

POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

December 2014

Distribution of 5,100

Issue 154



Seasons Greetings

From the Popley Matters Team

FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

Contents

Message from the Editor	Inside cover	Air Scouts	Page 21
Proposal to Expand Marnel Schools	Page 1	Basingstoke Job Club	Page 23
Councillors' Page	Page 3	Santa Sleigh to visit Popley	Page 24
Depression Group for Basingstoke	Page 4	Bicycle Maintenance Training	Page 24
Popley Fields Message	Page 6	Our Story, Silver Line	Page 26
Basingstoke and Tadley WEA	Page 6	Festive Bin Collection	Page 27
Melrose Hall News	Page 8	Basingstoke Discovery Centre	Page 28
Arthur Botham	Page 9	Phillips Legal Corner	Page 29
Popley Christmas Extravaganza	Page 11	MFC Popley	Page 31
A Remarkable Project (fifty years on)	Page 13	Bermuda Community Centre	Page 33
Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel	Page 14	Tree Upgrades	Page 33
Time for a Change?	Page 16	Diaries from the Old Codger	Page 34
Merton Junior Remembers	Page 18	Guide Dogs	Page 36

Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 08-12-14) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:-Christmas, a time to reflect on the past year. We are very proud and grateful to our wonderful volunteer team that helps every month to get Popley Matters to you our readers. But we certainly could do with some more help. If you want to get involved please contact me-details are below.

A very Happy Christmas time to everyone, and we hope it is a happy time for you all. While I am in a reflective mood I hope you don't mind me asking once again to keep a look out for your friends and neighbours. It can be a lonely time for some people who are alone or far from their family and friends. There is a new "Silver Line" where us older folk can find a friendly voice to chat with and also a group where you can talk and get advice from if you are feeling down or depressed. There are lots and lots of people who live with depression so you are never really alone.

I was so happy to see that Santa's Sleigh will visit Popley with Santa and his helpers. Steve, one of Santa's helpers, said that they want everyone to be happy and enjoy Santa's visit. There is no charge at all, however if you can, or want to, give a few coppers they will be sending it to "Help The Heroes".

We like to have articles and information that will be of interest to you and welcome new groups and useful information. Perhaps there are some budding writers out there that would like to have a go? We also welcome letters on all sorts of subjects and we would like to restart our letters page.



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 magazine.

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Advertising Index

Jonathan Williams Independent	Page 2	SqueezyKlean	Page 10	Steve Moore Driving School	Page 27
Funeral Directors	Page 2	Sarah Hamlin Foot Health	Page 10	Young's Chinese Food	Page 27
AAA Clearance House and Garden	Page 2	M H Autos	Page 10	Angela M Rabess	Page 27
NCA Services	Page 2	Dave Smith Dance Studio	Page 12	1st Response	Page 30
PC Martin	Page 2	Floor Coverings Southern	Page 15	Piccolo Pre-school Nursery	Page 30
BCS Access and Maintenance Ltd	Page 5	The Apollo Hotel	Page 15	Your Local Locksmith	Page 30
Steve Rayner Accountancy	Page 5	Kongam Investment Limited	Page 15	The Barber Shop	Page 30
Unique Block Paving	Page 5	Phil Della-Savina Carpets	Page 17	Astral TV Repair	Page 32
Bryant & Freeman Motor Engineers	Page 5	IPS Hair	Page 17	Sue's Driving School	Page 32
JBDrive	Page 7	MMC Electrical	Page 17	The Hermit Barbershop	Page 32
Happy Tails Grooming	Page 7	Mickey's Handyman Services	Page 17	SmithieLED	Page 35
PKG Plumbing & Tiling	Page 7	Oakley Windows	Page 20	Barchester Marnel Lodge	Inside B/P
Domestic Oven Cleaning	Page 7	St Gabriel's Church	Page 22	Fastfare Store	Back Page
Spencer & Peyton Ltd	Page 10	Everest Health & Leisure Club	Page 22	Fastfare Pharmacy	Back Page
		Sentinel Housing Association	Page 25		

Thank you for your support

Proposal to Expand Marnel Infant and Junior Schools

Pre Planning Consultation Event

Thursday 11 December 2014
Marnel Infant School
5:00pm and 7:30pm

Hampshire County Council officers will be available on the evening to discuss the school expansion scheme. Alternatively, you can view the proposals at <http://consultations.hants.gov.uk/> from Thursday 11 December 2014 and email comment and/or questions to strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk or write to:

Strategic Development Team, Children's Services
Department, Elizabeth II Court North, 3rd Floor,
The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8UG



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Councillors' Page: After the power cut in November, the traffic lights in Popley were out of synchronisation, I called in the engineers for Highways and they were re timed. However I was still concerned on the timings in particular for the turn into the A340 towards the hospital, so they will be looking for solutions. There are also major works planned to improve the layout from Popley Way towards Reading including the slip road as you exit Popley Way.

