

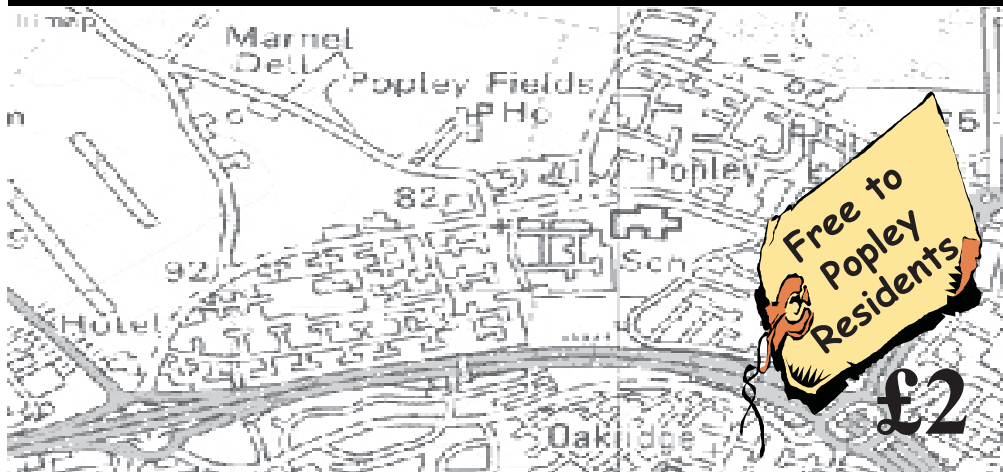
# POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

May 2016

Distribution of 5,300

Issue 171



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-05-16) [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto:editor@popleymatters.org.uk)



Editor  
Jane Frankum

**Message from the Editor:** On Wednesday 20th April at 3pm two residents were walking along Shakespeare Road. A cyclist, described as in his teens, sped past them and stole the hat off the head of the elderly 75 year old gentleman, who had been a serving Gurkha soldier. What a cowardly act. It has left him shocked and frightened to go out even to the local shop. As they told me, it was not about the loss of his woollen hat but the frightening effect that has devastated them. I know this is not what Popley people would want to see or have to hear about. I want to assure these lovely

gentlemen, who were more concerned about people’s future safety than the horrible shock to them personally. I am truly sorry that this happened and I hope the idiot who obviously had no thought to what he was doing gets to hear about his foolish act and has the grace at least to apologise.

May is a great time in Popley with the Popley Festival. I remember the humble beginning many years ago when it started with the Boys Brigade doing a Boot Sale. It quickly grew into the Popley Festival and moved to the old John Hunt School. It now has found another home in Popley Fields. There is always so much to do and see there for all the family. I hope to see lots of you there, details on page 5.

On the centre pages is the remarkable story of one of our Popley residents, I think you will be just as amazed as I was. The new Café will be open in Popley Fields in time for the Popley Festival. More wonderful poems from Merton Infant School on page 26. Once again can I appeal for some volunteers to help with delivering your Popley Matters? It is good exercise and my team say it is great to talk and get to know people when out delivering. Contact me either by phone on 01256 819924 or email: [editor@popleymatters.org.uk](mailto: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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## **Introducing Everest Education Correspondent, Jenny Weldon**

I attend Everest Community Academy, in Year 9.

At Everest, we have a house system to promote competition and participation throughout the school - I am in Richmond House. My favourite subjects are Drama and English.

I enjoy attending Everest and have many friends in different year groups. I play in Pan Everest, our highly popular steel pans group, who are hired to do gigs inside and out of school. So far, I have won the Principal's Award for suggesting ideas to make the school blog, which is currently up and running.

I believe Everest is a fun place to go to and never makes anyone feel left out or like a shadow. Grades are constantly improving and the teachers are always there to encourage and aid the children.

During the Easter holidays I went with the school to Austria for a fun-packed week of skiing. It took me many attempts to even stay up on my skis but after a lot of practice – and a lot of falling down – I finally managed to ski!

I would highly recommend the trip to anyone interested, as it was amazing fun and also a great way of making new friends, including some students from other schools.

I am happy at Everest and highly recommend it to all parents in the community.

