

September 2020

BASINGA



Stephen Turner



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SEPTEMBER NOTES AND NEWS

The **cover photo** this month, by **Stephen Turner**, is of a **double rainbow** that was over Old Basing recently, capturing Cavalier Cottage in a bubble, quite apt at the present time! August was a remarkable month for weather as on 12th August the UK hit a scorching 34°C for the sixth day running. This was the first time since at least 1961 that there had been six consecutive days of 34°C and above! This year continues to be remarkable in many ways!

AUGUST'S BASINGA

August's Basinga was delivered in the **Lychpit RG24 8 postcode** area by our normal method, whilst we used Royal Mail for the **RG24 7 postcodes**, who delivered over the first week of the month. We are back to normal volunteer delivery this month. If you live in Pyotts Hill, you may have received a copy from our normal delivery and one via Royal Mail, this was beyond our control and was due to the way the postman's rounds are organised, starting and finishing in different postcode sectors.

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 Thursday, 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**.

PHOTOS AND LOGOS FOR THE BASINGA

If any reader would like to offer a **photograph of the village environment** we would be happy to receive them, either for immediate use or to build up a portfolio of 'village views' that we can use. We now have a web form that you can use to send a photograph for the website archive and possible use in the magazine, you simply go to **www.basinga.org.uk** and the form can be found on the '**Contributors Submission**' drop-down menu. Should you wish to submit multiple or a series of photos they can be emailed but please read the instructions on the photo form for details. This feature should **NOT** be used for Free Ads or Article photos, which can be attached to their own forms. We continue to make changes to the presentation of the Basinga and we welcome **club** and **society logos**, with the option to use them within articles. Please send graphics to **editor@basinga.org.uk**

SITUATION VACANT – BASINGA ADVERTISING MANAGER

After 30 years involvement in various roles with the Basinga, our current **Advertising Manager** is retiring; we are therefore looking for a replacement. The role covers the administration of advertisers enquires (not selling) through to ordering and liaison with other members of the production team who place the advertisements into the magazine and website. The candidate should be familiar with the use of MS Word and Excel for record keeping. Full handover training will be given. If you're interested or would like further information contact **advertising@basinga.org.uk**

Basinga Team

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

Sadly the Committee of the Village Show will be spending **Sunday, 6th September**, this year at home, or in their gardens, as there will be no activity in the Old Basing Village Hall to keep them occupied! They are though already looking forward to next year's Show on **Sunday, 5th September, 2021**, to see all those tremendous entries in every class. They do however hope that you have sent your **photographic entries** in for **this year's Show**. **Results** should appear in the **October Basinga**.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE BOLTON ARMS

From all of the Staff at The Bolton Arms, a huge "Thank You" to all our Customers for their magnificent support during the Lockdown period in ensuring we remain a viable business. Without you, we would most probably have disappeared into the Abyss. So, from our point of view (without detracting from the NHS) – you are our Heroes ! Penny, Mary, Malcolm, Tony, Richard, Glen, Jane, Rosemary, plus a myriad of people have supported us during this period. We would love to mention everyone by name, but I am sure the Editor would not not want to extend this Edition to 154 pages! We look forward to a future where we can be together again, but in the meantime, don't forget we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for your support during "The Darkest Days"

Duncan, Mikki, Emily and the Staff of The Bolton Arms

NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

By the time you read this Basing House will have been open again for two months. If you've been before you'll notice that to help keep everyone safe, we've made some changes. We have introduced a number of measures in line with government guidelines to help manage our visitor numbers and ensure we maintain social distancing to protect you, our staff and volunteers. You can find our up-to-date information on exactly what we are doing if you go to **www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house**

We've seen many events planned for this year have to be cancelled, and September seems to have been particularly hard hit. However, we can ask you to come and join us on **Sunday, 30th** and **Monday, 31st August**, and celebrate the August Bank Holiday at the **Basing House Summer Market!**

The market promises to be full of traditional British summer fun, with homemade crafts and gift stalls, live music and traditional summer competitions like "Name the Teddy" and "Count the Sweets in the Jar".

Celebrate the last days of summer with us – wander around the market, enjoy the music, relax in the extensive grounds and perhaps treat yourself to tea and cake in The Bothy tea rooms, which will be open every weekend in September.

The **market** will **open at 11am** and **close at 4pm** on **both days** and is the perfect event for all the family to enjoy. Full details of this and other planned events for the rest of the season are on our website at **www.hampshireculture.org.uk/events?venue=6**

October highlights include the **Norman Weekend (17th and 18th October)** and the **Halloween Spooktacular (28th October to 1st November)**.

Andrew Howard, tel. 01245 327014

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COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

The Parish Council now has vacancies for three Councillors following the resignation of the Vice-Chairman (and former Chairman), Mark Oszczyk after almost 10 years of service. We thank him for his work in doggedly pursuing local issues on road and traffic management and those relating to planning. We will continue to press for resolution of those issues still unresolved.

LYCHPIT COMMUNITY HALL

From Tuesday, 1st September, Lychpit Community Hall is open to our regular groups subject to limitations on the numbers and other measures regarding sanitisation to make the hall as safe as possible.

Those hirers returning from 1st September include Lisa Jane School of Dance; Basing Beans, Pilates (Tuesday Group); Drama Tots; Yoga Blissipline; British Wheel of Yoga; Infinite Harmony Yoga; and include a new group on a Monday mornings – Yogababes. Other regular hirers such as Old Basing Karate; Lychpit Rainbows and Brownies; KAP Workshop; Daisy Foundation; Kids Kan Dance; Friday Pilates; and the popular Loft Music Night have still to determine whether they are able to resume and maintain the required distancing and other measures.

