

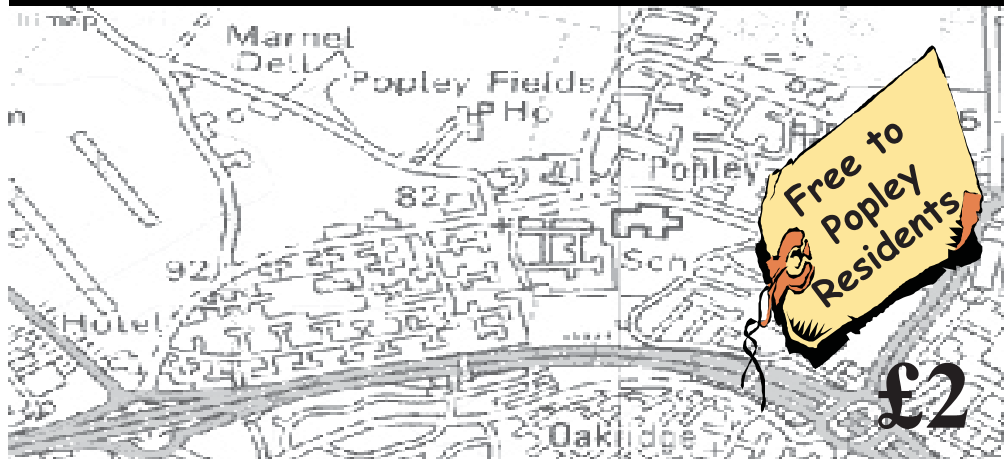
POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

October 2017

Distribution of 5,400

Issue 188



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-10-17) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: October already and although it is officially only just started autumn, we have had to put the heating on. I am no fan of the cold and am already wishing the summer weather was here. I don't know about you but seeing Christmas decorations and trees up in some shops this early doesn't help. Already I have heard children saying what they want for Christmas and it reminds me of the many places in this country and abroad that will not be able to afford Christmas and the cost of the celebrations. The Camrose Centre helps some of those that are in need, and they have a list of things they need to help people with. You can see the list on their Facebook

page. Basingstoke Foodbank also has a Facebook page. Having visited the Foodbank I was surprised how much it was needed to help people who are temporarily in need. It is not there to feed people on a permanent basis but helps to point people into finding help to get through a crisis. It is sad that this is needed but, if you can, please spare suitable food i.e. not items that needs a lot of cooking as they may have little or no gas and electric.

Popley Matters has a lot of articles on things to do and local clubs so I won't pick any out as I think they are all important in their own way and you can chose what you want to do. Popley Matters would like a few more volunteers to deliver your magazine so if you can spare an hour please get in touch with me editor@popleymatters.org.uk or phone 819924. Poets, Islands and Merton Rise are the most in need of your help. Also if you want to advertise or submit an article please contact me.

Alex Russell is the new Headteacher of Everest Community Academy. Paul and I met him at the school. We wish him well and sincerely hope that he achieves his goal of improvements in the two school years he is aiming for. The school has all the facilities, and we have many bright and talented children who go there. We have invited him to write an introductory article hopefully for the November issue.

Contact me on 819924 or email editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Sub Editor
Paul Frankum

The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the editorial team, the members of the committee, or the Popley Matters magazine.

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Thank you for your support.



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 cars. 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 drivers 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? 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 volunteer@neighbourcare.com. See also our website www.neighbourcare.com for further information about our service.

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Councillors' Page: One of the committees I serve on is Adult Services and at the last meeting we were asked to forward the recommendations to the Cabinet. I voted against because I sincerely believe that some of the cuts will in fact cause more stress and need to spend more in the future. The voluntary sector are picking up so much of the work that the council used to do. I am a realist and know that savings have to be found as the government has slashed a lot of the grants and allowances. But I and other councillors in the opposition side believe that it needs more scrutiny and they have not considered the ongoing and future of some of the cuts. Sadly but as not unexpected all the Tory councillors voted to send it as it is. It looks like there will be more asked of volunteer and partner groups without extra funding and indeed in some cases more cutting of grants. There is predicted a loss of 150 jobs and reduction in services and benefits plus all bus passes holders will pay 50p per journey. *Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk*

Popley West: Travellers have been back in Popley again. They moved from one side of Carpenters Down to Winklebury then back to the other side of Carpenters Down, near Popley Fields Community Centre. People ask why when they are so unwelcome do they keep returning. The answer I was told is fairly simple. The police and council officers say its because they get work around and it pays. The advice I was given was to say don't hire them! Any work you need doing check for references and get recommendations from family, friends and neighbours. It may seem cheap but often the work is not of a high standard and they are encouraged to keep returning.

