



# Old Basing & Lychpit

## Parish Council Community Newsletter

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WINTER 2022



**Cllr Campbell receiving the award for Newsletter of the Year at the HALC AGM**

## Here is what some of our customers have been saying about us:

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**Cathie Kennedy –  
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## Chairman's Report

**As a Parish Council we try our best to remain non-political. This is not easy given the chaos in government at this time. Actions by the Government nationally have a direct effect on our parish.**

Funding changes may mean we cannot do what we would like since much of the local government funding comes direct from National Government. Additionally, we must always be aware of our Parish Precept increases. The Parish Council hopes to keep this below inflation next year.

The chaos and Ministerial changes have delayed and added to the confusion over the Local Plan update and the housing numbers in the Borough. This major threat to our Parish is unlikely to be resolved anytime soon.

Further proposals to alter many environmental protections, if they go ahead, will have a direct impact on our green spaces and the Loddon Valley.

**Traffic again** – It seems that we have endured never ending roadworks in and around the Parish. Currently, the gas pipeline repairs in Old Basing have caused considerable inconvenience to many residents. On the positive side there is

a reduction in 'Rat Runners' through parts of the village as they use alternative routes.

A Parish traffic survey in 2007 proposed several actions aimed at alleviating some problems. Some of these were rejected, mostly on the grounds of cost. For example, lights controlling traffic passing under the Milkingpen Lane bridge and a one-way system through the village. One such project that is going ahead, some 14 years late, is the Basing Road footpath. Planning permissions are in place and work should start soon.

Yes, more disruption but you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs.

What appears to be an intractable problem is the parking in The Street outside the Bakehouse. Given that many of the customers are not from our Parish and parking is not illegal there, the problem is set to stay. Any suggestions welcome, apart from closing the Bakehouse?

**Energy** – There is plenty of advice available on how to reduce energy bills and how we can help with the UK-wide energy consumption. As Christmas approaches consideration could be given to a reduction of Christmas lights bearing in mind the extra cost that this incurs. We live in a free country where people can make up their own minds but with freedom comes responsibility.

**Cllr Peter Bloyce**  
Parish Council Chairman



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## Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are held in the Parish Office.

Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting and those with mobility difficulties can be accommodated with advance notice. In addition to the main Parish Council meetings, held on the first Tuesday of each month, regular Committee meetings are held to discuss specific matters.

These Committees are:

### Planning & Development Committee

Second and fourth Tuesday monthly

### Finance & Resources Committee

Three meetings per year, in February, June and October

### Facilities Management Committee

Bi-monthly, on a Tuesday

### Annual Parish Council Meeting

Every May

### Annual Parish Meeting

Each year, held between 1 March and 1 June

## Parish Notes

### Warm Hub



Given that the Lychpit Community Hall is heated using an underfloor system (which is most economical when left at a constant temperature throughout the winter), the Parish Council has agreed to open the hall up to local residents when

it is not being used for classes and groups, so that our community can benefit from this convenient 'Warm Hub' in our neighbourhood. Free hot drinks and Wi-Fi, should you wish to use it, will be provided on Thursdays from 12noon until 3pm from December until March 2023. If the space is very popular, it may be possible to open it at other times, or to open other Parish facilities for a similar purpose.

### New Councillor

Following the resignation of Councillor John Robinson earlier this year, the Parish Council has co-opted Mark Hermitage to represent Old Basing and become the twelfth Councillor on the Council meaning that all Councillor positions are filled once again. Mark works for the NHS and lives in the heart of Old Basing, so will undoubtedly bring a valuable perspective to the Council's discussions and we look forward to working with him

### Repair Café

We have managed to persuade the team from the North Hampshire Repair Café to come and visit the Lychpit Community Hall for a session in the new year. Put Saturday 25th February 2023 in your diaries and hang on to any broken toys, bicycles, computers, small electrical items, garden tools, small pieces of furniture or minor repairs to your clothing and bring them along. See the article on page 29 for more information.

## Diary Dates 2023

### JANUARY

- 3 Parish Council Meeting
- 10 & 24 Planning & Development Committee
- 17 Facilities Management Committee

### FEBRUARY

- 7 Parish Council Meeting
- 14 & 28 Planning & Development Committee
- 21 Finance & Resources Committee

### MARCH

- 7 Parish Council Meeting
- 21 Facilities Management Committee
- 14 & 28 Planning & Development Committee

### APRIL

- 4 Parish Council Meeting
- 11 & 25 Planning & Development Committee

### MAY

- 2 Facilities Management Committee
- 4 Parish Council ELECTIONS
- 16 Parish Council Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting
- 23 Planning & Development Committee
- 25 Annual Parish Meeting

### JUNE

- 6 Parish Council Meeting
- 13 & 27 Planning & Development Committee
- 20 Finance & Resources Committee

## Parish Council

### PARISH OFFICE



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



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

### COUNCILLORS



**Peter Bloyce**  
Chairman,  
Old Basing



**Murray Campbell**  
Vice-Chairman PC &  
Planning Old Basing



**Alan Renwick**  
(Vice-Chairman, Facilities  
Management) Old Basing



**Francesca Maritan**  
Old Basing



**David Whiter**  
Old Basing



**Roger Doust**  
Chairman, Planning  
Lychpit



**Steve Brown**  
Chairman, Facilities  
Management Lychpit



**Kate Tuck**  
Old Basing



**Charlie Butfoy**  
Old Basing



**Sheena Grassi**  
Lychpit



**Mark Hermitage**  
Old Basing



**Gillian Moore**  
Lychpit

## Please support local businesses

A big thank you goes to all the local businesses that have advertised and supported this newsletter thereby enabling the Parish Council to produce this quarterly publication at no cost to our residents.

However, the Parish Council makes no warranty in relation to the content of any advertisements placed in the newsletter and shall have no liability for any losses in relation thereto. Furthermore, the Parish Council makes no endorsements whatsoever with regard to any advertisements.

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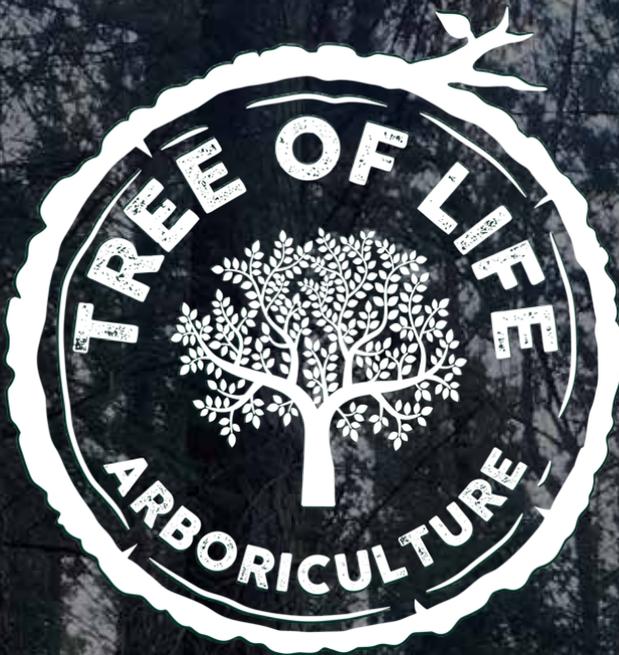
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# Help Us To Get People Through The Cost Of Living Crisis

**As is evident from the news and social media, many people are struggling financially, mentally and emotionally. This is for many reasons – the aftermath of Covid and the current cost of living crisis to name but two.**

Based at Basingstoke Discovery Centre, Citizens Advice Basingstoke (CAB) is an independent charity with volunteer advisors. We provide free and trusted advice that changes people's lives, keeping them in their homes, warm and with food on the table.

