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POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

January 2019

Distribution of 5,400

Issue 203

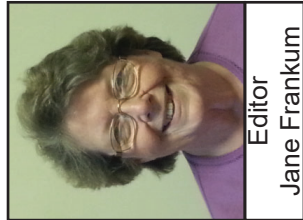


FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-1-19) editor@poppleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: Here we are at the beginning of another year and some things will change and some will stay just the same! We say goodbye to Ruby who wrote our youth page as she is going to be studying hard for her A levels. Thank you Ruby for your unique style of articles. It now leaves a vacancy so if you would like to become our youth reporter get in touch.

I met Emmy's aunty and asked how Emmy was doing and thanks to the support of lots of people, many of them from Popley, she is doing amazingly well. Emmy's Mum has written to tell us about her progress and share the good news with us; read about it on page 1.

Perhaps you New Year resolution is to volunteer to help in the community? There are several ideas with reports from different charities all through your January copy of Popley Matters.

A really big thank you is due to our committee members, treasurer and proof reader, and big grateful thank you to our volunteer deliverers who go out delivering your community magazine all through the four seasons. We really do need some more people to help especially in the Popley Islands areas, plus Marnel Park, Merton Rise and Melrose Walk so if you can spare an hour a month, please get in touch with me details below. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (now known as The Armed Forces Charity) is on page 4; Basingstoke Disability Forum on page 6; NeighborCare page 9; Basingstoke Voluntary Action who support nearly 500 charities on page 12; Basingstoke Loddon Rotary page 16; Probus page 20; Popley Fields at their AGM on page 24 and finally Basingstoke Deane Rotary on page 26.

Popley Matters has a Facebook page Popley Matters 200 and there are three other Popley Facebook pages:- Pride of Popley, Marnel, Merton and Speirs Meadow also Everest and the Glaziers that you can join in with to keep up with the news in Popley.

We welcome articles from groups and clubs, also residents who might like to write about their hobbies or 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.

Happy New Year to everyone.

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

Editorial Team: Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Area Distribution Manager Jeremy Jackman
Martin Biermann; Treasurer Christopher Martin; Proof Reader Lorraine Beaney.
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Chineham Library

We hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas. How about taking up a new interest for the new year? There are spaces in both our general reading group which meets on the last Saturday of each month, and in our writing group, for which more details are available from the library. You are very welcome even just to come for a trial session.

The December event with Longdog Brewery was very successful, and already events are booked for the new year. Thursday 21st February, we have 'Drama for All', with two free bookable sessions of drama for our children. There will be the regular craft session on 5th January from 10am-12pm, and storytimes at 11am on all other Saturdays. Construction Club providing Lego and Duplo takes place from 2 - 3.30pm.

All the other children's activities take place as usual, with rhymetimes on Tuesdays for under ones at 10am and over ones at 11am. Chatterbooks meets on 17th January at 3.45 - 4.45pm for primary school age children. Coding Club is full for this term; places can be booked for after Easter. The Stay and Play reading group for mums and pre-school children meets on 9th January from 10am - 11am. Crime reading group meet on 19th January and the general reading group on 26th January, both 10.30 - 11.30am. Writing group meets 10th January from 5.30 - 7pm. Age Concern will be providing computer tuition for the over 50s on Wednesday mornings from 9th January. Places need to be booked with the area office on: 01256 423874.

As well as all these activities the library has much to interest everyone. We have colourful, changing displays and an extensive book stock available for adults and children. Also we offer free computer and wifi access.

*Happy New Year
Cathy Foster*

Over 55s Forum

The Executive Committee of the Basingstoke and Deane Over 55s Forum has again this year given all those existing who are renewing for 2019 a £1.00 discount on their membership fees if paid before the 31st December 2018. During January 2019 we will be able to look at bringing in new members from our reserve list.

I am trying to get another batch of tickets for the Dolly Parton 9 to 5 musical at the Savoy Theatre in London. Tickets are £52.50 plus coach fare which is just £17.00 for non members. The ticket price includes 2 course Carvery Lunch at the Strand Palace Hotel and coach fare. Anyone interested need to speak to or book with Gerald on 07792535116 or e-mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com.

From 17th to 20th May 2019 we are arranging a four day trip to York. It includes a day trip to Scarborough then onto Whitby for a steam train ride to Pickering, the following day we have a guided tour of York with free time to look around. All this for £279.00 members or £281.00 for non members. Again speak to Gerald.

Other trips to be arranged are Teapot Island with over 8,000 Teapots and over 2,000 teapots for sale. Leeds Castle - Blosson Trail in Evesham - Malvern Flower Show - Stratford - on -Avon River Festival - Kew Gardens and a trip to Brighton plus a few more will be added during 2019.

