

May 2022

# BASINGA



Nicola Turton



**Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Magazine**  
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## MAY NOTES AND NEWS

The **front cover photo this month** is a view of **Oliver's Battery on a Frosty Morning** by **Nicola Turton**. Hopefully this is the only frosty morning we will encounter during the month of May! With that in mind, we have a number of gardening related articles to keep you busy and plenty of Fetes and Fayres to visit. See pages 32 to 36 for environment articles and page 38 for Diary details.

May is the month in which the UK gets 'nil point' in Eurovision, something to look forward to despite winning five times in the past, the most recent being 17 years ago. And May 4th is of course Star Wars Day!

## 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 **May edition** is **6pm on Sunday, 10th April**.

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

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

## PHOTOS AND LOGOS FOR THE BASINGA

If any reader would like to offer a **photograph of the village environment** we would be happy to receive them, either for immediate use or to build up a portfolio of 'village views' that we can use. We now have a web form that you can use to send a photograph for the website archive and possible use in the magazine, go to **[www.basinga.org.uk](http://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](mailto:editor@basinga.org.uk)**

## BASINGA ADVERTISERS

The Basinga magazine is distributed free of charge to over three thousand households and premises in the Old Basing and Lychpit area. The magazine is produced and distributed by teams of volunteers while our printing costs are covered by paid adverts from local businesses. Without the income from adverts we would not be able to function and our readership's support for our advertisers is crucial in maintaining this magazine. When you are looking for a plumber, electrician, roofer, builder or anyone / anything else, please look in the Basinga first. Our advertisers are well-established and most of them have been with us for a long time, reliable and would welcome your custom.

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## OLD BASING VILLAGE FUN DAY



Firstly I would like to say thank you to those that turned up for our working party at the Scout and Guide field as invited in the March Basinga copy. We made such good progress that we are now able



to hold a **Village Family Fun Day** at our site on **Saturday, 18th June** to celebrate our progress in getting the site back into more active use. This is the day that would normally be set aside for the Village Carnival but as you all know that is not possible this year. We hope to sell raffle tickets on behalf of the Carnival Committee and look forward to their (much bigger) event returning next year.

We are seeking your support as we show off our plans, reveal (or remind you of) the space we have and let you have fun trying the sort of things that our Scouts and Guides like to do with you, in your community and for your family. We will publish more details soon, and it's our intention to offer food, drink, entertainment and more, but for the moment let's all celebrate 100 years of Scouting in Old Basing this year.

The Guides and Scouts (all age groups) hope to bring you a new hall in our village very soon and our current aim is for an official opening in May 2025.

**Andy Molloy**

## BOLTON UNDER 5'S PRESCHOOL SUMMER FAYRE

This year's **BU5's Family Fayre** will be bigger and better than ever before, as a celebration of 47 years in Old Basing and Lychpit and will take place on **21st May, noon until 3.00pm**

There will be lots to see and do. Mill Farm will be bringing their animals to see and touch and there will be various stalls selling homemade wares. In addition, there will be a Fritto & Via food van and an ice cream van too! We'll have our usual Pimms and Andwell Beer Tent, as well as games and activities, face painting and two bouncy castles.

The Active Sports' Pro Team will be running games' sessions and family races. There will of course be tea and coffee too, with lots of homemade cakes to enjoy. We'll have a competition or two, a raffle and tombola too. We are so looking forward to it all.

Everyone is welcome, but we would particularly like to welcome back our BU5 families from the last two years, who missed out on their Fayres and other preschool events. We have so missed seeing you and would love it if you could join us this year.

Advance purchase tickets are available from preschool at £5, including entry, one food purchase, a soft drink, one ice cream and a scavenger hunt with prize. A menu is available on our website. Please email [info@boltonunder5s.com](mailto:info@boltonunder5s.com), or pop into preschool at the end of the day (2.50pm).

Tickets will be available on the day for a £1 entrance fee, but these will not include charges for food, drinks or ice-creams. We particularly recommend purchasing tickets in advance if you would like to buy food, to ensure it is pre-ordered and no one is disappointed on the day.

We're hoping for a bright, sunny afternoon, with the bunting flying, lots of good cheer and happy faces.

**The BU5's Preschool Committee**

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### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – MONDAY 16 MAY

Our Annual Parish Meeting this year will be held at the **Royal British Legion, Old Basing**, starting at **7.30pm**. Our speaker for the evening will be Simon Cooper, Founder and Managing Director of Fishingbreaks.co.uk based in Stockbridge. Simon has written a book on “The Life of a Chalk Stream” and this will be the subject of his presentation which will be of interest not only to those residents concerned about protecting the environment and in particular the River Loddon, but also to fishing enthusiasts.

### RECREATION GROUNDS

With the onset of warmer weather, the recreation grounds will attract more visitors. Over recent months a considerable amount of work has been carried out at the recreation ground and Belle Vue repairing and improving play and exercise equipment and refurbishing the benches and picnic tables. Two additional waste bins were purchased last year to cope with an increase in waste – please use them and also make use of the newly installed water bottle refill station located outside the tea room to cut back on disposable plastic bottles.

### COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION

At the April Parish Council meeting we were pleased to welcome a new Councillor, Charlie Butfoy, who has lived in Lychpit for many years and is keen to play his part in Parish Council activities. We do, however, now have another Councillor vacancy following the resignation of Alan Jones who, after several years of dedicated service on the Parish Council, has decided it is now time to take a step back. Alan has taken a keen interest in planning matters and was also the Parish Council's transport representative and a Community Speedwatch volunteer. We will be sorry to see Alan go and wish him well for the future.

### FIVE WAYS DEVELOPMENT – MISSING TREES

Some will have noticed that there is a void next to the old Children's Home - three Horse Chestnut trees have been removed. In the comprehensive tree survey submitted by the developer, Blenheim Construction Ltd, these trees were to be retained. Instead, they have been razed to the ground. Although the trees in question lie outside the Conservation Area and are without Tree Preservation Orders, they were part of the protection plans which, we understood, would be retained as part of this development and their removal significantly affects the landscape. The site was bound by mature vegetation, which itself was a major feature in defining the character of this part of Old Basing. The Parish Council is disappointed that the developer has chosen to remove the trees and we would urge them to consider replacements.

### BELLE VUE RECREATION AREA – FLY-TIPPING

During the past month there have been two instances of garden waste being fly-tipped at the Belle Vue recreation area. The Parish Council is responsible for dealing with fly-tipping on its land including disposal costs so if you see this happening, please report it to the Parish Office and we will try to identify those responsible.



### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are **Tuesday, 3rd May** (Ordinary Parish Council and Annual Parish Council Meetings) and **7th June** commencing at **7.30pm**.

*continued on page 10*



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*continued from page 10*

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## NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

The Basing House site reopened on 9th April and we are now open, **Wednesday to Sunday, 11.00am to 4.00pm** until the autumn. As has been the case in recent years tickets allow repeat visits for a calendar year.

**The Sealed Knot** – the long established national **Civil War re-enactment** group is staging a major event on the common over the **Platinum Jubilee weekend**, the full arrangements are not yet clear. For the time of the event, Basing House will be part of the greater event, with different parking and admission arrangements to usual, including access from the common. Many of these arrangements are designed to try and minimise the effect on the village, so may seem a little drastic for those who live here and wish to attend the event.

The Basing House facilities – including the Bothy tea room will be open as part of the event with home-made soup and sandwiches as well as cakes and beverages. Crisps, ice creams and snacks too! However, the barn will not be open.

Just every now and then Basing House takes a role in the modern world, and it is doing so at the moment as the site is being used for the training of search dogs (and their trainers). Obviously the 14 acre site with its various holes and buildings provides a good environment for this and in the past we have staged other rescue services exercises using our wells and other pits and our Tudor tunnel.

Full details on admission, tickets, and events are on the Hampshire Cultural Trust's website: **www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house** We are still seeking volunteers both to help run the site and to look after the gardens – do give Basing House a ring if you are interested, **01256 463965**, during opening hours.

**Andrew Howard 01256 327014**

## OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

We are pleased to announce that the Committee will be joining the W.I. at the Beddington Centre on **11th June** starting at **11.00am** to promote our 2022 Village Show and to sell plants to those who have failed to plant sufficient or wish to try something new.

It is also our intention to support the **Church Summer Festival** planned for **25th / 26th June** in order to promote further the Village Show. The festival theme is **'The Queen'** to celebrate her **Platinum Jubilee** and the **Village Show Committee** will be presenting a display titled **'The Queen at Chelsea'** to help celebrate.

Why not come to both events and collect your schedule and entry form for our **September 5th Village Show?**

**Dennis Cole**



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## OLD BASING WI



Our April meeting was the time to pay our annual subscription to the WI. Please contact the Treasurer if you still need to make payment. We then had a game of Bingo and sampled some home-made biscuits with our cup of tea.

On 7th April, 30 Members re-convened at the Parish Rooms for a "Tiara and Crown" Platinum Jubilee tea party. This was organised by the Committee using the proceeds from our very successful Christmas sale at Basing House. It was an opportunity to dress up and wear a crown or tiara and make a toast to the Queen.

Our next meeting is our **Annual Meeting** which takes place on **Tuesday, 3rd May at 7.30pm** when we will be electing our committee and President for 2022/3. The competition that evening is a home-made cake.

On **11th June** we will be holding another one of our popular summer sales, this time at the **Beddington Centre from 11.00am**. We will be joined by the **Village Show Committee** who will be selling plants outside. This event is open to all, so please come along and buy one of our delicious cakes, craft items or a jar of jam! But get there early as it is always a sell-out.

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



## THE IVY CLUB

**Jigsaw exchange programme:** this went down very well as a result of which we now have a wonderful selection of jigsaws waiting for new homes. How it works you bring a jigsaw along to The Ivy Club and you can exchange it for another one costing you just £1.00, all monies being donated to various charities, last month we supported St. Michaels Hospice.  
**Jigsaw Exchange** dates **4th and 18th May**, just pop in to the **Royal British Legion Hall** anytime between **2.00 and 4.00 pm**.

On 13th April we celebrated Easter with hot cross buns and had a competition to make an Easter Card, the prizes being Easter Eggs kindly donated by our local Co-Op Store and Tesco, thank you to them.

