

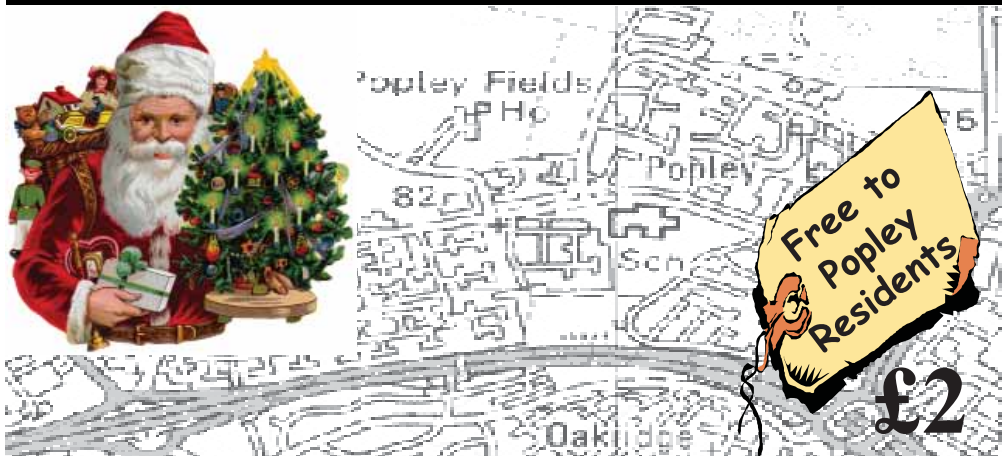
POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

December 2016

Distribution of 5,400

Issue 178



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-12-16) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: I Wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year for 2017. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers that help to get Popley Matters delivered to you our readers. In May, we celebrate 25 years of Popley Matters and Paul and I have been involved for 20 of those years. A special mention to Paul Frankum who spends hours laying it out and to Chris Martin, the Treasurer.

Thank you to those that came to the Remembrance service especially Merton School Choir. All residents are invited to St Michael's Church on 10th from 7 pm to join in the Mayors 'Carol Concert' proceeds to the Mayor's Community Chest Charity. Merton school and Everest will be taking part with songs and readings.

As much as I love Christmas time I hate the cold and ice. Please be careful on the slippery paths and roads. Also can I ask you again to watch out for your neighbours and friends that are vulnerable?

There are a number of Christmas Fayres and events on page 5 Spotlight; Christmas competition on page 9; and a Christmas Craft Market page 19. I like to get my handmade items at these sort of events. I may be old fashioned but when someone has taken the time and effort to make a gift it takes on a special meaning to me.

The centre pages are to inform you of the new bus service, Popley 55, that is being run by Basingstoke Community Transport a charity. Of course I don't really need to say it but we need to use it or we will lose it. It is three times a day so lets' see what happens. We still need more people who will deliver in Popley Poets and some other roads. Please contact me details below.

Contact me at either 405 Abbey Road, phone me, on 01256 819924 or email me at 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

Big Help Music

The current Miss Basingstoke, Nicola Ascroft, a finalist in this year's Miss England, is featured in fellow finalist Rheo Parnell's forthcoming music video for an internationally distributed Charity Christmas single called "Our World".

The music video for the track was directed by award-winning director Jack Van Spall from Mountain Pictures and was filmed in a variety of diverse locations across the country. One of the locations featured 55 Miss England Finalists sporting shiny gold catsuits, made all the more sparkly on the hottest day of the year in July.

The song "Our World" was produced by Big Help Music which is the leading Artist Development, Management and Recording Company in the UK, and was written by professional songwriter and former "That's Life" crew member, Michael Groth. The song was originally written for internationally acclaimed band U2, but it was never used on their album. "Our World" tells the extremely pertinent story of growing environmental breakdown, of the increasing extremes in weather and climate, and of social and political unrest on the planet. The song calls for the human race to work together in these difficult times.

The proceeds from "Our World" will raise money for the Miss England and Miss World affiliated charity "Beauty With A Purpose". The charity works to improve the lives of sick, disabled and disadvantaged children throughout the UK and worldwide. Funds raised through "Beauty With A Purpose" are re-invested in the towns and communities who raised them. The star of the song Rheo Elyse, who holds the title of Miss Coventry and Warwickshire, has been performing the song, at Miss England events throughout the UK and "Our World" will also be promoted at the Miss World Finals this December in Washington DC (USA).

