

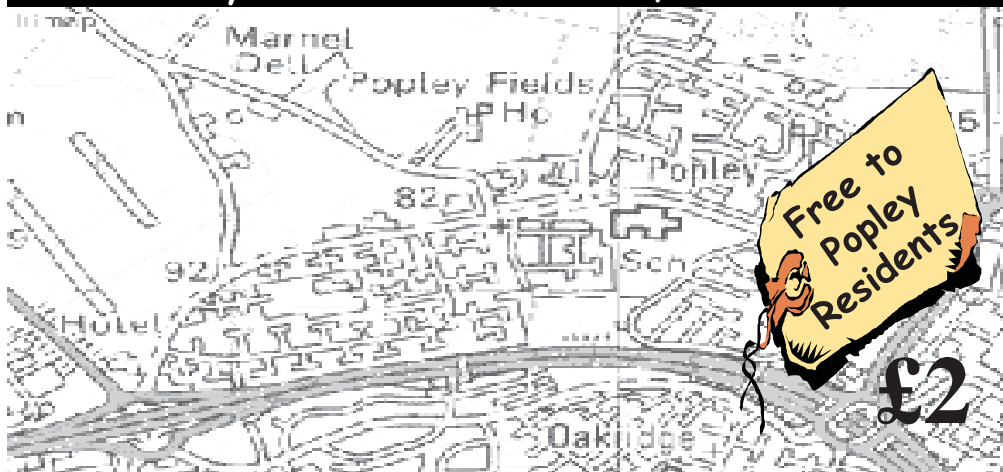
POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

February 2014

Distribution of 5,000

Issue 144

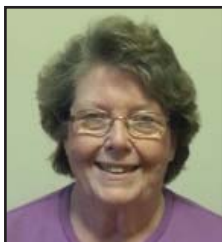


FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-2-14) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:-Valentine’s Day on the 14th do you still celebrate it? There doesn’t seem to be as much on the shelves in the shops of Valentines items as there was a few years ago. I did notice Easter eggs already though, At least February means Spring and the warm Summer sunshine is getting nearer.

Do you have a group or club that you would like to share your thoughts about or get new members? If so Popley Matters will be happy to put it in the magazine. If you would like to do some volunteering or work for a charity there are numerous opportunities. On page 3, Shakespeare Community Residents group in Popley Poets are asking for photos to make their next year’s calendar. Basingstoke NeighbourCare need drivers and “Befrienders”, the details are on page 6. They do an amazing job and readers tell me the befrienders really make a difference to their lives. Merton Junior School are asking for a volunteer school governor on page 9 and as an ex school governor I know it can be rewarding to know you are helping the pupils and staff at the school. You can also volunteer for other schools as there will be other chances to help in your local area. Page 11 asks for Foster Carers, you can help children that need sometimes just a little temporary help to long term foster care. You might like to join the over 55s Forum if, like me, you are a bit older. Details to contact them are on page 17. Then for the younger generation there is football on page 23, from Year R right through to Under 15’s. They are asking for parents to volunteer as well. Of course there is also your very own Popley Matters that could do with more volunteers, details as usual at the end of this message.

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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We would like to thank all the people who came to the Christmas Extravaganza at Popley Fields in December. Several of the Popley community groups worked together to make it a big success. There was double the amount of people came as last year, and the hall was buzzing with excited children who came to see Santa. There were two well attended processions from different parts of Popley, with candles and lanterns, that met up at the entrance of the woods for carol singing.

We saw the launch of the first Popley calendar, which we hope to make a regular thing. However next year we would like to have photos from you to make it special. There will be a photo competition which is to be announced at the Popley Festival, but if you would like to take part you need to start taking pictures now. Each month will have a picture of somewhere or something in Popley, and showing the seasons. So, for example winter months would have winter pictures. Save them all up and you will be able to get further details and entry forms at the Popley Festival in May. If you would like to buy a calendar for this year, they are priced at £2, and available from your local community association or from Popley Fields Community Centre. All the proceeds are going towards next year's Christmas event.

