

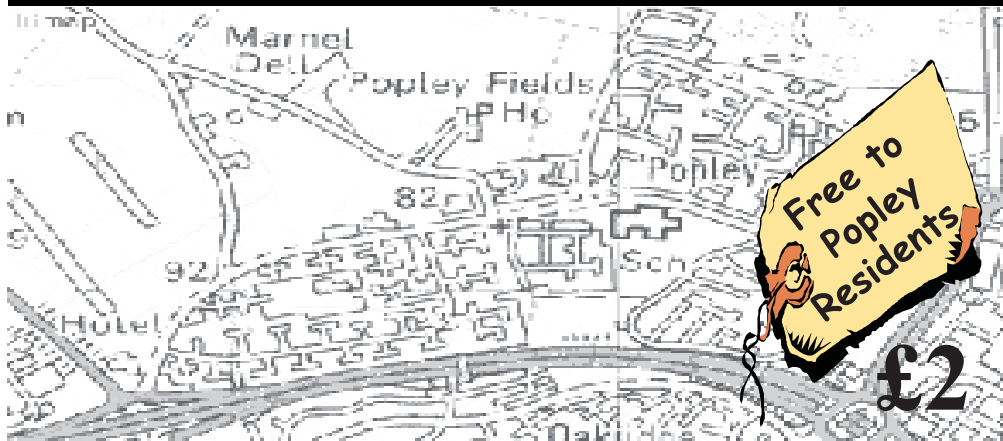
POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

April 2018

Distribution of 5,400

Issue 194



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-4-18) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: May already and my spring flowers have blossomed and are dying off, although it has not felt that spring like so far this year. More snow forecast with a severe cold snap predicted by the weather experts. Roll on the warmer summer weather.

Paul and I would like to give a huge big thank you to Mike Portlock for his many years of helping us to deliver a large number of Popley Matters and he has always been willing to fill in for others on a temporary basis. Mike leaves a big hole to try to cover so if you feel like helping us we would be delighted. Mostly it's in the Popley Islands area that needs help so just one hour a month would be so useful.

May brings us Popley Festival on the 20th. I think we have been to everyone from its humble beginnings in the 1980s I remember it at St Gabriel's Church when it was held in the car park and then at the old John Hunt of Everest School and now in the grounds around Popley Fields Community Centre. There s always lots to do and I do like to have a good look round for bargains at the Boot Sale. Thank you Ruby, we are pleased to see our young people get involved and writing for Popley Matters; her article is on page 7 and makes very interesting reading and some excellent advice.

The Neighbourhood Watch has really grown in a very short time, membership is already over 100- read about it on page 11 and come to the meeting. If you are interested in starting one in your road or area there is plenty of advice and help available.

We welcome articles from groups and clubs, also residents who might like to write about their hobbies or maybe 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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Councillors County: The grittier lorries were out working all through the night in the snow storms last month, thank you. My concern however is how much worse the weather has made our existing potholes. Many have been marked for repair including the one across the whole width of Abbey Road it was due to be done then it snowed and so it has to wait a bit longer! I am chasing a date for when it can be done. In the meantime if you spot any more deep potholes please do report them to Highways at roads@hants.gov.uk The potholes in the Abbey Road shops area is the responsibility of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and it has been reported.

I am pleased to say that after a motion and campaign to Hampshire County Council school crossing patrols by the lollipop people will not be cut. I continue to push to protect our most vulnerable residents to not take the brunt of the swinging cuts to grants and services.

I was pleased to be able to nominate a grant for Neighbourhood signs for the Neighbourhood Watch areas. Please do check you have locked your cars and houses up as there are reports that they are still operating in the area. Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk

Popley West: There was still a lot of rubbish and mess around Marnel Park around where the travellers camped and we contacted David Wilson Homes to see when the rubbish would be cleared. DWH have a contractor whose contract had run out but no one had renewed it! DWH have now put it on a rolling program for the contractor to upkeep the areas. They have made a start and put the pallets and large amounts of branches in a skip. We have sent more photos of the mess still remaining and firmly asked for it to be completed. Once the area is adopted, and that could be quite a while yet, it will not pass to the council to upkeep.

We continue to support Neighbourhood Watch and there is now a membership of over 100 in Marnel Park, Merton Rise and Speirs Meadow. If any of the other parts of Popley want to find out about forming their own Neighbourhood Watch the details are on the website, <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/>.

