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POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

February 2020

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Closing date to submit articles and adverts (5pm 15-2-20) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

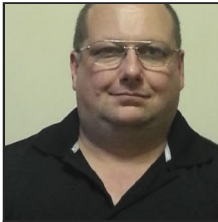
Message from the Editor: Thank you to the amazing people who stepped in to help deliver Popley Matters last month and hopefully some can repeat it this month too: Scouts, Arthur Taylor and 5 year old Amelia with her Mum. Thank you in advance for the wonderful readers Mark and Christine that have volunteered to deliver for this February issue.

This is your community magazine and there are 5,400 copies printed each month. We would like to extend the distribution but in order to do that we need paid adverts so we can pay the printer, everything else is done voluntarily. It is a constant battle each month that we are losing at the moment so if you know anyone that has a local business, please ask them if they would consider advertising from starting at just £30 an issue for a quarter page. You might like to publicise an event or ask Popley Matters to deliver leaflets?

By the time this Popley Matters is delivered it is hoped the Abbey Road shop will be open, along with the Post Office, and the facilities at least that we had before. I wonder what shops there will be in Merton Rise. Co-Op have applied for a licence for the convenience store but as yet I don't know about any of the others.

On page one there are details of how you can respond to the proposal to close the Chineham Library. I use it but only occasionally but I know many residents do and attend some of the events they have. It is also a quiet place to use when you need to study or do research. I am told people also like that there is plenty of free parking and if you have to go into town there is an added cost. If you like me, believe that this friendly local library should stay open please respond to the consultation or email the cabinet member sean.woodward@hants.gov.uk and the county and borough councillor elaine.still@hants.gov.uk, or email me and I will forward your comments. There are also Facebook pages and petitions you can sign.

We welcome articles from groups and clubs, especially residents who might like to write about their hobbies or their history of living in Popley. Email the Editor at editor@popleymatters.org.uk. Deliverers are always needed and welcomed too - it can be half an hour a month or more if you can? Please contact me at either 405 Abbey Road, phone me on 01256 819924, or e-mail me 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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Probus Hears Tales of a Roving Reporter

How would you react if a “live” radio microphone was thrust in your face needing a response to some world events or home grown problem currently in the public domain?

Who are these people seeking opinions from the public and who broadcast replies to regional, national and world wide audiences? Many inquisitors become well known working for the BBC, especially if on TV, whereas radio reporters, having no visible presence, have a lower profile which might be of benefit in their private lives. One such was Alan Jones who was the latest speaker at the Probus Club of Basingstoke.

Alan chose to join their ranks in his late thirties and after completing a specialised training course in journalism he discovered he had a “face for radio”. Always working as a freelance journalist for the BBC, his new career endured more than twenty years. During this time he provided over 25,000 reports for many national radio programmes and the regional BBC Radio Solent. He worked as a reporter, producer and presenter but carved out a niche of his own as a roving reporter travelling across the south and central southern England. He had a specially adapted mobile studio which was sometimes thought to be a TV Licence detector as it had several aerials, one of which could be extended to over 30 feet high.


We were told of how he met a nervous Bishop at the top of the partially built Portsmouth Cathedral, uncovered the naked truth of nudity in Alton; wrestled with snakes on the Isle of Wight; boarded warships at sea; and met a lunatic Frenchman who wanted a Guinness Book of Record for using a drum kit at altitude in an old Dakota. He also: had to used a high wire “tight rope” interviewing an artiste of the Moscow State Circus; questioned exhibitors at a rabbit show when the producer demanded that the rabbits could be heard making a noise; and walked with Royalty when HM Queen opened the finally built Portsmouth Cathedral. During his entertaining talk Alan took his audience on a journey of adventure, mishap and fun, proving that “if something can go wrong, it probably will, especially if you are holding alive microphone”.

For more information about the Probus Club of Basingstoke see or phone their Secretary Jonathan Ratcliff on 07501 271547 for an informal chat.



How to SAVE Chineham Library!

What can you do to save Chineham Library?

1. Have your say by completing the library consultation;
2. Use the library  Every person who attends is counted, every book taken out and every log in adds to the overall picture of how well used the library is;
3. Sign the petition <https://tinyurl.com/wsvfww4>;
4. Put the date and time of the public drop in into your diary. This will act as part of the consultation: February 4th 2pm - 6pm;
5. Share our page and tell people neighbours, groups you attend, your family and friends how they can have their say!; and
6. Watch the page for regular updates and events.

Further news from Chineham Library below.

