May 2019

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Anna Fairs





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MAY 2019 - NOTES AND NEWS

The cover photograph by **Anna Fairs** is of the **Old Basing Brownies** who, last month, celebrated **40 years** as a Brownie Pack in the village. The photo shows the current Pack with one of the girls dressed in a uniform of the 1970s. The Brownies are soon off on Pack Holiday where they will learn more about Brownies from 40 years ago and get a chance to try out some challenges from past years. In June they are planning a birthday celebration on board the *John Pinkerton II* canal boat on the Basingstoke Canal.

BASINGA

We welcome both regular and occasional items for the Basinga. The very last date for copy to the Editor for the **June edition** is **6 pm** on **Friday, 10th May**. 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 36 for further instructions*). All advertising enquiries – classified, free adverts or inserts (flyers) can also be made via the Basinga website. Don't forget that we only accept articles with **300 words maximum**.

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

The Schedule of Classes for the 2019 Show is now available (free) from the following outlets in the village: Belle Vue Store, The Topiary, Co-op, The Crown, Bolton Arms and British Legion. Our thanks to all of those businesses for helping to promote the Village Show. You can also download the Schedule and entry form, plus hints of how to show your entry, from the Show website: www.oblvs.org.uk

The Committee is looking forward to another bumper year of your entries for the Show on Sunday, 8th September, in Old Basing Village Hall.

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

It's been great to see so many people popping into the Café, catching up with friends and enjoying the delicious cakes on offer from our fabulous team of bakers! With your support, we have raised in excess of £1,300 for The Pink Place, a Basingstoke based charity providing support and services for those with any form of cancer in the Hants/Berks area.

All proceeds in the coming weeks (up until the end of July) will to go to The Motor Neurone Disease Association.

We'd love to hear from you if you would like to get involved. Please call **07813 186328** or email: **thevillagecafeoldbasing@gmail.com**

Thank you for your support.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A letter with no name but a full address, requesting we publish the following in the Basinga, has been received, it reads:

Please accept my sincere thanks for the lovely bunch of yellow flowers some kind person left with my son. He never took your name unfortunately.

OLD BASING VILLAGE HALL - AGM

Our AGM will be held on Thursday, 9th May, at 8 pm in the Frank Goddard Room at the Old Basing Village Hall. Refreshments will precede the meeting.

Our committee member numbers are dwindling and so, again, we appeal for volunteers to attend our AGM in the hope they would be interested in joining our Management Committee. We meet approximately six times per year to discuss the maintenance and management of this wonderful asset to the village of Old Basing.

Why not come along, have a drink, meet the committee and maybe join our team. We look forward to seeing you on the night.

Sue Ingleby (Treasurer)

OLD BASING ALLOTMENT AND GARDEN SOCIETY

Our annual **plant sale** will take place on **Sunday, 12th May, from 10.30 to 11.30pm**. It will be a great opportunity to pick up some plants for your gardens and plots. It is open to everyone so you don't need to be an allotment holder to attend. You can also become a member of OBAGS on the day and the **shop** will be open for sales **every Sunday in May from 10.30am to noon**.

By now the first allotment inspections of the year will have taken place, and your plots should be tidy and ready for the new growing season. Jobs for the month include protecting young seedlings from frost or drought, depending on how the weather dice fall. You can start sowing beans, squashes and cucumbers under cover now ready for transplanting next month. Cabbage, kale and broccoli can be sown in open ground and you should be continuing successional sowings of lettuce, radish and beetroot. This is your last chance to sow peas and parsnips this year. Weeding needs to be done regularly and keep an eye out for pests like blackfly, greenfly and carrot fly. Website: www.facebook.com/oldbasingallotments

Tracy Braybrook

SUMMER OPEN-AIR EVENTS AT THE VYNE

Following a £5.4m roof project and the installation of a new layout in the house, National Trust site, The Vyne have expanded their programme of open-air evening events for 2019. Four evening events, two plays and two cinemas will take place on the north lawn this summer. Pack your picnics, camping chairs, blankets and torches ready for this line-up:

27th July – Playful theatre troupe The Pantaloons will be performing an adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*.

10th August – The Lord Chamberlain's Men will perform A Midsummer Night's Dream.

16th August – Here will be a screening of *Bohemian Rhapsody* (rated 12A).

17th August – There will be a screening of *The Greatest Showman* (rated PG).

These are ticketed events, for more information visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-vyne or call the box office on 0344 2491895.

Important timing information: Outdoor cinema gates open 7.30pm, last entry 8.45pm. The film will begin when the sun has set at around 9pm, finishing 11.30pm. Outdoor theatre gates open 5.45pm, last entry 6.45pm. The performance runs 7 to 10pm and includes an interval.





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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN MAY

Due to local elections being held on Thursday, 2nd May, it has been necessary to re-schedule our meetings for the month. Revised dates are as follows:

TUESDAY, 14TH MAY - Annual Parish Council Meeting

Election of new Parish Council Chairman, Vice-Chairman. This meeting is followed by the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting (rescheduled from Thursday, 7th May) dealing with the normal business of the Parish Council.

TUESDAY, 21st MAY - Planning & Development Committee Meeting

Replacing meetings previously scheduled for Tuesdays 14th and 28th May.

TUESDAY, 28th MAY-Annual Parish Meeting

Originally scheduled for Tuesday, 21st May, this meeting will take place at the **Lychpit Community Hall** starting at **7.30pm** and is an opportunity to meet your newly elected Parish Council. Refreshments will be provided and the Chairman will present the Annual Parish Award.

NOTICE OF UNCONTESTED ELECTION

The Borough Council has advised that those candidates who submitted a successful nomination paper have been elected unopposed. In the case of Old Basing & Lychpit, all current Councillors that put their names forward have been re-elected leaving four vacancies (two for Lychpit and two for Old Basing) and the Parish Council will therefore be seeking to co-opt suitable candidates at its May meeting. If you are interested, contact the Clerk for further details.

