

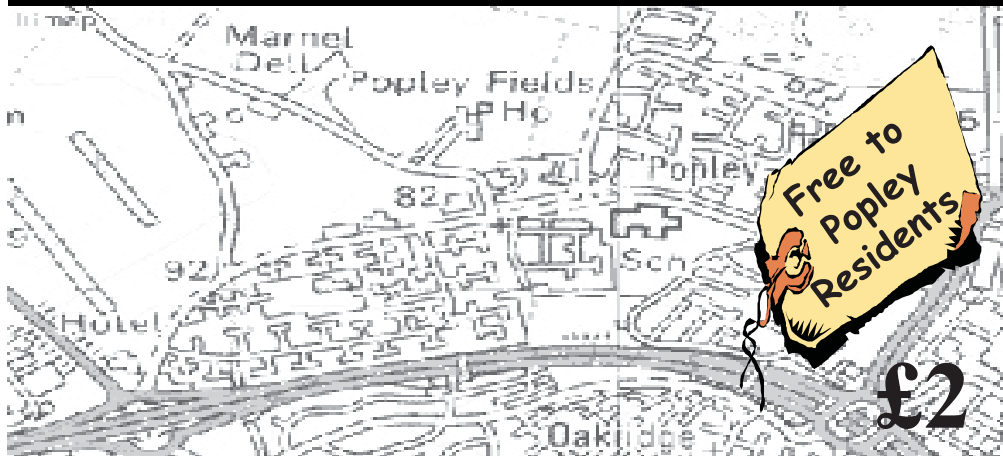
POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

June 2017

Distribution of 5,400

Issue 184



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-6-17) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: June already, and many people will have organised their holiday and I expect there will be a lot of excitement and anticipation. Let's hope we get good weather, that always helps whether you are going on holiday or staying at home. The weather was ideal for the Popley Festival and Paul and I visited as Mayor and Mayoress. We saw so many of our good friends and neighbours there that we have known for forty seven years. Paul was only 7 months old when we moved from Oakridge to our home in Abbey Road. Popley has and always will be a great place to live with a very close community.

Of course there have been many ups and downs but the Popley community always come together when there is a need or a crisis, much like most families. One happy feature of Popley is its Popley Festival that has shared its 25th anniversary with Popley Matters. Phil the Chairman has written an article on page 14. We had a wonderful surprise with the presenting to us of a massive and beautifully decorated cake made by Sue Toomer from Melrose Hall to really note and celebrate the 25 years of Popley Matters. We will be sharing the cake at the usual coffee morning meeting at Melrose Hall. Thank you Sue, it was just an amazing and brilliant surprise.

On page 25 there is an appeal for residents of Marnel Park and Merton Rise to get involved as a group to help shape the future for the residents there. PCSO Christie Norris is going to write a regular article and the second of these is on page 4 we also want to wish Nicola good luck in her Miss England Pageant Contest. Nicola made the final 20 last year and hopes to do even better this time. Read her incredible story so far on page 6. Ray has written what we hope will also be a regular article on Lawn Bowls at Marnell Bowls Club this month on page 17. We welcome new articles and of course advertisements as the magazine is self-funding and non-profit.

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

BVA Basingstoke Voluntary Action **Volunteering Success!**

Last year, Basingstoke Volunteer Centre developed a new website www.volunteernorthhants.org to replace our use of the Do-it website. We also increased our outreach events and were featured by the then Mayor, Cllr Jane Frankum in her Charity Appeal for people to contribute time and money to make a difference. We've found an increasing number of people are starting to use our new site, but it's even more encouraging to see that the numbers of people who are being placed has increased by almost 50%. That means for every 10 people who found a voluntary role with a charity or community group through us last year, we are now seeing 15 people volunteering and benefitting the local community.

Have you ever thought about volunteering to make good use of your time, keep busy, make friends or add to your C.V.? You might be interested in admin, gardening, children, youth, older people, health and social care – we have all these roles and many more! We have access to 470 voluntary roles registered with us and are in contact with hundreds of charities and community organisations across North Hampshire, so we are a great source for volunteering roles and can save a lot of time searching for just the right role. You can look on our website www.volunteernorthhants.org Facebook page www.facebook.com/basingstokevc or Twitter [@basingstokevc](https://twitter.com/basingstokevc) or you can contact us on 01256 423850 or vc@bvaction.org.uk

We also offer 1-2-1 appointments for anyone looking for guidance to find just the right role where you are most needed and where you can find the satisfaction you're looking for.

Sarah Robinson

Volunteer Centre Manager, [Basingstoke Voluntary Action](http://www.volunteernorthhants.org)

01256 423854 /423850

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**Keep up with local Voluntary Sector forums, Volunteer Manager Forums,
Recruitment events, training and other news at www.volunteernorthhants.org**

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Councillors' Page: Firstly may I thank everyone that voted for me and by such a large majority. I will as always do my very best for every resident and know that there are some difficult challenges be they locally in my division or for Hampshire as a whole.