Update on "Ready Emmy Walk"

After a year of incredible fundraising, Emmy had Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR) surgery in St Louis, Missouri in September 2016.

Before SDR, Emmy's Cerebral Palsy meant that she could not stand up or walk on her own. She used a walking frame to move around. Her legs were constantly stiff.

When Emmy had SDR, she said goodbye and good riddance to spasticity and started her journey towards a more comfortable and independent life.

Over the past twelve months Emmy has continued to work hard in weekly physiotherapy sessions, swimming and horse riding. She has completed four intensive blocks of physiotherapy across the country.

This year Emmy has learnt how to climb up steps, ride a bike with stabilisers, get up from the floor through one leg, climb out of a swimming pool and jump into it and walk on snow and ice - to name but a few new and exciting skills.

Emmy has completed her first para triathlon and fulfilled our biggest dream of walking into school independently on her first day. Emmy has settled into school brilliantly. Her school is wonderful and has made sure she is included and able to access everything. She has made lots of friends. Her stamina is increasing every week.

Emmy is getting stronger. She is doing more and more independently. She is stepping up bigger steps, taking bigger risks, walking further, using her wheelchair less - her progress is incredible.

SDR isn't a miracle cure and Emmy's Cerebral Palsy means that she still faces challenges everyday. But she is learning to overcome them through hard work and determination. We are so incredibly proud of her.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody that donated to and supported our "Ready Emmy Walk" fundraising campaign. Without you, Emmy would still be living with painful spasticity and her mobility would be deteriorating.

You have given Emmy a gift that has changed her life.

What will the next year bring for Emmy? We can't wait to find out.

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Sunday & Bank Holidays Mondays Closed

CHUTE PAVILION SPORTS AND RECREATION GROUND

SHERBORNE ST JOHN SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB



So you think bowls is about as interesting as counting sheep!! If so you haven't tried Short Mat Bowls! - which is friendly - social - and very competitive!!!! If you over indulge at Christmas come and enjoy gentle fun exercise at our club.

We are a small friendly club who meet at the Chute Pavilion on Thursday afternoons throughout the year from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. We arrange a programme of games with other clubs during the winter season. We also used to meet on Tuesday afternoons and Monday evenings which, if there is sufficient interest, could start again.

We are always pleased to welcome new members so why not come along and give short mat bowling a try. We have bowls available which you can use and the existing members will be only too pleased to show you the ropes of the game.

We would be pleased to hear from you and for any further information please contact Les on 01256 850973 (skerryvovore1@btinternet.com) or Tony on 01256 889350 (mar_ton19@yahoo.co.uk).

We Hope You're All Warm and Well in 2019

December for us was a bit of a washout, i.e. we had to cancel the work party because someone (Gill) went away for the weekend and someone else (Natalie) forgot to get the keys to the store cupboard so someone else (Bryan) could actually go and lead the thing while the second someone went to get a haircut... Sorry everyone but I can at least assure you my hair looks epic ;)

To be fair, it rained so much that day so was probably a blessing in disguise! We will look to add in an extra session when the weather is a bit fairer since we're never short of something to do.

We will be back in action soon - first Saturday, monthly, in the usual place at the entrance to the ponds off Tobago Close. Any questions pop over to our Facebook Page or email popleyponds@gmail.com



Hopefully we'll see you all soon!

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CONTACTS

Helen Ricketts: -
helen@highpathway.co.uk

or

Paul Temple:-
tempaul45@gmail.com

YOUR LOCAL

ROTARY

ROUNDUP

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JANUARY 2019

ITS NOT TOO LATE TO BOOK FOR

Basingstoke Deane Rotary 11th Charity Concert
 THE BAND of HER MAJESTY'S ROYAL MARINES

THE ANVIL BASINGSTOKE

Sunday 27th January, 3.00pm



**Tickets available from The Anvil Box Office.
 Unashamedly patriotic, a fabulous concert !**

Rotary Shoebox Update

Our shoeboxes went to our central collecting area and were then distributed by road transport to children in Albania, Moldova, Montenegro and Romania, making a total of 27,000 shoeboxes sent from the Wessex Rotary district, full of goodies to give a little happiness to under privileged children in those countries. Again thank you to our generous donors.
 Rotarians oversee the boxes all the way until they're given to the children
 To get involved look out for info in 2019.

Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 35men and women from a wide variety of backgrounds. All live locally in the borough but some commute to work outside Basingstoke. Most joined Rotary to help others less fortunate, and they find Basingstoke Deane Rotary adds another extremely enjoyable dimension to their lives.

If you would like to find out more about how we enjoy ourselves, just tune in to www.rcbd.org.uk to see what we have coming up, or contact Helen or Paul above to find out more . You might be pleasantly surprised!

