November 2026

BASINGA



Jackie Lees

Old Basing and Lychpit Parish Magazine
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NOVEMBER COVER PHOTO, NOTES AND NEWS

This month's picture, '**Sheep in Snow**', by **Jackie Lees**, was the winning entry in the recent Village Show. Getting that many sheep to face the camera and 'smile' at the same time was a remarkable feat, and made for a superb photograph, well done!



We are looking for someone to deliver the Basinga magazine to **Crabtree Way** (off of Huish Lane)

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Please contact Peter Watson by e-mail: **basing@basinga.org.uk** or text / telephone **07790 279954** for further details.

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Our advertisers are well-established and most of them have been with us for a long time, are reliable and would welcome your custom. In order to maintain the production and free distribution of this magazine, we need to maintain our base of advertisers. If you know of any business wishing to promote themselves in this area, please suggest they get in touch and advertise with us. It also helps us if you can mention seeing their advert in Basinga.

Our website **www.basinga.org.uk** *(Currently being upgraded)* has a list of our advertisers, either alphabetically or by page: from the home page choose 'OUR ADVERTISERS', then select 'CONTRACT ADS' to list our advertisers alphabetically.

For **Free Ads** visit **Basinga Extra** and fill out the form under 'Advertising with us".

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BASINGA

The **very last date for copy** to the Editor for the **December** edition is **6.00pm** on **Tuesday, 10th November, 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. **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 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: **editor@basinga.org.uk**

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THE MILL FIELD NATURE RESERVE

Duck Race As promised in the last edition of the Basinga, I am pleased to confirm that we raised £479 at the Duck Race. This will enable us to proceed with our plan to install a bench on the nature reserve. Thanks again to everyone for their help and support.

Old Basing and Lychpit Carnival Old Basing and Lychpit Carnival have very kindly donated £200 from the proceeds of the very successful carnival this year. So many thanks to them and everyone that supported the event this year.

Replacing of rotten planks Thanks to a couple of Corporate Work Parties and the Borough Council Rangers, work has now started on renewing the rotten sleepers on the bottom path in the reserve. The Conservation Group continued this good work during their work party which was held on the 10th October. This will be an ongoing project. Thank you to all that got involved in this worthwhile community project.



The funds for this work were made available thanks to a Community Infrastructure Levy Grant from Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Council earlier this year.

Work Party Our next work party is being held on **Saturday, 7th November**. We meet at **10am by the play park by Bartons Mill**. Please wear old clothes, sturdy footwear and thick garden gloves. Equipment and refreshments will be provided.

We are still working hard to try to clear the dogwood from the nature reserve. Left to its own devices this plant is taking over the grassland and smothering some beautiful plants. A rigorous regime of cutting, pulling & spraying has been undertaken to try to control the spread of this invasive plant. Unfortunately, this will have to be an ongoing exercise for the foreseeable future.

If you would like to get involved in the work carried out at the site, please either get in touch using the email address below or contact us via our Facebook page.

Email: **millfieldnature@gmail.com** Facebook: **Mill Field Conservation Group**

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW

It's been a few weeks since the Show and thanks to everyone who entered. It was great to see lots of new entrants and a significant increase in the number of entries. Here is a chance to look at a photos of one of the "Best in Section" entries *(left)*. There are photos of the exhibits on the gallery page of the website: **www.oblvs.org.uk**, together with a report of the Show.



Follow us on Facebook by searching for **OldBasingLychpitShow**.

The next event is the **AGM** which will be held at **7.30pm** on **Tuesday, 10th November** in the **Pavilion Tea Room**, Recreation Ground. Some members will be retiring, and we are hoping to welcome new faces to the team. If you would like to help, please come along and talk to us or contact us beforehand, contact details are on the website.

The formal part of the AGM usually lasts around 20 minutes after which you can take the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions about the Show. The meeting will followed by drinks and nibbles. **All are welcome**.

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St Mary's Old Basing & Lychpit

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

News from Your Parish Office There is plenty happening across the parish as we continue to look at ways of supporting our community, improving our facilities and keeping residents connected with the work of the Parish Council.

Community Engagement Committee We are pleased to introduce our new Community Engagement Committee, which has recently started meeting at the Parish Office – **Councillors Sarah Brown, Jordan Fox, Lou Eddy, Cathy Robinson** and **James Rowlands** are all keen to strengthen our links with local residents, groups and organisations and explore ways in which we can work together to improve communication, community involvement and the overall vibrancy of our parish. We look forward to developing this work and hearing from our community about the things that matter to you.

CIL Funding – Millfield Conservation Group Work is now underway on the Millfield Conservation Boardwalk Improvement Project, funded through the Parish Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding.

The project will see new, wider pathways installed, helping to improve accessibility and make the area easier and more enjoyable for visitors to use. We are delighted to see this project progressing and hope it will provide a lasting benefit for our community.

