

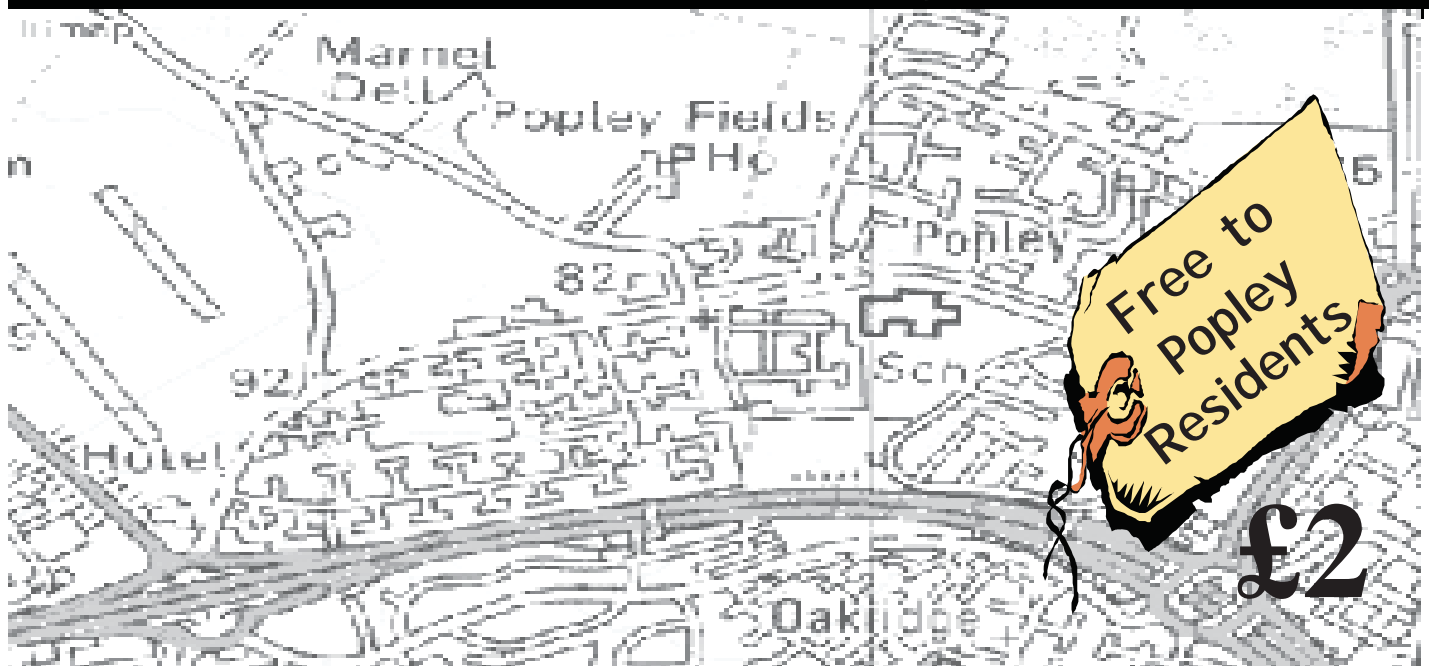
POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

October 2013

Distribution of 5,000

Issue 140



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-10-13) editor@poppleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:-On 8th September I went to the Everest Autism Club where I was welcomed once again. Anna Kennedy, the well-known campaigner for Autism and Asperger's, was also a guest and we were entertained by Steve Hewlett, Arthur Larger and many more of his puppet friends. Steve spent about two hours just talking with the families; so many photos were taken and everybody had such a good time. Steve and his brother David went to school at the Vyne. It is always so pleasing to see people succeed.

The weather has been so changeable and it is a sure sign that winter is on the way when you see Halloween and Bonfire items on sale. Paul and I went to the Neighbourhood Watch meeting on September 21st for Speckled Wood Road. There were some interesting and lively discussions and many of their problems are shared on all of Popley. The message from there is the same as we all talk about and many of the solutions lay with residents themselves, if only those few residents, who insist in inappropriate and illegal parking. These are also the same; cars speeding!; cars and bins on the paths forcing people to walk in the road. It was good to see how they were working together to talk about the issues and to come up with some solutions. The police say the same on page 6.

Popley has quite a few groups and clubs to join in with and , with the cold weather on its way, I hope you find something to suit you in this month's magazine. We are always happy to promote clubs and events in your Popley Matters. If you have a group or event you want to tell Popley about our contact details are below.

Lastly, we still need some helpers for deliveries so if you want to help you too can contact us by phone or email.

You can email me at editor@popleymatters.org.uk 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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Thank you for your support

North Popley Estate Access Improvements – Scheme Update

The estate access improvement scheme is the third phase of the North Popley improvement programme and is focussed on improving the pedestrian and cycle infrastructure in the area. This will make it easier and safer for those moving through the estate; allow it to drain better; make it easier to maintain; and improve access to local facilities or onwards to key destinations.

Work is currently continuing on improving the width and surfacing of the main footways, to more safely accommodate all users and connect seamlessly with nearby residential and commercial development. This will connect with important crossing points of Popley Way, Carpenters Down, the A33 and the A340, as well as providing gateway features on the main vehicle entry points in to Popley. It has also been noted how the area hasn't always drained well in recent years, so new facilities will be added to the drainage network at crucial points to make it better able to cope with the increased recent demand.

