October 2021

# BASINGA



Lyn Caswell



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

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#### **OCTOBER NOTES AND NEWS**

The front cover picture, taken by **Lyn Caswell**, is the **knitted 'cover'** for the post box outside the parade of shops on Belle Vue Road. It appeared during the first week of September and we haven't been able to discover it's origin, or purpose. Consulting the Internet leads us to believe that it is the work of Secret Knitters. Similar sightings have been made in Overton and further afield in the London area. If you know more about what is now called 'yarnbombing', please let us know.

#### **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 **November edition** is **6pm** on **Sunday, 10th October.** 

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

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

#### PHOTOS AND LOGOS FOR THE BASINGA

If any reader would like to offer a **photograph of the village environment** we would be happy to receive them, either for immediate use or to build up a portfolio of 'village views' that we can use. We now have a web form that you can use to send a photograph for the website archive and possible use in the magazine, go to **www.basinga.org.uk** and the form can be found on the **'Contributors Submission'** menu.

Should you wish to submit multiple photos, or a photo is too 'large', they can be emailed directly to the **Editor**.

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

#### **OLD BASING & LYCHPIT GOOD NEIGHBOURS**

It is so nice when you live in an area that is so community minded and we are glad we are and still doing our bit to fulfil that need. If we are able to help YOU by taking and being with you for any medical, dental or foot clinic appointments, collecting your prescriptions, doing some shopping, or just having a cup of tea and a chat, please call.

We don't know but we may be having a COVID booster and we are around to take you. We have been running for over five years now and during that time have met some wonderful people, we would like to meet you.

If we can help, please call 0333 044 0116 (local number).

Local people helping local residents.

Sue Wilson (Chairman)

#### CHINEHAM LIBRARY NEWS

The **Summer Reading Challenge** finished last month and we are still gathering all the statistics, but it looks like it was a bumper year for Chineham Library (check out the final figures on the Chineham Library Facebook page) with record numbers of children signing up and completing the challenge. So, well done to everyone that took part; wear your Summer Reading Challenge medal with pride.

We have just received some new children's information books, including books on Ancient Egypt, Minecraft and Helping the Environment. Come and check out all our non-fiction books in the children's section.

We have also had a delivery of adult "Bestseller" paperbacks. These are available on a two-week loan as they are so popular. Look out for them when you next visit; they are on a table display as you come into the Library.

Come and join us on a **Friday** for **Rhymetime** fun. Our sessions are at **10am** for **under ones** and **11am** for **over ones**. Book your Rhymetime space at our Chineham Library Facebook page.

Our **Home Library Service (HLS)** is recruiting volunteers to help choose and deliver books to those that find accessing libraries difficult. If this sounds like something you would like to be part of, please visit our Home Library Service web page.

We look forward to seeing you soon, our opening hours are:

Monday: Closed Tuesday: 9.30am to 5pm

Wednesday: 9.30am to1.30pm Thursday: Closed

Friday: 9.30am to 5pm Saturday: 9.30am to 5pm

#### **ANN HILLS**

My wife Ann and I would like to thank the people of Old Basing for their friendship and support for her fundraising through the sale of plants outside our house on The Street. So far she has been able to send donations to the NHS at Basingstoke Hospital; The Children's Trust to help families in Bangladesh with housing; and Battersea Cats and Dogs Home who, like most other charitable organisations are in need of any financial support they can get. Ann has been standing outside our house



in the cold weather and on windy days, and in the recent heatwave and although she won't admit it she is the holder of a bus pass. A very determined woman totally devoted to her cause. Once again thanks to the people of Old Basing with whose generosity she has raised somewhere in the region of £2,000 for her charities.

James Hills





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#### **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE: OLD BASING & LYCHPIT**

In our Autumn Newsletter Councillor Steve Brown wrote an excellent article entitled 'A climate emergency; A response by Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Council'.

The Parish Council is convening a **Public Meeting** to be held on **Saturday**, **13th November**, at the **Lychpit Community Hall**, starting at **11am**, to discuss how the Parish as a whole might address the issues locally. Areas of interest include:

- · Domestic insulation, heating and electricity
- Transport
- · The built environment
- Funding and grants
- Greening

If you have knowledge of any of these topics and wish to assist the community, please email the Clerk, Sandra Tuck **clerk@oldbasing.gov.uk** setting out:

- · Your field of knowledge
- Any direct experience of addressing climate change issues
- Details of experience in managing/facilitating group meetings (We suggest submissions of half a page of A4 in length)

We will invite interested residents to the Public Meeting. Note that whilst the Parish Council is seeking to facilitate the establishment of 'The Community Group' it does not intend to run this directly. Instead, the Group will be formed of, and run by, residents. The Parish Council will support the Group as required.