On 20th April we had a visit from The Mayor of Basingstoke, Cllr Onnalee Cubitt and showed her the delights of playing Bingo, an afternoon being enjoyed by all.

Please note **The Ivy Club is closed on the 11th May** as we have a coach outing to Wells, enjoying Market Day in this delightful city.

Forthcoming events a visit from **Dogs Trust of Newbury** on the **1st June** and our seaside outing to **Weymouth** on the **19th July**.

The **Ivy Club** meets every **Wednesday** at the **Royal British Legion Hall** from **2.00 until 4.00pm** for **£2.00**, which includes tea, cake/biscuits and a raffle, just bring a mug. All are welcome

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

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

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Why don't you come and enjoy a chat, cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit at the home of Mrs June Brant, 19 Rosehip Way, Lychpit on **Friday, 6th May** and Mrs Dusty Brough, 7 Olivers Walk, Lychpit on **Friday, 3rd June**. Both from **10.30am to noon**. For further information phone **Sheila Stone** on **01256350238**.

### **PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH**

**Ploughman's Lunch** at the **Parish Room, St Mary's Church**, on **Thursday, 19th May** at **12.25pm**. It is important to book in advance as numbers are limited.

Telephone **07946 596778** to secure a place.

### **BASINGSTOKE BLUES CLUB**



**On Saturday, 21st May, Backbone Blues Band**

This great band is returning with a reformed line up. R.I.P. Duncan Highet and welcome to his son Luke on bass and vocals, another talented member of the family. Farewell to Frank McConnell, we wish him well in his retirement and welcome to Martin Spellman who has worked with the band before, on guitar and vocals. Welcome back Tony Seamen on guitar and vocals, Martin Jezzard on drums and Steve Pearce on the keyboard. Come along and enjoy their tight rhythm sections, creative guitar and soulful vocals. They deliver a sound which grooves when it swings and punches well above its weight when it rocks.

All welcome - 8pm till late. £10 cash on the door. Licensed bar with low prices.

Future dates: The club will take a summer break in June, July and August For further details contact **Rex** on **01256 321837 / 07979 422590**

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## BASINGSTOKE GANG SHOW AUDITIONS



If you like to laugh, sing, dance and entertain then come along to the auditions for **Basingstoke Gang Show** – the longest running and ‘bestselling amateur show in Basingstoke’.

We’re looking for a cast of 70 Basingstoke Guiding and Scouting members to join our 28th show taking to the stage across 11 performances in **February 2023 at The Haymarket Theatre**.

Auditions are open to all members of Scouting and Guiding groups who will be 10½ or over on 1st February 2023 and all Cubs who will be 8 or over on 1st February 2023.

The members of the Production team have been busy creating an array of numbers with wonderful choreography, sensational songs and hilarious sketches that make Basingstoke Gang Show, fresh, relevant, edgy and fun, ready for the rehearsals that start in September 2022.

**Auditions for Basingstoke Gang Show 2023** will take place at: **The Everest Academy, 10.00am to 4.00pm**, on the following dates:

**Surnames A–L: Sunday 15th May**

**Surnames M–Z: Sunday 22nd May**

To register to audition visit **www.basingstokegangshow.com**

You can also look at Basingstoke Gang Show Facebook page **BasingstokeGangshow** for more information or ask a question.

We look forward to welcoming you to the auditions!



## LINGUATASTIC LANGUAGE SCHOOL



We don’t see them as much nowadays, but there are still parts of the UK where Maypoles are erected and danced around at this time of the year. In some parts of Germany, a “Maibaum” (May tree) can be found in

the village square. They can be anything between 20 and 50 metres tall and as you can imagine, the erection can be quite an event in itself. They are decorated differently in the different regions. Often the trunk will be stripped and then decorated with ribbons, garlands or crepe paper and towards the top, there’s a wreath, referred to as the “Kranz”.

Aside from the large Maibaum in the centre of a village/town, some people also follow the tradition of the “Liebesmaien”. These are small trees, traditionally put up by single men outside the houses of their girlfriends (or those they want to be their girlfriend) to show them their love. In some parts of the country, there’s even the tradition that if a tree is put up outside the same person’s house three years in a row, it is a proposal of marriage!

Be it to celebrate love or simply the coming of the summer, May is for most, certainly thought of as a lovely month. It does though, also signal the start of exams. So, we’d like to take this opportunity to wish our GCSE and A-level pupils all the very best!

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## FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Friends of St. Mary's Church Old Basing (Charity 1051202) is holding its **Annual General Meeting** on **Wednesday 18th May** in the **Bolton Chapel** of the church at **7.00pm**. Refreshments will be served and at 7.30 we will deal with the formal business of the AGM.

We raise funds for the maintenance of the fabric of the church as a centre of the community and if you would like to know more about our aims and activities do come along.

The Reverend Heather Leppard will then speak as to what the church does for the community, the financial obligations of the parish, why the support of the Friends is so important and the current thinking of the Church of England as to parishes.

Ian Kershaw (Chair) [www.friendsofstmaryschurcholdbasing.org](http://www.friendsofstmaryschurcholdbasing.org)

### ST. MARY'S CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL

The Summer Festival Team at **St Mary's Church** are planning the return of the popular **Flower Festival** on the theme of "**A Royal Celebration in Flowers**" with Flowers, Music, Art and Open Gardens. This will take place between **Friday, 24th** and **Sunday, 26th June**.

