

# POPLEY MATTERS

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May 2014

Distribution of 5,000

Issue 147

## popley festival

sunday may 18th 2014

popley fields

11am-4pm



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Popley  
Residents

£2

FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:-**May, and spring time looks so green everywhere and of course the weather is unpredictable, I hope we get a fine warm day for the Popley Festival, and not too hot. Although the weather plays a big part in the attendance it is the time that families meet up, and residents that have moved away come and see their old friends. Clubs and groups have stalls and displays to let us know about what they offer for the community. I love Popley Festival and appreciate all the hard work that the committee of volunteers do year after year. There

is always so much to see and do.

The centre pages this issue are written by one of our readers, Matthew. We were so inspired by his story and how he has overcome many issues in his life we asked him to write for Popley Matters. Matthew said he just hopes it inspires other people. Debbie's article on page 9 is amazing as only a very few hours before she wrote it her beloved mother had died. Debbie didn't want to let the readers down. Page 12 is the report from the Air Scouts and the parade they will have attended for the St George's Day. MFC Popley have their annual tournament on page 23, this club has grown so big from when it was started by one dad for his talented footballer son. Talking of football, on page 8 there are details for "Walking Football" yes, walking football. Read what they do and where it is. It was a new one on me too!

We always need more articles from our readers. Advertisers and deliverers are needed too, so if you are interested please contact us, the details are below.

You can email me at [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto: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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**Councillors Page:** We have asked for a meeting with the Basingstoke and Deane senior officer who will be designing the pilot scheme for parking in Marnel Park to impress the urgent need for realistic yellow lines especially in the dangerous areas of the estate. There are still some areas that are the responsibility of David Wilson Homes and some managed areas in Pinnacles and The Paddocks that are still private and not yet adopted. Talks are ongoing. I attended two Citizenship Award presentations on 15th April, on behalf of Hampshire County Council where new British Citizens came from all over the county, including some from Basingstoke to receive their certificates. They want to commit to the community and bring up their families as British citizens. I attended the site visit at Merton School and impressed on the need for more work on the drop off areas and the height of the trees that are blocking the light to the homes that look out onto the school. They have promised that the arboricultural team will visit and look at the extent of pruning needed. I also want a condition that they will monitor the site over the years as the pupil numbers grow over the next 5 to 10 years.  
*Cllr Jane Frankum 819924 jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk*

**Popley West:** At 6.15pm we received a call that Travellers were setting up camp on the Hampshire Fire and Rescue land opposite Popley Fields Community Centre. We contacted the county and borough councils who were unable (due to holiday leave) to help. Residents also called 101 to report the illegal camp. We called police and the headquarters of the fire authority. They acted immediately and fire officers and police attended and they moved of the next afternoon. It would be good if it were this fast every time there was an illegal encampment!

The solution to the flooding at the Popley Community Park seems to be holding now that the repairs are done. The next stage will be to push for more litter bins and plan the next phase of improvements for the park.

We are meeting with council officers with regard to the 106 monies that are to be spent on upgrading the Popley Abbays ward area. The paths need attention and landscaping too.

At a meeting in Winchester on 1st April I was one of the few County Councillors to attend a meeting on Broadband speeds in rural areas. I told the officers and providers that it is also a serious problem in urban areas and impressed on them not to forget this!

As always if you have a problem or concern about our area contact me

**Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924**

**Popley East:** The revised plans for the conversion of Chineham House have been submitted and, subject to planning approval ,will allow for the creation of ten units of accommodation. We were able to secure a community facility in the ground floor of the building which we intend to make sure is well fitted out and available for use by local community groups and residents. We had to ensure that the main building had a disability access provided so that there was no restriction to the widest possible use of the facilities.

Proposals for improvements to the community as part of the Local Infrastructure funding are in hand and will be worked up into final proposals over the coming months. We are clear that Popley must benefit from this money, having absorbed so much new housing over recent years.

The upgraded and new play area adjoining Dryden, Browning and Wordsworth Closes is nearing completion and will provide a range of new equipment and play spaces for children of all ages. The play area is open to view from all angles giving parents/carers confidence about the layout and equipment.

**Cllr Viv Washbourne tel. 07900 890088**

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# POPLEY FESTIVAL

This year's Popley Festival is on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 11am-4pm. We will be there with our cake stall again, so look out for us. There will also be the launch of the photo competition, with the best pictures being included in a Popley Calendar for 2015, so get snapping!

We are very happy to see the progress of the new play area in the middle of the Poets estate. This has been hard fought for, and the first big project that local people have been able to have a say on. Last year at Popley Festival we had display boards with a variety of design ideas asking for you to help in choosing which you preferred. We are really looking forward to seeing it completed and families enjoying the new play area.