#### CHANGES TO THE LOCAL PLAN - DEVELOPMENT THREAT

Like so many around Basingstoke the Parish Council is appalled by the proposals to add a further 18,000 homes in Basingstoke and Deane. This is well beyond local needs and is the result of a government-imposed figure, based on 2014 data. If the proposals are agreed then some 2,200 homes could be built in the Loddon Valley, including Hodds Farm and Lodge Farm in our Parish. Many other greenfield sites across the borough will be built up. The Parish Council has formed a Planning Response Sub-Committee to work with others, such as SOLVE, to fight the proposals

#### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are Tuesday, 5th October and 2nd November, at 7.30pm.

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

Address: The Pavilion, Recreation Ground, The Street, Old Basing,

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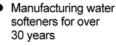
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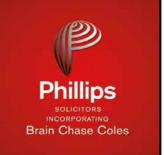
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#### **OLD BASING & LYCHPIT CARNIVAL SCARECROW FESTIVAL**

This year's scarecrow competition was a bit more subdued than normal, clearly last year we were all desperate to do something in lockdown and we had lots of entries and although the quantity was lower this year, the quality was high and all Old Basinginonians and Lychpitarians (that's officially correct !!!) did us proud with some amazing scarecrows.

Normally it is a small group effort to run this but our wonderful committee member, Hannah, basically did this all on her own, so I must thank her for making this happen ... but now to the bit that you've all been waiting for, the winners.

A very close contest this year in the general section, with 'Inmate Frank Morris' making everyone smile as you went down Swing Swang Lane. Cavalier Road was the place to be to get maximum scarecrow impact with the brilliantly inventive 'Cavalier Charger', colourful 'Captain Hook' and the very original 'Mark Cavendish's Green Jersey'. 'Monty The Gardener' was happily taking a well-earned rest, clearly lots of work went into 'Gru and his Minions' and 'Pickles The Cat' and her Adoring Hedgehog Pals' ruled the roost in Byfleet Avenue. I was tempted to sit and while away the hours with 'Lazy Summer Afternoon' but the winner of the general category is ... 'Cruella and her (nearly) 101 Dalmatians" in Harvest Way – well done to the Beadle family.





'The Junior' (David Walliams books) category struggled a bit with entries as I presume most people were on their holidays. We had two brilliant 'Gangsta Grannies' in Poppy Fields and Chaldon Green and the very lifelike 'Grandpa's Great Escape' in Crofters Meadow but the winner is ... 'Lunch at Burt's Burger Van (Ratburger)' in Linden Avenue – well done to Ethan for his hard work.





Great work everyone and thank you for brightening a fairly dull summer. The vouchers will be winging their way to the winners very soon.

Gary May
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#### **SOLVE – SAVE OUR LODDON VALLEY ENVIRONMENT**

#### MASSIVE PROTEST OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL BUILDING

Thanks to all those who attended the **SOLVE**, hastily arranged meeting, on Friday, 20th August. It was standing room only at the RBL on Crown Lane. Following that, on Thursday, 2nd September, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Economic Planning and Housing Committee met to discuss an update to the Local Plan and the proposals for 18,000 more homes across the Borough.

It was estimated that around 150 people from all over the Borough attended the protest outside. The BBC long-time reporter said this was the largest ever protest gathering he had seen here. The protest was reported in the local paper and live on BBC South Today.

The common theme that unites us across the Borough is the excessive housing being imposed on our Borough by the Government. Some 29 members of the public, plus Borough Councillors,



spoke against this. They said enough is enough, this is well above local needs and the infrastructure is creaking. Many greenfields are under threat, including the Loddon Valley.

**SOLVE** organised the Council protest and were joined by many other groups from all over the Borough. We are now processing the responses, offers of help and arranging meetings with Councillors and interested parties. **SOLVE** has had several offers to help but we can always use more, especially from those with expertise in relevant subjects. Contact **katetuck21@gmail.com** – you can also donate to **SOLVE**.

Go to: www.solveloddon.org for details.

**Peter Bloyce** 

#### **OLD BASING WI**



We welcomed Olive Butler, aka "Ollie Jester" to our second in-person meeting of the year in September. Olive talked to us about her experiences as a children's entertainer and brought with her a number of "props", so we could all join in!

Our next meeting on **Tuesday, 5th October**, will find us making our own entertainment. The competition that evening will be "Home-made Sweets". Further details to follow. Also in October, we will be resuming our popular skittles evening at Loddon Bowls Club. If you have not put your name down and want to go, please contact Sandy.

The **HCFWI meeting** takes place at **The Anvil** on **Tuesday, 19th October**. This event is open to the general public, not just WI Members. The entertainment will be provided by the 'West End Jerseys'. Tickets are available from The Anvil.

