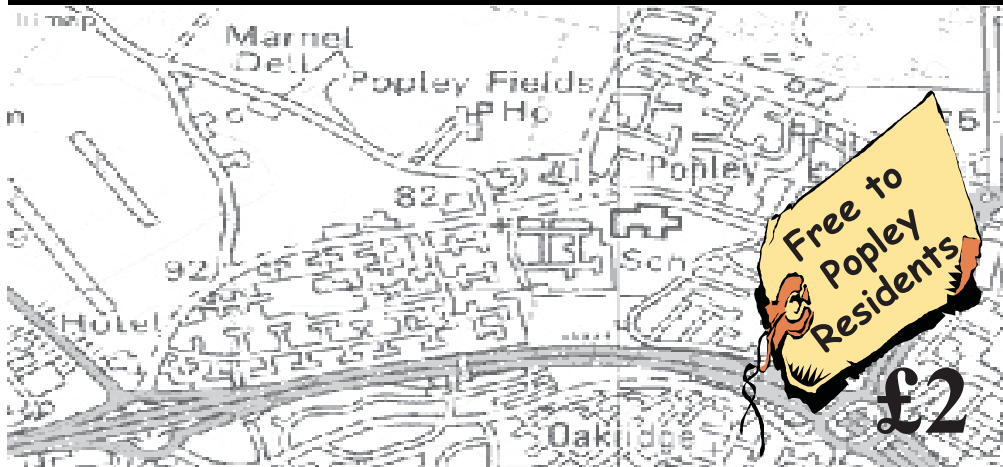


POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

FEBRUARY 2016 Distribution of 5,200

Issue 168



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-02-16) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: Valentine's Day is on 14th February, as always, and so it seems the right time to ask if you know, or are, a Golden Couple that is celebrating your Golden Wedding anniversary of 50 years. It is especially poignant to me as I would have been celebrating my Golden Wedding with my late husband Ken. Details on page 27 for how to apply to meet the Mayor.

I was sad to hear of Mike Mullender's passing as he devoted 60 years to the Scout movement; Mike was a leading member in getting the Base 2000 building in Popley nearly 16 years ago. Our deepest sympathy goes to Beryl his wife, who writes the Scouts page in Popley Matters and to her family.

Basingstoke Community Transport has been serving people for 30 years but they need more volunteer drivers to help keep up the demands of people wanting to use their valuable service, many of whom are disabled or elderly, like me! Popley Fields certainly seem to have a wide variety of events and you can read about the Beer Festival and on page 17 on page 16 is news about Popley Festival. It is amazing the time and effort that is put in every year for this ever popular event.

Great news on page 28 with regard to the new cabinets in Popley. They will bring a much better service to some residents in Popley that have waited a long time with a hard battle to get these connected. A special thank you to Oliver who, like me, never gave up. Oliver and his knowledge were outstanding, also his resilience in contacting BT regularly, and pushing for a solution.

Good Luck to our Popley girl Nicola in her endeavour to be Miss England. Read about her on page 5.

Contact me either by phone 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 the Popley Matters magazine.

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Thank you for your support

About Basingstoke Community Transport (BCT)

Basingstoke Community Transport has been providing passenger transport services to the Community of Basingstoke and Deane since 1984.

It originally started with just one minibus but it soon became apparent that there was a need for a transport service to support local community groups and their members to be able to get out and about. It was during this time that the early seeds of the Community Transport Sector were being sown.

Today we have a fleet of 16 passenger vehicles of which 3 of them are cars and are fully accessible to provide for passengers with boarding difficulties and the carriage of wheel chair passengers.

During this time we have transported more the 1 ½ million people to activities, meetings, outings and places of interest bringing joy and a smile to many faces.

From those early days we (BCT) and the Community Transport Sector have come a long way, in service delivery, accessible minibus design, quality and understanding our members and passengers needs.

We hope and plan to be about for some time yet delivering good quality services to our community. And now, back by popular demand, we have our car scheme in operation which offers the more mobile citizens of the community to travel to their desired destinations.

We are currently working on a few projects one of which will include the Popley community which could prove to be of interest to many. More details of this project will be made available very soon

For all enquiries please ring Tel:01256 320501

Basingstoke Community Transport

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Councillors' Page: I have again reported that the traffic lights at bottom of Don Allen Drive are not in sequence and constantly causing cars to stop there when there is no need. The work to make it a safer crossing should start soon, if all the yellow, blue and white markings are anything to go by?

