

September 2025

BASINGA



Linda Frawley



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

This month's cover photograph is that of a **Jersey Tiger** moth taken by **Linda Frawley**. 'Woollybears' are the caterpillar stage of this moth and, following metamorphosis, rivals butterflies in beauty and grace. The conspicuous patterns on its wings serve as a warning to predators because the moth's body fluids are poisonous!

Weekly food waste collection has come to Old Basing and Lychpit. Start using your food waste caddies from **29th September**, ready for the first collection from **6th October**. Your collection day is the same day as your waste and recycling. Put your green outdoor caddy 'at the kerbside' by **6.00am**.

After collection, food waste is typically sent to an anaerobic digestion facility where it's broken down in the absence of oxygen to produce biogas and a nutrient-rich digestate (left-overs). The biogas is then used to generate electricity and heat, whilst the digestate is used as a fertilizer for agriculture.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BASINGA

The **very last date for copy** to the Editor for the **October** edition is **6.00pm on Wednesday, 10th September**, although we do welcome copy in advance of this date. Please use the forms on the **Basinga** website www.basinga.org.uk to get your dates, articles and letters to us (see **box on page 15 for further instructions**). **Don't forget that we only accept articles with about a 300-word maximum: articles may be edited and are published at the Editor's discretion.**

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

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

PHOTOS AND LOGOS FOR THE BASINGA

We now have a web form that you can use to send any photograph for the website archive and possible use in the magazine: go to www.basinga.org.uk and the form can be found on the '**Contributors Submission**' menu. Should you wish to submit multiple photos, or a photo is too 'large', they can be emailed directly to the **Editor** at editor@basinga.org.uk

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1st Lychpit Rainbows - A Magical New Girlguiding Group for Little Explorers



Does your 4–7-year-old love stories, sparkles, and trying new things? Are they curious, kind, and ready to make new friends? Then they'll love joining the fun at Rainbows – your brand-new Girlguiding group right here in Lychpit! Starting in September.

What are Rainbows?

Rainbows is the first step in the Girlguiding journey – a space where children laugh, learn, and grow through exciting activities, games, and crafts. From building confidence to mini-adventures and team fun, every session is full of joy and imagination.

At 1st Lychpit Rainbows, your child will:

enjoy weekly meetups filled with creativity and laughter; make new friends and learn through play; earn badges for their brilliance; be supported by friendly leaders in a warm, welcoming environment.

We meet **every Tuesday** from **4.45pm to 5.45pm** at **Lychpit Community Hall**.

Come along to a free taster session and let your little one step into a world of giggles, glitter, and growing confidence. Let their Girlguiding adventure begin – at 1st Lychpit Rainbows, children won't just shine ... they will sparkle!

To register or find out more, contact us at 1st.lychpit.rbows@gmail.com

OLD BASING SCOUTS



As I write this, the summer holidays are in full swing meaning no weekly meetings for the Young People of Old Basing Scout Group... but just because there are no meetings doesn't mean that the adventure stops.

In the middle of August some of the Cubs from both our packs met up for a special event consisting of an afternoon of Backwoods Cooking. For those unfamiliar, Backwoods Cooking is where you cook over a fire. So after a quick fire lighting session as a reminder we jumped straight into cooking. Using three different methods we cooked different kinds of food. These consisted of cooking in the embers, cooking on stick and cooking in a billy can. Out of everything we cooked it was definitely clear that the Cubs clear favourite were S'mores – a certified classic!

Later that same day we also had a celebration for our adult volunteers. It's not often we have the chance to meet up as adults to have an evening of socialising – so this was the perfect opportunity. Over a delicious BBQ adults from all of our sections gathered for an evening of fun and laughter. It was fantastic to get together as a group and catch up as well as meet other volunteers from other sections.

A few of our Scouts also embarked on their own adventure during the summer holidays in the form of a Summer Camp. Over the course of a week they got to take part in loads of fun activities including Rafting, Archery, Air Rifles and Pioneering to name just a few. This was a fantastic opportunity for the Scouts who went and they came away having enjoyed a lot of new experiences and having made new memories.

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



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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



The poster features a green leafy border on the left and top. At the top right is the Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Council logo. The main text reads: 'Old Basing Allotment Plots' in large green letters, followed by 'A peaceful space to grow your own fruit & vegetables' in orange. A teal box contains the text: 'Available allotment plots for rent' and 'Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a beginner, our allotments are the perfect place to cultivate your own little piece of nature'. At the bottom, it says 'Contact the Parish Office assistant.clerk@oldbasing.gov.uk www.oldbasing.gov.uk/allotments' with a small house icon.

Allotment Plots are looking for new tenants. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or a beginner, our allotments are the perfect place to cultivate your own little piece of nature.

email: assistant.clerk@oldbasing.gov.uk for an application form.