We are currently recruiting volunteers for the adviser role. The role involves giving advice on a range of subjects from debt, benefits, employment and housing to issues to do with family or utilities. Don't worry if this sounds intimidating as full training will be given! We do offer our advice services through email, phone and some face-to-face interviews. It is a really interesting and stimulating role, as well as giving the satisfaction of being able to help others.

From feedback from volunteers, we know that if you are looking for a job, this role adds value to application forms, provides some real-life experience and something interesting to talk about at interviews. But it also gives huge benefits to those who are not looking for work – keeps the "grey cells" sharp, gets

you out of the house (!), enables you to use your life skills, to "give something back" and to meet new people. Our volunteers range from students, through people working part time to some that are retired. Currently our youngest adviser is 21 and our eldest is 79.

If you are good at listening, empathetic, able to sift through information and love problem solving, this could be the role for you.

To find out more, please contact us by email: [recruitment@basingstokecab.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@basingstokecab.org.uk) or by phone on **01256 329984**

If you are looking for help dealing with the cost of living or any other issue, please contact Citizens Advice to see how we can help.

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## Old Basing WI

### The Old Basing WI has been as busy as usual over the Autumn months.

In August we welcomed our speaker Ollie Butler to talk to us about Womens' Stories and although our September speaker had to pull out at the last minute due to illness, we played a few rounds of Bingo instead. One of our own Members, Jan Blight, volunteered to give us a talk about the history of the Newbury Coat at our October meeting.



For those who don't know the tale, the famous Newbury Coat came about due to conversation in 1811 between Mr John Coxeter, a cloth manufacturer and owner of Greenham Mill in Newbury, and Sir John Throckmorton of Buckland House in Faringdon. Mr Coxeter said that he could make a coat in 24 hours from the time of shearing the sheep to the time that Sir John could wear it for dinner. Sir John laid a wager of thousand guineas as he believed it was impossible to achieve, the bet was duly accepted by Mr Coxeter. On 25th June 1811 at five o'clock in the morning the sheep was sheared and the wool went through the process of, being washed, stubbed, roved, spun on a loom, and woven. At four o'clock in the afternoon, the cloth was finished, after being scoured, fullled, tented, raised, sheared, dyed, and dressed. Mr James White a tailor from Newbury cut the cloth to the required measurements, and made the coat in just 13 hours and 20 minutes to the amazement of the crowd.

In September 1991 at the Newbury Show, a second identical 'Newbury Coat' was made using the same processes, materials and machinery as previously used during 1811, The coat was completed in 12 hours, 36 minutes and 26 seconds, beating the 1811 time by 1 hour! The event was sponsored by the department store, Camp Hopson of



Copyright Jan Blight

Newbury. The coat can now be seen at the West Berkshire Museum in Newbury.

Jan Blight was instrumental in recreating the 1991 Newbury Coat for Camp Hopson, and she talked us through the process from shearing the sheep to carding and spinning the wool, weaving the material and making the finished jacket, which beat the 1811 time by over an hour. The picture shows the final result being modelled by Johnny Morris!



Old Basing WI also has a flourishing craft group which meets monthly on a Wednesday. Recent sessions have included painting, applique, calligraphy and sewn cards.



In October 21 Members enjoyed a lunch and a game of skittles at the Four Horseshoes in Sherfield on Loddon. This time the winning bowler was Tricia Williamson who can be seen collecting her prize!

Old Basing WI will have a busy few months ahead. We will be taking part in the Basing House Christmas Fair at the end of November where we will be selling our usual array of cakes and bakes and craft items. We will also be taking part in the St Mary's Christmas Tree festival with our "Seven Swans a SWimming" entry.

We also plan to have a Christmas lunch at Avenue Nurseries in December. Further events in the pipeline for next year include an evening meal at the Bolton Arms and a coach trip to a garden in Wiltshire with lunch and tea provided.

Our speakers are all booked up for 2023, so you would like to find out more about our long running and active group, then please contact our President Sue Stewart on [oldbasingpres@hampshirewi.org.uk](mailto:oldbasingpres@hampshirewi.org.uk)

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month at the Parish Rooms St Mary's at 7.30pm.

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# Why we're all talking about energy.

**We may not be used to giving too much thought to how important it is to our way of living, but the problems of massively rising costs, security of supply plus the damage that traditional sources of energy are doing to our environment have brought it into sharp focus.**

We can't avoid rising electricity and gas bills, but we can take steps to cut down on our energy use and at the same time help reduce the amount of carbon being released into the atmosphere. We can also look at ways in which we can all help to produce environmentally friendly energy which will reduce the need for imported fuels and help reduce inflation.

By the time you read this, several energy champions from Old Basing and Lychpit will have been trained to give advice in our community. They will be able to help residents with ways to reduce energy use in the home during the present price crisis and longer term via simple practical measures such as adjusting your boiler temperature, as well as more ambitious projects like insulation and heat pumps. There is discussion in the press and elsewhere about opening warm spaces where those finding it difficult to afford heating bills can spend time in a warm atmosphere (in both senses of the word). The Parish Council, too, has plans to offer warm spaces and these may also create opportunities for energy champions to give advice to those who would like it.

The Parish Council is looking at its own energy use as business energy costs are rising even faster than domestic rates. We will be engaging an energy use consultant to look at the insulation of our buildings and how we might heat them using solar panels and heat pumps. We will then need to find the funds to implement the recommendations.

For those of you who are planning to insulate or install heat pumps, there are loans and grants available from Basingstoke Council. Details of these are shown at the end of the article. This type of project presents particular difficulties with older properties but even those of us with newer houses could still benefit from advice. Would self-help groups be one way forward? If you feel that you could help lead a group or participate, the PC can facilitate these, so please do contact us (via the Clerk, or my email address at the end of the article).

Everyone's focus at present is the rising cost of energy within our household budgets plus how we protect those around us who can't afford their heating bills. But, as COP 27, the United Nations energy conference held in Egypt this year is telling us with increasing urgency, we must all strive to tackle climate change while we can. We will all need to deal with weather patterns that get more extreme in the next few years with longer droughts and excessive rainfall at times, but it is future generations who will really feel the extent of irreversible change.

**Steve Brown.**

**[Stephen.brown@oldbasing.gov.uk](mailto:Stephen.brown@oldbasing.gov.uk)**

## **ENERGY ADVICE, GRANTS AND LOANS AVAILABLE THROUGH BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE COUNCIL.**

Did you know that help towards saving energy is available through Basingstoke Council's Climate Team? The information is available through their website (details below) or you could 'phone the Council for advice. Briefly, they give information about:

- Steps towards ensuring that a supplier is reputable.
- What grants are available to homeowners. These are mainly for lower income households, but the boiler replacement scheme (heat pumps and biomass boilers) is available to all.
- Loans available. These are subject to an interest charge and are also available to landlords.

### **In more detail;**

Open to all homeowners is the boiler replacement grant, which can offer up to £6000 towards the installation of a heat pump. Properties do need insulating fully before installation though and you'll need an Energy Performance Certificate.

The Home Upgrade Grant is available only to households with an income below £30000pa or which are on means tested benefits, and the property must be rated D or below for energy performance. Most importantly, the property must not be connected to the mains gas supply. This grant covers insulation as well as heating.

The Homeowner Grant and the Green Homes Grant are similar, but the property may be connected to mains gas.

The Homeowner loan is available for any property but is subject to interest on repayments. Repayment of capital may be deferred up to 25 years. The funds may be used towards insulation, solar panels and alternative heating.

Finally, there is the Community Group loan aimed at community halls and centres.

