

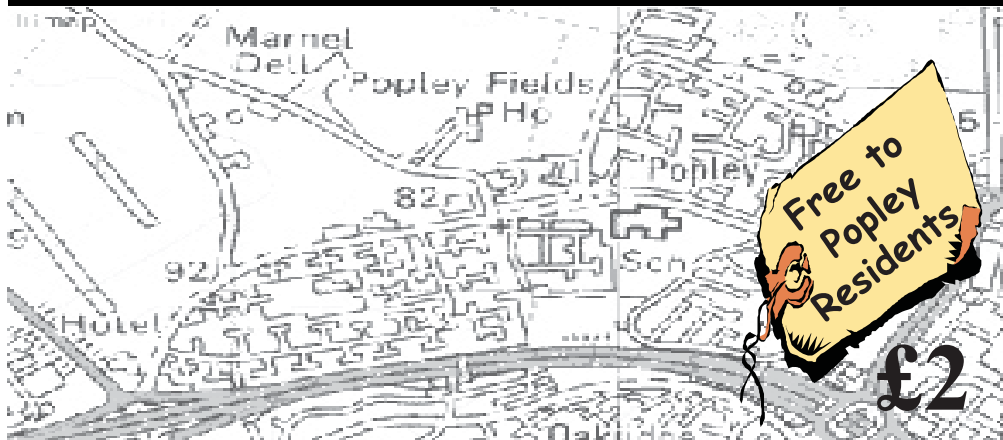
POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

March 2018

Distribution of 5,400

Issue 193



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-3-18) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: What a great community, as usual Popley residents pulled out all the stops in a crisis. There were numerous thefts from cars and a few from gardens. Marnel, Merton and Spiers Meadow have had a Facebook page for some time now and it has been a great way of keeping people informed or for advice among the residents. More and more reports were coming in and CCTV coverage recording the activities of a group of possibly three people going along the road and trying car doors and taking items from them. In the main it seems that people either forgot to lock their doors securely, though it was suggested there may be a device that enables false entry to some cars. The police did extra patrols but the thefts continued,

mostly around 3 and 4 am. One resident designed a leaflet to warn residents to keep a look out and make sure the doors were locked. Paul and I offered to print the leaflets and around 1000 were printed with some of the residents printing some themselves. An appeal for deliverers resulted in a large part of the estate getting a leaflet. The Chief Inspector was impressed with the community spirit when we contacted him. Then as the thefts continued Neighbourhood Watch was suggested and, though it has been tried on several occasions, there did not ever seem to be enough people interested. Things have changed with technology and you don't need 50% in each road to "sign up". Well done to Clare Wilkins who stepped forward and offered to be a coordinator. We printed 2000 yellow leaflets to invite residents of the area to a meeting in Everest Community Academy and some wonderful people stepped forward to deliver them. At the meeting over 40 residents came and spoke to police, the Neighbourhood Chair and other guests. There are now over 60 people who have registered and nearly every road is part of that Watch. By now you will have noticed loads of signs going up in the roads there. Anyone can start a scheme in their road or area all the information you need is on their website or contact clarewilkins@gmail.com. Clare will be happy to explain and help you. Clare will be writing a report in Popley Matters; see the first one on page 1. Well done to all the community that came together to make it happen.

We welcome articles from groups and clubs, also residents that might like to write about their hobbies or maybe even the history of Popley? Email the Editor at editor@popleymatters.org.uk. Contact me at either 405 Abbey Road, phone me, on 01256 819924 or email me at editor@popleymatters.org.uk.



Sub Editor
Paul Frankum

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

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Thank you for your support.

Community Spirit is Alive and Well in 2018!

Neighbourhood Watch has come to Marnel Park, Merton Rise and Spiers Meadow



There is now a fully active Neighbourhood Watch scheme set up for the areas above due to sheer determination and community spirit! This was inadvertently started by a spate of what appeared to be opportunistic thieves trying car doors and sometimes getting lucky, stealing whatever was inside. This became a topic of discussion on the Facebook group for these areas and people got together and delivered hundreds of leaflets warning others on the estate to double check their car doors. It became a joke that we were a virtual Neighbourhood Watch group which got me thinking that it couldn't be that hard to set up an actual group. With the help of Jane and Paul Frankum and lots of willing volunteers we again delivered hundreds of leaflets, this time about a meeting to start a NHW group with police, NHW officials and residents at Everest Community Academy one evening. This was a great success and residents decided that they would like to meet with the police every three months regularly. There are now over sixty members of our scheme and signs are up all over the estates.

