

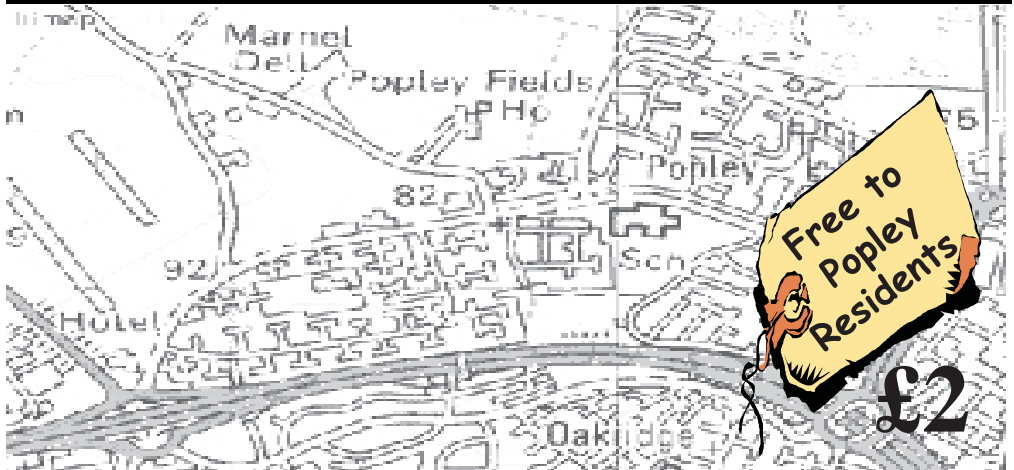
POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

February 2015

Distribution of 5,100

Issue 156



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-02-15) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:-As I sit and write the Editor's message there are warnings of cold, icy and maybe up to six inches of snow on the way. Popley is a great community and I am sure you will look out for your friends and neighbours to see if any of them need help.

We try to keep you informed about events and articles of interest in your Popley Matters but we are always looking for more clubs and groups that are held in Popley or Popley residents use. If you have a club or group please let us know. There will hopefully

be some big improvements in our community centres and the clubs; events are advertised for Melrose Hall on page 11 and Bermuda Hall on page 24 although we have not received anything from Popley Fields, you can phone them on 414494. There is a cycling and repair programme over the next couple of months.

We wish our Popley resident contestant Nicola Ascroft good luck and you can read about her and the competition on page 14 and 15.

We have a great team of volunteers and people that write for us but we always are looking for people to become involved.

There is no article from The Old Codger this month as he has been quite poorly. I hope you get better soon and will be back in form enough to write next month.

I can't wait for the spring and warm sunny weather I love to see all the flowers and vegetables starting to grow and hopefully a good harvest after a sunny summer.

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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Councillors' Page: There is a very helpful website if you have problems with street lighting - you can pinpoint the light and report any faults on line. <http://www.lightsoninhamphshire.co.uk/Public/Default.aspx>. It has every light on every street in Hampshire and the number on the lamppost to use. There are a number of paths in Popley that are being repaired or resurfaced at present, it may be inconvenient for a while with some of them being closed off in sections, but they really do need to be done. Most paths are Hampshire County Councils responsibility but some paths may belong to the housing association or even not yet adopted especially in the newer developments.

Merton Schools expansion is proceeding well, and the liaison group made up of staff, residents, builders, Hampshire County Council Officers and Popley West councillors will meet again next week to discuss any issues. The expansion of Marnel Schools in Popley east will be progressing soon too. I know the staff and children are looking forward to some new facilities that will be in the new buildings.

Cllr Paul Frankum and I had a meeting with Basingstoke and County officers to discuss the next phase, the responses from the residents and the possible options of the yellow lines proposal in Marnel Park. You can read the statement we requested from the officers on page 11. The options will go for the decision by Basingstoke and Deane Executive Members of the cabinet. We will of course report back the outcome in the next issue of Popley Matters after it has gone to the cabinet meeting.
Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

Popley West: The Local Infrastructure Fund will go before Cabinet this month. Your Popley Councillors have supported bids by Popley Fields Community Centre, Melrose Hall and the community group in St Gabriel's Church all for improvements for facilities in Popley. During the next phase we will be supporting funds for Bermuda Hall and for a community room for Chineham House.

