

November 2020

BASINGA



Nicola Turton



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NOVEMBER NOTES AND NEWS

The **cover photo** this month is of the **Basing House Memorial**, with two wreaths and a (modern) English Civil War soldier's coat, commemorating the 350th anniversary of the fall of Basing House. The photo was taken by **Nicola Turton**.

Basing House closed for the winter on 25th October but its Christmas Market takes place in the Great Barn the weekend of 28th/29th November (*see page 13 for more details*).

The effects of COVID-19 continue to have ramifications on village life with the cancellation of the Old Basing Carnival, not just this year but next year too. The Carnival will not now take place until 2022 at the earliest, when it will be known as the Old Basing and Lychpit Carnival (*see page 4 for more details*).

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 **December edition** is **6pm on Tuesday, 10th November**. 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, you simply go to **www.basinga.org.uk** and the form can be found on the '**Contributors Submission**' drop-down menu. Should you wish to submit multiple or a series of photos they can be emailed but please read the instructions on the photo form for details.

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

SITUATION VACANT – BASINGA ADVERTISING MANAGER

After 30 years involvement in various roles with the Basinga, our current **Advertising Manager** is retiring; we are therefore looking for a replacement. The role covers the administration of advertisers enquires (not selling) through to ordering and liaison with other members of the production team who place the advertisements into the magazine and website.

The candidate should be familiar with the use of MS Word and Excel for record keeping. Full handover training will be given. If you're interested or would like further information contact **advertising@basinga.org.uk**

Basinga Team

OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT CARNIVAL

This is not my usual update; however things are not as usual as most will fully understand. I do however hope that this message finds you well and taking care of yourselves and your loved ones. With this in mind, I write to advise that we will **not be able to hold the Senior Citizens Party in February 2021**, due to the current regulations and to ensure our senior citizens are kept safe. We will however review this in the new year and if we can hold it later in 2021 we will.

Regarding the **Carnival Selection Disco**, we had already chosen the Royal Party for the 50th Carnival and therefore was not planning on undertaking a Carnival Disco in 2021.

At the Carnival meeting in September, we discussed at length when to make a decision about the **50th Carnival** scheduled for **19th June 2021**. As you will hopefully appreciate there is a lot of work that goes into preparing for the Carnival in June and this work starts with organising and booking acts, etc from September onwards. Therefore, we have made the decision to **postpone the 50th Carnival** until **18th June 2022**. After the meeting, the Government made a statement indicating that we may have restrictions for the next six months, which we feel validates this decision. We will however seek to undertake a **2021 Scarecrow Festival** and look at other socially distanced events during 2021.

At this meeting, the name of the Carnival was also discussed following feedback from residents that were unaware that Lychpit could participate in our events. The committee highlighted how much positive support and help we get from the Lychpit community and as our Carnival has grown over the years. Therefore, going forwards, we are pleased to announce it will now be known as the **Old Basing and Lychpit Carnival**. We hope this encourages everyone in Lychpit to get involved in the future and you never know it might even generate some new volunteers to join us.

I would also like to announce that **Old Basing and Lychpit Carnival Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will be held virtually for the first time (ever), taking place on **Wednesday, 18th November, at 8pm**. All residents of Old Basing and Lychpit are very welcome to attend the AGM, which will be held in public, via Zoom due to current Government restrictions.

Please note: For those **non-committee members** who wish to attend please email **Sarah Adams**, Secretary, at **oldbasingcarnival@gmail.com** to register, receive Zoom details and an Agenda. Any questions need to be raised in advance by **Wednesday, 4th November**.

We hope to see you if you would wish to join us and look forward to developing further activities for 2021.

Joe Croombs (Chair – Old Basing & Lychpit Carnival)

OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT GOOD NEIGHBOURS

All be it we can only offer a limited service, **Old Basing and Lychpit Good Neighbours** are around for hospital, doctor, dentist and foot clinic appointments, including flu jabs and prescription collection.

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Sue Wilson (Chairman)

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PARISH OFFICE

This has been an unusual and difficult year and Kate Hope has been key to helping manage the day-to-day running of the office and other facilities. In recognition of her increased responsibilities and completion of her first year with the Parish Council, Kate has now been promoted to Deputy Clerk.

COVID-19

Few businesses have not been adversely affected by the consequences of lockdown and this also applies to Parish Councils. Income, in particular from the hire of Lychpit Hall and the Pavilion, ceased completely resulting in a loss from Lychpit Hall alone of £9,000 to date. However, running costs still need to be covered and for Lychpit Hall these are in the region of £11,500 per annum. We were pleased to receive a COVID-19 Grant of £2,000 from the Borough Council to compensate for loss of business and contribute towards additional COVID-19 measures; however, when granting this the Borough Council realised they should have been charging Business Rates on the premises thereby resulting in a bill for £1,796! With regular hirers starting to return, income is now trickling in but, with the prospect of party and other bookings unlikely to return until next spring, losses will no doubt continue to rise.

BOXING DAY WALK

For the first time for many years the Boxing Day Walk will not take place due to the need for social distancing. However, we encourage everyone to take their own Boxing Day walk whilst observing the latest Government Guidelines at the time. Ideas for local walks are on the Parish Council's website – just click on "About our Parish" and scroll down to "Walks around Old Basing" and open the pdf booklet to select your walk.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP EVENING

We have reluctantly decided to cancel this event this year due to restrictions on social gatherings.

ANNUAL PARISH AWARD

The Parish Council feels that with so many residents having done so much to help those in need during these difficult times, it would not be appropriate to recognise just one person and has therefore decided not to present an award this year.



PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two **meeting dates** are **Tuesday 3rd November** and **8th December** at **7.30 pm**. Meetings continue to be held via Zoom and anyone wishing to join the meeting should contact the Parish Office for an ID and password.

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

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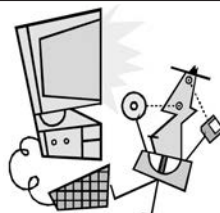
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OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

The Committee has reviewed the COVID-19 situation and decided to hold the **2020 AGM** as a virtual on-line meeting, starting at **7.30pm** on **Tuesday, 10th November**. Residents of the Parish of Old Basing and Lychpit are invited to attend the meeting where they will hear about the Committee's work during the year and have the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions about the Show. The Committee are always looking for new blood, so if you are interested contact the address below.

If you wish to attend, please email your request, including your name and address, and any questions that you may have to **contact@oblvs.org.uk** no later than **midnight** on **Sunday, 8th November**. We will then email you a link to the meeting which will be via Zoom. The link will open in a browser and if necessary, install a browser plug-in to open the meeting. If you have any questions about the arrangements, email **contact@oblvs.org.uk**

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BASINGSTOKE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT – SERVICE NO. 55

Following a number of months of reduced services and a somewhat relaxation of government travel restrictions, this is a reminder to all **Basingstoke Community Transport** regular passengers, that the service now operates on the **full timetable** as was the case prior to the COVID-19 emergency. Many of the pre-COVID regular passengers have already returned to using this highly valued service.

Basingstoke Community Transport look forward to welcoming previous users back on board as well as passengers anew. This will help to recreate the camaraderie and shopping friendships that many of you enjoyed prior the lockdown. Timetables are posted at bus stops and on Parish Council notice boards dotted around the village.

Apart from the well-used Tesco section of the service, the Lidl, Dunelm, Range and Go Outdoors element is up and running well as before. Downtown is becoming busier by the day. For those who enjoy shopping at Waitrose, by the time you read this, their cafeteria will have already re-opened.

So why not wave down a passing 55 bus, jump aboard, and go and enjoy your town!

Cllr Alan Jones

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

How glad I am I live in Old Basing not only for the support individuals willingly gave during lockdown, but also my own personal experience having had a bad accident in the garden six weeks ago.

People have been so kind and the level of support offered has been unbelievable, for which both my husband and I are very grateful, which has included cutting our grass, bringing us meals and shopping.

I'm well on the mend now, albeit I am the proverbial bionic woman with a new hip and shoulder. Always practise what you preach, having banged on about wearing sensible shoes in the garden, then wore crocs, and fell over my own feet!! Anyway thank you once again. I love Old Basing!

Sue Wilson

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NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

The last weekend in October sees our **Halloween events**, all of which require booking and at the time of writing it is not clear whether there are any vacancies; to enquire, full details are at www.hampshireculture.org.uk/event/halloween-evening-ghost-walks

The site **closes** for the winter at **4pm** on **Sunday, 25th October**, except for the pre-booked Halloween events. That leaves us with one more event in 2020 – our **Christmas Market** in the **Great Barn** on the weekend of **28th and 29th November**, between **10am and 4pm**. Pre-booking is essential via our website to ensure we can maintain social distancing, the capacity allowance in the barn, and for COVID-19 track and trace. **Arrival booking slots** will be every **30 minutes** for the market, starting at **10am** and ending at **3.30pm**. The event is likely to be very popular, so we advise booking in advance to ensure you get tickets. **Tickets are £3.50 per adult, £2.50 per child and under 5s free**. There will be a strict one-way system in place around the market to ensure social distancing can be maintained and visitors will have to wear face coverings at all times.

This year we will have a **Nativity scene** on **28th November** in the **Cart Shed**, and **Horse Trough Catering** will be offering take-away food and drink from their horse box in the courtyard. The barn and visitor centre will be decorated for Christmas – we are even buying some new decorations for this year!

We do ask visitors to park in our **car park**, by **Bartons Mill**, for the event and not in The Street. Allow five to ten minutes to walk from the car park.

The event is on the website and ready for bookings – we have already taken some! Go to www.hampshireculture.org.uk/event/basing-house-christmas-market

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

THE MILL FIELD NATURE RESERVE

EVENT NEWS



Our **work party** on **Saturday, 21st November**, will continue with this winter's plan to tackle the scrub. We aim to clear areas of ash, oak and thorn to allow smaller plants to flourish and renew the views for walkers across the site and keep the paths clear. No special skills are required but volunteers are asked to bring their own gardening-type gloves, a pen for signing in and your own refreshments. Tools, which will be disinfected before and after use, will be provided. We meet and will be working on the lower path (next to the woods) from **10am** and work for about **two hours**. Any last-minute changes due to COVID-19 will be posted on Facebook and the field notice board, or if you can email that you are coming then I can provide updates.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS MONTH

As temperatures drop Roe deer will become more evident, and you may see some early winter visitors like the Siskin, Brambling and Lesser Redpoll, as well as increased numbers of Starling, Song Thrush and Redwing. Browsing the various sources of food there will be groups of Long Tailed Tits around with large mixed groups of other species.