The scheme is now well in to its 20 week programme, with the work progressing well and the conclusion of works still being anticipated for November. This is despite the addition of several new items in response to issues that have recently arisen.

The contractor, Colas, has been trying to work as sensitively as possible and good feedback has been received on this. They have also voluntarily given a day of their time to work in the new Community Garden by Bermuda Hall, as well as provided paving slabs and other surfacing that was needed, all free of charge. The Hampshire County Council team thanks them for this important contribution to the local community.

If you require further information about the scheme or would like to make a comment about anything to do with the improvements, please contact the Client Manager through email (Tom.Robison@hants.gov.uk) or by telephone (0845 6035633).

Merton School Expansion

Cllr Paul Frankum and I met with officers to talk about the results of the public consultation on the Merton Schools expansion. There was an overwhelming support to enhance the learning facilities of our children, the big issue was the extra cars and safety of residents and the children. We spoke about the entrances and the need to get the children to school without blocking the garages and causing annoyance to the residents. Some residents had put forward some very constructive ideas and the architect is working on the possibility of incorporating. Paul will do another walkabout to see if we can make it better and safer, then the new drawings will be shown at another public meeting at the school. 5-7pm Monday 4th November. We will keep you informed as best we can.

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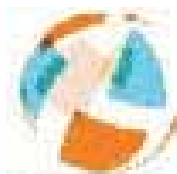
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Who are we? What do we do?

There has been a community centre next to the Abbey Road shops for over 40 years. Some residents may remember the first community building, a wooden built structure which was demolished in the late 90s which stood in what is now our community garden, and replaced by the building we have today.

The building was built and is owned by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council who lease to us – Melrose Community Association (MCA), a not-for-profit registered charity (we are not affiliated to any religious bodies or groups). We would also like to rectify a misunderstanding by some local residents that this hall is a church; it is not, never has been and never will be a church.

Our aim is to provide an affordable indoor space for use by all members of the local community, regardless of ethnicity, age, gender or religion, and also to provide groups/clubs for the benefit of the local community. The building is fully accessible and also has a hearing loop facility for hearing aid users.

MCA is managed by a committee of volunteers (all local residents), which meet once a month, as well as giving their time for fundraising and organised events such as our Summer and Winter Fayres and our Community Christmas Dinner. Watch this space for more details of up-coming events. We have only two part time paid members of staff: Vicki who manages the day to day running of the hall and also provides maintenance cover to the building, and Liz our cleaner.

MCA is selffunded, 98% of our income comes from hire fees, the other 2% from grants/donations and fundraising events. The hall is available to hire both on a regular and occasional basis with varying rates of hire to provide lower cost options for community groups and charities.

We also run our own groups which are funded by MCA. these are the Monday 'Little Rainbows' and Tuesday 'Little People' carer and baby groups. Little Rainbows is a structured educational group that follows the national curriculum; Little People is a more relaxed 'coffee and play' group.

MCA also helps to organise and run the Popley Festival in conjunction with Popley Fields Community Association (PFCA). We also run Family Bingo nights at Bermuda Hall again in conjunction with PFCA and Bermuda Community Association (BCA).

We have many regular groups that hire the hall: Perigrinus Healing and Holistic, NHS Quit Smoking, Phoenix Dog Training, Age UK, Slimming World, Oasis Lunch Club, Basingstoke Voluntary Services Youth Club, Melrose Christian Fellowship Youth Club, Praise Embassy, Pebbles Children's Centre, and Melrose Christian Fellowship.

MCA is made up of Popley people and is a charity which exists for the benefit of the residents of Popley.

The community hall is for you, and we invite you to become part of the association, to make use of the facility and to give us any feedback that will help us to serve the Popley community in the best way we can.

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for birthdays, wedding receptions, conferences and regular groups. **Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at Melrosehall@btconnect.com**

Also find us on facebook: Melrose hall.

Councillors Page

Basingstoke North and Popley West: We received a phone call from a resident to ask if we were going to the public consultation in just a few days' time on the expansion of Merton Infant and Junior Schools. We had not been consulted about this and were concerned that as your elected representatives we had not been informed. Cllr Paul Frankum and I immediately went to Winchester and met with officers, the architect, transport consultant, and a few others. Our concern was not the expansion of the school but the problems of the traffic and just how many of the residents were trapped in their homes as parents/carers parked their cars across their garages and blocked roads already. Only the day before, a resident had come round to the house for advice on doing a petition because he and neighbours in Fountains Close had the same problem. Then a very unhappy resident from Romsey Close came round to our house too as she had people parking on her drive. We printed 600 leaflets and got them all delivered to as many of the residents as we could in the time we had. It is not the schools' fault that residents weren't told; they want to work with us and the residents to find solutions. Some very good ideas came out of the meeting and we will continue to push the officers to get the best results we can. We are meeting with the officer and we will report back any news in future Popley Matters.

