

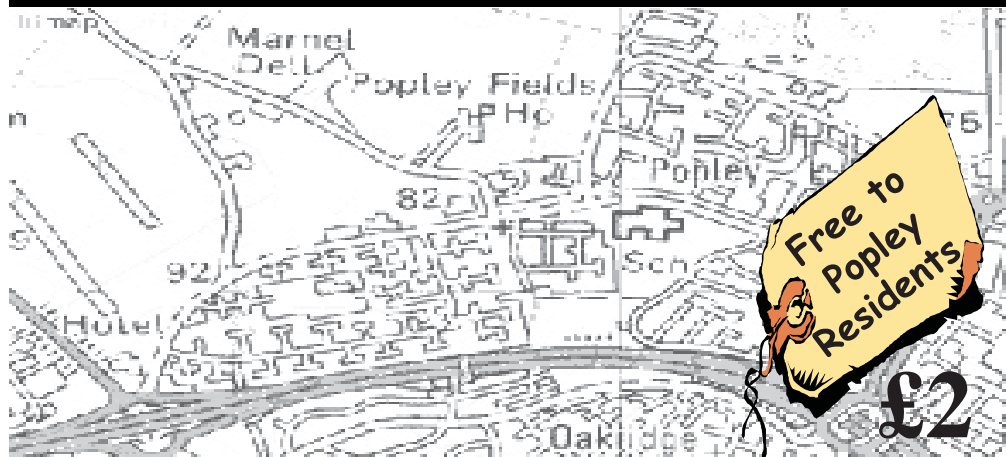
# POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

October 2014

Distribution of 5,100

Issue 152



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-10-14) [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk)



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:-** Autumn is here, and the leaves are so colourful, but they will fall leaving bare branches. I have never been a fan of winter and as I grow older I dislike it more and more. Winter means cold weather, dark evenings and nights, and waking up in the dark too as the winter progresses. Then of course there's the snow and ice, but there is Christmas and the joy of seeing people out building snowmen to look forward to.

We try to bring you news around Popley and groups, clubs and events around the borough that you can go to, so if you have an event or club please let us know. There are some quite unusual ones like Basingclog on page 1, Halloween Party page 4, help to find a job on page 11 and even Big Band Boogie on page 13. Events in aid of some of our charities can be found Naomi House, page 20 along with Festival Arts and crafts on the same page. Parent Voice have an Information Day on page 24. On page 1 is The Blue Lamp Trust. This is a charity that I have had dealings with in the past and does some amazing work.

We would like to hear more from our readers about what you think of Popley Matters. How can we improve it, what features or articles would you like to see, in what is your community magazine? We also need more willing volunteers to deliver the magazine. We have deliverers who deliver from 30 magazines to over 300 so you could volunteer according to the time you have available. We deliver to all the established and new areas of Popley and want to keep us all together as a community. If you want to contact Popley Matters you can write to Popley Matters, 405 Abbey Road, Basingstoke RG24 9EL or email [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk)



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



# About the Blue Lamp Trust

**The Blue Lamp Trust** is a Hampshire and Isle of Wight based charity established to promote and enhance community safety in the two regions. Uniquely supported by the Police and Fire Services, the Trust has three principal functions:

- To operate the **Bobby Scheme** which provides tangible support to elderly and vulnerable people, particularly victims of domestic burglary and of domestic violence, to make their homes safe and secure through practical and free interventions;
  - To make **grants** to local schemes working towards reducing crime, the fear of crime and the risk of fire in the county; and
  - To provide **driver education and training** to reduce deaths and injuries on our roads by helping employers meet their obligations under health and safety when employees drive for work.
- Website [www.bluelamptrust.org.uk](http://www.bluelamptrust.org.uk)

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## Basingclog

Basingclog are your friendly local clog side in Basingstoke and the surrounding area. We dance the North West style of clog performing dances from the North of England originating some 300 years ago in and around the cotton mills. We are a mixed side so male and female dancers and musicians are welcome. Basingclog's costume of black, white and red is designed to complement the style of North West dancing, giving a bright and colourful display. We believe in dancing to entertain, and we are renowned for the energy and enthusiasm we put into our dances, and for the volume of noise generated by our band.