If you would like to create an **Outdoor Display** whether a banner, a scarecrow, use your imagination, at a minimum cost of **£7.50** or **sponsor** one of the spectacular Floral Arrangements (costs are variable) email [stmaryschurch.flowerfestival@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryschurch.flowerfestival@gmail.com) or call **Debbie Filer** on **07541 698235**.

An **Art Exhibition** will be part of St. Mary's Summer Festival and we are inviting local artists, whatever their media, to exhibit. Would you like to be one of the **Open Gardens** for others to view and enjoy over the weekend? If you would like to exhibit or open your garden please get in touch using the contact details above.

Further details about the whole Summer Festival weekend will be in June's Basinga.

**Jeanette Edwards & the Festival Planning Team**

### ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CORPS OF DRUMS

You are welcome to attend the **Corps of Drums Open Day** on **Sunday, 22nd May** from **11.00 to 14.00** at the **Royal British Legion Club, Crown Lane**. There will be a number of stalls including, so far, cake stalls, lucky dips, guess the weight of the sweet jar, raffle etc. teas and coffees provided. It will be a fun, entertaining day and you are welcome to have a go at playing the cymbals, drum and glockenspiel and make some noise on the big bass drum and talk to members of the band. You can also enjoy refreshments and listen to the

band playing some popular tunes throughout the day.

We hope to see you there and if you have any queries with regards the open day or the band beforehand, then please phone **Diane Matthews**, band secretary, on **07709 586993**.





For many of us, the past couple of years have been exhausting. There have been different factors for each of us that have contributed to this exhaustion: needing to adapt the ways we work during the pandemic (including carrying extra responsibilities), facing the uncertainty of unemployment, living with increased isolation and anxiety, finding ourselves home-schooling children, or simply not being able to do the things that refresh us – whether that is singing in a choir, playing sport with a team, or going on a holiday. Even as things begin to return to ‘normal’ many people still carry the tiredness of the past couple of years.



As I become aware personally of how exhausting the past couple of years have been, I realise that I am not alone. When I turn to the Bible, I take great comfort in the words of Jesus, who says: “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30).

For me there is great comfort in knowing that God is with me, and that I can take any burden to God in prayer. When I was at theological college the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, came to visit and spoke about prayer. One of the things that he said to us that I have held on to is that prayer is a time when nothing is expected of us. It is a time when we simply come as we are to God. Prayer is an opportunity to lean on God.

We can of course pray anywhere, but I am really pleased that St Mary’s church is able to remain open each day for anyone who wants to come in for a time of reflection or prayer, to share the weights they carry with God. I hope and pray that the church can be a place where we find rest with God.

With love,

*Reverend Heather*

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

### REGULAR SERVICES

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



Details of all services are available on our website: [www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](http://www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk)  
Please do not come to church if you have Covid.

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

### CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AT ST MARY'S

Our group for 0 to 4 year olds, **Diddy Disciples**, resumes on **29th April**. An opportunity to celebrate God's love through singing and storytelling followed by stay and play. The group meets **every Friday** during term time in the **Bolton Chapel** from **10.00 to 11.15am**. Just turn up - no need to pre-book.

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

### CHRISTIAN AID

St Mary's will once again be supporting the work of Christian Aid this year by holding a family fun morning on **Sunday, 15th May** after an all-age service at **9.30am**.

Bacon butties and hot-dogs will be on offer from **10.45am until mid-day** with garden games in the churchyard. Donations to the work of Christian Aid are invited.

If you'd like to donate towards the work of Christian Aid envelopes will be available in the church throughout May.

### LOOKING FORWARD TO JUNE

Plans are now well underway for **St Mary's Flower Festival** which will take place from 24th – 26th June. (Please see the separate article on page 21 if you would like to contribute, and April's Basing for further information).

### HALL FOR HIRE

The Parish Room at St Mary's Church, including the kitchen, is available for hire. There is availability for both regular bookings and one-off bookings during the week and at weekends. All enquiries to Debbie, [admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk) or phone her at **07541 698235**.

### WEEKLY BULLETIN

Every week 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 our administrator, Debbie: [admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk)

We are also able to hand deliver printed bulletins to those without internet access. Please phone Debbie on **07541 698235** if you would like one.

## CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP – PIOCC



Thank you to everyone who attended last month's AGM. Our first open meeting for over two years. It was lovely seeing you. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

The birds are singing, the grass is growing ... and this month's **working parties** will be on **Saturday, 7th May at 10.00am** and **Thursday, 26th May at 2.00pm** – meet by the PIOCC noticeboard at the entrance to the Conservation Area. We will 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, just turn up with gloves. Our Saturday morning sessions last about three hours (with a coffee break and chance to relax) and our Thursday afternoons about two hours.

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 more slowly. Why not come and see what you can find? The Conservation Area is a community space for all to enjoy. For further information please ring **Fay Farrant** on **01256 476863**.