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

Email: millfieldoldbasing@yahoo.co.uk

Facebook: **Mill Field Conservation Group**

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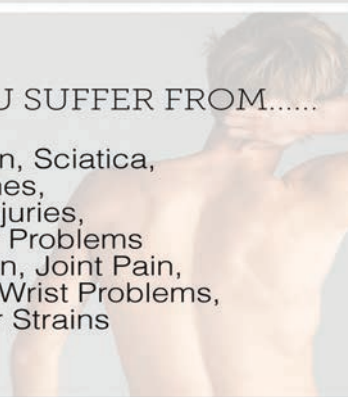
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Submissions made via the forms now provide a common input for both the magazine and website and are automatically routed to the member of the team responsible for processing them. All submissions must be received by the 10th of the month (6th in December)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

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

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

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FREE ADVANCED DRIVING TASTER SESSIONS: The Basingstoke Advanced Motorists Group's Observing Team is now back on the road. Whether you are an experienced driver who wants to update their driving knowledge or correct bad habits, or whether you want to gain road confidence and get more enjoyment out of your driving, we can help you start that journey. Taster sessions are informal and last about an hour. If interested in taster sessions or just want to know more about the Group email: chairman@iambasingstoke.org.uk visit our website: www.iambasingstoke.org.uk or tel. 0800 2982610.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In September's Basinga you used the unfortunate heading "Have your say on plans to stamp out dog fouling". Picture that for a moment because those plans (proposed by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council) will indeed likely 'spread' the problem and cause it to be more resilient.

There is little evidence in the public domain to support such a proposal having any positive impact on its own. It also ignores the serious issue of discarded poo bags left hanging on fences, in hedges and so 'thoughtfully' left on the edges of paths for somebody else to deal with. There doesn't appear to be any visibility of a wider and more appropriate plan. The proposal does make me think that the whole purpose of it is simply for councillors to appear to be taking a 'tough line'. They certainly appear a bit confused and muddled in their approach by proposing controversial action first without properly completing the public engagement and consultation. Over the last eight years or so, during which I estimate I've personally removed over one tonne of litter (including hundreds of used poo bags) from our footpaths and the Loddon, the casual indifference shown by councillors (with one notable exception) is lamentable. Thankfully there are many other local people who are having a positive impact on littering generally.

Whilst it is only the minority who are irresponsible 'dog poo offenders', it is most likely that they will be the ones who respond most destructively to the application of such a poorly thought out proposal. We can certainly expect more discarded poo bags and quite possibly an 'adverse' reaction from the 'mindless' within that minority if challenged. They can be aggressive when challenged and so should only be approached by those prepared for abuse and trained to deal with aggressive behaviour. Have councillors really given any thought to that and the practical application of enforcement? I doubt it very much.

This is a complex problem to solve and is not one that can be dealt with by simple solutions for the sake of political expediency. The public engagement is commendable but has been back to front. The Council needs to stop, start again in a structured way, build on the public engagement so far and produce a considered, appropriate and co-ordinated plan. That plan must deal with the different aspects of the whole issue and then be properly implemented. The approach so far is inadequate and sadly is doomed to fail at dealing with the problem it's intended to fix.

Jeremy van Hagen

YEAR 7 ENTRANCE EXAMINATION – 8TH JANUARY 2021



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CHINEHAM LIBRARY

First of all, well done everyone for taking part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge. It may not have been 'business as usual' – we certainly missed the buzz of everyone visiting the library and claiming their medals and certificates – but thank you and congratulations to those who read so many books!

It seems wrong to mention the 'C' word (Christmas!) just after the word 'Summer', but it's not that far off now – if you would like ideas on seasonal food, decorations, or even some wintery books to read when it's raining, pop in and see what books we have to offer!

You may notice when you next visit that we have implemented the NHS 'track and trace' system as part of the measures currently in place at time of writing (October 2020). It's simple to check in, you can either scan the QR code with the NHS COVID-19 app or we can take a few contact details.

Talking of **apps**, many of you may have downloaded **BorrowBox** where you can read books on your phone or tablet. Did you know that you can also read magazines for free by downloading **RBDigital**? If you want to brush up on gardening, or history, or see what's on TV next week it's perfect.

If you want to learn something new as the nights start to draw in there are many courses available online as part of the '**Learning in Libraries**' scheme. These include: pilates, art, mindfulness, family history and much more. To find out more and to book a course visit the Hantsweb shop online on www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home.php?cat=369 (if the course has whetted your appetite you can visit the library and take out a book on the subject).

Just a reminder that you can book our own study area or one of the public computers by popping into the library or by ringing the call centre on **01962 454747**. All you need is your library card number. And if you need to print a document or picture you can do this from your own phone without having to log onto our public computers.

We are still running the Ready Reads scheme if you would like us to pick books for you – tel. **01962 454747** or go to www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/ready-reads to fill in the online registration form.

We are currently **open** on the following days: **Tuesday 10am–4pm; Wednesday 10am–4pm; Friday 10am–4pm; Saturday 10am–4 pm**. We hope to see you soon!

Nicki Murphy (Chineham Library Team)

GREAT BINFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Will your child be starting school in September 2021? Ofsted says that **Great Binfields Primary School** is a 'Good' school and we would love to show you all that we can offer your child via our virtual open day. Take a virtual tour around our school, simply by going to www.greatbinfields.co.uk/admissions-and-starting-at-our-school/ and find out about our creative curriculum, outdoor learning provision and much more!

We will be holding virtual **Q&A events** at the following times: **Friday, 13th November (1.15 to 3pm)** and **Tuesday, 24th November (4 to 5.45pm)**, for you to ask any questions you may have after viewing our online materials. If you would like to attend a slot at one of these virtual Q&A events tel. **01256 460532** or email adminoffice@greatbinfields.hants.sch.uk to book a time so that we can send you a link to your own online meeting.

