

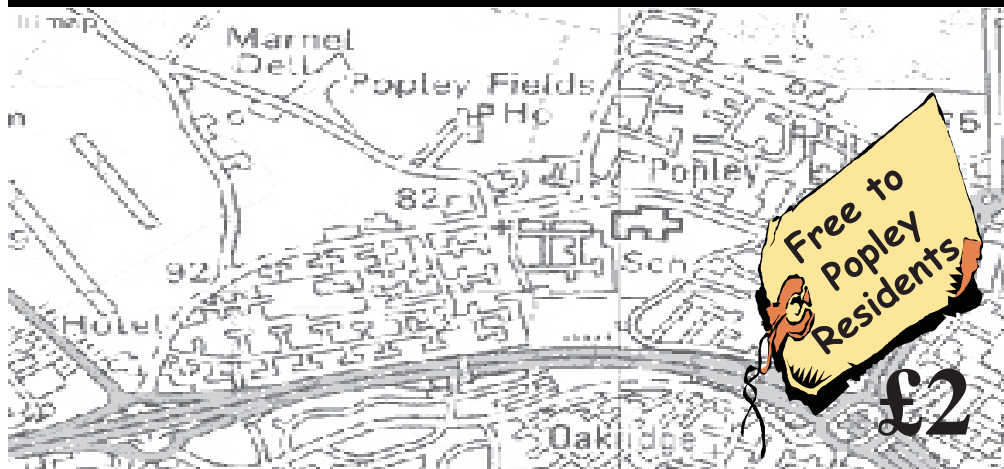
# POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

January 2015

Distribution of 5,100

Issue 155



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-01-15) [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk)



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:**-Popley Matters team wish you all a very Happy New Year for 2015 and we hope you have had a good year to look back on.

With all the hustle and bustle of life I forgot to say a big thank you to our sub editor Paul Frankum, as last month was the 150th Popley Matters that he has laid out, he has also designed a lot of the adverts. Paul said (all those years ago) "I will volunteer to do one just to show you how it's done". Well most people who know me know that me and technology don't get along too

well. Popley Matters does take up quite a lot of our time but so many people say they enjoy reading it and that it helps to know what is going on in Popley. I want to also say a thank you to all the team who freely give up their time to produce or deliver it to you all. Of course we always need more volunteers so if you feel like becoming a part of our fantastic team please do get in touch with us details below. As I write this in mid-December I see that there are snow and ice warnings in the press so we have put some advice on page 1. On a personal note I would ask that you use the proper salt and grit solutions you can buy at most hardware stores. Please don't use cat litter as we found to our cost it soaks up the water and can refreeze leaving a sheet of dangerous ice. The cat litter also has a clay like substance that dries a chalky white that you then trample into the house and with the chemicals in it, it can rot your carpet.

You contact me on 01256 819924 or email: 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 magazine.

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Thank you for your support

## Clearing snow and ice from pavements yourself

Anyone can clear snow and ice from the pavement outside their home or public spaces to prevent slips and falls. Follow the snow code to clear snow and ice safely.



### The snow code - tips on clearing snow and ice from pavements or public spaces

Don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured. Remember, people walking on snow and ice have a responsibility to be careful themselves.

Follow the advice below to make sure you clear the pathway safely and effectively.

And don't believe the myths - it's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries if you have cleared the path carefully.

#### Clear the snow and ice early in the day

It's easier to move fresh, loose snow rather than hard snow that has packed together from people walking on it. So if possible, start removing the snow and ice in the

morning. If you remove the top layer of snow in the morning, any sunshine during the day will help melt any ice beneath. You can then cover the path with salt before nightfall to stop it refreezing overnight.

### Preventing slips



### Pay extra attention to clearing snow and ice from steps and steep pathways - you might need to use more salt on these areas

#### Use salt or sand - not water

Don't make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze. If you use water to melt the snow, it may refreeze and turn to black ice. Black ice increases the risk of injuries as it is invisible and very slippery.

You can melt snow or prevent black ice by spreading some salt on the area you have cleared. You can use ordinary table or dishwasher salt - a tablespoon for each square metre you clear should work. Don't use the salt found in salting bins - this will be needed to keep the roads clear.

Be careful not to spread salt on plants or grass as it may damage them.

If you don't have enough salt, you can also use sand or ash. These won't stop the path icing over as effectively as salt, but will provide good grip underfoot.

