



POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

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FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-12-17) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: First let me wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us all at Popley Matters. May I take this time to say thank you to our team of deliverers and everyone that writes for or supports us in getting your community magazine through your doors. We would like some help if you feel you could spare an hour a month to deliver the magazines. Sometimes you may get them a bit late but all our marvellous unpaid volunteers sometimes have a second round if they are covering for illness or holidays. They tell me how much they enjoy

meeting people on their rounds so it's a good way of meeting people.

There are several carol services and concerts including the Mayor's Carol Service in St Michael's Church and our Merton Junior School choir Merton Melodies, will be performing there - details on page 25. There will also be some of the fabulous designs that the children did for the Mayor's Christmas card on display in the church. Popley's Christmas Extravaganza and procession starts at Popley Fields Community Centre and is a great event to go to - details and program on page 20.

Christmas can be a sad or lonely time for some people who have lost family and friends. It was brought home to me last Christmas when Paul and I went to the Camrose Centre Christmas dinner for the homeless as we were told some won't come because the memories of better times is just too raw. If you know someone who may be alone, just say hello.

Page 1 is a report from Ashley White, the Community Safety Patrolling Officer, who is working with our PCSOs to address some of the issues with parking and speed in Popley with Marnel Park being the most concerning at the moment.

We are always looking for articles and reports from residents
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.

Working Together to Make Popley an Even Better Place to Live and Work

When we're out and about in Popley, the Community Safety Patrol team is aware that there are a number of issues that are causing concern to residents and business owners. By chatting with local people, we are now able to respond to these issues sooner and more effectively than before – but we still need members of the public to work with us. Fly-tipping is an eyesore and costly to clear away, and inconsiderate parking causes distress and potential danger to others. Cars parked on pavements or blocking roads prevent emergency vehicles from accessing incidents, and can force those with wheelchairs and pushchairs into the path of traffic.

By working together, we can target this disruptive behaviour and make Popley a safer and even better place to live.

To reduce fly-tipping, the council is already targeting those who illegally dump waste and warning residents about the risks of paying rogue waste carriers – for example, if you aren't careful about who you choose, you could end up being held responsible if the waste gets fly-tipped.

New fixed penalty notices have been raised from £200 to £400.

We all have a responsibility to ensure that our waste is disposed of lawfully, so don't get caught out – and please report any fly-tipping to the council at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/report

For more information on local recycling sites, visit www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres

As part of the 'Think before you park' campaign the council, in partnership with the police, is urging drivers to park more considerately. The campaign aims to educate drivers about the potential consequences of poor parking by leaving leaflets on windscreens, which will highlight to drivers how their parking could be affecting pedestrians and other road users.

As usual, vehicles which are seen to be causing an immediate danger will be reported to the police, and our parking officers will issue fines where they have the power to do so. Poor parking reduces visibility and impacts the safety of local schoolchildren. It's important that everyone takes the time to think before they park.

To find out more about parking enforcement, visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/parking-enforcement

Please get in touch with me and my colleague Paula James-Bailey if you have any concerns and want to chat on 01256 844844 or email me at cspo@basingstoke.gov.uk

-Ashley White, Community Safety Patrolling Officer (CSPO) at Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

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Councillors' Page: The grit bins will be checked and filled, but can I please make a plea to those few residents that use the salt/sand to clear their own driveways that the supplies are for roads so people can get to work or appointments. Personal property should be done by your own supplies. Do not use cat litter as the clay content not only refreezes making it more hazardous but if you get it on your flooring it can rot the fibres and leave the carpets stained.

The £140 million cutback proposals will be put forward at the next council meeting in Winchester and I have spoken about the short sightedness of cutting community transport and the isolation it could cause for the most vulnerable including disabled and veterans. I also am concerned about reducing School crossing operatives and among other things of great concern are cuts to, services to the young and old and most our most vulnerable.

All the drains in Popley West were cleared as I am sure you will have noticed the big water tanks over several days I hope this will prevent flooding this winter? *Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk*

Popley West: I have again been told that the yellow lines will be put in for 2018 budget but really need the residents to contact cllr.simon.bound@basingstoke.gov.uk to let him know the serious concerns for safety we all have. I can't impress enough that it is his sole decision that will say when and what will be done. Please CC me in so I can track the amount of emails. We have schools and care homes which makes it even more urgent and why it should be a priority to be done as soon as possible, not keep getting moved backwards! This is a Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council matter.

The application for local infrastructure funding to extend Melrose Hall has hit a problem with the new architect and plans coming in at a lot more than first quoted. We are all working together to find a solution and some extra from the LIF funding that is still available in Popley. The hall needs improving and extending so it can be used by more groups and residents in our community. I will keep you posted on any developments. St Gabriel's Church extensions are progressing well and will make a big difference to us residents.