The cabinet put out a proposal to go to weekly bin collections. At least they listened to the massive majority of residents who all said they wanted weekly bin collections to stay. There is still so much we are unable to put in the recycling bins it is no wonder we are near the very bottom of the amount of recycling authorities.

Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924

cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Popley East: By the time you read this article the splash pad will have closed for the year.

In 2016, the first year of opening, due to its popularity and helped by the good weather, we saw a higher number of visitors than we had anticipated and this brought issues with regards to parking, particularly in the immediate vicinity and this impacted on residents who lived nearby.

During the winter period we had worked with officers at the Borough to achieve extra parking spaces prior to its re-opening in April. This resulted in the overflow car park being created along with new signage. We would like to know from residents how successful this has been so please drop us an email, our email addresses are below.

Some of you may already be aware that the Borough is currently in negotiations with developers regarding the future use of Chineham House. We will be looking to ensure that the provision of a community facility, as agreed previously, remains part of those discussions and that sufficient parking remains available for users of the splash pad. We will provide further updates as this proceeds.

Cllr David Potter 07941507801

cllr.david.potter@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Janet Westbrook 07747335200

cllr.janet.westbrook@basingstoke.gov.uk

Hello Readers,

We have been so busy recently as we have unfortunately said goodbye to more of our Officers; we wish them the best of luck. We now only have three PCSOs covering Oakridge and Popley but we are still trying our best to get everything done!



As with all weathers, the darker evenings tend to bring their own issues which may increase opportunities for homes left alone in darkness during late afternoon and early mornings, whilst some people are still typically at work.

Here are some helpful tips:

- Use timer switches (available from most D.I.Y stores) to switch on lights, radios while you are away from the home to make it look and sound occupied;
- Ensure you shut and lock windows and doors when you return home and settle down for the evening;
- Ensure you have used padlocks on the side gates to deny access to the rear of the property;
- Ensure your outside lighting is in working order (consider low level ambient light on a dusk to dawn sensor this will activate even when you are not at home);
- After the summer, secure your garden tools and garden equipment in a locked and alarmed shed or garage for the winter so that they cannot be used to gain entry to your home; and
- Property mark belongings with your house number and postcode, keep a list of any makes, models and serial numbers and Take photos of jewellery. Register your items for free at www.immobilise.com. Using this service will assist the police in returning property to the rightful owner should it be stolen.

Enjoy the weather, wrap up and stay safe!

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SCOTCHMER Valse Tragique (from Symphony no.2)
BRAHMS Symphony No.3 in F major

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All photos: Grand Piano, Zk1gRe by Tanay Mondal



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The Lighthouse Learning Hub is a new education provider now open in Popley. We are a Christian organisation and our ethos and values will be reflected in the activities we provide. Our aim is that children will be inspired to learn, through the guidance and support of our fully qualified teachers so they are able to shine as confident individuals.

Our mission is to work for the benefit of the community providing high quality preschool and after school care, an alternative education provision, special educational needs teaching and some community activities.

Preschool

Our Ofsted registered Preschool provides the 15 & 30 hours of free Early Years Education Funding available for 2, 3 and 4 year olds as well as non-funded places.

All our other activities are competitively priced at £4.50 per hour.

After School

Our Ofsted registered after school provision will be open from the end of school until 5:30pm.

We offer a relaxed environment for your child PLUS activities to boost Reading, Spelling, Maths, Phonics etc appropriate to their age. As qualified teachers with many years' experience of teaching primary aged children, we recognise the pressure experienced by working parents faced with children's homework at the end of a busy day, and are familiar with the pressures of increasing standards in the national curriculum.

Mums@Lighthouse Wednesdays 10am - 12pm

Our support group is for mums and young babies. We want to provide an environment where mums can come for a little time out with their baby and talk to other mums.



