

October 2026

BASINGA



Lin Osborn



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



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OCTOBER COVER PHOTO, NOTES AND NEWS

This month's beautiful and complex photograph was taken / compiled by **Lin Osborn**. Entitled '**Autumn**', every element speaks of the season that is now upon us. Thanks too, to Alan Johnston, Sully Williams and all entrants to the Village Show digital photo competition. Their submissions will feature in future editions of Basinga.

The Basinga Committee would **still** like to recruit an **Advertising Manager** to replace the current volunteer who has left the area. 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, as you can read below, 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**

OUR ADVERTISERS

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 **November** edition is **6.00pm on Saturday, 10th October**, 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



What an amazing afternoon of boat and duck racing on the August Bank Holiday Monday. Thankfully the rain held off for us.

Thanks to everyone who came along to support the event. We really appreciate it. Thanks also to Jim and the hard-working team at Barton's Mill for hosting the event. Alan Wilkinson (*picture, below left*) kept everyone occupied with his everything natural crafting activities, as the photos below illustrate.

We mustn't forgetting to thank the all important

Mill Field volunteers for all of their efforts too. The event would not have been the success that it was without the help and support of everyone mentioned above. We raised in excess of £400. With the money raised, we are another step closer to getting a bench for the Mill Field. So, watch this space!



We held our AGM on Monday, 24th August. It was great to meet up with some of the group and discuss our future plans and aspirations for the site. Our Treasurer Chris Webb has decided to stand down from her post, having spent some 20 years in the role. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for all of her hard work over the years. Being one of the original members of the group her advice and guidance has been invaluable.

Jim Andrews was able to give us an interesting update on the inhabitants of the nature reserve and how the rather extreme temperatures have affected the numbers of different species recorded on the reserve this summer.

You may have seen from our Facebook page that there has

been lots going on at the reserve. There are always lots of interesting photos and on our group page on Facebook.

Our second work party in being held on **Saturday, 10th October**. We will be meeting at the play park by Bartons Mill Pub at **10.00am**. The session usually lasts for two hours.

Please wear old clothes and footwear, and bring along some good, strong gardening gloves. Equipment will be provided as well as refreshments. Please come along we would love to meet you.

Any questions please send me an email millfieldnature@gmail.com or contact us via our Facebook page.

Duck Race Start, Alan Wilkinson and Name Badge photographs by Karen Macklin





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Meetings for October

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, 6th October at 7.30pm**. There will be a **Finance and Resources Committee** meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 20th October. If you would like to attend either of these meetings but may have difficulty accessing the meeting room, 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**



A TUDOR CHRISTMAS FEAST

Henry VIII's Christmas feast was a spectacular blend of indulgence, pageantry, and political theatre, showcasing the wealth and power of the Tudor monarchy.

The feast itself was a culinary marvel. The royal kitchens produced an astonishing array of dishes:

- *Roast meats* such as venison, beef, swan, and even peacock, often served whole and adorned with feathers.
- *Boar's head*, garnished with herbs and fruits, was ceremonially presented to the king.
- *Exotic fare* like oranges, figs, and spices—imported luxuries that signalled England's growing global reach.
- *Jellies and marchpane (almond paste)* molded into castles, animals, and Tudor symbols added theatrical flair.
- *Mince pies*, filled with meat and dried fruits, were spiced with cinnamon and cloves.

The meals were served with *ceremony and decorum*, despite Henry's occasional bursts of mischief — such as pelting guests with sugar plums when bored. Henry's Christmas was not just about pleasure — it was a political tool. By displaying generosity and splendour, he reinforced loyalty among nobles and projected stability to foreign visitors. The festivities also reflected religious devotion, with fasting before Christmas and church services woven into the celebrations.

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT CARNIVAL



The Old Basing and Lychpit Carnival **Annual General Meeting** took place on 1st September at the Lychpit Community Hall.

As is the tradition the evening started with a presentation of the donation cheques from the profits made from this year's carnival and in total **£3,300** was shared amongst 17 organisations.

Those to benefit were the following **Basing Royals, Basinga, Baden-Powell Centre, Linguatastic, Lychpit Brownies, Lychpit Rainbows, Millfield Conservation, Oakley Stitchers,**

Odiham Cottage Hospital Shop, Old Basing Bowls Club, Old Basing Brownies, Old Basing Cricket Club, Old Basing Duke of Edinburgh, Old Basing Rainbows, Old Basing Scouts, Old Basing Village Hall and St Mary's Church Flower Arrangers.