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

Popley East: As part of the planning approval for the housing development north of Marnel Park (known as Spiers Meadow) which sits adjacent to Jersey Close, a condition was included that required the developer to take measures to ensure that the roads near to the development site are kept clean and that mud is not transferred on to them when vehicles leave the site.

The developer agreed to provide jet wheel washing facilities and a drive through trough at the site entrance/exit to ensure that no vehicle leaves the site until the wheels are clean. In addition road sweepers are to be employed to keep roads both those inside and outside the development clean.

This has worked reasonably well but on occasion it has been necessary for us to approach the developer when procedures appear not to have been correctly followed resulting in mud transferring on to the roads in the surrounding area causing inconvenience to residents.

We have decided that the problems being experienced by residents are such that a reference needed to be made to the Council's Enforcement team because of the non-compliance with agreed conditions by the Contractor. We have registered a complaint under the agreed procedure. We recognise that the safety of residents in Jersey and Guernsey Closes is paramount and it is unacceptable for them to regularly have to cope with dangerous levels of mud and slurry on the approach road.

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



WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER:

MONDAY:	DAYTIME AND EVENING HIRE AVAILABLE
	12.30-2.30pm Bingo!! New
	7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
	2.30-11.00pm AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
TUESDAY:	9.30am-12.00pm Popley Little People
	12.00-5.00pm AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
	5.00-7.30pm Suma Karate
	7.30-11.00pm AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
WEDNESDAY:	9.00am Slimming World
	11.00am Slimming World
	12.45-4.30pm AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
	11.45am-1.30pm Oasis Lunch Club
	5.30 and 7.30pm Slimming World
	9.00-11.00pm AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
THURSDAY:	9.30-11.30am Community Caf�
	8.00am-8.00pm AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
	8.00-9.00pm 4 Fits Sake
	9.00-11.00pm AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
FRIDAY:	8.00-10.00am AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
	10.00am-1.30pm Melrose Tots
	1.30-6.15pm AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
	6.15-9.15pm Friday Youth Club
	9.15-11.00pm AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
SATURDAY:	9.15am-4.00pm 7 TH Day Adventist Church
	10am Sabbath School – Bible Study
	11.30am Divine Worship
	1pm Free Community Lunch
	Contact Emanuel Ampofo on 07456068812 for further details
	4.00-11pm AVAILABLE FOR HIRE
SUNDAY:	Melrose Christian Fellowship - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.
	1.30-5.00pm AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

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

We now have a website!! www.melrosecommunityassociation.co.uk
Also find us on facebook: Melrose hall.

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Who we are, what we do

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What we need

To find the right role for you, we ask all our potential volunteers to fill out an application form and attend a selection event. All volunteers attend induction training, and listening volunteers complete full Samaritans training. This training takes place over several months and is a great chance to meet other Samaritans volunteers and develop a good understanding of what your branch does.

What you get

Each Samaritans volunteer gets something different from their time with us, whether it be developing a new skill or just the feeling of knowing you're there for someone when they need it most. We operate a supportive and unique environment where you will receive full training and ongoing support from a network of volunteers.

Why we want you

There are many ways to get involved as a Samaritans volunteer, whether it be as a listening or fundraising volunteer, or to help with publicity, there will be a place at Samaritans for you. We also reach out to the community by working with schools, colleges and universities, prisons, hospitals, and major music festivals.

Find out more about volunteer roles at Basingstoke Samaritans using the details opposite.



Find out about volunteering with Basingstoke Samaritans

- 📞 01256 353473*
- ✉️ recruitment@basingstokesamaritans.org.uk
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Next session:

Tuesday 7th November from 12.30pm to 2.30pm
Discovery Centre (library in Festival Place)

Guest speaker topics:

7th Nov: New NHS Netcall and Patient Engagement
and Hampshire CC's website for Adult Support

5th Dec: Disability Access with Access for All Working Group

2nd Jan: Hospital Health Passports for people with learning disabilities

6th Feb: Mindfulness for mental wellbeing

For more information, please contact us:

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Day	Class Details	Price Per Person	Timings	Location
Tuesday	Exercise Class & Nutrition Workshop*	£8.00	6.30pm to 7.30pm	Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down, Basingstoke, RG24 9AE
Thursday	Exercise Class & Nutrition Workshop*	£8.00	6.30pm to 7.30pm	Basingstoke Baptist Church, Gershwin Road, Brighton Hill RG22 4HL
Saturday	Metabolic Exercise Booster Session	£6.00	8am to 8.45am	Popley Fields Community Centre, Carpenters Down, Basingstoke, RG24 9AE

* The nutritional workshops will provide guidance to a healthier lifestyle

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Christmas Concert – Sunday 10 December 17

Start your Christmas celebrations in style with the Basingstoke Concert Band as they perform a magnificent concert of seasonal music and carols along with the very popular St Mary's Church of England Junior School, Old Basing Senior Choir.