Meetings for September 2025

The **Full Parish Council** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, 2nd September at 7.30pm**, at the **Recreation Ground**. There will also be meetings of the Facilities Management Committee on Tuesday, 16th September and the Planning & Development Committee on Tuesday, 23rd September (all commencing at 7.30pm). Please let us know if you wish to attend but you are unable to manage the stairs to the meeting room, to enable us to make alternative arrangements. Dates for all meetings are on our website and noticeboards.

Keep in Touch

If you have any questions, concerns or ideas that you'd like to share with the Parish Council, please feel free to get in touch. 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.**

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

Telephone: **01256 462847**

Mobile: **07507 514498** (emergencies only)

Email: clerk@oldbasing.gov.uk

Website: www.oldbasing.gov.uk



OLD BASING RBL WOMEN'S SECTION

To raise funds for the RBL Benevolent Fund, the ladies of the Women's Section are holding a **TEA DANCE** at **Old Basing RBL** on **Saturday, 6th September** from **2.00pm to 4.00pm**. Admission **£4.00** including tea/coffee and cake (Bring your own mug).

There will also be a raffle. Music supplied by Dancing with Debbie. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sue Chewter - Chairman

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CHURCHYARD CONSERVATION GROUP – PIOCC



This month's working parties will be on **Saturday, 6th September** at **10.00am** and **Thursday, 25th September** at **2.00pm** – meet by the PIOCC noticeboard at the entrance to the Conservation Area. We will continue the summer season maintenance to encourage the wild flowers and associated wildlife. We are always delighted to welcome new participants.

We are a friendly group. This community project is not just for churchgoers, we welcome all who would like to help. The tools are provided. Just turn up in gardening clothes and bring gloves. Our Saturday morning sessions last about three hours (with a coffee break and chance to relax) and our Thursday afternoons about two hours. Our volunteers make a real difference.

As we move towards autumn the nights are cooler and mornings misty, but the days can still be pleasantly warm and summery, gentler than the heatwaves of high summer and hopefully drier than earlier this summer too! There are still flowers in the glade providing sustenance for the late summer insects, including butterflies. Why not come and see what you can find? Or perhaps just enjoy an opportunity for a moment of peace or prayer on the WI seat with its lovely view of the church. The Conservation Area is a community space for all to enjoy.

On **Tuesday, 30th September** our **Open Meeting** will mark the start of the **Winter Conservation Programme**. **Please join us at 8.00pm in St Mary's Parish Room**. Geoff Sharp will be taking us to the Grand Canyon and beyond with his wildlife photographs "**Arizona - Deserts & Canyons**". We look forward to a lovely evening.

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

Margaret Carr

www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

THE IVY CLUB

July was a busy time for the club, we hosted a Teddy Bears Picnic, including marmalade sandwiches and fairy cakes, and raffle prizes being jars of honey or marmalade. Every member brought their favourite bear which was judged by the club members voting. Certificates were duly awarded for the various categories, the overall winner being Celia Lunn whose bear only had one eye and looked very sorry for himself, but was well loved.

Games were played and a good time was had by everyone. We also had our seaside outing to Weymouth, where the sun shone and there was a slight breeze off the sea which made the weather perfect. Everyone had a good day enjoying their fish and chips and not forgetting their ice cream. Lastly we celebrated the 90th birthday of one of our members with a lovely cream birthday cake and lots of candles with a resounding rendition of "Happy Birthday".

Forthcoming events will be a talk from **Dogs for Autism** and being entertained by the **Belle Canto Trio**. We meet every Wednesday at the **Royal British Legion** from **1.30pm** to **4.00pm**. **£2.00** entrance fee which covers refreshments (Bring your own mug) and a raffle.

Sue Wilson Chairman

OLD BASING ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SOCIAL CLUB



Looking for a warm welcoming space to relax unwind and connect? The Old Basing Royal British Legion Social Club is proud to offer something for everyone, from regular members and guests to new faces alike.

What do we offer to our New Members:

1. **Fully Licensed Bar** – Enjoy a wide range of beers, wines and soft drinks. With an extensive range of 35ml spirits on offer, all at great discounted member prices.
2. **Live entertainment** – From quiz nights to themed nights, discos and tribute bands.
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4. **Games and Activities** – Join in with our darts, pool or snooker teams – or just enjoy a casual game with friends.
5. **Sky and TNT sports** – watch live sports on our big screens in a lively friendly atmosphere.
6. **Family Friendly!** We are a safe and welcoming environment for all generations.
7. **Community events** – Supporting the Royal British Legion and Poppy Appeal throughout the year.
8. **Supporting** – The Basing Royals junior football teams.