PAVILION REFURBISHMENT

Refurbishment of the Parish Office, meeting rooms and public toilets has been completed with all ground floor areas now easily accessible. The Tea Room has been completely refurbished with new flooring, insulated ceiling and a larger self-contained kitchen. Whilst this room is mainly used for cricket teas in the summer, it is available to hire for small groups. The Parish Council meeting room on the 1st floor above the Parish Office has been redecorated and fitted with new conference tables and chairs and is available to hire for meetings of up to 22 people.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are **Tuesday**, **14th May**, and **Tuesday**, **4th June**, at **7.30pm** in the **Pavilion Committee Room**. All are welcome and anyone with impaired mobility should contact the Parish Office so they can be accommodated.

Chairman: Cllr. Mark Oszczyk (contact via Parish Office)

Parish Clerk: Mrs Sandra Tuck Deputy Clerk: Mrs Heather Mountford

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

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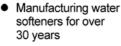
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CARNIVAL NEWS

In the April edition of the Basinga it was printed that the theme for this year's **Carnival** on **Saturday, 15th June**, is Comic Characters, it should in fact be **Comic/Cartoon Characters,** as stated in the insert you will find inside this Basinga.

Joe Croombs – tel. 07768 032936 or email: joe@croombs.org

NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

As I write this the House has been open for nearly a fortnight, and the **Sealed Knot weekend** at **Easter** is imminent, with something like 400 re-enactors and something between several hundred and a couple of thousand visitors coming to the ruins. Britain's changeable weather means each of these weekends is different, but we try our best to make any impact on the village as small as we can. Getting ready for this weekend means we have not finalised plans for May/June half term, so watch the website.

The constant effort to stay on top of the grounds will be continuing, as we try to keep the 14 acres of grass – interrupted by Norman, Tudor and Civil War earthworks and archaeology – under control. We've a team of **gardening volunteers** who turn up every **Wednesday**, and we are always looking for more, be it to look after a flower bed somewhere, work in our replica Tudor and Stuart gardens, or tackle some of the "heavier problems". If you are so "on top" of your garden (or of course don't have one) and would like to help do get in contact – details are below.

Full details about Basing House, guided tours, events and how to book are to be discovered at www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house otherwise ring 01256 463965 or call in at the visitor centre, next to the Great Barn between 11am and 4pm, Saturday to Thursday. Our normal day-to-day admission rates give admission for 12 months (although we are closed in winter): £9 for adults, children £6 (5-15, under-fives free) and family tickets (for up to 5 including 2 adults) at £25 when bought in the visitor centre. If you book online in advance, these are £8, £5 and £22.50. Some special events though will be charged separately.

Andrew Howard (tel. 01256 327014)

OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB

As the evenings grow longer we are enjoying playing tennis on **club nights** (**Tuesdays and Fridays, 6pm until dusk**) and also matches in the Basingstoke and District League. As well as playing tennis we have a **'First Friday of the month'** visit to the pub after our club night. A great opportunity to socialise. This month a few members are returning to The Manor Hotel in Devon for a weekend of sport. This was a great success last year. New members are welcome at all times, so if you would like to join please do get in touch!

A date for your diary: **OBTC Annual Quiz, Saturday, 16th November at Lychpit Community Hall**. Details on how to book a table will follow later in the year.

For more information email Jan (Secretary): OBTC.Information@gmail.com or find us on Face Book: @oldbasingtennisclub or visit: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/OldBasingTennisClub

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THE MILL FIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

EVENT NEWS

May brings the start of our summer events, the first of which will be a guided **Morning Bird Walk** through the reserve on **Tuesday**, **17th May**, **at 7.30am**. Our expert guide will point out and identify, by sight and sound, the birds present in and around the field – always an interesting and informative experience. We'll meet by the **play area**, in the corner of the field nearest to **Bartons Mill** pub. However, if you miss the start then we should be easy to spot somewhere in the field. As ever, all are welcome.

WHAT'S AROUND THIS MONTH

During May we'll be seeing much more wildlife around the field, with many of our migrant species of birds returning and more butterflies beginning to appear.

Swifts will start arriving, joining the Swallows and House Martins that will already be here. Other migrants making their presence heard include the Whitethroat, Garden warblers and Willow warblers along with the distinctive sound of the Cuckoo, also watch for the Goldfinches singing from the tops of bushes as they're nesting.

Evening visitors to the field will likely see the Tawny Owl on its regular hunts, as well as perhaps two species of bats, the Pipistrelle with its irregular flight above head height, and the less common Common Serotine, its broad wings giving it a more leisurely flight at about tree-top height.

Please drop in on our **Facebook page** which is regularly updated with stunning photos of the field's wildlife.

 $\mathbf{Anne}\ \mathbf{Francis} - \mathsf{tel.}\ \mathbf{07974}\ \mathbf{944439};\ \mathsf{email:}\ \mathbf{millfieldoldbasing@yahoo.co.uk}$

Facebook: Mill Field Conservation

ONLY FOOLS AND ORCHIDS

Not only are wild orchids beautiful to look at, they are also the undisputed masters of mimicry. As the weather gets warmer, look out for some of these sneaky species and lose yourself in a bewitching world of bees, butterflies, frogs and flies.

Fly orchid: Fly orchids are one of our most fascinating and deceptive species. Their tall, slender stems are punctuated by small, dark flowers that resemble flies clustering around the plant. Each flower has two glistening 'eyes' that add to the illusion.

Bee orchid: The flowers of this exotic looking orchid closely resemble fat, furry bumblebees. They have evolved to attract male bumblebees who unwittingly try to mate with the flowers.

Greater butterfly orchid: This elegant plant is adorned with beautiful greenish-white flowers which look like little butterflies. When night falls, the flowers almost glow in the dark, and emit a subtle fragrance which attracts night-flying hawk moths. The plant must attract hawk moths in particular as they have very long proboscises, enabling them to reach the orchid's nectar.

