

W I N T E R E D I T I O N



Old Basing & Lychpit

Parish Council Community Newsletter

www.oldbasing.gov.uk

WINTER 2020



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From the Chairman

I write this for our Christmas Newsletter as we enter another period of lockdown in November. At the Parish Council we have implemented the measures needed to comply with new Government guidelines.

Looking back over 2020, although some delays were inevitable given the COVID-19 emergency, I am pleased to be able to report that a number of projects were completed.

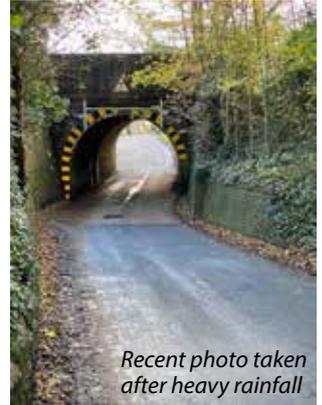
The alterations to the Pavilion building were finished, resulting in, amongst other things, better access for the disabled. Outside, the footpath across the Recreation Ground and the main roadway were resurfaced.

Councillors - and no doubt residents too - were very pleased that Hampshire County Council carried out drainage works on the underbridge in Milkingpen Lane and also managed to resurface the footpath between Crown Lane and Church Lane in Old Basing.

Regarding these latter, I would like to thank County Councillor Elaine Still for her tenacity and steadfast support in driving these works to a conclusion.

In November we welcomed two new Parish Councillors and have the prospect of co-opting a third, which will bring our complement up to the normal twelve.

The Staff at the Parish Council have had a busy year, obviously so because of the COVID-19 situation. All Parish Councillors made contributions to assisting with the workload, across a variety of fronts, including Planning consultations, which took up much time in the Autumn. I pay tribute to the Staff and Councillors for all their hard work in what has been a difficult year.



Recent photo taken after heavy rainfall

There is one matter which we will all remember as we head into the New Year and that is the kindness of many residents who volunteered to help neighbours and those in distant roads they had never met before, running errands, delivering food and so on. I thank all those who contributed so much to the community.

It only remains for me to wish readers a very Happy Christmas, which hopefully will be as normal as possible this year for you and yours.

Cllr. Alan Renwick

Chairman, Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Council

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Parish Notes - WINTER 2020

Despite the difficulties of lockdown the Parish Council has continued to operate in as near a normal fashion as possible. We have been fortunate in that the office staff are able to work from home when required and Councillors and staff have all mastered the use of Zoom for meetings.

Unfortunately, not all events can be held via Zoom and the Community Partnership Evening usually held in December has been cancelled. Over the years this has been attended by an increasing number of volunteers involved with clubs and organisations within the Parish and we look forward to getting together again in 2021.

At the November meeting we were pleased to welcome two new Councillors, Gill Moore and Sheena Grassi, both Lychpit residents who will be known to many through their work at Basing House and Old Basing Village Hall respectively.

As reported in the Basinga recently, losses due to the closure of Lychpit Community Hall have had a considerable impact on Parish Council finances as we rely on income from hirers to cover the high costs of running and maintaining this listed building. We hope most of our regular hirers will be returning in January and have already received enquiries from potential new groups and, in the hope that parties can resume after Easter, we remain optimistic.

During October and November the Parish Council's Finance & Resources Committee met to discuss budgets for 2021/22 and, whilst noting the loss of income and additional COVID related expenditure, Councillors were very mindful of the considerable strain the past months have caused to the livelihoods and income of residents. When setting the 2021/22 budget, therefore, it was agreed that the precept should be kept as low as possible.

At the November meeting the Parish Council voted to request a 3% precept which is an increase on a Band D equivalent property (the band used to set precepts) of £1.84 per annum (or 15p per month). This compares to a 4% increase by Hampshire County Council and £5.00 per annum (or 3.95%) by the Borough Council respectively.

This is the minimum needed to maintain a balanced budget and to do this all capital projects for the coming year have been put on hold and expenditure will be kept to a minimum whilst ensuring that the usual standard of grounds maintenance continues.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Office, The Pavilion, The Recreation Ground, The Street, Old Basing, RG24 7DA

Tel: **01256 462847**; Emergency Mobile: **07507 514498**;

W: www.oldbasing.gov.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS & EVENTS FOR 2021

Meetings take place on Tuesday evenings starting at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated. Planning & Development Committee meetings may be cancelled if there are no plans for discussion. Agendas for all meetings are published prior to the meeting on the Parish Council website and notice boards.

All meetings are open to the public and time allocated on the Agenda for any member of the public present to address the meeting. Meetings take place in The Pavilion at the Recreation Ground, Old Basing, either in the 1st floor Committee Room or ground floor Tea Room. If you wish to attend a meeting but have difficulty with stairs please let us know (preferably no later than 11 am on the day) to ensure the meeting takes place in a ground floor room.

If Coronavirus restrictions still apply into 2021, meetings will continue to be held via Zoom and will still be accessible to members of the public.