More recently, in February there was an invite for people to see future plans for Chineham House. We spoke to the charity housing group Chapter 1 and looked at their plans to convert the house into 10 flats and a room for community use. As Chineham House is a listed building, the council is restricted in what they can do with the building. At least it will not be left to rot once it is converted.

If anyone would like to join us and get more involved in local projects, get in touch or see us at the Popley Festival on 18<sup>th</sup> May. See you there!

**Julie Johnson, Shakespeare Community Residents Association, 01256 816101 or jjohn957@aol.com**



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## Over 55s Forum

At our meeting 16th April the Guest Speakers were Andrew Dyer (Stagecoach), Rosy Hardy (Cottage Gardens (they show at Chelsea Flower Show)) and Ian Kennedy (Pirates of the Caribbean).

Our membership to date is now 612 which is very good for this time of the year.

Our coach trips are being supported very well with most trips having 2 coaches on them.

The Forum have had recent publicity in the Basingstoke Gazette because we have paid for and installed an "Hearing Loop" for the benefit of all the community who use the Carnival Hall. This is another way this Forum is helping all the over 55s in the Borough.

To Commemorate the Centenary of the First World War we have given all our members a packet of "Poppy Seeds" to sow and our 'logo' was on each packet.

On 7th June 2014 at the Carnival Hall we are staging an afternoon of talks, presentations, poetry reading and 2 men dressed in Military uniform, with music and songs of the period by our own Carnival Chorus. From 2pm. Members FREE non members a small charge of £2. Please book with Gerald by E-Mail or 07792535116.

There will be a 4 day trip to France and Belgium from the 11th to 14th July 2014 to visit the War Graves, Flanders Fields, Menin Gate (with the Last Post), 2 museums and tour guides. Cost £379 (includes all coach travel - 3 nights dinner bed & breakfast and admissions to museums).

The Forums next Open Forum meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th June 2014. Guest Speakers to date are Anne Phillips and Dr Hugh Freeman (NHCCG), Basingstoke Sports Centre plus another one to be arranged.

With reference my Prostate Cancer Equipment Concert at Queen Mary College on 13th April, which was partly funded by The Four Lanes Trust, I have not finalised the total money raised but I will be able let you know in the next Popley Matters, if anyone would like to donate towards this great cause, they can send it you me at 30 Dartmouth Walk, Basingstoke, RG22 6QS (cheque made payable to Urology Nurses Fund 4293).



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- Popley Festival – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2014
- Wedding Fayre – 4<sup>th</sup> October 2014

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# Health Tips

This month I'd like to share some healthier food options with you. It's not only what we eat that counts, but how we eat them that make a difference. Over the next few issues, I'll show you some healthier ways to cook your favourite meals.

We are constantly being told that eggs are high in cholesterol and are bad for us. I disagree and think of them as a wonderful food with the added benefit of being a low cost protein. Cooked in oil or butter they are unhealthy, but boiled or poached cause no harm at all.

## **English Breakfast**

The next time you are making your regular English breakfast, try doing the following. Instead of frying or grilling the bacon, line a plate with some paper towel, two pieces should do it. Now place your bacon strips on it and then cover it again with two pieces of paper towel. Microwave it a minute at a time (all microwaves are different and we all have our preferences) until it is cooked to perfection. You only have to do this once until you know the correct time required for your microwave and taste.

The result is perfectly cooked and crisp bacon with the added advantage that all the fat is absorbed by the paper towel, and there is no greasy pan or oven to clean later. Just pop the paper towel in the bin and if, wanted you have a ready warmed plate to serve it on.

Mushrooms should never be rinsed under running water. Just take a sheet of dampened paper towel and give them a wipe till clean. Grill the large ones or slice them and brush a pan with a bit of olive oil, heat till fairly hot, pop the mushrooms in and cook on a medium heat uncovered, quickly while stirring. This process conserves the nutrients.

Poach your eggs instead of frying them. Place a little water in a pan with a bit of salt and bring to the boil. Add the eggs gently and cook on a medium heat, while swishing the water gently over the top as it cooks. The result...perfect, healthy eggs!

Sausages are healthiest grilled instead of fried and served with some grilled tomato and toasted brown bread, you have the healthiest version of your fry up possible.

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## **Popley's Health and Leisure Club**

The Everest Health and Leisure Club is celebrating its 6 year of opening and is proud to be part of Everest Community Academy in Oxford Way, Popley, Basingstoke.

The Leisure Club is in a superb location at the heart of the Popley Community, providing excellent facilities including a state of the art gym and outstanding outdoor sporting facilities. We offer a free conveniently located car park at all times of the day and are fully accessible and disability friendly. We also admit non members on a casual basis on a pay as you go charge.