CIL Funding – Old Basing Village Hall

The Parish Council has also contributed CIL funding towards improvements at Old Basing Village Hall, where the floor has recently been replaced. Supporting our local community buildings is an important part of ensuring they remain welcoming and well-used spaces for everyone.

Speed Indicator Device A new Speed Indicator Device (SID) has recently been installed within the parish as part of the Parish Council's ongoing efforts to improve road safety. The Traffic Working Group, including Councillors Martin Keyte, Phil Bean, Cathy Robinson and Jordan Fox have implemented the device, which displays vehicle speeds to approaching motorists, encouraging drivers to slow down and comply with speed limits. It also collects traffic data that will help the Council build evidence of speeding concerns and support discussions with highway authorities on measures to make our roads safer for residents, pedestrians and cyclists.

Christmas is Coming..... It may seem a little early to mention Christmas, but preparations are already underway for the return of **Christmas at the Rec** on **Friday, 18th December 5.00 – 7.00pm** at **Old Basing Recreation Ground**.

Join us for an evening of Christmas warmth, drinks and festive treats, all in support of a nominated charity. It is always a lovely opportunity to come together with friends, family, and neighbours, and we very much look forward to seeing you there.

We will also be supporting **St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival** (see 'advert' on page XX) this year with a Parish Council tree. We hope you will pop along, enjoy the festive displays, and support this wonderful local event on the weekend of **5th / 6th December**.

Meetings for November If you are planning to attend a meeting, please check the Parish Council website or local noticeboards for confirmed dates, or contact the Parish Clerk for further details. The next **Full Parish Council** meeting will take place on **Tuesday, 10th November at 7.30pm**. There will be a **Facilities Management Committee** meeting at **7.30pm** on **Tuesday, 17th November**.

If you would like to attend but may have difficulty accessing the meeting room via the

stairs, please let us know in advance so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Keep in Touch If you have any question, concerns or ideas that you'd like to share with the Parish Council, please feel free to get in touch. You can contact us by email, phone, or by visiting the Parish Office. We are always happy to hear from you!

You can also keep up to date with the latest news by visiting our website, following our Facebook page, or by checking the noticeboards around the Parish (Belle Vue Parade, Old Basing Recreation Ground and Lychpit Community Centre).

Parish Clerk: **Mrs Kate Hope**

Address: **The Pavilion, Recreation Ground, The Street, Old Basing, RG24 7DA**

Telephone: **01256 462847**

Office Hours: **Monday** to **Thursday; 10.00am** to **noon**

Email: **clerk@oldbasing.gov.uk** Website: **www.oldbasing.gov.uk**

THE WELCOME TEA ROOM AT ST.MARY'S CHURCH

Fridays 6th and **20th November, 2.00pm** to **4.00pm** at **St Mary's Parish Room**

As we write this we are delighted, once again, to be preparing to host the annual Children's Society Raffle and sale of Christmas Cards.

At our remaining sessions this year all proceeds will be donated to the **St Michael's Hospice, Every Moment Matters Appeal**, raising funds to provide professional, emotional and bereavement support services for families coping with loss and life-limiting illnesses. A reminder that there are no set prices at The Tea Room, donations based on what you can afford are invited.

By the time you read this we shall be busy planning our entry to the St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival (5th/6th December). Our last session of 2026 will be on **Friday 4th December**.

Change of Tea Room day from January 2027

Some of you will be already aware of our decision to change from a Friday to a Monday from the beginning of January 2027. We feel that a Monday afternoon destination would be a good way to start the week and also give our community additional choice.

We very much hope that you will support our decision - and start the week with conversation and cake! Our Monday sessions will be on the second and fourth Mondays of the month (same time of 2pm – 4pm), with our first session being on **Monday, 11th January**.

THE IVY CLUB

We are running a coach on **Monday, 30th November** to **Longacres, Bagshot**, leaving **Belle Vue play area** at **10.30am**, with pick up points at T**he Royal British Legion** (lots of parking) and **Oakfields, Lychpit.**

You will have plenty of time to find lots of lovely Christmas gifts, admire their lovely light displays and visit their Cafe. We will leave to return back home at **3.30pm**. **Cost £12.00** per head.

To book your seat, or find out more information, please contact **Sue Wilson** by phone on: **01256 328196**

ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (PIOCC)

This month the **Working Parties** will be on **Saturday 7th November** at **10.00am** and **Thursday 26th November** at **2.00pm** – meet by the PIOCC noticeboard at the entrance to the Conservation Area. We will continue our seasonal conservation work, including woodland management.



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

Despite the amazing heat of this summer there are fruits and berries in the churchyard for the wildlife. They are now ripe and wonderful colours. The birds are feasting, including the migrant redwings that arrived in October. Look for these small thrushes with red underwings (hence their name) in the tops of the trees. They love yew berries. There are holly and spindle berries too. How many other different berries can you find? Why not come and see?

