

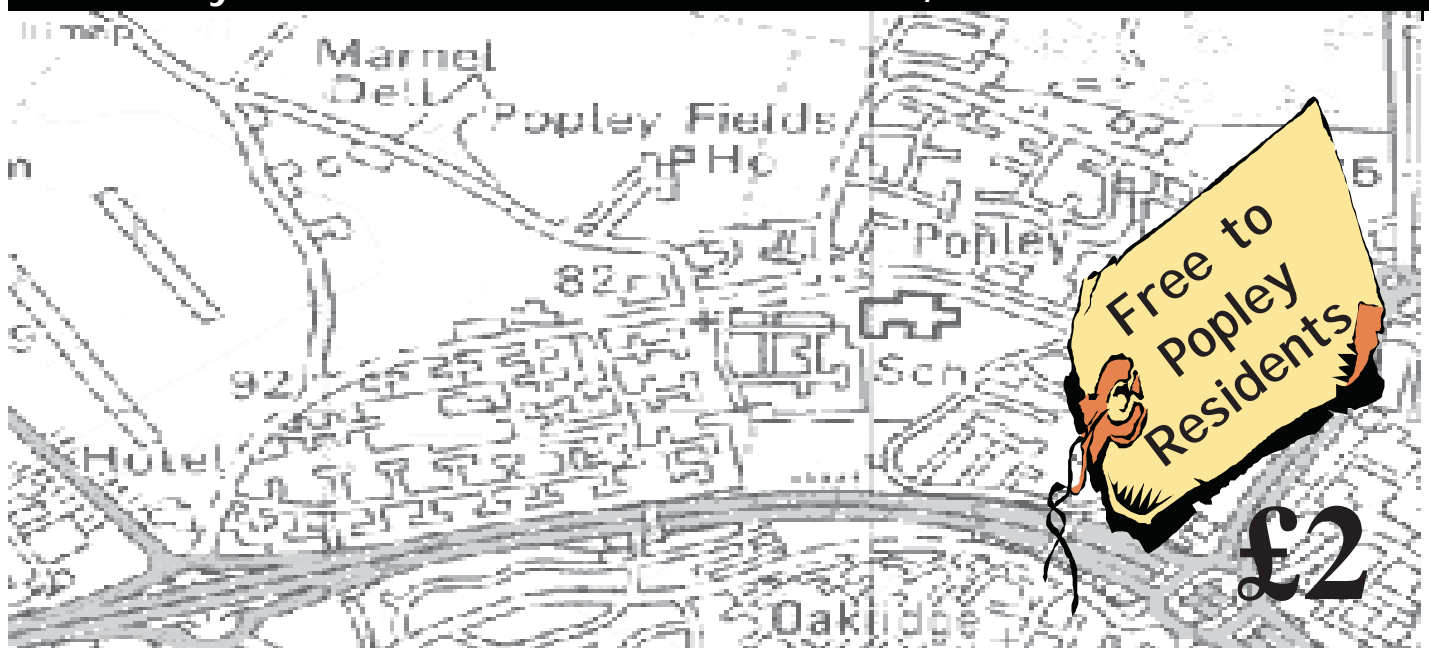
# POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1992

May 2013

Distribution of 5,000

Issue 135



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-05-13) [editor@poppleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@poppleymatters.org.uk)



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:-** Today the sun is shining it's beautiful and warm: yesterday was cold and the day before a heatwave? I hope we have beautiful sunny and warm weather on Sunday 19th May for the great Popley Festival. We always have thousands of visitors. Friends and relatives meet up and it makes for a wonderful day out for the family. There is a long history behind Popley Festival starting many years ago when The Boys Brigade and St Gabriel's Church got together to have the first one. The Festival grew so quickly it relocated to the old John Hunt School. I

remember one year having 15,000 visitors on a scorching hot day,

The following year it poured with rain and the numbers slumped to around 8,000. I love going round the boot sales and picking up some great bargains, then I have a big hamburger or even a curry. I hope I see you all there in the sunshine this year.

Next month sees the coming of age with the 21st anniversary of Popley Matters, I just don't know where all the years have gone?

We aim to try to keep you all informed of what is going on in and around Popley, and information that may be of use to you. We love to hear from clubs and groups both old and new and it helps encourage the wonderful community spirit Popley has. Have you noticed the new picnic benches in the Popley Community Park? I hope we get some real picnic weather this year.

We do, however, need more help especially with deliveries of the magazines and lugging around of boxes that I am sure are getting heavier, or are we just getting older?

Contact us via email on [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk) if you want to submit an article, place an advertisement or want to promote your club or group. You can call me on 01256 819924 or write to me at 405, Abbey Road. RG24 9EL



Sub Editor  
Paul Frankum

The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team, the members of the committee, or Popley Matters.

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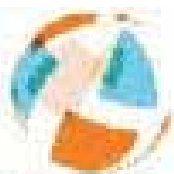
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## Annual May Bank Holiday Duck Race on the River Loddon

On May Bank Holiday, Monday 27 May, the Rotary Club of Basingstoke Loddon will once again be out in force running the annual Family Fun Duck Race on the River Loddon. Each year hundreds of little blue and yellow ducks are released into the river at Barton's Mill to race in heats against each other trying to win their 'supporter' one of the many prizes on offer.

Races start at 1.30pm from Barton's Mill, Barton's Mill Lane, Old Basing RG24 8AE and it is always a great family day out with both parents and children cheering the little ducks on! This year's top prizes are a scenic helicopter flight for two from Thruxton Airport, a flight in a light aircraft courtesy of Popham Airfield and a flight for one in a hot air balloon (courtesy of Toucan Travel) plus there are many more prizes on offer.

