

November 2021

# BASINGA



Alan Hutton



Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Magazine  
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## NOVEMBER NOTES AND NEWS

The front cover picture is of a **Little Owl**, taken by **Alan Hutton** (see page 37 for more information).

This month **11th November** is **Armistice Day**. To remember all those who have given their lives during two World Wars a **Remembrance Day parade** passes through Old Basing on **Sunday, 14th November** (see page 35 ).

## 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 Wednesday, 10th November**.

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)**

## OLD BASING VILLAGE HALL – CRISIS LOOMING!

The Old Basing Village Hall opened in 1982 and has always been managed by dedicated volunteers, representing clubs and organisations within the village, plus many other enthusiastic individuals. This system worked splendidly. What has occurred in recent years is that with no new recruits coming forward to take the reins from an ageing committee, some having given over 400 years of service, so not as fit and healthy as they once were, a very serious and concerning situation and probable calamity looms. Without sufficient active members to form an efficient working committee this could result in the closure of this much-valued village facility!

This is our own opinion but as long-serving active committee members we assure you this situation is very real with the future of the hall looking very uncertain. You've been warned!

**Pat Brace and John Davie**

## OLD BASING & LYCHPIT CARNIVAL AGM

We will be holding our delayed **AGM** on **Thursday, 18th of November**, at the **British Legion Hall**, Crown Lane, Old Basing. If anyone would be interested in joining our merry band of hardworking-people please come along and meet the team, ask any questions, and hopefully get involved with the 2022 carnival.

**Doors open at 7pm** and we are aiming for a **7.30pm start**.

**Carnival Committee**

## LYCHPIT CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR – CANCELLED

It is with great sadness we announce that the Christmas event at Lychpit Courtyard, due to have taken place on **Sunday, 28th November**, will **NOT** be taking place this year. With the numbers of cases remaining high, it is considered that the Covid situation is not sufficiently under control to allow us to go ahead with our festive event.

Our sincerest apologies to all our lovely craft stallholders and wonderful helpers who eagerly signed up to be present at our event.

Hopefully we will see you all in 2022!

**Lychpit Community Events Society**

## OLD BASING WI



Members enjoyed an evening of 'own entertainment' at our October meeting. This involved a table top quiz kindly provided by Fran and a cup of tea, a natter and a nibble. Later in the month

we resumed one of our popular activities with a skittles evening plus meal at the Loddon Valley Bowls Club.

Our next **meeting** takes place on **Tuesday, 2nd November**, at **7.30pm** in the **Parish Room, St Mary's Church**, when we will be welcoming Deborah Wheeler to talk to us about 'The History of Christmas'. The competition on that evening will be a 'Christmas Ornament Heirloom'.

Also in November we will be dropping in at the **Village Café** at the St Mary's Church Parish Room to support their fundraising for a defibrillator, and attending the **Remembrance Day commemoration** where we are hoping to give our new banner an outing.

At the end of the month, we will be fundraising by having a stall at the **Basing House Christmas Market** (see also page 13), so do come along and buy some Christmas gifts and baked goodies and preserves on the **weekend of 27th and 28th November**.

Plans for later in the year include a **festive lunch** at **Avenue Nurseries** and we will also be taking part in the **Christmas Tree Festival** at **St Mary's Church** (see also page 24), so please come along and vote for us!

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



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### CLIMATE CHANGE: OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT

It's not too late to put your name forward to join the proposed **Community Group** to address the issue of Climate Change in our Parish.

A **Public Meeting** on **Saturday, 13th November**, at the **Lychpit Community Hall**, starting at **11am** will explore how the Community Group and the Parish generally might address these issues. Areas of interest include:

**Domestic insulation; Domestic heating; Power generation; Transport;  
Waste; Greening**

If you have knowledge of any of these topics and wish to be involved, please could you email [clerk@oldbasing.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@oldbasing.gov.uk) detailing your field of knowledge, any direct experience of addressing climate change issues and details of experience in managing/facilitating group meetings; or join us at the meeting to find out more.

### ANNUAL PARISH AWARD

At its meeting in September the Parish Council agreed it was time to review the criteria for this Award in order to benefit the wider community. Nominations should now be for **local voluntary groups** (rather than individuals) that you feel have provided a service or other means of support to the community. The Award will be a financial contribution of £100 to help the group continue its work. Nominations should be sent to the **Clerk** by **Tuesday, 7th December** (by email or post) stating why you feel the group should be considered.

### COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP EVENING

After last year's cancellation due to Covid, we are pleased to say this event will go ahead this year on **Monday, 13th December**, at **Lychpit Community Hall**, from **6.30 to 8.30pm**. To minimise risk, numbers will be limited and clubs and voluntary groups will receive an invitation. We are always pleased to meet new volunteers so if you are a new group or have not attended previously, please let us know so we can add you to our list.

### COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION

Councillors were very sorry to receive the resignation of **Richard Barker** due to pressure of other commitments. During his time as a Councillor Richard's legal mind as a barrister has proved invaluable and his contribution as Chairman of the Facilities Management Committee will be greatly missed.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are **Tuesday 2nd November** and **7th December** at **7.30pm**.

