

SPRING EDITION



Old Basing & Lychpit

Parish Council Community Newsletter

www.oldbasing.gov.uk

Spring 2020



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A VIEW FROM A DIFFERENT ANGLE

OLIVER'S BATTERY ON A FROSTY MORNING

PHOTO - KATE HOPE



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From the Chairman

Winter work at the Recreation Ground.

I suppose most residents don't visit the Recreation Ground in Old Basing during the winter. Rather, you are more likely to visit in the summer months, with the Carnival in June being particularly popular.

The Recreation Ground looks good all year round but especially so in summer. During the winter, the groundwork which paves the way for the summer season at the Recreation Ground is done by Stephen Richardson, Grounds and Facilities Manager, and Harry Rice, Groundsman.

After the last game of Cricket and the last game of Bowls, work starts in September to prepare for the next year.

The Cricket Table and the Bowling Green are deep scarified to a depth of 50 mm; this is done at least four times. All the waste material - grass, thatch or organic matter - is taken to a recycling facility in Odiham.

The next process is to deep spike the surfaces of the Table and Green, going down 100 mm. Then both areas are over seeded with a 'dwarf rye mix'. The price per 20 kg bag is £120 and we use three bags for Bowls and one bag for Cricket. The timing of this is the first week of September for Cricket and the first week of October for Bowls.

All the work of scarifying, spiking and over seeding is done by mid October.

The Cricket Table has a top dressing of loam soil applied - 80 x 20 kg bags costing £396.

The Bowls Green has 5 tons of a mixture of sand and soil applied: ratio 70:30. This costs £600. One might think that machinery is used here ... Not so, the mixture is spread by hand and then levelled within one week in October.

From October through to February the Grounds Staff spike and cut the grass at 10 mm once a month. What concerns the Staff during the winter is the possible appearance of disease, in this case 'fusarium disease', which is a climatic fungal disease. If the disease is discovered then a 'Medallion' spray product is applied. (£268 per application.)

Again to prevent disease, if there is a heavy dew on the Table and the Green, then the Staff take the dew off the grass. Once March comes around, the grass is scarified and cut again for the Cricket and Bowls. The rule followed here is that every scarification means that a cut must follow afterwards. Football starts in September. That means putting up the goals, squaring off the pitches and marking them out in preparation. The grass on the pitches is cut, spiked and chain harrowed across the winter months. Marking out is refreshed every week of the Football season.

Alongside the activity described above, the Grounds Staff use the winter time to carry out general maintenance jobs. Examples are replacing the fence and gate beside the Pavilion building; putting in concrete slabs outside the

allotment trading huts; and widening the driveway at the allotments to allow lorry deliveries.

Lastly, readers will know all about a typical winter task; yes, you got it - sweeping up the leaves! That may be the job which you see Stephen and Harry doing if you visit us during the winter months.

Cllr. Alan Renwick

Chairman, Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Council

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Parish Notes - SPRING 2020

COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

The start of 2020 has seen the resignation of three Parish Councillors: Christine Fowler who sadly had to resign for health reasons, Kerry-Ann Chamberlain due to family and work commitments and, most recently, Vera Riley-Shaw who is moving abroad. All have contributed in various ways to Parish Council activities and will be sadly missed.

Christine assisted with the recruitment process for an Assistant Clerk last year. Kerry-Ann has been a reliable contributor to the Newsletter, including providing the Children's Corner activities.

Vera was a Parish Councillor for over eight years and also served on the Carnival and Village Hall Committees for a similar period. Her work at the Parish included Charing the Facilities Management Committee and making grant applications. Vera's husband, Malcolm Curtis, is leaving us too. A stalwart of the Cricket Club in Old Basing, Malcolm made an enormous contribution to local cricket over many years, notably working with children and youths to teach them the necessary skills. Vera supported activity at the Cricket Club over these years, being ever present to provide refreshments and to help out in the Clubhouse. We salute all of the above for their service to the community in Old Basing and Lychpit. We are seeking to co-opt three new Councillors who will take an active interest in Parish affairs, which can vary from dealing with planning applications, parking, transport and other issues to managing the Parish Council's recreation facilities and buildings.

Anyone interested in finding out more should contact the Parish Office.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS & EVENTS FOR 2020

Meetings take place on Tuesday evenings starting at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated and are held at The Pavilion on the Recreation Ground, Old Basing. Planning & Development Committee meetings may be cancelled if there are no plans for discussion. All meetings are open to the public and time is allocated on the Agenda for any member of the public present to address the meeting. Meetings are generally held in the 1st floor Committee Room, however if you wish to attend a meeting but have difficulty with stairs please let us know (preferably no later than 11am on the day) so the meeting can be moved to a ground floor room.

MONTH	FULL PARISH COUNCIL	PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	FACILITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE	OTHER
January	7th	14th & 28th			
February	4th	11th & 25th		18th	
March	3rd	10th & 24th	17th		
April	7th	14th & 28th			27th (Annual Parish Meeting)
May	5th	12th & 26th	19th		
June	2nd	9th & 23rd	30th		
July	7th	14th & 28th			
August	4th	11th & 25th	18th		
September	1st	8th & 22nd	29th		
October	6th	13th & 27th		20th	
November	3rd	10th & 24th	17th		
December	1st	8th & 22th			14th Community Partnership Evening

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The date of the Annual Parish Meeting has been changed to Monday 27 April and will take place in the Lychpit Community Hall starting at 7.30 pm. Unlike Parish Council Meetings, no day to day business is conducted but the meeting is a forum for residents to meet Councillors and raise matters of concern. The meeting will include a short presentation generally on a topical issue and this is also when the ANNUAL PARISH AWARD is presented to a worthy recipient nominated by you. Please therefore give some thought to who you feel should receive the award for voluntary work within the local community and send your nominations to the Clerk by 3 April and do come along on 27 April to support them. Anyone nominated in previous years who has not received the award will be considered again.

ALLOTMENT & CEMETERY INSPECTIONS

Dates for 2020 are w/c 27 April, 29 June and 5 October.

CARNIVAL – 50th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

2020 will mark the Anniversary of the Old Basing Carnival which will take place on SATURDAY 20 JUNE. Mark this on your calendar to ensure this is a memorable occasion.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office, The Pavilion, The Recreation Ground, The Street, Old Basing, RG24 7DA 01256 462847 www.ldbasing.gov.uk

The Parish Office is open between 10am and 12noon Mon-Thurs (staff also work outside of these hours and will return urgent calls, so please do leave a message or alternatively email the Clerk or Assistant Clerk).

PARISH OFFICE AND RECREATION FACILITIES



Sandra Tuck (Clerk)
clerk@ldbasing.gov.uk



Stephen Richardson
Grounds & Facilities Manager



Kate Hope
(Assistant Clerk)
assistant.clerk@ldbasing.gov.uk

Harry Rice Groundsman

COUNCILLORS



Alan Renwick
(Chairman)
Old Basing



Mark Oszczyk
(Vice-Chairman)
Old Basing



Peter Bloyce
Old Basing



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Roger Doust
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Old Basing WI Centenary Year 2019-20

The Old Basing WI was formed in March 1919 and we thought it would be nice to share some of our special memories from this Centenary year. We are a thriving and growing group with over 40 Members.

In March 2019 we celebrated our Centenary with an Afternoon Tea at the Old Basing Village Hall for around 70 guests, including the Mayor of Basingstoke. WI Members were given a gift of a small engraved china box to commemorate the event. Our Members made a huge array of delicious cakes for all to enjoy.

*Old Basing WI Committee Members with Mayor of Basingstoke.
Photo by Tony Hall*



Special mention should be given to Christine Ashworth who made the splendid cake that we all shared at our Centenary Members' meeting which depicted each member's head on the top!

June saw us manning a stall of cakes and craft items at the Old Basing Carnival and in July we were welcomed to Iris's garden for our annual Garden Party.

In September we had an information table at the Old Basing and Lychpit Village Show to advertise our organisation to the rest of the Village.



Centenary cake



Old Basing Carnival.

Meanwhile the Craft Group were busy designing and producing our Centenary Wall Hanging which has now been installed in the St Mary's Parish Room where we hold our monthly meetings. It was unveiled by Iris Harman, our longest serving member, who joined Old Basing WI in the late 1960's.