Details of the WI and WI activities can be found at 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** 

Sue Stewart

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We ask for submissions to the magazine and website to be made via www.basinga.org. uk using the web forms:

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

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

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

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

Contacts for general enquiries and assistance:

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Sheila Stone

#### THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY OCTOBER COFFEE MORNING

A Christmas card sale and coffee morning will be held in St Mary's Church and Parish Room from 10.30am to noon on Saturday, 9th October. This is an opportunity for you to buy your Christmas cards early and to meet up with friends you may not have seen for a while. There will also be a cake stall and raffle. Please do come and support this worthy charity and we look forward to welcoming you there.

**Rosemary Kershaw** 

#### THE MAYOR'S CHARITY APPEAL

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The year ahead is looking exciting indeed: Tim, Founder and Head Baker (see right), has been short-listed as one of the final three for **Baker of the Year** in the **Baking Industry Awards**. What an honour and privilege! We are crossing our fingers and toes for the **Awards Ceremony** on **Thursday, 21st October**.

Thank you all for your patience during times of increased traffic here in The Street and the noise during construction! We are aware that the number of cars can be annoying at times, and we are putting in place measures to manage the disruption.

A massive thank you from the whole team for your support and welcoming smiles, and we look forward to seeing you in the year to come!



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In association with the **Basingstoke Railway Social Club**, Station Approach, presents, on **Saturday, 16th October: Starlite Campbell Band** (led by husband and wife, Suzy Starlite and Simon Campbell, who are known for their on-stage chemistry).

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#### **NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE**

Following our successful Late-Summer Market, we can now reveal the rest of the year's programme.

We'll be running our traditional **Halloween Ghost Walks** 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. Basing House dates back to Norman times. It has been a Civil War battlefield, with many of those killed in the battles being buried on the site and has seen executions take place. So, there are many ghostly stories. Ghost walks aside, this is a rare opportunity to visit the site in the dark.

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 to warm you up after the chilling tales you will have heard). The right footwear also helps – most of the paths are unsurfaced. The tour is not suitable for small children and older ones will need to be supervised at all times.

The evening of **Saturday, 25th September,** sees **Gong Yoga** in the Great Barn (between **5** and **6.30pm)**.

Our year ends with the **Christmas Fair** over the weekend of **27th** and **28th November** in the **Great Barn**. There will be more information about that in the November Basinga.

Basing House is scheduled to close for the winter on Sunday, 31st October, with the obvious exception of the Christmas Fair.

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

Andrew Howard (tel. 01256 327014)

#### **BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB – WORLD SIGHT DAY 2021**

There are 43 million people in the world are blind, 1.2 billion need glasses to see better.

**World Sight Day**, now in its 9th consecutive year, comes once again to a stand in **Old Basing Mall** on **Thursday**, **14th October**, between **9am** to **3pm**. On a global scale, the aim of this day, on which Lions Clubs around the world conduct various sight-related projects, is to focus attention on the universal issue of avoidable blindness and visual impairment and thus raise awareness about the importance of eye health and the need for quality eye care services for all.

Lions' activities include vision screenings, eye health education programmes, and the donation of assistive devices to those with vision impairment. In this last regard therefore and as in previous years, people are invited to bring their redundant spectacles (prescription, non-prescription and sunglasses) to the Lions' stand where they will also find information on sight loss, small items of equipment which can assist with the daily living challenges of visually impaired people and advice on local sources of help.

An additional facility this year will be a spectacle collection point in **Morrisons Supermarket** from **Monday, 11th October, for the whole week**, thus providing an alternative option for those who might find that preferable. You get to declutter and others may get to see. On behalf of those others, thank you.

(Note: Please, no spectacle cases)

#### **THANKFULNESS**

At this time of year many of us will gather in church to celebrate harvest and to say thank you to God for providing everything that we need. We give thanks not just for the food that we have, and for all who work so hard to bring it from farm to table, but for everything: our families; our friends; our community; the beauty of creation that surrounds us; all the things that bring us joy and happiness.

Saying thank you gives us the opportunity to acknowledge all that we have been blessed with and all that is good in our lives. Over the years I have read several articles that have suggested that being thankful is good for our well-being, and experience tells me that there is truth to this. When we look at the world with a sense of thanksgiving and gratitude it helps us to feel positive about all that we have.

The Bible too encourages us to be thankful. We find many of the Psalms express thanksgiving to God, and in the letters of the New Testament we read several encouragements to be thankful: 'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances' (1 Thessalonians, 5:16-18, NRSV).