We attended and spoke at the licence review called by the police for The Popenjay pub. There had been so many problems in recent years in the past. It used to cater more for the community. We wanted the brewery managers to put in an experienced landlord and start to bring it back as a community facility. We certainly would not like to see it demolished or turned into flats, it is the last public house in Popley. There are a lot of conditions and they have new management and they want to return it to a family friendly place. We will be keeping an eye on it.

With the expectation of worsening winter weather we have asked that all salt bins are filled, but would ask that you respect that it is for public highways to enable residents to be able to get to work, shops or vital appointments. Please don't use cat litter as it holds the water and refreezes like black ice. It can also rot your carpets when you walk back indoors.

Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924

Popley East: The General and local Elections will be held on Thursday 7 May 2015.

Because the Spotlight Centre is not available we have agreed that the replacement polling station will be St Gabriel's Church in Tewksbury Road. Albeit this will obviously not be ideal for some of those voters who have most recently used the Spotlight Centre. We are grateful to the Church for its support on this matter. The only other alternative was a school and we would not like to see the school close for a day.

We encourage the use of Postal Votes for electors and details about the way postal votes can be obtained will be advertised shortly. We are happy to assist with this as your local Councillors. Clearly locating polling stations that are conveniently sited for all voters in any ward is difficult.

Please look out for the activities being organised at the Popley Fields Community Centre encouraging people to get involved with cycling. Through to March there are guided family bike rides and bike maintenance sessions there, together with free bike check-ups and basic repairs. These are likely to be popular and can be booked on www.myjourneyhamphshire.com/basingstokecycle.

We expect to see work starting on Chineham House shortly bringing it back into use, and included in this work will be the provision of a small community facility with access for those with disabilities.

Cllr Viv Washbourne tel 07900890088

Cllr David Potter tel 07941507801



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Autumn Visit to Minsk

I knew before I arranged this visit that I would not be able to stay with the usual family for my whole stay. This was due to their friends from the Gomel Region of Belarus needing to stay in Minsk for hospital appointments.

Ella, who I met in 1995, found a small, cheap hotel for the remainder of this trip. However, as is typical of Belarus, everything changed!

The week before I was due to depart I received a frantic email from Ella telling me the hotel was now closing for redecoration!

Lena, an associate professor of English from the Belarusian State University, emailed me saying everything's OK, a retired Russian businessman of her acquaintance, had offered to let me stay with his family. His 14 year old son spoke reasonably good English.

On the first Monday of my stay in the palatial flat of the retired businessman I was at the Linguistic University seeing some students when another frantic 'phone call from Lena informing me some relatives from Russia will be arriving so I can only stay in this flat for one week!

Luckily, Olga, who I'd only met that morning, with her students, immediately said: "Don't worry you can stay with me!"

Olga's husband died two years ago and she has two sons, one of whom is married, and her younger son, Nazar, lives at home as he's 16 years old and still at school. Nazar is a keen basketball player and is about 7 feet tall!

Olga had to go on an educational course for 2 days and as she left she told me: "Make sure Nazar behaves himself!" Why she thought a strapping 16 year old would take any notice of me is beyond me! Surprisingly, he made sure we had plenty to eat and insisted on making me a cup of tea when I came in late!

Both Olga and Nazar want me to stay with them on my next visit.

The warmth and generosity of the people of Belarus, who struggle to make ends meet, never ceases to amaze me!

As usual I was invited to speak to hundreds of students at 5 universities, some of whom I saw at least twice!

Two events made my amusing and entertaining the students worthwhile; in one lesson a very attractive blonde student sat in front of me just smiling for the whole lesson. When I saw the same group for the second time she didn't stop talking! She explained I'd given her the confidence to speak English!

