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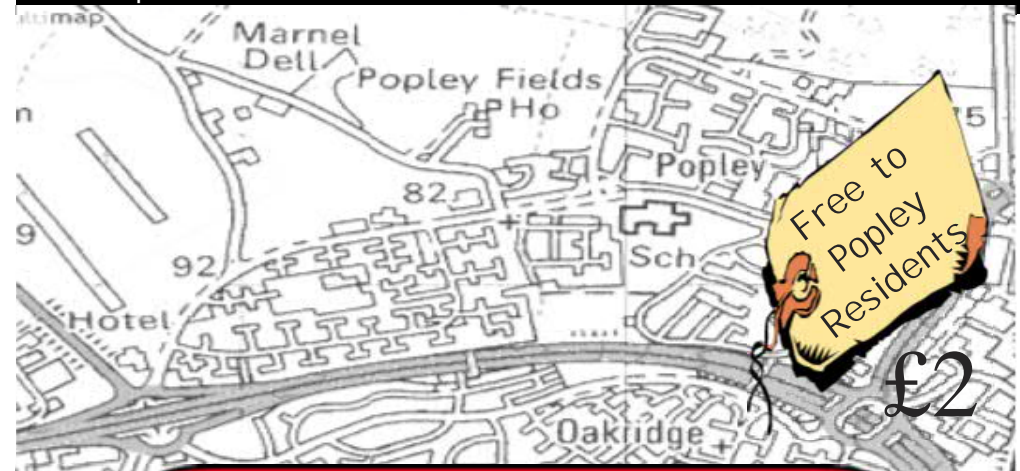
POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

April 2020

Distribution of 5,400

Issue 218



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles and adverts (5pm 15-4-20) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor: At the current time and based on what is my understanding of what is known of COVID-19 it is likely that older people and those with chronic medical conditions may be more vulnerable to it being more severe. It can also be so mild that you would hardly know you have it. As more information emerges, recommendations may change so keep up to date with the recommendations from NHS and the Government..

The easy to read guide is a good site for reference please use recognised official sites there is a lot of mis-information for instance drink lots of hot drinks to keep mouth moist drink every 15 or 20 minutes and it washes the virus into the stomach where the gastric acids kill the virus. If it were that simple we would not have escalated to a Pandemic and the horrific numbers of deaths around the world.

China is turning the corner and even had a day with no more reported people with the virus and the Government are trying to follow their lead. So please you can go out if you don't have the virus or signs of the virus but absolutely vital that everyone keeps a safe distance about six feet or two meters and wash your hands for 20 seconds when you return home. The best web sites I have found to date are;-Find HCC one? Things are moving so fast by the time we get Popley Matters to you we could be on a lock down as it seems some people do not believe that it is as bad as it is and are ignoring the social distance of two meters, bugs stay on surfaces for hours so you can pick them up without realizing and pass it on to someone who is not as strong and healthy as you . Check the official information here are a few of the reliable ones;-

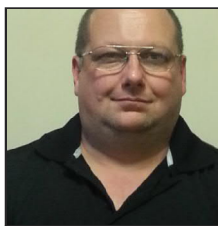
Useful Government Document :- <https://bit.ly/3acdOAK>

Government website:- www.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Hampshire website:- <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus>

Basingstoke and Deane Council website:- www.basingstoke.gov.uk/coronavirus

There are some great support groups on Facebook;- Popley Support Group and Covid-19 Community Support Group there are more so if you have Facebook have a look please I can't tell you strongly enough to only take advice from official sites. Paul and I are here to help in anyway we can and will link you up with other people or organisations when and if needed. Email or phone. Deliverers are always needed and very welcomed too, 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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Chineham Library

It's lovely to have the first signs of Spring following after the long, wet Winter. There will be the usual Saturday crafts for children on 4th April at 10am, and extra drop-in crafts on Wednesdays 8th and 15th April from 10am, during the school holiday. Saturday storytimes will continue on all the other Saturdays in the month at 11am. Rhymetimes continue as usual, with sessions on Tuesdays at 10am for under ones and 11am for over ones. Volunteer-led coffee mornings continue to take place from 10.30am, with refreshments and opportunities to socialise available for a donation. These take place in the Acorn Room.

