

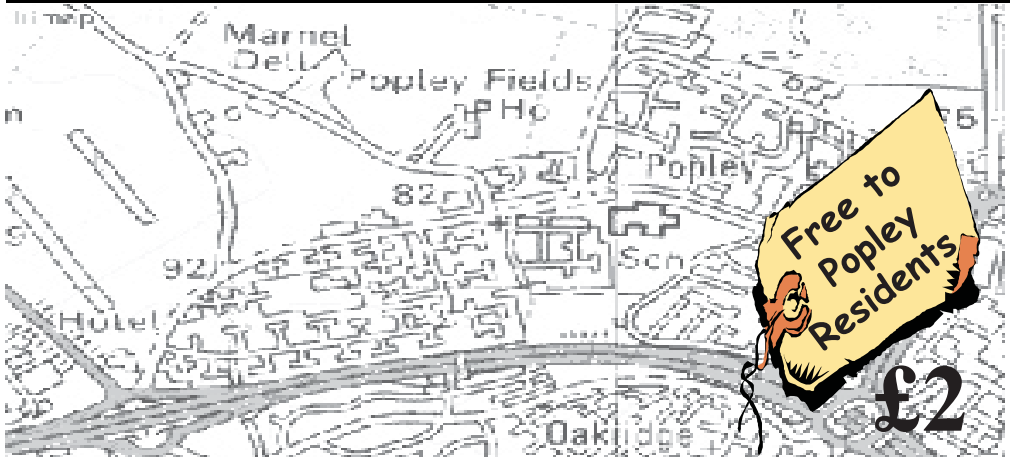
POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

January 2017

Distribution of 5,400

Issue 179



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-1-17) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: Happy New Year to all our readers from the Popley Matters Volunteer Team. Once again I would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who help to get Popley Matters through your door, but they could do with some more helpers to deliver them. Marnel Park and the Poets areas in particular need more people to deliver the magazines. Please contact editor@popleymatters.org.uk.

New year; brings new beginnings and new challenges. Life has certainly thrown a lot of challenges to my family last year and like a lot of other people you just have to deal with them, and do your best to cope and carry on. I count myself as lucky in many ways and I have a strong family and some dear friends and neighbours that have been so good to us, so thank you to you all.

There are lots of pleas throughout this issue so if you have a little time to spare what better way than helping others: there are drivers needed for NeighbourCare and much needed Befrienders too on page 7; the Royal Voluntary Service is starting a service to help elderly people newly discharged from hospital on page 6; Victim Support details on page 17; and Popley Ponds Conservation Volunteers on page 25. There are many, many more opportunities through Basingstoke Voluntary Action on page 1 who have about 400 vacancies so they are sure to have one that will suit you.

Do you enjoy reading Popley Matters what else would you like to see in your community magazine? We welcome articles from groups and clubs, also residents that might like to write about their hobbies or maybe even the history of Popley? Email the Editor at editor@popleymatters.org.uk. 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

Can't Think of a New Year's Resolution? How About Volunteering to do Some Good?

If you have had your fill of conspicuous consumption over Christmas and New Year and you'd like to make a difference for a good cause this year, why not think about volunteering your time and skills to help others? Many local charities and community organisations need help for as little as a couple of hours a week, a fortnight or even once or twice a year! Whatever your skills, experience or reason for volunteering, there's something for almost everybody!

You can explore volunteering by looking online: www.volunteernorthhants.org has a long list of potential opportunities taking place throughout Basingstoke, Hart and Rushmoor and you can search according to your interests or what you'd like to do, or even by keyword. You'll then be put in touch with the organisation and can have a conversation (with no obligation) to discuss what's involved. You may already know the organisation you want to help, so add their name to the keyword option and search, you can see what roles are registered and connect to their own website if you want to find out more.

If you are less comfortable online and prefer to talk face to face with someone, you can always call the Volunteer Centre on 01256 423850 and book an appointment with one of our advisers; we'll spend some time with you exploring which roles might suit you and help you contact suitable organisations where you might like to volunteer. We can also chat over the phone or by email vc@bvaction.org.uk

North Hampshire Volunteers' Forum

Are you part of a Community Organisation and do you manage volunteers? Are you the person who organises others? It can be a formal or informal role and could be paid or unpaid, depending upon the size of the organisation, but it can still be a tough task.