A different student from a different group managed to say a few words and wanted her photograph taken with me as I'd 'inspired' her to speak English! *Terry Jones Abbey Road*



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Mark and Christine Best.



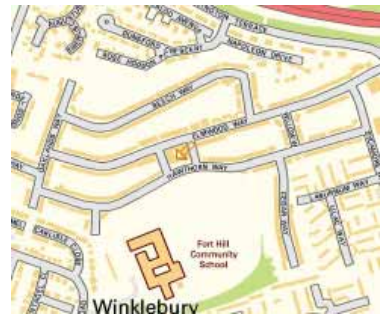
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Another unique benefit of CAP Money is that, if you discover that you can't balance your budget and pay off any debts, you will be able to access CAP Money Plus. This is an Internet-based debt counselling service from Christians Against Poverty.

Learning how to manage your money will free you up to enjoy life and we look forward to meeting you.

The course is free and starts February 24th, 10.30-11.30am at St Gabriel's Church. Young children are welcome and you will be entitled to a free drink from our Hope cafe during each session.

Debi John and Emily Mean will be hosting the course.

For more information go to: www.capuk.org and book your place. You can also call St Gabriel's Church office on: 01256 324734

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Dear Friends

As I write, I have just returned from St Gabriel's and a packed and enjoyable Family Communion service. It was great to welcome Gareth from the Christian organisation CAP - Christians Against Poverty - as our guest speaker. He spoke from Matthew's gospel chapter 25 *“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”*

Gareth spoke with passion of their organisation's desire to help those trapped by debt and poverty; something in our culture that is so easy to get caught up in. To date CAP have helped over 20,000 people to be released from the burden and stress of living with excessive debt. Last year alone they helped over 6,000 families nationwide. It is absolutely vital work and a living demonstration of the love of Christ for all.

What does that mean for us? St Gabriel's is launching the CAP Money Management course, which is open to everyone and is free of charge. It is not exceptionally for those caught up in debt but for anyone looking to better manage their finances. Having been down that road I know how destructive debt and financial worries can be to family and other precious relationships. But you needn't be alone!

Family and community are vital aspects of what it is to be human and there seems to be an innate sense that compels us to help one another and the stranger in our midst when difficulties arise.

As the church begins another journey through the year we are already looking towards Lent and Easter. Much of our time will be taken looking at Jesus' journey with his family, friends and community and how we as Christians reflect that in our everyday lives today. God created us to live in families and communities, Jesus taught us what it means to be committed to that end and how, when we strive for the common good, how much happier we can be and how much more we can achieve together.

St Gabriel's regards itself as a family – there to help and support in the tough times as well as rejoicing together in the good. If you would like to learn more of what it is to be part of Jesus' family then why not join us one Sunday. I promise you will be amazed and richly blessed by the experience. If you would like to know more about the CAP Money Management Course then please see Debi's article on page 8 in this month's magazine or give me a call on 324734. In the meanwhile I continue to wish you peace for the coming year.

With every blessing.

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Calling all gardeners!!! Spring is just around the corner and we are looking for volunteers to help maintain our community gardens, individuals or groups. All tools are provided and we have a small budget for plants. Contact Vicki in the office for further details.

WHATS ON IN February:

MONDAY:	DAYTIME AND EVENING HIRE AVAILABLE 7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic 10.30am-12.00pm Popley Little People
TUESDAY:	AFTERNOON AND EVENING AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
WEDNESDAY:	9.30am Slimming World 12-2pm Oasis Lunch club 5.30 and 7.30pm Slimming World
THURSDAY:	9.30-11.30am Community Cafe DAYTIME AND EVENING HIRE AVAILABLE
FRIDAY:	DAYTIME HIRE AVAILABLE 6.30-7.45pm MCF Youth Club - age 5 to 10 years 8.00- 9.15pm age 11 plus.
SATURDAY:	9.00am-4.00pm 7 TH Day Adventist Church 10am Sabath School - Bible Study 11.30am Divine Worship 1pm Free Community Lunch Contact Emanuel Ampofo on 07456068812 for further details
SUNDAY:	EVENING AVAILABLE FOR HIRE 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**

Also find us on facebook: Melrose hall.