The poet and priest, George Herbert, once said "Lord, you have given me so much; I ask for one more thing – a grateful heart". He seems to appreciate the challenge it can be to cultivate an attitude of thankfulness, for sometimes we find it easier to notice what we lack, rather than give thanks for what we have. For me, developing an attitude of thankfulness was something that kept me going in my early 20s during a difficult time. Being ill with ME meant that so many opportunities felt as though they had disappeared, and pausing each day to give thanks for five things in my life, often as basic as having shelter, running water, friends and family, and food to eat, helped me not to give up hope.



As we give thanks this month in church for the harvest and the many blessings that we have received, I would encourage any who wish to give thankfulness a go. You could:

Keep a journal each day giving thanks for all that has been good

Think of three things each evening to be thankful for

Write a note of thanks to someone who has impacted your life for the better

I hope you have a blessed October,

With love,

Reverend Heather

#### ST MARY'S CHURCH

The church continues to be **open** from **10am to 4pm (Sundays 11am to 4pm)**. Please continue to wear a facemask in the church.

#### **REGULAR SERVICES**

Sunday 8am BCP Communion
Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion
Monday 9.15am Morning Prayer
Wednesday 10am Holy Communion
Thursday 9.15am Morning Prayer
Friday 9.15am Morning Prayer



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

#### HARVEST SERVICE

#### Sunday, 3rd October, 9:30am

At this service we shall once again be inviting you to bring food donations for the Basingstoke Foodbank. We look forward to welcoming particularly the uniformed organisations of the parish to this service.

#### HALL FOR HIRE

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

#### **BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK - THANK YOU**

A huge thank you to everyone who continues to support the Foodbank at this time. Last month we collected 85.9kg of food 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 that are in particular short supply please visit www.basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk

#### ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Will be held on the weekend of 11th and 12th December, 11am to 4pm.

The theme for the trees, which will be both inside and outside. 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, visit www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk or contact Jeanette Edwards, email: jdedwards38@hotmail.co.uk or Debbie, email: 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 mulled wine and mince pies with a **Christmas Market** on the **Saturday** giving the opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts.

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

#### CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP - PIOCC



This month the working parties will be on **Saturday, 2nd October**, at **10am** and **Thursday, 28th October** 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. With the arrival of autumn, we are starting our seasonal conservation work, including woodland management. We look forward

to welcoming our regular volunteers and also new participants.

We are a friendly group. This is a community project, not just for churchgoers, so please come along if you would like to be involved. The tools are provided; just turn up in gardening clothes and bring gloves. Our Saturday morning sessions last about three hours (with a coffee break and chance to relax) and our Thursday afternoons about two hours.

We have decided to cancel the Kick off Meeting this year, but hope to welcome you to an AGM in the spring.

The leaves and berries are now turning, but there is still lots of life to see. During the autumn honey bees rely upon ivy for pollen and nectar. We have lots of ivy in the churchyard, so on a sunny day you may even hear the hum of the bees as they congregate around the flowers. Red Admiral butterflies also seek out ivy flowers. It's the best season for finding fungi too, but please, remember some fungi and berries too, are poisonous. Why not come and see what you can find? The Conservation Area is a community space for all to enjoy.

For further information please ring Fay Farrant on 01256 476863.

Margaret Carr www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

#### THE VILLAGE CAFÉ

Good news, we have reopened our doors, on **Friday, 17th September,** after enforced closure for the past 18 months!

Obviously things look and feel a little different as we aim to keep volunteers and customers safe. There is a restriction on the number of people who can use the Parish Room at any one time, so we are keeping customer numbers to 35 maximum but are also providing some outside tables, weather permitting. All our volunteers are double vaccinated, take a lateral flow test prior to cafe opening time and wear masks. We are now offering table service and have a weekly cake menu for you to choose from along with our take away service for both drinks and cake.

While we want to serve our whole community, we are currently asking that school age children remain outside as much as possible in order to protect our more vulnerable customers.

As you know, all profits made go to charity, and we are aiming to continue raising money for the **Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)** which we started prior to lockdown. The device will be installed outside the church and we hope, if we are successful, to raise even more money for a second **AED** which will be sited towards the A30 side of the village.

Finally, if there is anyone who would like to join our wonderful volunteer team as a barista, please contact us. We would be more than grateful for any help serving beverages and cakes and generally helping so if you have a free couple of hours on a Friday afternoon please come and join us. Contact via **messenger** on our **Facebook** page or by calling **07901 531152**.

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#### **OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW**

The Village Show came back last month with a bang, well a reduced pop. A slightly reduced entry and all classes in the main hall, with a one way system in operation and lots of fresh air. Everybody seemed to enjoy the day and the Committee were pleased to welcome several new entrants to the Show. The Raffle did well and thanks to the local businesses who supported the Show. The Vicar, Rev Heather Leppard, presented the prizes to the winners of the adult classes and to the children to loud applause.

