

August 2025

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AUGUST COVER PHOTO, NOTES AND NEWS

This month's cover photograph, of the many spectators being entertained at the **Old Basing and Lychpit Carnival** in June, was sourced from the Carnival's Facebook page. The Carnival Committee rely heavily on volunteers; they themselves are all volunteers. Without your help throughout the year and especially as the event approaches with even more demand for bodies, the Carnival would struggle to carry on being staged. If you would like to become involved in this excellent event, you can find out more at the **Carnival AGM** in **Lychpit Community Hall** on **Wednesday, 3rd September** at **7.30pm**. Alternatively, you can make contact for more information by email: **oldbasingcarnival@gmail.com**

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BASINGA

The **very last date for copy** to the Editor for the **September** edition is **6.00pm on Sunday, 10th August**, although we do welcome copy in advance of this date. 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*). **Don't forget that we only accept articles with about a 300-word maximum:** articles may be edited and are published at the Editor's discretion.

Our Privacy Policy is available to read on the website which includes the GDPR requirements for publishing photographs. Contact names, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for all our volunteer 'managers' are listed on page 34.

All Advertisements in the magazine and website are inserted in good faith and the Basinga Management Committee accepts no responsibility for any statement, omission or errors made by the advertisers; nor does it endorse the products or services advertised. The views and opinions expressed in the Basinga are those of the organisations, individuals and authors concerned and not necessarily those of the Basinga Management Committee.

PHOTOS AND LOGOS FOR THE BASINGA


We now have a web form that you can use to send any 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** at **editor@basinga.org.uk**

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OLD BASING SCOUTS



With the Summer in full swing that means that our sections have wrapped up for their Summer Holidays. But there was plenty of fun had in the last few weeks of term.

Our Squirrels enjoyed the warm evenings by going on their very first Chip Shop Hike to Olivers and enjoying a large portion each. Meanwhile, our Beavers have been Bowling to celebrate the end of the academic year. The Cubs had fun at their annual Silly Olympics competing to transport water in frisbees and hold balloons between their backs. Finally, our Scouts got to try out Tomahawk Throwing and practise Fire Lighting on the same night.

One of our favourite things about the end of the year is all the opportunities we get to meet together as a whole group. Firstly, in June all our sections met together for our annual AGM and Family BBQ. It was an evening filled with fun games and loads of awards. We had over 100 people attend which was fantastic. A few weeks later our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts joined together for our first Group Camp in a long time. Over 70 young people attended taking part in activities like Crate Staking, Cresta Run and Caving. Despite the hot weather we managed to stay cool and have a fantastic weekend. Finally, our Beavers and Cubs met up on the last night of term for our annual Wet Hike. This is everyone's favourite evening as Wet Hike is a bit of a misnomer and it's really just a massive water fight. We can say for sure there wasn't a single person left dry.

And that's was it for our weekly meetings until September... but our Cubs and Scouts still have special events to look forward to during the Summer.

We are always looking for new people to join in the fun – young and old. If you're interested or want more information, then please contact us: group@oldbasingscouts.org.uk You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn at 'Old Basing Scout Group'.

1ST LYCHPIT BROWNIES



Calling All Girls Aged 7–10... Join the Brownies Adventure!

Are you ready to make new friends, try exciting activities, and discover just how amazing you can be? Then it's time to become a Brownie!

At our 1st Lychpit Brownies, we:

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Build confidence and teamwork

Explore the world around us through games and adventures

Have loads of fun at meetings, trips, and special events

Learn new skills – from baking to first aid to science experiments.

Whether you're a nature lover, a future leader, or just curious to try something new, there's a place for you in our Brownie family.

Who can join? Girls aged 7 to 10 years old – no experience needed, just a sense of fun!

Where? Lychpit Community Hall

When? Tuesdays 6.00pm

Interested? Come along for a taster session contact:

1st.lychpit.Brownies@gmail.com or sign up today using the QR code:



Be bold. Be brilliant. Be a Brownie. We can't wait to welcome you!



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Understanding the Hampshire Local Government Reorganisation:

What It Means for Old Basing & Lychpit.

In recent months, you may have heard about the proposed re-organisation of local government across Hampshire. While the finer details are still being finalised, it's important for residents of Old Basing & Lychpit to understand the proposals and what changes might be on the horizon.

What Is Local Government Reorganisation?

Hampshire currently operates under a two-tier system of local government outside of Portsmouth and Southampton: Hampshire County Council handles services like education, social care, highways, and libraries; District and Borough Councils, such as Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, are responsible for planning, waste collection, housing, and environmental health. The proposed Local Government Reorganisation seeks to replace this two-tier model with a unitary authority system. In such a system, a single council would be responsible for all local government services in an area.

What Are the Proposals?

There are several models being discussed, but the most likely scenarios include: *A Single Unitary Authority covering the whole of Hampshire (excluding Portsmouth and Southampton); Two or More Smaller Unitaries, such as splitting the county into north and south regions, or grouping boroughs together (e.g. a North Hampshire unitary authority including Basingstoke & Deane); Maintaining the status quo (although this is seen as increasingly unsustainable by many local leaders).* These proposals are being driven by the need for financial efficiency, service improvement, and clearer lines of accountability.

What Does This Mean for Our Parish?

