

March 2022

BASINGA



Andrew Howard



Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Magazine
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MARCH NOTES AND NEWS

The **cover photograph** (by **Andrew Howard**) is of the **Basing House Lego model**. The model was built at Milestones Museum in March 2012 so this month it is celebrating its tenth birthday. You can read more about it on *page 10* but you will have to wait until next month for the actual Basing House to re-open.

As we enter March spring is upon us, but have you ever wondered why it is called spring? Originally, spring was first called 'lent' in the old England language, then changed to 'springing time' in the 14th century. In the 15th century, this was shorted to 'spring-time' and again to 'spring' in the 16th century. Maybe the anticipation of spring in light of current world events is even more eagerly awaited this year?

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 Thursday, 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 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, go to **www.basinga.org.uk** and the form can be found on the '**Contributors Submission**' menu. Should you wish to submit multiple photos, or a photo is too 'large', they can be emailed directly to the **Editor**.

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

ADVERTISING MANAGER FOR THE BASINGA

Our current **Advertising Manager** is stepping down and we are therefore looking for a replacement to join our group to help with the production and distribution of The Basinga. The voluntary 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 well-organised and familiar with the use of MS Word and Excel for record keeping. Full handover training will be given. If you are interested and would like further information please contact **secretary@basinga.org.uk**

OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

The schedule for the **Old Basing and Lychpit Village Show**, on **Sunday, 4th September**, has been completed and will initially be available on our website www.oblvs.org.uk this month. This will be followed by hard copies in the spring from committee members and several of your favourite local outlets. It will include details of a number of exciting new classes. The website will contain advice as to hints and tips for showing, should they be required.

Dennis Cole

VILLAGE CAFÉ

The **Village Café** reopened its doors on **Friday, 4th March**. Come and join us on **Friday afternoons** in the **Parish Room** at **St Mary's Church** from **2 to 4pm**. Our 'cakeaway' pre-order service is available to enable you to pre order your favourite cakes which we will package ready for collection.

A great piece of news from us, the **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)**, which all of our customers helped to fund, has now been installed in the church grounds. Thank you to everyone who helped us achieve this. Obviously, although the device is ready for use, people need to know how to use this should the need arise, so we are running **training sessions** for all who wish to attend and dates will be announced shortly. Keep your eyes open as we will post dates on our Facebook and Instagram pages as soon as they are confirmed. There will be no charge for the training sessions but we hope those who attend will be happy with a suggested donation per person which will go directly to our fund raising for the second AED we wish to purchase for the village.

I have to say a heartfelt thank you to Old Basing Bowls Club, who have offered us their clubhouse to run the training sessions. They are huge supporters of our local community and providing their facilities with no charge massively supports the training and the Village Café. Without their generosity, we would be looking to hire a venue and as we are a non-profit volunteer group, the cost would have to come from our fundraising so we are extremely grateful.

Another little piece of news, as you know it is the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** this year and a small group of us at the café, decided to enter the **Platinum Pudding Competition** organised by Fortnum & Mason. We had a lot of fun putting together our recipe, which includes a special cocktail, and after a couple of tasting sessions, agreed on the final version. We will let you know if we progress any further with the competition but thoroughly enjoyed coming up with our recipe. We will be making and serving the pudding at our **Queen's Platinum Jubilee cafe celebration** at the end of **May** for our customers, we hope you are looking forward to trying it.

Once again, thank you for supporting our café, we really enjoy seeing you all on Friday afternoons and if any of you have a couple of hours to spare and would like to join our friendly team of baristas, please get in touch via our Facebook page or please call us on **07901 531152**.

Deborah Thorne

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WATER BOTTLE REFILL STATION

As part of the Parish Council's drive to reduce the use of plastic we have installed a water bottle refill station outside of the Pavilion Tea Room at the recreation ground in Old Basing. Most of us now have refillable drinking water bottles and this will provide fresh drinking water for anyone using the recreation grounds. Our thanks go to our County Councillor, Elaine Still and Borough Councillor, Onnalee Cubitt for recognising the benefit of this facility to the community and providing grant funding to cover the costs involved.

MILKINGPEN LANE

Cllr Elaine Still has been successful in persuading Hampshire Highways to include remedial works to the road surface of Milkingpen Lane on its Operation Resilience programme, with (hopefully) work due to start in the spring.

FIGHT AGAINST THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR COUNTRYSIDE

The fight continues. You can read a summary of what the Parish Council has done and continues to do in its fight against development of three sites around our parish in the Old **Basing & Lychpit Community Newsletter** which is due to drop through your letterbox during the first week in March. We continue to work with SOLVE to get the message across that Old Basing and Lychpit has had more than its fair share of development over the years and any further development will have a detrimental effect on the River Loddon valley and put a serious strain on the already overloaded local infrastructure.

CLIMATE ACTION

Following a virtual meeting with **Community Energy South**, as mentioned in last month's Basinga, we have a face-to-face meeting of **Loddon Community Energy** (generating community owned energy locally) scheduled after the copy date of this edition of the Basinga – details to follow. In the interim, we have been contacted regarding initiating a community electric car-sharing club. No details as yet, but we will be asking for interest should this prove worth while pursuing.

