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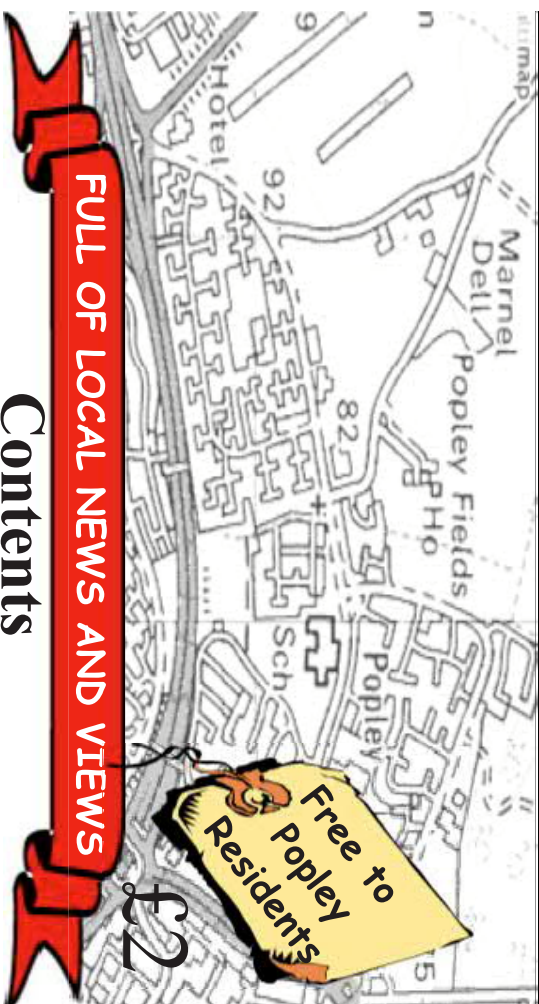
POPLEY MATTERS

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April 2019

Distribution of 5,400

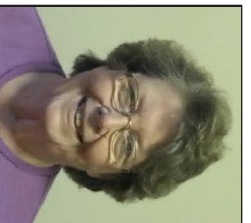
Issue 206



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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-4-19) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: I was admitted on the first occasion after being blue lighted to A & E I was very poorly and very concerned and frightened. My condition worsened and there is no doubt in my mind that I was getting weaker and weaker and it seemed that life was draining away. My son Tony was with me and he called for help, in came Alex and he took charge of the situation and he and a team of nurses saved my life through their quick actions. Thank-you Alex from Romania. Thank you to everyone, it made me realise how lucky we are to have the NHS and hope that it continues to serve everyone from Romania. Thank you to Popley Matters maybe a little late this month because of my stays in hospital. Hopefully all is sorted now and I will be on top form very quickly!

Popley Festival is on page 1. I love the Popley festival, especially when it is on a warm dry day. I don't think I have missed one for many, many years. It takes almost the whole year for the committee of volunteers to organise each one. It is such a lovely festival when families and friends get together and have a great day out. Page 4 has a little history of Basingstoke Male Voice Choir and details if you feel you may want to become part of the choir. On page 6 we welcome the new Head and Deputy Head to Merton Junior School then on to page 7, planning your retirement. I would like to save a little space here to thank the staff nurses, doctors and all the team that looked after me and many others. It is great to know we have such a fantastic service there when we need them. The centre pages are the long-awaited upgrade of the paths and drainage in Popley Community Park.

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.

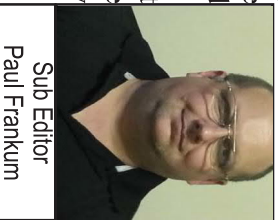
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Sub Editor
Paul Frankum

1st Response

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Chineham Library

Chineham has been very busy recently with extra activities including the Harry Potter night and the table-top sale. Harry Potter was particularly well supported. This month, in addition to the regular Saturday on 13th April at 10am–12pm, there will be extra activities linked with the Peter Rabbit visit to the shopping centre. Final arrangements are still to be made, so do look out for these as it should be great fun. As usual, Construction Club will also take place that day, from 2 – 3.30pm. A busy day here!

Regular activities for children follow their normal pattern, with Rhymetimes on Tuesdays at under ones at 10am and over ones at 11am. Construction Club offering Lego available to play with takes place every Saturday, 2 – 3.30pm. Code Club breaks for the Easter holiday and a new session begins after this, for which you can contact the library for further details. Chatterbooks will meet as usual from 3.45 – 4.45pm, please check the date with us. Stay and Play will take place on 10th April from 10 – 11am, for mums and pre-school children. Watch out for extra Easter children's activities in the holiday.