NHW schemes help to...

- reduce opportunities for crime
- build a community spirit, with neighbours working together for everybody's benefit
- pass information to the police about suspicious incidents occurring in the neighbourhood
(from <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/your-local-area/neighbourhood-watch/>)

If you would like any further information, please contact me at clarewilkins2505@gmail.com

To join the scheme, go to <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/>

If you would like to set up your own scheme, please contact John Dick (Chairman for Basingstoke and Deane NHW) at johndick70@outlook.com

Residents of Marnel Park, Merton Rise and Spiers Meadow may also join the Facebook Group Marnel Park, Merton Rise and Spiers Meadow Residents where there is lots of helpful information regarding our community.

More information to follow next month, thanks so much to everyone who's been part of this amazing achievement, a real team effort.

Clare Wilkins - Scheme Coordinator.

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Everest Community Academy, Oxford Way, Basingstoke RG24 9UP

Gym Team: 01256 337576 Main Reception: 01256 337573

Councillors County: It is budget time for councils and we already know that Hampshire County has been notified that the government are reducing the grants by 140 million so there are more efficiency savings they call it. However as the Basingstoke County Labour Councillors, we have fought for the proposed cuts among them the lollipop services, cuts in some vital bus routes and Hampshire Youth Music Hub where many of the children who would not otherwise be able to play an instrument or sing should not be withdrawn, and we are hopeful that they will see sense!

You may have noticed several pot holes have paint round them - this is to mark that they will be repaired. The cuts have made it that priority potholes are done first though I think we all know the longer you leave it the more damaged all of them become. I have reported the flooding again along the path in Popley Community Park to the developers and to the council. The area is on next year's budget to start new drains and to tarmac the uneven slabs. It will be done over two phases as it will be quite costly. *Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk*

Popley West: The officer has confirmed that the double yellow lines on corners and on T junctions in some roads in Marnel Park are in the budget for the next political year. There is also some more parking being created in other roads in Popley East then Popley West. It is amazing that this vital safety issue in Marnel Park has not been treated with the urgency that we all feel it needs, especially where it is the main thoroughfare for schools.

We are delighted that at last they have started with the long asked for safe walking/running routes in and around Popley- see page 9 for the first "Way Marked Route". It was back in the times of the Neighbourhood Panel that used to meet in Popley Fields that residents said they wanted safe walking routes that could double up for exercise and even be used for sponsored charity walks. We well remember using the fields that are now Spiers Meadow and part of Marnel Park that were used by Boys Brigade, Scouts and residents for raising funds. We continue to fight for Green Gym equipment in the Popley Community Park using S106 money from the developers.

cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924

cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Popley East: "We wanted to tell you of our approach to the provision of parking spaces for those drivers with disabilities. We have recently been involved with the design of additional disability bays being created in a number of local closes including Tobago Trinidad and in due course Burns, together with Shetland Road. All are or will be the subject of local consultation and sometimes we receive mixed responses especially where there is pressure on the general parking provision. Clearly our approach is that where we can we support additional parking provision for those with disabilities which is the right thing to do and in most cases this frees up a compensating space/s for other drivers. Overall the position should be improved for all car users albeit we know that there is a general shortfall of parking spaces throughout the Popley East area.

We are pleased to confirm that the Bermuda Marlowe Practice is appointing a new practice Manager who will support the group in providing a range of patient services for the local community. We ask again for local residents to come forward and take part as a member of the PPG (Patients Participation Group) This group meets on a regular basis with the Practice and helps to influence the practice in its services provided for local people."