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

Over the coming months we will be holding **'Meet Your Councillor'** sessions in various locations within the parish. These will run from **10am to noon** and three or four Councillors will be there to answer queries, note any issues raised and generally be available to anyone wishing to drop by for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee. You may be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor yourself, and this might be an ideal opportunity to discuss what is involved without any prior commitment. The first session will be at the **Lychpit Community Hall** on **Thursday, 24th February**, followed by a second in Old Basing in the **Pavilion Tea Room** on **Thursday, 28th April**. Dates and locations of future events will be published as soon as these are determined.



PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are **Tuesday, 1st March** and **5th April** at **7.30pm**.

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

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NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

Basing House is currently **closed for the winter** and will reopen in **April** – more news on that, and the programme for 2022 in the next Basinga.

One of the newest things in Basing House – and a thing that most visitors remember – is celebrating its tenth birthday during March, is the **Basing House Lego model** (*see front cover photo*). The model was built in **March 2012** at **Milestones Museum**, by Brighter Bricks, a professional Lego building company. It was the centrepiece of the first of the Lego exhibitions at Milestones that went on to run for a number of years. There were four models, the Old House, the New House, the Walled Garden and the Barn, although in reality the old and new houses were made as many separate buildings, which allowed them to be transported, firstly to the Bothy at Basing House where it spent the 2012 season before being moved to the Great Hall in Winchester for the winter. The following spring it wandered back to Basing House and since then has graced the entrance kiosk, allowing visitors to see a representation of what Basing House was like before exploring the ruins. The model of the Barn ended up in the Visitor Centre and the Walled Garden in the museum, overlooking the formal part of the garden. The model was based on an artistic reconstruction of the site painted by Mike Codd and based on illustrations of the site from the time it was there, and on the archaeological remains which give a detailed floor plan.

Lego models of historic buildings have become much more common over the last ten years, but the Basing House model still has that “Wow” factor for visitors and provides a brilliant background for explaining the site.

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

OLD BASING WI



We were pleased to welcome local lady Jackie Dimmock to our February meeting. Jackie gave us a very entertaining insight into her 30 years as a WPC in Hampshire, based in the Isle of Wight and then

latterly in Basingstoke. Jackie told us about some of the funny experiences she encountered whilst on the beat on the Isle of Wight and how things had changed during her time with the force. Many will remember Jackie from her subsequent role as a School's Liaison Officer in Basingstoke and we hope to hear some of her stories from that time later in the year.

Our postponed **meal** at the **Bolton Arms** will take place later this month and we are all looking forward to it!

Another local resident, Ryland Lee, will be speaking again to us at our **March meeting** on **Tuesday, 1st March**, at **7.30pm** at the **Parish Room, St Mary's Church**. This time his subject is the work of Naomi House and Jack's Place. The competition this evening is 'Your Favourite Teddy'. We will also be running the monthly flower competition and raffle.

In **April** we are planning to hold a **Crown and Tiara Tea Party** for Members to celebrate the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee**.

Details of the WI in Hampshire and other WI activities are at 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

Jackie Dimmock



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ENCOURAGING SCORE FOR COUNCIL'S CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN

Figures published by **Climate Emergency UK** have shown that the **climate change action plan** for **Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council** is ranked above the national average and scored second highest in the county.

Setting out a series of actions for addressing the climate emergency, the council's plan was assessed along with the plans from a total of 409 local authorities in the country and scored 54%, with the average for UK councils being 46%. In Hampshire, only Fareham Borough Council's plan scored more with 61%.

All UK councils' climate change action plans that were published online before 20th September 2021, and written after 2015, were assessed by a team of over 120 volunteers, trained and overseen by Climate Emergency UK, a not-for-profit co-operative. Each council was given a scorecard, with scores being based on councils' plans for actions to address the climate emergency, rather than reflecting steps already taken.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council declared a climate emergency in September 2019 and adopted its Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy in March 2021. Residents can find out more about how the council is tackling the climate emergency by going to www.basingstoke.gov.uk/climate-change-and-sustainability

Cabinet Member for the Natural Environment and Climate Improvement Cllr Mark Ruffell said: "We are grateful to Climate Emergency UK for its hard work and pleased that our plan has scored well, with the assessment reflecting the balance of realistic and achievable actions in our ambitious plan while highlighting best practice examples for us to learn from and base future actions on.

"This plan is a good starting point but we are well aware that it is vital to back this up with action and the assessment does not capture all of the impressive work the council has done already to implement its strategy.

"This includes our recent launch of an interactive climate change toolkit to help local communities understand what they can do to make a difference, and the council itself is already taking steps to reduce its own carbon footprint, including making our buildings more energy efficient.

"We have also started work on reducing carbon emissions in the borough in the long term. Innovative new policies for sustainable development are being drafted as part of our work to update the Local Plan, and we are also considering other schemes, which could include installing additional public electric vehicle charging points to further support and encourage environmentally friendly travel choices, following the installation of chargers in Overton and Whitchurch and the creation of Hampshire's first electric vehicle charging hub at Feathers Yard in Basingstoke.