MONTH	FULL PARISH COUNCIL	PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	FACILITIES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE	OTHER
January	5th	12th & 26th	19th		
February	2nd	9th & 23rd		16th	
March	2nd	9th & 23rd	16th		
April	6th	13th & 27th			ALLOTMENT & CEMETERY INSPECTIONS W/C 12 April
May	4th	11th & 25th	18th		ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Monday 17th (at Lychpit Hall)
June	1st	8th & 22nd			
July	6th	13th & 27th	20th		
August	3rd	10th & 24th			
September	7th	14th & 28th	21st		
October	5th	12th & 26th		19th	ALLOTMENT & CEMETERY INSPECTIONS W/C 11th October
November	2nd	9th & 23rd	16th		
December	7th	14th			COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP EVENING Monday 13th (at Lychpit Hall)

PARISH OFFICE AND RECREATION FACILITIES



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



Stephen Richardson
Grounds & Facilities Manager



Kate Hope
(Deputy Clerk)
deputy.clerk@oldbasing.gov.uk

Harry Rice Groundsman

COUNCILLORS



Alan Renwick
(Chairman)
Old Basing



Peter Bloyce
Old Basing



David Whiter
Old Basing



Roger Doust
Lychpit



Alan Jones
Old Basing



John Robinson
Old Basing



Richard Barker
Old Basing



Steve Brown
Lychpit



Kate Tuck
Old Basing



Sheena Grassi
Lychpit



Gillian Moore
Lychpit



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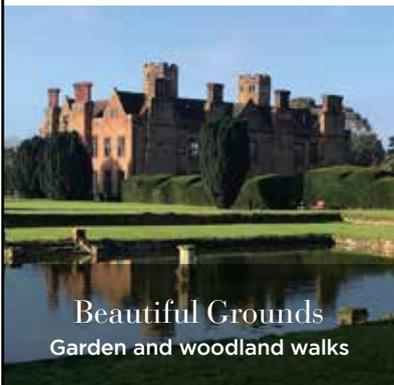
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Old Basing WI

Events over the summer have been necessarily curtailed.

However, we did all manage a socially distanced picnic at the Recreation Ground in early September to formally celebrate our Centenary Tree. This was planted in 2019 to celebrate 100 years since the Old Basing WI was founded, but due to the weather and then restrictions earlier in the year we were unable to hold the celebration it deserved. The tree is a native bred disease resistant Elm and we are grateful to both the Carnival Committee and the Parish Council for donations towards its purchase and to Steven the groundsman for planting it.

We were pleased to welcome Julie Shepherd from Tesco to talk to us about the considerable measures Tesco have gone to during the COVID crisis to help the community and to ensure stock remains steady and we were extremely grateful to Tesco for providing scones jam and cream for us all to enjoy.



Photos by Les Orvis

In September we held our delayed AGM. This was also a new experience, as we were not able to hold it in person. We held a written vote and had a "turnout" of over 70% of Members.



Photo Linda Frawley

After many years of service as both President and Secretary, to the OBWI, Fay Farrant decided to come off the Committee and has been replaced by Sandy Scott. As a gesture of their appreciation, the Committee presented Fay with a garden token.

We are pleased to welcome Sandy Scott to the Committee. Sandy will be responsible for booking our speakers.

In October we had our first experience of a group Zoom meeting where we listened to Sarah Slater talk to us on "Sex, Secrets, and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Courts 1600-1830". Sarah is a guide at Hampton Court Palace and performed the talk in full costume. It was an eye-opener for many! We are continuing to hold meetings on Zoom in the coming months and the Committee continues to work hard to try and keep all our Members in touch.

Our President laid our wreath at the Remembrance Day Service at St Mary's Church. It was nice that this ceremony still went ahead albeit on a reduced scale, and we were delighted to be invited to take part again this year.

theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN



Photo Martin Stewart

The ladies of Old Basing WI then geared themselves up to make and bake for the Basing House Christmas Fair which was to be held in late November. We managed to hold a craft group making session in October to make small Christmas decorations to sell. However, this event is now cancelled. This is a great shame as this was to be our

major fund-raising event of the year. However, at the time of writing we are planning to hold our Christmas sale instead on 5th December at the Pavilion Tea Rooms at the Old Basing Recreation Ground.

Below are some of the lovely craft items we had prepared for the sale which included scarves, Christmas cards, hand warmers and tree decorations containing treats for pets!



Our first attempt at holding our regular Members' meeting by Zoom was on 1st December when we invited Sarah Delves to talk to us about compacts and powder boxes. Sarah had been booked to speak to us on two occasions this year and it was great to be able to welcome her at last. We have plenty of other ideas for Zoom talks for early next year as most of our pre-booked speakers are moving to this way of operating for the time being.

Finally, our Members will all receive a Christmas card and gift from the Committee which is to be hand delivered at the beginning of December.

We wish all WI Members a very Happy Christmas and a healthy 2021. If anyone is interested in joining our long running and thriving group then please contact our President Sue Stewart on oldbasingpres@hampshirewi.org.uk

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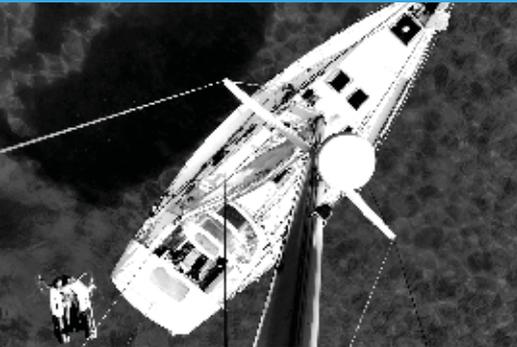


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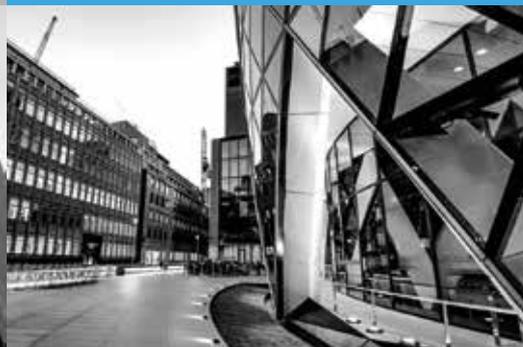
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County Councillor Report

Cllr. Elaine Still

As we reach the end of an usual and testing year I am pleased to report that, following a period of adjustment to new ways of working, many planned projects were completed throughout Hampshire and in Old Basing in particular.