Cllr David Potter 07941507801

cllr.david.potter@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Janet Westbrook 07747335200

cllr.janet.westbrook@basingstoke.gov.uk



We would like to say a big thank you to the team from the Prince's Trust, who have worked extremely hard fundraising and decorating our main hall and our toilets. It looks great!!

WHATS ON IN March:

MONDAY:	12.30-2.30pm	Bingo!!
	7.30-10pm	Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
TUESDAY:	9.30-11.30am	Popley Little People
	5-7pm	Sama Karate
WEDNESDAY:	9am	Slimming World
	11am	Slimming World
	11.45am-1.30pm	Oasis Lunch club
	5.30&7.30pm	Slimming World
THURSDAY:	9.30-11.30am	Community Café
	8-9pm	4 Fits Sake
	New- 10-11pm	Jiggly Wigglers
FRI DAY:	10am-1.30pm	Melrose Tots
	6.15-9.15pm	Friday Youth Club
SATURDAY:	9.15am-4pm	7th Day Adventist Church
	10am	Sabath School – Bible Study
	11.30am	Divine Worship
	1pm	Free Community Lunch
	Contact Emanuel Ampofo on 07456068812 for further details	
SUNDAY:	Melrose Christian Fellowship - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.	
	2-5pm AVAILBLE 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 us at melrosehall@gmail.com** or website www.melrosecommunityassociation.co.uk.

Also find us on facebook: Melrose Hall.

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£2 per child

£3 per adult

£10 family of 5

Popley Fields Community Centre

Carpenters Down, Popley

RG24 9AE

01256 414494

office@popleyfields.org

www.popleyfields.org

Popley Fields
Community Association



A Little Bit of Spring Can Light up Your Life.

After the cold, dreary months of January and February, when the realisation hits that Christmas and all of the festivities are long gone, motivation seems difficult and distant. For me slight shock that it is already 2018 is apparent I find it hard to believe that I am 18 this year! Yes a fully functioning adult, even though I sometimes still feel like a 12 year old girl, with buns in my hair, singing to 'High School Musical' (ooh what a classic) into my hair brush. Next year I will take my A-Levels so fear can overtake me with the increasing amounts of work and reading I have to do - it sometimes seems unachievable! However as spring arrives, the colour blooms and the sun begins to shine, it's easier to feel more positive and grateful. There is new life all around and the brightness starts to infiltrate into our thoughts and actions.

As I enter my 18th year, I start putting all of the things around me into perspective to try and establish what is the truth behind my own happiness – for me it's my family and friends. Solid, strong relationships are key when the fierce flames of hormones ignite and you need that cool, comfort and calm to put you at ease. Blame the bickering on the stress of school work and the mood swings crashing like a wrecking ball on those wretched chemicals fizzing around, whilst changing you into a real life adult. At the end of the day, even those hard days, you know you still want to be there for your friends and family and that their importance is so key in your life that you would feel empty without them. The big 'L' word maybe hard to say at times with your pent up anger and frustration but those three words 'I Love You' can make all the difference, I promise. Go say it to that someone things have been rocky and unsteady with recently, I dare you.

Take some time out. Switch off from all of the distractions around you and focus on those who are significant to you. Plan a trip, the beach perhaps? Where your worries crumble into the tiny grains of sand and blow away with the gusts of wind. Before you know it they'll be long gone and you will be tucking into your favourite ice cream (perhaps the multi-coloured 'FABS' or an infamous '99 Flake') and chatting away all of your problems with one of your favourite people.

All of this said, there's no pressure to be super expressive or over compensating for your moods. A simple smile to shine your appreciation or a warm hug to make them feel at peace (be Olaf for the day!).

Even though the stress from our modern day society continues, try to be grounded and keep those you love close to you. Make new memories, be kind and laugh. Remember you are loved.

'Work hard, play hard!'

Email me : ruby.jolliffe@virginmedia.com

Ruby J xoxo

St Gabriel's Church

Loving God Welcoming You!

St Gabriel's is your local Church of England Parish Church. We are a vibrant, multi-generation and multi-cultural congregation who worship together every Sunday at 1030a.m.

We believe that worshipping God is all about family, fellowship and fun as we grow together in faith. Our worship is lively and informal in its approach and we offer weekly and very energetic children's groups from age 5 upwards.