I have been heavily involved in the Community Plan for Popley East and am very impressed with the commitment of the residents to improve the environment. In addition, the Popley Councillors have been working with groups to improve the community centres with the Local Environment Fund and are supporting the bids so far, for extensions and improvements to all our community centres in Popley. I also had a meeting in Winchester in regard to Marnel Schools extension and improvements and will attend the public consultation meeting on 11th December the details are on page 1. *Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924*

Popley West: You may have noticed one of the tree officers around Abbey Road in the last few weeks-he is mapping and inspecting the state of all of the trees. This is after many years of lobbying by your Popley Councillors about the many trees that are too big, inappropriate, diseased or too close to houses causing damage to paths, walls, and gardens. There will eventually be a report and you will be able to check on all the trees near your home on the Basingstoke and Deane website. There will be further inspections in other roads in the future. Phone 844844 for more information.

In Marnel Park you may see someone late at night by the DWH site office buildings near the allotments; it is the security staff that David Wilson Homes have installed.

I am pleased to say that after asking that the leaf clearing and clearing of the drains will start this year in Popley. Last year the street clearing and maintenance department were overrun with work and Popley seemed to be at the bottom of the list. We have now been assured that the clearing of the drains and other general maintenance work will start here in Popley over the next few weeks.

Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924

Popley East: David Wilson Homes have commenced works on the Kiln Farm houses. The construction traffic entrance is through Marl's Lane which impacts greatly on the residents of Guernsey and Jersey Closes. Their early experiences have not been good and we have been contacting DWH to comply with the planning conditions covering this development; mud on the roads, no warning construction signs; inconsiderate parking by sub-contractor groundwork employees; and the severance of the electricity cable supplying the street lights have all meant that residents remain critical of the attitude displayed so far by DWH.

We are determined as your Councillors to make sure that DWH understand their responsibilities to local residents and we are working with Planning Enforcement officers to make sure that planning conditions are complied with. We intend to involve local residents in discussions with DWH where possible so that confidence can be restored.

Congratulations to all those who have contributed to the Popley East draft Community Plan, soon to be turned into the final agreed plan. Lots of time and hard work were put in by volunteers so that the views of the community are represented.

Lots of positive things can be said about Popley, but in particular we believe it to be people friendly and a place of opportunity. We hope you agree.

Cllr Viv Washbourne tel 07900890088

Cllr David Potter tel 07941507801

Depression Group for People in the Basingstoke Area.

Are you struggling with Depression? If yes, know that you are not alone. Current figures show that 1 in 4 people in the UK will experience a Mental Health Disorder such as Anxiety and Depression in a year.



If you are interested in learning new skills and techniques in managing your depression, then join us every Thursday evening between 18.30—20.00.

The programme is based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, a therapeutic model widely used within the NHS as Recommended in the NICE Guidelines.

Age: From 18+

Start Date: 17 January 2015 (6 week programme)

Cost: Free but a Donation would be welcomed to enable us run similar programmes in the future.

Book early due to limited availability!

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Merry Christmas

Popley Fields Community Association would like to wish all their regular user groups and customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2015.

Remember to look out for our regular monthly events next year.

To find out what is happening each month check out our Facebook page or give the centre a call on 01256 414494 to speak to a member of staff who will be happy to help you.



Registered charity number:1052133



Basingstoke and Tadley WEA

News is gradually spreading around North Hampshire that the **WEA**, which incidentally is the largest adult education provider in the United Kingdom, is alive and well in the area. The Autumn courses in both **Basingstoke** and **Tadley** have been extremely well subscribed to. The topics this term have been the Arts and Crafts Movement, Literary London and Shakespeare.

Next term we have some equally exciting courses and we hope there will be something of interest for a variety of tastes.

Basingstoke courses are held at the United Reformed Church, London Street, Basingstoke
New Life: New Challenge – a literary course covering *Villette* by Charlotte Bronte and *South Riding* by Winifred Holtby.

