May 2021

BASINGA



Eva Hardwick



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

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MAY NOTES AND NEWS

The **cover photo** this month is the **Railway Bridge over the River Loddon**, by **Eva Hardwick**. This brick, three-arch bridge, funded by public subscription, opened in 1826, is an imposing sight to walkers along the riverside footpath.

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 **June edition** is **6pm** on **Monday**, **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 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**

SITUATION VACANT - BASINGA ADVERTISING MANAGER

Our **Advertising Manager** has retired and we are therefore looking for a replacement. The volunteer role covers the administration of advertisers' enquiries (not selling) through to ordering and liaison with other members of the production team who place the advertisements into the magazine and website. The candidate should be familiar with the Word and Excel for record. Full handover training will be given. If you're interested or would like further information email **advertising@basinga.org.uk**

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

The evenings are getting longer and Spring is in the air (as this is written it still feels like winter)! However the Village Show will be taking place this year, Covid and Government restrictions allowing, **Sunday**, **5th September**, **Old Basing Village Hall** the venue. So do start planting, painting and making all those items that can be judged at the Show. Schedule of classes can be found on the Village Show website **www.oblvs.org.uk** – the Committee do hope that this will be a Show to remember!

CONDOLENCE BOOK AND DONATIONS FOR HRH PRINCE PHILIP

Residents across Basingstoke and Deane are being encouraged by the borough's Mayor to share their personal tributes to His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in a COVID-safe way. The Royal Family has set up an official e-book of condolence which can be viewed at **www.royal.gov.uk** (a selection of messages received will be passed onto members of the Royal Family and may be held in the Royal Archives).

In light of the current COVID-19 restrictions, and in line with the Royal Family's wishes, residents wanting to express their condolences are being encouraged to make a donation to a charity of their choice, or one of The Duke of Edinburgh's Patronages in his memory, instead of leaving floral tributes.

Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane Cllr Diane Taylor said: "As the borough of Basingstoke and Deane mourns the death of a great man, I would urge residents to follow the Royal Family's wishes and leave your personal tributes in the official book of condolence. Prince Philip was committed to public service and was associated with over 990 organisations over the course of his life with specialist interests in a number of subjects. His hard work and dedication to these charities will always be remembered and donating to one of his patronages would be a fitting tribute and ensure his lasting legacy can continue for years to come."

MAYOR LEADS TRIBUTES TO HRH PRINCE PHILIP

The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane led borough tributes to His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, following the formal announcement of his death.

The Mayor Cllr Diane Taylor said: "The death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip is very sad news indeed and we in the borough of Basingstoke and Deane mourn the passing of a great man. He has been a devoted and loving support alongside our Queen for more than seven decades and a familiar pillar of reliability to all of us in this nation. His unique mix of dedication and humour has been a feature throughout all of our lives — the personification of stability in a changing world. He will be greatly missed. I will, of course, be sending the condolences of the people of this borough to Her Majesty the Queen."

Prince Philip visited the borough in November 2013 to open the new art, design and technology department named The Duke of Edinburgh Building at his former school, Cheam School, now in Headley. Prince Philip had previously visited Basingstoke in December 2000 to officially open the Milestones Museum.

See the council's website at www.basingstoke.gov.uk for further updates.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COLLECTION BOXES

Thank you for your great generosity last year when we sent £867.68 donated by you through the boxes. February is generally the month for gathering in the boxes and sending off your kind donations to the Children's Society. You will understand that this year we are unable to do so.

The Children's Society has advised us that we may now proceed with this year's counting. They would be very glad of your donations so we will be contacting you in **May** to arrange a distantly managed collection of your boxes for counting. Thank you for your support.

Rosemary Kershaw and Jacky Fox





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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Council joins Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council in offering sincere ondolences to Her Majesty The Queen and to members of the Royal Family on the sad passing on 9th April, of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

In accordance with Government Legislation, meetings of the **Parish Council** and its **committees** will resume on a **face-to-face** basis from **Friday**, **7th May**. All meetings will, as usual, be **open to the public**, however the location will have to be determined depending on the number of members at each particular meeting to ensure the required distancing measures can be implemented. It is therefore important that anyone wishing to attend a meeting advises the Parish Office in advance. The meeting location will be shown on the meeting Agendas which are published on the Parish Council's website and on its three noticeboards at the Recreation Ground, Belle Vue and the Lychpit Centre.

To avoid possible problems with distancing at this early stage in the "return to normal" the Parish Council brought forward the date of the **Annual Parish Meeting (or Parish Assembly)** – this was held via Zoom on **Monday, 26h April**, and the **original date of Monday, 17th May, cancelled**. The change was advertised on the Parish Council's Facebook page and website and on the noticeboards.

LYCHPIT COMMUNITY HALL REOPENS

From **Monday, 17th May**, adult exercise and other groups will resume at the Lychpit Community Hall. Unfortunately, some of our previous hirers will not be returning; we do, however, have some new groups and details of these will be published on the Parish Council website and posters displayed on the hall noticeboard. **Children's party bookings** will resume from **Monday, 21st June**, although adult parties will depend on Government guidelines after that date.