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

## VILLAGE CAFE

Isn't it wonderful to have lighter evenings again and for the flowers and trees to be in bloom! Personally, I love every season but there is something magical about spring. It seems much more poignant this year as we watch the awful scenes unfolding in Ukraine, so much unrest and sadness, unreal to watch the scenes on television of a war in Europe we never thought we would see again.

As you know, the AED we have funded at the church is soon to be installed once the cabinet to house it arrives, thanks to your generosity and continuing support. We held a number of training sessions explaining how to use the equipment and hands on practice, which was organised by one of our volunteers and were a "sell out", such a worthwhile thing to attend. Thank you to the Bowls club for the use of their clubhouse for these sessions.

We are now also at a point where we have enough to purchase a second AED which we hope will be installed outside the Co Op store, we will keep you updated.

The team have been busy behind the scenes organising an early **Platinum Jubilee** celebration afternoon, where we will share with you a secret pudding to honour the Queen, which we hope many of you will come along to. The **planned date is 20th May**, but due to a wedding at St Mary's that afternoon, we will be moving to the **Pavilion Tearoom** at the recreation ground. I would like to say a massive thank you on behalf of the cafe as we have been offered the room at no charge which is wonderful.

Our **AGM** will take place on **16th May at 7.30pm** in **St Mary's Church** and we are always open to any feedback from the community so please feel free to message us via our Facebook page, ideas and thoughts are always welcome. The team are also looking at how we can continue to run the cafe for the benefit of all customers and volunteers. We appreciate these are very different times for everyone and once we have discussed ideas, we will let you know future plans.

**Deborah Thorne**

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## OLD BASING RBL – QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE FAMILY DAY

The **Old Basing Royal British Legion** invite you to celebrate the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** by holding a **Family Day** on **Saturday, 28th May** from **1.00pm onwards**. Come along and join in fun activities. Food and drink will be available. See you there

## NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER



The National Women's Register (NWR) was founded in 1960 and exists to provide mentally stimulating meetings, activities and events across the country. If you would like to meet other women to share and explore thoughts, ideas and experiences, then NWR could be for you.

In the first NWR membership and well-being survey 94% reported that NWR provide them with a sense of community, with 82% of respondents stating that their involvement with NWR has supported their mental well-being.

Each small group (typically less than 20) runs according to what suits the local members. Programmes cover a wide range of topics from the serious to the light-hearted, and participation is encouraged. Our National Office also arranges free talks (usually in the evening) via Zoom. These are recorded and available to watch at any time. There are also national online Groups for those who prefer to meet via Zoom.

Chineham and Old Basing NWR meet on the 1st Monday at 2pm in different houses. In April one of our members provided anecdotes from her career as a forensic scientist. In May the discussion will be on Pioneering Woman whilst in June we will each research and talk about a local village. In addition we will have an extra meeting to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with an afternoon tea. Some members meet in the evening on the 4th Thursday to discuss the chosen book. A monthly lunch is also arranged on different days of the week at a local pub restaurant.

For more information go to **[www.nwr.org.uk](http://www.nwr.org.uk)** or contact this year's local organiser **Dusty Brough** via **[dmbc861@gmail.com](mailto:dmbc861@gmail.com)** or call her on **01256 357276** for a chat. You can try a couple of meetings without obligation to check us out.

**Sandie Tapping**

## PROBUS HEARS ABOUT ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

Old Basing resident, Stephen Thair, the speaker at the Probus Club of Basingstoke, and himself a member, sought to air his concerns about the way our planet is headed.

The speaker cited many reasons for changes in the world's ecology. Some UK plants flower a month earlier than decades ago before bees have emerged to pollinate them. Housing developments need to be neutral in water usage to overcome the impact on the environment. The RSPB calculates that in the last 50 years, from 1972, this country has lost over 38 million birds.

Nevertheless, there has been progress on several fronts. The International Whaling Commission set catch limits to preserve stocks. In 2020 only Japan and Norway were whaling commercially. Today whale watching has become a tourist activity.

Cod stocks off Newfoundland are at 10% of the level seen in 1960. Herrings, around Britain, are now said to be in good numbers following a ban from 1977 – 1983. Tins of Tuna

*continued on page 28*

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- Walk your dog or find a picnic spot

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

Hampshire Cultural Trust is a registered charity (no. 1158683) and company (no. 08984225) in England and Wales.

*continued from page 26*

claim that the contents have been caught by lines rather than by nets.

Tequila fish were extinct in Mexico. They have been reintroduced after being bred in an aquarium at Chester Zoo. Rewilding in West Sussex has seen the return of Nightingales, Turtle Doves and breeding White Storks. Last year 72 pairs of Common Crane fledged 40 chicks with the result that today there are more than in the 17th Century.

Tropical rainforests, the lungs of the world, are subject to extensive logging. Deforestation of biodiverse forests takes place in some parts to grow palm trees for their oil.

The UN COP-15 biodiversity conference is planned for August in China. The aim is to make 30% of the Earth's land and seas to be protected areas by 2030. Of twenty goals set at a similar conference in 2010, to be achieved by 2020, none have been fully met.