Parish Clerk: **Mrs Sandra Tuck**

Deputy Clerk: **Mrs Kate Hope**

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*I am afraid that Alex Gooch (Basinga October) is sadly ill-informed regarding the planning process and the need to plan ahead for the allocation of land for future development.*

*The Borough Council's approved Local Plan extends only until 2029. There is an obligation on local authorities to plan for development needs for 15 years ahead. Given the time that it takes to get plans through the necessary consultation, examination and approval process, it is essential that the Council is working now on a plan which looks forward to 2039.*

*There is undeniably a housing shortage in this country and the Government's response is to specify to councils what housing provision they should make. There will be no "fudge" or "scaremongering" in the figures presented to the Council by its planning officers.*

*I worked for many years for an authority that refused to accept its officers' advice on the housing provision that should be made. The result was a succession of appeals by developers arguing that the authority could not show the necessary 'five-year housing land supply'. The developers were, in many cases, successful. The result was ad-hoc, unplanned development, field by field, with inadequate infrastructure.*

*The issues are complex, but it takes a long time to bring housing forward following the identification of land for development. Furthermore, even when a site such as Manydown is approved for development, it cannot be argued that all 3,000-plus houses can be built within the five-year period. Sadly, land shown in the current Local Plan as countryside is not protected from proposals by the development industry, particularly if that five-year supply cannot be identified.*

*The Council must rigorously examine the housing requirement, thoroughly explore the options available for accommodating an accepted requirement and plan properly for adequate infrastructure to be provided alongside the housing to ensure attractive and sustainable new communities for the future.*

**Tony Wright**

*My name is Mr Stephen Poulter. And I wrote an article of which you published in January 2021.*

*I said that I was now a radio Disc Jockey along with my partner Jayne, with HHCR (Helping Hands Community Radio), Basingstoke's only award-winning radio station.*

*Since the last letter we have built a new studio in Old Basing, and would like to hear from people in and around Old Basing and Lychpit area who have any news of events or charity events in our area. If you would like to come to our studio during our broadcast (between 2pm and 4pm every Saturday) you can inform the listeners what you, your event or your charity is going to do.*

*HHCR is a community radio station, a charity, so, like you is here to help the local community. If you want to get in contact please email at [s\\_poulter@live.com](mailto:s_poulter@live.com) or [www.hhcr.org.uk](http://www.hhcr.org.uk)*

*Lets get news of your events out their. Many thanks.*

**Stephen Poulter**



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## NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

Day-to-day opening of Basing House ruins ended – with a ceremony by members of the English Civil War Society – on **Sunday, 17th October**. But there are still some events before we re-open in the spring.

Our traditional **Halloween Ghost Walks** run from **Monday 25th to Sunday 31st October**. On these tours you can hear about the real historic events that led to the fall of this grand house and the spooky local stories that have surrounded it ever since. The tours start at **5.30, 7 and 8.30pm each night**, and cost **£13.50** (including a cup of hot chocolate at the end). The tour is not suitable for small children and older ones will need to be supervised at all times. The route is mainly off surfaced paths.



To finish the year, the **weekend of 27th and 28th November, 11am to 4pm**, sees the return of the **Basing House Christmas Market**. We are fully booked for stallholders so the Great Barn will be crammed with stalls selling a tempting variety of goods – bags, books, cosmetics, pens, candles and gifts. Meanwhile our gardening volunteers will run their stall with Christmas greenery – holly, mistletoe etc – from around the Basing House site.

On the **Saturday**, **Mill Cottage Farm** will bring their animals to allow folk to enjoy them, while on the **Sunday** the re-enactors of the **English Civil War Society** will be bringing their Tudor kitchen and talking about traditional cooking in the days when Basing House was in its prime.

Car parking for both events is in our car park near Bartons Mill, and for the Halloween Walks a torch is almost essential – even the walk to the Great Barn from the car park is alarmingly dark.

Fuller (and sometimes more up-to-date) details of these events and those at Milestones are on our website: [www.hampshireculture.org.uk/events?venue=6](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/events?venue=6)

**Andrew Howard**, tel. **01256 327014**

## 'ANOTHER MURDER AT BASING HOUSE' WHODUNNIT?



The **Friends of St Mary's Church** invite you to a **Murder Mystery evening** to be held in the **Old Basing Village Hall** on **Saturday, 27th November**, at 7 for 7.30 pm.

Bring your own food and drink to have in the interval. Although optional, dressing in 1920s style would add to the atmosphere of the evening.

The tables seat eight so either make up your own table or buy the number of tickets you need so that you can join a table.