Tutor: Suzi Turner from Friday 16th January 2015 for 9 weeks 10.30am – 12.00pm £54

A Brief History of Australia

Tutor : Judy Still from Wednesday 11th February 2015 for 7 weeks. 2 – 4pm £56

Exploring the Origins of Modern Science: Revolutionary Scientists from Copernicus to Newton

Tutor: Mike Gilbert from Thursday 12th February 2015 for 7 weeks 7.30 -9.30pm £56

Tadley courses are held at the Ambrose Allen Centre, Franklin Avenue, Tadley

Highlights of the National Gallery

Tutor: Dalila Castelijn from 9th January 2015 for 7 weeks 9.45 – 11.45am £56

For further information please contact Jan Smith 01189 832251 jancsmith@btopenworld.com

Or have a look at the WEA website www.wea.org.uk/southern

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CHRISTMAS DINNER



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9th December 2014

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Raffle



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Dear Friends

One of the most oft heard reactions on Christmas morning as the children unwrap their presents is “Look! They’d rather play with the wrapping paper!” Have you ever found yourself saying that? I know I have! Which begs the question – why do we spend so much on presents when we could just buy a roll of wrapping paper? I’m only kidding of course! We all love to unwrap presents, just to see what’s inside – sometimes we’re absolutely delighted and other times we exercise a great deal of tact and hide our disappointment. I can remember doing that a few years ago when my mother-in-law insisted on buying me sweaters of the Val Doonican sort! I guess what might have been worse would have been to unwrap the present and find nothing inside!

In the past few weeks the Children in Need appeal on TV raised over £30m, the Poppy Appeal a similar amount. Locally, I know that many of you have been involved in fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and the video we showed in church was both deeply moving and delighting at the same time. It’s an extraordinary display of generosity – even in these hard times and yet for many, this Christmas will be an especially tough time! Presents, food and drink and all the usual trappings of the festive season will be harder to come by for many families and wrapping paper may be all they can afford!

Some years ago I was in that very situation, it was a very painful and frustrating time and yet when Christmas came it turned out to be the best we’d enjoyed. The absence of all those usual distractions provided the opportunity to get back to the real meaning of Christmas – a baby boy, born in circumstances of poverty to teenage parents who would become the Saviour to all.

We had a much smaller Christmas tree and turkey dinner that year, there was little to unwrap in the way of presents but for the first time we truly unwrapped the greatest gift of all – God’s true purpose of Christmas and a chance to get to know the Saviour.

Whether you find yourself in difficult circumstances in the coming weeks or joining in the usual shopping frenzy, may I encourage you to seek out that same Saviour and then, whether its just wrapping paper, a Val Doonican sweater or the world’s most wanted gadget that you tear open to reveal on Christmas morning, I promise you will have the best ever Christmas.

May I personally invite you to come and join us at one of our Christmas carol services or Christmas fair taking place over the coming weeks.

May the eagerness of the shepherds, the joy of the angels, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas.

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Popley

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

On Monday 15 December 2014 | From 6pm to 9pm

6PM CANDLELIT PROCESSIONS TO THE BASING WOOD

Processions beginning from Dryden Close and Merton Junior School. Please note that children are the responsibility of their parents or guardians.

6.45PM CAROLS AT THE BASING WOOD

Followed by fun in Popley Fields Community Centre including seasonal refreshments, Santa's Grotto, games, Christmas Jumper competition, performances and a mega raffle.

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This event is brought to you by some of your local community planning groups, community associations, schools and churches.



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A Remarkable Project Fifty Years On

A remarkable local project – and fundraiser – has just achieved a fiftieth anniversary. What became part one of The Story of Basingstoke DVD sponsored by the Friends of the Willis Museum was launched as a tape/slide presentation before a packed audience at Queen Mary’s Grammar School on 11 November, 1964.

