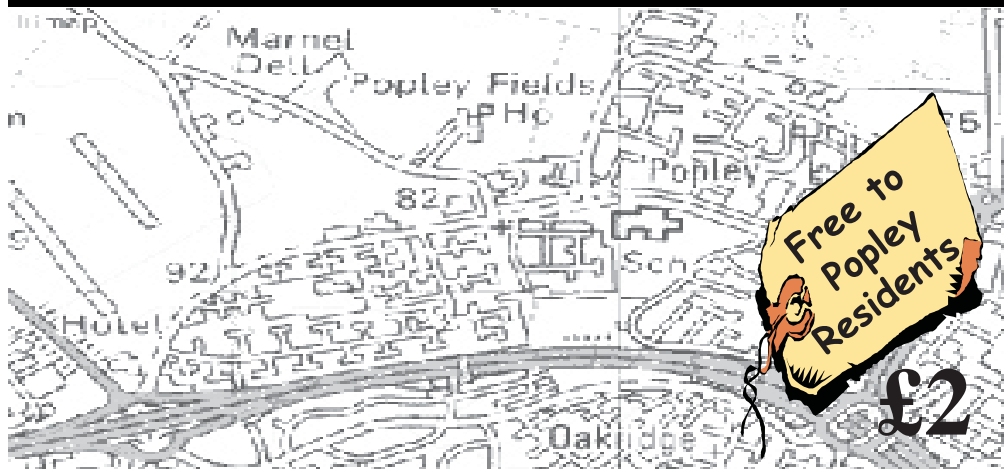


# POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

September 2015 Distribution of 5,100

Issue 163



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-09-15) [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk)



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:** September: - and a new beginning of the school year, or even the start of new jobs for many people. By now all the exam results will be known and hopefully the students got the results they wanted to go on and start the next chapter of their lives? For some who didn't achieve that, there will be other alternatives and maybe another door will open to start the next chapter in life.

On page 1 is how you can get involved with the Mayor's Charity Week. This replaces the firework display that has had decreasing numbers attending and, what was once one of the main fundraising for the chosen charity, was in fact starting to cost the council. I am sad to see it go but

hope that the charity week gives the chance for many clubs, groups and businesses to promote what they do whilst helping the Mayor's three chosen charities. Page 9 is again how you can get involved in your local area and community. I would like to see residents getting more involved and working together to improve the area and lifestyles for all. Page 11 is the report from Oliver, a resident in Popley, who has put an enormous amount of work and effort to get the last of the areas to be enabled for faster broadband. It was a pleasure to help him and the Basingstoke Broadband Campaign members to work towards their goal. Page 17 has details of the Youth Club and its free entry! Page 19 has more details on the Cycle Club; they have had some trips out already; bring your own bike or borrow one from the club. Page 24 has some exciting news on a scheme to encourage walking. You can win points and prizes! Finally on page 28 if you are feeling brave and fit you can abseil off the hospital and raise funds for St Michaels Hospice. We need some volunteer delivers to do Oxford Way, Marston, Shrivenham, Banbury, Charlbury, Faringdon, Risinghurst, Enysham and Kiddlington. Please contact me phone 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 the Popley Matters magazine.

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Thank you for your support

# Mayor's Charity Week

Saturday 17 to Saturday 24 October 2015



Residents, local community groups, schools and businesses are being encouraged to put the fun into fundraising and organise events and activities in support of local charities during Mayor's Charity Week 2015.



The fundraising week will run from Saturday 17 to Saturday 24 October and is being organised by the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Cllr Anne Court. It aims to raise both funds and awareness of the Mayor's three chosen charities for the year: Inspero, Basingstoke Multicultural Forum and The Ark Cancer Centre Charity. And the great news is how you raise the money is up to you! Whether it's holding a bake and cake sale, dress up or down day, sponsored swim or even a coffee morning – you decide! And the more fun the charity idea, the better!