Roadworks continue and seem never ending. I, like many other residents and motorists, will be glad when they are completed, but I fear it is a few months yet before all the work is done.

The works on the expansion of Marnel Infant and Junior schools are progressing well. The staff, children, parents and governors are really pleased with the finished parts of Merton Infant and Junior schools

I still have a small amount of grant money left in my County Councillors Devolved Budget. If you are a group in need of equipment or to fund an event, you can apply online in the HCC website. For more information contact me as below.

The Hampshire Fire and Rescue consultation has finished and the report will be on the Fire Authority website. The decision on the final proposals will be put before the full committee on 24th February. Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

Popley West: We met residents of Magnolia Court, Abbey Court and users of The Community Transport, Sentinel and a Basingstoke and Deane transport officer to talk about issues with The Community Transport. It was so good to be able to help and get satisfactory outcomes. We also talked about trying to get a service that could get residents from one end of Popley to the other. It is really hard for people to get to the doctors and back again. Stagecoach refuse to provide a route. It could take time to set up but as we have been trying for many years to, wait a few months to get a service will be worth it!

We have asked that the Popley Community Park get repairs to the paths, hedge cutting and the blocked drain that is causing flooding repaired. We have also asked that the tree near Don Allen Drive be cut back as it overhangs the path and it means people have to walk in the road. We will bring this problem to the Community Neighbourhood Group at the next meeting to get regular maintenance there.

Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924

cllr.paul.frankum@popleymatters.org.uk

Popley East: Proposals for the paddling pool site at Chineham Park, together with improvement works to Chineham Park and Tewkesbury Close open space, are well advanced. A wet play facility or splash pad will replace the paddling pool. All being well the work should be completed by the end of March/early April 2016, which will mean this facility will be available for children during the summer period. Likewise the works proposed to the entrance at Chineham Park and Tewkesbury Close open space, with landscaping, improved signage and cycling facilities across both sites, should be completed by the end of March.

We have experienced a spate of low level vandalism throughout Popley East recently including damage to bus shelters and fencing. We all care about the area and the motives of those who destroy things are difficult to understand.

In the end the community pays for the repairs which are carried out so anything we can do to discourage this vandalism and make reports where possible will be a good thing.

We hope to find out by the end of January who will be running the Bermuda and Marlowe Surgery over the years ahead.

The tenders for the new contract are being assessed and David has been involved in some parts of this evaluation.

Cllr David Potter 07941507801

cllr.david.potter@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Viv Washbourne 07900890088

cllr.vivien.washbourne@basingstoke.gov.uk

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Basingstoke Beauty Hopes to Win the County's Crown

Nicola Ascroft, aged 22 from Popley, Basingstoke, will be competing in the Miss Hampshire competition for the county's crown!

The competition will take place on Saturday 12th March 2016, at Alton House Hotel. There are numerous different categories Nicola and all the other contestants will be judged on: Charity - who can raise the most amount of money; Talent - they will record a short video of them performing their talent; Social Media - who could be most interactive and gain the most amount of likes on their photo; PR - who could gain the most amount of positive press; Popularity - text voting; Eco - gone are the days of bikini rounds, instead they have to create their own dress out of economic and recycled materials; Interview - a separate interview with the judges alone, and also a public interview in front of judges, competitors and guests; Photogenic - each girl will have a short photoshoot, David Freeman will then award the girl who is most photogenic, and finally Brainy Beauty - this is a new round to Miss Hampshire, and will consist of a quiz style questionnaire or general knowledge questions, as well as questions relating to Miss England.

Nicola took part for the first time last year, and was over the moon when she won Charity Queen and Talent Queen, placed first runner up Miss Hampshire, made it through to the semi final of Miss England, and was titled Miss Basingstoke 2015!

Nicola says, "I feel this year there is a much higher expectation of myself to do well in the competition".

As well as the Miss Hampshire finals, Nicola has also made it through to two other national heats: Miss Popularity, and Miss Beauty with a Purpose. The winner of these two rounds will also win a place in the Miss England Grand Final!

So why has our Miss Basingstoke 2015 entered again?

"For the last 10 months of my reign, I feel I have not only accomplished a lot, and grown as a person, I have been able to use my title to the best of its ability - raising thousands of pounds and awareness for many local charities such as: Beauty with a Purpose, Naomi House, Breathe with Me Strawfie Challenge, Anna's Challenges, and many more!