We meet in St Gabriel's Church on Tewkesbury Close off Popley Way (RG24 9DU). Please visit our website www.stgabrielspopley.net or call us on 01256 324734/463024. We look forward to welcoming you!

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Step Out on the Popley Way

Walkers and runners in the Popley area can look forward to getting some exercise in the fresh air on a new “Way-Marked” route due to open this spring.

The two mile Popley Way route will start at Chineham Splash Park, pass by Shelley Road, Shakespeare Community Centre and up to Abbey Road, onto the Melrose footpath and finish at Popley Community Park.

With the support of Hampshire County Council, we have placed way-marker posts along the route for easy free access for people of all ages. One of the special features is the open space gym equipment that is available for a quick fun workout en route in Pershore Road Park!

Other way-marked routes in the borough include Down Grange Sports Complex, Little Penwood and Crabtree Plantation.

For more information visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/sportsnews#elem_45286

Improve Comedy Drop-in Rehearsal and Jam

Every Friday* at the White Hart, London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 4AE.

This is like a drop-in class for those that want to play, perform and try improvising a lot.

We shall explore some teaching, directing and coaching, dependent on the people in the room.

The idea would be to run a set each session. Beginners welcome. This will cost £5pp. <http://www.nathanimprov.com/p/local.html> [@BasingstokeImprov](http://www.facebook.com/basingstokeimprov) (twitter).

* Email to confirm event, as venue may not always be available and I may be on tour. basingstoke@nathanimprov.com.

Old Basing Tennis Club

Old Basing Tennis Club is a friendly village club situated at the Recreation Ground, Riley Lane, Old Basing. We have 4 all weather courts and a clubhouse.

The summer season starts at the end of March with our first club night being held on Tuesday 27th March at 6pm. Club nights are then held every Tuesday and Friday evening from 6pm until dusk throughout the season.

As well as social tennis, we field teams in the local league and run a Summer Tournament for members. We also held several social events throughout the year, including a quiz.

If you would like to find out more about joining please contact Lynne Thomas: lynne.thomas8@btinternet.com

We would love to hear from you!



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Upcoming Dates
26 February—9 March inclusive—Year 11 Mocks
29 March—Break up for Easter



The Bourne Education Trust has been working with Everest Community Academy since September 2017 and we are delighted with the progress of the school. The year 11 students performed extremely well in their recent mocks and are showing us how able they are and how well they will do in the summer. The year 8 and 9

students have now chosen their options and the school is now expecting the majority to study the English Baccalaureate. The students are highly aspirational and keen to ensure that they have the necessary qualifications for their post 16 studies. We have made good links with BCoT and QMC and some of our year 10 students experienced motor mechanics at BCoT recently. Recently, we had a visit from Maria Miller MP and she left extremely impressed with the students that she met on walkabout and in a small group. All spoke positively about the transformation at the school.



Alex Russell

I can't believe that's half a term already gone. It only feels like yesterday I was a Year Seven, one of the smallest in the year- not that that's changed- and intimidated by the vast school I was now a part of. I don't feel like I've grown, I still feel like the same person I was then, but when I look at my friends and see how far they've come, I know that I have changed, and, I hope, for the better. With my GCSEs coming up, and a few already done, it's nice to take a moment and just remember my life here. The friends I've made, the friends I've lost, what I've achieved here, and realise that we are never entirely alone. I probably sound overly sentimental, but sometimes it's good to just take a moment to breathe, and to *think*. Soon, this stage of my life will be over. I know that when I look back to my time here, only happy memories will await me.



Students View
Jennifer Weldon
Head Girl

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RCSSERVICES



Dear Residents,

Today's entry will be short as we are all extremely busy this week on Op Sceptre! By the time this article goes public we would have completed activities for the week.

Although knife crime is rare, we still need to ensure that we are not making it easy for anyone who wants to get hold of one for the wrong reasons.

As part of this week we have been conducting test purchasing at Basingstoke's retailers that sell knives or bladed articles. We are working with our Police Cadets to enter shops and attempt to purchase these bladed articles with a hope to being turned away due to being under 18.