#### Take care where you move the snow

When you're shovelling snow, take care where you put it so it doesn't block people's paths or drains. Make sure you make a path down the middle of the area to be cleared first, so you have a clear surface to walk on. Then shovel the snow from the centre of the path to the sides.

#### Offer to clear your neighbours' paths

If your neighbour will have difficulty getting in and out of their home, offer to clear snow and ice around their property as well. Check that any elderly or disabled neighbours are alright in the cold weather. If you're worried about them, try contacting their relatives or friends, or if necessary the local council.

### Further information on preparing for winter

Visit the 'Get ready for winter' page. You can find information and suggestions there of simple things you can do to help keep you and your family warm, healthy and safe through the cold weather.

### Winter services from your local council

Your local council will provide many winter services such as clearing local roads and pavements in your area. For information about your council's winter service, check its website.

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**Councillors' Page:** At the the full council meeting in Winchester I spoke forcefully in support of the need for faster broadband for all, and that on new developments it should be installed by the developers at the building stage. I am pleased to say it was agreed across all parties this should be pursued. Basingstoke and Deane have included it in the future Local Development Plan and we hope other areas will follow.

I met with a representative of Charles Church to discuss a safer opening from Merton Rise through to the Popley Community Park, it is used a lot by school children getting to school and hospital workers going to work, also cyclists and pedestrians.

I met with County and Borough officers to discuss extra parking for the Merton school drop off area and I am pleased to say that there may be a planning application that will give up to twelve extra spaces. It will still leave the play area and ball courts (to be enhanced in the future) and a small area of the school field would be used. This could be great news for the safety of the children and also gives extra parking for residents. A letter will be sent to all the residents in Tintern Close so you can comment on the planning application when it is drawn up. *Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924*

**Popley West:** The tree survey in Abbey Road and nearby to look at trees that are either in poor condition, or because they have grown to such an extent that they are now touching or significantly overshadowing properties, has been completed. A map (showing which trees) will be in Melrose Hall and on the Basingstoke and Deane website as soon as it is ready. As it appears that there are a significant amount, the budget to do the work and in some cases replace with more appropriate trees may mean the work would have to be over the next couple of years.

We have not been contacted yet about the proposal to put double yellow lines in Barrington and Appleton Drive. There were a significant amount of replies from residents to the council and they will be co-ordinating them in the new year. As soon as we have any firm news we will of course let you know.

Please do not use cat litter if you have snow or ice to clear it leaves a residue that then refreezes and also if you get it on your shoes and then on carpet, it rots the carpet.

**Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924**

**Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924**

**Popley East:** We would both like to wish all residents in Popley East a very Happy New Year. In early December, after months of trying, we were very happy to see bus shelters finally erected in Shakespeare Road opposite Lawrence Close and one on Popley Way just before John Hunt Drive. Both very welcome additions as the winter months draw in. As it gets colder we all want to keep our homes warm and our energy bills down. Loft insulation can slice about £150 off energy bills each year, and energy firms are offering it free to certain groups. This is funded by money from the big energy companies who are obliged by the government to contribute to energy efficiency. British Gas is currently the only energy provider with no restrictions on your income or the number of benefits you're receiving for free insulation. The others require you to get Child Tax Credit and have an income of £15,860 or under, or to be receiving certain benefits such as pension credit. A quick way to check if you qualify is to call the Energy Saving Trust on 0300 123 1234.

**Cllr Viv Washbourne tel 07900890088**

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In January 2014, Christmas trees collected for recycling in the borough were chipped and used by grounds maintenance teams as mulch for flowerbeds, saving the council around £2,000.

This year, we are going to be recycling your Christmas trees again. The collection dates for this year are Friday 2 January 2015 until Sunday 25 January 2015. Just take your tree to one of the 22 locations below:

- Basingstoke Town Centre, War Memorial Park (Crossborough Hill car park) • Basingstoke, B & Q, Winchester Road (new site)\* • Basingstoke, Homebase, Winchester Road • Brighton Hill, Gershwin Road, Sports Pavilion • Burghclere, Harts Lane, Sports club car park • Eastrop, Eastrop Park (Boat House car park) • Hatch Warren, Community Centre, Long Cross Lane • Headley, Darling Buds of May, Newbury Road • Kingsclere, Fieldgate Centre • Lasham, Avenue Nurseries Garden Centre, The Avenue • North Waltham, Wyevale Garden Centre • Oakley, Oakley Lane (school lay-by) • Oakridge, Upper Sherborne Road playing fields • Overton, Overton Hill car park • Pamber End, Elm Park Garden Centre, Aldermaston Road • Popley, Carpenters Down Open Space • Sheffield on Loddon, Wyevale Garden Centre • Silchester, The Pavilion car park • South Ham, Russell Howard car park • Tadley, Hangar Road (parking bays near Wigmore Road) • Whitchurch, Winchester Road car park • Winklebury, Winklebury Way playing field

\*Please note there is a new site in Basingstoke at B & Q, Winchester Road

Alternatively, you can take your tree to the Household Waste Recycling Centre on Wade Road anytime between 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday (closed Wednesday 1 January 2015).



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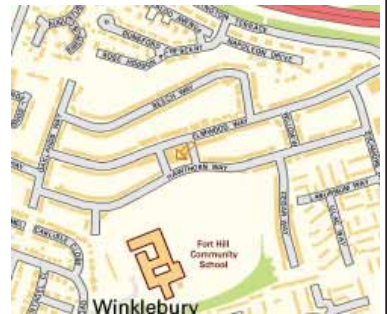
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email: [office@popleyfields.org](mailto:office@popleyfields.org)

**Popley Fields**  
Community Association 

Dear Friends

Welcome to 2015! I find it hard to believe that this time twelve months ago we were planning for my sabbatical, which began on March 1st! We were away for three and a half months in Cyprus and during that time we also visited Israel, The Holy Land or is it “The Land of the Holy One?” as one author put it. It all seems something of a faded memory now but I do remember all the careful planning we put into it and all the expectations we had together with all that happened while we were away and took place in the life of St Gabriel’s.

Now that Christmas and New Year celebrations are done and dusted for another year and it’s time to take down the tinsel and lights I find my bank account is a few pounds lighter and I’m a few pounds heavier so it’s time to sit down and seriously consider what this new year might bring.

Certainly we have hopes, plans and dreams for the coming year, both as a family and as the family of St Gabriel’s. Particularly we’re hoping and praying we might be able to extend the church hall and provide an even bigger and better community hub. Hopes and dreams are important; without them life could be really dull. So what are your hopes for the coming year? Perhaps you’re looking forward to a family wedding or a birth; or maybe that holiday of a lifetime in the summer; perhaps a career change or a move of home. Perhaps the year ahead looks uncertain – career prospects looking dodgy, finances stretched or ill health cloud the horizon.

Why are hopes and dreams and plans are important to us? Because they provide something to hang onto when times are tough; the hope for something better lying just around the corner or the opportunity to plan for a brighter future.

In the Bible I read this: “I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you not to harm you.” One of the first things I discovered when I became a Christian was the truth of those words and that God has the most amazing plan for my life. God doesn’t promise to take away the stresses and strains of daily living but what He does promise that whatever happens He’ll be their right in the thick of it with us and He promises to fulfil that longing that is deep within our hearts. Have a read of that well known verse ‘Footprints’ it really highlights what I mean.

Whatever your hopes and plans for the coming year, I’ll be praying that you may discover the eternal hope held out in the message of Christmas and fulfilled at Easter. St Paul wrote: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Perhaps you might consider making it a New Year’s resolution to discover God’s plan for your life – you won’t regret it!

I wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year and look forward to seeing more of you.

**God’s blessings.**

**Arthur**

**(Vicar of St Gabriel’s)**

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Christmas is behind us and we hope you all had a lovely time with friends and family. Now it's a new year and new beginnings. With spring not far off we are looking for eager volunteers to help in our community gardens. Last year we had no gardeners and they were sorely missed. This year we hope to get back to the award winning status we used to be. This can only be done by help from green fingered volunteers. We provide all tools and plants, you just need to provide the elbow grease. No matter how much or little time you can spare it will all make a big difference. Please contact Vicki in the office 01245 420676 to discuss it further.

