

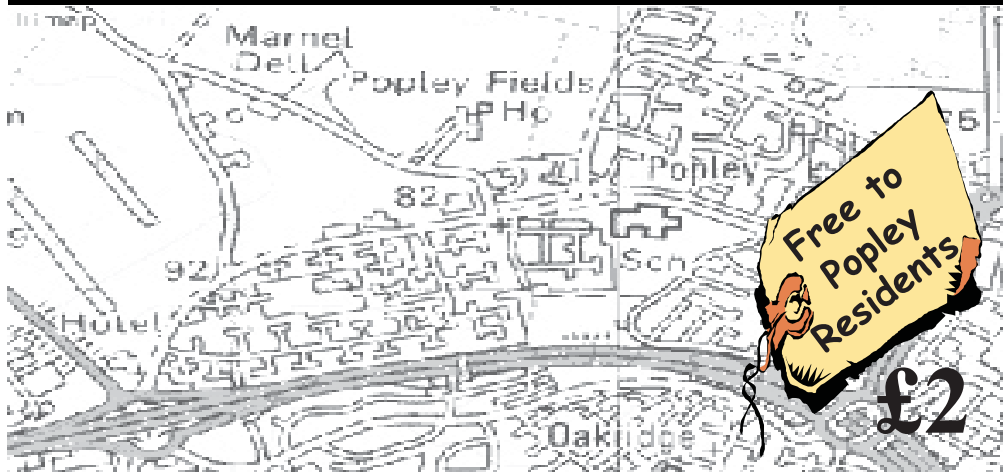
POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

March 2016

Distribution of 5,300

Issue 169



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-03-16) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: We have been asking Popley groups and schools to write and tell the Popley Matters readers news and celebrations. So I am pleased to see an article on page 1 from Everest Academy. I think most people, especially those who have lived in Popley for many years, knew the campaigns and struggles we had to get a new school as the old building was in a real sorry state and it reflected in every aspect of the school. It is no secret that I fought to become a county councillor as I, and many others, believe that education is vital for everyone and our children deserved better than they were being given, and we needed to tell them so. There still is a long way to go to get the excellent chances our children in Popley deserve. I did get the feeling when I first met Mr. Price that he feels the same. As a community we need to support the school and the aspirations of the children, staff and parents. These are hard times with all the deep and painful cuts being forced on just about every service in the country. We may not all be as clever as Einstein who was born on 14th March nearly 200 years ago but we do have some very clever and talented people here in Popley, and supporting our schools can only be a positive thing to do. Mr Price has said he will send an article for each issue and I hope we will all enjoy reading them. Last year Popley Matters had so many poems from Merton Infant school that it took us months to print them all. I know the children really appreciated the good comments they got back from the readers. Merton will be doing it again this year. All schools and groups are encouraged to write for us, after all this is your community magazine and I look forward to hearing from you all much more.

Please look at page 8 and get involved in voting for grants towards four of the applications for the new Community Neighbourhood grants. If you are more energetic you could enter the Basingstoke St Michaels Hospice Run, details on page 9. There is also a chance to help young Emmy who needs funds for medical help. Emmy’s dad grew up in Popley and I know how big hearted the people of Popley are, read about it on page 28. 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.

Editorial Team:– Editor Jane Frankum; Sub–Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Area Distribution Manager Jeremy Jackman ; Treasurer Christopher Martin; Proof Readers Lorraine Beaney and Iris King.

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Thank you for your support

Welcome to our First Article for Popley Matters.

One of the first people to visit me when I started at Everest Community Academy last year were Councillors Jane Frankum and Paul Frankum. We talked about their hopes for the school when it was re-built as one of the best equipped school buildings in the county. I was so impressed with them I have made it a personal mission to give them the school they so want for this community. I think we have already come a long way and the school feels like a real place of learning. It is indeed a school for the community to be proud of. I very much enjoy showing people around and they always comment on how calm the environment is and how well behaved and polite our students are.

I am very proud to be the Principal of this excellent school and feel honoured to work with such talented and dedicated staff. We pride ourselves on our exceptional learning environment and expect every child to work hard, behave well and to show respect and kindness towards others.