Passion for People You don't have to belong to an organisation to take part; people are encouraged to get together with friends, family or neighbours to come up with an innovative way of raising money for these worthy causes. People wishing to do individual challenges are also welcome to get involved.



Those people with the most innovative ideas, who raise the most money or display great effort to collect cash, will be invited by the Mayor to a special event before the end of her mayoral year to celebrate their achievements.

To register your involvement in Mayor's Charity Week and have your event included on the Mayor's webpage download the form below or ring the Contact Centre on 01256 844844.

[Mayors charity week registration form](#)

The Mayor will also try to attend as many of these events as possible, diary commitments permitting.

Cheques for money raised should be sent to the Mayor's Office, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke RG21 4AH and made payable to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

Other traditional fundraising events will still take place such as the:

- Basingstoke Variety Show on 3 October 2015. Tickets are on sale now. View here for more [information about the Variety Show](#);
- Charity Concert on 5 March 2016 with Natasha Watts and Clive Fortune Big Band at The Anvil. The Charity Concert planning is in the early stages but watch out for more information;
- Charity Quiz; and
- Charity Lunch.

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**Councillors' Page:** Congratulations, and well done to all the students who received their GCSE results. All Basingstoke schools look to have improved their results. It shows how hard everyone has worked. I hope you all get the places you want and that your futures are all happy ones.

The road resurfacing program by Hampshire County Council called "Resilience" has been reported as being achieved six weeks earlier than expected due to the good weather. However there are major road works on five roundabouts that will last many weeks, so allow extra time for your journeys.

As a County Councillor I have a small devolved budget that I can nominate local groups and clubs for a grant. The criteria and form to apply is on the Hampshire County Council website. Some of the grants have been for a catering tent for Boys Brigade, a trip to the Planetarium for the Scouts, Community Halls for equipment, Educational Play productions, disabled football club, multicultural events and a hearing loop at a local school. If your group or club are interested look on the website or contact me. Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

---

**Popley West:** The decision has finally been made on a double yellow lines scheme by the portfolio holder. The full report and drawings of where the scheme will cover is available to view on the Basingstoke and Deane website, follow this link to the report: <http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/rte.aspx?id=1508&DeclId=2276>.

At the July Cabinet meeting we spoke on the item on "Protecting green spaces". The piece of land behind Marnel Lodge was not on the protected list against more development. I have the assurance that, although they did not agree to put it on the protected list, it fitted the criteria under condition 3 that it would not be built on. Excuse my scientism but I will be watching very closely to protect the few patches of suitable green in Marnel Park.

The Local Infrastructure Fund in Popley moved a step further for Melrose Hall. At a meeting at the hall on 11th August we discussed some exciting ideas to improve the hall for the residents. Of course as usual we will endeavour to keep you informed. We are also looking at funding to improve the area around Abbey Road shops.

**Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924**

**Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924**

---

**Popley East:** We have endorsed the application being made by the Bermuda Hall Management Committee in a bid to receive Local Infrastructure Fund money (LIF) so that a feasibility study can be carried out to redesign the building.

This would allow the maximum usage of the building within the current footprint and to install solar energy panels to increase the efficiency and reduce the costs of running the building.

The Management Committee have worked diligently over the years to run the building which was originally designed for other purposes, and it has not been possible to consider an extension because of complications with the ownership of buildings and land. The hall currently runs at over 76% capacity and is financially viable but will be able to support additional activities after redesign.

We are seeking to work with the residents of Everest Park who have experienced significant and continuing problems with the management of their estate. Residents pay, in addition to Council Tax, a management fee for the upkeep of the estate. Taylor Wimpey (the developer) appointed Trinity Estates as their management agents. We have received information on numerous unresolved complaints from residents on a range of issues ranging from water penetration into properties through to lighting issues, and the failure to empty the park dog bins resulting in a possible public health issue. We intend to organise residents collectively so that their complaints are finally taken seriously by the management agent and the developer.