The Boundary Commission s consulting on the new ward boundaries in Basingstoke and Deane. If you want to find out what the proposals are and respond the contact address is <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/>.

You can also email reviews@lgbce.org.uk.

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 have been in discussion with Hampshire County Council for some time now about problems on Shakespeare Road with regard to speeding vehicles and the lack of suitable crossing points and are pleased to advise that agreement has been reached for traffic calming measures and a range of other improvements works to be carried out. Although we understand that they are to commence shortly we have no definite date yet so will let you know when we have more information.

Several of the roads in Popley and in fact throughout the Borough are in need of repair. We are seeing more and more potholes and the bad weather appears to have made matters worse.

Whilst many of the problems will have already been reported to Hampshire County Council as the authority with responsibility for road maintenance, we will continue to push them for action.

Should you be aware of any problems could you please report them through the Hampshire County Council website or to us at our email address below?

Finally a reminder that the splashpad will be re-opening around Easter time and we would ask that visitors make use of the overflow car park whenever possible please to avoid congestion in and around the area.

Cllr David Potter 07941507801

cllr.david.potter@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Janet Westbrook 07747335200

cllr.janet.westbrook@basingstoke.gov.uk



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on facebook.

WHATS ON IN APRIL:

MONDAY:	12.30-2.30pm	Bingo
	7.30-10.00pm	Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
TUESDAY:	9.30-11.30am	Popley Little People
	5-7pm	Sama Karate
WEDNESDAY:	9am and 11am	Slimming World with Jo
	11.45am-1.30pm	Oasis Lunch Club
	5.30 and 7.30pm	Slimming World with Julia
THURSDAY:	9.30-11.30am	Community Café
	8-9am	4 Fits Sake
	10am-12pm	Jiggy Wigglers
FRIDAY:	10.00am- 1.30pm	Melrose Tots
	6.15-9.15pm	Friday Youth Club
SATURDAY:	9.15am-4pm	7 TH Day Adventist Church
	10am	Sabbath School - Bible Study
	11.30am	Divine Worship
	1pm	Free Community Lunch
	Contact Emanuel Ampofo on 07456068812	
SUNDAY:	Melrose Christian Fellowship - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.	

YOU COULD BE JUST THE PERSON WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are currently seeking two volunteers to become part of our governing body. We welcome all applicants and are particularly looking for skills or experience of the following areas:

- Links with the local community
- Procurement/Property and Estate Management
- HR and Legal

Being a Marnel Junior School governor is an opportunity to learn new skills, support the school, and give something back to the local community. You will help shape the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction to ensure it provides for all its pupils and keeps them safe.

Anyone who is committed to our children's future is qualified for this important and rewarding role. Governors give on average 10 hours per term, mainly in the evenings, and are given training and support, including in-house mentoring and access to external governor training.

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STRESS! The greatest intruder into our daily lives. ‘Greatest’, what a bizarre phrase. When in actual fact stress and anxiety, becoming increasingly common every second is the most demoralising, treacherous hormonal phase we could go through. It seems to know when to stab us really hard - before exams, driving lessons or when you’re about to speak to your crush for the first time. All equally momentous events, obviously. In 2018, where technology is at an all time height, we have access to all of the latest fashions, books, game consoles and communication is easier than ever, why does the deep dark invasion of anxiety still feel it is necessary to over-take? Pretty rude if you ask me.

In conclusion, it’s time to strip it back down to the basics. Break away from the busy bustle of the social world and have some ‘me’ time to gain a glimpse of tranquillity amongst the chaos of life and hormone changes. Follow this simple, yet handy guide to enjoy life more and appreciate the people and moments that make you truly content. Plus, they’re super easy so there’s no excuse to not give them a go!

1. Have a bath. Treat yourself. Quietness, candlelight and a relaxing scent. Lush are absolute experts in allowing you to certainly chillax. (Try the ‘Dragon’s Egg’ bath bomb for a zingy colour burst). Also lavender aromatherapy is good for helping sleep.

2. Write down your worries. Pen and paper; old school style is key. Then just simply throw it away or burn it (not suggesting we all become raging pyromaniacs) but simply eradicate your fears. Turn them to dust and blow them away.