You can find more details, and how to apply, on the Council's website.

### **Finding out more:**

Look at Basingstoke and Deane's website and search for "Energy efficiency loans and grants"

**[www.basingstoke.gov.uk/energy-efficiency-loans-and-grants](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/energy-efficiency-loans-and-grants)**

Or telephone the Council on **01256 844844** and ask for the Climate Change Team.



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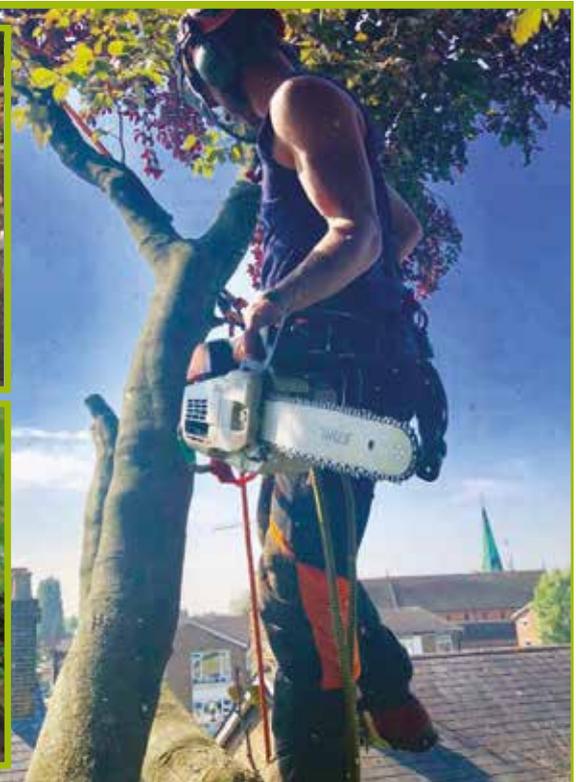
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# The National Garden Scheme – In Hampshire

**As I start to write this article in October 2022, I thought I would just check back to see what was occurring in Winter 2021.**

With the weather so mild and the leaves clinging doggedly on to the trees, we are all ready with our leaf blower/sucker/shredder, but to no avail". A bit deja vu. All been there before.

For Hampshire National Garden Scheme, 2022 has seen amazing results for our BY ARRANGEMENT GARDENS: The figures are up 129% on 2021. We must be doing something right.

By Arrangement Gardens are visits for a group of people on a pre-arranged date, agreed with your group and the garden owner for a more personalised and leisurely experience.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those clubs, groups of friends and societies etc. who have taken the opportunity to visit one or more of our By Arrangement gardens. In January 2022 I produced an A4 sheet – double sided – listing all the By Arrangement Gardens, with their contact details, months of opening and their Post Codes. This proved to be very popular with Outing Organisers, and I will certainly be doing that again in 2023. If you would like to be the recipient of this list, please just let me know.

[pat.beagley@ngs.org.uk](mailto:pat.beagley@ngs.org.uk)

Before we know it we are going to be into the Snowdrop Season. We have the following gardens opening during February to show off their amazing displays of snowdrops.



Photo Credit: Claire Lewis

## CHAWTON HOUSE

Chawton Alton GU34 1SJ  
Opening: Sunday 5th February 2023 10 am to 3.30pm:  
Admission: £5.00 children free  
Refreshments: Light refreshments available.

14 acre listed English landscape garden with Snowdrops scattered throughout.

Regret not suitable for wheelchairs.

[ngs.org.uk/view-garden/34092](https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/34092)

## BRAMDEAN HOUSE

Alresford SO24 0JU  
Opening: Sunday 19th February 2023: 1pm to 3.30pm  
Admission: £6.00 children free  
Refreshments: Home-made teas



5 acre garden with carpets of Spring bulbs – especially Snowdrops.

[ngs.org.uk/view-garden/3145](https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/3145)



## LITTLE COURT

Crawley Winchester SO21 2PU

Opening: Sunday & Monday  
12th & 13th and 19th & 20th  
February 2023

Admission: £5.00 children free

Refreshments: Available

This traditional walled garden is especially exciting with its display of Snowdrops and Spring bulbs

[ngs.org.uk/view-garden/8167](https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/8167)

And finally a By Arrangement Garden.

## THE DOWN HOUSE Itchen Abbas SO21 1AX

This popular garden is opening for groups of 6+  
4th February to 12th March.

Contact owners Mark & Jackie Porter on

**01962 791054** OR  
**markstephenporter@gmail.com**

to arrange a visit.

Admission:

£5.00 children free

Refreshments:

Home-made teas

[ngs.org.uk/view-garden/21395](https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/21395)

Also to watch out for in 2023 three New Gardens opening here in North Hampshire – all completely different.

Mill House,  
Sherborne St John  
Ladybower, Fleet

Hart's Green Garden, between Fleet and Hartley Wintney

Best Wishes

**Pat Beagley (Publicity)**

National Garden Scheme – Hampshire

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## Basingstoke Gang Show

### Meet your local cast!

**Basingstoke Gang Show returns to The Haymarket for its 28th stunning variety show spectacular, with a production of classic to contemporary performances showcasing the very best of local talent in the Scout & Guide associations; you can expect to be delighted by magnificent music & LOL comedy.**

Basingstoke Gang Show is recognised as the best-selling and longest running 'family variety show' in our region and showcases an extremely talented cast – recognise any of the cast living in your area pictured here?

Awarded best compilation show by NODA National Operatic and Dramatic Association for our 2020 show, this is an amateur production not to be missed. The 11 performances, many over February half term week, will entertain audiences as you laugh out loud, tap your toes and sing along to the songs that you love.

Interested? Book your tickets early for your family and friends to experience this feel-good family show at The Haymarket.



Dates are Thursday 9th to Saturday 18th February 2023, excluding Sunday 12th. Matinee performances are also on Saturday 11th and 18th February. Ticket prices: Adults £22.00, Children £15.00. Last night (Saturday 18th) all seats £24.

Early Booking Discount (book by 21st December 2022) to save £2.00 off each ticket by quoting code 'BGS23' for performances on Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th February only.

Group Booking Discount buy 10 or more tickets and get £1 off each ticket if booked by 15th January 2023. One discount only, per booking. Book tickets here:

[www.anvilarts.org.uk/whats-on/event/basingstoke-gang-show](http://www.anvilarts.org.uk/whats-on/event/basingstoke-gang-show)

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# North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group

**What a privilege to have Prof Richard Hindley, one of Britain's leading urologists, based here in our local hospital trust, as our key speaker this month.**

In an urgent message the previous evening it was explained that he would not be able to attend in person, due to added workload and staff shortages. This gave the Group its first chance to put into operation our new Zoom screen system, which it has recently purchased following the kindness of the Loddon Lilies, a ladies' group from Sherfield on Loddon who have chosen to actively fund-raise on our behalf this year. Once operational the system worked particularly well.

Throughout Richard's talk it became very clear that we are particularly well served locally, as the Trust is one of the leading innovation and treatment centres in the UK, with some of its work having worldwide implications in terms of treatments. Basingstoke continues to punch well above its weight in terms of innovation, and also in undertaking trials of new treatments. Currently it has been selected along with Oxford and Imperial College to perform UK trials of a new steam treatment system which has shown promise in the US. At the same time with the 'Promis' trial our local Trust was the second biggest participant nationally. Building on the

earlier excellent results of the trial this resulted in the introduction of mp-MRI scans nationally, with work now ongoing to refine these scans potentially with the aim that this work will lead to them be used in a mass screening programme for prostate cancer. The current trials involves checking whether the quality of diagnosis is still effective in MRI scans if the present method of giving dye injections to highlight tumours can be eliminated. If proven this will give benefits of saving time and elimination of possible allergic reaction which occurs with some patients.