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane

Twitter: @RBstokeDeane

Councillors County: A very Happy New Year. With the new year I am beginning to push once again for the long overdue adoption, where we can, of roads still not adopted in Marnel Park and Merton Rise. It is dependent on the developer completing what in effect are snagging issue almost unbelievable that after long 10 years some are still not adopted. Areas that the development company have appointed management companies this tends to be in areas that are leasehold and not freehold still have issues. I have also contacted Persimmon to replace road signs that are missing and for a site manager to look at the sighting of misleading road signs as there are major issues with deliveries and post. Where I have the list of areas that are adopted I am asking for grit bins from Hampshire County Council. I have also asked for extra bins in some roads but it has to fit their rigid criteria so will not expect many. The stringent cuts are imposed because the present government, instead of investing, is cutting the grants yet again to councils. There were some street lights that were not working and the highways ones will be repaired! **Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk**

Popley West: Do you have old, damaged or unreadable street or road signs? We have managed to get quite a few done in this year's budget and some are on the list for later in 2019. Please let us know and, if you can email a photo too, that would be very helpful. If you have any concerns or issues, our email and contact details are at the end of his report.

The bin collection is still appalling especially if your roads are the end of the day's round. The present Tory administration stated in a full council meeting that the areas have never looked so good. Of course we who live in our town wards know that is nonsense so please complain online at basingsstoke.gov.uk so that they get the message that the estates need attention to bins, litter, fly tipping and other issues. Please also let us, your local councillors, know so we can chase up your issues.

The Boundary Commission has admitted their mistakes and that some submissions had not been included so they are doing a review of what went wrong, so the new boundaries will not take effect till the 2020 elections. Popley has no elections in 2019.

Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924

cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Popley East: Following a consultation exercise undertaken in August by Council Officers, final proposals have been prepared for the Neighbourhood Improvement Scheme in the Popley Poets area.

Comments from residents were considered along with the priorities identified in the Community Plan for enhancements to open space areas. During this planning process, we identified existing overgrown areas of planting and intensive maintenance work will be carried out concentrating on these areas. Where possible Vivid Housing Association will be engaged in this improvement scheme.

The work is expected to start at the end of December/early January and be completed in April 2019.

We have reminded David Wilson Homes of their obligations to keep the approach road to the Spiers Meadow development as clean as possible whilst building works are being carried out. The state of this road obviously impacts greatly on the residents of Jersey and Guernsey Closes. In addition we have insisted that Carpenters Down should also be swept as necessary because the mud and stones from site traffic travels some distance from the site causing problems for road users and residents in the area. Finally we wish all our Popley East residents a happy 2019. We will continue to try and keep you up to date with local issues of interest.

Cllr David Potter 07941507801

cllr.david.potter@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Janet Westbrook 07747335200

cllr.janet.westbrook@basingstoke.gov.uk



SSAFA - the Armed Forces charity, formerly known as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association, is a UK charity that provides lifelong support to serving men and women and veterans from the British Armed Forces and their families...

Local volunteers collecting for Basingstoke and area

The Hampshire/Basingstoke branch of the UK's oldest armed forces charity SSAFA will be out in force again in 2019 commencing with The Basingstoke Festival of Transport at The Memorial Park in May 2019 and collecting for local heroes and their families at various Superstores

SSAFA provides lifelong support for our Forces and their families. Each year the charity helps over 60 families in Basingstoke, Hook, Tadley, and surrounding area..... over 50,000 nationally.

"These funds are vital if SSAFA is to continue to support those who have served their country and ensure that they are not disadvantaged by their service. We are finding that our cases are becoming increasingly complex with younger veterans coming forward for help in greater numbers. We offer a range of support from practical and financial assistance to emotional care and befriending."

If you would like to know more about how SSAFA can help you or someone you know, please get in touch at 07807 668398 or visit www.ssafa.org.uk

As well as SSAFA being able to assist those in need, we have a need for more caseworkers.

There are 7,000 volunteer workers throughout the United Kingdom and on service bases. SSAFA caseworkers operate in Europe and overseas British bases where there are expatriate communities.

Being a caseworker is a voluntary job to undertake at times to suit the volunteer, qualification is by attending a fully funded residential course and working with other trained personnel.

If you feel that you would be able to give a few hours per week to undertake this very rewarding work please contact SSAFA.

07807 668398 - We need you.

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Interested in getting involved in the community but not sure how? Looking for a different kind of New Year's resolution?

Popley Fields Community Association runs the Popley Fields Community centre as well as a number of events and activities throughout the year including the Popley Festival and regular youth activities.

On Thursday the 17th of January 2018 at 7.00pm we will be holding our annual general meeting which is a perfect time to find out more about us or even get involved!