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Yet again better weather has seen the return of groups congregating in the woods at the rear of the Mill Field and the copse alongside Bartons Lane, opposite the entrance to

Broadhurst Grove. The remains of camp fires and litter, including a Tesco trolley, have been left for others to clear up. A big thank you must go to two of our Parish Councillors, Gill Moore and Sheena Grassi, who took it upon themselves to clear several sacks of rubbish from the copse. The police and CSPO team have been informed and will make regular patrols of both areas. However, if you do spot this type of behaviour please call the police on 101.



PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are Tuesdays, 4th May and 1st June, at 7.30pm.

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

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

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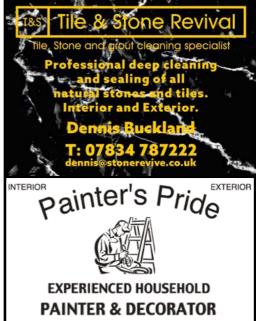


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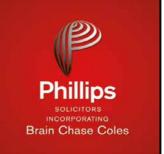
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NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

At the time of writing, the plan is that Basing House will **reopen** on **Friday**, **28th May**. It is still too early to be sure of the rules that will apply then and consulting the Basing House website is the best way of keeping up to date. I will provide a further update in the next Basinga. But there will be two events, one over three evenings, happening before then:

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday 20th, 21st and 22nd May Summer Screens (who held similar nights last year) will be returning to the Walled Garden at Basing House with three nights of movie magic under the stars. The films on these nights will be *Leon: The Professional* (Cert 15); *Bohemian Rhapsody* (12A); and *Dirty Dancing* (12A). Gates will open at 6.30pm, and the film will start at 7.30pm, leaving time for a pre-film picnic. Car parking is at the Basing House Lodge (RG24 7HB), accessed from Redbridge Lane, not at the signed car park by Bartons Mill. Admission is from £10.50, and tickets must be booked through the website (details below) to ensure COVID-19 safety.

We are also hosting our first ever **Wedding Fayre** with **Spiral Events** on **Sunday, 23rd May**. Come along and meet our wedding team and explore the Barn and the rest of the site. Also exhibiting will be the best local wedding suppliers and experts, offering advice and services to ensure everyone has a perfect day. Parking is free in the signed car park near Bartons Mill. The Wedding Fayre is **free entry** to all couples, with pre-booking through the website, again essential to ensure COVID-19 safety. The fayre will run from **11am till 3pm** with **tickets available every hour**.

The Basing House website is www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house

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

OLD BASING VILLAGE HALL - BOOKING SECRETARY

Our **Booking Secretary** is sadly moving to pastures new so we are, therefore, looking for a replacement. The role involves taking calls and booking dates for the hall use, together with paperwork involved in those bookings and advising our caretakers who will be using the hall, together with other administrative duties, including checking emails and responding to enquiries. The Village Hall is a registered Charity and managed by a group of volunteers but the role of Booking Secretary comes with a small remuneration. If you're interested and would like further information contact Sue Ingleby (Treasurer): **sueingleby@hotmail.com**

BASINGSTOKE CENTRE SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE ENDS

The **Basingstoke Centre Shuttle** bus service ceased operating on **3rd April** as the council explore more environmentally-friendly transport options that will serve residents across the borough better for the future. The Centre Shuttle service has seen a steady decline in passenger numbers over a number of years. An alternative service is available during core hours which has higher passenger numbers and is open to passengers with concessionary passes. To plan for the future the council is working with partners on how to integrate a park and ride and mass rapid transport system that will help to reduce carbon emissions and serve a greater number of locations such as the M3 junctions, new developments and key areas such as the leisure park and town centre.

Alternative bus services are available from nearby stops. For timetable information contact Traveline on **0871 200 22 33** or visit **nationaljourneyplanner.travelinesw.com**



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OVERNIGHT CAR PARK CLOSURE LIME PITS/CRABTREE PLANTATION

Gates have been installed at the car parks of two popular beauty spots in the borough in a bid to crack down on antisocial behaviour in the evenings. From Monday, 19th April, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will lock its car parks at the Lime Pits and Crabtree Plantation overnight. The car parks at the council-owned open spaces and play areas will be closed from 8pm to 7.30am from 1st April to 31 October and from 5pm to 7.30am from 1st November to 31st March. This is part of a pilot project in response to ongoing concerns from residents over antisocial behaviour at these sites in the evenings. The areas will still be accessible by foot during the car park closures.

Originally part of the Hackwood Estate, **Crabtree** is an important site for butterflies, woodland and grassland habitat. Visitors can follow tree trails, self-guided walks or join in conservation work. It also features a play area and links to Black Dam Ponds and Basingstoke Common. Once part of a private estate, the **Lime Pits** now provides an opportunity for walking, playing and picnicking. The site forms part of the Basingstoke Canal Heritage Footpath Trail, running across Basingstoke Common and finishing at Basing House. It follows a route rich in wildlife and cultural heritage.