---

### **Your Hospice Needs YOU.**

## **Volunteers needed for St. Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire) House to House Collection in June**

St. Michael's Hospice is looking for volunteers to help out with their annual House to House collection. If you have a couple of hours to spare in June to deliver and pick up envelopes and would like to be involved then please contact Lynne Grimshaw, Community Campaigns Coordinator on 01256 848845 or email [Lynne.grimshaw@stmichaelshospice.org.uk](mailto:Lynne.grimshaw@stmichaelshospice.org.uk)



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**Councillors' Page:** It is a really hard time for so many people and the savage cuts to funding are hitting the most needy, including Children's Centres, NHS and now cuts to funding in pharmacies. Abbey Road Pharmacy is a small independent business that will be hit by this proposal. The pharmacist told me he may not be able to function and it could cause them to close. There is a petition in the shop and there are already nearly 1,000 signatures so if you value this service please go there and sign or sign the one on social media. There is also a petition to stop cuts to closing of ten of the eleven Children's Centres in the shop too.

After years of campaigning, I am happy to say that Hampshire County Council have secured that up to date Broadband facilities will be built into new developments. Thank you to Basingstoke Broadband Campaigners on Facebook for your incredible work and support to make this a reality. It was crazy in this day and age that it was not treated in the same way as other utilities and should come with the new buildings! Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

**Popley West:** On 18th March we took the new Executive Director on a tour of Popley West and pointed out places where we felt improvements were needed including the state of the area, parking, and including landscaping. We also met with some residents at St Gabriel's, Everest Community Fitness and health and Nick Price Principal of Everest Community Academy.

There have been several contacts made to us about a few people parking on corners and opposite road junctions. This is not only illegal but, more importantly, dangerous as it makes it almost impossible to see oncoming traffic and is a hazard to pedestrians. We have also had complaints about dog fouling and people not picking up the mess. The complaints come mainly from dog owners who are frustrated that just a few people don't clear up the mess when clearly most owners do.

Some replacement trees are being planted around Abbey Road. They will be smaller, not close to houses and much more manageable and appropriate.

Its looks like the gas people will be in the estate for some months while they upgrade the gas supply system.

**Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924**

**cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk**

**Popley East:** Currently, we are involved in the campaign to prevent the closure of Pebbles Children's Centre, Shakespeare Road. Hampshire County Council is proposing to shut 10 out of 11 of Basingstoke's Children's Centres including Pebbles which offers a vital lifeline to many parents in Popley and elsewhere. HCC is undertaking a consultation exercise which ends on 3 May 2016 and a final decision about the extent of closures will be taken at a later date. A number of petitions are being organised and we are urging everyone who cares about the well-being of young children and their parents to get involved in the campaign to stop the closures.

The impact of closure on the Popley community will be immense.

The range of services provided by Children's Centres is not always known and these services for children under five and their families help them to make the most of life's opportunities, whatever their background or circumstances.

The implications for staff will also be severe with as many as 60 % losing their jobs.

These staff offer social, educational, mental and physical support to parents and children.

The County Council is talking about keeping one centre open in Basingstoke where a much reduced and limited service will be on offer. This centre is likely to be miles away from Popley and inaccessible to most existing users.

**Cllr David Potter 07941507801**

**cllr.david.potter@basingstoke.gov.uk**

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### **SHERBORNE ST. JOHN VILLAGE HALL AND CHUTE CENTRE**

Sherborne St John Parish Council is looking for 2 people to work part time as Caretakers overseeing and looking after the Sherborne St. John Village Hall and Chute Sports Centre.

The 2 positions could suit a wide range of ages – from older retired people – both men and women – to students studying 2/3 year courses.

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While the work may involve making small repairs, the expectation is that for most work needed the successful candidates would liaise with contractors brought in to undertake these works arranged by the Parish Clerk and the Village Hall Committee.

