

POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

November 2020

Distribution of 5,400

Issue 225



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Closing date to submit articles and adverts (5pm 15-11-20) editor@poppleymatters.org.uk

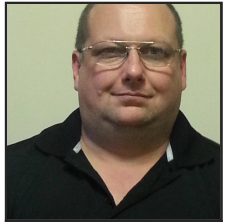


Editor
Jane Frankum

Editor November already and Christmas is only a few short weeks away. This Christmas will be so very different this year with this awful Covid-19 causing lots of restrictions. There is most unlikely to going to be much easing of restrictions until well into next year. I guess we will just have to adapt. We will not be sending Christmas cards but will donate to charities the amount we spend each year on cards and stamps. I will be doing lots of phone calls to friends and relatives also contact via social media. I think the world will come out of this crisis and we will do what we always do and adapt to any situation. I wonder what it would have been like without the technology with our mobiles and computers? It must be really lonely if you are stuck indoors with only a radio or television for company? I don't know about you but even

the television is churning out repeats as they are unable to make new programmes or even record new episodes of the programmes we love. There is always the library of course they; don't just loan out books. You might like to join our Popley Matters Facebook page where we share stories and thoughts and communicate with each other. Just one note, it is not a selling page so please do not put adverts in as they will only get removed. If you want to advertise, please contact me

On page 14, there is an article sent to Popley Matters from Sherborne St John. They ask politely that cyclists do not use the footpath that goes into and past the Pavilion as it not a cyclist route and there have been near misses and just a very few people being abusive when asked to dismount. There is no indication of where these cyclists come from as many cyclists cycle for miles. Those who are lucky enough to enjoy our countryside by going for walks will see just how beautiful the area we live in is. However more cars are parking as people are working from home so please give a thought to people like me who have to use disabled buggies, and families with little ones who are in a pushchair that need to walk safely on the paths. Lastly, please stay safe and look after each other. Contact me by on phone 819924, drop me a note through our door at 405 Abbey Road RG24 9EL or Email 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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Thank you for your support.



With the festive period looming ever closer there are, I hope, plenty of opportunities for celebration, regardless of the weird situation we all find ourselves in with Covid. I hate to take a negative perspective on things but unfortunately this time of year also presents opportunities for criminal activity. As a result I would like to leave residents with some basic crime prevention advice.

When Shopping:

- Make sure your handbag is closed so a pickpocket would find it difficult to get into without you knowing.
- Never leave a bag unattended in a trolley, even if for a couple of seconds.
- Try to keep wallets in an inside pocket and out of sight from a potential pickpocket.
- When entering your PIN number at a terminal ensure no one can see you enter it.
- Try to pay for items on a debit card rather than carrying large amounts of cash. If this is not possible keep cash to a minimum.
- Before you leave your car, ensure all windows and doors are closed and locked.
- Avoid leaving your purchases and presents in your vehicle. If you must make sure they are not on display, store in the boot, and make sure the car is locked.
- Think about the item you are buying someone - are there any security products you could purchase to help them keep it safe? I.e. if buying a bike think about also getting an accredited D lock.

At Cashpoints:

- If you see someone suspicious hanging around, cancel the transaction and use another cashpoint.
- Before inserting your card have a look at the machine to check it looks normal.
- When entering your PIN number, make sure others around cannot see.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Only withdraw what you reasonably need.
- Put your money and your cards away safely before leaving the machine.

At Home:

- Don't leave Christmas presents in view of a window.
- Do not leave keys under doormats, or in easily accessible places.
- If you are buying or receiving valuable gifts such as bikes, mobiles or electrical items register them for free at www.immobilise.com in doing so you will assist the police in returning your property should it be lost or stolen.
- Dispose of present packaging carefully as empty boxes left outside can advertise that you have goods inside.
- Refrain from keeping large amounts of cash at home.
- A secure home will reduce the chance of a burglary. Make sure windows and doors are locked every time you leave the house.
- Avoid leaving tools and ladders lying around that could assist someone get into your home.
- When you go out at night make it appear that someone is home. Draw the curtains, and leave a light on. You could always put a lamp or radio on a timer switch.
- Never allow people into your home unless you are expecting them or have made arrangements with the company beforehand.
- Never buy goods and services at the door or give away personal information.