Big Help record company boss, Dutch Van Spall said, "This is by far one of the most ambitious videos we have ever made. Having access to all 55 Miss England finalists added some spectacular images and all of the girls have been incredibly supportive throughout the production process, which has had its challenges. We are very proud of the finished product and we hope it is well received by the British public. We have yet to see how successful we will be in the charts and we are realistic enough to realize we are up against some of the fiercest competition of the year. However, that is not our main aim. Raising awareness and funds for Beauty With A Purpose is the present we are hoping for this Christmas!"

You can check out the video featuring Nicola on YouTube and pre-order your copy of "Our World" from iTunes from 11th November (2016).

Rheo will be performing live at the official launch of the single - on the Miss England stand at The Clothes Show, NEC Birmingham on Friday 2nd December at 12.15pm. A special photocall will include TWO previous Miss England winners, Doctor Carina Tyrrell and Natasha Hemmings, who will both be dressed as "Golden Girls" in the gold jumpsuits worn by all the Miss England 2016 finalists in Southport.



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Councillors' Page: I had the Highways Officer look at the flooding problems in the Popley Community Park and she has agreed that one small drain is not enough to cope with all the new continuing development; the issue is on the list for funding. St Bede's had a flood in the church and they are dealing with that.

I have asked for a no U-turn at the Chineham end of Popley. It is dangerous to turn here and has had some near misses; all this to save just a few seconds. Is it worth injuries or risking a fatality?

With the winter comes the snow and ice. Can I remind the few people that take the salt and grit from the bins provided to do your own paths that you are using it inappropriately as it is for the roads and highways that are owned by Highways and is there to make it safer to drive and get to work. Again I make the plea not to use cat litter as it refreezes to sheets of ice and it leaves stains and rots your flooring. *Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk*

Popley West: A very happy Christmas and a happy and propitious New Year to all our residents in Popley.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Remembrance service. Merton School Choir sang Peace, Perfect Peace beautifully. They will sing again at the Mayor's Carol Concert and we have readings by the Head Girl and Boy at Everest Community Academy and a solo by Carla from Everest. All are welcome on 10th December from 7 pm at St Michael's Church.

The parking in all parts of Popley is about as bad as we have seen in the 45 years we have lived here. There are many more cars to a lot of the houses so you need to think safe. My main concern is the safety, especially when cars park across dropped kerbs and when they almost block the paths so residents have to walk on a busy road. Please think of other people when you park. Marnel Park is being looked at to extend the yellow lines. It is at the courtesy of the Police that you can park on the highway. I have been told that this government is going to extend the law from outside London where it is illegal to park on paths and there is a traffic order to enforce it. So far most of Popley, and indeed Basingstoke and Deane, does not have traffic orders.

Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924
cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk
Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924
cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Popley East: The Battery Energy Storage facility in Basing Forest is in the planning system for determination. We believe it will go forward for decision in January/February 2017. We oppose the application but do not know as yet whether it will be recommended for approval or not. We will encourage public opposition against the application and will notify the public of the Development Control Committee meeting when we know it. You will be able to speak about the application at the meeting if you wish to but you will have to be registered to do so. Please look out for information and we will use social media as necessary.

The elevated play areas at Sark Way have been the cause of many problems for residents and we are working with Council officers to design some improvements. Some of the anti-social behaviour problems relate to ball games and the like but it has to be recognised that the area was provided to allow children to play safely in a central area.

We intend to consult with residents on a range of issues to see if there is any common agreement on preferred solutions. Please look out for this.

Cllr David Potter 07941507801
cllr.david.potter@basingstoke.gov.uk
Cllr Janet Westbrook 07747335200
cllr.janet.westbrook@basingstoke.gov.uk

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Everest Community Academy News

On 3rd November The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane Councillor Jane Frankum came to our GCSE presentation evening, and presented the certificates to all the students. There were also twenty one special awards given. Unfortunately the speaker Simon Harmer could not make it so the Head Mr Nick Price spoke about Simon and showed the inspiring film of Simon's story. We were entertained by two great pieces of music played on the guitar by Andrew Davis. Well done everyone.

On Saturday 12th November, Everest's steel pan group and dance group took part in The Children's Extravaganza for the Mayor's Community Chest Charity. The dancers did exceptionally well, with an exciting piece that was thoroughly enjoyed. Although the Everest pan group was not playing as a performer, they played during the interval where delicious dishes from many different countries were being served. People had a chance to chat until the interval ended. There were lots of compliments about the performances. Well done to all those who took part in the charity event! It was a successful fundraiser because of you!



6th Basingstoke Boys Brigade

As we embark on a new session we have seen a remarkable leap in numbers for our younger section with our numbers increasing significantly. Within this section we have been getting to know each other through ice-breakers and team games, enabling us to find common interests with one another. We've also learnt about what to do in emergencies, 999 calls and role-playing situations for this and other dramas.