These are exciting and pressured times as our Year 11 students are studying hard in preparation for their GCSE examinations in the summer term. We are running revision sessions after school and also during the half term and Easter holidays to give them every opportunity to achieve success.

In the coming months we will be bringing you up to date news and updates on the events taking place at our school.

A promotional banner for Everest Community Academy. The top left shows three students in school uniforms (two girls and one boy) looking at a globe. The top right features the school's logo, which consists of a stylized mountain peak inside a circle, with the text 'Everest Community Academy' and the tagline 'To make our best better'. Below the logo is the slogan 'A school to be proud of'. The background of the banner is an aerial view of the school building, a large, modern, light-colored structure with a grey roof. In the bottom right corner, there is contact information: 'Everest Community Academy', 'Oxford Way', 'Basingstoke', 'RG24 9UP', and 'Phone: 01256 485547'.

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Councillors' Page: As your Hampshire County Councillor I have been delighted and honoured to be able to nominate several groups to have equipment that they have requested with my support from the County Councillor Devolved Budget allowance I get. All County Councillors have a small budget and they can nominate groups or equipment needed in their areas. My area is Popley and Oakridge. This last political year I have been privileged to be able to help Popley Fields get a defibrillator and equipment, let us hope it is never needed but it is there just in case. I also nominated Basingstoke Foodbank, the Ark Cancer Charity, Popley's 6th Boys Brigade, Football for disabled, updated equipment for Oakridge Hall 4 All and funds for Basingstoke Community Transport for safer seat belts and other equipment. The allotments in Norden that were previously run by Shaw Trust were threatened with closure by Basingstoke and Deane Council and I was able to nominate enough funds to secure this scheme for the next three years.

I have asked before, if you have a group in Popley you can apply via the Hampshire County Council website. The next round of applications will start in June. Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

Popley West: The newly formed Popley Neighbourhood Panel grant applications have had four schemes apply for funding. Residents of Popley can vote for which of the two schemes will get the funding, more details on page 8 Please vote for which ones you think should receive the funding. Anyone over the age of 12 can vote.

The draft 2016 to 2020 housing and homelessness strategy consultation runs from Thursday 11 February until Thursday 24 March 2016.

To have your say on what the council plans to do over the next four years on housing and homelessness visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/housingstrategy. Alternatively call 01256 844844 for other ways to respond.

Work is due to start soon in the Abbey Road shops and carpark area. The funding is a joint venture with Sentinel and Basingstoke and Deane Council.

Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924

cllr.paul.frankum@popleymatters.org.uk

Popley East: You will have seen the Borough Council's current administration plans to transfer the Leisure Park at Worting Road to a developer who will change the park into a retail complex with leisure facilities provided on a smaller scale.

The proposals include building a massive designer outlet complex and other retail outlets attracting customers from far afield which we believe will further undermine the financial stability of Festival Place, The Malls and Top of Town not to mention the district shopping centres.

We take the view that the Leisure Park should stay as a leisure facility and be revamped to provide reasonably priced activities, subsidised as necessary, for the wider population of Basingstoke and Deane and be accessible for the residents of Popley and elsewhere. There should be a proper public transport facility to make this realistic for all those who want to take part in leisure activities. After all, this is an asset owned by the people of Basingstoke.

The current administration has also abandoned its plans to give away a Council owned site to Basingstoke Town Football Club to build a new Football stadium.

We were right to say that no site in Popley would be suitable in any circumstances for the building of a football stadium and we are pleased to note that the administration has seen sense on this matter.

Cllr David Potter 07941507801

cllr.david.potter@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Viv Washbourne 07900890088

cllr.vivien.washbourne@basingstoke.gov.uk

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Venue: Rooksdown Community Centre (next to Basingstoke Hospital), Park Prewett Road Rooksdown. RG24 9RG

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Autumn Visit to Minsk, Belarus.

Despite my autumn visit now being a distant memory, in fact, I'm in the process of sorting out the spring visit, I've eventually got round to writing this article!

Due to not arriving home until 29th November, it was far too late for the December issue of 'Popley Matters', and then we had the trauma of Christmas, trying to remember who to send Christmas cards to, and then writing the cards and sorting envelopes to fit the cards (why do the cards and envelopes rearrange themselves in the boxes?) which meant I'd missed the January issue as well!