Regular activities for adults include the general reading group on the 25th April at 10.30am. For details of the Writing Group please contact the library. Cuppa and Chat continue to meet weekly on Wednesdays from 10.30am and would welcome anyone wishing to join them. Age Concern and our Tuesday one-on-one computer tuition cease during the school holidays. To book a session with Age Concern please contact their office on: 01256 423874. These sessions focus on using your own device. Please contact the library to book a Tuesday session on our pcs.

There are a couple of special events coming up in April. If you haven't already done so, then do book a ticket for our 'Great train Robbery' talk on 23rd April at 6pm. Tickets costing five pounds are available from the usual sources. We are also hosting a two-part course on the 20th and 27th April entitled 'Build a Word Press Website', between 10am – 3pm. The course is free to attend, and places can be booked with the library staff.

Remember that we offer hire of the Acorn Room, including outside regular opening hours. For further information please contact the library.

Cathy Foster

Over 55s Forum

I am pleased to say the Basingstoke & Deane Over 55s Forum have started 2020 very well and we have already reach our 650 membership sealing, due to our success we did not have so many not renewing for 2020. We still have 50 people on our waiting list. If seats are available those people on the waiting list can still come on our coach trips. Our OPEN Forum dates are:- 10th June - 12th August - 7th October & 9th December 2020. Our 2020 Variety Show to celebrate the "International Day for Older People" will be held on 26th September at Queen Mary College, We feel we will have a slight problem of competing with 2019 show, which was a wonderful success with a packed hall.

TRIPS;

We have on the 6th to the 8th March spent a 3 day weekend at Exmouth in South Devon.

28th to 1st June we have a 5 day break to Northumbria & Beamish stay in Darlington.

13th June a day trip to Osborne House on the IOW.

21st & 30th July and 10th & 24th September we have a trip to the London Royal Docks to see an ABBA Tribute show on the Tereza-Joanne boat with a 2 course meal.

5th August we are going to the Sandhurst Commandants Passing Out Parade, this is a trip that should not be missed.

Other trips are in the planning stage up to the end of the year.

All the best.

Gerald. (Secretary & Tour Manager)



Coronavirus is a new illness spreading across the world. The symptoms are

- * **Fever**
- * **Cough**
- * **Trouble breathing**

Don't spread it



Wash hands regularly



Use a tissue for coughs and bin it



Don't touch your face or eyes with your hands



**If you are worried
DO NOT go to your GP
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NHS 111**



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Performance Theatre (200 Seats)

Gym Stations
Matrix Trainer
Classes

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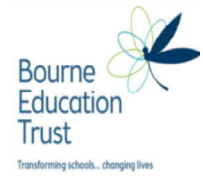
Everest Health & Leisure Club

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



Upcoming Dates

Easter holiday dates Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April
April—Term begins again on Monday 20th April



Ofsted—'Good'

We have at last achieved it, Everest Community Academy is celebrating receiving a 'good' grading following our recent Ofsted inspection in February. The mixed secondary school, which joined the Bourne Education Trust in September 2017 after a legacy of underperformance, received a grading of 'good' in all five categories. The report praises the speed in which the school has improved and recognises the excellent relationships between staff and students. Well done to all staff and students.

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.



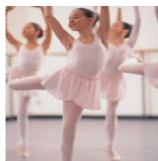
Tuesday night is bingo night New members are welcome! Doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 8pm and finishes around 10pm. Refreshments are available.



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.loubedfordyoga.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.



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 -

For more information, or if you have any queries, please contact the club through our main website: or on any of the above social media platforms.

Zak Collingwood

County Councillor Report: Hampshire County Council have a website that enables you to check on what is happening in relation to the COVID19 virus it also gives helpful advice <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus>. Please try to keep safe and look out for our more vulnerable neighbours. Advice is changing from day to day and its hard to keep up with it all but the websites are updated on a daily basis.