Beyond that, I have made friendships that will last a lifetime, created the most amazing memories, and met such inspirational young ladies and gentlemen who have all become role models to younger children, and have aspirations to change the world for the better.

"What's not to love?"

"My first year would not have been able to have been as successful as it was without the help and support of my amazing family, friends and sponsors: 'Deb's Beauty salon'- my sponsor of Miss Hampshire, 'Absolute Entertainment' my sponsor at Miss England semi final and charity events, 'Bounce 4 Fun' for providing a bouncy castle at one of my charity events."

The winner of the Miss Hampshire competition will go on to the Miss England Grand Finals later on this year.

"I would really love to win Miss Hampshire this year, to be able to represent my county as well as my town; spreading my charity work as far as I can".

If you wish to follow Nicola's journey, you can find her on Facebook by searching "Miss Basingstoke 2015".

Thank you for your support!



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Dear Friends

Ever heard of a place in Wales called EGLWYSWRW? (I may need some help with pronunciation!) Anyhow, this small town in Pembrokeshire has had 82 days of continuous rainfall. Not a dry day since 25th October but yet the record is held by Islay in Scotland – 89 days of continuous rainfall. As poor as the weather has been over the last month or so you have to say ‘that’s wet!’ It’s certainly reminiscent of the story of Noah and the Great Flood!

We had a fab time in Messy Church just last Friday (15th Jan) with lots of children and families. Our theme just happened to be the story of Noah and the Great Flood. The children had a marvelous time making animal masks, Noah’s Ark and some very colourful rainbows. We then moved onto the story itself and I tried to draw, with some very willing young helpers a picture of what Noah may have looked like. After several restarts it became clear that my attempts were quite comical – but then I’m no cartoonist – in the end we settled on one produced by the children themselves.

We then went on to talk about New Year’s Resolutions; what they are and why we make them. They are, as many of the children knew, promises to ourselves to change something in our lives in a positive way for the coming year. So we may promise to give up smoking, get fit, watch less TV, work harder at our relationships, be better stewards of our finances and so on. Sadly they don’t often last too long!

The point I was making to them was that with drawing a picture there’s always the opportunity to begin again, to start over and so it is with God! With Him there is always the opportunity for a new beginning no matter where, or in what situation we may find ourselves.

What about the story of Noah? When God saw the selfishness and self-centeredness of his people, when He saw the violence and the lack of care that dominated their lives; when He saw their lack of respect and understanding for one another and for Him He decided enough was enough and sent the flood, saving only Noah and his family and each pair of animal species. At the end of the flood He made a promise to himself and to Noah that never again would He destroy what He had made and a sign of this promise set a rainbow in the sky. They are a constant reminder of His faithfulness to His promise.

Perhaps as 2016 gets underway you find yourself wishing for a fresh start, a new beginning or direction for your life. Well, He is waiting, patiently and lovingly, offering you that opportunity. If you’d like to take Him up on it please come along and see me or one of my team and have an informal chat. We’d love to see you and to share with you what a great and wonderful thing it is to be part of His family.

Every blessing in Christ
Rev. Arthur
01256 324734

P.S. Fancy a really fun evening out with friends and family? We’re having a QUIZ NIGHT ON 27TH FEBRUARY to raise funds for our Buildings Project. Open to all. More details coming soon. Look out for the posters!



Futures Fair, Basingstoke

Dove House School Academy

Tuesday 16th February 2016

2.30pm-5.30pm



Do you or a family member have a learning disability or learning difficulties? Do you have questions about the future?

Come along to our event or contact us:

01256 351555

TED@dovehouse.hants.sch.uk



Marnel Community Infant School is based in the heart of Popley, and has introduced generations of pupils to the joys of learning. This wouldn't be possible without the care and dedication of the staff who work at the school, and the local people who volunteer their time as school governors. The Governing Body of the school is made up of a number of different people, including staff, parents and local residents, who all have an interest in ensuring that the pupils at the school receive the highest level of education.

The school is looking for people in the local community who would like to become involved in the Governing Body and help the school continue to develop and educate our local children. When you become a governor, you are fully supported with a range of training opportunities which will explain how to have a positive impact on the school. A school governor's primary role is to develop and monitor the schools strategic priorities, and through working with the Head Teacher, Miss Susan Cox, ensure that the young children of Popley are given the best possible start in their journey through school life. The governing body meets once every half term, along with a number of visits to the school, in order to see how decisions made have had a positive impact on our children.