3. Turn off your phone. Forget about your snap streaks (shock horror) and disconnect from the social world, it’s not all real. Try it! You’ll enjoy it more than you think!

4. Go for a walk with some family and friends. I know spending time with tangible people maybe initially seem daunting as it is slightly different to having your sight-spheres glued to your glowing cold brick. Laugh, chat and breathe the fresh crisp air (even though the February freeze might catch you).

5. Sleep. Our brains are rapidly developing, and sleep is essential to thrive in life, get a good test score or play a sport without tripping and completely embarrassing yourself in front of your crush that we mentioned earlier (it’s happened to the best of us). On average, teenagers need 8.5 to 9 hours of sleep and with the early morning college starts, that means we can’t afford to be scrolling through Instagram for hours on end whilst our brains are begging us for sleep. Give it a try and I guarantee you’ll feel the benefits. Stress does not control you, you are in control of your stress.

Send me an email (before 9pm so your brain can get cosy and switch off from the icy blue chill of your phone) on your tips for a stress-free life. Let’s all help each other. @rubyj17@gmail.com

Don’t party too hard, (in this case read a book and escape to another world instead)

Ruby J xoxo

Alpha at St Gabriel's

WHEN: Starts Thursday 12th April 2018
7.15pm

WHERE: The David Cockerill Room,
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Spring News
March 2018

Year R – On the Farm

This half term the children in Year R have been learning about the Farm. It was launched with a visit to Wellington Country Park to see some real farm animals. We are learning about how the animals change as they grow and the food we eat.

The children have had the exciting opportunity to watch chicks hatch from eggs and observe them developing.

Year 1 – Once Upon a Time

This half term the Year 1 children have travelled far, far away to the land of 'Once Upon a Time'. The children have buried themselves in traditional tales including 'The Emperor's New Clothes' and 'Little Red Riding Hood'. The children have also made their very own iMovie trailers based on their favourite stories. We have seen some very talented actors/ actresses at Merton Infant School! As part of our Geography learning, the children have explored Popley both on foot and interactively using Google Earth. The children were very excited about seeing their community up close as well as from up in space! The children were especially surprised with how much Popley had changed throughout the years.

Year 2 – The Titanic

The children in Year 2 have been so excited to learn all about the events of the Titanic. We launched our topic by visiting the SeaCity museum in Southampton where the children learnt many facts about the 'Jewel of the Ocean'. They liked observing what the ship looked like from pictures and models, how many passengers survived and died and the different social status. The children also had the opportunity to dress up as we travelled back in time to roleplay.

The children have set themselves 2 challenges for this topic. Making a junk model replica of the Titanic and raising the awareness of the Titanic and its importance as a historical event to the other classes in the school and the parents through their class assemblies.





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Duke of Edinburgh Award

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Disneyland Paris

Despite the early start our annual Disneyland Paris Trip was enjoyed by everyone that went



Upcoming Dates

Easter Break—29 March—15 April inclusive
30 March—Skip Trip
26 April—Year 10 Parents Evening
14 May—Year 11 GCSEs Start

Here I am today, sat in front of another blank page, with no idea what to say. Recently I was asked what I wanted when I leave school, and I could only reply with 'friendship'. However, that isn't all. I'm hoping to get into QMC to study drama, and was relieved to hear that many of my friends will be studying the same courses as me. I won't be entirely alone, but I'll still have to make new friends if I am to survive college. I've already been offered an apprenticeship with my karate class, so at least I know I have a backup plan if all else fails. Not that I'd accept failure. I strive for success, aiming to go to college, and, eventually university. My chosen university would be none other than the infamous RADA. I'm going to America, and I'm going to make it big. Hopefully, one day in the near distant future, you'll turn on your television, and there I'll be, starring in some intense action movie or terrifying horror. I might just be a girl from Basingstoke, but, one day, I'll be a star.