"We'll be presenting our latest progress on delivering against our strategy and action plan to the Community, Environment and Partnerships Committee in March."

To view the scores for the council's climate change action plan in the full table of results see:

www.councilclimatescorecards.uk/scoring/district/#jump=basingstoke-and-deane-borough-council

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Selection for Articles/Letters and Diary Dates will be found on the “Submissions” drop down and for Free Ads and Concession/Poster Ads on the “Advertise with us” drop down. Paid advertising enquiries can also be made from the same dropdown menu.

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

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

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

Contacts for general enquiries and assistance:

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PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

Ploughman's Lunch at the **Parish Room, St Mary's Church**, on **Thursday, 17th March, 12.25pm**. It is important to book in advance as numbers are limited. Telephone **07946 596778** to secure a place.

MARIE CURIE CARE

The **Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal** is making a return this year. This is the main fundraising event of the year for Marie Curie. It raises much-needed funds so that the nurses, hospices and helplines can continue offering vital care and support to those who need it. There is also a collection at **Chineham Shopping Centre** on **Saturday, 26th March**. Additionally, there are collections at **Morrisons supermarket most weekends in March (3rd to 23rd)**. If you can spare an hour or two to collect sign up at **www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodilappeal** or tel. **020 7853 3436** or email **LondonandSouthEast@mariecurie.org.uk**

COMMUNITY ACTION FOR LOCAL SCOUTS AND GUIDES

We are starting to believe that there is good reason for a little more optimism about meaningful progress in our two-year battle to get planning consent from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. There is insufficient space to cover all the details here but suffice to say that we are hoping for a (positive) decision before this copy goes to print; keep an eye out for events and further news. We have also been busy trying to tidy up and enhance the layout of our field that is behind the derelict hall. Our aim remains that we will enhance the habitat for birds, bugs and small beasts while also creating a more productive space for scouting and guiding activities. We will be doing some more work in early March and would welcome support from adult volunteers with basic tools for pruning (plus wheelbarrows); we will be strimming, chipping and cutting back brambles etc. We will be working on **Saturday, 12th March (10am to 3pm)** and **Sunday, 13th March (11am to 4pm)**; please join us if you can even if it is only for an hour or two.

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THE IVY CLUB

After what seemed like an age, we started up again at the on Wednesday, 2nd February, with everyone's favorite, bingo. Whilst Covid has obviously had its down and dark side, it has been encouraging that our membership has increased and it is great on a Wednesday afternoon that we get together for a good chat, catch up and a nice cuppa and cake. New members are always welcome, you don't have to live in Old Basing so if you have a friend who would like to join us they are most welcome.

We meet every **Wednesday, from 1.30 until 4pm**, at the **Royal British Legion Hall**, playing bingo every other week and having board games and a quiz on the alternate week, along with speakers, bring-and-buy sales and of course coach outings. For your **£2 entry fee** you get a cuppa, cake or biscuits and a raffle – a bargain, as well as lots of interaction with your fellow members. If you feel you would like to join The Ivy Club as a helper, again you would be more than welcome. Give us a try, it's a great club. Simply come on down on a Wednesday afternoon or call **Sue Wilson** on **01256 328196**.

Sue Wilson (Chairman)

NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER

The **National Women's Register (NWR)** exists to provide mentally stimulating meetings, activities and events across the country. If you would like to meet other women to share and explore thoughts, ideas and experiences, then NWR could be for you.

Nationally there are 358 groups; each one is run according to what suits the local members. **Chineham and Old Basing NWR** meet on the **first Monday of the month at 2pm**. We take it in turns to host the meeting in our home and to be the group's organiser for the year.

We meet for **lunch** at a local **pub** on different days once a month, and our **reading group** meet in the **evening** every **fourth Thursday**. Social outings to the **cinema**, **theatre**, etc. are organised on an ad hoc basis. The **wine tasting** has become the most popular event of the year, held in the beautiful garden of one of the members of the group.

In February we had our annual planning meeting when collectively we choose topics to research and discuss, and plan social events. Once the main business was over we enjoyed the rest of the afternoon catching up over tea and cake.

This year there is a full programme. As well as a special **celebration picnic** or **afternoon** of the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** (date in **June TBC**) the other months have in **March** – Our Evolving Relationship with Food; **April** – Forensic Science; **May** – Pioneering Women; **June** – Research a Local Village; **July** – Research a US State; **August** – Wine Tasting; **September** – Mains and Music; **October** – The Colston Four; **November** – NWR National Telephone Quiz; **December** – Christmas Lunch.

If you are unable to participate in our local group (there are nearby NWR Groups that meet in the evening) you can join as an independent member to participate in the many online activities offered nationally. Our proactive NWR Head Office arranges dozens of Zoom talks and quizzes, all included in our £30 annual subscription.