If you are interested in becoming a governor, then please contact the school office on 01256 329521, who will put you in contact with the Chair of Governors.

Chinese Whispers at Merton Junior School

Chinese New Year arrived early at Merton Junior School and was thoroughly enjoyed by all, adults and children alike.

Two members of staff from the Art Department from Everest Community Academy arrived at Merton Junior School on Thursday afternoon as a transition project, developing the move from junior school to the secondary setting.

The children were introduced to a range of art techniques, including the blending of art pastels. This is a project that will be completed over the coming weeks and will be on display in the school for all to see.

Well done Year 6 and Everest Community Academy.



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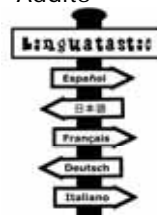
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For further information e-mail:
info@linguatastic.com or tel: **811100**

Over 55s Forum

Our Open Forum dates for 2016 are:-

10th February, 13th April, 8th June, 10th August, 12th October and 7th December at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, Basingstoke. times are 10.15am to 1.30pm. There has been a selection of good speakers arranged for the first half of the year. Any non-members wishing to attend should contact the secretary on 07792535116 or e-mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com.

Our trips out for 2016:-

Cadburys World. (26th February); Mini Car Factory Tour in March; Chiltern Valley Winery in April; Chelsea Pensioners in May; RHS Wisley Gardens; Brick Lane Music Hall; Waverley Paddle Steamer; Laycock Village; Littlecote House; Chatham Docklands; and Waddesden Manor (Christmas Fair.)

We have a day trip to Guernsey on 14th July and includes breakfast and dinner vouchers, and coach. Members £46, Non members £48.

Fancy a weekend in De-Panne (Belgium) staying at the Ibis hotel and travelling via Eurotunnel?. Members £99.00, Non members £101.00. There is a £40 deposit when booking. Single Room Supplement £25.

18th to 20th November (3 days) for the Thursford Spectacular - this really needs to be seen to believe it, absolutely brilliant. You will be staying at Best Western Brook Hotel, Norwich. members £209, non members £211.

Other activities include our singing group practice that meets every Tuesday from 1.30 - 3pm at the Carnival Hall.

Every Thursday 11.00am to 12.00pm Movement and Stretch for Over 55s. £2,50 members, - £3.50 non members at the Carnival Hall.

Basingstoke Amateur Operatic Society

Presents West Side Story

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Following the sell-out success of Hairspray, BAOS is set to bring the streets of New York in the mid 50s back to Basingstoke. The story of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet is vividly and emotionally brought to life through the rivalry of the Jets and the Sharks in Bernstein's musical masterpiece. Two teenage street gangs from different ethnic backgrounds. As war builds between the two gangs, the Sharks from Puerto Rico are taunted by the Jets of New York. When Tony, a Jet ready to leave the gang life behind, falls for the beautiful Maria, the sister of the Sharks' leader Bernardo, tension escalates between the two groups. All leading to a violent rumble that will leave your heart racing. Watch as the two young lovers desperately try to find a way to be together despite living in a time of much hate and ignorance. With songs such as 'America', 'Somewhere', 'Tonight', 'I Feel Pretty', 'One Hand, One Heart' and 'Jet Song', it's a show full of emotion, strength and intense dance numbers.

www.baos.org



Headquarters:
Base 2000 Carpenters Down, Popley RG24 9AE

Group Scout Leader:	Colin Karslake	01256 410559
Scout section:	Kevin Pocock	07867 946 759
Cub Scout section:	Douglas Gowan	01256 412326
Beaver Scout section:	Eve Alexander	07790 018 171



The Scout troop continues to grow under the guidance of its new leader, Kevin Pocock.

Several members enjoyed a visit to the Bowling Abbey in Southampton as a change from the more usual pantomime or Christmas Show to close the autumn term. The troop also visited the RAF Museum at Hendon. Another evening they had was an eventful time with a laser quest event in Southampton when they joined up with another troop in the city.

Plans for later in the term include a visit to the Solent Aircraft Museum, a crabbing expedition and the ever popular night hike and sleepover.