Old Basing and Lychpit Village Show

In September we launched a monthly electronic newsletter to keep our Members in touch if they were unable to attend meetings. We also had a lovely visit to a Member's garden. In November we joined the Royal British Legion for the Service of Remembrance where our current President Sue Stewart laid our hand knitted Poppy Wreath close to the name on the War Memorial of the husband of our Founder

Member Mrs Maddocks. At the end of November, we took part in the Basing House craft fayre selling hand-made craft items, jams and preserves and cakes and in December we took part in the Christmas Tree festival at St Mary's Church on the theme of a "Christmas Carol".



Members attending the unveiling of the Centenary Wall Hanging

Our Centenary year will end with the planting ceremony of a native, disease resistant Elm tree on the Old Basing Recreation ground on 27th March by our outgoing President Chris Hall.

As well as our "special centenary celebrations" we have continued with our popular usual activities. We have entered teams in Group and County quizzes and skittles, as well as Members attending County and Group Meetings. We have a coffee group that meet once a week at a local garden centre and there have been 17 Members there on occasion. Our craft group of 12 Members meets once a month to learn and practice new skills, we run a monthly local walk, and a monthly lunch club which is very popular. We ran a trip to the local theatre to see the musical "9 to 5", a skittles evening, a Festive Meal at a local pub and a trip to the WI Denman College for 10 of our Members who took part in a day of craft activities.



Remembrance Day Service



Basing House Christmas Fayre



What plans for 2020? We are aiming to continue with all our regular and well attended activities as well as raising the profile of the WI in the village of Old Basing and Lychpit by having a presence at some more local events. We will continue to contribute to Group and County activities and perhaps try to run some of our own trips locally. We currently have plans to visit the Chineham incinerator site later in the year as well as the Whitchurch Silk Mill.



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County Councillor Report

Cllr. Elaine Still

My article in the Winter Newsletter referred to the fact that at the time of writing the Milkingpen Lane Bridge had been relatively clear but that Hampshire Highways was continuing its investigations into the cause of the flooding. Unsurprisingly the heavy rainfall since then, compounded by fallen leaves and debris being washed into the drains, has resulted in further flooding and as a consequence I put pressure on senior Highways Officers to get something done once and for all - the following is a statement I issued in January following my discussions with Highways Officers:

The delays which have been experienced with this scheme are primarily due to difficulties in determining the current drainage system. Investigations have to date failed to identify the exact location of the drainage pipes and outlets as the pipework for the current drainage runs under the Network Rail bridge abutment making it impossible to get to; the pipe is blocked and efforts to try and clear the pipe and to carry out a CCTV survey have proved fruitless. This has resulted in engineers being unable to determine where the pipe outfalls and consequently not being able to survey and jet from the other end. It has therefore been agreed that a new chamber needs to be constructed at the first point the pipe appears to become accessible, which is in the entrance area to the Scout Hut. This is away from the bridge and will be over the location where highways engineers believe the pipe to run in order to gain access to it. However, at this point the pipe will be in excess of 2m deep, which brings its own complications as excavation to these depths brings into play a number of health and safety issues pertaining to deep excavations which need to be taken into account. Once the

pipe is located and the chamber constructed it will provide a better opportunity to determine where the outfall is and jet and survey it to ensure it is clear. Once the chamber has been constructed the intention is to then replace the existing highway drainage under the bridge which will link into the new chamber. However the construction of new gullies under the bridge introduces further complications to the scheme as, due to the proximity of the works to the bridge, an agreement with Network Rail, known as a BAPA (Basic Asset Protection Agreement), is required, which often takes a frustratingly long time to get in place. The works that are required to carry out these drainage improvements will need to be carried out under a road closure. In order to avoid inconveniencing residents and highway users more than necessary a comprehensive plan needs to be in place to carry out the works before anything is started. It is anticipated that the new drainage system will be constructed in one continuous operation ensuring the road is not closed for longer than necessary.

Given the current weather and subsequent ground conditions, Hampshire Highways would be looking to programme these works in to start early in next financial year when the weather may be more suitable for carrying out deep excavation and drainage works. I hope you can see from the above that whilst this scheme appears to be relatively simple it has certainly been anything but. The primary cause of delay has been the repeated attempts to try and determine the extent of the current drainage system both through the identification of historical records, jetting and CCTV surveys, all of which have been unsuccessful. A way forward has now been identified although the results of any of the works may affect the direction they move in and

Continued
on P10



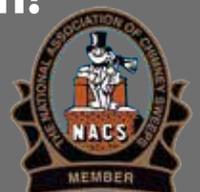
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County Councillor Report

Cllr. Elaine Still

this is always going to be the situation when dealing with a number of unknowns. I will keep The Parish Council and your ward members updated.

Speed Limit on the A30

Another area of concern affecting the wider community is the number of accidents on the stretch of the A30 between The Hatch and The Basingstoke Country Hotel.

Review and investigation of the accident record for the A30 shows the accident/casualty rates in this area are in excess of the national average for comparable roads. As a result of this review and review of the recent consultation the following measures are planned:

- to reduce the existing national speed limit (70 mph) to 60mph on A30 London Road From a point 460 metres west of its junction with The Baredown to a point 405 metres south-west of its junction with Water End Lane a distance of approximately 1255 metres to reduce the existing national speed limit (70 mph) to 50mph A30 London Road (Scures Hill)
- from a point 137 metres east of its junction with The Baredown to a point 460 metres west of its junction with The Baredown a distance of approximately 597 metres to introduce a 30 mph speed limit with The Baredown for its entire length
- These are shown on the plan below and a copy of the review and investigations of the accident record for the A30 can be found in the following link (item 21)

<http://democracy.hants.gov.uk/ielListDocuments.aspx?Cid=706&Mid=6032>

Library Consultation

Following a complaint from the Friends of Chineham Library, I passed this on to the Insights team (the team that devises all the County Council's consultation documents in association with the relevant Service/Department). The response is as follows:

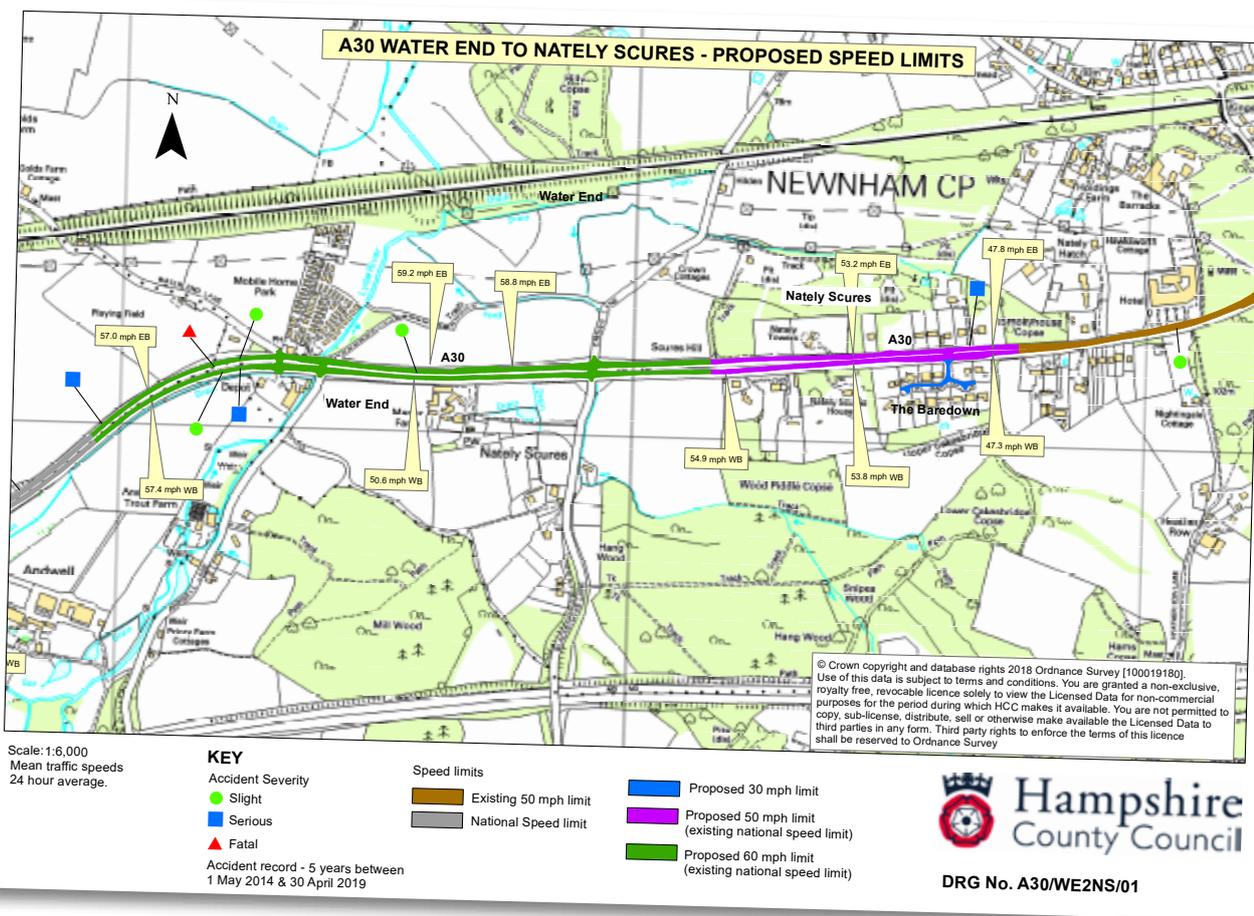
"We purposefully did not use the term 'community library' in either the Information Pack or the Response form. Where these documents refer to the proposal it is stated that, should the proposed closures take place, there are opportunities for these libraries to become: 'independent community managed libraries', which we clarified by saying: Some council-run libraries could be transferred to the community to be run and managed independently (i.e. with no County Council support). The selected libraries for potential closure would no longer form part of the Hampshire Library Service.