Age Concern will break for the Easter holiday and then return afterwards, with sessions for the over 50s to have one-on-one computer sessions between 10am–1pm on Wednesday mornings. Sessions are bookable through the local office on: 01256 423874. This month the crime reading group and the general reading group will both meet on 27th from 10.30 - 11.30am. The creative writing group meets on 4th April and 3rd May from 5.30 – 7pm and new members are very welcome.

For the latest information please check social media and we hope to see you in the library soon.

The team wish you all an enjoyable Easter holiday.

Cathy Foster

A colorful poster for the Popley Festival. The background features a rainbow with light rays. At the top right is the Popley Fields Community Association logo. The main title 'POPLEY FESTIVAL' is written in large, bold, white letters with a yellow outline, with three red balloons floating above it. Below the title, the date 'Sunday 19th May' and time '11 - 4 pm' are displayed in large white font. On the left, it says 'Park all day for £1' and 'Great day out for all'. On the right, a list of activities is shown: 'Fun Fair', 'Beer Tent', 'Charity Stalls', 'Car boot sale', 'Displays and performances', 'Competitions', 'Great Food', and 'Children's activities'.

Popley Fields
Community Association

POPLEY FESTIVAL

Sunday 19th May
11 - 4 pm

Fun Fair **Beer Tent**
Charity Stalls **Car boot sale**
Displays and performances **Competitions**
Great Food **Children's activities**

Music Tent

Park all day for £1 **Great day out for all**

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www.popleyfestival.org.uk

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Bills can be presented in a format easier for the customer to read such as large print, braille, or in audio, and some companies have a British Sign Language service.

The main aspect for crime prevention is that a password can be set up so that the customer knows they have a genuine caller. It is a FREE service – and easy to register, but there is a small criteria for eligibility, of which vulnerability is one of them. Contact your utility provider for more information or visit www.ofgen.gov.uk



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Councillors County: After what seems an endless and long battle, there will be a public consultation on extending the double yellow lines in Marnel Park. It is hoped to start the public consultation either April or early May. The consultation will also be online by Basingstoke and Deane and I will put it on Facebook too. If you have strong opinions one way or another I would encourage you to fill in the form.

I am also happy to report that plans for the long uneven footpath through Popley Community Park have been drawn and work should have started by the time this Popley Matters comes through your door. There will also be work on the drainage where there has been flooding from the new housing leaving slippery sludge. The barriers at the end of the path have been difficult to manoeuvre around with large disabled buggies and bikes, so that too will be improved. There is a comprehensive drawing in the centre pages. Popley Community park works could start as surely enough houses have been built to release the section 106 money. We are in consultation about green gym equipment and improvements to Popley with what is called local infrastructure grant. **Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk**

Popley West: It all seems to be coming

at once with schemes and improvements we have worked on for many years. From the county in partnership with Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council the yellow lines extensions in Marnel Park will be on corners and opposite T junctions and play areas. We have already said about the community park paths improvements and the next scheme we are working on is to have a "Green Gym" in the park where anyone will be free to use it then hopefully a walking/running track around the circumference. Once the work is completed in Shakespeare Road they will start on improving the environment on Popley Abbays and along Popley Way. There is still the issue of bins being missed; bins being left a lot further away from the properties that left them out and the position of public waste bins; the lack of adequate frequency of emptying. Where the bins are the responsibility of Basingstoke and Deane, they have been moved and those that are not adopted we have contacted the developers and are awaiting their reply.

Popley East: The conversion works to

Chineham House have commenced with hoarding having been erected around the property. This has removed some of the car parking spaces that were often used by visitors to the splashpad. With this in mind we asked that the overflow car park be ready for the re-opening, and that additional signage be put up to direct drivers to the car park. Works have also started on the improvements to Shakespeare Road. This will provide traffic calming measures, eight upgrades or new pedestrian crossing points, new footpaths, bus stop improvements at two locations and a new parking layby near Chineham Park Court. The works are planned to be completed by the middle of August, weather permitting. Concerns have been raised with us about some of the professional dog walkers not adequately controlling the dogs in their care. Whilst most do act responsibly we are looking at what can be done in those situations. The Community Safety Patrol Officers have been running an awareness campaign regarding dog fouling and have been fixing warning notices to lampposts in the ward advising residents of the fines that can be levied for any dog owner who is spotted not cleaning up after their dog.

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

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

The Sound of Music...

From Basingstoke Male Voice Choir

Singing has been around for thousands of years. It's one of the most popular hobbies and pastimes in the world.

Singing is anything from a quartet entertaining people over a pint in a pub, to mass choirs of hundreds on vast stages.

Why do we sing? Very simply, because we love it. Not just the music, but the whole experience of coming together to create a beautiful sound, sometimes in front of audiences, something just for our own enjoyment. It doesn't really matter which.