The Committee thank all who attended and we all look forward to 2022.

#### **Mark Offord**

A selection of photographs of the Show, taken by Alan Morris, are shown below, many more can be seen in **Basinga Extra** at **www.basinga.org.uk** 



























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

#### INFORMATION

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

www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house







#### **OLD BASING DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD**

We hope this update finds you all well and safe. As we appear to be coming out of the pandemic, or at least being allowed to open up more and more, we thought we should let our participants both former, existing and future know where we are.

At the start of 2020 we were looking forwards to another busy year of planning, training and taking part in various expeditions. Like everyone else, we didn't foresee what was around the corner. Needless to say, all activities were mothballed and it is only recently we have been able to start meeting again. Unlike schools, who could work under different conditions as they had year groups, we were down and out for the duration. Schools were able to undertake "DofE with a difference" which enabled day walks but no overnight camping. Furthermore, our participants wanting to fully embrace the expedition ethos, opted to wait until they could do the over-night camp so it was early May before we were given permission by HCC to go out. Even this was an eleventh hour decision, but with parents driving participants to the start and collecting at the finish, we did achieve two teams bronze expeditions starting at Winchester and ending at Alresford walking part of the South Downs Way. All participants completed the expedition and had a great time so well worth the wait.

We also have a silver expedition planned for October with one team and will probably head towards the New Forest as we are still advised to not travel long distances.

Future Plans: We have an induction/information evening planned for Monday, 4th October, which providing we have no restrictions placed on us will start at 8pm.

We welcome any young person between school year 9 and 24 years of age who would like to take part in the Award, whether at Bronze, Silver or Gold levels. We endeavour to provide a traditional approach to the expeditions so you will be camping out at both practice and assessed expeditions. You will learn how to read a map, use a compass, pitch a tent properly and cook a proper meal. Your journey will be self sufficient and completed with your team over your chosen planned route. There is of course close support as safety is always our first consideration, but it remains "Your Expedition".

Away from the expedition you will need to complete a skill, physical section and volunteering section.

We are a very friendly and welcoming centre and have been operating since 2005 and have helped hundreds of young local people achieve their DofE Award. To find out more, please telephone 01256 470583 or email oldbasing.dofe@btinternet.com

We hope you will join us on 4th October. PS, you can bring a friend!

Jackie, Bob and team

#### LYCHPIT CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

We are delighted to announce the return of the **Lychpit Village Hall** and **Courtyard** on **Sunday, 28th November,** from **4** to **8pm** Please do come and join us in a celebration of local craftspeople. There will be food and drink, local singers, craft stalls, tombola and much more!

And, as it was so popular at our last event in 2019, we will be rounding off this festive evening once again with Christmas Carols and lights centred around the beautiful Courtyard. We do have some stall spaces available so, any interested stallholders, please email lychpitmarket@gmail.com for an application form. We look forward to seeing you!

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#### **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Sir/Madam.

We were at the recent demonstration and participated at the Council meeting afterwards.

In the legally approved and democratically prepared **2018 – 2029 Local Plan** the Council had already designated huge areas for development within 12 different zones, which in total amount to about 5,000 acres of mainly green fields.

Thus we already have the potential to develop about 20,000 houses (more than 20 years supply) on this land at a rate of just four houses per acre.

The Council have deliberately fudged their figures and now want to quietly and undemocratically modify the existing Plan (which should be applicable for another seven years) and designate huge additional new green field areas for immediate development.

The problem is NOT the lack of land supply, the problem is that (despite five to ten years waiting) the Council have not got their act together to develop the existing zoned sites!

Obviously new houses should be built on the existing 12 sites, including Manydown and PyottsHill/East Basinsgstoke, two huge sites that inexplicably remain undeveloped.

Furthermore by pretending that we cannot fulfil the Government imposed five-year house delivery targets the Council Planners are scaremongering and claim we will be subjected to developers launching Planning Appeals that will ruin our villages and towns future development. This is untrue. At last week's meeting the Council Planners could not produce any information on the number of houses authorised at Appeal! Why? Because it is a drop in the ocean compared to their massive new land zoning proposals.

We all know that our countryside is protected already. Developers cannot hope to win an Appeal on zoned countryside-Green fields, UNLESS they are zoned for future development. It is thus by zoning huge new areas that we are opening up our precious countryside for development and ruining our environment.

But it seems the developers' tails are wagging the Council dog!