Tickets are £1 each and each ticket represents one duck. You don't have to be there to 'support' a duck and tickets can be purchased from our MyDonate page <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/url/96495>. There is a minimum £2 donation and once you have donated please email your donation reference number and telephone contact number (so that we can contact you if you win a prize) to John Bonner at [jmbonner@btinternet.com](mailto:jmbonner@btinternet.com) and your ticket numbers will be emailed back to you.

This year all proceeds will be donated to the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Don't miss out – put the date on your calendar now and we'll see you there!

**For further information please contact John Bonner - email [jmbonner@btinternet.com](mailto:jmbonner@btinternet.com)**

# Hello...

## From your Community Safety Patrol Officers

As Community Safety Patrol Officers (CSPO) we identify and tackle local issues, reduce crime, deter anti-social behaviour and deal with environmental crimes, to make residents feel safer and happier about their neighborhood.

In this issue we thought it would be appropriate to share some of the hard work which has been achieved by us over the last year.

A snapshot of some of the things Dan has dealt with includes:

- Dealing with over 320 incidents. Most of these were related to anti-social-behaviour, closely followed by vehicle related incidents and fly tipping;
- Over three quarters of Dan's time was spent on area related duties outside of the office. This included:
  - conducting high visibility, target led patrols providing a uniformed high visibility presence in your community;
  - Dealing with complaints quickly and efficiently; and
  - Engaging with the local community.
- Regular visits to schools, providing education to young people about safety, anti-social-behaviour and being a responsible citizen;
- Joint work with partner agencies to deal with issues affecting your local community; and
- Organising and running events to reduce anti-social-behaviour and youth nuisance during school holidays.

We have recently noticed an increase in fly tipping within the Popley area.

Fly-tipping is the 'illegal deposit of any waste onto land or a highway that has no licence to accept it'. Illegal dumps of waste can vary in scale and the type of waste involved.

Tipping a mattress, electrical items or a bin bag full of rubbish in the street causes a local nuisance, and tipping household items and small-scale building or garden waste in open spaces is unsightly and costs the borough a substantial amount to clear away.

If you have bulky household items these can either be taken to the household waste recycling centre on Wade Road, or you can arrange with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to collect these items for you (a fee will be charged based on your collection requirements). Basingstoke and Deane can be contacted on 01256 844 844 or via the website [www.basingstoke.gov.uk](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk)

If you know of someone who regularly dumps rubbish illegally, we would be pleased to hear from you so we can investigate further.

We hope to see as many of you as possible whilst on patrol around Popley. If you don't manage to see us and would like to talk to us about any issues you may have, please contact us on **01256 845 700** or by email; [safetypatrolservice@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:safetypatrolservice@basingstoke.gov.uk)

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**WHATS ON:**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	9.30am-12.00pm Little Rainbows (child minders)
	<b>AFTERNOON AVAILABLE FOR HIRE</b>
	5.30-6.45pm NHS Quit smoking
	7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	9.30-11.00am Popley Little People
	<b>AFTERNOON AND EVENING AVAILABLE FOR HIRE</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	9.30am Slimming World
	9.00-10.45am NHS Quit Smoking Clinic
	12-2pm Oasis Lunch club
	5.30 and 7.30pm Slimming World
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	<b>AVAILABLE FOR HIRE</b>
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	<b>DAY TIME HIRE AVAILABLE</b>
	6.30-7.45pm MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years
	8.00- 9.15pm age 11 plus.
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	<b>AVAILABLE FOR HIRE</b>
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	MCF - Contact Pastor Phillip Keble on 462351 for times of services.
	4.00pm Beginners - Phoenix Dog Training Club
	5.00pm Improvers - Phoenix Dog Training Club

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for Birthdays, Wedding Receptions, and Conferences and regular groups. Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at [Melrosehall@btconnect.com](mailto:Melrosehall@btconnect.com)

Also find us on facebook: Melrose hall.

---

## **Have Your Say on Play!**

Officers from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council community services team will be at Popley Festival on 19th May. Look out for their stall which will hold a community consultation exhibition.

They will be asking you to comment on ideas for play facilities at Dryden Close and The Dell on the Popley Poets Estate. Your feedback is vital to make sure money is spent wisely on the features your community really want.

So why not drop in on the day?

Alice Harwood CMLI

Play Area Officer

Community Services

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

---

## **Annual Charity Walk**

The Rotary Club of Basingstoke are holding their annual charity walk at 9.00am on Sunday 19 May. There are three optional distances of five, seven and ten miles, with the walk starting at Hannington mast. Full details can be obtained on the Rotary website at [www.basingstoke.rotaryweb.org](http://www.basingstoke.rotaryweb.org).



## 'Tea at 3' throughout June and July



Host an event in aid of St. Michael's Hospice and help make this year's Tea Party the biggest ever in North Hampshire!

For help with ideas and planning your event  
Contact Lynne 01256 848845

E: [lynne.grimshaw@stmichaelshospice.org.uk](mailto:lynne.grimshaw@stmichaelshospice.org.uk)



---

## Make a Difference.... Go the Distance!

St Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire) welcomes the 5k & 10k Sponsored Run at Down Grange Sports Complex, Basingstoke on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013 starting at 7.00pm.

Last year our supporters helped us raise an amazing £15,000 so why not put on your running shoes and help us beat this in 2013. Places are selling fast so book early to avoid disappointment!

This fun event is a great way to train for this year's Destination Basingstoke Shire Half Marathon, on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2013, as well as raising much needed funds for the Hospice.