If you have any questions about the association or the AGM please contact,

Tracey Judge, Centre Manager, Popley Fields Community Centre,
Carpenters Down, Popley, RG24 9AE

E-mail: office@poppleyfields.org Tel: 01256 414494

We hope you can make it and help to make Popley an even better place to live!

PFCA committee



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Basingstoke Disability Connexions

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tea/coffee and
biscuits.



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talk about
issues that are
important to you.

Sessions:

First Tuesday monthly from 12.30pm to 2.30pm

Church Cottage (behind St Michael's Church)

Guest speaker topic:

8 January: South Western Railway talk by their disability access and inclusion manager

5 February: Learn how to access information to help you stay independent, well and connected to your community

All FREE, everyone is welcome, no booking needed (just turn up)

For more information, please contact us:

Telephone: 01256 423869

Email: info@bddf.org.uk

Web: www.bddf.org.uk



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Basingstoke Library Events

Discover Podcasts

Saturday 26 January / 2-3.30pm / Free
Come and find out about podcasts and how you can access them. Similar to radio on demand, with 1000s of hours of entertainment, all for free. Local podcasters will talk about their podcasts, from birdwatching to history, and how to access and enjoy a wide range of podcasts to appeal to all. This includes a Q&A session and hands on help to access podcasts on your device.

Astronomy Taster

Thursday 31 January / 5pm / Free
Join Basingstoke Astronomical Society, a group of local astronomers, to view the night sky, discover more about the cosmos and gain an introduction to all things space! Weather permitting, there will be a variety of telescopes and binoculars available for public viewing of the night sky. If the weather is not suitable, the telescopes will be indoors, where there will also be a variety of other exhibits on display including a Lego™ scale model of the ELT telescope.

Members of the society will be on-hand to answer any questions you may have about astronomy, space science or cosmology.

Children's events

Miniprofessors

Monday 7 January - Monday 1 April
(not Monday 18 February)
9.40am (Ages 2-3)
10.40am (Ages 3-4)
11.40am (Ages 3-4)
A 12-week course / £78.00
Thursday 10 January – Thursday 4 April
(not Thursday 22 February)
9.40am (Ages 3 - 4)
10.40am (Ages 2 - 3)

A 12-week course / £78.00

These 40-minute classes are especially tailored for young scientists aged 2-4 years old.

Experiments – Singing – Stories – Interactive – Come along and nurture a lifelong passion for science!

Children's Craft

Saturday 5th January / 10am-12pm / Free
Come and celebrate the New Year with a New Year themed craft.

Learning in Libraries at Basingstoke Discovery Centre

Create Paint

Tuesdays 29 January – 12 March / 4-6pm / £60

A 6 week course including 2 weeks of watercolour painting, 2 weeks of acrylic painting and 2 weeks of mixed media.

Sewing For All (A 3 week course.)

Wednesdays 30 January – Wednesday 13 February / 9.30am - 1.30pm / £60

Kickstart Your Creative Writing

Saturday 26 January / 10am – 1pm / £15
Looking to improve your creative writing? This course will help generate new ideas and get your creativity flowing. For people who write / who wish to write in any genre or for any age.

Get to Know Your iPad (1-day course)

Tuesday 22 January / 10am – 4pm / £30
An introduction to iPads for new owners, those thinking of buying one and for those who already own an iPad but would like to get more out of it.



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THE FLOWER GIRL

A Message from a Popley Matters Deliverer

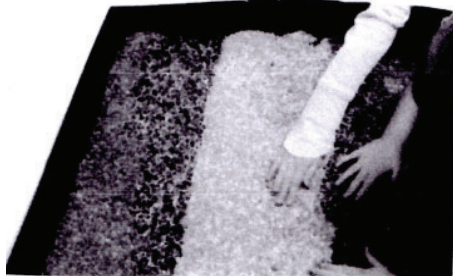
An assortment of volunteers deliver this magazine to your door every month each year, often in terrible weather conditions, to ensure you are kept informed of events in your area. I myself have been doing so for many years; I am a 70 year old pensioner with varying medical conditions which includes arthritis in my hands. Many houses have latched gates which are easy to open and close, many are already wide open, some are impossible to unlatch so they can't have a magazine delivered. At this time of year, wet weather swells the wooden gates making them very hard to close properly - these I pull up as far as I can. This month, the first time in many years of delivering, I had a lady lean out of her top front bedroom window after I had started the next row and she started shouting abuse at me for not completely securing her gate! I apologised and explained my hands were frozen and I was struggling with gates and hers just wouldn't shut, but she continued shouting abuse at me, a lot of which I couldn't understand. I said, "OK, I won't put book through your door any more", thus avoiding any problem in future. After I continued posting along next row I could still hear her shouting loudly. I wonder if she gives this nasty, abuse to postmen as well as they never close gates! A kind gentleman in the next row leant me a pen so I could note down her house number in this particular road as he was horrified at her attitude. Many people chat to me as I do the houses along various closes; this makes the job so worthwhile. Some older people I keep check on as they live alone and I could be the only person they have seen for a while.