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

Margaret Carr www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

THE QUESTIONS WE PUT OFF – DO I NEED A WILL?



The short answer is 'No' but it makes your loved ones' lives easier if you have one. Did you know only 37% of UK adults have made a will? Many of us mean to get round to it "one day". Without one, the law in England and Wales decides who inherits, and it may not be who you would choose.

These are the rules of intestacy. If you are married or in a civil partnership and have children, your spouse receives your personal belongings, the first £322,000 of your estate and half of anything above that. Your children share the rest. Fine if that is how your family is built. However, an unmarried partner has no automatic right to inherit anything, however many years you have shared a home. Stepchildren are not included, and with no close relatives, your estate can pass to the Crown.

Wills are simpler than people fear. They allow you to say who inherits, who sorts out your affairs and, if you have young children, who would care for them. It does not have to be expensive or done by a solicitor. Review it after big life changes - for example, getting married usually cancels an existing will.

What difference does it make? Without a will, families can face delays, extra stress, cost and disagreements at the moment they most need each other. A partner might have to go to court, or even lose their home. With a will, the people you love know what you wanted and have the authority to act on it. It is not about expecting the worst or being morbid - it is a quiet act of care for those you leave behind.

General information for England and Wales, not legal advice.

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THE BIG TURKEY PIE COMMUNITY LUNCH



This year the Festive Turkey Pie Lunch is being held on **Tuesday, 29th December**. New to the village or lonely? This is a great way to meet new people.

As before, we will be serving a complimentary festive meal in Old Basing Village Hall, starting with drinks at noon and lunch served at **1.00pm**.

Everyone in our community is welcome to celebrate with us, BUT it is popular and seats are limited to the size of the hall, so pick up the phone and book your place. Please call **Sue** on **07767 034822**.

Whilst joining us for the meal, if you would like to get involved in the preparation, serving and cleaning up we are keen to have you join our volunteering group. You will not be expected to work hard ALL day but as they say, 'many hands make light work!' Please mention to Sue if you are willing to help out. Vegetarian and gluten free options are available. Also, if you need transport on the day we can arrange this.

Looking forward to another fun, festive celebration

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT CARNIVAL



The planning for next year's Old Basing and Lychpit Carnival has already started and it will take place on **Saturday, 19th June 2027**.

The theme for this year's Carnival procession is '**My Favourite Animal'**, and it can be literally anything from the animal kingdom there are loads to choose from. Perhaps from the jungle, under the sea, even your own family pet to but name a few.

Have fun making your own mask and colourful costume and help bring the Streets of Old Basing to life. As always, the procession will start from the Royal British Legion and travel along the Street to the Recreation Ground.

If anyone would like to join our friendly committee and get more involved please send an email to **oldbasingcarnival@gmail.com** for more details or come along to our next monthly meeting on **Wednesday, 4th November**.

Graham Merry Carnival Committee member



HELP WANTED

The Basinga Committee would like to recruit an **Advertising Manager** to replace the former volunteer manager.

The role includes, but is not limited to: recruitment and maintenance of our advertisers and their adverts; driving the renewal process in the last quarter of the year; liaising with the editor, treasurer and our printer to ensure timely delivery of the monthly magazine.

Our advertisers are the life-blood of this magazine, and need to be 'looked after' carefully. If you are interested in joining the team in this role then please e-mail the editor at: **editor@basinga.org.uk**



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WHAT'S ON ADVERTS

PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCHES

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The next lunch will be held on **Thursday, 19th November**. The last Ploughman's Lunch of 2026 will take place on Thursday, December 17th.

BASINGSTOKE CONCERT BAND

Music for Christmas on **Sunday, 6th December** at **3.00pm** at **Queen Mary's College**.

Feel the magic. Hear the music. 'The Snowman' on the big screen, brought to life with live performance and festive favourites.

Adults – **£12.00**, U16 – **£3.00,** available online at: **ticketlab.app/events/BCBand** as well as from band members.

FREE-ADS – BUY AND SELL

Note: All ads are processed in received date order. Ads not included this month will be entered in the next issue, space permitting. If you do not want your ad to appear later, contact the Advertising Manager (see page 34 for contact details). Ads also appear on the website: **www.basinga.org.uk** (with photographs if available).

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PHOTOGRAPHY CORNER







Thank you once again to our regular and occasional photo contributors; your offerings are much appreciated, and will be printed in the magazine or in Basinga Extra.

Paddington Post-Box topper was taken by Margaret Carr, with the message: *Thank you, to whoever knits the lovely toppers for the Royal Mail pillar box in Bellevue Road. Paddington has brought us joy all summer.*

Autumn Leaves by Sully Williams *(centre)* and Campsis, by Suzanne Wilson *(right)*.