For Old Basing & Lychpit, the biggest change would be who delivers and manages local services. Instead of dealing with both the County Council and Borough Council, residents would have a single point of contact for services like: *Roads and highways maintenance; Waste collection and recycling; Education and social care; Planning and development control.* The Parish Council would continue to operate as the grassroots tier of local government, with its current responsibilities such as open spaces, playgrounds, and local events.

Potential Benefits

Simplified services: *One council, one contact number, one website.* Cost savings: *Less duplication of back-office functions.* Stronger local voice: *A unitary authority might allow for more streamlined decision-making and greater focus on local needs.*

Potential Concerns

Reduced local knowledge: *Larger unitary authorities may struggle to stay in tune with the unique needs of smaller communities;* Fewer local councillors: *With fewer councils overall, residents may have less direct access to their elected representatives;* Transition disruption: *Reorganisation takes time and could lead to short-term confusion or service delays.*

What Happens Next?

The reorganisation process is being led by Hampshire County Council, in consultation with local districts and other stakeholders. Proposals may be submitted to the government for consideration over the coming year, and there could be public consultations as part of that process. At this stage, no final decisions have been made, and any changes are unlikely to take effect before 2027 at the earliest.

Have Your Say

Residents will have an opportunity to express their views once formal consultation begins. In the meantime, your Parish Council will continue to monitor developments closely and keep the community informed. **If you have any questions or wish to share your thoughts on this topic, please don't hesitate to contact the Parish Office.**

August and September Parish Council meeting dates are in the Diary page.

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THE MILL FIELD CONSERVATION GROUP

Thanks to everyone that joined us at the Carnival this year. I think that it is fair to say that everyone had a great time. Special thanks to everyone that called in at our stall to buy a duck in readiness for the **Duck Race** being held on **Sunday, 24th August** at **Bartons Mill**.



Alan Wilkinson joined us from Natural Basingstoke. He bought along lots of interesting exhibits as well as the infamous Whose Poo? game. Thanks, Alan for all of your much appreciated efforts. (*photo – Charlie Butfoy*)

Please join us at **BioBlitz** at the **Mill Field** on **Saturday, 2nd August**. Run in conjunction with Natural Basingstoke and Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. Events taking place include: Dawn Chorus Walk; Bug Hunts; An

Evening Bat Walk; Family friendly activities; A variety of stalls.

The **Mill Field Conservation Group AGM** being held on **Tuesday, 19th August** at **7.30pm** at **Lychpit Community Hall**. All are welcome.

What's around this month: Bird activity in the field during August will see the migrants moving back through the field with the departing house martins, swifts and swallows moving on southwards. Dragonfly numbers will be increasing, due to the migrant species – look out for the southern hawkmer and brown hawkmer.

Email: millfieldnature@gmail.com

Facebook: **Mill Field Conservation Group**

NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE



And on, into the school holidays...

Rhyme Time, a lively hour of classic nursery rhymes, action songs and storytelling continues from now until the end of September, each **Wednesday, 11.00am – noon**. From the **31st July to 28th August**; **Craft Hour, 11.00am – noon** on

Thursdays. There are **general overview tours** of the whole site **every Wednesday**, leaving the **Visitor Centre** at **1.30pm** and lasting about an hour.

Various **birds of prey** will visit **every Friday in August, 11.00am – 3.00pm**. We'll have a different workshop each week and the website will give details of which birds to expect and the workshop topic. All these are included in the Basing House annual ticket, which is valid for 12 months from issue.

Former Basing House curator and civil war expert **Alan Turton** will run his last tours of this year on **Sundays, 3rd August** and **21st September**. These are not included in the annual ticket, and our website gives more details and lets you buy tickets.

English Civil War re-enactors visit over the weekend **13th and 14th September**, an event included in the annual ticket. There is also a **Wedding Fayre** on **12th October**. Tickets will soon go on sale for our **Ghost Walks** taking place in the week before Halloween at the end of October, and more about these, which are not included in the annual ticket, will be on the website shortly.

You can also follow Basing House on Instagram and Facebook, and our website is at: www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house

Andrew Howard 01256 327014

FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH – BARN DANCE

Ye Ha! Grab your partners: it's time to dust off those dancing shoes. As the summer ebbs away and we slide into autumn the Friends of St Mary's invite you to a Barn dance.

Old Basing Village Hall

Saturday, 20th September

Doors open at 7.00pm

There will be nibbles provided and drinks available to purchase

Tickets are **£15**.

Please go to the website for details: [**fosmc.org/events/**](http://fosmc.org/events/)



Remember to save the date in your diary for the Friends of St Mary's Church Pantomime, **"Snow White and The Seven Dwarves"** **29th November – 1st December**. Details to follow on the website.

OLD BASING WI

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Did you see the **WI Minions** in the carnival parade? Did you get your free bananas (thanks to Tesco's and Fyffes)? More importantly, did you get your cake or goodies before we sold out? If you missed out we will be back, with our cakes and bakes, at the **Basing House Christmas Fayre in November**.

Our July meeting was our annual "Garden Party", which this year consisted of a ploughman's plate and an amazing display of desserts, made by members. 35 of our members had a wonderful evening, enjoying the food and catching up with old friends, and meeting new ones. A number of new ladies have joined recently and we extend a big welcome to them.



21 of our ladies are off on a visit to Highclere Castle this month, with a visit to Jane Austin's house planned for later in the year. **Our speaker for August is our MP: Alex Brewer.** While the WI is non-political, we are interested to learn how Alex became an MP.