The Parish Council's COVID-19 working group will meet later this month to consider whether the hall can re-open for other events.

USE OF RECREATION GROUNDS

We continue to see an increase in use of the recreation grounds, particularly by groups practising some form of exercise particularly at the front of the grounds overlooking The Street. Those doing so must bear in mind that the recreation ground is a public space and no-one has the right to ask someone else to move out of their way. Anyone conducting organised classes is required to seek permission from the Parish Council and provide proof of insurance to carry out such activity and that they have carried out a risk assessment. The area is mainly used for picnics and people generally socialising so there may be broken glass or plastic that has been missed by our staff when picking up litter.

On the subject of litter; this continues to be a huge problem, mainly discarded plastic bottles, particularly in the MUGA. Please take your rubbish home or put it in the bins provided.



PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next two meetings are **Tuesdays 1st September** and **6th October** at **7.30 pm**. These continue to be held remotely but anyone wishing to “attend” is welcome. Agendas are published on our website and noticeboards in the usual way with full details of how to “attend”.

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

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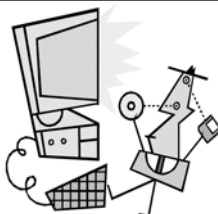
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HAVE YOUR SAY ON PLANS TO STAMP OUT DOG FOULING

People are being asked to give their views on Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's plans to get tougher on dog owners who don't clear up after their dog.

The council is proposing to introduce a borough-wide public spaces protection order taking a firmer stance on dog fouling in Basingstoke and Deane and is asking people to have their say.

Evidence gained by the council demonstrates that dog fouling in public spaces is a problem across the borough and therefore the council is putting forward plans for a borough-wide Public Spaces Protection Order for dog fouling bringing tougher penalties.

The draft order makes it an offence if people do not clear up after their dog has fouled in a public space and requires they carry with them an appropriate means to pick up their dog poo and transport it to a bin after their pet has fouled. If they do not comply they could receive an on-the-spot fine of £100 or be prosecuted at the Magistrates' Court.

Cabinet Member for the Environment and Enforcement Cllr Hayley Eachus said: "The majority of dog owners act responsibly and clear up their pet's mess but there are a minority that still do not and this lazy and selfish behaviour cannot be condoned. Dog mess is unsightly, it's dirty and it's dangerous and we have received feedback from residents where it has been a real issue for those using public open spaces.

"We are asking for people to feed back on our proposal to impose this order across the whole borough bringing a greater consequence to irresponsible owners and giving the council greater powers to enforce."

People can their say online from **Monday, 10th August to Friday, 18th September** at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/PSPO-dog-fouling

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dog Fouling on Country Footpaths

Old Basing is surrounded by a network of well-maintained country footpaths. You can virtually step out of your house and into the countryside. But there is one thing spoiling it: dog fouling.

I went for a walk recently, starting from near The Hatch, and just about every 10 or 15 yards there was a big pile of dog poo right in the middle of the footpath, and from the size of it, it must have come from a big dog. It is not nice to see, and instead of admiring the countryside, you had to watch where you were putting your feet, otherwise you could inadvertently tread in it and walk it into your home. That is despite a sign that says: "We use this field to grow your food. Please do not let your dog foul the area".

Why oh why will dog walkers on country footpaths not clear up after their dogs? They would do so if their dogs fouled the pavement in the village. It takes months for dog poo to decompose, and it is not part of the natural environment. am sure that it is probably only a small number of thoughtless dog owners who are not clearing up after their dogs, but they are giving all dog owners a bad name.

So, when you are walking your dog on a country footpath, please, please clean up after it.

Paul, an Old Basing Resident

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OLD BASING VILLAGE HALL AGM

The **Old Basing Village Hall AGM** would have normally been held in May but because of lockdown has had to be postponed but will now be held on **Thursday, 3rd September**, at **7.30pm** in the **Main Hall** at the **Village Hall** so that social distancing can be observed.

The Village Hall is very much hoping that our normal committee meetings can restart in **November**, depending on the restrictions in place at that time. Our committee member numbers are dwindling and so, again, we appeal for volunteers to attend our AGM in the hope they would be interested in joining our Management Committee.

We meet approximately six times per year to discuss the maintainance and management of this wonderful asset to the village of Old Basing.

Why not come along and meet the committee and maybe join our team. We look forward to seeing you on the night.

Sue Ingleby, Treasurer

OLD BASING WI



Some good news at last! Weather permitting, we are planning to finally “unveil” our **Centenary tree** at the **Recreation Ground**. You will have already received details in the August

WI Newsletter of the date and timings, but for anyone who has missed the details, please get in touch with any committee member who will be able to help you. We are hoping to provide an additional treat for Members at this ceremony, so if you would like to attend and have not already told me, please let me know.

A number of small socially distanced groups, led by Chris Hall, met in Members' gardens during July to make a move towards re-starting our popular Craft Group. Discussions took place as to what we would like to make/do in the next year when we are able to meet up again.

We started our weekly coffee mornings at Conkers on 11th August and were encouraged that so many Members attended. As word gets around, I am sure we will see the numbers get back up again to pre-COVID levels.

If any Members would like to join us on a Tuesday, then please let a Committee Member know beforehand. We are planning to re-start our monthly walks shortly as well.