Frog orchid: This diminutive orchid gets its name from its flowers – strangely, they resemble the back legs of a frog. They vary in colour from yellowish-green to reddish-brown, and release a subtle scent which attracts a variety of insects. It is a short-lived species – most plants die after just one year above ground.

Alice Ashcroft, Assistant Communications Officer, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

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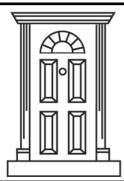
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LADIES FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE MORNING: The next occasions will be at the home of Mrs Robyn Lewin, 49 Saxon Way, Lychpit on 3rd May, and then at the home of Mrs June Brant 19 Rosehip Way, Lychpit, on 7th June. Both from 10.30 am to noon. For more information contact Sheila Stone, tel. 01256 350238

CHINEHAM TIGERS YOUTH FC provides the opportunity for boys and girls of all ages (year R upwards) to participate in organised football. Everyone is welcome to join us for our Annual Presentation and Fun Day on Saturday 8th June, noon to 5pm at Sherfield Park Community Centre. There will be lots to do, including a fully licensed bar, barbecue, raffle, tombola, bouncy castles, cakes and refreshments, and lots of other games, activities and stalls.

BASINGSTOKE SHED makes and mends things for the community. Our members are typically older men (though younger men and women are welcome too) who like to get out of the house and mix with like-minded people to do practical projects as well as have a cup of tea and a friendly chat. Our current projects range from converting a double decker bus to a mobile workshop through to making simple things (we can show you how) to sell at events like the Old Basing Carnival. To find out more you can call us on 07434 678104 or visit our website: basingstokeshed.org.uk (our normal hours at QMC are 2 to 6pm on Mondays and Thursday).

LODDON QUILTERS – QUILT SHOW: Thursday, 16th May, 10.30am to 4pm, Sherfield Village Hall, Reading Road, Sherfield on Loddon. Refreshments, raffle and tombola. Entry by donation. For further information – Barbara, email: bjpayne69@gmail.com

BASINGSTOKE DISCOVERY CENTRE: See Extras on the website for May's Adult and Children's Events.

ADVERTISERS NEWS

New foot clinic in the parish, see insert and website for details about the Eclipse Foot Clinic

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THE BUSES OF OLD BASING: PART 2 - THE FIFTIES AND SIXTIES

Before I continue this short history I would like to thank Chris Ford, Michael Simpson and Geoff Lewis who inform me that the "Union" bus stop on Basing Road was not a pub but the site of a Workhouse. Secondly, I spotted in the appendix to "The Definitive History of Wilts & Dorset" a reference to Venture's acquisition in 1933 of "Old Basing Bus" which was owned by C V Reynolds. Contact me if you have any information about this character.

In 1945 the Venture Bus Company was taken over by Chepstow-based Red & White. Under the terms of the Transport Act 1947 the largest bus companies, including Red & White, were transferred to public ownership under the umbrella of the British Transport Commission. On 1st January, 1951, the Venture part of Red & White was swallowed up by Salisbury-based Wilts & Dorset. The immediate result was to re-number the old Venture routes by adding 100 to them. Route 6 became 106, and the 17 became the 117. The 26 was discontinued.

Wilts & Dorset were a major operator. The 117 remained a market-day operation that served Newnham and Lyde Green via Hatch Lane, but the 106 became a trans-Basingstoke west-to-east service from Grove Road and Harrow Way, through the town centre, and on to Old Basing. On the way from town buses on the quarter-hour went via Bartons Lane, Pyotts Hill and The Street before turning up Crown Lane to terminate at the far end of Hatch Lane. Buses half an hour later missed out Bartons Lane and Pyotts Hill. Passenger numbers grew and there was standing room only on peak-hour services. The 106 was a 7-day-a-week operation. According to my 1960 timetable the last bus back from town was at 10.20pm Monday to Sunday.

For a short period of time in the early 50s Wilts & Dorset and the Aldershot & District Traction Company (or "Have A Shot And Risk It" as they were fondly known) were involved in a turf war. This involved W & D running services to Hook and other places deeper into A & D territory, and A & D running buses to Andover. Eventually a truce was called and the green buses settled in to their own routes, which ran along the A30/London Road. The 7 ran from Basingstoke to Aldershot via Hook, Odiham and Farnham. The 52 ran along the A30 to Camberley.

My favourite was the 7A. Through the 60s this service, which ran every two hours, connected Odiham, North Warnborough, Greywell, Up Nately, Mapledurwell, Hatch and Basingstoke. It was run by the tiny Odiham Motor Services, which also ran services through Lasham and Tunworth. But by 1966 it had been taken over by A & D and was a very popular route despite not being allowed in to the Wilts & Dorset bus station. Instead you had to catch it from its own dedicated stop in Wote Street. I can remember being with my mum on a shopping trip when the bus arrived at the packed bus stop, and Bill the driver (more of whom next month) would not let anyone on unless they were travelling to Mapledurwell, Up Nately or Greywell. In other words, those heading for Basing should make alternative arrangements.

There was one more bus that ran through the mean streets of Old Basing. This was the very noisy "Schools Special" operated by W & D under contract. It brought children in from the villages on the other side of the A30 to a drop-off point outside the school at the top of Church Lane by the tree with the circular metal seat. It then went down Milkingpen Lane, undertook a tight squeeze under the railway bridge and then up Pyotts Hill on its way to Charles Chute (Vyne) school. My memories of this bus are of being beaten up because of my London accent while the tough boys from Up Nately pelted each other with conkers and the fierce girls sang Beatles songs. Those were the days!