After several years of discussion and putting pressure on my colleagues in Highways it appears the problems experienced with flooding under the Milkingpen Lane Bridge have been resolved, the recent heavy rainfall having put this to the test. We still have a winter to get through but I am keeping my fingers crossed that this long-outstanding problem has finally been sorted.

Another successful outcome is the footpath between Crown Lane and Church Lane. Recently resurfaced and with the overgrown hedges cut back this is now a safe alternative for families walking to and from school. Looking at the photo those familiar with the footpath will agree this is almost unrecognizable from the previous dark, muddy path.



The Parish Council has also drawn my attention to unsatisfactory footpaths around Lychpit and over the coming months I shall be looking into what can be done about these.

Further good news is that, unlike during the previous lockdown, Hampshire Waste and Recycling Centres remain open except for reuse sales areas.

Bookings can be made online at www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres/booking-appointment or, for those without internet access, by phone on **02380 179 949**, Monday - Friday 9am to 5:30pm. You can cancel or amend a booking via the link received on the confirmation email. When visiting the Centre there is no need to bring confirmation of the booking - staff will check registration plates on arrival so you will need to arrive in the vehicle specified in the booking. Anyone without a confirmed booking will be refused entry.

As per government guidelines, residents in the vulnerable category (those who are clinically extremely vulnerable, people over 70 and pregnant women) are strongly advised not to visit a site.

Specific parking arrangements are in place with site staff guiding vehicles into spaces and, as far as possible, only one person per household should leave their vehicle during their visit. Due to social distancing measures, staff are unable to provide any assistance with unloading or carrying material and everyone must observe social distancing and keep at least two metres distance from others at all times.

As you read this you will be preparing for Christmas, hopefully with family and friends, and I wish you all a very enjoyable Christmas and a happier and more settled 2021.

County Councillor Elaine Still

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Avoid the hassle of Retrospective Planning

The Parish Council comments on all planning applications in the Parish as well as some in neighbouring parishes close to the border.

A small but significant proportion of applications are "Retrospective". These are applications that require permission after they have gone ahead. Normally this is because the applicant is unaware they need permission or think it is not required. In thankfully rare cases, it is apparent the work has started without permission in the hope of saving time, money or to avoid inconvenient rules. Eventually most cases are uncovered, thanks mostly to neighbour complaints.

A retrospective application normally means that construction has started, or completed, but the inconvenience caused can be considerable for both the applicant and the Council. This can lead to:

- Time wasted by the applicant and the Council
- Additional costs, which may include legal fees
- Disputes with Neighbours
- An order to alter the building or even demolish it.

For those considering building work it is foolish to assume that permission is not required, however small.

You are strongly advised to talk to the Borough Council Planning Authority before embarking on building. It is also wise to talk to your neighbours so that building work does not come as a surprise to them, so helping to avoid conflict.

Do not forget that the Old Basing Conservation Area has further restrictions.

Neighbours who suspect building work is going ahead without permission should report this to the Planning Authority as soon as possible and, if appropriate, speak to the neighbour.

Further information and guidance can be obtained from the BDBC website under "Planning". For those unfamiliar with the process you can contact the Duty Planning Officer. Currently this is by telephone appointment due to COVID restrictions.

Cllr Peter Bloyce

Parish Council Planning Chairman

Please support local businesses

A big thank you goes out to all the local businesses that have advertised and supported the Old Basing & Lychpit Parish Council Community Newsletter thereby enabling the Parish Council to produce this publication at no cost to you, the taxpayer.

However, the Parish Council makes no warranties in relation to the content of any advertisements placed in the newsletter and shall have no liability for any losses in relation thereto.

Further, the Parish Council makes no endorsements whatsoever with regard to any advertisements.

Letters for publication should be sent to the Parish Clerk, Mrs Sandra Tuck via e-mail at clerk@oldbasing.gov.uk, or by post to:

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Basingstoke and Deane Planning

Basingstoke is consulting with Old Basing and Lychpit, among other parishes, about the future direction of the Local Plan which runs until 2029; our Neighbourhood Plan ties into the Local Plan.

In framing our responses to a long, detailed list of questions on a wide range of issues, (www.basingstoke.gov.uk/issues-and-options), we are emphasising the following factors.

- we prefer steady sustainable development over rapid growth in the era of Climate Emergency
- we want renewable energy sources incorporated in design
- we want improved design standards and respect for local context
- we want to see affordable homes in the mix
- our environmental and heritage assets must be protected and enhanced
- we want improved walking and cycling safety measures
- we want to create several more Local Green Spaces

More details of our response will then be posted on the website.

Basingstoke have also been conducting a review and appraisal of our Conservation Area, (128 pages!).

The principal proposals are the addition of Basingstoke Canal land along Redbridge Lane as far as Swing Bridge Cottages, and the Park Pale from Pyotts Hill to Whitmarsh Lane. It is encouraging to see that Basingstoke values the heritage assets of our parish.

Redrow Homes, based locally, are appointed as preferred bidder for the Swing Swang Lane site. They gave us feedback on their proposals for developing the site in line with the Hampshire CC brief. This includes a mix of housing with 40% affordable homes, materials and planting, water attenuation against flooding and provision of a footpath along Basing Road, something we have long sought.

Cllr David Whiter

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6 Signs That You May Have a Medical Negligence Claim

Unfortunately mistakes and errors are made in everyday life and medical practitioners are no exception. Sadly, when mistakes are made by medical professionals (such as GPs, dentists, surgeons, and midwives etc.) the results can be devastating for patients and in some cases, even fatal.



Do you have a medical negligence claim?