Membership: You don't have to be ex-forces to join our club. Our doors are open to all who support the values of the Legion. Affordable membership gives you access to all events, great prices at the bar and the chance to be part of a vibrant friendly community.

Find us: Located in the heart of Old Basing in **Crown Lane**. Contact us on **07437016815** email **secretary@obrbl.club** or follow us on Facebook.



Pop in and see what we are all about – once you've visited you will want to come back again and again! Old Basing RBL Social Club more than just a club, it's where the community comes together,

We are open 7 Days a week **Mon – Thurs** from **4.00pm**, **Fri, Sat and Sun** from **noon**.

NEWS FROM THE POPPY APPEAL

The amount raised for this year's Poppy Appeal now stands at £46,177.50



I cannot thank everyone enough for making this record-breaking amount possible. Planning for this year's Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Day event are well underway, so I am making an early call for volunteers to continue the work we do.

If you are interested in collecting for a few hours over Poppy Appeal at Chineham or Hook, please email me on **tim.russell1888@gmail.com** putting **POPPY APPEAL** in the subject line. Your help makes the Poppy Appeal possible.

Tim Russell

Old Basing & District Branch and Hook Poppy Appeal Organiser

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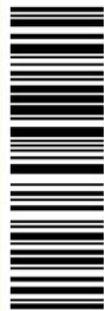
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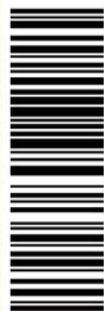


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THE MILL FIELD NATURE RESERVE – BIOBLITZ



Friday 1st saw a group of keen adults and children attending a late evening Bat Walk between armed with bat detectors listening out for bats echo locating in search of food. They can consume up to 6000 insects a day to provide enough energy to survive!

Saturday 2nd was a glorious day for the main event where various stalls could be visited. There were over 150 visitors to the site who were able take in a number of walks including wild flowers, dormice, reptiles and butterflies.

The Mill Field conservation group ran a stall where we were able to start 'selling' ducks for our **Duck Race** that ran on **24th August**. Details of how much we raised to follow.

We also had an interesting display of poop whereby children and adults had to guess which animal had deposited which poop. The foxes sample gave an interesting insight into their diet. The various animal skulls were an education displaying dentition which gave an indication to the diet of the animal. The day presented us with an ideal opportunity to advertise our group and enrol new members.

See the dates below for our winter work parties. We meet at **10.00am** at the play park near **Bartons Mill** pub: **Sunday, 12th October; Saturday, 8th November; Sunday, 14th December; Saturday, 10th January 2026; Sunday, 8th February; Saturday, 7th March.**

Tools and refreshments are provided. Please bring along some good gardening gloves. The session generally lasts for two hours. No experience is necessary. We are planning to split the sessions 50/50 between conservation projects and dog wood bashing over the winter period. Please check us out on Facebook or email: millfieldnature@gmail.com We will be happy to help with any questions that you may have.

OLD BASING VILLAGE HALL – AGM



The **Old Basing Village Hall Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, 10th September** at **7.30pm** in the **Frank Goddard Room**.

The Management Committee are looking for new members to join the team; if you have some spare time and would like to give something back to the community, it's a great opportunity to meet new people and learn new skills.

The Committee meets approximately six times per year to discuss the maintenance and management of this wonderful asset to the village of Old Basing.

We deploy various projects such as the recent installation of the solar energy system.

Why not come along on to the AGM to have a drink, meet the committee and maybe join the team?

Graham Steele

Chair – Old Basing Village Hall Management Committee



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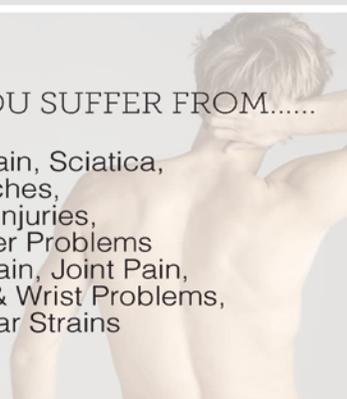


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OLD BASING WI



The 2025 resolution for the national WI was “Bystanders can be Lifesavers” and the Old Basing WI were keen to act on this, especially as there is a defibrillator unit on the outside of the building that we meet in that none of us felt confident about using.

We got in touch with South Central Ambulance Service (email defib@scas.nhs.uk) and they sent along Ollie and Elise, who are paramedics stationed at Basingstoke, to tell us all about CPR and defibrillator use. Altogether, 21 Members participated and were able to practice on dummies and handle the life-saving equipment. The session took around 90 minutes plus questions and we made a donation to cover costs. Feedback was extremely positive: “All round great performance and a credit to the Ambulance Service”. Any organisation thinking about doing something similar, please do get in touch with either our president for further information, or SCAS directly.