Our craft group is holding a "finishing off your own project" meeting this month. You may have been lucky enough to buy one of their beautifully decorated candles from our stall.

Members have a weekly meeting for coffee, which is very popular and well attended. Once a month members meet for lunch, again very popular. We have started a "Knit & Natter" group, hosted by various members in their homes, and are continuing to work on our poppies.

We meet, every **first Tuesday** of the month **7.30pm**, at the **Parish Room, St Mary's Church**. Our next meeting is the **5th August**. All are welcome to our meetings. Guests are offered 2 free meetings, so if you are interested, come and see. If you would like to join our long-running and thriving group.

Please contact our President by email at [**oldbasingpres@hampshirewi.org.uk**](mailto:oldbasingpres@hampshirewi.org.uk)

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OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT CARNIVAL – SKITTLES



After several years absence, the Old Basing Carnival skittles tournament took place again over a three-night period in early June and attracted ten teams from across the village. There was a great turnout of players and supporters each night at the Royal British Legion with some close matches enjoyed by all in this, the twenty-fourth year that it's been held.

The final was won by a team from the **RBL** itself, which was a surprise to them especially as the lads and lasses that played during the whole event rarely get to play this game. Pool, darts and snooker yes but not skittles, however they managed to add this to their CVs and picked up the new trophy, kindly donated and presented by Carnival chairman Jim Crowfoot, plus a bottle of Prosecco each too. Among the other teams also taking part in the event were two from the **Mens' Breakfast club**, four from **Bexmoor Way**, one from the **WI**, and two made up mostly from **Cavalier Road** residents. Thanks are due to committee members of the RBL for ensuring the skittle alley was set up and ready for play each night, especially new barman **Callum**, to **Penny Bourne** and **Julie Shepherd** for running the raffle and to **Chris Rushbrook** for assisting me with the running of the event each evening. And of course, well done to all those who entered and had a go and for their great generosity in purchasing many raffle tickets!

All this meant that with competition entry fees and proceeds from the nightly raffles, the Carnival funds benefited with a tasty profit of **£248.50**.

Rick Bourne – Old Basing RBL

CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)



This month's **working parties** will be on **Saturday, 2nd August** at **10.00am** and **Thursday 28th August** at **2.00pm** – meet by the PIOCC noticeboard at the entrance to the Conservation Area. We will continue the summer season maintenance to encourage the wild flowers and associated wildlife. This community project is not just for those who attend services at St Mary's, we welcome all who

would like to help. 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.

Soon the swifts will start their long journey back to Africa, but there is still plenty to see especially on a sunny summer's day when the butterflies will be flying amongst the grasses and flowers of the Central Glade. Look for Meadow Browns (*photograph right – Margaret Carr*), they love the tall uncut grass, whilst Speckled Woods prefer the shady woodland and Gatekeepers favour the purple Marjoram flowers. The Buddleia flowers are popular with Red Admirals. Perhaps you will see Small Tortoiseshells, Peacocks or Painted Lady butterflies nectaring there too. Marbled Whites, the second brood of Brimstones and Common Blues may also appear. Why not come and see what you can find?



For further information please email Tim Carr, Chairman: tim@tmcarr.net.

Margaret Carr www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk



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OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT CARNIVAL



The Carnival in June proved to be a great success and the committee would like to thank those involved for making it such a great day. Another big thank you must also go out to everyone that came and supported the event.

As is tradition, the day started with a very colourful procession from the Royal British Legion to the Old Basing Recreation Ground.

Once there, the big crowds were treated to some amazing arena events as well as many other attractions including classic cars, traditional games, the chance to try out archery, have a go on the climbing wall or take part in circus activities from Jake's Circus. There was also a host of local craft and charity stalls making a real fun day for all the family.

The army of volunteers really helped the day run smoothly and if you want to be involved a little bit more we would love you to join the Carnival Committee for 2026. We are particularly looking for a new Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer as well as general committee members.

If anyone feels they can fill these roles or would like to become part of the committee please send an email to oldbasingcarnival@gmail.com or come along to the **Carnival AGM** which will be taking place on **Wednesday, 3rd September at 7.30pm** at the **Lychpit Community Hall** – you are more than welcome and we would love to see you.

Graham Merry Carnival Committee member

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OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

We are rapidly approaching our **Show Day; 7th September at 2.30pm** in the **Village Hall**. Schedules have now been available for several weeks, so if you are planning to enter or just visiting to see what can be achieved by others, please ensure the date is in your diary.

We have all experienced a difficult start to the year. The weather has proved unpredictably hot and testing, so it will be interesting to see how the professional judges rate our achievements and whether the flowers and vegetables are up to previous year's standards. We are confident that our twenty domestic classes and the ten classes designed for children to participate, will attract great attention, but please don't overlook the handicraft, photographic, homemade drinks and the increasingly popular "original writing" classes.

Our supporting stalls – produce for sale, raffle and tombola will also be available for your enjoyment, not to mention that welcome cup of tea and slice of homemade cake.

Finally, this year, the prizes will be presented by **Katherine Antrobus** our world-record rower. We look forward to welcoming you to the Show as a visitor, or an exhibitor, it's less than a month away.