Parking Restrictions in Marnel Park?

Councillors have recently met with officers of the borough and county councils to review the outcome of the advertised parking controls. All of the representations that were received to the advertisement have been summarised and will be included in a report that is to be considered via the borough council's Executive Decision making process. Notification of the council's decision will be sent to objectors and those in support of the proposals.



Merton Junior School

Be wise, together we succeed

A very Happy New Year to you all; the festive period seems such a long time ago now...

The children have settled back to school really well and I do enjoy popping into classrooms sharing their learning with them. Year 3 have started a book study, Year 4 are investigating Pirates, Year 5 are studying The Saxons and Vikings and Year 6 are going on an adventure with Paddington to Peru!

Last week we responded to requests to hold a red, white & blue day in memory of Jayden—thank you to everyone who took part. £73 was raised which will go to Naomi House Children's Hospice.



Maths Parents' Meeting: Maths at Merton!



We have been working hard to develop and improve maths in school; we had a successful Local Authority visit last November which praised the maths work children were doing. We have planned two Maths Parents' Meetings to share some hints and tips with parents to help support children at home, and explain number progression of skills in school. We can also answer any questions that parents may have.

Helping Out...

Calling all parents and friends of Merton Juniors... Can you spare half an hour? We are looking for helpers to listen to the children read—if you think you could lend a hand please pop into the office and speak to one of our lovely office ladies—alternatively, call us on 01256 326573.

Join us for Race Night: Friday 30th January from 6pm!

We are raising funds for our children to compete in Rock Challenge©, a dance competition, and are holding a Race Night on Friday 30th January from 6pm—come and join in to win yourself some prizes!



Merton Junior School would like to wish everyone the very best for 2015.

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Popley Local Beauty Bids for Crown!

A Basingstoke beauty queen has been grafting hard to be crowned Miss Hampshire 2015. Nicola Ascroft, 21, of Hargreaves Close in Everest Park, will face a group of other hopefuls for the county's crown.

After attending the Miss England auditions earlier this year, Nicola won through to the Miss Hampshire regional heats and is now a finalist in the competition.

The Miss Hampshire winner will go on to enter the Miss England competition.

Nicola said: "I am so excited, to be honest it is great to have a goal to work towards and I have been enjoying all the work that comes with it."

There are two compulsory categories that the finalists have to take part in – a Charity Queen category and Eco Queen category.

In the Charity Queen category, Nicola has to raise money for "Beauty with a Purpose", the charity associated with Miss World focusing on humanitarian projects around the world.

For the Eco Queen category, contestants design their own dress using recycled and economic materials.

Contestants have the option to enter into four other categories – a Talent category to display their skills; a PR category, where they have to show

their adeptness at reaching media outlets; a Photography Award, where they are snapped by a professional photographer who then chooses the most photogenic queen; and a Social Media category, where contestants have to gain the most likes on their photo posted on the Miss Hampshire Facebook page.

Nicola is proud to be taking part in all categories.

There is also a Miss Popularity award - where the public are able to text vote who they want to be crowned as their Miss Hampshire. Voting details are available on the Miss England website www.missengland.info/regionals/hampshire. There is a small charge to vote and terms and conditions can be found on the website.

Nicola said: “If I were to win, I would really be proud and would look forward to representing Hampshire in any way I can. It is absolutely amazing to have reached this stage.”

Nicola runs a beauty salon in Sherfield-on-Loddon – D and D Beauty – and is following in the footsteps of her mother whilst also working as a hairdresser at Radiance Hair and Beauty in Pamber Heath.

“I have always been around the beauty industry. My mother has her own salon and it is just something I grew up with,” said Nicola.

So please, Popley, vote and support Nicola Ascroft in her bid to become our Miss Hampshire 2015!