An international sized sports hall, five a side pitches, 6 tennis courts, a floodlit 3G pitch, 4 floodlit netball courts, 3 football pitches, and a dance studio are all available to the public for hire, one off events or long term bookings. We have a professional team of fully qualified gym instructors and exercise teachers who can help you to achieve your goals in the gym and studio. We also have a drama theatre and conference rooms available for hire with catering available.

We offer competitively priced inclusive monthly memberships which include access to classes, exclusive use of the gym, free badminton and table tennis booking during the evenings and weekends and free tennis booking in the summer (Mon-Fri 8am-10pm and weekends 8am-4pm). We also offer an off peak gym only membership category which covers weekdays only 8am-5pm. Our modern Health and Fitness Suite is equipped with Technogym equipment and boasts an impressive 24 cardiovascular machines, 11 fixed resistance machines, Matrix functional trainer and a small free weights area.

The mirrored dance studio has a fully sprung floor and is a superb facility to come and try some of our classes, get fit and have fun. The international sports hall is a great versatile space for many activities including football, cricket, badminton, basketball, volleyball and netball.

Our main hall has a large stage and amphitheatre seating for 200 people. It can be used for performing arts such as drama productions, orchestras or singing groups. This is available for evening and weekend bookings.

Our 3G pitch also offers a full size flood-lit all weather pitch available for club and group bookings throughout the year and weekends.

Within the centre there are 2 flexible and well equipped rooms, which can hold meetings for up to 100 people. They can be used separately to provide very welcoming settings for small group meetings, or combined to form a single large conference room. The larger room opens directly onto its own balcony therefore offering a natural and beautiful breakout area in the summer months. The smaller room benefits from its own kitchen and serving area. Both rooms have natural daylight and WIFI capabilities and offer ideal space for meetings, training and conferences.

All lettings for indoor and outdoor usage commence from 5pm-10pm weekdays and 8pm to 4pm weekends. During school holidays this availability will increase. At the club our aim is to make your visit an enjoyable one and booking and managing your events as easy as possible. Please come and have a look around the site, we look forward to seeing you.

For more information call 01256 337573.



## Headquarters:

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

<b>Group Scout Leader:</b>	<b>Colin Karslake</b>	01256 410559
<b>Scout section:</b>	<b>Jean-Paul Keetch</b>	<b>07899 087 275</b>
<b>Cub Scout section:</b>	<b>Douglas Gowan</b>	01256 412326
<b>Beaver Scout section:</b>	<b>Eve Alexander</b>	07790 018 171

The Cubs took part in the District Mastermind Competition towards the end of March and did very well to take third place with a score of 39 points. With the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Pack getting 40 points and 1<sup>st</sup> place 44 points, it was very close at the top. Well done to the three Cubs who took part.



The Pack as a busy term coming up and will be doing a lot of outdoor activities such as tracking signs and bivouac building. James Ketchell, a former Scout and a Scouting ambassador for Hampshire Scouting will visit the Pack. James has recently returned to the UK after cycling around the world.



The Beaver visit to 4-Kingdoms was a great success and a wonderful day was had by all including Beaver Leader who had her face painted. It was meant to be Yoda but looked more like Shrek!!! and everyone had a good laugh. Much more fun and games in the offing for later in the year including a 'parachute evening', cake making, an Easter egg hunt and exploring the woods.

At the moment we have space for three new recruits in the Beaver Colony and it would be nice to see a few more girls joining us. Yellow Beaver has two assistants with a lively Colony of 6-8 year olds but with both leaving later this year to take on new challenges at University/in the RAF, others will be needed to replace them. Experience not required as full training is available. DBS clearance required as standard for all adults taking up a role.

The Group has been pleased to welcome three new adult leaders in recent weeks subject to the completion of the adult appointment process. Neil and James will join the Cub section and Adrian the Scout section.

New recruits welcome – for more information, contact the leaders listed above or <http://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeAirScouts>



## St. George's Day - 23<sup>rd</sup> April – the Patron Saint of England

Celebrations for St. George's Day took place at St. Bede's Church on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April with a parade of some 400 young people and leaders hosted by 1<sup>st</sup> Popley Scout Group.

Members of the Air Scout Group took part.

The Air Scout Headquarters at 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 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](mailto:bookings@base2000.co.uk) or call Colin on 07796 772 500 / 01256 410559.

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# Matthew's Story

I turned down many opportunities as a teenager which would have helped me get my life on track, to get a job and do something with my life. My attitude was I can't do it or I can't be bothered to do it or I can do it tomorrow. It's not that I am a lazy person, or work-shy but rather I thought, who would want to employ me anyway?