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Popley Ponds

For those of you who blinked and missed it, the summer of 2017 has come and gone so it is time to cheer up the autumn by restarting activity at Popley Ponds.

The good news is that the planting that we did at Appleton Pond has thrived with all the rain we have had and the plants are establishing themselves nicely. By the time this article is published we will have made a repeat visit to the site to remove all traces of a plant called typha – which those who know have told me is something pretty nasty that we do not want hanging around spoiling the newts' new home. With the help of an expert we will also be conducting some tests on the water (PH, conductivity, nitrate and phosphate) – science was never my strong point so I am looking forward to finding out exactly what these are!

During October a local company has kindly volunteered to undertake a days' work at the site and we have around ten volunteers coming along to help us with rebuilding the boundary hedging and 'rediscovering' one of the original paths.

Last season was the first one for the new group and we really appreciated the support we got from Natural Basingstoke to get us up and running, we are now close to the point where we have the knowledge and skills to manage the site on our own. Looking back, we had an excellent first season with some great events like the bottle trapping and Basingstoke Live and lots of progress across the ponds.

As ever there is a lot more to do and our regular activity (which takes place on the final Saturday of each month) will restart at the end of October. If you are interested in joining us further details can be found on Facebook or by email using the contact details below.



Appleton Pond



Emperor Dragonfly at Popley Ponds

Dear Friends

According to my wife I am a hopeless case. You see, whenever I come into the house I put my car keys or my glasses down and five minutes later they've disappeared! Search as we may they can never be found. Usually this happens when we need to dash off somewhere. It's always a great relief when they turn up – often where I left them – odd that isn't it? It's always a frustration when we lose or misplace something that's important and a real joy when, after a careful search we manage to find it again.

Losing or misplacing a wallet or watch or a set of keys is bad enough but misplacing a child is something else! I well remember the time when our daughter was only three or four years old and we were living in Cyprus at the time. One day we went to the beach and, being a major tourist spot it was very soon crowded. Our daughter played happily in the sand at the edge of the water no more than a few yards from where we were sitting. Suddenly we noticed she was no longer there! We dashed frantically up and down the beach calling her name, anxiously searching for her among the all the faces. Thankfully, as it turned out, she was only a short way away playing with some other children. But our relief and joy that she was safe was far beyond that of finding a misplaced wallet or watch. So it is with God when one person turns back to him.

There is a story in Luke's Gospel in the Bible (Chapter 15) that is all about the lost and found and is made up of three stories; a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost son. The stories reveal in a special way a God who is actively seeking to find something that is a real treasure to Him as a loving Father – us! I particularly like the story about the lost sheep.

Life for the shepherd in Jesus' time was a hard and difficult one. Pasture was scarce and the sheep would often wander into dangerous places in search of greener grass (sound familiar?). The shepherd was personally responsible for the sheep. If he lost one he would at least have to bring home the fleece to show how it had died. There was not a shepherd around for whom it was not all in a days work to risk his own life in order to save one of his flock.

This is the picture Jesus was drawing of God. It is, he was saying, exactly what God is like. God is as glad when a lost soul is found as a shepherd is when a strayed sheep is brought home. God knows the joy of finding the things that have been lost.

Next time you lose something and are busily and perhaps frustratingly searching for it, perhaps you may remember these stories of Jesus. Do we seek our own deepest hearts desires as earnestly as we do a lost article? Are we, like sheep, just meandering from one patch of green grass to another without looking up and seeing where we really are? And are we listening for the voice of the great Shepherd?

**Your friend in Christ,
Arthur, Vicar of St, Gabriel's
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**MESSY CHURCH THIS MONTH – HALLOWEEN LIGHT PARTY! TUESDAY 31st
Fun, craft, laughter, good company and food. ...Check it out on our website www.stgabrielspopley.net! COMMUNITY CAFÉ every Tuesday from 10.00am come and
enjoy a cheeky cappuccino, luscious latte and some great company.**