If you would like to get involved in your community, or are a local business that would like to see what you can do to help make Popley an even more special place, then please get in touch!

Julie Johnson, Chair of SCRA, tel: 01256 816101 or email: jjohn957@aol.com

Councillors Page: I had the privilege of presenting 30 British Citizen certificates on 14th January. The people had come from 12 different countries including India, South Africa, Nepal, China and, after studying and passing the exams, had chosen to become British Citizens to live, work and bring up their families in the different parts of Hampshire, Southampton, Eastleigh, Aldershot, Bordon and Lymington.

Cllr Paul Frankum and I have been pushing for a clear-up and a permanent solution to the lack of drainage that seems to have caused the flooding of sludge and chalk that has blocked the path in the Popley Community Park to the hospital. We have now established that the responsibility lies with Basingstoke and Deane and the new developers. We will keep on at the authorities until we are satisfied it has been done properly and are demanding the drainage is sorted out permanently. We will update you when the issue is resolved.

I am also pushing to get Marnel Park, especially the highways adopted. There is still work not done by the developers that is the reason given for why the final stage cannot be completed.

I heard that the Accredited Police Community Officers are to be disbanded at the end of this year. On top of the police cuts this is alarming news and a petition has been started online and the Labour Councillors and volunteers are getting as many signatures as possible. *Cllr Jane Frankum 819924 jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk*

Popley West: As a team of Popley Labour Councillors we met with officers to talk about the next phases of improvements for Popley Abbeys and Popley Poets. These come from developer contributions. In Popley Abbeys those includes pathways and a much improved and safe way from Abbey Court and Magnolia Court up to the shops, and many more.

We are also meeting with Basingstoke and Deane Officers for further improvements from the monies owed to Popley from the developments. It is a long and slow process but some significant progress and implementation has already started. The administration admitted in the Gazette that we have taken the bulk of the building so we will be ensuring we get our fair share in Popley.

At the Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel meeting we were told that there is still a problem with drugs and drug dealing if you see anything suspicious please ring 101. It is surprising how it can help, as every bit of intelligence can piece the picture together and result in prosecutions.

Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924

Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

Page 4

Popley East: Following exceptionally heavy rainfall over the last couple of months, groundwater levels around the Basingstoke area have been high. A number of subways in Popley have been flooded. Work is now being undertaken in the subway under Popley Way, adjacent to Shetland Road, to try and repair the drainage. In order to do this a selection of Shetland Road will be closed for a short time. The water level in Popley Ponds has been of concern and 'deep water' signs have been erected by the council to warn people of the dangers. The Environment Agency have advised groundwater levels are expected to remain high for several weeks. Flooding on Hampshire's roads should be reported to Hampshire County Council by email www.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems, or by calling 0845 603 5633.

We are hoping to have a decision regarding the provision of a shelter at a bus stop on Carpenter's Down, near Falkland Road shortly. With all the wet weather we have been having recently I know many residents would very much welcome one being provided.

Cllr David Potter tel. 07941507801

Cllr Viv Washbourne tel. 07900890088

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BEFRIENDERS REQUIRED

Many elderly people do not have people who have time to spend with them just having a cup of tea and a chat. You could be the first person that week that they have seen that has time just for them. We need caring people who can spend at least one hour per week visiting one of our clients in their own home to help relieve their loneliness. We try to find you someone who lives near to you so that if you do not have your own transport you can walk to them. But if you have to use your car or public transport we will reimburse your costs.

We need people who have time and patience and like talking to elderly people. You need to have good listening skills and be able to show empathy. We will provide you with training and support and match you with one of our clients. Our befriending co-ordinator will take you to your first meeting with our client and support you as necessary.

If you are interested in either or both of the above opportunities please contact us by phone on 01256 423855 or email volunteering@neighbourcare.com

Marie Curie Cancer Care Daffodil Day

Happy New Year! Thank you very much for your immense generosity at Chineham Shopping Centre last year. The total raised, £997.21, was a very pleasant surprise in last year's economic climate.