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Basingclog offers music, fresh air, dancing, laughter and friendship in equal measure and a chance to be part of something worthwhile. We're actively seeking new members and welcome both male and female dancers and musicians. Now is a great time to try us out as we are into our Winter practice period. When: Tuesday nights at 8.00 pm. Where: Sherfield on Loddon Village Hall <http://www.sherfieldvillagehall.co.uk>.

We only do it because it's fun: <http://www.basingclog.org.uk/index.html> *Michael Devenport*

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**Councillors Page:** After a meeting at my house with Popley Labour Councillors and residents, I spoke at full county council about the areas within my division that still do not have faster broadband. I am pleased to say the portfolio holder has agreed to meet with myself and some of the residents of Popley including Everest, The Glaziers, and Marnel Park. I will let you know the results when the meeting has taken place. I also spoke at a Basingstoke and Deane committee meeting about the cemetery provision and concerns that it would be outside of Basingstoke. Other Labour councillors, including Paul Harvey, spoke about poor transport provision and the remoteness of the site they were suggesting in North Waltham. There will now be a consultation to ask you the residents on your views. There is also a consultation on the Black Dam roundabout improvements-details are on the Labour Councillors Facebook page, and the Hampshire County Council website.

The meeting with the developers and residents of Somerville Gardens went well and many issues were brought to the developers attention. Now we have to keep the pressure up to make sure they do all the repairs. *Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924*

---

**Popley West:** At last the bus shelters are repaired and new roofs put on where needed and just in time for the wet and cold winter.

All the Popley Councillors met with a senior officer to talk about some much needed improvements in the older parts of Popley, in Popley Poets and Abbeys. We also talked about the improvements to the turnings into Popley near the "Red Army" roundabout and along Popley Way.

Popley Islands have joined with Popley Poets to form a community group and we also have one that represents Marnel Park and Merton Rise. We have tried to get residents in the Popley Abbeys but to no avail so far. There is grant money out there for community groups so if you are interested please contact us. We are supporting a bid for improvements to Melrose Hall and are also supporting St Gabriel's Church with their expanding role working in the communities. There have also been grants paid to Popley Fields Community Centre and we are waiting to hear from Bermuda Hall. You, the residents, have the chance and we will support you where we can.

**Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924**

**Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924**

**Popley East:** As Local Councillors we are seeking to lend our support to residents in the Everest Park development who are being denied even reasonable speeds of Broadband despite promises made some years ago when the houses were built. The residents living there believed that high speed broadband would be delivered quickly but to date BT/Openreach admit that the infrastructure is still not active particularly associated with Cabinet 102.

The residents have organised themselves into a pressure group which is seeking to get BT to commit to an immediate programme of delivering high speed broadband and we support them in this campaign.

We intend to organise a meeting of the key players to find out where the barrier to progress lies and we will seek to get the local authorities support to put pressure on the providers. We will look at the possibility of providing a financial stimulus to the providers but believe there is a contractual commitment made by the developer and the provider to fulfil commitments made to residents when the houses were built.

The lesson to be learnt appears to be, do not purchase a new property unless there is a clear guarantee that the broadband network is available and can provide for your needs. This should not be necessary when people act in good faith and we intend to make people live up to their commitments.

**Cllr Viv Washbourne tel.07900890088.**

**Cllr David Potter tel.07941507801.**



# Family Halloween Party

**Saturday 1st November**  
6.00pm-9.00pm  
Popley Fields Community Centre

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# 2014/15 Merton Junior Adventure Begins...

Children and staff returned to Merton Junior School after the summer holidays to completely new looking grounds. The building work has begun on our amazing school expansion: 4 new classrooms, dance & music studio, multi use games area (MUGA), complete new office/reception and staff areas, additional Tintern Close gate entrance and larger car parking space. The next year will be a very exciting (and sometimes noisy) time for staff and pupils alike...

As I write this, we have been back in school for almost two weeks. I often walk around the classes and enjoy sharing our pupils' enthusiasm and pleasure for their work. It is wonderful to see so many proud and happy smiling faces. Each class has settled well into this year's adventure, working hard on their first projects; Year 3 are designing owls for the school 'houses', Year 4 have written their first parent newsletter; Year 5 are writing job descriptions, person specs and adverts for pupil roles within school e.g. Prefect and Librarian; and Year 6 are studying a wonderful book called 'Colour Me Happy'.