Anyway, I arrived OK and was met at Minsk Airport and taken to Olga's flat. Henrik, Olga's Danish gentleman friend, now lives in the flat too. Henrik speaks English, Russian and most Scandinavian languages. He lived in Russia for fifteen years and Belarus for ten years. Unfortunately, he has such a strong Danish accent I'm never sure if he's talking to me in Russian or English! However, we join forces as western Europeans against the eastern Europeans in the endless banter with Olga and her two sons and her daughter-in-law, who all speak English!

As usual, I went to four universities and a 'Gymnasium' (their word for a school for gifted students).

I spent most of the time at the dreaded Linguistic University amusing and entertaining the delinquent students! One week I spent more time in classes than any of the teachers!

As I walk up to the Linguistic University, from the Metro station, I'm usually greeted by hordes of girl students all waving and calling out, 'Hello, Terry!' I've no idea who most of them are!

After a lesson I go outside for a well-deserved cigarette only to be joined by yet more girl students all asking impossibly difficult, and at times personal, questions that they were too shy to ask in the class!

There are times when the students admit I'm the only English person they've ever seen! It boosts their confidence that I can understand them and they can understand me! The majority of the students I meet have a boundless enthusiasm for the English language and all things English, which they think I'm an authority on! Many things the students are taught are quaint in the extreme!

Natasha, Ira, Julia and Katya, teachers who have stayed in Basingstoke with me, all tell me 'England and English people are nothing like what we're taught!'

On the day I came home it started snowing and by the time we arrived at the airport it was a major blizzard! The flight was delayed for an hour as the ten snow ploughs struggled to clear the runways!

Terry Jones.





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Dear Friends

It's coming to the end of February already and in the news this morning you would think the world has gone bonkers. The tensions are continuing to increase in the Middle East with Russia and Turkey rapidly heading towards an aggressive face-off; the migrant crisis is worsening, not improving, and there are again tensions concerning the world economy with the slow down in China's industry. Do we have cause to be anxious or afraid? Jesus said, "When you hear of wars and rumours of wars do not be afraid, these things must happen!" Thinking about it, most of the tensions we read about or hear about through the media boil down to one thing and one thing only – the use and abuse of power! Power over individuals, power over communities and nations, power over wealth and resources; it is essentially human sin and rebellion against God that causes these abuses whether international, national or personal, that is to say in our own lives and relationships too!

In the few short weeks of Lent, marked by Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) and Ash Wednesday, we have time to prepare for one of Christianity's great events, Palm Sunday. This is the day that marks the beginning of the holiest of weeks in the calendar of the Christian Church. Palm Sunday is the day we celebrate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of the last week of his earthly life. As Jesus and his followers approach Jerusalem, crowds rush out to lay down a carpet of palm fronds (hence Palm Sunday) and cloaks as they welcome him with cries of "*hosanna to the Son of David.*" Sadly those cries all too quickly turn to shouts of "*Crucify Him,*"

Lent is the time of preparation for these events. It is a time, not to give up chocolate, alcohol or cigarettes, but rather to deeply examine our hearts and lives and surrender to God those attitudes – things we think, say or do – that cause hurt to others, those abuses of power. It is a difficult but worthwhile journey to make and has the power to change the direction of our lives. It is not one we make alone! Jesus promised his followers that he would be with them wherever they go and there is nowhere that Jesus has not been. So no matter what situation you may think you are in, Jesus promises that it can be changed and that he will be with you on that journey.

I hope that this Lent, rather than giving something up perhaps you might take some time out to think about your life; your past, present and future and invite Jesus to shine his light into those places in your heart where you would rather not go and that you would allow him to forgive, to heal and to restore you.

I pray that Lent and Easter will be a time of real blessing for you and your families. Please do come along to any (or all) of our Easter Services, I can promise you'll be most warmly welcomed.

Your friend and vicar
Rev. Arthur
01256 324734
St Gabriel's

Get Involved in Choosing Which Local Projects Get a Funding Boost on Monday 14th March 2016

Four projects will be seeking your support and vote for a share of the funding available from the Popley Partnership Grant.