The Scout troop is open to both boys and girls aged between aged between 10½ - 14 years. Meetings are in Base 2000 on Friday evenings from 7 – 9 p.m.

Some of the older members of the troop moved on to the Explorer Scout section at the beginning of the year and are now experiencing yet more adventurous tasks and challenges run at a District level.



One has chosen to start to work as a Young Leader where young people are able to take on a leadership role in one of the younger sections. The Young Leaders' Scheme helps Explorer Scouts to develop and grow as individuals, make a valuable contribution to their community and be of service to others. Young Leaders aim to complete four missions, each one signified by the addition of an oak leaf around a central acorn. The missions include: basic training in first aid and how to lead; how to run a variety of games for younger people including assessing the risk

involved and how to manage risk; run an activity out-of-doors as part of a section programme; and taking part in sectional programme planning and community involvement. Those successful in completing the scheme are awarded the coveted Young Leader Buckle.

For more information try our facebook news -
<https://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeAirScouts>

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Popley Fields Community Centre has now started its renovation. We are open as usual however there may be temporary closures of some facilities to allow for the work to be carried out. We will soon have a new meeting room, excellent refurbished facilities available to hire and a first class cafe! Keep an eye on our website for more details, www.popleyfields.org

PS: Don't forget our beer festival on Saturday 27th February



We may only be in February but the Popley Festival will be with us in no time, so please get ready to come along and get involved with one of the biggest events in Basingstoke!

This year we'd like to get even more people involved in the festival and will be running 3 community competitions sponsored by NTCOG Basingstoke.

Art competition

Cake competition (and yes this year we will be tasting them too)

Photography competition

If you would like to become the "Best in Popley" why don't you start to have a think about what you can do and have a look at our website for more details and entry forms www.popleyfestival.org.uk

You can also contact us via the community centre at, office@popleyfields.org or tel: 01256 414494

The 2nd Popley Beer Festival

Saturday 27th Feb

6 - 10pm

£4 Entry, £2.50 a pint

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We visit the Bakery once a week for fresh breads, doughnuts and cakes if you require any of these items please feel free to put in an order. The bakery will make seasonal cakes, and will make birthday and celebration cakes to order. These will be at an additional cost.



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The Marie Curie Daffodil Day

Happy New Year to all and thank you very much for your generosity at Chineham Shopping Centre last year; we raised an amazing £900.03.

Marie Curie 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. This year it is 27 February at Chineham Shopping Centre and 5 March in Festival Place. 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. Thank you.



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We have Popley Explorers Preschool 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 Lacey on 01256 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, 4.30 until 5.30pm. For full details contact Samantha on 07811299484.

Also kick boxing from 7pm until 8.30pm.

Friday night is Friday Night Club from 5 until 6:30pm

The hall is also available to hire for parties etc at reasonable rates.

For information, ring Janet on 01256 363156

Basingstoke Discovery Centre

The Martians are Coming!

Thursday 11 February / 2pm / £3

Orson Welles's Mercury Theatre on the Air production of H. G. Wells's *The War of the Worlds* has become one of the most talked-about broadcasts in history. The realistic retelling of Wells's original story resulted in mass panic across America. People ran into the streets screaming that the world was ending. Set within the background of America's economic depression and rumbles of another world war coming from across the Atlantic, *The Martians Are Coming* sets the historic broadcast in the context of how Americans were thinking and feeling on the night their world almost – but not quite – came to an end.

Discover Board Games

Saturday 13 February / 10am – 1pm / FREE / Ages 3+

Young Embroiders Club

Saturday 13 February / 1.30pm – 4.15pm / £5 / Ages 5-16

Learn new skills and meet new friends.

Charlie's Storytelling Parties

Monday 15 February / 10am & 11.15 am / £3 (Adults Free) / Ages 2+

The Way Back Home

Join children's entertainer and actress Charlie Sanderson for a super interactive 45 minutes storytelling party including singing, a giant parachute, bubbles and more.

Family History Drop-in

Tuesday 16 February / 10am-12pm / Free

Have you come to a brick wall in your family history research? These monthly drop-ins, with **Hampshire Genealogical Society**, will help you make progress with your project and try to solve any genealogical dilemmas-free of charge. Simply arrive with your questions and any relevant paperwork. These sessions are suitable for both beginners and experienced researchers. There will be free access to websites *Ancestry* and *Find My Past*.