Students View

**Jennifer Weldon
Head Girl**

Neighbourhood Watch - Update

- There are now over 100 members of the Marnel Park, Merton Rise and Spiers Meadow Neighbourhood Watch group.
- The next meeting will be on 25th April, 7.45pm at Everest Community Academy. We hope to have the police there to discuss community priorities. It was great last time to put names to faces and meet new people.
- If you would like to join, go to <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/knowledge/joining-a-scheme/>
- Also useful is the Marnel Park, Merton Rise and Spiers Meadow Facebook Group. A really useful way of quickly passing on information.
- Joining Neighbourhood Watch means you will receive email updates from the police regarding crimes in your area.
- Anyone can start up a Neighbourhood Watch group, contact me or Basingstoke Neighbourhood Watch online for more information.
- New signs are on their way if your street doesn't have them yet, more to follow on that next month.
- My contact details are Clare Wilkins - clarewilkins2505@gmail.com



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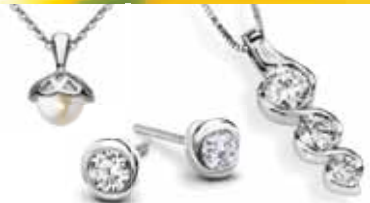
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Dear Friends

It's an exciting time in the life of your parish church; St Gabriel's is approaching the end of a long and sometimes difficult journey to extend our community facilities. We now have two new large, and well furnished meeting rooms, brand new toilets and very soon a new kitchen and very large community hall. Overall we hope that this project actively demonstrates to our community that we are interested in, and investing in their success and it's for the good of the whole community.

The project has been developed in consultation with our existing community and user groups Boys Brigade, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, Mother & Toddler Groups, Seniors Bingo Group (The Golden Club), Messy Church (craft and meal sharing for families). All of these groups are seeking to expand but need the extra space to do so. Already they are appreciating the benefits of some of the new facilities.

The rhythm of life (a powerful thing – so I've heard) is beginning to pick up again after the long winter days. Already there are many daffodils in flower and it does somehow lift the spirit to see all these new signs of life! New life is what our Christian faith is all about and nowhere is this more apparent in the Christian year than the Easter season we celebrate in church.

Easter, for so many, sadly will only be associated with eggs, particularly those of the chocolate variety. Why do we have Easter eggs? Well, doesn't an egg represent all the potential for new life, new beginnings! And why are Easter eggs hollow? Because the empty egg is symbolic of the empty tomb of Jesus when He rose from the dead to resurrection life on that first Easter Day offering a whole new life for all who would follow Him.

St Paul wrote "If any one is in Christ they are a new creation, the old has gone the new has come" (2 Cor 5:17). If we truly want a fresh start for our lives, if we truly want to leave the mess of the past behind, then as a Christian I believe there is only one place to start, or rather only one person to turn to and that's Jesus. And this new life is not just for the now but for all eternity; Jesus himself said "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have life eternal." (John 3:16).

So as the new life of spring begins to emerge all around us may your thoughts turn to the possibilities of new life for yourself and, if like me, you're a chocoholic then may your Easter eggs this year take on a new and added meaning. Hope to see you at one of our Easter Services! Please see our advert in this magazine

Every blessing
Arthur
(Vicar of St Gabriel's)
☎01256 324734

Getting embroiled in a dispute with a neighbour can be particularly stressful.

If handled properly though, there is every chance of avoiding formal litigation, which can be lengthy and extremely costly.

There are numerous ways where you could find yourself in a dispute with a neighbour. You could have a disagreement relating to the legal title to your property such as the position of boundaries or the operation of rights of way. It could be that the dispute arises more out of your neighbour's conduct such as making excessive noise or building works that your neighbour is carrying out or proposing to carry out.

Boundaries are a common problem and are frequently fraught and complex. Whether it is by the land or use of land changing over time or by the boundary being poorly recorded; any ambiguity over the position of a boundary can lead to conflict and burden both properties.

Whilst it remains unresolved, a dispute can directly affect your property. If you wish to sell, you may have to disclose the issue which could have a negative impact on the marketability or even the value of your property. It may seem that by instructing a solicitor you are escalating a dispute, but in most cases it is the best way of moving towards a solution quickly and calmly. Dealing with a difficult neighbour directly, perhaps over the back fence can make matters worse.

Where disputes become heated it can be sensible to avoid a direct approach and seek professional help.

Cases all turn on their particular facts; we will be able to advise you clearly as to where you stand in law and what your options are. We advise that the best way to resolve disputes is by focussing on practical solutions and where possible to avoid litigation.

For more information and to find out how we might assist you, contact Ben Pearson on 01256 854608, or email ben.pearson@phillips-law.co.uk.