Both sections (5-10 and 11+) have been doing physical fitness activities to strengthen team building and togetherness. As part of the St. Gabriel's renovation program we have also been assisting in the garden, taking responsibility of a section of the border. This is being spear-headed by our resident "Garden VIP" Dave Phillips who will help design and manage the patch.

On 13th November we were amazed at the turn out for the Remembrance Day parade at St Gabriel's Church in Popley which is a fantastic service. We had the honour of laying the wreaths and lowering of our flags, so come see us in action.

The Company section have been learning all about websites and how to design one, the dangers of alcohol and also discussing things in an open forum regarding their frustrations and concerns. During the summer this year our Company section went down to Devon for the annual camping trip. A week of fun filled sports, activities like mountain biking, swimming learning camping crafts and a trip to Go-Ape (funded by a fundraising event).

As we approach Christmas we have a few events planned including; a trip to the Powerleague, a Christmas Quiz and Meal, a special treat to the Jump Factory and further in the distance our camping experiences.

Most of the above is only £1 a week so if you would like to have a look and see what we're all about please pop along on a Monday or give me a call on 07775 535434. Mark Hood Company Captain
6th Basingstoke Boys' Brigade

New Orleans Halloween Jazz Party



Lions Club of Basingstoke

Now I've seen it all (I hope)! I've always entertained suspicions about my fellow Lions! On Saturday 29th October at the Viables Community Hall, the worst were confirmed. We had skeletons, Draculas (complete with brides), Morticias and all manner of witches, ghouls and ghosties. It was like "Tam o' Shanter" brought to life. But, it was an improvement on their normal personae. Fortunately all the Halloween stuff was counterbalanced to a small extent by some semblance of elegance on the "New Orleans" side.

The Sussex Jazz Kings kept our "spirits" high with their toe tapping renditions of such all time greats as "Yellow Dog Blues", "Walk Through the City", "Marching Through Georgia", and, (on the naughty side) "Miller's Daughter Mary Ann". If you want an event to go with a swing, they're the boys.

During the interval we had an excellent finger buffet courtesy of M&S. Sandwiches, chicken drumsticks, pork pies, cheese and biscuits etc. etc. And many "doggy bags" were taken home – all very good, and value for money to boot.

Then the Sussex Jazz Kings took over again with the theme tune from Dad's Army, "Burgundy Street Blues", and "Carry me Back to Old Virginia", before sending us home to the strains of "Carolina Moon", "Sleepy Time Gal" and finally, "We'll Meet Again". I certainly hope so!

To see a selection of the pictorial nasties, go to our website www.basingstokelions.org.uk/ and click on the Club News page and the appropriate sidebar.



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RCS have been given a very special job this year. Santa has personally asked us to help him out; helping him to gather, and send on, the letters from the young boys and girls in the local area.

Be sure to send us your letter by **SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER** so we can make sure it gets to the North Pole in time for Christmas!

How to enter:

1. Write your best letter to Santa, don't forget to tell him how good you have been this year.
2. Send your letter to our Christmas elves at RCSXMAS@GMAIL.COM. Send your letter as either an attachment or write the letter in the message box itself.
3. Cross your fingers and wait to see if you are lucky enough to receive a reply from Santa himself.



A lucky winner will be selected at random, and will receive an early Christmas present!!



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Group Scout Leader: Colin Karslake 01256 410559

Scout section: Kevin Pocock 07717 108 560

Cub Scout section: Douglas Gowan 01256 412326

Beaver Scout section: Eve Alexander 07790 018 171



Opportunities for fun and adventure followed by the solemnity of the annual Remembrance Sunday parade and service - such is the diversity of Scouting today.

Members of the troop joined with others at the Remembrance Sunday Service at St. Mary's Church in Old Basing to pay their respects to all those who have died in the service of our country over the years.

'We will remember them'



Only a few weeks earlier the troop had experienced fun and adventure at Alton Towers having spent the previous night in a local Scout headquarters to make sure they made the most of their one day visit.

Other activities in recent weeks include basic flying rules and exploring why a hot-air balloon works!