Marie Curie Cancer Care provide nursing for seriously ill people in the comfort of their own home. Unfortunately they are unable to provide nurses in the Basingstoke area but they do have nurses in other parts of Hampshire. They also use the money to pay for research into Palliative Care which is shared with other organisations and have a number of hospices across the country.

The major fundraising event of the year is the Daffodil Day which is planned for the 1 March this year (to be confirmed). If you can spare an hour or more it would be great to see you; please call 023 8026 3123.

SIBE Nordic Walking – Basingstoke

With the festive season and all that winter eating out the way, it's time to get active and keep warm in healthier ways.

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Technique MUST be learnt correctly if the participant is to get the most out of the activity – the full Health technique that ensures the whole body works efficiently is only taught by qualified Instructors and is quite unique in that it provides benefits for everybody from those with medical problems to the super fit.

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- **Is willing to give about 20 hours per term to attend meetings and training**

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|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Group Scout Leader: | Colin Karslake | 01256 410559 |
| Scout section: | John-Paul Keetch | 07899 087 275 |
| Cub Scout section: | Douglas Gowan | 01256 412326 |
| Beaver Scout section: | Eve Alexander | 01256 346510 |

The Beavers are now back in full swing and they are looking forward to the Annual District Beaver Party when 100 Beaver Scouts from across Basingstoke East Scout District will gather for an afternoon of games and activities. The Colony is running at full strength but if we could recruit another adult leader it could increase to 25 and allow us to finally clear the never-ending waiting list of potential recruits. Experience is not necessary as all uniformed leaders undergo a full course of training. An empathy with 6-8 year old boys and girls, the ability to work and have fun with them and encourage them, to participate fully in the programme is vital however. Anyone interested is invited to speak to the Group Scout Leader or the Beaver Scout Leader to discuss the role in more detail. All adults are required to have a satisfactory DBS (formally CRB Checks) clearance before being permitted to work with young people.

The Cubs started the New Year by making catapults for use with marshmallow projectiles! They also made foam gliders and flew them and in February they are turning their ideas to rockets! January's programme also covered elements of the Air Activities badge and another evening was spent finding out about the safety aspects of airfields and basic rules of flight.

The Scout Troop is growing in number and several new recruits will be invested in January once they have their uniform.

New recruits welcome (though you may have to wait for a vacancy in the Beaver section which is currently oversubscribed) - for more information, contact the leaders or www.facebook.com/BasingstokeAirScouts

Base 2000 is available for use by any community group at special rates either for 'one-off' or regular bookings. It can also be used for childrens' 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.

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7 Ways To Stick To New Year's Resolutions

We have all passed the cut off date for New Year's resolution success, which statistically was 15th January. But chances are you still have room for improvement, as we all do, but how do you make it happen?

You know that if you keep doing the same stuff you've always done, you're only going to get the same results you've always gotten. Yet change is hard! Trying to force yourself to get up extra early and exercise, to leave off the desserts, to quit your job or drinking, gambling, smoking or spending too much...or whatever it is you want to do with your life, is easier said than done.

Chances are you tried that last year. If it worked, great! You know exactly what to do. If it didn't, then that's probably why you're continuing to read this. Never fear, there is hope. **There is a 7-step formula to writing your New Year's resolutions** that won't just make you stick to them; it will make sticking to them easy and convenient.

You'll find yourself coming up with ways to stick to your resolutions almost without thinking about it. In fact, this formula has been used for over 40 years by people who, as long as they followed the steps, found themselves getting everything they ever wanted.

How To Plan A Successful 2014!

1. Write your New Year resolutions down

Write each New Year resolution down, on paper.

Make a list of everything you want: the body, the car, the not having to worry about money or being able to spend your life doing what you want.

Now, compose your resolutions, asking yourself these 8 questions for each one.

1. Do I really want this? Or does this just sound good?
2. Does this contradict any other resolution? If so, adjust one.
3. Would this conflict with others? If so, consider all the options.
4. Is it positive, instead of negative? Your resolutions are about what you want, not what you want to get rid of. For example, a washboard stomach, not losing fat.
5. Is it detailed? If you want something, include all the detail you can, even the model number!
6. Can this be achieved? Don't be totally unrealistic, but shooting for the stars and hitting the moon is good.
7. Am I including the personal changes I need to make? Chances are you'll need self-discipline and determination, among other personal qualities, if you're going to achieve your goals.
8. Have I written each resolution as if it's already accomplished? Don't say "I want," "I wish," or "I need." Say "I have," "I am," or "I own."