The double yellow lines and road markings should have or be about to start being painted on the roads in Marnel Park, of course that is assuming that there will be the staff available to do or it has not been moved because of the effects of the virus.

The government have given councils more money to fix potholes but quite frankly they are so bad and so many it will still be priority ones that are done, in other words deep potholes on main roads and bus routes first. If you see a deep pothole you can report it on the Hampshire County Council site <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/> potholes if you can get photos that would help but please do not put yourselves at risk. Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk.

Popley West: The local elections have been moved back by a year so till then your Councillors will remain the same as they are at present. Paul and I will continue to be the borough Councillors for Popley West.

The work has started on Popley Community Park and the fencing will be replaced by railings it will be good to get rid of broken and rotted wood fences and unsightly chicken wire type. The new equipment and other upgrades will be done over the warmer summer months. We are happy that we will be able to be your Councillors to see the park finished.

I am on the Access4All committee and we met with the Council officer and the Communications Manager of Serco and said how bad the collections are we focused on the hazards as disable people though Serco were in the main talking about poor sight, however we pressed on about bins being left across kerbs, blocking dropped kerbs and when not collected its two days of an obstacle course around the estates. Serco showed us their training film it is at least a start. They have now acquired a modular building and are furnishing it so they can have somewhere to train their operatives. It should result in an improvement as quite a few of the staff English is not there first language I am sceptical but at least give them a chance to improve. Bur we did say that getting the bins done on the specified date is as important.

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 some criticisms of the traffic priority system in Shakespeare Road. We asked County engineers to look again at the design of the traffic calming measures near to Chineham House/Keats Close. Some changes are being made and we be kept under review to see if the revised arrangements work well and improve the traffic flow and parking problems. We will keep residents informed and listen to any constructive comments that are made. Disappointingly we continue to receive complaints about the collection of refuse and recycling by the Council's contractor. We constantly pursue such complaints and determined to make sure that the Contractor and the Council accept their responsibility and give residents efficient and value for money service We accept the frustration expressed by residents which mirrors our own experiences and we will not accept excuses.

A Substantial length of footpath connecting Penrith Road to the Bermuda and Marlowe Surgery has been re-laid following the concerns of residents and this well used footpath will now provide a safe walk through and access for those users with mobility scooters, wheel chairs, buggies and the Like.

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



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BREATHE EASY

It's easy to feel down when suffering from a chronic illness. Check out blf.org.uk to find some uplifting blogs and vlogs from other people with chronic lung conditions to see how they have improved their life and wellbeing.

Local news

Our February meeting was well attended, we were happy to meet some new members.

The guest speaker was Claire Gill, a Macmillan dietitian.

Claire talked us through the minefield of misinformation about good and bad foods to help reassure us about healthy eating. A good helping of common sense, eating a variety of foods including plenty of vegetables, sensible portion sizes and occasional treats was the main point. Advice for poor appetites, dry mouths and other complications caused by our lung conditions was freely given. Including to enjoy our food. Two ladies from the Respiratory Team from Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust came along to meet our members. They will be giving talks and answering questions throughout the year.

Trish, our friendly fitness instructor, put us through ten minutes of chair exercises. Using resistance bands Trish taught us some simple exercises we can manage at home.

It was a busy day, tea break flew by with people chatting to friends and adding their names to lists for forthcoming outings.

Next Meeting

You will be welcome to come along to The Shaftesbury Room, Christ Church, Reading Road, Chineham, RG24 8LT 2pm on Tuesday April 28th

Our guest speaker will be Peter Jones from Neighbourhood Care

Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month except December.