We also have teams including specialists with metal detectors, working with ourselves and the cadets, to conduct searches in various areas to see if we are able to find anything.

Hopefully all goes well and we are able to educate any retailers that may not pass for the future. If you have any concerns or know of any shops that are selling knives to under 18s, please call us on 101.

Did you know we have our own facebook page? You can see updates of our projects and news by searching us – Basingstoke Cops.

Many thanks, PCSO C. Norris 16287

Chineham Library

It's good to see that the days are becoming lighter and finally this month the clocks go forward. So do come and join us in the library on 17th March when there is a session on Container Gardening at 2pm. Tickets costing £4 can be bought in advance, and some plants will be available for sale afterwards. The craft session on the 3rd will have a Mother's Day theme, so perhaps dads/grandparents could bring younger ones along between 10am – 12pm to produce something for the day?

Regular activities for children continue as usual with storytimes at 10am on all other Saturdays, and rhymetimes on Tuesday mornings at 10am for under ones and 11am for over ones. The Chatterbooks reading group has its next two meetings on 15th March and 12th April, from 3.45- 4.45pm. Don't forget Construction Club on Saturdays where children can play with Lego from 1.30pm onwards.

Our adult groups are also meeting as usual, with the Crime Reading group on the 17th March at 10.30am and the CHIPPS reading group on 14th March. Our newly formed writing group meets on 1st March and 5th April from 5.30 – 7pm and new members are very welcome to join. Age Concern continue to provide computer tuition on Wednesday mornings from 10am. For further information please contact their area office on: 01256 423874.

Looking ahead to April we are privileged to be hosting an author talk by Jean Fullerton. Jean is talking about 'Inside the writer's mind', and the event will take place on 19th April at 7.30pm. Tickets costing £6 are obtainable from the library. It should be an interesting evening.

Please continue to follow us via social media for the most up-to-date information. *Cathy*

Foster



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Never give up

Spring News
February 2018

Year R – Dinosaurs

Our Year R children have had a great half term learning all about Dinosaurs. They have enjoyed finding out about all the different shapes and sizes of dinosaurs including why some dinosaurs were herbivores, some were carnivores and some were omnivores. The children all made their own dinosaur fossils using clay and developed their fine motor skills. They have watched a volcano science experiment where bicarbonate of soda and vinegar were mixed together and put in a small volcano to make it erupt!

The topic will end with our trip to Wellington Country Park to give our children the opportunity to see some life sized models of Dinosaurs.

Year 1 – Fire! Fire!

Last half term the Year 1 children became 'Fire Experts'. As part of the topic, they were challenged by the fire service to learn all about the Great Fire of London and how it changed London to make the City safer.

These jobs included:

- Writing a newspaper article about the Great Fire of London
- Finding out about the job of a fireman and writing a job description
- Looking at which materials could be used to make strong water bucket

When the children had finished their challenges, they had a visit from the firemen who showed them around their fire engine.

Year 2 – Antarctica

This half term the children have been learning about the Rainforest. They have discussed the issues the Rainforest is facing and the need to raise awareness about the dangers of deforestation. The children could not believe how many of their favourite animals are being affected and how many food and drink products contain palm oil. They were so shocked that they decided they needed to take immediate action. The children wrote newspaper reports and filmed them. The newspaper reports told their audience what was happening, what effect it was having and how they could help!

But this wasn't enough ... The children wanted to widen their audience and hold a protest on our school playground using banners and signs they had made for their half termly homework.

SAVE THE RAINFOREST!





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Ridgeway Mondays 5 March & 4 June 10.30-11.30am

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Talking Tots about developing children's communication skills. **Free CD of
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Contact: Basingstoke Discovery Centre on 01256 478670

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Dear Friends

Perhaps one of the most familiar parables of Jesus we may know is the story of the wise and foolish builders as told by Luke and Matthew. Just a brief reminder: Two men build their houses, the one builds his house on rock with strong foundations when the storms come and rain lashes the house and the flood rises the house stands firm. The second man builds his house but fails to put down strong foundations and instead builds his house on sand. The storm comes, the rain lashes the house and the floods rise. Sadly, the house collapses because it has no foundation.