Our speaker for September is Mike Brook, who will be telling us about “**A career on the amateur stage**”

We meet, **every first Tuesday** of the month at **7.30pm**, at the **Parish Room, St Mary's Church**. Our next meeting is on **2nd September**. All are welcome to our meetings. Guests are offered two free meetings, so if you are interested, come and see. If you would like to join our long running and thriving group. Please contact our President by email at: oldbasingpres@hampshirewi.org.uk

OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT CARNIVAL 2025/26



The Old Basing and Lychpit Carnival this year raised **£1,700** and this will be distributed to many local organisations at the **AGM**, which is being held on **Wednesday, 3rd September** at **7.30pm** at the **Lychpit Community Hall**.

In fairness to all, the money was split evenly between the following: Basing Royals; 1st Lychpit Brownies; Old Basing Village Hall; Old Basing Open D of E; Basingstoke Voluntary Action; St Mary's Church Mowing Group; Old Basing and Lychpit Big Turkey Community Lunch; Old Basing Bowling Club; Old Basing Brownies; Old Basing Cubs; Basinga; Lychpit Community Residents Association; Mill Field Conservation Group; Old Basing Cavalier Scouts; 1st Old Basing Rainbows; Old Basing WI and Oakley Stitchers. **A representative from each organisation must attend the AGM to pick up their donation.**

Also at the AGM the committee for the 2026 Old Basing and Lychpit Carnival will be elected. If you would like to join our friendly committee and help run this superb community event please come along to the meeting.

If you are unable to attend the AGM or decide at a later date that you would like to become involved please email oldbasingcarnival@gmail.com we would love to hear from you.

Graham Merry Carnival Committee member

WHAT'S ON – ADVERTS

PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

Ploughman's Lunches take place in the **Parish Room of St. Mary's Church** on the **third Thursday** of the month. **Booking is required** by phoning: **07946 596778**. **Doors open at 12.25pm** and there is no end time. This month's lunch is on **18th September**, and October's gathering is on **Thursday, 16th**.

OLD BASING AND LYCHPIT GOOD NEIGHBOURS

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Cleaner required for the Beddington Centre, Riley Lane, Old Basing. Approximately two hours per week light cleaning on a Saturday or Sunday depending on parties in the hall. For more details, please contact us at **beddingtoncentrebookings@gmail.com**

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Do you like to sing? Maybe you sing in the car, in the shower or just around the house. Maybe you have previously sung with a group and want to get back to singing after a few years. That's how a lot of us came to join Hampshire Harmony and now our singing is going from strength to strength. Come and join us at our **Free Open Evening** on **Monday, 29th September, 7.30pm to 9.30pm** at **Carnival Hall**. **See Extra for details**.

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).

CARAVAN LEISURE BATTERY **£75.00** **07810365485**
12V, 95Ah, CCA 850 – Make Power Max ACM. unused – bought in February 2025.

BASING BEANS

We are a friendly baby and toddler group run by volunteers; we have been running for more than 15 years in Old Basing and Lychpit.

The sessions take place **every Tuesday in term time at Lychpit Hall** from **10.00am to 11.30am**. Babies and toddlers up to pre-school age are welcome with parents, grandparents or carers.

In our sessions we offer craft activities, free play inside or outside, story time with a drink and a snack plus coffees and teas for the adults and we end with singing. There is a baby area with toys suitable for our younger children.

We charge **£3 for an adult with up to 2 children, then £1 for each extra child**: we take **cash only**.

There is no need to book, just turn up. More information about individual sessions is on our **Basing Beans** Facebook page.

We start again after the summer holidays on **16th September**.

REFLECTIONS FROM ST MARY'S

There is the calendar year which starts at the beginning of January, the church's year starts on Advent Sunday which, because it is four Sundays before Christmas, moves around a bit. Your birthday, whenever that is, marks the end of one personal year and the beginning of the next. If you are working then your employer may set your leave year in different ways: for some everyone starts on the same date, while for others it can be the anniversary of when you started

September marks the beginning of the academic year when playgroups, schools, colleges and universities will start or return.

As we head into the autumn, we look towards our Harvest Service on 5th October, marking the end of the farming year. As we write this on a hot and balmy afternoon in August, we have experienced an extended period of dry weather, meaning difficulties for our farmers and growers.

We know that not all are fortunate to be able to afford food and many in our community are struggling. We have a collection point at St Mary's inviting donations to both The Basingstoke Foodbank and Helping Dogs & Cats UK Rescue. Please do look on the Basingstoke Foodbank's website for an up to date list of items that are needed at any time, and who to contact if you need help.