The successful projects that have met the criteria and now await your support are:

- Popley Fields Community Association who are looking for £1,000 to fund training to support the use of a defibrillator users:
- Everest Community Academy who are seeking £846 to fund storage to support their new community library initiative offering free book loans to all the community:
- Popley Fields Community Association who are seeking £1,000 to support the continued development of youth club activities for young people aged 8-11 years:
- Popley Fields Community Association who are looking for £1,000 to offer a twice weekly youth club alternative and diversion from engaging in anti-social behaviour to young people aged 11 – 16 years of age.

An opportunity to ask questions, find out further information and potentially meet those involved at the projects will be available on the voting day as follows:

Where and when:

Voting for the projects takes place at both Melrose Community Association, Abbey Road and Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down between 3pm and 7pm.

How it works:

Anyone who is of secondary school age or over and lives, works or volunteers in Popley is eligible to vote.

All eligible voters are given two voting tokens which they can use to vote for **TWO different projects.**

So what now! Well come along see what's happening and cast your votes!

Your community , your neighbourhood , your vote!

If you require further information please contact

Denise Gilholme on 07500 987638 or email :

denise.gilholme@basingstoke.gov.uk



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5K and 10K Run

Wednesday 11th May 2016

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St. Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire) welcomes the Basingstoke 5 & 10K Run to Down Grange Sports Complex, Basingstoke on Wednesday 11th May starting at 19.00hrs.

This family friendly event is a great way to get fit, have fun and spend time together whilst raising money for North Hampshire's only adult Hospice, which provides specialist care and support to patients suffering from life limiting illnesses.

We are excited to announce that in 2016 the run will have chip timing available for all runners. Last year was a record breaking year which saw over 600 runners take part raising an incredible £21,000! So dust off your running shoes, come along and join your community, and help us beat the outstanding amount raised in 2015. Registration is open online and places are selling fast so book early to avoid disappointment.

To sign up and for more information please visit the Hospice website: stmichaelshospice.org.uk/events or call fundraising on 01256 848 848. Follow us on Twitter @smhbasingstoke #BasingstokeRun



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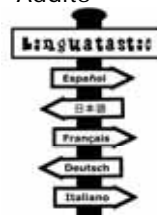
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Chineham Library

It's lovely to be enjoying longer hours of daylight again, and to be able to look forward to more of this when the clocks go forward this month. Also this month we have the celebrations of Mother's Day and Easter to look forward to. The celebrations for National Libraries Day were very successful, with pleasing numbers visiting the library that day, and supporting the children's activities and adult's lucky dip.

Our Saturday craft sessions continue on the first Saturday of each month, with the next dates being 5th March and 2nd April. As 5th March session precedes Mother's Day the crafts will relate to that, so perhaps dads/grandparents may want to bring the children! These sessions are aimed at children of primary school age and run from 10am- 12pm. Our preschool storytimes take place on all the other Saturdays of the month from 10 – 10.30am. The session on 26th March will have an Easter theme. Reminders about all these will appear on social media and in the library nearer the time.

A new development at the library this month is the start of the adult colouring activity called the 'Colour and Create Club'. This commences on 2nd March and will then take place fortnightly. The times are 2pm – 4pm. It is free to attend, and all the materials are provided free of charge. Do come and give this a try.

Regular adult groups also meeting this month are the Crime Reading Group and the CHIPPS reading group for parents and young children. The Crime Group will meet on 12th March from 10.30am – 11.30am, and CHIPPS on 9th March from 10am – 11am. The card making group will meet fortnightly on the 10th and 24th of the month. All these groups welcome new faces, and further information is available 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.

On behalf of the whole team at Chineham Library I would like to wish you a Happy Easter.

Cathy Foster





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 cub section went 'back-in-time' in January at the start of Cub Centenary Year. In 1915 the section was called 'Wolf Cubs' with the programme largely based on Rudyard Kiplings 'Jungle Book' stories. On a recruit's first visit to the Wolf Cub Pack, 'new chums' were expected to learn the Wolf Cub Law and Promise and what it meant. At every meeting they performed the Wolf Cub 'howl' crouched in a circle with DYB, DYB, DYB and DOB, DOB DOB yelled at the top of their voices to remind them always 'to do your best'. Each of the cubs this year received a special commemorative 'investiture' certificate. Significantly, there has been little change to the content of the three-fold Promise and Law over the years. Duty, honour, and trust remain paramount. The analogy with Cubs in 1915 will continue throughout the year from time to time with everyone working towards the Wolf Cub's 1st and 2nd Star Awards in the coming months. Each of the star represented an eye being opened as 'new chums' developed skills and became more proficient. The more harding working Wolf Cub will tackle the 'Leaping Wolf' award signifying they could succeed and 'leap over' any challenge and land safely on the other side.