VILLAGE VIBES CAFE



Since our last article, I am thrilled to confirm that we have reached our target to raise funds for **Limelight** to help with their upcoming production of **Legally Blonde**. The team at Limelight are immensely grateful for the donation and send a huge thank you to all our customers who helped achieve this. As many of you will know, we sadly lost our friend and baker Ann earlier this summer and to honour her, we held a summer Pimm's themed cafe in early July, with all profits being donated to **St Michael's Hospice**. We were overwhelmed by the support shown that day, it was most certainly our busiest cafe yet, with cakes selling out within an hour, despite extra bakes being made. We had a toast to Ann in the afternoon sunshine and I am thrilled to let you know that we were able to make a donation to the hospice of **£350**. It genuinely was a wonderful tribute to a lovely lady so thank you all.



Village Vibes are now supporting a new cause: **Ark Cancer Charity**. The charity operates a well-being centre which offers vital support, both physical and emotional, to patients and this has been shown to be essential to help with their ongoing treatment. Patients are able to take advantage of a variety of treatments and therapies, such as acupuncture, reflexology and counselling. We

hope you will join us in supporting this and help us raise funds to donate towards helping those who benefit greatly from these additional sessions.

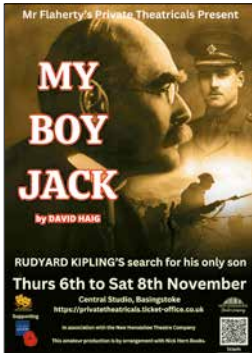
Village Vibes will be taking a break for four weeks to give our team of bakers and baristas a well earned rest. We will be open on **1st and 8th August, 2.00 – 4.30pm** at the **Pavilion Room** and will then close until **12th September**. We hope you all have a fabulous summer and look forward to welcoming you again upon our reopening.

Deborah Thorne

WHAT'S ON – ADVERTS

NO PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH IN AUGUST!

Ploughman's Lunches take place in the **Parish Room of St. Mary's Church** on the **third Thursday** of the month, **except August** when we have a break. **Booking is required** by phoning: **07946 596778**. **Doors open at 12.25pm** and there is no end time. Next month's lunch is on **18th September**.



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Team at Hampshire Cultural Trust and Basing House,

I just wanted to thank you for the wonderful event held in the Knot Garden at Basing House on the evening of 8th July. It was such an enjoyable evening from start to finish, and a real credit to everyone involved.

The setting was absolutely perfect – Basing House is always a special place to visit, but on a warm summer evening, with the garden looking its best, it felt especially peaceful and unique. We're so lucky in Old Basing to have such a historically important site right in the heart of the village, and it's great to see it being brought to life in ways like this.

The Rock Choir gave a great performance and really added to the atmosphere. It was lovely to see people of all ages relaxing and enjoying the music. The food from Berro Kitchen was excellent, and the addition of the bar run by the Basing House / HCT team was a nice touch that helped make the evening feel relaxed and well thought-out.

It's especially appreciated that the event was free to attend—such a generous gesture, and one that clearly encouraged people to come along and make the most of a lovely summer evening.

Thank you again to everyone who helped make the evening such a success. I hope there'll be more events like this in future—it's a brilliant way to bring the community together in a truly special setting.



Denise Adams

WHAT'S ON AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH

As we step towards a new season at St Mary's, there's a real sense of change, reflection, and celebration in the air. In June, we said a fond and heartfelt farewell to Rev Jo, whose ministry among us has left a lasting legacy of care, compassion, and community.



We were thrilled to celebrate Rev Helen's ordination at Winchester Cathedral – an uplifting and memorable milestone for our parish. Already a much-loved member of our congregation, she has been warmly embraced in her new role, and we look forward to supporting her as she begins her ministry among us.

In addition to our usual services and activities, we have a variety of special events coming up that reflect the heart and spirit of our community. Whether you are drawn by local history, love animals, or enjoy the sparkle of the Christmas season, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Here's what's coming up at St. Mary's Church for the rest of 2025:

Saturday, 13th September – Church and Tower Tours.

Tower Tours run hourly between 11.00am and 3.00pm – advance booking required.

Church Tours at 10.00am, noon, and 2.00pm – no booking needed.

Tickets: £5 per tour or £7.50 for both. Refreshments available throughout the day

Sunday, 5th October – Pet Service and Pet-Themed Fayre.

A fun and heartwarming afternoon for all ages!

2.30pm – Pet Blessing Service with Rev'd Helen – all pets welcome

2.00pm – Pet-Themed Fayre with stalls celebrating animal care, welfare, and creativity

Are you a pet groomer, dog walker, animal portrait artist, or involved in another animal-related service? We'd love to include you! This year there is no cost for a stall or display—donations are welcome. Get in touch to reserve a space.

Friday, 5th to Sunday 7th December – Christmas Festivities.

Mark your calendars for a joyful return of festive favourites:

Festive Sing-Along on Friday and **The Christmas Tree Festival** on Saturday and Sunday.

Expect twinkling lights, creative displays, and a warm welcome. More details coming soon! We're excited to share this season with you – filled with warmth, tradition, and new beginnings. As ever, all are welcome, and we look forward to seeing many of you at these events.

For more information about any of these events, and / or to get involved, please contact our administrator, Debbie, email: admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

Jeanette Edwards

Church Warden - St Mary's Old Basing & Lychpit

REGULAR SERVICES

Sunday	8.00am	BCP Communion
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist
Monday	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday	10.00am	Holy Communion
Thursday	8.45am	Morning Prayer
Friday	8.45am	Morning Prayer

St Mary's
Parish Church



All are welcome to join us – please just come along. If you'd like to join the 9.30am Sunday service from home, you can do so via St Mary's Facebook page

You can keep up to date with services and events at St Mary's via our Facebook page or our website (www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk)

THE WELCOME TEA ROOM AT ST MARY'S PARISH ROOM

Fridays, 1st and 15th August 2.00pm onwards.