Ian Maynard

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OLD BASING WI

On 2nd April we were delighted to welcome Geoff Richardson to our monthly meeting to talk to us about "Medical Detection and Assistance Dogs". He was accompanied by Zoe and Stowe, her gorgeous black Labrador medical assistance dog. Zoe explained to us how having him has changed her life in a short space of time. Zoe's remarkable story is available to read at www.medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk/project/zoe-and-stowe/ (members were astounded at what these special dogs can be trained to do).

Our next meeting is the **Members Annual AGM** which will take place on **Tuesday, 7th May**, **7.30pm**, at the **Parish Room**, **St Mary's Church**, where the new committee will be voted in. The competition on that evening is a home-made cake.

Other activities taking place during the next few weeks are the craft group meeting where we will be making Acetate pictures, a skittles evening, a quiz night, and a trip to see *Oliver!* at the Haymarket.

For details of all our activities during the next month please go to the Hampshire WI website at **www.hampshirewi.org.uk** (click on WI's from the top).

THE IVY CLUB

We are holding the first of our outings and we are off to **The Cotswolds**, it will be a two-centre trip, Moreton in the Marsh (Market Day) and then after lunch to Bourton-on-the-Water where you might like to treat yourself to a cream tea. Date: **Tuesday**, **21st May**, leaving at **9am** and returning at **4.30pm**. Pick up points will be the **Co-op**, **Belle Vue Road**, **Royal British Legion** and **Oakfields**. The cost is **£15** per head. If you are interested can you please complete the form below and return to **Sue Wilson**, either at **The Ivy Club on a Wednesday afternoon** at the **RBL** or to **21 Fairthorne Rise**, **Old Basing**, **RG24 7EJ**, together with your coach money.

You are welcome to bring guests, but please note we cannot accept a booking unless we have a completed form due to insurance purposes.

A note for your diary, our seaside trip to Weymouth will be on Tuesday, 16th July. Cost £15 per head. Please register your interest on the form below.

Sue Francis

THE IVY CLUB

Trip to The Cotswolds on Tuesday, 21st May

Pick up points, the Co-op, Belle Vue Road, Royal British Legion and Oakfields (starting at 9am)

Name: Contact telephone no:		
Pick-up point:		

I am interested in the Weymouth Trip: YES NO

THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

Hello! I'm currently a student Minister at old Basing Methodist Church with Revd Alison and I'm taking a turn to write for this edition of the Basinga. As I write this, I remember that the clocks changed yesterday (31st March). I hope you all remembered and weren't late for anything! I was grateful to be reminded so that I was not in a rush in the morning. As the clocks change we also think about the seasons changing as we see the beautiful flowers appearing and the trees in bud. There are many changes all about us, especially at this time of the year.

For me it is also personally a big time of change. I am approaching the end of three years training to become a Methodist Minister and I, along with my family, will be moving in the summer. We are moving to the Yorkshire Dales. I'm not familiar with the area but many people have been told me it is beautiful and it certainly seemed so when we visited briefly.

This change involves leaving behind the familiar and starting many things new – living in a new area, getting to know new people, starting a new way of life as a Minister.

I wonder how many of you are experiencing times of changes and new things at the moment or know that there will be changes during this year?

The writer of Ecclesiastes in the Bible, knew about the different times in our lives, writing:

- 1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
- 2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

(NIV Bible)

We all experience change at different times in our lives and for different reasons. Change can be difficult and unnerving, but it can also be exciting as we step out into the unknown, finding ourselves able to do things we thought we couldn't. We can look back and see the changes in our lives, the special times and the memories made. Hindsight is a wonderful thing!

Whether you are in a time of change or not at the moment, may you know joy and blessing.

Tracey

THIS MONTH AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Saturday, 4th May Men's Breakfast Group (from 8.45 to 10am). Men of all ages

are invited to come along to a full English breakfast in the Parish Room – you'd be most welcome (price: £4).

Room – you d be most welcome (price: £4).

Sundays, 12th/18th May Christian Aid Week. There will be limited street collections this

year so if you would like to contribute to the work of Christian Aid, gift envelopes will be available in the church from Wednesday, 1st

May.

Thursday, 16th May Annual General Meeting of the Friends of St Mary's Church

and a talk by Brian Spicer on the "Rise and Fall of Hackwood" (**7pm** in the **Parish Room** and all are very welcome to attend).

Friday, 17th May

All are welcome to join a Christian Aid Camp-out in the

churchyard on **Friday, 17th May**, price of £10 per pitch. The Men's Breakfast Group will also be offering a BBQ from 7pm to which all are welcome. *Pain au chocolats* will be on offer in the Parish Room in the morning from 8am. To book your camping

pitch please call 07541 698235.

Saturday, 18th May Christian Aid Gift Day. All welcome to pop into the Parish

Room for refreshments including *croissants*, *pain au chocolates* and a variety of homemade cakes from 8am to noon. Combating climate change is one of the Christian Aid core campaigns, so why not later from 2 to 4 pm, come and join the Messy Church team to discover how to have fun while taking care of God's earthly

kingdom.

Thursday, 30th May Early Morning Ascension Day Service at 8am (outside St

Mary's), followed by breakfast. All welcome to both or either.

After the weekly **9.30am service** at **St Mary's refreshments** are served in the **Parish Room** which is an informal setting in which to meet other members of the congregation. If you have time after the service do join us, you will be very welcome.

For more details about the life of St Mary's please visit www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk or St Mary's Face Book page or follow us on Twitter: @OB&L_St Marys where you will find fresh updates. The church is open daily for prayer and you are welcome as you are every Sunday.

LOOKING FORWARD TO JUNE

Wednesday, 26th June Institution Service at 7.30pm for the Reverend Heather

Leppard, the new Vicar of St Mary's. All welcome.

Friday, 28th June Hymns 'n' Pimms at 7.30pm.

Saturday, 29th June Village Fete

OLD BASING METHODIST CHURCH

Tuesdays, 7th/21st May Craft afternoons (2 to 4pm). Bring your own crafts or items will

be provided.