Whatever your circumstance, wherever you are in your various 'years' you will receive a warm welcome at St Mary's.

With every blessing.

OLD BASING METHODIST CHURCH



September at the Methodist Church

Our **Sunday** morning worship begins at **10.30am** followed by drinks and biscuits, all are welcome.

These services include for **September, 21st Holy Communion and Gift Day** led by our minister **Rev. Claire Simpson**.

Also on **Sunday, 28th – Harvest Thanksgiving** led by **Rev. Barbara McIntivey** with goods and proceeds to Basingstoke FoodBank.

Other activities will include **MHA Lunch** for members on **Wednesday, 10th** from **noon to 3.00pm**. On **Tuesday, 16th – Cameo** from **11.30am to 1.00pm** – join us for light lunch, bring along crafts if you wish.

We have a new after school **Youth Hub** taking place in **St Mary's every Tuesday** from **3.00pm**, where they will be able to meet up for a safe place get together with friends. There will be cakes and drinks available to all school pupils returning to the village.

We will be holding a short service at **Basingfield Court Care Home** at **11.00am** on **Thursday 4th**. The residents we chat with afterwards enjoy the singing and memories.

REGULAR SERVICES

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

St Mary's
Parish
Church



All are welcome to join us – please just come along. If you'd like to join the **9.30am Sunday Service** from home, you can do so via St Mary's Facebook page. You can keep up to date with services and events at St Mary's via our website: www.stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

St Mary's Church Events: Autumn to Christmas 2025

As the seasons turn, St Mary's is preparing for a few months filled with joy, community, pets, and, of course, cake! Whether your passion is exploring historic buildings, meeting adorable animals, or embracing the anticipation of Advent, there's something here for you.

Saturday, 13th September – Church & Tower Tours.

See St Mary's from new heights (literally). Think you've seen the church? Think again! Our Tower Tours offer views so lovely you will forget how many steps you just climbed. Meanwhile, the Church Tours will guide you through tales of the past – without the vertigo.

Tower Tours – every hour from **11.00am – 3.00pm** (booking essential)

Church Tours – **10.00am, noon, 2.00pm** (just turn up and enjoy the ride)

Tickets: **£5** each or **£7.50** for both (bargain!). Refreshments: Tea/coffee and cake!

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

A celebration of creatures great and small – all are welcome! Join us at **2.30pm** for our much-loved Pet Blessing Service, led by Rev Helen. Whether your companion has feathers, fur, scales, or whiskers, they are invited to receive a blessing in this joyful celebration of all God's creatures. The pet food donation box is always outside the entrance to St Mary's to help feed rescued animals and those in need.

Are you a dog groomer, pet-sitter, animal artist or just an enthusiastic animal advocate? We would love to include you! Stalls are free this year, although donations to St Mary's and HDCUK are very welcome.

Friday 5th – Sunday, 7th December – Christmas Sing-Along & Tree Festival

This year's theme is A Christmas Carol. Whether your tree tells a story, echoes a beloved carol, or sparkles with unexpected twists, we invite you to share your creative vision. Traditional, whimsical, or delightfully unconventional – all styles are warmly welcomed!

Friday, 5th December – Christmas Sing-Along

Christmas Fayre – Saturday and Sunday, 11.00am to 4.00pm

To book a Tower Tour, Pet/Christmas Fayre or Christmas Tree space contact Debbie at admin@stmarysoldbasing.org.uk

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NEWS FROM BASING HOUSE



The 2025 Basing House season closes on **Sunday, 28th September**. Events – Halloween Ghost Walks and the Christmas Fayre are not covered by the annual admission fee.

Rhymetime for preschoolers continues until the finish for the winter on Wednesdays, **11.00am – noon**. This is free with an annual ticket.

The weekend **13th/14th September** sees the Marquess of Winchester's Regiment staging a living history weekend. This includes military drills and skirmishes, with live demonstrations of 17th-century military tactics. A living history camp explores the daily life of soldiers and civilians and the traditional crafts of the era. These events run from **11.00am to 4.00pm** on both days. Like all Civil War re-enactments, the displays involve loud crashes and bangs.

Alan Turton – former Basing House curator and Civil War expert – will conduct his last tour of the season on **Sunday, 21st September at 2.00pm** – not covered by the annual ticket.

Annual Halloween ghost walks return between **23rd and 30th October**. There are three walks a night, (**5.30, 7.00 and 8.30**) and numbers are limited so booking is essential.

Each tour is guided by a storyteller who recounts tales of eerie happenings and the ghostly past of the site. At the end of the tour, you'll be offered the chance to crawl through the Basing House tunnel – a low, dark crawl 100 yards long and just 3 feet high which can be daunting for many. This part of the experience is optional but unforgettable!