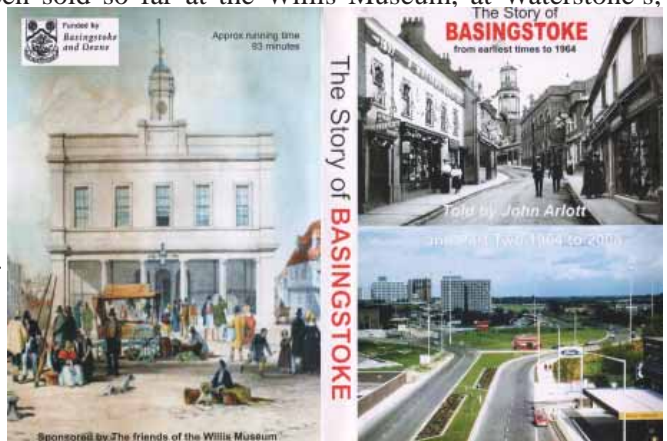


Made for the WEA by architect and staunch Willis Museum supporter Derek Wren, it covered the whole history of Basingstoke up to the plan to make it a London overspill town. Success was instant, resounding and lasting, thanks to Derek’s authoritative but easily followed script, to the high quality slides, mostly photographed by Derek himself, and

because the script was read by Basingstoke’s famous broadcaster, John Arlott.

In 1991 the presentation was turned into a VHS video, and in 2008 it was digitally re-mastered as a DVD by David Mann. Derek enhanced the story to 1964 with re-drawn maps and additional archive illustrations, and David Mann added a second part to bring it up to date, using more of Derek’s photos, this time with captions and music but without spoken narrative, for who could compete with the voice of John Arlott in part one? Part two powerfully evokes the “before”, “during” and “after” of the re-development period, and finishes on a positive note about the Basingstoke of today, whilst Derek’s photos of a much changed town in part one now comprise a valuable archive in themselves.

Hundreds of copies have been sold so far at the Willis Museum, at Waterstone’s, Basingstoke and other local outlets, raising funds that the Friends of the Willis, a registered charity, use to improve the museum; these have helped with enhancements to the fabric, and with the purchase of exhibits and equipment, and will help with major improvements yet to come.



Hello Folks,

On 15th October 2014, the Popley Safer Neighbourhood Panel met for the quarterly meeting. Drug issues continue to be a problem in Popley. There is a lot of work going on in relation to this. Popley East is the worst affected area. This area includes Shakespeare Road and the surrounding roads.

For a number of reasons, the Abbey Road shops area is a hot spot for anti-social behaviour. We receive many calls about youths playing football in the area. The reports also include drug misuse and other general anti-social behaviour.

The current Popley priorities until Jan 2015:

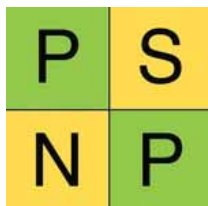
- 1) Drugs issues throughout Popley.
- 2) Anti-social behaviour in Abbey Road. This includes, shouting, foul language, drugs misuse and harassment.

I recently took a statement from a victim, in John Hunt Drive. The poor chap had trees stolen from his front lawn on 23rd October 2014. After the second time, the victim installed CCTV. The third theft was captured on CCTV. The suspect male is described as white and aged 50 to 65 with a slim build. The suspect wore a flat cap and a coat with buttons at the front. The suspect also had a dog with him. Do you recognise the male? Please call 101, or crime stoppers, if you do. Quote reference: 44140382626.



As you may be aware, I continue to update the 'PSNP' website on a regular basis. The website contains lots of information relevant to Popley, the PSNP, and my work as your Community Officer.

We are currently looking for more residents to join the PSNP. Please take a look at the website and get involved: psnp.jimdo.com.



If you would like to discuss the website or any community issue then please get in contact with me. Tel: 101 email: daniel.carter.20686@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

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MERTON JUNIOR REMEMBERS

As the nation remembered the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice during the wars and conflicts since 1914, the children, staff and parents of Merton Junior School commemorated the event by holding a MSSC (Moral, Spiritual, Social and Cultural) Day.



Many of the children arrived at school wearing clothing that reflected the period around the First World War. We had a great range of characters including soldiers, nurses, farmers, doctors and so many more. They all

looked amazing!



The children went into different classes and worked alongside their friends and also made new friends as we had mixed all of the year groups together.

Different learning experiences happened throughout the school and the focus was World War One.

Some children learned about the Remembrance Poppy and the relevance that it has to us all. They reflected on why we all wear a poppy during November and one group decided that the poppy was worn for the love for those men and women who died for the love of their families and country.



At eleven o'clock we collected as a whole school, along with many parents who had chosen to join us, to observe the nation's two minute silence. You could have heard a pin drop and everyone in the hall spent the time reflecting on what the silence meant for them.



We had a visitor, Mr Fairbank, who arrived at school dressed as a soldier from the First World War. The children were completed

enthralled at what he had to say about what life would have been like for a soldier during the war.

