PHOTOS AND LOGOS FOR THE BASINGA

If any reader would like to offer a **photograph of the village environment** we would be happy to receive them, either for immediate use or to build up a portfolio of 'village views' that we can use. We now have a web form that you can use to send a photograph for the website archive and possible use in the magazine, you simply go to **[www.basinga.org.uk](http://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, or a photo is too 'large', they can be emailed but please read the instructions on the photo form for details.

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

## SITUATION VACANT – BASINGA ADVERTISING MANAGER

After 30 years involvement in various roles with the Basinga, our current **Advertising Manager** is retiring; we are therefore looking for a replacement. The volunteer role covers the administration of advertisers' enquiries (not selling) through to ordering and liaison with other members of the production team who place the advertisements into the magazine and website. The candidate should be familiar with the use of Microsoft Word and Excel for record keeping. Full handover training will be given. If you're interested or would like further information email **[advertising@basinga.org.uk](mailto:advertising@basinga.org.uk)**

**Basinga Team**

## THANK YOU TO DISTRIBUTORS AND DELIVERERS OF THE BASINGA

The editor would like to thank all distributors and deliverers of the Basinga for their unstinting dedication in delivering the Basinga (apart from a period in the first lockdown when it was not possible) during the past twelve months.

## BASINGA WEBSITE – HOSTED PAGES/LINKS UPDATE

The **Basinga Extra** website provides “Hosted Pages” for and “Links” to local organisations. We have been updating the pages by transferring them into a new format within the Basinga website. It has been found that many of the entries are either very out-of-date or are for organisations that no longer exist. Where possible we have contacted the organisations and have updated the entries with new up-to-date information provided by them. We have failed to contact anyone for two of the entries in the Hosted Pages, they are **Old Basing Art Group** and **Old Basing Short Mat Bowling Club**. If you represent either of these two organisations (or know how to contact any of the representatives) please email [webtech@basinga.org.uk](mailto:webtech@basinga.org.uk) so that we can bring the pages and links up to date. If you are not currently represented on the Basinga website, and want to be, you may submit a request from the relevant page on the site.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*I would like to say a big thank you to my friends, neighbours, The Rev'd Heather and members of St Mary's Church, and members of Old Basing WI for their kind wishes and offers of help when I was in Hospital with COVID-19. I really do appreciate this. I was treated really well at the hospital by the nurses and staff who do a superb job and they are on the go all the time. I am now on the road to recovery and will improve with time.*

**Irene Allaway** (former editor of the Basinga)

*Within the last two weeks a dog owner has twice allowed their dog to 'empty out' onto my drive in Bartons Lane. Kindly desist this foul, anti-social activity. You have a legal duty, also a moral one, to clear up your mess.*

**David Botting**

## OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

The **Schedule of Classes for the Village Show** will appear online on the Village Show website – [www.oblvs.org.uk](http://www.oblvs.org.uk) – at the **beginning of March**. This will be followed by a **printed version**, available from **local shops** as soon as the Committee can be sure that the Show will take place as planned on **Sunday, 5th September**. We do hope that the much-loved event will take place this year, so with fingers crossed we look forward to another bumper set of entries from the inhabitants of Old Basing and Lychpit.

## CONSTANCE SACREE ('PAT') 1923–2021

Our dear mum, **Pat Sacree** of Linden Avenue, has sadly passed away on **Friday, 5th February, aged 97**. She was an amazing lady looking after herself, home and garden right up until late October 2020! After several falls she began a new phase of life at Basingfield Court Care Home. She began to be unwell earlier this year then taken to Basingstoke Hospital for just a few days where, sadly, she was unable to fight on anymore. She would want to be remembered to the many friends, neighbours and acquaintances that she knew in and around Old Basing that she enjoyed the company of and held so dearly. We, Diane and Paul, offer thanks to all those that knew her and especially to those that helped her as good friends so often do. It is with sadness though that we have to announce her passing and her **Cremation** in **Basingstoke** on **Monday, 1st March**.



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### PARISH PRECEPT

By now residents should have received their Council Tax Statement for the year. When setting the budget in November, Councillors were very aware of the impact of COVID and the resultant lockdowns on residents and the possible financial implications. With this in mind it was recognised that the parish precept for 2021/22 should be the minimum needed to ensure facilities could be maintained and the Council could balance its books. To do this capital projects not already budgeted for have been put on hold for the 2021/22 financial year at least and this has enabled the Council to keep the 2021/22 precept to 3%.

### TENNIS CLUB

Resurfacing work on all four tennis courts started at the end of February. This work is carried out approximately every 10 years and during the interim period the Council earmarks funds paid to it annually by the Club to cover the costs. This has the effect of distorting the reserves held by the Council, making it more difficult to obtain grants for other projects. To resolve this the Tennis Club will take over responsibility for all four courts from 1st April and will, in future, set aside its own funds for future resurfacing. The work now being carried out will ensure that the courts are in the best condition possible when the Club takes over. This will mean that Court 1 will no longer be available for general use and anyone wishing to play tennis should contact the Tennis Club.