Cabinet Member for Planning, Infrastructure and the Natural Environment Cllr Mark Ruffell said: "These two much-loved areas are incredibly popular with residents in the borough with beautiful walking and running routes, wonderful wildlife to enjoy, and fun outdoor play equipment for families. They form part of our vision to develop a master plan for the natural environment covering the whole area between Old Basing and Basingstoke. Maintaining residents' safety at these sites and ensuring they can be enjoyed by all is paramount. These measures have been introduced to counter persistent antisocial behaviour by a small number of people and we will continue to have the areas visited by our community safety patrol officers. Installing the gates at both car parks and introducing overnight closures forms part of this approach to reducing and preventing incidents at both sites."

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

Currently I am enjoying reading our quarterly magazine which just dropped on the mat, full of news, views, ideas and information all included in the £25 membership fee. Also included, our fantastic National Group continues to provide some fascinating talks, for example Jasinder Sanghera talking about her book, *Shame*, which has now been added to the list for our Reading Group. For members who miss a talk they are available on the website together with a wealth of other information. We also receive a bi-monthly email offering quizzes, crosswords and other activities.

Locally, our group continues to meet via **Zoom** on the **first Monday of each month at 2pm** and **this month** we had an additional meeting with a fascinating talk about the work of the Air Ambulance. To maintain links we also **Zoom** on **every 3rd Monday** as a substitute for our coffee mornings/lunch clubs which are currently on hold but hopefully will resume very soon. You are welcome to sit in on any meetings with no obligation to join or even speak if you would prefer to observe and you can be sure of a warm welcome. For more information about this nationwide organisation do look at the website: **nwr.org.uk** or for our local group: **www.basinga.org.uk/wp/national-womens-register** or contact our Local Organiser, Karen Dann – tel: 01256 328488 or email: **karen.dann@gmail.com**

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We ask for submissions to the magazine and website to 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 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:

Paid Advertising - advertising@basinga.org.uk

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CANE GARDEN TABLE

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GREENHOUSE

£200

'Alton', 6-foot by 8-foot, octagonal cedar greenhouse. It's approximately 17 years old so a small amount of woodwork maintenance is needed. Space needed for grandchild's play area. Buyer to dismantle and collect – the original assembly instructions are included in the price

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PROBUS

Probus Club member, **Chris Perkins MVO**, recalled three expeditions to the French and Spanish Pyrenees some four decades ago. Joining the RAF in the 1960s his interest in the great outdoors was followed, eventually joining the **RAF Mountain Rescue Service**. A decade later, he put together a 'trekking adventure' to the French/Spanish Pyrenees. Being military sponsored, permissions had to be obtained and diplomatic clearance achieved for them to operate in the border area. They were challenged on the first two expeditions by the French National Gendarmerie as Basque separatists were active in the area.

To read the full article go to Basinga website: www.basinga.org.uk



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CONFLICT ON COWDERY'S COMMON

The ongoing controversy over proposed development of open spaces in the Broadhurst Grove/Saxon Way area is not the first time that this ground has been fought over. In January 871 an invading Danish army defeated the West Saxon King Ethelred I and his younger brother Alfred (later King Alfred the Great) at Basing. The exact site of the engagement is not given in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle but there is a strong possibility that it was upon Cowdrey's Down, near where the Saxon Royal Hall, excavated before housing development in 1979–80, once stood in what is now Saxon Way.

The second action on the down took place during the English Civil Wars. On the morning of Wednesday, 11th September, 1644, a Royalist relief force of around 800 men under Colonel Henry Gage arrived from Oxford to break the siege of Basing House which had been underway since June of that year. Gage describes that the Parliamentary musketeers lined "certain hedges" at "a little rising of ascent of a hill" blocking his march from Chineham. It took two hours of fighting before the hedges were cleared "till at last they abandoned all their guarters and works on that side and gave us free entrance into the House."

The oldest map of the area shows only one long hedgerow running along the crest of Cowdery's Down so this must be the site of the engagement. Despite the 1980s housing development, the line of this hedgerow still survives as a long narrow stretch of open ground running from Swing Swang Lane to Great Binfields Road. The loss of this area to development would not only destroy useful habitats and passageways for wildlife but the only surviving element of an important part of our local and national story.

Alan Turton

OLD BASING WI



On 4th April we welcomed Old Basing resident, Ryland Lee to talk to us about the Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance. Ryland's talk was excellent. He explained, with informative slides, a little of the history behind the Air Ambulance which is stationed at Thruxton. Their main function is to bring OMEN exceptional critical care to the patient and to stabilise them before they are taken by land to the nearest hospital or in some cases transferred by air to a medical trauma centre. The helicopter can reach anywhere in Hampshire within 15 minutes and the IOW in 20 minutes. We are so lucky to have such a resource.

Our next meeting will be held on Zoom on Tuesday, 4th May, at 7.30pm, which will be our AGM followed by a quiz for Members. Anyone who hasn't yet paid their subscription for 2021 is reminded to do so before this meeting.

On Saturday, 12th June, we will be holding a cake and craft fair at the Lychpit Village Hall. Members are reminded to deliver their donated bakes and craft items to the usual collection points (or contact a Committee member if you'd like your items to be collected).

We will also be supporting St Mary's in their summer fete weekend with a table on the theme of "What Summer Means to Me". We have a number of easy knitting patterns for Members to help us prepare for this event.