After this the carnival committee for 2027 was elected and we are delighted to add some new members. If you were unable to attend the meeting but would still like to become a committee member we would love to hear from you and you would be most welcome. Please just email oldbasingcarnival@gmail.com

The planning for next year's Carnival is already under way and it will take place on **Saturday, 19th June**. The theme for the procession will be decided and announced in the coming months.

Graham Merry Carnival Committee member

OLD BASING WI



Our September speaker was Major (Rtd) George T Mars, who gave a very interesting talk on St George and Patriotism. We have had a very busy August, with 16 members going to Stratfield Saye, for a guided tour of the house, which was amazing. Nine members had afternoon tea on the John Pinkerton, on the Basingstoke canal, and another ten went on a walk along the canal path and finished with a meal at the Water Witch. Things didn't stop for September, with eight members off visiting Denbie's Vineyard, with trips to the cinema, bingo, the craft show at Farnborough, a supper club and a trip to Loseley park, being arranged.

Our quiz team is through to the final of the HCFWI general knowledge quiz, which will take place in Eastleigh on 21st September. Our craft group has undertaken block printing; Sip and Paint, producing some amazing painting, and are looking forward to trying Quilling, (yes that's right) Its an art form that uses rolled, shaped and glued strips of paper to create decorative designs, We are also looking at our poppy nets, ready to decorate the village again, in time for Remembrance Sunday. With this in mind we are again asking for donations of poppies to replace and replenish the nets. There is a collection box in the church, or we are happy to collect. Just contact us on the email address below.

We meet, every **first Tuesday** of the month at **7.30pm**, in the **Parish Room, St Mary's Church**. Our next meeting is on the **Tuesday, 6th October**. 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.

Please contact our President by email at oldbasingpres@hampshirewi.org.uk

OLD BASING & LYCHPIT VILLAGE SHOW



September saw a very successful Village Show and given this year's weather, we were very pleasantly surprised to see so many entries in the horticultural sections. Exhibits were also up in most of the other sections including, but not limited to, the domestic and children's sections which is a very pleasing sign, in fact the total number of entries this year was the highest for over 20 years.

Thanks to all the exhibitors for their efforts and to everyone who helped, donated and worked to make this year's show a success. The quality of the exhibits was again mentioned by the judges who sometimes took a while in finally choosing the winners. There are more details on the website, www.oblvs.org.uk, together with photos from the Show.



This was the first year that we embraced some new technology and trialed an on-line entry system. Despite a few teething issues, it was a success with over 40 entrants choosing to submit their entries on-line. We'll certainly be using the system again next year!

It's a long way off but the **2027** Show will be on **Sunday, 5th September**. Please put the date in your diary. The new schedule will be available in the spring and highlights will be mentioned in future **Basinga** articles and on the website.

Finally, don't forget to follow us on Facebook by searching for **OldBasingLychpitShow**.

OLD BASING POPPY APPEAL

This year's Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Sunday is fast approaching and early planning avoids disappointment.

If you are an individual or part of an organisation who would wish to lay a wreath or tribute on Remembrance Sunday or Armistice Day, please make sure you contact me as soon as possible so I can arrange for your wreath to be ready on time. Note that there has been a recent price increase to wreaths as the RBL now has to pay VAT on them. If you need me to create an invoice for your records please advise me accordingly.



Please contact me using my personal email tim.russell1888@gmail.com and put **WREATH ORDER** in the subject line of your email. All money collected goes to the Poppy Appeal.

Tim Russell, Poppy Appeal Organiser

ST. MARY'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



Our Christmas Tree Festival is returning to St Mary's Church on **5th and 6th December**, this year's theme is **"The Gift of Christmas"**.

We would love to fill the church with wonderful, creative and imaginative Christmas trees, and we are inviting **individuals, families, organisations, businesses, schools and community groups** to decorate and display a tree.

Your tree can interpret the theme in any way you like. Perhaps it could celebrate the gift of family, friendship, kindness, hope, nature, music, giving, or simply the joy of Christmas. Let your imagination run free!

You provide your own Christmas tree and decorations. A minimum donation of **£10** is requested for each tree, which will help support the work of St Mary's Church.

Would you like to take part? Please complete our electronic sign-up form which is now available on our website: **www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk** The form will provide further information about tree size, setting up your display and arrangements for the Festival.