I tried hard at school and left with a few GCSE but dropped out of college when I was 17, was thrown out by my parents and spent time sleeping on park benches, subways, people's garages and in a friend's van before I eventually was housed in a housing association bedsit.

After surviving sleeping rough and nearly starving to death I had no real ambition but to survive each day. Maybe that is why I had no plans for my future in getting qualifications and taking opportunities which would make my life better.

As time passed I began to realise many opportunities I had been offered were no longer available to me. Because I was either too old or cuts in government spending meant I was no longer eligible to things like going back to college or university.

Still I did little to help myself. That was until a mistake at the Job Centre meant my Job Seeker benefit was not paid for nearly four months. I was in rent arrears, I could not afford food or electricity and spent the coldest winter on record sleeping in a flat with no heating only a candle for light. I had no way of getting something to eat except if I stay up all night until my local Co-op shut so I could look through the bins to find out of date food which was still edible.

Months past and I could not get the Job Centre to pay my benefits. I was still signing on, looking for work and attending interviews but it was impossible finding a job when I couldn't even turn on my computer, have a bath or a shave. I had a lot of time to think about how my life had ended up this way while sitting by myself in a cold dark room. I could blame my childhood, the Job Centre or the government but I knew deep down I could have done more to stop this happening. Maybe I would have ended up in the same place if I had taken all the opportunities offered to me? But at least if I had I would know I tried.

The final wake up call came when I found out my girlfriend was pregnant and the realisation kicked in that I was about to bring a child into the world and I had no way of supporting my baby or my girlfriend or even myself. I was so scared about the future and I knew I had to do everything possible to get my life on track even if it was ten years to late.

And so one day when I was walking home from a failed job interview I bumped into a friend who asked why I was dressed so smart. We got talking about our struggles to find work and she told me about how she was getting help from the Prince's Trust to start her own business. Being able to be my own boss was something which definitely appealed to me. I did have dreams of getting a van and doing gardening or house clearance like my dad but that's all it was, a dream which was totally out of my reach and I knew little about how to start my own business or run it and anyway. Where on earth would I find any money to buy a van?

I had already heard of the Prince's Trust from the Job Centre but I thought, why should a charity help me? I don't want charity and anyway the Job Centre should be doing more to help me find work. It wasn't until another one of my friends said he was going to try and get help from the Prince's Trust to start a similar business as my idea that I decided to try it out.

I had no idea what to expect when I travelled to the first Prince's Trust course and still didn't know if it was a good idea starting my own business or not but after nearly a year of looking for jobs I had run out of options. It turned out that the course was really good. There



were lots of other young people with great ideas and hearing about other peoples business ideas gave me lots of inspiration for my own business. The week-long course takes you through whether starting your own business is a good idea for you, writing a business plan and learning what's involved in running a business. It also including a talk from a representative from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs who told us how to do tax returns, a talk from someone who had started their own business with the trust's help and information about getting a mentor to help you develop your business idea.

With each day on the course I felt more sure and more capable of becoming self employed and, for the first time in years, I had hope that I could make something of my life. A real sign that I was doing the right thing came when a guy on the course who had struggled to find a full time job went for an interview for a job he didn't expect to get, told them he was doing the Prince's Trust course and they were interested in him starting straight away. We decided it was because they could see he was going to extra lengths to try and find work by going on the course and, although he didn't end up starting his own business, he had now found a good job where he was doing the thing he enjoyed doing the most.

Although I went to the course knowing nothing about being self employed I found the course inspiring and not as difficult as I thought it was going to be. I went away and began writing my own business plan. This however was not easy. I found with every bit of research I did I knew less than I did before. I spent hours slumped over a desk each evening doing research into other businesses, trying to come up with a cash flow diagram and constantly having to rewrite the whole plan over again because of changes in legislation and other factors which changed as my business plan was being written. I must have driven my Prince's Trust mentor mad with my constant emails and near panic attacks when I came across problems but with my mentor's help I found ways round the challenges I faced. Eventually I had written a plan that the Princes Trust were happy with and I was accepted to be a Prince's Trust supported business and received a grant towards a van and the licenses I needed to start my business. They also put me in touch with the National Enterprise associations who gave me an affordable loan to help start my business.

I now work doing the job that I enjoy most and know the most about. My life is still a struggle and I still have periods where I struggle for cash but at least I have all the knowledge and tools to earn money and I can now take control of my life and not just survive each day as it comes but plan ahead and look forward to the future. I don't have to apply for jobs I have no chance of getting and rely on the Job Centre to support me and my family and most of all I can say that I took opportunities to do something with my life and even if a few years down the line my business doesn't work out, at least I can tell my daughter that I tried my best for her.