Dear Friends,

At the time of writing the winter, Christmas and what follows all look pretty dreary. The pandemic is spreading; further lockdown looks likely. How do you cope? Especially if you're living on your own and are cut off from other people.

Drawing on deep inner resources seems to be part of the challenge of our times. I've thought of some important areas that you might find helpful, a kind of "10 Commandments". You might want to adapt them into your own "Rules for Living".

1) **Keep in contact.** Finding ways of connecting with people-via the phone or other means can be vitally important-for other people and for you.

2) **Look outwards.** Taking an interest in what is happening and responding to the need of others helps to free us from the burden of being too self-preoccupied.

3) **Seek stimulation.** Whether it's television, music, books or whatever it may be, make time for the areas of life you find interesting.

4) **Welcome laughter.** Humour rapidly restores perspective and is a basic human quality for enjoying the gift of life.

5) **Take time to reflect.** If there is one activity, above all, that I find deeply life-giving it is making room for prayer. Simply being quiet in mindfulness or meditation can be a great source of strength.

6) **Keep physically active.** As well as exercise of various kinds, just keeping on the move can be important.

7) **Be creative.** Finding ways of retaining and developing skills has great value.

8) **Keep alert.** Keeping informed and being mentally active helps us in meeting life's challenges

9) **Rest adequately.** If we can avoid depriving ourselves of sleep and can comfortably relax, this gives us far more than we might have expected.

10) **Try new things.** Maybe just changing the way we usually react to situations, changing our attitudes as well as experimenting with different activities may be helpful.

Whether these will be gloomy months, or whether we'll be pleasantly surprised, however we formulate our own "Rule of life" or "10 Commandments", we are likely to need to draw more deeply on the inner resources essential to our humanity.

With love,

Reverend David Jenkins

REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES

We would love to welcome you at St Mary's, either in the church or on our Facebook page (St Mary's Old Basing and Lychpit) where our services are live-streamed.



Sunday, 8am (in church) and **9.30am** (in church and online)

Monday, 9.15am (online)

Wednesday, 10am (in church and online)

Thursday, 9.15am (online)

Friday, 9.15am (online)

We have COVID-secure measures in place. As all services have limits on the numbers able to attend, if you would like to join us in church you are strongly encouraged to pre-book by contacting St Mary's Administrator, Debbie, Monday to Friday, either by phone **07541 698235** or via email admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

In line with government regulations, please wear a face covering upon entering the church, unless you are exempt from doing so. Please use the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the church, and observe social distancing.

1ST NOVEMBER (ALL SOULS, REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES)

We will be remembering our loved ones at a special service on **Sunday, 1st November, at 4pm**. You are welcome to join us in church (please pre-book) or online on Facebook from your own home. If you are not online and would like a pack delivered so that you can join us from home, please phone **Debbie** on **07541 698235**.

REMEMBERING STONES

For **All Souls**, we will be creating a cross of stones to remember our loved ones in the churchyard. You are invited to write the names of loved ones you wish to remember on stones and bring them to the churchyard over the weekend **31st October/1st November** and place them on the grass to form a large cross.

8TH NOVEMBER (REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY)

This year's **Act of Remembrance for Remembrance Sunday** will be online only. With the current COVID restrictions we cannot safely hold a service for the public. Please join us on Facebook at **10.50am** on **Sunday, 8th November**, for a local act of Remembrance. If you wish to join in with the service from home, please find the order of service on our website to download: www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

PRIVATE PRAYER

The church remains open for **private prayer** on a **Thursday (10am to 2pm)**. All are welcome. In line with government regulations, please wear a face covering upon entering the church, unless you are exempt from doing so. Please use the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the church, and observe social distancing.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Every **Friday** we send out a **bulletin** with information about what is happening at the church. If you'd like to be added to our distribution list please email our Debbie, our administrator at admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

(continued on page 24)

(continued from page 23)

BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK – DONATION REQUEST

The Foodbank continues to face a high level of demand and would appreciate any support that you can give in terms of donations. St Mary's continues to be a collection point. Please leave items in the crate on the Vicarage porch (the Vicarage is located on the corner of Church Lane and Milkingpen Lane). There is also a collection box in Tesco at Chineham. For a list of items that in particular short supply visit www.basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk

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, be that practical help such as shopping and the collection of prescriptions or if feeling isolated and would welcome a friendly phone call. Contact **Revd Heather** on **07745 731729** or basinghub@gmail.com

COMFORT AND JOY – ST. MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2020

This year we are moving our annual event outside, following guidelines to ensure that the event is COVID-safe with a trail of trees around the churchyard and stable with figures made by local community groups. Trees brighten the way from **Saturday, 12th December**, leading up to **Christmas** and on to **Epiphany** giving everyone plenty of time to view them. You haven't booked your tree space yet? Don't leave it too long or you may be disappointed. Theme your tree by decorating it with what brings you and your family 'Comfort and Joy' and bring some joy to others. Trees cost a minimum of **£7.50 to sponsor**.

Over the weekend of **Saturday, 12th December, 11am to 4.30pm**, and **Sunday, 13th December, 11am to 4pm**, festive music will play whilst you view in your bubbles. There will be an opportunity to vote for or take 'selfies' to be uploaded onto St Mary's Facebook page with your favourite tree. **Voting will end at 4pm on Sunday, 13th December**, with a small prize awarded to the winning tree.