2. Read your resolutions twice a day

Every day as soon as you wake up, read your resolutions. Then, just before you go to sleep that night, read them again!

3. Read your resolutions out loud!

You can do it in the mirror, or just to yourself, but read them out loud. Saying something out loud impresses it more deeply on your mind, which keeps you working towards them.

4. Visualise achieving your resolutions as you read

Every time you read your list, visualise yourself achieving each one. See yourself looking in the mirror, feel the soft leather seat and powerful acceleration of your new car, or hear the crashing ocean as you sit on the beach. The more detailed your visualisations, the better they work.

5. Make your resolutions positive

You learned about this bit already. Your resolutions absolutely must be positive. Think about what you want to have. Resolutions to get rid of something don't work.

When you make your resolutions, you probably have things you do want to get rid of, but don't write them that way. Figure out what getting rid of those things will bring you, and write your resolutions about that.

6. Make them only about you

You can't resolve to change other people. Sorry, but it doesn't work. The golden rule in life is that to change any situation, one has to first change oneself. If people are really getting to you and changing your perception of them doesn't work, think of ways to change yourself to benefit or consider taking yourself out of their space entirely.

7. Make them detailed

The more detailed your resolutions are, the better you'll be able to achieve them.

Technically, you're writing a "subconscious order" for your mind. You're telling yourself what to go out and get, and when you're in the thick of it during the year, all you'll be doing is referring to this list. So tell yourself exactly what you want, and there will be no confusion.

Oh, and I almost forgot. There is one more step. Start now! Procrastination and drifting along is the only thing that can really keep you from achieving your resolutions. So write them now!

You CAN do it!



Take a Trip Down Memory Lane

Remembering the past isn't just about being nostalgic for the 'good old days'. Talking about times gone by and sharing your memories with others is actually very good for you.

Getting older can often cause feelings of loneliness and depression. But getting together with others to chat about your memories of school, your first job, family holidays or hobbies you enjoyed could really help you to communicate better, build confidence and make new friends.

On Friday afternoons we hold a memory theatre at Abbey Court. It's a free session, run by volunteers, where anyone over 55 can come along and reminisce with others in a safe and friendly environment.

Gemma Nicholson, our Activities and Involvement Co-ordinator, said, "Memories are triggered through the five senses; sight, hearing, taste, smell and movement. During our memory theatre sessions we'll be encouraging discussion using items from our specially designed Reminiscence Boxes. Thoughts and memories are triggered by handling these familiar objects which encourages conversation. Reminiscence improves a sense of wellbeing amongst older people and can be a really positive experience for everyone involved."

If you'd like to join in come along to **Abbey Court, on Popley Way, on Fridays at 2.30pm**, or if you'd like to find out more, call Gemma on **0800 195 5515**, or **0300 666 5515** from a mobile. You can also email **customer@sentinelha.org.uk** for more details.

Over 55s Forum

Our Over 55s Open Forum meeting dates are 12th February, 16th April, 11th June, 13th August, 15th October and 10th December, all on a Wednesday from 10.00am to 1.30pm.

Coach trips are as follows: Bletchley Park (WW2) Codebreakers; Houses of Parliament; Aylesbury and Cruise on the Grand Union Canal with a cream tea, Sandingham (Queens Residence); Stourhead House & Gardens and Shaftesbury; Thriplow Daffodils & Baldock; Highgrove (Prince Charles Gardens); Mystery Trip; RAF Cosford; Swindon Shopping; and Birmingham Christmas Market. Anyone interested in booking on these trips, please contact Gerald on 07792535116 or e-mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com for prices and dates.

