October 2022

# BASINGA



Nicola Turton





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





Call us on **01256 36 22 22** 

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#### **OCTOBER COVER PHOTO, NOTES AND NEWS**

The front cover photograph for October, "Harvesting the fields by the Park Pale" was taken by **Nicola Turton**.

The name, Park Pale, refers to the embankment protected by the fence. This earthwork is a surviving section of the park pale of Old Basing, sometimes called the Pyotts Hill Entrenchment. It would have enclosed an area set aside as a deer park. The exact date of the construction is not known, but it is essentially a medieval earthwork (11th to 15th century). It is perhaps a coincidence that the area in the photograph is part of Basingstoke and Deane's Old Basing and Lychpit Neighbourhood plan, and is a site allocated to development. The whole of the next page(4) is a poster demanding a halt in overdevelopment, supported by our MP, Dame Maria Miller. Your support is vital.

October is International Walk To School Month!

#### **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 October edition is 6pm on Saturday, 10th September. 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** 

#### HELP WANTED TO DELIVER THE BASINGA

We urgently need your help to deliver the Basinga to two rounds in Old Basing: **Chalk Vale**, the small cul-de-sac off Hatch Lane; the other **Holly Drive** and **Loyalty Lane** both near the shops on Belle Vue Road.

Can you help, just once a month for less than half an hour? If you can please contact **Peter Watson** for further detail on **07790279954**, or e-mail **basing@basinga.org.uk**, or on **01256 352299**. Thank You.

The Basinga Team

## **SLOW IT DOWN:** SUPPORT THIS PETITION TO STOP OVERDEVELOPMENT IN BASINGSTOKE STOP OVERDEVELOPMENT



#### Dear resident.

Basingstoke and Deane has played more than its' fair share in housing the nation, with homes for an extra 150,000 people in the past five decades. double the rate of the rest of the country.

The current Borough build rate has crept up to an unsustainable 1,200 new homes a year. This exceeds levels in the Local Plan, well beyond the needs of our community, stretching the capacity of the NHS and damaging the safety of our natural environment.

Our community wants this rapid growth to slow down to give local services like our Hospital and GPs time to catch up with the increase in demand; and the Council time to form a better plan to protect the local

natural environment. The next local plan must cut new house building levels in half, so we meet the needs of our own local residents, not those of other local authorities too.

Basingstoke is an exception: we have consistently overbuilt in comparison to other communities in the South East. There are provisions in law that the Borough Council can use to justifu change, including establishing new policies on migration levels, and using 'exceptional circumstances' and 'strong reasons' as provisions set out in the National Planning Policy Framework Paragraphs 61 and 11b.

The next Local Plan needs a complete shift of focus, away from high levels of house building and onto a sustainable plan for the future, including

expanding services to meet the needs of our rapidly ageing population, the regeneration of existing housing stock. more high-quality jobs, and new ways for local residents to access affordable homes and to safeguard the natural environment.

You can back this call for change now by adding your name to the 'Slow It Down' Petition being presented to Basingstoke and Deane Council. Sign the petition by visiting my website or scan the QR code below.

With best wishes.

Maria Miller MF















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#### **PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

At the time of writing this page we have heard the sad news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II at the age of 96. The Parish Council sends sincere condolences to the Royal Family during this time of mourning.

#### **NEW COUNCILLOR**

We now have a new Councillor to complete our complement of 12; Mark Hermitage, a resident of Old Basing, has joined the Parish Council to add his experience to that of our other members in contributing to the activities of the Parish Council.

#### **CIL FUNDING**

The Millfield Conservation Group has been successful in its application for CIL funding of £2,000 to enable this hardy group of volunteers to purchase and install new footpath planks to improve access and preserve the surrounding ecology of this valuable local nature reserve. The Council expects to receive further CIL funds in the months ahead so if you are involved with a group that needs funds for a project, particularly if it involves preserving or improving the rural areas and wildlife in our parish or providing activities for the various age groups within our community, email the Clerk for more information.

#### MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

Our next "Meet Your Councillors" event will take place on **THURSDAY**, **27th OCTOBER** at the **LYCHPIT COMMUNITY HALL** between **6 – 8pm**. We hope an evening meeting during half-term will help residents with jobs and term-time commitments so please come along and let your Councillors know what improvements you would like to see in the parish.

#### LYCHPIT COMMUNITY HALL

Despite the closure and restrictions of Covid-19, bookings have picked up quickly and remain buoyant and we again have a range of regular activities on offer since re-opening. Covid grants from the Borough Council ensured the hall remained solvent and reserves are earmarked to cover unexpected expenses enabling us to carry out redecorating work followed by a deep clean (including those hard-to-reach lights hanging from the vaulted roof of the main hall) and the building is now in pristine condition to welcome back our regular hirers and host the many children's and adult parties already booked for the coming months. There is, however, space available on weekdays during the middle daytime and we are keen to explore how we can help local community groups looking for somewhere to hold their activities so if you are looking for a unique setting for your group why not give us a call.

#### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meeting dates are **Tuesday**, **4th October** and **1st November** commencing at **7.30pm**. Please let us know if you are unable to manage the stairs to the meeting room so we can make alternative arrangements.

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

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#### **BASING HOUSE**



Basing House closes for the winter at **4.00pm** on **Sunday, 25th September**. The Bank Holiday Weekend for the Queen's funeral led to the postponement of the English Civil War Society reenactment until the final weekend, and we apologise to anyone inconvenienced by the event being a week late.

Basing House then reopens for two events – the **Halloween Ghost Walks (25th** to **31st October)** and the **Christmas Fair** before returning to normal opening at Easter.

The grounds that surrounded Basing House have many a spooky story to tell, and our Halloween Ghost Walk guide can tell you much about the wicked history of the site as he takes you on a tour around the historic ruins of Basing House. During the sieges between 1643 and 1645 many dark deeds took place and ghost stories are attached to some of them. You will also be invited to venture into the deep and dark Tudor tunnel - the tunnel is about 100m long and 1m high. We ask participants in the walks to wear suitable outdoor clothes and footwear and bring along a torch to light your way.

As usual there is free parking at the Basing House car park, a short, but dark walk from our visitor centre along the River Loddon. It is off Barton's Lane, Old Basing, RG24 8AE.

The Barn doors will open 30 minutes before the walks begin. Tours are limited to 12 people to ensure safety and a good visitor experience. **Tour times** are **5.30pm**, **7.00pm** and **8.30pm** and will last approximately one hour. Please note that this event will not be suitable for young children.

Visit our website for full details.

Our 2022 **Christmas Fair** will take place over the weekend of the **26th** and **27th November** and more details will be in the next Basinga.

Andrew Howard 01256 327014

#### **OLD BASING WI**



The speaker for our September meeting unfortunately cancelled at short notice due to illness. We hope to arrange another date for her to come to talk to us in the future. Instead, 28 Members enjoyed an evening of Bingo and conversation.

Our next meeting takes place on **Tuesday, 4th October** when one of our own Members, Jan Blight, will be talking to us about the famous "Newbury Coat" of 1811. This coat was made in under 24 hours from shearing the sheep to the wool being woven, dyed and made into the finished article. The competition that evening is a Halloween Edible.

Later in October, 25 Members will be enjoying lunch followed by afternoon of skittles at a local pub. In **November** we will be taking part in the **Basing House Christmas Fair** with our usual stall selling cakes and bakes, crafts and jams and preserves, so do come along and support us on **26th/27th October**.

Details of the WI in Hampshire and other WI activities can be found at the national WI website: 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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#### ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

St. Mary's Christmas Tree Festival will be held over the weekend 9th to 11th December Decorate a tree based on what the theme of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' means to you. Please contact Jeanette Edwards at jdedwards38@hotmail.co.uk or Debbie Filer at admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk for a form or collect from inside St Mary's. Trees cost a minimum of £7.50 to enter.



**Voting** for your favourite trees will end at 3.00pm on Sunday, 11th December with a small prize awarded to the winners.

This year we hope to make the event bigger than ever with activities over 3 days!

On Friday, 9th we have a Christmas Sing-a-Long; join us for a Christmas sing-a-long to some of your favourite festive songs. Send us your requests before 25th November. Tickets available from Debbie; Adults £6 Children £2.50. Don't forget your festive jumpers!

Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th, 11.00am to 4.00pm Over both days there will be activities for all the family including a Christmas Market. Hot food and refreshments will be available including mulled wine and mince pies. At 2.00pm on Saturday the Choirs from St Mary's Junior

and **Old Basing Infant Schools** will be entertaining us and at **2.00pm on Sunday** the popular **Old Basing Royal British Legion Corps of Drums** will be playing some festive tunes. Please tell your family and friends and come along to start the festive celebrations!

The St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival Team

#### **IVY CLUB**

Our membership is continuing to grow enjoying a Wednesday afternoon of companionship as well as the programme we have between now and when we close for the holiday period (didn't want to mention Christmas quite too early). As well as our normal bingo and quiz afternoons, on the 28th September we have a speaker talking to us about being an evacuee and WW2 blitz. On Wednesday, 12th October we are going to enjoy Fish and Chips supplied by Olivers. On 9th November our bank, HSBC, are going to put us wise about all the scams that are around and how not to fall into the trap (all welcome). We will celebrate our Christmas Party on 23rd November and we are having one last outing to Winchester on 29th November which includes the Christmas Market, on 30th November we are having a Choir and Carol Singing and lastly, on 7th December, Christmas Bingo. It is likely we will resurrect the jigsaw and book exchange on our quiz days, as they say watch this space.