We look forward to your company at The Tea Room in August. With the summer holidays in full swing, we shall be providing additional cakes for children as well as inviting everyone to join in a game of giant Connect 4 and Dominoes! We also have a wide range of pre-school toys for our younger guests.



We are proud to be supporting the Women's Intitute-led initiative of creating knitted poppies for Remembrance Day and we shall have a table set aside for anyone who wishes to create poppies in the company of others over tea and cake! You may have seen in last month's Basinga the call-out by a lady called Angela inviting knitters to come together to share patterns, tips etc. and we're pleased to offer a meeting place for this too.

Well-behaved dogs on leads are welcome and treats will be available. There are no set prices, pay by donation if you wish to. We look forward to seeing you!

The Welcome Tea Room Team

(PS) We hope the children from the local schools enjoyed their pastries and ice pops on their way home from school on Tuesdays in July. These were provided from funds raised at The Tea Room in conjunction with the Community Foodlink.

WEDDINGS AND BAPTISMS AT ST MARY'S

Did you know that if you live in the parish of Old Basing and Lychpit, or have a strong link to the parish (what we call a "qualifying connection") you may be able to marry at St Mary's. Please do get in touch if you'd like to explore the possibility of having your wedding at St Mary's. We also welcome all baptism enquiries.

BASINGSTOKE FOODBANK & PET FOODBANK

The summer months place an increased demand on the Foodbank. A reminder that we have a collection point outside the church or please drop Foodbank items off to the Co-op on Linden Avenue or Tesco at Chineham. For a list of items that are in particular short supply please visit www.basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk.

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GOOD OLD BASING GOLF DAY 2025

The annual **Good Old Basing Charity** golf day is almost here again and will be held on **Monday, September 8th** at **Sherfield Oaks** golf course.

Please contact me by phone or e-mail (07900 648675 / rickbourne@yahoo.com) if you would like to play in what is our twenty-first annual event. This year the day will start around **10.00am** for coffee and bacon roll, 18 holes of golf on the Wellington course from **11.04am**, followed by a 2-course dinner and the prize presentations, all for **£62.50 per person** (TBC). There will be paid entry into the par 3's with a 50-50 split of a cash prize and charitable donation.

Partners are cordially invited to come along for the evening at a cost of **£17.50**. The cost of the day for members of Sherfield Oaks will be approx £30.

We look forward to seeing everyone again so please do support this event, which over the years has raised many thousands of pounds for worthy causes, not forgetting that it is **YOU** the winner who gets to choose **THAT** charity.

This golf day is a fun event and is aimed at everyone who lives or works in the Parish of Old Basing and Lychpit or has friends or family connected with the area.

We look forward to receiving your entry form!

All entries and payments must be in at the LATEST by Monday 1st September

OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION & SOCIAL CLUB

Open Day on Saturday, 9th August from 2.00pm to 10.00pm

RBL Social Club, Crown Lane, Old Basing.



Looking for a welcoming place to relax, socialise, and get involved in your community? Join us for our Open Day and see everything we have to offer!

What's On: Family - friendly atmosphere. **BBQ – 2.00pm to 5.00pm**

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Whether you're interested in joining, or just curious, pop in for a chat, a drink, and a tour of the club.

All are welcome – bring your friends and family!

BASINGSTOKE AND DISTRICT RAILWAY SOCIETY

Basingstoke & District



Railway Society

In 1852, a direct route from London to York and the north was opened from the new King's Cross station. On **Wednesday, 13th August**, Raymond Schofield will present **The Great Northern Railway and King's Cross Station**, taking a look at the story of the station and a journey north with steam traction.

On **Wednesday, 27th August** we will take a trip to the seaside on **A Dawlish Journey**. Philip Haines will present his visits over the years in four parts, looking at the steam and diesel eras around Dawlish over the period from the 1950s to the 1990s, video sequences from 1998 and footage filmed in 2023.

Our meetings are held at **7.45pm** at **The Wote Street Club**, which has a licenced bar, in **New Road in Basingstoke town centre, RG21 7NG**, and visitors are most welcome. More details are on our website at **www.bdrs70d.com** or call the Secretary on **07837 320790**.

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SUMMER OF PLAY AT THE VYNE

During the school summer holidays in the gardens, families can enjoy hoopla, chess, a music station, skipping ropes, relay racing, quoits, reading and making their own theatre production on a wooden stage in the wild garden.

Summer of Play is sponsored by Starling Bank. Free event. Normal admission applies.

Outdoor cinema: Booking essential online:

31st July	Dirty Dancing (12)
1st August	Bridget Jones's Diary (15)
2nd August	Queen Spectacular (12)
3rd August	Harry Potter & the Philosopher's Stone (PG)
16th August	Outdoor theatre - Macbeth



Tickets are still available for Shakespeare's **Macbeth** by The Duke's Theatre Company. This dynamic reimagining of Shakespeare's classic tragedy brings a contemporary edge to the dark tale of ambition, murder and madness. Tickets: **Adults £20, 16 & under £18.50.**

Book online: nationaltrust.org.uk/the-vyne

HAMPSHIRE OPEN STUDIOS

Many of you may have enjoyed visiting artist studios over past years during the Hampshire Open Studios annual art trail. For those of you who haven't heard about it before, the scheme gives artists and art groups throughout Hampshire the opportunity to open their studios and homes to showcase their work. It offers an ideal opportunity to view at your leisure and chat to artists about their work - hopefully even buying an original piece that catches your eye.