Tickets cost **£9 (£8 for members)** and are available from **Ian Kershaw** – tel. **01256 355500** or email [igfkershaw@btinternet.com](mailto:igfkershaw@btinternet.com)

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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 join our small and friendly group and enjoy a chat, a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit at the home of **Mrs June Brant** at **19 Rosehip Way, Lychpit** on **Friday, 5th November**, and with **Mrs Sheila Stone** at **8 Norton Ride, Lychpit**, on **Friday, 3rd December**. Both from **10.30am to noon**. For further information phone **Sheila Stone** on **01256 350238**.

### BASINGSTOKE CONCERT BAND

**Basingstoke Concert Band** present their **Annual Christmas Concert** at **St Michael's Church**, Basingstoke, on **Sunday, 12th December**, at **3pm**. **Tickets** available from band members, on the door, calling **07391 032945** or from **[www.ticketlab.co.uk/event/id/9165](http://www.ticketlab.co.uk/event/id/9165)**

There is something for everyone from the most-loved carols to all-time Christmas hits. Includes a complimentary mince pie and drink.

## THE GOOD OLD BASING GOLF DAY

The seventeenth **Old Basing Parish Golf Day** took place on **16th September** at **Sherfield Oaks Golf Club** on a still and sunny day and those conditions, plus dry fairways and excellent greens, made for some good scores as is often the case for our charity event.

Twenty-eight players lined up on the Waterloo course for an 18-hole stableford competition and the 2-course meal after. Hatch Lane-resident Darrell Cook won this year's event with an excellent 46 points, picking up some nice prizes plus the coveted Bolton Arms sponsored shield, so many congratulations to him.

The winner last year, Bill Lycett, gave it a tremendous go to retain the trophy with a superb 43 and newcomer Mark Venning scored 41 points to finish third.

Ray Wheeler, another previous winner, showed he still 'has it' with an excellent fourth with 40 points.

Joint organiser Steve Western got the ball closer than anyone else on the 15th to win the Nearest-The-Pin prize and Tony Houghton almost ran out of fairway on the straight and narrow 9th to win the Longest Drive. All players collected a bottle of fine wine plus there were vouchers for the main winners.

A raffle was then held after the meal and presentations and this raised a brilliant £270 for The Alzheimers Society, the nominated charity of this year's champion Darrell.

Steve and I wish to extend a big thank you to Julie Shepherd, Community Champion at Tesco Chineham who gave us a slow cooker prize to go into the raffle and to Joel at Olivers and Steve Hung at Basing Takeaway for meal vouchers. Ashley at the Co-op found us some wine and chocolates, so all this, plus donations from some of the golfers meant we had some attractive offerings for the golfers to bid or lucky dip for.

So, a very big thank you to all of our sponsors and 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 very worthy charity.

**Rick Bourne and Steve Western**



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## BASINGSTOKE BLUES CLUB



In association with the **Basingstoke Railway Social Club**, Station Approach, presents, on **Saturday, 20th November: Backbone Blues Band**.

This great band is returning, 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 are welcome – **8pm till late (£10 cash on the door)**. Licensed bar with low prices. Profits to Brain Tumour Research.

**Future date: Saturday 11th December.**

## BASINGSTOKE AND DISTRICT RAILWAY SOCIETY



In September, the first Society meeting at the Wote Street Club following 18 months of cancellations proved successful and at the time of writing our October meetings will go ahead.

Our November meetings will take place on **Wednesday, 10th November**, and **Wednesday, 24th November**, both at 7.45pm.

At the first of these Philip Benstead will present '**Building the Direct Line – Lymington Junction to Christchurch 1884 to 1888**'. A tale of self-interest, optimism, naivety, fraud, bankruptcy, incompetence, arrogance, violent deaths, royalty and religion. What more could you want?

The second meeting will see a welcome return of Tim Morton to tell us about '**The Railways of Iran**', showing us incredible railways, stunning mountains and dramatic deserts from a visit in 2017.

Our meetings are held at **The Wote Street Club** in New Road in Basingstoke town centre. **Visitors** to our meetings are always welcome at a cost of **£5**.

If you are interested in joining us for talks on a varied range of railway-related subjects, do join the Society. **Annual membership** costs just **£7** and **meeting admission fees for members** are **£3**.

Details are on our website **www.bdrs70d.com** or call the Secretary on **01256 331002**.

## BASINGSTOKE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

After a long gap the **Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra (BSO)** is back playing concerts again this year with a concert on **Sunday, 21st November**, at **7pm**, at **The Anvil**,

'**Autumn Moods**' brings you three great orchestral 'classics'. Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture evokes the sights and sounds of the island of Staffa; Bruch's magnificent Violin Concerto is performed by Roberts Balanas, a young Latvian violinist of electric artistry; whilst Brahms's splendid Second Symphony simply overflows with lush, joyful melodies.

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## THE IVY CLUB

As we had such a successful trip to Salisbury, we have decided to offer one more trip before Christmas.

On **Tuesday 7th December**, we are going to **Bordon Country Market**, leaving Old Basing at **10.30am** from the Belle Vue play area; the Royal British Legion in Crown Lane; and then Oakfields at Lychpit. Cost **£11.50** per ticket. Bordon Country Market has lots to offer with fresh produce, a garden centre, together with well-known shopping outlets, there will also be lots of Christmas goods. If you wish to join us please call **Sue** on **01256 328196**.