Lunchtimes are a happy affair here at Merton Juniors. Our Teaching Assistants work hard to make sure every child has a fun, safe and enjoyable lunchtime experience. The children bring packed lunches or have a school dinner. Our school dinners are excellent; Mrs Toomer and her team create, in the words of one child, "...spectacular, yummy and amazing lunches, especially the roasts". In the hotter months we allow children to 'picnic' outside with their packed lunches. Lunchtime play areas are organised into 4 zones. The Active Zone contains bats and balls and adventure equipment, like stilts and paired skis. The Creative Zone contains things like French skipping and dance ribbons. The Free Zone is for free undirected play and there is a Football Zone for two specific year groups per day. There are also opportunities for basketball, cricket and hockey throughout the year. An additional space used all the time by the children is our brilliant adventure play area. We also have a number of trained Year 6 pupils who act as 'Play Leaders'. The Play Leaders help set up the zones and organise and teach games and activities to the other children. Additionally they look out for the younger pupils and play with anyone who looks a bit lonely. They do a fantastic job! 100% of children in the summer term stated they enjoyed lunchtime – as a school, we aim to keep that record this year!

We all look forward with great anticipation to this academic year's adventure ahead of us! There are many events planned; to keep up with all our antics and activities, including our 'Big Build', find us at [www.mertonjuniorschool.com](http://www.mertonjuniorschool.com)

***Miss Helen Palmer, Headteacher.***





Thank you to everyone who came to our Annual General Meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Do you have a few hours to spare to help in the garden or with our groups? We are always looking for new volunteers; speak to Vicki in the office for more details.

**NEW!!!!**- We are pleased to announce the opening of our new Community Café, every Wednesday 9.30-11.30am, come along for a drink and good company.

**WHATS ON IN October:**

- MONDAY:** 10am-12pm NCT Bumps and Babies(first and third Monday)  
**AFTERNOON AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**  
7.30-10pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
- TUESDAY:** 10.30am-12pm Popley Little People  
4-6pm BVS Youth Hub 11-13years  
6.30-8pm BVS Youth Hub 13+  
**AFTERNOON AND EVENING AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**
- WEDNESDAY:** 9.30am Slimming World  
9.30-11.30am Community Cafe  
12-2pm Oasis Lunch club  
5.30 & 7.30pm Slimming World
- THURSDAY:** **AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**
- FRIDAY:** **DAYTIME HIRE AVAILABLE**  
6.30-7.45pm MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years  
8-9.15pm age 11 plus.
- SATURDAY:** 9am-4pm 7<sup>TH</sup> Day Adventist Church  
10am Sabath School - Bible Study  
11.30am Divine Worship  
1pm Free Community Lunch  
Contact Emanuel Ampofo on 07456068812 for further details  
**EVENING AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**
- SUNDAY:** Melrose Christian Fellowship - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.

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](mailto:Melrosehall@btconnect.com)**

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Dear Friends

These past few weeks have been, even by my usual standards, exceptionally busy. I'm often working 60 to 70 hours a week – as I know that many of you do to! There has been a rush of funerals and we send our condolences and prayers to the families of Doreen Curnow, Despina Coe and Pip Patterson in their grief. I've also been caught up in a rush of activities surrounding my role as Basingstoke Area Dean, with meetings going on all over the place together with licensing a new vicar in Hatch Warren and meeting with the Bishops and their staff in Winchester. It's been hectic too with Christenings, Thanksgivings and Weddings to take. I've also been busy getting ready for the Battle of Britain Service which takes place each year around 21st September. In between all this we have our usual Sunday services, Café on Tuesday and Wednesdays, Homegroups, Toddler Groups, Community Groups, Messy Church, and a whole host of other stuff that I can't even mention. Life is busy and Christmas Services start in a few short weeks ...aaargh!!!

Reflecting on all this I sense that God is saying to me that we are created 'human BEINGS' not 'human DOINGS' and while its good to keep busy we mustn't get so busy that we forget to rest. A dear friend of mine was always saying to me "work from rest, not rest from work!" It's sound advice, rest should energise us for work, and work should not drive us to exhaustion!

So back to the diary! I am trying to make space to take the advice given but where do I shoehorn all this other 'must do' stuff in? Jesus was well known for taking himself off to a quiet place, to be alone with his thoughts and his prayers, to rest and to wait – wait on God! It was then that he found the strength, wisdom and stamina to continue in his ministry and in Him we find a great role model of what it is to be completely human. Not being conformed to the pattern of this world with all it's pace and powerlessness but conformed to the image of God.