Details of the WI in Hampshire and other WI activities can be found at www.hampshirewi. org.uk and 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

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RETURN OF BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL



Get the dates in your diary – **Basingstoke Festival** is set to return this summer with a full programme of arts in unusual places to bring some much-needed entertainment to the borough. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has been working on the long-awaited return of Basingstoke Festival – bringing you 17 days of COVID-safe outdoor theatrical

productions, music and dance performances, workshops and much more from **Friday**, **25th June** to **Sunday**, **11th July**.

Topping the bill will be acts such as **Urban Astronaut** (see photo below) from Highly Sprung Theatre Company that combines storytelling with stunning design and an aerial performance, using a unique travelling flying machine that suspends the performer 20 feet in the air.



Mimbre Acrobats return to the festival with their quirky show, Lifted, a breathtaking and highly-skilled acrobatic piece of performance art, and children and their families will also be invited to look through the windows and doors of My House, a circus theatre experience from Apocalyptic Circus.

And there is much more being planned with local artists and organisations including Proteus, Scratchbuilt Productions,

Pumpkin Pantos and Junk Jodie Arts and Crafts as well as exhibitions and installations in shop windows in the town centre.

Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Partnerships Cllr Simon Bound said: "After a difficult year of living with COVID restrictions and subject to the government's COVID roadmap, I am pleased that we will be able to bring the borough to life this summer with a fantastic fortnight of street theatre, dance, art and much more. We are very lucky to have talented artists, performers and arts organisations so not only will the festival provide an opportunity for them to showcase their work but we hope the festival will provide a much needed boost for residents and our borough's economic recovery. There really will be something for everyone at the 2021 Basingstoke Festival. As most of the events are likely to be ticketed to ensure they are COVID-safe, please keep an eye on the Basingstoke Festival website and social media to avoid disappointment."For more information on Basingstoke Festival and how to take part you are advised to visit www.basingstokefestival.co.uk or you cn follow @BasingstokeFestival on Facebook and @BstokeFestival on Twitter and Instagram. The website will be regularly updated as more acts are confirmed.

PENTECOST

Dear Friends,

On 23rd May there is a Christian festival called Pentecost which arises from a Jewish festival of the same name. The Christian one focuses on the gift of God's Holy Spirit in the lives of people and its transforming and empowering effects.

One of these extraordinary features of Pentecost was the ability to speak in languages which everyone could understand, wherever they were from and whichever language they normally spoke.

I would like to reflect on three aspects of communication experienced universally in ideas, in music and in love.

We live in an age of very rapid communication. the very description of "worldwide web" is a reminder of how dynamically we are all interconnected.

Some ideas, attitudes, philosophies have spread rapidly around the globe. There are ideas which have transcended cultural and national boundaries, shaping our thinking, our outlook and behaviour. The kind of ideas which became enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights may serve as one out of countless possible examples.

Music too is a universal language that can move and excite and add depth to people's lives. Sir Malcolm Sergeant once described music as "the soul of man speaking to the soul of man through sound". An African choir, a European rock band, the steel drums of the Caribbean, the sitars of India or a Beethoven symphony can .enliven people of all racial backgrounds.

Love, too, shown in compassionate healing, warm affection, comforting embrace and in the sustained affirmative gaze of another "makes the world go round". Of all great qualities love is the most powerful international language.

Pentecost is, among other things, the celebration of the Holy Spirit of God enabling people to understand and to be understood. All such communication has its origin in God.

Let's be open to being communicators across the nations, across the generations, across the cultures.

With love,

Reverend David Jenkins



ST MARY'S CHURCH

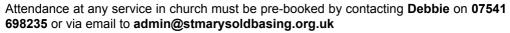
REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

We look forward to welcoming you to St Mary's:

Sunday 8am Book of Common Prayer (1662),

Holy Communion

Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion
Wednesday 10am Holy Communion



We also realise how valuable worshipping at home has been for some, and will continue to live-stream services on our **Facebook** page **St Mary's Old Basing and Lychpit**. Services are later uploaded to our **YouTube Channel**.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYER

The church continues to be open for individual prayer **Monday** to **Saturday** from **10am** to **4pm** and **Sundays 11:30am** to **4pm**. Please continue to wear a facemask in the church.

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

CHRISTIAN AID CAMP OUT

We are once again organising a camp out in aid of Christian Aid again this year. Please do take a look at our noticeboards and Facebook page for updates.

Whilst we give thanks for all the NHS staff, key workers and those who have pioneered and rolled-out vaccines in recent months, for the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the world, there is little hope of a vaccine roll out for sometime. Christian Aid continues to support these communities with practical help and are now organising a "Give Thanks for Your Vaccination" campaign, inviting people to donate to help support and protect our global neighbours whilst the vaccine is out of reach. Further details are on Christian Aid's website: www.christianaid.org.uk

WEEKLY BULLETIN

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

BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK – THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone who is supporting the Foodbank at this time. The donations via the box on the driveway at The Vicarage totalled an amazing **199.58 kg** in **March**. The Foodbank are trying to keep the numbers of visitors to their warehouse to a minimum, therefore, please do continue to drop items off to The Vicarage (located on the corner of Church Lane and Milkingpen Lane) or one of the other local collection points: the Co-op (on Linden Avenue) and Tesco (Chineham). For a list of items that are in particular short supply please visit **www.basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk**

continued on page 24

SUPPORT DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH SUMMER FESTIVAL

The Summer Festival Team at St Mary's Church are planning a weekend to celebrate the return of summer which will follow COVID guidelines to ensure a safe event. The weekend will commence on Friday, 25th June, at 7.30pm, with a short concert of popular favourities by Paul, St Mary's Organist. Tickets, including glass of wine/juice £5.