The date is Sunday 10 December, starting at 3.00 pm at St Michael's Church, Basingstoke.

Tickets cost £10 (which includes a glass of wine and mince pie) and can be purchased from the Band Secretary Janet Howard: 01256 781583, band mobile: 07503 881241 or at the Church on the day – there is no charge for children under 16.

Hope to see you there.

Christmas Concert –Wednesday 20 December 17

Come and join the Basingstoke Concert Band as they perform a Christmas treat of traditional music and carols that the whole family will enjoy. The concert takes place at Sherfield-on-Loddon Village Hall on Wednesday 20 December at 8.00-9.30pm.

Tickets cost £5 (which includes a glass of wine and mince pie) and can be purchased from the Band Secretary Janet Howard: 01256 781583, band mobile 07503 881241 or at the Village Hall on the evening – there is no charge for children under 16.

The Band looks forward to seeing you there.



6th Basingstoke Boys' Brigade News

With Christmas around the corner its time for our annual yuletide quiz, "Merry Quizmas". We've put together some brain-tingling rounds for everyone to enjoy and afterwards we are serving up a fantastic Christmas roast dinner and pudding. Come join in, the quiz will be held on 27th November 5:30pm at St. Gabriel's Church, Popley.

The Church is also holding their Christmas Fair on 2nd December from 2pm, so please come along and support St. Gabriel's. We will be there helping out and running a stall.

Some may not know but we are a self-funded charity group and we need to keep raising money to continue to operate and promote development within our group. Our next big event is happening over November and December as we take part in the Tesco blue token charity collection. You'll see our name on the collection boxes around all Basingstoke Tesco stores so if you would like to support us please do so by putting your tokens in our pot.

We've started to look at next year's camping event for the Company section and a Junior section 8-10yrs camping trip. For the last few years we have been unable to do one due to low numbers but over the last few months we've had an influx in members, 5 new members in the Anchors and Junior section and hopefully if this continues we can go ahead with the trip that is very exciting.

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We will be hosting our annual Over 65s Christmas Party for the Community on Thursday 14 December, between 12.30-2.00pm for more information or to book a place for the free event please contact Karen Newman on 01256 465547 or kanewman@everestcommunityacademy.org.

Year 11 Parents Evening will be taking place on Thursday 14 December between 4—6pm. This will follow Year 11 Mocks and our Year 11 Exams Preparation Evening, which was very well attended on 9 November.



Everest Girls Netball Team, once again made the final of the Basingstoke School Netball League. Unfortunately we were beaten in the final by Bishop Challoner. Our girls performed exceptionally well to make the final and we are very proud of them.

At the time of writing Year 11 have begun their mock exams. In a flurry of preparation, classes, and last minute revision, it's hard to find some peace and quiet. That is why Mr Russell has kindly allowed us to have an optional period six after school in the LRC every Wednesday. This lets us study without the distraction of the younger years, or in a more academic environment than if we were doing so at home. It is a great help, as resources are at hand if we are confused about something, and it has a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Staff are being extremely helpful in preparation of the exams, teaching us what we need to know and keeping the class on their toes, ensuring there is never a lull in our education. I'm not worried about my mocks, as I know that, thanks to the support of my teachers, I'll get the grade I aim for.



Students View

**Jennifer Weldon
Head Girl**

St. Michael's Hospice and St. Michael's Home Care Winter Update

2017 has been another very busy year for St. Michael's Hospice. We've been privileged to help thousands of local residents through our different services and the community has been wonderful supporting the Hospice by raising nearly £3m, enabling us to keep our vital services free. During the year, the Hospice has also been celebrating its 25th Anniversary the focal point of which was an event in Winchester Cathedral attended by well over 700 people.

As I am sure you know St. Michael's Hospice cares for patients on their in-patient unit and at home through the Community Palliative Care team. Over 550 people have been cared for this way but the hospice helps many more through its other services. Our social day service and therapeutic day service had over 1,300 visits and our clinical therapy team has had over 1,700 contacts with patients; using their specialist knowledge of physiotherapy and occupational therapy to help those in the Hospice and in the community. We are able to reach out to patients and their families through our complementary therapy team, who provided nearly 3,000 treatments to patients and their families, and our bereavement service cared for and supported nearly 200 people last year.

The incredible team of volunteers that underpin almost every area of the Hospice deliver the most passionate and dedicated support to staff and patients. Without these volunteers the Hospice would face substantial additional staffing costs and we continue to be incredibly thankful to them all.

We have also grown to support staff and people in care homes through our award winning Six Steps Programme which has now accredited 17 local homes. In this way we can improve standards of care into the wider community and through our Befriending Service, run in conjunction with Odiham Cottage Hospital, support those who have needs which are not palliative.