### COVID UPDATE

Current Government Guidelines state that local councils must return to face-to-face meetings from 7th May. We are therefore considering where and how future meetings can be held to comply with whatever guidelines are in place at the time. In the meantime, meetings continue via Zoom and office staff continue to work from home whilst visiting the office on a regular basis to check voicemails and post. Our grounds staff are working as usual, albeit maintaining social distancing. They are now at the start of their busiest time of the year preparing the cricket square and bowling green in anticipation that these activities will resume at the start of the season.

### ALLOTMENTS

A review was carried out in November as part of the Parish Council's budgeting process. Each individual plot was measured and a new fee structure introduced that more accurately relates to the size of plots. For many years the fees have not covered all the costs involved in maintaining the site and the increase in fees that has been introduced (from September for existing plot holders) will reduce the burden of householders subsidising the allotments through the precept whilst, it is hoped, cover more of the cost of upkeep and provide funds for future improvements to the site.

### LITTER AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

This continues to be a huge problem with debris from gatherings littering various areas around the recreation ground. There are plenty of waste bins at various points around the grounds so there is no excuse for rubbish to be thrown down and left. We realise it is unlikely readers of this page are the culprits and it seems there is little that can be done about this ongoing issue. We thank those of you who pick up litter whilst out walking and dispose of it either in the bins or at home – this all helps our very able litter wardens and grounds staff keep on top of the problem.



*Continued page 10*

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*Continued from page 7*

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two **meeting dates** are **Tuesday 2nd March** and **6th April at 7.30pm**. Meetings continue to be held via Zoom – anyone wishing to join a meeting should contact the Office.

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

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

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## OPTIONS, PROGRAMME OF SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT

With the ongoing uncertainty during the COVID-19 pandemic, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is exploring options to safely deliver a programme of outdoor arts, music and performances this summer.

**Basingstoke Festival** is set to make a return to the borough this summer with 17 days of performances, music, dance and arts between **Friday 25th June** and **Sunday 11th July**. Due to the uncertainty of social distancing restrictions which may still be in place and to keep Basingstoke and Deane safe, the borough council is working with artists and local art organisations to explore how it can hold virtual and socially distanced events. However, it is unlikely that crowds will be able to return for **B LOVE Festival**, which brings over 100 live music acts, family entertainment and art in unusual places to **War Memorial Park** and is the finale event of **Basingstoke Festival**.

While work continues to investigate how the Festival can be safely delivered in line with government restrictions which may be in place in the summer, there is still plenty to look forward to. From **February**, the council's **Art in Unusual Times** virtual programme (see page 19), in partnership with local artists and organisations, will bring residents the best in arts and crafts, dance, theatre performances and public art. Activities include arts and craft sessions using recycled materials with Basingstoke-based entertainer Junk Jodie, interactive Basing-folk storytelling sessions with local theatre company Pumpkin Pantos and the return of the successful Window Wanderland project which will return to communities across the borough, filling their windows with bright and colourful art.

Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Partnerships Cllr Simon Bound said: "We know the COVID-19 pandemic has been a difficult time for residents across the borough and we are keen to provide a fun-filled programme of entertainment this summer that everyone can look forward to. But ultimately, the safety of our residents must come first and we are continuing to monitor the latest government guidance and are working with art organisations and members of the arts and culture industry to understand how we may be able to safely deliver the annual Basingstoke Festival. We are very lucky to have talented artists, performers and arts organisations in our borough. I am pleased that we are able to bring residents an exciting selection of virtual arts and culture through our Art in Unusual Times programme which we hope will bring some much-needed entertainment to enjoy in the comfort of their own homes."

For lots more to see and do, visit **www.basingstokefestival.co.uk** or

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## LAUNCH OF NEW LOVE BASINGSTOKE WEBSITE

An exciting new website showcasing the best of Basingstoke and Deane and providing information for residents, visitors and businesses has been launched.

The new **Love Basingstoke** website – [www.lovebasingstoke.co.uk](http://www.lovebasingstoke.co.uk) – provides a one-stop-shop with lots of information and advice for residents, visitors and those looking to move to the area, including the very best of local heritage and stunning views, culture and events, attractions, food and drink, places to stay and much more.

For those already living in the borough, there is a section of the website dedicated to showcasing communities across Basingstoke and Deane, inspiration for walking and cycling routes, information on local transport and education and details of businesses that are currently open.

Aiming to ensure Basingstoke and Deane remains high on the list for attracting external investment, it showcases the ambitious development projects under way including the £500-million regeneration of Basing View, a new garden community with up to 3,520 new homes and facilities at Manydown and a planned transformation of Basingstoke Leisure Park.

A key part of the borough's economic recovery, the new website also includes plenty of support for businesses with information on financial support, tips to grow your business, networking opportunities and information for those looking to relocate to the borough.

Over 50 small and independent businesses in the borough are also getting a chance to sell their products online to residents and those further afield through **The Borough Basket**, which forms part of the new Love Basingstoke website.

The website will be regularly updated and residents and businesses are being invited to contribute to the content to ensure it continues to highlight everything the borough has to offer.