A positive and cheerful attitude and enjoyment in dealing with a wide range of people and situations is wanted, rather than experience, with 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 2 people will work as a team to ensure cover to 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](mailto:ssjclerk@gmail.com) tel no :01189332379 for an application form.**



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Dear Friends

St Gabriel's is on the verge of joining the building fever that's gripped Popley and it's surrounding areas over the past ten years! We are really excited because we now have the funding in place to commence the extensions to our community facilities. This includes doubling the size of our present hall and adding a new extension to the side of the church that will bring new community rooms, toilet facilities and a larger kitchen. St Gabriel's really is a focal point of community activity and one of my favourites is the Tuesday Café where you can enjoy a barista style coffee, enjoyed in a relaxing atmosphere and with a soft play area for young children – right now, as with many of our community groups, it's really buzzing!

We're also really excited about Popley Festival on Sunday 15th May. We're making our buildings project a major feature and, if you'd like to know more then come and have a cream tea of coffee in the café in the marquee and see the plans for yourselves and we'll be there to answer any questions you may have!

Psalm 127:1 says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain" . Written over 3,000 years ago of King Solomon, I believe these words are as true as ever today as they were then. I believe there is both a physical and a spiritual dimension to these words. Nicky Gumbel, vicar of a church in London said, "we all have a God shaped hole in us and only He can fill it." Similarly Saint Augustine 800 years ago wrote, "our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you." From Solomon to Augustine to Nicky Gumbel that theme keeps cropping up! It's interesting the things we often try to fill that hole with, but somehow they never quite make us whole and the hole remains! The fact is we will always struggle to do it on our own!

We all have areas where we would like to see growth and change. And we all have weaknesses just as we all have strengths. But I believe that trying to change in our own strength just brings frustration. For me it doesn't really matter what our strengths or weaknesses are because I believe we will all, always need God. This verse of the Bible says to me that it is not by our power, but by the grace of God through the work of His Holy Spirit, that we change and grow in life. It's by His grace and power that St Gabriel's is flourishing and is able to take on such a massive building project.

It's an exciting time but we are keeping our feet firmly grounded and rooted in Jesus who is our foundation stone. I do hope you'll take five minutes at the Popley Festival to pop in and see us and speak to one of our team – btw there will be loads of other stuff going on in the marquee as well!

**Look forward to seeing you there.**

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# Annual Woofs and Wellies

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April saw St. Michael's Hospice hold its annual Woofs and Wellies walk on the glorious grounds of Lord Portsmouth's estate in Farleigh Wallop. The sun shone brightly on the nearly 300 people who came along to support the work of the Hospice. The event hopes to raise £10,000 towards the £3.8 million running costs of the Hospice.

The winner of this year's Best Dog was the lovely Rosie who was only recently rescued from Battersea Dog's Home.

Two new routes were tackled; a 5 mile option and a challenging 10 miler. Many people walked without dogs, just enjoying the opportunity to view the glorious Hampshire countryside from within the magnificent private estate. There were plenty of children too and everyone enjoyed the cake provided by the Hospice's chef afterwards.

There was corporate support too in the form of Mars Drinks providing all the refreshments; Projected Image supplying the PA system; and Sentinel HA and BMI Hampshire Clinic getting together teams of walkers. The Basingstoke Ramblers again plotted and planned the routes, both of which were new this year, and provided the course marshals on both routes.



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## New Cafe opening May 2016

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So whether you're on your way to work, dropping the kids off, looking to catch up with friends or just taking a walk in the woods, the cafe is a perfect place to stop.

As we establish the service, the cafe will be open 10-4pm Monday to Friday however we'd really value your feedback and suggestions about how we can make the cafe even better for you, so pop in for a coffee and have a chat!

During May, if you bring in this advert you can have a free standard hot drink of your choice on us! Hope to see you soon....



**Headquarters:**

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

<b>Group Scout Leader:</b>	<b>Colin Karslake</b>	01256 410559
<b>Scout section:</b>	<b>Kevin Pocock</b>	07867 046 759
<b>Cub Scout section:</b>	<b>Douglas Gowan</b>	01256 412326
<b>Beaver Scout section:</b>	<b>Eve Alexander</b>	07790 018 171

Members of the Air Scout Group attended St. George's Day Parade in the town shopping centre. This year all three Districts in the area (Basingstoke East, Basingstoke West and Silchester) gathered for joint **outdoor** celebrations in recognition of it being the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Cub Scouting. As is customary the short commemoration included the opportunity for members to renew their Promise and remind themselves of what it takes to be a true scout. The Deputy Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane Councillor Mrs Jane Frankum (and Popley councillor) took the salute as the parade of young people from the 28 Scout Groups and 9 Explorer Units in the area emerged from Festival Place Centre and strode on to Eastrop Park for the short service of rededication and presentaion of St. George's Day Awards. The parade was accompanied by the Arundel and Littlehampton Scout Band.