We were pleased to welcome Andy Cullen, District Commissioner Basingstoke East later that month to present three Cubs with their Silver Chief Scout's Award –the highest award for the Cub section. It is the current day equivalent of the 'Leaping Wolf' of 1915 and just as hard to achieve.



In February the Pack met with the Old Basing Roundheads Cub Pack. The evening concentrated on codes requiring Cubs to decipher a clue in order to find a pack of cards which in itself contained coded words to form the full message. This was followed by an observation test examining an article from the very first issue of the Wolf Cub Newspaper to spot mistakes. The Cubs proved very good at it.

By the time this goes to press the Cubs will have taken part in the District 6-a-side football competition and we hope for better luck than last year. Other events planned for this very special year are District Cub Camp; a visit to Gilwell Park Beaver and Cub Day in the summer; Skills Day; 'It's a Knock-out'; a 'Thanks Party' in the autumn for anyone who has been involved or connected with Cub Scouting in the past 100 years (!) and a 'Promise Party' to close the year.

The Pack is always pleased to welcome more 'new chums' - boys and girls aged from 8 -10 ½ years Why not come along to Base 2000 on a Tuesday evening at 6.30 p.m.?

Facebook news <https://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeAirScouts>

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Pancakes Ahoy and Mad Hair Day at Merton Junior School

Shrove Tuesday was celebrated at Merton Junior School with our annual pancake race. As always the children competed in their 'Houses' – 'Snowy Owl', 'Barn Owl', 'Tawny Owl' and 'Eagle Owl';



named after the school mascot, for the prestigious honour of Merton Junior School Pancake Race Champions 2016.

Therefore, armed with frying pans at the ready, the whole school competed in a relay over a short distance, with just a few obstacles in their way in order to make the race a little more interesting, whilst their fellow team mates cheered and encouraged their endeavours.

As you can see from the accompanying picture of one of our pupils, pancakes became balls for the occasion, just to add a little more difficulty to the proceedings.



The overall winning House was Barn Owls, who came home victorious and the celebrations could be heard throughout the Popley area as fun and laughter was enjoyed by everyone, staff and pupils alike!

Well Done Barn Owls!

Mill Cottage Farm Experience & Easter Fun day

Saturday 19th March, 12 - 3pm

Come feed, touch and learn about farm animals, also Easter egg hunt, craft activities and refreshments

£5 per family of 4 (£1 per extra child)

Popley Fields Community Centre
Carpenters Down, Popley
RG24 9AE

01256 414494
office@popleyfields.org
www.popleyfields.org

Popley Fields
Community Association

Everest Community Academy News

Everest reaching out to be more of a community meet, teach, play and learning hub

We would like to open up the school's facilities more to the community and as a consequence would like to invite any individuals, groups and societies etc to come and use the classrooms, workshops, computer suites (and their associated services – white board, internet etc) for meeting places, club meets, courses/classes or whatever you may deem fit or want to hold or run (within reason!).

We do not want price to be a barrier so we would be happy to negotiate based on the facility, usage and time. High volume/low cost for accessibility is the model we will be working to.

Our focus is on filling the school outside of school time i.e. after 5pm weekdays and all weekend.

Call John Perrin, Community Manager, in the first instance on 01256 337573 and by all means come up and have look around.

Library Update

A big thank you for all the very kind donations of books – the response has been fantastic, both individually and from groups. The next stage of planning is under way to identify opening times and staffing – we will update when more news is known but in the meantime please keep the books coming (call 01256 337573 for a book pick up)

Gym

We are pleased to announce the tender has been awarded in regard to the gym refurbishment planned for August 2016. Details and plans will follow to highlight this exciting development at Everest Health & Leisure Club.

Summer Fun @ Everest in Association with Sports Xtra

Summer will soon be upon us and ideas to keep the children occupied come under the spotlight. This year our summer camp will have a Rio 2016 Olympic theme whereby those attending will be able to attempt and compete in a number of Olympic disciplines, both individually and as part of a team, as well as the usual favourites of spy, detective and adventure activities.