The Forum is staging, throughout the year, Core Fitness Sessions (Thursday mornings 10.30 to 11.30am) and New Age Kurling from February each month. Carnival Chorus Singing group meet every Tuesday 1.30 to 3pm. All these activities take place at the Carnival Hall. Contact Gerald on 07792535116 or e-mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com for more details.

I am staging a concert on 13th April 2014 at Queen Mary's College to raise funds for Prostate Cancer Equipment for our hospital. The Alder Valley Championship Brass Band have agreed to take part, other acts to be announced soon. Ticket price coming out soon. **BOOK THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY.**

NorthHantsMum

NorthHantsMum is a source of inspiration for pregnant Mums and parents of babies and young children in North Hampshire. The blog provides information on things that are happening in the area, and a little bit about my experience of being a Mum.

Every Monday I publish a "Things to Do" post for the week, which details activities, events, classes and playgroups for each day during that week. Every Wednesday I publish a "Guest Post" which features a post by a parent or business that is relevant to parents in the area. I aim to publish a post every week day.

There are now over 2,000 parents in North Hampshire who follow the blog and who provide regular feedback and comments.

If you would like to follow the posts that I publish please either:

Subscribe in the "Email Sign up" box (The best way to ensure that you receive each post is subscribe using the "Email Sign Up" box" on the right hand side of this page. Every time there is a new post on NHM you will receive an email in your inbox.)

Add NorthHantsMum as a Facebook Friend.

Click "Like" on the NorthHantsMum Facebook Page (but please ensure you also click on "Get Notifications")

Join NorthHantsMum on Twitter

Please note that I make no money from the blog, it is purely a hobby.

If you are a local business (based in Hampshire or Berkshire, England) and would like to write a Guest Post that will be relevant to other Mums and Dads in the area or if you have any comments, questions or feedback please email me at northhantsmum@gmail.com.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you there!

<http://northhantsmum.wordpress.com/>



Spotlight on Oasis Lunch Club

Are you lonely? How about coming along the Oasis Lunch drop in club, on a Wednesday lunchtime? The group is run by PACT, friendly and welcoming volunteers and offers the opportunity for company, conversation and a hot meal and a drink. All ages are welcome from 0-100+. 12-2 pm.

So come along and see what your missing!

WHATS ON IN February:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| MONDAY: | MORNING AND AFTERNOON AVAILABLE FOR HIRE |
| | 5.30-6.45pm NHS Quit smoking |
| | 7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic |
| TUESDAY: | 9.30-11.00pm Popley Little People |
| | 7.00pm Phoenix Dog Training Club |
| | 8.00pm Phoenix Dog Training Club |
| | AFTERNOON AVAILABLE FOR HIRE |
| WEDNESDAY: | 9.30am Slimming World |
| | 12-2pm Oasis Lunch club |
| | 5.30 and 7.30pm Slimming World |
| THURSDAY: | AFTERNOON AVAILABLE FOR HIRE |
| | 9.30-12.00am Little Rainbows (all carers) |
| | 7.00pm Beginners - Phoenix Dog Training Club |
| | 8.00pm Improvers - Phoenix Dog Training Club |
| FRIDAY: | AFTERNOON HIRE AVAILABLE |
| | 9.30am Pebbles Childrens centre |
| | 6.30-7.45 MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years |
| | 8.00- 9.15 age 11 plus. |
| SATURDAY: | AVAILABLE FOR HIRE |
| SUNDAY: | MCF - Contact Pastor Phillip Keble on 462351 for times of services. |

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**

Also find us on facebook: Melrose hall.

Café Scientifique – Bob Clifford

The latest science & technology ideas

Café Scientifique meets in Basingstoke on the last Monday of the month (excluding bank holidays) at The Tea bar, 9-13 London Street, Top of Town (next to the Post Office).

Come and explore the latest ideas in science and technology for the price of a cup of coffee or a glass of wine at the monthly Café Scientifique.

Why not come along at 7.00pm to buy drinks and cakes before the talk starts at 7.30pm. The talk lasts 30/40 minutes; we then have a short break followed by discussion and aim to finish around 9.00pm.