The North Hampshire Volunteer Managers Forum is for all those who manage volunteers to meet, share issues (and horror stories!), receive some training and information, and network with each other, developing relationships with other organisations in the sector. Our next forum will take place on Thursday 16 February 1 – 3 pm at The Orchard, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke, RG21 4AF. We will welcome Chris Cornwell, Chair of both Hartley Wintney Voluntary Care Group and Hartley Wintney's Over 55s forum. Prior to his retirement 8 years ago Chris worked extensively in the insurance industry. He will be giving some insight into the need for appropriate insurance for individuals and groups, including driver insurance, public liability and one-off events, but questions are invited prior to the event. Please forward any questions to sue@hartvolaction.org.uk no later than Wednesday 8 February so that they can be forwarded to Chris.

The Volunteer Centre Managers will also look at remuneration for volunteers, expenses policies and other legal issues around volunteers, and we will then open up for networking. Please email vc@bvaction.org.uk or telephone 01256 423850 to confirm your attendance. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Sarah Robinson
Volunteer Centre Manager

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Councillors' Page: New year and new boundaries in time for the May County Council election. It will involve some changes, but mostly in the Oakridge area. Working together with Basingstoke and Deane and the Popley Neighbourhood Panel, we hope to get some more link ups of paths and safer walking facilities with grants from the Local Infrastructure Fund.

The improvements to the highways will continue and hopefully by the end of this year will be completed. I am still negotiating for improvements to the "white path" through the park to the hospital and we also need the drainage sorting out to prevent constant flooding on the hospital path.

There seems to be no end in sight with yet more cuts in budgets and I fear that the vulnerable will continue to suffer the biggest losses. I will continue to fight to keep as much of the facilities for Popley and Oakridge residents in our areas as transport is such a problem if you don't have use of a car. *Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk*

Popley West: We wish you all a Happy New Year and hope it is a good one for all of us. This New Year may see many changes in Popley with the boundaries changing for the County Council area and then later the start of the changes for the borough wards. Consultation for changes are due the following year.

Parking will be an issue, as in every other year as far back as I remember, though hopefully looking to at least ease it in the Marnel Park area. It is a pity that a few drivers park across dropped kerbs and on paths so far in they can't be used as pathways, and residents are forced to walk out on the road. Please when parking think of others.

We hope that the Community Park will see some new equipment during the year. The gas people will regrass the areas where they dug up. The expansions and improvements to Melrose Hall and St Gabriel's will progress so hopefully a good year for Popley. Lastly the review of the community bus in Popley route 55 will be in early Spring so use it or we will lose it.

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

Popley East: We hope that all our constituents have a happy and healthy 2017 and we will continue to be available to assist wherever possible on any issues you may have.

During the latter part of 2016, amongst other issues, we have been working on some proposed improvements which should come to fruition this year, one of which is a proposed new parking scheme for Tasmania Close where we have been working closely with the Borough Council Officers. Local residents have received details of the proposals along with copies of the plans. The feedback has been very positive. Hopefully these works will soon be underway creating much needed extra parking spaces.

During 2016 residents contacted us about several issues with regard to the play area on Sark Way. In an effort to find solutions, we have met on site with the Borough's Head of Community Regeneration to discuss possible options for improving the area and we will be writing to the residents in the area asking for their views on a range of ideas. In the interim some initial minor works have been undertaken including the removal of some of the metal gates that cause a noise nuisance and the installation of rubber mats to the entrance to the grassed area to help reduce the transfer of mud on to the footpaths and equipment.

Finally, just a reminder that the new bus service which commenced in October and runs from Old Basing through Popley to the hospital is only being operated as a pilot. The number of users in the Popley section of the route is currently below expectations and as there will be a review of the usage around March it really is a case of use it or lose it!. Further details of the service can be found at <http://www.bct.me.uk/Route%2055.html>.

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

Autumn Visit to Minsk

Despite the Embassy of Belarus now only accepting Euros for the visa fee, the pound is too unstable, (whatever happened to ‘as sound as a pound’?), no doubt a portent of what is to come? I eventually arrived in Minsk.

After a few hectic weeks of entertaining and amusing hordes of delinquent students at two departments of the State University and two departments of the Linguistic University, I woke up at 6.30 am and went out on to the balcony for my first cigarette of the day! I was greeted by six inches of snow covering the ground!

By 6.55 am an army of council workers was out sweeping and shovelling snow from the side roads, pavements, paths and the areas around the bus stops. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council take note!

It continued to snow on and off for the remainder of my visit and the temperature hovered between minus three degrees and plus one degree! When it was windy it was bitterly cold!