Leader of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Cllr Ken Rhatigan said: "Basingstoke and Deane is a great place to live, visit and work and this new website is a great way of showcasing everything we have to offer, from things to see and do to the work we are doing to plan for the future, all in one place. As we look ahead to the borough's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Love Basingstoke website will have a key role to play in highlighting and supporting our strong and diverse business community, encouraging more businesses to come and grow with us and promoting investment opportunities to ensure the borough remains a great place to live and work for years to come. I hope visitors to the site will take time to explore what's on offer and get inspiration for getting out and about when the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions are lifted and the warmer weather arrives."

The Borough Basket and Love Basingstoke platform was set up by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, The Designlab and partners through the Love Basingstoke group, and is supported by IncuHive Business Incubation services who assist shop owners with business advice.

The Love Basingstoke group comprises Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Basingstoke Together Business Improvement District, Destination Basingstoke, The Malls, Festival Place, Basing View, Anvil Arts, BDT and London Clancy property agents.

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

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

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**Basingstoke Shed** is a member of the **UK Mens Shed Association (UKMSA)** and there are now over **600 Sheds** throughout the **UK**. As a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity we would love to show you round our Shed so you can see what we do. However that is not possible during lockdown and so we suggest the following:

Please visit our website: [www.basingstokeshed.org.uk](http://www.basingstokeshed.org.uk) or go to our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/basingstokeshed/posts/849849498711081](https://www.facebook.com/basingstokeshed/posts/849849498711081)

You will find various contact details and lots more information including where we meet, when we meet and even about **Shed-in-a-Bus!**

We hope you will join us and have fun making things, as well as enjoying the friendship, humour and support of your fellow Shed members. We very much look forward to hearing from you.

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Stoke your creativity by taking part in **Art in Unusual Times** programme. Residents of all ages are being encouraged to stoke their creativity during this lockdown period by enjoying a fun-filled programme of arts and culture in the comfort of their own homes.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has been working closely with local artists and organisations to bring you Art in Unusual Times – a virtual programme featuring the best in arts and crafts, dance, theatre, performances and public art during the lockdown period.

During the jam-packed programme, **Junk Jodie** will be giving families the chance to show off their artistic flair using items from around the house through her four Basingstoke-themed junk make sessions and let your imagination roam free as **Pumpkin Pantos** makes a welcome return, treating children to four new Basing-folk storytelling sessions.

Providing some welcome inspiration for those wetter days, local artists **PJ Preston** and **Kev Munday** have created art activity guides which can be downloaded online.

And for those who want to get more hands-on, **Queen Mary's College (QMC)** has relaunched its online **Creative Arts Saturday Club** which gives Year 8 and 9 pupils across the borough the chance to take part in interactive sessions exploring fine art, graphic design, photography and textiles. The work participants produce during these sessions will be featured in an exhibition in the town centre planned for this summer.

Communities will also get the chance to transform their neighbourhoods into outdoor art galleries with the return of the successful **Window Wanderland** project. Window Wanderland is an award-winning, COVID-safe project, which provides resources for communities around the world to set up their own magical, illuminated window displays. Wanderland brings neighbourhoods together, reduces social isolation, inspires creativity and is a perfect opportunity for those who do not have access to digital channels.

You can keep up with the latest activities and new opportunities to take part by visiting **[www.basingstokefestival.co.uk](http://www.basingstokefestival.co.uk)** which will be regularly updated.

Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Partnerships Cllr Simon Bound said: “We know the latest lockdown has been particularly difficult for residents with the colder weather and challenges with home schooling so I am delighted that we have been able to pull together a fun-filled Art in Unusual Times programme for you all to enjoy in your homes.

“Taking part in arts and performance is good for your wellbeing so we hope these activities will provide a much-needed boost as we move into spring. We are very lucky to have talented artists, performers and arts organisations in our borough and I would like to thank them for working with us to bring you a jam-packed programme of exciting activities to take part in – there really is something for everyone.”

For more information on the programme and how to take part, visit:

**[www.basingstokefestival.co.uk](http://www.basingstokefestival.co.uk)**

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## NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

Basing House is still closed, both because of lockdown and because we always close for winter. In a normal world we would be reopening in time for Easter, but obviously at the time of writing it is impossible to say when. This may become clearer with government announcements expected towards the end of February, but that is too late to make this edition of the Basinga.

Our website [www.hampshireculture.org.uk](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk) (click on 'visit', then on drop-down menu select 'Museums', then drop down to 'Basing House') is the best place for seeing whether there are concrete plans for reopening. It will also be able to keep you up to date on plans for the coming summer.

**Andrew Howard** (tel. 01256 032701)

## OLD BASING WI



At our **February Members' meeting** we tried our hand at organising a short quiz on Zoom. We divided into two teams and went to separate 'Zoom rooms' to consider our answers to questions on

the local area and general knowledge. Thanks to Chris Moy for setting the quiz. We had plenty of time for a chat about how things are going and what we have got coming up. We even had a Member able to join us from her hospital bed! Zoom meetings do have some advantages because, as we said, she wouldn't have been able to have so many visitors round her hospital bed even if there wasn't a pandemic going on!

We also re-started our popular Craft group in February with Members bringing their unfinished items to the Zoom table along with a cup of tea and a piece of cake. It was lovely to have a day time chat and of course we were not limited by numbers. We also have a guest demonstrator this month showing us how to make decorative boxes.