- However, communities could opt to continue running them as independent community managed libraries
- Any library proposed for closure could continue to be run by communities as an independent community-managed library or used for other community purposes. These libraries would no longer form part of the Hampshire Library Service.

The consultation does not provide a fixed definition of an 'independent community-managed library', as its form would depend on how the community wished to run the library.

We believe that we made it as clear as we could in the consultation document that any 'community managed library' would be independent of the County Council. However, we do realise that not everyone will have read the Consultation document, or at least not read it thoroughly.

Looking at the questionnaire people fill in, we assume that this is the question that residents in the Chineham area may have misunderstood: It is obviously a shame if respondents have misunderstood this question and we will take note of this when we analyse the findings".



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5 Initial Steps to Get a Divorce

If you have reached the point where you are considering a separation or divorce from your partner I'm sure there are many questions you have asked yourself to get to this point.

The process of obtaining a divorce can be complex, but here is a brief summary of 5 steps to consider:

1. Be Certain

Are you acting in haste or is this a decision you have carefully considered? You might find it useful to confide in a friend or family member, having someone to speak to can really help.

2. Find Your Marriage Certificate

You will require your original marriage certificate to obtain a divorce. If you have misplaced it then don't panic, you can order a replacement via the .Gov website.

3. Take Stock of your Finances

However modest or grand your financial affairs may be, you will need to build up an accurate picture of how they look in order to start agreeing on division of assets. Make a list of your assets, liabilities and incomes – include things like your property value, cars, foreign assets, investments, credit card debts, loans, savings accounts, salaries and pensions.

4. Consider your Children

If you have young dependents, be mindful of how they may be affected by divorce. Consider how you foresee contact arrangements working, where would be their main residence etc.

5. Appoint a Solicitor

It is best to get professional advice as soon as possible. This will help you understand the process, your options and give you an idea on costs and timescales involved. You will no doubt feel anxious about your first meeting with a family solicitor, but keep in mind that divorce lawyers see people every week and are used to discussing personal matters and giving the professional support that is required.

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Village GP's Incredible Expedition Challenge for ARK

Old Basing resident Roisin Ward joined a team of three ladies to be the first female GB team attempt to back country ski with a 40kg sled across 100km of the Hardangervidda Plateau in Norway, like the legendary Norwegian explorer Ronald Amundsen, at the end of February.

Asnes Expedition Amundsen is an expedition race like no other. The Hardangervidda mountain plateau in February/March appears beautiful and idyllic, but can quickly become dangerous and wild. Roisin and her fellow team-mates have been training for a year and a half for this adventure, believing that the challenges it posed them were a small reminder of the difficulties those coping with cancer face on a daily basis.

They dedicated their efforts to raising funds for the new cancer treatment centre being planned by the Ark Cancer Charity. The centre will be designed to improve patient experience and the funds raised will be used to enhance the services provided by the NHS, by offering a holistic approach to cancer care via co-location of treatments and support in a safe and humane environment. Chemotherapy treatment is already given in Basingstoke and Winchester, but patients have to travel to Southampton or Guildford for radiotherapy, which can mean a long journey every day for up to six weeks when patients are feeling so vulnerable and unwell.

If you would like to recognise Roisin's incredible effort, fundraising donations are still being accepted at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/roisin-ward2>.

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Thank you to everyone who supported the Big Turkey Community Christmas Lunch

It was fantastic to welcome you all at the Big Turkey Community Lunch held at the Village Hall on Sunday 29th December. This year we had a real mix of ages with around 170 people from across the parish, enjoying the lunch and a keenly fought quiz in the afternoon.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make it run so smoothly, with cooking and preparations before the event and on the day. This year we had lots of new helpers: brilliant canapé makers; a fantastic team of young waiters; wonderful servers; and terrific cracker recycling collectors - as well as so many people who have supported the lunch every year since it started five years ago!

Thanks also to absolutely everyone who came and enjoyed the lunch, your feedback has been wonderful.

It was a great celebration of our community, showing how much is possible with everyone working together!

Finally, a special thanks to the local organisations who helped make it happen: St Mary's PCC, OB&L Parish Council, The Carnival Committee, Good Neighbours, OB Village Hall Committee, the Basinga, and the generosity of many local shops & supermarkets who contributed to the food & crackers.

If you are interested to find out more about helping to plan the 2020 Big Turkey Community Christmas Lunch, please contact us via bigturkeylunch@outlook.com.

It is a great opportunity to be part of a small team planning something special for the whole community.



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Why do we need a Foodbank and Night Shelter in Basingstoke?

It is hard to believe that in a prosperous area like Basingstoke there can be people who are without food or shelter. But it is a sad fact that amongst the people who are out and about enjoying the bustle and bright lights of Festival Place there are those who cannot afford to eat or who do not have a place to call home at the end of the day.

Two voluntary organisations have been established to address this very real need: the Basingstoke Foodbank and the Night Light Winter Shelter.

The Foodbank is there to help people in a crisis: whether it be physical or mental illness; delayed payment of Universal Credit; family break-up; domestic violence; homelessness; or facing the cost of unexpected major repair to the boiler or the car essential for getting to work. One volunteer arrived at the Foodbank one day and met a social worker who had just taken a mother to the Women's Refuge and was looking for food for her and her baby... There are many causes and for this reason the Basingstoke Foodbank to which we at St Mary's Old Basing and Lychpit, with many other churches in the area, contribute, will not be going out of business any time soon.

The Foodbank is open for a few hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Basingstoke (and Tuesday morning in Tadley). Clients receive vouchers from a variety of social welfare sources: doctors, social workers, Citizens' Advice, Ministers of Religion... and can exchange them for 3 days' worth of food for themselves or their families. This can be repeated 3 times before they need to be referred again. The Foodbank is there to help people to survive until their circumstances improve; it cannot provide a long term solution, but can often be a help with solving the problem that has precipitated the crisis.

Help is offered in many ways by the volunteers who staff the Foodbank; clients often feel embarrassed, even ashamed, to find themselves in their position. But they are welcomed into the friendly Café where volunteers greet them with coffee and biscuits and talk to them about their situation, their family and their needs. Seated at the back of the Foodbank Café, is a representative of Citizens' Advice, who can practical help, advice and suggestions.

For those clients who request it there is also spiritual help: these excerpts from recent prayer requests show the width of the range of problems:

- Please pray for D who is getting settled in Basingstoke as a care-leaver
- Please pray for S, a single mother, who has lost her job after 16 years as her toddler has severe asthma and S needs a lot of time off to care for her child.
- A came in with a Christmas card for the Foodbank. We said a prayer for him and he has been sofa surfing. He has now been offered a place at Mary Rose Court. Thanks be to God.
- Please pray for I that he gets his job and benefits and that he starts believing in God.