We are still **hoping to restart our monthly meetings on Tuesday, 6th October**, but this is subject to the Parish Rooms reopening by that date. We will hold our postponed AGM at this meeting. Further details about the revised arrangements will follow when we are able to confirm that the venue will be open.

Details of how the WI in Hampshire is dealing with the current situation can be found at **www.hampshirewi.org.uk**

I will contact Members when we are able to restart and, at that time, we will be able to welcome any new Members who wish to join us.

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

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 submission must be received by the 10th of the month (6th in December) previous to the magazine issue month.

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

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

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At last we escaped sequestration and actually met for Handover. It was a pretty joyful occasion even though social distancing was still the norm. I think a lot of the “joy” was occasioned by the fact that there was no handover whatsoever. It was very definitely a case of “stet” as far as the top jobs were concerned.

But there was nevertheless cause for celebration as we welcomed Sarah Williams and Charlotte Gruntowska into the Club. Both have already proven their worth in many ways, but particularly in their support for the Fleet computer regeneration and distribution scheme. And they are full of ideas!!!!

Half way through the evening our President, Tony Bamberger, was left uncharacteristically lost for words when, to universal acclaim, he was voted our Lion of the Year. It was an award very well earned. All in all we look forward to the year ahead with some optimism.

Since 1992 Quiz Nights have been a good fundraiser for us. In fact we were due to have one in April at the Cliddesden Millenium Hall when the dreaded coronavirus struck and we were forced to cancel. We (I) have been slow to exploit the potential of Zoom for this activity. But, on 1st August, we were going to have a go. Our regulars have been as slow to react as we have, but applications are now rolling in. Should be fun provided there are no slips between cup and lip!!

We are also now considering acts which we might get to perform for us at the British Legion. We have a number of groups who have given us Jazz, Motown and Rock nights there which were well supported. And it boosts the takings of the Legion (which is of course another charity) as well as ours.

And the stop press news is that we will be having our next business meeting there instead of on Zoom. Yippee!!!! Remember, you too can help to make a difference to the lives of others by joining us via www.basingstokelions.org.uk

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RASPBERRY JAM RECIPE

RASPBERRY JAM (MAKES APPROX. 900G OR 2LB)

This is my recipe for **raspberry jam** which I enter in the **Old Basing & Lychpit Village Show** every year! I have tried to give you a few hints and tips to make a prize-winning jar of jam. These techniques can be used for any type of jam.

You don't need to make loads of jam. This just makes 2 to 3 average-sized jars.

You need to start making this either the night before or at least a few hours before.

The mint just adds that extra dimension to the flavour.

Don't be put off! Give it a try and I am sure that you will love it.

INGREDIENTS

675g (1 ½ lb) raspberries

500g (1lb 2oz) granulated sugar

A handfull of fresh mint very finely chopped

Juice of 1 lemon

3 jam jars, washed in hot soapy water and rinsed

Waxed jam discs

Cellophane jam covers and rubber bands

A jam thermometer if you have one

METHOD

The night before or at least a few hours before you want to make the jam, layer the raspberries in a large bowl with the sugar and cover with a clean tea towel. Leave at room temperature overnight or for a few hours. At the same time put an old saucer in the freezer. This will be used later to test for a set.

When you want to make the jam, sterilise 3 small jam jars. I do this either by filling the jars with boiling water and putting in the oven at 170°C for 30 mins or by laying them down in a large pan of simmering water for about 20 mins. I usually put an old folded tea towel in the bottom of the pan so as not to have the jars directly over the heat in case they crack. Just leave the jars in the oven or in the pan, with the heat turned off, whilst you make the jam once they have had their sterilizing time.

(Continued page 21)





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Friday 1st May 2020
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Thursday 14th May 2020
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Put the raspberries and sugar mixture in to a preserving pan or a large heavy based saucepan. Pour the lemon juice over the top. Simmer gently for 5 to 8 mins. Try not to stir too much. The important thing is that all the sugar must melt at this low temperature before you move on to the next step.

Turn the heat up slowly to max. Bring the jam to a rolling boil and cook for about 5 mins. Do NOT take your eyes off it! If using a jam thermometer, when the temperature shows 103°C turn the heat off and move the pan to another cold ring. If not using a jam thermometer, turn the heat off after 5 mins and remove the pan to another ring and get your saucer out of the freezer. Using a spoon, very carefully put a teaspoon of jam onto the frozen saucer and leave for 30 seconds. Using the back of the spoon (or a clean finger) push the jam on the saucer to see if it wrinkles up or is set. If it is not set, then put the saucer back in the freezer and return the pan to the heat and bring back to a rolling boil again for another 3 to 5 mins and repeat the test. It really does not take very long for this jam to reach setting point, so be careful!

When you are happy that the jam has set just move the pan away from the hot ring for 5 mins to cool down slightly. Carefully stir in the very finely chopped mint.

Retrieve your jam jars from wherever you are sterilising them. Make sure they are dry on the inside. I just let mine air dry, whilst the jam is cooling down. After 5 mins, carefully pour the hot jam into the jars. If you were doing this for “showing purposes” i.e. to enter at the Village Show [Ed, not his year1], then you need to fill the jars almost to the very top. Put the wax disc on (wax side down) and leave to cool. When cool put the cellophane tops on and fix with the rubber band.

TROUBLESHOOTING!