To sign up and for more information please visit the Hospice website: [www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk/events](http://www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk/events) or call fundraising on 01256 848 848 or follow us on Twitter @smhbasingstoke #HospiceRun

Pat Darty, Events Manager for the Hospice, said "Last year over 300 runners took part in St. Michael's 5K and 10K run around Down Grange Sports Complex. We had people of all ages and abilities taking part, even the Bishop of Basingstoke! This year we hope to have even more runners than last year challenging themselves and raising money for St. Michael's Hospice."

Michelle Larden, Senior Nurse at St. Michael's Hospice, said "Last year, myself and members of the nursing team took part in our first 5K! It was a truly memorable night with great fun had by all, despite the blood, sweat and blisters! The Hospice Angels are set to return this year and aim to have more fun, make more noise and, most of all, make lots of money for a cause that benefits so many.

This year St. Michael's is delighted to have partnered with The Breeze and Alton Sports who will both be offering support in the lead up and on the day of the event.



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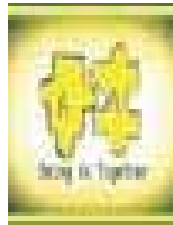
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### Light It Up Blue!

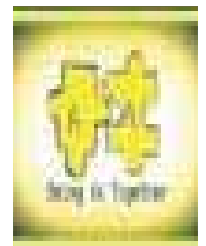
April has been 'Light It Up Blue' month for world Autism awareness and 2nd April is World Autism Awareness Day so every year many of those affected by Autism work hard to shine a light on Autism and raise awareness of this often invisible disability.

One of our members, Michelle, has stepped forward to be an Autism Awareness Ambassador for our club by organising and hosting an extremely successful fundraising event in her place of work, Companion Care Vets in Pets At Home, Hatch Warren. Michelle persuaded many local businesses to donate raffle prizes and sold tea, coffee and cakes to customers of Pet At Home and those who especially came along to support the event. Our Chairman, Mr Paul Illsley, Shirley, Mandy and her daughter Lauren were also there to run the event for the entire six hours! All proceeds have been gratefully received by our club and we look forward to using these funds to run some external events for our members during the summer holidays.

Other highlights of this month have been our club Open Day to mark 2nd April when we opened our doors free of charge to our members and also to those who had not yet been able to try our club. Lots of fun was had eating cake and decorating jigsaw pieces for our giant jigsaw work of art to be displayed at our club headquarters. Bee Varga, a local hula hooping performer and teacher came along to give us all a whirl after we had eaten all the cake!

ManyDown Farm was an Easter Holiday treat for our members. The children were in their element interacting with the baby animals and bouncing around on the inflatables; very happy children equalled relaxed mums and dads!

The children have recently enjoyed go-karting in the Everest Sports Hall and are looking forward to a Fencing taster session with Sports Xtra this Sunday.



Everest Autism Club runs every Sunday 11am to 1pm at Everest Community Academy, Oxford Way in Popley. We charge £2 per child and first session is a free taster session. Please come along, we would love to meet you!



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Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013

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## Spring into action – as an On-Call Firefighter!

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service is looking for people who want to become on-call (retained) firefighters in the Basingstoke and Deane area.

Being a firefighter is an inspiring job, not only because you're providing an essential service for the community, but also because you get full training, gain new skills and get paid!

Vacancies currently exist at Basingstoke, Whitchurch, Kingsclere, Overton and Tadley Fire Stations. The hunt is on to find people to help deal with everything from fires and road accidents, to floods and vital community work. On-call firefighters can respond to incidents from home or work.

Basingstoke Group Manager Brian Rudman explains: “We currently have a number of exciting vacancies at our stations. On-call firefighters are a key part of the fire and rescue service in the Basingstoke area and our firefighters come from a real cross section of the community. We can offer flexible solutions, which allow parents or those with other responsibilities to be on-call during daytime hours that suit them. They are trained and paid, and do the same job as wholetime firefighters. Being an on-call firefighter is not just about attending incidents whenever you're required, it's about teamwork and helping the local community. These are ordinary people doing an extraordinary job.”

The Service is looking for local people who want to make a commitment to working within their own community by joining the on-call firefighters team. On-call firefighters need to live or work within about 4 minutes travel time from the station. This is ideal for men or women of all ages and from any background who work or live within the catchment area. Applicants must be over the age of 18.

On-call firefighters attend training sessions one night per week. They are paid and additional payments are made for any courses or incidents they attend.

Brian added: “If you think you might be interested or want to find out a bit more, come along to one of our training evenings to see if this exciting job would suit you. Often people feel that they would not be suitable or cannot provide enough cover but if you don't come in, you'll never know! You could be just what we are looking for. If you live or work within four minutes of one of the fire stations, drop in and have a chat with one of our firefighters. They will be happy to answer any questions and it will be a great opportunity to find out first hand what the job involves.”

Want to know more? Then visit the station:

Basingstoke Fire Station – Tuesday evenings between 7 and 10pm

Tadley Fire Station – Tuesday evenings between 6:45 and 9:45pm

Whitchurch Fire Station – Monday evenings between 6:30 and 9:30pm

Overton Fire Station - Monday evenings between 6:30 and 9:30pm

Kingsclere Fire Station – Tuesday evenings between 6:30 and 9:30pm

The Service has also released a short film which includes interviews with real on-call firefighters. Watch it at <http://bit.ly/YPqm3I>

You can also contact the Service's Human Resources team on 023 8064 4000 or visit the website [www.hantsfire.gov.uk/careerstraining](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/careerstraining).