There will be lots to enjoy during the Festival, including Christmas tree displays, stalls and refreshments, with **school choirs** performing on **Saturday at 11.30am**, the **Royal Legion Band at 2.00pm** and **Basing Singers on Sunday at 2.00pm**. There will also be an opportunity to visit **Father Christmas!**

Come and be part of making "The Gift of Christmas" a truly magical celebration at St Mary's! Bring your tree, share your creativity and help us fill St Mary's with the spirit of Christmas.

ST. MARY'S CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP (POICC)



We look forward to welcoming our regular volunteers and new participants at this month's **working parties** on **Saturday, 3rd October at 10.00am** and **Thursday, 22nd October at 2.00pm** – meet by the POICC noticeboard. With the arrival of autumn, we are starting our seasonal conservation work and woodland management.



Our recent exciting news is that we found a dormouse nest from earlier in the year high in a field maple. This is brilliant news as we aim to manage the woodland for them, encouraging hazel and brambles in particular. With the arrival of autumn the leaves and berries are now turning, but there is still lots of life to see. Perhaps Red Admiral butterflies on the ivy flowers. It's the best season for finding fungi too, but please, remember some fungi and berries too, are poisonous, so please look, but do not touch. Why not come and see what you can find? The Conservation Area is a community space for all to enjoy.

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

Margaret Carr www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk



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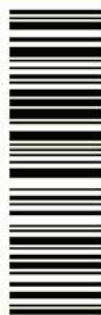


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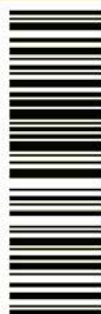
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OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGN



The Local Plan – where are we now?

The short answer: in a mess. Through no fault of the current Borough Council, Basingstoke's Local Plan has run aground. There was a draft in 2024, but the Government's higher housing targets meant starting again. Then, having revised the plan, the council uncovered a problem: South East Water (SEW) could not say it had enough water for any new homes.

Four months on, the Council is still waiting for an answer from SEW on what it can supply. The government's December deadline for Local Plans will probably be missed, meaning another restart. Basingstoke looks unlikely to have an adopted Plan before 2029.

Why does this matter? Without an adopted Local Plan, Basingstoke is exposed to speculative development; developers can seek permissions wherever they can secure land. The Council can object but without a Plan its position is weak and objections overruled. The Council and our MP Alex Brewer are pressing Government for protection in the meantime but so far, no guarantees.

Why is water such an issue? The Environment Agency has refused to renew SEW's licence to extract further water from Greywell Fen because of concerns about environmental damage. It has long been known Greywell Fen could not be relied on but a strategic transfer pipeline from the Surrey Hills Service Reservoir to Basingstoke has not been built; it is over 10 years late and the route remains unconfirmed.

So in short, Basingstoke has a housing problem, a water problem – and no Local Plan. OBLEC will continue to keep you informed and help you to have your say.

Water supply: you cannot build what you cannot supply.

P.S. OBLEC is run by volunteers. If you would like to support our work, please get in touch: objecteam@outlook.com Support can take many forms, including donations.

THE WELCOME TEA ROOM

Fridays 2nd and 16th October, 2.00pm to 4.00pm at St Mary's Parish Room



It was lovely to welcome back some of our regular guests following their recent summer holidays and particularly our canine friends now that the weather has cooled down.

Several of our team of both baristas and bakers were delighted to help out at a **Macmillan Coffee Morning** kindly hosted by our regular volunteer, **Rachel Jones**, at her home at the end of September. It was a fabulous event with money raised being split between **Macmillan Cancer Support**, **Home Start** and **the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance**. On behalf of Rachel, thank you to everyone who came along.

At the Tea Room on 16th October, all money taken will be donated to The Children's Society, a national charity supporting young people.

Call for Bakers: We're looking to grow our team of bakers! Would you be willing to bake a cake occasionally? Please do call **07541 698235** if you'd like to help or speak to one of our volunteers.



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The next lunch will be held on **Thursday, 15th October**, November's gathering will be on Thursday 19th.

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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DETAILS
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TIME
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Wednesday 14th October 2026

Friday 6th November 2026

Monday 23rd November 2026

Presentations begin at 9:15am with a Q&A session followed by a tour of the school with our Year 2 guides.

Please call the school office on 01256 325704 where one of our admin team will be happy to book you in and answer any questions you may have.

Scan this code to visit our school website



I'm delighted to be moving to Old Basing and to be joining the community here. When you meet me, you'll be forgiven for not having a clue where my accent is from! I was born in Scotland and grew up in Dublin, but have also lived in the West Country, Wales and the Home Counties, so I'm not always sure what my accent is doing either!