As usual, I went to Orsha, to the north of Belarus almost on the Russian border, to see Natasha’s family. When we alighted from the train, after a tedious three hour journey, we were greeted by a howling blizzard! Due to this, we had to wait twenty minutes for a taxi! I was getting colder and colder and grumpier and grumpier!

We finally arrived at Natasha’s mum and dad’s flat to be met by her elder sister and her ten year old niece who is learning English. We were forced to admire the snowman her niece had made for us!

Starting to suffer from the onset of hyperthermia, we did, at long last, arrive in the warm flat! Inevitably, Natasha’s mum had prepared enough food to feed the Red Army, and after many toasts, in cognac, and nice and warm and full of food, Natasha’s dad and I went to sleep in our armchairs!

I was dragged off to two excursions that had been arranged for me. They were both, almost, endurance tests! Still, as a result of these excursions I met a girl called Dasha and I went out with her twice! She’s impressed that an ‘English Gentleman’ took her out! Clearly, you can fool some of the people some of the time! I shall see her again in the spring.

Terry Jones



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EVERY TUESDAY

Time: Sessions between 15.30-17.30

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

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Could you volunteer for just 1 to 2 hours a week to make a real difference in enhancing older people's lives?

Royal Voluntary Service is looking for volunteers to visit older people returning home from hospital to support them in reclaiming their confidence at home and in the community. Anyone can become a volunteer, even one hour a week can make a difference to the quality of an older person's life.

This short-term, friendly service enables volunteers to help older people by collecting prescriptions, shopping or simply by visiting for a cup of tea and a chat. This will significantly reduce the loneliness older people experience when getting out and about is difficult. Royal Voluntary Service is calling on local people in Basingstoke and North Hants area to give up just 1 to 2 hours of their time for six weeks to become a volunteer for the service, which is tailored to the individual requirements of each person.

There is no specialised requirement for volunteers, you just need to;

- possess a willingness and desire to help;
- be committed to providing reliable, consistent support; and
- enjoy sharing your time with others and meeting new people.

The benefits to both volunteers and older people are numerous and rewarding;

- you meet new people;
- you learn new things about others and the area in which you live;
- people retain their independence and self-esteem; and
- volunteers experience a feeling of contributing to an invaluable service.

If you are interested in volunteering and would like more information about the service, please contact Natalie Roebuck on 07919 880629 or Natalie.Roebuck@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk and Lesley Bridge on 07500 811180 or Lesley.Bridge@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk.





Basingstoke NeighbourCare needs you!

DRIVERS REQUIRED

We provide a service for elderly people in YOUR community, particularly for those who find it difficult to use public transport or lack the confidence to go out on their own. We provide a driving service to pick them up from home, take them to their appointment and bring them home again, using our volunteers own car. We also take clients shopping, to social events such as lunch clubs, helping them remain part of their community.

We need drivers who can spare a few hours a week during the day time, Monday to Friday, and who have a car that is comprehensively insured and suitable for carrying an elderly person. In return we will cover your petrol cost from home, currently we pay 45p per mile. Some of our driver currently work shifts and can only offer 1 or part of a day per week but even this amount of time can help us. You can choose what hours/days you are available and what duties you undertake.

BEFRIENDERS REQUIRED

Would you have an hour a week free in the daytime? (Monday to Friday). Many elderly people would love to have someone to come and see them for a cup of tea and a chat. You could be the first person they see that week who has time just for them! You will gain great satisfaction and help them to relieve their loneliness. We try to find you someone who lives near to you so that if you do not have your own transport you can walk to them. But if you have to use your car or public transport we will reimburse your costs.

We need people who have time and patience and like talking to elderly people. You need to have good listening skills and be able to show empathy. We will provide you with training and support and match you with one of our clients. Our befriending co-ordinator will take you to your first meeting with our client and support you as necessary.

If you are interested in either or both of the above opportunities please contact us by phone on 01256 423855 or email volunteering@neighbourcare.com. See also our website www.neighbourcare.com for further information about our service.



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The People's Health Trust is distributing money from HealthShape (The Health Lottery CIC in this area).

Who is eligible?

Looking to fund great ideas which make neighbourhoods even better places to grow, live, work and age. Eligible charitable or Community projects are those that are:

- designed and run by local people
- create stronger connections between people
- seeking **funding of between £5k and £25k** a year
- last for between 12 months and two years
- small and local ie. a few streets, a small village OR be a community of interest that is experiencing social and economic disadvantage
- be in one or more of the “fundable” neighbourhoods identified in the maps - **Brighton Hill, Buckskin, South Ham, Norden, Popley, Winklebury and Eastrop**. Groups should **check the website maps first** before proceeding to a Stage One application. **90% of participants need to come from the fundable area.**
- BUT – see section below relating to *communities of interest*.