This woman's attitude is what could prevent people from offering to do this important job each month. It has certainly made me think whether I want to continue. Perhaps this nasty lady should volunteer herself and see how hard it is! In the past I have slipped down wooden steps, even fallen on leaves as well as having clothing torn by garden plants and being covered in cobwebs. There are certain houses I cannot venture into for these reasons; it never put me off before.

Next time the Popley Matters drops through your letter box, please give a thought about the person who delivered it. Maybe you could spare a couple of hours to help us out.

At the moment I am a very disgruntled volunteer, but I don't want to disappoint the many more wonderful and cheerful people I usually meet.

Editors note; Having delivered Matters and leaflets etc. for many years myself I appreciate just what this volunteer job entails. It was heart-warming when so many of the volunteers came to the Popley Matters 200th celebration and shared so many stories and even possibly saving a man's life. Many have struck up friendships that have lasted many years.



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Registered Charity, 267734

Group Scout Leader Colin Karslake 07796 772500
Beaver Leader Katie Alexander 07969 804859
Cub Leader Douglas Gowen 01256 412326
Scout Leader Kevin Pocock 07717 108560

This month the Beavers attended the annual trip to Paulton's Park where fun was had by all and luckily for us it didn't rain.

We have had 4 of our Beavers swim up to Cubs to continue their scouting journey. We have received a couple of new Beavers as well to join the fun. We have been doing activity courses, playing dodge ball. The Beavers made coloured poppies and the read 'The Flanders Field poem for Remembrance Day. The Beavers have enjoyed making Pizza, Fruit Kebabs, Strawberries and Marshmallows dipped in Chocolate which went down very well.



In December we have had a Show and Tell evening, and celebrated St Andrew's Day. We made Xmas decorations and had a fantastic visit to the Bear Factory for the Beavers to make their own teddy bears. We finally rounded the year off with our Xmas party and also said sad farewell to one of our Leaders, Katie, who has been with us since being a Beaver herself.

Currently all three sections have spaces for new members, so if any of that takes your fancy, you are more than welcome to come down on a Tuesday evening for Beavers and Cubs, or a Friday evening for the Scouts for a taster of what it's all about. More details can be found on our website at www.base2000.co.uk

To continue providing all these and more activities for all three of our sections we are in need of more adults to help out or even maybe to become Leaders. Full training is available for new Leaders, much of which can be done online in your own time. The only qualification needed, you must like working with kids and like having a bit of fun. If you are interested please contact the Group Scout Leader, Colin Karslake on 07796 772500 or contact us through the group website, www.base2000.co.uk or via Facebook.



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Probus Club Has Night At The Theatre

A party of 16 members and their spouses/partners enjoyed an excellent evening out at The Mill theatre at Sonning. As it was dark, the views of the attractive old buildings were somewhat limited, but inside there is a very cosy bar, and an upstairs dining area, from which there is easy access into the rather intimate auditorium. The low ceilings and wooden beams give an indication of the age of the buildings which date from the 1700s and 1800s, but there is a mention of mills at Sonning in the Domesday Book so the site has a long history. It closed as a flour mill in 1969 and was purchased and converted by the Richards family who reopened it as a theatre/restaurant in 1982.

The evening started with a drink at the bar followed by an excellent buffet-style meal before the performance. The highlight of the meal for some was the bread and butter pudding and custard.

The production was *A Night in Provence*, a comedy about an English couple who have booked a luxury villa for a 2-week summer holiday, only to find that there has been a mix-up by the agents who had not told the owners about the booking. The trouble – or entertainment – starts when the owners arrive from Paris expecting to use the villa for their own holiday. Shortly after they arrive, the English couple's Irish friends turn up as well. They all decide that they will have to share the villa, and the play is about the stresses and strains that this causes – a heady mixture of champagne, sexual attraction, and cultural differences.

The play was well cast, and the actors all performed enthusiastically and with good comic timing. This is perhaps just as well as the "stage" is effectively a pit with the audience in a semi-circle looking down on them, rather like a classical Roman or Greek theatre. The play is in some ways something of a Gladiatorial combat, so maybe the setting is appropriate!

For more information about the Probus Club of Basingstoke see www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com or phone their secretary, Paul Flint, on 07770 886521 for an informal chat.



“Becoming a Befriender for NeighbourCare has certainly been one of the most rewarding things I’ve done in my life.”