#### **WHATS ON IN January:**

**MONDAY:** 10.am-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

#### **AFTERNOON AND EVENING AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**

**WEDNESDAY:** 9.30am Slimming World

12-2pm Oasis Lunch club

5.30-7.30pm Slimming World

**THURSDAY:** 9.30-11.30am Community Cafe

#### **AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**

**FRIDAY:** **DAYTIME HIRE AVAILABLE**

6.30-7.45pm MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years

8.00- 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 details

#### **EVENING AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**

**SUNDAY:** Melrose Christian Fellowship - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.

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## **SCRA Wishes Everyone a Healthy Happy and Prosperous 2015**

We would like to thank everyone who has helped with projects and events last year. 2014 was a difficult year and we were blighted with illness just to make matters worse. However the Christmas Extravaganza at Popley Fields Community Centre makes up for it when we see so many children with happy smiley faces, excited about the time of year. As always, we were pleased to see so many people turn out despite the cold, and the kind comments about our cakes and bakes. The next time we will have large amounts of cakes for sale will be at Popley Fields again in May for the Popley Festival. Of course if you can't wait that long we are at the Community Centre every Thursday from 11am to 1pm where we have cake and also bacon rolls for sale. Join us for a chat – you will be made very welcome!

Julie Johnson, Chair of SCRA, tel: 01256 816101 or email: [jjohn957@aol.com](mailto:jjohn957@aol.com)

---

## **NHS 111 Service**

Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year across Hampshire, the NHS 111 service makes it easier for people to access local NHS healthcare services in England.



You should use the NHS 111 service, which is free from landlines and mobiles, if you urgently need medical help or advice but it's not a life-threatening situation. The service is staffed by a team of fully trained advisers, supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. They will ask you questions to assess your symptoms, then give you the healthcare advice you need or direct you straightaway to the local service that can help you best. That could be the Emergency Department at your local hospital, an out of hours doctor, an urgent care centre, a community nurse, an emergency dentist or a late-opening chemist.

Where possible, the NHS 111 team will book you an appointment or transfer you directly to the people you need to speak to. If the advisers think you need an ambulance they will immediately arrange for one to be sent to you.

**For immediate, life-threatening emergencies, continue to call 999.**

More information is available [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

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# Christmas Excitement at Merton Junior...



As I write this just 2 weeks from the end of term, I find I am humming along to the songs and traditional Christmas Carols sung by year 3 practising their Nativity production. This time of year in school is truly magical and anyone who has visited us recently would, I am sure, agree Merton Junior is 'full swing' into Christmas celebrations and preparations.

Our Choir have been out and about singing in many places around the community recently including: Tesco, Melrose Hall and Festival Place. Thank you to everyone who took time to stop, listen and pass on some truly lovely comments to our children.

Year 3 have been hard at work learning their lines and song words for their nativity, which they perform next week. We are taking our children to the Anvil to watch Cinderella and there is great excitement over Christmas lunch - lots to do with pulling crackers and joke sharing...

Merton Junior is also taking a lead part in the Popley Christmas Extravaganza Candle Light Parade and Carol singing concert. Christmas crafts, parties and a Christmas Celebration Assembly will round off our busy term.



There have been so many great activities this term. Year 3 designed and made their own magnetic games. Year 4 have been learning the clarinet all term and will play a concert recital to parents next week. Year 5 have enjoyed a fantastic project on space and made some amazing home learning 3d solar systems. Year 6 did lots of research on The Shang Dynasty, a new History project: they produced some remarkable information booklets.



Year 5 and 6 ventured to Lyddington PGL activity centre last month. All the children enjoyed a fantastic adventure: rock climbing, abseiling, a giant swing, shelter building and sensory trail to name a few of the activities. Other children completed a project on fireworks. They learnt about how a firework deploys, the Gunpowder Plot and watched fireworks 'go off'. They produced a fantastic display for the hall.

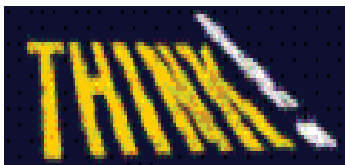
I can hardly believe this term is almost over. We started in September with building work causing some significant, but manageable issues: the staffroom, offices, Nurture room 'The Copse' and store areas all being moved. The footings for our four new classrooms were started this week and work begins on our new studio after Christmas. The new reception, office and staff areas are well underway and due to be completed in May. Staff and pupils have 'kept calm and carried on' whilst enjoying the giant cranes, huge diggers and concrete mixers which have been exciting to watch!