Groups wishing to apply need to be:

- not-for-profit and constituted for more than three months

Deadlines:

Initial expression of interest: **6th January 2017**

Full Information: Basingstoke Voluntary Action [website](#)

Dear Friends

Welcome to 2017! How were your Christmas and New Year celebrations? What was your favourite Christmas gift? Did you receive any books? I love to read and tend to be fairly prolific in the amount and diverse in genre.

I was quite fascinated last year by how many folk were willing to queue up for hours to meet a celebrity author in Festival Place with the queues winding around the shopping mall as people waited patiently to have a book signed and also perhaps to have a quick word with the author.

Does meeting with the author change the way we read or understand their books or writings? It should, I suppose, as we catch a glimpse of the real personality behind the stories. In fact wouldn't it change our whole attitude after we had met with the author of a famous book or piece of writing? Imagine what it might be like to share an hour or two with Tom Clancy, Enid Blyton, Mary Berry, Agatha Christie or whoever your favourite author might be! Perhaps a thing or two we would never have guessed about that person might come out in the conversation?

I love the Christmas period because it means I get to meet so many of you out there in our community. Through school nativities and Christingles, Christmas Fairs and Concerts or just out and about, I get to have so many varied conversations about the festive season. "It's for the kids. isn't it!" is quite common. "I don't believe all that stuff but I love the party atmosphere!" "I like singing the carols." "I would come to church but" These are just a few of the comments I often hear in conversation.

Here's the thing! Most people I have these conversations with have either never read the Bible, or have read it but never met the author. If they had I'm absolutely certain it would change their whole understanding of God and of what he is about. Sadly most folk have picked up their understanding of Christianity through dim memories of church as a child or at Sunday School! Others only pick up what Christianity is about through the media whether that's social media, TV, radio or otherwise; all are incomplete and only hold either a biased or uninformed opinion. And for so many God just becomes the 5th emergency service after the police, fire brigade, ambulance and the AA!

I only know this because it's exactly as I used to be as I grew up. It was only after I met the author that I actually began to read the book and boy was it a revelation!!! And it has only got better and better, through the rough and the good he's been there! So what would you give to meet the author of your dreams?

May I invite you this year to come and meet the author. You won't need to queue up and you may be surprised about how much he knows about you! You might be surprised at the things you'll find out about him.

Happy New Year folks and I pray that 2017 will bring the richest of blessings for you and your family and this wonderful community of ours.

**Your friend and vicar
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St. Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire)

Light Up A Life

A record number of people join together to Light Up A Life

On a beautiful clear night, over 1,000 people came along to St. Michael's Hospice to pause and remember loved ones this Christmas.

The service, led by Richard Harlow, Rector of Tadley with Pamber Heath and Silchester, featured Christmas Carols sung by local choir groups, Viabes Voices and the Ooh Mama Ladies Choir as well as music from the Basingstoke Silver Band.

This year's Light Up A Life service raised more than £30,000 from donations in memory of loved ones. Iain Cameron, Director at St. Michael's Hospice said 'We are extremely pleased with the response from the community. We know that Christmas can be a poignant time amid all the festivities and this service is important for those who want to pause and remember as well as to give thanks for the lives their loved ones led.

The event is made possible by the support of volunteers who help on the night with car parking, making tea and handing out glow sticks to all participants. Chris Griffiths, Marketing and Events Manager at the Hospice said, 'We have many people we must thank as without their support this event would not be the incredible success that it is. We are extremely grateful to De La Rue Charitable Trust for their financial support as well as to the Rotary Basingstoke Deane, the Apollo Hotel, Asset Advantage, Stuart Freeman from Hype Photography, Projected Image, B & M Stores and, of course, the band and the choir. We are very thankful too for our wonderful volunteers and supporters who are the backbone of all our events. We would like to give everyone our sincerest thanks for their goodwill and loyalty throughout the past year and we look forward to meeting them next year.'

SUPPORTING TODAY – SECURING TOMORROW

Your support helps us to nurture the present – will you now help us to build and cherish the future?

Why are gifts in Wills so important?

As a local charity St. Michael's Hospice provides all of its services free of charge to patients and their families. Each year St Michael's receives less than 20% of its funding from the government and so must raise in the region of £3.1 million from the local community through fundraising and retail activities. Gifts in Wills are hugely important towards this total as they raise nearly 10% of the Hospice's annual income.