God foundations are important - believe me I've come to recognize that fact as the building works have progressed on the community facilities at St Gabriel's and I'm pretty confident that the building will stand for many more years whatever the weather may throw at it! The parable is important because it's all about the foundation we build our life upon.

The storms of life can hit at any time and most frequently without warning! There seems to me a lot of anxiety around these days. Anxiety and uncertainty about relationships, finances, work, children and the wider issues of Brexit and climate change.

How we react when the storms of life come will reveal whether we have built on rock or sand. Sadly, in my role all too often it's the latter rather than the former. Jesus said "whoever hears my words and acts on them is like the man who built his house on the rock" The parable follows on from some of Jesus' most profound teaching: 'Ask, seek, knock!'; 'judging others'; 'the narrow and wide gate'.

Jesus is always ready to be alongside us in all our trials and storms. It matters not to him who or where we are, have been, what is important to him is where we are going. Lent provides an opportunity in the Christian calendar to explore those areas of our lives that cause the storms to erupt and to invite Jesus alongside to calm the storm. So, can I invite you to consider the foundations of your life.

If you want to know how to build we're starting another introduction to Christianity through the Alpha Course beginning in March. Please do check out the website www.stgabrielspopley.net for more details and here's to God foundations.

Every blessing
Arthur
(Vicar of St Gabriel's)
☎ 324734

The term Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA) may sound like an exciting TV series, but it is in fact a very useful legal document that people really ought to consider having in place alongside their Will.

An LPA is a way of giving someone you trust the legal authority to make decisions on your behalf should you lose mental capacity in the future or if you are worried about managing your affairs in the future. This person is called an Attorney.

You can have more than one Attorney and these can be anyone you chose such as family members or close friends. Clearly, they should be people you trust explicitly. One could be a professional adviser, such as a solicitor, who could oversee the activities of the main Attorney.

There are two different types of LPA. One of them covers decisions about your property and finances, and the other covers decisions about your health and welfare. You can choose to have one or both.

You can appoint the same person or persons to be your Attorney for both LPAs or you can choose different Attorneys.

The LPA will only be valid if you have the mental capacity to set it up and have not been put under any pressure to create it.

It must be countersigned to this effect by a trusted third party and registered with the Office of the Public Guardian.

If you are married or in a civil partnership do not assume that your spouse will automatically be able to deal with your finances and make decisions about your healthcare. This is not the case as, without an LPA, they will not have the authority.

We recommend that everybody has an LPA in place as mental capacity can be lost or diminish suddenly, as a result of a serious accident or suffering an illness.

An LPA can certainly provide some peace of mind for all concerned.

If you would like to discuss setting up an LPA, please contact Caroline Wallis, head of the Wills & Probate team at Phillips, by calling [01256 854637](tel:01256854637) or by emailing caroline.wallis@phillips-law.co.uk





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Unfortunately the weather hasn't been very kind to us at the start of the year with the majority of games being called off due to frozen or waterlogged pitches. Oh, the perils of grassroots football! Of the few games that have gone ahead it's been heartening to see our boys and girls getting 'stuck in' and playing some brilliant football, whatever the weather!

MFC U7s are playing some scintillating football recently, which is a pleasure to watch. Jake played like 'Mr Scream' and was amazing. We are challenging the boys to use their weaker foot in matches. Congratulations to Harry for scoring against Arsenal.

MFC U13s - The new year has seen a return to action for our Venom and Predators U13 Teams. Our Predators team were 2nd best v Manor Colts going down 4-1 in our first league game of 2018, we followed this up with a convincing 5-0 win over our friends from Junior Shots. The final game of Jan saw us exit the Cup Q/Final v Hook from the Premier League, going down 3-0. Venom had a very similar month with results, beginning the year with a great 3-2 win over a very good Camberley team before losing out to Farnborough 4-1. A reverse game to Farnborough saw our Venom players outplay their opponents but going down 2-1.