Friday, 10th May Come and join us for our 'Coffee Break' (10.30am to noon).

Tuesday, 14th May MHA lunch club followed by social activity (noon to 3pm).

Sunday, 26th May We will be holding our annual church meeting (after the

morning worship).

Tuesday, 28th May A time of quiet reflection and prayer (2 to 3pm).

Our regular **Sunday worship** starts at **10.30am**, coffee and tea are served after the service. Children are welcome into our junior church. Come and join us – a warm welcome awaits you

CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)

Thank you to everyone who attended last month's special Silver Anniversary AGM. It was lovely seeing you. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

This month the working parties will be on **Saturday, 4th May**, at **10am** and **Thursday, 23rd May**, at **2pm** – meet in the **church lobby**. We start the maintenance summer season when we strim and collect the grass for composting to reduce the fertility of the area to encourage the wild flowers. All are very welcome, our regular volunteers and new participants too. We are 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) and our **Thursday afternoons** about **two hours**.

On **Saturday, 11th May, 10am to noon**, we are holding a **Coffee Morning** in **St Mary's Parish Room**. We hope to see you there. There will be plants on sale too. If you want to know more about what we do, please come. All welcome.

The Conservation Area is a community space for everyone to enjoy. The dawn chorus crescendos at first light, but the birds continue to sing during the day as they command territories for nesting. Butterflies and bees appear on warmer sunny days. Often the best time to see them is after a rain shower when they are cooler and fly less vigorously. Why not come and see what you can find? The Conservation Area is a community space for all to enjoy.

If you require any further information please call Fay Farrant on 01256 476863 or look at www.stmarysodbasing.org.uk

Margaret Carr

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT AGM

The Friends of St Mary's Church Old Basing and Lychpit invite you to their Annual General Meeting and a talk given by Brian Spicer "The Rise and Fall of Hackwood." It will take place on Thursday, 16th May, at 7pm, in the Parish Room, St Mary's Church.

There will be a collection in aid of The Multiple Sclerosis Society. Refreshments will be served.

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BOLTON UNDER 5'S PRESCHOOL

We hope everyone had a lovely Easter break – we finished the last term with a wonderful Easter Egg Hunt and chocolate prizes!

We were delighted to win 2nd place in the Tescos Bags of Help Scheme and we also received a grant from the Parish Council. These have enabled us to completely renovate our garden with new planting beds, sandpit and digging areas. Our thanks to everyone who supported us with the tokens, and also to the parents who came in to help Tina over the Easter holidays with the transformation! We look forwards to seeing the children enjoying the garden over the summer term.

With the influx of new children to our Outstanding Preschool, we would like to welcome three new members of staff to our team – Sarah, Louise and Jodie.

We invite all parishioners to save the date for our **Summer Fayre** on **Saturday, 13th July, from noon**, a fun family day which we will be opening to all villagers – full details will follow in the July Basinga, so watch this space.

If you are interested in your child joining our preschool, we would welcome you to come in and meet our staff, see our outstanding setting in action! Please do call on **07881 920709** to arrange a time for a visit.

THE BADEN POWELL CENTRE FOR SCOUTING AND GUIDING (THE BIG BUILD, COME AND MEET THE TEAM)

Since the Scout and Guide Hut in Milkingpen Lane was condemned back in 2009, the trustees have been working extremely hard on a succession plan to rebuild the facility. We have now been granted planning permission and are busy working on the final stages of the buildings structural design to obtain building regulation approval.

The project is at a vital stage, with the goal being to have a fantastic facility which can be utilised by the whole community. However, to bring this project to fruition, we need the support of the local community along with local businesses.

We welcome you to come and join us in the **Jack Morris Hall** at the **Royal British Legion**, Crown Lane on **Thursday**, **16th May**, **from 6.30 to 8pm** fir a drink and chat about the project's progress. We wish to share our plans for the project and discuss where the local community/ businesses can get involved to help implement the final stages of the project.

Perhaps you have previous experience of big building projects or fundraising and are willing to share your knowledge or you are a local tradesman/company that could help with the supply of materials/services. You may be an ex-Scout/Guide who remembers the old hut, have a child currently participating in scouting/guiding or a local resident looking to give something back to the community. If any of these apply to you, there are so many ways that you can help and we would like to meet with you to find out more.

If you are unable to join us but feel you can assist with the project or are interested in finding out more, please feel free to contact BP Centre Trustee – William Green, tel: 07768 381585 or email: fundraising4newhut@gmail.com

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- · Walk your dog or find a picnic spot

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CHINEHAM LIBRARY

A successful evening was enjoyed recently by those who came to the Murder in Peking evening. We are expecting more events to follow, so look out for further details. May sees the launch of a new library group, namely 'Cuppa and Chat'. This will meet fortnightly on the first and third Wednesday of the month, between 10.30 and noon. You are invited to drop in during this time to socialise with others over a drink, and possibly to browse at books and magazines in the Acorn room. The first meetings are scheduled for 1st and 15th May, and it would be lovely to see you there. Age Concern return from their Easter break on Wednesday, 1st May, so you could even combine an appointment with them and a social. Appointments with Age Concern are bookable through their office on 01256 423874.

You are also welcome to join or even try out any of our regular library groups. The **crime reading group** meets on **Thursday, 16th May**, and the general reading group on **Saturday, 25th May**, both from **10.30 to 11.30am**. The creative writing group next meetings are the **Thursday, 2nd May**, and **Thursday, 13th June,** from **5.30 to 7pm**. **Stay and Play** for parents and preschool children meets on the **second and fourth Wednesdays at 10am**.

Children's activities also follow their usual pattern. Rhymetimes take place every Tuesday, with under ones at 10am and over ones at 11am. Craft sessions take place on the first Saturdays of the month between 10 and noon, with storytimes on all other Saturdays at 10am. Chatterbooks meets on Thursday, 16th May, from 3.45 to 4.45pm. A new code club for beginners commences on Tuesday, 7th May, and places are bookable through the library at present. We hope to see you in the Library soon.