And so I would like to plead with all the young people of Basingstoke that if they are offered chances in life then take them. If it's doing volunteering or a free course or even just taking time to learn from other people who are willing to give up their time to teach you then take all the opportunities you can. You never know when you will need the knowledge or experience and you never know when you will run out of chances and wind up sleeping in the cold and dark wishing you had lived your life differently.

If you have a dream an idea or even a new invention then there are people out there such as the Prince's Trust and the New Enterprise Allowance who can help you. Don't miss out on opportunities in life and remember you can do anything if you try hard enough.

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# Sentinel



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Then why not become a Change Agent?

We're looking for people to help us improve what we do and how we do it.

All you'll need to do is chat to your friends and neighbours to find out what they think about the service areas we're revamping and what they think we could do better.

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We can help you to find out what people in your area think by giving you funding to run local community events. We'll also pay your travel expenses or childcare costs for being a Change Agent. You'll also have the chance to do training and meet with other Change Agents to share your experiences and swap ideas. So if you care about where you live and want to make a difference to the lives of the people who share your neighbourhood - join us as a Change Agent.

To find out more, or apply, go to [www.sentinelha.org.uk/see3sixty](http://www.sentinelha.org.uk/see3sixty) or call us on 0800 195 5515, or 0300 666 5515 from a mobile.



Dear Friends

As I write this it is once again that great Christian festival of Easter. In Cyprus at this time of the year there are giant bright red eggs dotting the landscape and they, together with giant multicoloured chickens and flowers, appear on street corners in every village and town. There are also Easter lights and decorations (similar to our Christmas lights) hung across the streets; everywhere people are greeting each other with the words “Happy Easter! “ It is all very festive. By contrast in England this particular celebration is being increasingly eroded or subsumed by Easter egg consumerism and holidays. It was not so many years ago that it was a natural part of Easter to attend one of the many church services and to be reminded of what the Easter story is really about. Sadly, I guess that for many by the time you read this article, Easter will have been forgotten and I would not be surprised to hear of Halloween or Christmas goods beginning to appear on the supermarket shelves. So what is the Easter story all about?

It’s about opportunity, it’s about grace, it’s about a loving and caring God willing to sacrifice himself in order that we as his creatures may be drawn back into the relationship for which we were created. The opportunity lies in taking up the offer of grace that can transform our lives. I get really frustrated when people say to me “I’m not religious!” or “I’m not really a church person!” Who said you had to be either of those? Certainly not God! Yet so many readily dismiss Christianity on the basis of those statements having never taken the time or the effort to explore for themselves what the real meaning of being in a relationship with God could do for them. All too often God is relegated to the 5th emergency service after the police, fire, ambulance and the AA! When all fails, I’ve heard it said, PRAY! When that should be the first thing we do! So, I’d like to offer you an invitation, no, more than that, a challenge. Step into any Christian church and find out what you are missing. Archbishop Bill Ramsey said in the 1960’s “The church is the only institution that exists purely for the benefit of its non-members.” Rant over lol!

**Be blessed and Happy Easter.**

**Your friend and Vicar  
Revd Arthur.**

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For more information contact Stephen Bate,  
Community Development Officer, on **07500 987638**  
or **Stephen.bate@basingstoke.gov.uk**



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## Everest Autism and ADHD Club

Everest Autism and ADHD Club has a vision; to become a centre of excellence in our community for those affected by Autism and ADHD. We are an activity provider for children with Autism and ADHD and open every Sunday. Our club runs for two hours on a Sunday and is a mixture of sport, ICT, music, arts & craft, media, dance & drama. We have in place a number of Parent Administrators and Parent Helpers, who provide a supervisory role and also act as play leaders.

We provide numerous opportunities for off-site activities such as farm visits, horse riding, swimming and, for parents, coffee mornings.

Our families can access social and communal events in a safe and non judgemental environment. We are a parent support network for families in an atmosphere of understanding, where parents are able to access information and gain emotional support. We provide children with a social environment where they are able to express themselves through sport and other activities.

Our children are able to access events which will stimulate social awareness and coordination in a controlled environment. We encourage children to partake in a number of events they would otherwise have difficulty attending due to their social/communication and coordination difficulties. We give families of these children the opportunity to meet other families in similar situations and provide a shared learning opportunity. Our club brings families together and provide children with friendships within their own peer groups. Everest Autism and ADHD Club thrives on friendship.