The pressure is on us all to do something to bring these targets back on track. Time is running out. See **[www.probusbasingstoke.club](http://www.probusbasingstoke.club)**

**Paul Flint**

## **BASINGSTOKE – OLD BASING U3A**



### **Coming Together to Make Sure We're Not Missing Out!**

There are over 50 groups in our U3A (University of the Third Age), all meeting regularly to enjoy different things together, coming together monthly, usually for a light-hearted presentation on a wide range of subjects. (All for just one annual membership fee of course –

currently £25 until September!)

We're a lively organisation, keen to make sure we keep up to date and meet the interests of our members. Some members brought a friend with them to see what's on offer before joining, and we're planning several other get-togethers like this.

Keep an eye out for us or get in touch for details, visit **[www.basingstokeu3a.org](http://www.basingstokeu3a.org)**

### **Some of Us Prefer A Good Discussion!**

Many of us come together to enjoy sports such as football, cycling, table tennis and badminton - to name but a few. Others dance, sing, or garden - yet more enjoy a wide range of games from quizzing to scrabble, bridge to skittles. And our creative members write, paint, photograph, sew, knit and arrange flowers together.

However, many of our members also have slightly more academic interests and want to learn a new language (French, German, Spanish or Latin anyone?) Or work on their Family History together. Others like nothing better than a good debate, and we really do offer a good range of learning if you want it - Science & Technology, the Environment, Philosophy, Art History, Biography, Film Studies, History and Poetry at present. And if you have a different special interest, we can try to help you set up a new discussion group of your own - that's what our U3a is all about: For Members by Members.

Come and enjoy summer with us!

For more specific information email: **[basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com)** or visit our website, address above.

If you're not on-line and would like a paper copy of all our current activities then please phone: **07787 520 281**

**Linda Wain**

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## TEXAS SCRAMBLE – RBL GOLF

With the regular **Armed Forces Golf Day** coming up on **June 27th** (forms now available and invitations open to all) it was decided that an additional fund-raising day for the RBL Poppy Appeal wouldn't go amiss so we held a Team Texas scramble, a format most golfers really appreciate especially after the long winter layoff.

The Waterloo course at Sherfield Oaks accommodated us on the day and despite some late doubts to the wet underfoot conditions allowing play, the event went well on a fine sunny day with a drying breeze. Sadly the organiser, yours truly, succumbed to **'the virus'** a few days before and couldn't play but luckily all arrangements had been made beforehand so it was just down to colleague Steve Western to run the day recording the scores and taking lots of money on the raffle, for which I wish to thank him sincerely.

The winning team was from the **Academy Snooker Centre** and made up of **Mark and Billy Nickless, Scott Lawner and Scott Devlin** with a net **59.9** strokes. Runners-up were the **Hart (Driveway) Blockheads** comprising of **Mark Winyard, Mike Freer, Chris Collyer and Gavin Jackson** shooting **60.1** and in third place scoring **61.4**, another snooker centre team, **The Golfing Wizards**, made up of **Chris Jordan, Scott Coker, Neil and Mark Grogan**.

All of the par three holes carried a **Nearest the Pin** bottle of wine prize and these were won by **Brian Billsberry** who nailed the 2nd and the 7th, **Brig. David Harrison** won the 5th, **Mark Venning** the 12th and **Steve Western** was rewarded for his efforts by claiming the 15th.

So, with the raffle profits of over £170 added on to the players entry fee contribution to the charity hitting £200, the Old Basing RBL Poppy Appeal will benefit to the tune of £376.30, a very much appreciated boost to the '21-22 total for our Branch.

Many thanks to all the players for their generosity and to Sherfield Oaks for their continued support.

**Rick Bourne- Hampshire RBL Golf secretary**

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION

At the Spring Sale on the 9th April our first fund raiser since Covid, and how nice it was to see so many people from the village supporting this event. The cream teas went down a storm and you had the opportunity to purchase a variety of items, homemade cakes, craft, bath bombs and soap, books, jigsaws, jewellery, bric-a-brac, choccobombs, children's toys and teddies as well as try your luck on our popular tombola stall enabling us to raise just under £300.00 for the benevolent fund.

Each month the Women's Section invite new members and just to put the record straight, you do not have to have been, or a member of your family been in the forces. As well as friendship our aim is to raise funds to help those that have gone into conflict protecting others whatever the circumstances.

Anyone is able to join the Royal British Legion men and women allowing you to use the facilities of the Club and their activities as well. We look forward to welcoming you.

On **May 12th** there is an **RBL Women's Section Committee Meeting at 7.30pm** and on **May 26th**, a **General Meeting** of the **RBL Women's Section** at 7.30pm when the competition is a vase, no taller than 6 inches.

**Sue Wilson - Publicity**

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### Getting Wild About Gardens

The buzz of a bee... the sweet scent of honeysuckle... the splash of a frog hopping into a pond... chattering birds in a hedge. These precious moments are not only delightful to experience in our gardens, they're vital if we're going to protect, restore and reconnect UK wildlife.

Since 2013, The Wildlife Trusts have partnered with the Royal Horticultural Society on our Wild About Gardens initiative – encouraging everyone with a garden to provide food and shelter for wildlife. In fact, you don't even need a garden to get involved: window-boxes, a bee brick in your wall, or flower-rich balconies can all make a difference.

Wild About Gardens follows a different theme each year, inspiring gardeners to help a different species. For example, in previous years we've separately championed hedgehogs, bats and butterflies.