There are lots of talented artists showing interesting and inspirational work in the Basingstoke and surrounding area, all of whom are ready to welcome you to their studios or exhibitions. Why not plan your own art trail with a friend or two?

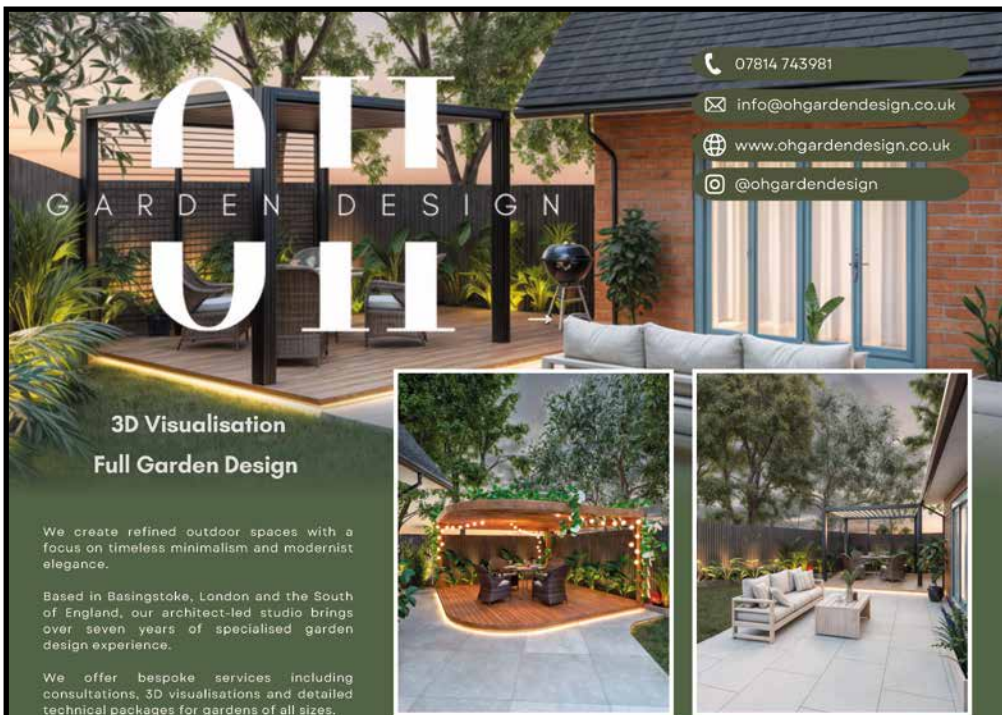
The scheme this year runs from **Saturday, 16th to Bank Holiday Monday, 25th August**. For more information about artists, venues and opening times please visit the website: www.hampshireopenstudios.org.uk For those wishing to visit a variety of local artists, you can follow the Odiham Villages Art Trail, which covers the picturesque villages of Odiham, Long Sutton, South Warnbrough, North Warnborough and Rotherwick, is a good opportunity to visit a number of artists within easy reach of each other. Please note: Details vary from artist to artist so be sure to check opening details before you visit.

In **Old Basing**, local fused glass artist **Aileen Mayers** works from her garden studio and will be opening again this year. She is looking forward to welcoming visitors, old and new, to browse her colourful fused glass artwork, homewares and jewellery.

The **Glass Studio** is at **8 Almond Close, Old Basing**. You can find the garden entrance from the pathway between Church Lane and Crown Lane, opposite the British Legion. Open every day from **16th – 25th August. From 11.00am to 5.00pm**

Collect a free catalogue from her front porch for details of all local and county-wide Open Studios.





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Basingstoke Cats Protection is currently inundated with cats on our waiting list who we so desperately want to help... but with all our current foster homes full of felines there is little we can do. We are looking for fosterers in the Basingstoke area, either indoor or in an outdoor enclosure which is provided by Cats Protection (approximate size 13ft x 4ft or 4m x 1.2m). Full training will be provided and all expenses are covered by Cats Protection – food, litter, bedding and electricity.

Fostering is an incredible experience guaranteed to give you an extreme sense of joy, achievement and pride. The days spent in a loving foster home make the world of difference for our cats and kittens, setting them up for a lifetime of happiness 🐱

PLEASE consider opening your home and heart to a cat in need; if you cannot foster, please spread the word to anyone who may be able to help us.

If you're interested in finding out more, please contact Lynne at welfareteamleader@basingsstoke.cats.org.uk or call our enquiries line on 01256 584544.



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LINGUATASTIC LANGUAGE SCHOOL



June seems quite a way away now, but we still wanted to provide an update on what happened at the Old Basing and Lychpit Carnival....

Despite the hot weather, LinguaTastic families went to great effort to dress up as characters from SpongeBob SquarePants and we had a great time and even won a couple of trophies!