The Ivy Club are running an outing to **Winchester** on **29th November** to include the Christmas Market, and we do have seats available, cost will be £10.00 per head, leaving the **Belle Vue Play Area** at 10.00am, picking up at the **RBL Car Park** and then on to **Oakfields at Lychpit**. We will return home at 3.30pm If you would like to book a seat, please contact Sue Wilson on 01256 328196. Thank you.

Sue Wilson - Chairman

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

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

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

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

Contacts for general enquiries and assistance: Paid Advertising - advertising@basinga.org.uk Magazine and Website - editor@basinga.org.uk

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#### PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

Ploughman's Lunch in the Parish Room, St Mary's Church, on Thursday, 20th October, 12.25pm. Book in advance (telephone: 07946 596778) as numbers are limited.

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Dear Editor,

May I through the monthly Basinga magazine, congratulate OBPC Chairman Peter Bloyce on his report in the Parish Newsletter (Autumn edition entitled Overshoot).

It paints a truly frightening picture of the Earths precarious environmental and climate position using the measurement tool, Overshoot.

I had personally never heard of this phrase but to my mind its something that every single person on this planet absolutely must be understanding of.

Put simply, it would seem that the world's resources can never be replaced given the current rate of use, meaning effectively we are doomed.

Mr Bloyce's remark that there is little we can do individually is by and large true, so far, far greater global action needs to be taken now.

I suggest the following that EVERY COUNTRY must take immediately.

- 1) With the planets population now more than 7 billion, probably 2 billion too many, then families should be legally limited to 2 children per couple.
- 2) Governments serve for 4 or 5 years, a period that is impossible for any long-term strategy to be implemented. I propose that a body be set up to achieve climate targets that the government is ANSWERABLE to. Clearly, there would have to be discussion ensuring actions are within achievable fiscal boundaries, but current green policies change like the weather, and this is NOT acceptable.
- 3) Cars should be restricted to use every other day, i.e., even number registration plates one day, odds the next,
- 4) If mass housing developers are so keen to build more, buildings MUST immediately start to include solar panels, battery storage, air/ground heat source pumps and grey water collectors.

I am not a radical, I will not be found glued to the road or protesting somewhere but this generation cannot stand by and do nothing any longer and neither can all nations of world.

Rick Bourne

#### Maureen Davie

The family and I would like to than you for all of the cards and letters we received following the passing away of Maureen on July 17th this year. She loved the village and contributed much towards it, including becoming Chair of the Village Hall Fundraising Committee and joining the Young Wives Group, eventually becoming their 'leader'.

May I also thank you for all of your help and kindness I have received during this difficult time, and for which I am very grateful. Thank You

John Davie

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#### FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH

New jobs brought my wife and me to Old Basing in 2009, when we moved into our first house, Heron Cottage, on The Street. Ever since St Mary's has figured in our life. To begin with, mainly because she towered over the cottage, but once kids arrived, more directly: Christenings, school services and the odd Sunday Service too. Old Basing has a fantastic thousand years plus of history and initially, we were drawn in by the faded splendour and re-enactments at Basing House. St Mary's has a longer, if less showy, history than the House. The realisation that we lived opposite another gorgeous, vulnerable landmark was a bit of a wake-up moment.

St Mary's mix of stone and brick reflects the Civil War pummelling, when cheaper brick was used to repair the battered stonework. Inevitably, with some of the structure going back 900 years, running repairs are a constant feature in the daily life of St Mary's. In the past wealthy parishioners would have picked up the repair bills. However the responsibility to look after this lovely village asset now falls increasingly on local residents.

The Friends of St Mary's (FOSM) was formed in the early 1990s as an independent, inclusive and non-faith based group to help raise funds for the repair programme. FOSM runs fundraising events throughout the year and we've put on or hosted pantomimes, murder mysteries, concerts, quiz nights, plays and lectures. We also run a **100 Club** which pays out half of what it raises to lucky members on a monthly basis (I've won £100 a couple of times, which was very welcome!). After an earlier payment of £80,000 in 2019 FOSM has just footed a £500 bill to repair the Eastern stained glass window.

To put it bluntly, it doesn't stop. So please, if you would like to help support an iconic community asset, Come On Down!

We can be found at **friendsofstmaryschurcholdbasing.org** and our posters pop up round the village on a regular basis. Look for the next one for a talk on **Jane Austen** in **St. Mary's Parish Room** on **Saturday, 8th October** at **7.30pm** (doors open at **7pm**). **Tickets cost £10 for adults** and **£5 for accompanied children** and can be reserved by telephoning **Ian Kershaw** on **01256 355500** or **Judy Wallis** on **01256 363988**. Alternatively contact **admin@friendsofstmary'schurcholdbasing.org**.