If the mint appears to rise to the top in the jars then the jam was too hot when you put it in the jar. I use the handle of a tea spoon to give it a stir and encourage the mint to be evenly distributed.

You need to make sure that the rim of the jam jar is perfectly clean and doesn't have smears of jam or finger prints round the top from where you poured it in. I use a clean square of kitchen roll just dampened to do this.

When the jam is cooled in the jars you can label. Make sure there are no finger marks on the outside of the jars. Wipe with a damp cloth if necessary. If this jam is for “showing” then the label needs to indicate the type of jam and have the full date of making i.e. 24th July 2020.

When I am “showing” jam for competition I always replace the cellophane tops just before show date. At this time, you can check that your jam is free from any mould. This happens to the best jam makers! It doesn't mean that the whole jar is bad and you can scrape off the mould if you wish but it would be unsuitable for showing as the jar would not be full enough.

A tip for putting the cellophane tops on to get them really tight is to dampen the outside of the top slightly and put it on the jar (damp side out), fix the rubber band and leave it. The cellophane will tighten as it dries.

Linda Frawley

THE ROLE OF ART AND RELIGION

Dear friends,

This summer, Dominic and I enjoyed a lovely day with the children in Salisbury. We walked one of our favourite routes through the Cathedral Close. Salisbury Cathedral is celebrating its 800th anniversary this year, and many of its planned celebrations have needed to be adapted in the wake of COVID-19. However, their art exhibition has still been able to go ahead, and in the Cathedral Close are some wonderful sculptures that have been curated to celebrate 800 years of Spirit and Endeavour. Art is such a powerful medium and it was inspiring to see these powerful pieces as we picnicked, pieces that are there to inspire us to reflect on the coming together of ordinary people to achieve something extraordinary. Eight hundred years ago Salisbury saw the amazing endeavour of ordinary people to build such a magnificent cathedral in just 38 years. (Even more remarkable is that it is still standing with foundations only 4 feet deep!)

Closer to home, Winchester Cathedral also currently hosts an art exhibition 'Held in a Burst of Colour'. It was created by Revd Gill Sakakini, who was part of the team at St Mary's until her move to Tadley in 2018. It is an art installation of hope, inspired by the image of the rainbow, to welcome back visitors and worshippers to the cathedral. As we have seen around Old Basing and Lychpit, and across the country, the rainbow has become one of the defining images of this year. It has been used to show our thanks to the NHS and key workers who have served us selflessly during this pandemic.

What art we enjoy is a very personal and subjective matter, but what unites it all is the way that art can help us transcend the everyday, inspiring and energising us. It's no surprise that art and religion have often gone hand in hand, and continue to do so today. Religion, too, seeks to help us transcend the everyday and to infuse the world with a sense of the wonder and splendour of God's creation. Good art – and good religion – should never seek to cut us off from the world, but should refresh us with that sense of the wonder of things so that we go back to the world reenergised.

As we continue to live with the uncertainty that COVID-19 brings, allow yourself to be inspired and refreshed by the artistic endeavour that is around; whether in person, or through one of the many galleries sharing their art work online. You are also very welcome to join us to seek the refreshment and transcendent wonder that can be found in prayer by coming into the church during our opening hours for a time of quiet, or joining us in our services in church (please pre-book) or online.

With love,

Heather



ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES



We are pleased to say that public services resumed at St Mary's during August, with a service of **Morning Prayer** at **9.15am** on **Wednesday** and a service of **Evening Prayer** at **4pm** on **Saturday**. Both of these are said services, as currently we are not allowed to sing in church. Access for

these services is via the vestry door on the north side of the church. As both of these services have limits on the numbers able to attend, you are strongly encouraged to **pre-book** by contacting **St Mary's Administrator, Debbie, Monday to Friday**, either by email: admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk or by phone: **07541 698235**.

We are working towards having **Sunday services** of **Holy Communion** in church by **September** which will be **live-streamed**. Please check the church noticeboards and St Mary's Facebook and website pages for further updates (St Mary's Old Basing and Lychpit).

PRIVATE PRAYER

The opening times for **private prayer** have now been extended: **Sunday (2 to 5pm)** and **Thursday (10 am to 2 pm)**. All are welcome, however please be aware that numbers inside the church will be limited, and that at busy times you may need to queue. Please use the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the church, and observe social distancing.

ONLINE SERVICES

We are continuing to live-stream some services via our Facebook page (St Mary's Old Basing and Lychpit), with all welcome to join these services.

Morning Prayer

9.15am (Monday to Friday)

Sunday Worship

9.30am. Service sheet available on St Mary's website: www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

If you have a **prayer request** then please give **Revd Heather** a call or send a text **07745 731729**; email: vicar@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

If you'd like to be added to our distribution list for **Revd Heather's weekly message** please email our Administrator at admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

SUPPORT DURING THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

St Mary's continues as a local hub working with Basingstoke Voluntary Action and Basingstoke Council for those needing support at this time, whether that be in terms of practical help such as shopping and the collection of prescriptions or if you are feeling isolated and would welcome a friendly phone call. Please contact **Revd Heather** directly on **07745 731729** or email: basinghub@gmail.com

BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK – DONATION REQUEST

The Foodbank continues to face a high level of demand and would appreciate any support that you can give in terms of donations. St Mary's continues to be a collection point.

Please leave items in the **crate** on the **Vicarage porch** (the Vicarage is located on the corner of Church Lane and Milkingpen Lane). There is also a **collection box** in **Tesco** at **Chineham**.