All of this work is underpinned by the amazing community we serve who supported our eight Hospice-led events last year, including the 5 & 10K Run, Big Wheel, and Moonlight Walk, in record numbers, and who also every year raise thousands of pounds holding their own events.

Founded two years ago to provide a high quality option in the domiciliary care field and a new income stream for the Hospice, St. Michael's Home Care supports a broad range of client needs. This growing business is now providing over 600 hours of care a week and continuing to grow steadily while meeting our commitment to quality care delivered by the very best staff.

We look forward to another busy 2018 with many exciting activities and moments to build lasting memories around. Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year. From all the staff and volunteers at St. Michael's Hospice and St. Michael's Home Care we wish you a very merry Christmas.



Dear Friends

I read the following recently: REASONS WHY SANTA CLAUS HAS TO BE A WOMAN ... men can't pack a bag; men would rather be dead than caught wearing red velvet; men don't answer their mail; men aren't interested in stockings unless someone is wearing them; men don't think about buying gifts till Christmas Eve when it's too late; men refuse to stop and ask for directions when they get lost; finally being responsible for Christmas would require a commitment!

I also read the following .."The hinge of history is to be found on the door of a Bethlehem stable" (both quotes from J.John & Mark Stibbe, A Barrel of Fun)

The season of goodwill, peace to all is upon us. Though looking at the world around us you wouldn't think so! Apart from Afghanistan there are so many other areas of conflict in the world, there are droughts, famines and diseases, extremes of climate such as those experienced in India and the Philippines with such a terrible loss of life and livelihood. Some of the world's problems may seem to dwarf our own personal difficulties but they are no less important – anxiety over health, relationships or jobs and money can all combine to block out the light. This is especially true at Christmas when all we really want perhaps is some peace and quiet and some time to enjoy our families and friends. Archbishop Justin Welby has spoken out recently about the stresses and strains that the so-called season of goodwill can bring for many. All these demand our quiet consideration and prayer.

In December the Church moves into the season of Advent, a time of preparation. Similar to the season of Lent, it's an opportunity for taking stock, a chance to examine our lives and see where we've gone wrong and make a commitment to change those attitudes of our hearts and minds that cause hurt to those around us and to God and to do so before its too late. It's a tough call, but once we make it we can feel renewed, refreshed and ready to start again. I hope this year you'll take that opportunity.

Amid all your Christmas preparations and as you're putting up the Christmas lights I hope that you will take time to consider the baby in a manger who came as 'the light of the world' and will one day return in majesty and power to draw us all before God. May the light and peace of Christ be with you and yours this Christmas season and in the year ahead.

With warm Christian greetings
Arthur, Vicar of St, Gabriel's
01256 324734

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Please feel free to join us at one of our Christmas services. We're having a Christingle Service on Sunday 10th at 5pm; A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight on the 17th at 6.30pm; a Nativity on Christmas Eve at 4pm and Midnight Communion at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve. There is also a family service on Christmas morning at 10.30a.m. Please do join the celebrations.



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Autumn News Sept / Oct 2017

Aiming High, Achieving Together

All the children have been very busy settling into their new classrooms and have been learning our MERTON Values.

Motivation
Excellence
Respect
Teamwork
Opportunities
Never give up



School Council Elections

As part of our school's commitment to raising the profile of the British Values, especially Democracy, we held our own School Council elections. Our school Governors were invited to hear the children explain why they would like to become a member of this year's school council. After the speeches children posted their voting card into the school ballot box. We look forward to announcing our school councillors and their project for this year in our next newsletter!

Year R – 'Bears'

This half term the Year R children have been learning about Bears. They launched their topic by making their own class teddy bear. Each class learnt new skills to decide what their bear would look like then 'Built the Bear' in the classroom. To end their topic the children invited their own teddy bears to meet the class bear for a Teddy Bear Picnic, making some delicious sandwiches!

Year 1 – 'Marvellous Marwell'

Our Year 1s have been learning all about zoo animals in their topic. They visited Marwell Zoo and enjoyed seeing the animals they had been learning all about in Literacy and Science. After their visit to the zoo, the children wanted to adopt an animal. They decided that they needed to raise the money by having a bake sale. They wrote invitations and posters for the bake sale which was a huge success! The children have now adopted a penguin from Marwell Zoo and will be updated about his progress regularly by Marwell Zoo.

Year 2 – 'It's Magic!'

Year 2 have been learning about Magic! They have had the pleasure of meeting the famous magical wizard Merlin. He asked the children to help him conjure up some new spells for his new spell book. As a reward for their hard work, Merlin visited the school's Wizard Convention to personally deliver their very own Wizard Passport! The children also learnt about Vincent Van Gogh's painting 'Starry Night' and created their own painting in the style of Van Gogh. The children were extremely proud to display their art work around the school.