The words of volunteer Lisa Lewis, who has been visiting her client Bob Allen since November 2016 and, two years on, continues to do so on a weekly basis; they’ve formed a lovely friendship

Our Befrienders are volunteers who are matched carefully with clients who are in need of company or help with reading or form filling. **An hour a week to share a cup of tea**, a chat about the weather, latest news or whatever may pop up. This makes such a difference to these people’s lives and will relieve the loneliness they may often be feeling.

Just knowing that someone is going to be calling transforms a very lonely week into having something to look forward to. **The mood is lifted and social isolation is prevented.** NeighbourCare also provide the befriender and befriended with relevant support, contacting other services they may need if the befriended’s circumstances change in any way. This can often be the case when our clients are elderly or have any type of disability.

Befriending is a totally free service so the funding received from Basingstoke and Deane will maintain this service to the community.

“I always look forward to seeing Bob” says Lisa. **“He is the most inspiring person I have met; fiercely independent - regardless of the fact that he has severe visual impairment - extremely intelligent and very funny. We have wonderful conversations and I have learned such a lot from him.”**

Basingstoke NeighbourCare’s Befrienders are people just like Lisa – and like you. **If you have a spare hour or so every week please contact NeighbourCare on 01256 423855** (or email us at info@neighbourcare.com) and find out how you can also take part in this incredibly rewarding service.

Finally, what does Bob think of the value of NeighbourCare’s Befriending service? Mr Allen says: **“This has transformed my life. Lisa helps me with my post as I cannot see very well and I know she is coming every week. It is the best thing that has happened to me in recent years.”**

Thank you - we’d be delighted to hear from you.

Basingstoke Civil Service Retirement Fellowship



The meeting on 5th December was the Christmas buffet with musical entertainment supplied by Gary Myles who brought a modern twist to some seasonal favourites. David Cowling, the Chairman, welcomed everyone including Joshua Hammond and Michelle Bilcock from the Southern Health Frailty Awareness team who had come to tell members about becoming a Frailty Friend. He also thanked Tesco for supplying the crackers. Tony Brazier, the Secretary, thanked everyone who had brought food and raffle prizes and also helped in setting up the room. Christine Broadbent, the Welfare Officer, gave her up-to-date report in which she mentioned members who had sent their apologies.



After a bumper raffle the Chairman announced that the Frailty Awareness Team had managed to bring up to over 200 the number of people signed up as Frailty Friends with one of our members becoming the 200th. He then closed the last meeting of 2018 by wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and Healthy and Peaceful New Year.

The programme for the 2019 meetings has been prepared with a Candle Making demonstration in February, the AGM followed by lunch in March. There will be talks on: - "The Body Thro the Porthole" in April, The Mid Hants Railway in May; My Life as a Journalist in June; Queen Victoria in July; Florence Nightingale in August; Eccentric London in September; My Family and other Meerkats in October; and then a presentation on Home Safety from Hampshire Police in November followed by the Christmas buffet in December. Proposed outings are to the Postal Museum on 27th February, a matinee performance at The Theatre Royal Winchester on 20th March to see The Verdict; The Bombay Sapphire Distillery and Hinton Ampner on 18th April; Kew Gardens on 8th May; Afternoon Tea at BCOT on 22nd May; The Watercress Line on 13th June; Bosham Arts and Crafts Centre on 10th July; Cowes during Regatta week on 15th August; a River Cruise from Oxford on 12th September; the Mystery Trip on 11th October; Millets Farm Centre on 21st November; and Christmas Lunch at BCOT on 12th December.

The next meeting is on 9th January when the speaker is Dan Allen on "What did you do in the War Granny? The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month (except January when it will be the second) at Brookvale Village Hall from 10 am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants and their partners are welcome. Details can be obtained from the Secretary Tony Brazier on 07715 640171 and for information about our trips please contact Kate Lambeth on 01256 328791.

David Cowling

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Thank you to everyone who came to our Community Christmas Dinner and our Popley Little People Christmas party. Both events were well attended, and Merton Junior School Choir were brilliant, they set the atmosphere perfectly and fun was had by all.

Watch out for the work to extend and refurbish the building starting in early January; this has been long awaited and hard fought for. When finished we have an additional hall and updated facilities throughout the building, defiantly a bonus for Popley. Please tell us of the groups/services you would like to see here at the hall.

Looking for a venue for your party or group? Ring Vicki on 01256 420676 or e-mail us melrosehall2@gmail.com for hire information or to arrange a tour. Or find us at www.Melrosecommunityassociation.co.uk or on facebook.