**Cllr David Potter 07941507801.**

**Cllr Viv Washbourne 07900890088**

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Over the coming weeks we hope you'll see some exciting changes at the Community Centre as a result of the Local Infrastructure Funding made available by the Council. The Community Centre will be redecorated, solar panels fitted, improved disabled access installed and the cafe refurbished and serving barista style coffee – exciting stuff, so we hope you'll be able to pop in once the work is complete to join us for a coffee!

We've also noticed how many people have taken up running locally and we would really like to encourage the start of a relaxed / informal running club based at the Centre. If you are interested in leading or taking part please contact us at; [office@popleyfields.org](mailto:office@popleyfields.org)

## Children's Cinema



Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 5.30 – 8.00pm

£1 per child, film starts at 6.00pm

Snacks and refreshments available

For more information please contact us at,

[office@popleyfields.org](mailto:office@popleyfields.org) or tel: 01256 414494

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Dear Friends

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain fought in 1940 between the Royal Air Force and the Luftwaffe who held overwhelming superiority in numbers.

At the beginning of the battle the Luftwaffe had 2,790 aircraft to launch against England. To meet this aerial armada we had less than 60 fighter squadrons, representing some 650 aircraft, and the ground staff had sometimes to work 16 hours a day to keep the machines in the air. Between 24 August and 6 September alone, Fighter Command lost 103 pilots killed and 128 seriously wounded, while 366 fighters had been put out of action. The position was indeed grave.

On Sunday 15 September 1940 came what Sir Winston Churchill called "one of the decisive battles of the war" and with it the Luftwaffe's greatest defeat. In Churchill's immortal words: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

It is always difficult to speak about something outside of our experience. I suppose the best that we can do is to try and imagine what it must have been like to live through that kind of experience. To be a young man and know each day held the very real possibility of being killed or injured and that born out by friends who left with you the previous day or sortie and never returned.

I am certain that there would have been no doubt in the minds of those young men that they could be next. It was pointless planning for a future; life was just that moment - that may sound dramatic - but I would suppose that kind of philosophy would have been quite common – just living for the moment.

Seven decades on it is of course history. We know what happened, we've heard the stories, seen the films, read the books. But what we have not done is experienced it - most of us that is. Few of 'the few' now survive. Nonetheless, we do owe a massive debt of gratitude to those young men and to everyone else who supported them whether on the ground in the many, many roles necessary to the overall success of the operation.

The Battle of Britain was the hinge upon which ultimately the outcome of WW2 swung. If the Luftwaffe had gained air superiority over the skies of England it would have paved the way for an invasion and perhaps a totally different outcome to the war. We remain deeply indebted to the pilots and ground crew who stood firm so courageously in those dark days.

Jesus said this: "Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" What we commemorate is the courage and the character of those young men and women, pilots and ground crew, which gave them the strength to put themselves between the enemy and their own homes and families. And what are these values? They are sacrifice and service; values which are central to the Christian faith; for Jesus came into the world, "not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many". For heroes these same values appear in all aspects of their lives.

The outcome of the Battle of Britain demanded enormous sacrifice and yet it is so easily forgotten today. That's why I hope many of you reading this article will join me at the War Memorial outside the Civic Offices at 11 a.m. on 17th September, and again in St Gabriel's with members of the Royal Air Forces Association and 443 Squadron ATC for a service of Commemoration at 10:30a.m on Sunday 20th.

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# **Local Community, Local Matters!**

Do you know what's happening in your community?

Do you want to get involved in your local community?

A number of community group and associations in the area have opportunities to join their committee, take part in their activities and be involved as a volunteer. Don't worry though, becoming a volunteer does not mean taking on a regular commitment. It could be you can offer a particular skill but only on an ad hoc or limited basis or could offer to support a session to a particular group i.e. a hobby or craft. The choice is yours but any help, however small, is invaluable to contributing to your local community.

In this month's edition you will find a questionnaire which you can return FREE and/or complete online. In the meantime if you want further information on groups/activities in your area then please contact me, Denise Gilholme, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Community Development Officer on 07500 987638 or email [denise.gilholme@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:denise.gilholme@basingstoke.gov.uk).