At our **Members' Meeting on 2nd March**, we have a guest speaker joining us on Zoom. This is **Mrs Liz Barron** who will be giving a talk on the subject of "**Granny, China and the WI**". A link to join the meeting will be contained in our **March Newsletter** to Members. We are planning to have a speaker from the **Hampshire Air Ambulance** at our **April Meeting**.

Details of the WI in Hampshire and other WI activities are at [www.hampshirewi.org.uk](http://www.hampshirewi.org.uk)  
If you would like to join our long-running and thriving group please contact our President, **Sue Stewart** by email at [oldbasingpres@hampshirewi.org.uk](mailto:oldbasingpres@hampshirewi.org.uk)

## OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT GOOD NEIGHBOURS

Just to let you know we are still around. Do you need a lift to get your COVID jab, we are here. Collect prescriptions from the local chemist – we are here. Doctors appointments – we are here, or even if you want a friendly voice to chat to – we are here.

Please telephone **03330 440116** or me on **01256 328196**.

**Sue Wilson** (Chairman)

Dear Friends,



As you read this, St Mary's is hosting the prayer installation 'Held in a Burst of Colour' (*see left*), a dramatic and joyful artwork created by Rev'd Gill Sakakini. Gill, a former resident of Old Basing, created the work last summer for Winchester Cathedral. It consists of 150 metres of dyed muslin fabric, representing a rainbow, with the arc reversed as the fabric flows out from a central point in the Church. We're absolutely delighted that St Mary's has been given the opportunity to share this with the local community in Old Basing & Lychpit.

The rainbow, of course, has been a familiar symbol through much of the COVID pandemic, but its use as a symbol goes much further back, back to the story of Noah. After the earth was flooded, and Noah and his family survived, the story tells us that the rainbow was set in the sky by God as a promise that the waters would never again close over the earth. The bright colours of a rainbow, then, symbolise a promise and a hope; a hope that as the rain passes there are better, brighter days ahead.

That hope is something to hold onto in these dreary days at the end of winter. Holding on can be tough, but the promise of the rainbow is not only about better times to come but a sense that we, like Noah, are protected through the difficult times – that as we try to hold on, God holds us. Gill calls her work. 'Held in a Burst of Colour', and being held in the embrace of God is the thing that I am reminded of as I sit and pray in St Mary's amidst the vibrant symbol of promise and hope.

Sitting and praying in St Mary's is a great comfort, for the Church is another symbol of the enduring nature of God's promise. For so many generations the Church has been a place of sanctuary, a place of prayer, that it seems to me that it holds all the thoughts, prayers and hopes of all who have sat there before us. The Church has seen its fair share of hard times, but it is still there, still witnessing to God's promise of renewal, of hope – of better times to come.

We are pleased that we have been able to implement Covid-secure measures in order to keep the doors of the Church open for individual prayer. Whether you normally come to Church or not, you are welcome to spend a little time in the Church for prayer or contemplation. And when next in Church, perhaps take time to reflect on those who have been there before us, and to be reminded of God's promise to hold us, and God's promise of sunshine after rain.

With love,

*Reverend Heather*



At the time of going to print all of our worship services remain solely online to help keep one another safe. The only exception is for funerals. You can find us on Facebook: **St Mary's Old Basing and Lychpit** or YouTube: **St Mary's Old Basing and Lychpit** – you will also find some school Acts of Worship there.



### INDIVIDUAL PRAYER

The Church continues to be open for individual prayer **daily** from **10am to 4pm** and **Sundays 11.30am to 4pm**. Please continue to wear a facemask in the Church.

### HELD IN A BURST OF COLOUR

Until **Sunday, 21st March**, we have a prayer installation in the church called '**Held in a Burst of Colour**' which will greet you as you come into the church for individual prayer. The rainbow has been a symbol throughout lockdown and for Christians is a symbol of hope. As we come into the church we celebrate that we are held in the sanctuary and stillness of the church, and in God's love. We also lift our eyes in awe, wonder and expectancy.

We continue to pray for the parish, the country and the world. Over the course of a month we pray for every street in the parish. If you have any **prayer requests** you can contact **Rev'd Heather**: text or call **07745 731729**.

### WEEKLY BULLETIN

Every Friday we send out a bulletin with information about what is happening at the church. If you'd like to be added to our distribution list please email **Debbie**, our administrator, at **admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk** – we are also able to hand deliver bulletins to those without internet access. Please phone **Debbie** on **07541 698235** if you would like one.

### BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK – THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone who is supporting the Foodbank at this time. The donations via the **box** on the **driveway** at **The Vicarage** totalled an amazing 237.82kg in January – almost 100kg more than we collected in December!

At the moment The Foodbank are trying to keep the numbers of visitors to their warehouse to a minimum, therefore, please do continue to drop items off to **The Vicarage** (located on the **corner of Church Lane and Milkingpen Lane**) or one of the other local collection points: the **Co-op** on **Linden Avenue** and **Tesco** at **Chineham**. For a list of items that are in particular short supply please visit **www.basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk**

### SUPPORT DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

#### DO CONTACT US IF YOU NEED HELP IF SELF-ISOLATING

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

Please do check our noticeboards, website **www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk** or Facebook **St Mary's Old Basing and Lychpit** for any further updates.