One of the reasons for choosing this cartoon is that it has been translated into over 60 different languages. In lots of languages, the character's name is either the same or stays close to the original meaning. However, in some languages, it is slightly different. For example, in German, he is known as "SpongeBob Schwammkopf", the latter meaning "sponge head" and in Vietnamese "Chú bọt biển tinh nghịch", means "mischievous sponge"!

The job of translating cartoons, films, books, indeed anything, is an extremely challenging one. Not only does it require excellent knowledge of the two languages, but an in-depth understanding of the cultures of the countries where they are spoken is also essential.

Cartoons not only get translated from one language into another, but their content may also end up being modified to align with the target culture's sensibilities. Observing how they are adapted for different audiences gives us insights into the cultural values, norms and perspectives of different societies.

It must though, be challenging to strike the right balance of adapting content to the target culture and preserving elements of the source culture (and thus giving different cultures exposure to one another).

Anyway, back to the original theme of this article and LinguaTastic would like to acknowledge the Carnival Committee's hard work. We hope that members are able to enjoy a bit of a break before planning begins for next year's carnival.

And talking of breaks, most of our classes won't be running for the next few weeks, but we are offering some special sessions for preschoolers over the summer.

E-mail info@linguatastic.com to join us for singing, playing and games in French.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER



Human beings are social animals, and the tenor of someone's social life is one of the most important influences on their mental and physical health. If you would like to improve your social life then National Women's Register (NWR) might be for you. It offers friendship and lively discussions. **Chineham and Old Basing NWR meet at 2.00pm**

on the **first Monday** of the month. With rarely more than 10 at each meeting, we take it in turns to host. We have a monthly lunch at various local venues on different days and a subgroup meets at 8.00pm on the fourth Thursday of the month to discuss a chosen book.

This month we each chose someone from the BBC list of 100 Women 2024 celebrating women's resilience. Among those discussed were Adenika Oladosu, Gisele Pelicot, Fatu Baldeh, and Sunita Williams. This proved to be a very interesting and lively meeting.

As well as discussion meetings the programme might include wine tasting, walks or visits. Our group prefers to participate rather than listen to outside speakers. New members would be made very welcome. To find out more visit nwr.org.uk or contact our Local Organiser: Dusty Brough, tel. **01256 357276** or email: dmbc861@gmail.com

NATURE NOTES FOR AUGUST

As is often the case this time of year, interesting pictures or stories of note in the natural world are quite few and far between, especially when the heat we have had does certainly affect wildlife the same as it does us, as in, we don't want to do much. Butterflies are however perhaps the exception with hatches really thriving when it comes to hot weather, so I have had a couple of photos from various sites around the area. Thanks to those of you who have contributed – these photos are found in Basinga Extra.

On a walk alongside the railway near the footbridge, Lychpit based 'David' noted a lovely Ringlet butterfly and a Burnet moth (*right*), which I believe to be a five-spot, although it does look a little different with its wings open from the picture taken last month by Jim Andrews which is definitely one of these. This one was in the Millfield which is surely 'the place' to go if you want to go looking for many of the UK's wonderful variety of lepidoptera.

Regular correspondent Stephen Thair also meandered the railway line footpath to Ashmoor Lane and saw a number of Silver-washed Fritillaries, an insect that generally emerges now, in the height of summer.

However, footpaths and hedgerows where wildflowers thrive alongside numerous shrubs will attract many species and Phil Males snapped a Small Copper and a quite rare butterfly on his stroll in Binfields Woodland park, that being a White Admiral. Unfortunately, it was enjoying a feast on the ground with a bright background, so the image is sadly not clear enough to reproduce but I 'borrowed' one (*right*) from the internet to show.

With memories of this years Wimbledon tennis fortnight now fading, have you ever wondered where all the old balls go to? Even if you're not a tennis fan you would have surely heard the phrase 'new balls please' uttered countless time during the tournament. Staggeringly, some 55,000 balls are got through during the 14 days and many of course find their way into local tennis clubs and fans pockets afterwards. However, another innovative use was put into place recently with the Wildlife Trusts in Avon, Glamorgan and Northumberland receiving them to protect harvest mice! Yes, you read that correctly.

These tiny creatures build their own circular nests in the wild from grasses but are vulnerable to any predator that might find their exquisite little home but a tennis ball, with a suitably sized hole cut in the side, makes a perfect safe and cosy environment in which the mouse can live and breed as the photograph (*right*) shows.

How great is that?

Rick Bourne.

Don't forget to send all your nature related stories and photos to rickbourne@yahoo.com or naturenotes@basinga.org.uk

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GARDEN NOTES FOR AUGUST

After a very dry summer in Old Basing so far, your garden in August will likely need some recovery, resilience planning and TLC, and hope that unseasonal rain will fall for at least part of the month. Here are key tips to help you manage and revive your garden:

General Garden Care: Water deeply but less often. Focus on early morning or late evening watering to reduce evaporation. Deep watering encourages roots to grow downward, making plants more drought-resistant.

Mulch, mulch, mulch: Add organic mulch (compost, bark, grass clippings) around plants to conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature.

Weed control: Remove weeds regularly – they compete with your plants for water and nutrients, especially in dry conditions.

Flowers and Perennials: Deadhead regularly. Remove spent flowers to encourage continued blooming and prevent plants from putting energy into seed production. Cut back stressed perennials. Trim damaged foliage to encourage fresh growth. Water and feed them with a diluted liquid fertilizer. Plan ahead: Consider drought-tolerant plants (like lavender, echinacea, or sedum) if your garden struggled this summer.