If you enjoy lively conversation and broadened horizons whilst having fun and meeting people please look at **www.nwr.org.uk** or contact our new local organiser **Dusty** via **dmmbc861@gmail.com** or call her on **01256 357276** for a chat.

Sandie Tapping

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Thank you to all our clients who continue to use our services and thank you to the volunteers who help us fill our tasks. It is appreciated that we are not always able to help, particularly the less able bodied, but we are fortunate that we have a back up in Neighbour Care, who are a much larger organisation, and it is interesting to note that some GP surgeries offer patient transport for those who have difficulties or in fact have to visit hospitals for treatment that are well outside our area, it is worth enquiring.

We hope that we can continue to offer our services to residents of Old Basing and Lychpit, and to remind you, our telephone number is **0333 044 0116**.

Sue Wilson (Chairman)

BASINGSTOKE & DISTRICT RAILWAY SOCIETY

Basingstoke & District



Our programme continues with this year's editions of two of our most popular presentations.

On **Wednesday, 9th March**, celebrated and much-published photographer Jack Boskett will present '**Years of Saying Cheese**'. His pictures and the background stories will include many creative railway images alongside a wider catalogue with something for everyone. A show not to be missed!

The much-delayed story of the Society's last foreign trip, to Poznan in Poland, in 2019, with pictures by those who travelled, will be the subject of '**Pulzating Poland**' on **Wednesday, 23rd March**. Regrettably, our usual presenter Richard Green, who was with us on the trip, is unable to be with us this year. However, the pictures that he has brought together and his inimitable, entertaining and informative accompanying text will be presented on his behalf by David Brace.

Our meetings begin at **7.45pm** at **The Wote Street Club** in New Road in Basingstoke town centre, RG21 7NG, which has a licenced bar. We welcome new members to the Society and are always pleased to see non-members at our meetings at a cost of just **£5**. Membership details are on our website at **www.bdrs70d.com** or call the Secretary on **01256 331002**.

BASINGSTOKE BLUES CLUB



Basingstoke Blues Club, in association with the **Basingstoke Railway Social Club**, Station Approach, Basingstoke RG21 5NB. presents, on **Saturday, 19th March, Lee Ryder's Blues Deluxe**.

The Lee Ryder's Blues Deluxe comprises a group of inspirational, seasoned and professional musicians. Lee has worked alongside the best in the business, an endless list that includes Whitesnake, Van Morrison, Clapton, Bonnie Raitt, Peter Green, Mick Taylor and Stevie Marriott. Lee has worked professionally since he was 14 years old, his first manager being Chas Chandler of the Animals and Jimi Hendrix fame. The band members have included Vince Lewis and Roger Brewer for almost 25 years.

All welcome, **8pm till late**. Entrance **£10 cash on the door**. Licensed bar and low prices. Profits to Brain Tumour Research. Future dates: April 16th – to be announced. Saturday 21st May – The Backbone Blues Band.

SORT YOUR LIFE OUT!

At the end of last year I found myself getting mildly addicted to Stacey Solomon's 'Sort Your Life Out' on BBC television. If you've not seen it, Stacey visits a family who are overwhelmed by stuff and lacking adequate storage. The family pack up all their belongings which are then laid out in a giant warehouse for them to decide what to keep, and what to donate, sell or recycle. Stacey usually encourages families to get rid of around 50% of their stuff, whilst her fabulous team of cleaners and builders clean the home and install storage solutions – essentially shelves and cupboards!

As someone who is prone to accumulating clutter and being rather sentimental about stuff, I found it a hugely inspiring programme. Once all the families' belongings are returned to the house and neatly ordered there is an immense sense of calm; having been stripped back, the house is now a place to enjoy together. And it inspired me in a very practical way: at the start of each programme Stacey says that most households have thousands of items they never use. So we set ourselves a challenge – to get rid of 500 items in January. In the end, we only managed to give away 250 items, but that was more to do with time constraints and I'm confident there is plenty more clearing we can still do!

Stacey and her team usually find that the items families have kept are heavy with meaning and memory, and the time to take stock of 'stuff' often also means a time to think back on the stories of life that have been – and also the things that people hope for in the future. Lent is traditionally a time for Christians to think about clearing out the many different types of clutter that fill up our lives. We do so with the intention of making space to reflect on all that has been, to lament, to hope, as we look towards the great feast of Easter. It is a taking stock of where we are in our relationships with one another, with ourselves, with the world, and above all with God. Traditionally this was linked to fasting, with pancake day (Shrove Tuesday) being the day to use up the eggs and fats in the house before the Lenten fast began. Today Christians may mark Lent in a variety of ways, each intending to make space for God – whether that be through clearing physical stuff or making space for greater time for prayer, Bible Study, and reflection. Christian or not, though, we all need space to recall what has been, and to look forward to what is to come – I hope that is something that you may find this Lent and throughout the year.

If you're inspired to make space this Lent, Lent begins on 2nd March this year.

With love,

Reverend Heather



ST MARY'S CHURCH

The Church continues to be open **Monday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm** and **Sundays from 11 am to 4pm**.

We continue to ask that you wear face masks in the church.



REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8am	BCP Communion
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist with Junior Church
Monday	9.15am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday	10am	Holy Communion
Thursday	9.15am	Morning Prayer
Friday	9.15am	Morning Prayer
	10am	Diddy Disciples (term time only)

If you have any prayer requests you can contact **Reverend Heather**: text or call **07745 731729**.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

All are welcome to St Mary's **Ash Wednesday Services** on **Wednesday, 2nd March**, at **10am** and **7.30pm**, with the imposition of ash.

MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday, 27th March, at **9.30am**

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AT ST MARY'S

We have recently launched a new group for **0 to 4 year olds**, **Diddy Disciples**, which is an opportunity to celebrate God's love through singing and storytelling followed by stay and play. The group meets every **Friday** during term time in the **Bolton Chapel from 10 to 11.15am**. Just turn up – no need to prebook.

Junior Church has now resumed during our **9.30am Sunday service** in the **Parish Room**. New members welcome.

FLOWER ENTHUSIASTS

We are looking for anyone with a love of flowers to come and join the team of **Church Flower Arrangers**. You do not have to be a florist, or trained in any way, just someone who enjoys creating an arrangement of flowers for all to enjoy in St Mary's.

If this is you, you would be most welcome to have a chat with one of the team who can give you more information on what is involved.

Please call Debbie, St Mary's Administrator on **07541 698235** or get in touch via email: **admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk**

HALL FOR HIRE

The **Parish Room** at St Mary's Church, including the kitchen, is available for hire. There is availability for both regular bookings and one-off bookings.

All enquiries to Debbie: **admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk** or phone **07541 698235**.

CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP – PIOCC



This month's working party will be on **Saturday, 5 March**, at **10am** (meet by the **PIOCC noticeboard** at the entrance to the Conservation Area). There will be **NO Thursday afternoon working party** this month.

We will continue our winter conservation tasks, including woodland management. 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).

We are delighted to be able to re-start our **indoor meetings programme**. **Next month on Monday, 4th April, St Mary's Church Parish Room, 8pm**, we will hold our **AGM** followed by a talk on 'Arctic Sweden in Summertime' by Margaret and Tim Carr. This talk was postponed from two years ago. 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. Already 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

OLD BASING METHODIST CHURCH

Our **Sunday** worship is at **10.30am**

On **Wednesday, 9th March**, there will be a **lunch** for the **old people** from MHA.

If our first attempt back with a **coffee morning** went well in February we plan to resume them on a monthly basis. Unless there is reason for alteration this will be on the **second Friday (11th March) at 10.30am**. Changes will be on the church notice board.

There are three sessions arranged for **Reflections during Lent** with our minister **Rev. David Jenkins**, on **Thursdays at 2pm (fortnightly)**.

Thursday, 10th March Temptation and Crisis

Thursday, 24th March Encounters

Thursday, 7th April Betrayal , Denial, Forgiveness. All taken from John's Gospel. Everyone is welcome and we would especially like to see members from the original ecumenical group that used to meet in the Chapel during Lent



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EVENT NEWS

Winter is nearly at an end and so we are having our last **scrub bashing** session of the season which is on **Saturday, 19th March**, before the site starts growing again. We will be continuing to clear the area of scrub between the play area and Bartons Lane, all for the benefit of the field's wildlife such as small mammals and the plants which are being overwhelmed.

In the event that nearer the time there are new Covid restrictions, can you let me know if you are coming using the email below so I know numbers and I can advise how we will be managing the work party safely. No special skills are required just appropriate clothes and footwear and we will provide tea, coffee and tools. Meet at the **play area at 10am** or find us. Any last-minute changes will be posted on Facebook and the field notice board, and if you can email that you are coming then I can provide updates.

WHAT'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: millfieldnature@gmail.com

Facebook: **Mill Field Conservation Group**

CALLING ALL NATURALISTS

Calling all naturalists (read carefully or this could turn into a very different project)! Over the next few months we would love your help in building a database of the variety of **species** to be found in the **Loddon Valley** (Black Dam Ponds and Eastrop Park through to Sherfield on Loddon). We are asking you to record what you see in the wild, literally any living organism: plants, animals, bugs, birds, fish; fungi etc. **SOLVE** is campaigning for greater protection and enhancement of the natural environment in the Loddon catchment and we need data!

We are using **iNaturalist**, an app that you can download to all the usual devices and have set up a **Loddon Valley Project**. This app is also used by the Mill Field Group so you will see some sightings already recorded. Just make observations of wild organisms that have photos, locations, and dates. Every observation with those things gets automatically placed in the "Needs ID" category so people who are looking for observations to identify will find them (if you are not sure). Observations without those three things are not eligible for 'Research Grade' status and thus get placed in the 'Casual' category (still useful), since identifiers probably won't be able to help if there's no photo or location. to join just go to **www.inaturalist.org** (create a login in and join the project – Loddon Valley). See the **SOLVE website** for more details and instructions **www.solveoddon.org**

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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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OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB



A new season starts at Old Basing Tennis Club.