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## **Over 55s Forum**

The Over 55s Forum are running four weekly sessions for Gentle Movement and Stretch on 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th September at The Carnival Hall, 11.15am to 12.15pm. The cost is £2.50 for members and £3.50 for non-members. Anyone interested should book with Secretary Gerald Merritt 07792535116 or e-mail [gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com](mailto:gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com).

The celebration of the "International Day for Older People" with a Variety Show will be held on Sunday 4th October at Queen Mary College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke, time 2pm to 5pm with an afternoon tea. "The Apollo Big Band" and Impressionist, Christopher Gee, will be performing, Tickets are £6 each and can be obtained from Basingstoke and Deane Council, Oakridge Hall for All, Newbury Building Society and the Forum 01256 412119 or 01256 893367 (from the end of August 2015).

Our ever popular "Do as You Please" coach trips will run on 11th and 25th September "to London. We will take you up to London, drop you off and you are free to do what you want. We will then pick you up about 4.15pm to bring you home. Members £11.75 - non members £13.75.

The Thames River Cruise from Windsor to Bray is a two and half hour cruise with a two course hot lunch on Sunday 25th October 2015. Members £34.50 - non members £36.50.

All trips should be booked with Gerald on 01256 412119 - 07792535116 - e-mail; [gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com](mailto:gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com)

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## Superfast Broadband Finally Coming To Popley New Builds

Everest Park/Elevate and the remainder of Marnel Park – along with part of Limes Park, Rooksdown – are finally set to get access to superfast fibre broadband after a breakthrough in a long running campaign by residents and councillors. BT's Regional Partnership Director for the South of England, Stacey King, and Openreach's Programme Manager for Superfast Broadband in the South West, held a meeting with the campaign group and Cllr Jane Frankum in Everest Park in mid August where they confirmed the announcement. They told the group that as a result of the strong campaign and obvious demand from residents which had been escalated to the Managing Director of BT Next Generation Access, they had managed to secure funding during the current financial year 2015-16, and as a result were confident of being able to upgrade the cabinets supplying phone and broadband to the developments by the end of March 2016.

Specifically those residents whose property's phone line is connected via the Openreach's green street cabinets numbers 102 (supplying all of the former John Hunt of Everest School site), 92 (supplying the predominantly Taylor-Wimpey developed end of Marnel Park - the remainder of the development was enabled in 2013), and 95 in Limes Park, Rooksdown, should be able to benefit if they choose to do so. To find out which cabinet you're connected to, and what broadband speeds you should be able to receive over your phone line, visit <https://www.btwholesale.com/adslchecker>. This works best if you choose Address Checker, as the Telephone Number option won't work if your phone service is provided by another provider such as Sky or Talk Talk, rather than BT.

By the time the upgrade is complete pretty much every property in Popley should be capable of accessing a superfast (>24Mbps) broadband service should they wish to do so, either from Virgin Media, over their cable TV network, or via their phone line from a broad range of providers. However as BT's Stacey King pointed out, there are no 'fibre fairies', and the cabinet upgrades do not automatically mean an upgrade in internet speeds. Existing "ADSL" services continue to be available, and often provide the lowest prices; but the arrival of superfast broadband can't come too soon for many, with residents expecting it to have been available when they first moved into their new-build homes. And where fibre broadband is already available it is proving popular, with Hampshire County Council reporting that three areas of Basingstoke top the county's take up league table, a cabinet in Rooksdown being highest of all at 68%.

Openreach have promised to keep the community updated on the progress of these new upgrades, as the initial surveys are undertaken, cabinets stood, fibre connected, power connected, the cabinets commissioned and tested, and finally made 'ready for service' – and the campaign's website at <http://fibre.everestpark.org.uk> will publish the latest information provided. We also hope to publish further updates in Popley Matters as work progresses. **By Oliver Colenso**



**Headquarters:**

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

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

Since the last Spotlight on the Cub Section, we have been doing loads of fun activities - below is just a taste...