Family Halloween Party

Saturday 28th October

6.00pm-9.00pm

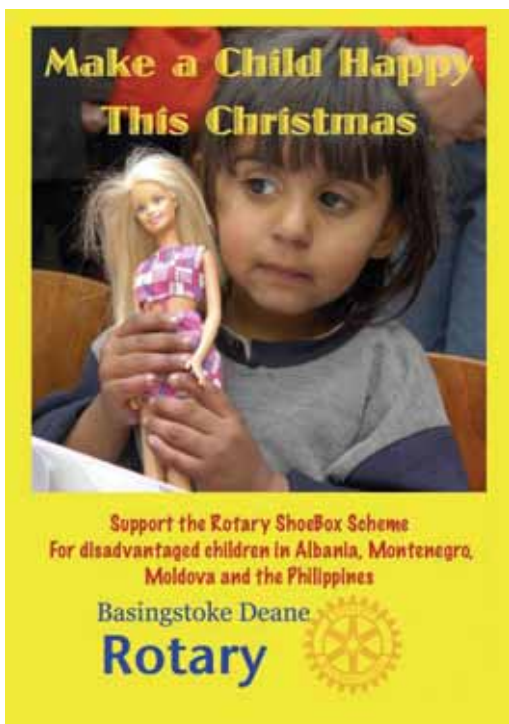
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If you would like to make up a box here are some helpful suggestions:

Choose the sex and age range for the child you would like to receive your box.

The age ranges for boxes are: 1- 3 years, 4 - 7 years, 8 -11 years, 12 - 15 years.

Please ensure that all items included are new or 'as new'.

Last year there was a great shortage of boxes for children in the older age groups.

Suggested items you might include:

Learning toys, mosaics, Lego, games, balls, jigsaws, modeling clay, sticky tape, coloured paper, skipping ropes, playing cards, dominoes, chess sets and clothing such as socks, gloves, pants, tights, hats, scarves.

Depending on the age you select you may like to include items for use at school, e.g. ball point pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, paper, colouring pencils, solar powered calculators, geometry sets.

Soap, combs, face cloths, hand cream, talc, football memorabilia of famous teams, sports magazines, books, especially paper-back English Classics.

Please do not include:

Food, drinks, liquids, items for the bath, sweets, large soft toys. swimwear, toilet rolls, large items of clothing, toy soldiers, toy guns and other military-type toys, penknives, anything breakable or anything which needs a battery.

While you are making up your box think of the delight on the face of 'your child' when they open their box that you have sent to them.

Please cover your box and lid separately with decorative paper and secure the lid with strong elastic bands (the boxes need to be opened easily as they may be inspected by Customs). Put a sticky label on the outside of your box and indicate the sex and age range you have chosen. Please donate £1 per box to help to cover the cost of transportation costs and attach the coin to the outside of the lid.

The maximum size for the shoeboxes is 13" x 8" x 6"

Boxes should be delivered by 14 October latest please to the Rotary collection points at Eden Fiat, A30, Old Basing, Basingstoke, Oakley Carpets, Andover Rd, Oakley, Basingstoke RG23 7HA or The Bear Factory, Festival Place.

If you would like to contribute to this cause but you are unable to fill a complete box, donations of any of the items above would be very welcome because they can be used to make up extra boxes. These donations can be taken direct to the collection point.

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St. Michael's Hospice 25th Anniversary

St. Michael's Hospice in Basingstoke is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year and invites everyone to come along and mark the occasion at Winchester Cathedral on Friday 6th October. Guests are invited to arrive for 7pm and the service will start at 7:30.

The Basingstoke Hospital Male Voice Choir and Ooh Mama Ladies will be performing accompanied by the Basingstoke Heritage Light Orchestra. Tickets aren't being issued but the Hospice asks you to register your interest by visiting their website at stmichaelshospice.org.uk.

It is hard now to imagine a time when there was no adult hospice in North Hampshire but thanks to the vision and drive of local residents in the late 1980s, the story of St. Michael's Hospice began when a committee led by former borough Mayor, Cllr Margaret Weston, began its work. 25 years later the Hospice has seen over 5,000 patients on its in-patient unit, 2,000 more have been cared for in their own homes, and countless more have been into the Hospice during the day for therapy. In addition, the Hospice now works supporting local care homes to improve their end-of-life care and has a partnership with Odiham Cottage Hospital to befriend local residents.

St. Michael's doesn't just care for people during their final days but can be there for patients for years; from the time of their diagnosis of a terminal illness through supporting their loved ones with bereavement counselling for as long as they need.

To mark all of this, and to thank the thousands of volunteers and supporters who have made this remarkable journey possible, you can join in the celebrations in glorious Winchester Cathedral.