Singing has been rediscovered recently by TV exposure of choirmasters like Gareth Malone and his choirs, bringing a new interest for thousands of people who had never even considered singing. As a result of Gareth's work, singing is enjoying a renaissance in Britain.

Perhaps the most common comment from new members to a choir is "I didn't even know I could do it!" or "I wish I had known about this before."

But singing doesn't just bring you a new and unrealised hobby, it brings many more benefits.

Joining a group, of like-minded people, all working towards learning new songs, brings you a sense of togetherness. Perhaps most of all, a sense of wellbeing after an evening of music. Most choirs round off their evening with a sociable pint of beer in the pub afterwards.

One of the most surprising aspects of singing is the health side. Did you know that singing has been proved to be therapeutic both for the body, the lungs and the mind? This is turn brings the sense of wellbeing that all singers recognise.

Our choir has been singing here in Basingstoke for over 50 years. Need we say more? We'd love to show you what we're about so come along to our Open Evening on Tuesday 23 April at the URC

So, given it makes you feel good, and improves your health, why not join in? Come to our open evening and experience the positive effect:



BASINGSTOKE MALE VOICE CHOIR IN REHEARSAL

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The building work continues apace! The foundations are complete with the walls starting to go up. The ground has been prepared for the soft play surface. Inside, the roof of the storage cupboard has been raised, the new reception hatch has been cut, the walls for the new office storage cupboard have been built and the stair case is being fitted. Please check out our website for weekly updates and photos.

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.

WHATS ON IN FEBRUARYS:

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

April at Linguatastic

Once the UK leaves the EU, it will be illegal to speak English in any other European country, but the UK.

April Fool! Ok, a bit risky to write an April Fool's when you might be reading this after the morning of 1st April, but hopefully it drew your attention to this article! This month, at Linguatastic we're talking April Fool's Day and how it is celebrated in different countries.

In Ireland, it was traditional to give a 'very important' letter to an unsuspecting victim. They are asked to deliver it to a specific person. Upon reading the letter, this person sends the victim to deliver it to another person. After redelivering to a number of different people, the victim usually becomes suspicious and opens the letter themselves, to find that it contains something like "Don't laugh and don't smile, send the fool another mile". Doubtless e-mail will have ended this!

In France, Belgium and French-speaking areas of Switzerland and Canada, the tradition is known as "poisson d'avril", in Italy as "pesce d'aprile" and in The Netherlands as "april vis". These terms mean, "April fish" and the tradition is to sneakily stick a paper fish to someone's back, which they will then unknowingly walk around wearing. In Greece, there are several beliefs around April Fool's, such as if you can trick someone, you'll have good luck all year long/a good year of crops. Another belief is that the water from rainfall on 1st April has healing abilities.

Whatever your April Fool's Day beliefs are, make sure you're not branded a fool when visiting other countries and have a go at learning another language and customs! E-mail info@linguatastic.com. **Fiona Biermann**

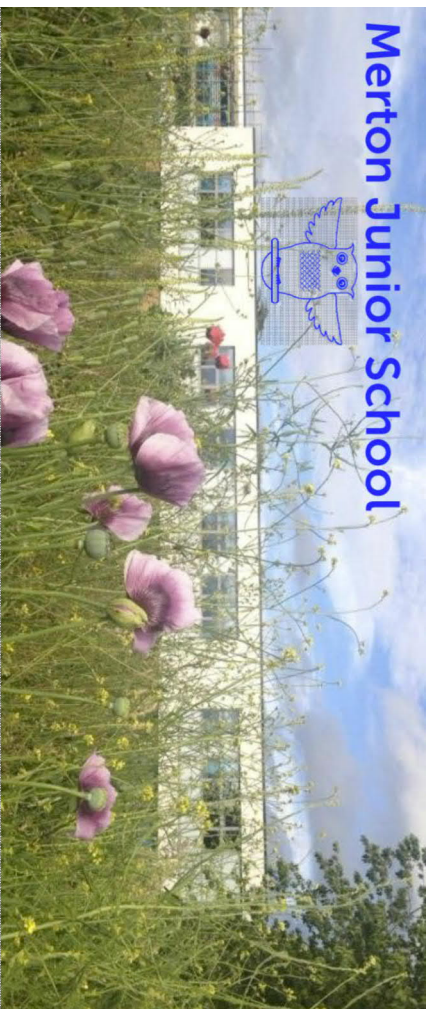
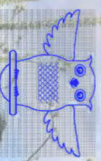
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Everest Community Academy, Oxford Way, Basingstoke RG24 9UP
Gym Team: 01245 337576 Main Reception 01256 337573

Merton Junior School



Merton Junior School are pleased to announce the recent appointments of their new Headteacher, Mrs K Reading and Deputy Headteacher, Mrs S McGillivray. Both of whom are very excited about leading Merton forward on the next part of its journey.