In the early part of the summer, as part of the 100 Years of Adventure leading up to next year's Cub Section Centenary, we spent an evening at Eastrop Park pond dipping. We also had an evening of activities with a Japanese flavour to link with the World Scout Jamboree being held there during August. We made fans, tried sushi cooking, fashioned origami and played games similar to those of Japanese children.

June saw us learning how to light a fire using different methods including a flint and steel and (once they got their fires going!) cooking marshmallows on a stick. We also took a hike through the woods, challenged to be as quiet as possible, to see if we could see any wildlife. The Cubs all failed on this and we didn't see a thing!



The Group Annual Meeting was held in June and was well attended. The Cubs had spent the previous weeks practising a couple of camp fires songs that involved actions to 'teach' once the business part of the meeting was complete. It was funny to watch all the parents on their feet doing the actions.

The summer session finished with a combined sleep-over with Popley Cubs in Base 2000 with the theme of Spies. The Cubs created a Secret Agent ID; decoded secret messages, wrote messages in invisible ink and took fingerprints. They were challenged to retrieve an object from an empty tube without turning it upside-down and played 'hide 'n seek' to find a leader using a heat sensing camera.



District Cub Camp at Foxlease in the New Forest is all over for another year but I am sure there are tales to be told of all the fun they had.

New recruits welcome. All sections open to both boys and girls. Beavers aged 6-8; Cubs aged 8-10½; Scouts 10½ - 14 years. Adventure for those aged 14-18 continues through District based Explorer Units. Contact the Group Scout Scout Leader, Colin Karlake, for details - 01256 410559 /07796 772 500 or [colin@base2000.co.uk](mailto:colin@base2000.co.uk)

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Monday	19:15-20:00	Express Circuit	Studio
Tuesday	18:00-18:45	Jump Aerobics	Studio
Wednesday	18.00-18.45	Step Aerobics	Studio
Wednesday	19:00-20:00	Legs, Bums & Tums	Studio
Thursday	18:00-19:00	Zumba	Studio
Thursday	19:00-19:45	Abdomination	Studio
Saturday	09:00-09:45	Blast FX	Studio

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12 – 17 year olds 8.30 - 9.30pm

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## Be Shark Aware

My Home Finance, with the support of the National Housing Federation, leading housing associations (including us), and other supporting organisations, has launched their anti-loan shark campaign – Be Shark Aware.

In recent years more people have turned to illegal lenders to access quick cash, but are often unprepared for the extortionate amounts they have to repay. Loan sharks have been known to charge 719,000% interest.

The findings revealed for the launch of the Be Shark Aware campaign show that it's often a friend or family member (94%) that introduces someone to a loan shark. With over a third of people taking a loan out through informal means in the last year, there's a huge number of illegal lenders across the country preying on those who are in financial need.

Whilst many people (39%) think loans from informal lenders are quite easy to get, only 14% of people feel in control of their finances after taking out such a loan.

Sadly, the research also reveals that after people have borrowed money from a loan shark, over a third (38%) have had to resort to selling their belongings to keep up with the repayments. Around a third (32%) have had to go without food or household essentials, whilst nearly 1 in 5 have had to take out a further loan to juggle repayments.

Anyone offering consumer credit who isn't licensed by the FCA, is breaking the law. Even if a lender is licensed, they're not allowed to harass people for repayments.

If you've been approached by a loan shark and are worried about a loan you have, you can report the loan shark, in confidence, on the 24hour Stop Loan Sharks hotline **0300 555 2222**. Or you can email **reportaloansharks@stoploansharks.gov.uk** or text **LOAN SHARK + your message to 60003**.

There are lots of social enterprises, like My Home Finance, across the country who offer loans at affordable rates. This means that borrowers can remain in control of their finances. For more information visit My Home Finance at **myhomefinance.org.uk** or call **0121 212 9568**.