From 11am to 4pm, Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th, a Summer Fete with stalls, barbecue, cream teas, refreshments and music will be held as restrictions allow on Saturday, while on Sunday there will be a more relaxed feel with the raffle and refreshments continuing.

Displays of what summer means to people will cheer the way around the outside of St Mary's from **Saturday**, **26th June** until **Sunday**, **4th July**, giving everyone plenty of time to view. There will be an opportunity to vote for your favourite display until 3pm on Sunday, 27th June, with a small prize awarded to the winner. If you'd like to **sponsor a display please** visit St Mary's Facebook page, website or contact Jeanette Edwards at **jdedwards38@hotmail.co.uk** to request a form. Use your imagination for a display on the theme of 'What Summer Means to Us', for example bunting, knitted flowers, posters – you decide! **Displays cost a minimum of £7.50 to sponsor**.

BASINGSTOKE DEANE ROTARY

Earlier in the spring you may have noticed masses of purple crocus on banks and open spaces around our local towns and villages. These crocuses have been planted to draw attention to **Rotary's Purple 4 Polio** campaign. Locally some of the crocus corms were supplied by Rotary and planted by local organisations as part of local projects. Basingstoke Deane Rotary distributed 3,000 corms last autumn which were planted around the borough.

Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years. Our goal to rid the world of this disease is closer than ever. But why Purple 4 Polio? In the early days of administering the vaccine it was given on a sugar cube. The younger children in places such as India thought it was a sweet and would join the queue again for a second sweet. To identify the children who had been vaccinated their little finger was painted with a purple dye. Hence Purple 4 Polio. It is now administered orally by dropping the required dose directly into the mouth using a dispenser.

As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Rotary has reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But it's crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyse as many as 200,000 children each year. Rotary has contributed more than \$2.1 billion to polio eradication since it launched the PolioPlus programme in 1985, and it's committed to raising \$50 million each year for polio eradication activities.

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CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)



Spring has arrived, the grass is growing, the birds are singing. The Conservation Area is a community space for all to enjoy. Sadly in March there was vandalism of our fencing and compost bins, also the Central Meadow was badly trampled. Please remember this is a Conservation Area, be QUIET and please KEEP TO THE PATHS. We hope that the cowslips have survived the trampling and are now giving their usual show.

We are delighted to have re-started our Working Parties. This month's **Working Parties** will be on **Saturday, 1st May**, at **10am**, and **Thursday, 27th May**, at **2pm** – meet in the Conservation Area. All are very welcome, both our regular volunteers and new participants. We are a community project, not just for churchgoers. Our volunteers make a real difference.

We will be operating under our latest COVID-19 Risk Assessment and rules to conform with the current Government guidelines. Luckily there is plenty of space in the Conservation Area and always a number of different tasks in separate areas. Volunteers will be immediately split into groups of six or less, allocated tasks in different areas, asked not to mingle between groups and maintain a distance of 2 metres from those outside their household. As there is no access to the church or parish room, we cannot use the lavatories or provide the usual refreshments so our **Saturday Working Parties** now **finish** earlier at **noon**. Volunteers are asked to bring their own gloves, wear face coverings and bring a pen for signing in. Tools, which will be disinfected before and after use, will be provided. This month we will be starting the summer season maintenance.

For further information please ring Fay Farrant on 01256 476863.

Margaret Carr – www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

HAVE YOUR SAY ON COMMUNUTY AND LEISURE FACILITIES

Residents and groups across the borough are being encouraged to help shape the borough's future approach to community and sports facilities. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is currently updating its **Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment**. This assessment will form a framework for establishing the borough's future approach to open space, sport and recreation, including consideration of how community buildings, playing pitches and indoor sport facilities are serving community needs.

With more residents across the borough spending more time in their communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the updated Leisure and Recreation Needs Assessment will ensure the council can provide support where it is needed most. Community and sport associations and groups, residents and users of community and sports facilities across the borough are being encouraged to share their views by taking part in a short online survey.

To complete the community and sports facilities surveys, visit: www.basingstoke-and-deane-community-buildings-user-survey-luc.hub.arcgis.com

We are also particularly keen to hear from parish and town councils to help shape the playing pitch strategy. The survey is available here: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BDParish

Please do help us to shape the future of community and sport and leisure facilities in the borough by sharing this with your communities.

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

INFORMATION

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www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house









SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Visitors to Basingstoke town centre and other shopping areas across the borough are being encouraged to follow safety measures while supporting local businesses that are able to reopen. As part of the government's roadmap to unlock national COVID-19 restrictions, non-essential retail, personal care businesses and outdoor hospitality reopened on 12th April.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has been working closely with Basingstoke Together, Festival Place, The Malls and local businesses to ensure a safe and pleasant experience for shoppers. Visitors are being encouraged to plan ahead of their visit as individual businesses, and in particular outdoor hospitality such as bars, pubs and restaurants are likely to have new measures in place such as booking systems.