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Dear Readers,

Amongst the chaos and upheaval of life in the last few weeks, it is easy to have missed that spring is finally here and Easter is round the corner. The news has been full of alarmist articles and even the most optimist of us can confess to have felt a sense of worry. And so in this month of April, I thought we could revisit the famous April fool's jokes of the years gone by in an attempt to lighten the mood a little. On April fool's day last year, we were led to believe that a drone would walk our dogs whilst we get our free beer on from the NHS. Believed to be one of the first April fool's to be aired on the BBC, the spaghetti harvest does make a comeback every year. It was in fact in 1957, that the BBC showed farmers picking spaghetti from trees prompting calls from viewers asking how they could grow their own. And when it comes to elaborate pranks, it was Richard Branson who landed a flying saucer in London in 1989. It was in fact a hot air balloon but due to the weather conditions, it landed a day early on the 31st March - maybe the only time in history a Virgin method of transport was ahead of schedule! In the US, the edible pizza box would be totally believable and I wished it actually existed – more pizza is no joke. On the strange side, and also in America, was the “Match Beyond” advert for single souls looking for a match in the afterlife. I shall say no more on this advert other than raise an eyebrow. Coming back to home turf, there was the tea-spitting news that Big Ben was going digital. The reason given for the change was the new generation could not tell the time the old fashion way – now this is something I might believe. Famous monuments have been the subject of April fool's joke for years and I will leave you with this last one. A prankster literally set a silent volcano in Alaska on fire causing a media frenzy. He pulled off the prank by allegedly using a helicopter to set tyres alight in the crater and the smoke alerted the locals of volcanic activity. Pure madness or dedicated ingenuity – I shall allow you to decide.

Until next month,

Vina R

Resident of Marnel Park



Hello Popley

Well as a charity our CEO has decided as a precautionary measure to suspend all activities until further notice as we support alot of vulnerable members. However we at the MHA office are prepared and shall be working from home. We will be continuing a telephone befriending service and reaching out to our most vulnerable members and assisting as and where we can with provisions they may all run out of. The covid 19 virus

is going to hit my members hard meaning they will be isolated from their activities and being around their friends. I'm urging people to check in with their elderly neighbours and members of the public to ensure they our ok and have what they need. I have seen the community of Basingstoke already pulling together in this time of need. There is a help page on Facebook to get urgent supplies to those in need. At times like this it is fantastic how everyone comes together to support each other. For the time being please all keep safe and keep well.

Mobile number 07720680403

Many thanks Francesca Wildish

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As spring fast approaches and the practical work tasks for Popley Conservation Volunteers come to a close, Alan has kindly taken the time to reflect on what has been a very successful season for the group.

Early in the season when the pond was dry we were able to coppice an area on the margin of the pond that had become very thick and overgrown, the purpose of this work was to open up a glade to improve regrowth of vegetation and promote diversity, this area was once full of Meadow Rue and attracted masses of bees, Hover flies, Butterflies and various other invertebrates. All the brushings and reeds from this work were layered in a nearby area in an attempt to create a hibernacula for Grass Snakes - I have seen Grass Snakes in this area twice some years ago and it would be nice to encourage them back after all the disturbance over the last 10 or so years.

Some work was done in the small pond that is situated at Speckled Wood Close end of the site, we were able to clear some of the Hazel and Willow from the margins of the pond to allow light in, this was a very successful breeding pond for all three species of newt some years ago but becomes choked with an annual Algae bloom due to nutrients leaching into the pond from felled willow trees being left in situ - there are plans for these to be removed but it is quite a big job involving chainsaws and winches. I can already see some improvement in regrowth of water mint - I plan to do some surveying in the near future to monitor the level of egg laying in the pond.

Another task that is very important for the group to carry out is removal of Reeds from the floor of the main pond. Reeds can spread quickly and become the dominant species, this causes aquatic plants such as Water mint and Water Forget-me-not to decline, these are the favoured plants for Great Crested Newts, smooth Newts and Palmate newts to lay their eggs on, any decline in these species is detrimental to the successful breeding of all three newt species, we were able to do some of this work before the pond became flooded but it wasn't enough, this will be an ongoing task for as long as the group exists.

Once the pond had flooded we had to move our activities to a safer and drier part of the reserve so we switched our attention to the grassland in the mitigation areas, where when these areas were created in the early years of development several hibernacula were put. These were dual purpose, over-wintering for amphibians and spring and summer basking sites for reptiles, these have fallen into a bit of dis-repair and have been encroached by surrounding Blackthorn and Hazel our job was to clear back the scrub to expose them to light, thus encouraging regrowth of vegetation to encourage Slow worms and common Lizards back to the site. I have noted a gradual spread of Cowslips around these hibernacula several years ago but have not seen any for the last two years, this is also due to the lack of light and encroachment of scrub, I am hoping we will encourage them to re-establish.