The loss of the appeal on 450 more dwellings was devastating and we want to say to the residents a big thank you for all you did. It is a shame that our sound reasons were rejected in the light of the coalition's resolve to build anywhere with no regard to the lives of people who live near. We welcomed our neighbours in the regeneration; Marnel Park, Merton Rise and all the houses on the old John Hunt School site, and have made many friends, but enough is enough. We have not got the infrastructure to support more. Promises made to Marnel and Merton people spending their hard earned money and savings that there would be no more building were just thrown away for the greed of the developers. One resident asked "Why have a planning committee if the Secretary of State ignores their findings?" Localism listen to people! Maybe he needs my hearing aids! Work is continuing on paths and landscape in Popley Islands and we have started meeting with officers on improvements needed in Popley Abbeys.

Cllr Jane Frankum 819924

jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924

cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Popley East: At the end of September we were very disappointed to hear that David Wilson Homes had won their appeal to build 450 homes on Kiln Farm. All 4 Popley Councillors and a great many residents gave statements against the development to the planning inspector. Rarely has a planning application attracted so much local resistance and condemnation. For nearly 2 years we have been speaking out against the development, asking for residents to be given a break from the seemingly constant development and disruption forced on them in the last few years. Unfortunately the odds were stacked against us. The Secretary of State concluded that the council could not demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply 'and in the context of a serious and significant shortfall in housing land supply, the benefits would clearly outweigh the temporary, albeit lengthy, construction impacts that the local community would have to endure'. We are very disappointed by the Secretary of State's ruling as we felt we had sound reasons for refusal.

Cllr David Potter tel.07941507801

Cllr Viv Washbourne tel.07900890088

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It is a new school term and it is important to consider a few points. To all parents and carers, please consider safe and legal places to park when dropping your children off at their school. Please also be respectful towards residents around the school area. To all pupils, whilst walking to and from school, it is important to conduct your journey in a respectful manner; congregating outside people's houses in their doorways or in private bike sheds/garages/driveways is not acceptable.

Over the summer we received a very high level of complaints regarding youths congregating outside the shops on Abbey Road, causing a general nuisance during the day and late at night. The group have also been responsible for throwing objects at vehicles travelling down Popley Way. Over the summer a number of meetings were set up involving multi-agencies and Councillors to look in to ways of tackling this. This is still something currently in progress. In the meantime your Safer Neighbourhood Team have been trying to tackle this issue in the best possible way. A number of youths have been identified on multiple occasions, these youths are now on track for receiving Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) and, should the problems continue, we will continue to place youths on ABCs.

Regarding our community priorities:

Carter Drive Fires - over the summer the issue of fires around the park at the end of Carter Drive seemed to have stopped. We have not received any further complaints and our patrols have not encountered any issues.

Drugs - Drugs still remain a priority within Popley, on 27th August, a male was arrested for possession of a small amount of a Class A drug, the male was given a police caution. On 5th September a male was located with Cannabis, he was dealt with by officers who dealt with him by means of a Cannabis Street Caution.

Trespassing Marnel Schools - On 17th September 4 youths were located trespassing inside the Marnel School grounds, the youths attempted running from Officers however were quickly located. The youths details were all taken and were walked back to Marnel Infant School where they all individually apologised to the Headteacher for their actions.

I'd like to thank all our Popley residents who have been reporting issues concerning our priorities and other crimes to 101, and urge all other residents who witness or who are victims of non emergency crime to 101, with the exception of noise complaints which should be reported to Basingstoke and Deane Environmental Health Department. However, all emergencies should be reported to 999.

I will be holding a Beat Surgery on 10th October between 7 and 9pm at Popley Fields Community Centre. If you would like to discuss in person any issues this is your ideal opportunity.

Popley Islands Community Group

The end of summer BBQ took place on 19th September at Popley Fields with the Children's Disco being a particular success. Posters updating residents on the information received from the recent survey were also on display and we received some more feedback from those who attended the BBQ. An update leaflet is enclosed with this Popley Matters. Please do make your views known and get involved.

An 'Evening of Style' with Naomi – Friday 11th October 2013

Naomi House Children's Hospice is delighted to announce an exclusive 'Evening of Style' at The Holiday Inn, Winchester in association with LK Bennett, lingerie specialist Boudoir Blush, and award winning hairdresser Guy Kremer.

The evening will give guests the opportunity to take an exclusive look at the latest trends from LK Bennett, the autumn collection from Boudoir Blush and see some exquisite hair displays from international hair stylist, Guy Kremer.

Tickets are £25 and include a welcome drink, two course meal, music by KORU, a free gift, and the opportunity to look around a selection of stalls for some early Christmas shopping!

Naomi House seeks to raise £7million each year to provide vital services free of charge to families across the region who rely on hospice care. With very little government funding, over 80% of the charity's income comes from individuals, groups and companies and events like this help to make a real difference.

To book tickets for this special evening please contact Tina Starbuck on 01962 843513 or email: tina.starbuck@naomihouse.org.uk

Naomi House Tea Party & Craft Fayre

Why not join us for a tea party in aid of Naomi House from 2-5pm on Sunday 20th October at Old Basing Village Hall?

Entry is £2.50 and includes a cup of tea and a delicious homemade cake, a chance to look round a lovely selection of craft stalls and a raffle with some exclusive prizes.

All proceeds to Naomi House and Jacksplace hospices for children and young adults with life limiting conditions from across Hampshire.

For more information, please contact Sue Denny: Sue@enchantedhearts.co.uk or Tina Starbuck: Tina.Starbuck@naomihouse.org.uk or check out the Naomi House website: www.naomihouse.org.uk

Charity Race Night in Basingstoke

Get under starter's orders at a charity race night in Basingstoke on Saturday 19 October. All funds raised will go to the Motor Neurone Disease Association North East Hants Branch.