Cathy Foster

LINGUATASTIC LANGUAGE ACADEMY

In case you didn't see our **article last month, published on Basinga Extra (online)**, it was all about **April Fool's Day** and how the day is celebrated in different parts of the world. It attracted the attention of **That's TV Hampshire** who then came out to film our French preschoolers learning about the French version of the day. The adult leaders secretly stuck paper fish on the backs of the children and when the children discovered them, they found it quite amusing. They then had a go at decorating their own and sticking them on their parents' backs!

Also, now not the "latest news", but worthy of reporting is that as part of its Comic Relief fundraising back in March, Linguatastic put on a little bric-a-brac stall when children practiced buying items in the language(s) they are learning. The bilingual German group also made up a short quiz for their parents, who made a small donation to participate. In total, nearly £100 was made, which for a relatively small school is a fantastic result!

And talking of results, we're wishing our GCSE pupils all the very best with their exams this month and next. We look forward to hearing how they get on in August.

And finally, after a bit of a break, we are delighted to announce that our Kinder Sing group for babies/toddlers and their carers has started up again on Friday mornings. It involves stories, games, songs and socialising in German and is open to both families who already speak German and those who would like to learn. For further information email **info@linguatastic.com**

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CHINEHAM AND OLD BASING NWR

The Chineham and Old Basing National Women's Register (NWR) meet at 2pm on the first Monday of the month in the relaxed atmosphere of someone's home. We also meet for lunch or trips to the cinema. Our Reading Group meet in the evening every 4th Thursday. The current book is *Shadow of the Wind* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon.

Discussions are central to all groups' programmes, but the choice of topics is decided by the local members. For our April meeting we discussed Emigration, where would you go and why? Some of our members had lived overseas for several years, whereas others had just visited as tourists. There was a lively discussion which included culture, climate and politics. There were some countries which some had contemplated emigrating to, and other countries which we would not live in by choice. In May we are discussing significant events from our birth month.

Not a member? You would receive a warm and friendly welcome to find out if NWR could be for you. NWR information can be found at www.nwr.org.uk For specific information about our Group please phone Evelyn Jones on 01256 816636 or via evelyncjjones@hotmail.co.uk

Sandie Tapping

BASINGSTOKE AND DISTRICT RAILWAY SOCIETY

At home and far away at this month's meetings. At **7.45pm** on **Wednesday**, **8th May**, Robin Mathams will present some of Sutton Coldfield Railway Society's extensive collection of photographs of Britain's railways taken by Percy Moseley. Tonight's presentation, **Railways Around World War Two**, will show pictures taken between 1937 and 1945, illustrating all of the 'Big Four' pre-grouping companies.

Travelling further afield at **7.45pm** on **Wednesday**, **22nd May**, we take a look at **Twenty Years of Cuba**. Club member Richard Coghlan will show pictures from his almost annual visits to the country from 1966, showing a deteriorating railway scene, some museum lines with working steam and views of Cuban life.

Our meetings are held at **The Wote Street Club** in New Road in Basingstoke town centre. We welcome new members to the Society and are always pleased to see non-members at our meetings. For more information about the Society, membership and our programme of meetings in 2019 take a look at our website at **www.bdrs70d.com** or telephone **01256 331002**.

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BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

There were 55 members at the group's meeting on Wednesday, 3rd April, who along with the usual refreshments were treated to strawberries supplied by one of the members, and Easter eggs donated by Tesco's. The chairman, David Cowling, welcomed everyone, after which the secretary, Tony Brazier, gave details of the forthcoming trips, and the Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, gave an update on those members who had not been well.

The speaker this month was Steve Herra who told us all about a murder case in 1947 that was known as "The Body Through the Porthole". The case centred around the apparent murder of an actress, known professionally as Gay Gibson, who went missing during the sailing of a Union Line ship, The Durban Castle, between Cape Town and Southampton, in October 1947. The criminal case that followed got its name from the fact that James Camb, the man who would be convicted of killing her, admitted that he had pushed her body out of the porthole in her cabin claiming that she died of an apparent sudden illness whilst they were in bed together. He was convicted of her murder and sentenced to death by hanging but a legal move to suspend the death penalty for all crimes in Britain meant he served 11 years in jail for the crime. Although he denied killing her for the rest of his life he did commit further sexually related crimes during his time out on licence which meant him serving his full sentence.

Bookings are now being taken for the trips to: Kew Palace and Gardens on Wednesday, 8th May; Afternoon Tea at BCOT on Wednesday, 22nd June; and Lunch on the Watercress Line on Thursday, 13th June.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, 1st May, when we will be having a plant sale and Dr Becky Peacock will be telling us about the Mid-Hants Railway.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10am to noon and all retired Civil Servants, their relatives and friends are welcome. Further details about the group and information about our trips can be obtained by contacting csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com

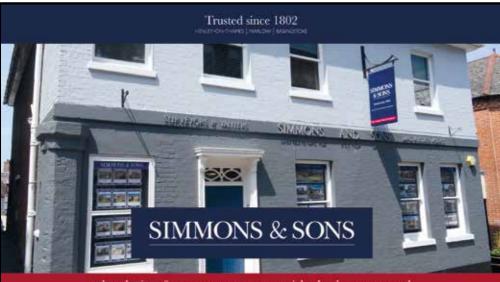
David Cowling

BATS NEXT GEN

BATS Next Gen (winners of two Regional NODA Awards in March 2019) are proud to announce their forthcoming production of *Our House*. This high energy, funny, yet thought-provoking musical takes us back to the 1980s and features the music of **Madness**, including 'Baggy Trousers', 'It must be love', 'Driving in my car' and of course 'Our House'.