November club meetings will also include **Basing Singers** coming to entertain us as well as community singing on **Wednesday, 3rd November**. Bingo and quiz games are also part of this month's activities. New members always welcome

**Sue Wilson** (Chairman)

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

Our meeting last month was talking about our gardens and if they had helped us through the lockdown. Mostly it seems they had, although some of us were now regretting our enthusiasm having made our gardens rather more higher maintenance than we realised now life seems to be returning to some sort of normality. Nonetheless it was a lively meeting and we were also delighted to welcome some new members.

This month our lunch club will be preceded by a visit to Sandham Chapel, Burghclere, followed by lunch nearby.

The next book choice for the reading group is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens.

We are also looking at arranging cinema and theatre visits for those that are interested and coffee mornings too for those that are happy to meet up socially.

As with all the groups throughout the country we aim to provide whatever activities our particular members enjoy.

As well as our own local group NWR's National Group continues to provide a mixture of talks and activities so if you would like to take advantage of all that our organisation offers do come along.

Our **monthly meetings** are held at **2pm** on the **first Monday of the month** and the **Reading Group** at **8pm** on the **fourth Thursday every month**.

You are welcome to sit in on any meetings with no obligation to join or even speak if you would prefer to observe. In any event you can be sure of a warm welcome.

For more information about this nationwide-organisation look at the website: **nwr.org.uk** or for our local group: **www.basinga.org.uk/wp/national-womens-register/** or contact our Local Organiser, **Karen Dann**, tel. **01256 328488** or email: **karen.dann@gmail.com**

**Diane Hope**

Dear Friends,

How do you think of the place where you live?

Do you look on Old Basing as a village or almost a suburb of the town of Basingstoke?

Maybe you see it as a bit of both- a place with its own distinctive rural life having all the urban facilities nearby?

Old Basing has its own unique history, including all that has taken place at Basing House over the years.

You might be Hampshire born and bred, or perhaps you came here from elsewhere in the country-or even the world.

For each of us place, belonging and rootedness have their essential part to play in who we are.

Among the deep spiritual insights of humanity are those which connect with finding our essential home wherever we are. A personal discovery by Saint Augustine has resonated with huge numbers of people. Speaking of God he said, "You have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you."



The most profound sense of rootedness, of belonging, of home is discovered in relationship with the One who gave us life in the first place.

The development of such a relationship is one of the reasons the Church exists. And another reason it exists is to foster the basic belonging to each other in all the communities of which we are a part- special interest groups, colleagues from work, family members and friends, and, not least, the people with whom we live in Old Basing.

With love,

David

*Reverend David Jenkins*

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

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

We continue to ask that you wear face masks when moving around the church (unless exempt), but you may choose to remove your face mask when in your pew if seated in the front part of the church at services.



### REGULAR SERVICES

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

You can also find services on our **Facebook page** or **YouTube channel St Mary's Old Basing and Lychpit** or If you have any prayer requests you can contact **Reverend Heather**, text or call **07745 731729**.

### ALL SOULS SERVICE **Sunday, 7th November, 3.30pm**

A time to come together to remember loved ones who have died. If you would like the name of your loved one to be read out at the service please contact Debbie, St Mary's administrator, tel. **07541 698235**.

### REMEMBRANCE SERVICE **Sunday, 14th November, 10am**

**ADVENT TAIZE SERVICE **Sunday, 28th November, 7.30pm**** – A time of prayer with meditative music, readings, prayer and silence, this service is about 45 minutes.

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

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

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

### BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK – THANK YOU

A huge thank you to everyone who continues to support the Foodbank at this time.

A reminder that **donations** can be left for the Foodbank at **The Vicarage** (located on the corner of Church Lane and Milkingpen Lane). Other local collection points are the Co-op on Linden Avenue and Tesco at Chineham.

For a list of items in particular short supply visit **[www.basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk)**

## ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The **St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival** will be held on the **weekend of 11th and 12th December**, starting at **11am on both days**, concluding with **St Mary's Christingle Service** at **3.30pm on Sunday, 12th December**.

The theme for the trees, which will be both inside and outside the church, is '**Christmas Creatures**' (decorate a tree based on animals and birds associated with Christmas traditions or stories).

If you would like to **sponsor** a tree, please visit **[www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](http://www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk)** or contact **Jeanette Edwards** at **[jdwards38@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jdwards38@hotmail.co.uk)** or **Debbie Filer** at **[admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk)** for a form. Trees cost a **minimum of £7.50 to sponsor**.

Over the weekend there will be activities for all the family, including a new Conservation trail; find the Baby Jesus Pebbles; and a church quiz to complete as the trees are viewed. Prizes to be awarded. A raffle and refreshments will be available including a BBQ and soup (courtesy of the Men's Breakfast Team, Saturday only), mulled wine and mince pies with a Christmas Market on the Saturday giving the opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts.