Merton Junior School Remembers 'The Fallen'

On what could only be described as a chilly morning, some of the children and the staff of Merton Junior School stood to remember those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice and those who continue to mourn the passing of these heroes, as they attended the recent Remembrance Service at the war memorial in Basingstoke town centre.



The Year 6 pupils, who have been studying World War I poetry during their reading workshop sessions, commented that, "It was a privilege to represent the school on such an important event."

Merton Junior School pupils have also raised money for The Royal British Legion, by buying and wearing their poppies as a mark of remembrance and respect.

Robotic Rampage

Some of our Lower School pupils spent an interesting day discussing Robotics at another local school. They were able to build their own motorised robots and enjoyed challenging others to see what they could get the robots to do. A totally enjoyable day, which resulted in some very chatty children, who wanted to share all that they had learnt with their friends and teachers.



Victorious Viking Work



As part of their Home Learning Projects, the Year 5 children were asked to make a Viking replica of their choosing. This is an activity that the parents enjoy as well as



the children and the results are always amazing, as you can see from the photographs.

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The Art of the Samurai



I moved to Appleton Drive three years ago. I decided to open a Martial Arts Club in Basingstoke to promote the Martial Art I train in, 'Takeda Ryu Nakamura Ha'.

The current head of the Takeda School, Soke Hisashi Nakamura, who lives in Chiba (Japan), has given the authorisation to open my club.

I first started practicing 19 years ago in Belgium. Many people believe that Martial Arts promote violence, but the opposite is more accurate; it brings peace. It teaches you to remain calm in every situation, make you more open minded and tolerant. Everyone is the same on the mat. There is no distinction of gender, nationality or colour, all with the common goal of growing as individuals and collectively.

Takeda Ryu Nakamura Ha is a comprehensive Martial Art, composed of the fighting techniques, respect and strategies of the Samurai, developed in Japan.

This helps you to grow your confidence, get fit with a full body workout, and learn self-defence.

The Takeda classes have been split into **5 main disciplines** by the current head of the school to have an easier learning process and add a teaching structure.

- ❖ Starting with **Aikido** (learning to centralise your internal energy, self-defence, posture, distances, locks and throws), it is then easier to control the way you use a sword or other weapons.
- ❖ **Iaido** (sword fighting strategy and the way to use the sword, it is practiced with a metal sword)
- ❖ **Kendo** (way of the sword fighting, it is practiced with a wooden sword and allowing contact)
- ❖ **Jodo** (way of the stick, learning stick fighting techniques, throws and locks)
- ❖ **Jukenpo** (methods of punching, kicking as well as applying the throws and locks learned in Aikido)

After many years of training and winning European competitions, I became 3rd dan black belt teacher.

My club is currently the only Takeda club in the UK. There are clubs developing all around the world: <http://map.takedabudo.com>

I teach an adult class every Thursday 8pm-10pm, at Queen Mary's College gymnasium in Basingstoke.

Come and try our class on Thursdays, the first lesson is free. No previous Martial Arts experience is needed and all are welcome! Please feel free to contact me for more details.

Nicolas LEFEBVRE

nicolas@basingstokemartialarts.co.uk

<http://www.basingstokemartialarts.co.uk>

Join us on Facebook: **Martial Arts Basingstoke**



Popley

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

Monday 11th December

5PM LANTERN LIT PROCESSIONS TO BASING WOOD

Processions beginning from Drydon Close and Appleton Drive. Please note that children are the responsibility of their parents or guardians and remember to come in appropriate clothes for the weather!

For more information
call 01256 414494 or
email: office@popleyfields.org

6.00PM CAROLS BY THE WOODS

Followed by fun in Popley Fields Community Centre, including seasonal refreshments, stalls, games, the Christmas jumper competition, mega raffle and maybe a visit by a special someone.....

Popley

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

PROCESSION A

Start point: Barrington Drive
End point: Popley Fields
Community centre

PROCESSION B

Start point: Drydon Close
End point: Popley Fields
Community centre



New Testament Church of God Basingstoke's

Christmas Carol Concert

Sunday 24th December

10.30 - 12.00am

Popley Fields Community Centre

Tales of the Marnell Woods

Well, that month came round a bit quick, fair caught me out, I have now got to find inspiration from somewhere, or be accused of writing the most boring piece ever in the Popley Matters.

The County match programme is going well and currently Hampshire is leading in the tables. Nobody understands why because we have lost a couple and Hereford are unbeaten. It looks like our "shot" score is the reason, but I suspect the next publication of results may change that situation. Pity it is a good feeling that the Hampshire Rose is showing the other counties how it is done. There is another side to this county lark though, the travelling involved. Having to be up and about before the dawn chorus in full voice does not sit well with me. On match days I am up earlier than I was during my army stint. That was tolerable as an 18 year old but rather less so staring 80 in the face.