## REV'D ALISON PARKER

It was with great sadness that we learned that Rev'd Alison Parker died in her sleep on 19th January. Alison had been the Methodist minister here in Old Basing and at Oakridge until November 2019. She stepped down to spend more time with her family, and continued to serve as a Supernumerary (retired) minister in the Basingstoke and Reading Methodist Circuit with a zeal for encouraging prayer and helping to develop online ministry.

In the short time since I arrived in Old Basing, Alison was very welcoming and keen to work together. She was creative, had a great sense of humour, and brought joy and hope to conversations. It was always clear that Alison loved God deeply and was a minister with a large heart and a deep care for others. I know many of us have enjoyed her letters in the Basing, and that through her ministry she has touched the lives of many.

Alison is deeply missed. *May she rest in peace and rise in glory.*

Rev'd Heather

## CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)



### Until further notice there will be no Working Parties due to the COVID-19 Lockdown

The Conservation Area is a community space. It remains open for everyone to enjoy, but please remember to adhere to the latest coronavirus guidelines, take care and stay safe. As the days lengthen the early Daffodils, Primroses and bright yellow Lesser Celandines are appearing, helping to give us hope for a better future.

We are taking part in a large-scale Slow Worm survey. So we have recently installed a number of black corrugated squares around the Conservation Area. Please do not disturb or move these squares. On warm spring days the slowworms (these are legless lizards, not snakes) will be starting to wake up and congregating in the warmth under the squares. Please leave them in peace.

Our **AGM** covering the last two years is on **Monday, 12th April**. Due to corona virus, the Committee will issue written reports and papers. Votes to be received by Tim Carr by 12th April. Eligible voters are our regular volunteers/supporters and all on St. Mary's Church's electoral roll. Regular volunteers will be sent the papers automatically. Others eligible to vote and wishing to do so, must register their interest with **Tim Carr**, our Chairman, email: **tim@tmcarr.net** or **19 Bramble Way, Old Basing, RG24 7JS**, by **Wednesday, 31st March**, to receive the documents the following week, for return by **Monday, 12th April**.

**AGENDA:** 1. Minutes of 25th AGM 1st April 2019; 2. Chairman's Report; 3. Treasurer's Report 2019; 4. Treasurer's Report 2020; 5. Other Reports for 2019–2021: a) Working Parties, b) Surveys & Nest boxes, c) Maintenance; 6. Election of Committee Members (nominations for election must be returned to Tim Carr by Saturday, 20th March).

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

**Margaret Carr** – website: [www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](http://www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk)

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## GOODBYE MISS MAY

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of **Pat May**, just a week short of her 80th birthday.



Known to many as **Miss May** she was a familiar figure in Old Basing for many years. She moved here, in the 70s, with her parents Gunther and Lora, into Parker's Piece in Crown Lane, next door to her brother George, his wife Liz and their children, Rebecca, Philippa, Hannah and William.

Pat adored her nieces and nephew and was immensely proud of them, telling all she saw of their latest milestones and achievements.

As a stalwart member of St Mary's congregation we knew her well. She never missed a wedding, had a prized collection of orders of service and appeared in pretty well all village wedding photos. You might say she became a good luck charm equivalent to the chimney sweep of old!

She loved giving cards; birthday, Christmas, exam passing, baptism, confirmation – you name it – to all she knew and we all became familiar with her spidery handwriting; she was probably the Belle Vue stores' best customer!

Pat walked everywhere and would be seen in all weathers walking purposefully about the village with her shopping bag over her arm.

After the death of Gunther and then Lora, Pat left Parker's Piece and moved into a bungalow in Cromwell Close, where she lived independently, with help, until five years ago when she moved to a home in Bristol, near to the family who by now had moved away.

She settled in well and had the joy of regular visits from all the family, including great nieces and nephews so that her final years were happy, full of company, activities and the love of her family.

She was an absolute one-off.

*Rest in peace Pat and rise in glory.*



Tribute by **Patricia Renwick** (former Churchwarden of St Mary's Church)



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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

## INFORMATION

Pay once, visit all year! With your ticket, you can enjoy unlimited visits to Basing House and return as many times as you like for a whole year! See our website for full details, admission prices and opening times.

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

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[www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house)

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## ENGLISH CIVIL WAR ART & POETRY COMPETITION



The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane has re-launched an **English Civil War art and poetry competition** for young people in the borough after it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Cllr Diane Taylor is inviting all schools and sixth form students in the borough to produce a piece of **artwork** or a **poem** relating to the **Battle of Basing House** in **1645**.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hampshire Cultural Trust and Hampshire County Council are co-running the educational project which commemorates the 375th anniversary of the battle in 2020.

Pupils will learn how the nationally important historic site at Old Basing was besieged and destroyed by Oliver Cromwell. Basing House was the last Royalist stronghold in the south east and a key site in the battle between King and Parliament at the end of the English Civil War.

Art entries for the competition can be in any form, for example **drawing, photography, sculptures** and **music**, together with **poems**, and should be inspired by Basing House and/or the English Civil War.

The **closing date** is **Friday, 12th March**, and **judging** will take place on **Friday, 19th March**.