The Scout section has been busy putting the **OUT** in Sc**OUT**ing with the lighter evenings and (sometimes!) warmer weather.

Earlier in the year the programme dwelt on matters such as personal fitness, disabilities, international issues, Easter Crafts and D-I-Y skills. The troop also had a night hike starting in the town centre and finishing with the ever popular 'sleepover' and a 'big' breakfast in Base 2000.

More recently thoughts are turning to preparations for summer camp, **outdoor** pursuits and reminders of how to pack a ruck sack successfully (and what to remember to put in it!). Then there's refreshing your memory as to the right way to pitch a tent in the rain and wind and how to make sure both the campsite and yourselves stay clean, hygienic and healthy.

At the end of May, the troop will hold a short preparatory camp with the main summer camp taking place at Lyons Copse at the beginning of August.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Scout section is open to both boys and girls aged between 10½ - 14 years and meets on a Friday evening in Base 2000 from 7a.m.-9 p.m. New recruits are welcome but sometimes the troop are out and about so it could be a good idea to contact the Scout Leader 07867 046 759 or e-mail kevin.scouts@btinternet.com first to check the programme or have a look at our website or facebook pages. Look forward to seeing you.

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

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# Popley Based Girl Power...Boat Racer??

I am a successful Offshore Powerboat Racer, and am a girl on a mission to get more recognition for female athletes and girl participation in what is commonly thought of as a male dominated sport within the motor sport sphere. As I'm based in Popley it would be great to gather some local support for our upcoming racing campaign and thought it may make a nice story for the Popley Matters publication? Here's a summary of my story:

"Growing up I was a bit of a tearaway, the only thing that kept me on the straight and narrow was horse riding. Then after a family dispute following my GCSEs, I left home (although the truth is my parents threw me out) and I spent a year sofa surfing. It wasn't until I enrolled on a Prince's Trust program and went to a careers day where I came across a British Army Recruitment stand. Being renowned for not one to take well to discipline and authority my friends joked that I wouldn't 'dare' join the Army. This sparked my competitive side and I think, maybe subconsciously, I knew I needed some discipline. Whisked away to Army Training 2 months later, after my 18th birthday, I found myself on the frontline in Iraq. This was followed by subsequent tours of Afghanistan where sadly I was injured which led to my discharge in 2013 and moved to Basingstoke in 2014 for employment reasons.

I was then introduced to P1 Powerboat Racing at a corporate sponsorship day. Having no boating experience (less for a mackerel trip when I was young and the odd ferry journey to the Isle of Wight!) I was then invited to attend mandatory race training with the prospect of being a reserve driver in the P1 150 series for the Mission Motor sport team. On a full course of men with 7 times World Champion Powerboat Racer Neil Holmes, I was heckled by the other students for not knowing my port from my starboard and of course for being stereotyped as a woman



who can't drive nor read a map! The course has a 70% attrition rate with the majority of attendees having to go back for more training. I was shocked and secretly smug when on the final day it was announced I was the only one to pass. Mission Motorsport

had no choice but to sit me in the boat for the series' toughest 35nm offshore race from Cowes on the Isle of Wight to Poole then back to Cowes only a few days later.

Given that our sport relies heavily on teamwork for the two man crew to succeed, my driver and I only met each other on the day of the race so we were not predicted to do well. In fact it would be an achievement if we were to just finish the race. Against the odds, I navigated us to the team's best ever result with a podium finish of 3rd. From this moment I was hooked.

Then the 150 series folded and Mission Motorsport announced they would not be able to step up to the larger 250 class. An amazing experience but I thought that was the end of my

short lived powerboat racing career. Until I was scouted by ex-champion John Wilson to step up and co-pilot for him in the bigger class.