Affairs at Marnell are going smoothly too. Our Monday and Wednesday short mat sessions are still well supported but as Christmas approaches they tend to drop off, so now is the time for you to raise your head above the parapet and call in to try it for yourself. A social couple of hours well spent and you could leave with a new string to your bow. Nothing ventured; nothing gained!

To illustrate how deep down the barrel I am scraping at the moment I go "off-piste" for a moment. Our Popley Community Park is a valued amenity and much appreciated. If only the council would cut the grass a bit. In this weather I cannot walk the dog and keep dry feet due to the height of the grass. Every pair of shoes/boots I possess have failed the test so I turned to a specialist outdoor retailer and bought a pair of waterproof hiking boots which cost substantially more than I wanted, needed, or really could afford. Many others have the same problem it appears and are not able to afford the specialist gear or too arthritic to struggle into gumboots so consequently only use the footpaths which restricts the exercise the animal needs for its health. The weather has been quite acceptable lately too, so the rain and snow periods will be quite challenging I suspect.

Apologies for that little outburst, you may have gathered, rightly, that I have just returned from "walkies". Back to basics next chat meanwhile Popley's very own bowls club still welcomes you any Monday or Wednesday (gumboots not required) so hope to see you there. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.....*Ray*

PLEASE COME ALONG!

Event name: BSC Chorale Christmas Carol Concert

Venue: United Reform Church, London Street,

RG21 7NU **Date:** 20/12/2017 **Time:** 19:30

R.S.V.P. to: office@basingstokesamaritans.org.uk

01256 353473 **Ticket price:** £6 / Under 16 Free

P.S. Bring friends along – the more the merrier!

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BASINGSTOKE



December is often the most stressful month for couples

Although Christmas is a wonderful time for many families, it can also be a time of stress and strain for others.

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

It is no wonder that often relationships, already with problems, collapse in December which unfortunately makes January one of our busiest months of the year as people resolve to start the New Year with a clean slate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information contact Hayley Eachus at Phillips by calling 01256 460830 or email hayley.eachus@phillips-law.co.uk or visit www.phillips-law.co.uk/family





MFCPY U7s are having a great time enjoying their football. We have had a lot of success at matches and training with the boys developing so well in such a short time. Massive credit to the 13 players who honoured the fallen heroes impeccably.

MFCPY U12s are flying high in the league at the moment and are playing some scintillating football. Our new recruits are settling in superbly and have brought so much to the team. William scored his very first hat trick, Tino made his debut for Aldershot Town, Fin is going strong in the Basingstoke district team and Jamie has made the squad in Chelsea's advanced academy.

MFCPY U13s continue with our Predators and Venom teams in their first 11v11 season.

Venom played in the U13s Cup in a tough match against Mytchett from the League above them, resulting in a narrow loss. Next up came Camberley Town in a titanic match which resulted in a 6-5 loss but credit to the team, some great battling in the game.

Predators beat Badshot Lea 3-0 and an amazing match v Mytchett in a top of the table clash was closely won 5-4 to keep us top of the table going into a busy winter schedule.

The last few weeks have been really good for MFCPY U17s, going through to the next round of the cup and winning against a tough and resilient Yately team, who we lost to in the last minute a few weeks ago.

With an array of new players added to the squad over the summer finding their feet now, we are really happy with the way things are going forward.

You can get regular updates on Twitter, @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 - 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

❄️

Mayor's Carol Service

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Group Scout Leader: Colin Karslake 01256 410559

Scout section: Kevin Pocock 07717 108 560

Cub Scout section: Douglas Gowan 01256 412326

Beaver Scout section: Vacant Leader post – contact GSL

Over the weekend of 29th September – 1st October, Basingstoke Air Scout Group held their first Group Camp for many years at the Reading Scout Activity Centre. We were also joined by Old Basing Scouts & 24th Basingstoke Scouts.



The advanced party of Leaders arrived at about 2pm to start putting up tents for the Cubs and Beavers as well as starting to organise some of the activity bases for the weekend. The Cubs and Scouts arrived early evening, with the Beavers then arriving Saturday morning full of energy and excitement.

The weekend's activities were all based round challenges from the Crystal Maze Television Programme and included an observation walk in nearby woods where they had to count up the number of "images" of animals they saw on route. They also had the extra challenge of being shown a clock with a time on it and then periodically shown a number of minutes they either had to add or subtract, so that at the end of the walk they had to report back what the final time was. Other activities included pizza making for Saturdays Dinner, making a campfire blanket, sewing around the edges using a "Blanket Stitch". Saturday afternoon was spent on the adventure course that comprised of a zip wire and a number of interconnected rope and wire bridges. Saturday evening saw they rain settle in for a period, but this did not dampen the spirits and the evenings campfire which went ahead as planned.