Coffee and biscuits set a relaxed atmosphere for clients. Fortunately the people of Basingstoke are very generous at heart. In the 3 months between 1 September and 31 December 2019 alone 32.4 tonnes of food, together with some other essentials, such as toiletries, had been donated, sorted and distributed.

The overflowing storeroom

Volunteers from the churches in Basingstoke, and elsewhere, have given up their time to sort and check these gifts and to store them so that they can be distributed to those in need.

Volunteers sort and store donations

The Night Light Winter Shelter, to give it its full title, is now in its fourth year in Basingstoke. It is open every night for 3 months between 1 December and the end of February and, as with the Foodbank, guests are referred to the Night Shelter by a number of agencies in the town working together. Volunteers set up overnight accommodation for up to 15 people, providing beds, clean bedding and a hot meal. But they also provide fellowship; time to talk and socialise, to play games (Scrabble is a favourite!), cards, or maybe the opportunity to watch a film on a donated TV. After a night's sleep in the warmth and out of the elements, guests are provided with a hot breakfast and a packed lunch to help them face the day.

This year the Night Shelter is provided by volunteers, including those from St Mary's and meets in a different location each night of the week, with All Saints, Basingstoke; Bucksin Evangelical Church; Wessex Christian Fellowship;

The Sarum Hill Centre; United Reformed Church; and St Michael's, Basingstoke taking turns to provide the venue.

If you were wondering how a person could find themselves in the position of needing the Night Shelter, here is the first-hand account of someone who used the Shelter last year:

It starts on the 8th of January 2019... It was a cold and rainy day and I had just been released from HMP Winchester. I had no warm clothes, no documents, no phone and no money. I had nowhere to go and no one was waiting for me.

I had tried to speak to members of staff at HMP, but no one wanted to help me. I was given a train ticket to Bournemouth. I went there, but without money I had no other option but to sleep rough on the beach. Since I had no warm clothes, by the next morning I was feeling rather ill with a cold and fever.

The following morning (9th January) I had a meeting with my probation officer in Basingstoke. During the meeting I repeatedly told her that I was not willing to stay in the area due to my ex wife living there. I was very hopeful to move somewhere at least an hour's drive away and have a fresh start.

My probation officer said that relocation was not possible and advised me to visit the local council to request help. This is how I ended up in the winter night shelter. I was feeling very low, I had a fever, sore throat and cough. I had hit rock bottom; I was feeling suicidal and felt that there was no way out. I had lost everything I had, my family, my home, my work...

The first night at the shelter was tough, but I had a hot meal, a clean bed and a roof over my head. I met lots of nice people who made me believe that there were still people that cared! I was given warm clothes, toiletries, food and most importantly, hope that things will get better soon. I quickly found myself a job, I wanted my life back on track. Volunteers at the shelter always made sure that I had a packed lunch, when I think of all that was given to me it brings tears to my eyes. I will never be able to forget the support given to me.

I could never have imagined that strangers would care more for me than my family did. The volunteers who run the Night Shelter are mostly from Churches in Basingstoke, although there are some with no religious connections. They tend to volunteer because they have something to offer and feel they can make a difference. They enjoy the experience of getting to know the guests by name and understanding that they are people with histories, families, and needs: not a nameless homeless person but Aaron, Steve, Pete, Ross. They enjoy playing games together, being included, keeping it low key and fun. Being together around the table for a meal is very levelling, as guests and volunteers share food, talk about life and get to know each other. Fitting into an already established working method for pop up night shelters also allows the volunteers to relax, to look

after each other and serve together, knowing that their contributions are valued and appreciated. There is always the chance, the hope, that these few moments of respite, of normality, might be the first step on the way back to reconciliation with family, a job or a permanent home. One former guest of the Night Shelter writes:

"With the support of all the volunteers and friends that I have made over the last 2 years I am successfully abstaining from alcohol (at the point of writing this, 5 and a half months). I have a full-time job and have now found affordable accommodation and life is going very well".

It is a sad fact that there IS a need for a Foodbank and a Night Shelter in Basingstoke. But it is heart-warming that the people of Basingstoke donate so generously to these very worthy causes and that its citizens volunteer so readily to help those in need. As the Project Coordinator for the Night Light Winter Shelter puts it: "I am continually blown away by the generous nature of the people of Basingstoke, it's such a great place to live and work. To say that we were overwhelmed with donations is rather an understatement ..."

If you would like to learn more about these valuable and supportive projects go to:

<https://basingstoke.foodbank.org.uk>
or <https://night-light-winter-shelter.webnode.co.uk>



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FOOBS 2020 Trail Runs

Yes, the rumours are true - we are going to be having a 3rd F.O.O.B.S. Trail event on the 11th October 2020!

We are hoping and praying it will be third time lucky with regards to the weather, so why not make it your New Year's Resolution to sign up and to join in with this fun village event.

Online entries will be open imminently so why not sign up and give yourself something to train for - you've got over 6 months to get run-ready for either a 10k or 6k trail adventure through the beautiful countryside of Old Basing & Wildmoor, as well as the children's 2k fun run around the rec and Oliver's Battery

Click on the link below to register or for more information:

<https://www.fullonsport.com/event/foobs-trail-and-fun-run-october-11th-2020-10k-6k-2k/profile>

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Hampshire County Council News

Help shape Hampshire's library service for the future

A 10-week public consultation is now open until 18 March 2020, asking Hampshire residents for their views on proposed changes to the library service

The consultation is asking for views on:

- the emerging vision for Hampshire's Libraries to 2025;
- the level of need for library services in specific local communities;
- proposed changes to the Library Service and the potential impacts; and
- any alternatives that respondents may wish to propose.

The proposals set out in this consultation could impact all Hampshire libraries.

There are two options:

- reduce opening hours of all Hampshire libraries by 25%; or
- close up to 10 libraries and reduce opening hours of all remaining libraries by an average of 15%

Feedback received will inform decisions to be made by the Executive Member for Recreation and Heritage in summer 2020. No decisions will be made on any of these proposals, until people have had the opportunity to give their views.

To take part in the consultation please visit www.hants.gov.uk/library-consultation or fill in a printed copy from any Hampshire County Council library. Alternative formats are available on request.

Register for continued free access to HWRCs

Over 150,000 Hampshire residents' vehicles have already been registered online, ahead of the launch of a new permit system on 1 April – giving Hampshire residents continued, automatic free access to Hampshire Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

The new resident permit system will be controlled by Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and will ensure continued free access for Hampshire residents to any of Hampshire's 24 HWRCs to dispose of household waste, while access for non-Hampshire residents will be for a fee of £5 per visit. Charges for non-household waste, including soil and rubble, plasterboard and asbestos remain.

Hampshire residents can register up to three vehicles via the Hampshire County Council website. There is plenty of time to register, and once Hampshire residents have done this, they will see no change when they next visit a Hampshire HWRC.

Residents who live close to Hampshire's borders can continue to access the HWRCs, but in a way that is fairer to Hampshire residents who pay for the cost of the service through their council tax. Hampshire residents, including those who live in Southampton and Portsmouth, can register at:

www.hants.gov.uk/vehicle-registration-hwrc

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Aubergine and Pepper Biryani

Ingredients

2 aubergines (halved lengthways & cut into 2cm thick slices)
Any good oil or one Cal spray oil to keep the calories down
Juice of 3 lemons
800 ml vegetable stock
1 tbsp grated fresh ginger
1 tbsp dried garam masala
2 tsp cumin seeds or coriander seeds
2 tsp brown mustard seeds
2 onions diced
2 red peppers diced
600g tomatoes diced
350g basmati rice
Chopped coriander leaves
to serve
Natural Greek style
yoghurt to serve
(use fat free to save
on calories).

Whisked
together with
the remaining
lemon juice



Method

Preheat oven to 220c/fan 200c/gas 7. Place sliced aubergines in a large roasting tin, brush with olive oil (or light spray), sprinkle over a third of the lemon juice and toss to coat. Roast for 20 mins or until they start to brown.

Wipe a non-stick frying pan with oil, place over a medium heat, add the onions and peppers and fry until soft. Add the tomatoes with 150ml of the stock mix, cover and bubble for a few minutes. Uncover, cook for a further 10-15 mins until the tomatoes are breaking down, remove from heat.