The winner of Miss Hampshire will be crowned on Saturday 14th March 2015.



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Time to Consider Your Lasting Power of Attorney By Michael Le Fort, Head of Wills & Probate

Amongst the various pressures that all of us are under considering our plans for the future; we increasingly have to think about our mental capacity and how this might change. 850,000 approximately will be affected by dementia this year alone. It is estimated that by 2025 the figure will be closer to 1 million and that it will continue to rise. 1 in 6 people over the age of 80 suffer from dementia and there are 40,000 people under the age of 65 with dementia.

Dementia is just one example of why it is so important to consider arranging Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA). These legal documents allow you to appoint an Attorney, often your spouse, partner or perhaps one or more of your children, to make certain decisions on your behalf if you no longer can.

There are two types of LPA. The Property and Affairs LPA allows your Attorney to deal with your finances, dealing with paying your bills, collecting any income and benefits that you might be entitled to and possibly selling your home should the need arise. The Health and Welfare LPA allows your Attorney to make decisions about where you might live and your day to day care but they would not be able to do so until you had lost mental capacity.

This may all seem a long way off, you may think that it does not apply to you. The reality is that it is better to plan ahead because once you have lost mental capacity the time for you to make these decisions for yourself will have passed. Like many matters it is lifetime planning that can be most important and an LPA this is no different. If you wish to be the architect of what should happen to you if you were to lose mental capacity then it is important to make plans now. Should you fail to do so your family or friends would have to apply to the Court of Protection to become your Deputy (a Court appointed Attorney); a more time consuming and costly process that applying for an LPA.

For more information you can contact Michael Le Fort in the Wills & Probate team on 01256 854637 or email michael.lefort@phillips-law.co.uk and visit our website at www.phillips-law.co.uk





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If you need help putting your ad together or taking photos of your home – just call us on **0800 195 5515**, from a landline, or **0300 666 5515** from your mobile.



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

News from the Cub section

The Cub section has again have been very busy putting the **OUT into ScOUTing** and been away from the hall on a number of occasions. They took part in a Photo Quiz in the town centre which involved taking a close-up photo of a building or object and answering questions, some of which required speaking to staff at both the Sports Centre and Festival Place Help Desk.

The Pack visited Basingstoke Mosque to learn about the five 'wisdoms' of Islam and participated in a simulated prayer sequence. For many the visit completed the requirements for the World Faiths' activity badge which have since been presented.



Four Cub Scouts gained the Chief Scout's

Silver Award, the highest award in the Cub Section. The awards and certificates were presented by Andy Cullen District Commissioner, Basingstoke East Scouts.

Bravo to Sam, Max, Rhiannon and Elise

The Pack also went to the Basingstoke Fire Station and, as well as doing most of the work involved in the Cub Fire Safety Badge, had the opportunity to look round, sit in the different

fire engines and use one of the smaller fire hoses to spray water all over the place!!

Changes to activity programmes and badges.

The Scout Association recently announced changes to badge requirements and introduced new badges for all sections. Leaders are currently examining the new badges and reassessing programmes to keep abreast of developments and new requirements will be

Group 'Guide Dog' project

The entire Group embarked on a new project to try to raise £5,000 to sponsor a Guide Dog. Parents have been asked to voluntarily increase their weekly subscription with all the extra being donated to the Guide Dogs' charity. Other activities and events are planned over the coming year with different things to do as fund raising activities. With all three sections involved in the same vein, it will give everyone something to strive for as Group project.

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.

Base 2000 continues to offer facilities for community groups other than scouts and guides and for meetings at very reasonable rates. Enquiries bookings@base2000.co.uk or contact Colin Karslake 07796 772 500



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The ever popular MFC Popley Race Night is back!

This event will be held on Saturday 28 February at the Rucstall Club, Black Dam, starting at 7pm. Tickets are priced at £5 per adult and £1 per child. If you are interested in attending please talk to the manager of your age group, or a member of the committee, for more details.