Other safety measures that will continue to be in place when visiting the town centre include walking on the left hand side of walkways, an increased cleaning schedule of public areas, hand sanitising stations and extensive signage reminding shoppers what they need to do to keep safe.

Providing a reassuring presence, town centre ambassadors, funded by the council, will be on hand to remind shoppers to wear face coverings and promote the social distancing measures in place.

Motorists will be able to enjoy one hour of free parking in three of the council's short stay car parks and electric vehicle owners wishing to charge their EV vehicle in the Feather's Yard charging hub can also park for free, with just the cost of charging to pay for.

Shoppers using council-owned car parks in the town centre are being urged to make card payments using the free RingGo app, with parking set to become even easier and cheaper following the removal of a 20p convenience charge.

Motorists will be able to extend their shopping trips without having to return to their vehicle and the app also allows visitors to find the closest car park before arriving in the town centre.

There are a number of other ways to get to the town centre, including walking, cycling and public transport, with bus passengers encouraged to follow the social distancing measures in place at Basingstoke bus station and on the buses.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Executive Director of Borough Development Ian Boll said: "I would also like to thank our borough's businesses who have helped to prevent the spread of COVID-19 locally by continuing to follow the government guidelines. To show your support for the local businesses that we all know and love, we would encourage residents and visitors to return to the town centre to enjoy everything it has to offer. But please continue to do this safely by following the social distancing measures that will be in place, minimising the amount of people from your household visiting the town centre and avoiding the busiest times of the day."

For more information about the town centre, please visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/ shopping-eating-drinking and for more on what's happening across Basingstoke and Deane, visit the Love Basingstoke website at www.lovebasingstoke.co.uk – you can also visit Festival Place's website at www.festivalplace.co.uk

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ENGLISH CIVIL WAR ARTS AND POETRY COMPETITION WINNERS

The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane has chosen the winners of an **English Civil War Arts and Poetry Competition** inspired by the Battle of Basing House in 1645.

Mayor Clir Diane Taylor was joined online by **Alan Turton**, a former curator at Basing House, author and Civil War expert, to judge the creative entries submitted by young people from primary schools, secondary schools and sixth form colleges across the borough.

The competition, organised by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hampshire Cultural Trust and Hampshire County Council, invited students in the borough to produce a piece of artwork, music or a poem relating to the battle at Basing House, which was besieged and destroyed by Oliver Cromwell and his army.

Pupils have been learning the history of Basing House, which was the last Royalist stronghold in the southeast and a key site in the battle between King and Parliament at the end of the English Civil War. From a huge number of competition entries, including poems, paintings, drawings, sculptures and music, the winners were:

- Primary Lucy Perks (aged 11, St Mary's School, Old Basing) for her colourful drawing of the siege at Basing House
- Secondary/Sixth Form Charlie Bowden (aged 17, from Queen Mary's College) for his moving poem from the perspective of a female relative seeing her two brothers go off to war fighting on opposing sides

They will both receive an engraved plaque from the Mayor and an annual family pass to Basing House, one of the borough's most popular historical attractions. In addition, both of the winners' year groups will enjoy a free educational visit to Basing House, including a guided tour by Alan Turton, subject to further coronavirus restrictions.

Runners-up included:

- George Lincoln (from Daneshill School)
- Charlotte Salt (from St Mary's School in Old Basing)
- Harry Harve (from Daneshill School)
- and a special commendation for Year Six at St Mary's School in Old Basing, for their 'Civil War Rock' song.

CIIr Taylor said: "The English Civil War project in borough schools has given pupils a greater insight into the fascinating history of Basing House. The competition was originally launched to mark the 375th anniversary of the Battle of Basing House last year and I was delighted to receive a wide range of creative and insightful entries relating to the event. The winning entries were so imaginative and really conjured up a sense of local history, bringing the siege and final battle of Basing House to life. I was impressed by the high standard of artistic talent which told the story in a picture or through poetry. A special accolade goes to St Mary's for their fantastic and energetic song 'Civil War Rock. I hope there will be an opportunity before too long for them to perform it publicly."

Alan Turton said: "The English Civil War divided the country, families and friends. This competition allowed students, their friends and families to examine this conflict which changed the course of British history for ever and impacted so heavily on our local area."

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Helen Sinnamon, Schools Manager (Milestones Museum and Basing House) at Hampshire Cultural Trust said: "We are delighted to partner with Basingstoke and Deane's Mayor to support this opportunity for children and young people to engage with their local history at Basing House. The range of entries, from music to models to poetry, demonstrates the creativity and skills of the students of Basingstoke and Deane. Congratulations to the winners – we look forward to welcoming you, your family and your school to Basing House soon!"

For more local history information, visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/english-civil-war-competition

LINGUATASTIC LANGUAGE SCHOOL



For the last year (and some), the majority of our lessons have been online and our community activities have been significantly reduced.