Cost is £18 per day or £75 if a full week is booked.

For more information and details of early booking offers please contact

Mark Rowland, Sports Xtra - Email mark.rowland@sports-xtra.com - Mobile - 07968 956549

Men in Sheds

Set up nationally to help older gentlemen find an activity and social grouping – are you interested meeting at Everest, utilising our workshops – for more information <http://menssheds.org.uk/what-is-a-mens-shed/> - contact John 01256 337573.

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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 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, 4.30pm 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 5pm until 6-30pm

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

For information, ring Janet on 01256 363156

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Talking Health

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Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service in the North Hampshire Area

A key topic in both our towns and rural areas is how patients travel to their treatments. The Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service is undergoing some changes from 1st March this year. Below is some significant information which describes the new service and who is entitled to use it.

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust has been providing this service for patients in most of Hampshire since October 2014. The service delivers transport for eligible patients who have a medical reason that means they are not able to travel for treatment by another method

During 2016 the Ambulance Service will become the provider for journeys from treatment centres managed by Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT). This covers North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke, Royal Hampshire County Hospital in Winchester and the Andover War Memorial Hospital.

These include the following journeys:

- To a planned outpatient appointment
- To hospital for a planned admission
- Home from hospital following patient discharge
- To and from renal dialysis appointments
- Home to Hampshire from hospitals in other areas of the country
- Home to the Isle of Wight from hospitals or healthcare/treatment centres on the mainland

What's Changing In 2016?

The Ambulance Service will be transporting patients from treatment centres managed by Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The transfer of services to the Ambulance Service will happen on the following dates:

- 1 March 2016 for the North Hampshire Hospital in **Basingstoke**
- 1 August 2016 for the Royal Hampshire County Hospital in **Winchester** and the **Andover** War Memorial Hospital.

Who Can Use This Service?

As resources are limited and are focussed on the patients with the most need, there are eligibility criteria that must be met in order to access the service. You are considered eligible if:

- Your medical condition is such that you require the skills and support of Ambulance Service staff during or after your journey, and/or it would be detrimental to your condition or recovery to travel by other means

Or

- Your medical condition affects your mobility to such an extent that you would be unable to access healthcare and/or it would be detrimental to your condition or recovery to travel by other means

Carers may also travel if you are the recognised parent or guardian of a child being transported by the Ambulance Service

You are *not* eligible if:

- You are attending a routine GP or health centre appointment
- You are not an NHS patient
- You require transport outside England, Scotland and Wales

The healthcare professional booking an Ambulance Service journey will check that the patient is eligible at the time of booking. In the first instance, call your GP Practice or clinic.

Where to Find More Information

If you have any questions regarding the Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service for Hampshire, you can contact them by via **email** at PTSHantsQ&A@scas.nhs.uk



Would you and your family like to join us for a weekend of fun? We are looking for volunteers to join us in hosting French families from our twinned community centre in Alencon over the Popley Festival weekend. You will host guests in your home, in return you will join us on a day trip, an evening of dining and fun entertainment at the hall and even a night under canvas!! Our guests arrive Friday evening and leave Monday morning.



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Competition!!

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Pregnancy and Maternity Discrimination

by Karen Bristow, Employment Specialist

The Equality and Human Rights Commission reported last year new research which suggests approximately 54,000 new mothers may be forced out of their jobs in Britain each year. In fact approximately 1 in 5 new mothers have experienced harassment or negative comments in the workplace. With anti-sex discrimination laws being in force for over 40 years, it may be a surprise to hear that this unlawful treatment still occurs.

Pregnant women, women on maternity leave and their employers should all be aware that there are special protections in place. These include:

- the right to paid time off for ante-natal care;
- health and safety protection;
- the entitlement to the benefit of all terms and conditions (other than remuneration) which would have applied had they not been absent, such as medical cover, pension contributions, childcare vouchers etc;
- the right not to be denied pay rises (which would be applicable on return);
- the entitlement to be offered suitable alternative employment in a redundancy situation arising during maternity leave; and
- the right to return to the job in which they were employed before or if returning after additional maternity leave another job which is both suitable and appropriate if it is not reasonably practicable for her to return to her previous role.