# MESSAGE in a BOTTLE

**Message in a Bottle (MIAB)** is a very simple life saving idea for those who are getting on a bit or have health problems. The Lions Club or your surgery or chemist can provide a plastic bottle into which you put a special note showing your personal details and the medications you are taking, and put it into your fridge. On the back of your front door, you put a MIAB sign. Then, in the event that the emergency services have to come to your house, they know immediately where to get a hold of all your details.

The Basingstoke Lions have been promoting the scheme for some years but their co-ordinator was somewhat surprised to get a message from a lady living alone in Dorset telling him how the scheme had saved her on three separate occasions and asking if there was any way he could supply the system to her 86 year old parents living in Lee-on-Solent. He couldn't! But, he knew a man who could! He immediately got in touch with the Gosport Lions Club co-ordinator who contacted the couple, went round with the kit, helped them complete the forms and installed it within 24 hours. This is just the latest example of how the network of Lions Clubs serves their communities.



## Popleyfields community centre

# Quiz night

**22<sup>nd</sup> June**

Doors open at 6:30 for a  
7pm start

Licensed bar

Raffle

£1 per person

Maximum 6 players per team

Reg Charity no. 1052133

For more information please phone 01256414494

# **Basingstoke Job Clubs**

If you are looking for work or hoping to return to work, Basingstoke Job Clubs are offering great opportunities for you to:

- Gain support in preparing or updating a CV
- Access a range of sources from which to find jobs
- Brush up on the application process
- Improve your interview skills
- Gain a qualification in Work Preparation

On behalf of Basingstoke and District Learning Partnership, the Job Clubs are professional but friendly, so a cup of tea and a biscuit can be expected too!

With Job Clubs running across the Basingstoke area they are easily accessible to all.

- Monday – Ridgeway Centre, Buckskin 9.30am-12.30pm
- Tuesday – Westside Community Centre, South Ham 9.30am-12.30pm
- Tuesday – Hurst Community School, Baughurst 10am-12pm
- Wednesday – Chute House, Church St. Basingstoke 9.30am-12.30pm
- Thursday – Oakridge Hall for All 9.30am-12.30pm
- Friday – Popley Fields Community Centre 9.30am-12.30pm

Visit [www.basingstokejobclubs.wikispaces.com](http://www.basingstokejobclubs.wikispaces.com) for more information.

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## **Time for a Dip – With Free Swimming Lessons for Over 55s**

Residents are being encouraged to take the plunge and enrol on a free swimming course supported by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Basingstoke Sports Centre.

The 10-week course starting on Thursday 9 May, encourages those people living in the borough who are over the age of 55 to sign up to free 30 minute swimming lessons at the Basingstoke Sports Centre.

The lessons, which are taught by a qualified teacher, are aimed at those people who want to learn to swim, build up their confidence in the water and make new friends.

Cabinet Member for Partnerships Cllr Cathy Osselton said: “Learning to swim or building up confidence in the water provides a wonderful opportunity to improve people’s health and wellbeing without excessive stress on bones or joints.

“With this course we not only want to encourage people to try a new form of exercise but also meet new people to both socialise and exercise with after the course has finished.”

For more information or to book on to the course contact Amy Sambell at the borough council on 01256 845752 or email [amy.sambell@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:amy.sambell@basingstoke.gov.uk)

## The Curator's Cupboard: A 'Museums at Night' Event at the Museum of Army Flying

As part of Culture 24's national campaign 'Museums at Night', the Museum of Army Flying is hosting an event entitled 'The Curators Cupboard' on the 16 May at 7pm. The first event of its kind hosted by the Museum, it will give visitors the chance to go behind the scenes and get up close to an array of the Museum's treasures that are not normally on public display. There will be an opportunity to meet the Museum's Curator and Archivist, and discuss the artefacts in detail. The event will also offer the audience the chance to engage in series of mini-talks with veteran pilots and volunteer experts who will be available around the Museum throughout the evening. These experts will be on hand to discuss their first-hand experiences of flying some of the iconic aircraft we have on display, giving visitors an insight into the working lives of each machine.



'The Bell G4 Helicopter was one the aircraft flown by our volunteer experts' Susan Lindsay, Curator of the Museum of Army Flying, said. "This event is a unique opportunity for visitors to see the items that are currently not on display in the Museum, and engage with the personal stories behind some of these incredible items. You can also talk to the pilots that actually flew the aircraft on display in the Museum, such as the Bell G4 and Westland Gazelle." Peter Capon, the Museum's Archivist, said of the event "It will allow people access to areas of our incredible archive collections, such as D- Day maps and flying log books from some of the glider pilots who flew as part of the assault on Pegasus bridge." One of the mini-talks focuses on the Museum's quirky Hafner experimental aircraft, which always prove popular. Tickets will include exclusive out of hours access to the Museum, entry to the archives to view items from the Museum's collection and the scheduled mini talks. Booking is essential due to limited numbers. For tickets and booking please email [enquiries@flying-museum.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@flying-museum.org.uk).



## **Mind the benefit cap**

### **What's the benefit cap?**

The government will limit the total amount of benefit most people aged 16 to 64 can receive.

### **When will it start?**

On 15 April the benefit cap was introduced in four London boroughs and will be brought in nationally between 15 July and the end of September 2013.

### **How will it work?**

If your combined income from certain benefits is more than the cap, your Housing Benefit will be cut.

The level of the cap will be:

- £500 a week if you're in a couple, with or without children that live with you
- £500 a week if you're a single parent
- £350 a week if you're a single adult and don't have children or have children who don't live with you.