We recognise that for many people it is difficult to give to their favourite charity during their lifetime and that is why leaving a gift in your Will is such a wonderful way to give, as it will cost you nothing now. We also appreciate that family and friends must always come first in your thoughts when deciding on what gifts to include in your Will. However, any gifts, whether small or large, make a huge difference to St. Michael's Hospice and will help to protect the future of your local hospice for generations to come.

It's very easy to leave a gift in your Will to St. Michael's Hospice and gifts to charity included in your will are exempt from Inheritance Tax. If you already have a Will and wish to leave a cash gift, then simply ask your solicitor to add a Codicil to your existing Will. A Codicil is a simple legal document that changes specific provisions of a Last Will and Testament but leaves all other provisions unchanged.

If you do not have a Will then a Solicitor will be able to guide you on making your Will and how to include a gift to St. Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire).

Please get in touch

Whether you have already included St. Michael's Hospice in your Will, or are considering doing so, we would love to hear from you. Please call Jackie Ridge, Legacy Manager, on 01256 848 854 or email jackie.ridge@stmichaelsospice.org.uk



Everest Community Academy
Oxford Way,
Basingstoke
RG24 9DP
Phone: 01256 485547

LIMITED OFFER – FREE HOME ENERGY SURVEY

Did you know that the average house in Popley will spend over £400 on heating this winter?

Some of us will spend a lot more. Popley Matters have teamed up with Basingstoke Transition and the Basingstoke Energy Co-operative to offer FREE energy surveys of homes in Popley. We have been able to borrow a thermal imaging camera which can detect the warmth leaking from your home. It can also find damp spots and drafts. The survey takes about 30 minutes; we take a couple of thermal images from inside and outside. After a brief chat we can then make recommendations on how you can save money and be warmer this winter.

This is a limited offer open to 5 homes only. So if you want to save money this winter please email - secretary@basingstoketransition.org for more information. This may be the best 30 minutes you spend this winter. Surveys are on a first come first served basis.

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THE POPLEY PATIENT NEWSLETTER

Produced in conjunction with Bermuda and Marlowe Patient Participation Group 2016

HEADLINE... HEADLINE... HEADLINE...

PRACTICE SAVED FOLLOWING HARD-FOUGHT'SOS' CAMPAIGN

For two long years the Bermuda and Marlowe Practice as you know it was under threat...

Background

Patients will be aware that the present Practice arose, some time ago, from the Bermuda Practice acceding to an NHS request that they should 'merge' with Marlowe. This was achieved by means of a relatively new form of short-term contract, designed for unusual circumstances, known as an 'APMS'. Only after the merger was complete did local NHS administrators inform us that, instead of 'rolling over' on expiry so that the service could continue uninterrupted - which had been the case previously - these contracts would be put out to tender, and any organization from anywhere in Europe could bid to take over. This process was activated by NHS England in mid-2014. The Practice and the PPG shared serious concerns regarding the outcome. The chief of these concerns was that your established team of experienced family doctors, with their abundance of local connections and patient knowledge, could be underbid by a faceless, profit-motivated corporation with no links to the community and minimum service standards.

Action

A 'Save Our Surgery' campaign was launched by the PPG, which enlisted the valuable support of Popley Councillor David Potter (and colleagues) and Healthwatch Hampshire. We ascertained that NHS England rules required engagement with patients as part of the "procurement" process. While this is usually limited to a pre-tender survey we saw that there was some room for 'local discretion'. Though severely hampered from the outset by NHS confidentiality requirements and poor communication, we succeeded on gaining direct patient representation on the decision-making body (thereby setting an important precedent for future procurements in the south). PPG Chair Rick Dady, Cllr Potter and four others sat on the final Evaluation Committee - of which, thanks to our efforts, patients comprised a full 40% - to assess presentations by the bidders of their tenders.

Outcome

With the Practice's impressive presentation doing them justice, we were able to see off the corporate competition, and in consequence they have been awarded a '5 + 5' contract. This effectively means a full decade of continuing high-quality care from the clinicians who you know and who know you.

Owner: Practice Manager Bermuda and Marlow Practice

MORE ABOUT PATIENT PARTICIPATION

All general medical practices are now required to engage with their patient populations by means including a Patient Participation Group. The purpose of PPGs is “to ensure that patients and carers are involved in decisions about the range, shape and quality of services provided by their practice,” to whom they act as a “critical friend”.