Women who are pregnant or on maternity leave are protected from discrimination under the Equality Act 2010. Despite this, complaints of discrimination still arise and frequently include: the dismissal of women who are pregnant or suffering with pregnancy-related sick leave, refusing pregnant women time off for ante-natal appointments, non-payment of bonuses, not offering pregnant women or women on maternity leave the same training or promotion opportunities as others, failing to consult with women whilst they are on maternity leave and making women redundant because they are pregnant or on maternity leave. This can often include a sham restructure or decision to 'keep' the maternity cover.

When it is time to return to work from maternity leave it is most important that employers are reasonable in any response to flexible working applications as the alternative can often leave new mothers feeling they have no alternative but to resign.

If you think you have been discriminated against or to ensure you manage a pregnant employee correctly, why not call one of our qualified employment lawyers for advice? We offer fixed fee initial consultation meetings where you can discuss your issues in a confidential environment and receive the advice you need to help you protect rights and resolve any work related issues.

Karen Bristow and Gill Brown are lawyers specialising in employment law at Phillips Solicitors in Basingstoke. For more information call Karen or Gill on **01256 854631**, email karen.bristow@phillips-law.co.uk or visit www.phillips-law.co.uk.

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Another wet and windy start to the year has affected a large chunk of our fixtures, due to waterlogged pitches etc. But the spirit of the Red and Black Army is very hard to break and this has been seen in the performances put into the games that have gone ahead. The commitment shown by the players to take this club to greater heights is evident come wind, rain or shine. You will always see them training hard without a word of complaint. Well done boys and girls. Keep up the sterling work.

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

Please contact the Club by email at volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk 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 11s 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 and by using the hashtags #MFCPY #REDandBLACKARMY. Also, 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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Easter Half Term



Playschemes

Week 1



Tuesday 29 th March	Thursday 31 st March	Friday 1 st April
10.00 am – 11.55 am	10.00 am – 11.55 am	10.00 am – 11.55 am
Oakridge Hall For All RG21 5RG	Popley Fields Community Centre RG24 9AE	St Peter's Church, South Ham, RG22 6QP
£1.50 per child pay on the day	£1.50 per child pay on the day	£1.50 per child pay on the day



Week 2

Monday 4 th April	Tuesday 5 th April	Wednesday 6 th April	Thursday 7 th April	Friday 8 th April
10.00 am – 11.55 am	10.00 am – 11.55 am	10.00 am – 11.55 am	2.00 pm – 3.55pm	10.00 am – 11.55 am
Basingstoke Sea Cadets & Community Centre, Winklebury, RG23 8AB	Hill Rise Hall, Brighton Hill, RG22 4JZ	The Warren, Hatch Warren Community Centre, RG22 4XF	The Ridgeway Community Centre, Buckskin, RG22 5BN	The Field Gate Centre, Kingsclere, RG20 5SQ
£1.50 per child pay on the day	£1.50 per child pay on the day	£1.50 per child pay on the day	£1.50 per child pay on the day	£1.50 per child pay on the day



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Caretaker/Handyman

Sherbourne St. John Village Hall and Chute Centre

Sherborne St John Parish Council is looking for a part-time Caretaker and a part time Deputy Caretaker to jointly maintain the Sherborne St. John Village Hall and Chute Sports Centre. Successful applicants will be employed by the Sherborne St. John Parish Council.

Applicants for both roles should provide evidence of general d.i.y/handyman skills and previous experience in a like role would be an advantage.

Both individuals would need to have previous general maintenance experience and duties would include setting up and preparing the Hall and Centre for use by the various users of both premises. Applicants should therefore expect a percentage of the role to involve light/medium manual tasks.

Generic plumbing, electrical, painting and decorating experience would also be advantageous but the expectation is that for more extensive works the successful candidates would liaise with contractors brought in to undertake these works. Liaison with a wide range of users of both premises is also a key part of both roles.

Applicants need to have a 'can do' approach in order to pro-actively manage the day to day issues of both facilities.

Living within the village environs or nearby is an essential pre-requisite of both roles.

The Caretaker and the Deputy Caretaker will work as a team in order to ensure that both premises are maintained to a high standard and to provide holiday and sickness cover for each other.