**Voting** for your **favourite tree** will end at **3pm on Sunday, 12th December**, with a small prize awarded to the winning trees.

## CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)



This month the **Working Parties** will be on **Saturday, 6th November**, at **10am** and **Thursday, 25th November**, at **2pm** – meet by the PIOCC noticeboard at the entrance to the Conservation Area.

On **Saturdays** we are now able to provide refreshments on the lawn outside the church. We will continue our seasonal conservation work, including woodland management. We look forward to welcoming our regular volunteers and also new participants. All are welcome.

Churchyard Conservation is a community project, not just for churchgoers, so please come along if you would like to be involved. Just turn up in gardening clothes and bring gloves. The tools are provided.

Our **Saturday morning** sessions last about **three hours** (with a coffee break and chance to relax) and our **Thursday afternoons** about **two hours**.

The redwings arrived in October. They love yew berries. Look for these small thrushes with red underwings (hence their name) in the tops of the trees. As the berries in the churchyard ripen and turn wonderful colours. How many different types can you find? Why not come and see? Or perhaps just enjoy a peaceful moment sitting on the WI seat. The Conservation Area is a community space for everyone.

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

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



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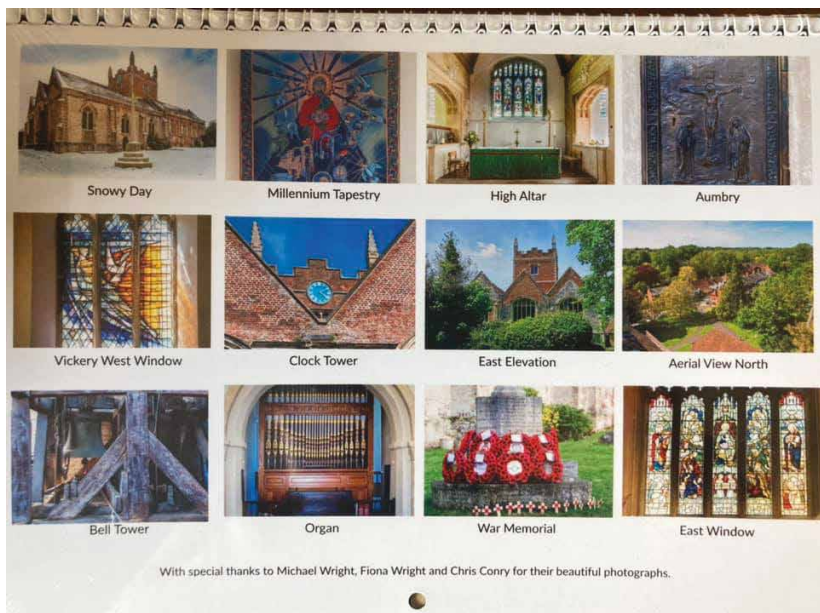
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## ST MARY'S CHURCH 2022 CALENDAR

St Mary's Church has produced a beautiful **calendar** for **2022**. The cost is **£9.99** and they are for sale at the church after the **Sunday 9.30 service**.

You can also reserve one by contacting the Administrator, **Debbie Filer**, by email at [admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk) or tel. **07541 698235**.





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- Explore the ruins and imagine what the house would have looked like
- Visit the walled garden and learn about Basing House's fascinating history in the museum
- Walk your dog or find a picnic spot

## INFORMATION

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**BASING HOUSE** | Barton's Lane | Basingstoke | Hampshire RG24 8AE

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

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## BOLTON UNDER 5S PRESCHOOL



**Bolton Under 5's Preschool** (The Beddington Centre, Riley Lane RG24 7DH), has vacancies from September 2022 and September 2023. If you've been putting off getting your child's name down for Preschool sessions from September 2022, this is the time to jump into action!

There are places available in our fun, child-led Preschool. We follow the Early Years' Foundation Stage National Curriculum, which prepares all our children for their Reception Year in school. Children start attending from about two and a half years' of age.

To find out more, please contact us at telephone. **01256 326196** or **07881 920709** or by email: [info@boltonunder5s.co.uk](mailto:info@boltonunder5s.co.uk) (Sam or Tina will be delighted to show you around, at a time to suit you).

## THE MILL FIELD NATURE RESERVE



Exciting news last month when the last of the annual Mammal surveys on the reserve uncovered a beautiful female Dormouse, there are photos on our Facebook page. It shows how important the correct management of the site is to provide the best possible habitat for this endangered species.

### EVENT NEWS

Our work party on **Saturday 20th November**, will continue with this winters plan to tackle the scrub. We aim to clear areas of ash, oak and thorn to allow smaller plants to flourish and provide shelter for small mammals.

No special skills are required but please bring gardening gloves, appropriate clothes and footwear, we will provide tea, coffee and tools.