The group has also carried out a few litter picking sessions in and around the pond recently - a bit less interesting and glamorous but non the less an essential part of what we do, litter causes all sorts of hazards for all wildlife in the Reserve as well as looking very unsightly.

We have quite a good nucleus of a group now and during this season we have had good numbers attending work tasks, we have been very pleased to welcome new members including two families with young children - the future of the group, the reserve and conservation.

Best regards
Natalie



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Rotary



CONTACTS

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

YOUR LOCAL
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ROUNDUP

April 2020

Basingstoke Sports Awards

Basingstoke Deane Rotary is proud to have been one of the sponsors of the Basingstoke Sports Awards. Our President Aif McCarthy was pleased to be able to attend. Basingstoke has a wealth of sporting talent over a wide range of sports with world class gold, silver and bronze medal winners amongst them.

North Hampshire Hospital Trust WOW! Awards

The compassion, dedication and skill of staff from across Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust were celebrated during a special WOW! Awards ceremony. Hundreds of nominations come from hospital users or their families and also from their fellow staff. Our Club is very pleased to be one of the sponsors for the WOW awards and President Aif McCarthy attended to present a well-deserved award. The WOW awards are a brilliant way to say thank you to the staff from the Trusts hospitals in Basingstoke, Winchester and Andover for their outstanding work.

Stroke Prevention Day 16th May 2020

For every 10 people diagnosed with high blood pressure, seven remain undiagnosed and untreated – that is more than 5.5 million people in England alone. **Knowing Your Blood Pressure** helps people to understand the link between high blood pressure and stroke, as well as other risk factors and, crucially, what they can do to reduce their risk of having a stroke. Stroke Prevention is one of several health and wellbeing campaigns that Rotary clubs across Great Britain and Ireland are involved in. We will be holding our Stroke prevention day on May 16th when we could be taking your blood pressure and giving advice.

Look out in next month's Rotary Round Up and Facebook for announcements on venue and times

Symptoms of stroke

Signs of stroke - FAST

Face: Can the person smile? Has their face fallen on one side?

Arms: Can the person raise both arms and keep them there?

Speech problems: Can the person speak clearly and understand what you say? Is their speech slurred?

Time: If you see any of these three signs, it's time to call 999.

The **FAST** test helps to spot the three most common symptoms of stroke. But there are other signs that you should always take seriously. These include:

- Sudden weakness or numbness on one side of the body, including legs, hands or feet.
- Difficulty finding words or speaking in clear sentences.
- Sudden blurred vision or loss of sight in one or both eyes.
- Sudden memory loss or confusion, and dizziness or a sudden fall.
- A sudden, severe headache.

If you spot any of these signs of a stroke, don't wait. Call 999 straight away.

Ambulance paramedics are trained in stroke, and will take the person to the best hospital for specialist treatment.



'Happy Easter'

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



Haymarket Family Mediation

Separation and divorce usually involve a major crisis for a family where emotions can run high, especially if there are children to consider.

However, with mediation it can be handled calmly, where both sides work together to find the best solution for them and their children.

Sheila Parkes, who heads Haymarket Family Mediation at Phillips Solicitors incorporating Brain Chase Coles, believes mediation is one of the most sensible and cost-effective ways of resolving family problems when a relationship has broken down as it provides clients with a safe environment for them to meet with a neutral experienced mediator who will assist them in finding a resolution that works for them both.

In fact, for the majority of people, mediation is a quicker and cheaper option for resolving family difficulties than going to court, where the outcome can never be accurately predicted. Sheila believes separating couples are the best people to make the decisions that will affect their future and that of their children rather than a judge imposing a decision.

Sheila says “In my experience mediation is an effective way of resolving issues in a dignified, respectful, constructive and co-operative manner. Mutually acceptable solutions can be found even in the most difficult cases, whether the disagreement is about child-care arrangements or how the family assets should be divided.”