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A word from the experts, OFSTED said that "Children take part in a wide range of challenging activities supported by skilled staff and stimulating resources." (Sept, 2013)

Contact Carey West on 01256 353100  
Email: [511077@childcare.hants.org.uk](mailto:511077@childcare.hants.org.uk)



**There are many myths around the subject of divorce; here our team of expert family lawyers help to iron out the truth.**

**“I have separated from my spouse but I’m going to wait for 2 years to start the divorce process, it’s cheaper and quicker that way”**

If you begin divorce proceedings on the grounds of being separated for 2 years, it is the same process and the same cost as issuing the divorce once you have recognised that the marriage has irretrievably broken down. There is also the concern that in waiting your assets are not protected, for example your pension. The court can order a pension share on the value of the pension at the time of divorce not separation.

**“I have lived with my partner for years so we are common law husband and wife, which gives us the same rights as a married couple”**

Although the terms common-law wife or husband are frequently used to describe a couple who live together, these relationships do not have legal recognition. By living together you are cohabitantes and do not have the same rights as a married couple. Unless your Will specifically states that your long term partner is the beneficiary of your estate, it may be passed to any children, siblings or parents rather than your long term partner.

**“I am divorced from my partner so they can’t make any financial claims against me”**

Unfortunately this is not true. If you are divorced but did not enter into a financial agreement that was signed by a Judge during the divorce process, then financial claims are still open and your ex spouse could potentially still make claims against you. It is advised that all financial matters between divorcing couples are dealt with as a part of the divorce.

**“My spouse and I married young and have simply drifted apart. We separated last month and remain living in the same property. I cannot start the divorce process now as there are no grounds to do so.”**

You can start the divorce process now on the ground of the irretrievable breakdown of your marriage using the fact of unreasonable behaviour. Unreasonable behaviour does not have to be anything malicious or contentious - informing the Court that you no longer socialise together or have any shared interests combined with a few more similar factors is sufficient to satisfy the ground of unreasonable behaviour.

**“Prenuptial agreements are a gimmick, they are not legally binding in this country”**

Recent cases decided in the Supreme Court have shown that prenuptial agreements can in fact be upheld in this country. So where someone is contemplating marriage and would like to try and ring fence what they have acquired in the event of a divorce, then it is strongly advisable to enter into a prenuptial agreement.

If you have any questions about the divorce process, or making a will with your long term partner please do not hesitate to contact us on **01256 460830** or email **legal@phillips-law.co.uk** where one of our team will be happy to help you.





This month at MFC Popley Youth it's all about the promotion of our annual tournament.

MFC Popley Youth, a FA Charter Standard Club is pleased to announce and invite teams of all Youth Football to enter the MFC Popley Youth Annual Tournament for 2014. Following on from the successful 2013 Tournament, where over 100 teams participated in two days of fantastic football, the Tournament is planned to be bigger and better than previous years with ALL age groups being fully competitive! The U7 and U8 teams will be playing 5-a-side and U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16 teams playing 6-a-side.

Date(s): Saturday 10th May and Sunday 11th May

Venue: Carpenter's Down Open Space, Popley Fields, Basingstoke.

Entry Fee: £24 per team (up to 8 Players per team)

To register your club/teams, please contact the Tournament Director to obtain a booking form and team sheets.

Tournament Contact Email: [ian.davies.2010@live.co.uk](mailto:ian.davies.2010@live.co.uk)

Tournament Contact Phone Number: 07884 185 693.

There will be a BBQ, cake and refreshment stalls as well as face painting for the children.

There has been some excellent football played over the last month, with special mention to our U13s who battled bravely in the final of the PHYL Cup eventually succumbing to defeat, but nonetheless making the club proud of their achievement.

Unfortunately our full club trip to the Camrose for the game between Basingstoke Town and Bishops Stortford on 12th April was cancelled. Our article in last month's Popley Matters had already been submitted before the cancellation and we would like to take this opportunity to apologise for any inconvenience caused.

This event will be rescheduled for later on in the year, during the 2014/15 season.

The club is holding a Charity 6-a-side Football Tournament hosted by Fusion Football on 2nd May, 10am-12pm at Everest 3G. All profits from the day will be donated to MFC Popley Youth.

The cost is £5.00 per player to enter, with up to 9 players registered per team. Each team must consist of only parents from children within the same age group. (plus the manager and/or assistant manager). More than one team can be entered from one age group, but players may only play on one team.

There will be separate "Dad's" and "Mum's" tournaments as we can't run mix gender tournaments. It would be great to get both gender teams from each age group entered.

The winning team/players from each tournament will each be presented with a medal.

Anyone wishing to register please contact

Nicci Gambrell on 07990 520956.

Some of the mums have started training, and the U9s mums already have a team in place. It should be great fun!

May the best age group win! Good luck everyone!

Are you, or do you know someone, interested in coaching youth football?

If so, we are looking to recruit new volunteer coaches into MFC Popley Youth. Experience is not necessarily required, as full training will be arranged by the club, but a passion for football and teaching children how to play the game at grass-roots level is a must.