For more information contact the Colin Karslake Group Scout



Leader on 01256 410559 / 07796 772 500 or link to our facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeAirScouts>

Charity number 267734

Headquarters registration number 42755

Dear Friends

As you're wandering around the shops, listening to the radio or watching TV this month no doubt at some point the lyrics of those all too familiar Christmas songs will worm their way deeply into your mind until you wake up humming or singing at least one of them over and over again! For example: *"It's Christmas time; there's no need to be afraid. At Christmastime, we let in light and we banish shade. And in our world of plenty we can spread a smile of joy. Throw your arms around the world at Christmastime."* *"A very Merry Christmas, and a happy new year. Let's hope it's a good one, without any fear!"* or *"So here it is Merry Christmas everybody's having fun. Look to the future now, It's only just begun!"*

Set alongside the traditional Christmas Carols that we'll also be singing there is clearly an overriding theme in all these songs that speaks of a hope for the future; for ourselves, our families and for the world in which we live.

Where does this hope come from? Is it just rooted in this season of peace on earth, goodwill towards men, something to be put away once January arrives and things get back to 'normal' whatever that is or means! The past year has seen some seismic political upheaval through Brexit and the election of Donald Trump to the White House; images of the plight of the thousands of refugees fleeing conflict and poverty in the Middle East and Africa have brought home the terrible anguish and suffering of other human beings and for so many there is still the stress and anxiety of daily living highlighted recently in the Children in Need campaign which raised an astonishing £46m!

Sadly history is littered with the human debris of conflict, division, war, poverty and disease so it is no wonder that we long to hear a message of hope. Hope for the future, hope for humankind and when we do hear it, doesn't it bring a good, good feeling with it?

I believe that as humankind we lack the capacity for permanent change. It seems to me that there is an essential need in the human spirit to fill a gap, to search out something that's gone missing! A gap we try to fill with all sorts of harmful things! I know of only one way to fill that gap! A message is broadcast throughout the year, but especially so now, at this time! It is the message of a Saviour, born in a stable 2,000 years ago, born for you and for me, born the Son of God! Our God is not a God who stands far off watching us wallow in suffering and pain, he is a God of compassion and care who took the only course of action he could – he rolled up his sleeves and got stuck in with us to show us how that hope we all sense can become a reality. (Check out the this link on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zD8FjeOYKgU>).

When you're singing those Christmas songs or carols, listen to the words! What are they saying to you? May God richly bless you and yours this Christmas time and throughout the coming year and may you know the peace of the Christ-child.

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Basingstoke Shed is like a typical garden shed, but for a group. Working in groups like this has been shown to improve physical and mental health, and to be a lot of fun.

Find out more at the newly established **Basingstoke Shed** where you can see what's going on and join in.

Our core opening times are 4pm to 8pm Monday and Wednesday (see our website for other times) at the Everest Community Academy, Basingstoke RG24 9UP

We are always grateful for donations of unwanted tools



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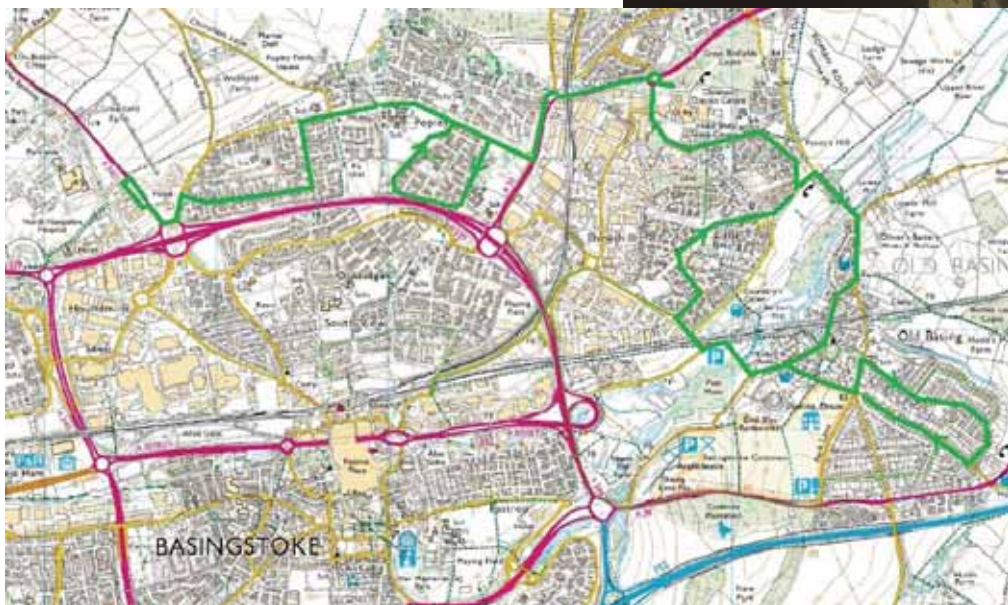


Route 55

Basingstoke Community Transport

Basingstoke Community Transport is now operating a bus service to cover Shakespeare Road to Abbey Road then on to the hospital, then from the hospital to Abbey Road to Shakespeare Road, then to Chineham Tesco. The current time table does include Carpenters Down but while we were doing the route noticed that the area is well serviced by Stagecoach so we have stopped operating that area. The price is £1 per trip to or from the Chineham stage of the route. You can use a valid concessionary bus pass but not a prepaid Stagecoach pass. The service is a Hail and Ride service so there is no need to wait at a bus stop.