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 and U8 teams will be playing 5-A-SIDE and U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16 teams playing 6-a-side.

Date(s): Saturday 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.

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

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

Please contact the club by email at volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk 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

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 #MFCPY. Also, each MFC Popley Youth age group has a dedicated page on Facebook.

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Woofs and Wellies

Sunday 19th April 2015

Starting at Home Farm, Farleigh Wallop, Basingstoke, RG25 2HX

St. Michael's Hospice is delighted to announce the return of their popular event Woofs and Wellies for 2015, giving you the exclusive chance to walk around the exquisite grounds of the Earl of Portsmouth.

Walkers with and without dogs are invited to explore the countryside of North Hampshire, with stunning views of rolling fields and breath-taking bluebells.

You will have a choice of three beautiful routes comprising of a 5 mile, 8 mile or a challenging 12 mile. Each route offers a mixture of fantastic trails, spectacular scenery and support from our enthusiastic St. Michael's Hospice staff and dedicated volunteers.

Please remember you do not have to have a dog to take part, so sign up now and spend a magnificent day in the Hampshire countryside. Unfortunately routes are unsuitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

Entry fees are adults £10.00 and children (aged 16 and under) £4.00. Family entry fee includes two adults and two children for £22.00. Dogs go free!

Registration is now open online at www.stmichaelshospice.org.uk/events

Alternatively call the Fundraising Hotline on 01256 848848

Follow all the latest updates on;

Twitter @smhbasingstoke #WoofsandWellies15

Facebook (St. Michael's Hospice North Hampshire)



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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 club from 5pm - 6.30pm.

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

The Marie Curie Daffodil Day

Happy New Year and thank you very much for your generosity at Chineham Shopping Centre last year; we raised an amazing £910.87. Special thanks to Margaret Payne who stepped in at the last minute to manage the day. The Town Centre raised £4,000.

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

The major fundraising event of the year is the Daffodil Day which is the 7 March this year. If you can spare an hour or more please call Sally or Wendy on 023 8026 3123 or go to mariecurie.org.uk to register for a collection near you.



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The Be Your Best Rock Challenge® and J Rock™ INVITATION

In 2015 the Be Your Best Rock Challenge® and J Rock™ one of the country's premier youth culture and education events, celebrates twenty years of successful production in the UK.

The Rock Challenge® is a unique and exciting opportunity for schools to take part in a dance, drama and design spectacular where young people are the stars. In 1996, Sir John Hoddinott, the then Chief Constable of Hampshire Constabulary, introduced the event to our shores to help young people enjoy school and live pro-active lives free of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs.

Few would have guessed the popularity of the initiative with students, schools, parents, and the wider communities, nor the impact of the junior version, J Rock™, which in 2015 enters its 11th year.

Over 300 schools and over 19,000 students competed in 45 Rock Challenge®, J Rock™ and Youth Division events in 2014 with participation set to increase in 2015. Teams as small as 10 or as large as 135 students, plan an eight-minute performance around a theme of their choice, set to commercially available music and bring it to one of our local shows held throughout the nation.

The Rock Challenge® and J Rock™ are universally inclusive with schools and colleges from all backgrounds taking part; junior schools, middle schools, colleges, schools catering for students with special needs, independent schools, educational centres for at risk children, the Be Your Best Foundation welcomes any educational establishment that wants to be involved.

We are delighted to be holding 2 weeks of events in Hampshire at Portsmouth and Southampton Guildhalls and we would like to invite you to join us as our guests on one or more of these evenings. The events will take place on the following dates:

**Monday the 23rd to Saturday the 28th of February at Southampton Guildhall and
Monday the 23rd to Saturday the 28th of March at Portsmouth Guildhall.**

Information on collecting tickets and show times will be sent once tickets are reserved.

For a list of participating schools in your area, simply click [here](#) to visit the Rock Challenge® website.

We look forward to seeing you supporting the schools in your area in 2015!

To request tickets simply email david.beal@bybf.org.uk or call 023 9298 5716



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