### **Which benefits are included in the cap?**

The cap will apply to your combined household income (this means you and your partner, if you have one, and any children you are responsible for and who live with you) from:

- Bereavement Allowance
- Carer's Allowance
- Child Benefit
- Child Tax Credit
- Employment and Support Allowance, except where it is paid with the support component
- Guardian's Allowance
- Housing Benefit (but not if you live in supported accommodation)
- Incapacity Benefit
- Income support
- Jobseeker's Allowance
- Maternity Allowance
- Severe Disablement Allowance
- Widowed Parent's Allowance
- Widowed Mother's Allowance
- Widow's Pension.

### **What next?**

If you're already getting benefits and could be affected by the cap you'll be contacted by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). They'll let you know what will happen to your benefits.

You can also find out whether you'll be affected by the cap and the impact this could have on your benefits by using the government's benefit cap calculator at [www.gov.uk/benefit-cap](http://www.gov.uk/benefit-cap).

For further information and advice please contact:

Citizens Advice Bureau at [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk) or call 08444 111 444 to find your local branch.

Turn2us a charitable service which helps people access the money available to them – through welfare benefits, grants and other help. Visit [www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk)

You can also check to see if you're claiming all the benefits you're entitled to on our website [www.sentinelha.org.uk/welfare-reform](http://www.sentinelha.org.uk/welfare-reform)



**Headquarters:**

**Base 2000 Carpenters Down, Popley RG24 9AE**

**Group Scout Leader: Colin Karlake** 01256 410559

**Scout section: Andy Welham-Jones** 07971 491 145

**Cub Scout section: Douglas Gowan** 01256 412326

**Beaver Scout section: Eve Alexander** 01256 346510

The Cub Pack has started a 'pen pal' link with fellow cubs in New Zealand by writing letters to their prospective new friends. The Pack also held its own St. George's Day evening to explore some of the myth and establish the facts of the man who, as well as being the Patron Saint of England, is also the Patron of Scouting. In May the Pack will embark to activities linked to the Science badge making a simple electric switch and recovering minerals and other substances from water samples. Excitement is beginning to build for Cub Camp in June which will be held at Longbridge.

The Beavers enjoyed their trail in the woods despite the cold and managed to find most of the 'treasure'. They also managed to find quite a bit of mud which left the leaders cleaning a few shoes before it was time to go home! Thank you Colin, Katie and Sho. Eight Beavers attended the District Challenge Day in the snow and learnt how to make magnets, decorate cakes, make a rope, grow cress and how to grow a bean without soil and water. Lots of fun for everyone!

The Air Scouts joined with fellow members from Basingstoke East, Basingstoke West and Silchester Scout Districts for a Celebration of St. George on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April. Over 700 young people paraded through Festival Place shopping centre led by the Royal British Legion Corps of Drums followed by a Celebration for the life of St. George and the renewal of Promises in the ampi-theatre.

The Group HQ at Base 2000 is available for private hire from time to time. Charges range form £3.50 per hour for small hall. Enquiries to Colin on 01256 410559/07796 772 500 or e-mail [bookings@base2000.co.uk](mailto:bookings@base2000.co.uk)



# Lions Club of Basingstoke

[www.basingstokelions.org.uk](http://www.basingstokelions.org.uk)

British people's reaction to adversity is wonderful. It seems to get their juices going. At our Quiz evening in the Cliddesden Millenium Hall we had a thunder storm during which a lightning strike took out the area transformer plunging the hall into darkness. The reactions of the 80 people in the hall were a combination of "Hello – there's a problem – I'm gonna fix it" and "Oh dear – there's a problem – quick, let's get in another round of drinks". The lights came on after 20 minutes but the blackout camaraderie lasted the whole evening and boosted our takings for the evening to £608. (Thinks:" Must organise another blackout!") Our other fundraising events in March did very well too. Some of you will have seen the article and picture in the Gazette about our Annual Swimathon. This is a popular event because people are able to use it to raise money for their own favoured charity. Entrants get themselves sponsored and the proceeds are split between the Lions Club and the nominated charity. To date this year it has raised £1,400. Lastly, "The Apollo Big Band" concert at QMC: eighteen musicians gave us a fantastic evening of hits old and new played with real passion and rhythm, and because they knew it was for charity, they performed for a very low fee enabling us to achieve a profit of £1,550. Thanks guys and gals!

In my last newsletter I mentioned our intention to make a donation to Sebastian's Action Trust as soon as we had a bit more cash in hand. Thanks to the great support we've received at all our recent events, we will shortly present Sebastian's mother with a cheque for £1,000 for the Trust . We also spent a further £850 on donations to The Mayor's Charity Appeal, to Motability and to a variety of small projects. All who support us have our heartfelt thanks for enabling us to aid such a wide range of good causes.

On 4th May the Heritage Orchestra will play for us in QMC Main Hall. It will be an evening of songs from the shows, media themes and light classics by well known local performers. The proceeds will be donated to RadCan, the charity set up to provide a much needed radiotherapy unit at the hospital. So call Maurice Hockley 01256 421867 for tickets to support this very worthwhile cause.

**STOP PRESS:** We've just won an award! At our annual District Convention (Lions' name for weekend jolly) we were presented with a trophy. We achieved the highest increase in membership - 46% - in the past year. (We'd like to win it again next year please). We were also nominated for best website but lost out to Reading. So, if there are any would be web designers/ connoisseurs out there, please take a look at ours and let us know what you think we could do to improve it. We want to win that trophy for Basingstoke next year! Thanks!