Another example of Basingstoke's lead in the treatment of prostate cancer; after University College Hospital in London, Basingstoke was only the second location in the UK to use HIFU (High intensity focused ultra sound) commencing just two years behind in 2006. Richard explained that HIFU is recognised as being less damaging to peripheral tissue leading to reduced side effects especially in potential sexual function. Whilst no trial has been formally run, early indications suggest that over the last 7/8 years the outcomes between radiotherapy and HIFU show no significant difference. It has also been



# September Meeting

remarkably effective in men with a main tumour and smaller additional tumours with just the main one being treated, regularly leading to the result that the minor tumours diminish.

Right from the start, Richard empathised the importance of PSA testing, indicating that this form of testing has radically improved in accuracy and value over recent years. In his view a screening programme will be implemented before too long. He added that in future MRI screening is ultimately likely to become the key marker, with the added benefits of identifying the exact size and location of any suspect tumours, enabling accurate targeted biopsies and better assessment of various treatment options.

Following a round of questions to Richard from the floor, there was a very genuine expression of

appreciation given to him for giving up time from the operating theatre. Without the support of the Loddon Lilies, this Zoom meeting, which worked so well, would never have been possible. With prostate cancer now the most prevalent cancer in the UK, it is disturbing to realise that in 2020 the number being diagnosed was about 25% of previous years, with 2021 still only about one third; even this year the level has risen to about 50% of earlier times. This clearly suggests that there are many cases existing yet to be diagnosed, but worryingly with probably much more advanced disease and thus poorer prognosis.

It was encouraging to have a number of members join us for the first time, and it was encouraging, in the light of the support given them, to hear that they want to participate at future events.

## News from the Hospital

### **Whilst most of us are acting as if the pandemic is behind us, that would be unwise. Beds are once again filling up with Covid patients.**

At the time of writing there are well over 100 cases, with about half coming in due to the virus, and the other half for different reasons but testing positive on admission; in both cases it is the elderly, with many not yet having received the latest booster jab which is often administered with a flu jab. This of course is not helping the hospital bring waiting lists down, with staff absences and patients unable to attend appointments at the last minute. However the backlog remains a priority: at least the numbers of those waiting longest to be cared for are falling, where the plans are for nobody to have to wait more than 52 weeks.

When we look at the hospital's performance, whilst none of us like to be kept waiting in A&E (now termed ED – emergency department), it is encouraging to reflect that our hospital's performance is well above the national average. Similarly, the Trust is fourth in the country when it comes to meeting the targets for cancer treatments. That said, analysis of the figures for one of the major cancers shows that the referral and diagnostic rate has radically dropped with the advent of Covid. This would suggest that when people eventually seek advice, their cancer may be much more advanced and thus more difficult to treat and with a poorer potential outcome. For this reason, health care professionals are encouraging people who have any concerns to seek early advice, with men often being reluctant to do so.

Many will have noticed the large new building under construction adjacent to the Sherborne Building at the north end of the site. This is for a new 'Cath' lab, currently Basingstoke has only one unit, which has over the years performed some amazing miracles, but with no backup if anything fails. By contrast Portsmouth has four units. These labs are vital for modern heart surgery, such as insertion of stents which have transformed so many peoples' lives. The new unit is planned to open in November. Also, it is anticipated that Basingstoke will receive its first robot within the next six months which will help with precision delicate surgery, especially with kidney and bowel operations, Basingstoke being one of the leading UK centres for bowel cancer treatment.

Finally, despite all the deep concern about the performance of the NHS, it seems that few are aware that they can become members of the Trust. Membership is free and open to all: patients, their families, friends and carers, hospital staff and everyone who wants to keep in touch with their local hospital service. Not only do members get a regular update from the hospital's CEO, with regular health talks, but they also have the opportunity to select governors to represent their interests to the Trust's management in their local area. The process of applying to become a member is easy and can be accessed from the website

[www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/membership](http://www.hampshirehospitals.nhs.uk/membership)

**Keith Bunker**  
**Former Hospital Governor**

# New Heart Centre opens at Hampshire Hospitals

**Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT) is delighted to announce the opening of Hampshire Hospitals Heart Centre, a facility which will transform the quality of life for thousands of cardiac patients in Hampshire.**

The facility, which features two new cardiac catheterisation labs, is based at Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, and is part of the trust's ongoing commitment to providing outstanding care to communities across north and mid Hampshire.



With an increasing number of patients requiring cardiac interventions, this expansion means the trust can continue to deliver safe, sustainable emergency and elective cardiac procedure services to more of the local population than ever before.

The increased capacity will also allow the trust to provide curative treatments for abnormal heart rhythms currently delivered in other hospitals and includes a dedicated entrance for ambulances to enable direct emergency access.

Following the approval of planning permission for the new modular build in August 2021, construction work began in September 2021, carried out by contractor Darwin Group Limited and in consultation with Hampshire Hospitals' cardiac team.

The facility is now fully operational and already allowing teams to provide expert care to patients in a purpose-built environment.

Alex Whitfield, chief executive at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We're incredibly excited to have opened the Hampshire Hospitals Heart Centre, expanding the level of care we're able to offer cardiac patients here at HHFT.

"This state-of-the-art facility, including our two new cardiac catheterisation labs, will help to provide life-changing treatments for thousands of patients each year and allows us to meet current and future demand in providing efficient and sustainable health services for our growing population.

"A huge thank you to everyone involved in making this project a reality as we continue to strive to deliver outstanding care for everyone who needs us."



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## VILLAGE CAFÉ

**The glorious colours of autumn, what can be better than the stunning colours of falling leaves, the smell in the air on a bright day enjoying a walk in the late autumn sunshine.**



It is the season of Halloween and Bonfire night, conkers, woolly jumpers and warming cups of hot chocolate. I have never been able to resist the temptation to kick through crisp leaves on the ground, something I've loved since I was a child. There's a saying, "autumn carries more gold in its pocket than any other season" which perfectly sums it up for me.

As we now head into winter, the thought of snow and crisp bright days is something I look forward to, I love the snow, perhaps that's because I am a December baby. There is something magical about snow and the quietness it brings, and yes, I will still build a snowman and have to be the first to walk on untrodden snow!

Here at the Village Cafe, we have changed our opening to the first Friday of every month for the autumn/winter season. We hope to see many of you pop along and enjoy a nice warm drink and a slice of our delicious homemade offerings, which I am sure will reflect the seasonal flavours. We will continue to offer pre ordering of any of our bakes but we are restricting this to 50 per cent of the total cakes to ensure we have a lovely selection on offer to those customers who drop in and visit us with family and friends.

Our fund raising continues and as you know, we support local community projects. We have recently made a donation to Old Basing Infant School to enable them to purchase some new sporting equipment for their new multi surface games area which will enable the children to enjoy a wide variety of different sports. We are pleased to support the school who provide the best facilities and teaching to our local children and I'm sure they will enjoy the new games area.

As I'm sure you are aware, the post of Vicar at St Mary's Church became vacant in the summer but we are pleased to hear that a new vicar has been appointed and she may well have taken up her new position by the time you read this. We very much look forward to welcoming her into our community and I am sure we can persuade her to pop along to the cafe for tea and cake and to meet our lovely customers.