The children have been busy learning this term. Year 3 recently visited the Willis Museum to learn about the history of Basingstoke. Year 4 have been learning to play the ukulele and Year 5 have been out and about on their bikes learning how to keep safe whilst cycling. Meanwhile, Year 6 have been creating some amazing art work based on the book 'Coraline' by Neil Gaiman.



Staff will be taking part in the 'Great Merton Bake Off' in support of Comic Relief. The school council will judge their efforts and the cakes will be sold to raise money for this good cause. On Shrove Tuesday, children and their parents enjoyed filling and eating delicious pancakes, raising money for our newly-formed 'Friends of Merton'. Take a look at our colourful, giant Easter egg displayed in Tesco, Chineham!



Date for your diaries
In September, Merton schools will be celebrating their 50th birthday. To mark this occasion, on Saturday 28th September, the schools will be hosting a community fun day. Please come along to help us celebrate!



Romsey Close, Poppley, Basingstoke,
Hampshire RG24 9HB
admin.office@merton-jun.hants.sch.uk
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Basingstoke Air Scouts



Base 2000, Carpenters Down, Poppley, RG24 9AE
Website, www.base2000.co.uk
Registered Charity, 267734

Group Scout Leader	Colin Karslake	07796 772500
Beaver Leader	Mandy Pain	07508 204098
Cub Leader	Douglas Gowan	01256 412326
Scout Leader	Kevin Pocock	07717 108560

The Beavers have had a very exciting term so far, finding out about disability awareness, first aid and also how to look after a pet and what they need to survive. Tuesday 5th March, being pancake day, saw the Beavers making pancakes. They have played human hungry hippos which was great fun, for the kids and the adults. They have also learnt about communication, found out what Morse code is, and learnt the phonetic alphabet and some sign language.

Very soon the Beavers have a trip to 4 Kingdoms to look forward to, and a space camp.

If you have anyone that would like to come and join our house of fun, then please get in contact, they would be very welcome. The Beaver section meets every Tuesday from 5:45pm til 7pm. It is currently £2 per week with the first 2 weeks completely free.

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 taste of what's 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 myself, Group Scout Leader, Colin Karslake on 07796 772500 or contact us through the group website, www.base2000.co.uk or even via Facebook.





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citizens advice
Basingstoke

Preparing your finances for retirement

Get help with Pension

Pension Wise is a free and impartial service to help you understand what your pension options are.

Find out more at www.pensionwise.gov.uk

When you can start getting your pension

State pension

You can claim state pension when you reach state pension age. Check when you'll reach state pension age with gov.uk's state pension calculator.

You might be able to put off claiming your state pension if you want to carry on working after state pension age - this is called 'deferring' your state pension. You can still retire if you defer, or carry on working and take your pension too. GOV.UK has more information about [deferring your state pension](#).

Workplace and personal pensions

The earliest you can start getting a workplace or personal pension is usually when you're 55 - you should check this with your pension provider. You might be able to get your pension sooner if you're retiring due to ill health.

Checklist of things to do when you near retirement

It's a good idea to start planning when you're nearing retirement age. Here's a checklist of things to do so that you'll be ready:

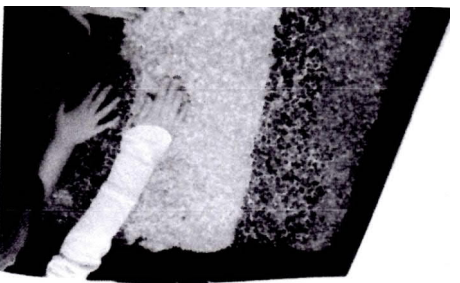
- work out what money you'll have coming in and think about how your spending might change once you're retired - the [budgeting tool](#) can help with drawing up a budget
- [check whether you're entitled to any benefits](#) - you might be able to get benefits like Carer's Allowance, Housing Benefit or Council Tax Reduction
- work out how much is left to pay on your mortgage (if you have one) - you might want to pay off what's left with a lump sum, but you should [get financial advice](#) first
- get an estimate of your state pension - the [GOV.UK state pension calculator](#) can help you with this track down any pension providers that you've lost contact with - the Pension Tracing Service can help with this. Call them on 0845 6002 537 or use their [online form to find a lost pension](#)
- get in touch with all your pension providers and let them know you're planning for retirement - they'll usually send you important information about your pension
- [get financial advice](#) or help from [pensionwise](#) if you have a personal pension so that you know your options for how to take your pension - you might have to pay for financial advice but it can save you money in the long term
- consider leaving your pension pot to someone when you die - there'll be tax implications for doing this, so you should talk to your pension provider or an [independent financial adviser](#)

Need further information or help?