I am talking to officers about the problem of parking that are in my division and particularly in Appleton Drive, as this is a major through fair for people accessing the school, hospital and shops. On talking to many residents they feel that the road markings in place need extending on T junctions and corners as parking on these is unlawful and, more importantly, dangerous. Neither pedestrians nor drivers can see oncoming traffic. It is sad that a few people can make things so difficult as most of our residents try to park sensibly. Please email me if you have any comments that you want to be considered. The work I have done so far has got the possible scheme on the list and I am striving to bring it more forward but am battling the massive cuts to funding to local authorities. Email me at jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk *Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk*

Popley West: As my year as Mayor ended I can now reflect on what a busy year it has been. The work with the Mayor's Community Chest is to carry on as Cllr Paul Frankum (my son) has decided that as it was so successful in helping so many charities and groups that would not normally have a channel to get funds and volunteers. Seven groups have had funding and there are eight more to be decided by the panel in my final round. New applications are now open and details are on Basingstoke and Deane website and BVA (Basingstoke Voluntary Action). On page 1 you can read how the Community Chest helped the Basingstoke Volunteer Centre increase people coming forward to help many of our charities and groups that desperately need help. I know those that have come forward will find great joy in helping others. It also helps you keep healthy and can also be a positive on your CV if you are seeking work or considering changing your job. A big thank you is due to everyone that donated and went even further and held events to raise funds. I hope you will continue to do this in Paul's Mayoral year.

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

Popley East: We usually write here about issues and changes affecting Popley East but we hope that on this occasion you will agree that as Cllr Paul Frankum and Cllr Jane Frankum are long standing residents of Popley, we should use the opportunity to offer our congratulations to them both on Paul's appointment as Mayor and Jane for the completion of a very successful year in the role. Paul was Deputy to Jane last year so attended many events which we are sure will have provided good training for the year ahead.

Paul's appointment is, we believe, a first for Basingstoke & Deane and by that we mean the first occasion that a new Mayor has taken over directly from a family member. As we have had Mayors (during some periods they were called Chairs) at Basingstoke & Deane since 1641 this is a remarkable achievement.

We understand that Paul is also the youngest mayor in over 40 years. I hope you will join us in wishing them every success in their work for the community.

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



News from the Police

Hello readers,

I hope you are all well.

I have been very busy this last month organising and preparing ways of tackling parking issues, something which I am sure we have all had to deal with at some point. Our issue as PCSOs is that we have very limited powers and so I wanted to come up with other ways to help reduce the problem and raise awareness of the effect that ways of parking can have on the community. Stay tuned!

Last month, we met with the local councillors to discuss issues and share information. This was very interesting as we found out lots of information regarding the community that we were not aware of. We plan to make this a regular occurrence because it was so successful!

Last week was Op Liberal week. This focuses on rogue traders and doorstep crime in which we revisited previous victims to see how they were getting on, and patrolled the streets that have been targeted in the past. These crimes involve people coming to your door and offering you services for an extortionate amount of money. They may agree on an initial low price but then increase this number and vulnerable people may feel pressured to pay it. Just remember – If you are not sure, DON'T ANSWER THE DOOR.

If you feel you may have been targeted before please report this to 101 – we will be happy to have a chat with you and ensure you are equipped with the right information to prevent this from happening again.

I hope you enjoy the start of your summer – feel free to stop and say hi if you see any of the team out and about!

**Many thanks,
PCSO Christie Norris 16287**

Over 55s Forum

We still have places available for our trip to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. With over 330 Memorials, it includes the train ride to take you around the grounds and there are many more things to do whilst you are there. Why not go on their 'website' to get far more information of what is there. Price of £25.00 includes entrance and coach. Anyone interested please do contact Gerald on 07792535116 or e-mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com

Our Music and Dance show to Celebrate the "International Day for Older People" on 30th September 2017 will be at Queen Mary's College, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke - 2pm to 5pm with refreshments. Price per ticket is £6.00 (what really good value).

It is a pleasure to announce that The Mayor and Mayoress of Basingstoke will open and close this show.

***Thanks, that is all for now.
Gerald (Secretary)***

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News from Miss Basingstoke Nicola Ascroft

Hello everyone!

Firstly, I'd just like to thank you all for taking the time to read this article. For those of you who don't know me, I'm Nicola Ascroft, Miss Basingstoke 2017. I have been competing in the prestigious Miss England Beauty Pageant for the past few years representing Basingstoke.

The competition is about finding a great ambassador and role model for England, and is therefore made up of many different categories: charity - supporting and raising funds for many local and national charities; eco wear - creating our own outfit out of economical, recycled, up-cycled and charitable materials; sports woman - being put through our paces - promoting health and wellbeing; talent - we are to record a video of ourselves performing our talent; PR - finding who can gain the most amount of positive press; and much much more!