As you now know from our headline item, the Bermuda and Marlowe PPG was instrumental in maintaining the service you receive when it was threatened. While this is probably our finest achievement, we have always sought to address a whole range of issues relating to patient interests, from the introduction of specialist clinics to the replacement of carpets in the waiting area.

Membership is available to all B and M patients and their carers, together with community (Popley/Winklebury) representatives. We meet monthly at Shakespeare House, where beverages (and the odd tasty treat) help make for a hospitable and welcoming environment. While not a forum for personal complaints this provides an opportunity both to speak your mind, have questions answered, and to meet like-minded people, while making a real contribution to the well-being of your friends and neighbours.

If you'd like to come along then simply contact the Practice for details. We try to be as representative as possible, and (at present) younger people, those from vulnerable groups, and people of ethnic minority origin are especially welcome.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Patient Handbook (formerly the Patient Leaflet) contains all the information you should need for a comprehensive understanding of the day-to-day workings of the Practice, from clinical specialisms to making an appointment. Should you need a copy please ask at Reception. NB The Practice and the PPG will review the Handbook in April 2017.

PRACTICE NEWS

Together with new admin staff the team welcomes an additional Nurse Practitioner, together with a GP Registrar.

The Care Quality Commission has conducted a (routine) inspection, with PPG input. Clinical audit was good, and the full report should be available soon.

Capitation (the total patient 'list') now stands at 13,353 registrants for the newly-unified Bermuda & Marlowe Practice.

A new telephone system has been installed (covering both surgeries), This will improve communications for all. Present contact numbers will remain in use.

FINAL WORD

Reminders of appointments by text Message have helped reduce the clinical time and resources wasted by 'Did Not Attend' patients.

Should you be quite unable to keep an appointment with the Practice please notify them at least 1 hour before the appointed time so the slot can be re-used.



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Registered address: Victim Support, Hurst House, 56-60 Hurst Road, London W10 4J
March 2016 | P2014-10 2016 Victim Support



Headquarters:
Base 2000 Carpenters Down, Popley RG24 9AE

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

Since the last Cub Section report the Cub Scouts have kept exceptionally busy in this our Centenary Year. Global Issues activity badge featured strongly during the autumn term. Cubs found out where some of their possession came from and how far they had travelled. They investigated how much power common household items used and what we can do to reduce energy consumption; kept a recycling diary; and took part in a project to raise funds to provide water wells and malaria nets to people in Uganda. To date the Pack has raised £80.

Moulded poppies



Stage 2



The finished article



In November, Annabel, one of our Young Leaders, ran a program on Remembrance where the Cubs learnt about the meaning of the poppy and each made a ceramic poppy, with the help of Stef from 'Pots 2 Paint'. Over a two week period they moulded the poppies from clay and, after they'd been glazed and fired in kiln, it was time to do the messy paint bit – and a good job they all made of it too!

The Pack also worked on Cub Pioneering badge. It involved tying three different knots and a hitch. It was new ground for many of them but they did very well and most mastered the art! Next term we aim to show them lashings.



The final big event for the Cubs' 100 Birthday celebrations was on 16th December when every Cub in the Country renewed the Cub Promise at exactly 19:16, the exact time in 1916 that Wolf Cubs (as they were then known) became officially part of the Scout Association. Basingstoke East District held their Centenary Promise Event at the Jump Factory; photos and report will

appear in the next Cub Report.

New chums (boys and girls) welcome in all sections - Beaver Scouts (from 6 – 8½ years ; Cub Scouts - 8- 10½ ; Scout section for those over 10½ to 14½ . Explorer Scouts (run on a District basis) for those over 14½ years. Contact Group Scout Leader Colin Karslake - 01256 410559 / 07796 772 500 or colink@base2000.co.uk for more information.

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The Festive Season Can be a Testing Time for Relationships

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For many families Christmas is a joyous, if hectic time of the year.

But for some couples, spending 24 hours a day together can highlight cracks in their marriage, where they are unable to ignore any widening rift in their relationships. It can be a testing time especially with excitable children and long family visits.

It's no wonder that often relationships, already with problems, collapse during the festive season. That unfortunately makes January one of our busiest months of the year as people resolve to start the New Year with a clean slate.

If divorce is on your mind, you are probably going through all kinds of different emotions. It can be hard to stay calm and consider the implications of divorce. However, we are here to help, where we can offer sensitive guidance and advice.

The breakdown of a relationship may mean you and your family are faced with difficult issues. Our objective is to help you as quickly and effectively as possible with the best outcomes for you and your family.