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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 to adults, 4.30pm 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 so please ring Janet on 363156.**



Spotlightuk is a local charity based in the old Chineham Park School building, Shakespeare Road. The charity's mission is to "make a real difference in people's lives!" We work with people from all walks of life no matter their background including vulnerable & disadvantaged families, over 60s and anyone in their time of need.

So far in 2015 Ray of Hope appeal has helped raise £3,884. This money has been used to pay for dance, drama, singing and sports clubs for vulnerable children, transport costs for the elderly and essential equipment for families in need.

However, like other charities, we need to raise more money to continue this work.

We will be holding monthly Table Top Sales at the Popley Spotlight Centre. Please come along and sell/buy items and help this charity, which is so vital to many, to thrive.

Table Top Sale -12th September, 10th October, 14th November at The Popley Spotlight Centre. First sale is 9.30am until 11.30am with sellers arriving at 9am. Free entry to buyers. All enquiries to 01256325420 or email penny@spotlightuk.org

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

Please contact the Club by email at [volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk) for more details.

The Club welcomes more parents getting actively involved with MFC Popley Youth, especially on match days with refereeing (in particular our under 7s) and the set up of the pitches & Respect lines. So if you are interested in helping out please make yourself known to the manager/coach of your particular age group.

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

The Club is always recruiting for our 'All Stars Players'. If you would like your child to join, or if you have any further questions, please contact the Club by email: [allstars@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk](mailto:allstars@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk)

Contact the club -

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

Club Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer & Club Welfare Officer: [mfcpopleyyouth@live.co.uk](mailto:mfcpopleyyouth@live.co.uk)

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

All-Stars Recruitment: [allstars@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk](mailto:allstars@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk)

Club Sponsor: BGS PLUMBING & HEATING via their main website <http://www.bgsplumbingandheating.co.uk/> *Zak Collingwood*

# Fundraising Ramble!

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2015



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**No fun in the sun this summer? An alternative solution for relationship breakdown exists**  
by Rob Parker, collaborative family lawyer

If the summer holidays were the last straw in an already shaky relationship and you are intent on separation or divorce, there is a way of minimising the hurt, bitterness and anger that goes with it. Collaborative Law is one of the best ways to reach solutions together and gives you both the chance to build a brighter future, without going to Court.

Traditionally, when couples split, they each take independent legal advice from their own lawyers and try to reach agreement on how best to settle their differences, typically through a ping-pong of letters and phone calls. If agreement is not possible, it is left to the family Courts to decide, which can often lead to heartache, delay and uncertainty – not to mention spiralling legal costs.

Collaborative law is a refreshing alternative way of sorting things out, aiming to keep couples out of Court and making the route to divorce quicker, cheaper and more amicable. This is how it works: in the process you and your former partner, each represented by your own specially trained collaborative lawyer, agree in writing to reach a settlement out of Court in a series of four-way, face-to-face meetings. Having your own lawyer by your side to represent your interests can be really important, especially if one party should feel intimidated by the other. It works because it's non-confrontational and you will be dealing with highly competent, trained lawyers who are sympathetic, approachable and will understand what you are going through.

So before rushing into an expensive, exhausting Court arena why not look for an alternative that really works. By sitting down together, couples stay in control of their own futures, instead of leaving decisions to be imposed by a judge in a Courtroom. You'll be able to protect your interests, move forward and minimise the antagonism between you, resulting in a better future for you and any children.

For more information you can contact North Hants Collaborative Lawyers Group Chairman Rob Parker in the Phillips Family Law team on 01256 854604, email [rob.parker@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:rob.parker@phillips-law.co.uk) or visit our website at [www.phillips-law.co.uk](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk)

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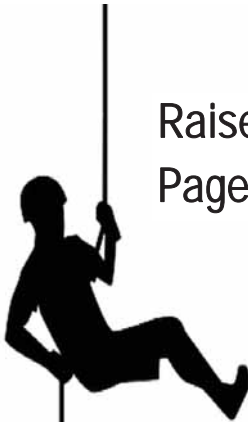
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