WHAT'S ON POSTERS

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Friday 6th November 2026

Monday 23rd November 2026

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DEAR FRIENDS

As we gather around the parish war memorial in November, reciting and praying those sorrowful words, what memories are we keeping alive?

I visited the Haute-Vienne region of France a few years ago. It was ruled from London for three hundred years and there remains a shared history between our countries and that region. In 1940 the Nazis arrived.

In Britain, our wartime story is embedded in our psyche, the bombings, rationing, Blitz spirit, and the plucky nation fighting against the odds. In France, the story is more complex: there was compliance and collaboration, but also great defiance. We should recognise the extraordinary risks taken by members of the French Resistance. If captured, their whole families could be implicated. In June 1944, three days after D-Day, Nazi troops were being sent from Haute-Vienne towards Northern France. When an SS commander learned that one of his officers was being held by the Resistance, he ordered the execution of the entire village of Oradour-sur-Glane where 643 men, women and children were killed. The ruined village remains as a testament to their memory and to the horror of what happened there. Across Europe, people risked their lives to resist. Resistance was not confined to occupied territories: more than 800,000 Germans were arrested by the Gestapo for treasonous activity.

Remembrance in Britain is naturally militaristic - and we do it brilliantly. In recent years we have also recognised the contribution of the Commonwealth and our allies, those unable to serve, women who undertook hard manual work, LGBT personnel who concealed who they were so they could fight, conscientious objectors and animals. Yet a military perspective can still overlook civilian resistance. The war was won through immense military achievement, but also through the resilience and courage of ordinary people who refused to surrender to tyranny.

In the Bible, the Book of Ecclesiasticus reminds us that "Sovereignty passes from nation to nation on account of injustice and insolence and wealth". As Christians, we follow a man born into an occupied land, whom many hoped would lead a military revolution against the oppressors. Instead, Jesus challenged collaboration and hypocrisy, empowered the vulnerable and proclaimed something greater – the Kingdom of God. He prepared his followers to face persecution and violence, ultimately suffering a violent death at the hands of the occupiers himself. Yet he gave people a reason to live and flourish even in the darkest days.

In St Mary's, we remember Jesus through the Communion service. But Christian remembrance is more than looking back: it brings the past into the present. We believe Christ is truly present with us.

So too, when we stand at the War Memorial, remembrance is not limited to those who died in wars of the past. We honour their memory by recognising conflicts today, and by standing with all those caught up in it: those who serve in the armed forces, those who resist, and the civilians whose lives are changed by war.

Memory is not passive. It should move us to safeguard the legacy of those we remember, and to keep seeking a peace that will endure for generations to come.

In peace,

Rev'd Andrew

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

REGULAR SERVICES

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

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 Church via our Facebook page or visit our website: **www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk**

A SERVICE OF REMEMBERING (ALL SOULS) – Sunday, 1st November at 5.00pm

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

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE – Sunday, 8th November, 10.00am

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

Saturday, 5th and **Sunday, 6th, 11.00am** to **4.00pm**



The season of joy is almost here, and what better way to begin than with music, sparkle, and community cheer at St Mary's?

Book a Christmas Tree Space! We would love individuals, families, local groups, and businesses to take part. Simply reserve a space (minimum **£10** donation) and let your imagination run wild with decorations.

It is a fantastic way to be part of this much-loved community tradition. There will be plenty for everyone to enjoy with stalls including gifts, handmade crafts, children's activities and refreshments. Jacket Potatoes will be available on the Saturday. (*larger poster on page 7*)

BOOKINGS ARE NOW BEING TAKEN TO MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS!

Book a Time-slot via St Mary's website from **Sunday, 1st November**. Tickets are **£3 per child** and include a gift.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE



The Royal British Legion Band will lead a parade of ex-servicemen, women and standards through **Old Basing** on **Sunday, 8th November,** leading off from the **Royal British Legion HQ** in **Crown Lane** at **0935hrs** to **St. Mary's Church.**

After the **Remembrance Service**, which starts at **1000hrs**, the parade will march back to the Royal British Legion at **1115hrs** for refreshments and a fund-raising raffle.

The general public, all community groups as well as former and serving personnel are very welcome to attend.

In addition, it is hoped that North-East Hampshire MP Alex Brewer will attend and will lay a wreath alongside the saluting Officer from RAF Odiham.



Rick Bourne – on behalf of Old Basing RBL

FREINDS OF LYCHPIT HALL



Quiz night dates for your diary

2026: 13th November, 18th December

2027: 12th February, 19th March, 23rd April, 21st May, 18th June, 16th July, no August and September quiz, 22nd October. November and December dates to be confirmed.

Talks@Lychpit Hall

In October we learned all about osteopathy and enjoyed a practical demonstration thanks to local practitioner Grace Mann. Talks@Lychpit Hall are taking a break in November and December and will return in the new year. We have some great topics lined up for you.