The part in which I love the most, is the charity round. I believe it is through my hard work, passion and dedication for charity work that saw me awarded the Charity award at the semi finals last year. It was an incredible feeling to be recognised for being the top fundraiser across the nation at that time. It is my biggest hope to win this award again this year!

The semi finals are taking place on Sunday 4th June 2017, at Kelham Hall, Nottingham. I will be competing beside at least 60 worthwhile girls for a place in the grand final held 12-14th July in Birmingham.

If you would like to support my fundraising, I am hosting a fun filled Charity Race Night at The Four Horseshoes Pub in Sherfield-on-Loddon on Thursday 1st June. The evening begins at 7pm (first race starts at 7:45pm). Entry is only £2 per person (children under 12 come free). For more information, please see the Facebook event page, or you can contact me on nicola_ascroft@hotmail.co.uk.

As I continue to do my final preparations for the semi finals, I would like to take the time to thank each and every one of you for all of your continuous support of my fundraising efforts. Without your kind and generous donations, over these past few years, it has enabled me to raise an outstanding £17,000+ for local and national charities.



With love,
Nicola Ascroft - Miss Basingstoke 2017.
Page 6

	9-12am	12-3pm	3-6pm	6-11pm
Monday	10.00 to 12.00 - Craft club 11.00 to 12.00 - Over 50s exercise class		3.00 to 4.00 - Breathe easy exercise class	7.00 to 9.00 - Power Hooping 7.00 to 8.30 - Youth Club 8 to 11s
Tuesday	10.30 to 11.15 - Messy Monsters	1.45 to 4.00 - Parkinson's group (1st Tuesday of the month)	4.30 to 8.30 - MG Dance	7.30 to 10.00 - Knights Circle
Wednesday	10.00 to 11.00 - Tai Chi 10.00 to 12.00 - Baby Clinic 11.15 to 12.15 - Breathe easy exercise class	2.00 to 4.00 - Forever Young over 50s group		7.30 to 9.00 – NTCOG prayer meeting
Thursday	10.00 to 1.00 - Embroiderers Guild sewing	1.00 to 4.00 - Embroiderers Guild (monthly)		6.30 to 8.30 - Youth Club 11 to 13s 7.30 to 9.30 - Sassy Dance
Friday		Available for private functions all day		
Saturday	10.00 to 11.30 - MG Dance	Available for private functions from 11.30		
Sunday	10.30 to 12.00 - New Testament Church 10.00 to 11.00 - Messy Monsters (2nd Sunday of the month)	1.00 to 4.30 - TRC Church	Available for private functions all day	
Mon-Fri	Treasure Island Playschool 9.15 - 3.15	Community Cafe 10.00 - 2.00		



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6.00pm - 7.00pm: *"Follies and Nonsense" concert*

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And who was "Putting on the Ritz"

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www.bellecanto.uk www.facebook.com/bellecantotrio www.basingstokefestival.co.uk

Basingstoke
Festival
2017



Dear Friends

June, June oh June! Sitting here in my study writing this I keep glancing out of the window and looking over the church grounds. We're well into spring now and summer is swiftly approaching. I know this because the grass is growing at a speedy rate accompanied by the inevitable weed patch that forms the border of the church car park. We have plans to dig this out in a couple of weeks and plant some border and bedding plants, which I am certain will improve its appearance – or will it?

A couple of years ago when we first dug this bed out I threw in a mixture of wild flower seeds and this year in among the nettles and dock leaves we have some lovely wild daises and what looks like a wild fuchsia (I'm no expert on flower and fauna). In its untidiness there is a kind of beauty in this stretch of land that I find fascinating. God's wondrous creativity emerges not just at the Chelsea Flower Show or our well planted parks and gardens but in the unruliness of weeds and wild flowers. He loves them too, they are part of His creation, and I have no doubt that the wildlife is also greatly enjoying the less cultivated areas of St Gabriel's.

Same for us really! We don't all lead neat and orderly lives. Sometimes circumstance and situation mean that there can be a wildness and unruliness about our lives that is beyond our control and can make us feel isolated or cut off from the stuff of life that others take as normal. Does that mean we're isolated or cut off from the God who created us, desires the best for us and has a plan for us? Not a bit of it! Jesus said 'I have come to seek and save the lost!' Whatever or wherever we find ourselves Jesus knows us and is alongside us ready and waiting to share with us.

The trouble is, left unchecked the weeds can choke the life out of the flowers and so, sadly, I need to take action in order to save the flowers! Maybe we'll leave just a little patch of weeds to serve as a reminder and to help the wildlife! God too acted to prevent the weeds of circumstance and situation choking the life out of you – He sent his son Jesus to live, to die and to be raised again for you. If you want to get in touch with the ultimate Gardener then come along to St Gabriel's any Sunday morning at 10.30am and we'll show you how.