Don't miss the fun at the Roger Morris Centre, Eastrop Way, from 7.30 to 11pm.

Tickets cost £10 and include supper. To book or for more information, email coral.r.smith@btinternet.com or phone 01256 763243.

Silver Sherpas at Everest

This well established and welcoming over 50s social group offers a great mixture of activities throughout its termly programme. This month we have the following sessions taking place, iPad tutorial, BOKWA and a visit to the Andwell Brewery (additional charge of £7.50).

The Silver Sherpas meet up every Friday during term time between the times of 3-5pm, and at the small cost of just £1 per session. If you would like to get involved or just receive some more information please contact Dean or Danielle on 01256 337573 or alternatively email the following address, dridgers@everestcommunityacademy.org.

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Contact Carey West on 07935267232, please leave a message during school holidays and we shall contact you.

Email: 511077@childcare.hants.org.uk

Popley Fields Community Centre

We are now offering an informal drop-in careers help and advice service for 15 – 25 years olds who are not in education or employment and all are welcome.

Each session will run from 4:30 – 6:30 pm every Tuesday with access to computer suites and on hand help and advice for finding and completing job applications.

Advisors will also be on hand to help with any CV questions with a careers advice service present as well.

There will also be talks and advice on careers in the services and by professionals from vocational careers including the police and armed services.

For more information please contact Megan Greenhalgh on:
youthprojectsbasingstoke@gmail.com



Volunteers Needed!

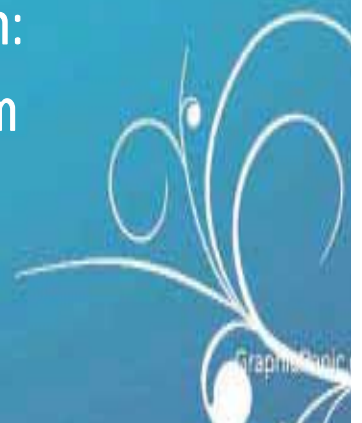
Popley Fields Youth Group desperately needs your help to stay open.

We currently run every Monday evening from 6:30pm until 9:30pm.

We desperately need volunteers to help staff these sessions as we will be unable to run without them. They are a great bunch of Young People and need your support.

If you think you would be able to give up a Monday evening every so often to help the youth in your area we would love to hear from you. You need to be over the age of 18 with a great attitude and lots of enthusiasm!

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Scout section: John-Paul Keetch 07899 087 275

Cub Scout section: Douglas Gowan 01256 412326

Beaver Scout section: Eve Alexander 01256 346510

The Beavers' Sleepover was much enjoyed with the emphasis on board games and making things from recycled materials. All electronic gizmos were banned! Plenty of paint, sticking and messy stuff resulting in some unusual cars/trucks by the end of the day. Several teddy bears joined in the fun! Plans are already in hand for the visit to 'you know where' to see 'you know who' in November. More details to parents soon.



Cubs enjoyed their visit to the 'moon' and followed that up with learning some essential first aid and personal safety basic rules. Several new recruits joined the Pack in September and will soon be ready to be invested. The Pack will be holding a 'spooky sleep-over' at the end of October.

The Scout troop has been discussing menus and shopping lists for the coming District Scout Cooking Competition which concentrates on using 'fairtrade' produce as much as possible. Then comes the practical! (more mess - with measures taken against anyone who fails to leave the kitchen tidy!) The menu will be a bit more imaginative than burgers!

New recruits welcome (though you may have to wait for a vacancy in the Beaver section which is almost always oversubscribed) Beavers and Cubs meet on Tuesdays, Scout section on Fridays in Base 2000. For more information contact section leaders or visit www.facebook.com/BasingstokeAirScouts

Base 2000 is available for use by any community group at special rates either for 'one-off' or regular bookings. Also available for children's parties or family gatherings. Hiring rates range from £3.50 per hour for the smaller hall to up to £10 per hour for the larger hall. Enquiries to bookings@base2000.co.uk or call Colin on 07796 772 500 / 01256 410559.

Charity number 267734

Headquarters registration number 42755

October at Basingstoke Discovery Centre

To book a place visit Basingstoke Discovery Centre in Festival Place, or call 01256 478670. Advance booking is strongly recommended.

To find out more about Basingstoke Discovery Centre and Hampshire Libraries you can visit www.hants.gov.uk/bsdc

Floral Photography with Cath Farrow: Cath has been photographing flowers with her digital camera for the past eight years. She will give a presentation of images taken over that period, showing how her different styles have developed, and describe the fascination which these subjects have for her. Tue 8 October, 2pm, FREE

Aromatherapy Workshop: Discover the therapeutic benefits of aromatherapy. How to use essential for health, pleasure and wellbeing. You will learn ways to relax and achieve a sense of relaxation. You will also earn to give and receive an aromatherapy hand massage. Sat 12 October, 1pm to 3pm, £6

Local and Family History Open Day: Would you like to get into family history research, learn more about the local area or meet local organisations to take your interest further?

Basingstoke Discovery Centre's FREE annual open day will help you do this - and more. Sun 13 October from 10am to 3pm - free entry to all All day Information stands available for viewing - see list below.