We meet and will be working on the middle path (centre of the site) from **10am** and work for about two hours. Any last minute changes 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: [millfieldnature@gmail.com](mailto:millfieldnature@gmail.com)

Facebook: **Mill Field Conservation Group**



# Crusade

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## SHARE YOUR VIEWS ON IDEAS FOR TOWN CENTRE'S FUTURE

Residents are being urged to have their say on early ideas for the future of Basingstoke town centre, shaped by what they said they wanted to see there. Initial ideas as part of the development of a new masterplan for the area include opening up the town centre to make it more accessible, dialling up the town's entrepreneurial spirit and ensuring the town centre is a vibrant hub during the day and night by creating opportunities for more community and cultural activities and more green spaces. And with a host of facilities and activities on the doorstep, including shops, parks, community space and transport links, the masterplan principles consider the creation of new high quality and low carbon urban communities for those wanting to live, work and play in a central area.

To ensure the town centre continues to meet residents' needs and brings valuable jobs to the borough, suggestions include re-imagining the existing Malls building to open up the area, creating opportunities for a range of uses in addition to retail including space for community and cultural use, space for entrepreneurs, education and modernising shopfronts at the Top of the Town while celebrating the borough's rich heritage.

Helping to meet the borough's challenging climate change targets and encouraging a healthier lifestyle by making the town centre more walkable and cycle-friendly, opportunities being explored include the introduction of new traffic zones, introducing two-way traffic on New Road, creating a new bus interchange at Churchill Way and a new multi-storey car park in New Road.

In addition to the existing town centre green spaces, the vision is to create a 'greener' feel through new open spaces in Church Street and in the Top of the Town as well as new planting throughout to improve the area's biodiversity.

The bold short, medium and long-term suggestions, which identify a number of smaller projects that can be implemented quickly, are among those being put forward by Allies and Morrison, using feedback from residents, businesses, town centre partners and the borough council.

It follows work from HemingwayDesign which has included comprehensive engagement with residents, businesses and other groups and a detailed analysis of the town's requirements, culminating in early principles for a town centre vision.

As part of the public engagement carried out in February and March, 90% of those who took part said the town centre could be improved, only 44% agreed that the town centre is full of interesting places to eat and drink and only 34% agreed that the town centre had great arts and culture attractions.

The top suggestions on how to improve the town centre included more independent shops, independent cafes and restaurants, more cultural space and better open space to hold events and festivals.

HemingwayDesign has used the feedback to shape the emerging vision principles which aim to ensure the town centre is inclusive and diverse with people at its heart through five key principles – place, purpose, prosperity, progressive and participatory. And Allies and Morrison has explored how these ideas might change the physical arrangement of streets, spaces and buildings.

Residents, businesses, organisations and visitors are being encouraged to take a look at the early ideas being put forward and share their views by completing an online survey at **[www.talkbasingstoketowncentre.co.uk](http://www.talkbasingstoketowncentre.co.uk)** until **Friday, 12th November**.

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## LIGHT UP A LIFE CELEBRATION



**St Michael's Hospice** are delighted to invite you to their **Light up a Life Celebration**, taking place on **Sunday, 5th December**, at **6pm** within the Hospice grounds.

The event will feature a host of festive activities including Christmas carols and music performed by local choirs and the Basingstoke Silver Band, along with warming mulled wine and delicious mince pies. The event is completely free of charge to attend and open to all, not just those who have been touched by the Hospice's care.

Megan Parry, Events Manager said, "Light up a Life is always hugely poignant for the families who attend, our staff and volunteers. Welcoming our supporters to the Hospice for this year's service will be more meaningful than ever as we were sadly unable to hold the event last year. We are delighted to join together once again, to enjoy the festive spirit that the event brings and most importantly to pause and remember the lives of our loved ones."

The event is the culmination of the Hospice's Light up a Life appeal, with supporters invited to dedicate a star in their virtual sky to remember and celebrate the life of someone special. Each star can feature a photo and a personalised message to be viewed online at any time. If you choose to donate £10 or more, a long-lasting wooden star will be posted out to you to write the name of your loved one and keep in a special place to you.

To find out more about attending St Michael's Light up a Life event, or to dedicate a star to the Hospice's sky, please visit **[www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk)**

If you would like to speak to a member of the fundraising team about making your dedication, please call **01256 848848** or email **[events@stmichaelshospice.org.uk](mailto:events@stmichaelshospice.org.uk)**

## LINGUATASTIC LANGUAGE SCHOOL



Did you know that November was originally the ninth month of the Roman calendar? Indeed, that's why it's called as it is ("novem" means nine in Latin). It changed to being the eleventh month

when the Romans added January and February to the beginning of the year.

Interestingly, November in Finnish is 'marraskuu' and 'marra' is an ancient way of saying 'dead' in Finnish. Now, there are different reasons as to why the month's name includes the word "dead". One could be because November is perhaps thought of as a sombre month, when winter begins and much of nature dies. Another reason is that it refers to the times when the spirits of the dead are on the move, which is of course, what other cultures also believe. Mexico celebrates Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) on the 1st and 2nd November and many Christians celebrate All Soul's Day, also on the 2nd.