The annual **Christmas Fayre** will be on **29-30th November** from **11.00am to 4.00pm**. There will be over 35 stalls, and some other attractions. Admission is **£4** per visitor.

Andrew Howard

VILLAGE VIBES CAFE

On 8th August we welcomed Helena, who is the fundraising manger for Ark Cancer Trust, which the cafe is supporting as our current project. Our aim is to be able to make a donation to the charity, which will then be used to support a number of patients through a course of additional therapy sessions of their choosing to aid their treatment journey.

We are back to welcome our customers on **12th September**.

Our opening dates for the upcoming months are: 12th, 19th and 26th September; 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th October; 14th, 28th November; 12th December.



We are always happy to welcome new members. If anyone has a passion for baking, or wants to come along and help out, please don't hesitate to get in touch, via our Facebook page or by chatting to one of our members. We operate the cafe on a rota basis which enables the team to choose dates when they are able to bake or offer help so even if you can help out once a month, you would be more than welcome to do so. It's a great way to spend a



couple of hours on a Friday afternoon, meeting members of our community and enjoying the friendly atmosphere of the cafe.

Deborah Thorne

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THE WELCOME TEA ROOM

Fridays, 5th and 12th September, 2.00pm – 4.00pm at St Mary's Parish Room

Cake Recipe of the month

In the coming months we look forward to sharing some of our recipes with you. The first in the series is our very popular Orange & Poppy Seed Cake which will be on offer at The Tea Room on **Friday, 5th September**.

Orange & Poppy Seed Cake – serves 12

Created by Welcome Tea Room volunteer Hazel

Ingredients

250g butter 250g caster sugar 5 large eggs

Zest & juice of one large orange 20g poppy seeds

250g self-raising flour 1 tsp baking powder

Icing

100g softened butter Juice of one large orange

200g icing sugar 3 x 8inch sandwich tins

Method

1. Pre-heat oven to 180°C/160°C Fan assisted ovens.
2. Make sure your eggs and butter have come up to room temperature before baking.
3. Line three sandwich tins with greaseproof paper
4. Cream together 250g of softened butter and 250g caster sugar until light and fluffy.
5. Beat in juice of one orange.
6. Gently whisk in the eggs one at a time to the butter and sugar mixture.
7. Fold in 250G of self-raising flour, the grated zest of one orange, poppy seeds and baking powder into the batter. Do not over-mix.
8. Divide the mixture into three tins and cook for 30 minutes in the middle of the oven.
9. Allow to cool in tins for 10 minutes before gently removing sponges onto a rack.
10. To make the icing, beat the butter until its very soft and slowly add the icing sugar. Continue to beat and drizzle in the juice from the second orange.
11. Sandwich the sponges together with $\frac{1}{3}$ of the buttercream between each layer. Decorate the top of the cake with the final $\frac{1}{3}$ of the icing. Allow to set and serve.



LIONS CLUB – WORLD SIGHT DAY

Thursday, 9th October - 9.00am to 3.00pm in Central Square, Basingstoke



Over 2 million people in the UK are living with sight loss. 43 million people in the world are blind. 1.2 billion people need glasses to see better

World Sight Day, now in its 13th consecutive year, comes once again to a stand in Central Square, Basingstoke courtesy of The Basingstoke Lions Club and featuring a collection point for redundant spectacles of any description, together with a display of information regarding sight

loss and small items of equipment to help the visually impaired with some of the practical aspects of daily living. To find out more please visit **Basinga Extra**.



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Your Local Cats Protection Branch Needs You!!



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

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

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

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



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NATURE NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER

The main subject of last months notes was about butterflies and how well they appear to have done this summer. The theme continued into August with more reports of different species sightings which is all good news. On one particular day in late July, we noticed a hatch of nearly all 'brown butterflies', a mix of meadow browns, tortoiseshells, small coppers and commas. I managed to sneak up on this Comma that was basking on a hydrangea head (*right*).



Talking of successful breeding years, and if you are a regular walker near the Loddon, you may have noticed how many ducks there are on the river this year. Flotillas of young sibling ducks, almost mature in size are prolific which is clear evidence that nests were not raided by predators as has been the case for many years. I would certainly hope that the

small team of volunteers who have laid and monitored American Mink traps at various points along the river, have been instrumental in this return to some normality. To date, the team has taken out 41 of these animals between Bartons Mill and Sherfield on Loddon so we are making progress for sure in our long-term quest to restore volumes of waterfowl, amphibians and fish to these areas but also to see water voles return one day to this river and the Lyde.