Entry is free, but we do encourage you to buy drinks and cakes at the bar to show your support for The Tea Bar who sponsor the meeting by providing the venue.

To see our full calendar of events, details of the talks below and receive email reminders of what's happening, join our Meetup Group at: www.meetup.com/cafesci-basingstoke

Future talks for 2014

Monday 24 February

Roger Martin, Population Matters - *"Stable Populations - an essential condition for sustainability"*

Monday 31 March

Prof Toby Tyrrell, Southampton Oceanography Centre – *"Life and the environment - an evaluation of the Gaia hypothesis"*

Monday 28 April

Dr Jon Copley, Southampton University – *"Discovering new life and new resources in the deep ocean: a choice for our future?"*

Monday 19 May

Prof John Shepherd, Southampton University – *"Climate Change: What's happening and what can we do about it?"*

Monday 30 June

Dr Ken Collin, Southampton University – *"Cetaceans: from whaling to dolphin healing"*

Monday 29 September

Dr Rob Ewing, Southampton University – *"How do proteins communicate? Mapping the network of proteins in the human cell"*

Café Scientifique in Basingstoke is organised by Bob Clifford (info@cafesci-basingstoke.org.uk) with sponsorship by:

The Tea Bar - www.theteabar.info

The Active Hampshire Social Club - www.activehampshire.org.uk

Thames Valley branch of the British Science Association - www.britishsociety.org

Dear Friends

In an odd kind of way I rather like the month of February. Yes, it is the shortest month of the year but chiefly because it means Spring is on the horizon. Already there are signs of Spring appearing as the new bulb shoots begin to push through the ground and the buds on the trees begin to thicken. Signs of new growth – in any circumstance or situation - always bring HOPE! The hope of something better to come. In Spring it is, perhaps, the hope of warmer weather and lighter evenings. In relationships signs of new growth can mean a more intimate understanding of each other. Even in the economy, signs of new growth can bring hope of stability and prosperity.

St Gabriel's has been growing steadily over the past decade and there are, even now, signs of new growth beginning to show through. I am often surprised at the many different ways in which that growth can be seen. I know the church has an amazing reputation across the community as being open and welcoming to all and of being family friendly; but it isn't just about Sunday!

The church buildings are very much a focal point for community activity with groups using the hall almost every time and every day of the week. We are also continually looking at ways to serve our community and so we have our two Young Families Workers, Debi and Maggie, both of whom are reaching out with new initiatives.

Most recent of these is the Hope Café held on a Tuesday morning from 10am till 12pm. The Café is there to help break down the barriers of isolation so many of young families feel caught up by. And, of course to provide a great cup of barista style coffee – and it is very affordable. This is complemented by the Friday morning TAG, a café style toddler group with coffee, play and chat.

I know that St Gabriel's is a very 'hopeful' place and there is a very real sense of anticipation of what God may be about among us in the year ahead and we would love you to be part of it. So may I invite you to step in and give it a try – who knows what may transpire!

St Paul wrote: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Whatever your hopes for the coming year may you be so richly blessed in seeing them come to fruition.

**Your friend and Vicar
Revd. Arthur**

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How to Get Your Decree Nicely

Historically the decision to separate often meant immediately hiring a Rottweiler of a lawyer and bracing yourself for an acrimonious, expensive courtroom battle to thrash out arrangements for the children and finances.

However these days, the situation is made so much better by the fact that most family lawyers practising in the UK belong to an organisation called Resolution, which expects its members to abide by a code of practice encouraging cooperation.

There is also much greater emphasis nowadays on resolving matters relating to children and finances in an amicable and constructive way, preferably outside of the courtroom if possible. One such increasingly popular method in Basingstoke is the Collaborative process.

This brings separating couples together in a series of four-way meetings, with their respective solicitors, with the aim of working out the arrangements for the children and finances face-to-face.

The aim is to avoid the courtroom. Moreover, everyone participating in the Collaborative process signs an agreement actually pledging from the outset that they won't go to court, and if either of them changes their mind, then they will have to start over with new lawyers. This can be tremendously liberating because it creates a safer environment to conduct the negotiations and enables the parties to speak freely and openly about their views on settlement without the fear that it might come back to bite them in the court room.