My first job was as a funeral director in semi-rural Scotland. I then studied Politics and Law in Aberystwyth and, after university, worked in Parliament. My career subsequently took me into higher education, where I worked in careers guidance and employability, initially at Royal Holloway, and later in more senior leadership roles in London.

Throughout my career I've always felt drawn to priesthood and, following theological college, I was ordained at Hereford Cathedral. I've spent the past few years training and working in a parish in the Malvern Hills. It has been a wonderful place to live and work, but Pandy and I are very excited about making our home in Old Basing.

We have lived for many years in Surrey and Berkshire, so returning to the south feels a little like coming home. I'm looking forward to discovering Old Basing and Lychpit, getting to know its people and learning more about the community. I'm particularly drawn to places with a strong sense of history, so Old Basing's remarkable past is already fascinating me. I'm also looking forward to exploring more of Hampshire – lovely walks that may or may not end in a pub...

Away from work, I enjoy theatre, history, genealogy, historic houses, and classical and choral music. Once we're settled, my partner Pandy and I will be looking out for a dog to join us in the vicarage.

I'm looking forward to meeting people across the community, whether in church, at local events, or simply out and about. Please do come and say hello if you see me.

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

St Mary's
Parish Church



Sunday, 27th September, 9.30am – Harvest Service

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

WELCOME TO OUR NEW VICAR – REV'D ANDREW FALCONER

We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Rev'd Andrew Falconer as Vicar of Old Basing & Lychpit. Andrew joins us from the Parish of Colwall and Coddington, where he has been serving as Assistant Curate. We are looking forward to welcoming Andrew and his partner, Pandy to our parish and beginning this new chapter together.

Wednesday, 28th October, 7.00pm – Andrew's Institution, Induction and Welcome

Everyone is warmly invited to join us at St Mary's Church for Rev'd Andrew's Institution and Induction, whether you regularly attend St Mary's or simply want to come along and meet Andrew and share in this important occasion. Following the service, there will be refreshments and an opportunity to say hello to Andrew and Pandy.

POSTPONEMENT OF PET SERVICE

We're sorry to let you know that the Pet Blessing Service planned for 4th October has been postponed. We hope to arrange another date soon.

MEN'S BREAKFAST – 3rd October, 8.45 m. First Saturday of the month

Did you know that St Mary's hosts a monthly Men's Breakfast? All welcome to come along and enjoy an English breakfast, with the first breakfast free (thereafter £5).

THE GLASS MAIDENS

Back by popular demand, a second date has been set to make a **Fused Glass Christmas Tree Decoration** at **St Mary's Parish Room** on **Saturday, 7th November**. (There are three sessions: **noon, 1.30pm** and **2.30pm**). Each ticket costs **£16.50** and includes a Christmas decoration to assemble and refreshments.

There will be the opportunity to assemble other decorations on the day for an additional charge. Please contact Debbie Filer by email: admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk or call **07541 698235**.

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FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Hello all, from the Friends team. Autumn is drawing on, so it's time to get (over-)excited about the next couple of events we're putting on for your general delight and entertainment.



There's still time to buy tickets for the **Gurt Big FOSMC Barndance** on **Saturday, 3rd October**. Tickets are available for **£20** at **fosmc.org/events/** and doors open at **6.45pm**. If you've not been to a Barndance, it's time you did and this is a good one- Please come and tell your friends to put on their plaid shirts too

Once you have got your breath back and we've reset Village Hall, it's time for another visit to witness the latest in a string of autumnal murders which seem to occur there every couple of years. **Basing House Murders Present...** Conveniently, the victim will be dispatched on **Saturday, 14th November** from **6.45pm**, in the latest Murder Mystery. Tickets are again available from the website **fosmc.org/events/** Make up a table (6-8) and bring a hamper. We'll do the bar and prizes for the winning detectives. John Nettles, eat your heart out. (*See the poster on page 16 for detail*)

Your continued support of our events helps contribute to the maintenance of our beautiful but frail Grade 1 listed church building. The crypt is now dry and rot-free, but next we're raising £23,600 to pay for the buttress on the Eastern wall, currently making a bid for freedom. That's not the end of it – there's a new bill for the smashed stained glass window in the West end, which looks like the result of someone needing to practice their football skills in the Rec or behind the British Legion.