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY:

- MONDAY:**
 12.30-2.30pm Bingo!!
 7.00-8.00pm Yoga with Tory
 7.30-10.00pm Peregrinus Healing and Holistic
 9.30-11.30am Popley Little People
 7.15-10.00pm Bingo (13th November - End March)
- TUESDAY:**
 5.15-7.15pm Sama Karate
 9.00 and 11.00am Slimming World with Jo
 11.45am-1.30pm Oasis Lunch club
 5.30 and 7.30pm Slimming World with Julia
 9.30-11.30am Community Café
 3.50-6.30pm Dance (15th November - End March)
- WEDNESDAY:**
 7.00-9.00pm 4 Fits Sake
 10.00am-12.00pm NHS Dairy free parents group (Last Friday of the month)
- THURSDAY:**
 6.15-9.15pm Friday Youth Club
 9.15am-4.00pm 7th Day Adventist Church
 10am Sabath School - Bible Study
 11.30am Divine Worship
 1pm Free Community Lunch
- FRIDAY:**
 Contact Emanuel Amפו on 07456068812
 Melrose Christian Fellowship - Contact Pastor Phillip Keeble on 462351 for times of services.
- SATURDAY:**
- SUNDAY:**



Upcoming Dates:

Monday 7 January Spring Term begins



Visit to the

Basingstoke Gazette

Our School Correspondents' visited the Basingstoke Gazette Offices to see how their articles go to print.



It's been a busy end to Autumn Term: The Over 65s' Christmas Party, Spectacular School Showcase, The Tutor Cook Off Challenge various sporting events and Christmas Jumper Day.



On behalf of staff and students at Everest Community Academy we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and peaceful 2019



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BVA interacting with the Basingstoke local Community Plans

Basingstoke Voluntary Action are currently working in partnership with the Borough Council on a variety of projects including the community plans for various local areas including Popley and also the Older Persons Partnership. Discussions have commenced with local Community Associations plus Voluntary Groups and will progress throughout 2019.

BVA, The Orchard, White Hart Lane, Basingstoke, RG21 4AF

Dear Friends

Okay, let's all say a big welcome to 2019! Christmas and New Year celebrations are done and dusted for another year and its time to take down the tinsel and lights – my bank account is a few pounds lighter and I'm a few pounds heavier so it's time to sit down and seriously consider my New Year's resolutions. Actually, a few years ago I made the one and only resolution that I've managed to keep and that's NOT to make any more New Year's resolutions.

That doesn't mean to say I don't have hopes, plans and dreams for the coming year, without them life could be really dull. So what are your hopes for the coming year? Perhaps you're looking forward to a family wedding or a birth; or maybe that holiday of a lifetime in the summer; perhaps a career change or a move of home. Perhaps the year ahead looks uncertain – career prospects looking dodgy, finances stretched or ill health.

Hopes and plans are important to us as they provide something to hang onto when times are tough. Hope for something better lying just around the corner, planning for a brighter future. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews in the Bible writes “who hopes for what they already have?”

Before I became a Christian I used to dream of career and financial success in the belief that it would bring an end to all of my life's worries and anxieties. I used to believe that if I worked hard enough for the family, the kids would grow up without suffering any of the storms of life that I'd had to sail through. Unrealistic or what? But it's what we spend a lot of our time doing for ourselves and those we love – isn't it?

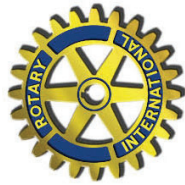
In the Bible I read this: “I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you not to harm you.” One of the first things I discovered when I became a Christian was the truth of those words and that God has the most amazing plan for my life. God doesn't promise to take away the stresses and strains of daily living but what He does promise is that whatever happens He'll be there right in the thick of it with us (have you ever read that well known verse ‘Footprints?’) and He promises to fulfil that longing that is deep within our hearts. Whatever your hopes and plans for the coming year I'll be praying that you may discover the eternal hope held out in the message of Christmas and fulfilled at Easter. St Paul wrote: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Perhaps you might consider making it a New Year's resolution to discover God's plan for your life – you won't regret it!

I wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year and look forward to seeing more of you.

God's blessings.
Arthur

Vicar of St Gabriel's
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www.stgabrielspopley.net



NEW Basingstoke Loddon Rotary – exciting times ahead!

A NEW section has been started for
All ages from 18+ Volunteers Charities Social Enterprise
Friends Networking Young Professionals Business Families Schools
Diversity Local Authority Sustainable Communities Project Leaders

WE BELIEVE IN..... **POSITIVE CHANGE THROUGH POSITIVE ACTION**

Have you wanted to volunteer but weren't sure where to start? Can you share your skills or some of your time to give back to others? Now is the perfect time.

NEW Basingstoke Loddon Rotary is expanding and recruiting younger members who want to make a difference. We are non-political, non-religious, inclusive and a catalyst for getting things done both locally and globally. Rotary is the largest and most powerful networking service organisation.