Basingstoke Through Time: A rolling slideshow with previously unseen photos and video of Basingstoke. 11am

An Aerial History of Basingstoke's Railways presented by David Brace of Basingstoke & District Railway Society using satellite imagery. FREE - no need to book. 1pm

Heir Hunters - Tracing Missing Beneficiaries presented by Beverley Walker, family history expert. FREE - no need to book. 2.30pm Hidden Basingstoke Walking tour of Basingstoke highlighting some of the town's remarkable history. £3 per person.

Information stands provided by Hampshire Genealogical Society, CAB Search, Friends of the Curtis Museum (Alton), Tadley and District History Society, Basingstoke Heritage Society, Basingstoke Archaeology Society, Wallis and Stevens, Thorneycroft, Victoria County History, Basingstoke & District Railway Society, Hampshire Record Office and Hampshire Libraries.

Knit a Mug-Cosy: New to knitting? To celebrate National Knitting Week our Knit & Knatterers are going to teach you to knit a mug-cosy to keep your tea hot. Don't be a stranger and find out how much fun knitting can be. This is a free event but advance booking is required. Wed 16 October, 2pm to 4pm, FREE

Spotlight on Diabetes: Do you want to find out more about the causes of diabetes, how to prevent it and how it can be treated? This free health event will help answer your questions. Thu 17 October, 2pm, FREE

How to Drive like a Traffic Cop: The Police know how to drive safely and quickly. By the end of this insightful event you will know some of the techniques behind advanced driving skills with the help of an ex-Sergeant from Hampshire Police and the Institute of Advanced Motorists. This free session will give experienced and inexperienced drivers a fresh view of their own driving skills with the chance to learn more and get more enjoyment from driving. Sat 19 October, 10am & 2pm, FREE

Solve Cryptic Crosswords: Learn how to solve them and why they're so good for your brain with a crossword-loving memory researcher. Bring along a cryptic crossword and by the end of the session you'll be solving it yourself! Sun 20 October, 11.30am to 2.30pm, £15 - concessions available.

Family Pumpkin Carving: Come and join professional fruit carvers Carving Magic for a pumpkin carving session, complete with pre-scraped out pumpkins! We will supply you with a pumpkin, template and the tools to create your pumpkin for Halloween. Get creative at this spook-tacular family event! Sun 27 October, 11.30am, £6.50 per child or two for £11 - ticket price includes pre-empted pumpkin. For ages 4-11.

Drumming Workshop: African percussionist Kwame will take children through a variety of African rhythms and techniques on drums and percussion instruments. Make a noise to celebrate Black History Month! Wed 30 October, 10am to 12.30pm, £3 per child - for ages 5-10.

Meet Your Local Ghosts: Interested in local history? Author and historian Rupert Matthews will captivate you with true-life tales of ghosts, poltergeists and spirits of all kinds in the streets, buildings and graveyards of Basingstoke and North Hampshire. Essential for anyone seeking local history with a twist. Thu 31 October, 2pm, £3



Sam STEPs up to the challenge

When Sam Taylor's promising career in football coaching was ended prematurely early, due to injury, his world fell apart.

Sam, 20, from Popley had been studying on the Football Academy Course at Basingstoke College of Technology when he had his career ending injury. He takes up his story...

“When the injury first happened it was soul shattering. It felt like my world had ended and I lost a lot of hope and confidence. I'd torn the muscles in my left leg, but I was impatient to be up and about, so instead of resting I carried on as usual. This meant my injury didn't have a chance to heal properly, so I couldn't play football or coach anymore.

For about eight months I just sat at home. I'd given up and I had no motivation to do anything. I had a few temporary jobs, doing warehouse work and stuff like that, but it wasn't what I wanted to do with my life. Then my mum saw the ad for housing apprentices on Sentinel's Facebook page and suggested I apply.

I applied for the job online, and while I was on Sentinel's website I also found out about STEP (Support Towards Employment Programme). I joined STEP when it first started and it opened up my eyes to work and what I could do if I put my mind to it.

Now I've joined Sentinel as an apprentice I feel like my life is back on track. I was nervous when I first started, but now I've settled in and I'm enjoying the job and the working environment.

If there's anyone else out there who's feeling as down as I was when I wasn't working, I definitely recommend that they give STEP a go. It helped me get my confidence back and showed me how to go about finding and keeping a good job.”

For more information about STEP visit www.sentinelha.org.uk/step, email step@academy4housing.com or call 0300 123 2191.

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For any further information please Phone or Email for Details

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday 8 December

Christmas Tea Dance

(Ballroom, Latin, Popular Sequence) 2.00pm - 4.30pm Sherry & Mince Pie • Raffle • Cabaret
Tickets £5.00 (limited Availability - To Be Purchased In Advance Only)



WoW! 10% increase in Popley students walking to school...

Pupils from infant and junior schools in Merton have been working with Living Streets, the national charity that stands up for pedestrians, and Hampshire County Council to encourage more students to walk to school. The scheme is called Walk Once a Week (WoW) and rewards children with fun badges for each month in which they have walked to school at least once each week.



Under half of UK children walk to school and this number is decreasing, while the number of children being driven to school has doubled in the last 20 years.