Chineham Library


Our activities all continue in the regular pattern for this month, with the only changes occurring in half term. Rhymetimes take place every Tuesday, for under ones at 10am and over ones at 11am. Storytimes take place every Saturday morning at 11am, except for the first week when we hold a drop-in craft session from 10am – midday. This month crafts will take place on 1st February, and then 7th March. Our Chatterbooks group for junior school age children will meet on 13th February and 11th March at 3.45pm.

Every Wednesday we hold our drop-in Cuppa and Chat group for adults to chat over some refreshments, which takes place from 10.30am–midday. Also, on Wednesdays Age Concern offer assistance with IT from 10am–1pm for the over 50s. Sessions are bookable through their office on: 01256 423874, for a £5 donation. Both of these would welcome some new faces. (Age Concern stop for half term.) Our general reading group will meet on Saturday 29th February and Saturday 28th March, at 10.30am. Writing Group meets on 6th February and 5th March from 5.30 – 7pm.

We have a couple of bookable events being held in the near future. There is a ‘Scenes of Crime’ talk on 26th March, with former Police Officer Ken Wells sharing reflections from his career. On 23rd April we have a ‘Great Train Robbery’ talk, with Tony Keep. Both talks commence at 6pm, and tickets costing £5 are available from the library or the online shop. Thursday 6th February we are again holding a children’s Harry Potter night, from 5.30 – 7pm. This event is free, but due to limited availability places must be booked in advance.


Don’t forget we now also offer room hire, please ask for further details.

Cathy Foster



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Gym Team: 01245 337576 Main Reception 01256 337573

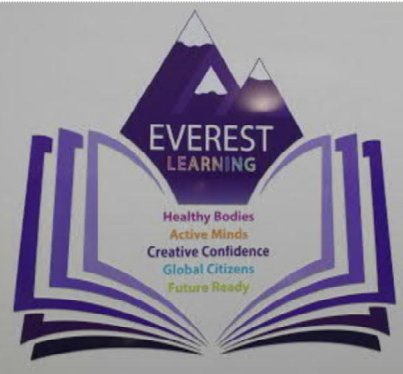


Upcoming Dates
Year 9 Parents Evening—Thursday 30th January
Half Term—Monday 17th to Friday 21st February



Everest Community Academy is ready for a new year with a bright start. There are two new head of year teachers, Miss Knecht and Mr Cox, helping the year groups to really excel as well as a whole school assembly inspiring children to reach their goals this year. There have been many academic goals set such as the Year 11s aiming high for their GCSEs and lower years continuing to push themselves in their work.

There has also been new decor added around the school which fully showcases the students at Everest. Here at Everest, we have our own Student Council called EPIC which stands for Everest's Pupils Inspirational Committee. There are five categories known as branches which all focus on different aspects of identity. These include Active Minds, Healthy Bodies, Creative Confidence, Career Readiness and Global Citizenship. EPIC is a great addition to Everest life and has already provided opportunities for lots of students, including Mental Health Week that gave students a chance to express themselves and feel more comfortable within school. The EPIC team has also had a revamp with a big logo fixed outside their meeting room.



Bermuda Community Hall

Tiny steps pre-school starting soon, for further details ring Helen or Connie on 07907815270

There are lots of activities going on at Bermuda hall, come along and join in!

Monday from 6:30pm to 8pm we have kick boxing.



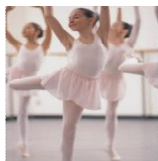
Tuesday night is bingo night New members are welcome! Doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 8pm and finishes around 10pm. Refreshments are available.



Wednesday is yoga night with Lou Bedford. It starts at 6:15pm and finishes at 7:15pm, for more details ring Lou Bedford on 07753109222 or at www.loubefordyoga.co.uk



Come along on a Thursday night for street dance and ballet 4:30pm to 6:30pm for details ring Samantha Pike on 07811299484



Friday Club is available to infants/juniors Yr R to Yr 6 at 6pm to 7:15pm. There are many activities for the children to get involved in: singing, super book animated bible stories, games, tuck shop and more. Friday Club is now free.



The hall is also available to hire for parties at reasonable rates. Ring 01256 363156 for details

Marie Curie
Cancer Care



Marie Curie Collection

Thank you very much for your generosity throughout last year. In March we raised a fantastic £823.75 from the Chineham shoppers and again, with the help of

Tesco in December, we raised another £427.69.

Marie Curie Care provides nursing for seriously ill people in their home; currently this is not available in Basingstoke but there is an interesting project which they are trialling along the M27 corridor to provide 24/7 care for those would normally have to go into hospital because there is nobody at home to assist. It is hoped this will be tried in Basingstoke in the future. Marie Curie Care also provides funds for research into the best ways to provide end of life care which is shared with other organisations.