Remove the aubergines from the oven, reduce the temperature to 190c/fan170c/gas 5, add the tomato mix, scatter over the rice and pour over the remaining stock. Cover with foil and return to the oven for 30-35 minutes or until the rice is tender and stock has been absorbed.

Discard the foil, season to taste, scatter over the coriander and serve with the yogurt.



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Burglary Crime Prevention Advice

Basingstoke police understand the threat of burglary is a big concern to the residents of Basingstoke, and will continue to provide residents with relevant and crucial burglary crime prevention advice, so that you have a better awareness of how you may protect yourself and your belongings.

Remember – by taking even simple precautions you can greatly reduce your likelihood of becoming a victim.

Remove temptation:

You are more likely to be burgled if your property is unoccupied, security is weak and the burglar thinks they will not be seen/ get caught.

- Keep valuable items out of view.
- Do not leave keys under doormats, or in easily accessible places.
- Keep any keys out of view + in a secure place.
- Keep tools + ladders in a secure place. They may use your own equipment to break in.
- Do not obstruct visibility of your house, as it will be easier for burglars to work unobserved. Keep fences and plants no higher than waist height.
- Hide financial documents.

Use security equipment:

Can make a real difference in delaying or deterring burglars, and you could potentially reduce insurance premiums if fitting approved equipment.

- Take a look at your home, work out your security weak points. Imagine how you might get in if you had lost your keys.
- Fit window locks. Easily visible locks may deter burglars as they would then have to then smash the glass.
- Remove window keys, keep out of sight.
- Have an intruder alarm system installed by an approved contractor.
- Ensure visible alarm box is visible on outside of home.
- Use door chains and spyholes if someone comes to your front door.
- Do not be afraid to turn people away. If anyone concerns you ring the police.

- If you are a member of a 'No Cold Calling' or 'Neighbourhood Watch' zone, let people know by displaying stickers in your window.

Look like you're always in:

A lot of burglars will target empty homes as they are easier targets.

- Do not advertise your absence.
- Use timer switches, available from DIY stores, to switch on lights and other appliances.
- Get a friend or neighbour to collect your post, draw your curtains, park in your drive and make your home look lived in.

Secure doors + windows:

A lot of burglars get in through open doors or windows.

- Every time you leave the house secure all doors and windows.
- If you are upstairs or in the garden, ensure downstairs is secured.
- Ensure doors + windows are locked at night.

Secure outbuildings:

- Do not leave valuable property in a shed that is not well secured (might be unlocked or in a bad state of repairs).
- Fit good locks. Padlocks used externally should be no less than 6cm wide and made of hardened steel (closed shackle type is best).
- Garages may also be vulnerable. Do not be lured into false sense of security.
- Make sure suitable lock is fitted and a shed alarm or similar is installed. A padlock with a hasp and staple on the inside.

You can also register your possessions for free at www.immobilise.com – in doing so you will assist the police in returning your property should it be lost or stolen.

Message from

Callum Holt (Police, PCSO, Basingstoke District)



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2019 was an amazing year for the National Garden Scheme in Hampshire. We raised a staggering £240,000 - the most amount raised by a county - EVER. This would not have been possible without the 36,000 garden visitors. If you were one of those, Thank You Very Much. If not - maybe you are missing out on an amazing afternoon out, whilst at the same time helping raise much needed funds for our Nursing, Caring and Health Charities, including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, and Parkinson UK etc.. To view all our beneficiaries click on www.ngs.org.uk/beneficiaries

Great news, also for our technical and media gurus at our head office. Our website has won "Website of The Year - 2019" from the Garden Media Guild.

The award highlighted its ease of use and content, along with many other accolades, so what better time to try it out on the following link :- www.ngs.org.uk.

The NGS 2020 booklet is now available. Look out for the Yellow Booklet in libraries and some garden centres. We will endeavour to get more 2020 booklets out in and around the Old Basing area. Our new season for Open Gardens is underway already, with four gardens having opened for the Snowdrops during February. I have selected a few gardens, all within 10 miles of Old Basing, and hope that you might find time to visit a few of them.



BEECHENWOOD FARM
Hillside, Odiham, RG29 1JA
Opening Sunday's 29th March & 25th May 2pm to 5pm: Admission £4.00 children free: Home-made teas:

ALSO: Open by arrangement March to

June: Contact garden owners: beechenwood@totalise.co.uk or 01256 702300

2 acre garden in many parts lawn meandering through woodland with drifts of spring bulbs. Rose pergola with steps, pots with spring bulbs and later aeoniums. Fritillary and cowslip meadow. Walled herb garden with pool and exuberant planting. Orchard including white garden and hot border. Greenhouse and vegetable garden. Rock garden extending to grasses, ferns and bamboos. Shady walk to belvedere, giving views over Odiham. 8 acre copse of native species with grassed rides. <https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/8569/>



BLUEBELL WOOD
Alton, GU34 5SX
Opening Friday & Saturday 24th & 25th April 11am to 4pm: Admission £5.00 children free: Light Refreshments: Unique
100 acre ancient bluebell woodland. If you are a keen

walker you will have much to explore on the long meandering paths and rides dotted with secluded seats. Those who enjoy a more leisurely pace will experience the perfume of the carpet of blue, listen to the birdsong and watch the contrasting light through the trees nearer to the entrance of the woods.

<https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/32274/>

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Rotherwick, RG27 9AZ
Opening Sunday's 17th May, 14th June & 12th July 10am to 4pm: Admission £5.00 children free: Refreshments from 12 noon: Large garden of 66 acres with extensive woodlands and beautiful vista. Fine avenues of wellingtonias; rhododendrons and azaleas, Italian garden, lakes, large water and rock garden, dry stone walls originally designed with assistance of Gertrude Jekyll. <https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/11092/>



NEW FOR 2020

POVEY'S COTTAGE

Baughurst, Tadley, RG26 5SN
Opening Saturday & Sunday 6th & 7th June and Saturday & Sunday 4th & 5th July
11am to 5pm:
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Still within 10 miles of Old Basing are **FROYLE GARDENS**. This is a group of 7 gardens all opening on Saturday & Sunday 6th & 7th June from 2pm to 6pm. Really good value at £7.50 per head. <https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/17570>

Just over the border in Berkshire there are **SWALLOWFIELD VILLAGE GARDENS**.

Nine gardens are opening on Sunday 28th June from 2pm to 5.30pm. Admission here is £7.00.

<https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/19601>

You can view all the 120 plus Hampshire gardens on the link www.ngs.org.uk

Happy 2020 Garden Visiting

For any further information on the National Garden Scheme, please contact pat.beagley@ngs.org.uk



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Old Basing and Lychpit Sports Clubs



OLD BASING ARCHERS

Cry God, for Harry, England and St. George

Spring is heading our way... and for those of us at Old Basing Archers who have braved the wind, cold and rain over the last few months, it's a welcome relief.

Our summer season officially starts once the clocks change and our first big event is the St George Shoot, held on the nearest Sunday to St George's Day, April 23. It's an internal club affair, nine dozen arrows over a variety of distances.

Club activity picks up from this point on. For our best archers, it's the opportunity to travel to other clubs and gain national ranking points or higher level classifications in open shoots.

Most of our 100 members – whose ages range from early teens to late eighties – are happy just to stay in Old

Basing, shooting at the Rec, enjoying the banter, getting some exercise and trying to improve their handicaps or gain various classifications in barebow, compound, longbow and recurve archery.

As well as regular club shooting – you will see some archers shooting most days if the weather is fine – we run other internal tournaments. On the first Sunday of August we celebrate the founding of the club (we are 53 this year), and we hold our end of season club championships on the first Sunday of September.

If you are passing by, and see us shooting, wander over and watch. We are there Saturday and Sunday mornings and if you want to find out more about the club, just ask one of the archers.

While some of us travel to national ranking events at other clubs, at Old Basing, we too, run such shoots with archers travelling here from far and wide. In September, we will be hosting our Siege Shoot. This is open to all archers and, because it carries World Record Status ranking, does tend to attract some of the best in the country.

It's not the only record status shoot we run; earlier in the year we hosted our annual Battle of Basing indoor competition, held over a weekend at Hampshire Court hotel.