Before joining this scheme, the walk to school rates in the Merton schools were already higher than the national average of 47%, with 68% of infant school students and 79% of junior school students walking to school. However, with expansion plans for the schools likely to lead to an increase in traffic, the schools and Hampshire County Council recognised the WoW scheme presented an opportunity to address the issue and reduce the density of parking in the local area. The walk to school is also an easy way to build some physical activity into a child's day and they recognised the health benefits for students.

The first of three surveys to assess the impact of the WoW scheme shows a **10% increase** in walking rates amongst students at Merton Infant School from 68 % to 78%.

In order to encourage more students to take part, the schools and Living Streets have also conducted a School Route Audit in order to identify barriers to walking and to make it safer and more attractive for pupils to walk to school.

The Living Streets Officer – Helen Corkery - led an audit of the main walking routes around Merton School site with teachers and students. The pupils were given a camera to record what they liked and disliked the most about the route. Their findings included:-

- We like being able to go into the park and ball court to play/chat to friends on the way to and from school.
- We like being able to see into the allotments – and to spot which vegetables are being grown.
- We like the joint footpath/cycle path along Melrose Walk – as it means the path is really wide and we can walk along in a group with our family and friends.
- There are litter bins along route to keep streets clean – and we like the fact that there was no litter or dog fouling all along Melrose Walk.
- We like the nice green areas, shrubs and trees.
- We like spotting pets along the route – and seeing the trees and flowers change with the seasons.
- We like the nice views we can see on this walk – particularly from the bench on Melrose Walk where we can stop and chat to our friends – and see all the way across to the college.

It was observed on the audit that there are safe parking places near to the Abbey Road shops, where parents could park and then walk with their children the rest of the way. Living Streets and the School Travel Team at Hampshire County Council are continuing to work with the schools to ensure that as many families as possible are able to either walk to school or park in a safe and appropriate place away from the school site.

International Walk to School Month

October is International Walk to School Month. Each year, primary school pupils from across the UK join forces with children in more than 40 countries worldwide to celebrate the benefits of walking to school.



Picture my Walk

Photo and caption competition

To celebrate International Walk to School Month in October 2013, Living Streets and Hampshire County Council are running a photo and caption competition for all primary school aged pupils across the county. There are lots of great reasons why it's good to walk to school and students will be invited to capture these on their walk to school this October for a chance to win a Culture-all Passport (giving up to two adults and two children 12 months' unlimited access to some of Hampshire's best attractions) and a canvas of the photo for their school.



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Dear Friends

As I write this we are basking in the early autumn sunshine and temperatures of late September. All around us the signs of autumn are beginning to appear; the gold, russets and reds of the leaves on the trees; the migration of the birds, foraging squirrels and other wildlife storing up for the winter. It is a time of cooler nights and shorter days. Across the northern hemisphere it is a time of celebration as the harvest is completed. That's reflected in the many Harvest Festivals in churches and schools at this special time of the year as we give thanks to God for farmers and food producers worldwide and the fruits of their labours that we enjoy.

This year at St Gabriel's in our Harvest Festival we will be supporting the Water Aid campaign. They are a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that seek to end water poverty in poorer countries. Check out their website for some staggering statistics! Across the world today 2.5 billion people are without improved sanitation (no proper toilets or means of disposing of waste); 884 million people do not have access to clean water and 5000 children die every day of diseases contracted from infected drinking water!

I am forever banging on in church about how much of a blessing it is to be able turn on a tap and have access to clean water, to be able to flush the loo, to climb into a hot shower or bath. Can you possibly imagine what it would be like to be deprived of that luxury; to have to walk five miles there and back just to fill an empty plastic container with dirty water?

The world has enough resources (for now) for everyone. Yet, sadly our western culture encourages selfishness and self-centredness so we tend to hoard what we have and while for the most part we are aware of the plight of others we do little to alleviate their suffering. The Bible encourages us always to be aware and to offer help to those in need, even the alien and the stranger in our midst – a good example of what I'm talking about is reflected in Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan – 'who indeed is my neighbour?'

So! Next time you make a cup of tea, drink a glass of water, take a shower or flush the loo, give thanks to God for that blessing and offer a prayer and take some positive action to make someone else's life that much better.

With every blessing and prayer for a fine autumn and a gentle winter.

Your friend in Christ,

Arthur

Vicar of St, Gabriel's

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Sex discrimination is still rife in the workplace

Karen Bristow of Phillips Solicitors says: “It has been 38 years since sex discrimination was outlawed in this country, yet in a recent survey it was suggested that more than a quarter of mothers in the UK feel discriminated against at work”.

It seems that there are still some companies which either do not understand maternity rights or choose not to abide by them.

It is extremely common for pregnant employees or employees on maternity leave to be treated unfavourably. It is unlawful for an employer to discriminate against a woman because of her pregnancy, because of an illness related to her pregnancy or because she has sought to exercise her right to take maternity leave. Examples of unfavourable treatment include marginalising a pregnant woman in her role due to her impending absence, disciplining a woman because of pregnancy-related sick leave or for taking time off for pre-natal appointment or classes. Unfavourable treatment whilst on maternity leave can include being excluded from work social functions, not being consulted with in relation to re-organisational changes, not being considered for pay increases, bonuses or promotions.