The Great Daffodil Day is the major fundraising event for the year. If you have an hour or more to spare from 29 February - 28 March please call Sophie on 07798 638110 or visit mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil.

County Councillor Report: By the time this issue of Popley Matters is delivered the decision for extra parking controls for Marnel Park will have been approved and will shortly be introduced. All the comments and issues were considered and will be addressed. This has taken far too long to get through but at last it will be implemented. Further consultations hopefully in near future.

Hampshire County Council is asking people who live, work and study in Hampshire to have their say on their proposed changes to the library service.

Visit <https://www.hants.gov.uk/library-consultation> for more information and to fill out the consultation response form online. The consultation is open from Thursday 9 January until Wednesday 18 March 2020. There is a petition to save South Ham and Chineham Library <https://tinyurl.com/wsvfww4>. Chineham Library is well used and has many events through the year; on 18th February its Quirks Animal Roadshow with live animals suitable for children from 4 years old. You will need to book tickets so please phone 01256 478670; people use the library to study and use their computers; it is a meeting place for people of all ages; and so much more. If you value the library please sign the petition and respond to the consultation. Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk.

Popley West: Many of our readers will have known George Hood who was a Councillor for Norden. George was also a school governor at Merton Infant and Junior Schools for fifty years and the chairman for a large part of that time. George sadly passed away in November. Davina, his loving wife, died a few days later and they had a double funeral at the beginning of December. Thank you to all who showed their respect by lining part of the route or going to the funeral. George was a kind and wise man who was respected across all parties. The Abbey Road Post Office is now open for business and hopefully, by the time this Popley Matters is delivered, the newsagent part of the shop will be stocked and opened. The first customer was a lady from Sherborne St John with a huge parcel who was pleased that she didn't have to lug it down to Shakespeare Road Post Office only to find it was closed. The official that was there told me that it could be closed again if it is not used so please use it or lose it. It took so much time and effort to get it re opened so lets show just how much it was missed by using it now.

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 are still getting issues raised with us about bin collections in Popley which are not yet at the level residents are entitled to expect. Bins are either not collected or returned properly to the collection point. We are always happy to assist residents and pleased to hear about your experiences.

All residents can now request stickers for their bins where they can add their property number. You can complete a form online under the council's website, bins and recycling – request bin stickers. This helps the crews to ensure that the bin(s) is returned to the correct place after being emptied.

Regrettably we are all experiencing regular incidents of fly tipping. Please report it online through the BDBC website and we are happy to assist where required. It is a serious offence to fly tip and sanctions can be severe.

Following the refurbishment of Chineham House, which we believe has been done well, we expect all the flats to be occupied quickly under the agreed local lettings policy. Key workers who have connections with Popley and who work in local public services, including the NHS, will occupy the flats thereby reinforcing their connections with the local communities.

Cllr David Potter 07941507801

cllr.david.potter@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Janet Westbrook 07747335200

cllr.janet.westbrook@basingstoke.gov.uk



Basingstoke police understand that the prospect of being burgled continues to be a large concern to the residents of Basingstoke, as the most recent community survey proves. While we will do what we can to investigate these incidents when they occur, we will continue to provide residents with relevant and crucial burglary crime prevention advice, so that you have a better awareness of how you may protect yourself and your belongings.

Remember – most of these offences are opportunist in nature – by taking even simple precautions you can greatly reduce your likelihood of becoming a victim.

Remove temptation:

You are more likely to be burgled if your property is unoccupied, security is weak and the burglar thinks they will not be seen/get caught.

- Keep valuable items out of view.
- Do not leave keys under doormats, or in easily accessible places.
- Keep any keys out of view and in a secure place.
- Keep tools and ladders in a secure place. They may use your own equipment to break in.
- Do not obstruct visibility of your house, as it will be easier for burglars to work unobserved. Keep fences and plants no higher than waist height.
- Hide financial documents.

Use security equipment:

Can make a real difference in delaying or deterring burglars, and you could potentially reduce insurance premiums if fitting approved equipment.

- Take a look at your home, work out your security weak points. Imagine how you might get in if you had lost your keys.
- Fit window locks. Easily visible locks may deter burglars as they would then have to then smash the glass.
- Remove window keys, keep out of sight.
- Have an intruder alarm system installed by an approved contractor.
- Ensure alarm box is visible on outside of home.
- Use door chains and spyholes if someone comes to your front door.
- Do not be afraid to turn people away. If anyone concerns you ring the police.
- If you are a member of a 'No Cold Calling' or 'Neighbourhood Watch' zone, let people know by displaying stickers in your window.