Can you spare one hour of your time for this? We need your help to make this much-loved festival the start of a truly wonderful Christmas. To book your tree space or find out more visit St Mary's Facebook page, website or you can contact **Jeanette Edwards**, email jjedwards38@hotmail.co.uk

OLD BASING ALLOTMENT AND GARDEN SOCIETY (OBAGS)

Unfortunately due to the ongoing COVID situation, the OBAGS committee have decided to keep the **shop closed** until at least the **end of March next year**. The complexities of making the shop COVID-compliant and therefore minimising the risk to the volunteers were just too difficult to implement for our small shop. To ensure that no-one is unfairly disadvantaged by this decision, the committee has also agreed that **2020 membership cards will remain valid throughout 2021**. The last inspections of the year have now been completed but there is still plenty of work to be done.

All types of currant bushes can be pruned anytime between now and March, and autumn-fruiting raspberry canes should be cut to the ground. You can begin planting onion, garlic and shallots now, ensuring you cover them with fleece to protect them from bad weather. Brassicas should be netted to protect them from pigeons and Brussels sprouts should be staked to prevent damage from high winds.

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CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)



This month's **working parties** will be on **Saturday, 7th November**, at **10am** and **Thursday, 26th November**, at **2pm** – **meet in the church lobby**.

Following the introduction of the “rule of no more than six” in September we updated our COVID-19 Risk Assessment and rules to conform, so were able to restart our Working Parties, however the first two were sadly rained off!

Our volunteers make a real difference. Luckily there is plenty of space in the Conservation Area and always a number of different tasks in separate areas. Where more than six volunteers attend a session, they 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 two metres from members 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 continue our seasonal conservation work, including woodland management.

The birds will be feasting as the berries in the churchyard ripen and turn wonderful colours. Why not come and see, the Conservation Area is a community space for everyone, but remember to adhere to the latest coronavirus regulations. The central path is now much safer, but please still take care as you wander around. Take care and keep well.

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

Website: **www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk**

Margaret Carr

LYCHPIT CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

It is with great sadness we announce that the **Lychpit Christmas Celebration** at **Lychpit Courtyard** will not be taking place this year. All possible options have been explored but, as health and safety has to be our highest priority and with the growing uncertainty and possible increased tightening of Government restrictions, we believe our only option is to cancel this year's event.

Our thanks to everyone who made our first festive occasion such a success last year. We are so grateful for the wonderful support you provided and the amazing feedback you gave us. We were very excited to be back again having incorporated some of your ideas into our planning. Yes, we are disappointed that we can't go ahead this year but, looking forward, we do plan to be up and running again next year and we look forward to seeing you in November 2021 to help us kick off the festive season in style!

A small consolation in the run up to Christmas is that we understand Teagether will have those tasty mince pies on their festive menu quite soon!

Debbie Dooley (Secretary Lychpit Community Events Society)



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I saw last month you published a photo of a thoughtless motorist who'd obstructed the path in Hatch Lane. Well I think you should run a monthly feature if you have room as it's so common around the village. Anyway, I know you can't show registration numbers but hopefully the owners will recognise their vehicles and perhaps (doubtful) might feel guilty.



On Thursday, 8th October, the van in the photo was completely blocking the path at Olivers. Not an unusual occurrence really as any busy night you care to choose there will be cars all down the double yellow lines, or, on the pavements. That night it was very quiet and if they had just gone another 50 yards they would have been legally parked in Byfleet Avenue. But no, they couldn't be bothered so I snapped them. Hope they get caught one day.

Rick Bourne

OLD BASING WI



As all our Members will know, due to further Government restrictions introduced in September, we were unable to hold our delayed AGM as planned. The WI rose to the challenge and held an "almost virtual" AGM with responses accepted by email, post or telephone. We had an over 70% "turnout" (which was greater than the turnout in the 2019 General Election!) and all the resolutions put to the Members were accepted.

One of our longest-running Committee Members, **Fay Farrant**, had previously indicated her intention to stand down. The Committee would like to record its thanks and appreciation for all the work Fay has done over the last 20 years as both President and Treasurer for the Old Basing WI. Fay was presented with a Garden Voucher by our President Sue Stewart, as a token of our appreciation. Fay will continue to assist us, but felt that it was time for "new



blood with new ideas" to join the Committee. We welcome Sandy Scott onto the Committee. Sandy will be responsible for our speaker bookings when our meetings resume.

As a new departure for us, Members have been invited to join in on a Zoom call organised by another WI group entitled "Sex, Secrets, and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Courts 1600–1830". The speaker, Sarah Slater, is a guide at Hampton Court Palace. By all accounts this should be a racy evening! The Committee is looking into whether we can offer our own Zoom meetings in the future.

For details of the WI in Hampshire and other WI activities go to **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**

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BOLTON UNDER 5'S PRESCHOOL

Bolton Under 5's Preschool is celebrating its **45th Anniversary in Old Basing (1975–2020)**. It's incredible to think that we've been established within the village for that long. Many hundreds of youngsters have had fun and games within the Beddington Centre and in our super gardens. We have such an enviable location near the extensive recreation grounds and allotments, where safe exploring is possible.



Although we're unable to have a public celebratory event as such, one of the ways we are marking the occasion is with a change of logo and uniform.

The committee, staff and parents put together some thoughts for local graphic designer, **Amy Borrell**. Her design (see *left*) is amazing. Thank you Amy.

We are so pleased with our final logo; fresh air, freedom and a magical rainbow, prerequisites for learning and feeling happy. We all need a bit of magic in our lives. Maybe Peppa Pig is playing in those hills – one parent's reaction!