**Matt Jarrett** 

#### **VILLAGE SHOW**

We are pleased to report that even the overdue but welcome Sunday rain didn't deter visitors from attending our annual Show. Although numbers attending and exhibiting were low, they were up on last year by over 6% We are clearly clawing our way back towards the great support enjoyed prior to COVID, when exhibit numbers were 30% higher.

Despite the effect of the very hot summer and the lack of rain, which affected most flower, fruit and vegetable entry numbers, we were encouraged by the support of 20 new or returning exhibitors. The new class for poetry and limericks, proved a very popular attraction, bringing smiles to many a face.

If you attended we thank you for your support and look forward to welcoming you back next year hopefully as an exhibitor. The committee would like to thank all the additional willing helpers who gave of their time assisting with the running of the day and restoration of the hall to its original clean and tidy state.

Now we are already thinking ahead to next year. Please 'diarise' **Sunday, 3rd September 2023**. (To be confirmed) we hope to see you there.

**Dennis Cole** 

#### **HYMN SINGING**

Dear Friends,

Sometimes the most effective way of saying something or of seeing truth in a new light is through poetry.

The worship of our churches combines the insights of poetry with the stirring depths of music.

Singing hymns can be deeply evocative and powerful.

Some hymns are well known and part of our heritage and some reflect aspects of how life is for us now.

One of the more recent hymns we are getting to know is by Jacqueline G. Jones who lives in New Zealand.

Her hymn "Have you heard God's voice" contains this verse:-

"Will you watch the news with the eyes of faith and believe it could be different?

Will you share your views using words of grace?

Will you leave a thoughtful imprint?"

As we respond to the questions her hymn asks of us, we may discover more of the positive contribution our own lives can make.

With love,



#### **OLD BASING METHODIST CHURCH**



We start October with our **Harvest Thanksgiving** on **Sunday, 2nd** at **10.30am**. Led by Mr Symon Turner and our giving is for the Food Bank.

On Tuesdays, 4th and 18th October: Craft afternoon from 2.30pm to 4.00pm

On Wednesday, 12th: MHA Members meet for lunch at noon.

On Friday, 14th: Monthly Coffee Morning, from 10.30 to noon.

Our new **Bible Study** from the letter to Philippians takes place on **Thursdays**, **6th** and **20th** and the final session on **November 3rd**. These are all at **2.30pm** 

The Church Council meets at 2.00pm on Tuesday, 11th

All our **Sunday Morning Worship** begins at **10.30am**. Everyone will find a warm welcome at any service or midweek activity.

Our final midweek meeting will be an informal Prayer Time on Tuesday, 25th at 2.30pm.

Marion Wales

#### ST MARY'S CHURCH

#### **REGULAR SERVICES**

Sunday	8.00 am	<b>BCP Communion</b>	
	9.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Jur	nior Church
Monday	9:15 am	Morning Prayer	C. AA
Wednesday	10.00 am	<b>Holy Communion</b>	St Mary's
Thursday	9:15 am	Morning Prayer	Church
Friday	9:15 am	Morning Prayer	

**10:00 am Diddy Disciples** (term-time only)

On **Sunday**, **16th October** we shall be celebrating the 150th birthday of Raph Vaughan Williams. All music at our **9.30am** service on that day will have been composed by him.

If you'd like to join the 9.30am Sunday service from home, you can do so via St Mary's Facebook page. Up-to-date details of all services are available on the St Mary's website: www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

#### **WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS**

All enquiries for weddings and baptisms should be directed to Debbie Filer, St Mary's Administrator, telephone: **07541 698235**, email: **admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk** 

#### PASTORAL SUPPORT

Please direct any enquiries to St Mary's Administrator who will be able to put you in contact with The Very Revd John Morley who is assisting us at this time.

#### HALL FOR HIRE

It was lovely to welcome back the variety of local groups who use the Parish Room. The room is used regularly by the Basing Singers, Drama Tots, the WI, Tea and Tots, The Village Café, Infinite Harmony yoga, the Alzheimer's Society and various U3A groups. It is also the venue for the monthly Ploughmen's Lunch.

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 (details as above).

#### **WEEKLY BULLETIN**

Every week we send out a bulletin with information about what is happening at the church. If you'd like to be added to our distribution list please contact Debbie (details above). We are also able to hand deliver bulletins to those without internet access.

#### **CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION (PIOCC)**



Our Open Meeting on Monday, 3rd October marks the start of our Winter Conservation programme. Margaret and Tim Carr will present "Australia – West to East", an evening of photographs showing the wonderful scenery and wildlife of Australia. We look forward to seeing you at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church for refreshments. The talk will follow

in St Mary's Parish Room. All are welcome.