ST-MICHAEL'S HOSPICE (NORTH HAMPSHIRE)

25 CELEBRATING YEARS 1992

Celebrate St. Michael's Hospice
25th Anniversary
at Winchester Cathedral

Friday 6th October 2017
Guests invited to arrive for 19:00
with the service starting at 19:30

Registered Charity No. 1100295

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Guest DJ Ade Barrett

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Tales of The Marnell Woods

So that's it then, officially summer is over, all packed up and put away. Now it is mats down time and we have got to get back in the groove again for the precision needed for the shortmat game. However it is not all bad news, we are out of the cold, the wind, the rain and sadly, the sun, but then so is everybody else short of that last commodity, unless you can afford to take yourself away to Spain or whatever for a few months. Have you ever tried or even seen shortmat bowls? Great game and ideal for all ages. Not too much walking or exerting your arm muscles reaching a long jack, try it. Now is a good time to start. We are there every Monday and Wednesday evening 7-9pm and Wednesday afternoons 2-4pm

In our last chat I mentioned our club finals and said I would not bore you with a bowl by bowl report as you would not be interested UNLESS I reached a final myself, whereupon I reserve the right to broadcast it, in detail and capital letters (and probably repeat it in our next chat in case you missed it first time around) Well, guess what, the unlikely happened, me and someone brought up to call me Dad actually won a pairs final. Truth to tell, he probably won it for me as he is a better bowler than me, although I refrain from admitting that to him. I don't want him getting ideas above his station do I? If you fancy taking us down a peg or two and beating THE CHAMPIONS, you know what to do don't you. All contact details plus bags of information on the club is available to you at www.marnellbowlinaclub.co.uk If you, similar to me, are not sure what all that means, ask one of your kids, they seem to be born with that sort of knowledge nowadays.

In our next chat I might have something to say about a competition me and Paul (mentioned above) have been selected for. I find it hard to believe but we have both been selected to play for Hampshire. I am feeling very flattered but also very nervous. If I am representing my home county I must try my very best not to let the others down but as you may have gathered by past chats, I am not ultra competitive nowadays, playing for enjoyment rather than results. It is what I stress in all my matches. Now though, I have to somehow learn to balance the two. Compete but enjoy. Can I do it? Only time will tell. I do feel chuffed though that Popley's very own bowls club has two members playing with the Hampshire Rose on their chests. I pray we don't let you down. By the way, it is shortmat and as neither of us have played this for almost six months, gawdelpus.

If I survive, see you next issue, and borrowing from Brucie, "keep bowlin'.....Ray

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Headquarters:
Base 2000 Carpenters Down, Popley RG24 9AE

Group Scout Leader:	Colin Karlake	01256 410559
Scout section:	Kevin Pocock	07717 108 560
Cub Scout section:	Douglas Gowan	01256 412326
Beaver Scout section:	Vacant Leader post – contact GSL	

The new term has begun and the Beaver numbers have increased, several new Beavers joined Air Scouts. Lodge Leaders have been chosen from the older Beavers; this gives them a little bit of responsibility and helps the section Leaders.

The leaders spent time over the summer holidays thinking up new ideas and some old favourites for the Beavers to get involved in, as well as a few outings to come. The first outing on the cards is Paultons Park, as well as a visit to Eastrop Park.

A few of the Beavers have earned rewards from last term and these will be presented in September. Well done to those who have worked hard to earn those extras.

A Halloween party is being held for the Beavers, not too scary I am sure!!! Beavers will also be learning about Para Olympians. Group camp is coming up for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts; this is a great way for the older sections to show the Beavers what can be achieved as they move up through Scouting.

Mini Highland games will also be held at Base 2000.

The Group is in great need of more leaders in all sections. 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' - roles are flexible - uniformed or non-uniformed and can work round shifts/other commitments. Find out more from Group Scout Leader Colin (01256) 410559 / 07796 772 500 or e-mail colink@base2000.co.uk.

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



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Now that it is the autumn, it is perhaps not too early to think of Christmas.

For many parents the festive season is a special time of year. However, memories attached to Christmas can make it a trying time after a divorce or separation.

In an ideal world, it would be great to be able to share Christmas with the children, but circumstances can often make this arrangement difficult.