For a complete list of all items that are in particular short supply please have a look at www.basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk

PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCHES (ST MARY'S CHURCH)

How lovely was it to see the familiar cover of the Basinga drop through our letter boxes last month. A comforting sign that things keep ticking over in these strange times we all find ourselves. Unfortunately some things are not as easy to return to and Ploughman's Lunches at St Mary's Church is one of those, as I'm sure you will not be surprised. We've all missed seeing everyone, serving lunch and having a good chat, but safety comes first and realistically I fear we are a while off returning. Please be assured that as soon as it is possible we will be back. In the meantime stay safe and sound. Our aprons may be gathering dust at the moment but we're ready to dust them off as soon as we can.

Denise and the Ploughman's Ladies

CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)



We were delighted to have **restarted** our **Working Parties** last month. Due to the ongoing risk of coronavirus we are adhering to strict health and safety standards according to our new COVID-19 Risk Assessment. As there is no access to the Church or Parish Room we are unable to use the lavatories or provide the usual refreshments so our **Saturday Working Parties** now **finish** earlier at **noon**. Volunteers are asked to bring their own gloves, wear face

coverings and bring a pen for signing in. Tools, which will be disinfected before and after use, will be provided.

This month's working parties will be on **Saturday, 5th September**, at **10am** and **Thursday, 24th September**, at **2pm** – meet by the **PIOCC noticeboard** at the entrance to the Conservation Area. We plan to carry on the summer season maintenance so later in the autumn we can move onto our conservation work, including woodland management. We look forward to welcoming our regular volunteers and also new participants.

With the lack of strimming this year the grasses and flowers in the Central Glade have been magnificent. The Swifts have now left, but there is still plenty to see. We have tried to keep the central path safe, but please take care as you wander around. We hope you will enjoy watching the birds, butterflies and flowers. Take care and keep well. For further information please ring **Fay Farrant** on **01256 476863**.

Margaret Carr – www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

MID-NORTH HAMPSHIRE CARERS GROUP

Mid-North Hampshire Carers Group is a new online support group which brings together carers with NHS and professional support organisations, working together via Zoom video conferencing. It's open to anyone who provides care or support to a family member or friend. It's a safe space to connect with carers and to listen, share experiences and gain information. It's supported and co-facilitated by carers for carers, with the support of Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, Andover Mind Carer Support and Dementia Advice Service, and the Wellbeing Service. Meetings are once a month on a **Wednesday from 6 to 7:30pm** via Zoom. Future meeting dates: **16th September, 14th October, 11th November** and **9th December**. Sign up at **northhamphshire.carersgroup@Southernhealth.nhs.uk**

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ODIHAM & OLD BASING HEALTH CENTRES – PATIENT UPDATE

Over the last few months you are likely to have noticed a difference in the way things are being done in general practice as we manage coronavirus (COVID-19).

We want to start off by saying thank you.

Thank you for adapting so quickly to these new ways of working – it has been the drastic, yet fundamental, change needed to ensure the safety of you and our staff.

To slow down the spread of coronavirus, we have worked to reduce the number of people coming into the practice by using online consultation systems like e-Consult (on our website), telephone appointments and video consultations.

Our top priority is, and has always been, to keep you and our staff safe while ensuring you get the care you need.

This is why we ask you to continue what you have been doing to access your GP service.

Please do not visit the GP practice without an appointment.

Instead call the practice or go to our practice website. You can speak to a GP or nurse over the phone, email or have a video consultation. This will often mean you get to see the right person to help you, much quicker.

If a doctor or nurse does need to see you in person then you will be given an appointment to attend the practice.

Only coming in to the surgery with an appointment means:

- You will get seen promptly

- You are reducing the risk of catching/spreading coronavirus by avoiding a waiting room

- You are helping to keep staff healthy and safe

- The practice is able to maintain a clean environment and protect you from the virus

Please also remember that if you are offered an appointment then it might be to a different practice where you may see a doctor or nurse you are not familiar with.

While we realise this could be inconvenient, we think it is important to keep people safe, reduce the spread of coronavirus and get the maximum benefit from the healthcare resources which will be available.

Your records will still be accessible securely to you and to them, ensuring they are able to provide you with the best possible care.

A home visiting service, for patients who are unable to leave their home will be provided.

If you have any comments, questions or concerns, then please do get in touch with us to let us know how we can support you. We have some useful Q&A's on the news section of our website, where you can also access our eConsult service. There are details of how you can make appointments and order medication by downloading the NHS App, which we are encouraging our patients to use. Please visit: **www.odihamhealthcentre.co.uk**

Thank you once again for your support and understanding as we all adapt to a new way of working.

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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

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

The **Chineham and Old Basing NWR (National Women's Register)** group continues to stay in touch and support each other through these strange times using all the methods now available like Zoom and WhatsApp, etc.

The **3rd August** was significant however, as we had our **first actual meeting since March**. It was our very popular wine tasting event, socially distanced and observing all the restrictions, in the garden of one of our members. The weather was kind and it was lovely to see each other again having mostly been meeting via Zoom for the last few months.

Our weekly Zoom meetings have continued and been as diverse as always including a version of "Desert Island Discs" and some "show and tell" causing much merriment as well as various quizzes etc.

Our book group has continued throughout via Zoom and this month we are reading *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides which we discussed on 27th August and our lunch group is resuming their monthly meet up and hopefully have been taking advantage of the August "Eat Out to Help Out" scheme.