Look like you're always in:

A lot of burglars will target empty homes as they are easier targets.

- Do not advertise your absence.
- Use timer switches, available from DIY stores, to switch on lights and other appliances.
- Get a friend or neighbour to collect your post, draw your curtains, park in your drive and make your home look lived in.

Secure doors and windows:

A lot of burglars get in through open doors or windows.

- Every time you leave the house secure all doors and windows.
- If you are upstairs or in the garden, ensure downstairs is secured.
- Ensure doors and windows are locked at night.

Secure outbuildings:

- Do not leave valuable property in a shed that is not well secured (might be unlocked or in a bad state of repairs).
- Fit good locks. Padlocks used externally should be no less than 6cm wide and made of hardened steel (closed shackle type is best).
- Garages may also be vulnerable. Do not be lured into false sense of security.
- Make sure suitable lock is fitted and a shed alarm or similar is installed. A padlock with a hasp and staple on the inside.

You can also register your possessions for free at www.immobilise.com – in doing so you will assist the police in returning your property should it be lost or stolen.

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BASINGSTOKE CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT FELLOWSHIP

At the first meeting of 2020 held on Wednesday 8th January the chairman, David Cowling, welcomed 44 members and 1 visitor in what is the Basingstoke Fellowship's 50th year. The secretary, Tony Brazier, gave details of the forthcoming trips and the Welfare Officer, Christine Broadbent, then gave her update on members who had not been well and also announced the sad news that Stella Bone had died just before Christmas aged 98.



The speaker this month was Barbara Cummings who since her last visit to us had undertaken cycling tours of the beautiful Indian State of Kerala, Morocco, including the Sahara Desert, and the West Coast of America, from Seattle to San Francisco. She showed us some of the many photographs she had taken and regaled us

with details of some of the more uncomfortable parts of the trips (a ride on a camel in the desert for instance) along with descriptions of some of the more colourful characters she had met. In India particularly she was invited into people's homes sharing experiences and stories while in America it was the personalities she met at campsites who were the most interesting and unusual. We look forward to hearing from her again after her next journeys.



The group's next outings are on Thursday 13th February to Bletchley Park and then on Wednesday 25th March to Dorney Court.

The next meeting is on 5th February when the speaker will be Allen Purkiss a former traffic policeman with a talk titled "Thrill and Spills". The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Brookvale Village Hall from 10am to 12noon 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

Chineham District Centre Disappointed on Library News

As you may be aware, Hampshire County Council is currently holding a public consultation on the future of library services in Hampshire.

Tellon Capital, owner of Chineham District Centre, is very disappointed to hear of the prospective closure of Chineham library. We appreciate, not only how important it is to the community, but the benefits it brings, and underline our wish to have the library retained. We have responded to the consultation to state this and will be working with local stakeholders to establish what can be done.

Although an integral part of Chineham District Centre, the library itself is owned by Hampshire County Council and will not be impacted at all by the proposed enhancement of the Centre.

Further details on the consultation, including how you can have your say on the proposed closures, can be found on Hampshire County Council's website at www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/library-consultation.

Kind regards,
Tom

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Business Opportunity

Popley Fields Community Association is looking for a business partner to run a café in Popley Fields Community Centre located on Carpenters Down. If you're interested please contact us at office@popleyfields.org.uk



17th May 2020

To get involved, have a stall or make any other enquiry contact us via the website or via e-mail

www.popleyfestival.org.uk or contact@popleyfestival.org.uk

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How much time do I need to commit?

Just 2 hours a week, or less, can make a real difference to a patient living in your local community.

What support will I be given?

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Interested?

For further information contact Caroline Nash, Befriending Manager on: 01264 835293
Email: Caroline.Nash@hhft.nhs.uk.

Interested volunteers will be invited to an informal interview and the role is subject to references, simple health checks and DBS clearance.



Hi All, Just to mix it up this month Alan has written a brief account of his recent trip to Popley pond in search of Great Crested Newts;

According to many guides and manuals, Amphibians such as Great Crested Newts (GCN) will begin to emerge from

hibernation from late February onward, this was roughly true in the early years of forming Popley conservation volunteers in around 2005, a few of us were involved in light surveying and then training towards obtaining a licence to handle them. After a few years of observation and recording I began to notice the emergence of GCN consistently getting earlier in the month of February - in line with early emergence of catkins, wildflowers etc. Of course, in recent years climate change has become an issue with even earlier emergences of hibernating animals and wildflowers.