## ANOTHER GREAT EVENT FROM BASINGSTOKE ROTARY

The Rotary Club of Basingstoke is holding a Classical Music Concert at Aldworth Science College, Western Way, Basingstoke on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The evening will be a wonderful presentation by international stars, the Steinberg Duo (Louisa Stonehill – violin and Nicholas Burns – piano) supported by local young musicians. The repertoire will follow a Parisienne theme with music from Mozart, Kreisler and Franck, with a unique presentation of the background stories associated with the Steinberg Duo's music. Proceeds to be donated to Basingstoke Mencap, Riding for the Disabled, Dummer and other local Basingstoke Charities. Tickets are available at £15.00 each and can be purchased from [mike.narracott@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.narracott@btinternet.com) or leave contact details on 01256 328953.



The popular **STEINBERG DUO** comprise the youthful and exuberant Louisa Stonehill on Violin and Nicholas Burns on Piano. The repertoire chosen for the event includes Mozart Sonata for Piano & Violin in D, K.306, followed by Kreisler Praeludium & Allegro and Franck Sonata for Violin & Piano in A. The Duo enjoys a fine reputation both nationally and internationally for their classical renditions.

As well as the performance by the Steinberg Duo, six Youth Musicians will have the opportunity to show their talents by playing different solo instruments including a solo vocalist. Rotary is dedicated both locally and internationally to encourage and promote New Generation endeavours and those selected for this amateur element of our Classical Music evening will have shown promising progress in pursuing their interest in a difficult environment.

Basingstoke and District Local Businesses will be invited to support this event by purchasing tickets for their business colleagues and customers and subscribing to a small advertisement in the programme costing just £50.00. Requests for tickets and sponsorship information should be addressed by e-mail to [mike.narracott@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.narracott@btinternet.com) on behalf of The Rotary Club of Basingstoke.

**The Rotary Club of Basingstoke**  
**SERVICE ABOVE SELF**  
[www.basingstoke.rotaryweb.org](http://www.basingstoke.rotaryweb.org)

Dear Friends

Well now that May is here I guess our thoughts are perhaps turning to the summer holidays – where we might go and what we might do. Marilyn and I enjoy our holidays and being a self-confessed sun seeker, I prefer to go abroad where the sun is guaranteed to shine. I find there is nothing better than sitting by the pool with a cold beer and a good book for company while Marilyn prefers to be out and about exploring. So, each year it's a bit of compromise and concession to make sure that we both enjoy the break and come back relaxed and refreshed. Perhaps because of this we always seem to leave it till the last minute before we do anything about booking a holiday! While this is okay for holidays and such like, one area of my life I decided some years ago not leave to the last minute is my spiritual life.

Do you know the old saying “*those who plan to repent at the eleventh hour often die at ten-thirty!*” We all prepare for the long term future in some way - in fact we're actively encouraged to take out life insurance, pension plans and investments to provide for our old age but the future can be a very uncertain place.

I find it remarkable that so many profess a belief in God and in Jesus and yet choose to turn their backs or ignore him and his plan for their lives. Jesus said two things, “*I have come that they may life and life in all its fullness*” and “*Do not store up treasure for yourself on earth where moth and rust destroy.*”

Before becoming a Christian some twenty five years ago I was engaged in a successful IT sales career and completely focussed on all things material – money, house, car, fixtures and fittings and family – in the mistaken belief that if I acquired all these things then the future would be secure. But having them somehow never completely satisfied me! It was only when my 15 year old niece told me about Jesus that I suddenly recognised what was missing in my life for the now and forever.

There's a modern hymn that we sing in St Gabriel's, one of the verses reads like this; ‘No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me; from life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny. No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from his hand. Till he returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.’

Whatever holiday the summer brings for you and your family I hope that you'll have a wonderful break from the routine of life and come back sun-bronzed, refreshed and relaxed. I hope to that you'll find time to step back and think longer term, beyond pensions and insurance and consider making an investment now for your eternal future. We're open every Sunday at 10.30am for enquiries and advice on how to make the best of your assets!!!!

**God Bless.**

**Arthur.**

**Vicar, St Gabriel's**

*PS: Do come and visit us at the Popley Festival on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May - we're in the tent with the oranges!!! Family activities, puppet shows, choirs, Youth Chill Out Zone, café and craft. Open from 11am – 4pm WOW!*

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## Changes to legal aid fo family cases.

Radical changes to the legal aid system came into force on 1 April 2013 which mean that legal aid for family cases is now only available in very exceptional circumstances, namely for victims of domestic violence and for a limited number of people for mediation. It is estimated by Resolution, formerly known as the Solicitors Family Law Association (SLFA), that 200,000 people per year will be affected by the changes and risk being denied access to justice.

The theory behind the reforms is that more people will instead use mediation to sort out arrangements for their children and finances with their ex-partner. Whilst the use of mediation is widely supported and encouraged by the legal profession, it is by no means a 'one-size-fits-all' solution. For example, where the other person is unwilling to attend mediation, there is no public funding to plug the gap. For many, this raises the terrifying prospect of having to go to court in person without the benefit of legal advice.

Or does it? For those individuals who might find themselves in such a situation, I would encourage them to seek out a solicitor who offers a tailored service which is affordable to their budget. Many solicitors offer a bite-size 'pay as you go' service to enable clients to still get the help and advice they need at the most crucial stages.

If you decide not to use a solicitor, an initial conversation with a Resolution lawyer can signpost you to suitable help, advice or alternative support services. Resolution has a membership of 6,500 family lawyers and other professionals in England and Wales, who believe in a constructive, non-confrontational approach to family law matters.