Alex Gooch, MRICS ret

#### THE IVY CLUB

It was great that we were all back together again and our numbers have swelled, welcoming some new members, and we have room for more, we would love to see you. September has been a busy month playing bingo, exercising our brains with some quiz games, showing off the talents of our members with a craft sale, and, having spent time during lockdown, sorting our cupboards out we have also had a bring and buy sale.

On **Tuesday**, **28th September**, we are having a **coach outing to Salisbury** to take in the cathedral and market (places still available if you receive your copy of the Basinga in time – open to all) leaving the village at **9.30am**, offering three pick up points: Belle Vue Play Area; The Royal British Legion (parking available); and Oakfields at Lychpit. Cost **£13.50**.

We would love to see you at **The Ivy Club** on **Wednesday** afternoon at **The Royal British Legion** from **1.30** to **4pm**, cost **£2** which covers your refreshments and a raffle.

For further information with regard to our Salisbury trip or The Ivy Club itself, please call me on **01256 328196.** 

Sue Wilson, Chairman

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#### THE SECRET LIFE OF HARVEST MICE

Rodents are a key component of many healthy ecosystems, such as grasslands and woodlands. They provide food for lots of species from birds of prey to larger mammals. Rodents often produce lots of young every year, so must have ample food available for them – usually seeds, fruit and small insects. When rodent populations dip there are knock-on effects across the habitat. There are 14 species of rodent commonly found in Britain, including rats, squirrels, mice, voles and more recently the beaver. One of the least familiar of these is the harvest mouse, Britain's smallest rodent, and we will take a closer look at them this week.



Harvest mice are not especially fussy, they are happy anywhere there are ample stems for them to clamber up, very rarely descending to the ground if they can avoid it. They are tiny, around 6-cms long, with a tail close to the same length. The tail is used to help with balance and climbing. They react quickly to disturbance, disappearing back into the vegetation in response to nearby noises.

Harvest mice are thought to be fairly widespread but are very difficult to find. Their presence is mostly picked up by the signs they leave behind – their intricate nests. The nests are carefully woven from grass and leaves within dense vegetation, at least 10 cms above ground, so even these are difficult to spot! Harvest mice adapted to farmed habitats by creating their nests in crop fields such as wheat and barley, but modern combine harvesters have caused a new threat. When fields were hand-cut, the mice could easily run to the safety of field margins, but modern machinery does not give them the time to escape. They also build their nests and live in verges, reed-beds and grassy hedges. These habitats have been lost in many areas as green spaces are developed and wetlands drained.

Recent studies have helped shine a light on this elusive mammal, but more must be done to protect the harvest mouse. They seem to be able to respond quickly to changes in habitat, as long as the habitat is connected to others and buffer zones are present between developments and their living space. Reintroductions can work well, as the mice are relatively easy to breed, and once conservation efforts are in place they seem to breed and colonise the reintroduction area quickly. The more we learn about marginal habitats like road verges and field edges, the more they are shown to be important for all sorts of wildlife, including our smallest rodent.

**Claire Thorpe** 

#### **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION**

On Thursday, 28th October, at 7.30pm, at the Royal British Legion Hall, is the Annual General Meeting, including committee election. The competition is 'A Decorative Table Mat". New members are welcome.

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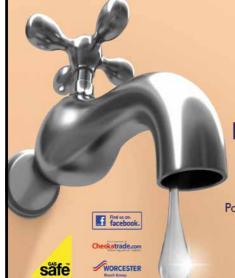
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#### THE MILL FIELD NATURE RESERVE



#### **Event News**

Join us at our first volunteer working party of the season on **Sunday, 24th October.** We will tackle some of the scrub, aiming to clear areas of ash, oak and hazel to allow smaller plants to flourish and renew views for walkers across the site. No special skills required but please bring gardening gloves, appropriate clothes and footwearwe provide tea, coffee and tools.

The target area to start clearing is the central meadow so the meeting point is on the middle path **from 10am** and we work for about two hours.

Any last minute changes will be posted on Facebook and the field notice board, and if you can email that you are coming then I can provide updates.

#### What to Look out for this month

Now autumn is underway you may see the last of the summer's migrants going south and the winter ones arriving, such as Redwings. Watch out for large groups of Starlings and the last of this year's butterflies on the ivy. With the misty mornings spiders are more obvious with their fabulous webs, and around the stream there will still be dragonflies such as the Common Darter and, you never know, something a little rarer!

Anne Francis – tel. 07974 944439, email: millfieldnature@gmail.com Facebook: Mill Field Conservation Group

#### **CHINEHAM AND OLD BASING NWR**

The **National Women's Register (NWR)** exists to provide mentally stimulating meetings, activities and events across the country. If you would like to meet other women to share and explore thoughts, ideas and experiences, then NWR could be for you. There is no top-heavy hierarchy so each small group (typically less than 20 members) runs according to what suits the local members. Our National Office also arranges many talks (usually in the evening) via Zoom on a wide range of subjects at no extra cost to the £25 subscription fee.