A further problem faced by many returning mothers is that their ‘return to work’ rights are not honoured. Under current employment law a woman returning from ordinary maternity leave (up to 26 weeks) has the right to return to the job in which she was employed before her absence on the same terms and conditions. Where the employee has taken additional maternity leave (up to a further 26 weeks) and it is not reasonably practicable (other than because of redundancy) to return her to that role, the employee must be offered a suitable and appropriate alternative job on no less favourable terms and conditions. However, a common issue that arises is where the company want to keep the person they have recruited as maternity cover in the role or where the business structure has moved on and evolved in the employee’s absence and she has not been ‘factored in’, leaving her without a position. Some also find that a reasonable request to return on a flexible or part-time basis may be refused on grounds which are not very clear and seem to be unnecessary hurdles being put in the path of her returning on that basis.

If you feel that you have been discriminated against because of your pregnancy or maternity leave, why not call one of our specialist employment lawyers for advice? We offer fixed fee initial consultation meetings where you can discuss your work issues in a supportive environment and receive the advice you need to help you protect your rights and resolve any work related issues.

Karen Bristow and Gill Brown are lawyers specialising in employment law at Phillips Solicitors in Basingstoke. For more information please call Karen or Gill on 01256 854670 or email at: kbristow@phillips-law.co.uk and visit our website at www.phillips-law.co.uk



Popley Fields Youth Group

**Monday 6:30pm-8:00pm for 8-12
year olds and 8:00pm – 9:30pm for
13-17 year olds**

Popley Fields Youth Group will be running from
Popley Fields Community Centre.

Activities include:

Xbox

Pool Table

Cooking

Sports and Games

Tuck shop also available.

Come down and join in!!!



IT is all systems go for the new season at MFC Popley Youth. The U7s, U8s and U9s all had successful pre-season friendlies, and on Sunday the U10s got off to a great start with a two-one win over Woolton Hill Argyle. The U12s top their division after winning their first two games and the U15s got off to a flier with a 9-0 home win over Oakley.

Off the pitch, the Club is looking forward to its annual Halloween Race Night.

The U7s and U8s still seek new players, and the Allstars Academy is growing all the time.

Contact 07884 185 693 if you have a Year R, Year One, Year Two or a Year Three who wants to get into football.

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By e-mail at radCan44@yahoo.com

Diaries from the Old Codger

September! Yet another year has come with problems for me. One day I wish everything would go away and leave me alone. I ended up in Winchester Hospital for three days after another small bleed on the brain, affecting my right side again. I already have a left side disability due to strokes in the past. Now the right side is getting to be as weak! They would not let me out of bed to shower or wash, and I had to suffer the indignity of the good old bed bath. I am back home now but finding it very hard at the moment. I have to watch my Ps and Qs Her Indoors can give me a slap and I can't defend myself. She has been a brick along with the rest of the family. See I had to say something nice about her (for now).



I hope all the children in the area will enjoy the improvements coming in the Dell on Popley Poets. The new play area between Dryden and Browning for the smaller ones is also going ahead. It has been a long hard battle going back to 2002.

Our councillors in Popley could see the same vision that I had and stood by it all this time. Well done to you all, plus the community association with a special thanks to Jane Frankum and her son Paul Frankum who were there from the very beginning. A few years back the local schools hung poetry and artwork from the trees in the Dell. It was good to see them enjoy making the artwork and doing poetry after visiting the schools. The sad part was a couple of youths found it great fun in pulling them down. I hope they enjoyed their handiwork; it destroyed the artwork of some of our youngest children.

In Dryden Close along with the other closes on the Poets we have short roads. Children are out in the morning and afternoon going to and from the school. So why do people on motorbikes and cars think each road is a racetrack? In Dryden the road is now extended at the top with the new build. They have a speed ramp; I think some people drive over it to see how high they can jump it. If one of their kids were to be hit by a car or bike they would be screaming blue murder. 10/15 mph slower will still get you home or out of the road. Think what speed can do to a small child.

When I was a child there was only one car in our road. Mind you there was only one TV too. We would get everyone from our street into my granddad's front room or looking in the window if it was a special occasion. Granddad had a screen in front of the small screen that made the picture larger and we would sit and watch it until the programmes ended, then we would still sit there until the little white dot went. I wonder how many can remember that!

The schools are back and I hope they try to find time in the school curriculum for wildlife, for instance get hedgehog houses built in a quiet corner of the school. I saw one the other day it read Please be quiet hedgehog asleep; This is the sort of thing our kids should be helping with. Find a small patch of ground and spread wild flower seeds so next year you can see the many butterflies, moths and bees. All of them need our help and you can play just a small part in this.

What will I be doing? I have started with the flowers; my grandson and I will be building a hedgehog box soon. Just need to get a bit more feeling back in my arm, or I may sit and direct Her Indoors, ha ha.

Take care till next month; remember it is getting darker in the morning and evenings so take extra care when out playing and going to and from school.



The Old Codger



Winter Lectures at the Museum of Army Flying.

Every year the Museum of Army Flying's Society of Friends organise two lecture series to raise money for the Museum. This winter the lectures include a range of incredible stories and feature tales of amazing personalities, all delivered by well-regarded speakers.