In 2013 we were leading the championship and, unfortunately, suffered disqualification followed by getting thrown out of the boat in one weekend which put us right back down the pack. Relatively unscathed (black eye, chipped tooth and dented pride) we made a comeback at the next event with an outstanding winning weekend achieving top in 4 out of the 5 races. We finished overall 3rd in the season and I was awarded 2013 P1 Sports Personality of the Year.

In 2014 we were on track to win the Championship with a 7 point lead going into the final round in Gosport. Then in a cruel twist of fate, at the start of the second race our gearbox went and we missed out on precious points due to this DNF (Did Not Finish). This left us with another 3rd place overall in the 2014 Championship.

Last year we had a disappointing first round due to engine failures but by the penultimate round in Cardiff we were back at the top of the Championship until another boat collided into us which resulted in disqualification, despite not being at fault. This incident was critical as due to the tight space in the bay, we were racing in heats and the lack of points meant we could only qualify for the 'Plate Final' where the highest result to be achieved can be 4th. Despite a phenomenal winning final round in Bournemouth, racing in some of the roughest conditions our series has seen to date, we were unable to recover from the tragedy endured in Cardiff and finished 2nd overall.

Following the close of the UK season my former team mate, John Wilson announced his retirement after we were invited to race in the closing round of the US series in Tavares, Florida. In a boat we had never seen and that its previous team deemed to be slow, we went out and shown the Americans how its done and won the weekend. A fantastic close to John and my 3 year partnership.

Since then our Team Manager, Sam Coleman (my brother) has stepped up to the mark and will be racing with me. Already hotlisted as one to watch, he achieved his race training in record time for someone from a non-boating background. With guest drives in the Visit Wales backed boat contributing to their overall 3rd place Championship finish and achieving 2nd place in his second ever race, we're going to be a force to be reckoned with in 2016 with aspirations to race both sides of the pond in the UK and USA so watch this space!"

I thank you for taking the time to read my story. I've attached some pics and a copy of our latest sponsorship proposal for info. Don't worry we're not after money (unless this is an avenue you'd like to explore given our sport is fully televised globally with an excellent brand reach) but I thought it is a nice summary of our sport and what we have to offer. I look forward to hearing from you and do hope you'd be able to help with my campaign to get more women into sport and some local support behind us!

**Kind regards,  
Daisy Coleman**



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Popley Explorers Preschool meets on 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 always 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, 6pm 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 6.30pm. 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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## **Over 55s Forum**

I am organising a trip to the Mini Car Factory with a tour at Cowley, Oxford, (date to be confirmed). I need to get 45 and I am halfway there already. The price is £28.25 and includes your coach and tour. We will also have time to stop in Oxford to look round. I have recently been on this tour, it is brilliant and well worth a visit at this price. I am also organising a trip to the Chiltern Valley Winery Tour (date to be confirmed). The tour includes three or four tasting of wines - three or four tastings of liqueurs; and three or four tasting of ales. If there is time we will have a surprise visit to another place of interest. Price £28.25 includes coach and tour.

Movement and Stretch session for Over 55s are held each Thursday from 11.00am to midday at the Carnival Hall, Council Road and a small fee is charged. Why not come along and try a session to see if it suits you.

Carnival Chorus meets every Tuesday, 1.30pm to 3pm at the Carnival Hall, Council Road, for practice sessions. The Carnival Chorus during the year visit care and residential homes singing to the residents.

The Forum has had to close their membership at 650. Anyone wishing to join, please send your name and contact details to the secretary to have your name placed on the reserve list. Secretary gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com or 30 Dartmouth Walk, Basingstoke, RG22 6QS. *Gerald (Secretary & Tour Manager)*



**Double joy as Charlie finds his forever home and is reunited with his first owner**

In July 2015 Cats Protection's Basingstoke & District Branch received a call about two cats that had been left behind after their owners had been evicted. With a bit of detective work, they tracked down their owners and they signed them over to the branch.

Gayna Ballard, Branch Co-ordinator said: "We decided it would be best to home the cats separately. Stella soon found a home but poor Charlie didn't have much luck. Twice we thought we'd found the perfect home but each time it fell through. Then in November, we had a call from a lady called Debbie who was looking for an older cat, and Charlie had caught her eye. They were the perfect match and he settled in straight away.