The names of our open shoots – The Siege and Battle of Basing – are, of course, drawn from historical events in Old Basing; the siege of Basing House in

1645 and the battle fought here on 22 January 871 between the Saxons – led by King Ethelred – and the Danes, which became known as the Battle of Basing. Talking of the siege of Basing House, the motto on our club crest is 'Nota Bene', which refers to the surrender note that was shot into Basing House by

a Parliamentary longbow archer detailing the terms of surrender for the Royalist household. It was headed Nota Bene – note well – and we still use those initials today meaning take note: **NB**.

Oh, and that headline?

It's from Henry V Act III – the same

one from which we get another well-used

phrase 'Once more unto the breach, dear friends'. It was written in 1598 and refers to a battle at Agincourt nearly 200 years earlier when English and Welsh longbow archers triumphed over the French.

It's been around a long time... this archery.

www.ldbasingarchers.co.uk



Lia Franks, 13, on the shooting line

Lia Franks, 13, on the shooting line with chairman Geoff McCann



OLD BASING BOWLS CLUB

Our club membership are beginning to look forward to the new outdoor bowls season which begins in April.

Why not think about joining us for some taster sessions and FREE coaching ?

We have Open days on Saturday April 11th and Sunday April 19th at the Bowls Club within the Recreation ground.

Watch out for flyers and further information.

The Bowls Club is a friendly mixed age group of over seventy members, having a nice blend of competitive matches, friendly games and social activities.

Please do contact us for more information....

Our website is: www.ldbasingbowlingclub.co.uk

Email: ldbasingbowlsmembership@gmail.com

Malcolm Christian

Chair, Old Basing Bowls Club



OLD BASING CRICKET CLUB – A Brief History

1815 was a significant year, the battle of Waterloo brought to an end the long running Napoleonic wars, The Davy miners lamp was invented by Sir Humphry Davy, the Wisden Cricketers Almanac recognised statistics for first class cricket in England and there is documentary evidence Old Basing Cricket Club are in existence.

With local clubs Hartley Wintney and Odiham & Greywell celebrating bicentenaries at the end of the 20th century, it is highly likely fixtures were taking place against OBCC pre 1800, but sadly those clubs' historic records have long since perished. There is plenty of evidence in the local press of cricket games involving Old Basing against the likes of Hackwood, Hartley and Basingstoke in the 1820's. Old Basing led a nomadic existence throughout the 19th century and up to the Second World War. Games were played for many years during the Victorian era at what is now the burial ground, adjacent to St Marys Church, a field adjacent to Basing Common where the Royal British Legion now stands, Hackwood Park and Mapledurwell.

In the 20th century Lord Bolton donated a field next to the village brickworks for cricket use and then a permanent home was found in the 1950s.



Can you name these players?

In the mid 1950's the Holmes family gifted what is now the recreation ground (their former front garden of the big white house opposite the entrance to the ground) to the Parish Council to act as Trustees for the use of sport and recreation in the village and a permanent home was finally found for the village cricket club.

In 1973 OBCC were founder members of the Hampshire Cricket League, cricket until this point had been played on a social friendly basis at the weekend. The club has been successful in the Hampshire League over the intervening years and the first team currently plays in HCL division 1, with the 2nd team in Division 4 North and the 3rd team in Regional North East one. The local prestigious Guy Jewell 20/20 cup competition has been won 7 times.

In 2007 following a lengthy period of fundraising and a

grant from Basingstoke Council, the club extended their clubhouse which is the envy of many clubs in the area and built permanent practice nets. Sitting MP and current MP for Basingstoke Maria Miller opened the new facilities in April of that year.

In 2015 the cricket club celebrated 200 years of being, and the 2 major highlights were a Bicentenary club dinner at Audley's Wood hotel in April and a second visit to Old Basing by the Lashings International All Stars in August.



Photo of Malcolm "Boots" Curtis at the Cricket Club's end of season party being presented with a memento of the Club. "Boots" is the nickname given to Malcolm when he joined the club in 1984 as he couldn't get cricket boots to fit.

As well as having 3 Saturday sides in the league, and an adult social side on Sundays, the club has a thriving colts section and currently participates in the North Hampshire Summer cricket league at U9, U11, U13 and U15 levels with over 70 boys and girls enjoying cricket on a regular basis at the club.

In 2018 and 2019 the club has also run, over a 10 week period on a Saturday morning, the English Cricket Board sponsored All Stars programme with a number of children aged 5- 8 enjoying a fun introduction to the game of cricket.

Malcolm Curtis
OBCC

Old Basing and Lychpit Sports Clubs



PLAY TENNIS AT OLD BASING TENNIS CLUB

Old Basing Tennis Club members are looking forward to the coming weeks of warmer weather and the start of our playing season, although we do play throughout the year, with coaching by JB Tennis Academy for adults and children, taking place all year

We're looking for new members of any age, whether you're a seasoned-player, an improver or an absolute beginner! We have sessions to cater for all abilities where you can join in with others, or just come along with your tennis partner and play on your own at most times.

Our facilities are great, with 4 outdoor hard courts overlooking the Old Basing playing fields, a lovely clubhouse and ample car parking, all in Riley Lane, opposite The Bolton Arms pub.

Club-nights, when everyone joins in are on Tuesdays and Fridays from 6pm until dusk and we'll be holding regular 'social tennis events' with tea and cake or beer and a burger!

For the more competitive of you, we run men's,

ladies and mixed teams in the Basingstoke League, both Division One and Two and would love some new additions to our teams.

Dates for your diary – non-members are very welcome to come and have a hit and see if you'd like to join the club.



28 March – Skittles Evening (contact us for details)

29 March - Pre-season coffee morning social tennis from 11am -1.00pm

31 March is our first club-night from 6pm

17 April and 3 July – Social tennis evenings from 6pm

Membership subscription. This is very reasonable at £100 a year per adult, with reduced prices for children, students and families. This compares extremely well with other local tennis and health clubs, where our yearly rate is less than only 2 months of their fees!

To find out more about Old Basing Tennis Club, go to clubspark.lta.org.uk/oldbasingtennisclub or email obtc.information@gmail.com

We hope to see you on court soon.

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Meeting & Party venues in Old Basing & Lychpit

Old Basing & Lychpit has a number of venues suitable for evening and weekend hire for all types of parties and meetings and other group events. For information on any of the venues contact the Parish Office via the contact form on the website, by email to clerk@oldbasing.gov.uk or telephone 01256 462847

Old Basing Village Hall & Frank Goddard Room

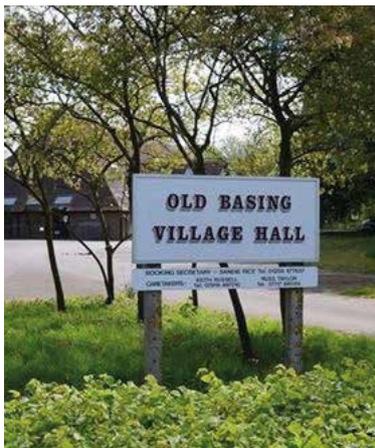
This modern, well maintained venue is perfect for weddings and birthday parties from 1 to 100 consisting of three halls that can adapt to most group needs. The hall is fully licensed with broadband facility, a stage and a large well-equipped kitchen.

The hall hosts many groups throughout the week such as ballet classes, nursery school, table tennis, archery, line dancing and pilates.

The weekend is kept free for one-off bookings such as weddings, parties, christenings etc. and we also hold jumble sales, scouting and guides events, quiz nights, religious services, blood donation sessions, flower shows, pantomimes, charity functions - in fact celebrations of all kinds.



In addition to the main hall, the FRANK GODDARD ROOM is a modern meeting room accessed by a flight of stairs and located at the rear of the hall. It has a separate entrance and access to a small kitchenette.



The Main Hall can be adapted for 50 to 200 people and the Frank Goddard Room is suitable for up to 30 people.

Our committee of volunteers has maintained a wonderful facility for all to enjoy with disabled access and toilet. Special rates are offered to parishioners.

☛ *If you would like to enquire further please contact the Booking Secretary, Sandie Rice on 07544 289932. bookings@oldbasingvillagehall.co.uk*

The Beddington Centre

For children's parties and meetings of up to approx 50.