Because of the very mild autumn and winter weather and recent heavy rainfall I decided to take a trip up to Popley pond to see whether any Amphibians were on the move, as soon as I got to the main pond, around 7:30pm, I saw that the water level was very high, probably the second highest I have seen it in nearly 20 years. I wandered down towards the swales at Appleton close and Barrington Drive, almost immediately I saw one or two adult GCN on land along the walls of the bridges, I then went down into the ditches and walked the entire length of the swale and saw 30 Male GCN, 13 Female GCN, about 50+ Male and Female Smooth Newts, one or two Palmate Newts and two adult Frogs. All male newts had full breeding crests and colours and were seen "courting".

Suspecting a cold snap in February which will set them back a bit, I just hope that the females wont have laid their eggs too early because they will be destroyed by frost and freezing water - the females will not be able to lay more eggs later if they have used up their reserves early.

Climate change is real, how wildlife copes with it is important for us to study and understand so that we can continue our conservation work effectively.

The Nature Reserve is looking very good at the moment with thanks to local volunteers and corporate work parties who have done some fantastic and very valuable work over the last few years. Long may it continue - there is still a lot of work to be done though to preserve this wonderful little oasis that is home to a European protected species and many, many more interesting and diverse creatures.

So there you have it - love is in the air just in time for Valentines Day. We love our Newts and it's great to hear about them thriving, let's hope the weather holds out to protect their eggs! As usual please check us out on Facebook 'Marnel & Popley Conservation Volunteers' or email us at popleyponds@gmail.com.

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Well January has come and gone so quickly. Over the festive period, even though we at MHA were closed, we kept in contact with our vulnerable members. We have had a lot of our members come down with the common cold and flu like symptoms so we, as a team, have supported them with any food shopping and any medical appointments. After all it only takes a couple of minutes to make a phone call to someone to check in and make sure they're ok. If you have an elderly neighbour, friend, or relative a simple phone call goes a long way to make someone's day.

At MHA we are pleased to continue with all our activities and have some fabulous days out planned for our members and any carers or family members that wish to come along to support their loved ones and see their loved one shine through. The atmosphere of joy and fun from our lovely members.

We are always looking out for volunteers to assist us with activities or our Forever Befriending Service. If you have a few hours to spare a week or a month and would like to give something back to our community there's no better way than with MHA. We will complete DBS checks and give you all the training that you require.

Please email me at francesca.wildash@mha.org.uk or Telephone 07720680403.

Hope to speak to you all soon, and if you would like any further information of our activities and how to join please contact me on the above number

Many thanks Francesca Wildash

Dear Readers,

I hope you had a beautiful Christmas and welcomed the New Year with renewed vigour. With the turn of a New Year, many of us will be setting resolutions. Often these goals comprise of getting fit, losing weight or saving more. Before we all rush into making a list of marathons we want to run and the pounds we want to lose, we might want to reflect on the past year, and where we were at the beginning of last year and where we are now. Time to give us a chance to ruminate on the accomplishments and highs and lows of the past year, and even of the past decade.

Doing so could help us set clear, achievable steps to get to where we want to be and how we want to feel by the end of 2020. We are all too aware of the feeling of failure when a few weeks into January, all our will power has waned and we have cleaned that box of Christmas chocolates in one sitting. This is sometimes because of overambitious resolution setting which can represent a fantasy of perfection. To ensure our goals for the coming year do not feel as overbearing and overwhelming is to be specific on what we want to achieve. Big ambitions can be broken into small goals and simple actionable steps. Simple examples are swapping the elevenses cake for an apple, or vegetarian Wednesday, or an hour of screen-free time a day, or a walk whenever there is a rain-free weekend. Preparing for potential obstacles, which could throw us off our goals along the way, is also important. By ensuring that we have solutions to overcome those potential hurdles, we will be better equipped to avoid or even accept them. The aim is to make small changes which compounded over a year, can make a significant difference.

And remember, if all else fails, let's change the feeling about the goal itself; let's embrace how and who we are and maybe good habits will gravitate towards us. Here is to a year of good health and positivity.

Vina R Resident of Marnel Park

Basingstoke Deane
Rotary



CONTACTS

Helen Ricketts: -
helen@highpathway.co.uk
or
Paul Temple:-
tempaul45@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 2020

**YOUR LOCAL
ROTARY
ROUNDUP**

ROTARY SHOEBOX NEWS

The generous people of Basingstoke donated 1,500 shoe boxes this last Christmas, packed with gifts. They were all checked, boxed, shipped and then hand delivered by Rotarians directly to the children who otherwise would receive nothing. Whilst we were simply having fun with our gifts, those children were experiencing real joy and amazement. So it was lovely to see a message from a young Moldovan boy called Ivan who was saying thank you for a Rotary shoe box donated in our District.