There are **three categories** – **primary, secondary and sixth form**. Subject to coronavirus restrictions being lifted, all the winners will be invited to join the Mayor at a **special opening** of the **English Civil War Art and Poetry Exhibition** at **Basing House**, where they will receive a Mayor's plaque and an annual family pass to Basing House.

The winners' schools will also each receive a free educational visit to Basing House, potentially including a travel bursary.

Cllr Taylor said: "The borough has a rich and fascinating history and 2020 marked an important milestone with the 375th anniversary of the Battle of Basing House. We weren't able to go ahead with the planned events in the summer due to the pandemic, but we are now pleased to re-launch the English Civil War art and poetry competition.

"The project is a perfect opportunity for young people to learn more about the English Civil War and I hope as many pupils as possible will contribute to the art and poetry competition – it is a chance to stretch their creative talents."

For full information and inspirational local history lesson plans visit **[www.basingstoke.gov.uk/english-civil-war-competition](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/english-civil-war-competition)**

**Zoe McLaren** (Mayoral Events Coordinator, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council)



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## OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB

### TEN REASONS TO PLAY AT OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB

At the time of writing, the tennis club is closed due to lockdown rules, but once restrictions are lifted, we hope to be back playing on our new resurfaced courts, which are being worked on during February and early March.

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We look forward to warmer and better times ahead this spring and summer and to welcoming new and old members alike to play on some lovely smooth, brightly painted, brand new tennis courts. For more information see our website, Facebook page or email us at **obtc.information@gmail.com** – the tennis club is located at the end of **Riley Lane, Old Basing, RG24 7DH**, next to the allotments and football/cricket pitches.

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

Our National group continues to provide a huge variety of free quizzes, speakers and other activities to keep us occupied as well as the opportunity to Zoom into discussions with members from other groups up and down the country. More locally, our group continues to meet via Zoom on the **first Monday of each month at 2pm** and **every 3rd Monday** in place of our coffee mornings/lunch clubs which are currently on hold. Last month at our planning meeting we all put forward ideas for topics and activities for the year ahead. As well as our now standard wine tasting and Christmas lunch we look forward to meetings on Diary keeping; Women of the year; Teenage Saturday jobs; Grab a bag (what five things we would rescue); Good news items; Superstitions; and the benefits of Gardening. Our **Reading group** continues to meet via Zoom on **fourth Thursday of each month at 8pm** and this month we will be discussing *Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng.

If you would like to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities and lively conversations, then this could be the group for you. Potential new members are welcome to sit in on a couple of our Zoom meetings with no obligation to join or even speak if you would prefer to observe. In any event you can be sure of a warm welcome. For more information about this nationwide organisation do look at the website: **nwr.org.uk** or for our local group: **www.basinga.org.uk/wp/national-womens-register** or contact our Local Organiser, Karen Dann – tel. **01256 328488** email: **karen.dann@gmail.com**

**Diane Hope**

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**BUILDING YOUR DREAMS**

As I'm writing this we are in Lockdown #3, so the library is only available for collection of **Ready Reads (click and collect)** and **reservations**. My crystal ball isn't working at the moment, so I'm not sure if we will be slightly more open when you read this – please keep your eyes peeled for updates online and/or our Facebook page.

If you want to learn something new over the next few weeks there are a number of courses available online as part of the '**Learning in Libraries**' scheme. To find out more and to book a course visit the Hantsweb shop online on [www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home.php?cat=369](http://www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home.php?cat=369) and click on '**Online learning**' or '**Online events**' (there are no face-to-face events). Be aware that you may need to download Zoom for course access. Online learning courses are in categories, for example learning something arty, or updating digital skills.

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

If you want a specific book, then you can choose those by **reserving** them. Did you know that we have a **Spydus app** where you can search the catalogue and reserve a book from the comfort of your own home? Best news – it's free!

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

Please remember that joining the library is **FREE**, the Ready Reads and Home Library Service are **FREE**, and our e-offerings through BorrowBox and RBDigital are **FREE**!

We are currently **open** on the following days: **Tuesday 10am to 4pm ; Wednesday 10am to 1.30pm; Friday 10am to 4pm; Saturday 10am to 4pm.**

Chineham Library Team

## ISOLATION BUSTING GROUP LAUNCHED

Peter and Margaret Humphreys are a Basingstoke couple who have suffered from tinnitus for many years. Tinnitus is the name for noises in your head that are not coming from outside of yourself. It is a condition which often leads to a feeling of isolation and depression which can be helped by contact with others in a similar situation. Peter and Margaret decided to see if there is interest in creating a Basingstoke and Area Tinnitus Support Group. The aim of the group would be 'isolation busting', by sharing experiences, passing information and advice and social and networking opportunities. It would have regular meetings starting on Zoom and then, when safe and allowed, moving to physical meetings. If interested in joining this group or would like to find out more, either email [baatingroup@outlook.com](mailto:baatingroup@outlook.com) or phone **Basingstoke Voluntary Action 01256 423816**. The plan is to have regular meetings at first on Zoom and then when safe and legal, to move to physical meetings in the Basingstoke area. If you can't access email, Zoom, or a phone. Just email, phone (as above) or write to **Peter and Margaret at Basingstoke and Area Tinnitus Support Group c/o BVA, White hart Lane, Basingstoke RG21 4AF.**