THE GOOD OLD BASING PARISH GOLF DAY

The twenty-second **Old Basing Parish Golf Day** took place on Monday, 7th September at **Sherfield Oaks Waterloo course** with pleasant weather conditions making it an ideal day to play for the 27 competitors.

There were some good scores recorded with a tie at the top and then three more players also scoring the same for the other places. Winning for the second time in three years was **Chris Godfrey** who lifted the perpetual shield trophy as well as a good bottle of wine, some chocolates and a voucher for his successful total score of 43 points.

Also scoring 43 points but getting runners up spot on count-back was last years second placed Dave Jones so he's getting close!. All on 38 points were third placed Brian Pyle, fourth Aiden Brophy and missing out on prizes was Steve Western in fifth.

But Steve won the 'nearest the pin in two' wine to make amends, and amongst the 'nearest the pin in one' winners (there were five) were locals Carolyn Leavey and Bobby Pyle.

After the meal and raffle, Chris nominated **Bowel Cancer UK** as his chosen charity to which the profits were to be sent, and this total amounted to **£308** raised by raffle and auction proceeds.

So, a very big 'thank you' to everyone for their generosity to come up with the total they did, and to Olivers Fish and Chips, Old Basing Chinese Takeaway, Tesco Chineham, Slaters Menswear and Bartons Mill for their very generous prize donations.

All this enabled the Old Basing Golf Society to again become benefactors to another very worthy charity. Grateful thanks.

Rick Bourne

NATURE NOTES FOR OCTOBER



As you read this I will be holidaying in southern Spain so, whilst a long way from Old Basing, I always hope I can see something that would be of interest to all readers and hopefully related in some way to home. Certainly, there are commonalities in what creatures appear or leave our shores in certain months and if I check back many years of previous Nature Notes articles, they are frequently repeated per month. Examples are Cuckoos arriving in April, Swallows and House Martins leaving now, Redwings arriving in January and here, Hummingbird Hawkmoths showing in many gardens in August. Thank you to two other readers who sent photos to me of these fast-moving insects, but you were usurped by Jim Andrews fraction-of-a-second shot of one in flight, as it hovered over a flower drawing up the sweet liquid from it with its very long tongue (picture left).

I was very taken by the front cover picture on RHS Garden magazine. There are often articles on nature in our gardens and this image was also part of a column within about the importance, the critical importance, of pollinators. The concern is that they are in trouble but how we may be able to help and although I have included it here, the image may be a bit small to see. If you can access it on-line do have a look (Septembers RHS Garden magazine cover)



Lynn Ford was chuffed when I included her name and her Jersey Tiger Moth picture last month so she sent me another of this bumble bee seeking out the last dregs of pollen from a sunflower. I thought it nicely reflects the last of the summer photographs we will see for a while.

The RSPB have given their blessing for us all to return to normal bird feeding practices as the worst period for the spread of the 'finch disease' is over and as the weather worsens, our feathered friends will need our help again. So, please ensure your feeders are given a good scrub before you put them back and at the same time you can now safely take down nesting boxes to remove the old, damp material. If the box hasn't been used for a couple of years, then do consider repositioning it. Even a few feet left or right on a wall or thinking about the height, can make all the difference.

Cooler damper weather will also make it more likely you'll see a hedgehog foraging for food

as they will be trying to fatten up before winter. Therefore, also mind how you treat that pile of leaves or untidy, overgrown corner as there could be one in there. But every year many small underweight hedgehogs perish during the winter so if you find any little ones, please contact a local wildlife rescue centre who will gladly look after it for you. Rita, who runs the Green Man centre at North Waltham, is one very kind lady who also looks after many other creatures too (**01256 398223**)

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.

YOUR GARDEN IN OCTOBER



September's intermittent rainfall and cooler temperatures should mean that your gardens have recovered from the hot dry weather we have suffered this summer. The hosepipe ban remains in place for the foreseeable future, unfortunately. October is a busy but rewarding month, with the focus is on clearing up summer growth, planting for next year, protecting tender plants and making the most of autumn moisture.

Plant spring bulbs such as daffodils, tulips, crocuses, alliums and hyacinths. Plant bare-root trees, shrubs and hedging towards the end of the month, once they become available. Plant new perennials while the soil is still relatively warm, and divide and replant overcrowded herbaceous perennials.

Trees, shrubs and hedges should have their dead, damaged or diseased branches removed. Give hedges a final tidy-up before winter, but avoid heavy pruning of spring-flowering shrubs. Collect fallen leaves from lawns and paths, but leave some leaf litter in borders as habitat for insects and other wildlife.