Citizens Advice Basingstoke, (located within Basingstoke Discovery Centre) can help you with queries you have on budgeting, benefits and debt, relationships, immigration, employment issues, and consumer rights. We operate a drop-in service 10-3.30 Monday to Friday (except Thursday which is pre-booked appointments only) and Saturday mornings 10-12. Wednesday evenings we are open until 6.30pm

The Advice Line telephone number is 03444 111 306

The Citizens Advice Basingstoke website can be found at www.basingstokeandtadleycab.org.uk
Online help from Citizens Advice can be found at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>



Popley Explorers

Come to Popley Explorers, we offer a range of stimulating activities tailored to your children's needs to help them on their journey to 'Big School'. Your child will be provided with the opportunities to help them thrive, develop and grow into a confident child ready to take on the world. We will ensure they meet their personalised targets in our safe and friendly environment and our helpful and friendly staff will be right there along side you to celebrate every achievement.

01256 973125 popley.explorers@hotmail.co.uk

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VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY!



Home-Start believes that children need a happy and secure childhood and that parents play the key role in giving their children a good start in life and helping them achieve their full potential. Our 1:1 volunteers and groups help to support the parent/child relationships by offering non-judgemental support and friendship. The unique relationship which develops between a volunteer and a parent means our support can be exactly tailored to the needs of each family we visit.

"I just love the feeling I got on Xmas Day when my Homestart family texted me, knowing that I am making a difference to them" ... HSNWH Volunteer

"I was looking forward to the course but it was even better than I'd expected. Interesting views, lovely people and new friendships" ... HSNWH Volunteer

We need volunteers to support families in the Community- YOU can make a difference to someone's life

This voluntary work is unpaid but is highly rewarding and out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed. Volunteers are required to attend a 40 hour preparation course spread over 7 weeks which starts **Tuesday 30th April 2019 9:30am-2:30pm!**

INTERESTED? Pop in for an informal chat:

Thursday 14th March 2019 between 10am and 11.30am

Tuesday 26th March 2019 between 12pm-1.30pm

at: Rucstall Community Centre,
Holbein Close. RG21 3EX

Tea, Coffee & Cake will be provided!

Or contact us Tel: 01256 325793

Email: info@homestart-nwhampshire.org.uk

Website: www.homestart-nwhampshire.org.uk



Probuss hears it's important to have a hobby

Experts advise that retirees maintain both physical and mental capacity. Probuss Club member Alan May follows this with boyish enthusiasm. While he plays golf once a month and with his wife regularly enjoys ballroom dancing he told the members of the Probuss Club of Basingstoke of his more cerebral hobbies, one being completely unexpected. Attendees at the Probuss Club Spring Ladies' lunches and Christmas dinners are entertained by his pictorial and brain teaser quizzes. Clearly his interest in doing crosswords comes to the fore.

A bi-lingual answerphone message indicates his wife has Belgian parentage. Several family trees displayed Alan's expertise in genealogy from investigating the Kent side of his family to that of his in-laws in Belgium. In 2018 Alan and his wife were invited by the Belgian local council to a naming ceremony of a road containing her family name of Faes.

A 1959 GCE "O" level in art was put to good use in retirement when he bought some watercolour paints. In the USA he progressed from Beginners to Improvers concentrating on flowers and birds.

"I enjoy the peace and quiet together with the calming effect and it is very relaxing. You meet others who are always willing to help and comment."

This artistic bent has come in useful with his "secret hobby" of cross stitch. Usually a female pastime, his wife taught him to such a degree that he featured in the Cross Stitcher magazine. A regular cruiser he can often be found in the lounges with a small design.

"I get a few raised eyebrows but I am too old to worry what people think. I bet they can't do it!"

Alan is a classic example following the expert advice that people should get out of their comfort zone and try something new.

See www.probusbasingstoke.wordpress.com



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FREE ENTRY & PARKING

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SAT 12 & SUN 13 MAY 2018

11am - 4pm

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www.Basingstoke.Rotary1110.org



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Do I need a Business Lasting Power of Attorney?

As a business owner if you become mentally incapacitated tomorrow then who would pay your bills or invoices, ensure staff salaries are paid and complete any outstanding work for your customers and clients?

You cannot assume that a colleague or family member will be able to gain the relevant authority to make decisions on your behalf. Therefore, to protect your business interests, particularly if you are a sole trader or self-employed, you ought to consider a Business Lasting Power of Attorney.

This is a legal document that allows you to nominate people to make decisions on your behalf if you were ever become incapacitated.

Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs) do not only cover personal assets but may also cover business assets and interests in a business. As a business owner it may be in your best interests to review your affairs and look to put in place a Business LPA to cover the situation, not only if you were mentally incapacitated, but if you were abroad on holiday or on business, or if you were to have an accident and were unable to attend meetings.

What happens if I don't make an LPA?

If you have not made a Business LPA and you subsequently lose the capacity to make your own decisions or become of unsound mind, then, if you do not have other arrangements in place (such as partnership agreement or articles of association), it may be necessary for someone to apply to the Court of Protection for a Deputyship order. This process can take between six to 12 months to complete and can be expensive. The appointed Deputy may not be who you would have appointed as your attorney.

If you would like any further information in relation to Business LPAs or a review of your current LPAs or business structure, please contact Sian Lias in the Wills and Probate team or Jack Gardener in our Commercial team at Phillips Solicitors.

You can call Sian on 01256 854618 or email sian.lias@phillips-law.co.uk or call Jack on 01256 854665 or email jack.gardener@phillips-law.co.uk

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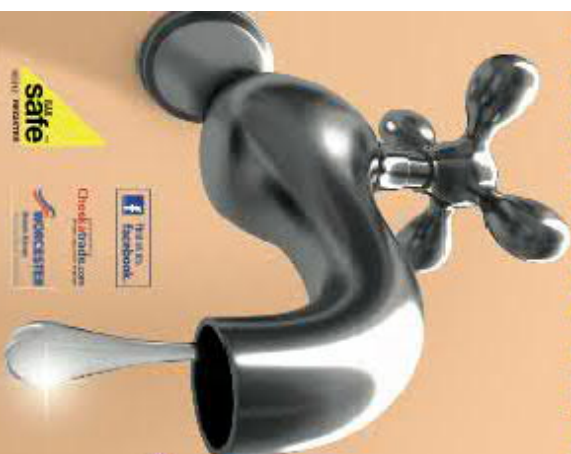
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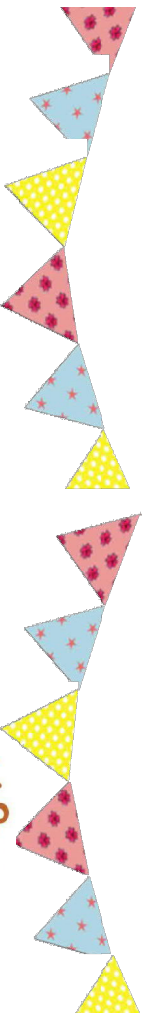
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Ploughmans served at 7:30pm

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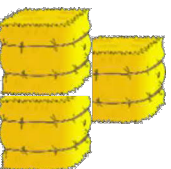
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Upcoming Dates
Last day of Spring Term Friday 5 April
Summer Term begins Tuesday 23 April
Year 11 Parents Evening Thursday 4 April

Bourne Education Trust
Basingstoke, Hampshire

Business Ambassadors recently visited the school as part of a year 9 & year 10 Inspirational Workshop Day. Students were given advice on interview techniques, forward progression and general information on career opportunities.



As part of Anti-bullying week students attended assemblies and took part in tutor based discussion and tasks based on Friendship, Kindness and Respect.



Students took part in a House Competition for Fairtrade Fortnight in which students were asked to work in pairs to create a bake from a given recipe which uses Fairtrade ingredients, the event was sponsored by the Basingstoke and Deane Fairtrade Group. The theme of Fairtrade Fortnight this year was cocoa, and in particular the rights of women who produce cocoa, it will be no surprise that the bake students made included lots of chocolate!! The Humanities Department ran a Fairtrade film cinema experience today for students to highlight the origins of our clothes.



the little Tesco.

The lads found lots of rubbish - please don't litter! - but on the positive side there was a lot of wildlife activity in the area including signs of newt eggs on the main pond and a variety of aquatic insects which is a good sign for the ecosystem in that area.

In other news, we've heard a rumour that our friendly newts have been popping up in unexpected areas, doorsteps, gardens etc. If you spot them, please do share your photos with us, we're keen to know what they're up to!

A few words of advice on that front from our expert:

"Great Crested Newts are a protected species - it is strictly prohibited to disturb them or their habitat without the appropriate licence - they, along with the other two native species, Smooth & Palmate Newts, will be breeding at this time of year which makes them more visible in unusual places - if you see one in an exposed or vulnerable place like your doorstep, please put it into the nearest vegetation (you don't need a licence to do that!)"

If you have any other questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact us at popleyponds@gmail.com, or Marnel & Popley Conservation Volunteers on Facebook.

kindest regards Natalie

Over 55s Forum

At our first 'Open' Forum meeting for 2019 held on Wednesday 13th February we had a talk from the Hampshire & IOW Air Ambulance and Richard Trueman, owner of Truemans Coaches. Our attend was 221. Our 2nd 'Open' Forum meeting will be held on 10th April when we hope to have Iain Kennedy (talking about his trip to Cuba) and the Diabetic Society.