Often people are unsure whether they have a claim for medical negligence but delaying finding out could mean that you miss the limitation period and therefore lose out on financial compensation.

There are many different situations that could suggest you have a strong claim for compensation, if you have experienced one or some of the below points, then you are likely to require our services in fighting your case.

1. The Medical Professional had 'Duty of Care'

You can only bring a claim against someone you have enlisted the help of or been treated by for your injuries, ailments, or illness.

2. Duty of Care has been Breached

The practitioner's actions (or lack of actions) have fallen below the expected duty of care for someone trained in their field.

3. You Have Been Caused Unnecessary Harm

To bring a successful claim you need to show that you have endured pain, harm or suffering as a direct result of your medical treatment. This is known as causation.

4. You Have Had Time Off Work or Lost Earnings

Having time off work or being unable to work at all will be considered when making a claim for compensation.

5. Change of Lifestyle

You have had to adapt or change your usual lifestyle – such as working, traveling, hobbies, exercising etc due to your mistreatment.

6. You Have Received an Apology

A written acknowledgment, apology or offer of a financial settlement from medical practices may demonstrate that you have a claim due to their accepted errors.

If you are concerned about medical negligence and believe that you may have a claim, we would urge you to get in touch with Lamb Brooks to obtain the justice that you deserve. We work on a 'no win, no fee' basis.

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Brand new scanner for **Basingstoke Hospital**



Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has officially reopened their nuclear medicine department, part of the radiology service at Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, complete with a brand new SPECT CT Scanner.

The new scanner, which will enable the hospital team to diagnose patients faster and removes the need for multiple scans to take place, was purchased with help from the Hampshire Medical Fund and the Hampshire Hospital Charity. With support from these charities, patients in mid and north Hampshire will have access to the best possible standards of care, without needing to travel.

The department had previously been part of the hospital's footprint, but has been closed for the renovations to take place. After getting the department up and running again in July, an official opening was held at the end of August. Divisional planning and development lead Christine Saunders has said the new department is "self-sufficient" and includes a waiting room, scan room, and small laboratory used for preparing injections. Fully renovated, the nuclear medicine department has a new single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) scanner, which provides more detail and a faster diagnosis for patients, and removes the need for patients to undergo further scans.

Nuclear medicine involves the injection of a small amount of a radioactive substance which has been attached to a marker that directs to a specific part of the body. The patient then emits small amounts of radiation which can be detected by using a gamma camera, which can indicate the presence of various diseases, including infection and cancer.

Alex Whitfield, chief executive of Hampshire Hospitals, said: "Our renewed nuclear medicine department is an excellent facility for our patients, and it's fantastic to see this new equipment in place - helping us to provide the best possible care to our patients."

"I want to thank all of our teams who have worked incredibly hard to enable this project to succeed. I would also like to thank all those who have given to the Hampshire Medical Fund and the Hampshire Hospitals Charity for their support in funding the specialist equipment - we could not have done this without the amazing support of our community."

William Magill, chairman of the Hampshire Medical Fund, said: "When Henry Carnarvon founded the original North Hampshire Medical Fund in 1981, his vision was to keep Basingstoke at the forefront of medical technology and advancement. The Hampshire Medical Fund strives to continue that legacy and also to extend this vision to the hospitals of Winchester and Andover."

"The addition of the SPECT-CT scanner to the Hampshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust's portfolio of innovation serves this purpose very forcefully, and would make the late Earl very proud."

For a virtual tour of the new department, visit:
[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=rSvGOPhGqkM&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSvGOPhGqkM&feature=youtu.be)

Winter at Basing House

As the nights draw in Basing House closes the gates again on another season.

Despite the struggles with the pandemic and horrid effects of COVID-19 Basing House ended the season on a high with sell out Ghost Walks Halloween week. We also saw fabulous growth in visitor numbers during the late summer and early autumn period and it was lovely welcoming back so many people both local and from a far. This year also saw the reopening of our Bothy Tea Room, which we hope to develop as time goes on.

It is with much regret that we have to announce that the annual Christmas Market due to take place on 28th & 29th November has had to be cancelled due to the current lockdown. We will be back next Christmas however bigger and better for more seasonal shopping and festive joy in 2021.

COVID-19 measures allowing we hope to re-open Basing House Easter Weekend next year with fabulous Easter themed activities for all the family to enjoy. We cannot wait to welcome you back in the spring of 2021. Until then we wish everyone a Safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Basing House.



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National Garden Scheme

IN HAMPSHIRE

We are keeping very positive within the NGS. Now is the time of year we put together our yellow County Booklets, giving details of all the gardens that will be open (in some shape or form) during 2021.



This year it will be a somewhat slimmed down version, in order to cut costs. There will be no pictures in the booklets, but plenty to see on the website: ngs.org.uk

As usual our amazing garden owners - Nationally - have not let us down. In 2020, pre COVID-19, we had 3,990 gardens intending to open - clearly very many of these were unable to open as normal. After this last devastating year, for 2021 we have 3,852 owners willing to open their gates for us. All things considered this is a great effort.

Several of our gardens did open to the public, albeit with some necessary restriction. All visits were in timed slots with limited numbers, and all visitors had to buy tickets online, which meant Social Distancing could be adhered to. Despite all this Hampshire NGS managed to raise in excess of £50,000 - a fantastic result. This was not purely from open gardens. Throughout the Spring and Summer

many owners held remote plant sales from their drives, and left containers out for people to pay their money. These sales were not restricted to plants only.

A very enterprising couple from the New Forest went one further and with the help of a few pallets and some silver birch created these fantastic bug houses, which were also for sale.

Sadly we have lost a couple of old favourites from our local area, namely Diple Mill and Tylney Hall. But things inevitably move on. For 2021 we have a new local 'Group Opening' in Hook - Searles Lane Gardens. The Group is three completely different gardens, and they will be opening at the end of May - one to watch out for.