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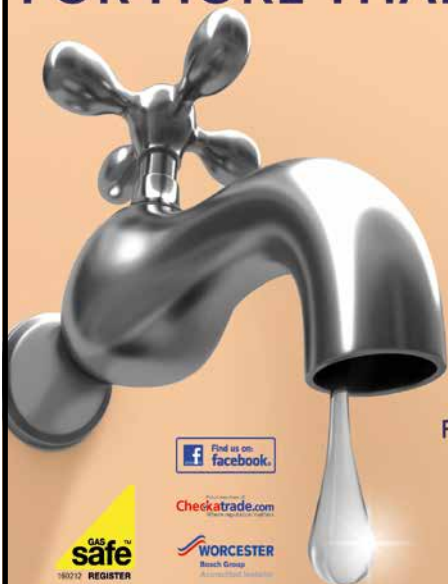
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On Saturday, **20th March**, it is **International Day of Happiness**. Particularly this year, it is perhaps a day we should all take a moment to fulfil.

In the 2020 World Happiness Report, **Finland** topped the happiness rankings, with Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland and Norway, just behind. (The UK was in 13th place).

### **So why is Finland doing so well?**

Is it because Finland has the world's highest annual consumption of milk per capita?

Or because Finnish athletes have won more Summer Olympic medals per capita than any other nation in the world?

Or because in Finland they enjoy unusual sports such as mosquito hunting, swamp football, rubber boot throwing?

Or because Finland hosts competitions such as the Air Guitar World Championship and the Wife Carrying World Championship?

Or because in Finland almost 100% of the bottles are recycled while almost 90% of them are returned for recycling after use?

Or because Finland has more heavy metal bands per capita than anywhere else?

(Source: [www.thefactfile.org](http://www.thefactfile.org))

Language geeks like us would say that it's because 100% of 25 to 34 year olds from Finland speak at least one foreign language! (Source: *Eurostat*).

And as the research suggests, learning a new language makes you happy. A study published in *Current Biology* in 2014, found that successfully learning the meaning of new words when studying a foreign language activated a part of the brain called the ventral striatum, where reward processing occurs. This region, sometimes referred to as the brain's pleasure centre, is also activated when you gamble or eat a piece of chocolate. Learning a new language is of course a lot less risky than gambling so to do contact us at [info@linguatastic.com](mailto:info@linguatastic.com) if you'd like to possibly bring a little more happiness into your life!

## OLD BASING ALLOTMENT AND GARDEN SOCIETY (OBAGS)

At the time of writing, snow is falling so assuming that the cold snap is thoroughly behind us, then you can start sowing the hardier seeds outside in soil that has been pre-warmed under cover. Cloches and cold frames are still your best friend right now though.

You can plant first early potatoes, shallots and garlic by the end of the month. This is also your final chance to plant bare root fruit trees and bushes because once they have broken their dormancy, it will be too late. Gooseberries, blackcurrants and autumn raspberries need to have their winter pruning finished this month too. You should be able to start harvesting your first rhubarb of the year.

There are still no plans to reopen the allotment **shop** at this time.

Website: [www.obags.uk](http://www.obags.uk) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/oldbasingallotments](https://www.facebook.com/oldbasingallotments)

**Tracy Braybrook**

## MARCH IN YOUR GARDEN

After another “Beast from the East” last month (this time the same extreme cold but minus the snow deluge of the last two Beasts), hopefully this month will be more temperate.

What a wonderful time of year for the gardener March is. The snowdrops are out, daffodils poking their heads up and crocus’ making a gorgeous display all over the village. But as a quote from Charles Dickens’ *Great Expectations* – “It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade” – shows, March can be a fickle month weather wise.

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.

You might also consider growing your own herbs – it is really easy. Many are annuals, simply grown from seed each year. If your soil is heavy and water-retaining, lightly fork in some horticultural grit over the whole area, this will improve drainage. Some herbs are perennials and these will benefit from some garden compost or rotted manure.

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

## MARCH NATURE NOTES

Hopefully, as you read this (early March) signs of spring will have already appeared in your garden in the form of snowdrops, crocus or daffodils. The famous Belle Vue daffs showed themselves around the 19th January, so amongst the rain and snow we had that month, the bright yellow flash of colour was most welcome. About ten days later, regular correspondent Ann Price noted her first garden blooms too.

It was also noticeable toward the end of January how territorial the birds became with Robins fighting everything of similar size that came into the garden, male Blackbirds chasing each other off and Dunnocks doing their crazy little clockwork-type dancing with each other on the fences.

A few Redwings have ventured in to feast on berries but apart from that recent cold week just one or two of other hoped-for winter visitors have materialised, including a Fieldfare having his daily apple in Alan Williams' Park Lane garden.

During the late-January Garden Birdwatch, which I hope many of you took part in, we spied a decent quantity and variety of birds in our hour session, though nothing special, apart perhaps for a Blackcap. Previously mentioned Alan was lucky enough to have a pair of Bramblings visit the sunflower feeder and these typical winter visitors stood out from the crowd of Greenfinches that also turned up that day. Which reminds me, I must send my results in too!