We would also like to celebrate **Sam Leadbetter's** ten-year anniversary at BU5's Preschool too. What a kind, clever leader she has been over that time. Her accomplishments are numerous and together with her team, she has continued the tradition of creating a 'home-from-home' approach to their work, acknowledged and championed by numerous families in and around Old Basing and Lychpit over the years and judged to be 'outstanding' by you know who.

Thank you Sam, Tina and the team for making BU5's a very special place to be, 45 years on. Fresh air, Freedom and a Magical Rainbow. Be Happy and Learn!

LINGUASTIC LANGUAGE SCHOOL

At the beginning of this month, Mexicans will be celebrating "Día de los Muertos" (Day of the Dead). This festival is sometimes likened to Halloween, but really it's very different.

It's not about ghosts and witches scaring people, but it's about honouring deceased loved ones. It's not a sad time though; very much the opposite since Mexicans believe that their loved ones return and celebrate with them. At midnight on 31st October, the gates of heaven are opened and the "angelitos" (literally little angels), the spirits of all deceased children, reunite with their families for 24 hours. On 2nd November, it's the turn of the adults to come down and enjoy the treats prepared for them and left in "ofrendas" (beautiful, bright and colourful alters).

Another common symbol of the day is the "calavera" (the skull), often represented in masks or food such as chocolate or sugar. Making calaveras is one of the activities we enjoy engaging in with the children we teach.

Unfortunately, with the situation as it still is, we are unable to return to run our clubs in Old Basing Infant School, St Mary's Junior School or Great Binfields Primary School and so there won't be any face-to-face craft in schools this time around, but look out on our Facebook page for some photos from our other clubs.



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OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB



In the end, it was a great summer for tennis at Old Basing Tennis Club even if 2020 has not been the year that any of us expected!

At Old Basing Tennis Club we were going to celebrate our 90th anniversary, but we weren't able to in the way we'd planned. However, once lockdown was lifted, playing tennis outdoors was one of the few sports that people could play and what a summer we had! The sun shone for weeks on end and we doubled our membership! We also used an app to allow members to book one of the four courts, which has been a great help. Most mornings and evenings saw all the courts being played on, whether it be doubles, singles, mixed, men's or ladies. It was lovely to feel the sun on your skin and be able to play and chat to other people, whilst keeping socially distanced at all times. Even our tennis coach, Ben, was able to carry on coaching from May onwards.

Although we're now going into winter, tennis can still be played, so if you'd like to join, go to our Facebook page, website **Clubspark.lta.org.uk/oldbasingtennisclub** or email us on **obtc.information@gmail.com**

You can find us on **Riley Lane, Old Basing, RG24 7DH** (next to the football and cricket pitches). Lots of car parking too.

OLD BASING BOWLS CLUB



The COVID-19 pandemic had the potential to destroy our Bowls season, however due to careful planning and sticking to the new rules we were able to continue, albeit in a very different format. The initial 'lockdown' in April/May put paid to our planned membership drive and to the opportunity to host and play other clubs. Members could only meet via Zoom at this time and were itching to get started!

As the regulations eased a little we were able to be creative and begin to host friendly roll ups, coaching sessions, a league for members playing pairs matches. Our much-improved ladies team were able to meet regularly on 13 occasions to hone their skills. A number of social bowling sessions were held at weekends, pleasingly being at the full 'new capacity' of 30 bowlers at any given time, culminating in a Closing Drive on 26th September.

Despite these difficulties we were pleased to recruit five new bowlers to add to our current membership of 75. Bar income was of course lost, though a successful beer auction helped to reduce our stocks! Careful planning also meant that the Club was able to access £2,000 of support from Sport England to cover a loss of income this year – the only Bowls Club in the Borough to be successful in gaining this funding.

We look forward to a more normal season in 2021 – please do watch out for details of our Open Days in April 2021 when you can come and give bowls a try and access some free coaching too.

Malcolm Christian (Chairman – Old Basing Bowls Club)

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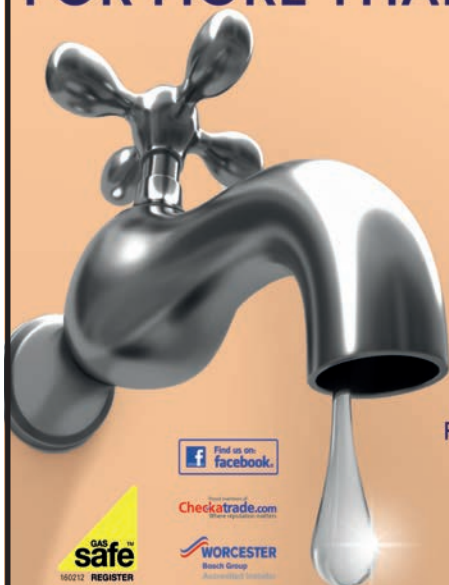


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THE GOOD OLD BASING PARISH GOLF DAY

Despite the difficulties thrust upon us, the sixteenth **Old Basing Parish Golf Day** took place on **18th September** at **Sherfield Oaks** on a sunny, breezy day. Dry fairways and excellent greens made for some good scores as is often the case for our charity event.

Fourteen players lined up on the Waterloo Course for an 18-hole stableford, a much-reduced day due to the problems of no changing facilities and constant social distancing but regardless we all enjoyed the round and the two-course meal after.

First-time participant **Bill Lycett** won this year's event with an excellent 42 points. Winner two years ago, Keren Western knocked on the door again with a solid 37 points for second spot and in third place was Darrell Cook with 36 points. In fourth place on the same total, losing out only on countback, was Peter Wilson.