Any queries, please ring Basingstoke Community Transport on 01256 320501.



Mon, Wed & Fri

Tesco Chineham Depart		11:25	13:25
Pyotts Hill	09:30	11:30	13:30
The Street Methodist Church	09:31	11:31	13:31
The Street Bakery	09:32	11:32	13:32
Park Lane	09:35	11:35	13:35
London Rd A30 W	09:36	11:36	13:36
London Rd A30 E	09:37	11:37	13:37
Hatch Lane South	09:38	11:38	13:38
Linden Avenue	09:39	11:39	13:39
Park Avenue W	09:41	11:41	13:41
Byfleet Avenue	09:42	11:42	13:42
Milkenpen Road	09:43	11:43	13:43
Belle Vue Road Shops	09:45	11:45	13:45
Belle Vue Road East	09:47	11:47	13:47
Hatch Lane North	09:48	11:48	13:48
The Street Crown Pub	09:50	11:50	13:50
Great Binfield Road (Lychpit Surgery)	09:53	11:53	13:53
Tesco Chineham Arrive	09:57	11:57	13:57
Tesco Chineham Depart	10:00	12:00	14:00
Lidl Reading Rd W	10:02	12:02	14:02
Shakespeare Surgery	10:04	12:04	14:04
Carpenters Down North	10:06	12:06	14:06
Carpenters Down Popley Fields	10:08	12:08	14:08
Shetland Road	10:10	12:10	14:10
Carpenters Down South	10:11	12:11	14:11
Popley Way	10:13	12:13	14:13
Abbey Road Shops	10:15	12:15	14:15
Hospital Arrive	10:25	12:25	14:25
Hospital Depart	11:00	13:00	15:00
Abbey Road Shops	11:05	13:05	15:05
Popley Way	11:07	13:07	15:07
Carpenters Down North	11:08	13:08	15:08
Carpenters Down Popley Fields	11:10	13:10	15:10
Shetland Road	11:12	13:12	15:12
Carpenters Down South	11:13	13:13	15:13
Shakespeare Surgery	11:15	13:15	15:15
Lidl Reading Rd E	11:17	13:17	15:17
Tesco Chineham Arrive	11:19	13:19	15:19

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Basingstoke Volunteer Recruitment Fair



On Wednesday 2nd November Basingstoke Volunteer Centre organised a Volunteer Recruitment Fair inside the Discovery Centre; 18 organisations took part and showcased their voluntary roles to visitors to the event. Although a short day (10am – 2pm) this was a bonus to organisations running tables with volunteers, making it easier to staff a table, and with some good marketing via social media beforehand, there were people turning up early trying to find out about volunteering! The event was busy, especially in the first couple of hours and initial feedback indicates that most organisations had between 6 and 20 visitors to their tables and all registered the details of some potential volunteers, with 25% expecting to recruit between 6 and 10 new volunteers. Feedback from organisations included, “It had a relaxed feel and it was good to have it in a public setting” and “The quality of people that came to the event was good”.

Sarah Robinson from Basingstoke Volunteer Centre was delighted with how the event went: “The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Cllr Jane Frankum, attended with the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Paul Frankum, and met the organisations, discussing their needs for new volunteers, and Cllr Simon Bound, Cabinet member for Communities and Community Safety also came to the fair, discussing partnership working between organisations. The event was a great opportunity to network and find ways of working together. This was our first recruitment event for some time – previously we have held events in more public areas but this incurred a huge cost, or required a lot of time commitment from organisations; partnering with the Discovery Centre to run this event has been an exciting new development for us and we hope to run similar events more frequently in future.”

Changes to how volunteering opportunities are advertised in Basingstoke and Deane

Until recently, the Volunteer Centre would advertise voluntary opportunities via various media, including the Do-it website – a national volunteering site, but we have recently developed a new local website that covers opportunities in North Hampshire only. We are now working in partnership with Hart and Rushmoor Volunteer centres and we intend to provide an improved service for both organisations and volunteers through the partnership working, and better volunteer data information for organisations. Therefore, we will no longer be using Do-it to promote volunteering and instead use our new Volunteer North Hampshire website.