I've had a couple of photos sent to me of pheasants turning up in gardens which isn't surprising really as released birds I guess aren't perhaps so timid as their wild cousins and there will be a greater number of them about now the shortened season is at an end. Come March to April don't be surprised to see more game birds around the place, especially Red Legged Partridges, strolling down a road near you, pecking away at the surface as they gather grit to bolster their egg-laying metabolism.



I'm sure many of you would have had 'projects' indoors or out over the past 12 months and one of mine was to create a double-partitioned compost heap from wooden pallets. The experts say to then cover your compost heaps with an old carpet to speed the process but this of course also creates a nice warm environment for 'other things'. So, when I uncovered one part I'm not sure who was most surprised, me or the Field Vole who scurried back and forth looking for one of the tunnels it had made!

I was pleased to receive this lovely photograph of a young buck Roe Deer (*see above*), caught it the act of nicking some plants in the garden of Tim Shapland in Norton Ride. Its amazing how bold some deer can be when others I come across, especially when out beating, run like the wind when disturbed. It's the temptation of an easy breakfast I guess!

*Continued on page 38*



*Continued from page 37*

Jim Andrews has been out and about again with his camera and snapped this fabulous Water Rail among the reeds close to Tithe Barn area (see right). Again, a bird that you are more likely to find during the colder months, it is a most welcome sight along a river stretch that has become almost devoid of Moorhens and Coots due to the scourge of Mink devouring eggs and young during the previous Spring.



Please send all your nature-related photos to **rickbourne@yahoo.com** or **naturenotes@basinga.org.uk** or ring **01256 321108** for news.

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**Rick Bourne**

## THE MILL FIELD CONSERVATION GROUP



### WHAT'S AROUND THIS MONTH

March welcomes the beginning of spring as we hear resident birds such as Song Thrush, Robin and Wren in full song. While we say farewell to the Redwings, Fieldfare, Siskins and Lesser Redpolls who are heading back north, the first of the summer migrants begin to arrive starting with Chiffchaff and Blackcap (the very first ones you hear braved the winter).

The plant life suddenly starts to burst to life with Lesser Celandine and Arum Lillies (Lords and ladies) coming through with many trees starting to flower. Mammal wise Roe and Muntjac will be heard barking in the woods and when warm enough bats start to emerge. If we get any spring-like weather butterflies should start appearing such as the Red Admiral, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell or Brimstone and maybe the occasional reptile too!

**Anne Francis (tel. 07974 944439)**

Email: **millfieldoldbasing@yahoo.co.uk**

Facebook: **Mill Field Conservation Group**

## BASINGA EXTRA

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

*Basingstoke Deane Rotary; Basingstoke & District Disability Forum (BDDF); Basingstoke's U3A; Basingstoke Voluntary Action Member's Update; Crime Prevention Bulletin; Local Causes Pushed to Partner up with their Local Co-Operative; Online Tributes Provide Essential Place to Remember Loved Ones During 2020; Probus Hears About a Motorhome Adventure; Update from Chineham Medical Practice; Wild Wetlands (Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust)*



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## **OLD BASING & LYCHPIT PARISH COUNCIL**

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## **CHURCH INFORMATION FOR THE AREA**

### **Church of England (Parish of Old Basing & Lychpit)**

**VICAR:** Rev'd Heather Leppard, The Vicarage, Church Lane, Old Basing 01256 363612  
Email: vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk 07745 731729

**ADMINISTRATOR:** Debbie Filer 07541 698235

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**SUNDAY SERVICE:** 10.30am Morning Service

### **Roman Catholic**

**PRIEST:** Fr Dominic Adeiza 01256 465214

St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke

**SUNDAY MASSES:** 9am, 11am and 6pm

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## Infinite Harmony Hatha Yoga

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### Gentle Chair Yoga

*If you have mobility/injury concerns then this is the class for you. All yoga is done on a chair and using props.*

### Monday's

14.00 - 15.00

Lychpit  
Community Hall

### Relax Yoga

*This class is for all levels of ability and uses postures to help you relax and deepen your yoga practice.*

### Tuesday's

19.15 - 20.15

St Mary's  
Church Hall,  
Old Basing

### Sunday Morning Yoga

*This class is for all levels of ability and focuses on strength and flexibility.*

### Sunday's

09.15 - 10.15

Lychpit  
Community Hall

### Sunday Night Satsang

*This is deep relaxation yoga. You will be led through a series of gentle yoga postures followed by an extended guided meditation.*

### 1st Sunday of the month

18.30 - 19.30

Lychpit  
Community Hall



Contact Vicky on 01256 910108 or  
email [vicky@infiniteharmony.co.uk](mailto:vicky@infiniteharmony.co.uk)  
Don't forget to book your space.



For more information visit [www.infiniteharmony.co.uk](http://www.infiniteharmony.co.uk)



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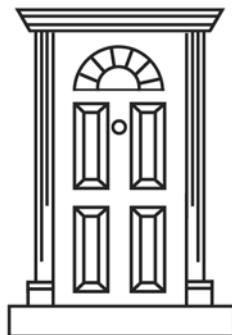
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