Be Confident and Safe around Dogs – a workshop for children

Tuesday 16 February / 2pm / £1 (Adults free) / Ages 5-11

The Education and Community Officer for Dogs Trust in the South is providing a free workshop on Dog Safety for children aged 5-11. There will be lots of fun interactive activities, arts & crafts, story telling and an opportunity to meet a special visitor too!

CSI Kids

Wednesday 17 February / 11am – 1pm / £10 (Adults free) / Ages 7+

Investigate a crime scene at Basingstoke Discovery Centre. Under the guidance of CID staff, children work their way through a series of clues using the same forensic techniques as real detectives to solve the crime, including dusting for fingerprints. All children receive a CSI kit to take home for further crime detection work...

Thomas the Tank Engine Day

Friday 19 February / from 10am / FREE / Ages 3+

Craft, LET'sGO Construction, colouring and more...

Crime Fiction Reading Group

Saturday 20 February / 2pm / FREE

Meet others who share your enjoyment of this genre. **Wessex Film Archives**

Tuesday 23 February / 2pm / £3

Time travel around Basingstoke and Hampshire with Jan Smith from the Wessex Film Archive.

See and hear history from late Victorian times to the present day and experience important events through the eyes of first hand witnesses.

Get to Know Your iPads

Saturday 27 February & 5 March / 10am – 1pm / £20 / (2-week course)

Suitable for those participated in the earlier course or for those with some experience

Find your way around an iPad and learn how to get the most out of its applications.

(iPads available to use, or bring your own)

Discover Board Games

Saturday 27 February / 10am – 1pm / FREE / Ages 3+



Easter Eggstravaganza!!! Watch this space next month for more information! Easter Saturday 26th March we will have a mini disco, Easter egg hunt, Easter Bonnet competition and much, much more.

Would you like to help us host French families over the Popley Festival weekend? Our twinned community centre is coming that weekend to partake in Popley Festival. We have a full programme of events if you would like to join us.

Do you lack computer skills? Would you like to learn how to surf the net? Send e-mails?, trace your family history, pay bills on line, book a doctors appointment? Use social media? Starting in February we have a computer hub where you can learn all this and more!! Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-2. Book in advance to secure your place. Contact Vicki 01256 420676.

WHATS ON IN FEB:

MONDAY:	DAYTIME AND EVENING HIRE AVAILABLE 7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
TUESDAY:	9.30-12.00am Popley Little People 5.15-7.30pm Suma Karate
WEDNESDAY:	AFTERNOON AND EVENING AVAILABLE FOR HIRE 9.00am Slimming World - Time Change 11.00am Slimming World - NEW!!! 12-2pm Oasis Lunch club 5.30 and 7.30pm Slimming World
THURSDAY:	9.30-11.30am Community Cafe
FRIDAY:	DAYTIME AND EVENING HIRE AVAILABLE DAYTIME HIRE AVAILABLE 9.40 for 10.00am ride- Group cycle Ride (weather permitting) Free bike loan available
SATURDAY:	9.00am-4.00pm 7 TH Day Adventist Church 10am Sabbath 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 Melrosehal21@gmail.com**

Also find us on facebook: Melrose hall.

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Are you doing enough to plan for the future?

By Zoë McManus Solicitor, Wills & Probate team

Despite the increasingly complicated nature of our modern families and financial situations, over two thirds of people in the UK have still never made a Will. There is a tendency to put this subject to the back of our minds and say “That’s not something I need right now”. This unfortunately ignores the importance of a Will and the consequences of not having such a document in place.

The law sets out clear rules for what happens to your estate and who your assets pass to if you die without a Will. It is therefore very important that you make a Will so your assets may pass to those you would wish to benefit. The importance of writing a will is even more pressing if you have children or other family members who depend on you financially, or if you wish to leave gifts to people outside your immediate family. A well-structured Will can also help address any potential concerns regarding Inheritance Tax that you may have.

Making a Will gives you the opportunity to make certain your family are aware of your wishes and allows them to handle your estate sensitively during a difficult time. It allows you to appoint specific people, known as your Executors, to administer your estate and ensure the terms of your Will are followed.