Dave Jones got the ball closer than anyone else on the 15th to win the **Nearest-the-Pin** prize and **Bill Lycett** struck his ball further than anyone else on the straight and narrow 9th to win the **Longest Drive**. All players collected a bottle of fine wine plus vouchers for the main winners.

A raffle was then held after the meal and presentations and this raised a commendable £130 for St Michaels Hospice, the nominated charity of this year's champion Bill.

The organizers wish to extend a big thank you to Julie Shepherd, Community Champion at Tesco Chineham who gave us a £20 gift card to purchase the raffle prizes. It was decided that we should not approach the small local businesses this year for sponsorship as they are all going through seriously challenging times as it is.

However, it is a very big thank you to all of the players for their generosity to come up with the total they did, enabling the **Old Basing Golf Society** to again to act as benefactors to a local charity.

Rick Bourne (tel. **07900 648675**) and **Steve Western** (tel. **07920 840985**)

THE OLD BASING RBL ARMED FORCES GOLF DAY – A CORRECTION!

I committed the cardinal sin of submitting an article to the Basinga last month without double checking my copy. In one paragraph I had left in last year's winners of part of the competition instead of editing in this year's results. Therefore, apologies to those NOT mentioned but here they are!

The copy should have read:

"All of the par three holes were individually entered by the players for cash prizes so Nearest-the-Pin honours went to **Carolyn Leavey** who nailed the **2nd**; **Noel Donovan** the **5th**; **Steve Western** the **7th**; **Brian Billsberry** the **12th**; and **Steve Myers** the **15th**. Several of the winners donated their winnings back to the Poppy Appeal fund which was much appreciated".

Again, apologies.

Rick Bourne

NOVEMBER IN YOUR GARDEN

We are now in the time of year where we can be experiencing a mix of frost, gales and hailstones (hopefully not all at the same time)! It is imperative that tender plants are protected from these weather conditions. Move them into the greenhouse, a sheltered spot near the house or, if all else fails, wrap the pots in fleece or bubble wrap to keep out the worst of the weather.

Continue to rake fallen leaves from lawns to ensure that the grass gets a good amount of light and moisture. If the temperature remains mild, then it may be necessary to continue to trim back grass, be sure to keep the blades high to reduce stress. You can also do some autumn lawn care: scarifying, aerating and top dressing in mild weather but be sure not to do this if the ground is frosty, waterlogged or snow covered. Also, it is worth avoiding walking on frosty grass as it will damage the grass.

In the flowerbeds you can continue to cut back faded perennials but if you can, try to leave some stems uncut to provide over-wintering spots for friendly insects such as ladybirds and lacewings that will help with controlling greenfly next year. Tulip bulbs should be planted this month and it is not too late to try plant some winter bedding such as violas or bellis. Ornamental grasses can be cut back and tidied, as can bamboo and you can still lift and divide overgrown perennials if you haven't already done so. The very best thing you can do for your flowerbeds now is to apply an autumn mulch, especially around the base of plants that are borderline hardy, such as kniphofia.

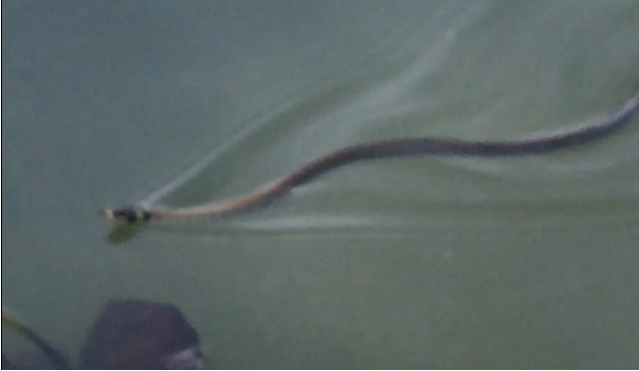
If you are in need of new flowerbeds then this is a good time to make a start, providing the ground isn't too waterlogged as walking on very wet soil will cause it to become compacted. Digging and turning over the soil will expose hidden pests and eggs, and allow the birds to get a free feast. Be sure not to leave the newly dug soil exposed too long though as excessive rain will wash away valuable nutrients. If you aren't planning on mulching, then cover the ground with black polythene to help keep the goodness in.

Lots of bare-root plants will be available to buy this month. This includes hedging plants as well as roses, which are usually considerably cheaper than buying them as potted specimens. Bare-root plants need to be got in the soil as soon as possible lest their roots dry out. Try and plan ahead with your purchase so that you can be on hand when they are delivered to get them straight into their final positions. If you can do this, then heel them in and keep them well watered until you have more time. Newly planted trees and shrubs are best protected from gales with temporary net windbreaks until their roots have become established and they are strong enough to hold themselves firm. If you have plants growing in the wrong position, this is the perfect time to relocate them to somewhere more suitable. This works best with plants younger than a couple of years old. If they are more mature than this then the root ball may be too large to ensure the move is successful. In this case, it might be best leaving well alone!

Keep an eye on any bulbs that you are forcing indoors for a festive display. Amaryllis bulbs can be brought into active growth with regular watering and feeding, whilst hyacinths and paper white daffodils should be brought into a cool, light room once they have about an inch of growth and then into warmer rooms once flower buds begin to appear. Succulents and cacti very much need a period of rest over winter. Keep them barely moist and don't be tempted to feed them until the spring when active growth starts and your normal care routine can be resumed. Happy gardening.