Sheila and her team at Haymarket Family Mediation are based at Town Gate, 38 London Street, Basingstoke and can offer mediation with clients together, by shuttle (where each client is in a different room), or even by skype – whatever suits the clients more. Sheila is also qualified to see children as part of the mediation process in appropriate cases.

Haymarket Family Mediation is approved by the Legal Aid Agency to offer Legal Aid for those who qualify financially. This is a welcome benefit to clients who may otherwise have nowhere else to turn to for help. Mediation can also be used for cross generational issues such as grandparents.

If you feel that mediation is right for you or to find out more information, please contact Sheila by emailing or by calling 01256 460830.

Details about Haymarket Family Mediation can be found by visiting www.phillips-law.co.uk/haymarket-family-mediation



Probus hears from Local Author and Raconteur

The ability to engulf an audience in laughter is a real skill which Mel Rees easily displays. He was the guest speaker at the latest Probus Club meeting and yet just spoke off the cuff. He had nothing but his memory to rely on as he thoroughly entertained everyone. There was no specific topic despite his talk having the title “My Family and Other Setbacks” as he gave anecdote after anecdote about his observations of life.

It is not surprising he has been passed on from one club to another so these days he gives over 200 talks each year across the south east of England, sometimes two a day, driving over 30,000 miles in the process. And what good value he gives as he passes from one topic to another with always the amusing aspects of life's experiences coming to the fore.

Living in Ash Vale, or, as he describes it, Upper Ash Vale in Surrey, with a posh GU postcode, he therefore asserts he cannot catch the Coronavirus and is most disparaging about the neighbouring conurbation of Aldershot. When he had to use a mobile medical unit he asked the nurses if next time instead of using the Tesco car park that they use the one at Waitrose as they would get better quality patients.

A multi faceted individual he acts as a tour guide at the Hoggs Back Brewery and finds it amusing when talking to the visitors, if they hesitate before answering, he knows they lie about where they live. Reigate instead of Redhill, near Horsham instead of Crawley, Hove instead of Brighton – it becomes a double barrelled name of Hove Actually, West Camberley instead of Blackwater.

He has written several books which mirror his view on life and its vagaries especially about politics and his view of Guardianista readers and PC attitudes. His nomme de plume is Anthony Mann and despite having one book as the Daily Express book of the month he could not get any literary agent or publisher interested in his outpourings. He had no option but to self publish and set up The Trouser Press. Today several of his books are on their third printing. Naturally all editions were on sale so a steady trade was carried out. But they can also be purchased on Amazon or downloaded as an E-book.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club



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

BEAVERS

Since the Beavers started back in January, we have covered lots of exciting topics and badges.

We have done a Glow Stick Hike in the woods which the Kids really enjoyed, albeit they got covered in Mud!

The Beavers have also had a go at designing and drawing their own cartoon character.

The Beavers designed invitations to invite their parents to a Valentine Dinner Date at the Scout Hall, which we had an amazing turn out for the parents were waited on by their children, who also cooked all the food. It was an amazing evening.

We have also covered this term, International Day, where the Beavers got to understand what their World Badge was all about and found some fascinating facts out about other countries. And of course, they had Pancakes!!

There has also been evenings of Science Experiments, Mother's Day Art and Crafts, making a musical instrument. The term will finish off with an Easter Egg Hunt.

There has been quite a few Beavers swim up to Cubs to continue the Scouting Adventure, we have also had some new kids join us to start their Scouting Adventure.

Group News

If you have a child who may be interested in joining us and join the Adventure, 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 are 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....

To find out more please call....

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

Douglas, on 07733325498 or email agsl.basingstokeairscouts@outlook.com



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Dear friends, March is when we celebrate our wedding anniversary, 47 years ago Marilyn and I were wed in St Albans Church in Havant. We've accumulated so many memories over those years and sometimes its really good to reflect on them. Thank God for our ability to remember.

I remember one of the first computers I worked on was made by a company based in Reading called DEC. The computer, a PDP11/34 came with a massive 1Mb memory on six circuit boards each almost the size of an A3 sheet of paper. Later, one of the first Apple computers I used remember that unbelievably it came with a 20MB Hard Drive, almost the size of shoebox. Ha!