As the cycle of the seasons rolls forward into autumn, nature begins to move into a time of rest from all her activity, She will move into the sleep of winter and wake refreshed in the spring with all her beauty and freshness.

Perhaps its time to reassess our priorities and discover again what really makes a difference and what the important things of our lives really are. Perhaps it's time to look at the season of life we are in and take a step back from it all, see it from a different perspective. "Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done."

See! Even He took time out to rest, so shouldn't we? Hope that autumn is a great time for you and yours and that you find that space and time you need to be yours – I know I am going to try even harder!

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## Make a Will Fortnight

St. Michael's Hospice is encouraging you to get involved with it is 'Make a Will' campaign to support the future generations in your family. Taking place from 3rd-14th November, local solicitors will waive their fee for having a standard will written or updated in return for a donation to the Hospice. All you need to do is contact one of the participating solicitors to make an appointment quoting 'St Michael's Hospice Make a Will Fortnight' and a suggested donation will be provided to you.

Please visit [stmichaelshospice.org.uk/events](http://stmichaelshospice.org.uk/events) for a list of participating solicitors and for more information.



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(Questionnaire, June 2014)

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 07935267232  
Email: [511077@childcare.hants.org.uk](mailto:511077@childcare.hants.org.uk)

Come along to have a look around, we are attached to Merton Infants School. Come anytime between 9am-11.30am or make an appointment.

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# Big Band Boogie

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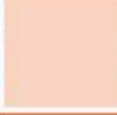
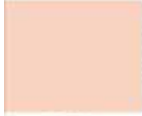
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**Headquarters:****Base 2000 Carpenters Down, Popley RG24 9AE****Group Scout Leader: Colin Karslake 01256 410559****Scout section: Jean-Paul Keetch 07899 087 275****Cub Scout section: Douglas Gowan 01256 412326****Beaver Scout section: Eve Alexander 07790 018 171**

A busy start to the term with Beavers getting off to a lively start with a games night followed by first aid (was there a connection?) and then learning to pack a kit bag in readiness for a sleepover. Soon it will be time to start thinking about the annual visit to Paultons Park which will be great fun as always. Several new recruits joined at the beginning of September.

As I write, some of the Cubs have just returned from a super weekend camp at Downe Scout Activity Centre in Kent. They had a very active programme and came home tired but happy (most slept on the coach home!). The Pack weekly programme has had an element of disability awareness this month together with a visit to the Police station and an 'out-and-about' trail in the town centre.



Remember to visit the **Climbing Wall in Castle Square** (by Primark/Wilkinsons) - **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 9am to 5pm**

Members of the general public are invited to try out one of the Association's most popular activities at £4 for two climbs. Anyone wearing a Scout neckerchief can climb for £3 only. Expert instruction and all equipment provided. Why not have

a go whilst Mum and Dad do the shopping?

**Weekly meetings** in Base 2000 Carpenters Down, Popley RG24 9AE

Beaver section (boys and girls aged 6 – 8 years)

Tuesday from 5.30 – 7 pm

Cub section (boys and girls aged 8 - 10½ years)

Tuesday 6.30 – 8 pm

Scout section (boys and girls aged 10½ - 14 years)

Friday 7 – 9 pm

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

Base 2000 is available for use by any community group at special rates for both 'one-off' and regular bookings. Childrens' parties and family gatherings welcomed. Hiring rates range from £3.50 per hour for the smaller hall to up to £12 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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The Basingstoke  
**Festival**  
of **Art and Crafts**  
**2014**

The Basingstoke Festival of Art and Crafts in aid of local charities will be held on Saturday 11th (11am to 6pm) and Sunday 12th October (11am to 5pm) in The Hampshire Court Hotel, Centre Drive, Great Binfields Road, Chineham, Basingstoke, RG24 8FY.

Building on the success of last year's Mayor's Festival of Art and Crafts, the 2014 Festival will encompass both professional and amateur artists and art groups exhibiting a wide range of original paintings. In addition there will be a selection of high class photography and a varied selection of quality craft work including hand made pottery, fused glass, and silk painting. Much of the work will be for sale and all proceeds will be donated equally to the following charities: The Ark Cancer Centre Charity; Basingstoke Young Carers and Basingstoke Dial-a-Ride.