Chineham and Old Basing NWR meet on the first Monday of each month, at 2pm in different houses. Some of our members meet monthly on a Thursday evening to discuss the chosen book. A monthly lunch is also arranged at a restaurant. In September the topic for discussion was 'Superstitions'. We shared facts we had researched from around the world as well as rituals that some tennis players wear the same socks (unwashed) throughout a tournament. We also considered if and how a superstition could turn into a condition like OCD.

In October we will discuss gardens and other places we enjoyed during lockdown. November will be an evening meeting when we participate in the annual NWR National Telephone Quiz. It is always a hilarious evening as we brainstorm to answer cryptic clues.

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

**Sandie Tapping** 

#### **OCTOBER IN YOUR GARDEN**

In October the weather is capricious, one day it's an Indian summer and the next day frost. Trees should be starting to put on their best autumnal displays of red, gold and orange. As the leaves fall, it is a good time to start making some leaf mould by collecting them into a wire basket, or if you have no space, you can store them in bin bags with holes punched in to allow air access, otherwise it will become a slimy mess.

Now is your last chance to scarify, aerate, top dress and feed lawns before the very cold weather sets in. Since we are in a warmer area of the country there is still just time sow grass seed if you haven't got around to it yet, but be quick and be sure to cover freshly sown areas with fleece to protect it from frost. Raking up fallen leaves will mean that light and air can get to the grass and make it healthier.

Once the first frosts have hit, dahlias can be lifted and the tubers stored over winter. You can risk leaving them in the ground protected by straw but flowering may be reduced next year. Summer bedding plants are best discarded once they are beginning to fade away.

Hanging baskets can be nurtured until mid autumn when they can be replanted with winter-flowering violas, heathers, ivies and spring-flowering bulbs. Pots should also be raised onto feet so that they don't sit in puddles and get waterlogged. This is especially important for terracotta pots, as water freezing in the ceramic will cause them to crack.

It is time to move spring bedding plants such as wallflowers, primula and daisies into prepared ground or pots now and spring-flowering bulbs can also be planted, as well as any final hardy annuals you wish to sow. New herbaceous perennials will do well planted now, giving them time to establish before the cold sets in fully. Older plants can be divided if needed or cut back and tidied.

You can collect the last of the seed from plants that are still forming seed heads. Store in paper packets (remembering to label them) in a dry place – a sealed tin is a good idea. All tender plants should now be safely inside a heated greenhouse or conservatory.

If you have trees that need moving or hedges that need planting, this is the month to do it. Bare-root plants will now be available online and in garden centres and are cheaper than container plants, this includes roses. They will all establish well in the cooler and wetter conditions. If you have climbing roses, these should be pruned this month, along with any deciduous hedges that haven't yet been tended.

Buddleia davidii can be cut back by half if it is getting unruly and this will also protect it from wind damage. Be sure to check trees ties and stakes before any gales hit. It is probably best to check any soft or semi-ripe cuttings that you took earlier in the year in case they need potting on. You can now take hardwood cuttings of roses and forsythia.

Greenhouses can be insulated with bubble wrap to help reduce heating costs and reduce ventilation as the weather becomes colder and windier. Remove any shading paint applied earlier in the season Sweet peas can be sown in the greenhouse for next year but watch for mice who will be tempted in for the seeds.

Indoors, reduce watering of houseplants and group together tropical specimens to help produce a microclimate, which will counteract the drop in humidity levels. Pot up containers of hyacinth or amaryllis bulbs ready for Christmas and New Year displays if you didn't do this last month.

#### **NATURE NOTES FOR OCTOBER**

As the days get shorter and the nights draw in we will soon be saying 'bon voyage' to many of our migratory birds, most notably the Swallows and House Martins. By now Swifts will have already left although those with very late broods may still be here particularly if the weather stays warm (29 degrees C today!). The most vital thing that all these departing birds need is a good feed-up on insects before they go although most will stop off at the coast to do this before the long haul over water. David Rocke at Lower Mill Farm told me that he noted about 80 Swallows all lining up ready to go a couple of weeks back and although the numbers of nesters in his barn were down it was brilliant to see such a big group like this assemble in his yard.

We need to hope for their sakes they get the sustenance required as I'm sure everyone is aware of the sudden decline of all tiny flying things these days which is alarming to say the least. No longer after a long journey are our car windscreens and headlights a mass of black squashed insects and the air in the reduced light of a summers evening is almost clear of midges and mosquitoes. One supposes this is yet another warning about man's influence on climate, over use of pesticides or the way we manage our gardens and countryside.