We look forward to welcoming our regular volunteers and also new participants at this month's working parties on **Saturday, 1st October** at **10.00am** and **Thursday, 27th October at 2.00pm** – meet by the PIOCC noticeboard at the entrance to the Conservation Area. With the arrival of autumn, we are starting our seasonal conservation work, including woodland management.

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. Our volunteers make a real difference.

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. 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

#### MILL FIELD CONSERVATION GROUP



**Event News:** Join us at our first volunteer work party of the season on **Sunday, 9th October** when we will tackle some of the larger stands of our evil nemesis the Dogwood. The Borough Council Rangers will be joining us for this session and treating the cut stumps to prevent regrowth. To make the most of their support this work party will be longer

than usual - it will start at **10.00am** and run until **3.00pm** with a break for lunch. If you can join us even for a couple of hours during this time you will be very welcome. No special skills are required but please bring gardening gloves, appropriate clothes and footwear, we will provide tea, coffee and tools.

Any last minute changes will be posted on Facebook and the field notice board. If you can email that you are coming then I can provide updates, in particular where we are working if you are joining later in the session.

What to Look out for this month: Now autumn is underway you may see the last of the summers 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 Email: millfieldnature@gmail.com

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#### **VILLAGE CAFE**

Well there has certainly been a change in the weather following our glorious summer and autumn is definitely upon us. It's that time of year when a nice warm cup of tea and slice of cake goes down excellently so do come along and visit us.

Our opening cafe on 2nd September after the summer break was also a fund raising event for Macmillan and we had a visit from local bee keepers, A Basket of Bees. It was good to see some familiar faces visiting us and we are very pleased to be able to make a donation of £130 to the Macmillan fund.

As from October, we are opening on the first Friday of every month during the winter, rather than weekly, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

Our October cafe afternoon on **7th October** is also a birthday celebration of the cafe's opening so come along and join us.

This month I would like to introduce you to a founding member of the original cafe, **Debbie Filer.** For those of you who don't know, Debbie is the administrator for St Mary's church, a very good friend, massive tennis fan and a huge cat lover. I have asked the following questions as a bit of fun and to help you get to know her.



What got you involved with the cafe?

I enjoy seeing people from across the community come together in such a relaxed atmosphere. The volunteers are so friendly and enthusiastic and it's great to feel part of a team.

Favourite pastime? Socialising with friends and watching tennis on TV.

Netflix or Book: Netflix

Favourite Tipple: Tea (English Breakfast, preferably PG) Signature Dish: Roast chicken with all the trimmings

Dream Dinner Party Guest: Raffa Nadal

We are a small friendly group of volunteers who are proud to support our community and are always looking for new team members. If you would like to join us as baker or a barista, do get in touch via our Facebook page, we'd love you to have you.

The unexpected news of the death of Queen Elizabeth II was announced as I wrote this piece and like many of you, I am shocked and saddened. Her Majesty was a remarkable lady who dedicated her life to the service of this country and carried out her role with dignity and compassion. As our longest serving monarch, she has been with most of us all our lives so the coming months will be a period of adjustment for all.

There have been innumerable tributes to the Queen but the one that seems most appropriate to me, came from Dame Helen Mirren:

"I am proud to be an Elizabethan. We mourn a woman, who, with or without the crown, was the epitome of nobility."

Deborah Thorne

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#### PROBUS HEARS ABOUT LIFE ON THE MAGISTRATES' BENCH

The likes of sayings "You're nicked!" and "Caught banged to rights" are not usually what a magistrate hears when dealing with the deeds of accused miscreants at the first level of the British legal system. Guest speaker at the latest meeting of the Probus Club of Basingstoke was Tony Hersh JP, who gave an insight into a day in the life of a Justice of the Peace.



All cases start in this first tier of court justice which has a bench of usually three magistrates and work without a jury. They are limited to dealing with what are known as "summary offences" which include most motoring offences, minor criminal damage and common assault. Sometime burglary and drug offences. More serious cases, known as "indictable offences", are sent to the Crown Court.

There are limits on a magistrate's ability to pass sentence. They can impose fines, community service, driving bans and imprisonment up to a maximum of six months or if there is more than one offence,

up to 12 months. They can remand some one to prison to await trial at Crown Court.

While many magistrates are suggested by various industrial and commercial organisations it is possible to apply to become a magistrate and people from a diverse range of backgrounds do undertake this unpaid position. Considerable training is undertaken but retirement comes at the age of seventy five. However, the honour of retaining the initials JP after your name can be used until your demise.

See **www.probusbasingstoke.club** for more information about this social club for retired professional and business managers.