"When Debbie's sister-in-law, Michelle, met Charlie she couldn't believe her eyes. It turned out Charlie was her cat Sox, who had gone missing five years earlier! They compared photos and he had the same face, eyes, markings and character. When Michelle called his name, he started rubbing himself round her legs. Isn't that incredible?!"

Sox wasn't microchipped by Michelle, so unfortunately she couldn't be traced. He is microchipped now, thankfully, so if he did ever go missing he could be reunited with his new owner, Debbie. It certainly demonstrates the importance of microchipping.

Thousands of cats go missing every year and research conducted by Cats Protection found that almost half never return, so the charity recommends microchipping as a safe and permanent method of identification. The charity reunites 3,000 cats with their owners every year across the UK.

Microchips contain a unique identification number and are inserted under the cat's skin between their shoulder blades. The number is linked to a database containing details of the pet, as well as the owner's contact details. When a scanner detects the microchip, a simple phone call can ascertain the owner's details and the pet can then be quickly returned home.

"However, it is very important pet owners keep their details up to date, so owners should check their certificate which will tell them how to do this," said Gayna.

Cats Protection's Basingstoke & District Branch operates a Lost and Found register. For more information please visit: [www.basingstoke.cats.org.uk/basingstoke/lost-and-found](http://www.basingstoke.cats.org.uk/basingstoke/lost-and-found)







Now that the good weather has arrived, Melrose Hall and Popley Fields Cycle Club have added a second ride! Tuesday 9.30am with Vicki and Cat (open group) and Friday 10.00 with Nicole (ladies only in conjunction with The Breeze). We have 10 bikes for loan and 2 baby trailers!! All rides, and loans are free, just turn up 20 mins before the ride to register. Our cycle rides are low level, mainly off road riding aimed at getting novice and lapsed riders back in the saddle. You don't need to be Bradley Wiggins or Laura Trott to join us. If you would like a 1 to 1 refresher before joining our group, just call Vicki in the office to arrange a date and time. **NEW!!!** Log your progress with our new rewards scheme, the more you ride with us the more prizes you can win!

Our new Computer Hub is proving very popular on a Friday 12.00-2.00pm. Due to demand we now also have a Wednesday session 6.00-8.00pm. Come along for free use of our computers and access to the Internet. Learn how the Internet can help you! Or learn basic computer skills. Research your family tree with Ancestry, make a doctor's appointment, learn how to use social media, send an e-mail, the possibilities are endless! Booking is advisable, just contact Vicki in the office.

**WHATS ON IN MAY:**

**MONDAY:**

**DAYTIME AND EVENING HIRE AVAILABLE**

7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic

**TUESDAY:**

9.30am-12.00pm Popley Little People

9.30am Free group bike ride (open group)

6.00-8.00pm Computer Hub

5.15-7.30pm Suma Karate

**AFTERNOON AND EVENING AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**

**WEDNESDAY:**

9.00am Slimming World

11.00am Slimming World

12-2pm Oasis Lunch Club

5.30 and 7.30pm Slimming World

**THURSDAY:**

9.30-11.30am Community Cafe

**DAYTIME AND EVENING HIRE AVAILABLE**

**FRIDAY:**

**DAYTIME HIRE AVAILABLE**

9.40 for 10.00am ride- Group cycle Ride (weather permitting)

10.00am Free group bike ride (Ladies only)

12.00-2.00pm Computer Hub

**SATURDAY:**

9.00am-4.00pm 7<sup>TH</sup> Day Adventist Church

10am Sabbath School - Bible Study

11.30am Divine Worship

1pm Free Community Lunch

Contact Emanuel Ampofo on 07456068812 for further details

**EVENING AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**

**SUNDAY:**

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](mailto:Melrosehal21@gmail.com)**

**Also find us on facebook: Melrose hall.**

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## Collaborative law: a better way to separate

Rob Parker, family solicitor at Phillips, explains 'collaborative law', an alternative approach to sorting out family disputes that is increasingly being taken up around North Hampshire.

### Why collaborative law now?

The way family law works in England is changing: the legal system is developing from an adversarial approach to a more collaborative approach which brings the separating couples together to agree matters of importance.