Continue dead-heading roses if they are still flowering and clear diseased leaves from around rose bushes. Avoid heavy pruning until late winter unless there is a specific reason.

In the vegetable garden you can harvest pumpkins, squash, carrots, beetroot, potatoes and late crops before severe frost. Plant garlic and overwintering onions. Sow broad beans in sheltered areas for an early crop next year. Cover vulnerable winter vegetables with fleece or netting where necessary. Clear spent vegetable plants and add healthy material to the compost heap.

Give the lawn a final cut, keeping the blades slightly higher than during summer. Scarify lightly if there is a significant build-up of thatch. Aerate compacted areas with a garden fork. Keep removing fallen leaves so they don't smother the grass.

Make leaf mould from fallen leaves; excellent for improving soil. Add healthy garden waste to the compost heap, but avoid putting diseased foliage on the compost heap. Spread a layer of homemade compost or well-rotted manure over empty beds.

Prepare for winter by checking gutters, drains, water butts and greenhouse glass. Bring tender plants such as pelargoniums, cannas and some fuchsias under cover. Protect vulnerable pots from prolonged frost. Clean and store summer furniture, supports and irrigation equipment. Check greenhouse heaters and frost protection before you actually need them.

WALKING THE DOG!

The Morning Walk: A Study in Sniffs, Surprises, and Sudden Cat-Related Aerobics



Taking the dog for a morning walk should, in theory, be a gentle, life-affirming ritual. Birds chirping, sun rising, you strolling serenely with your faithful companion. In practice, of course, it's more like escorting a small, furry customs officer who insists on thoroughly inspecting — and then urinating on — absolutely everything within a three mile radius.

The walk begins with the first sniff. Then the second. Then the third. Then the 47th. Almost nothing escapes scrutiny. A lamppost? Sniffed. A leaf? Sniffed. A microscopic speck of dust? Sniffed with forensic intensity. And once the investigation is complete, the paperwork is filed in the usual way: a tiny, triumphant sprinkle.

Meanwhile, you must maintain constant vigilance. The pavement ahead becomes a danger zone, a minefield of “edible” items your dog is convinced are Michelin-star delicacies. Feathers. Mysterious scraps of food. Unidentifiable brownish blobs. And, of course, the pièce de résistance: other animals' excretions. You develop reflexes normally found in elite athletes, yanking the lead with the speed of a Formula One pit crew whenever your dog lunges toward something that absolutely should not enter his mouth.

And then — the cat.

One moment your dog is ambling along like a sleepy pensioner on a Sunday stroll. The next, he transforms into a whirling dervish of pure, electrified purpose. The lead tightens, your arm extends, and suddenly you're water-skiing down the pavement behind an 11-year-old terrier who has remembered his ancient calling.

Eventually, you return home, slightly dishevelled, mildly traumatised, and wondering how such a small creature can generate such large drama. But he looks up at you, pleased with his morning's work, and you realise you'll be doing it all again tomorrow.

Alan Morris

RBL ANNUAL BLACK TIE DINNER

The **Annual Black-Tie** dinner dance marks the **Poppy Appeal** launch here in Old Basing and in Hook. This year's dinner is on **Saturday, 24th October** with a three-course meal followed by music from the ever-popular DJ Mike Rossi.

There are tickets still available, and we can take late bookings up until Saturday, 4th October.



Tickets are competitively priced at **£40**. Please contact Avril Mitchell directly by email: oldbasing.secretary@rbl.community for a booking form.

Email now to avoid missing out on a great evening.

Avril Mitchell Old Basing RBL Secretary

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THE FINALS DAY AT OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB

The Old Basing Tennis Club, established in 1930 and situated on Riley Lane, ran its Summer Tournament Finals Day on 5th September and it was a splendid occasion. The weather was perfect for tennis; members' families and friends brought food and drink and watched eight closely contested matches in a lovely, friendly and convivial atmosphere. Chairman, Nigel Hatt, thanked all the participants and the spectators for coming to support this event. He confirmed that the installation of floodlights at the Club has been authorised by the Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Council with further Club site improvements in the pipeline as the Club continues to evolve. "*The Club is on an exciting journey*" he said.

The finals saw some new faces claim victory breaking long-standing winning traditions:

In the men's singles **Jamie Thomas** regained his title beating Sam Randell, last year's winner, 6-1, 7-6.



The eagerly anticipated ladies' singles saw a new member, **Karolina Baron**, (picture left) claim the title for the first time beating Bev Cleaver 1-6, 6-2, 10-5.