Today my mobile phone has 64Gb of memory (that's 64 million, million) and even now you can attach a Tb drive that's e equivalent of one million, million, million! Phenomenal. But even these figures do not come close to the capacity of the human memory and what it can both store and retrieve.

So why when I go into the kitchen why do I sometimes stop and think "now what did I come in here for?" Funny thing our memory isn't it? Do you have a way of remembering things? Some folk tie a knot in their hankies or put a rubber band on their fingers or more lately use a digital assistant. School children will often write on their hands to help them remember.

The classic example in my role and one that most ministers will know and quake with fear is when I meet someone from the past and their opening line is "You don't remember me do you?" One out of possibly thousands of faces. I'm usually pretty good with faces but names are another thing so if I haven't seen you in a while please forgive me if I recognize you but fail to remember your name and blush red. You could begin with "Hi, I'm"

It does serve though to emphasize the value that we place on being remembered and recognised. If possible, by name, which is why I suppose in the Bible God spoke to people by name rather than just "Hey you!" in fact he was so determined to remember them that he followed the example of schoolchildren and said "I have written your name on the palms of my hands." Which I guess is God's way of saying "I will never forget you." Whenever he opens his hands to do things he has us in mind!

Now f course God doesn't have hands or elasticated arms stretching down from heaven but he does have your hands and mine. They are the practical means by which he shows his care for people and reveals that they are remembered and not forgotten. Right now in the hospitals, surgeries and care homes God is using healing hands. In communities, neighborhoods and families people are showing how they care with acts of love and kindness. Helping with the shopping, a phone call to keep in touch. Wherever this virus is healed, pain is eased or fear and anxiety removed the hands of God are at work and people know that they are not forgotten. (Isaiah 43.1-3/ 49.15-16)

Prayer: Lord help us today to use our hands, our love, and our lives to remind those in any kind of need that they are not forgotten. AMEN

Your friend and Vicar
Revd Arthur
01256 324734



World Book Day at Merton...

Merton pupils excelled, once again, when we celebrated World Book Day! There were some extraordinary, creative costumes which really impressed us all. Throughout the day, the children took part in activities linked to a range of authors to develop their love for reading.



Gordon Brown Residential

Our Year 3/4 pupils weren't too lucky with the weather during their residential to the Gordon Brown Centre! But they didn't let this stop them from having a fantastic time. Whilst there, they completed various tasks, including abseiling and den building, and finished the time off with a laser disco!



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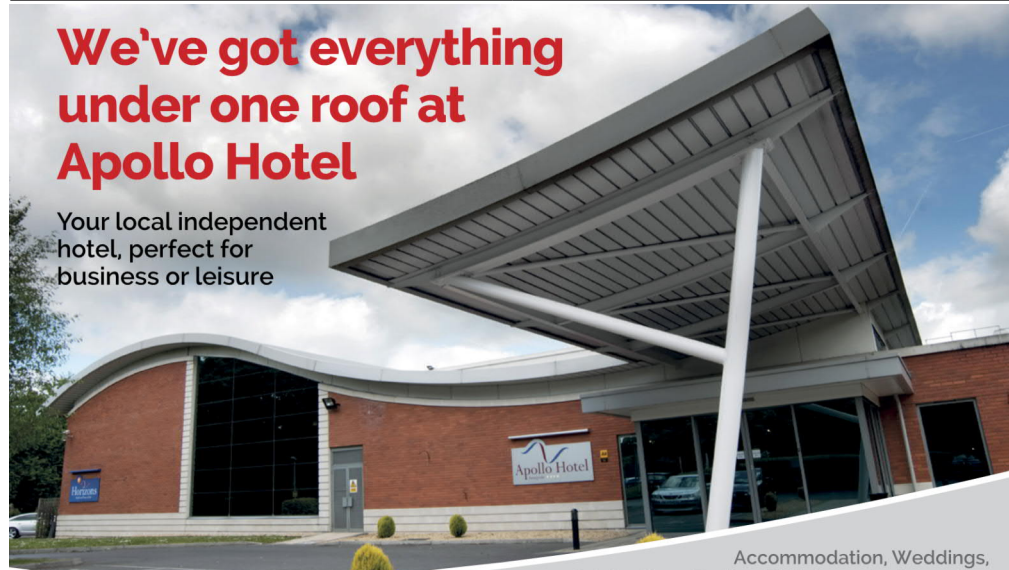
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www.marnellbowlingclub.co.uk



Open Day will be subject to
restrictions of coronavirus outbreak.