Your Friend in Christ.
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Vicar, St Gabriel's 01256 324734

visit us at www.projectg.org for some exciting news about our buildings extensions project! We're interested in, and investing in the success of our community!

Notice Your Neighbourhood

If you spot an issue, please let us know and we'll do our best to help.

What can I report?

There are lots of things you can report to us for repair or removal in your neighbourhood and some examples are below. Visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report for the full list as well as how to report problems with a highway.

- Graffiti
- Found needles
- Fly tipping
- Litter
- Broken glass
- Dog fouling
- Overflowing bins
- Abandoned vehicles
- Damaged trees
- Overhanging vegetation and hedges
- Excessive weeds on busy footways
- Damaged equipment in parks and open spaces



How can I report it?

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ISSUE 2015

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7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic

6.30-9.00pm 4Fits Sake

TUESDAY:

9.30am-12.00pm Popley Little People

5.00-7.30pm Suma Karate

WEDNESDAY:

9.00am Slimming World

11.00am Slimming World

11.45am-1.30pm Oasis Lunch club

5.30 and 7.30pm Slimming World

THURSDAY:

9.30-11.30am Community Café

8.00pm-9.00pm 4 Fits Sake

FRIDAY:

10.00am-12.30pm Melrose Tots

6.15-9.15pm Friday Youth Club

SATURDAY:

9.15am-4.00pm 7TH Day Adventist Church

10am Sabbath School - Bible Study

11.30am Divine Worship

1pm Free Community Lunch

SUNDAY:

Contact Emanuel Ampofo on 07456068812 for further details

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 and occasional hire. **Please Ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at Melrosehal21@gmail.com**



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Also available- Breakfast and Lunch clubs (for further details contact Elaine on 363156).

Monday evening C.M.A. keep fit and kick boxing from 6.30pm-8.00pm.

Tuesday evening Community bingo, doors open at 7.00pm, eyes down at 8.00pm.

Finish around 9.45pm (light refreshments available at halftime)

Thursday evening Street dance and ballet classes for two and a half years to adult 4.30pm- 6.30pm. School term time. Please contact Samantha Pike on 07811299484

Thursday evening C.M.A. kick boxing from 7pm - 8.30pm.

Friday evening Friday Club (children) 6pm - 7pm

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POPLEY 25th FESTIVAL Anniversary

Wow! What a Popley Festival we had this year. Thousands of you came out to Popley Fields to have a great day, full of fun and entertainment and we'd like to thank you all for making the event what it is.

The festival's entertainment was opened up by Everest Academy's steel drum band followed by local bands and dance performances from Spotlight, Dance to the Beat, Merton Junior School, and the Gurkha community. We'd like to thank them all for giving up their time to entertain us all.

With over 30 stalls, a car boot sale and an enormous fun fair there was something for everyone but we'd like to give a special thanks to all those who volunteer and give their time to support the festival. Also a special thanks to the members of New Testament Church of God in their red t-shirts who do so much to make the event happen on the day.

We hope to see you next year and would love to hear from you if you'd like to be involved, please contact us via the website; www.popleyfestival.org.uk

Thanks, looking forward to next year,

Phil Mean

Popley Festival Committee Chair



Friends of Merton

Summer Fun Day
Monday 3rd July 2017
3.30pm - 4.30pm

Various Stalls and Activities

- Refreshments & BBQ
- Raffle
- Bottle Tombola
- Lucky dip
- Children's Tombola
- traditional games

Come a long and join in the fun!
You will find us at
Merton infant & junior school
Romsey Close, Popley



Lions Club of Basingstoke

Website www.basingstokelions.org.uk

This year is our **50th ANNIVERSARY IN BASINGSTOKE**, so we thought we'd have a special birthday party. Our President asked local businesses if they would be kind enough to donate raffle prizes. They were very forthcoming and our thanks to all who donated are recorded on our website. Over 100 guests, including the Mayor, came to help us celebrate. As a result the raffle raised over £2,500 which is a very significant boost to our Charity Trust Fund. Many thanks to all, and to the charity **Helping Hands for the Blind** which provided the disco free of charge. To top the month off, our Club was given an award for innovative community service at a recent Lions Convention.

EASTER EGGS: I reported earlier that we placed big chocolate ones in pubs to be raffled. They raised a phenomenal £3,212.72 from which 18 charities have already benefited. Many thanks to all the pubs and their customers who contributed so generously.

SWIMATHON : The proceeds are now helping 7 families to send their children to the Special Olympics in Sheffield.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The **Lions Den** is now out and about. So look out for it from now onwards at all school fetes and festivals.