This is your chance to find that **Priceless item!** Or a **Outstanding Bargain** at the **40th Year Jumble Sale** at the **Village Hall**. We are in the midst of (Monthly Marathon Fund Raising Events) for our Magnificent Old Basing Village Hall which is now 40years old, and which now needs constant upgrading and maintenance. Every contribution for this deserving cause, will be gratefully received. Refreshments will be available: Tea, Coffee, Cold Drinks, Cakes, Biscuits.

The date of the **40th Year Jumble Sales** is **Saturday 29th October** at **1.00pm. Entrance 50p** per Adult, **Children are free**. You will be able to drop off quality items from **Monday**, **24th October** onwards into the outside lobby at Old Basing Village Hall. If you are able to help sort or sale items on the day please email: **sheenagrassi@hotmail.com** before the Jumble Sale or make yourself known to one of the organisers on the day.

Sheen Grassi

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#### LINGUATASTIC LANGUAGE SCHOOL



Last month we paid a visit to Old Basing Village Hall Nursery and celebrated European Day of Languages with them and what a pleasure that was!

It might be a bit of a cliché, but babies and toddlers really are like sponges when it comes to learning. So, it's a great time to introduce them to another language (or two).

Indeed, did you know that learning a language at a young age: Boosts cognitive development; Encourages empathy; Enhances speech development; Increases self-confidence; Helps the child to master an accurate accent

They are just some of the benefits and although it could be argued that the advantages of learning another language are more evident in children, there are lots too, for adult learners!

Sadly the Basingstoke Multicultural Forum's World Party was cancelled this year, but we still had a great start to the new academic year. We are very pleased to announce that we have a few new sessions to offer in our week, including: Italian for bilingual youngsters (junior and secondary school children); French for beginner adults.

As well as our long-standing groups such as: French for advanced level adults; Spanish for pre-schoolers; French for pre-schoolers; Italian for post-beginner adults; German for post-beginner adults.

#### **AGE CONCERN**



We run a weekly social group at Magnolia Court (Popley) and Hampton Court (Winklebury) on a Thursday Morning 10.00am to noon. This is an effort

to reinstate friendships, social activity, confidence and to end loneliness for the older generation after the pandemic. We look to open further information hubs and groups in the local area if the demand is there. We are also starting a volunteer recruitment drive for various positions. Recruitment leaflets and further details can be found in our magazine's website: **Basinga Extra** at **www.basinga.org.uk** 

#### WILDLIFE AT THE RECREATION GROUND





Pigs and a Polecat at the Recreation Ground, one welcome, others not. Thanks to Kate Tuck for both photographs.

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#### **CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP**

At the monthly meeting on 7th September the Chairman, David Cowling, welcomed the attending members and reminded us that subscriptions are now due for the year from September 2022 to August 2023.

The speaker for this month was Alan Copeland who gave a talk titled 'Tales of the Unexpected'. These were stories of curiosities which can be seen in the buildings, roads and landscapes of Southern England. This included the oldest surviving mile post in England dating back to 1669 in Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire and the largest milepost in Esher, Surrey which was erected by a wealthy man who was tired of people not being able to find his house. The stories about the buildings included the house over a railway tunnel in West Sussex (*right*) and the Victorian spa baths at Tenbury Wells in the West Midlands.



For further details and pictures go to: www.curiosities.co.uk

The group's **next outing** will be on **Thursday**, **13 October** when there is a "Do as you please day" to **Brighton** with time to visit some of the local attractions, followed on Thursday 17 November with a trip to Bordon Country Market for your pre-Christmas shopping. The Christmas lunch at BCoT is on Thursday 15 December.

Anyone is welcome to come on any of these trips and if you would like join us please let us know.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday**, **5th October** when Alan Jones is giving us a presentation on Body Language and on **Wednesday**, **2nd November** "Mercy Ships" are coming to tell us about Medical Care to the Under Served. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at **Brookvale Village Hall** from **10.00am** to **noon** and all retired Civil Servants, their relatives and friends are welcome.

Further details about the group and information about our meetings and trips can be obtained by contacting: csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com

**Margaret Atkinson** 

#### **WORLD SIGHT DAY - LIONS CLUB**

Thursday 13th October, 9.00am to 3.00pm in Central Square, Basingstoke.

43 million people in the world are blind, 1.2 billion people need glasses to see better, two million people in the UK live with sight loss severe enough to have a significant impact on their lives

Spectacles are the most common and least expensive method of correcting refractive errors, the largest cause of vision loss. But globally, more than half of those requiring, for example, near-vision spectacles cannot access them due to factors such as poverty, isolation, poor availability, poor access to eye heath facilities and lack of awareness.