Vegetables: Harvest frequently. Pick crops like beans, courgettes, and tomatoes regularly to encourage further production. Shade delicate crops. Use fleece or garden netting to protect against intense sun if it continues into August. Sow autumn crops. It's a great time to sow lettuce, spinach, radishes and spring cabbages.

Trees, Shrubs, and Lawns: Water young trees and shrubs. Prioritise any planted in the last two years. A slow, deep soak every 7–10 days is more effective than frequent light watering. Don't feed stressed lawns, wait until cooler weather returns. You can lightly scarify and reseed bare patches in late August or early September. Top up mulch around shrubs. This helps keep roots cool and moist after the dry spell.

Wildlife and Sustainability: Keep water out for wildlife: Shallow dishes or bird baths are vital during drought. Refresh them daily. Leave some seed heads: While dead-heading most flowers is good, leave a few for birds to feed on and for winter interest.

CITIZENS ADVICE BASINGSTOKE – OFFICE MOVE



citizens
advice

Citizens Advice Basingstoke is an independent local charity providing free, confidential and impartial advice for people, whatever their circumstances.

The charity is moving to new premises at **Grove House, Chineham** from **4th August**, following lease termination of the Basingstoke Discovery Centre offices by Hampshire County Council earlier this year.

The charity will remain fully operational during the move period and the search for suitable town-centre based offices will continue.

Anyone wishing to speak to an adviser should contact them on the free telephone Advice Line **0808 2787829, Monday-Friday, 9am to 4pm**. Alternatively, an online enquiry form can be submitted via **www.cabasingstoke.org.uk/email**

For those without phone or internet access, a drop-in services is available; please note that there may be a wait so do arrive early and these are subject to availability: **'The Discovery Centre'**, town-centre, (please go to Library reception desk) on **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays from 9.30am – 12.30pm**

DIARY DATES FOR AUGUST 2025

For details of services and events at St Mary's Church please see page 19

August

Fri 1	11.00am – 3.00pm	Basingstoke Voluntary Action Fun Day. Poster page 15.
Sat 2	dawn	Bio Blitz at Mill Field Nature Reserve. See page 9.
	10.00am – 1.00pm	PIOCC Working Party. Meet at Noticeboard.
Tue 5	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting. Pavilion, Recreation Ground.
	7.30pm	Old Basing WI meeting the the Parish Room, St. Mary's.
Thu 7	7.30pm	RBL monthly meeting / social gathering. Members and those wishing to join are warmly invited.
Sat 9	2.00pm – 10.00pm	Old Basing Royal British Legion – Open Day. See page 21.
Sun 10	6.00pm	Deadline for September articles and dates to Basinga Editor.
Wed 13	7.45pm	BDRS meeting – GNR and King's Cross Station. Page 21.
Fri 15	noon – 12.30pm	VJ Day 80th Anniversary. War Memorial, Civic Offices.
Sat 16	11.00am – 5.00pm	Hampshire Open Studios start; including The Glass Studio. 8 Almond Close. www.hampshireopenstudios.org.uk
Tue 19	7.30pm	The Mill Field Conservation Group AGM. Lychpit Hall. P9.
Sun 24		The Duck Race at Barton's Mill. See page 9 for more.
Wed 27	7.45pm	BDRS meeting – A Dawlish Journey. See page 21.
Thu 28	2.00pm – 4.00pm	PIOCC Working Party. Meet at Noticeboard.

September

Mon 1		Deadline for Good Old Basing Golf Day entries. Page 21.
Tue 2	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting. Pavilion, Recreation Ground.
Wed 3	7.30pm	Carnival AGM at Lychpit Community Hall. See pp 3, 15.
Sat 20	7.00pm	Friends of St. Mary's Barn Dance. See page 10.

BASINGA EXTRA

Have you ever tried looking at the online version of the Basinga? **Basinga Extra** is found at **www.basinga.org.uk** and has all you find in the printed version but even more local information and articles. You can find old editions of the Basinga going all the way back to 2018! The following articles, that we unfortunately couldn't find room for in this printed version of Basinga, can be found there.

e-scooter news

Food Waste Recycling – Basingstoke & Deane

Poster – BVA Fun day and Trail

Poster – Stitchers pop-up Shop

Poster – St. Michael's Hospice Moonlight Walk

Poster – Tuesday Sewing Group

Poster – My Boy Jack – Central Studio



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● OLD BASING & LYCHPIT PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK: Kate Hope	01256 462847
OFFICE AND HOURS: The Pavilion, The Recreation Ground	
Monday to Thursday 10am to noon	

● CHURCH INFORMATION FOR THE AREA

Church of England (Parish of Old Basing & Lychpit)

ASSISTANT CURATE: Rev'd Helen Holley	01256 363612
email: curate@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk	
ADMINISTRATOR: Debbie Filer email: admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk	07541 698235

Regular Services at St Mary's Church, Old Basing

SUNDAY: 8am Holy Communion; 9.30am Sung Eucharist

OTHER DAYS: Wednesday, 10am – Holy Communion; Monday, Thursday and Friday, 8.45am – 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 Claire Simpson	01256 323103
email: revclaire72@btinternet.com	
SUNDAY SERVICE: Morning Service 10.30am	

Roman Catholic

PRIEST: Fr. John Lee	01256 465214
St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke	
SUNDAY MASSES: 9am, 11am and 6pm	



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