The presence of their lawyers, who are specially trained, is intended to help facilitate the conversations and keep things on track. They are also able to act as a sounding board for solutions and a safety net by being able to offer legal advice simultaneously within the negotiations, a great advantage over other forms of dispute resolution.

The upshot of using the Collaborative process is that you and your former partner can still have a friendly post-divorce relationship, particularly important where children are involved. For more information and advice contact Rob Parker on 01256 854604 or email Rparker@phillips-law.co.uk



Do you know a Year R or Year 1 child who wants to get into football, please text 07884 185 693 and arrange to bring them along to our rapidly growing MFC Allstars.

Unfortunately, due to the poor weather, there hasn't been a lot of football played over the past month or so. Of the games that did manage to go ahead our U13s, U12s and U10s all started the year with fantastic wins in their respective PHYL Division fixtures, whilst our U11s earned a creditable draw with Oakley in their PHYL Premier Division fixture.

Off the field, plans for our annual summer tournament are well under way and, as a club, MFC Popley Youth continues to go from strength to strength with all of our age groups, from Under 7s right the way up to our Under 15s, showing passion and commitment on the pitch whilst playing some sensational football.

We are always looking to get more parents actively involved with MFC Popley Youth so, if you are interested in helping out, please make yourself known to either the Club Chairman, Ian Davies, or to the Manager of your particular age group.

You can get regular updates from the club at our Twitter account, @MFC_PopleyYouth, as well as from our website, www.mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk. Also look out for individual age group posts on Facebook.

**Many thanks
Zak Collingwood**



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Hi Linda here, I would like to tell you about what is happening at the Bermuda Hall in 2014.

We have Popley Explorers Pre-school Monday to Friday from 8.30am until 3pm. They also do a breakfast club, for full details ring Elaine on 363156.

We also have lots of exciting things going on in the evenings.

Monday night is keep fit and kick boxing from 6.30 until 8pm and kick boxing again on a Thursday night from 7 until 8.30pm. Come along and join in the fun.

Tuesday night is (BINGO NIGHT). Doors open at 7pm eyes down at 8pm. New members welcome, come along and meet and make new friends. Refreshments also available. Finishes around about 10 pm.

Wednesday evening is Dance to the Beat 5.30 - 6.30pm. For details ring Miss Lackey on 01256 321160. Also kick boxing 7.30 - 8.30pm.

If you like to dance, we have on a **Thursday** Street dance and ballet classes for two and a half year old to adult, 4.30 until 5.30pm. For full details, ring Samantha on 07811299484.

On a **Friday** night come along and join the Friday club (children) from 5 - 6.30pm.

The hall is also available to hire for parties at reasonable rates. For more details ring Janet on 01256 363156.

Our committee met with a Hampshire County Council officer and the Popley councillors Paul Frankum and Cllr Jane Frankum about the improvements outside the hall, including our garden which will soon be finished and looking good. There was also a further meeting with Cllr David Potter about some exciting ideas we have for the hall. I will keep you all up to date with any new details. We now have Wednesday nights taken by dancing and kick boxing.

We are restarting raffles again on a Tuesday night at our bingo session. The proceeds from the raffles buy prizes for a prize bingo we will be holding in May for members. Last year we raised £500 for the Basingstoke hospice. We are hoping to raise even more this time for a charity or to share between more than one charity.

OUR NEXT FAMILY PRIZE BINGO AT POPLEY FIELDS IS THE EASTER ONE

MORE DETAILS IN THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE POPLEY MATTERS.

Diaries from the Old Codger



The year 1914, the start of this year is very peaceful in England apart from the usual hard work and labour problems. Men and women trying to get a better life and wage. The inner cities were rife with infections that killed many young and old due to the poor sanitation. Soon things were to change, not only for this country but also all over Europe. No one expected that later in the year WW1 would start. Many crown heads of state would fall as counties clashed. After the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand, Serb-sponsored terrorists instigated it on 28th June. No one could have expected this to happen and there were knock on effects after that. For the next four years millions of men and women died, military and civilians alike. Next month I will write more of this and how Britain went to war at the end of the year.