### How does collaborative law work?

The collaborative process deals with family disputes in a non-confrontational way. Both parties instruct their own specially-trained collaborative lawyers and everyone agrees to abide by the Participation Agreement. This means that:

- Neither party should, where possible, go over past events
- The children and their welfare must be the priority
- There should be complete transparency in dealings with financial matters
- All discussions are regarded as "privileged", which means they cannot be brought up later in a subsequent court case

Both parties and the lawyers will sign the agreement. Matters are then resolved in a series of 'four-way' meetings involving both parties and their solicitors, all in one room together.

### Is it suitable for everything?

Not all situations will suit collaborative law, such as where there has been domestic abuse or a party is not willing to be honest and transparent.

### How does collaborative law differ from mediation or going to court?

Mediation is a voluntary process where both parties sit in the same room as the mediator who is impartial and who is not there to give legal advice. You must both agree on solutions or there is no agreement. During the confidential sessions the mediator will help you and your former partner to identify all the issues that need to be resolved and reach a settlement that is acceptable to both of you.

With collaborative law you each have your own solicitor to represent your interests, important in cases where one party may feel less confident about how to address matters. Your solicitor is also on hand to give you legal advice at all times, including during the face-to-face negotiations.

Whilst in mediation and collaborative law the couple arrives at the agreements themselves if you go through the court process, a judgment will be imposed on you by a third party (ie a judge).

### Why does collaborative law work?

It works because it's non-confrontational and you will be dealing with competent, trained lawyers who are sympathetic, approachable and understand what you are going through. The priority is to resolve matters your way, not how the lawyers think it should be.

### What's the best possible outcome?

Resolving matters through collaborative law can be quicker, cheaper and more dignified.

Where there are children matters can be resolved in a calm way to retain an agreeable, working relationship as co-parents in the future.

For more information on Collaborative Law Rob Parker is contactable at [rob.parker@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:rob.parker@phillips-law.co.uk) and 01256 854 604. Further details about collaborative law in the area can be found at the North Hants Collaborative Pod website: [www.resolution.org.uk/northhantspod](http://www.resolution.org.uk/northhantspod)

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Founded in 2005, MFC Popley Youth FA Charter Standard Development Club and Nike Partner Club is a Not For Profit organisation dedicated to coaching boys and girls of all age groups to play football. We provide the children with encouragement and a fun and friendly environment with the opportunity to play in matches.

MFC Popley Youth promotes “Respect” within the club to ensure everyone involved with the teams creates a fair, safe and enjoyable environment in which football can be played.

If you would like to join our team of committed volunteers, either as a coach (experience not necessary as full training will be arranged by the club) or as a parent/guardian volunteer, please contact the Club by email at [volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk](mailto:volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk) for more details.

As of September 2016, MFC Popley Youth will be moving home grounds to Mays Bounty, Fairfields Road, Basingstoke.

This will mean that all of our home fixtures across the age groups will be played there.

Although this is a fantastic move for the club, we are still very much a part of Popley and will strive to keep links with our spiritual home.

#### **Dates for your diary:**

This year’s Open Days will be held on Saturday 25th June and Saturday 9th July at Everest Community Academy on the 3G. These days are used to drive not only new players to the club, but also to help obtain new volunteers.

Sunday 3rd July at 6pm will see the Club hold our Annual General Meeting. We are looking for new members to join the committee, and would like to see at least one person from each age group join.

If you are a parent or guardian of a player at the club, and would like more information on becoming a committee member, or getting more 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, please speak to the manager of your child's age group.

You can get regular updates from the club by following our twitter account, @MFC\_Popley Youth and by using the hashtags #MFCPY #REDandBLACKARMY.

MFC Popley Youth has a dedicated club page on Facebook, and you can also find us on Instagram.

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/](http://www.clubwebshop.com/a-z/clubs/mfcpopley/)

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)

**Zak Collingwood**

# Merton Juniors on the Stage

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March, over 80 children from Merton Junior School travelled all the way to Portsmouth and performed on stage, in front of a full to capacity audience at the Guildhall. These children had been rehearsing for 6 months to compete in the annual, regional competition, Junior Rock Challenge. This year, the Rock Challenge team at Merton chose to base the dance around the famous and sometimes controversial street artist, Banksy. Inspired by his most famous pieces, the team created a story and told it through dance.