Keep up to date

May we keep you updated on quiz nights and Talks@Lychpit Hall with a monthly email? We can verify dates, content and any updates while giving you a more complete description of events. The Basinga will always be our primary communication channel and allows us to reach you eight weeks in advance. Our **mailing list** can update you in a timelier manner. **Signing up is simple:**

Visit **groups.google.com/g/friends-of-lychpit-hall-events** Ignore the message 'you don't have permission to access this content', instead click "Join this group" at the top left of the page. That's it. We avoid using this as a message board. The only purpose is to add you to a mailing list. Every email from us will include a link to unsubscribe should you wish. You sign you up to receive email updates on talks and quizzes, and nothing else. Promise.

All events - please arrive at or after **7.15pm**, ready for a 7.30pm start. Feel free to bring food and drink to events to add a social vibe. Talks last an hour. A charge of £2 per person helps cover hall hire.

Quizzes finish by 10.30pm. Tickets cost £5 per head. Book your table for up to six people by emailing **fof.lychpit.hall@gmail.com**

RAF VETERAN REVEALS TALES OF PIONEERING FEMALE AVIATORS

SOARING BEYOND BOUNDARIES:

The **Basingstoke Ladies Probus** opened their autumn season with a riveting presentation by **Andy Richardson**, a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and former Cold War RAF Avro Vulcan crew member. Richardson drew from his 18-year military career and senior aerospace marketing roles at Boeing and McDonnell Douglas to recount the triumphs, grit, and ultimate sacrifices of aviation's greatest female icons.

Thérèse Peltier: A French sculptor who, in 1908, became the first woman to fly both as a passenger and solo pilot. She courageously mastered a Voisin biplane purely through observation, though she retired out of grief in 1910 after her mentor died in a mid-air crash.



Amelia Earhart *(right of picture)***:** The independent trailblazer who became the first woman to fly the Atlantic. In 1937, alongside navigator Fred Noonan, she vanished in the Pacific while attempting a global flight, prompting the most expensive rescue search in US history.

Amy Johnson *(left of picture)***:** The UK's first licensed female engineer. Her harrowing 1930 solo flight to Australia included climbing onto the engine cowling mid-air to pour fuel and a monsoon crash-landing in Rangoon. She tragically died in 1941 while ferrying planes for the wartime Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA).

Jacqueline Cochran: Escaping childhood poverty, she led the American wartime WASP program and became the first woman to break the sound barrier, eventually holding more speed, altitude, and distance records than any pilot in history.

Lettice Curtis: A legendary ATA ferry pilot who shattered rigid wartime gender boundaries. Flying entirely alone without radios, using only physical maps, she became the first woman to qualify to fly a heavy Lancaster bomber—delivering an astonishing 1,467 aircraft to the front lines during a relentless schedule of "thirteen days on, two days off" for 62 consecutive months.

Jane Harrison GC: The only woman in peacetime to be awarded the George Cross. A flight attendant with BOAC, she managed the rear exit evacuation after the No. 2 engine exploded on take-off. Pushing passengers to safety, she helped 121 of the 126 people on board escape, before turning back into the fierce blaze to rescue four passengers—including an elderly woman and a child; where neither she, nor they, survived.

Our speaker's expert storytelling brought to life a legacy of unparalleled female courage that continues to inspire the aerospace world today.

Each month members of this Ladies Probus Club are treated to a similarly fascinating speaker, prior to a two-course delicious lunch in BCoT's excellent restaurant.

If this piques your interest, and you want to find out more, please contact the Admin Secretary: **reverendjane@hotmail.co.uk** or **07754 296994**

YOUR GARDEN IN NOVEMBER



Apple and Pear trees enjoy a good prune now that autumn has arrived. Read up on how to prune them correctly, but basically you are aiming to create an open, goblet shaped tree, with no weak, crossing or dying branches. Trees that aren't pruned once a year will not produce as much fruit, and be harder to manage in the future. Plums should not be pruned at this time; wait until midsummer.

In the flower garden continue to lift Dahlia tubers, Begonias and Gladioli corms to store dry over the winter months, making sure you remove the dead foliage before storing. Another job is to cut back yellowing foliage of herbaceous perennials, and lift and divide overcrowded clumps to maintain their vigour. You can also start to plant bare-root roses, planning any time between now and March. Now is the time to plant Daffodil bulbs and other spring-flowering bulbs for a magnificent display next year – it is best to plant Tulip bulbs now to prevent Tulip Fire infection. Also for stunning display next spring plant up a terracotta pot of hyacinth bulbs.

Unless very mild, the lawn should have stopped growing, and lawnmowers can be cared for. Drain unleaded petrol and ensure the mower is clean and dry before storing. Servicing and blade repair/replacement ought to be carried out now before needed next year.