Please contact the club by email at [volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk) or contact our Director of Football, Warwick Sear-Jarvis, on 07501 079595 for more details.

We are always looking to get more parents involved actively with MFC Popley Youth, especially with the formation of our new Social Fundraising Committee and on match days with refereeing (in particular our under 7s) and the set up of the pitches and Respect lines. So if you are interested in helping out please make yourself known to either the Club Chairman Ian Davies, our Director of Football Warwick Sear-Jarvis or to the Manager of your particular age group.

Do you know a Year R or Year 1 child, boy or girl, who wants to get into football?

If so, the Club is now recruiting for 'All Stars Players'. If you would like your child to join, or if you have any further questions, please contact the All Stars manager John Hewson by phone: 07927 640198 or by email: [allstars@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk](mailto:allstars@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk)

Contact the club -

Main website: [www.mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk](http://www.mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk)

Club Chairman & Secretary:

Ian Davies

Mob: 07884 185693

Email: [ian.davies.2010@live.co.uk](mailto:ian.davies.2010@live.co.uk)

Vice Chairman & Treasurer:

Glenn Taylor

Mob: 07775 870929

Email: [g.taylor29@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:g.taylor29@hotmail.co.uk)

Club Welfare Officer & Minutes Secretary:

Nicci Gambrell

Mob: 07990 520956

Email: [mfcpopleyyouth@live.co.uk](mailto:mfcpopleyyouth@live.co.uk)

Director of Football:

Warwick Sear-Jarvis

Mob: 07501 079595

Email: [thfwarwick@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:thfwarwick@hotmail.co.uk)

Volunteer enquiries: [volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk)

Allstars Recruitment: [Allstars@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk](mailto:Allstars@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk)

You can also get regular updates from the club by following our twitter account, @MFC\_PopleyYouth. Also, each MFC Popley Youth age group has a dedicated page on Facebook.

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We have Popley Explorers Pre-school Monday to Friday from 8.30am-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 6.30-8pm and kick boxing again on a Thursday night from 7-8.30pm. Come along and join in the fun.

**Tuesday night** is BINGO NIGHT! Doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 8pm. New members are welcome. Come along and meet and make new friends, refreshments also available, finishes round about 10pm.

**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. 4.30-5.30pm For full details ring Samantha on 07811 299484.

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

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

We would like to thank all the people who came to the prize bingo once again a great success. Next one in July.

# WHEEZY?

# BREATHLESS?



*Breathe Easy Basingstoke is a local support group for those living with a lung condition. One of over 200 groups across the country, we are part of the British Lung Foundation's network 'BreatheEasy'.*

*We are open to all those who fight for breath as a result of conditions such as COPD, Bronchiectasis, Fibrosing Alveolitis, IPF and Asthma. We offer friendship and support and have Respiratory Experts from Basingstoke Hospital and Southern Health on hand to provide expert advice and guidance to those living with a lung condition and their families, friends and carers.*

*The group meets on the last Tuesday of each month at The Shaftsbury Room, Christ Church, Reading Road, Chineham, RG24 8LT, 2-4pm. We would be delighted to see you there.*

*For more information contact:- Judith Windross 07730366411, [judithwindross@gmail.com](mailto:judithwindross@gmail.com)*



## Diaries from the Old Codger.

All over the Balkans the Turkish Empire had been divided among the Balkan states. On this fact our country should have seen that war was coming. Did they? As usual they put their heads in the sand. By the end of July it kicked off. We the people in the south started very slowly to gain momentum. Basingstoke was to be turned into a transient camp, from here the troops were sent to Winchester one of the biggest camps in the south. The manufacturing of arms and transport fell to Thorneycroft. He was a wonderful engineer and could adapt his factory to any need that the country wanted. All walks of life that could not go to war worked for the firm, Many women and young lads that were too young TO go at the time. Thorneycroft lorries were turned out in thousands and made ready for transport to the Western Front. They also made a lot of the parts for the mobilization of guns. it takes your imagination to look back and remember in 1900 to the end of WW1 how small Basingstoke was. There were no housing estates, the river ran past the front of the factory. Only a part of that river is left now as the town has been built over it. You can still see the river at the end of Eastrop Park. Men were first trained in the fields of Popley. the stables for horses were at one end and shooting range at the other. As we know Popley is in a natural valley so I don't think too many were shot by accident! During the First World War many NCOs treated men badly. When the men were told to go over the top (meaning out of their trenches and charge at the enemy) a number of officers were accidentally shot! To me I felt that happened right through the war years. Basingstoke can be proud of the part they played in the Great War. The memorial in our town shows this, that men of this great town paid the ultimate sacrifice so people like us are free today in a world that has so much conflict in it. Yet we can still have our say and not dominated by people that live for suffering and greed.