Tales of the Marnell Woods

It may have come with a sense of relief by some regarding my recent absence from these pages. However I do offer my apologies for this break. First came Xmas, then the weather, then the medical profession insisting on investigating me for some dreaded affliction beginning with the third letter of the alphabet. Also it just coincided with possibly the quietest period of the bowls year which deprived me of any talking points. Things are picking up a tad now though as the winter short mat season is drawing to a close and the days approaching when we have to take up gardening and housework in preparation for moving the game outdoors. If any of you fancy a bit of that, all help would be appreciated. You won't have to cut the grass, that is done by the greenkeeper, but tending to the memorial garden and hanging baskets, sweeping the paths and smartening up the paintwork inside and out is on the agenda. Come and help us and you will be rewarded, not in cash of course, I can't afford that, but in a years free membership which will allow you to join in on the thing the club exists for, namely bowling. You know you want to! You fancy yourself in the blue club shirt! come along and join for free and you will be excused the gardening for a full 12 months, if they still did Green Shield Stamps you could have one of those too.

Our new bowlers are settling in quite nicely now. They have got the hang of short mat and are looking forward to going outside but the real bonus is their keenness and attitude which is helping to make the club a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and a joy to be part of. There are only 3 league games and 2 club finals left until it all kicks off again. This is a time for expectancy and anticipation. Perhaps by our next chat reality might have set in once we see how we fare in the full size rinks having not bowled on them for 6 months, whatever, bowls, like life, is to be enjoyed.

Over 55s Forum

The Basingstoke and Deane "Young at Heart" Over 55s Forum is still growing and we are now taking in new members, but I am sure it will not be long, before we reach our maximum total and will have to close the membership again. Anyone wishing to join should contact Gerald on 07792535116 or e-mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com

Our Open Forum meetings are still being well attended with very good guest speakers; we have just had the Town Crier from Farnham, he was excellent.
Trips.

There are seats still available on the following trips.

22nd April 2018. A visit to Denbies Winery at Dorking - Englands largest Vineyard in the heart of the Surrey Hills, included are train ride through the vineyard into the Surrey Hills, 2 course Roast Dinner with tea/coffee and return coach, there is also an Art Gallery; Wine and Gift Shop; Village Greens Farm Shop; and 7 miles of public footpath. Price Members £43.00 - Non Members £45.00.

14th June 2018. A day trip to the Morgan Car Factory Tour in the lovely county of Worcestershire, with a buffet lunch. This should be very interesting because these cars have been going for many years, Including coach travel Members £46.00 - Non Members £48.00

14th July 2018 A day trip to Cheddar Caves and Wookey Hole. Price - coach only, Members £16.00 - Non members £18.00 .

Anyone who is interested in joining us should contact Gerald on 07792535116 or e-mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com

More coach trips being planned for later in the year.

All the best to you all.

Gerald. (Secretary and Tour Manager)



6th Basingstoke Boys' Brigade Newsletter

It seems April is a month of planning, our Junior section camp plans continue to move forward, we have set a date and the young people are very excited but not as excited as their parents, no boys for a weekend!

As well as Junior camp the officers are looking at this year's Company camp site. Unfortunately, the site we've used in the past is now under development so we need a new patch. Obviously, this requires a trip there to test out the local amenities, fish n chip shops, bakeries and ice cream vendors but our officers are very willing to do so. ;-)

Also, with Popley Festival around the corner we will be setting up a stall as part of our new recruitment drive. If you are at the festival please come along and say hi.

Our Anchors and Junior sections are continuing their craft classes and sport sessions while the Company section are looking in to creating a short film and planning a theatre trip for all sections. The Company section also enjoyed a trip to Basingstoke's Powerleague. We like to plan a few of these sport sessions throughout the year to break up the classes.

Are you up to the challenge?

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

Basingstoke Lions Club

Our first event of the year was the concert given for us at QMC by the Moscow Drug Club. Everyone has been raving about it. Not only did they love their music, which can best be described as gypsy jazz, but they loved the musicians themselves who mingled freely with the audience during breaks. They were very friendly as well as being exceptionally talented and versatile on a variety of instruments. We hope we will be able to entice them back to play for us again.