☛ *Cat via email Beddingtoncentrebookings@gmail.com*

Old Basing Cricket Club

Licensed club house for parties and events of up to 50 people

☛ *John Huntingdon 07966 394599*

Old Basing Royal British Legion

Large fully-licensed function room with stage and dance floor, available for all types of gatherings, such as weddings, funeral wakes, children's parties or training sessions. Maximum capacity 120. Also available are two board/meeting rooms, each with tea and coffee making facilities and wi-fi.

☛ *socialclubentertainments@gmail.com
01256 465800 or 07437 016815*

Parish Meeting Room

Adjacent to St Mary's Church, Old Basing, this room is suitable for groups of up to 60 (seated), 100 (standing). Please note: limited parking

☛ *Debbie Filer, Administrator 07541 698235*

Basing House

The beautiful ruins of Basing House are managed by Hampshire Cultural Trust and we are pleased to offer a range of venue hire options for your special event.

Great Barn



A fabulous location for your event, marriage or civil partnership ceremony and is available any day including weekends. The spectacular Tudor Great Barn, proudly showing its Civil War battle scars, is over 37m (120ft) long, 13m (43ft) high and 10.6m (35ft) wide and will accommodate 600 people standing, around 300 for meetings or conferences, and 250 for seated parties and wedding celebrations.

Walled Garden

The Walled Garden is a beautiful and unusual place to hold events and parties. Surrounded by the original Tudor walls the reconstructed Jacobean style knot garden offers ample space for large marquees and performances and is available any day including weekends for hire. Small intimate wedding ceremonies can take place in the Garden Museum for up to 30 guests.

Courtyard

The farm yard at Basing House is an excellent space for outdoor events. Cover is available under the Shelter Sheds, the Great Barn makes a fabulous backdrop and the spaces are available any day including weekends for your special event. Outdoor wedding ceremonies can take place under the cart shed in the meadow for up to 120 guests.



Learning/Community Room

A bright space equipped with an interactive white board, underfloor heating, coffee and tea making facilities and small kitchenette. Ideal for business meetings, talks and presentations, craft activities or workshops and is available any day including weekends. The space is 12.2m x 4.9m with a max capacity of 35 when seated.

We have no restrictions on suppliers at Basing House, you are welcome to hire your own caterers and industry specialists or even go DIY to create your perfect day the choice really is yours. Whatever your event our friendly and passionate events team will support you from first enquiry to final take down. We cannot wait to hear from you.

* For more information please visit our website www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house or call Hannah Miles on 01256 639564 or by email hannah.miles@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk. Alternatively please contact us at Basing House on 01256 463965 during opening times



Lychpit Community Hall

Lychpit Community Hall is a lovely Grade II Listed barn with oak beams and flooring. It is a popular venue for children's parties and provides a unique setting for intimate wedding receptions and other family events. The hall will seat up to 80 in a formal setting or 100 guests for an informal buffet or party. There is a small fully-equipped kitchen off the entrance foyer and a separate accessible toilet with baby changing facilities. The hall is fully licensed for entertainment and the sale of alcohol.

A small meeting room ideal for one-to-one meetings is also available to hire separately during the week.

We currently have space for regular groups during the day on all weekdays. To check availability visit the Parish Council website www.oldbasing.gov.uk where you will find Lychpit Community Hall listed under Venues for Hire. Weekends are generally reserved from mid-day for party bookings, although full day events/workshops will be considered.

Regular activities include:

Monday

Karate

Tuesday

Basing Beans
Pilates
Rainbows
Brownies
KAP Workshop

Wednesday

Daisy Foundation
Lisa Jane School of Dance

Thursday

Drama Tots
Lisa Jane School of Dance

Friday

Kids Kan Dance
Pilates
The Loft Music Night (last Friday monthly)
Yoga Blissipline (twice monthly)

Saturday

British Wheel of Yoga
Yoga with Christine

Sunday

Infinite Harmony Yoga

To enquire about hiring Lychpit Hall contact the Parish Office either via the contact form on our website www.oldbasing.gov.uk, by email to lychpithall@oldbasing.gov.uk or telephone 01256 462847 (mornings only or leave a voicemail).



Hall following refurbishment



Lychpit Hall Committee Room

Pavilion Tea Room

Our newly refurbished Pavilion Tea Room overlooks the recreation ground in Old Basing and is ideal for smaller groups and parties for approximately 20 people or for sports groups providing refreshments to spectators. The Tea Room now boasts a brand new self-contained kitchen with serving hatch, fridge, microwave and dishwasher. For sports groups, there are two separate changing rooms at the rear providing changing and shower facilities plus an individual referee's changing room and shower, all are accessible from the tea room. The Tea Room is easily accessible for wheelchair users with a permanent ramp and designated wider door.



Pavilion Committee Room

Located above the Parish Office, this newly refurbished meeting room is equipped with WiFi, projector and flip charts and will seat up to 20 people for boardroom style meetings or training events. Alternatively, the easily foldable tables and stacking chairs can be stored to one side to leave space for other activities. The adjacent kitchen area is ideal for preparation of light refreshments.

Free on-site parking is available at all the above facilities.

Spring Events at Basing House



Spring Events at Basing House

We are delighted to announce we will be opening Basing House for the 2020 season on Easter Bank Holiday Monday 13th April with a Sealed Knot Living History Day. We would love to see you during our opening week when we will be celebrating all things spring time from 14th to 19th April. We will have a nature detective trail, the big spring time quiz sheet, bird feeder make & take and spring flower walks. On Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th April Hens for Live will be in the Tudor Great Barn for Chick Cuddles and Handling along with additional dressing up, face painting and craft activities. Fabulous nature charities like the Wildlife Trust and Woodland Trust will also be joining us over this weekend.

Spring Events Calendar

- Sealed Knot Living History Day on Monday 13th April
- Celebration of Spring Time from 14th to 19th April
- Chick Cuddles & Handling on 18th & 19th April
- Sealed Knot Re-enactment Weekend from 23rd to 25th May
- Basing Wedding Fair on Sunday 31st May

Following the first week of opening the site will be open from 11am till 4pm Wednesdays to Sundays till the end of October. Heading into June we have an exciting summer events programme planned for the year including theatre, opera, pop up cinema, wellbeing activities and historic re-enactments day, more details on summer at Basing House to follow. If you would like further details about any of our events please visit our website <https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basing-house> or contact Hannah at hannah.miles@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Basing House soon.

Abby and David celebrating their marriage in the Walled Garden at Basing House



Law firms merge to strengthen market position

Leading Hampshire law firms Phillips Solicitors and Brain Chase Coles have merged.

The combined firm is now known as Phillips Solicitors incorporating Brain Chase Coles.

Based at our Town Gate offices in London Street, Basingstoke, we believe that joining forces is a positive move that will enable us to adopt best working practices to benefit our clients.

The merger has created a powerful regional law firm with true legal strength.

Clients will be able to access a broad spectrum of legal expertise including Family Law, Wills and Probate, Residential and Commercial Property, Mediation, Employment Law, Commercial and Corporate Law, plus Insurance and Education Law.

Phillips director Howard Gardener said:

"There is a natural and positive cultural fit to both firms which is why the idea of a merger felt right, right from the start. The increased scale of the combined firm offers broader choices for our clients."

Jon Coles, who was a partner of Brain Chase Coles and is now a director at Phillips, said:

"As a combined firm, we now offer even greater strength and depth in our services to clients. We are looking forward to continuing to work with our existing clients as we enter this next exciting stage in the evolution of our firm."

To find out more about Phillips Solicitors, incorporating Brain Chase Coles, please visit www.phillips-law.co.uk.

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Spring Hunt Checklist



blossom



seedling



flower bud



flower



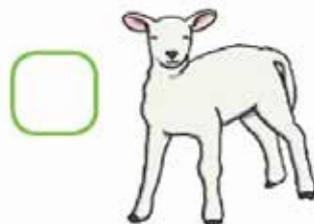
daffodil



insect



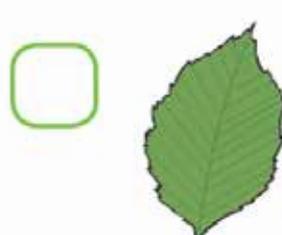
bird



lamb



nest



green leaf

Spring

a b c d e l g h i
m n o g q a s t u
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RAIN**

**BUDS
GROW
SPRING**

Easter Colouring



Solution on p38 to the wordsearch

Old Basing Village Nursery School

Old Basing Village Nursery School celebrated its 1st birthday in September 2019 and as with all birthdays, this provided the team with an opportunity to reflect on what had gone well in 2019 and also to consider the areas we wanted to strengthen and build upon in the year ahead. September also marked the start of a new chapter in our family run business when my co-director (and husband) Andy joined the business as full time Operations Manager. Andy brings with him a wealth of experience as a primary school teacher and senior leader - whilst a lot of his role is centred around the finance side of the business he will also be focusing on our staff development and training.