Leaves are falling in earnest, which can of course damage lawns and make the garden look untidy. There is a lot of advice to burn leaves, but it is a terrible waste of a good source of compost! Create a leaf mulch compost bin to store them all in, look online about how to create one as the resulting soil conditioner is possibly the best you can ever use in the garden, especially on heavy clay soil.

If you do have a bonfire, remember of course to check first for Hedgehogs. Ideally shift the whole heap just before lighting to be absolutely sure, as they like to cower when poking round for them rather than running.

Greenhouses will need insulation over the course of the winter. The idea of course is to keep the heat in, but airflow is important to prevent a build up of fungal disease. Clean the greenhouse thoroughly with disinfectant, washing the glass, and the floor, as well as plant pots and anything stored in the greenhouse.

Plants in pots outside may well be going into a dormant stage, and require a lot less watering. If it is not practical to move or cover them, so as to control watering frequency, then raise the pots up on legs to allow the water to drain away more easily.

Canes ought to be taken in and stored if not serving a purpose. Remember to clean and dry them to maximise their life!



Strawberry plants will need a bit of care this month. Remove any runners, but do not cut off dead or dying leaves. Leaving them on over the winter helps protect them, and can be pruned off in early spring, before the plant begins to grow again. If you have some growing in hanging baskets, move them into the greenhouse.

And finally, a photograph *(left)* of a lovely autumn rose, sent in by Annette Vickery.

NATURE NOTES FOR NOVEMBER



Not a great deal of activity to report this month although Jane Drabble in Park Lane spotted three colourful birds on her neighbours roof and managed to take a photo. Uncertain as to their identify, Jane sent me this and they are Red Legged Partridge, or French Partridge. Now more common that our own native Greys, these game birds do like foraging in urban gardens and verges but its a bit unusual to see them on a roof.

November is often regarded as a rather gloomy month, but for anyone interested in the natural world, there's still a surprising amount to see and hear around Old Basing.

As the last leaves fall from our deciduous trees, the countryside reveals a different character. The magnificent oaks around the village are often among the last to lose their leaves, while beech hedges may retain their copper-coloured foliage well into winter. This process, known as *marcescence*, is particularly noticeable on young beech trees and hedges.

Along the Loddon and in adjacent fields, winter visitors begin to make their presence felt. Redwings and Fieldfares arrive from Scandinavia, Iceland and other northern regions, escaping harsher winter conditions. These attractive members of the thrush family can often be seen feeding on berries in hedgerows or gathering in nearby fields. Listen for the thin, high-pitched call of a Redwing passing overhead on a dark November evening.

Our resident Robins become particularly territorial at this time of year. Unlike many songbirds, both male and female robins defend winter feeding territories, which explains why their familiar song can still be heard on even the coldest days.



One of November's most fascinating sights is the appearance of fungi *(composite picture created with Google AI, left)*. Damp woodland floors, decaying logs and grassy areas provide ideal conditions for mushrooms and toadstools.

Many are edible but DO NOT do this unless you are 100% sure its OK!

I'm intending to start a "Did You Know?" nature fact each month, and for November, did you know that a Redwing can travel hundreds of miles overnight during migration, navigating partly by the stars? Clever these birds eh?

Rick Bourne.

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

For all your bird food requirements, order from me at 'Bird Drop-ins' use the former email address or ring/text me on **07900 648675** to place an order or get a form.

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Are you an Ostomate, or do you know someone who is?

A new face-to-face support group is now running in the Basingstoke area, offering a safe, friendly place to meet others, share experiences, and find support.

MONTHLY MEETINGS
Every 3rd Thursday of the Month

LOCATION
Apollo Hotel, The Ladden Room

DETAILS
Details shared in our Facebook group

TIME
16:00 to 18:00

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VILLAGE VIBES CAFE



Thanks to all our amazing customers, we reached our fundraising target for the incredible Sophie's Legacy charity and we were able to present some representatives with a very large cheque recently. It was lovely that they came along for the afternoon and spent time with us, enjoying scrumptious cake and chatting to our customers. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with this charity and the money donated will be used by the play team at Basingstoke Hospital to purchase new iPads and TVs for patient entertainment and 'distraction'.

The café has formed a partnership with Limelight, the local young-persons' theatre group to which we have previously made a donation. We have purchased a number of tickets to their upcoming production of Fame, as a thank you to our regular community bus users and customers and, on **31st October**, they will be attending the matinee performance.

As we enter into winter, the café will now open on two dates in November and once in December. Our upcoming dates are **13th** and **27th November** and **11th December**, with the community bus running on 13th November and 11th December. Do pop along and see us in the **Pavilion Room** between **2.00pm** and **4.30pm**, we can promise you delicious bakes and good company. Our team looks forward to seeing you.