Our next events are a **Quiz Night at Cliddesden Millenium Hall on 7 April**: Contact Philip Wilson philipjhwilson@btinternet.com to reserve your table for 4 (remember we can only accommodate 22 teams), hotly followed by a double bill at **QMC on 14 April – Grant Saunders**, a hilarious stage hypnotist, and dancers from the **Basingstoke Academy of Dance**. You can buy tickets direct from our website www.basingstokelions.org.uk, from mauricehockley@hotmail.com or tel: **01256 421867**, or **Toucan Travel at the Chineham shopping Centre**. This promises to be one of our most interesting shows.

In my last report I mentioned our first Bunnings Sausage Sizzle. Well, sausages are always favourites with Lions so we've done several more. Quite apart from raising money for charity they provide an excellent opportunity for our members to have fun working together, and it seems no one has gained too much weight.

This brings me to the vexed question of membership. Through our fundraising and welfare work we have helped many people and many organisations over the past 50 years. But, without new members, that help which has been vital to so many may soon disappear. I would therefore earnestly entreat you to consider joining us. You can easily get in touch with us through our website www.basingstokelions.org.uk by putting your contact details on the "Contact Us" page. Someone will get in touch and invite you to come along to one of our meetings where you can meet us and see what we are like; there would be absolutely no pressure on you to join - just an opportunity to 'suck it and see'...



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Bringing the Stone Age to Life,

Probuss members were taken back to pre-historic times when Katy England from Salisbury Museum gave a talk about times in early Britain.

The earliest UK remains were discovered at Boxgrove near Chichester in the 1990s, around 500,000 years old. Consisting of a leg bone, two teeth, wooden spears and hand held flint axes. It is calculated that they originated from a 6 feet tall and well built male.

Fire developed around 400,000 years ago perhaps coinciding with a change in weather patterns. Over the next 200,000 years, as the weather became colder,

the original Boxgrove man developed into Neanderthal man. He was shorter and stockier and more able to cope with the colder conditions.

About 50/40,000 years ago another species arrived from Africa that we call Homo Sapiens. Despite some interbreeding, gradually the Neanderthals died out. Flint and antlers were made into tools including needles which allowed animal skins to be sewn together for clothing. Cave painting started about 30,000 years ago when ochre and charcoal were used as the basis for colour.

The Great Ice Age came 20,000 years ago and after its departure rising sea levels created different continents as the weather became similar to what we enjoy today. Mammoths and reindeer were replaced with deer and wild boar. The invention of a form of glue and the development of the bow with the “string” made from animal sinews and arrows, with flint arrow heads and swan feather flights, the hunter/gatherer became prevalent.

A significant change of life style started 12/10,000 years ago, in a period known as the Neolithic Stone Age. They domesticated plants and animals, created permanent villages and crafts such as pottery and weaving developed. It is recognised that this is the most significant change in all of human history. See www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com



Chineham Library

It's unbelievable to think that Easter is already upon us and hopefully you will all be able to enjoy some extra family or rest time. If you have children why not consider taking advantage of some of the extra activities provided by the library? In addition to our regular craft sessions on 7th April and 5th May, there are extra craft sessions on the Wednesdays 4th and 11th April. There will be an extra Easter storytime on 6th April. For further details of timings etc please check social media or contact us. For adults this month we have the visit from Jean Fullerton on 19th April at 7.30pm, talking about 'Inside the writer's mind'. Jean writes historical and medical themed fiction, and the talk should also be of interest to any budding authors. Tickets for this costing £6 can be obtained from the library.

Beyond these our regular activities take place as usual. The Crime Reading Group meets on 14th April at 10.30am and the Chipps group on 11th April at 10am. The newly formed Writing Group will meet on the 5th April at 5.30 – 7pm and the group still has places available. For details of the next general reading group please contact the library. Age Concern will take a break for the Easter holiday, but will hold their computer tuition sessions on all other Wednesdays, to book appointments please contact: 01256 423874.

Children's regular activities also continue with rhymetimes on Tuesday mornings for under ones at 10am and over ones at 11am. Storytimes are every Saturday except the first in the month from 10 – 10.30am. Our Chatterbooks reading group will meet on 12th.

For the most up-to-date information please follow us on social media.

Cathy Foster



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Headquarters:
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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	

The Beaver section has been very busy meeting new Beavers and saying goodbye to a couple who have moved on.

So far the Beavers have made shortbread (and boy was it scrummy!!) decorated fairy cakes, not many made it home for the family to try. Decorated Christmas biscuits all their skills were put to use in decorating beautifully.

If there are any parents out there that would like to help out at any of the sections, new Leaders are always wanted as well as section helpers.