Best Wishes for 2021 and Keep Safe
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News from around Basingstoke

Basingstoke Civil Services Retirement Fellowship

2020 was the year when we should have been celebrating the Basingstoke Group's 50th Anniversary with activities planned to commemorate this milestone in our history.

However, as we all know, everything was thrown into disarray by the epidemic so we will just have to adapt and next year celebrate our 51st Anniversary instead.

With all of our meetings and trips cancelled members have continued to be kept in touch with the group by means of a monthly newsletter which has included a quiz sent to us by our Head Office. Also, on the first Wednesday of each month, when it should have been our meeting, members of the committee have telephoned everyone to have a chat and ensure that they are keeping well. This has been much appreciated especially as for most people whether they be isolating or shielding the lack of socialising has been the thing they miss most.

Although we have been unable to run some of our own money making events we realised that the Brookvale

Village Hall and Mervyn's Coaches who have helped and supported us in the past would be even harder hit. We, therefore, sent them a donation which we hope will go a little way to easing their current situation.

Let us all hope that with the news that a vaccine may soon be available we will be able to return to our usual programme sometime next year. In the meantime we send everyone Christmas Greetings with the wish that you enjoy yourselves as much as possible and look forward to a New Year filled with the things you love to do.

When things do return to normal the group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon. Further details can be obtained from csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com



Basingstoke & District Disability Forum

BDDF - Basingstoke & District Disability Forum – the local charity for our disabled community continues to run regular free activities. Please follow us on social media and check the latest news on our website www.bddf.org.uk.

Activities include walking groups (Wednesdays & Thursdays); online winter coffee mornings called Friday Tea Break Club; and weekly mobility improving seated yoga (both online and face to face). Note all require pre booking.

Covid allowing, our next **Disability Information Day** will be held at Basingstoke's Malls shopping centre on 26th March 2021. This event is an opportunity to gain information, support and advice on disability related subjects from local organisations, businesses and government departments.

We are keen to start up a new in person support group for those affected by disability who would like to meet new people in a safe environment. If this is something you would be interested in, please email info@bddf.org.uk.

Do you have a disability related question and don't know which way to turn? BDDF have extensive signposting information. We can point you in the direction of the service or local organisation who will be able to help.

Volunteer opportunities - BDDF are looking for Walk Leaders (one hour per week commitment) to lead fully accessible & inclusive gentle walks in your local area.

Keep in touch – As well as following BDDF on social media, or visiting our website, you can sign up to be a BDDF Member (free) and will receive our regular newsletter detailing our latest events and services.

Thank you to everyone who has kindly supported and joined BDDF during a very difficult year for charities.

"Be happy in the moment, that's enough. Each moment is all we need, not more."

- Mother Teresa

BDDF wish you and your families a very merry Christmas.

News from around Basingstoke

Probus hears about an unusual Hobby

The Probus Club of Basingstoke is a social type club for retired men who had some form of management function during their working life.

Members come from a wide array of professions, commerce and industry and David Rawden is a prime example. He is a retired chemistry teacher who also had an interest in geography and cartography and he set a mini quiz before embarking on his story.



Firstly, to test your knowledge of British geography based upon his exploration of Great Britain that has taken him to the four "corners" of the country.

Can you name the most northerly, easterly, westerly and southerly points of mainland Britain?

The answers can be found at the end of this report. Some people collect items as a hobby: stamps, books, antiques and so forth. David collected hills. They don't take up room in the house and they don't need dusting. After ascending all the Wainwright listed Lake District Fells he turned his attention to the Pennines and county tops. He visited the highest point of all the English counties which gave him the Heineken experience – he reached those parts of the country that people would not normally reach.

The highest top is Scarfell Pike at 3209 feet situated in the Cumbrian mountains; the lowest is in Norfolk, Beacon Hill at 345 feet found just west of Cromer. Most tops are surmounted by a trig point or cairn so that you know you have succeeded. However, this does not happen in most eastern counties or those near to London. On one occasion he wandered through Pavis Wood near Tring trying to decide which hump was the highest point of Hertfordshire.

There is limited access to two tops in military training areas: Mickle Fell in County Durham and High Wilhays in Devon and its near neighbour Yes Tor. Both are on Dartmoor and are the only mountains (hills above 2000 feet) in England south of the Peak District.

Proper walking gear is essential to reach the majority of tops. However, there are a number of tops fairly near Hampshire which can be accessed by a simple walk from a car park. One of these is Leith Hill not far from Dorking in Surrey and another is Whitehorse Hill which can be found west of Wantage in Oxfordshire. Easiest of all is Ditchling Beacon, not far from Lewes in East Sussex. If you can find it amongst a myriad of unsignposted roads, there is a large pleasant summit area at Black Down, in West Sussex, south of Haslemere (Surrey). Walbury Hill in Berkshire, near Combe to the south west of Newbury, can easily be reached from the car park at Inkpen Beacon. Continuing east along the Wayfarer's Walk brings you to Pilot Hill, the highest point of Hampshire, situated just west of Highclere.

Further afield and needing more walking effort are the tops of Dorset, Lewesdown Hill near Beaminster, and in Wiltshire, Milk Hill near Alton Barnes and west of Pewsey.

Perhaps when we come out of lockdown some of the more active readers might like to visit a few of the local tops. They will be rewarded with a splendid view.