Next, the men's doubles in which brothers **Marcus** and **James Robertson** retained their title overcoming last year's finalists Jamie Thomas and Andy Riding 3-6, 7-5, 7-5.

The ladies doubles title went to **Bev Cleaver** and **Jane Hatter** who defeated Lynne Thomas and Jane Reap 7-5, 6-7, 10-6.

In the men's handicap doubles **Mike Wright** and **Adrian Nessman** beat Nigel Hatt and Jeff Watson 7-6, 7-6.

The ladies handicap doubles heralded new champions, **Sue Cooke** and **Mary Mitchell** who overcame Heather Mountford and Cas Lomax 3-6, 6-2, 1-0.

A mixed doubles handicap was introduced this year; **Jane Reap** and **Tony Vanderslott** defeated Nigel Hatt and Neelam Radja 6-1, 6-2.

The final match of the day was the eye watering mixed doubles which saw **Lynne Thomas** and her son **Jamie** prevail over Bev Cleaver and Andrew Merryfield 6-7, 7-6, 10-6.



There then followed the trophy presentation ceremony led by the Club's Chair, **Nigel Hatt**, and the Summer Tournament Organiser, **Heather Mountford**.

Lastly, the **Betty Homes Trophy**, awarded to the member who has made a substantial contribution to the Club during the year, was presented to **Nigel Hatt** by the Treasurer, Jane Reap.

A new award for this year was the **Goodall Trophy** which was awarded to **Carika Reyneke** for her outstanding contribution to our League Teams' successes this year.

All the Tournament participants are pictured above, with their trophies. A barbecue rounded off a most enjoyable day for all.

Old Basing Tennis Club

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

**The
Children's
Society**

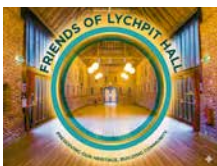
This year's sale of Christmas cards and exciting raffle will take place on the afternoon of **Friday, 16th October**

The event will take place by invitation of the **Welcome Tea Room** at their regular afternoon in **St Mary's Parish Room** from **2.00 to 4.00pm**.

Please make a note in your diary and come along to buy your cards and to donate to this worthy cause whilst enjoying cups of tea, delicious cakes, good company and lots of chat.

Rosemary Kershaw (Parish Representative, The Children's Society)

FRIENDS OF LYCHPIT HALL



We had to postpone our much-anticipated September talk on local nature. Sincere apologies to those inconvenienced. Nature expert Jim will be rescheduled in early 2027.

Mark your diaries

Quizzes – join us on **16th October, 13th November, 18th December**.

Lychpit Community Residents Association / Friends of Lychpit Hall AGM. Saturday, 17th October, 3.30pm in Lychpit Hall. We'd love to see you there.

Talks@Lychpit Hall

29th October. Local highly qualified practitioner Grace brings osteopathy to life, explaining how it can aid injury rehabilitation and prevention, optimising health and wellbeing. Grace will explain how osteopathy can help us, how it treats the whole body and health issues. Grace's enthusiastic attitude is sure to give us fascinating insights. Her talk will include a demonstration and show the tools an osteopath uses. Here is your chance to see what Osteopathy might do for you.

21st November. In planning, hopefully covering local history.

4th December. In planning, hopefully very festive and entertaining.

All events – please arrive at or after **7.15pm**, ready for a **7.30pm start**. Do bring food and drink to all events to add a social vibe. Talks last an hour. A charge of **£3 per person** helps cover hall hire. **Quizzes** aim to finish by 10.30pm. Tickets cost **£5 each**. Book your table for up to six people by emailing: **fof.lychpit.hall@gmail.com**

THE IVY CLUB

We have organised a coach to go to Longacre Nursery, Bagshot on **Monday, 30th November, 2026** leaving **Belle Vue Play Area** at **10.30am** and picking up at the Royal British Legion and Lychpit (Oakfields) and returning at 4.00pm.

Tickets cost **£12.00**, payable in advance. If you would like to join us to see the spectacular Christmas displays and lots of lovely goodies to buy as presents, as well as enjoying a scrumptious meal in their restaurant, then please contact me on **01256 328196**. We were unable to put on a usual summer outing to the seaside sadly due to the cost of fuel making coach hire very expensive.

The Ivy Club has had a very busy few months and our programme is set until the end of the year when we celebrate with our Christmas Party.