8/07/2017 Sees a welcome return of the **Heritage Light Orchestra and supporting singers** to perform for us at Queen Mary's College. It is very definitely one of our most entertaining and interesting evenings. The theme this time is music and lyrics relating to the sea and sea travel. There will be signature tunes from a number of radio and television pieces, songs from shows, films, and Gilbert and Sullivan that are set by, on, or even under, the sea! You can buy tickets direct from our website if you don't know any of us personally.

WELFARE: In addition to the £1,300 already donated via the Easter Eggs, we spent £193 to resolve 2 domestic emergencies and £1,310 to help 5 other charities.

PEACE POSTER COMPETITION: We are still looking for young artists who are between the ages of 11 and 13 to design a poster depicting "The Future Of Peace", they will have until November to submit their finished design. For information and the poster kit, please contact John Lincoln 01256 325280 email jomolincoln@btinternet.com. Come on Basingstoke, show us what you're made of! (Yes, I know, you shouldn't end a sentence with a preposition!!!).

Springbok Speaks to Inspire School

The children and staff of Merton Junior School were treated to a visit from a truly exceptional man, ex-South African rugby player George Feuche, who visited the school in order to discuss his 'Dare 2 Inspire' programme.

He completed a short biography, where he proudly told the children that he had had dinner with the legendary Nelson Mandela three times and explained that he was the third generation of international professional rugby players whose career spanned 14 years. The children were very impressed with this!



He went from representing South Africa schools teams to playing against the British Lions in 1997.

In 1999 he left South Africa for Cardiff Blues Rugby, but soon into his stay, a freak accident on the rugby pitch resulted in a George suffering a broken neck, which would have brought most people's playing careers to an end. However, this was not going to stop George, instead it led to a renewed motivation to make a comeback and he enjoyed a very lucky 7 years in the English Premiership and the Heineken Cup with London Wasps and London Irish.



George explained to the fascinated assembly that although he has now retired from playing and coaching rugby, his talent and passion was never going to be wasted.

He now lives in a rural area of Suffolk with his wife, children, and a menagerie of animals. He spends the majority of his time racing all over the UK in every type of school delivering his acclaimed shows and workshops, sharing his story as an example that dreams can always be fulfilled, everyone possesses the key characteristics to being successful and that resilience can be learned.

All of the children thanked George for his delivery and subsequently left the hall with a great hum of excitement. They spoke of his resilience and perseverance even when he was faced with some of life's hardest challenges and were truly inspired to achieve.

Merton Junior School children will Dare 2 Inspire, thank you George Feuche!

Tales of the Marnel Woods

So, the bowls summer season is now up and running and as soon as the summer weather season catches up, all will be well with the world. I mentioned last time a rather different competition we were going to use to open the season. The title was to be bowler or non bowler and members were asked to coerce a friend to join them in a game. If you don't have any, then relatives, neighbours, workmates or passing acquaintances would do. To maintain standards we insisted that dragging strangers in off the streets would not do! The results from this enterprise were very good. We managed to garner six groups who played in pairs, one bowler plus his friend the non bowler in an elimination contest until we had a winner. Details and photos of this event can be seen on the Marnell Bowls Club website. The really nice thing about this competition was the effect it had on the non bowlers. After being exposed to the pure charm and bonhomie of our club members, over 50% signed membership application forms and are now fully paid up members of the fraternity.

Later in the week, the Wednesday evening league programme began. We have two teams in this, one drawn at home this week and I was drawn away at Littleton near Winchester. Naturally, that was the day the weather broke. I put this down to the cause of us losing but strangely nobody bought this theory, however, win or lose we all enjoyed the matches, such is the nature abundant within the club, enjoyment being the criteria. Nobody sets out to lose; you just don't shed tears when you do. The next weekend we had what we call a "spoon drive" (don't ask) excellent for new players. You are drawn into teams, normally triples, and you play in a mini league to qualify for the finals. All done in one afternoon! It is a great introduction for beginners and a chance for the experienced players to get needed practise. Nothing benefits you more than playing alongside better players and often encourages newer players to attend Tuesday evening "open nights" as they have now seen what is possible and want some of it for themselves. Next up is the second week of the league. This time I am at home and the other team is at St Mary Bourne, then from Thursday onwards we begin the Thursday afternoon league. I am at Fleet while our other team is at home to Alton. It all sounds a bit busy but it is not really, you only do as much as you choose to do and meeting old friends from opposing teams is always pleasurable. If only they would let me win occasionally? Did any of you see us in the town centre on Saturday 29th We had recruitment stand by Boots. Did you say hello as you passed by? If not, why not ? Just remember we are open 6-8pm Tuesdays for anyone wanting to see for themselves what I prattle on about. **RAY**



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: Vacant Leader post – contact GSL

Air Scout Beavers enjoyed a 'sleepover' in Base 2000 in March. It was a challenge for some as it was their very first such occasion so a bit scary but they managed to have a great time despite their initial fears. Well done! Plenty to do including building shelters in the woods, lighting fires, toasting marshmallows and trying to learn how to tie basic knots.