Answers to the quiz:

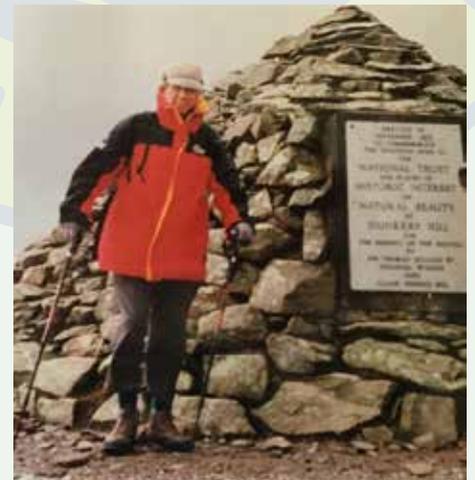
Most northerly: Dunnet Head. NOT John O'Groats, which is about 10 miles to the east.

Most easterly: Lowestoft Ness, Suffolk. A splendid ground marker (geoscope) denotes the spot. Distances marked show that, for a crow, Amsterdam is lot closer than Cardiff or Newcastle.

Most westerly: Point of Ardnamurchan. It can be reached by crossing Loch Linnhe by the Corran Ferry (SW of Fort William in the Western Highlands) then heading west with a short stop in Strontian – the only place in Britain with an element (strontium) named after it.

Most southerly: Lizard Point, Cornwall. NOT Land's End which is the most westerly point of mainland England. If you correctly answer this quiz it proves that your GCE "O" level in Geography was not wasted.

If you would like to know more about the Probus Club then see www.probusbasingstoke.club or phone their secretary Paul Flint on **07770 886521**.





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Drama Tots Basingstoke

Local village business, Drama Tots Basingstoke is delighted to have recently been awarded the title of Most Loved Performing Arts activity in the prestigious Whats On 4 Kids awards 2020.

These pioneering awards were launched in 2007 to celebrate the UK's best children's activities. Drama Tots was announced as the winner on October 8th at the virtual ceremony.

Drama Tots Basingstoke launched 3 years ago by Kate Medhurst and operates weekly adult/child classes as well as visiting local nurseries.

"I am thrilled that Drama Tots has been recognised as the UK's Most Loved Performing Arts Activity. I'm hugely grateful to all the wonderful families that voted for us and continued to support me through this challenging time, thank you. Our aim is to bring joy to young children and their families, and we were delighted to be able to do this even during lockdown. Teaching Drama Tots and seeing the children grow in confidence and self-esteem each week is hugely rewarding but to be recognised with a national award is the icing on the cake.

"I started my own franchise of Drama Tots when my youngest child started school, I wanted to be able to continue performing with the flexibility to run my own business around family life. Having trained professionally as an actress at Guildford School of Acting, I went on to work in various children's theatre productions as well as in entertainment departments at both Warwick Castle, Madame Tussauds and several Merlin attractions. I have delivered other music and drama programmes and attended classes with my own children and I knew that Drama Tots was a unique mix of imaginary play and creativity that would enable me to use my skills to bring adventures to life. The aim is to harness imagination and expression to help self-confidence and develop listening skills as well as creating special moments to enjoy with your pre-schooler."

Drama Tots classes were forced to stop in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but within days, the business reinvented itself in an online capacity. This allowed Drama Tots to reach more families than ever before. Popularity grew through social media and Drama Tots went international! Families as far afield as Abu Dhabi, Africa and America tuned in each week to be entertained and educated by the Drama Tots program.

Drama Tots classes are now back in the village running Covid-secure classes at both St Mary's parish room Old Basing and Lychpit hall. Socialisation of young children has never been so important.

For more information please visit www.dramatots.co.uk or contact Kate- kate@dramatots.co.uk
Drama Tots Basingstoke on Facebook and Instagram





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Children's CoRner

Winter W

Snowball Word Search

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Word Scramble

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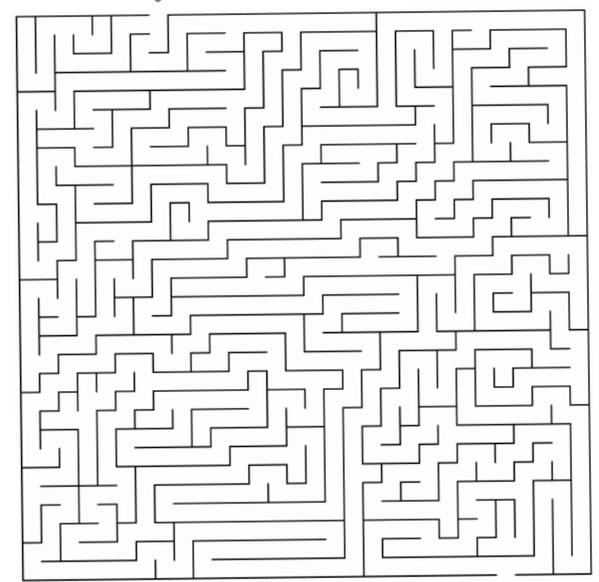


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Snowman Maze



The boy has just put on his hat and scarf and wants to join his friends building a snowman. Can you help him find them?



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Solutions on p24

Traditional Christmas Wreaths

It is one of the most magical, joyful times of the year, Christmas! Around this time, you will start to see decorations appearing everywhere to celebrate Christmas; one special tradition includes the hanging of a beautiful Christmas wreath on one's door.

The tradition of hanging a wreath on our doors at Christmas started in the 16th Century and is very important to Christianity; however, it has roots in many different cultures in history including the Romans and Greeks who used wreaths as a symbol of strength.

In the 1500s, with the custom of bringing Evergreen into the home in Northern and Eastern Europe – Germans commonly credited with the Christmas Tree tradition – the greenery which was pruned away to create the shape of the Christmas tree would be woven into wreaths rather than thrown away.

The shape of the wreath-symbolized eternity, as the shape has no end. Together with the significance of the evergreen material, the wreath became a representation of eternal life.