So, why is it so important for us to dedicate our own patch to wildlife? Well, almost 90% of UK households have a garden. This equates to over 20 million gardens, which, incredibly, covers a larger area than all 2,300 Wildlife Trust nature reserves combined. With many UK species in decline, using these spaces means we can collectively make a huge difference to our struggling wildlife.

It doesn't even have to involve lots of time and money because letting nature take its own course can often be the best way. Try leaving a patch of grass to grow wild and you'll soon have lots of new visitors, plus it can work wonders for our own wellbeing.

We're dedicating this year's Wild About Gardens to our high-flying summer visitors – swifts, swallows, and house martins. While these amazing migrant birds rarely touch the ground and only remain in the UK for a few months a year, there are still ways we can help them.



Swifts and house martins were recently added to the UK's Red List for birds, meaning they're seriously threatened, have suffered severe declines, and require urgent action. The simplest thing you can do is let a patch of grass grow long – this will encourage insects in your garden and provide food for birds. You can have a similar effect by planting a colourful, insect-friendly wildflower border. Creating a boggy garden patch will provide mud that swallows and house martins use to build their nests. And to provide a home for a swift, consider installing a swift box or brick.

**Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust** have a team of volunteer **Wilder Garden Champions** who can offer free personal advice on how to make your spaces wilder to benefit you and nature.

For more details, visit [hiwwt.org.uk/request-gardening-consultation](https://hiwwt.org.uk/request-gardening-consultation)

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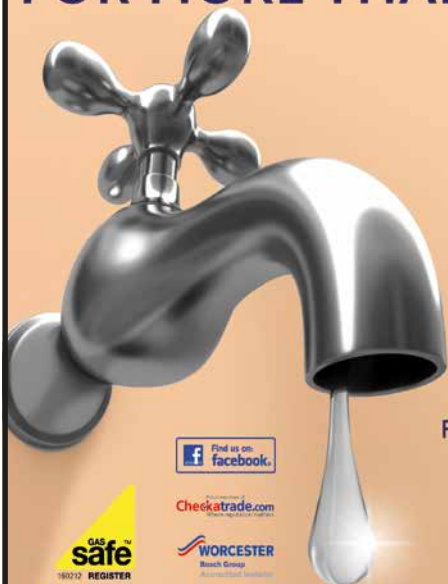
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## MAY IN YOUR GARDEN

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 in 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 re-seeding bare patches or apply a top dressing of fertiliser to replenish its nutrients.

With spring bulbs once they have gone over, resist the temptation to cut back their foliage, instead, let it die and break down on its own. Add liquid fertiliser around the clumps to give you an even better display next spring.

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.

You can also plant summer hanging baskets, adding good-quality compost, slow-release fertiliser and water-retaining crystals, to keep them in top condition. Protect them from late frost under cover.

With the warmer days, now is a good time to get children 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!

If we have warm days, remember to open greenhouse vents and doors. If we are fortunate to have any hot days you can also damp down your greenhouse to increase humidity and deter red spider mites.

Visit garden stores, nurseries, and horticulture centres. Many have online-services, if you are not able to visit in person, it is 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!

## NATURE NOTES FOR MAY

Many of you will know the 'March' expression of 'In like a lion and out like a lamb'. Well, we had pretty much the opposite this year with lovely warm weather through a good part of March and then really cold frosty nights to welcome in April. As a gardener I'm now a little bit tired of fleecing up my greenhouse seedlings every night and lighting the heater to ensure my efforts to grow a summer display aren't in vain, but for early breeding birds such as ducks or robins, sub-zero temperatures would be a matter of potential life or death, as indeed it did to all the blossom on every Magnolia tree around our estate. Such a pity.

However, the warm days that I mentioned above gave many butterflies the opportunity to hatch and take to the wing. The earliest are nearly always the lemon-coloured Brimstone and many people spotted these around the 17th–18th March, quickly followed by Peacock and Comma sightings.

It's sometimes hard to know with certain birds that migrate as to whether they did or not choose to do so during the winter. For the past decade it's been well established that warblers such as Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs aren't bothering and can switch their diets to cope with milder winters so when I heard the latter sounding off on March 19th, that would be, personally, the earliest one I've ever heard. A week or two on I couldn't go anywhere without noticing the (somewhat) monotonous 'chink-chank' call of a male bird announcing his presence and claiming that territory.

There is a little concern within the bird world that the well-known migrants such as Swallows and House Martins are a bit late this year but historical charts do show massive trend swings for their arrivals, ranging from early March in 2019 to mid-April a year later. This is normally down to favourable winds and conditions during their passageway from Africa so cold northerlies, forecast tomorrow (7th April) are not going to encourage anything to come here!

My thanks for observations and photographs sent to me this month, in particular from Peter Wallis, Stephen Thair and Anthony Hutton. Peter's contribution was to mention the Goldcrests that leap about excitedly outside of his bedroom window, an endearing sight of a beautiful bird but concerning too for its well-being. Previously these birds, and also Pied Wagtails, seem to get freaked out by their own reflections and either challenge it or perform a courtship dance, oblivious to the fact that is them! (Well, what would you think if nobody had ever explained the concept of a mirror before??)