Joe Casey is trying to impress his new girlfriend, Sarah, on the night of his 16th birthday. He breaks into a brand new, unoccupied block of flats owned by local property developer Mr Pressman. The police turn up and Joe must decide whether to run or face the music. At this point his life splits into two and we see the consequences of both these decisions on Joe, his family and on Sarah. Just how difficult can it be to make the right choice?

The show runs at **The Haymarket**, Basingstoke, from **Thursday**, **25th**, **to Saturday**, **27th July**. Performance on the **25th to 27th July at 7.30pm**, with a matinee performance on **Saturday**, **27th July**, at **2.30pm**. **Tickets** are available online via **www.anvilarts.org.uk** or tel. **01256 844844** or in person at the **Anvil Box Office**, Churchill Way, Basingstoke.



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NEWS FROM THE OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The current amount raised for the **Poppy Appeal by Old Basing, Chineham and Hook**, now stands at £26,287.50. Thank you everyone for your efforts as we are very close to beating last year's total already.

On **Saturday, 11th May**, we have our ever-popular **Plant Sale, 2 to 4pm**, in the **Jack Morris Hall** at **The British Legion**. Entry is 50p with all money collected going to the Poppy Appeal. For all enquiries, please call me on **0777 2883964** or **hampshire.chairman@rbl.community**

Tim Russell (Poppy Appeal Organiser)

OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, DIARY DATES

Saturday, 4th May
Rock band "Thirteen Lies" at the RBL (see steward for tickets)

Thursday 9th May
RBL Branch meeting, 7.45pm for 8pm, in the Jack Morris Hall.

Plant Sale and tea/coffee day, 2pm, in the Jack Morris Hall.

Rick Bourne

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

Thursday, 30th May

Please note that due to local elections, the date of our meeting will be Thursday, 30th May, 7.30pm in the Jack Morris Hall, RBL.

General meeting with the competition being "Unusual Footwear".

Sue Wilson (Publicity)

BASINGSTOKE BLUES CLUB

Basingstoke Blues Club, in association with the Basingstoke Railway Social Club, Station Approach, Basingstoke RG21 5NB, presents: Laurie McVay and The High Rollers, Rex's birthday bash, on Saturday 18th May. Laurie McVay has been described 'a fine harmonica player and a superb singer...' [who] 'pulls off the difficult trick of being soulful with a British accent. This is the British blues of today – vibrant, joyful, sad as required ... and soulful as hell'. Laurie will be joined in Basingstoke by his main band, The High Rollers: Graham Matthews (drums), Tim Hollis (bass), Andy Charles (guitar) and Steve Parkes (keyboards). The Rollers are modelled on the versatile five-piece outfits that can be heard in the blues clubs in Chicago and they bring the modern sound of the blues. Future date: Saturday, 15th June, 8pm till late. For further details contact: Rex on 01256 321837 or 07979 422590.

PRIORITY SERVICES REGISTER

This is a little known but invaluable service that all utilities companies offer, and is well worth recommending to anyone who may be vulnerable or need extra help. There are many benefits to joining the register, and each company maintains its own register. Bills can be presented in a format easier for the customer to read such as large print, braille, or in audio, and some companies have a British Sign Language service. The main aspect for crime prevention is that a password can be set up so that the customer knows they have a genuine caller. It is a FREE service – and easy to register, but there is a small criteria for eligibility, of which vulnerability is one of them. Contact your utility provider for more information or visit www.ofgem.gov.uk

Hampshire Constabulary Crime Prevention Advisor

MAY IN YOUR GARDEN

As I write this (early April) spring has been a mixed bag of warm and cold weather. In May, be careful, we can still be caught out by the odd cold snap, so don't be too tempted to plant out tender plants at the first signs of a warm spell, especially Courgette, Tomatoes and Pumpkins. Ideally you would harden tender plants off by putting them outside in the daytime and bringing them back inside before nightfall. Do this for seven to ten days and they should be more prepared for their lives outside.

There is so much to sow this month, beetroot, radish, salad onions, and turnips to name but a few, but do be careful of pests, May is the month when most pests seem to be at their most active. Carrot fly is the most annoying of them all, so remain vigilant and keep carrots covered with a fine mesh. Check your gooseberry bushes for Green Gooseberry Sawfly before it strips the leaves bare. An organic method to prevent an attack is to soak a bucket of foxglove leaves in two pints of water, leave for two days, strain and spray on the plants before an attack occurs.

If you have a pond, you will almost certainly have Duckweed and Blanket weed! Take as much out as you can, and thin excessive oxygenating plant growth. Leave any cuttings by the pond overnight to let any insects, snails etc to crawl back into the pond.

If you are growing onions, remember that they like a lot of water (an inch a week to get them growing at their best). Garlic does not like too much water and only needs to be watered during very dry periods, so if grown near each make sure that their water needs are met!

Other jobs for the month include tying sweet peas to their support to encourage them to climb, lifting forget-me-not plants to prevent them spreading (they spread like wild fire!) to plant Brassicas and Leeks into their final positions, and to prune spring-flowering clematis after it has flowered to prevent it growing too far.

If you have a new lawn or have recently seeded be sure to keep it well watered if this weather continues. It is time to apply a lawn feed and weed to keep it looking at its most lush, and to lower the mower blades to the summer height.

In the hope that warm weather will arrive in May, can I remind you to dampen your greenhouses and start erecting shading to prevent your plants from being scorched by the heat. You can use special white paint, but I tend to use fine scaffold meshing, and re-use that year on year.

For more gardening tips look at Old Basing Allotment and Garden Society, page 4.

Submissions to the magazine and website can be made via www.basinga.org.uk using the web forms:

Selection for Articles/Letters and Diary Dates will be found on the "Submissions" drop down and for Free and Concession Ads on the "Advertise with us" drop down. Paid advertising enquiries can also be made in the same way.