In April the Colony joined with other Beaver Scouts from Basingstoke East District for day out at Four Kingdoms Park near Newbury. Pedal cars, animals, playhouses, and paddle boats all kept them occupied and most were very tired by the end of the day.

On 23rd April a few of them joined with the Cub and Scout sections of Air Scout Group for the annual St. George's Day Celebrations hosted

this year by Chineham Scout Group. The parade marched from Chineham Shopping Centre to Chineham Community Centre for the traditional renewal of Promises.



James Ketchell, a Scouting Ambassador, will be coming to talk to the Beavers about his world-wide adventures and future plans. The Colony also hopes to spend an evening pond dipping in Eastrop Park – but that will depend on a sufficient number of adults being prepared to join in and help.

The Group needs more leaders to cope with rapidly expanding demand. Both Beaver and Cub sections are now at full strength and no more young people can join - **UNLESS we can find extra adults to join in.** Adults must satisfy Confidential Enquiry and Disclosure and Barring Service clearance but, apart from wanting to help young people have fun and extend their knowledge/skills, no other experience is required. Training is given on-the-job' and at training courses mostly during evenings and weekends. Roles are flexible, uniformed or non-uniformed and can work round shifts/other commitments.

To find out more please contact Group Scout Leader Colin Karslake in the first instance. Telephone (01256) 410559 / 07796 772 500 or e-mail colink@base2000.co.uk

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

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My Summer Holiday Application Was Refused! What Are My Options?

Annual leave requests come thick and fast for employers over the summer months. Balancing the needs of the company and those of employees who have to deal with childcare arrangements over the school holidays can be challenging. So what are your rights if you need time off?

Gill Brown, Head of the Employment Team at Phillips Solicitors has the answers.

Can your employer refuse your holiday request?

The simple answer to that is yes it can. Every employee is entitled to a minimum of their statutory holiday of 28 days inclusive of the eight bank/public holidays if they work on a five day per week basis – pro rata for different working patterns. Contrary to the general belief there is no statutory right to actually have any bank/public holidays off work although this is often contractual. Employers are actually entitled to designate when holiday has to be taken.

For example, it is legal for a company to have a shutdown period when holiday must be taken or to designate a busy period when no holiday may be taken at all. Many companies only grant holiday requests on a first come first served basis to ensure cover in every department. If you are refused holiday for one of these reasons you need to check what the provisions are in your contract of employment and check that the company has a clear and transparent holiday usage policy, which it is operating fairly and without discrimination. Simply granting time off on a grace and favour basis is not an acceptable way for an employer to behave.

What other rights might you have for taking time off for childcare in the summer holiday?

Dependant leave – You are entitled to take unpaid dependant leave to deal with emergencies relating to your dependants. This usually means for a maximum of one or two days and would cover the emergency of regular childcare arrangements failing and you needing time to sort out alternative arrangements.

Flexible Working – Whilst the company is not obliged to grant your request, it will be obliged to seriously consider any application that you make formally for flexible working. Traditionally this is to reduce hours or days, but there is nothing to prohibit an application not to work during all or part of the school holidays. Remember, however, that any flexible working request that is approved is permanent (unless agreed otherwise) and you can only make one request in any period of 12 months whether it is refused or granted.

Parental Leave – After one year of employment you are entitled to apply for up to 18 weeks unpaid leave to spend with each of your children before they reach 18. No more than four weeks unpaid parental leave can be taken in any calendar year. The employer can reject the dates proposed and offer alternatives, but cannot completely refuse the request.

If this affects you or you would like any further information or assistance on these or any other employment issues, please contact Gill Brown at Phillips on 01256 854605 or gill.brown@phillips-law.co.uk where she or another member of the employment team will be happy to help. To find out more about Phillips visit www.phillips-law.co.uk.



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As the league season ends, and we look back on the great year we have had, we can see that the club continues to grow each year.

With 15 teams now playing at the club and 22 FA qualified coaches volunteering their time to coach children from 4 to 17 years old in a safe, fun and welcoming environment, it's not hard to achieve positive results on the pitch. Recent successes being our U12 Girls, who won their division in the Berkshire County Girls League, and our U12 Venom team winning their division in the North East Hants Youth League. In addition a mid-season Tournament win from our U14 Saturday team and, so far, two more tournament wins from our U12 Predators at the Beacon Hill Tournament and U10s at the Fleet Spurs Tournament and, also for the U10s, a League Plate win to close their season in the Peter Houseman Youth League.

Moving into next season the club is excited to be continuing its relationships with both Everest Community Academy in Popley, for 3G and Indoor training facilities, and Basingstoke Sports and Social Club at Mays Bounty for match day pitches and club house.