Deborah Thorne

NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE

BASING HOUSE
RUINS AND GROUNDS

Basing House is now closed until around Easter, as is the case every year. There is one exception – the annual **Christmas Fayre**, taking place over the weekend **28th** and **29th November**, opening at **11.00am** and finishing at **4.00pm**.

There will be over 35 stalls selling festive gifts, crafts and treats, including a gardening stall with greenery for Christmas wreath-making (ready-made wreaths also available). This is run by Basing House gardening volunteers.

English Civil War Society Re-enactors will be there on the **Saturday** to help visitors find out how Christmas was celebrated in Tudor times, with the re-enactors in period costume.

Both days will feature a **Bird Experience** where visitors can meet a feathered friend for a photo and follow our bird-themed trail. **Berro Kitchen** will be there serving hot food, and the Basing House Café will be serving tea, coffee, mulled wine, soft drinks, cakes and ice cream. The museum shop will also be selling gifts, treats and festive goodies.

We do ask visitors not to park in The Street or neighbouring roads. The Basing House car park is at RG24 8AE. There are three accessible parking spaces in front of the Barn – we ask that these are kept for those visitors who need them. Admission to this event is **£4** per person, with under 5s free. Annual tickets do not apply.

This report is the last one from Andrew Howard. We would take this opportunity to thank him for his many reports from Basing House to the Basinga over many years.

Derek Kearns RIBA

Derek Kearns has died aged 96. He was an architect. Frank James was his partner in the architectural practice of James & Kearns, based in Odiham.

Derek and his wife Jean came to Old Basing in 1977 with their children David and Vikki. Architects want to build their own houses, don't they, and I first met him when the family lived in a caravan on a building plot in Crown Lane, next to Parkers Farm. Derek built his house using white brick. The sitting room is upstairs, giving a view over the common.

Derek soon became involved in community affairs and he designed the Old Basing Village Hall, of which he said *' … in design the building is very much like a barn.'* This extract is taken from the Old Basing Village Hall website:

'*The story of Old Basing Village Hall began in the 1970s when Mrs Betty Holmes M.B.E. spearheaded a campaign to change the covenant on land adjacent to Olivers Battery, paving the way for the hall's construction. Designed by local architect Derek Kearns, the hall was built with an estimated cost of £80,000 in the late 1970s. Construction began in 1980, and on 5th June 1982, Mrs Betty Holmes M.B.E. opened the completed hall.'*

Derek succeeded Betty Holmes as Chairman during 1990, holding that position until 1996, being very active during his time in office.

First, he chaired the Restoration Appeal Committee for St Mary's Church in Old Basing. £22,000 was spent on restoration work in 1990, further examination established that the task was rather greater and so a four-year Appeal was launched in 1991 for £210,000. The restoration lasted six years and eventually, the total amount raised was £285,000.

Secondly, across 1994/1995, alongside many other residents, Derek and I became involved in opposing the Borough Council's proposal to 'restore the last five miles' of the Basingstoke Canal, a stretch which had not been used for over 50 years. That is, to extend the Canal from Greywell to Basingstoke town centre. Derek did a lot of work assessing what 'Restoration of the Basingstoke Canal' would mean for Old Basing. Together we assessed that twelve family homes would be bulldozed in the middle of the village, as well as other properties being under threat due to their proximity. The project would take thirty years to complete, and the projected cost was £100million

We produced and circulated a leaflet in opposition to all Parish households. To our dismay, the Borough Council agreed to the proposed restoration in 1995. The next year, much to our relief, the Millennium Commission had turned down the Borough Council's request for funding of £5.5 million to help pay for the restoration. Not enough money to proceed.

Derek had a way with him: In possession of an easy style, he spoke softly but in such a way that he managed to carry colleagues and friends along with him when setting out his view on a matter. Never forceful – he didn't need to be – he had the skill of a good politician when making an argument. What was never far away was a bit of humour (with a glint in the eyes) to lighten things up, including a bit of banter with his pals when standing at the bar in the pub. Sadly, his wife Jean died of cancer well before her time in 1996. Before that, the Kearns had moved to Odiham.

Perhaps the finest accolade that can be paid to those departed is that they were 'The salt of the earth.' That certainly applies to Jean and Derek.

Derek is survived by his son David, daughter Vikki, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Alan Renwick

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OLD BASING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

What a fun speaker we had for our October meeting! Jill Bentall gave a talk on growing old disgracefully, and caused much laughter with her observations, which many of our ladies identified with. Another busy month with a visit to a vineyard, cinema, a supper club, knit & natter, block printing, bingo, quiz night and offering help at a couple of community events. October is quite taken up with preparing and repairing our poppy nets, ready to display around the village. We will be in the Infant and Junior school, helping the children with their nets, and holding our own meeting to replace the net which had become damaged in storage and add more poppies to those nets which lost a few. Very many thanks to the people who left poppies in the church, you can be sure we will make good use of those. We also have our usual raft of visits and outings to be enjoyed by members. We were delighted to welcome three new ladies to our meeting. We hope they enjoyed their visit and feel that there is something Old Basing WI can offer to them. We also welcome another lady, back for her second visit, and we look forward to welcoming them all as full members of our friendly group.