It's not all doom and gloom with some decent butterfly hatches, plenty of spiders and crane flies and some pretty scary creepy crawlies such as the **Oil Beetle** (see right) that Steve Western found and snapped in his house last week. Kind of makes you glad that insects are small as a 10 times version of this would be fearsome!





Whilst fishing a lake near Eversley earlier this month I was astonished to see a Red Kite swoop down and take a fish from the surface of the water. I couldn't swear if it was a live catch or not but it just shows how adaptable these mighty raptors are. Speaking of which, earlier this year I reported that a gardener at the Rec allotments had seen and heard a Parakeet somewhere close. Well, a grainy image (see left) was put on Facebook last week of at least one at Rotherwick so 'they are coming'. Originally escapees, allegedly from an aviary in London, owned by the late great Jimi Hendrix, the Parakeet has made itself at home in the parks and woodlands around the Capital and the Home Counties. They're colourful, noisy and fun but they do displace our native tree dwellings birds so they are a problem too.

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 OCTOBER**

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

#### **OCTOBER**

Fri 1	10.30am - noon	First Friday Ladies' Coffee Morning (see page 17)	
Sat 2	10.00am - 1.00pm	PIOCC Churchyard Conservation (meet at noticeboard)	
Sat 2	7.30pm	Mayor's Charity Appeal (The Anvil – see page 17)	
Mon 4	8.00pm	Duke of Edinburgh information evening (see page 28)	
Sat 9	10.30 – noon	Children's Society October Coffee Morning (Parish Room)	
Sun 10 6.00pm DEADLINE FOR COPY FOR NOVEMBER'S BASINGA			
Wed 13	7.45pm	BDRS Wote Street Club (subject to be announced)	
Thu 14	9.00am - 3.00pm	World Sight Day 2021 (Old Basing Mall, town centre)	
Sat 16	8.00pm	Basingstoke Blues Club (Railway Social Club)	
Sun 24	10.00am	The Mill Field Scrub Clearance (meet on middle path)	
Mon 25	5.30pm - 8.30pm	Halloween Ghost Walks at Basing House (see page 21)	
Wed 27	7.45pm	BDRS Wote Street Club (subject to be announced)	
Thu 28	2.00pm - 4.00pm	PIOCC Churchyard Conservation (meet at noticeboard)	
	7.30pm	RBL Women's Section AGM (RBL Hall, see page 32)	
Sat 30	5.30pm	Swimathon (Sports Centre, Festival Place)	
NOVEMBER			
Fri 5	10.30am - noon	First Friday Ladies' Coffee Morning (see page 17)	
Sat 27	Time TBA	Basing House Christmas Fair (The Great Barn)	
Sun 28	4.00pm - 8.00pm	Lychpit Christmas Craft Fair (Lychpit Village Hall)	
	Time TBA	Basing House Christmas Fair (The Great Barn)	

#### **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

Basingstoke and District Railway Society Chineham Medical Practice
Civil Service Retirement Fellowship Crime Prevention Bulletin

Linguatastic Language School PROBUS Swimathon

St. Michael's Hospice Basingstoke and Deane District Council

Old Basing Tennis Club University of the Third Age U3A

Basingstoke Rotary Club Rotary Club Roundup Ramblers Association St Mary's C of E Junior School, Old Basing Great Binfields Primary School



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#### OLD BASING & LYCHPIT PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK: Sandra Tuck 01256 462847

OFFICE AND HOURS: The Pavilion, The Recreation Ground

Monday to Thursday 10am to noon



#### CHURCH INFORMATION FOR THE AREA

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

VICAR: Rev'd Heather Leppard, The Vicarage, Church Lane, Old Basing
Email: vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

ADMINISTRATOR: Debbie Filer

01256 363612
07745 731729
07541 698235

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

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

5.30pm Evening Service

OTHER DAYS: Wednesday, 10am - Holy Communion; 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

**MINISTER:** Rev'd David Jenkins 0118 3271592 07973 195566

SUNDAY SERVICE: Morning Service 10.30am

#### Roman Catholic

PRIEST: Fr Dominic Adeiza 01256 465214

St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke **SUNDAY MASSES:** 9am, 11am and 6pm

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1st Sunday of the month 18.30 - 19.30 Lychpit

Community Hall

Monday's

Tuesday's

St Mary's Church Hall,

19.15 - 20.15

Old Basing

Sunday's

Lychpit Community Hall

09.15 - 10.15

14.00 - 15.00 Lychpit

Community Hall



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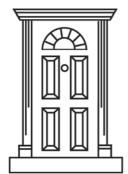
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