We are a small sociable and supportive group, so if you would like to make new friends and enjoy a variety of activities and lively conversations, then come and check us out. We currently **meet** on **Monday afternoon** via **Zoom** but now looking at ways to safely resume actual meetings.

If you would like to learn more about NWR do look at the website: **nwr.org.uk** or get in touch with our Local Organiser for this year: **Karen Dann**, tel: **01256 328488** or email: **karen.dann@gmail.com** – you can be sure of a warm welcome.

BASINGSTOKE – OLD BASING U3A

Many of you may not realise that Basingstoke has a thriving U3A organisation, with over 700 retired or semi-retired people coming together in more than 40 activities! With pastimes ranging from sports to music, games to crafts, and arts to science, there's something for everyone. As a member, you can take part in as much or as little as you want.



We've continued to meet in a range of ways. Our outdoor activities like croquet, walking, and cycling have continued over the summer, subject to Government guidelines of course. Most indoor groups have obviously found it harder to carry on as usual over the summer, though our Line Dancing has re-started and our Strings and Things members have been playing in their Group Leader's garden. Badminton and Table Tennis are re-starting on Friday, 4th September. Others are keeping in touch on-line.

As time goes on, more and more of our groups are devising ways of keeping in touch safely, and we're working hard to keep our website up-to-date. So do have a look at the latest opportunities on **www.basingstokeu3a.org** – you can try out as many groups as you wish over the autumn for only £5. Some of us are uncomfortable with technology, so you can also ring our **national office** on **020 8466 6139**. They will re-direct you to us locally, and we'll get back to you. So if you're looking to develop new interests, make new friends, and have lots of fun, we're waiting to hear from you!

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LINGUASTASTIC LANGUAGE SCHOOL

This month, we hope to be able to start offering several of our children's classes face-to-face again. Other children's classes and all of our adult lessons, will continue on line. Unfortunately, our clubs at Great Binfields, Old Basing Infants and St Mary's Juniors are unlikely to start again before January, but children who would usually attend them are welcome to join our lessons in Chineham or on line.

Of course, as we have experienced all too often over the past few months, lots can change within a matter of days, so we can't promise that these plans will still be relevant at the time of reading, but we have our fingers crossed!

And so with that in mind, we'd like to focus on the theme of "back to school" and what children in different countries get up to on their first day of school. In Germany, children are given a "Schultüte", which is a large cone, filled with school stationery and sweets! In India, children get given special gifts on "Praveshanotshavan". Since the day coincides with the beginning of the monsoon season, children are often given a new umbrella! In Japan, children receive a "randoseru", a leather rucksack. In the past, girls would have red ones and boys would have black, but now there's a lot more variety. In Russia, "Knowledge Day" (the first day of school) is always the 1st September, even if it falls on a weekend. The first bell is a symbolic ritual involving a Year 11 boy carrying a 1st year girl on his shoulders ringing a bell. In Kazakhstan, pupils present their teachers with a single flower, which when added to by all of the pupils, becomes a beautiful bouquet representing the symbol of growth and fresh hopes for the coming school year.

If you'd like to join our bouquet this year, please email info@linguatastic.com

Don't forget to visit our YouTube channel where we have songs, stories and short lessons in a variety of languages.

WASTE COLLECTION IN BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE

Weekly waste collections in Basingstoke and Deane resumed from **Monday, 17th August**, as staffing for the bin collection service stabilises during the pandemic. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and its waste and recycling contractor Serco have reviewed staffing and are happy the weekly service can be resumed as lockdown measures continue to relax. The day residents' bins are collected will not change.

Reinstating the weekly waste collection means all of the council's waste and recycling services will be back online. The council and Serco will continue to review the staffing of all waste and recycling services and will take measures to protect the core services during the COVID-19 crisis if required.

New subscriptions to the borough council and Hart District Council's popular garden waste service became available on 3rd August but residents are being advised it will take over a month for bins or bags to be delivered and collections to start.

The council first made the difficult decision to stop garden waste and bulky waste collections in March and temporarily move to a fortnightly waste collection late April. While the weekly collection is returning residents are being encouraged to continue their efforts to reduce waste and recycle more, only putting their waste bin out when they need to.

For more information on waste and recycling collections during the pandemic please visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/covid-19-bins-and-recycling



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2021 BMAF CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

September sees the **59th launch** of the annual **Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival**. The three Festival performance and Awards weekends aren't until March 2021, but now is the time to start thinking about your entry to the **Festival's Creative Writing competition**. The **entry deadline is Monday, 14th December**. At that point, entries are sorted by competition category – articles, letters, poetry, sonnets, short stories, scripts and 'flash' fiction. After adding a unique ID number, the 'anonymous' adults and childrens entries are next sent to the competition's two independent adjudicators for review and marking.

As part of the entry fee, entrants are invited to attend the **Creative Writing Awards Ceremony** that next year, will be held during the **afternoon of Sunday, 21st March**, in the **Main Hall at Queen Mary's College**, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke.



This exciting event is when the winners are announced (some will be read/performed) and trophies or prizes handed over, together with Certificates and written adjudicator feedback. *Pictured left is 2020 BMAF Year 2 poetry prize winner Ellie Barton*. Her trophy and certificate were presented at the school – St Marks CoE, Hatch Warren – as the 2020 Awards Ceremony had to be cancelled due to the Pandemic. Not everyone can be a winner like Ellie of, but uniquely, every competition entrant receives adjudicator feedback with the remarks designed to help each writer optimise their writing skills. If English isn't your first language there's even a category – Poem into Poem – that offers the opportunity to translate a published, or your own work, into English. Registered assistance is also permitted to ensure the competition entry is accessible to all.