We communicate on social media and/or at meetings, which we hold anywhere and at times to suit. Start with Associate membership (free) and, as soon as you are ready, progress to Full membership for just £2.31 per week - less than a cup of coffee! For a busy person who has difficulty committing to meetings this is ideal.

To find out more.....

Please come along for a chat over a complimentary coffee at Starbucks in Festival Place (by NEXT, 1st floor) on Saturday 26th January between 10.00am & 12.30pm.

Email us: rotarybasingstokeloddon@gmail.com
or visit us on Facebook: Basingstoke Loddon Rotary Club

Fresh Start for 2019

With the New Year, many of us want to take stock and review our lives.

This can range from cutting down on drinking, eating less chocolate or joining a gym. For some it is to get a divorce.

Sadly January is traditionally a busy time for divorce solicitors as often couples have tried to stay together for the sake of their children over the Christmas period.

This can be extremely stressful if a marriage is already experiencing difficulties, not least because the festive season usually brings increased financial pressures.

If this sounds familiar and you are thinking of acting on your New Year's resolution to get a divorce, your first port of call should be to get some legal advice from one of our Family Law solicitors. They are on hand to offer you support and get you through the divorce process.

At Phillips, we know only too well that it can be a deeply emotional, upsetting and difficult time.

We are here to give advice that you can trust, particularly when it comes to your children, home and sorting out your finances.

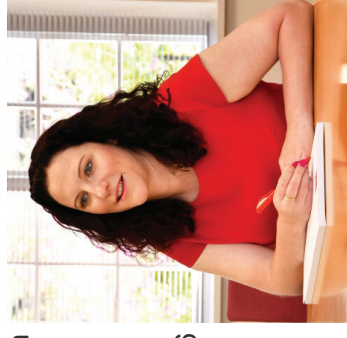
We will listen to your concerns and discuss your options, letting you know what your rights are, as well as those of your former partner.

Our objective is to help you as quickly and effectively as possible with the best outcomes for you and your family.

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

To find out more about our Divorce or Separation Legal Services or to arrange a meeting with one of our Divorce solicitors, call Hayley Eachus on 01256 854633 or email hayley.eachus@phillips-law.co.uk

Alternatively visit www.phillips-law.co.uk/family





BURNS' NIGHT

Friday 25th January 2019

7pm – midnight

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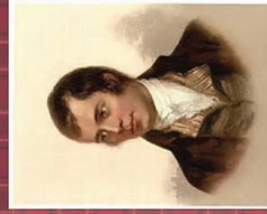
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Welcome to 2019! Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year!



What a great year 2018 has been for MFC Popley Youth! We have seen our All Stars (U5 and U6s) group grow in confidence, trying new tricks and skills each week. The group is currently at capacity, but when our U6s move up to U7s in September, new spaces will become available - if you'd like to join a waiting list, please contact allstars@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

U8s have been ruthless in front of goal scoring 152 goals so far this season. This is down to everyone consistently coming to training, working hard to develop their skills and then implementing this into games. Proof that hard work certainly pays off. Congratulations to Harry Davis who has been offered a 3 year playing contract at Southampton FC!!

U10s have had a good start to the season for both our Reds and Black teams in the Peter Houseman league. Games have been competitive with a good balance of opposition providing challenging games and games in which there has been more freedom for expression. This has allowed the players to learn from their opposition and the way they play in some games whilst developing their confidence within other games, tasting both success and defeat in reasonably even measure. Let's hope the good start to the season continues and the weather stays on our side. Thanks to the players and parents, and special thanks to sponsor, Nick Groves at Grovewood Machines Ltd for their generous support!

U13s have been amazing so far and they are far exceeding expectations. Their never give up attitude is sensational to watch and just shows the character this team has, their willingness to help each other and the respect they have for their team and coaches. Special praise to Jaryd for stepping in as goalkeeper. A big thanks to this season's team sponsor Asda!

U14s, overall 2018 has been a very good year for this group of players with promotion to the North East Hampshire, Premier League for this season. The Premier League has been a real test with some very strong opposition. The last few games have been a mixed bag with a loss 3-1 to Petersfield, 0-0 draw with Headley Youth and a 3-0 victory over Hook Utd. We would like to thank everyone who has supported the U14s, especially the team's sponsors, Southern Communications and TP-Link and we look forward to 2019.

U16s Saturday team are having another great season both in the East Berkshire Football Alliance League and within the FA Hampshire Cup where, for the 3rd year running, they have reached the Semi-Finals. This year they play Basingstoke Town Youth on the 12th January - please feel free to come along and support the team!

Once again, we wish you a very Happy New Year!

Zak Collingwood