As some of the children had spent the morning thinking about 'The Christmas Truce', where peace was found through a football match in December of 1914, we thought that they may appreciate the act more if they could recreate it! So, the whole school played football. Onlookers braved the wind and rain to support the children and cheer them on, for that, we thank them very much, and the children appreciated it!



Writing was also a great part of the day; after the football the children wrote letters and diaries, thinking about how soldiers would have felt after they had been told to return to the trenches, the written work that they have produced was very emotive.

War poetry was another area that some children worked on. They listened and focussed on several poems written by Rupert Brook, Wilfred Owen and many others. During our assembly, these poems were acted out, which saw many adults become quite emotional!

The remaining group of children had decided that they would like to recreate the art installation at the Tower of London, '*Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red*'. They did not quite manage to add 888,246 poppies, but they gave it a really good go!



The main part of our MSSC Day was that the children develop a better and more in-depth understanding of why we wear a poppy.

They also understand that the money that we have raised for the Royal British Legion supports the work that they do and that encouraged them to cover our poppy; all monies will be with the RBL shortly.

Thank you to all who helped us to commemorate Remembrance Day 2014 as we thought deeply about those who had given so much from 1914 onwards.

Find out more information on our website: www.mertonjuniorschool.co.uk

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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

Spotlight on the Scout section this month ...



Members of the Scout troop visited London for the day recently calling first at St. Clement Danes Central church of the RAF in the Strand before walking along the embankment to see several other monuments along the side of the Thames. The church, badly damaged by enemy action during the Second World War, was rebuilt by the RAF in 1958 and is now considered the RAF's 'spiritual heart'. Then it was on to Parliament Square to see Churchill's monument designed by Ivor Roberts-Jones (1973).



Later in the morning the group viewed the Bomber Command monument in Green Park which was unveiled in 2012 before travelling by tube to the Imperial War Museum for the afternoon.

In preparation for their visit each Scout had been challenged to find out a little of the history of one or other of the monuments due to be visited and whilst there read it out loud. Sometimes they had an audience of passers-by who stopped to listen to what the Scouts had discovered.



To conclude a very busy day, the group went to see the artistic creation 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' at the Tower of London created by Paul Cummins, which marks the Centenary of the outbreak



of the First World War with 888,246 poppies planted by volunteers filling the moat. They stayed to witness the Roll of Honour ceremony with the last post being played before wearily turning for home via Waterloo train station.

New recruits (both boys and girls) welcome in all sections – contact the leaders listed above or [http:// www.facebook.com/BasingstokeAirScouts](http://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeAirScouts) Beavers aged 6-8; Cubs 8-10½ ; Scouts 10½ to 14 years.

Christmas at St Gabriel 's



Nativity Christmas Fair

Saturday 6th December from 1pm in the church



Christingle Service for all the family

Sunday 14th December at 5pm

candlelit service of 9 Lessons & Carols

Sunday 21st December at 6pm

Christmas Eve

Crib Service at 4pm

Bring the children along to dress up in our open performance!

Midnight Communion at 11.30pm



Christmas Day

Family Celebration at 10am



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Tuesday - Discovery Centre, Festival Place

Wednesday - Discovery Centre, Festival Place

Thursday - Oakridge Hall for All

Friday - Popley Fields Community Centre

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Santa's Sleigh to Visit Popley

Saturday 20th December 2014 starting from 4pm

Santa's Sleigh is visiting Basingstoke, thanks to the Hillier family of Old Basing who supplied the truck that pulls Santa Sleigh. This tour is in memory of Eric Hillier who passed away last year. Over the years we often spoke about doing it, now thanks to Sandra, Andrea, Chad we have been able to make it happen

Planned Route:- Popley Way - Shakespeare Road - Popley Way - Carpenters Down - Shetland Road - Maldive Road - Shetland Road - Carpenters Road - Falkland Road - Carpenters Down - Barrington Drive - Appleton Drive - Carpenters Down - Popley Way - Mallory Road - Edmund Court - John Hunt Drive - Popley Way - Tewkesbury Close - Pershore Road - Tewkesbury Close - Popley Way - Chineham Lane - Banbury Way - Oxford Way - Appleton Drive - Benham Road - Appleton Drive - Englefield Way - Appleton Drive - Carpenters Down - Popley Way - Abbey Road - Popley Way.