These winter months do perhaps dredge up some lethargic feelings in some of us, but rest assured, LinguaTastic is still very much full steam ahead. We are busy helping our Year 11s prepare for their mock exams, we've got activities organised for raising money for Children in Need and we're about to start preparations for Christmas!

If you'd like to join any language classes yourself or you have a teenager needing support with their language GCSE or indeed, younger children just wanting to learn another language, please get in touch and email **[info@linguatastic.com](mailto:info@linguatastic.com)**



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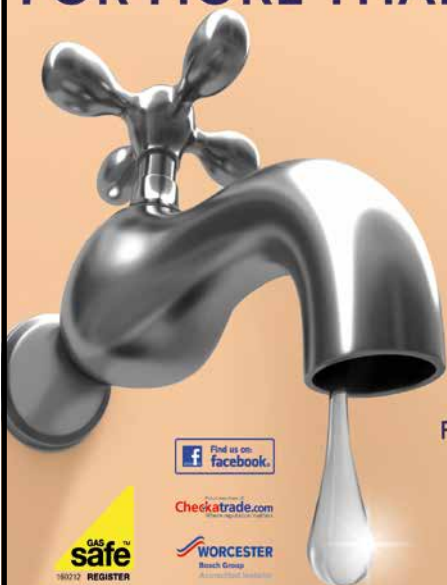
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# LIVE ON



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Royal British Legion is recognised as the national custodian of Remembrance. **Remembrance Sunday**, the second Sunday in November, is the day

traditionally put aside to remember all those who have given their lives for the peace and freedom we enjoy today. The Two-minute Silence will take place on **Armistice Day** at **11am** on **11th November**.

The Old Basing Branch of the RBL holds a **Remembrance parade** and **service** on the Sunday nearest Armistice Day – we will meet at the RBL on Crown Lane on **Sunday, 14th November**, at **9am**, the **Parade** leaves at **9.30am** sharp.

Our Corps of Drums will lead our parade to St Mary's Church where there will be a church service followed by our Act of Remembrance. We then march back to the RBL Jack Morris Hall for a light buffet, raffle, and presentation of annual awards. All are welcome to attend whether a member of the Royal British Legion or not.

If you wish to purchase a Poppy Wreath or other tribute for Remembrance Day, please contact Poppy Appeal Organiser, **Tim Russell**, tel. **07772 883964**, alternatively you can email **tim.russell1888@gmail.com** but please bear in mind at this busy time of year we need as much notice as possible to be sure of delivery by Armistice Day.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Thursday, 4th November RBL Branch AGM** – 8pm in the Jack Morris Hall (ALL MEMBERS SHOULD TRY AND ATTEND)

**Sunday, 14th November Remembrance Day** – Parade moves off from the Royal British Legion at 9.35am. Service at St Mary's Church at 10am. Parade marches back at 11.15am approximately

## PROBUS CLUB IS VISITED BY MAYOR



The October meeting of the Probosc Club of Basingstoke had the honour of a visit from the Worshipful the Mayor of Basingstoke & Deane, Cllr Onnalee Cubitt. Following lunch, she spoke of her reasons for supporting specific charities during her mayoral year and the club presented her with a cheque as a contribution towards her target.

During the morning the club heard of all the trials and tribulations surrounding the questionable history of TV quiz shows, from visiting speaker Jeff Evans, himself having taken part in several such programmes.

The speaker at their November meeting will be Probosc Club member, Chris Perkins MVO, whose subject will be about the remarkable actions during WWII in getting a replacement prosthetic leg to fighter ace Douglas Bader who was a patient in a German Prisoner of War hospital having been shot down over occupied France.

Prospective members are welcome to try before they buy and should arrange to come to one of the regular lunch meetings.

See the Probosc Club website **www.probusbasingstoke.club** for contact details.

## 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.



## NATURE NOTES FOR NOVEMBER

Last month I noted that, by now all of our summer migrants like Swallows and Swifts will have begun their long and hazardous journey south and it provoked a comment from a reader as to how many times could one bird make that journey. In other words what might be the life expectancy of this species, and indeed what age might any bird attain? Well, oddly a regular nature columnist in a daily paper wrote an article this very week about this question, so I hope he won't mind me 'borrowing' some of his statistics!

As far as capturing and ringing birds is concerned, records show that the oldest Swallow known was an 11-year-old bird, that would have also made the 12,000-mile round trip to South Africa that number of times too. One's vehicle would be doing well to last such accumulative mileage!

However, these travels pale into insignificance with the mileage recorded by a 31-year old Arctic Tern captured in Aberdeenshire, with experts calculating that this aviator will have clocked up 750,000 miles enjoying the alternate Antarctic and UK summers. But as far as more recognisable birds are concerned, your humble Blackbird can reach age 15, Starling 17, House Sparrow 12 and Robin 8. These ages are not the normal for sure with predation and weather conditions playing a major factor in any birds' lifespan.