No doubt you'll have lots of questions about your rights and the process. Most people going through a divorce or separation would rather avoid having to go to court if possible. We understand that, so we offer a range of services including Mediation, Separation Agreements and Collaborative Law. One of these methods could be right for you.

But if we cannot find a way that avoids the courts, then we have the expertise to get the right results for you in the courtroom. We will endeavour to guide you through the court process in an amicable way.

All our Family Team are members of Resolution Family Law, which means we follow a code of practice that promotes a non-confrontational approach to family problems.

Whatever the issue you face this New Year, we can help you and your family find a way forward.

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Come along and hear local flautist Nick Cartledge play Mozart's Flute Concerto with Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra. Any children or adults who are learning to play the flute can be inspired by listening to Nick's dazzling playing on this beautiful instrument. We are hoping lots of flute students will attend and so have arranged for Nick to be available during the interval for "Meet the soloist". You can chat to him and ask any flute related questions!

The Orchestra will also play Beethoven's 8th Symphony, Mendelssohn's A Midsummer Night's Dream Overture and the beautiful Serenade for Strings by Elgar.

Following on from the success of our recent family concert, we are keeping ticket prices for under 16s at just £2 when accompanied by an adult.

Saturday 11th February 2017 7:45pm
The Anvil, Basingstoke

Please see our website for more details: www.bso.org.uk and book tickets at anvilarts.org.uk



A special thanks to Alpha cars for their recent, kind sponsorship of our U9s for team this season.

MFC Popley Youth are incredibly proud of our U14 Saturday team, who have made it through to the Semi-finals of the FA Hampshire Cup, after a nail biting win on penalties against Curley Park in the quarter finals.

As part of The FA's role in aiming to do everything it can to support a safe and enjoyable framework for football, a new film has been made outlining the four key steps to safeguarding.

The film, featuring Wayne Rooney, Steph Houghton, Jack Rutter and Nathaniel Chalobah, explains how both parents and children can raise concerns they have about adults working in football and centred around how the 8,500 safeguarding officers working across England football take the following four steps:

Checked – to ensure adults are suitable to work with youngsters

Trained – from coaches to referees, all are given suitable safeguarding training

Hear – concerns from both children and adults will be listened to

Report – the importance of raising concerns about a child's welfare

Link to Film <https://thefa.sharefile.com/d-sf9b8ae03a0541469>

Following these simple but crucial steps means that there is a framework in place to ensure that, if standards ever fall short with poor practice or unacceptable behaviour, they can be addressed.

Anyone who has a concern about the welfare of a child or the behaviour of an adult towards a child or young person under 18 years of age in football, is required to refer it to The FA Safeguarding team. The team is staffed by professionals who are experienced in dealing with these concerns.

Referring a concern can be done via your club – (cwo@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk), league or County FA – all will have a Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO).

Founded in 2005, MFC Popley Youth FA Charter Standard Development Club & 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 & 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

U9 Sponsor - Alpha Cars

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 and U16

Contact the club -

Main website: www.mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

Club Welfare Officer: cwo@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

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

Volunteer enquiries: volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

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

Zak Collingwood



Interested in what's going on? Like to make a difference to your community?

Why not become a volunteer at Popley Fields Community Association!

Popley Fields Community Association are looking for enthusiastic people to join them in making Popley the best it can be. Popley Fields is run by the community for the community. We run the Popley Festival, sit on the Popley Neighbourhood Partnership, run a free youth club, a community cafe and organise various other community events each year.

We'd love to hear from you if you have enthusiasm and a heart for the community. So if you'd like to join us or learn more please attend our AGM, Tuesday 24th January 2017 at 7pm at Popley Fields Community Centre

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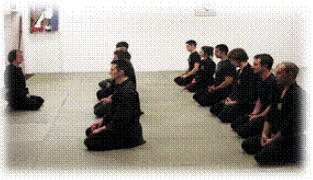
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Melrose Hall has had a fantastic year. Our Christmas Dinner was a huge success, over 50 people joined in the celebrations on the day.

As a committee we would like to say a big **THANKYOU!** Particularly to Nema, Christine and Julie Shephard for their kind donations that helped make the day such a success.

We would also like to thank all **VOLUNTEERS** who gave up their time to make this event happen and lastly we would like to thank all the **COMMUNITY**, who throughout the year have helped us and used the building.

Popley Ponds



Following our article in the November issue of Popley Matters, I am pleased to be able to report that your local conservation group (Marnel and Popley Conservation Volunteers) is now up and running.