Thank you to everyone who kindly donated a Christmas Shoe box you've made a lot of children's lives a little happier

Christmas shoe boxes are just one of the international aspects of Rotary. There are **33,000 Rotary clubs** in over **200** countries and geographical areas. Our Club has connections with people and projects in Belgium, Kenya and Zambia.



Save the Date 3rd May 2020 **Basingstoke Festival of Transport**, War Memorial Park,
Basingstoke: 11.00 - 4.00pm:

Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 35 men 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. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane

Twitter: @RBstokeDeane

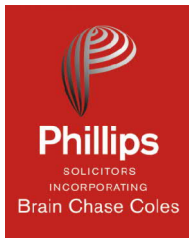
HOW IS YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTION GOING?

Resolutions are made with the best of intentions but how many are still being followed come February? The gift of time is something that costs very little and can bring unexpected rewards to the giver. All charities need volunteers and you don't have to make a huge commitment. Help for just one event or possibly for just a few hours. It's not about bucket collecting. Lots of charities need people who donate cakes or help with teas or may be setting up gazebos or a bit of DIY. Giving your time may also be chatting to an elderly person; you may be the only person they speak to all day. Asking if a homeless person would like a hot drink; a better way of helping them than chucking a few coins. If you want to meet new people volunteering is a great way of doing it; rewarding and great fun.

Volunteering is good for your Mental Health

Basingstoke Deane Rotary welcomes new members. To find out more see details below. We also have one off volunteering opportunities. We are looking for individuals qualified to take blood pressure for our **Know your Blood Pressure Day**, in partnership with The Stroke Association (date in April to be advised). Please get in touch if you can help with this important Stroke prevention programme, contact details above.





Law firms Merge to Strengthen Position in Market

Leading Hampshire law firms Phillips Solicitors and Brain Chase Coles Solicitors are pleased to announce that they merged on 1st February, 2020.

The new practice is now known as Phillips Solicitors, incorporating Brain Chase Coles, creating a powerful regional law firm with true legal strength.

Based at our Town Gate offices in London Street, Basingstoke, we believe that combining forces is a positive move that will enable us to adopt best working practices to benefit our clients.

Our clients will be able to access a broad spectrum of legal expertise including commercial and residential property, corporate and commercial, litigation, family, wills and probate, estate planning, employment, insurance and education law.

Howard Gardener, who was among the founders of Phillips Solicitors, said: "There is a natural and positive cultural fit to both firms which is why the idea of a merger felt right, right from the start. Our practice will now include 33 lawyers working across the full range of practice areas. Importantly, the increased scale of the combined firm offers broader choices for our clients."

Jon Coles, who was a partner of Brain Chase Coles, said: "As a combined firm, we will now offer even greater strength and depth in our services to clients. We are looking forward to continuing to work with our existing clients and getting to know our new colleagues as we enter this next exciting stage in the evolution of our firm."

To find out more about Phillips Solicitors, incorporating Brain Chase Coles, please visit www.phillips-law.co.uk



6th Basingstoke Boys' Brigade Newsletter



We've started back at St Gabriel's after our Christmas break (a little bit longer than usual, the staff needed another day off) and we've kicked off the year talking about the young people's Christmas holidays and their new year resolutions they made. With the year ahead we want them to focus on making a better Boys' Brigade, what kind of BB do they want and how we can achieve it. We hope to make a better BB for those already involved and future new members.

If you or you know someone who would be interested in trying a taster night our contact information is at the bottom.

As part of our post Christmas catch-up chat we were discussing what skills we offer our young people. There are lots of skills that our staff can teach but we would like to bring new skills in from the community. Can you play a guitar and fancy giving a taster course? Do you know how to correctly wire a plug? Can you teach them how to prepare for an interview? If you fancy coming along and sharing your knowledge for one evening then please get in contact.

We're recruiting?

We are looking for new members to join both our age groups, 5-10yo and 10-18yo. If you'd like to see what we are about come for a taster session on a Monday evening, 6:15 - 7:15pm (5-10yo) and 7:00-9:00pm (10-18yo).

Contact us on **07775 535434** or drop us an email at 6thbasingstokebb@gmail.com.

Useful Numbers

101—This is the non-emergency police phone number. You should use it when there is no immediate response required (e.g. for general enquiries and to provide information relating to crimes in the past). It costs 15p per call when you call this phone number.