In the months leading up to the performance, the children rehearsed weekly, sometimes until 5pm! They also took part in fundraising activities such as prize Bingo, cake sales and even a family race night to gather funds to wow the judges on the night! These fundraisers were very popular with families of children in the crew and other families of children in the school, who wanted to support their school.



Merton Junior School were lucky enough to receive 6 awards in excellence on the night. One of which was for the Fastest Backstage Team. These children were responsible for moving the set throughout the performance.

The staff and children at Merton Junior School really enjoyed watching the performance on the big screen in the hall and are all very proud of this year's team for representing Merton so fantastically!



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### Little Sunflower

I have a little sunflower seed.  
I drop it in the ground.  
I will spend my time talking to  
You and looking after you.  
I will check on you to see  
if you have grown.



When I came back it was first was a shoot  
Then it had leaves and then a sunflower.

**By Alice**

### Flowers in the Garden

I planted a seed  
But up came a weed  
My seed sprouted in one week  
It was as green as other leaves  
*Then it grew a lovely leaf*  
*It was super soft*  
*It grew into a runner bean!*



**By Lewis**

### A Beautiful Flower

I see a beautiful flower fluttering in the sky  
I see a flower laying down  
I see soil as soft as a bed  
I see houses as red as a post box  
I see buttercups as yellow as the sun



I like my garden  
It is fun

**By Lloyd**

### Little Seeds

Little seeds are brown  
We grow them...  
We plants them...  
We talk with them at night



Then we plant and put little water, not lots and lots  
We say grow grow grow.

I love you flower

**By Dalan**

### My Big Garden

In my garden I can see trees right up to my knees,  
And in my garden is the biggest in the world,  
What can I do about it?  
I put some soil in my bed  
And when I wake up there are some flowers in-  
stead



**By Albie**

### Little Seed

Small and round  
I put you in the ground  
And put soil over you  
Now I get a water can and  
Feed you  
Now I put  
Sun over you and  
Make you turn into  
a flower.



**By Dylan**

### My Favourite Flower

I see flowers growing,  
As big as a tree  
Please grow and I can see  
Plants growing and I water my flowers everyday



**By Cayla**

### The Trees

I have a silly tree and it has no leaves.  
I now have a proper tree with leaves and an animal  
in it.

The tree needs rain and sun.

The leaves are green and the rest is brown.

The wind blows the trees and the wind blows the  
leaves on the trees.



**By Fayth**

### My Tree

Is older than my Nan.  
Is wider than a bus.  
It stands like a soldier  
Its taller than a house.  
It makes a noise like Dad.  
Its rough like a rock.  
It smells like a pig.



**By Jarid**

### The Magic Flower

My magic flower I planted it in soil,  
I put it in the sun and waited for it to boil,  
I hope it will be as big as a tree,  
I hope it has magic to help you and me.

**By Alicia**

### Flower

Flowers are beautiful, I want to smell  
I know my garden  
I can look at them all day  
Flowers are special



**By Lulu**

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**Or just come along to rehearsal at  
United Reformed Church,  
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# Play Croquet!

Now's the time to forget winter and take up a new sport. Come and try croquet!

You can play at Down Grange during the summer months with Basingstoke Croquet Club or the U3A Croquet Section.

Forget the silly stuff you hear on the telly about croquet: it is a serious game that can be enjoyed by anybody. We play two types of croquet - "Association Croquet" is a game of skill and tactics, not unlike snooker on grass.

And there is a simpler form - "Golf Croquet" which is easier to play and more of a social event.

If you would like to have a go - no previous experience required - come to Down Grange on a Saturday morning from about 10.00am.

The lawn is up the hill to the left of the Toby Carvery entrance as you look at it.

For more details have a look at our website [www.basingstokecroquet.co.uk](http://www.basingstokecroquet.co.uk) or e-mail Charmian Harrison at [info@basingstokecroquet.co.uk](mailto:info@basingstokecroquet.co.uk)



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