On the night the facebook page will give live updates as to where Santa is on the route. We are hoping to be in Popley at around 5:30pm ish



Bicycle Maintenance Training

Calling all cyclists in the Popley area....exciting news about a new cycle scheme being launched. It is a partnership scheme between Hampshire County Council, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Popley Fields Community Association. Learn bicycle maintenance at classes on 28th January, 25th February and 25th March. Bring your broken bike to the bike repair workshops between 9am and 4pm on Saturday 10th January, 14th February and 7th March. All this and more coming to Popley Fields Community Centre in the New Year.

All classes and workshops are free numbers are limited so if you are interested PM the group and we will pass your details on.



Money matters

Dealing with money can be difficult. So we're looking for local champions to help people in their community to find the right savings, loans and money advice for them.

We need volunteers who are organised, friendly and approachable, with an eye for detail. You'll have good communication skills, excellent local knowledge and a willingness to learn.

In return you'll get four days training, leading to a nationally recognised AQA qualification.

Interested? Call Richard Pilbeam on 0800 195 5515 or 0300 666 5515 from a mobile. Or go to www.sentinelha.org.uk/champions

Our Story

The History – How The Silver Line was Born

In August 2011, Esther Rantzen CBE (who founded the children’s helpline ChildLine in 1986) wrote an article about the loneliness she has experienced since being bereaved, and living alone. She was overwhelmed by the huge response from older people who shared her experience. In November 2011 she was invited to make a key-note speech at a conference at which she came up with the idea of creating a helpline in order to support vulnerable older people, sign-post them to projects and services, break through the stigma of loneliness and isolation, and tackle the problems of abuse and neglect.

As a result, Paul Burstow (then Minister of State for Care Services) hosted a round-table seminar on 1st February 2012, chaired by Esther Rantzen, at which many of the major voluntary organisations working with older people were represented, together with other members of the statutory sector. The enthusiasm and support of all the attendees lead to an initial grant of £50,000 pledge as “seed money” by the Department of Health. A pilot was launched in November 2012, funded by Comic Relief covering the North East, North West, Isle of Man and Jersey.

Following a successful pilot The Silver Line was awarded a £5 million grant from the Big Lottery Fund in September 2013 to support part the first two years operation. This grant has allowed the Silver Line to launch in time for Christmas – often the loneliest time of year for older people.

The Silver Line Helpline provides three functions to support older people:

- a sign-posting service to link them into the many, varied services that exist around the country;
- a befriending service to combat loneliness;
- a means of empowering those who may be suffering abuse and neglect, if appropriate to transfer them to specialist services to protect them from harm.

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Festive bin collections

Rubbish and recycling collection crews will be working some Saturdays to catch up on changes over the Christmas break, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council has announced.

If your normal collections day would be	Put your grey bin (and green bin if it is your recycling week) out on
Wednesday 24 December	No change
Thursday 25 December	Monday 29 December
Friday 26 December	Tuesday 30 December
Monday 29 December	Wednesday 31 December
Tuesday 30 December	Friday 2 January
Wednesday 31 December	Saturday 3 January
Thursday 1 January	Monday 5 January
Friday 2 January	Tuesday 6 January
Monday 5 January	Wednesday 7 January
Tuesday 6 January	Thursday 8 January
Wednesday 7 January	Friday 9 January
Thursday 8 January	Saturday 10 January
Friday 9 January	Monday 12 January
Monday 12 January	Tuesday 13 January
Tuesday 13 January	Wednesday 14 January
Wednesday 14 January	Thursday 15 January
Thursday 15 January	Friday 16 January
Friday 16 January	Saturday 17 January

Christmas can mean extra rubbish, for example wrapping paper can't be recycled. Therefore, in the first collection after Christmas ONLY extra sacks will be collected. Unless adverse weather affects bin rounds, collections should return to normal from Monday 19 January.

For more information about bin collections see www.basingstoke.gov.uk/qa/recycling or call 01256 844844.

December events at the Basingstoke Discovery Centre

To book a place, you can order online from <https://www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home.php>, or visit Basingstoke Discovery Centre in Festival Place, or call 01256 478670. Advance booking is strongly recommended. To find out more about Basingstoke Discovery Centre and Hampshire Libraries visit www.hants.gov.uk/bsdc - <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/library/bsdc.htm> - <https://twitter.com/BasingstokeDC> - <https://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeDC>.

Barry LeJeune is Chairman of the London Transport Museum Friends.