NATURE NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

I've frequently mentioned that part of the joy of angling is that one sees so much nature when you're sat quietly by a lake or river. That includes the shy, the pretty and the scary, depending on your point of view, so having half a dozen **grass snakes** swimming your way in quick succession might not be everyone's idea of a relaxing days fishing! I was at Billhook lake near Roke yesterday (15th September) when the slippery chaps came



off a little island situated on the lake and headed towards the margins. The bailiff had previously told me that there were always a few in the vicinity and that the mass showing yesterday was that he believed there was something attractive to them food wise in the lily-pad patches. It was a novelty for sure and more than I've ever seen in one place before, so I made sure I took a bit of video and some pictures (*see photo above*).

From drought-like conditions in August and September with the usual threats of water shortages abounding, we hit the autumn equinox and suddenly began a subaqueous existence! Over four inches of rain must have fallen last weekend (3rd/4th October) as a garden vessel which I know had been empty, was now full to the brim. I had to take a couple of bucketsful of water from my small pond to prevent the fish invading my decking and the large pots containing hostas weighed a ton so in the greenhouse they went. However, this regular autumn deluge results in perfect conditions for flushing out leaves and dead matter from the rivers and will help deoxygenated ponds and lakes to recover, as well as filling the aquifers on which we depend.

Many people see frogs in their gardens, so this weather suits them brilliantly. Michael Haynes saw my article two issues ago about the demise of the frog population due to the harsh winter two years ago. His pond has fish, and they eat the spawn that appears each year, so he moved several clumps to a neighbours 'fishless' pond back in the lockdown. Most hatched with the result there are now hundreds of one-inch long frogs all over Cavalier

Road gardens. It's especially good news if you're a heron or a grass snake but frogs will eat slugs so they're useful to have around for gardeners too.

We usually refer to heavy rain as 'nice weather for ducks' and there are always **Mallards** whizzing around the Belle Vue area, presumably birds from the village end of the canal which usually has water in it. However graceful and fluid they look in flight is all undone with their movement on the ground, or



should I say their demeanour. Terry McAnish took a picture (*see photo, left*) of this one sat on his roof and it just doesn't look right.

(*continued on page 38*)

(continued from page 36)

Now is the right time to put up or take down nest boxes. Siting a box correctly is all important and if the one you've removed to clean has no material in it, perhaps not for the first year, then consider a new site if at all possible. If it was already north or east facing, then it could be a matter of its height (too high or low) or that the birds are not using it because of its exposure to potential predators or human interaction. Tit boxes need to be between six and eight feet off the ground ideally but as you've probably seen in media coverage, they'll nest in the weirdest of places if it takes their fancy. Apertures in traffic lights, external wall-mounted ash trays, drainpipes and vehicles have all been rendered temporarily out of order whilst eggs hatch and young fledge.

Don't forget to send all your nature-related photos to rickbourne@yahoo.com or naturenotes@basinga.org.uk or ring **01256 321108** for news. For all your bird food requirements, order it from me at 'Bird Drop-ins' use the former email address or ring me on **07900 648675** to place an order or get a form.

Rick Bourne

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT WILDLIFE TRUST

In the world of wildlife, the word 'camouflage' can mean a lot of things. It sometimes refers to mimicry, which means being seen but incorrectly identified - think grasshoppers pretending to be dead leaves. The attributes we associate most with camouflage, however, are things which make animals hard to see at all; this is known as crypsis.

A CLEAR ADVANTAGE: Invisibility may sound like the stuff of fantasy, but it's surprisingly common in our seas. True transparency is tricky to achieve – any food eaten will be visible, and eyes must be opaque in order to function. But partial transparency can still be useful, especially in shallower waters where light is plentiful. Even the stealthiest animals are visible from above by the shadow they cast on the seabed, and from below by their silhouette. Since more light can pass through their bodies, transparent species have a diffuse outline from both angles, which makes it harder for predators and prey to identify them. Local examples of this superpower include the common shrimp, the moon jellyfish, and the aptly named transparent goby.

COLOURFUL CHARACTERS: If transparency isn't an option then clever use of colour could be the answer. Sardines, herrings, and sea bass are all darker along their spines, which is called countershading. In natural lighting the tops of objects are illuminated while their undersides fall into shadow. These fish are darker on top and lighter underneath, creating an optical illusion that helps them blend into their environment. Seahorses, and flatfish like plaice, go one step further: they use pigment-filled skin cells called chromatophores to match the colour and pattern of their surroundings.

DRESS TO IMPRESS: Some of our marine species get crafty and enhance their natural camouflage with items from their environment. Dahlia anemones have sticky warts on their bodies which pick up pieces of shell, sand, and gravel. When their tentacles are retracted the anemones can be almost entirely obscured by these pieces of debris. Several species of spider crab are called 'decorators' due to their love of accessorising. The great spider crab, for instance, has a shell with a rough and knobbly surface; this acts like velcro, allowing the crab to disguise itself with pieces of seaweed and sponge. Over time, these decorations can become a home for tiny animals like hydroids, making each crab a walking habitat!

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Sunday's
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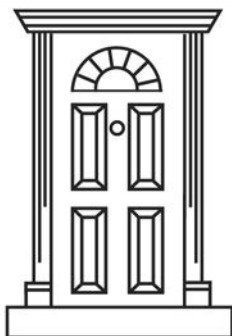
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You won't find anywhere else like Beechdown, Basingstoke's Premier Beauty Spa

Other treatments include:

- Gel manicures and pedicures
 - Lash and brow treatments including Lash Lift
 - Hair removal including IPL
 - Holistic therapies including Hot Lava Shell Massage
- ...and many more to choose from!



**new clients only, cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.*



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