As a reminder, opening for the cafe will be from 2-4pm on the following dates –

**Friday 2nd December, when we have a visit from lovely local florist Daiva to give you some ideas for Christmas.**

**Friday 6th January, we are hoping to organise a clothes swap, further details will follow.**

**Friday 3rd February**

To keep the Village Cafe running successfully, we welcome anyone who would like to join our team as a baker or to help out on a Friday afternoon serving our customers. Please contact us via our Facebook page or speak to any of us when you pop along to the cafe, we are very welcoming and always pleased to have new members.

As this will be our last article of the year, on behalf of the Village Cafe, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a great New Year. I hope you enjoy the festive season with family and friends and that 2023 brings health and happiness to you all. As the saying goes at the beginning of a New Year "we will open the book, it's pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and it's first page is New Years Day".

**Deborah Thorne**



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## News from St Mary's

The next few weeks will be very busy for us at St Mary's and a highlight of every year is our Christmas Tree Festival. This year this takes place over the weekend of Friday 9 to Sunday 11 December.



On Friday evening there will be a Christmas themed Sing-a-long from 7.00 pm in the church. This will not just be traditional Christmas carols but also well-known Christmas songs. Tickets cost just £5 adults, £2.50 child, £12.50 family (up to 4 children) and are available from our Parish Administrator on 07541 698235. Refreshments will be available. Wear your Christmas jumper!

On both Saturday and Sunday there will be the main Christmas Tree Festival where various groups and families will display Christmas Trees on the theme of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" both in and outside the church.



The church will be open from 11.00 am to 4.00 pm on both days and there will be activities for all the family including a Christmas Market. Hot food and refreshments will be available including mulled wine and mince pies.

At 2.00 pm on Saturday the choirs from St Mary's Junior and Old Basing Infant Schools will be in attendance and at 2.00 pm on Sunday we will welcome the Old Basing Royal British Legion Corps of Drums.

The following weekend, on Sunday 18 December at 7.00 pm there will be a traditional service of Lessons and Carols and there will be services on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day including a Nativity Service where young people are encouraged to come as their favourite character from the nativity.

Full details of all our services are set out in the Basinga.



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# HAVEN MEMORIALS

MONUMENTAL MASONS



## #SleighNoToLoanSharks

Experts have warned that loan sharks are targeting vulnerable people seeking credit and trapping them in a cycle of debt with high interest rates and threats of violence. A new campaign is being launched by Stop Loan Sharks to alert people about loan sharks and help prevent them falling into their traps in the run up to Christmas.

<https://www.stoploansharks.co.uk/>



#SleighNoToLoanSharks

STOP LOAN SHARKS  
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Tips to protect yourself and loved ones from loan sharks:

- When borrowing money, check that your lender is genuine, loan sharks operate illegally and without permission from the Financial Conduct Authority. Check the firm is registered on the [Financial Service Register](#).
- Never send money, give financial or personal information or copies of documents to people you don't know or trust.
- If you are worried that a friend or family member is being taken advantage of by a loan shark contact the Stop Loan Sharks 24/7 support line on 0300 555 2222.

## Catalytic Converter Theft

Precious metals such as rhodium, platinum and palladium are used in catalytic converters. The price of these metals has risen sharply in recent years and as a result has led to an increase in the theft of catalytic converters.

Hybrid vehicles, vans, SUVs and 4x4s are the most commonly targeted vehicles.



### Tips to reduce risk of having your catalytic converter stolen:

**Locks:** Ask your manufacturer or dealership for advice on adding locks/guards for protection. Products will need to be approved by the vehicle manufacturer, also inform your insurance company of any vehicle modifications

**Marking:** Security marking of catalytic converters is possible with a heat resistant marking system which is best applied by a garage when being serviced.

**Parking:** Park in a secure, well-lit area. Speak to your dealership to find out the position of your catalytic converter and advice on defensive parking.

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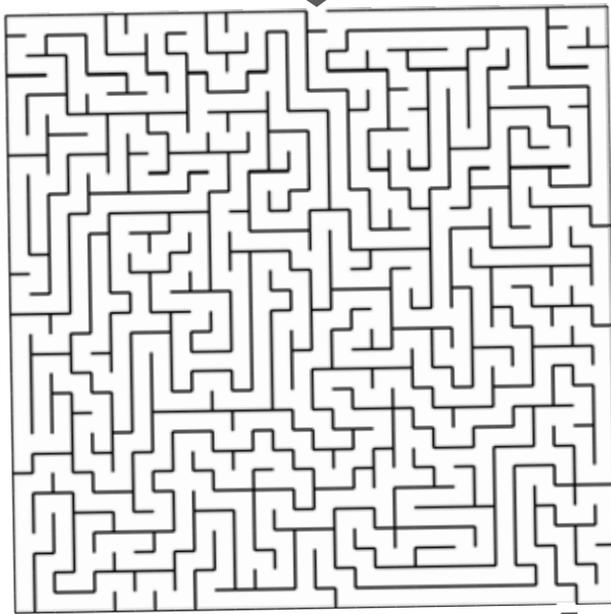


# Children's CoRner

## Christmas W

### Christmas Maze

The last few baubles are needed to finish off decorating the Christmas tree ready for Christmas. Unfortunately, they have been lost amongst all the tinsel. Can you find them?



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## Old Basing Village Nursery School at the Village Hall and now also at the Beddington Centre

**As usual the summer holidays are already a far distant memory and we can't quite believe we're a good way through the Autumn term!**



This meant having more children in our eldest cohort (Fledglings) and more children at the Village Hall site than we have had before. It has been an absolute pleasure to see how quickly they settled in and gelled together – they are a credit to their former practitioners! Some of our Fledglings have been with us since they were toddlers and some joined very recently but if you walk into the room now there would be no way of telling who was who. It reminds you how adaptable and resilient early years children can be!

We are looking forward to the upcoming festivities as Christmas celebrations start to begin– this is always a magical time to work with young children. We are however equally looking forward to our Friends and Family Quiz Night at the village hall on 3rd December. We have held one of these nights before and it promises to be good fun and a great way for parents,



carers and their friends to get together.

As well as parents from the nursery it is open to all so let us know via email

[oldbasingvillagenurseryschool@gmail.com](mailto:oldbasingvillagenurseryschool@gmail.com)

for more information.

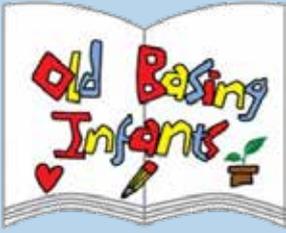
If you would like to enquire about a place at Old Basing Village Nursery school then please visit our website [oldbasingvillagenurseryschool.com](http://oldbasingvillagenurseryschool.com) or email us to arrange a visit.

It has been a time of great change at Old Basing Village Nursery school which has been very exciting. On the 31st October we were delighted to open 'The Nest' at the Beddington Centre in Old Basing. Since the pandemic, and with parents having a little more flexibility with their working arrangements, we have seen an increasing demand for childcare places for under two year olds. 'The Nest' has become our dedicated setting for children this age and we couldn't be happier!

Our 'Nestlings' loved exploring and getting to know their new home before the half term break and it was lovely having their parents in for a stay and play session as well so they could see the wonderful environment they now have use of. Of course the Beddington Centre has a long established history of providing a second home to the children of the village children with the Bolton Under 5's pre school residing there for almost 40 years amongst other local youth organisations including the Guides and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. We are very proud to be following on in their footsteps and all our children, across both settings, have loved playing in the Beddington Centre's wonderful garden.

Another change brought on by the closure of Bolton Under 5's was that we were able to accommodate many of their existing and upcoming children.





## Old Basing Infant School

**In June 2022 we had a visit from Ofsted after 14 years without an onsite inspection. As you can imagine, the framework we were judged under this time was a million miles away from the one used in 2008!**

We are now rated as a 'Good' school and we were delighted with our report which noted: 'Pupils are full of enthusiasm for learning and are proud to belong to old Basing Infant School. They arrive every morning happy and eager to learn'.