I have spare seats for the Dolly Parton 9 to 5 Musical at the Savoy Theatre, London with a 2 course carvery lunch at the Strand Palace Hotel for Wednesday 12th June 2019. Price including the ticket, 2 course carvery lunch and coach is £61.50. Please book with Gerald on 07792535116 or e-mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com.

We have just brought in all the people that we had on our waiting list to join from 2018, and we are now starting a new waiting list.

Future trips are Malvern Flower Show in May; Bristol Aerospace with Concorde for June; and to be arranged, Kew Gardens with a laser show.

Every Tuesday we hold singing practice for our "Carnival Chorus" singing group, 1.30 to 3pm. Every Thursday we hold Movement & Stretch sessions for Over 55s - 11.00am to Midday (cost £3.50 per session). Why not come along to one or both these sessions and give it a go.

Thanks, Gerald.

Dear Friends

'Spring is sprung, and the grass is green!' so the old nursery rhyme goes. As I write this we've been enjoying several days of blue skies and sparkling sunshine and it has been a real joy to be able to get out and about - an added bonus, the days are slowly getting longer, and the lighter evenings are just over the horizon. 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!

With God's blessings, your friend and Vicar

Revd. Arthur

St Gabriel's Church, Popley.

www.stgabrielspopley.net

01256 324734

Easter at St Gabriel's

Maudy Thursday Supper & Communion 7pm 18th April

Good Friday Family Service 10.00 am 19th April

Easter Day Sunrise Service 7.30pm 21st April

Easter Day Celebrations 10.30pm Sunday 21st 1030am

Please feel free to come and join us in celebrating the greatest single event in the history of humankind!

He died for you! He rose again for you!

BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP



45 members and 2 visitors attended the group's meeting on Wednesday 6th March to hear Bejar from Coop Estate Planning give a talk on "Tax, Care and Toyboys". The main emphasis of his presentation was to ensure that we knew how to do as much as possible to protect our assets and to make sure that on our death they were passed on to those we wanted to have them. Using different scenarios he illustrated the effects of not making a will: when making one having it done in the correct manner; the levels of inheritance tax which would apply and how planning in advance would lessen the burden on those left to administer an estate. He covered the different types of property ownership available – joint, tenants-in-common and, depending on individual circumstances, – the setting up of a trust, and he explained how these would affect who gained an inheritance. In finishing he spoke about Power of Attorney and how having a funeral plan could guard against future rising costs. Following a question and answer session he spent some time seeing people on a personal basis.



After this the Group held their AGM and the Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and commented on the help given to him by both the members of the committee and all the others who helped at the monthly meetings. This meant that the group had another successful year with a wide range of speakers and outings while still maintaining a steady membership and ensuring financial stability. The Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Welfare Officer all gave their reports and the officers and committee members for the coming year were appointed. A resolution was then unanimously passed to apply a subscription supplement to offset the rising cost of hall hire and speakers, and the fact that there was no further funding from Head Office.



Bookings are now being taken for the trips to the Bombay Sapphire Distillery and Hinton Ampner on Thursday 18th April and to Kew Palace and Garden on Wednesday 8th May.



The next meeting is on 3rd April when the speaker will be Steve Herra on "The Body Through the Porthole". The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10 am to 12 noon and all retired Civil Servants, their relatives and friends are welcome. Further details about the group and information about our trips can be obtained by contacting csrfbasingstoke@gmail.com.

David Cowling



Our Under 11s have had a good start to the spring league tournament with 2 great wins and some fantastic football played.

Under 8s games have been heavily affected by the recent weather. We have welcomed some new faces to training and we are impressed with their willingness to learn. Kingsley has been working great with Coach Dan.

Under 13s have finished their domestic season and a solid mid-table place far exceeded our expectations in a tough Premier division. The final game saw the team pick their own positions and although we lost they had a blast doing it. Small Fin smashing in a hat trick was superb.

We are seeking new players from year groups 8-9 (in September) to join our team for the new season.

U14s - It has been a very tough season but the team have given their all in a very high standard of football in the Premier League. Recent performances have been very encouraging whilst keeping an eye on next season with a 2-1 win v Junior Shots and a 1-1 draw with Farnham Town. A very positive performance v Liss Athletic, only to be defeated by a few freak goals, their Manager was very positive towards us after the game.

You can get regular updates on Twitter, @MFC_PopleyYouth & by using the hashtags #MFCPY #REDandBLACKARMY.

MFC Popley Youth has a dedicated club page on Facebook (as well as individual team pages), and you can also find us on Instagram.