New members are welcome, you can play three times before you join

The evenings are getting lighter so we're eagerly looking forward to the start of the summer tennis season at Old Basing Tennis Club.

CLUB NIGHTS AND AFTERNOONS

Our first club night is **Tuesday, 29th March**, from **6pm**. No need to be a member or book. Just turn up on the evening and mix in. We look forward to seeing you.

Club nights when members can arrive and play with others are on **Tuesday** and **Friday evenings** from **6pm**. Also, we have a **club afternoon** on **Wednesdays** and **Sundays** from **2pm**. When you come along to play at other times you will always be guaranteed a court, by booking on our easy-to-use court booking system.

BRAND NEW COURT SURFACE

Our four courts have recently been beautifully resurfaced and are great to play on, being both kind on the knees and the eyes so come along and give them a try!

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

The club is looking forward to welcoming back existing members, as well as keen to recruit new members, whether families who want to play together or individuals who may be beginners through to match players.



TENNIS COACHING

Our two club coaches **Ben Jubin** and **Steph Catlin** will be putting together a programme of exciting coaching throughout the year for individual or group sessions. Contact them via social media or see our website.

BARGAIN MEMBERSHIP PRICES

Adult membership is only **£100** for the whole year, a bargain for such great facilities and compared with prices of other tennis venues. It's also cheaper for children and there are family deals too.



HOW TO CONTACT US

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It's **World Book Day** on **3rd of this month** and Linguatastic will be celebrating the event in various ways in its classes. We thought though, that we could also celebrate the day through this article and share some interesting language- and book-related facts with you.

Did you know for example, that the word 'shrine' comes from the Latin 'scrinium' meaning 'chest for books or papers'?

And do you ever fear running out of something good to read? Well if so, you suffer from 'abibliophobia'.

And what's your stance on e-books? If you are one who prefers the 'real' thing and have a book in your hand, rather than a tablet, maybe it's because of 'bibliosmia'? It seems that whilst the feel of a book is important, so too, is its smell, and in 2014, Oliver Tearle, a lecturer in English, suggested we start using the phrase 'bibliosmia', after the Greek words for 'book' and 'smell'.

And any idea what a 'boghandler' is? It's the Danish word for 'bookseller'!

And which of the Mr Men do you think Herr Dumpidump is? It's what Mr Bump is referred to in Norway!

And perhaps 'tsundoku' is something you can relate to? The Japanese word refers to buying lots of books and having them pile up and not getting round to reading them.

If you found these facts interesting, then like us at Linguatastic, you are probably fascinated by the wonderful worlds of words! Whilst we don't offer such facts in all of our lessons, all of the time, we do sometimes end up discussing the etymology of a word and how words are related within one language and to other languages. It certainly gets you thinking!

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Home-Start believes that children need a happy and secure childhood and that parents play the key role in giving their children a good start in life to help them achieve their full potential. Our one-to-one volunteers and groups help to support the parent/child relationships by offering non-judgemental support and friendship. The unique relationship which develops between a volunteer and a parent means our support can be exactly tailored to the needs of each family we visit.

We need volunteers to support families in the community. You can make a difference to someone's life.

This voluntary work is unpaid but is highly rewarding and out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed. Volunteers are required to attend a **25-hour preparation course** spread over **five weeks** starting **Thursday, 3rd March, from 9.30am to 2.30pm (dates to be confirmed)**.

Interested? Contact us at: **Rucstall Community Centre, Holbein Close. RG21 3EX.** Tel. **01256 325793** or email **info@homestart-nwhampshire.org.uk**

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ST. MICHAEL'S HOSPICE FARLEIGH WALLOP WOODLAND WALK



With spring on its way, it's the perfect time to plan a wonderful day out at the **St. Michael's Hospice Woodland Walk**, taking place around the beautiful grounds of the prestigious **Farleigh Wallop Estate** on **Sunday, 3rd April**. With stunning views across the rolling Hampshire countryside, blooming bluebells, and the opportunity to walk your dog whilst spending quality time with friends and family, there is no better way to start the new season. Starting from **9.30am**, there are two routes, **5 or 10 miles** which both guarantee to give you a superb day out, followed by a delicious cream tea in the impressive setting of **Home Barn**.

Megan Parry, Events Manager at St. Michael's Hospice said, "As our first Hospice event of the year, we can't wait to welcome our walkers to the Farleigh Wallop Estate to enjoy a wonderful day out in the Hampshire countryside. We are extremely privileged to have access to the prestigious estate, and we can't wait for our supporters to explore the grounds in full bloom. As with all our Hospice events, the funds raised are essential to our work at the Hospice where it costs £5.5 million to keep our vital services running. A huge thank you to our event sponsors Juniper Research for supporting this event."