MFC U13s Girls are looking for a couple more players to strengthen their squad next season (U14). The team plays across 2 school ages, Year 7 and 8. The team trains midweek at Powerleague and play their home matches at Mays Bounty Cricket Club in Basingstoke. Please register your interest with Owen, the team coach, at oweza03@gmail.com.

You can get regular updates on Twitter, [@MFC_PopleyYouth](https://twitter.com/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



Probus visit TAG Aviation Farnborough

Members of the Probus Club of Basingstoke had an informative look behind the scenes of this airfield, perhaps best known for the Farnborough International Air Show.

Samuel Cody made the first sustained powered flight in England here in 1908 and from WW1 Farnborough has been closely concerned with testing and evaluating aircraft. The Royal Aircraft Establishment (RAE), was established here and resident until 1985.

Increase in housing and lack of airspace hampered military flying and closure loomed. Part of the airfield was released for general and business aviation use, but with poor uptake, closure was inevitable. The company TAG, (Techniques d'Avant Garde), secured the airfield for a multi-million pound purchase. TAG Heuer watches was an earlier investment although is now owned by LVMH luxury brands group. Today they own 25% of the McLaren car group. TAG has similar airfield operations in Switzerland and Spain.

Significant capital expenditure in landscaping and modernising the airfield was needed for bespoke VIP business jet operations and current Civilian Aviation Authority regulations. These included a new control tower, radar unit, spacious aircraft maintenance hangars and an extensive aircraft apron for multi jet parking, servicing and operations. The 2440 metres runway was resurfaced. To attract business users TAG commissioned a luxurious terminal building that provides the very best hospitality for both VIP passengers and Aircraft Crews.

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See www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com





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Well, that's February out of the way! Onwards and upwards from here on in!

It's been a rather busy month, we've discovered all sorts of nature's wonders at the site; Wood Ears and Turkey Tails (of the fungi family), Gall wasp nests, wasp spider nests and harvest mouse

nests. Yup, lots of nests at the pond.

We had 2 new volunteers at our meeting last month. Lovely to meet you ladies!!

The lovely Liz had this to say about us, "I found the group to be very friendly and welcoming, and was surprised at how much we got done in just a couple of hours. No previous experience necessary!"

Liz is a superstar, firstly because she came out on a rather chilly Saturday morning helping us clear a pathway to the hidden pond, but prior to that because she created our lovely posters for the Basingstoke Live gig last year thereby helping us to move into the 21st century with our PR. We love them and we're hoping to borrow that graphic design talent for future events.

It's probably a good time to clarify that whatever time and skills you have to give, we'd love to hear about it! We're aren't necessarily just on the look out for volunteers to turn out in the rain - anyone out there with an interest in helping in whatever capacity you can, please do get in touch! We are a diverse group; bringing different skills and abilities to the table is what makes an effective team and you can see Liz's feedback for yourself on our Facebook page (Marnel and Popley Conservation Volunteers).

We have lots of other superstars to tell you about in due course. One thing's for sure, everyone's effort counts!

There may also be those of you out there who help us without us knowing it. If you spend time in the area, litter picking or any activities contributing towards up-keeping the area, please do let us know, we record volunteering hours for the council, to help them resource and monitor areas which may need additional support from the community team - you should be part of that number. More importantly though - we are all really grateful for you unspoken heroes, please let us know what you're achieving so we can thank you personally.

Last but not least, as promised in the last issue, we have finally got the details of our semi-annual knees up sorted:

Date: Sunday 25th March

Time: 3pm Onwards

Location: Barton's Mill, Old Basing, RG24 8AE

We'll be there with bells on, OK probably not bells, more like sitting near one of our posters trying to look interesting, I promise you we are an interesting bunch when you get to know us and that's interesting in the good way! We'd love to see anyone who is interested in the group, has concerns about the pond life or the area that we are working in or has been out with us before and wants to see us again, even if you'd just like to meet some fellow locals for a natter, we'd be pleased to see you! Everyone is welcome.

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Beaver Scout section: Vacant Leader post – contact GSL



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With so many young people enjoying Scouting in Popley every week, we do have a small number of places available in some sections but there are also dozens of young people who want to join who cannot because we are bursting at the seams. The age ranges are Beavers (6-8) Cubs (8-10) and Scouts (10-14).