From a Family Law perspective it is very important that you plan your contact and visiting arrangements in a timely manner before the hectic Christmas period.

Ideally, start discussing the situation with your children's other parent as early as possible, to give yourself plenty of time to come to an arrangement about times and days to see the children.

If you are on amicable terms with your former partner, sit down together with your diaries to record what is agreed to avoid future disputes.

If not, use an impartial third party or solicitor to liaise over access and put it in writing.

Think about how to divide your children's time over the period. Is having the children over on Christmas Day every other year a good idea or would it be better for your children to have two Christmases; one with each parent?

A little planning well before the holiday season starts can avoid a lot of unnecessary stress and arguments.

Our experienced Family solicitors are on hand to help you. They have a wide range of expertise and experience to offer you the best guidance. We will do what we can to help you reach a fair outcome as quickly as possible. Remember Christmas is only a few days out of the whole year. It can be a time of great joy and happiness for your family, so be prepared to be flexible and try to remember to put the children first.

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In pre-season, we saw our current under 15s team host West Mont Utd, who were visiting from Pennsylvania in the US. The teams played a great game of football on the 3G pitch at Everest Community Academy, but it was MFC Popley who proudly walked away with a convincing win against a strong West Mont Utd. Congratulations to the manager, Dan Burgess and the team for another great example of how football should be played!

As the 2017/18 season begins the club is proud to see all our teams gearing up for what looks like another thrilling season! Pre-season matches have been played, and all our teams are ready. The club would like to wish every player, team and coach all the best, and above all we want you to all go out there and enjoy yourselves!

Our under 7s began their grass roots journey against Oakley. The team are looking good and have worked hard on gaining a basic understanding of football, but one rule that is instilled in all players is to have FUN.

The under 12s began the season away to a tough team in Overton. The team are playing lovely passing football and the key word for them this year is 'possession'. Sam recently won our penalty shoot out and is now designated taker for the year. Congratulations to Tino who is playing with Aldershot, Jamie at Chelsea and Fin who has been selected for the School District team.

The U9s played their first fixtures of the season on Sunday 10th September with debuts handed to Milo, James, Madison, Meeran and Arnav. Lots of goals were involved and even a penalty save from debutant Milo, making it a successful morning of football. Goal scorers for MFC Popley Black were Tobie, Henry, James & Jack. Scorers for MFC Popley Red = Connor, Meeran, Jamie, William and Lewis.

Saturday 9th September saw both our MFC Popley Venom and Predator U13 teams play their first 11v11 League Games of the new season. Venom, fresh from winning the league last season, travelled to Camberley to face a very strong team. The players gave a very good account of themselves, narrowly going down 4-2, with goals coming from Sam Lewis and Ryan Bennett. The Predator team went to Mytchett Athletic, the team who knocked them out of last year's cup. A very entertaining game saw the Predator team come from 1-0 down to win the game 2-1 with both goals coming from Caine Bradbury. The coming weeks will see both teams in action in what are shaping up to be very competitive divisions for both.

You can get regular updates on **Twitter**, **@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 & Nike Partner Club has a dedicated club shop website where you can purchase kit and accessories - www.clubwebshop.com/a-z/clubs/mfcpopley/.

For more information, or if you have any queries, please contact the club through our main website: www.mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk.

Zak Collingwood



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15-18 yrs old	7:30pm - 9:30pm

*price per session after first: £1 for 5-10s and £1.50 for 11-18s.

Thinking of joining or know someone who might be interested? For more information contact:
James on 07769 680442 or 6thbasingstokeBB@gmail.com

During September and going in to October, we move into our Autumn and Winter programme. Temperatures drop so we move indoors and change up our schedule of sports and activities. Over the next month the Anchors and Juniors will be learning about healthy eating and the British Isles as well as participating in games and sports. The Company section will be looking into code breaking, how they can help the community and sports like dodge ball, indoor rounders and various other BB games.

We are very happy to welcome another 3 new members to our Anchors and Juniors which is fantastic and we hope they are very excited to be with us. If you would like to know more please join us on a Monday evening or contact us on the below details. We are also running our build a buddy scheme which introduces prizes for bringing along new members so is an ideal opportunity for your young person to get involved.