For further information about the Woodland Walk and all Hospice events, please go to **www.stmichaels hospice.org.uk/get-involved/events**

You can also contact the Events team at **events@stmichaels hospice.org.uk** or call **01256 848848**. You can follow St. Michael's Hospice on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter **@smhbasingstoke** and look out for **#WoodlandWalk**

READ EASY



Read Easy
Helping adults learn to read

There has been a great deal of publicity about adults who struggle to read as a result of Repair Shop presenter, Jay Blades, taking part in a recent BBC

documentary This follows his journey as he faces up to the challenge of learning to read as an adult with his local branch of Read Easy, and in particular, his remarkably patient and encouraging Volunteer Coach, Emma.

In the Basingstoke & Deane Council area, we have been helping adults with their reading skills for the past two and a half years, and we have seen at first-hand what a difference that learning to read makes. We have had a number of our Readers now graduate from the Read Easy programme. One of these, Paul from Tadley, only learnt to read in his 40s and is now encouraging others who may be struggling, to ask for help. He wanted to make his wife and daughter proud, and he has certainly achieved that. Another, Joelma, is so pleased to be able to help her children with their homework, and a third Reader says that learning to read "is the best thing that's ever happened to me". We are very proud of all of our Readers.

We have trained Volunteer Coaches ready and waiting to help, providing free one-to-one reading coaching for adults who are unable to read or who find it difficult. If you know anyone who would needs our help, please contact **Read Easy Basingstoke** on **07592 450789** or email **basingstoke@readeasy.org.uk**

Find out more about learning to read as an adult with Read Easy at **www.readeasy.org.uk**

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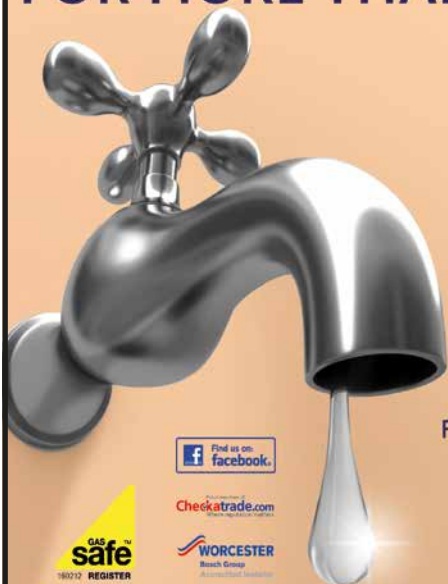
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OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION: WOMEN'S SECTION

- Thursday, 10th March** Committee Meeting, 7.30pm (in the Royal British Legion Hall)
- Thursday, 24th March** General Meeting 7.30pm (in the Royal British Legion Hall), New members very welcome. Competition: 'Tell us about an unusual pet you have had', perhaps provide us with a photograph and how you came to be the owner of such a pet.

Sue Wilson

OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION AND POPPY GOLF DAYS 2022

LIVE ON



There is still time to enter the first of two events being run this year in support of The Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal. The first will be a **Team Texas Scramble**

which is always a lot of fun so get three other mates and enter a team on **Monday, 21st March**. This event will cost you just **£180** for a team of four with coffee, bacon roll, lunch, prizes etc, and there will be opportunities to donate to the Poppy Appeal during the day. Entry forms are available from me now with a closing date of **Saturday, 14th March**.

I need to apologise for a date error I made in last months Basinga, now corrected below:

To coincide closely with **Armed Forces Day** I have booked **Sherfield Oaks Golf Club** for **Monday, 27th June**, and this day will consist of coffee and bacon roll to begin, 18 holes and a late lunch along with the prize giving. There will also be cash prizes for 'Nearest the pin' and 'Longest Drive' holes plus a raffle/auction. The cost of this, remembering we are raising money for a fantastic charity, will be **£47.50**. Fees are substantially reduced for members of Sherfield Oaks Golf Club. So please support these events by putting the dates in your diary NOW and request entry forms. I very much look forward to seeing many of you there.

Rick Bourne (Hampshire RBL Golf Secretary)

Tel. **07900 648675**; email: **rickbourne@yahoo.com**

MAYOR'S SPRING CHARITY CONCERT

The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Cllr Onnalee Cubitt, would be delighted if you would join her for an incredible one-off spectacular evening. **Basingstoke Amateur Operatic Society**, supporting the **Mayor's Charity Appeal 2021/22**, will be showcasing one of Gilbert and Sullivan's funniest and most popular operas **The Pirates of Penzance** (to celebrate their centenary year) on **Saturday, 5 March, 7.30pm**, at **The Anvil**, Basingstoke.

With a bunch of hilariously incompetent pirates, a squad of equally incompetent policemen, a Major-General promoted way above his abilities and his bevy of beautiful daughters, the show features the much-loved songs 'A Policeman's Lot is Not a Happy One', 'I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General' and 'Poor Wandering One'. This semi-staged production is directed by Owen White, with musical direction by Neil Streeter and accompaniment from the Heritage Light Orchestra. Proceeds from the Mayor's Charity Appeal will go to The Community Furniture Project and the Friends of St Michael's Hospice supporting St Michael's Hospice. Tickets are available from **The Anvil Box Office**, via email **box.office@anvilarts.org.uk** or tel. **01256 844244**.

MARCH IN YOUR GARDEN

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!