For more information please visit the **BMAF 2021 website** (available from **mid-September**) at **www.basingstokemusicandarts.org.uk** (on the home page selecting the 'sections' page will enable you find the Creative Writing Section together with all of the other festival disciplines including Singing, Piano, Speech and Drama, Choirs and Ensembles). Specific questions on the BMAF Creative Writing competition can be addressed to BMAF Section Secretary, **Tony Corbin** (email: **tonycorbin@kempshott.plus.com** or tel. **07801 166223**).

THE MILL FIELD NATURE RESERVE



We hope to start our **winter work party** schedule in **October** subject to COVID-19 restrictions being eased enough and in line with council guidance.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS MONTH

Signalling the end of summer, you will notice the movement of House Martins, Swallows and Swifts as they fly back south followed by Hobbys, you may get the chance to see a Redstart or Whinchat onsite or maybe something a little rarer. If the weather is kind, amongst the grass you should spot butterflies such as the Marbled White, Silver-Washed Fritillary and Purple Emperor.

Anne Francis – tel. **07974 944439**

Email: **millfieldoldbasing@yahoo.co.uk** Facebook: **Mill Field Conservation Group**

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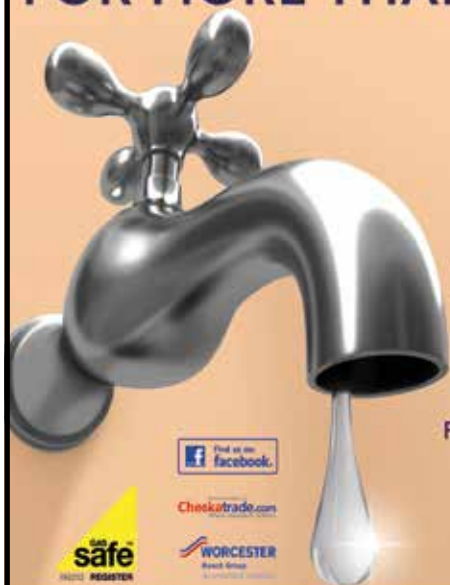


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OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



This year's **Poppy Appeal** and **November's Remembrance event** is fast approaching, due to the COVID-19 restrictions this year will look very different from previous years and I will keep you up to date as soon as I have further information.

We are still collecting used clothes and coins, both foreign and pre-decimal, so please contact me if you have some you wish to donate.

Also, if you wish to commemorate Remembrance with a Poppy wreath there are over 3,000 different emblems available so you can pay respects.

Please let me know if there is a specific tribute you would wish to have on Remembrance Sunday.

I can be contacted on **hampshire.chairman@rbl.community**

All money raised goes to the Poppy Appeal.

Tim Russell, Poppy Appeal Organiser, Old Basing Royal British Legion

THE GOOD OLD BASING GOLF DAY 2020

Despite all the problems of 2020 we are determined to run the annual **Good Old Basing Charity Golf Day** as usual and which will take place on **Friday, 18th September**, at **Sherfield Oaks golf course**.

Contact **Rick Bourne** (*see below*) as soon as possible for a form if you would like to play in what is our sixteenth annual event. The day will consist of 27 holes of golf, coffee and bacon roll, lunch and 2-course dinner, plus contribution to prizes, all for just £58 which is the same as 2019!

Cost to members of Sherfield Oaks will be **£32**. 'Other halves' are warmly invited to join everyone for the **evening meal** and **presentation** for just **£15**.

The **closing date** for applications is **Friday, 11th September**.

Rick Bourne – tel. **07900 648675**; email: **rickbourne@yahoo.com**

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

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At **Great Binfields Primary School** we are looking for someone to join our friendly team of Governors.

If you would like to chat to someone about how you can shape and challenge the future of your local primary school please contact **Mrs Debbie Robinson**, Clerk to the Governing Body, on **01256 460532**.

NATURE NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER

As I write (11th August) it's a blazing 34°C hence I decided to start my column rather than fry outside, though it does go against the grain somewhat to be indoors on a 'nice' day. Plenty of butterflies are emerging every day alongside many a flying thing but the flowers in the wild and in the garden are certainly not appreciating the heat or strong sunlight and the birds have virtually stopped feeding or singing,

As mentioned, butterflies have continued to delight and Patrick Whelon in Pyottts Hill was excited to find a White Admiral in his garden, a species which he confesses to have not seen for many decades and the sight of which took him back to childhood memories. It's fantastic that a simple creature like that can provoke happy thoughts.

It is a quiet time of year generally as the breeding season has all but finished and migration hasn't really started though one bird that would have fled back to Africa is the Cuckoo. Well, adults at least but this year's youngsters, born and raised by some unsuspecting Reed Warbler or Meadow Pippit, will have just attained enough size and strength to take on their intrepid journey. It was therefore unusual indeed for one of these to be seen but a juvenile did put in a brief appearance in Allison Hawksworths Belle Vue road garden but sadly didn't hang around long enough to have its picture taken.

Our family of hedgehogs has increased as we now have little hoglets turning up every evening to feed and to drink from shallow containers on the decking. Four has been the maximum at one time and table manners aren't in order at all with the morning light revealing copious amounts of little black droppings littered everywhere, even in the food dish. One good thing is that the hot sun has made them as hard as bullets so sweeping up is easy!