The series will open with a talk on The Victoria Cross by Colonel Mike Martin on 13th November. The Victoria Cross, established in 1856 during the Crimean War, has remained to this day the highest British award for valour on the battlefield and is perhaps the most prestigious medal in the world. The story and the institution of the Victoria Cross, along with the myths and anecdotes, are unfolded in the expert hands of Col Mike Martin (Retired), of The Royal Hampshire Regiment.

The second lecture in the series will look at the history of the Hampshire country house 'Bramshill'. This was home to the Red Cross during World War II and the talk will explain the vital role they played from this historic residence. This lecture will be held on the 11th December and has been kindly organised for the Friends by renowned Hampshire re-enactment group Homefront History, who will bring the lecture to life with their costumed characters.

On 15th January Col. Derek Armitage recounts the famous battle of Rorke's Drift. During the battle 150 British and Imperial troops defended an isolated outpost during the Zulu War against three regiments of 3,000 warriors in 1879. "Like Rats in a Hole", they restored the reputation of the army following the disastrous defeat at Isandlwana.

All lectures start at 7:30pm and have an interval for refreshments. Tickets are £5 per person and booking through the museum is recommended as numbers are limited.

If you would like to join the Museum of Army Flying's Society of Friends please visit

<http://www.armyflying.com/about-the-museum/join-the-society-of-friends/>

Dear readers

By the time you read this I will have been at Secondary school for over a month. It is a very big change for me because I have come from a very small Primary school and I am used to sitting in one classroom and only going outside when we have break or outside sports. But now I have to go to five different classrooms a day. I had very bad nerves on the first day which is understandable because I am going in to a new school with hundreds of people. I got a little lost on the first day but I seemed to get into the swing of Secondary school quite quickly. My favourite lessons are Drama, Dance, Art and English. I like all of my teachers but one or two are very funny and my Tutor is hilarious. I have lots of homework to do; I have completed some already some are still on my to-do list. My Mum and Dad are starting to give me more and more responsibility because they have let me start getting the bus to school. I have to get up and leave really early and catch two buses to get to school, one into town and one to Brighton Hill. I got a bit muddled up and got on the wrong bus on the first day, but on the second day I kind of knew where I was going. I was a bit worried on my first day of getting the bus because it was the first time I had gone to school without my Mum because she has always taken me. I am trying hard to prove to them that I am responsible and can be trusted.

I bet there were lots of parents who were as apprehensive as my Mum and Dad were about letting me go on the bus and watching me start Secondary school. My Mum and Dad had it even harder because they changed Primary schools for my brother and sisters, they now go to local Infant and Junior schools with classes that are as big as their old year groups.

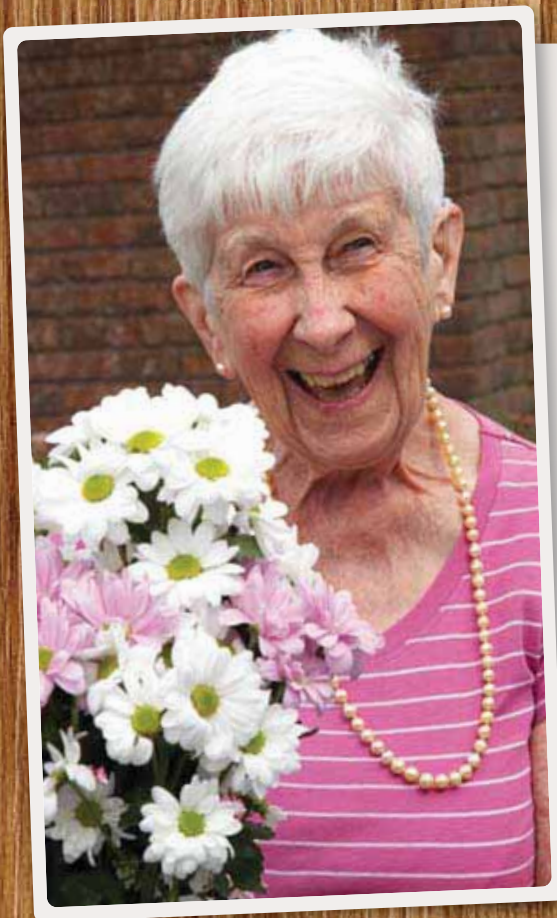
If you read my last article you would know how ill my Nanna was. I am glad to say that since then, my family and I have gone up to Diss to see her and she is making a very speedy recovery and we all hope she will be a lot stronger by the time Christmas comes. I would also like to say thank you to everyone who has given me kind comments or wrote a letter to me about my articles. They all urge me on and I am glad to receive them. I love to know what people think about them, whether they bring back old memories or help you learn something new. Because this is why I write them so that you can enjoy them and also have a look in on my life.

Until next month

Ellie

Summer Fate
At Marnel Lodge
Saturday 6th July

Choosing the right care home
for Mum was made easier.



From the moment my mother and I first visited Marnel Lodge, we knew we had found somewhere pretty special. Elegant surroundings, delicious food and beautiful gardens were made even more appealing by the presence of like-minded residents with whom she can socialise and enjoy activities. For my part, knowing that she's safe in the care of such a dedicated and compassionate team gives me great peace of mind. And for that I'm extremely grateful.

- Nursing Care
- Residential Care
- Dementia Care
- Respite Care

Thank you,
Marnel!
Lodge



Please contact us for further
information or to arrange a visit

Call 01256 441 459



Marnel Lodge Care Home | www.barchester.com

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