Last autumn, we did though, open up a couple of our afterschool clubs for a bit and five of our pupils (Annie, Jacob, Landon, Joel and Henley) translated a Spanish song ("Los

niños queremos la paz") into English and entered it in **Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival 2020's Poem into Poem** competition. They were awarded second place. Another one of Linguatastic's pupils, Matteo, translated a French song about kindness and came first.

We are of course, very proud of them all and will be encouraging them and others to enter the competition again next time. In case you are interested in hearing the winning pieces in each of the festival's classes (including Poetry, Articles, Script Writing, Short Stories and Sonnets), do listen to Stephen Bibby's programme on HHCR, Basingstoke's Community Radio, 2 to 3pm on Sundays, from April to the end of August.

Sadly, we are not yet in a position to start preparing for the next festival as our afterschool and lunchtime clubs won't be running again until September. It is though, looking as though our preschool French sessions will be taking place again face-to-face on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, so please email **info@linguatastic.com** if you'd like to register your child. We welcome children from 18 months.

And finally, we would like to encourage you to visit our Facebook page as our secondary school German pupils were working very hard online last term, bringing together ideas on a dream leisure centre (which at the time, really was a dream) and we have shared some of their work on our page. Hopefully before too long, they'll be working together again face-to-face and it will be more like this time of COVID was all a dream (or nightmare more like)!

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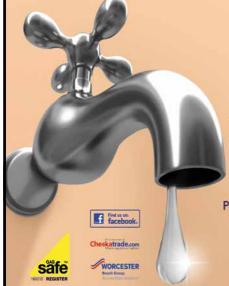
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HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT WILDLIFE TRUST

CURIOUS CUCKOOS



Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust strives to create a better future for wildlife and wild places in our two counties.

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One of the most iconic sounds of spring is the call of the male cuckoo, the two notes heralding the changing seasons. Cuckoos will have just started to arrive in Britain after their long migration from Africa where they spend the majority of

the year. They have a fascinating life cycle and cuckoos and their chicks and eggs are wonderfully adapted to parasitising the nest of other bird species. Just two of the 54 species of Old World cuckoo can be found in Europe and here we will take a closer look at the common cuckoo.

ARRIVAL

In late February cuckoos will slowly begin their 10,000-km journey to Britain, leaving the rainforests of central Africa where they have spent our autumn and winter. They will have been feeding up on the insects these forests provide ready for the 50 to 60-hour Saharan crossing which makes up one of the more perilous legs of their journey. Cuckoos make the crossing in one non-stop night flight and sadly many don't make it to the other side. Cold temperatures, dust storms and high winds could all put bring their migration to a premature end. There are further obstacles for the cuckoos as they navigate their way through hunters in the Mediterranean and possible wet or cold weather on their passage.



THE BREEDING SEASON

Once the cuckoos arrive at their destination (they breed across Europe) the most familiar part of their life cycle begins. Males can be spotted on open perches making their onomatopoeic call, while females have a less-famous bubbling call which they make as they search for a suitable nest. Each female will be adapted to parasitise the nest of a certain host bird, a trait they pass on to their chicks, forming distinct races. The reed

warbler and the meadow pipit are the most common unwitting parents to cuckoos, but over 120 species have been recorded with cuckoo eggs in their nests. Cuckoo eggs have a thick shell so the egg can be quickly laid from above the nest while the parents are gone, and the cuckoo chick has a concave back to help roll other eggs out of the nest. They also have a large gape and loud calls, which trigger the parents to bring food despite the often odd appearance of a giant cuckoo chick squashed into a too-small nest being fed by tiny parents.

But this harbinger of spring is on the decline, on the UK red list of birds. An important factor is the increasingly unpredictable weather, which can play havoc with the cuckoos migration flight and their insect food sources. Cuckoos can be spotted on many of the Trust's nature reserves – find your closest at www.hiwwt.org.uk/nature-reserves

Claire Thorpe (Communications Officer – Publications & Media)

Photo: Cuckoo @ Andy Ames

MAY IN YOUR GARDEN

The benefit of gardening to our physical well-being is obvious but during these uncertain times maybe just as important are the positive effects on our mental health, a fact recognised as long ago as 1577 by Thomas Hill who advises: "The garden is a ground plot for the mind". With this is mind, there is plenty to get the mind and body going this month!

Now is the perfect time to get rid of weeds. The soft, moist soil from winter rains makes pulling them out very easy. Make sure though that you pull out the entire root system. Manual weeding is the ultimate choice for your garden, since it avoids all sorts of chemicals and herbicides.

Keep on mowing your lawn. Now is also the perfect time to rejuvenate an old lawn by reseeding bare patches or apply a topdressing of fertiliser to replenish its nutrients.

Shrubs that have finished their winter blooming can also be pruned now. There's still also time to catch up on pruning your roses, if you haven't had the occasion to yet. And, of course, there are many types of hedges that can still be pruned.

With children spending more time at home getting under your feet, now is an excellent opportunity to get them involved in the garden. More than just a way to spend time having fun, it's also a very healthy way to build up immunity and teach children how wonderful nature is. Why not start a children's vegetable patch or make a herbarium. Propagate your houseplants; this will give them a plant of their own to care for.

Now is a good time to set up a simple compost pile to stash all that nutrient-rich material! Weeds can even be recycled into liquid fertilizer with just a pail and water. Ferment them to extract nutrients you can use to water your houseplants! Kids love making bubbly potions too!