Our curriculum philosophy and vision has continued to grow this year and it was wonderful to share our plans with a group of our parents at the Teagether Cafe, Lychpit, for our cheese and wine social evening. Here, we were able to share our nursery's Strategic Development Plan and gather feedback from parents regarding a number of topical matters. Our team also showcased our Jigsaw Early Year's #JustQuality accreditation floorbooks; a type of scrapbook that documents all the little developments that take place in the setting each week to improve outcomes for children. The team hope to host another parent social evening in the summer term when the annual Old Basing Village Nursery Quiz returns for its second year!

We feel that we have really strengthened and consolidated our community links this autumn. The wonderful Old Basing Village Hall has continued to provide us with an excellent home and have supported us in making some very minor changes in order to offer our little ones more choice over whether to play inside or out. As part of what has become a new tradition, our little ones met with members of the management committee in November to plant bulbs around the village hall grounds and we look forward to seeing these emerge over the coming weeks. We also strengthened our links with other local childcare providers and in early November, we invited them to join us at our Miller's Ark Farm Day. It was amazing to see the village hall

car park transformed into a farmyard complete with donkeys, pigs, sheep, chickens, hens and rabbits amongst other animals. An amazing 58 children were able to share the experience throughout the course of the day and took it in turns to pet and groom the animals - asking questions about them and laughing at some of their farmyard noises!

Christmas brought the opportunity for the children to enter a tree in the St. Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival. Our 'Plastic Free Tree', demonstrated our journey towards environmental sustainability and outlined some of the work we have been doing with the Surfers Against Sewage. Following the festival, the nursery school children enjoyed a festive walk to the church to meet Rev. Heather where they learned more about the Christmas story. We are looking ahead to further community collaboration in 2020 and would love to hear from any local businesses or groups who would like to work with us.

If you are looking for a unique early years' experience for your child please do get in touch - we are more than happy to show you around and help you to get a feel for what Old Basing Village Nursery School is all about. Please contact Victoria or Andy on 07557642510 or email oldbasingvillagenurseryschool@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.



Edith, 3, making the most of the winter sunshine to build a den in the OBVNS garden



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Old Basing Infants

This half term has been a busy one in our school and the first glimpses of spring are starting to show around the school with our spring bulbs starting to blossom.

Year R have been exploring different types of transport and have been out around the village participating in a traffic survey! Year 1 have launched a campaign to save Chineham Library and visited the consultation to hand-over their letters and posters.

As you can imagine, they were very enthused and excited! Year 2 have been making bird feeders to try to encourage more wildlife into the school grounds. Both Year 1 and Year 2 have been out on school trips this half term with Year 1 walking down to Basing House to look at how the homes have changed in the village which links with our 'Best of Britain' topic. Year 2 have ventured to Marwell Zoo and had great fun animal spotting as part of their topic, much fun was had by all and the children had great fun consolidating their classroom knowledge with real life experiences!

Our governing body are looking for a new co-opted governor to assist the governing body. Their main aim is to maintain and improve the standard of education for all pupils, of all abilities. Their role is to oversee the development of the school and work alongside the Head Teacher providing support. Should you wish to be considered for this role please contact the chair of governors J24j- Johnathan Richards.

Johnathan.richards@oldbasing.hants.sch.uk for more information.

Children's Corner: Salmon and Spaghetti Parcels

Ingredients

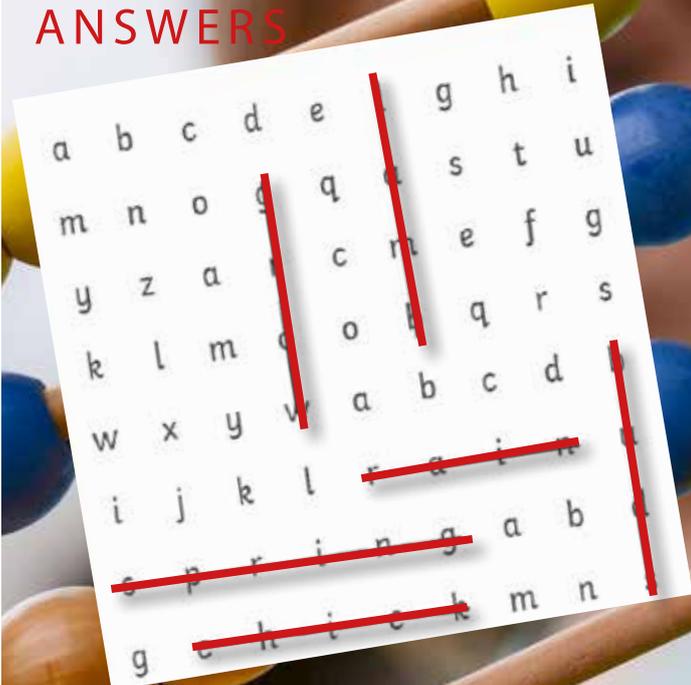
- 200g spaghetti
- 2 courgettes
- 100g red cherry tomatoes, halved
- 100g yellow cherry tomatoes, halved
- 4 salmon fillets or 2 chicken breasts
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, finely sliced



Method

1. Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Cook the spaghetti following pack instructions and drain. Cut 4 rectangles of baking parchment off a roll, each twice as long as it is wide. Lay them on a work surface. Toss the spaghetti with the grated courgettes. Divide the spaghetti between the pieces of parchment, then divide the cherry tomatoes between each pile.
2. If using salmon, slice lengthways, but keep the fillet together. Place on top of the veg and press sideways so the slices move apart a little. If using chicken, halve each breast through the middle horizontally to give four pieces, then cut each into strips and tip a pile of chicken strips onto each pile of spaghetti.
3. Heat the oil and fry the garlic for 1 min, then pour a little garlic oil over each pile. Season with black pepper if your children like it. Bring the two longer sides of parchment up to meet in the middle and fold the ends over and over, working down towards the filling, leaving a little room for the steam to expand the parcel. Flatten the seam down and then fold in each end. Use paper clips to hold the folds, if you like. Lift the parcels onto a baking tray and bake for 10-15 mins. The parcels should puff up as they cook.
4. Serve each person a puffed parcel in a shallow bowl and snip it open at the table, staying clear of any steam (and removing any paperclips).

Children's CoRner ANSWERS



**LAMB
CHICK
RAIN**

**BUDS
GROW
SPRING**

Discovery Centre Events/Talks"

Monday 2 March – Saturday 28 March

A photography and Art Exhibition by members of 'Losing My Sight UK', highlighting what visually impaired people can achieve.

Basingstoke Astronomical Society

Tuesday 10 March 6-8pm £5

Talk with viewing of the night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available for viewing the sky from the terrace. Please note the viewing is dependent on the weather.

Forecasting the British weather with Colin McAllister, MET Office

Saturday 14 March 2pm £5

Ever wondered how the UK's weather is predicted? Come and listen to the MET Office's Colin McAllister talk about how the British weather is forecasted. A fascinating insight into the techniques used to give us our daily fix on the British fascination: the weather.

The Wreck of the Titanic

Tuesday 31 March 2pm £5

When the RMS Titanic went down on the night of 15 April 1912 more than 1,500 people lost their lives. The terrible disaster rocked the shipping world, was the subject of an intensive inquiry and has subsequently been featured in numerous books and films. This talk looks at the building of the ship, and its intended role in maritime trade of the period. Most of the talk, however, concentrates on the ship's final voyage and the wreck. It explains what happened on that fateful night, and why. It also seeks to debunk the myths and correct misconceptions – including the famous "moving deckchairs on the Titanic".

Tickets should be booked in advance, available from the Discovery Centre, booking line **01256 478670** or online www.hants.gov.uk/shop/homes



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