NATURE NOTES FOR MARCH

I did forget to mention in my New Year notes that The Big Gardenwatch was approaching at the end of January but I've no doubt the media publicity around this annual event did ring your bell and that you managed a successful hour during the weekend of 29th/30th January. Sadly, the author cannot report such joy of varied and numerical triumph personally, but I know some people that did. Saturday was a very windy day, often the reason why birds get easily spooked and therefore preventing them from showing well. Sunday was okay so I have no excuses to why our usual garden visitors didn't show up so I couldn't with any conscience tick the Blackcap, Song Thrush and Great Spotted Woodpecker that were all here 48 hours before! Fortunately, I did ask our Cavalier Road neighbours who share a WhatsApp group to let me know what they saw too so I could at least make a collective case for an article this month. Five took part and between us we managed 15 species so not a bad result really, but how did YOU do? Let me know.

A little brown bird (job), an LBJ in birders terms, caused a ruffle of feathers here last month too with keen spotters from all over the South coming to Old Basing for a glimpse of a **Richards Pipit**. An Asiatic species, this visitor is a rare sight in the UK and indeed a first on record for Hampshire. Credit goes to **Jim Andrews** of the Mill Field group for uncovering this unremarkably looking bird down by the Loddon near Wildmoor. Jim explained that its unusual contact call was what alerted him and his colleague and through the lens of his Nikon 1000, not only identified it but managed a couple of shots too (*see photo on Basinga website*). Not a magnificent sight by any stretch but for a birding fanatic, it was pure gold.



Now a bird that does light everyone's fire is the sight of a **Kingfisher** speeding across the surface of a river or pond and as well as the regular one that shows itself near Bartons Mill, so another obliging bird isn't shy to photographers at the Black Dam. Previous snapper, **Anthony Hutton**, and his lad **Robin** visited the Dam a couple of weeks ago and found the bird again in posing mood so duly took several photographs. including this one (*see right*), with a stickleback. Young master Hutton clearly has a great eye for the game and you wouldn't bet against him making a career out of it. Well done Robin, there will be many out there envious of your tenacity to find such a beautiful subject and to take such a great shot.

Now whilst talking photography, another 'hat I wear' is as a committee member of the **Old Basing & Lychpit Village Show** and this month you will now be able to find the schedule for this year's event in September. The Show also has a photographic competition, and the three chosen subjects this year are: 'Taking Flight' (so you might be looking at insects, birds, bats or planes!), 'Down by the River' (could be anywhere, not just the Loddon) and 'Optical Illusions' (well, this could be anything and anywhere, and truly tests the skilful eye of the taker and audience).

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/text me on **07900 648675** to place an order or get a form.

Rick Bourne

DIARY DATES FOR MARCH

For details of services and events at St Mary's Church please see page 23

March

Tue 1	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (The Pavilion, Recreation Ground)
	7.30pm	Old Basing WI Meeting (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Fri 4	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
	10.30am – noon	Ladies First Friday Coffee Morning (see page 17)
Sat 5	10.00am	PIOCC Working Party (meet PIOCC noticeboard)
Thu 10	6.00pm	DEADLINE FOR JANUARY COPY TO EDITOR (see page 3)
	7.30pm	O B British Legion – Women's Section Committee Meeting
Fri 11	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Sat 12	10.00am – 3.00pm	Clearing field behind derelict Scouts/Guides hall
Sun 13	11.00am – 4.00pm	Clearing field behind derelict Scouts/Guides hall
Thu 17	12.25pm	Ploughman's Lunch (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Fri 18	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Sat 19	10.00am	Mill Field Working party (meet on middle path)
Thu 24	7.30pm	OB British Legion – Women's Section General Meeting
Fri 25	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Tue 29	6.00pm	Old Basing Tennis Club first club night of the season

April

Fri 1	10.30am – noon	Ladies First Friday Coffee Morning (see page 17)
Mon 4	10.00am	PIOCC AGM (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Tue 5	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, Pavilion, recreation Ground

BASINGA EXTRA

This month we were unable to include every article that we received, or submitted long after the deadline. Content listed below is available on our website: www.basinga.org.uk

Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship; Basingstoke Deane Rotary; Food to be Sold Past Best Before Date in Hampshire; Hampshire & Isle Of Wight Wildlife Trust; Happy and Healthy Together; Probus Hears About Attempted Sabotage; Probus Hears How a Piece of String Connects to H-Bomb Test; RCS for Parents/Carers Childcare Course 1st March; RCS for Parents/Carers Childcare Course 16th March



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OLD BASING & LYCHPIT PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK: Sandra Tuck	01256 462847
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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 Email: vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk	01256 363612 07745 731729
ADMINISTRATOR: Debbie Filer	07541 698235

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SUNDAY: 8am Holy Communion; 9.30am Sung Eucharist and Junior Church

OTHER DAYS: Wednesday, 10am – Holy Communion; Monday, Thursday and Friday, 9.15am – Morning Prayer

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

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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

Lychnipit
Community Hall

Sunday Night Satsang

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Lychnipit
Community Hall



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