World Sight Day will again see the Lions Club stage a collection point for redundant spectacles, as well as offer information on resources and small pieces of equipment which might assist someone with sight loss. Additionally a **drop-off point** will also be available in **Morrisons Supermarket** from **Monday 10th** to **Sunday 16th October**, thus providing an alternative option for those who might find that preferable.

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#### **OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**



It is with deepest sorrow that the members of Old Basing Branch of the Royal British Legion mark the death of our Sovereign and Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

As Head of the Armed Forces, the Queen was steadfastly committed to honouring the service and sacrifice of the entire Armed Forces community and leading the nation in moments of Remembrance each year during the Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance and the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph.

Her Majesty has been an inspiration to us all, from her unwavering sense of duty to her devotion to a lifetime of service. Her enduring dedication to the Armed Forces will be deeply missed and never forgotten and we send our sincere condolences to the Royal Family at this time.

God Save the King.

#### **IVY MORRIS MEMORIAL SERVICE**

It has been almost two and a half years since the passing of Mrs. Ivy Morris, long time resident of Byfleet Avenue and a most prominent figure of the Women's Section of Old Basing RBL.

Due to the pandemic, it has not been possible for Ivy's family and friends to say goodbye properly, but a memorial service and celebration of her life has now been arranged for **Saturday 29th October** at **11.30am** at **St Mary's Church** followed by a reception at the **Old Basing Royal British Legion** afterwards.

Everyone is warmly invited to come to both the church and the RBL to celebrate the fact that YOU knew Ivy and appreciated who she was and the service she gave to the community.

Rick Bourne - on behalf of Ivy's family and the RBL.

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



The RBL Women's Section are holding a Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 26th November from 2.00pm in the RBL Hall, Old Basing. Many stalls: jewellery; Christmas gifts; books; puzzles; tombola; craft; refreshments; plus lots more with, of course, a visit from Father Christmas.

We do still have some stalls available cost £15.00 per stall.

If you are interested can you please contact **Sue Chewter** on **07986 574303** or e-mail her on **susan.chewter1@ntlworld.com** for more information and availability.

Further details next month.

#### PLANT LILY OF THE VALLEY IN MEMORY OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Lily of the valley were Queen Elizabeth II's favourite plant. Lily of the valley flowers are best known for the delicate white petals and signature scent, so it's no wonder they were one of Queen Elizabeth II's most-loved blooms. The dainty flowers found on the lily of the valley plant featured in Queen Elizabeth II's coronation bouquet back in 1953.

Lily of the valley have been a staple flower for key royal events. The striking green foliage and delicate petals also made an appearance in the Queen Mother's wedding bouquet in 1921, Princess Diana's in 1981 and Kate, Duchess of Cambridge and Cornwall's bouquet in 2011.

As a royal favourite, these stunning flowers are a staple feature in the gardens at Buckingham Palace, where in the 39-acre garden area they can be found growing amongst the sprawling lawns.



Lily of the valley can be planted in the ground all year long as long as the soil is not frozen, though the striking display of flowers and foliage will look even better if started, or grown entirely in pots. The ideal time to plant them in pots is between mid-September to October.

To get the most out of the floral fragrance and classic contrast of white and green growth, it is essential to plant the crowns correctly. Start by soaking the roots in water for around half an hour before planting into pots. Once the pots are filled with compost, dig a small hole – just a little larger than the roots.

Place the roots into the hole and cover with a layer of soil, so that the top sits 0.5cm below the surface. For an extra boost, sprinkle in a handful of blood, fish and bone and work into the soil before watering well. Keep the pots in a warm space, either in a greenhouse or conservatory to establish and maintain a regular watering schedule.

Lily of the valley are a signal of spring for many, the nodding white blossoms are expected to arrive early to mid-spring if planted in autumn. The lily of the valley is a flower symbolises happiness – entirely appropriate for our late Queen.

**Colin Follett** 

#### **OLD BASING GARDEN AND ALLOTMENT SOCIETY (OBAGS)**

**OBAGS** is pleased to announce that the Trading Hut at Riley Lane (opposite the Bolton Arms) will be opening on the following dates:

#### October 2nd; November 6th; December 4th. All from 11.00am until noon

Anyone is welcome to purchase items from the shop. The Trading hut sells compost, and other garden sundries and saves on petrol by providing a local service for people of Old Basing and Lychpit!

OBAGS is looking for more volunteers to man the shop during 2023, so if you think you could help, please let a member of the committee know.

Visit the OBAGS website for more information at Old Basing Allotment & Garden Society (obags.uk)

Linda Frawley

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

It was a relief when the hot weather broke, I'm sure you'll agree and it's astounding how quickly the lawns, flowers and to a degree, trees have recovered. Planters that looked done for a month ago are suddenly blooming again so a mild autumn will prolong some brightness and better late than never.