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

NATURE NOTES FOR MAY

As I write, 9th April, its been very dull cool and damp for some days here with the north of the country (for a change) enjoying the spring sunshine. But we are about to holiday in the south and west of the USA where it's currently sunny and between 26 and 30C so that will be a welcome change and I'm really hoping to see some of the local wildlife when we venture into the Nevada desert regions.

By the time you read this I'll be back and I promise I'll bring some good weather back! Despite only having intermittent warm days the birds are beginning to build in earnest although I would suggest they are a week or two later than usual. Blackbirds and robins usually have two broods so start building/ breeding in late March but that's been and gone. The Blue tits in my camera box have built a cosy nest but are still just using it as a roost. Give it a week and eggs should start to appear with any luck. Over the road in another box belonging to Pat Brace, there was a nice surprise to find a pair of Wrens dragging dry grasses and other nesting material into it, the site being just 10 feet from his back door. If they follow through with breeding Pat will have great views of comings and goings.

Thanks to Linda Frawley, Richard Lilleker and Katie Wenlock, all from the Lychpit area, for write ups and photos of Red Legged Partridges strolling around their respective gardens and work places. For some reason this species seems to habitually frequent residential areas before breeding and are quite oblivious to man and the dangers within urbanisation. The only reason I can think of is that perhaps they are eating gritty materials that are easily come by on roads and pavements, a substance they need to produce strong egg shells. As this bird lays between 8 and 12

eggs, it therefore needs a lot of roughage. Katie also attached a short video clip of two Egyptian Geese walking their (early) brood of little ones down Bartons Lane in the search of water and safety. As I've reported numerous times before, ducks often choose to breed in or close to gardens and often miles from water, but now geese?

The first frog spawn in Phil Males' pond was later than usual and with far fewer adult frogs in attendance. Phil noted that newts were aplenty and whilst they can feed on spawn, so reducing the amount visible, we think that it was indeed the "Beast from the East" last year that's caused a huge demise in numbers.

Tony Stoney covers large amounts of the Basing parish with his organised walks so sees a good deal of wildlife. But for the first time he noted a totally white Roe deer that was grazing with 20 others near Basing Woods, near Popley. As this albino doesn't have any natural enemies I guess it'll be okay, whereas smaller pigmented animals and birds have a quite short life expectancy.

Rick Bourne

Don't forget to send all your nature related photos to rickbourne@yahoo.com or naturenotes@basinga.org.uk

Or ring 01256 321108 for news.

For all your bird food requirements, order it from me at 'Bird Drop-ins' use the former email address or ring me on 07900 648675 to place an order or get a form.

DIARY DATES FOR MAY

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

Fri 3	10.30am-noon	Ladies' First Friday Coffee Morning (49 Saxon Way, Lychpit)		
	2.00pm-4.30pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)		
Sat 4	10.00 am	PIOCC Working Party (meet church lobby, St Mary's Church)		
	8.00pm	"Thirteen Lies" (Jack Morris Hall, RBL)		
Sun 5	10.30am–noon	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop (Riley Lane)		
Tue 7	7.30pm	Old Basing WI AGM (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)		
Wed 8	7.45pm	Basingstoke & District Railway Society talk (Wote Street Club)		
Thu 9	7.45pm	Royal British Legion Branch Meeting (Jack Morris Hall, RBL)		
	8.00pm	Old Basing Village Hall AGM (Frank Goddard Room, OBVH)		
Fri 10	2.00pm-4.30pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)		
		LAST DATE FOR COPY TO EDITOR (SEE PAGE 3)		
Sat 11	10.00am-noon	PIOCC Coffee Morning (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)		
	2.00pm-4pm	Royal British Legion Plant Sale (Jack Morris Hall, RBL)		
Sun 12	10.30am-11.30am	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Plant Sale (Riley Lane)		
Tue 14	7.30am	Morning Bird Walk (meet play area, Bartons Mill)		
	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (Pavilion Committee Room, Rec)		
Thu 16	10.30am-4.00pm	Quilt Show (Sherfield Village Hall, Sherfield on Loddon)		
	12.30pm-2.00pm	Ploughman's Lunch (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)		
	6.30pm- 8.00pm	Scout and Guide Hut Progress Meeting (Jack Morris Hall, RBL)		
	7.00pm	Friends of St Mary's Church AGM (Parish Room, St Mary's)		
Fri 17	2.00pm-4.30pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)		
Sat 18	8.00pm	Laurie McVay and The High Rollers (Basingstoke Blues Club,		
		Basingstoke Railway Social Club, Basingstoke)		
Sun 19	10.30am-noon	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop (Riley Lane)		
Tue 21	9.00am	Ivy Club Cotswolds Trip (returning 4.30pm)		
	7.30pm	Planning & Develop Com'tee Meet (Pavilion Com'tee Room)		
Wed 22	7.45pm	Basingstoke & District Railway Society talk (Wote Street Club)		
Thu 23	2.00pm	PIOCC Working Party (meet church lobby, St Mary's Church)		
Fri 24	2.00pm-4.30pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)		
Sun 26	10.30am-noon	Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society Shop (Riley Lane)		
Tue 28	7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting (Lychpit Community Hall)		
Thu 30	7.30pm	RBL Women's Section Gen Meeting (Jack Morris Hall, RBL)		
Fri 31	2.00pm-4.30pm	Village Café (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)		
LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE				
Tue 4	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (Pavilion Committee Room, Rec)		
Fri 5	10.30am–noon	Ladies' First Friday Coffee Morning (19 Rosehip Way, Lychpit)		

BASINGA EXTRA

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

Basingstoke Lions Club; Odiham and Old Basing Patient Participation Group; New Forest and Hampshire County Show; Probus Club; Rotary Club

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BASINGA

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ADMINISTRATOR: Debbie Filer. 07541 698235

Tricia Renwick. 01256 326155
Ian Kershaw 01256 355500

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OTHER DAYS: Wednesday 10am Holy Communion.

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

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