Back in the Spring, I wrote about the progress of Cuckoos as they returned to these shores to breed, only made possible by clever tracking devices carried by each bird. As soon as their deeds were done, the Cuckoos were off again on their long and perilous journey to Africa and, as of 15th July, the five-named BTO tracked birds had all crossed the Sahara. Ashrok was in Chad having flown 1,864 miles, Arthur and Wilfred were in Senegal, Wingston covered 1,550 miles in 5 days to get to Chad and Jim was in Timbuktu! (honestly).

I find this technology absolutely fascinating and is ultimately invaluable information too, enabling us to understand many more potential reasons where exactly where birds come and go, what difficulties they may encounter (and what we can possibly do about it) and therefore why they may decrease or even disappear.

Returning to butterflies and the like, this is the time of year when you may come across large and colourful moths and readers, Stephen Thair, Dave Gillon and Tim and Linda Frawley (*this month's Cover Photo*), spotted Jersey Tiger moths in their respective gardens with Linda managing to photograph one before it zipped off.

Thank you for that guys, it's a smashing looking insect.

continued on page 28

continued from page 27

Several readers have contacted me in recent weeks, Howard Simpson being one, to enquire as to why birds have seemingly vanished from their gardens, particularly Blackbirds and Blue tits. This is usual for this time of the year for several reasons. Firstly, there is so much natural food available in the countryside that birds have little reason to risk feeding in gardens where predators such as cats and urban Sparrowhawks can pick them off. Breeding has finished so 'owning a territory' becomes less important than it is in late winter / early Spring, and finally, many birds are now in moult. The rigours of bringing up one, maybe two broods of chicks shows up in their plumage condition so they will shed their damaged feathers to grow new. The result is a very scruffy looking bird indeed for a few weeks that also may not fly as well as usual. They also seem to become embarrassed to show themselves too, therefore keeping a low profile until things return to normal.

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**

SEPTEMBER IN YOUR GARDEN

Well, we've had very little rain since the last edition of Basinga, and now a hose-pipe ban, so some tips from around the 'web' to make the most of what remains.

Mulch Now – Applying a 5 cm layer of organic mulch (like compost, bark, or spent mushroom compost) helps retain moisture, suppress weeds, regulate soil temperature, and improve soil structure.

Let Lawns Rest and Recover – Brown lawns look bleak but are often resilient—once rain returns, grass will green up again. Avoid walking on them and wait until conditions improve before doing any reseeding or applying autumn lawn feed

Prioritize Watering Efficiently – Water deeply at the root zone early in the morning or in the evening to minimize evaporation Use reclaimed water like greywater or rainwater from water butts – you can store autumn or sporadic downpours for dry spells. For potted or container plants, use trays to retain moisture and group them in shaded, cooler areas

Selective Watering & Gentle Feeding – Focus your limited water on new, stressed, or container plants – there's no need to lavish it on hardy or established shrubs or lawns. Avoid heavy fertiliser, which can increase water demand – opt for light feeding only when needed.

Choose Drought-Friendly Plants – Opt for species naturally adapted to dry conditions – consider Mediterranean or drought-tolerant plants with grey or silver leaves to reflect heat. In Hampshire, gardeners recommend: lavender, sage, thyme, rosemary, geranium, verbena, catmint, heuchera, achillea.

Improve Soil for Better Moisture Retention – Work organic matter (well-rotted compost, bark, farmyard manure) into the soil to improve water-holding capacity. Also consider plants suited to your soil type, and plant in autumn or early spring to help establishment before the next dry spell

Support Wildlife – Don't forget the garden's wild visitors. Keep nectar-rich flowers topped up (like dahlias and verbena), maintain pond access by adding ramps or rocks, and deadhead regularly—this ensures bees and other wildlife still have food during dry times.



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ST MICHAELS' HOSPICE – MOONLIGHT WALK



Light up Basingstoke and put the importance of St. Michael's Hospice in the spotlight.

St. Michael's Hospice provides a vital service to our community, supporting people across North Hampshire who have a life-limiting illness, are facing the end-of-life or experiencing bereavement. Take part in this year's **Moonlight Walk** at **8.00pm** on **Saturday, 27th September** at **Festival Place, Basingstoke** and help the Hospice continue to be there for families across North Hampshire when they need it most.

BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE ROTARY CLUB



Rotary Christmas Shoebox Appeal

We will be in **Festival Place** on **Saturday, 6th September** handing out shoeboxes ready for you to fill with presents for deprived children.

A Reminder of what you can put in your shoebox – for:

Playing – ball, skipping rope, small games, cards, dominoes, harmonicas/recorders, cars, small toys, Cuddly toys.

Washing – soap, toothbrush, flannel, sponge.

Writing – pens, pencils, sharpener, notebook, colouring book, puzzle book.

Wearing – hat, gloves, scarf, socks, hair accessories, jewellery.