Entry is free and there will be a raffle of artwork by local artists. Refreshments will also be available.

The organisers of the Festival gratefully acknowledges all our sponsors and especially the Management of The Hampshire Court Hotel for providing The Hampshire Suite ,and FM Print Ltd for printing posters and leaflets.

Contact [vbanddb@hotmail.com](mailto:vbanddb@hotmail.com) for further information.

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## **Naomi House Hospice shops need your help**

We are a local children's hospice that provides respite and palliative care to children and young adults aged 0 -25. We cover 7 counties and Basingstoke is one of the towns that we have great support from.

In the town centre we have one of our shops that is always busy and welcoming. We have lots of great donations and so it's always worth paying us a visit to see what bargains you find!

We have another shop in Chineham, where there is plenty of free parking. The shop itself is light and airy and as well as having clothes, books and bric-a- brac, it also has room for small items of furniture.

Keeping the shops looking so great is down to our volunteers. This is where we need your help. We have lots of roles within the shops, from helping to sort through the donations, to steaming the clothes, helping on the shop floor and the till or helping with the window display.

If you have a couple of hours to spare, where you can meet new people, help a really worthwhile cause and have fun at the same time, then please either pop into the shop or contact Lucy on 01962 763711 or [lucy.butcher@naomihouse.org.uk](mailto:lucy.butcher@naomihouse.org.uk).

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## Contact With Your Children at Christmas

It may seem early to be writing about Christmas so soon after the summer holidays, however, there are only some 12 weeks until Christmas and for parents who are sadly not on speaking terms, this is not very long to try and sort out the time children spend with each parent over the Christmas break.

Regardless of how a relationship breaks down and how one party feels about the other, as a parent you should never lose sight of the fact that you are still parents and your children are going to be distressed by an acrimonious relationship breakdown between you and your partner. This can have an effect on your children's behaviour and also their schooling. Unfortunately people who feel either emotionally or economically vulnerable all too often wrongly involve the children in the adult discussions. The children have neither the knowledge, depth of experience nor emotions to cope with adult separations. All the children need to know is that they are not to blame for the breakdown of the relationship, that they are loved by both parents and the parents will work out a proper schedule and system for them to spend time with them both.

In the first instance you should discuss between you the arrangements for the children and try and reach an agreement that works for you, but more importantly one that the children will be happy with. If there is a dispute that cannot be settled, then you should consider attending mediation with your ex partner. This is where both of you, see an independent mediator together and try and come to an overall conclusion. Many people find that matters can be progressed so much quicker through mediation as it is easier to bring out in the open the anxieties or concerns that each party may have of the other. This in turn can be more cost-effective. It is also less adversarial and confrontational because you are expected to communicate and cooperate with each other in the spirit of finding a solution, having at the front of your mind that the arrangements are about the children; they are the first priority.

If agreement cannot be reached in mediation, then a last resort is to make an application to the court for what is now called a Child Arrangements Order. Once an application is made the Court usually lists a hearing within 6 – 8 weeks. This hearing is a conciliation hearing and the Court will do all they can to assist you in reaching an agreement. CAFCASS would also be present to assist the court and speak to the parents with a view to finding a solution.

If you do have any questions regarding the time you are to spend with your children over the Christmas period or in general following a relationship breakdown then please do not hesitate to contact **Hayley Eachus a Solicitor and Mediator 01256 854633.**





As I write this the new season has only just begun, but what a start by the boys in all our age groups!

We have certainly come out of the traps with all pistons pumping and are proving to be a very tough opponent for any team, at any level.

Our two Under 10 teams have had particularly good starts as they venture into the uncharted waters of the North East Hants League (MFC Popley Predators) and the Testway League (MFC Popley Venom) with a couple of fiery performances putting themselves well and truly on the map.

The Under 14s have had a tough start playing with only 10 men, but showing the character of the Club by winning SEVEN-nil in their PHYL Premier Division game away to Tadley Calleva.

The results kept on coming with the under 15s winning EIGHT-four and our under 11s beating last season's champions SEVEN-nil while our under 8s keep going from strength to strength.

If we can keep up this momentum then it promises to be another very good season for MFC Popley Youth.