A few of our teams are looking for new players to strengthen their existing squads, U7, U9, U12 Girls, U13, U14, U15 Sunday, U16, U17/18 – please register your interest at committee@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk.

Our All Stars played a practice match with Basingstoke Colts and the boys played brilliantly. 16 goals were scored by us over 4 games with the highlight being Jamie scoring 5. We have 2 tournaments coming up and we are looking forward to showcasing all we have learnt in training on the football pitch. We are looking to recruit new players for next season.

Our MFC Popley U7s worked really hard on their last game of the league season producing, perhaps, one of the best of the season. Well done Boys, awesome performance.

Our U8s are looking for new players to add to their squad for next season going into U9s. We are also holding a Dads fundraising match on 1st July at Mapledurwell Village Hall between 1pm and 4pm should anyone want to come down and watch and maybe win some great raffle prizes.

MFC Popley U10s have just won the PHYLL Plate Trophy final. It was 1-1 at the end of regular time, eventually winning 2-1 on penalties. We have also recently won the Fleet Spurs tournament playing 6 winning 6, scoring 15 and conceding 0. We defended this as we also won it last year.

Our U11 season has come to an end but the great news doesn't stop there. Valentino, Jamie and Taylor have been invited to train with Chelsea and further their knowledge of the game. Also I am proud to announce that Jamie and Taylor did win the District Schools League with a win over Portsmouth. We also wish both boys luck when they travel to Stoke FC to play in the national finals for a chance to represent England in New York at the schools World Cup finals!

We are looking to recruit new players for next season (Year 7 in September).

MFC Popley U12s finished their season on a high with our MFC Popley Venom team being crowned NEHYL League Champions. Huge credit to the players for what they have achieved. We heard the news whilst competing at the Beacon Hill Tournament and to continue the success of this age group our MFC Popley Predators were victorious in winning the tournament. We hope to build upon this success going into next season.

We are currently looking for players to join our U16 squad as we are looking to take a team into NEHYL, ages 16-17 mixed.

Our U16s had a tough start to the Premier League this season after being placed in the wrong league to start with which meant we had a lot more games to play than other teams and with a very tight squad. We got through it and finished a more than respectable 3rd in the league. Hopefully next season we can go 2 places better and win the league.

Which leads to recruiting to new players, but you can word that however you like !! Also we went out of the 3rd round of the cup losing to the eventual winners. If you are interested, or know someone that might be interested in joining MFC Popley Youth, please feel free to attend our training session on a Monday night at Everest Community Academy on the 3G pitches, 8pm-9pm. Alternatively please contact the U16 coach, Darryl Bradbury, on 07825498504.

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 centered

around how the 8,500 safeguarding officers working across England football take the following four steps: 1) Checked – to ensure adults are suitable to work with youngsters 2) Trained – from coaches to referees, all are given suitable safeguarding training 3) Hear – concerns from both children and adults will be listened to 4) Report – the importance of raising concerns about a child’s welfare Link to Film <https://thefa.sharefile.com/d-5f9b8ae03a0541469> 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 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 had 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 -

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U10 Sponsor-Dazzle

U12 Sponsor-Southern Communications Ltd

U12 Girls Sponsor-BGS Plumbing & Heating

U14 Sponsor - Vohkus

U15 Sponsor - Allens Group

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

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Come and enjoy an evening of beautiful music in our Summer Serenade Concert. The programme features Tchaikovsky's ever popular Sleeping Beauty Suite, telling the story of Princess Aurora. This is accompanied by the Prince Igor Overture by Borodin, Bruch's Scottish Fantasy for violin and orchestra, Gluck's Dance of the Blessed Spirits, and Fantasia on a theme of Thomas Tallis by Vaughan-Williams.

As a special treat for this summer concert, members of the wind section will be performing wind quintets in the foyer before the concert starts. Quintessentially Wind are in demand for a variety of functions from weddings to charity concerts. Why not arrive a little early and enjoy a glass of wine whilst listening to the quintet?

Tickets from just £2 for under 16s accompanied by an adult.

For more details please visit our website www.bso.org.uk and for tickets go to www.anvilarts.org.uk or call 01256 844244.

The Marnel and Merton Community Planning Group

Are you interested in improving the Marnel and Merton development for its residents?

Would you like to get involved in organising some community activities and planning future community facilities?

The Marnel and Merton Community Planning Group (M&M Group) is a group of local residents who got together to help to develop a community plan for the Marnel and Merton development. The plan lays out a long-term vision for the area and an action plan to achieve this.

We would like to hear from any resident who would like to get involved and help us take those actions forward. Marnel and Merton group can then be a consultative body once the Basingstoke and Dean planning team get to the planning and design stage for the community facilities.

The next meeting of those interested in participating in Marnel and Merton Group will be Wednesday 7th June from 7 - 9pm at Everest Community Academy, off Oxford Way RG24 9UP.

The Marnel & Merton Group.