We believe the engagement and enthusiasm our children have with learning comes from the fun we try to put in to all they learn and the commitment we have to including their ideas in our curriculum. Recently this was shown when Year 2 had a circus skills day! The day began with a circus show where circus skills were demonstrated and this was followed by workshops where children were taught a range of skills including spinning plates and juggling. This exciting day helped the children to get hooked into their circus topic for this term and to challenge themselves to try something completely new!



Finally, following the 'retirement' of two long-standing governors we now have a space for a co-opted governor. Maybe this could be you! Being a governor is a great way to contribute to your community and to support the school in its drive to provide a high-quality education for all. The role involves opportunities to come into school and work with our children as well as working at a strategic level with the headteacher and senior team through attending and contributing to committee and full governing body meetings. Anyone can be a governor and we would welcome applications from our community to fill this role. Gill Woodward, a current co-opted governor commented:

'Having recently retired, I wanted to volunteer to do something that contributed to the community. I wanted something where I could use skills that I had developed in my working life and I wanted to be able to apply them to something that was important to me. It's a very interesting role and good to be part of a team with people who have different experiences. There is

a lot of support and training to help with knowledge and understanding. It's a role that you can easily fit in with other commitments. The staff and children in school are such an inspiration that it makes the role very enjoyable.'



You do not need to have any association with the school to be considered. Our governors find it a rewarding and enjoyable role where they can make a difference to the lives of the many hundreds of children that pass through our doors. If you are interested in applying to be a governor, please contact our chair of Governors, Richard Lilleker, [chair@oldbasing.hants.sch.uk](mailto:chair@oldbasing.hants.sch.uk) and he will be happy to discuss this with you further.



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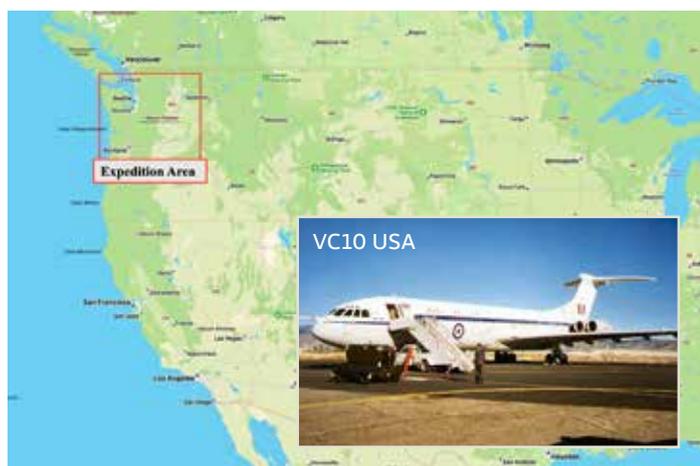
Units 1 & 10, The Beresford Centre,  
Wade Road, Basingstoke RG24 8FA



## Probus Hears About A Journey To The Big Hill

**Most people have heard of the RAF Mountain Rescue Service but know little about its history and how it operates.**

It was first organised during WW2 to rescue aircrew from the large number of aircraft crashes into high ground due to navigational errors and bad weather. In many cases the crews, although injured, had survived the impact due mainly to slow moving aircraft. However, the remote nature of the terrain coupled with the time taken for the station medical officer to assemble a search party, caused a disproportionate number of fatalities amongst the initial survivors



Today the rescue team is a highly organised professional body whose members, in recent years, also attend civil emergencies. While being regular members of the RAF they are volunteers and attend the equivalent of thirty weekends each year in training. Probus member, retired Squadron Leader



Chris Perkins MVO, was a member of the RAF Mountain Rescue Service for several years and he recounted his recollections of a significant training exercise that took place four decades ago.

With today's ease of access to mass travel, many team members may have been fortunate to experience overseas mountaineering in the Alps, Pyrenees or even to the Himalayas. Forty years ago, the situation was very different and the opportunities to mount expeditions to further areas of the globe were extremely limited.



Supported at high level it was agreed that a specialist training exercise would be undertaken to Mt Rainier in Washington State in the northwest of the USA. At 14,410 feet Mt Rainier was a dormant volcano in the Cascade mountains and while on this exercise the expedition members witnessed the eruption of Mount St Helens that caused worldwide disruption to communications and transport.

It was a major project involving a party of 15 personnel, all selected from RAF Mountain Rescue teams in Scotland, Wales and Yorkshire. The majority had alpine snow and ice climbing experience, and many were winter mountaineering instructors.

At that stage in his career, Chris was an Air Traffic Controller based at RAF Valley on Anglesey. During daylight hours it was busy with high intensity jet training for young pilots and provided a 24-hour NATO diversion facility for all manner of aircraft. The long night time hours on readiness in the radar room proved ideal for detailed expedition planning.



Mt Rainier Route 1

## Across The Pond

In those days before computers and word processors meant that documentation was produced as typed hard copy for signature and dispatched by surface post. Sometimes they were able to use the latest technology of a tele-printer. Frequent telephone liaison with USAF bases accessed their trans-Atlantic military networks and crucial contact with liaison agencies in Washington State. It was necessary to obtain approval for members of the British military to operate within the borders of the United States.

The logistics involved a RAF VC10 aircraft from Brize Norton on a training flight to familiarise several pilots with airfields across the US, transported the team via Ottawa to Washington DC, stopping overnight, then onwards via Dallas, Colorado Springs, Denver and San Francisco finally to Mather USAF base Sacramento. Instead of the planned lengthy Greyhound Bus journey up the west coast an opportune telephone call with a British Army liaison officer at Fort Lewis, revealed that his next-door neighbour commanded a C130 Hercules transport squadron at the adjacent McChord USAF base, and kindly agreed to fly down to pick up the expedition.



Vehicle hire of a Dodge mini-bus and cargo van awaited the arrival of the aircraft necessary for the movement of the team and equipment. During the two-week journey 2,400 miles were driven. Also arranged was base accommodation, purchase of the latest US Army Special Forces Long Range Patrol rations and appropriate National Park Permits for access and travel. And, importantly, connected the expedition with the Department of Emergency Services in Washington State.

Climatic conditions throughout the expedition were ideal. Daytime temperatures rarely fell below 30 degrees Celsius, and the nights remained clear but cold at height. Such conditions aided the night time ascent of Mt Rainier, however they caused numerous dangers on the descent from opening crevasses, collapsing ice bridges and rock falls.



At the end of the expedition period the party was offered USAF air passage back to the UK. However, it was decided to revisit the Greyhound Bus option to experience air-conditioned comfort overnight from Tacoma via Vancouver to Calgary. Again, RAF Command came up trumps, providing VC10 aircraft space to Brize Norton via Germany.

The Mt Rainier expedition, four decades ago, gave all expedition members valuable experience of mountaineering, backpacking at altitude, glacier travel plus proficiency of journeying into vast wilderness areas. It provided the team with improved practices for future emergencies in extremely difficult terrain.

This was a journey of a lifetime only made possible with invaluable military and civilian assistance. Evidence, perhaps, of the special relationship so often talked about between our two nations.

Go online and visit [www.probusbasingstoke.club](http://www.probusbasingstoke.club) for more information about this social club for retired business and professional managers.