We meet, every **first Tuesday** of the month **7.30pm**, at the **Parish Room, St Mary's Church**. Our next meeting is on the **3rd November**. All are welcome to our meetings, and we are always delighted to welcome visitors. Guests are offered two free meetings, so if you are interested,and want to come and see If you would like to join our long running and thriving group. Contact our President by email at **oldbasingpres@hampshirewi.org.uk**

NATIONAL WOMEN'S REGISTER

The relatively unknown NWR provides a wide range of talks and activities in small local groups, typically less than 20 members. Each is unique, arranging activities and meetings to suit their members. **Chineham and Old Basing NWR** meets at **2.00pm** on the **first Monday** of the month in each other's houses. We enjoy getting together to research and talk about different topics, rather than an outside speaker, as well as meetings involving food and drink. There is usually a monthly lunch at various local venues on different days of the week, as well as a **Book Group** which meets on the **fourth Thursday** of the month. This month our subject was "The Generation Gap" where we discussed mainly how much technology has transformed the lives of the current generation, changing how they communicate, learn, work and interact with the world around them.

For more information please visit **www.nwr.org.uk** or if you think you would like to join our friendly group please contact Diane at **diane.hope@tiscali.co.uk** or on **07771898733**.

THE ARC CANCER CHARITY

In the area around Basingstoke, we are very privileged to have access to the **Ark Cancer Charity**, set up with a massive contribution from the late **Myrddin Rees**, the internationally recognised cancer surgeon – who sadly recently died from prostate cancer. This charity specialises in "putting wellbeing at the heart of cancer treatment". The North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group benefitted from a highly informative talk from Ian Harrison, one of the trustees, who also works at the Ark Cancer Charity providing acupuncture therapy. *Read the full article in **Basinga Extra, basinga.org.uk***

DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER 2026

For details of services and events at St Mary's Church please see page 18/19

November		
Thu 5	7.30pm	Regular monthly meeting of the RBL Branch at Old Basing RBL Jack Morris Hall. Members should attend.
Fri 6	2.00pm – 4.00pm	The Welcome Tea Room at St. Mary's Parish Room.
Sat 7	10.00am	The Mill Field Work Party - meet near play park.
	10.00am – 1.00pm	PIOCC working party – meet at noticeboard.
	7.30pm	Hampshire Harmony Choir at QMC. See Extra for more.
Sun 8	10.00am	Remembrance Sunday, St Marys Church. Parade leaves Royal British Legion at 0935hrs.
Tue 10	6.00pm	**Deadline for December Basinga copy to Editor. See page 3.**
	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting at the Recreation Ground. Page 9.
	7.30pm	Old Basing and Lychpit Village Show **AGM** at the Pavilion Tea Room, Recreation Ground. See page 9.
Wed 11	7.45pm	BDRS meeting. The History of 7903 Foremarke Hall...
Fri 13	2.00pm – 4.30pm	Village Vibes Cafe at The Rec. See page 27 for free bus.
	7.15pm – 10.30pm	Lychpit Hall Quiz Night. See page 21 for more information.
Wed 25	7.45pm	BDRS meeting. A Visit to the 'Greatest Gathering' in Derby.
Fri 20	2.00pm – 4.00pm	The Welcome Tea Room at St. Mary's Parish Room.
Thu 26	2.00pm – 4.00pm	PIOCC working party – meet at noticeboard.
Fri 27	2.00pm – 4.30pm	Village Vibes Cafe at The Rec. See page 27 for more.
Sat 28	11.00am – 4.00pm	Basing House Christmas Fayre. See page 27.
Sun 29	11.00am – 4.00pm	Basing House Christmas Fayre. See page 27
Mon 30	10.30am	IVY Club trip to Longacres, Bagshot. See page 9 for more.
December		
Sat 5	7.30pm	Basingstoke Male Voice Choir. Christmas Concert at All Saints Church. See poster in Basinga Extra.
Tue 8	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting at the Recreation Ground. Page 9.

BASINGA EXTRA

At **basinga.org.uk** read the articles that we couldn't find room for this month.

Basingstoke and District Railway Society *emmaus – homelessness*
Hampshire Harmony Choir *PROBUS – Darwin* *The Arc Cancer Charity*
What's All the Buzz About? *Basingstoke Rotary Round-up*
Basingstoke Male Voice Choir *Sandham Memorial Chapel*

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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)

VICAR: Rev'd Andrew Falconer 01256 436426
email: vicar@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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