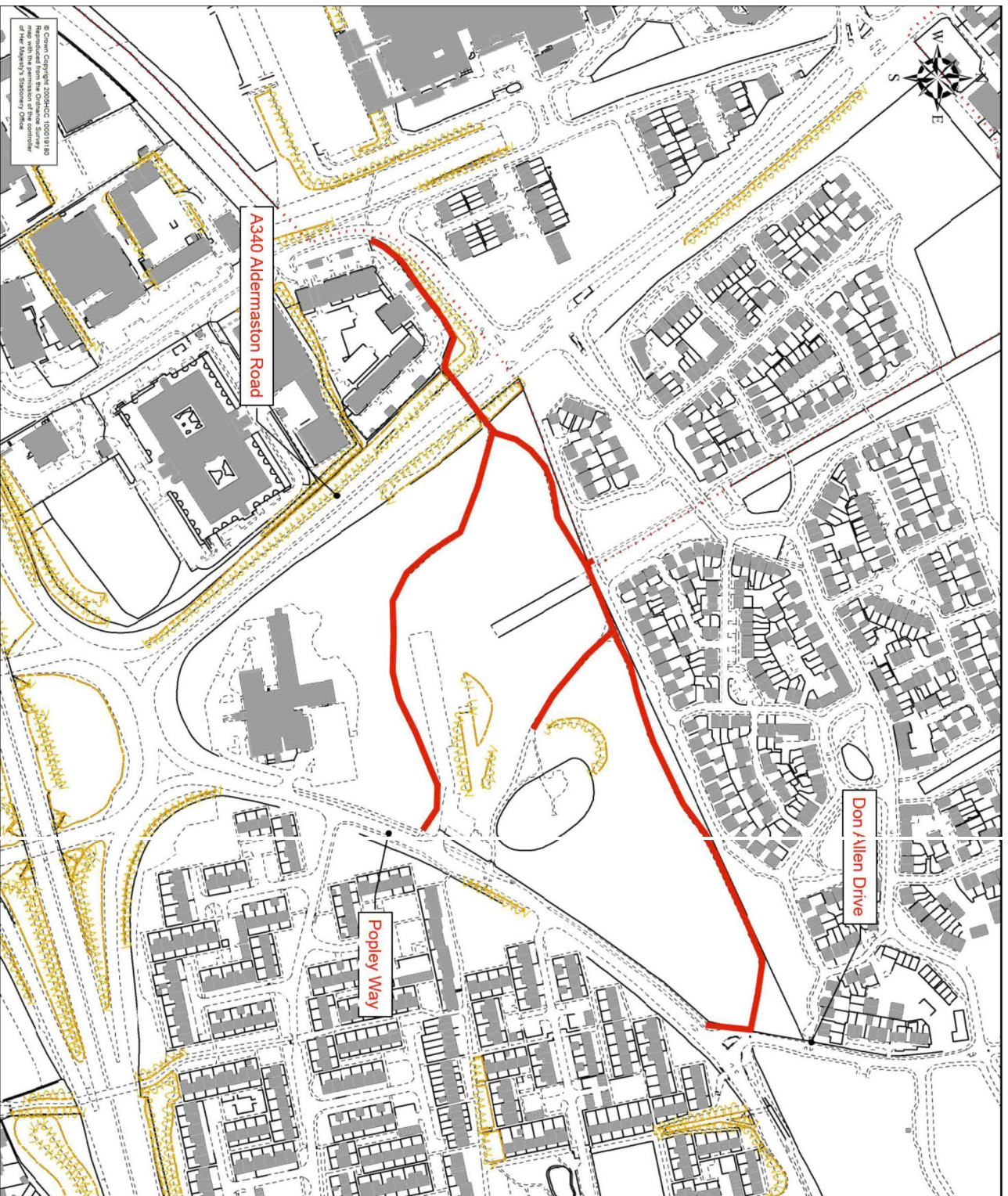
MFC Popley Youth FA Charter Standard Development Club & Nike Partner Club has a dedicated club shop website where you can purchase kit and accessories -

www.clubwebshop.com/a-z/clubs/mfcpopley/

For more information, or if you have any queries, please contact the club through our main website:-

<http://mfcpopleyouth-co-uk.bisongrid.com>

Zak Collingwood



KEY:

 Footpath Closure

Works Brief:

To resurface a section of failed footpath between Don Allen Drive & A340 Aldermaston Road subway.

The works shall take place between 07.30 to 18.00 hrs and will take, up to, 8 Weeks to complete.

This is the drawing for the long fought and waited for upgraded and safer path through Popley Community Park. We are in close touch with the manager of works and negotiations have established that there will be a route marked to and from the school and hospital with advice two weeks in advance of each stage warning what part will be closed as they work on it.