**Paul Flint**  
**Probuss Club of Basingstoke**



## Rotary Round up

### ROTARY CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX THANK YOU

A huge thanks to all who contributed shoeboxes for our annual appeal, 670 shoeboxes full of toys and warm gloves & hats etc. are on the way to under privileged children in Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Albania. We couldn't do this without the generosity of our local community who help spread a little happiness to children who have little. We were donated a huge amount of beautiful hand knitted clothes and toys, too many to go in in the shoeboxes but we were able to fill 9 packing cases with these knitted items, they will be delivered into the hands of Rotarians in those countries to distribute those in need. Through our Rotary channels a number of shoeboxes and some warm knitted items are also on their way to children in Ukraine. Our Wessex District Rotary sent 18,000 Christmas shoeboxes in 2021 from Hampshire

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER 2022

#### ST MICHAELS HOSPICE LIGHT UP A LIFE

Sunday 4th December 2022 at 6:00 pm  
St. Michael's Hospice, G24 9NB

A special commemorative service offers time to reflect and share memories with those closest to you with Christmas carols and music

Basingstoke Deane Rotary will again be volunteering help with this event

See the Hospice website for parking information

#### ST MICHAELS HOSPICE

#### REINDEER RUN

Sunday 18th December 2022  
Festival Place, Queen Anne's Square,  
Outside Iceland.

Join in the reindeer fun, put on your antlers and walk, dash, dance and prance along the 3K Reindeer Run route, whilst raising vital funds for St. Michael's Hospice

See the Hospice web site to register

Your entry fee includes: the cost of staging the event, reindeer antlers, an exclusive Reindeer Run medal, a fully marshalled route and refreshments.

Rotarians will be marshalling on the day and encouraging you along the way

#### CAMROSE CENTRE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Rotarians will again be cooking and serving Christmas lunch to the Camrose Centre clients and volunteers

#### HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL MARINES AT THE ANVIL

Sunday 29th January 2023,  
3:00pm

'A great gift for that difficult to buy for person'

Proceeds to Rotary supported Charities

Basingstoke Deane Rotary has been privileged in past years to host the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, this coming January we will again welcome these talented musicians to the Anvil for an entertaining concert

Tickets selling fast, get yours from the Anvil Box Office.

**Basingstoke Deane Rotary wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year 2023**

The Rotary wish is 'Peace the world over'.



## PHOENIX FENCING SUPPLIES LTD

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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 or to enquire about availability please contact the individual venues as shown below.

## Lychpit Community Hall and Old Basing Pavilion Tea Room

Email [deputy.clerk@oldbasing.gov.uk](mailto:deputy.clerk@oldbasing.gov.uk)

A calendar showing regular events and hall availability for parties can be found on the Parish Council's website [www.oldbasing.gov.uk](http://www.oldbasing.gov.uk)  
01256 462847

## Old Basing Village Hall & Frank Goddard Room

If you would like to enquire further please contact the Booking Secretary, Heulwen Norfolk on 07544 289932 or [bookings@oldbasingvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@oldbasingvillagehall.co.uk)

## The Beddington Centre

For children's parties and meetings of up to approx.50. Cat via email [beddingtoncentrebookings@gmail.com](mailto: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 wifi. [socialclubentertainments@gmail.com](mailto:socialclubentertainments@gmail.com) or 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

Great Barn – Walled Garden – Courtyard – Learning/Community Room. For more information please visit our website [www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basinghouseorg.uk](http://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/basinghouseorg.uk) Alternatively please contact us at Basing House on 01256 463965 during opening times.

**Light up a Life**

Sunday 4th December 2022, 6pm  
St. Michael's Hospice, RG24 9NB

[www.stmichaels-hospice.org.uk](https://www.stmichaels-hospice.org.uk)

Remember and celebrate the life of someone special by dedicating a star as part of our Light up a Life appeal. Our special service offers time for reflection and to share memories with those closest to us. Our Light up a Life appeal and service is open to everyone, not just those who have been touched by our Hospice care. Please remember to wrap up warm if you plan to attend the service.

To dedicate a star to a loved one, please visit:  
[www.stmichaels-hospice.org.uk](http://www.stmichaels-hospice.org.uk)

For more information please call 01256 848848 or email [events@stmichaels-hospice.org.uk](mailto:events@stmichaels-hospice.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. 1002856

St. Michael's Hospice

# Reindeer Run

Sunday 18th December 2022, 9am

Setting off from Queen Anne's Square, Festival Place, Basingstoke, RG21 7BA

3K RUN

KINDLY SUPPORTED BY:  
festival PLACE  
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Join us for a festive family fun run!

Find out more:  
[www.stmichaels-hospice.org.uk](http://www.stmichaels-hospice.org.uk)  
#ReindeerRun @smhbasingstoke

Registered Charity no. 1002856

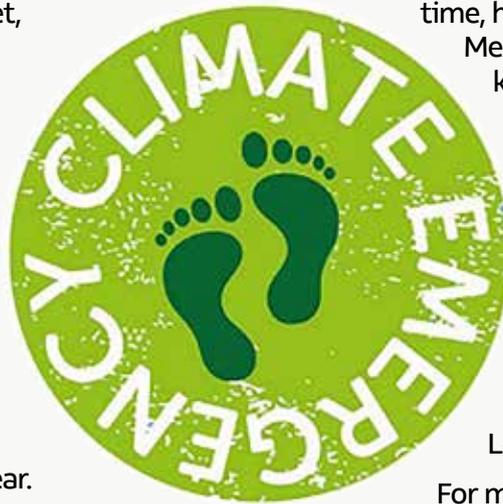
# Driving towards a greener borough

The drive towards greener and cleaner ways of getting around the borough is gathering pace.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council is taking action to cut emissions from transport as part of its work to tackle the climate emergency by continuing to decarbonise its fleet, while also introducing further opportunities for residents to travel in more sustainable ways.

This includes swapping petrol cars for three new zero emission electric cars for its Community Safety Patrol Officers, reducing the council's carbon footprint by another six tonnes per year on top of the emissions cut by introducing electric cars for its Civil Enforcement Officers last year.

And the council is also continuing to roll out new vehicle chargers across its car parks and at the council offices to help encourage more people to make the switch to an electric car.



Three new 22 kilowatt dual fast chargers, capable of fully charging an electric car in around two to five hours and connecting to two vehicles at the same time, have recently been installed at Jibbs Meadow in Bramley. In addition a 50 kilowatt rapid charger, able to charge a car from empty to 80% in around 30 minutes, is now available in the short stay bays outside Basingstoke train station.

To encourage sustainable travel to and from the council offices, a new dual fast charger is being installed for two visitors to use at once in the courtyard outside the Civic Offices in London Road.

For more information about electric vehicle charging points in the borough, go online and visit

[www.basingstoke.gov.uk/vehicle-charging-point](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/vehicle-charging-point)

OLD BASING VILLAGE HALL

# NEW YEAR

*Celebration* *With Disco*

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 31st**

19:00 - 00:20 *Licensed Bar*

**Tickets:**  
 Family (2 adults & 2 Children) £25  
 Adult £10  
 Junior (age 12-16) £7  
 Child (under 12) £3

*Bring Your Own Party Snacks*

CONTACT  
 SHEENAGRASSI@HOTMAIL.COM

*All proceeds donated to Old Basing Village Hall*

## Children's Corner Answers

### Winter Word Scramble

TREE	TURKEY
ANGEL	PRESENTS
SANTA	SLEIGH
HOLLY	ELVELS
STOCKING	CAROLS

### Winter Word Search

c	t	l	m	i	s	t	l	e	t	o	e	o	p	s
h	u	b	a	u	b	l	e	s	e	t	t	s	n	e
s	r	t	h	t	k	t	t	d	a	e	o	u	p	
t	u	r	k	e	y	h	s	d	i	g	i	x	l	u
m	o	y	l	l	y	i	o	h	u	t	r	e	e	p
c	h	r	i	s	t	m	a	s	a	m	r	t	l	u
i	m	i	h	a	s	n	a	r	b	m	r	i	s	d
d	d	u	s	n	l	g	o	u	i	l	p	y	t	d
d	a	g	t	t	s	c	t	i	u	i	a	e	i	
w	n	n	i	a	e	b	l	b	b	g	g	r	n	
r	s	l	s	d	i	n	n	e	r	h	s	o	p	g
n	e	a	e	g	i	a	i	n	l	t	o	h	m	n



## Don't Bin it – We'll Fix it!!!

**We're all facing a Climate Emergency – you know that. We all waste so much stuff – you know that too.**

Broken things go to landfill, or get incinerated and replacement items simply pump out yet more greenhouse gases – OK, so you knew all of that too. But did you also know that in our area householders can at last do something about it?