105—This is the phone number to call if you have a power cut in England, Scotland and Wales. It will connect you to the relevant electricity network operator in your area. It's free to call this phone.

111—This is the non-emergency NHS medical advice number. You should use it when there is no immediate response required. It's free to call this phone number. **111** isn't currently available in Northern Ireland.

112—This is another way of contacting the emergency services (it's equivalent to dialling **999**). You should use it to contact the emergency services (including police, ambulance, fire brigade and coastguard). Calls to this phone number are free. **112** is a standardised phone number for the emergency services that can be called in any EU country.

116XXX—**116** phone numbers are pan-European helplines for children and adults in need. It's always free to call a phone number beginning with **116**, wherever you are in the EU. The helplines currently in operation in the UK are: **116 100**—Hotline for missing children; **116 111**—Child helpline (NSPCC); **116 123**—The Samaritans.

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Happy New Year to you all!



We had a busy run up to Christmas! Our Year 3 pupils put on a super performance of 'Hey Presto' and attended a Stone Age workshop; our Year 4 pupils learnt how to play the ukulele, our Year 4 and Year 5 pupils have been scientists and our Year 6 pupils had a workshop with a Police Constable finding out about the role (investigating fingerprints and riot training)...



Raising money...

We think it's important to do our bit for charity - our amazing staff raised £131 through a staff raffle, for the Basingstoke Night Shelter - with Gift Aid aided too, this is the equivalent of 11 x overnight stays. As a school, we raised a magnificent £314.20 for Children in Need in November, a huge £258.94 at our recent Coffee Morning AND a donation of £48.50 has been made on our behalf to Cancer Research from Braiswick photographers from the sale of the school photographs –thank you to our all of our pupils and their families for being so generous!



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Group Scout Leader	Colin Karslake	07796772500
Assistant Group Scout Leader	Douglas Gowan	07733325498
Beaver Leader	Mandy Pain	07508204098
Cub Leader	Charlotte Bell	07919148376
Scout Leader	Kevin Pocock	07717108560

All three sections have now returned for the New Year and all have lots of fun activities and events planned for the coming year, some of which include, District Cub Camp in May, Cub & Beaver Trip to the Gilwell Park Cub & Beaver Funday and a District Scout trip to the 11th Infantry Brigade's HQ in Aldershot to earn the Scouts Mechanics Badge.

SCOUTS

During the last part of 2019 the Scouts had varied and interesting programme of activities, below is just a brief overview of what they got up to.

Map Reading

The Scouts spent a couple of weeks brushing up on their Map Reading Skills and put it into practice to plan a proposed hike for later on in the year. They used grid references and points on the map to indicate at which point on the map they would walk to before changing direction, as well as understanding what the different symbols on the map stood for.

Aircraft Identification

A couple of nights was spent working towards the Scout Aircraft Recognition Badge with this activity been run by one of the Scout Section Young Leaders. The Scouts were shown images of various types of aircraft and how to identify them, they then had to try and identify them without any prompting from the Leaders

Egg Drop Challenge

For this evening the Scouts were all given a raw egg and access to a range of different items to support and protect an egg, so when it was dropped from a height it didn't break when it hit the ground. There was a number of different techniques devised ranging from a simple parachute system to just wrapping the egg in layers of material in hope that it wouldn't break. Some of the ideas worked better than others, but the Scouts had great fun trying to find a method that worked.

Group News

If you have a child who may be interested in joining us, we currently have spaces for new members in all sections, please get in touch.

To continue providing all the activities for all three sections we need more adults to help either as Leaders, Section Assistants or Occasional Helper. 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. to find out more please contact...

Colin, on 07796 772500, email colink@base2000.co.uk

Douglas, on 07733 325498, email nikau@thescoutingpages.org.uk

Over 55s Forum

The Basingstoke and Deane Over 55s Forum have agreed that towards the end of January 2020 we will be able to bring in some of the 90 to 100 people on our waiting list to join, we have not had the number of members resigning to bring in all those on the waiting list. The Forum is looking forward to another good year in 2020, by helping all the Over 55s in the Borough. Our 2019 Celebration of the "International Day for Older People" was a resounding success and the ticket price of £6.00 was good value. The 2020 Celebration will be a challenge to beat the 2019 Variety show.

To start off our trips for 2020, we have a 3 day break to the Cavendish Hotel at Exmouth, South Devon from 6 - 8 March for £99.00 which includes all coach travel, dinner bed and breakfast, a free drink with your evening dinner, entertainment and trip out.