So if you are a prospective volunteer, looking for an opportunity to help the community in your local area, try looking on www.volunteernorthhants.org and search by keyword, postcode, interest/cause and what you’d like to actually do, and find a choice of voluntary roles that may suit you.

If you look for volunteers to help your organisation, you may wish to register with us to promote your roles; we can add your requests to the website as well as to our Facebook page and promote to the public at outreach events as well as to enquirers at the Volunteer Centre.

Please contact us for more details on 01256 423850 or email us vc@bvaction.org.uk



St. Michael's Hospice Praised for 'Quality and Respect' towards Patients

Health regulators have praised St. Michael's Hospice treatment of patients following a recent successful inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Providing hospice services to the whole of North Hampshire, St. Michael's Hospice received a rating of 'good' from the CQC after a 3 day visit from a team of inspectors. A 'good' rating demonstrates the Hospice is performing well in all areas and meeting the requirements set out by the CQC to ensure patient safety.

The CQC examine five areas with a rating allocated for each, St. Michael's was awarded a 'good' rating in all five categories.

The charity, based on the Aldermaston Road, will celebrate its 25th anniversary next year after opening its doors to patients back in 1992. The Hospice will care for over 250 patients this year, helping them and their families to enjoy the highest possible quality of life whilst suffering with an incurable condition.

Hospice Chief Executive, David Monkman, said "The report released by the CQC is justified recognition of the high quality care that is delivered by all staff and volunteers at St. Michael's Hospice. This outstanding result highlights the level to which we are working whilst constantly striving to improve. The CQC were particularly impressed with feedback collated from patients, families, friends and associated healthcare professionals; through this feedback we drive a programme of continual improvement ensuring evolution of care is constant and beneficial to all. Future challenges are numerous in the face of an aging population and limited funding from the NHS but we are on the right track to meet the rising demand for palliative and end of life care in North Hampshire.."

Christmas Craft Market, Friday 16 December, 11am to 7pm, Market Place and Wote Street, Top of the Town, Basingstoke

There will be plenty of festive gift ideas on offer for family and friends when the Christmas Craft Market comes to town. Pick up some last minute handmade gifts and decorations you won't find anywhere and enjoy seasonal stalls around the Christmas tree in Market Place. The market will be open later so you can pop by after work or school and there will also be free one hour parking available in all council short stay car parks. Alternatively, Christmas shoppers can enjoy a full day of festive fun in Basingstoke town centre for just £3 thanks to a parking offer Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Eastlands and Parklands car parks. From Saturday 26 November 2016 to Sunday 1 January 2017, these car parks will have reduced car parking charges of £2.50 for up to four hours and just £3 for the whole day. You can also make your journey into Basingstoke town centre even easier this Christmas and jump aboard the Centre Shuttle. Park at the Leisure Park for free and pay £2.30 per person or £3.60 for a group ticket and receive all day travel. For further information visit www.topofthetown.org.



New Year's Resolution

Christmas is a wonderful time for families to spend together and is especially magical for children.

Some of us will spend time with elderly parents or other relatives, where it may become apparent that they have grown more vulnerable over the past year.

No doubt thoughts will move on to what is a head in the New Year, where some people may dwell on making their New Year resolutions.

This is an excellent time to review the past year and consider plans for the future

It also provides a good opportunity to make a Will if you haven't already done so or update and change your old Will if you feel that is necessary, perhaps due to changed circumstances.

It is an important issue and one that many people put off. However, it is worth remembering that the main purpose of making a Will is to make sure your assets are distributed to the right people once you pass away.

If you die without making a Will, this is called intestate, where the law dictates who inherits your estate, which could be contrary to your wishes.

For those who die without next of kin, their belongings could even be passed to the Government and who wants that?

No one wants to think of a time in the future of when they are unable to make their own decisions. It is certainly a difficult subject to broach with an elderly relative, such as a hitherto perfectly capable and able parent. However, it is something that everyone should think about.

There may come a time when the best way they can manage their finances will be by organising a Power of Attorney.

This is something that needs to be set up by your relative themselves, whilst they are still capable of making and understanding their own decisions.

If arrangements are not put in place ahead of time, this can lead to all kinds of unnecessary complications.

Fortunately the Wills and Probate Team at Phillips Solicitors are on hand to help. We can put procedures in place to protect individuals and make it easier to deal with issues should the need arise.

To find out more contact Jane Erlam, who is a member of Solicitors for the Elderly.