PLEASE NO – liquids, no war toys or books, battery-operated items, sharp items, broken items, food or sweets. NO large toys, clothes or shoes. Nothing religious, political or racial.

Fill a box for either: Boys or Girls, ages 1-3, 4-7, 8-11, 12-15.

We ask for a £2.00 donation towards transport costs, please attach to your box with Sellotape. Drop off your filled boxes at Eden Mazda, London Road, Old Basing.

THE VYNE – NATIONAL TRUST

September at The Vyne. With both floors of the house still open daily from **11.00am to 3.00pm** (subject to volunteer availability), you can savour the sight of fascinating treasures before the annual autumn deep clean begins and the festive decorations go up.

Regency Revisited & Jane Austen House Tours. Discover Jane Austen's links to The Vyne, her views on the Chute family and what Regency life, and love, was like for those living here at the time.

Exclusive Austen talks. 7th September: In conversation with ... Enjoy a cream tea in the tea-room before joining Lizzie Dunford, Director for Jane Austen's House, Chawton and Joy Pibworth, longstanding member of the Jane Austen Society as they discuss Britain's best-loved Regency author in the house at The Vyne.

25th September: Layers of Jane. From petticoats to pantaloons, chemise to shifts, following an indulgent cream tea in the Brewhouse tea-room, enjoy an interactive and irreverent presentation regarding Regency 'underpinnings' in the house.

Further details on articles on this page can be found in **Basinga Extra**

DIARY DATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

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

September

Tue 2	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting. Pavilion, Recreation Ground.
	2.00pm	Chineham and Old Basing NWR meeting. See Extra.
Wed 3	7.30pm	Carnival AGM at Lychpit Community Hall.
Thu 4	7.30pm	Monthly Legion Branch meeting/social gathering. All members and people wishing to join are warmly welcome.
Sat 6	10.00am – 1.00pm	PIOCC Working Party. Meet at Noticeboard.
	2.00pm – 4.00pm	RBL Women's Section Tea Dance. See page 7.
	6.00pm	Entries for Good Old Basing Golf Day are now CLOSED.
Tue 9	1.45pm – 3.30pm	Forever Singing Choir at Rucstall Community Centre.
Wed 10	6.00pm	Deadline for Basinga October copy to Editor. See page 3.
	7.30pm	Old Basing Village Hall AGM. Frank Goddard Room.
	7.45pm	BDRS talk: A History of DMUs – Colin Boocock.
Tue 16	10.00am – 11.30am	Basing Beans Baby and Toddler group. See page 17.
Sat 20	9.30am	Wessex Chamber Choir 'Come and Sing Event'. Extra.
	7.00pm	Friends of St. Mary's Barn Dance. To raise funds for St. Mary's Parish Church. See poster on page 15.
Wed 24	7.45pm	BDRS talk: Mark Miller. Wote St. Club. Basinga Extra.
Thu 25	2.00pm – 4.00pm	PIOCC Working Party. Meet at Noticeboard.
Sat 27	8.00pm gather	Moonlight Walk. See page 31 and Basinga Extra.
Sun 28	11.00am – 4.00pm	Basing House – last day of regular opening. See page 21.
Mon 29	7.30pm – 9.30pm	Hampshire Harmony Choir Open Evening. See Extra.

BASINGA EXTRA

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

<i>Clive Fortune Big Band</i>	<i>Basingstoke and District Railway Society</i>
<i>Forever Singing</i>	<i>Hampshire Harmony Choir HSBG Volunteer</i>
<i>Linguatastic</i>	<i>St. Michaels' Hospice Moonlight Walk (in full)</i>
<i>National Women's Register</i>	<i>PROBUS / MENCAP</i>
<i>Step by Step Sleepout</i>	<i>September at the Vyne (in full)</i>
<i>Wessex Chamber Choir</i>	<i>Lions Club – World Sight Day (in full)</i>



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● OLD BASING & LYCHPIT PARISH COUNCIL

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

● CHURCH INFORMATION FOR THE AREA

Church of England (Parish of Old Basing & Lychpit)

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

Regular Services at St Mary's Church, Old Basing

SUNDAY: 8am Holy Communion; 9.30am Sung Eucharist
OTHER DAYS: Wednesday, 10am – Holy Communion; Monday, Thursday and Friday, 8.45am – Morning Prayer
Changes to the regular service pattern and other weekday services are shown in the weekly news-sheet, a copy of which is displayed on the noticeboard in the church porch

Old Basing Methodist Church

MINISTER: Rev'd Claire Simpson 01256 323103
email: revclaire72@btinternet.com
SUNDAY SERVICE: Morning Service 10.30am

Roman Catholic

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



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