As the days shorten so birds like Swallows, House Martins and Swifts will depart for the southern hemisphere: in fact, the latter will have already gone. David Rocke at Lower Mill from always has several pairs of Swallows nesting throughout the summer and this year's was no exception. The farmyard also doubles as a departure lounge for dozens of the aforementioned species and by about 8am on September 1st David reported about 80 birds gathering on the wires. By 8.30am they were gone!

Not far away from Lower Mill is of course the Millfield, a haven for all sorts of mammals, birds, insects, and flora. Jim Andrews as we know is a master of capturing images of all of the above with his trusty camera. He teased me last week however, sending some shots of the big electricity pylon in the centre of the field. Each picture I opened showed

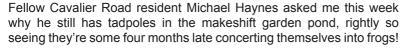


a closer view of said pylon until photo number 7, and eventually number 10, the shape and detail of a Peregrine Falcon. This bird, (picture right) which Jim believes may have been one that had been one half of a local breeding pair, has taken to regularly perching up on high ready to bomb down on some unsuspecting pigeon or wildfowl. Jim is waiting for the moment he happens to be there, then we might



see a really dramatic shot. Jim also snapped a common shrew in the field, scurrying for cover lest a Kestrel should spy it!

My youngest daughter Laura took a much easier picture this month, that of her daughter Florence holding a huge Red Feather, an unusual find. As many birds will have been in moult since breeding time its not unusual to find tatty feathers but this primary looks in lovely condition so is one that is taking pride of place in Flo's collection.





Well in fact upon investigation, it turns out that many tadpoles DON'T morph into amphibians usually because they are living in crowded ponds, or that there isn't enough food to sustain their metamorphosis. Cool conditions can also be a reason but that certainly can't be the case this year. Anyway, many can survive the winter if the water is deep enough and they will lose their tails, grow limbs, and develop the ability to breathe air next spring.

Rick Bourne.

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.

#### **DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER**

For details of services and events at St Mary's Church please see page 24 October

Sat 1	10.00am - 1.00pm	PIOCC Working Party. Meet by noticeboard.
Sun 2	11.00am - noon	OBAGS Trading Hut opening at Riley Lane.
Mon 3	7.30pm	PIOCC Open Meeting, St. Mary's Church. See page 24
Tue 4	7.00pm	Old Basing WI meeting in Parish Room, St. Mary's.
	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting at The Pavilion, Recreation Ground.
Thu 6	8.00pm	RBL Monthly Branch Meeting. Jack Morris Hall.
Fri 7	10.30am - noon	Ladies First Friday coffee, 19 Rosehip Way, Lychpit.
	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Village Cafe at St. Mary's Parish Room.
Sun 9	10.00am - 3.00pm	Mill Field Working Party. Meet at Play Area.
Mon 10	6.00pm <b>Deadline</b>	for November copy to Basinga Editor. See page 3
Wed 5	10.00am - noon	Civil Service Retirement Fellowship. See page 32
Wed 12	7.45pm	BDRS Talk, Wote Street Club, New Road, Basingstoke.
Thu 13	9.00am - 3.00pm	Lions Club World Sight Day in Central Sq., Basingstoke.
	10.00am - 11.30am	BDDF Community Cafe Club. Howard Parks Bowls Club.
Thu 20	12.25pm	Ploughman's Lunch in St. Mary's Parish Room. See p17
Tue 25	5.30pm +	Basing House Halloween Ghost Walks. See page 10
Wed 26	7.45pm	BDRS Talk, Wote Street Club, New Road, Basingstoke.
Thu 27	2.00pm - 4.00pm	PIOCC Working Party. Meet by noticeboard.
Thu 27	7.30pm	RBL Women's Section AGM. Committee Elections.
Sat 29	11.30am	Ivy Morris Memorial Service at St. Mary's Church. p35
	1.00pm	Village Hall 40th Anniversary Jumble Sale. See page 28
Novemb	er	
Fri 4	10.30am - noon	Ladies First Friday coffee morning. 8 Norton Ride.
Sun 6	11.00am - noon	OBAGS Trading Hut opening at Riley Lane.

#### **BASINGA EXTRA**

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

Anvil Arts	BDDF	BDRS	BVA	CAB - Debt
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#### • OLD BASING & LYCHPIT PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK: Sandra Tuck	01256 462847
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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: Please direct all enquiries to Debbie Filer, St Mary's Administrator Email: admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk 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

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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Monday's

Tuesday's

St Mary's

19.15 - 20.15

Church Hall,

Old Basing

Sunday's

Lychpit Community Hall

09.15 - 10.15

1st Sunday of the month

18.30 - 19.30

Community Hall

Lychpit

Lychpit

14.00 - 15.00

Community Hall

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