On Sunday morning while the Cubs and Beavers tried their hand at the peg wall and crate stacking the Scouts had the opportunity to be taken down and find out about the history of an old chalk mine that sits beneath the campsite and local area. The only way in to the mine is to be lowered down a 21metre shaft. After the tour, the only way out was to climb back up the shaft using a ladder. After lunch of burgers and fajitas it was time to pack up and to head home after a successful, if not slightly damp Group Camp.

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 our Group Scout Leader, Colin (01256) 410559 / 07796 772500 or e-mail colink@base2000.co.uk



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Headquarters registration number 42755

Homelessness is devastating, dangerous and isolating.

On average, homeless people die at just 47 years old.

People sleeping on the street are almost 17 times more likely to have been victims of violence and more than one in three people sleeping rough have been deliberately hit or kicked or experienced some other form of violence whilst homeless. Becoming homeless can happen to any one of us. People become homeless for many different reasons. Life events like a relationship breaking down, losing a job, mental or physical health problems, or substance misuse can be the trigger. Being homeless can in turn make many of these problems even harder to resolve.

Rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness. Many people who sleep rough will suffer from multiple health conditions, such as mental health problems and drug misuse they are also in greater danger of violence than the general population.

Julian House is a new project in Basingstoke and we provide Outreach sessions 7 days a week. Outreach involves being out on the streets and engaging people experiencing homelessness, who may be disconnected and alienated from mainstream services and support. Outreach workers engage individuals experiencing homelessness and assist them in accessing health, housing and social services. Once a person finds themselves sleeping rough it is extremely difficult to get back into an everyday routine of secure housing and employment. Returning to a structured life and re-engaging with society can be a long process. If you would like to help reach out to our homeless and rough sleeper community all we ask is a commitment of just 2 hours, even just once a month can really make a difference in someone's life. For more information please contact Michelle.Martin@julianhouse.org.uk Follow us on twitter [@julianhouseses](https://twitter.com/julianhouseses) or Facebook Julian House South East. Together we can make that difference.

Over 55s Forum

The Basingstoke and Deane Over 55s Forum is coming to the end of another very successful year, our membership still keeps growing and I have 33 waiting to join.

At our December Open Forum meeting we will have the Barwell Handbell Ringers from Thatcham as our entertainment. New members will come in towards the end of January 2018.

The last trip for 2018 was to Hastings on Saturday 18th November and enjoyed by all who came. The Christmas Carols trip to the Royal Albert Hall is on 22nd December. We are taking 211 members and partners for this trip.

I have started to plan lots of interesting trips for 2018.

February 19th a trip to The Great War Aerodrome at Stow Maries for a tour of the Aerodrome - two film shows- afternoon tea with Lorrie Brown as (Vera Lynn).

A four day break to Liverpool in May. World of Wedgewood - Postal Museum - Royal Mint - Morgan Car Factory tour- Tina Turner Concert in August and many more when they are all planned in.

In the New Year we will start planning for our show for the "International Day for Older People".

We have introduced a "Welfare" section for our members, because we class ourselves as being one big family, so we need to look after each other.

Thanks you, Gerald.(Secretary)

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Local David Smith Dance School Raises £250.00 for Chineham Village Hall - Basingstoke

The David Smith Dance School has raised £250.00 this year for the Chineham Village Hall Fund.

On Monday 7th November, at the Weekly Tea Dance, a cheque for £250.00 was presented by David (pictured right) to the Chairman of the Village Hall, Mr Les Fryer (Chairman - pictured left)

Mr Fryer gave a speech and thanked David and all of the dancers for their generous donation and their ongoing support to the hall and its facilities.

David holds regular Social Dances (Ballroom, Latin & Popular Sequence) at Chineham Village Hall. Monday Tea Dances: 2:00pm till 4:00pm, and also: Friday Social Dances 8:00pm till 9:30pm.

For further information about events or classes, please contact David Smith, by phone: 07791 749163, Email: david@davidsmithdance.com or check out the website: www.davidsmithdance.com



Basingstoke Lions Club – As we had no fundraising event of our own to occupy us this month, ten of us toddled off to Andover to support their Lions Club's Pink Pig Race and Giraffe Sprint in aid of the Children's Hospice. The Lions performed admirably. Alas, the same cannot be said of the electrically powered pigs and giraffes which were subject to a torrent of encouragement (abuse) as they raced (juddered) towards the winning post. It was a really good fun evening and I'm sure the Hospice benefitted accordingly.

World Sight Day (WSD): This United Nations and Lions Clubs International supported day is always the second Thursday of October. 45 million people across the world are blind, very many through preventable or curable conditions. This has been a central concern of Lions Clubs since their birth in 1917. Here in Basingstoke we are lucky to have Ann Vicars, who is very well versed in the subject, to organize our awareness and advice stall in Festival Place on the day. We are also very lucky to have marvelous support from all the opticians in the town and from organisations like Helping Hands for the Blind, the Macular Disease Society and others. It is amazing how many people stop by the stall on the day with questions which can either be answered on the spot, referred to the appropriate Society or the helpful Council services.