Congratulations to 3 of our older members of the Senior section, Cameron, Luke and Tom, who during our Summer Camp this year were promoted to Corporal, well done! Promotions are only awarded when individuals show a high level of maturity, show leadership and support other members of BB without prompt.

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. So if you can spare some time please give us a ring: **07775 535434** or drop us an email: **6thbasingstokebb@gmail.com**.

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Probus Club Hears about British Forces Broadcasting

The Probus Club of Basingstoke enjoyed a presentation by Alan Grace about the life of a programme maker living with our armed forces whose broadcasts allowed them to maintain morale by keeping contact with families in UK and also provided them with much needed entertainment.

Many people of mature age will remember Two Way Family Favourites on Sunday mornings. Then known as the wireless it was broadcast on the BBC Light Programme. It was claimed that this was the only radio programme that had the smell of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding. The German end was run by BFBS (British Forces Broadcasting Service) with Jean Metcalf there and Cliff Michelmore in London.

In World War 2 both the German and Russian military had radio services for their troops and, after the Americans joined the war effort, the British War Office was persuaded by Col David Niven and supported by Glenn Miller that our troops would benefit from a similar operation. The first military broadcast services saw life begin in Algeria in 1943 and was run by the Army Welfare Service. The only drawback was that there was no money, no equipment and no staff. And it was firmly established that editorial control was to be independent of the Ministry of Defence and the armed forces themselves. By some miracle they were on air in seven weeks. It was set in a former harem but the fully glazed floor and wall tiles had to be draped in army blankets to deaden the appalling acoustics. The first requested record was the famous German wartime song, Lily Marlene.

In the following years over 100 radio stations were set up from Aden to Zeltweg. Some of the earlier stations were mobile housed in ten ton trucks with transmitters, generators, record library and studio. They followed troops through the Italian campaign and then into mainland Europe. Fixed sites were based in a range of extreme locations from the magnificent Musikhalle in Hamburg that had escaped bombing, down to an old cow shed in Cyprus, tents in the Canal Zone and shipping containers at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan.

Some of the people involved became household names. Cliff Michelmore, Frank Muir who was a photographer but volunteered to be a writer, Peter Sellers, Brian Moore who went on to become a top sports presenter with ITV, and Roger Moore who was told that as he could not act he should go back to being a male model for knitting patterns. He later sent a postcard to the producer who had dismissed his talent which said that although he could not act he had still had a good life and signed it 007.

In 1957 Alan Grace started working with what then was BFN in Cologne as an announcer and sports producer, while a national serviceman in the RAF. Over the next four decades he experienced life throughout the world's trouble spots where British forces were involved. Such places of conflict had radio and then television services provided for service personnel and their dependents worldwide. Places of interest included Palestine, Cyprus during EOKA, Kenya in Mau Mau times, Aden with terrorist troubles, Cyprus, again, during the Turkish invasion, Hong Kong, The Balkans, The Falklands, Gulf Wars 1 and 2 and Afghanistan.

For more information about the programmes enjoyed by the Probus Club of Basingstoke, the social club for retired professional and business managers, see their web site www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com or phone their secretary Paul Flint on 07770 886521 for an informal chat.

Chineham Library

All our regular activities are taking place as usual throughout the autumn, and in addition we have a number of exciting events taking place this term. 28th September is the 'Murder at Reading Gaol' talk, at 7.30 pm. 26th October is the children's 'Bones and Beasties' event from, 1.30 – 2.30pm. Then looking ahead there is the 'Trials and Tribulations of the Pickwick Club', at 7.30pm on 7th December. Tickets and further information about all these events can be obtained from Chineham Library. It would be great to see you at some of these.

Age Concern is continuing to provide weekly computer learning sessions for those aged 55+, which take place on Wednesday mornings from 10am – 1pm. To book slots please contact their office on 01256 423874. Our reading groups also meet as usual this month, with CHIPPS on 11th October and the Crime Reading Group on 14th. For further information about these, and the Colour and Create adult colouring group, please ask the staff.

Children's regular activities also continue as usual, with Saturdays having craft sessions on 7th October and 4th November between 10am – 12pm. All other Saturdays we hold the pre-school story time session from 10 - 10.30am. Every Tuesday there are the rhymetime sessions, with the under ones at 10am and the over ones at 11am. The Chatterbooks reading group for the junior school age meets on 12th October and 9th November, at 3.45-4.45pm. Code club has already resumed, so if you are interested in future courses for your child please contact us.