The full text of this report can be found in Basinga Extra: **basinga.org.uk**



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NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE



Basing House closed for the winter on Sunday, 22nd September. It will reopen in the spring. In the meantime there are two events left this season.

The **English Civil War Society** re-enactment of September was postponed and will now be held on the **3rd / 4th October** between **11.00am** and **4.00pm** each day. The postponement was a decision made at the latest point it could be – as many of the re-enactors have to make travel arrangements. The reason was the then ongoing drought and the fire risk from an event which includes musket fire and bonfires. Of course, once the event had been postponed it rained!

This new weekend – admission is included in the annual ticket – will feature military drills and skirmishes, a living history camp looking at how people lived in Civil War times and display and talks about the history of Basing House and its pivotal role in the English Civil War, back in the 1600s. Fuller details are on our webpage.

The other event is the **Christmas Fayre** over the weekend **28th /29th November**. This will be in the Great Barn and will feature over 35 stalls selling festive gifts, crafts and treats.

Also present will be a Bird Experience (both days), hot food, our café serving tea, coffee, mulled wine, soft drinks, cakes and ice cream, a gardening stall with greenery for wreath-making (ready-made wreaths also available). On the Saturday ECWS re-enactors will let you find out how Christmas was celebrated in Tudor times, in period costume

Admission will be **£4** (not included in the annual ticket) and is free to under 5s. More information will be in the next Basinga and search for Basing House, Old Basing on-line.

Andrew Howard 01256 327014

THE BASINGA PHOTOGRAPHY PRIZE

The Basinga Photography prize, at the recent Village Show, attracted many good quality digital images. Interestingly, a good number were taken in snowy conditions, no doubt in response to the drought conditions that prevailed in the months leading up to the show.

The worthy winner was a picture taken by **Jackie Lees**, of a flock of sheep being driven down Poors Farm Road, Old Basing, in the snow. It must have been very difficult to get that number of sheep to face the camera at the same time. A thumbnail version of this photo is shown here for now, the full image will be featured in a winter edition of Basinga. In second place, another snow scene by **Michael Wright** and a lovely rose, with an interesting back



story, taken by **Liz Brant** was placed a close third (*right*).

Larger versions are available in Basinga Extra.

Thanks to all who entered, and we are looking forward to next year's photos.



DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER 2026

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

October

Thu 1	7.30pm	RBL AGM in the Jack Morris Hall. Members should attend.
Fri 2	2.00pm – 4.00pm	The Welcome Cafe at St. Mary's Church Parish Room.
Fri 2	2.00pm – 4.30pm	Village Vibes Cafe at the Recreation Ground.
Sat 3	10.00am – 1.00pm	PIOCC Working Party. Meet at the noticeboard.
	6.45pm	FOSMC Barn Dance. See page 18 for details.
Mon 5	2.00pm	NWR Meeting. See Basinga Extra for more details.
Tue 6	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting at the Rec. See page 7 for details.
	7.30pm	Old Basing WI meet at the Parish Room, St. Mary's Church.
Fri 9	2.00pm – 4.30pm	Village Vibes Cafe at the Recreation Ground.
Sat 10	10.00am – noon	Mill Field Conservation Group. See page 5 for details.
	6.00pm	Deadline for November Basinga Copy to Editor. See page 3.
Wed 14	7.45pm	BDRS meeting: The Story of British Rail in the 70s.
Fri 16	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Children's Society Card Sale at the Welcome Tea Room in St. Mary's Church.
	2.00pm – 4.30pm	Village Vibes Cafe at the Recreation Ground. Courtesy bus available this afternoon.
	7.15pm	Friends of Lychpit Hall Quiz Night.
Sat 17	11.00am – 1.00pm	Chineham Repair Cafe at Christ Church, Chineham.
	3.30pm	Friends of Lychpit Hall AGM . See page 28 for details.
Thu 22	2.00pm – 4.00pm	PIOCC Working Party. Meet at the noticeboard.
Fri 23	2.00pm – 4.30pm	Village Vibes Cafe at the Recreation Ground.
Wed 28	7.45pm	BDRS meeting: European Roundabout. See Extra.

November

Tue 10	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting at the Recreation Ground. Page 7.
	7.30pm	Old Basing and Lychpit Village Show AGM at the Pavilion Tea Room, Recreation Ground. See page 9.

BASINGA EXTRA

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

Basingstoke and District Railway Society *National Women's Register*

Ostomates article

Read Easy Article

Sandham Memorial Chapel

The IVY Club – full text

Rotary Round-up



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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 07541 698235
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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