Anthony, and indeed his son Robin, have sent great photos to me in the past and I had difficulty deciding which ones to use this month such were the quality. In the end it had to be this super shot of a Kestrel just lifting off of its perch (*right*) and also of the Mandarin Duck (*next page*), found on



the Odiham Canal.

This, a couple of months after Anthony snapped a Wood Duck near the same spot. Logically it would seem as if somebody has lost part of their 'exotic wildfowl' collection.!

**Rick Bourne.**

Don't forget to send all your nature related photos to [rickbourne@yahoo.com](mailto:rickbourne@yahoo.com) or [naturenotes@basinga.org.uk](mailto:naturenotes@basinga.org.uk)

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## THE MILL FIELD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



### Event News:

On **Saturday, 28th May** as part of the **Fun Day** at **Barton's Mill Pub** we shall be holding our annual **Duck Race** to raise funds to help us to maintain the field for the benefit of walkers and the abundant wildlife that abounds on this Local Nature Reserve.

**Tickets will be on sale in advance at Barton's Mill or on the day.**

This year we are also holding our first ever **Bartons Mill Home-made Boat Race**, The competition is open to children aged up to 12.

Entry criteria is that the boat should be home-made, unpowered and no longer than 45cm, after that it's up to your own imagination. There will be a prize for first boat across the finish line, and an additional prize for the "Best looking Boat" in the race. So come on let your imagination and creativity go wild and rope your parents and family in to wow us with your entries. We look forward to seeing what you bring.

### 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**

Mobile: **07974 944439**

Email: [millfieldnature@gmail.com](mailto:millfieldnature@gmail.com)

Facebook: **Mill Field Conservation Group**



## DIARY DATES FOR MAY

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

### May

Sun 1	7.30pm	Heritage Light Orchestra, Haymarket, Basingstoke.
Tue 3	7.30pm	Old Basing WI Annual Meeting. Home made cake.
	7.30pm	Ordinary Parish Council & Annual Parish Council Meetings at The Royal British Legion. Jack Morris Hall.
Thu 5	8.00pm	Monthly Branch Meeting, RBL. Jack Morris Hall.
Fri 6	10.30am – noon	Ladies First Friday Coffee Morning. 19 Rosehip Way.
Sat 7	10.00am – 1.00pm	PIOCC Churchyard Conservation. Meet at Noticeboard.
<b>Tue 10</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>DEADLINE FOR JUNE COPY TO BASINGA EDITOR. See page 3</b>
Wed 11	7.30pm	BDRS The Paris Suburban Railway System by Mike Bunn
Thu 12	7.30pm	RBL Women's Section Committee Meeting.
Sun 15	10.00am – 4.00pm	Basingstoke Gang Show Auditions. See page 19.
Mon 16	7.30pm	Village Cafe AGM at St. Mary's Church.
Wed 18	7.00pm	Friends of St. Mary's AGM. Bolton Chapel, St. Mary's.
Sat 21	noon – 3.00pm	Bolton Under 5's Preschool Summer Fayre.
	8.00pm	Basingstoke Blues Club – Backbone Blues Band. p17.
Sun 22	10.00am – 4.00pm	Basingstoke Gang Show Auditions. See page 19.
	11.00am – 2.00pm	The Corps of Drums Open Day. Royal British Legion.
Wed 25	7.45pm	BDRS Beer by Rail 1830 - 1914 by Dr David Turner.
Thu 26	2.00pm – 4.00pm	PIOCC Churchyard Conservation. Meet at Noticeboard.
	7.30pm	General Meeting of the RBL Women's Section.
Sat 28		BDDF Chineham & Sherfield Park Scarecrow Trail. See <b>www.bddf.org.uk</b> or telephone <b>01256 423869</b>
	1.00pm	Old Basing RBL Queen's Platinum Jubilee Family Day.
	1.30pm	Mill Field Duck Race, Barton's Mill Pub.

## BASINGA EXTRA

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

*Basingstoke and District Railway Society*    *Crime Prevention Bulletin*

*Rotary Roundup*    *Basingstoke Gang Show (full)*

*Civil Service Retirement Fellowship*    *Basingstoke District Disability Forum*

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<b>OFFICE AND HOURS:</b> The Pavilion, The Recreation Ground Monday to Thursday 10am to noon	

## ● CHURCH INFORMATION FOR THE AREA

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

<b>VICAR:</b> Rev'd Heather Leppard, The Vicarage, Church Lane, Old Basing Email: vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk	01256 363612 07745 731729
<b>ADMINISTRATOR:</b> Debbie Filer	07541 698235

### Regular Services at St Mary's Church, Old Basing

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

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

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

### Old Basing Methodist Church

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## Infinite Harmony Hatha Yoga

**4 classes to choose from:**

### Gentle Chair Yoga

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

### Monday's

14.00 - 15.00

Lychnipit

Community Hall

### Relax Yoga

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

### Tuesday's

19.15 - 20.15

St Mary's

Church Hall,

Old Basing

### Sunday Morning Yoga

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

### Sunday's

09.15 - 10.15

Lychnipit

Community Hall

### Sunday Night Satsang

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

### 1st Sunday

of the month

18.30 - 19.30

Lychnipit

Community Hall



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



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

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