Owls have a reputation of being 'old and wise' and although we often hear them around the Parish, we seldom see them because of their nocturnal habits so it's great when one is spotted, and better still, photographed. I was therefore really pleased to get this great shot of a **Little Owl** (*see front cover*) sent to me by **Alan Hutton**, who captured the image at Mapledurwell Church cemetery. This species is one that is likely to be seen in daylight hours more than any other of the UK's five resident Owl family, possible because its diet is more likely to be made up of insects, invertebrates, lizards etc whereas small rodents are the choice of all the others and these are easier to find at night. Alan was taking a walk around that beautiful and quiet village as dusk approached, convinced that there was an Owl there and his patience was rewarded with this smashing photograph.



An amusing picture was sent to me by **Alan Morris** in Lingfield Close of a few **pigeons** (*see left*) on a roof seemingly exactly positioned the same distance apart so the caption obviously is, 'Practising social distancing'.

Perversely, this is the opposite of a snap that I wish I had taken now of the roof top of a bird food customer of mine. The lady is very generous in her food offerings and the Old Basing feral pigeons now wait expectantly for me to deliver on a Saturday morning. As I got out of the car last weekend I was taken aback at how many were on her roof ridge and aerial so (sadly!) I counted them. There were 70, so the word has definitely got round that Cromwell Close is the place to be for a good meal!

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

**Rick Bourne**

## DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER

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

### NOVEMBER

Tue 2	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (The Pavilion, Recreation Ground)
	7.30pm	WI Meeting (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
Thu 4	7.30pm	Royal British Legion Branch AGM (Royal British Legion Hall)
Fri 5	10.30am–noon	Ladies First Friday Coffee Morning (19 Rosehip Way, Lychpit)
Sat 6	10.00am	Churchyard Conservation Group (PIOCC) working party (meet at PIOCC Noticeboard)
Wed 10	7.45pm	Basingstoke and District Railway Society Meeting (Wote Street Club, Basingstoke)

### LAST DATE FOR DECEMBER COPY TO EDITOR (see page 3)

Sat 13	11.00am	Public Meeting Climate Change: Old Basing and Lychpit (Lychpit Community Hall)
Sun 14	9.30am	Remembrance Day Parade (RBL Crown Lane)
Thu 18	12.30pm	Ploughman's Lunch (Parish Room, St Mary's Church)
	7.00 for 7.30pm	Old Basing & Lychpit Carnival AGM (British Legion Hall)
Sat 20	10.00am	Mill Field Nature Reserve work party (meet middle path)
	8.00pm	Basingstoke Blues Club, 'Backbone Blues Band' (Basingstoke Railway Social Club, Station Approach)
Sun 21	7.00pm	Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra Concert (The Anvil)
Wed 24	7.45pm	Basingstoke and District Railway Society meeting (Wote Street Club, Basingstoke)
Thu 25	2.00pm	Churchyard Conservation Group (PIOCC) working party.
Sat 27	7.00 for 7.30pm	'Another Murder at Basing House' Whodunnit? (Old Basing Village Hall)
	11.00am–4.00pm	Basing House Christmas Market (Great Barn)

### DECEMBER

Fri 3	10.30am–noon	Ladies First Friday Coffee Morning (8 Norton Ride, Lychpit)
Tue 7	10.30am	Ivy Club Trip: Bordon Country Market (see page 21)
	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting (The Pavilion, Recreation Ground)
Sun 5	6.00pm	Light up a Life Celebration (St Michael's Hospice)
Sat 11	11.00am	St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival (St Mary's Church)
Sun 12	3.00pm	Basingstoke Concert Band Annual Christmas Concert (St Michael's Church, Basingstoke)
		St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival (St Mary's Church)
Mon 13	6.30–8.30pm	Community Partnership Evening (Lychpit Community Hall)

## BASINGA EXTRA

This month we were unable to include every article that we received, or submitted after the deadline. Listed content listed below is available on our website: [www.basinga.org.uk](http://www.basinga.org.uk)

*Basingstoke & District Disability Forum*

*Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship*

*Hampshire & Isle Of Wight Wildlife Trust*

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## **OLD BASING & LYCHPIT PARISH COUNCIL**

<b>CLERK:</b> Sandra Tuck	01256 462847
<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**

<b>MINISTER:</b> Rev'd David Jenkins	0118 3271592 07973 195566
<b>SUNDAY SERVICE:</b> Morning Service 10.30am	

### **Roman Catholic**

<b>PRIEST:</b> Fr Dominic Adeiza St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke	01256 465214
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### Tuesday's

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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

Lychpit  
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

Lychpit  
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)



## Tree Surgeon

**01256 763859**

**07766 256788**

[TreeSceneArb@gmail.com](mailto:TreeSceneArb@gmail.com)



### Adrian Stanley

BSc(Hon) AA Tech Cert

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arborist

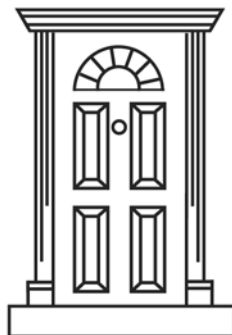
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