Join in with this wonderful age-old tradition and make your own festive wreath this Christmas with these instructions.

- A spool of florists' wire
- Secateurs/hardy scissors
- Moss sheet
- Wreath ring (approx 25cm diameter)
- Foliage and flowers

1. Gather your foliage – Purchase flowers from the supermarket or a local florist. For a fuller wreath, supplement your stems with extras cut from your garden or forage some on winter walks in the countryside. Birch branches, holly and ivy make pretty additions.

2. Prepare your wreath ring - First, take your moss sheet and wrap it around your wreath ring. Then, wrap your florists' wire clockwise around the moss, leaving gaps of 4cm evenly around the wreath. Pull the wire tightly so it is secure. When you have created a full circle, cut the wire and twist the ends together.

3. Cut your stems – Make them 8-15cm long. Lay them in groups of 2 to 3 stems, staggering down so the tips lay slightly below each other. Make about 18 groups to fill your wreath.

4. Arrange – Take your first group of stems and lay them diagonally across the wreath ring. Use more wire to secure the base of the stems to the wreath ring. Pick up your second bundle of stems and lay them just below the first. Again, secure with the same length of wire. Continue working around the wreath clockwise, never cutting the wire, tucking the last section of stems beneath the previous ones, until the whole ring is covered.

Finally prune and personalise by adding ribbon, wired pine cones, berries, dried orange slices, and bundles of dogwood or cinnamon sticks before hanging your stunning wreath on the door!

Children's Corner
Answers

Word Scramble
Answers

1. Snow
2. Ice
3. Scarf
4. Mittens
5. Snowman
6. Sledge
7. Blizzard
8. Icicle
9. Igloo
10. Skating



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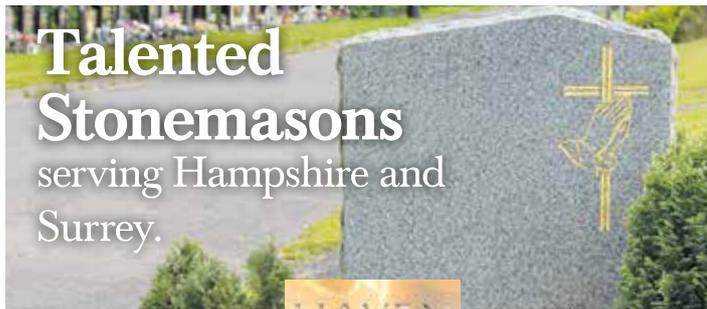
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Meeting & Party venues in Old Basing & Lychpit

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. All venues are observing the Government guidelines in effect at any specific time and may therefore be closed or restrict bookings to those that can comply with COVID-19 health & safety measures. We are all keen to re-open and resume normal activities as soon as restrictions are lifted and events can be held safely.

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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.

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☛ *Cat via email Beddingtoncentrebookings@gmail.com*

Old Basing Cricket Club

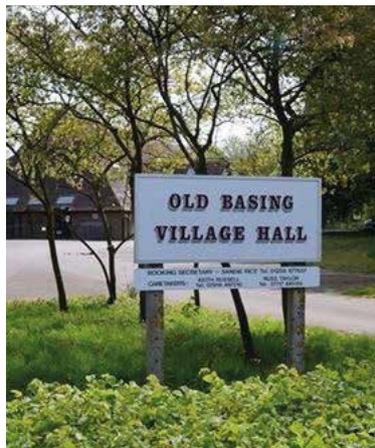
Licensed club house for parties and events of up to 50 people

☛ *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/basinghouse 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

Yogababes
Infinite Harmony Yoga
Lisa Jane School of Dance

Tuesday

Basing Beans
Pilates
Lychpit Rainbows
Lychpit Brownies

Wednesday

Lisa Jane School of Dance

Thursday

Drama Tots
Lisa Jane School of Dance

Friday

Pilates
Yoga Blissapline
(twice monthly)
The Loft Music Night
(last Friday monthly)

Saturday

British Wheel of Yoga
Yoga with Christine

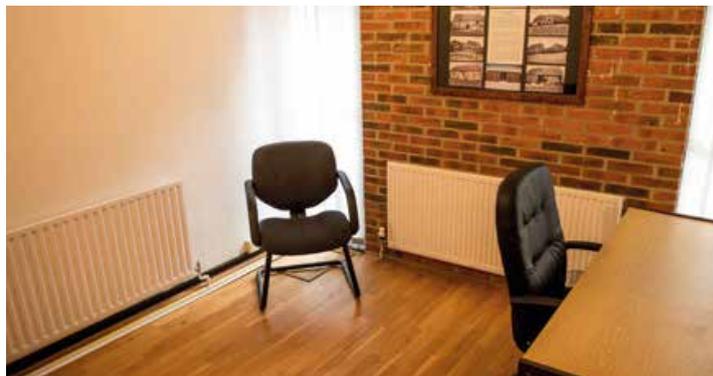
Sunday

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.



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Old Basing and Lychpit Sports Clubs



OLD BASING ARCHERS

Letters from a longbow archer

These are very strange times in which we live. As I write, we are few weeks in to the second lockdown and archery has along with many sports been cancelled. It is a frustrating time for us as we had become comfortable and confident in the new protocols put in place to ensure the safety of archers and other recreation ground users.

During this period, two of our members, John and Geoff took it upon themselves to try and break as many club records as possible, and did a pretty darn good job of it.

It is still possible to exercise, but archers are used to taking it in small time defined chunks interspersed with stretching out a bow and loosing an arrow. To be brutally honest, one does look a bit daft setting off for a walk, lifting your arms and letting go an imaginary arrow, then walking 100 yards, bending down, scrabbling around in the grass for a while whilst looking earnestly for something then walking back to where you started!