6th Basingstoke Boys' Brigade Newsletter

We have been going to Popley Festival for quite a few years now and were so surprised that this year was its 25th anniversary, amazing! This year we set up a car boot stall to raise funds for our company, Hopefully you kept an eye out for our former captain Dave Philips who volunteered to help run it.

Donations - If you have any unwanted gifts, toys, bric-a-brac, etc. that you would like to donate to the company to sell to help keep us going that would be highly appreciated, contact below.

This month's classes have been challenging the boys to work together from "fastest tent build" where teams raced against each other (good practice for camp) to implementing their fund raising ideas for this years camp, look out for future announcements.

Are you up to the challenge?

We are looking for volunteers to join our officer and helper team. We meet on a Monday evening from 6:15-7:15pm and need additional support running our younger section. Give us a ring: **07775 535434** or drop us an email: **6thbasingstokebb@gmail.com**.

Date for your diaries

18th June 2017

Car wash Service at St Gabriel's

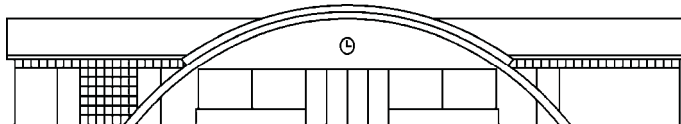
Come down to St Gabriel's Church from 12:30pm to get your car washed, just £5 per car for an exterior wash. All proceeds go to the company.

17th September 2017

Morrisons Bag Packing event, come along and donate some of your time or money as we provide a bag packing service throughout the day.

SHERBORNE ST. JOHN CHUTE SPORTS & RECREATION CENTRE

Sherborne St. John Parish Council
The Chute Sports and Recreation Centre



The newly refurbished Sports Pavilion in Sherborne St John is a great place for sports groups and anyone wanting a venue for parties.

Groups at present using the Pavilion include football, judo, indoor short-mat bowls, martial arts, triathlon, hoola hoop and a nursery but there is always room for more!! The tennis courts have also been totally renovated and are ready for use.

So if you want information about joining one of these clubs please contact **Penny Mayo, SSJ Parish Clerk, on ssjclerk@gmail.com**



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EVEREST HEALTH & LEISURE CLUB

Come and have a look around or call 01256 337573 for more information
Everest Community Academy, Oxford Way, Basingstoke RG24 9UP

* Peak members only

Year 11 final GCSEs started on 15 May and will run until the end of June, we have been working with our Year 11's to help them cope with exam stress including a Residential Revision Trip to Dorset and introducing them to Relaxation Techniques. We wish all our students every success in their exams and future endeavours.



Year 7, 8 & 9 took part in the 'Superstars' competition at QMC, competing against other local schools in a variety of different sports including Rowing, Swimming and Fitness Tests.

Team Everest will also be competing locally in Athletics, Softball, Volley Ball and Rounder's competitions during the Summer Term.

Our Steel Pan group 'PanEverest' played at the Popley Festival in May and will once again be appearing at many local events during the summer months.

Its been 10 years since we moved from Popley Way onto our current site!!

Check out our website, www.everestcommunityacademy.org or our facebook page for all upcoming events <https://www.facebook.com/everestcommunityacademy>.

Chineham Library

We are now approaching summer which is our busiest time of year in the library. This is when the fantastic Summer Reading Challenge for primary school aged children returns to us. This year's theme is 'Animal Agents', and it runs from 15th July to 16th September. To ensure this runs successfully we need plenty of volunteer help. If you are aged 14 plus and can spare at least two hours per week, excluding holidays, please do contact us. Comprehensive training is provided, and we hope you would enjoy working alongside our staff team.

Our regular activities for children continue as usual, with the weekly rhymetimes for pre-schoolers on Tuesday mornings. The sessions for under ones are at 10am, and the over ones at 11am. The popular craft sessions are scheduled for 3rd June and 1st July taking place between 10am and 12pm. Storytimes for pre-schoolers take place on all other Saturdays, commencing at 10am. The Chatterbooks group for 7 to 11 year olds continues to meet monthly, with sessions on 15th June and 13th July, new members are always welcome. The Coding Club will meet weekly throughout this month. In April we held two extra sessions for youngsters; the Easter activities and Star Wars activities, both of which were well supported.

The Crime Reading group will meet on 10th June from 10.30 – 11.30am, and the CHIPPS group on 14th June from 10 – 11am. For details of meetings of the Colour and Create adult colouring group which meets fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons, please contact the library. Age Concern will be continuing to provide computer session for the over 50s on Wednesday mornings between 10am and 1pm. To book sessions please contact their office on 01256 423874.

We hope to see you in the library soon, whether to attend an activity, borrow a book or use a computer. Also please follow us on social media if you have access to this.

Cathy Foster



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SCALEXTRIC

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For more information contact us at
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