She is also, along with the head of our Wills and Probate Team Caroline Wallis, a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP).

You can call Jane on **01256 854677** and **Caroline on 01256 854637** or send them an email, jane.erlam@phillips-law.co.uk and caroline.wallis@phillips-law.co.uk.

Further information can be found by visiting www.phillips-law.co.uk

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Founded in 2005, **MFC Popley Youth FA Charter Standard Development Club and Nike Partner Club** is a not for profit (NFP) 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.

In the 2016-2017 season, MFC Popley will have 18 teams competing in the Peter Houseman Youth League on Sundays, the East Berkshire Youth League, the Berkshire County Girls League, and North East Hants Youth League on a Saturday.

For further information on the Peter Houseman League, please visit the website: www.phyl.co.uk/

For further information on the East Berkshire Youth League, please visit the website: www.ebyfl.co.uk

For further information on the North East Hants Youth League, please visit the website: www.nehyl.org.uk

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 for more details.

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_PopleyYouth** and by using the hashtags **#MFCPY** **#REDandBLACKARMY**.

MFC Popley Youth has a dedicated club page on **Facebook** (as well as individual team pages), 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/

Each age group has gratefully secured team sponsorship from the following companies -

U8 Sponsor - **Grovewood Machines**

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U10 Sponsor - **Dazzle**

U12 Sponsor - **Southern Communications Ltd**

U14 Sponsor - **Vohkus**

U15 Sponsor - **Allens Group**

MFC Popley Youth is currently looking for team sponsors for the following age groups: U7, U11, U12 Girls, U13, U14 Predators & U16

Contact the club -

Main website: www.mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

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

Volunteer enquiries: volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

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

Zak Collingwood



I have been working at St. Michael's Home Care for a year now but I have worked in care for 17 years in total. I worked in my first care agency for 16 years and was really proud of the great customer service we offered. Unfortunately, when the budget for adult services was cut, I knew we wouldn't be able to offer the high standard of care that was so important to me and so I decided to leave.

I heard that St. Michael's Hospice was opening a Home Care business so I came in and spoke to Dariusz and Teresa and they explained to me that things would be different here because all the profits would go into the Hospice, helping to keep their services free.

St. Michael's is able to offer things that others weren't able to; guaranteed hours, good mileage expenses, and holiday pay. The work is very varied. Parts of my job still involve care work but as a Senior Care Support Worker I am now involved in assessments, doing reviews, auditing, training and offering support, both to our clients and also to our carers.

Maintaining continuity is a vital part of my job and although our clients can sometimes enjoy seeing someone different for a change we all know here how important it is that people develop a rapport with their carer and gain their trust. Our carers can spot subtle but potentially significant changes in their clients by seeing them regularly and will always bring these to my attention.

What makes a good carer? It might sound obvious but you must be very caring. You will know you are not going to get rich being a carer but the job is very important and comes with huge responsibility. You need to be reliable, have good time management skills, and have an excellent flexible attitude as you can never be quite sure what you are walking into each day. You must be friendly and a good listener, able to keep client confidences. But if you can do all of that then you will find, as I did, that being a carer is a hugely rewarding career.

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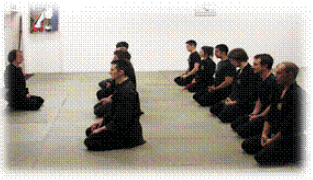
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We now have our own website!! You can check out what's on, hire prices, events and more! www.melrosecommunityassociation.co.uk.

In November we hosted a Race Night to raise funds for future projects here at the hall. There were plenty of winners, and lots of fun was had. Thank you to everyone who attended or helped out.

All the staff here at Melrose Hall would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

WHATS ON IN December: Computer Hub every weekday 9.00am - 12noon

MONDAY:	DAYTIME AND EVENING HIRE AVAILABLE 7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
TUESDAY:	9.30am-12.00pm Popley Little People 11.30am Free Group Bike Ride (open group) Please call in advance
WEDNESDAY:	AFTERNOON AND EVENING AVAILABLE FOR HIRE 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 10.00am-12.00pm Messy Muffins 1st & 15 th 10.00-11.30am Finley and Friends 8 th , 22 nd 7.00- 8.00pm Kettle Bells
FRIDAY:	AFTERNOON AND EVENING HIRE AVAILABLE DAYTIME HIRE AVAILABLE 10.00am Free group bike ride (Ladies only with the Breeze)
SATURDAY:	6.00-9.00pm MCF Youth Club 9.00am-4.00pm 7 TH Day Adventist Church 10am Sabath School - Bible Study 11.30am Divine Worship 1pm Free Community Lunch Contact Emanuel Ampofo on 07456068812 for further details
SUNDAY:	EVENING AVAILABLE FOR HIRE Melrose Christian Fellowship - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.