There are a fortunate number of us who have a garden long enough to practice in with all safety netting in place, and there are those of us who think outside the box and use the kids sucker arrows! Just to keep the muscles going you understand, not for any childish fun or family competition. If there are any frustrated beginners out there, you can buy a set from Decathlon. Top tip is make sure the arrows are in a bucket of water, they stick better to the target, dry arrows fall off easily followed by howls of "Ref" and "that's not fair!"

With this downtime it is an opportunity to inspect kit and replace damaged items, clean things, remove the collection of detritus from the bottom of kit bags and general maintenance of equipment. It is also an ideal opportunity to straighten bent arrows, re-fletch or set about making a new set. Alternatively one could loaf on the sofa, mug of tea in hand chomping on cake drawing up a list of archery equipment that would make the most desired Christmas present.

Finally, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and look forward to a COVID-19 free new year and seeing you at the recreation ground for a round of archery or two.

Penny Jubin

Old Basing Archers



OLD BASING BOWLS CLUB

A very different summer season!

The COVID-19 pandemic had the potential to destroy our Bowls season – however due to careful planning and sticking to the new rules we were able to continue, albeit in a very different format. The initial "lockdown" in April/May put paid to our planned membership drive and to the opportunity to host and play other Clubs. Members could only meet via "Zoom" at this time and were itching to get started!

As the regulations eased a little we were able to be creative and begin to host friendly roll ups, coaching sessions, and a league for members playing pairs matches. Our much improved Ladies team were able to meet regularly on 13 occasions to hone their skills.

A number of social bowling sessions were held at weekends, pleasingly being at the full "new" capacity of 30 bowlers at any given time, culminating in a Closing Drive on September 26th.

Despite these difficulties we were pleased to recruit five new bowlers to add to our current membership of 75.

Bar income was of course lost, though a successful beer auction helped to reduce our stocks! Careful planning also meant that the Club was also able to access £2000 of support from Sport England to cover a loss of income this year – the only Bowls Club in the Borough to be successful in gaining this funding. With these monies and a grant from local government we have been able to plan and begin an ambitious refurbishment programme for the Club House and adjoining storage areas with many members volunteering to land a hand.

I am personally proud of the efforts of those supporting the Club and we aim to have to a full and active bowls calendar next year.

We look forward to a more normal season in 2021 – please do watch out for details of our Open Days in April 2021 when you can come and give bowls a try and access some free coaching too.

Malcolm Christian

Chairman, Old Basing Bowls Club



TENNIS AT OLD BASING

A Great Socially Distanced Sport

Even though it's now winter and we're in a pandemic, we've had a good year of tennis at Old Basing Tennis Club with many new members joining over the summer, who we hope will continue to play with us next year too.

On writing this we were in a mini-lockdown, so our hope is that now you're allowed to play tennis once again as it is an excellent sport to enjoy whilst being socially distanced. This winter we've introduced social tennis on a Sunday morning, so do join us if you can (Covid regulations permitting).

New to the club in this our 90th anniversary year, is a court booking system. A new Booking App is quick and simple to use and guarantees you'll have a court to play on and it's been great to see all four courts in use at times other than just club nights.

Next Spring, the club is planning to have the courts resurfaced which is great news, although I won't be able to win a point from a dodgy bounce of the ball any more!

In early November we held our AGM virtually via zoom and would like to thank our Chair Robyn Lewin and Secretary Jan Petto who have stood down, for all their hard work. Robyn is moving away from the area and Jan has worked hard for the club for several years. Our new Chair is Nigel Hatt who will be taking the good work of the committee forward next year, supported by incoming Secretary Derek Reed and other committee members.

In late November we held our annual quiz, but this time via Zoom with various pictures and photos for people to identify. It was a great evening so thanks to all the participants and the money raised will go towards providing more tennis for all next year.

Coaching is still taking place for children and adults. Please contact Ben at BJTCoaching@gmail.com if you're interested.



We are also planning to start club nights again in early April next year on Tuesdays and Fridays from 6 pm for players to come along and play with a variety of different people. And we often retire to the pub afterwards to discuss those 'winning shots'! If you're thinking of taking up tennis in 2021 make a note in your diary and we look forward to seeing you then if not before.

Our four courts are located next to the football and cricket pitch at Riley Lane, Old Basing RG24 7DH with ample car parking.

For more information see our website or Facebook page or email us at obtc.information@gmail.com.

Stay safe and we look forward to welcoming many of you to the courts at Old Basing next year.

Penny Luke

Old Basing Tennis Club



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Mincemeat Cake



Just in time for Christmas, Old Basing WI Member Marcia Waters provides us with this old family recipe which is described as a simple to make, lovely moist fruit cake!

You will need

- * 140g butter or margarine
- * 60g chopped walnuts
- * 140g soft dark brown sugar
- * 60g glace cherries washed and chopped
- * 3 eggs beaten
- * 455g good quality mincemeat
- * Grated rind and 1tbsp juice of a lemon
- * 60g sultanas
- * 230g SR flour

Topping

- * 40g demerara sugar cubes

Method

- * Cream butter and sugar together in a large bowl.
- * Beat in the eggs a little at a time.
- * Carefully fold in the rest of the ingredients until well mixed.
- * Spoon into the tin and smooth down and make a slight well in the centre with the back of a spoon.
- * Slightly crush the topping sugar and sprinkle on top.
- * Bake for 1 ½ - 1 ¾ hours or until a skewer inserted in the middle comes out clean.
- * Different ovens vary and it is worth checking after 1¼ hours.
- * Remove from tin after 10 mins and leave to cool on a wire rack.
- * Wrap in foil for a few days to mature before eating.



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