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 grassroots level is a must.

Please contact the club by email at [volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk) or contact Ian Davies, on 07884 185693 for more details.

We are always looking to get more parents involved actively with MFC Popley Youth, especially 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, 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 Sophie Yadegar, All Stars Coach, on 07896 708 252 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

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## Parent Voice Basingstoke Basingstoke Voice

### **Special Needs Information Day, Basingstoke**

Hampshire Parent Partnership Service and Parent Voice are pleased to announce their Special Needs Information Day is on Saturday 11th October between 10am-3pm at Cranbourne Business & Enterprise College, Wessex Close, Basingstoke, RG21 3NP. Free workshops and talks include: Communication skills when managing challenging behaviour, SEND Reforms SEN Support in schools, Preparing for adulthood Dyslexia Mental capacity A "drop in".

Free parking, refreshments and sandwiches will be available (a small charge will apply). Caterpillar Crafts, Mr Giant and the Honeypot Bus will be there to entertain children. They are also hoping to once again offer a childcare service (with a small donation) for parents who wish to attend workshops or talks. For further information or to register interest in exhibiting or attending, please contact Elaine Fish, preferably by email please - enquiries.pps@hants.gov.uk – or by phone: 01962 845870.



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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 are welcome. Come along, meet and make new friends. Refreshments are also available and it finishes around about 10pm.

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

If you like to dance we have Street dance and ballet classes on **Thursdays**, for ages ranging from two and a half year olds to adults, 4.30 until 5.30pm. For full details contact Samantha on 07811299484.

**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 details ring Janet on 363156.

OUR NEXT FAMILY PRIZE BINGO IS AT POPLEY FIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE ON FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER 2014 - Please note that doors open at 6pm and eyes down at 7pm. Refreshments will also be available. Bring along all your family and friends.

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## **'Explosive' Drama in November!**

BATS Next Gen's cast of talented local youngsters proudly present 'Fawkes, The Quiet Guy' on 7th and 8th November 2014 at Central Studio, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke.

The show is an original musical by Kjartan Poskitt which tells the story of the 1605 gunpowder plot and makes for a thrilling whodunnit involving spies, sabotage and someone being walled up alive! The show is set in Catesby's Cabaret Club with the outrageous hostess Miss Catherine Wheel. Even if the club didn't exist, everything in it did actually happen right up to the explosive finale!

Performances: Friday 7th November at 7.30pm, Saturday 8th November at 2.30pm & 7.30pm. Tickets: £12 full, £10 concessions, £8 students and children Central Studio Box Office: Online [www.centralstudio.co.uk](http://www.centralstudio.co.uk) Phone 01256 418318.

For group bookings of 10+, please contact [publicity@batsnextgen.co.uk](mailto:publicity@batsnextgen.co.uk) for special rates. BATS Next Gen provide affordable musical theatre experience to young people aged 7 to 17. To find out more please visit [www.batsnextgen.co.uk](http://www.batsnextgen.co.uk)

# Diaries from the Old Codger.



October 1914, the expeditionary force last month started the first trench warfare. Today sinkholes are still opening up from deep mines dug in or around Ypres, mines dug by men called "Clay Kickers". These men came from the north under the command of Norton Griffiths; he was a great tunneler and later arsonist. The problem was he went against the grain and the hierarchy in the war department, they just did not like the man. He did the job and by starting deep tunnelling in a 400-mile area. The men were civilians and they did the job because of the pay they got doing such work. The Clay Kickers were very quiet so the enemy hardly knew they were under cutting them and led to the great explosion around Passendale, Hill 60. There are some great stories to read and research in this field it is fascinating, if you like to see and read what life was like for the "Moles".

My roof is now all fixed. Thank you Ian and his crew for all your hard work - Ian does loft conversions and his men worked in a true professional way. Her Indoors has just got to slim down. A couple of weeks ago water started to come through our lounge ceiling then a bit collapsed! We found the problem, it was Her Indoors having a jet wash in the shower each morning, plus she had bent the base of it. Another big job. It is never ending and you get so down knowing you can't do the job, When fit I would have built a new bathroom for us and put up plaster boarding to do the ceiling. This is life and you are dealt a hand of cards and have to play the game, unfortunately I am one of these people that keep losing. It not only depresses me but I know it also takes a great toll on Her Indoors, as she juggles so many balls in the air at once. When I see others in the papers get so much help I wonder what have I, or we, done wrong, but as I say that is life. Bathroom is booked for next month not a good time just before Christmas but c'est la vie.