The Leaders are passionate about giving every young person who wants to join, the opportunity of the life changing experiences that Scouting offers. In order to do this we need more adult volunteers to help run weekly meetings, organise events and to share in the fun and adventure. But we also need people to help behind the scenes as well.

SCOUTS

cubs

Why not put a spring in your step, start a new hobby, and put something back into your local community. You will find the time you give really rewarding and Scouting actively promotes flexible volunteering, so we will find you a role that matches the time you want to give. You will be surprised how rewarding and fun your time spent volunteering with us can be, so please contact us today to start your Scouting adventure and help to change lives.

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Over 55s Forum

The Basingstoke and Deane "Young at Heart" Over 55s Forum had their 1st Open Forum of 2018 with guest speakers Jonathon Jones (Farnham Town Crier) who was brilliant telling us about his uniform and how to become a Town Crier etc, Also Chief Inspector Matthem Reeves from the Basingstoke Police was also a guest. The attendance was some 230 members.

We are now taking new members, so if anyone is interested in joining our ever growing Forum, please contact Secretary Gerald.L.Merritt -E-Mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com or 07792535116.

Trips for 2018

Sunday 22nd April a visit to Denbies Vineyard at Dorking which is the largest vineyard in England in the heart of the Surrey Hills. 265 acres under vine, with wine and gift shop; Art Gallery; Village Greens Farm Shop; and 7 miles of public footpaths, You will have a train ride through the vineyards into the Surrey Hills, ride time approx 50 minutes. Also a 2 course roast dinner with tea/coffee served at your table in the Garden Room looking out into the courtyard. Return coach travel for members £41.50 - Non Members £43.50.

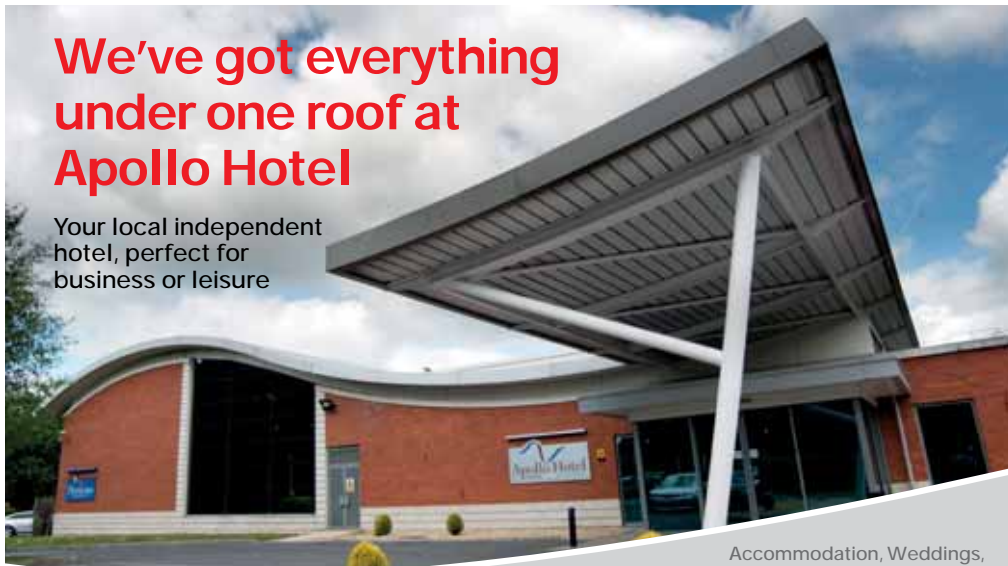
Thursday 14th June - a day trip to the Morgan Car Factory Tour in Worcestershire with a buffet lunch, return coach travel. Members £46.00 - Non Members £48.00.

Anyone interested in these 2 trips, please contact Gerald for more information about booking. Gerald on 07792535116 or e-mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com

Others being planned for September onwards is Postal Museum in London - Sandhurst Trust - World of Wedgewood, Turkey & Tinsel more news on these at a later date. Thank you. **Gerald.**
(Secretary & Tour Manager)

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