Throughout the year Lions Clubs across the country collect redundant pairs of spectacles which are forwarded for cleaning, grading and distribution to the world's poorest people. We collected 1,500 on WSD making our total since April over 3,000. Thank you everyone.

Welfare: We spent £700 to replenish our stock of "Message in a Bottle" packs. This scheme encourages people at risk to keep their medical/ medicine details in one of our special bottles in their fridge so that in the event of an incident requiring emergency service attendance the team can react accordingly. It is a free service and packs can be obtained from GPs surgeries and chemists.

UPCOMING

December will see us out and about collecting at various retail outlets as usual and we will be doing a "Sausage Sizzle" at Bunnings on 16th December.

10/02/2018 Moscow Drug Club at QMC – very entertaining.

03/03/2018 Swimathon at Town Centre Pool – great fun but exhausting.

17/03/2018 Murder Mystery at St Leonards Oakley – who knows?

Details of each event can be found on our website www.basingstokelions.org.uk

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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Bermuda Community Centre

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We have the excellent Popley Explorers Preschool here Monday to Friday 8.30am - 3.00pm. Also available:- Breakfast and Lunch clubs (for further details contact Elaine on 363156).

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

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 4.30 - 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.

Chineham Library

Christmas is approaching fast, so do come and enjoy some Christmas themed displays and activities. Our highlights are the Christmas story time on 22nd December at 3pm, and the Pickwick Papers evening on 7th December at 7.30 pm. Story time will be very exciting and features Father Christmas and his elf, with all children welcome to attend. For the Pickwick Papers evening you will need to buy tickets costing £7, including refreshments, in advance. The Dickens event last year was greatly enjoyed.

During December many children's activities such as story times and rhyme times will have Christmas touches. They will continue as normal during the holiday period, as will the monthly craft sessions. These are scheduled for 2nd December and 6th January, between 10am and 12pm. The Chatterbooks group meets on 7th December from 3.45 – 4.45pm. Code Club finishes on the 9th December and will resume again in January. Please let us know if your child would be interested in joining this.

The Crime Reading group will meet on 9th December from 10.30 – 11.30am, and the CHIPPS group on 3th December from 9.30 – 10.30am. The Craft and Create group for adults interested in colouring and crafts meet on the 6th and 20th December, from 2 – 4pm. Age Concern, who provide computer training for the over 50s, finish for Christmas on 13th December and return on 10th January. Sessions can be booked through the area office on 01256 423874.

In the New Year the Library is hoping to start a new reading group and possibly a creative writing group. How about taking up a new interest for 2018? Please let us know if you would be interested.

Chineham Library team would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas. *Cathy*

Foster

Basingfield Court Residential Care Home

Residential ☀ *Dementia*



Our dedicated team offers care with kindness,
supporting residents to live happy and contented lives full
of wonderful experiences.

Huish Lane, Old Basing, Basingstoke RG24 7BN

Tel: 01256 321 494

www.sanctuary-care.co.uk

Sanctuary Care Limited is a subsidiary of Sanctuary Housing Association, an exempt charity

FASTFARE

Your Local Family Convenience Store



Abbey Road (Shops) ☎(01256) 323679



Open seven days a week

Monday–Friday 8:00am–9:00pm Saturday 8:30am–9:30pm Sunday 9:00am–9:00pm

Grocery | Stationery | Off Licence | Fresh Fruit & Vegetables | Fresh Flowers

Fresh Sandwiches | Pies | Ethnic, Polish & Indian Groceries

We serve crushed Ice Drinks

• *Now Available UPS Parcel Service • Play Now Lottery + Scratch Cards*

• Faxing and photocopying available • We Accept Milk Tokens

• Paypoint pay your bills Gas, Electric, Mobile Top ups ETC.

• Western Union Money Transfer Services • International Phone Cards

LOOK OUT FOR MONTHLY PROMOTIONS

If you don't see what you want in the store, please ask and we will try to get it for you.

FASTFARE PHARMACY

UNIT 3 ABBEY ROAD SHOPS ☎/📠357637

FREE PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION AND DELIVERY SERVICE

We fill your prescriptions at Fastfare Pharmacy from most surgeries.

There is also a free collect and deliver service. We also take your repeat prescription, collect and deliver FREE OF CHARGE. NHS or Private.

Among our many services we offer:- Blood pressure check, Diabetic, Cholesterol check-ups and monitoring. A Private consultation area for patients. We advise on medication and treatment of minor illness by our qualified Pharmacist. Pregnancy advice and morning after pill available. We hold a comprehensive stock of Motability Equipment for hire or purchase. Just ask and help us to help you.



For further details ring ☎357637

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday 9am-7pm; Sat 9am-5pm



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