Melrose Community Hall is available to hire for birthdays, wedding receptions, conferences and regular groups. **Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at Melrosehal21@gmail.com**

Also find us on facebook: Melrose hall.

Update from Chineham Medical Practice

Patient Reference Group

Some people will already be aware that with up to date contact details / mobile phone numbers, Chineham Medical Practice is able to ensure patients receive reminders about appointments and test results.

I am delighted to inform local residents that Chineham Medical Practice has introduced another time saving service for patients. e-Consult allows registered patients to consult your doctor online via the surgery website to get treatment and feedback from a doctor.

How does it work? 3 simple steps:-

1. Visit <http://www.chinehamsurgery.co.uk/> and click on “get started now”
2. Find your health condition and fill out a simple online questionnaire.
3. A member of the team will contact you with feedback and treatment options.



As you will know from previous items the Patient Participation Group works with the Chineham Medical Practice team looking for ways to improve the services. If you would like to find out more or get involved in the group please contact Karen Nicholls, tel: 01256 479244



Starting School

Do you know any child who will be 4 years old between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017? If so, they will be starting school in September 2017!

From 1st November 2016, you can apply.

Online at www.hants.gov.uk/admissions or using a paper application form available from school. Application deadline is 15th January 2017.

Marnel Infant School will be running tours for new parents on the following dates:

1st December, 9.15am

11th January, 9.15am

Please call the school office to book into one of these tours.

Tel: 01256 329521



Chineham Library

With Christmas approaching fast, many of the library groups will take on a festive theme this month. Remember to book your tickets for our Christmas event, namely 'Dickens at Christmas' on 15th December at 7.15pm. This will take the form of seasonal readings from Dickens, read by characters in Victorian costume. Seasonal refreshments are also included. Tickets costing £8 are obtainable from the library, so do come and join us. We already have displays of Christmas of festive fiction and non-fiction to tempt you, and Christmas decorations to brighten up your library visits.

Chatterbooks group for primary school children meets on 8th December, with the craft and book activities taking a festive theme. The craft session on 3rd December from 10am onwards will also include Christmas crafts, and story times in December will include Christmas stories. These take place on all other Saturdays at 10am, and there will be a special Christmas story time aimed at under 5s on Wednesday 21st December at 3pm. This will include a surprise visitor, and tickets are obtainable from the library. The Construction Club continues to meet every Saturday including the holiday period, with the opportunity to play with Lego from 2.00 – 3.30pm. Rhymetimes will also continue with their current format, with under ones at 10am and over ones at 11am, on a weekly basis. Do keep your eyes open for details of the children's weekly Coding Club, which is due to start in the New Year.

Activities for adults taking place this month include the Crime and CHIPPS reading groups. The Crime Group meets on Saturday mornings from 10.30 – 11.30am, and the CHIPPS group for parents with young children meets on Wednesday mornings. Details for the next meetings have not yet been arranged, so please ask staff or check social media for these. The Colour and Create group will meet on 7th December and then again after Christmas. Age Concern continue to provide computer instruction for the Over 50s on Wednesdays from 10am – 1pm, appointments need to be booked in advance through the local office. They finish for Christmas on 14th December and resume on 11th January. We hope very much to see you at the library during the month, and on behalf of all the staff would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a good New Year.

*With best wishes
Cathy Foster*

Merton Remembers the Fallen

It is at this time of year when, as a nation, we take time to reflect upon and remember all of those brave men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice in so many wars and conflicts since 1914. As a school we all stood at 11o'clock on the 11th day of the 11th month to hold two minutes silence; an opportunity to be thankful and to remember.



Merton Junior School choir, Merton Melodies, were asked to sing in front of veterans, dignitaries, and many others at the Remembrance Service Parade in



the town centre on Sunday 13th November, a request that we were very happy to accept.

The children, who were all dressed for extremely chilly weather, sang the hymn 'Peace, Perfect Peace' beautifully and were as always a true reflection of Merton

Junior School. They also laid a wreath of hand-made poppies that had been created by some of the pupils as a fitting tribute to our heroes.

Recently we have also been visited by The NSPCC schools team, who came into school to talk to the children about how to be safe and happy.

Liz, from the NSPCC, spoke to the whole school about who children can share any worries or troubles with and that they do not have to 'carry a sack of troubles' with them as they can share them with a range of adults, who can help to solve any issues that they have.



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