Garden stores, nurseries, and horticulture centres are open but many have online-services. It's perfectly possible to buy online and have them delivered. Always remember, you can also start cuttings from your favourite plants, or divide them, a free alternative!

THE MILL FIELD NATURE RESERVE



Email: millfieldnature@gmail.com

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 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

Anne Francis (tel. 07974 944439)

Facebook: Mill Field Conservation Group

MAY NATURE NOTES

In all of my years of birding I saw a sight last week which was a first. Sparrows are often nosy around nesting boxes and whilst I have two colony boxes for them, they seem to love poking around Blue Tit boxes which clearly they can't get in to. Well, the picture (see right) tells its own story. Yes, he got his head stuck! Luckily me and a visiting builder spotted the forlorn cock bird and shinned up a ladder to gently extract him, the only trouble being, he wouldn't come out! We had to take a screwdriver to the screws holding the metal protector plate off first before we could free the daft so and so. I'm betting he won't do that again in a hurry.

Picture of the month is from Tony Fendall of the pair of Bullfinches (see below), a bird which has reduced in numbers drastically over the past 50 years so they are an uncommon sight. They do seem to stay as a pair for most of the time so if



you spy one, then the other may well be close by. This was born out when Alan Williams in Park Lane also noted a pair in his garden alongside the many Greenfinches that like his feeder offerings. Good to see increasing numbers, and to hear the familiar buzzing call, of this bird after a decade of decline due to disease.

As I write (6th April) the thermometer has plummeted again but there were some stunning days last week and that brought the first Chiffchaffs out in large numbers, heard here in Cavalier Road and at Billhook Lake, Odiham. Peacock butterflies took to the wing and there was temporarily a really spring-like feel to things. The frogs at Billhook thought so as well, with literally dozens creating a chorus as they paired up to spawn.



Steve Western spotted the first Swallow of the year at Sherfield Oaks golf course and with frosts expected over the next couple of nights, there may not be too many flying insects for this fellow to rebuild it's strength after the marathon flight from Africa.

Also reported at Sherfield recently were overwintering Tufted Duck and more unusually, a pair of Goosanders. David Rocke reported seeing the former of these in flight and they



do make a striking sight with their contrasting black and white winter plumage.

The eagle-eyed Jim Andrews and his trusty camera found more great photos last month including a pair of Stonechats around Blacklands (see *left*). The male is a striking bird and though not that rare you would only likely see them away from urbanisation, often on moorland or natural forested areas.

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It's possible as May warms up the garden that you might come across one of the country's reptiles, perhaps in a compost heap or curled up in a sunny sheltered spot. Whilst 'your find' is likely to be a Slow-worm or Grass snake, its important to remember that these guys are absolutely harmless and will relieve your garden of pests like slugs and snails so please leave them be. If possible though, please do take a snap and send it to me for inclusion next month!

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

BASINGSTOKE U3A

Join us as we move into the parks, woods and pathways around Basingstoke. It hasn't taken our groups long to get going again. Members are already playing croquet, walking and cycling – all being very careful to keep to current rules and regulations. We always make sure we keep up to date with those. Our walking photographers will probably be making the most of the bluebells, and we're looking forward to seeing some of their photographs on our Facebook page too.

We're excited about three new outdoor activities we have in the planning — walking rounders, netball and football. Many current U3A members have already expressed an interest in taking part and new members will be very welcome too. We're hoping to start off in our local parks, so let us know if you're interested.

And there's plenty going on indoors too. Carefully controlled indoor exercise is starting up again as well, with activities to take part in such as ballroom dancing, line dancing, badminton and table tennis. Technology has enabled us to do far more indoors during lockdown of course, especially in our creative and learning groups. Arts, crafts, bridge, science and technology, sewing, flower arranging, languages, history and music carry on – to name but a few! Our 'Ladies who Lunch' groups are on the move too.

Have a look at the full range of activities on our website, and if you're interested in something that isn't there, let us know, or ring for further details if that's easier.

You can join in with as many groups as you want for just one **membership fee – £15** will give you lots to do with us through to August, indoors and outdoors. And as always, you'll be made very welcome by everyone.

Email: basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com Phone: 07787 520281

Website: www.basingstokeu3a.org Facebook: facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a

BASINGA EXTRA

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

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OLD BASING & LYCHPIT PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK: Sandra Tuck 01256 462847

OFFICE AND HOURS: The Pavilion, The Recreation Ground

Monday to Thursday 10am to noon



CHURCH INFORMATION FOR THE AREA

Church of England (Parish of Old Basing & Lychpit)

VICAR: Rev'd Heather Leppard, The Vicarage, Church Lane, Old Basing 01256 363612

Email: vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk 07745 731729

ADMINISTRATOR: Debbie Filer 07541 698235

Regular Services at St Mary's Church, Old Basing

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

5.30pm Evening Service

OTHER DAYS: Wednesday, 10am Holy Communion

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

the church porch

Old Basing Methodist Church

MINISTER: Rev'd David Jenkins 0118 3271592

07973 195566

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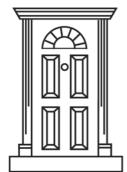
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