I am very lucky to be the headteacher at Merton Junior School; we have an amazing staff, who go above and beyond to make sure all the children in our care have the very best experience at our school. I was very proud to receive the results of a Hampshire-wide Year 6 pupil attitude survey in which Merton Junior did exceptionally well. Over 5,000 pupils took part and our pupils rated us very highly. We were significantly above the Hampshire average in almost all areas. This reflects the great work done by all my staff, working alongside, and with, parents and pupils to make sure every child succeeds and is happy. Roll on 2015!

A very happy new year to everyone in Popley from all the pupils and staff at Merton Junior School.

Check out our BRAND NEW website: [www.mertonjuniorschool.co.uk](http://www.mertonjuniorschool.co.uk)





[www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk](http://www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk)



## Road Safety.

- ⚙️ **Wet Roads and Icy Roads:** Be extra vigilant during the winter months. Beware of black ice, taking extra care in shaded areas as the sun won't have melted it. Try to use major roads rather than smaller, quieter roads which might not have been gritted. In wet and icy conditions brake gently to avoid skidding and keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front - give yourself time to react. Don't forget: the braking distance is twice as far on wet roads and increases 10-fold on icy roads!
- ⚙️ **Low Sun and Glare:** Now the winter is approaching, the sun is lower in the sky and wet roads will reflect glare which can temporarily blind you to potential hazards.
- ⚙️ **Dark Mornings and Evenings:** Now the clocks have gone back, evenings and mornings are drawing in. Be extra vigilant for pedestrians. As a pedestrian always use a pedestrian crossing where possible. Help others to see you by wearing fluorescent or reflective clothing in poor light conditions.
- ⚙️ **Motorcyclists:** Look out for motorcyclists. They represent less than 1% of road traffic but account for 18% of deaths and serious injuries and are 40 times more likely to be killed than a car driver.

### Top Tip:

Don't use water to defrost windows - warm water can crack the glass and cold water will just re-freeze. Ensure you leave plenty of time to fully defrost your car in the morning. A squirt of WD40 in the door locks will prevent them from freezing.

### Useful contact points and further information:

Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service: [www.hantsfire.gov.uk](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk)

Community Fire Safety Department: 023 8062 6809

Email: [community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk](mailto:community.firesafety@hantsfire.gov.uk)



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# Has Your Relationship Struggled in the Winter Storm?

By Howard Gardener, Director and Family Law Specialist

We know that Christmas can be a tough time for some relationships; fraught children and extended family visits can make for testing times. This is especially the case if your relationship was already on the rocks. Problems that had been kept undercover knowingly or unknowingly burst through in the mania of the festivities. That means that January is unfortunately one of our busiest months in the Family Law department as people resolve in the New Year to steady the ship.

That is when one of our experienced family lawyers could be there for you. If your relationship has been hit by the winter storm we could be there to help you steady the ship. Our team has a wide range of expertise and experience to help and guide you. You will certainly have lots of questions about the legal process and about your rights, so we offer a fixed fee initial meeting to discuss your individual situation and how we can help you and your family.

We will do what we can to help you reach a fair outcome as quickly and cost-effectively as possible. Most people going through a divorce or separation would rather avoid having to go to court if possible. We understand that, so we offer a range of services including Mediation, Separation Agreements and Collaborative Law and one of these methods could be right for you.

Mediation is one of the most sensible and cost effective ways of resolving family problems when a relationship has broken down. There is often a lot of distress and anger between you and your partner and family mediation can allow matters to be resolved amicably because both of you are equally involved in the decision making. Our trained mediators offer a calm, impartial voice and help you both to limit the conflict so that you can discuss things sensibly and make the right decisions over your own lives.

A Separation Agreement (sometimes called separation contracts) can deal with children issues and financial matters, or any other matters that you wish to cover, such as the division of the contents of your home and personal belongings. Separation Agreements can form the basis of a contract between you; and while the Court in any subsequent divorce proceedings is not bound by the agreement, it will be considered as one of the circumstances of the case. It is good evidence of what you intended but each of you is entitled to have your circumstances at the time of any Court proceedings taken into account.

If we cannot find a way to resolve your concerns without the use of the courts, then we have the experience to get the right results for you in the courtroom.

Whatever the issue that the winter storm has thrown your relationship in, we can help sail you to clear and calm waters. For more information contact the Family Law Department here at Phillips by calling 01256 460830, email [legal@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:legal@phillips-law.co.uk) or visit [www.phillips-law.co.uk](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk)



## Keep safe and warm this winter

The cold winter weather can cause a lot of damage to your home. Don't let it! Read our top tips...