When considering your wishes for later life, it can also be a good time to think about what would happen if you were to lose mental capacity. One in three over-65s now suffer from dementia and this can pose a real issue for loved ones who may be helpless to assist you. Currently, if you lose capacity and are unable to deal with your finances or make decisions then your friends or relatives have no choice but to make a costly and time consuming application to the Courts in order to be able to deal with matters on your behalf. To avoid this, you can make a choice to create a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) nominating a family member or trusted friend to look after your affairs if you lose capacity.

There are two types of LPA. The Property and Affairs LPA allows your Attorney to deal with your finances, including paying household bills, managing bank accounts and collecting any income or benefits. The second type focuses on your health and welfare and gives your Attorney the authority to make decisions about your person such as where you might live and your day to day care.

If you would like to find out more about the preparation of Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney then please contact our team at Phillips Solicitors by calling 01256 460830, emailing legal@phillips-law.co.uk or visit www.phillips-law.co.uk

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The weather is wet and the ground is soggy, so that can only mean one thing! FOOTBALL IS BACK! Well, as long as the pitches aren't waterlogged! The boys and girls that have managed to play have shown great character and tenacity in such awful weather, with not one hint of a complaint. These boys and girls are warriors and wear the badge of MFC Popley Youth with pride. Massive respect to the parents that watch and support

the boys and girls week after week as well!

So, as we march into 2016 with optimism and pride, let our Battle Cry be heard, for WE ARE THE RED AND BLACK ARMY!!!

We are always looking to recruit new, enthusiastic volunteer coaches into MFC Popley Youth. Experience is not necessarily required, 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 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), running the line (under 11 s upward) and the set up of the pitches and Respect lines. If you are interested in helping out please make yourself known to the manager/coach of your particular age group.

You can get regular updates from the club by following our twitter account, @MFC_PopleyYouth also by using hashtags #MFCPY #REDandBLACKARMY. MFC Popley Youth has a dedicated club page on Facebook

MFC Popley Youth FA Charter Standard Development Club and Nike Partner Club has a dedicated club-shop website where you can purchase kit and accessories.

Please visit the MFC Popley club-shop website - www.clubwebshop.com/a-z/clubs/mfcpopley/.

Contact the club -

Main website: www.mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

Club Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer & Club Welfare Officer: mfcpopleyyouth@live.co.uk

Volunteer enquiries: volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

All-Stars Recruitment: allstars@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

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Zak Collingwood

Chineham Library

February is a month when all the regular library activities take place as normal, even during the school half term week. On 6th February we are commemorating National Libraries Day 2016, and would love you to celebrate with us. There will be an adult fiction display for you to brave taking a mystery wrapped up read to try! Adult colouring bookmarks will also be available to take away.

Our Saturday children's craft sessions continue on the first Saturday of each month, with the next dates being the 6th February and the 5th March. These are aimed at primary school children and run from 10am to 12pm. The 6th February session will take the form of a celebration of National Libraries Day with a story time at 10am and a library themed craft session at 10.30am. Our preschool story times take place on all the other Saturdays of each month, from 10 to 10.30am. This time has replaced the previous Friday morning slot. Reminders will always be issued nearer the time on the Facebook page.

Regular adult groups meeting this month are the Crime Reading group and the CHIPPS reading group for parents and young children. The Crime group is meeting on 13th February from 10.30 to 11.30, and CHIPPS on 10th February. New faces are always very welcome, and details can be obtained from library staff.

Age Concern are still holding their regular computer sessions for the Over 50s on Wednesdays between 10am and 12pm. For availability please contact the local office on 01256 423874. The card making group will meet on 11th and 25th February and both these groups would welcome new members. *Cathy Foster*



Collecting Memories of the Years Before the NHS

HWS have now trained our interviewers in oral history collection techniques and are ready to collect oral histories of the oldest members of the Basingstoke community (over 75 years of age) who have memories and stories about the years prior to the NHS.

Over the next three months, our interviewers will be available to collect the childhood memories of our oldest citizens and compare them with life today. We want to understand what health and wellbeing meant to people in years prior to the NHS.

We are now recruiting older members of the Basingstoke community including those older people who migrated to Britain and found their way to Basingstoke. Their memories of dealing with health issues in other countries will be an additional will be fascinating to hear too.

The interviews will take one hour and will be conducted in the individual's home or in another convenient quiet location. The voices and memories we collect will become part of Hampshire's history and will be stored at the Hampshire Record Office for future reference by the public.

If you, or someone you know, would like to take part contact Jayne at HWS for more information on: 01256 423 830 or send an email to: services@hantswell.org. with 'Collecting Memories' in the subject bar.