Each role will be for 8 to 10 hours per week (overtime can be anticipated).

For further details (inc. details of salary) interested applicants should contact Penny Mayo, Sherborne St. John Parish Clerk, on ssjclerk@gmail.com tel no :01189332379 for an application form.

Registration Now Open for Basingstoke Festival 2016

Local groups organising events during June and July are being urged to sign up to be part of this year's Basingstoke Festival to help showcase the talent in the borough.

Registration has now opened for the fifth year of the festival, which is coordinated by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. It gives the opportunity to include events from comedy, music or dance to art and craft exhibitions and workshops in Basingstoke Festival 2016, running from Friday 17 June to Sunday 10 July.

If accepted as part of this year's festival, events will be included in the programme with an online version at www.basingstokefestival.co.uk as well as printed copies distributed free to 12,000 people.

Last year the festival boasted a bumper programme of events across the borough including attractions as diverse as free street entertainment in Basingstoke town centre featuring local, national and international artists, a cheese and chilli festival, a zombie apocalypse performance and rock legend Elvis Costello.

A survey showed 93% of the 2015 event organisers want to be involved in the 2016 Basingstoke Festival, with 85% of indicating that their events within the festival were positively received by the audience and attracted new audiences.

Registration runs until Friday 11 March and is free via an online form at www.basingstokefestival.co.uk or by calling 01256 844844 for a registration form.

The borough council's Cabinet Member for Partnerships Cllr Cathy Osselton said: "This year we want to take Basingstoke Festival to new heights with an energetic mix of quality events for all ages in venues across the borough. Fast becoming known as a brilliant showcase for arts and performance across the borough, the festival benefits from the full involvement of home grown talent and community-based groups.

"If you are holding a small theatre production in a local village hall or organising a world premiere concert, we want you to be involved in the festival to help show the wealth of talent and culture we have in the borough. I encourage groups and venues to sign up to share their performances with a wider audience."

To keep up to date with the latest news from Basingstoke Festival 2016 follow @BstokeFestival on Twitter and Instagram or like 'Basingstoke Festival' on Facebook (facebook.com/basingstokefestival)

For further information on this press please contact: Sara Shepherd, Communications and Media Manager, on 01256 845493 or email sara.shepherd@basingstoke.gov.uk.

Ready Emmy Walk

Emmy is my Great-Niece. You may have seen the coverage in the Basingstoke Gazette and Basingstoke Observer. I know the people of Popley are well known for their community spirit and do look to help the family of Popley. Here is their story.

"We are a family of four. We now live in Lychpit but Emmy's Dad grew up in Popley and his Mum and sisters still live there. We have a five year old daughter called Isla and a two year old daughter called Emmy.

Emmy was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy Spastic Diplegia at 20 months old.

Emmy is an identical twin. At 23 weeks gestation, I developed complications that required emergency surgery. Three days later we found out that one of our daughter's hearts had stopped beating. They also told us that it was likely that our surviving daughter would have some form of brain damage.

Emmy was born eight weeks prematurely. Her condition means that she has increased muscle tone in her legs, making them constantly stiff. This affects her balance and co-ordination. She cannot stand or walk independently.

There is no cure, but there is a life changing surgery available called Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR). SDR is not currently funded by the National Health Service. However, in the United States, Dr T.S. Park has performed over 3,000 operations and people from all over the world have travelled to St. Louis for this treatment with him.

We are trying to raise funds to enable Emmy and our family to travel to the US and are fundraising through Just4Children (registered charity No 1164473). Just4Children will securely hold all of Emmy's funds and pay all invoices direct.

Our family's dream is to see Emmy doing the simple things in life that are often taken for granted - walking with her big sister and jumping in muddy puddles like her favourite character Peppa Pig!

Any donation to Emmy's fund would be so very much appreciated. This can be done online at www.justgiving.com/readyemmywalk or contact via email at readyemmywalk@gmail.com.

Thank you so much".

As a family we are all doing all we can to support them.

If you wish to contact them direct they are Carly and Dave King and Carly's personal email is carly.meadows@gmail.com

Carly's maiden name was Meadows and people may remember our family from Shooters Way.

Thank you so much to all the people of Popley for taking the time to read this.

Janet Aris





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