- If you have an outside tap, you can prevent your pipes from freezing by either turning it off at the stop cock or getting a special jacket to fit around it. Make sure you know where your stop cock is.

- If you're going away over winter, make sure your tank doesn't burst by draining it or making sure your heating still comes on. Keep your home safe. Give your key to a trusted neighbour or friend and ask them to make sure your post isn't left visible and that your curtains are opened and closed. Buy a timer to turn lights and the radio on and off.

- Keep warm by bleeding your radiators.

- Make sure your heating is working properly. Sentinel customers with gas central heating can book in a service, if it's due, with Central Heating Services on 0800 917 9306.

- Condensation can cause mould. To prevent it:

- keep your windows open on trickle vents;
- use lids on saucepans when cooking;
- don't dry washing inside;
- keep your heating on a constant low setting; and
- shut the door when you're having a shower or bath.

You can read more about preventing mould at [www.sentinelha.org.uk/customerinformationsheets](http://www.sentinelha.org.uk/customerinformationsheets).

- To prevent slipping in the snow and ice, stock up salt/grit for footpaths and have a shovel at the ready to clear pathways.

- In case of power cuts, have a torch to hand with fresh batteries. You'll find lots more useful advice about keeping yourself and your home warm this winter on our website at [www.sentinelha.org.uk](http://www.sentinelha.org.uk).



**Headquarters:**

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

**Group Scout Leader: Colin Karslake 01256 410559**

**Scout section: Jean-Paul Keetch 07899 087 275**

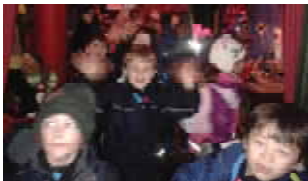
**Cub Scout section: Douglas Gowan 01256 412326**

**Beaver Scout section: Eve Alexander 07790 018 171**

**Spotlight on the Beaver Scout section ...**

Lots going on in the Beaver Scout section since half-term starting with imaginative and some very scary Hallowe'en masks.

The Beavers made Poppy wreaths for Remembrance Day and Cameron planned his first meeting as a Young Leader. He arranged a series of games starting with one about birds - one question and three possible answers. The Beavers really enjoyed it. That was followed by an Alphabet Quiz. A good evening and well done Cameron. The Colony entered the realm of USA Thanksgiving at the end of November and made turkey hands with everyone taking the drawing home to finish off as a full picture. The results were interesting to say the least.



Beaver Scouts from all over Hampshire made the all important visit to Father Christmas at Paultons Park on a wet, cold day. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed as many rides as possible. We even managed to prevent the Group Scout Leader from getting lost! The first ride suggested was the water ride. Well, everyone was getting wet anyway so why not? All Beavers had waterproof clothing, extremely well done for that. Anyone who didn't want the water ride went into the play area and had fun on the climbing frame and slides. 'Chip' the Beaver was there too and some of the Colony



were lucky enough to have a picture taken with him. At the end of the day three coach loads of very weary, and a bit wet, Beavers arrived back at Base 2000 where presents were handed out.

After a lot of hard work, the Beavers have gained forty two Activity badges in the last month. We have invested ten new recruits and once again the Colony has a waiting list with four prospective Beavers.

The session finished with a Christmas Party jointly with the Cub section in December. This always works well. It gives the Beavers an opportunity to get to know the Cub Scouts a little better.



Meetings restart on Tuesday 6th January 2015 – the first Tuesday of the school term.

Charity number 267734

Headquarters registration number 42755



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# Tournament news for 2015:

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](mailto: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](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 setup 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 **Ian Davies**, Club Chairman, on **07884 185693** 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 & Club Secretary:**  
Ian Davies  
**Mob:** 07884 185693  
**Email:** [ian.davies.2010@live.co.uk](mailto:ian.davies.2010@live.co.uk)

**Club Treasurer & Club Welfare Officer:**  
Nicci Gambrell  
**Mob:** 07990 520956  
**Email:** [mfcpopleyyouth@live.co.uk](mailto:mfcpopleyyouth@live.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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E-mail: [info@loddonvaleibc.co.uk](mailto:info@loddonvaleibc.co.uk)

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

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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.