He will look at the role of the London Transport Museum and its Friends in preserving London's transport heritage. He will also describe two recent, major projects: the restoration of a Victorian Metropolitan Line coach, as part of the celebrations of 150 years of London Underground in 2013; and the restoration of a 1910 B-type bus in 2014 as part of the commemoration of the outbreak of World War One.

Reindeer & Stars

Two hour willow workshop Saturday 13th December 10:30 am & 1:30 pm (i.e. 2 workshops) £10, Ages 10 – adult (Under 16s must be accompanied by a ticket-paying adult).

Take a break from shopping and have fun making some rustic Christmas decorations from willow. We will be making tiny reindeer, lots of simple stars to hang in your windows and a little woven tree.

Suitable for ages 10 - adult.

Christmas Craft

Festive themed craft activities.

Monday 22nd December. 10 am - 12noon. FREE drop-in Ages 7+

Tuesday 23rd December. 2pm – 4 pm. FREE drop-in Ages 7+

Wednesday 24th December. 10am- 12noon. FREE drop-in Ages 7+

New Year Craft

Festive themed craft activities.

Monday 29th December. 10am - 12noon. FREE drop-in Ages 7+

Tuesday 30th December. 2 – 4pm. FREE drop-in Ages 7+

Wednesday 31st December. 10am - 12noon. FREE drop-in Ages 7+

Changes to Library Opening Times.

As you are aware we are located in Potters Walk in Festival Place and on Sundays this part of the shopping centre does not attract the shoppers from the busier areas because the neighbouring retail units are closed.

We have reviewed the lower visitor numbers and recommended that we discontinue opening for 4 hours on Sundays. The benefits from the closure will be a saving on both the cost of utilities and cleaning. Most importantly the Sunday team will be able to transfer the number of hours they work into weekdays instead.

We hope that customers will take advantage of the excellent opening hours still available Monday – Friday 8.30am – 6.30pm and on Saturday 8.30am – 4.30pm. Even with a reduction from 62 to 58 opening hours a week, Basingstoke Discovery Centre has the 2nd highest number of opening hours for a library site in Hampshire.

After refurbishment by the library service Basingstoke Discovery Centre opened in 2010. It is one of the top performing venues in the library service and in 2013/14 it attracted more than 310,000 visitors and issued 305,000 items. The venue includes a café, computers, free WiFi and rooms for hire including a community space.

The last Sunday opening will be 21st December 2014.



IS YOUR HOLIDAY PAY BEING CALCULATED CORRECTLY?

Gill Brown, Head of the Employment Team at Phillips Solicitors tells us that it is now official that in calculating the amount an employee is entitled to be paid for holiday pay, employers must include in their calculation not only basic pay but all remuneration including commission and overtime pay.

A recent ruling confirmed that for the purpose of calculating holiday pay, commissions earned by an employee had to be taken into account when working out holiday pay. The issue that was left outstanding related to whether or not non-guaranteed overtime also formed part of an employee's remuneration for the purposes of calculating the amount of holiday pay they should receive. This decision was left to the Employment Appeals Tribunal (EAT) to decide and they have ruled that, "Yes it does."

Employers have traditionally only based holiday pay calculations on basic pay. Some employers even employ staff on a part-time basis and get them to make up their hours with overtime specifically to keep down their holiday pay liability to part-time pay only. Well no more – employers will now have to include both commission and over-time when calculating holiday on the basis of "a week's pay" under the provisions of the Working Time Regulations.

The other matter that was considered in this landmark case by the EAT related to claims for back dated holiday pay. Clearly there is potential for these to arise thick and fast. There has been some effort to limit such claims by suggesting that where there has been more than a 3 month gap between underpayments of holiday pay, then the right to claim back payment of arrears of holiday pay will be lost. This would limit any claim for arrears of holiday pay to holiday that was taken within the last 3 months plus any other holiday that fell within the 3 months preceding that. Watch this space, however, as this will no doubt be appealed.

If you believe that you are or have been underpaid in respect of holiday pay then please don't hesitate to ask us for advice by contacting Gill Brown or Karen Bristow in the Employment Team at Phillips on 01256 854605 or email gill.brown@phillips-law.co.uk



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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 2015. Following on from the successful 2014 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 & 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 9th May & Sunday 10th May

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

Entry Fee: £30 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: tournament@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

Tournament Contact Phone Number: 07884 185 693.

The ever popular MFC Popley Race Night is back!!

Scheduled to be held in February 2015, the Race Night has proved to be a fantastic social event bringing together everyone involved with the Club at every level.

More details will be posted nearer to the actual date, so keep 'em peeled!!