Now I wonder what 2014 will throw at us, apart from rain and more rain. As a child it was sun from May to September, a bit of rain then cold, crisp snowy days until Spring. We would be out playing all the time with that wonderful smell of an occasional summer shower. I can't remember as a child the weather that we have nowadays. They put it down to global warming! Governments get together and keep having meetings to try and find solutions but never seem to reach an agreement. One major country even said it is not happening and is just the way nature works. Did nature build industrial plants that belch out millions of tons of gas into our air polluting it? Most of these delegates talk out of where the sun does not shine. They are just moneymen that run the countries.

Just look at our small community on Popley forty years ago. I never saw the level of flooding on our roads as we do now. It can only get worse as more concrete is poured and no place for rain water to go. I wonder if the pond on our estates will get so polluted that the invertebrates will not survive? We have already lost so many of our songbirds on Popley as the old hedgerows are cut down, no fields for wild flowers to grow and the food chain dries up.

My nan in the winter months would make a stew that would last for days. Only Nan, Granddad, Mum, Dad and I would eat it, the rest of my brothers and sisters hated it. More fool them! Everything went into the pot with fresh dumplings added each day. I can still remember it a big black iron pot. I could not lift it but my dear old Nan could.

Just a footnote to the top of this page, if Her Indoors and dear Jane our, editor, were to have been at the western front in WW1, I do not think the enemy would have hung around if they were there! People kept saying it would be over by Christmas it probably would have with those two to face up to! Well you know me, I can't write this without a small dig can I?

There is a sad moment in time when we do remember what was given in the name of freedom and I hope you will enjoy this year's OC as I relate the contribution Basingstoke played in the war effort. I do hope in the Spring you will show how much you care with schools, residents and businesses of Popley sowing Poppy seeds to mark this historic event. Thank you all if you can.



**Till next month
The Old Codger**

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For any further information please Phone or Email for Details

Dear Readers

The new year has started off at a flying start. I have entered a poetry competition and guess what? My poem is going to be published! How fabulous. When I grow up I would like to be an author and try to follow in my favourite two authors footsteps; Jacqueline Wilson and Laurie Lee. They are both my favourite authors because they have such a way with words and they have amazing imagination. When I am reading one of their books I actually feel like I am there with the characters and experiencing what they are doing and saying. There is a Laurie Lee exhibition around June this year to mark Laurie Lee's 100th birthday. I will be going. There are going to be some sketches of his and his books and lots of other interesting things.

Jacqueline Wilson has released a new book last year called 'Diamond' and I loved it. I would recommend it to children around the age of 10-12. It is an adventure book about a young girl named Ellen-Jane who has a family crisis, and they are stuck for money. She performs some simple gymnastic moves in the street and people give her money for doing that. A circus man comes and tries to take her away but her father protects her, but then sells her to the man. She then lives a life of adventure and intrigue in the circus. If you like the sound of this book then I would recommend it to you. A book that I am reading at the moment is called 'Journey to the River Sea'. It is about a girl who is now an orphan due to her parents dying in a train crash in Egypt. For years they are trying to find some of Maia's relatives and then they have a breakthrough. She goes to live with them and they are not at all what she expects them to be like. She doesn't know, but they have a cunning plan and don't really want Maia with them. She is only staying with them for one evil reason. She learns lots of new things while living with them. I have really enjoyed this book because when there are sad parts. The author has been clever and made it seem sad and sorrowful but it doesn't bring tears to your eyes it just shows bonds between people.

Some people may think that reading is very boring but actually it is expanding your vocabulary by every word you read. Also it is a way to help you use your imagination more, as I say it is like a TV in your head. Rather than be given what is happening visually you can create your own version by reading the book. So readers, why not have a look in your bookcase or go to your local library and try to find those books that once you start reading you can't put it down and there are plenty of them.

Till next month happy reading

Essie

Choosing the right care home for Mum was made easier.



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

*Thank you,
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information or to arrange a visit

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