Our most up-to-date information can be found on social media. Do enjoy any bonfire night celebrations you are taking part in and stay safe. *Cathy Foster*

Basingstoke Lions Club

Website www.basingstokelions.org.uk

You'll no doubt recall that in March we raised funds to help the Basingstoke Bluefins (Disability) swimming team represent the South Region at the **2017 Special Olympics** in Sheffield. The team performed superbly. Their overall medal haul was 5 golds, 4 silvers and 2 bronze with 19 personal bests out of 23 swims. That is a truly fantastic achievement. Well done the Bluefins! Not to be outdone, our immediate past President abseiled off the Spinnaker Tower in aid of the ABS Charity and raised £1,470. The Club optimistically nicknamed the event "The Spinnaker Splat", and when she asked how she might cushion her fall, cynically offered her a whoopee cushion. We're all heart!

The Basingstoke Breast Cancer Self Help Group ran a super fundraising skittles evening at the Conservative Club which a group of us attended. We weren't much cop at the bowling, but we did win a bar of chocolate in the raffle.

MacMillan's Coffee morning is coming up soon. We'll be supporting – will you?

World Sight Day is on Thursday 12th October: We will have our usual stall in Festival Place. So please remember to bring your redundant spectacles to us and we will ensure that they have a second life helping some of the poorest people on earth to achieve a better life. There will also be people on hand to advise on sight related matters.

Quiz Night at Cliddesden Millenium Hall on 18 November: Contact Philip Wilson philipjhwilson@btinternet.com to reserve your table for 4 at this mental masochists' marathon. Remember we can only accommodate 22 teams and several teams have already booked.

Disport Games: I'm sorry to report that they had to be cancelled. It is hoped to re-instate them next year. We'll keep you posted.

LIONS CLUB MEMBERSHIP: Put your contact details on the "Contact Us" page of our website and someone will get in touch.



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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 4.30 - 6.30pm, school term time. Please contact Samantha Pike on 07811299484

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

Friday evening Friday Club (children) 6 -7pm

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

Basingstoke's Got Talent

Every year the Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival takes place over 3 consecutive weekends in March. Hundreds of performers from beginners to highly experienced, young and adult come along to share their enthusiasm for their instrument, speech, drama and creative writing. Bands, Choirs and Ensembles, Strings, Piano, Singing, Woodwind, Brass and Recorders, Creative Writing and Speech and Drama all bring variety and entertainment for fellow participants, parents, friends and others who have joined the audiences. I helped with the Piano section in 2017 and it was great to see the confidence of beginners and the mastery of some very talented individuals which reflected a tremendous amount of practice and dedication by them and their teachers. Very helpful encouragement was provided by guest adjudicators who themselves are very accomplished performers often involved in assessing performance skills internationally. The festival season concludes with a Gala concert at which the top performers are invited to perform. This is attended by the mayor amongst others.

So if you are a performer who would like to participate in the next festival, a music teacher seeking a good opportunity to provide a student with an opening for performance or if you are interested in helping in some way, please visit the website <http://www.basingstokemusicandarts.org.uk>. (The next festival may seem a way off yet but the closing date for entries is around the end of 2017 so it will soon be time to think about what pieces you may wish to enter). Basingstoke most definitely has Got Talent!



Autumn Fair

Basingstoke & District Cats Protection are holding their autumn fair at The Ambrose Allen Centre, Franklin Avenue, Tadley on Saturday 7 October 2017. Running from 1.00 to 3.30pm, it promises to be a fun-filled afternoon for all the family and a chance to start your Christmas shopping!

As well as a variety of stalls to appeal to all ages, visitors can treat themselves to some of the delicious homemade cakes available and sit down for a cuppa.

Entry is 50p or a donation of cat food, so please come along and give the cats your support. Fundraising Team Leader, Hilary Wells said “So far, this year, the branch has rehomed 107 cats and kittens and either neutered or assisted with the costs of neutering for 171 cats and kittens. We have also recently issued 80 vouchers to enable people to get their cats neutered for just £5. So our bills are considerable and we rely on our wonderful supporters that enable us to carry on our work”.

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