We sat outside one evening last week just a few feet away and had to stifle giggles as a cheeky mouse arrived from nowhere to snaffle one of the food pellets just before the hogs arrived. He obviously knew when to move.

You might recall that I'd mentioned my camera nest-box had been hijacked by bees soon after Blue tits had laid several eggs. Well they departed a month ago and what a mess



there was left behind. I decided to have a look inside and fortunately the box comes right apart, enabling me to remove the sticky residue of material and 'whatever it is' they secreted to bind it all together, even though a thin layer of wood came off with it. It looks a bit tatty now but should be usable to birds (I hope) next year which is more than can be said for the one that was taken over by a wasp swarm at the home of Nick Moss in Burton Gardens (*see photo, left*). Wasps collect tiny wood shavings to make their nests by scraping fence panels etc and

they decided to redecorate Nick's box with this material. The photo shows the astonishing result! I think they call that a write-off!

Good news from David Rocke at Lower Mill Farm who has a regular family or two of Swallows nest each year in his wonderful old barn. The area also seems to be a collecting point for departure of his birds, others and House Martins, usually totally about 40 or 50 birds each year and that time approaches. Today David counted about 100, all sat on the wires chattering away, presumably asking each other when the other would be setting off and by which route!



We often hear Green Woodpeckers and occasionally see them digging their dagger-like beaks into the lawn seeking out ants and leatherjackets but Viv Boynes in Cavalier Road was delighted to be visited by three yafflers, an adult and two young 'uns (see photo). That's it guys, keep the family together and local.

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 birdfood requirements, order it from me at 'Bird Drop-ins' use the former email address or ring me on **07900 648675** to place an order or get a form.

OLD BASING ALLOTMENT AND GARDEN SOCIETY (OBAGS)

Unfortunately there have been some reports of produce going missing from plots. This is a real sham as we all know how much work goes into the allotments. Please remain vigilant but also remember that plots sometimes change hands so new faces may not be anything to be suspicious of. If you have any concerns, please report these to the Parish Council.

I'm writing this in the middle of a heatwave so hopefully everyone has kept on top of their watering and should be rewarded with harvest of autumn raspberries, beans and squash. Keep picking as often as you can and begin digging or covering over any patches of bare ground.

Hopefully we will soon be able to re-open the shop, with appropriate safety measures in place. As soon as there is news regarding this, it will be made available on our website www.obags.uk and Facebook page www.facebook.com/oldbasingallotments

Tracy Braybrook

SEPTEMBER IN YOUR GARDEN

There will still be plenty of sunny times in the month ahead, the nights start getting longer and the days will be cooler and gustier. As the trees begin changing colour ready to shed their finery, now is the time to net your pond to protect it from the falling leaves. It is also a good time to give a good look at any structures such as pergolas and greenhouses that could be damaged with the coming autumn storms. An extra screw or repair glass panels now will help with structural integrity later when the winds begin to pick up.

Lawns need less mowings now the nights are drawing in and the grass grows slower but you can help toughen them up for winter by scarifying and aerating them before applying a high-potassium autumn feed followed by a top dressing of sand and loam. If you need to repair or replace a lawn, both seed and turf can be used now, and any brown patches caused by summer droughts should start greening up again soon.

There will be plenty to do in the flowerbeds, mostly in preparation for winter and in beginning to think about next year's display. Perennials that are still flowering will benefit from deadheading but those that are beginning to fade away can be cut back and tidied but not before collecting any seed heads that have formed. Now is the time to divide and replant congested and older plants which will reinvigorate them and give you better flowers next year. If you plan on adding new plants, they will do well now while the soil is still warm. Sweet peas can be sown in cold frames and greenhouses for next year and hardy annuals such as marigolds and poppies can be sown where you want them to flower next summer. Spring-flowering bulbs will soon be available to buy in garden centres and supermarkets and can be planted anytime from the end of this month through to late November. Spring-flowering biennials like foxgloves and wallflowers that were sown earlier in the year can be planted outside now.

As the temperatures start cooling, tender perennials will need bringing inside to a conservatory or greenhouse to protect them before the first frosts can do any damage, you can also take cuttings of osteospermum and pelargonium – put them in a gritty compost mix and grow them on a light windowsill until next year. This month you can start planting amaryllis in containers and it is also your last chance to get hyacinths in and ready for a Christmas display.

Any houseplants that you brought outside for the summer should now also be moved back inside and watering should now be reduced as their growth will be slowing down as light levels fall. Be sure to check them over thoroughly for pests before you take them inside though, as red spider mite, mealybug and scale insects can all be a problem.

If you want to move any shrubs, do it now while the soil is still warm and the moisture levels high as they should suffer very little. Prunings of Mock Orange and climbing roses should happen this month as well as evergreen hedges to make sure they are looking at their best for winter. Clear dead leaves from the base of plants to stop them encouraging diseases but do make sure to add them to the compost heap as they will break down into beautiful compost for future years.

BASINGA EXTRA

We were not able to include every article that we received; these (*listed below*) are available online on our website: www.basinga.org.uk

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Tuesday's

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Sunday's

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Lychpit
Community Hall

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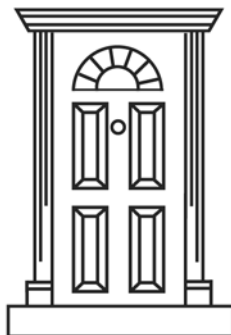
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