Rob Parker specialises in family law at Phillips Solicitors and is a trained collaborative lawyer and member of Resolution. For more information, please contact Rob on 01256 854 676 or email [rparker@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:rparker@phillips-law.co.uk) and see [www.phillips-law.co.uk](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk)



# Everest Silver Sherpas

The Silver Sherpas have experienced some interesting activities over the last few weeks. We enjoyed an art session of 'Felt Making' using fleece wool in many vibrant colours. Quite a few members made pictures, or abstract patterns and found it very therapeutic!!

Another week about ten of us formed a mini choir. We warmed our vocal chords by making interesting mouth movements and sounds!! We even managed singing a song together in three harmonies. Our tutor was very impressed, and so were we!!

The new term started for us on Friday 19th April. Some of the activities we can look forward to are Body Balance, a Brewery trip, and hopefully if the ground is suitable, a walk, which usually ends with a meal.

Each week there are the usual badminton or table tennis in the sports hall, or the use of the gym. It's always great to see new faces, so if you're 50 or over and would like to join us, just turn up at Everest Academy Community Office or contact Dean or Danielle on 01256 337573 for more information.



## **BERMUDA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

REGISTERED CHARITY No 1112068

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TELEPHONE  
OFFICE: 01256 363156  
HALL: 01256 308442

We have an excellent Popley Explorers pre-school here Monday to Friday 8:30am-3:00pm

Also available-Breakfast and Lunch Clubs (for further details contact Elaine on 363156)

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Monday evening -    | C.M.A Keep Fit & Kick Boxing from 6:30-8:00pm   |
| Tuesday evening -   | Community Bingo, doors open at 7:00pm, eyes down at 8:00pm.<br>Finish around 9.45pm (light refreshments available halftime).    |
| Wednesday evening - | Dance to the beat. 5pm -7pm.  |
| Thursday evening-   | Street Dance and ballet classes for two and a half years to adult.<br>4:30-6:30pm. Please contact Samantha Pike on 07811299484. |
| Friday evening-     | Friday Club (children) 5:00-6:30pm  |

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## **Fitness Fun for Everyone**

Councillor Martin Biermann, Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, and his wife Chansopha eagerly took part in Fitness Fun for Everyone at Chineham Village Hall run by Fitness League teacher Alison Howard. The event was attended members of Alison's classes, in Lychpit and Mapledurwell, and some who were new to the system of exercise but accepted the challenge of 2 hours of exercise on Saturday morning. Alison has been teaching in Basingstoke for 25 years and celebrated the milestone by raising funds for the Mayor's Charity Appeal.

Fitness League has a long history of providing safe, effective, stimulating exercise to people of all ages and abilities allowing them to progress at their own pace to become more flexible, increase bone and muscle strength, keep young, and get the feel good factor. Part exercise, part dance the system also provides an excellent body preparation for other sporting and dance activities.

Contact Alison for more information 01256 327014.

---

### **Local Dance School Celebrates Third Year Anniversary and has Raised over £1,000 for St Michael's Hospice, North Hants, No. 1002856**

The David Smith Music & Dance Academy is now celebrating its third year in operation at Sherborne St John Village Hall, Basingstoke.

David Smith is a former United Kingdom Dance Champion and is originally from Hereford. We was brought up from a young age in a Dance School environment as his parents are Dance teachers and have their own school with many years of experience.

Since moving to Basingstoke over four years ago David is one of the highest qualified Ballroom and Latin Dance teachers in the area. He is a Fellow and Examiner of The United Kingdom Alliance of Professional Teachers of Dancing and in June 2011 was elected onto the Board of Directors. He is also a Licentiate Member of the IDTA, British Dance Council Adjudicator, Sequence Dancing Inventor and also is on the Executive Council of the Guild of Professional Teachers of Dancing. David has achieved a lot in his 13 years of teaching!

Weekly classes for adults in American Line Dancing, Latin in Line, Ballroom, Latin American, Modern and Classical Sequence Dancing and Tea Dances are held at Sherborne St John Village Hall they are supported by many in the village as well as in Basingstoke and some travel as far away as Guildford for lessons! Lessons are also available to couples wanting to learn their first Wedding Dance.

March 2013 was a special month as it marked three years since the David Smith Music & Dance Academy was formed. A celebratory Tea Dance was held to mark the event and David was proud to present a cheque to St Michael's Hospice (North Hants) for £1,000 which has been raised through Weekly Tea Dance Raffles and Social Dance Events.

(Pictured is David presenting the cheque to the Hospice fundraising representative along with members of the Tea Dance).

Since 2010 £1,310 has been raised for St Michael's Hospice.

Weekly Tea Dances (Ballroom, Latin and Popular Sequence) are held each Monday (excl. Bank Holidays) 2:00pm till 4:00pm at Sherborne St John Village Hall, Kiln Road, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke, RG24 9HP.

If you would like any further information of the classes and events the Academy has to offer please contact David Smith by telephone on: 07791 749163 or email: David@dsmda.com or visit the website [www.dsmda.com](http://www.dsmda.com)



## Diaries from the Old Codger

While I still think of it, I had to put this down. My youngest grandson, he is now five years old, came running in and said “ Gramps there was this guy called Jesus and he was very, very, very kind, he bought this other guy back from the dead. “I take it, because it was Easter, the children were learning about Jesus. So I played dumb so he could tell me all about it. Her Indoors said, “Was that Lazarus?” “Yes” he said “That’s the bloke and at Easter Jesus come back when he died, and he was God’s son.”