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February Half Term Playschemes



Monday 15th February	Tuesday 16th February	Wednesday 17th February
10.00 am – 11.55 am	10.00 am – 11.55 am	10.00 am – 11.55 am
Oakridge Hall For All, RC21 5RC	St Peters Church, South Ham, RC22 6QP	Hill Rise Hall, Brighton Hill, RC22 4JZ
£1.50 per child pay on the day	£1.50 per child pay on the day	£1.50 per child pay on the day



Thursday 18th February
10.00 am – 11.55 am
Popley Fields Community Centre , RC24 9AE
£1.50 per child pay on the day



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Golden Opportunity for Couples' Special Celebrations

Couples celebrating special anniversaries this year are being invited to a reception with Basingstoke and Deane's Mayor.

The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Cllr Anne Court, is holding a special reception in April for married couples whose golden or diamond anniversary falls between 14 May 2015 and 12 May 2016.

The popular annual event for couples living in the borough aims to make their anniversary celebrations even more memorable, and the Mayor is appealing to all eligible couples to get in touch to ensure they receive an invitation.

Cllr Anne Court said: "Golden and diamond anniversaries are very special milestones and it is an honour and privilege to be able to join in the celebrations with so many couples from around the borough.

"I am appealing to couples, or their relatives or friends, to make sure they let us know so that they get an invitation to come in and join us."

A reception will be held at the Civic Offices on Wednesday 13 April 2016 at 3pm. Golden and diamond couples should call the council's contact centre on 01256 844844 and leave their contact details by Monday 21 March to be invited to attend.

For further information on this press release please contact: Sophia Waite-King, Senior External information and Communications Officer, on 01256 845746 or email sophia.waite-king@basingstoke.gov.uk.

For all media enquiries call 01256 845220 or email communications@basingstoke.gov.uk

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @BasingstokeGov



*Basingstoke
and Deane*

Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra Favourite

Classics Concert

The Anvil, Basingstoke

Sunday 20th March 2016 7:30pm

As part of a series of very popular concerts presenting some of the most well known classical music, the Orchestra performs 3 favourite classics from the orchestral repertoire: Sibelius' rousing tone poem "Finlandia"; Chopin's incredibly popular Piano Concerto No 1; and Brahms' monumental Fourth Symphony. We are delighted to be joined for the first time by Japanese-Russian pianist Yoshio Hamano, prize winner of several major international piano competitions.

This concert will appeal to seasoned concert-goers as well as those new to classical music. Come and enjoy an evening of thoroughly entertaining music played by your local orchestra. Discounts are available for early bookings - please see our website for details www.bso.org.uk

Tickets available from £12 at www.anvilarts.org.uk

Superfast Broadband Update

The two new Superfast Fibre Broadband cabinets serving Everest and Marnel Parks went live at the beginning of December as forecast in the last update. Each are capable of serving just under 300 properties but BT Openreach initially provide them with circuitry for around a sixth of that, 48 lines, and add further blocks as demand dictates. Unfortunately this initial capacity at Everest Park sold out in just over two days, highlighting built up demand, and at Marnel Park in around 10 days. When this happens most broadband providers such as BT, Sky and TalkTalk simply say fibre is not available, which is not strictly true and may be confusing.

BT Openreach have since added extra capacity for Everest Park so residents there are able to order again through their preferred service provider; at the time of writing Marnel Park was still waiting for extra capacity to be added. Properties elsewhere in Popley may also experience the same issue from time to time as BT follow the same procedures with all cabinets. If you're told by your supplier that fibre is not available, visit dslchecker.bt.com to confirm the status.

These two cabinets were only enabled as a result of campaigning, so thank you to everyone who assisted and supported the campaign including our local councillors, and County Councillor, Jane Frankum.

Whilst much of Popley also has the option of Virgin Media, there are a number of properties which haven't been cabled in previous rollouts. It's therefore worth pointing out that households who currently don't have the option of cable may benefit from the £3bn Project Lightning expansion over the next few years which aims to infill many areas. This rollout is demand-led so if interested, search for Virgin Media Cable My Street, and fill in their registration form to significantly improve the chance of being covered.

The website fibre.everestpark.org.uk continues to post updates on local broadband matters.

Oliver



Everest Health & Leisure Club

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Opening Hours

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