27th March we have another trip to the "Afternoon at the Pictures" to see Calamity Jane, with glass of Prosecco and popcorn: members £38.00 and Non Members £40.00. From 17 - 20 April a four day break to Warners Lakeside at Hayling Island for "Late and Live" break. includes all coach travel, three night's dinner bed and breakfast, Warners Lakeside Coastal Village, two half day excursions, evening entertainment: Members £249.00 - Non Members £251.00.

From 28 May - 1 June, a 5 day break to Northumbria and Beamish "The Living Museum of the North". This will include all coach travel, four night's dinner, bed and breakfast admission to the Beamish "Living Museum of the North, return journey on the South Tyneside Railway cruise on the river Tyne and journey on the Tanfield Railway: £384.00 members - Non members £386.00.

On 13th June, a day trip to Osborne House on the IOW - final price to be arranged.

More trip news and other information next month.

Thanks.

Gerald. (Secretary and Tour Manager)

[MFC Popley Youth on Social Media.](#)



You can get regular updates on Twitter, @MFC_PopleyYouth & by using the hashtags #MFCPY #REDandBLACKARMY. MFC Popley Youth, FA Charter Standard Development Club & Nike Partner Club, has a dedicated club page on Facebook (as well as individual team pages), and you can also find us on Instagram.

We also have 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://mfcpopleyyouth-co-uk.bisongrid.com> or on any of the above social media platforms. or on any of the above social media platforms.

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Tiny Steps Pre-school Now Open.

Tiny steps pre-school has been a pipe dream for a couple of years now, an idea between friends to start out on a new adventure. Connie and I have known each other for over 10 years, originally working together in a brilliant local Nursery which our children both attended. They have known each other since 6 months old and have remained friends despite going to different schools.

When we first heard about Bermuda Community Hall in Popley being available we decided it was time to go for it, with over 30 years of experience between us we felt (almost) prepared!

We have been amazingly lucky to have a vast amount of support and encouragement from various friends and family as well as help from the amazing team that run the hall. Thank you Les and Janet.

Our pre-school finally opened on 6th January 2020 and we couldn't be more excited. We meet more and more lovely new families every day and look forward to meeting many more.

For more information or to follow us in our adventure please visit us add us on facebook @tinystepspre-schoolbasingstoke or email us on tinystepspre-school@outlook.com



Helen Heath



Dear Friends,

Welcome to 2020! Bushfires in Australia, Volcanoes in New Zealand and the Philippines, storm Brendan off the west coast of the UK and other extreme weather events in other places coupled with the strongest warning yet from David Attenborough and interestingly the IMF (International Monetary Fund) who tell us that the greatest threat to the global economy is climate change. Climate change? What climate change? Or so someone I was in conversation with said to me. "Do I actually believe it? It's just the earth going through its natural cycle of warming then cooling then warming again!" So this person said! Is it really?

This is what happened in one confrontation Jesus had with the religious authorities of his day "They came to test Jesus and they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. He answered them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' And in the morning, 'It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to *interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.*" (Matthew ch.3.verses 2-3).

It's still the same today; we quite say glibly "red sky in the morning shepherds warning, red sky at night shepherds delight." And it usually works out that way doesn't. So why are we ignoring all the signs of severe changes to our climate or worse recognising it but doing nothing about it?

We all have a collective responsibility for our climate, no matter how small a voice or contribution we think we have or can make – something is better than nothing. I believe absolutely that God created the heavens and the earth and that he gave us the responsibility of caring for it – are we ready to accept that we're not doing that great a job and are we prepared to change. It's not just our children we have to educate but ourselves as well – that's if we want to leave an inhabitable planet for our children and for future generations! Let's take the signs of the times seriously! Ok, rant over!

2020 also locally got off to a tragic start with the death of a young motorcycle rider, killed at the junction of Abbey Road and Popley Way. Our heartfelt prayers go out to his fiancée and his young children. In St Gabriel's we said a sad farewell to Pete Johnson a long-standing member of our church and community. Though it was a sad occasion it was a fitting tribute to a lovely man, and again our prayers go out to Pete's family and friends.

Life in St Gabriel's continues to flourish and grow. We recently had a Vision Day for the church council (PCC) and others to explore the future of the church and our community. One of the reasons for the day was 2020 will be my last full year of ministry in St Gabriel's before retirement the following year. Incredibly I will then have been at St Gabriel's for 17 years and every one of them (so far) has been an absolute blessing as I'm sure my remaining time will be. I hope that in this last period we may get to meet many more of you.

With every blessing in Christ
Arthur
Vicar, St Gabriel's
01256 324734