Now a small gripe! Builders turned up last month to do repairs to brickwork on a house nearby. It was not until David stepped in did they erect scaffolding and cover the work up. Yes too late, our entire garden was in bud; the new grass has just started to come through. We feel we have been vandalized, that's how it felt. When we first came to the town 40 years ago, my mother gave us a fuchsia and it has taken pride of place in the front garden every since. Now with all the lime that has spread over not only our garden but neighbouring gardens too, will it survive? Luckily it does seem to have picked up this week. I tried to complain but no one seems to think it is an issue, thank you David for sticking up for us .

As for Her Indoors she has been in touch with the owners and the builders, God help them!

**Till next month when Europe erupts in 1914**

**The Old Codger**

**P.S.** The Old Codger has had his back procedure and at the moment is feeling as if a mule has kicked him. Hopefully by next month he will be reporting on improvement to his back pain. Her In doors



## There are some nasty scams doing the rounds

**New** – A phone call or card supposedly from Amazon. “We could not deliver xxxx, Tracking number yyyyy (false) – PLEASE LEAVE A WINDOW OPEN so we can redeliver”. Never ever leave your home open to access by these criminals.

**Next** An email or phone call from someone impersonating a police officer. They say they have arrested someone with your credit card on their person and come up with various plans to deviously obtain your personal details.

**Followed by.** You may see an email supposedly from the medical group NICE. “Your blood test showed a low white blood cell count and you may have cancer so click on this link” doing so will download a ‘Trojan’ to your PC. Please just delete any of these emails as they are fakes.

**Lastly.** You get something delivered that you were not expecting. You then get a phone call from the deliverer saying it was a mistake and they will call to collect. Usually they have cloned someone’s credit card and used your address. Report it to Action Fraud. Only return the item to a bona-fide person from the original supplier.

Please do not fall for these and many other nasty scams. We can’t name them all, but if the callers are unexpected, sound strange or too good to be true, then ignore them. You may also consider reporting such scams on the Action Fraud website.

On the Hampshire police website, lots of local police information is available on the website at [www.hampshire.police.uk/internet](http://www.hampshire.police.uk/internet). There is also a Lost and Found section where you can report anything in these categories, as 101 is unable to deal with them. Remember also that you can use the 101 phone number to contact your local officers.

There is also a Crime Reports website at [www.CrimeReports.co.uk](http://www.CrimeReports.co.uk) to show where and what type of crime is reported in your area

**Editor note;-** I would like to add one more warning as it is heart-breaking when you read that elderly or vulnerable residents have been conned to pay for shoddy work or have let someone in who then steals money and valuables. If you need any work done ask your family or friends who they would recommend.

Don’t let tradesman or anyone in that says they are there for any reason that you have not contacted them for. Ask them to show their identification. If you are still not sure close the door and phone the electric, gas, water or phone company to check. Genuine callers will not mind and this is also strongly advised by the police.

## **Dear Readers**

Easter came round so fast this year, didn't it? Like I said in my last article Christmas will be round sooner than we all expect! The sun has finally crawled out of hibernation, let's all hope it lasts. I hope you have all made the most out of the sun while you still can, but at least it decided to come out in time for our Easter holidays. I definitely made the most out the sunshine as myself and my family took a trip up to Cheltenham (in Gloucestershire) to watch Cheltenham Town Football Club (because my dad supports them) they played Fleetwood Town Football Club. Although Cheltenham lost 2-1 it was really interesting. They played not too well in the first half but once they brought on No.21, Ashley Vincent they played a smashing second half! No.20 Sido Jombati got Man of the Match probably because he threw in some brilliant tackles and was so fast, almost like a gunshot. I think that Jermaine McGlashan is definitely my favourite player though!!

I also participated in my school's music chamber concert. Guess what instrument I played? The steel pans which originate from Trinidad and Tobago. They are large metal 'drums' that are hit with the rubber end of the beater and have a different range of notes. I play the tenor pan which is the smallest pan but plays the melody (tune) of each song. The songs that we performed are quite popular and well known, except from one unusual one which is called Monkey Man. The other songs were Locked out of Heaven by Bruno Mars, Happy by Pharrell Williams and my favourite Billie Jean by Michael Jackson. I think we did quite well considering that it was the first time that we had played as an ensemble in front of a crowd.

All the May traditions will start like maypole dancing, which I learned in primary school and performed at my May Festival and I also learned country dancing which was, in my words, a jolly and merry dance.

I would like to remind all of you that the Popley Festival is coming up just lets all hope that the sun chooses to stay out for this occasion and the heavens will stay firmly shut.

**Till next month**

# Ellie

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