A dragon with a difference was made by the Beavers drawing around their open hands, all the hands were stuck together like the scales on the dragon, very effective and something very different.

A trip to Marwell Zoo is in the offing, as the Beavers are going as a group they will be able to complete the discovery booklet from Marwell, which is something they would not be able to do if going in with parents. This also goes towards a badge.

A sleepover is planned just for the Base 2000 colony, again this will go towards badges. A tea party is planned for the district also a camp. April as always sees the Scouts parade for St George's Day.

Scouting, as a whole, gives a new confidence as well as discipline, team building and a vast friendship, the chance may also come to join one of the Jamboree's with worldwide participation. forging new friendships with Scouts from across the world.

Without Leaders none of the above would be possible, we meet on a Tuesday, and Friday if you have an hour or two even once a month you can be of help. Please contact either Colin or the section leader. Another way is if you have an interesting career and think a presentation would benefit the Scouts let us know.

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

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“At the top of Vyne Road a cornfield, then Oakridge farm on the right and further Popley Farm and a dell called the White Horse Dell.”

This quote comes from Amelia (Millie) Day, nee Matthews born 03/09/1910, Tilehurst, Berks. Died 1994. Millie lived mostly in Phoenix Park Terrace and then Weale Court, Vyne Road, Basingstoke. From oral history done by Sheila Houston 15/11/1992.

Here we are, just north of Tobago Close across the road from the little Tesco. To be more specific, we are only there on the last Saturday of the month, but you know what I mean!

Our little Dell; filled with its flora and fauna, that now belongs to us; it's dog walkers, Sunday strollers, hide and seekers, wildlife knowers.

But here's the mystery - Why it's called the White Horse, no one seem to be sure?

I've read some lovely tales of you growing up in the area, playing at the White Horse; some say the name comes from the untimely death of a white horse, possibly pulling a milk cart. Or maybe it's to do with the site's time as a chalk pit, along with its neighbour the Marnel Dell which now sits between Appleton and Carter Drives.

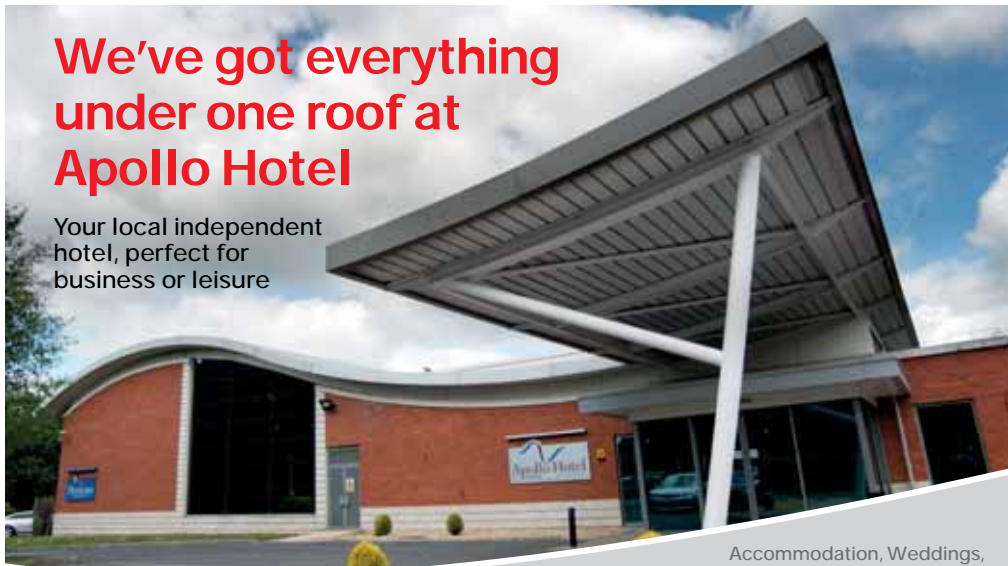
So I'm putting it to you, the lovely people of Popley and Marnel, if you can help us shed some light on the situation, please help us out!

We'd love to know if you have any insights, stories or photo's, send them on over to us at popleyponds@gmail.com or pop along to our Facebook page.

Many thanks to Debbie Reavell, Secretary at Basingstoke Heritage Society and everyone else who has shared or replied to my posts on the social media network.

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