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 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?

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.

Contact the club -

Main website: www.mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

Club Chairman & Club Secretary:

Ian Davies

Mob: 07884 185693

Email: ian.davies.2010@live.co.uk

Club Treasurer & Club Welfare Officer:

Nicci Gambrell

Mob: 07990 520956

Email: mfcpopleyyouth@live.co.uk

Volunteer enquiries: volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

Allstars Recruitment: 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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Everest Community Academy is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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For further information or an application pack please contact

Christine Thresher on 01256 337590 or email cthresher@everestcommunityacademy.org

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We have Popley Explorers Pre-school Monday to Friday from 8.30am until 3pm. For full details ring Sharon on 363156.

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

Monday night is keep fit and kick boxing from 6-30pm until 8pm 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 5pm until 7pm. For details ring Miss Lackey on 321160.

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

Also kick boxing from 7pm until 8.30pm.



Friday night is available for hire.

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

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERY ONE FROM BERMUDA COMMUNITY.



Tree Upgrades

Over next the coming few months Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council will be removing some trees from Abbey Road, both from adjacent to the ring road and also within the estate.

The trees are being removed because they are either in poor condition or because they have grown to such an extent that they are now touching or overshadowing nearby properties.

In some locations, appropriate replacement trees will be planted. The council is doing this work as part of a new strategy to remove trees that are considered to be a nuisance to residents and to ensure that they are meeting their duty of care as a landowner.

If you live on Abbey Road and want more information please call the council on 01256 844844.



**Basingstoke
and Deane**

Diaries from the Old Codger



I hope you all have a good Christmas this year. Think of the many that do not have what many of us have around the world. If you can give in some way then others will benefit from your generosity.

December 1914 and they said the war would be all over by now! We will see that this waste of so many human lives achieved very little, except that many more also gave their lives in future wars.

As you read this December issue of Popley Matters, I hope that I will have had my heart operation and will be back home. It came so quickly I did not know what hit me, or should I say Her Indoors and me. The first words from her when we left the hospital were “Don’t you dare pop off on me. I have just spent a small fortune on the wet room”. I know we have a very strong family so they will support her but as the doctor said to his staff member this is The Old Codger and he is INDESTRUCTIBLE. See as I have been saying all along, only a silver bullet will do the job. When it came out of the blue we were expecting to be told “Keep taking the pills George.” But in the next minute it was “We will get you in on Sunday! Still with only four days to think about it, it left no time to worry.

This year so much has been going on not only the 70th anniversary of D-day but also the start of WW1. I was very proud that the British Legion used my poem, but also that a young man that had served in the armed forces recently and is now in the Metropolitan Police Force is leaving a copy on the Cenotaph in London.

The Poppies at the Tower of London have captured the imagination of so many, a very poignant tribute. The money raised will all go to good causes. I wish I had been able to go to see it.

Well children I hope you have been good over the last year, Santa is coming. So help mum and dad, plus your friends as much as you can, do your homework when told to and be good when out playing. Mums and dads if you are going out for a drink, please leave those car keys indoors.



**Happy Healthy Christmas and New Year to you all from
The Old Codger**

stop press;- George home and doing well

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Guide Dogs

Chilworth Point 1
Chilworth Road
Southampton
Hampshire
SO16 7JQ

email: southampton@guidedogs.org.uk

Tel: 0845 372 7428 Fax: 0845 372 7486

www.guidedogs.org.uk

Hello

Would you like to make a real practical difference to a blind or partially sighted person? Would you like to be instrumental in helping someone to participate more fully in their local community and work towards greater independence?

Guide Dogs is currently seeking volunteers to do just that as part of their ground breaking My Guide scheme. The role involves providing sighted guide assistance to an individual in and around the Basingstoke area, helping them to practise local routes, and in particular with an interest in football. In this case we are looking for a male volunteer.

This exciting and fulfilling volunteer opportunity would suit someone who likes to get out and about, lives in Basingstoke or the surrounding area and could spare one to two hours a week for between three to six months. Full My Guide training and ongoing support and supervision are provided. Volunteers must be 18+ and would require a DBS check.

To find out more about how you could help towards a blind or partially sighted person getting more out of life, contact Hazel Dyson, Volunteering Consultant on 0845 372 7428 or at hazel.dyson@guidedogs.org.uk.

We look forward to hearing from you soon

Yours faithfully

Hazel Dyson
Volunteering Consultant

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