**HOPE EVERYONE HAD A GREAT CHRISTMAS .  
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE.**

---

## **Volunteers Needed**

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- Wanting a new challenge?

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Volunteers will undergo an eight week preparation course. Our next Volunteer Preparation Course will commence on Wednesday 4th Feb (9.30am - 2.30pm) with sessions on 11th and 25th Feb and 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th March with a final session on 20th May 2015.

**INTERESTED?**

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# Diaries from The Old Codger.



First off, I, or should say we, wish you all a Happy New Year.

Yes, I have made it, the doctor has said the operation to have a stent fitted was successful, (although they tell me they burst 3 balloons trying). I now have rehabilitation and then I see him again later this year.

At Christmas you always turn your minds to the people gone by, or as the navy say, have passed over the yardarm. They are at rest and as we look forward to a bright new year they are still with us. But with so much to think about you tend to push it to the back of your mind. Her Indoors has had a very busy Christmas; I was told I had to rest; a very hard thing for me to do. I try to keep myself going and as the hospital gave me this new chance of a life, I will grab hold of it.

In December another milestone was our anniversary; I don't know how I have managed to put up with her for all these years! O.K., I am a glutton for punishment. I know our editor would back Her Indoors rather than me so I will move on.

It was sad to know there was yet another child hurt on Popley Way and I can't see any way around it. Perhaps bring back the good old fashioned zebra crossings? So many children have to go back and forth across two very busy roads to schools. I tried to reintroduce a type of Green Cross Code for primary schools, but it wasn't to be. With so much traffic these days I think they need some more road safety training.

We commemorate WW1 and WW2, and rightly so, however why have we not recognized the work put in by the women of our town during the wars? Like many other places, they worked so hard for the men on the front line: they built trucks, made clothing and kept the land going. I feel we should give them the praise they deserve. Whilst on this subject I would like to congratulate the British Legion and our museums for the shows they have been putting on to this year. Our generation of youngsters will learn what life was like on the front line. Well done to you all.

We hope the young girl that was knocked over got home quickly and Her Indoors and I once again wish all a happy and safe new year.



**The Old Codger**



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# January 2015 Events at the Basingstoke Discovery Centre

To book a place, you can order online from <https://www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home.php>, 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://www.hants.gov.uk/bsdc)

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/library/bsdc.htm>

<https://twitter.com/BasingstokeDC>

<https://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeDC>

## **Astronomy Taster Thursday, 15th January, 5pm, FREE Family event**

Basingstoke Astronomical Society is a group of like-minded amateurs who meet most months to discuss astronomy. Members have a wide range of experience from absolute beginners to serious observers. They have been a partner to the BBC Stargazing Live event since its inception. As a taster join them for a fun presentation of our solar system and what we can expect to see in our skies this coming March...

## **Make a Basket in a Day Willow workshop with Judith Needham, Saturday 17th January 10.00am-4.00pm, £40**

Come and spend a fun day learning a new craft and go home with a lovely basket you've made yourself. Beginners are welcome to come and make a small round basket. Those with experience can try an oval basket or experiment with different side weaves and borders and add handles. If you have a specific basket in mind call the tutor, Judith Needham, on 07749 852229 so that appropriate materials can be provided.

This is an adult workshop and all equipment will be provided.

Spaces are very limited and advance booking is essential.

## **Second Chance Cinema Club 'Made in Britain' Season, Thursday 22nd January, 1pm & 3:30pm**

Inspired by the Chippendales, 6 unemployed steel workers from Sheffield form a male striptease act, except they're prepared to go 'the full monty' and leave nothing to the imagination! Heart-warming 90s comedy starring Robert Carlyle.

## **Beginners Camera Workshop Suitable for DSLRS and Bridge Cameras Saturday 24th January, 10am – 4pm, £35**

Get off AUTO! Learn to use all your camera settings and functions with confidence. Join experienced photographer, Geoff Read, for a fun and practical session to help you understand ISO, aperture, composition and lighting. Make sure you bring a fully charged battery with your camera, empty memory card and handbook if you have one.

## **Valentine's Day Cupcake With Kate Aherne from Sugartown Cupcakes Saturday 31st January, 1:30 – 3:30pm, £12**

What better way to show you care than a gift of delicious cupcakes you have created yourself. Kate will teach you four designs that are achievable yet will wow! Please bring four undecorated cupcakes, all other equipment is provided.

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

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