Our little dog had to have his leg operated on last month but thank goodness we insured him. Still a payout, excess and 10%, these insurers have us all by the short and curlies don't they? As I say money runs away, one thing after another, but we both look at the world in the same way. Many people are destitute and hungry-that makes our problems small. One day the God or the lottery may smile on us, you never know but first I have to keep Her Indoors away from the shops.

**Again I say enjoy, if you can, and research the tunnel and mine men. At the end of the day these men should be recognized for the courage they had in WWI. They saved thousands of lives and did it with some very funny stories.**



**The Old Codger**



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# Lions Club of Basingstoke

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

Our new President, Tony, is what you might call a “good egg”. Apart from being a Lion he also runs swimming for disabled children (and that’s actually in the water) several times a week and later this month he’ll be holding a coffee morning in aid of the Macmillan Nurses – generous to a fault. He also has a pretty good understanding of his fellow Lions and their proclivities. (Nice word that – covers a multitude of sins.) So, through items a-j of the minutes of the last business meeting he suggested, very politely, how we could improve things. Nothing major, just a few drops of oil to make the Club machine run more smoothly. But I think he’ll be keeping us up to the mark no matter how rambunctious we get.

**World Sight Day** it is on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October. Following the success of our stall in Queen Anne’s Walk, Festival Place last year, when over 200 people visited us, we’ll be there again this year to collect your redundant specs, provide information on different types and aspects of blindness and advise on the sort of help that’s available locally. Lenny the (Basingstoke) Lion will be prowling the area offering free raffle tickets for a prize of 2 tickets to one of our shows. So please visit us with or without specs, to gain an insight into no sight and its dire problems.

**Fundraising:** The **Sussex Kings Jazz Band** gave us a fantastic performance at QMC helping us to raise £1230. If you get another chance to see them, don’t miss it. [www.sussexjazzkings.co.uk/](http://www.sussexjazzkings.co.uk/)

On **4<sup>th</sup> October** we’ll be having a **BARN DANCE** with the well known local band **Pitchfork** 7.30-11pm at the beautiful Home Farm Barn, Farleigh Wallop (RG25 2HX for you sophisticates with Sat Navs). BYO picnics, but we will be running our usual very reasonably priced bar. It’s going to be a great night. Tickets are currently still available by phoning 01256 325280 or 421867 or (email: [jomolincoln@btinternet.com](mailto:jomolincoln@btinternet.com)), or [mauricehockley@hotmail.com](mailto:mauricehockley@hotmail.com)) or from Toucan Travel at the Chineham Shopping Centre.

On **15 November** it’s **Quiz Night** at the Cliddesden Millenium Hall again. 110 questions to entertain, educate and infuriate. It’s great fun! Book your 3/4 person team table by contacting Philip Wilson [philipjhwilson@btinternet.com](mailto:philipjhwilson@btinternet.com) or tel. 01256 352393, but, 22 tables is our max.

On **29<sup>th</sup> November:** The **Apollo Big Band** are appearing for us again at QMC. They were ecstatically received when they appeared for us last time. They are a super group with a large following. So, on this occasion we have decided to donate the entire proceeds from the event to the **Basingstoke Multiple Sclerosis Society**. It’s a great charity so do come along and support it. Tickets are available from the usual suspects as shown above.

As always more details are available on our overworked website [www.basingstokelions.org.uk](http://www.basingstokelions.org.uk).

# Choosing the right care home for Mum was made easier.



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information or to arrange a visit

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**Marnel Lodge Care Home | [www.barchester.com](http://www.barchester.com)**

Carter Drive, off Popley Way, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 9UL

(If using a sat nav please enter RG24 9DR)

# FASTFARE

Your Local Family Convenience Store

Abbey Road (Shops) ☎(01256) 323679

Open seven days a week

Monday–Friday 8:00am–9:00pm Saturday 8:30am–9:30pm Sunday 9:00am–9:00pm

Grocery | Stationery | Off Licence | Fresh Fruit & Vegetables | Fresh Flowers  
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For further details ring ☎357637

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday 9am-7pm; Sat 9am-5pm



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