A big thank you to all those who joined us at our open afternoon in December. We didn't see any newts (they are hibernating at this time of year) but at least the main pond now has water in it as I was beginning to think global warming had hit Popley.

During the afternoon our Deputy Mayor (and Popley resident) told me a few tales about the history of what were once known locally as White Horse Ponds. Apparently they got that name after a milk float pulled by a white horse ended up in the main pond. If anyone has any childhood memories or tales about the history of the ponds it would be great to include them in future articles.

We are hoping to start some maintenance work at the ponds in January and anyone who would like to help would be very welcome. Look out for adverts on the notice boards around Popley and in our local shops. In the mean-time if you are interested in helping out please contact us at the email address below.

Gill Smallman
www.naturalbasingstoke.org
e-mail: popleyponds@gmail.com

The **disability forum** basingstoke and district



Join Basingstoke Disability Connections for a free cuppa and chat in a friendly atmosphere about anything disability related on the first Tuesday of the month 12:30-2:30pm in the Basingstoke Discovery Centre's Community Room.

Do you have a disability related question and don't know which way to turn? Pop in to the Basingstoke & District Disability Forum's Signpost Service on the first Tuesday of the month from 10:00am-12:00pm in the Basingstoke Discovery Centre.

Do you want to know more about becoming a volunteer Trustee of Basingstoke & District Disability Forum? Join us in The Orchard on Monday 23rd January 2017 from 10:00am-12:00pm for an open recruitment meeting.

Would you like to get involved with a disability raising awareness event in Basingstoke town centre on Saturday 1st July 2017? Everyone is welcome! We need volunteers to help run the event and teams to take part – are you part of a club who would like to earn sponsorship for your chosen charity and for BDDF? Get in touch.

From The Basingstoke & District Disability Forum

Email: info@bddf.org.uk

Tel: 01256 423869

Marvelling with Merton Melodies



The choir from Merton Junior School have been performing all around the local area, singing to audiences of differing ages. On Saturday 10th December they congregated at St. Michael's Church to sing carols and begin the Christmas festivities. As always, the children sang beautifully and the singing was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone in the congregation.

At this time of year we at Merton Juniors have been sharing our nativity story with friends and family of our Year 3 pupils. The children looked lovely as they took on the important characters within the nativity and acted their socks off, making both their parents, friends and all of us at school extremely proud. Well done Year 3.



We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of the children and adults at Merton Junior School.

The International Association of Lions Clubs

LIONS CLUB OF BASINGSTOKE

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www.basingstokelions.org.uk



THE BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB

Website www.basingstokelions.org.uk

I am delighted to report that our last 3 business meetings have all ended in under 2 hours. This has been achieved by reorganizing the agenda so that the main objectives of the Club (welfare and fundraising) are dealt with up front and the President, Treasurer and Secretary then address us in the full knowledge of what is already being done in those key areas (and others) before speaking. Not only does it save time but it also has not adversely the members propensity for misbehavior. The Taittwister income from fines is as high as ever.

FUNDRAISING: Our Quiz night, which ended in a draw between the 2 top teams with 4 others close behind, raised £484.

WELFARE: Over the Christmas period we made donations to homeless charities, the women's refuge and organizations serving the needy elderly.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

21/01/2017 ABBA SENSATION: Chase away the winter blues with this fabulous tribute group at QMC. Past experience means that we always leave enough space for dancing/swaying and, as we all know the words (or think we do) it's a great opportunity to join in. Tickets are currently available from Maurice Hockley tel 01256 421857 or mauricehockley@hotmail.com - John Lincoln jomolincoln@btinternet.com or tel: 01256 325280 – Toucan Travel at Chineham or direct off our website www.basingstokelions.org.uk. But, they are going fast. So, as they say, book early to avoid disappointment.

04/03/2017 CHARITY SWIMATHON: We will shortly be contacting schools, colleges, sports clubs and businesses to invite them to enter teams in this event. The **2017 SPECIAL OLYMPICS** are being held in Sheffield this year. This gives swimmers with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to compete against their peers. Members of The Basingstoke Bluefins (Disability) will be competing and we will be supporting their participation. You too can help us by getting together a team of 6 to swim in our event which also allows you to support other charities. Contact Tony Bamberger on 01256 850254 or email. tony.bamberger@hotmail.co.uk for details, or check it out by looking at the Upcoming Events page of our website under the "Swimathon" side bar.

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Opening Hours

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