Basingstoke Samaritans – over half a century of support

Samaritans have been a presence in Basingstoke since 1969 and have been offering emotional support to the town and beyond from the early 1970's from our base in Essex Road.

Samaritans is a unique charity dedicated to reducing the feelings of isolation and disconnection that can lead to poor mental health, and in the saddest cases, to suicide. Every six seconds someone contacts us, every six seconds we can help someone turn their life around; our listening volunteers can make a real difference to someone's future.

Our brilliant volunteers took over 19,835 contacts from callers and gave over **3016 volunteer hours last year**. Every person supporting Basingstoke Samaritans is a volunteer.

Along with supporting callers by phone, email and face to face, we also have strong Outreach Teams supporting our Community. These teams support our schools and colleges, the railway station, give talks to Groups, distribute literature to GP surgeries, our hospital, libraries and CAB and organise events in shops and supermarkets raising awareness and fundraising.

Like all Samaritans branches, Basingstoke is completely self-funded with donations from members of the public and organisations that choose to support us.

We are always looking for new members and all volunteers receive full training in preparation for the kinds of conversations we have. New volunteers are initially supported by an experienced mentor, offering experience to ensure we are doing the right thing for our callers. If Listening isn't for you, we also have several support roles to help our branch function.

We offer a chance to develop a range of new skills and the confidence to use them.

If you are interested in finding out more come to an information session, or sign up on the below link: <https://www.samaritans.org/support-us/volunteer/>

Image 1 – Basingstoke Samaritans branch logo



Image 2 - Branch members supporting Brew Monday on 20th January 2020



Page 14



In the Basingstoke area we continue to receive reports that people's cars are being broken into, tampered with or stolen. As a result we would like to keep residents up to date with relevant 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.

- When leaving your car, close all windows and lock your car. This is the best way to protect your belongings.
- Upon locking your vehicle try your car door to ensure it is actually locked!
- Take all your personal possessions with you and do not leave items on display.
- Even items of little value, such as shopping bags and clothing, may tempt a potential thief to break into the vehicle to see whether they contain anything worth stealing. They may even be tempted by such things as coins for the car park, sunglasses, packs of medication or other items that can earn quick cash.
- If your car does not already have an alarm or immobiliser, consider having a Thatcham approved product fitted.
- Keep your car keys away from any windows and doors to prevent them from being "fished" through letterboxes, or seen by opportunist thieves.
- Ensure that your front door is locked correctly (lift handle and turn the key if UPVC door).
- If keys have been taken, change car locks immediately.
- 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.
- Secure your number plates with tamper-resistant screws. The easiest way to change the identity of a stolen vehicle or avoid speeding tickets and parking tickets is to fit stolen number plates. Using security screws to attach your vehicle's number plates makes it harder for thieves to get your number.
- Fit locking, anti-tamper wheel nuts to secure alloy wheels. Stolen wheels are valuable, either as parts or for their scrap value. Using locking wheel nuts reduces the risk of your vehicle's wheels being stolen.
- Secure anything that's on the outside of your vehicle. Anything left on roof-racks, tailgate racks, holiday top boxes or in tool chests are easily stolen when the vehicle is parked. The use of cable locks, padlocks and self-locking tools chests, which are secured to the vehicle, makes them more secure, but still, don't leave things in them if you can avoid it.
- Report all suspicious activity or offences to the police. Even if we cannot take immediate action it will help us build a better picture of the issue which will help us combat it more effectively in the long-run.

I hope you find this information useful.

Regards, PCSO Holt, 16552.