I asked him if he knew who God’s best friend was, he said no. I wrote God on a bit of paper and told him about God naming all the animals in the world. One of these animals kept him company on his travels. This animal said to God “You have named all the animals except me. What will my name be?” My grandson said “Who was it Gramps?” “Well” I said “Write God, now write the word God backwards”. And it spelt “DOG” and that is how the dog got its name. He rushed to tell Granny, “God’s best friend is a dog”. “Yes that’s right”, she said, “and dogs are our best friends too”. The innocence of children and their thirst for knowledge never ceases to amaze me. After that it was back to the cartoons on T.V.

This year is the anniversary of two major events; 1953 was the end of the war in Korea. I only hope all this talk of nuclear armament in Korea will not be the start of another war. Many thousands will lose their lives all because of pride and envy. It is also the 50th anniversary of The Great Train Robbery. Nowadays people would not get thirty years for it. Why did they hand down such long sentences? They, the robbers, made fools of the postal service and the government. Another sad point to note is about one man who was convicted of being part of the robbery; he died in prison after 7 years. Following his death they discovered he was nothing to do with the robbery at all! They have never recovered most of the money; I think many back handers were given out to cover up. Both the Police and postal service I believe having read several reports, had insiders. Back then it was a very commonplace thing, and over the years we have seen many examples of this.

Basingstoke’s A Place to be Proud Of awards is with us once more. I was one of the proud recipients of one of these awards when our town introduced this wonderful idea. I would like to congratulate all this year’s winners. It is a beacon for the residents of our great town and it is continuing to draw so much out of good people and companies that support this project.

As you know Her Indoors has taken up a part time job in Basingstoke. As luck would have it, she is still with the same company, the draw back is I get to have her nag me more. She tells me she does not know how she worked full time. It is true she has to do so much more for me now, well I have to keep her going or she will start slacking off! I have to teach her how to cut straight lines when cutting our lawns. When she does cut the grass I am sure she has had a couple or more. Boy, do I set myself up!

I hope we have some good weather this year for the Popley Festival; a lot of hard work is put into it to give residents and visitors a good day out. I hope this year I can get to visit and meet up with old friends.

**Till next month Old Codger.**



# Merton Junior Time Tunnel Excitement



Last term the Upper School children in Years 5 & 6 learnt all about World War 2 in a topic that involved the children learning the traditional Jitterbug dance on top of being evacuated for the morning, to demonstrate what it could have been like for those who were taken from London and put into the safety of the countryside. Thank you to Rev. Arthur for helping us with this, allowing us to use the church. The children were taught the Jitterbug from top UK dancers, who came into school for a demonstration and workshop. As a way to share all of the fantastic achievements that the children had made over the course of the 5 weeks, parents and friends were invited into school to take part in a "Time Tunnel" and café, which displayed the children's work including their incredible home learning projects, which saw children building their own Anderson shelters as well as packing their bags ready to be evacuated. There was an overwhelming turnout to support this event!

Many of the children also created 'special' war time treats for the café which included sardine and dandelion sandwiches, vinegar cake and no bake chocolate cake; the parents and family members were able to purchase these items for a donation towards the Royal British Legion. Overall, the children had a fantastic time learning all about World War 2 and the parents commented on "the outstanding effort" that children had put into their work as well as having "a fantastic opportunity to share the children's work and celebrate their achievements with them".

We were really thrilled to be able to donate in excess of £50 to the Royal British Legion to contribute to their fantastic work with servicemen and women. Miss Gregor, Upper School class teacher, explained that "The



time tunnel was a chance to show off the fantastic work that our children can do and it allowed the children to take pride in their work as well. We would like to thank everyone who has supported their children over this topic and we look forward to more exciting topics in the futures".



## **Hello again readers**

### **It's me,**

As it is nearing the end of the Easter holidays pressure and tension is growing because from Monday 15th April it will only be 4 weeks until SATs week. Butterflies are growing in my stomach because the week is coming near and it is scary to think that it is only 24 days (4 weeks) until SATs.

Anyway I have been enjoying my Easter holiday, unfortunately we haven't been able to do much as our Mum has been ill. Usually we try and do things that are cheap or free during the holidays. We go to the 'Kids AM' cinema clubs at The Vue and The Odeon. The ticket prices are really reduced, it is £1.75 for children and adults. The films aren't new releases but this time we went to see "Wreck it Ralph" at the cinema and it was a very good film which I really enjoyed. We love going to Thatcham Nature Reserve. It is a lovely peaceful place which is good for family time together. There is a big pond which you can walk around and look at all the wildlife. At the very shallow end of the pond my brother and sisters and I like to put our wellies on and have a little walk and splash in it. There are 2 parks: the quite big one is for older children and the little one for younger children. They have a shop and a café at Thatcham and in the shop you can buy special seed which you can feed to the ducks and geese in the pond. Above the café and shop there is a discovery area where you can look at animals and the little ones can play with the badger puppet and fox puppet or read a book. In the discovery area there is a little window which you can get a good view of the lake.

We also went to Reading Museum with Dad and discovered lots of things that we didn't know about Reading but my favourite of everything was the copy of the Bayeux Tapestry because they were very delicately sewn and told the story of the Norman invasion very clearly. My second favourite display in the museum was the Victorian school room because it had a little desk with a slate on it and lots of paintings around the walls. After we had looked at every display at the museum we walked to the Forbury Gardens and ate our lunch, walked to the station and caught the Basingstoke train home and our mum picked us up from the station.

I have also been having some extra dance lessons as I have my Ballroom exam in a week or so and then a Competition in May (the day before my SATS start, oops!) I am dancing the Foxtrot, Waltz and Tango for my Silver award. I've been dancing Ballroom and Latin for 6 years and still love it.

**Until next month**

**Bye  
Ellie**

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*Thank you,  
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