RepairCafé.org is a well-established global organisation that invented the idea of a Repair Café to repair household goods, in order to minimise domestic waste. They meet each month with a team of volunteer repairers to help you repair your broken household items, where possible, in exchange for a voluntary donation to just cover running costs. Well, the great news is that Hampshire County Council has awarded us a grant to pay the start-up costs for a Repair Café in our area!

The North Hampshire Repair Cafe covers Hartley Wintney, Sherfield-on-Loddon, Old Basing and surrounding villages. The sort of things we'll do our best to repair include small household electrical appliances, some IT equipment, toys, clothing, furniture, garden tools, etc. We already have 16 intrepid volunteer repairers.



But now we really need your help. Please can you all tell your friends and family that the North Hampshire Repair Cafe will meet on the last Saturday each month, on these dates:

- November 26th,  
Liddell room, in Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Hall,  
10:00 to 12:00
- January 28th,  
Jubilee room, in Victoria Halls, Hartley Wintney,  
10:00 to 12:00
- February 25th,  
Lychpit Community Hall, Old Basing,  
10:00 to 12:00

So far, in just 6 customer meetings, we have saved our customers an amazing £12860 and avoided 436kg waste from our repairs. Better than that, we have avoided 2060 kg Greenhouse gases from preventing unnecessary new purchases!

Do you have a toaster, broken chair etc that we could fix? If so, please come along and support us. If you have any ideas, please do get in touch.

Dr Derek Prior, [www.nhrc.uk](http://www.nhrc.uk), North Hampshire Repair Café, on Facebook.

**To advertise please call  
01843 523030  
or email [info@communityad.co.uk](mailto:info@communityad.co.uk)**

# Competitive Finals' Day at Old Basing Tennis Club

**A great day of competitive and hard-fought tennis was on show at Old Basing Tennis Club for its Finals' Day on Saturday 10 September allowing players and the 40+ spectators to enjoy several hours of exciting tennis in glorious weather, ending a great summer of compelling and fun tennis.**

The club's Tournament for members playing each other in singles and doubles matches is held every year from June until September, culminating in the Finals' Day, with a trophy giving ceremony and barbeque to round off the event.

The tournament was ably organised by Del Salter getting all the players in the right place at the right time over several weeks and scheduling the finals matches on our four courts during the day.

The event started with the singles matches and the Men's Singles title was retained by Jamie Thomas who beat Marcus Robertson comfortably with a 6-1, 6-2 win. Jamie has been our singles champion for several years now so well done to him.

The Ladies Singles final saw a hard-fought two-hour match between Penny Luke and Jane Reap with Penny just edging ahead to win 6-3, 6-7, 6-4, retaining her title from last year.

Jamie and Marcus then went on to partner each other in the Men's Doubles and won the title, winning 6-1, 6-2 against Andy Riding and Joe Lane. All four players put on an entertaining and spirited display of tennis.

The mother and son partnership of Lynne and Jamie Thomas had a good win in the Mixed Doubles against Penny Luke and Marcus Robertson, coming back to win the second and third sets having lost the first 2-6, 7-5, 6-2. This gave Jamie a clean sweep of three wins in three finals.

In the Ladies Doubles, Jane Hatter and Penny Luke gained the title having won the first set 6-2 and were winning 4-2 in the second when Sandie Benham and Jane Reap sadly had to retire due to injury.

There was also competitive tennis to watch in the Handicapped Doubles Competition. The Men's Handicap Doubles final was extremely close in an exciting match won by Elton Koeburg and Joe Lane, who beat Andy Riding and Mike Wright 7-5, 6-4.

In the Ladies Handicapped Doubles final, Lynne Thomas won her second trophy, winning 6-0, 6-4 with her partner Jenny Vaux against Jen Boyd and Cas Lomas.

Trophies, some dating back to 1931 were presented to the winners by Club Chairman Nigel Hatt and the day was rounded off with a barbeque and drinks.

The last presentation of the day was the Betty Holmes Trophy, awarded to the club member who has made the greatest contribution to the club over the previous year. This was justly won by Committee Member Tim Winkle following his hard work as Match Secretary and much other unseen work at the club.

With its four newly surfaced courts, Old Basing Tennis Club is a friendly and welcoming club which is keen to gain new members. If you would like to find out more about the tennis club, go to our website or Facebook page.





## Letters from a Longbow archer

**Like many people of a certain age, I look at the way the world is changing. The speed of life seems to have increased to an almost intolerable pace.**

We want things delivered tomorrow or even today. The requirements of work are faster; better; now. The pressures of work today increasingly demand twice the load in half the timescale. I wonder sometimes if we know our neighbours as well as we did when I was a kid? I knew all the people in our road, all down the street and many more around the village. Is it the same today or do we just close our doors after a hard day and slouch in an armchair to rest?

In this world of faster, better, more, it's good to know that there are still places where we can take a step out of our lives and actually take time to live. Archery is, I believe, a truly mindful activity that restores some serenity in the beautiful setting at the recreation ground with a delightful group of fellow archers. As with many things in life, it is very easy to learn, but it does take time and effort to master. In fact, some of us are 40+ years in and far from masters of our craft, but still enjoying the activities and social aspects of this sport. And let's face it, where else is a little round old lady going to be recognized as an athlete – I have photographic evidence!

Back to the mindfulness I mentioned before. I stand on the shooting line, close my eyes and settle down and relax my shoulders. I take a long breath in and out and in a smooth movement, turn my head and lift my bow. I sight the arrow point on the target and draw the bowstring back to my chin and nose, pause momentarily and then let the string slide off my fingers. My elbow follows backwards and my hand ends behind my head.

"Is it gold?" you ask. Well I do have a tendency for my arrows to fly to the right of the target, so I compensate by aiming more left.

"But is it gold? You ask again.

"No, it went exactly where I aimed it, that nonsense is just not fair" That, and the fact that the string magically stuck to my fingers and it was a terrible loose; my string hand just seemed to wave the arrow goodbye!

But that's the beautiful part about archery, I could get upset, but what's the point, I just laugh at myself and try a bit harder next time. There are many archers who are more serious than I, and they are incredibly good. You only need to pop by the club to see them, or watch when we host the annual Siege shoot where we have world record holders and Olympians attending. I, of course, am the scruffy longbow loon, stood shoulder to shoulder with these dedicated souls. I grumble and giggle in equal measure. And although we each have a different approach (and outcomes) we both enjoy it hugely.

If you would like to try your hand at this amazing sport that we do, and make a connection with archers down the centuries, you can find us at Old Basing Archers in the corner of the Recreation ground. Pop by for a chat, or look us up on our website where you can find dates of courses. We look forward to seeing you then. Take care of yourselves and whatever you do today, make sure you take a little sidestep from life for a bit of mindfulness and 'you' time.



By Penny Jubin



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New  
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