I hope everyone is able to have an enjoyable and trouble-free Christmas!

Regards, **PCSO Holt 16552.**



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County Councillor Report: If you drop off your children or park near Merton Infant and Junior School you may notice some "Parking Buddies". I used part of my "Councillor Devolved Budget" to purchase some for the schools and they will be in Merton School uniform colour. I hope people take note parking cars for 20 to 30 minutes (and I have had reports of nearly an hour with engine running) is not fair on the children having to walk through the pollution breathing the toxic fumes in. It is not fair to the residents who live in the street and have their garages blocked so they can't get in or out to park. It is not fair, and frankly dangerous, for the little ones to have to step out into the road because they can't see round the cars. Adults can often see over the cars but at half the size the little ones can't see over the bonnet let alone the whole car. Contact me. **Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email:- jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk.**



Popley West: At the last virtual meeting of the full council Labour Councillors put forward a motion to request our MPs to support and campaign for our service men and women of the Commonwealth to be allowed to stay in this country after their years of service in our British services. We are pleased to say it was passed unanimously. It is ludicrous that they can serve in war zones being prepared to lay down their lives for our freedom. After twelve years' service in the British services they should be given British citizenship. They are, after all, members from the countries that form our British Commonwealth.

On our regular "walkabouts" we were pleased to see more areas have been weeded, and hedgerows that are the responsibility of the borough cut back to clear pathways and make it safer to walk.

The Community Park has now been awarded to Wicksteed Park and they met on site to finalise the designs. We have been assured that work should start very soon We have asked for some drawings or photos to give an idea of what will be installed and we will post them on to the Popley Matters Facebook page as soon as we get them. Persimmons have still not reacted to the request made two years ago to change the name on the flats near their show rooms. For information the original, and still, Magnolia Court has been here in Popley for decades. Let's hope that valuable time is not wasted if the emergency services are called because of their unwillingness to simply change the name that they were asked to do months before the first one was even sold!

The area by Melrose Walk that has been turned

into a virtual car park is on the work list to improve the parking. However, the position it's in means about two years on the priority list. The list for Basingstoke and Deane is in the hundreds and will take a decade at least to complete and that's not counting all the new developments.

Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924

cllr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

cllr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

Popley East: Once again the centre of the road plastic bollards at the start of Popley Way at the Reading Road end have been replaced after vandalism. Simply, they are there to discourage U turns on Popley Way which is obviously a dangerous manoeuvre causing a potential traffic accident. We are aware that some motorists resent having to turn left when leaving Lidl and Dunelm but that argument is historical and the road layout cannot be changed. Every time the bollards are replaced the cost is borne by council tax payers.

A range of issues are referred to us by residents and, despite continuing restrictions on social distancing and the other precautions required under the Covid 19 virus, we are working to resolve problems for residents and will continue to do so.

Please come to us when issues occur so we can try to support you.

Cllr David Potter 07941507801

cllr.david.potter@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Janet Westbrook 07747335200

cllr.janet.westbrook@basingstoke.gov.uk




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School Governor Vacancies Merton Infant School

Our Governing Body is made up of Parents, Staff, Local Authority and Co-opted Governors. Co-opted Governors include both parents and members of the community. We currently have opportunities for both Parent and Co-opted governors.

Being a school governor is a challenging but hugely rewarding role. It will give you the chance to make a real difference to young children, give something back to your local community and use and develop your skills in a board-level environment.

Schools need governing boards that have a balance and diversity of knowledge, skills and experience to enable it to be effective. Anyone aged 18 or over can be a governor or trustee (but there are some exceptions) and you do not need to be a parent of a child in the school. There is no requirement for you to have an understanding of the education system, just the necessary skills, character and time to contribute.

Our school needs, and would benefit from, a range of professional knowledge on the governing board including finance and fundraising, human resources, legal, marketing and public relations, IT and social media, property and estates management, and organisational change.

You should be: prepared to commit to the role; confident in having courageous conversations; curious with an enquiring mind; able to challenge the status quo to improve things; collaborative to build strong relationships; and creative and innovative.

For an informal chat about being a Governor, please contact Emily Mean, Chair of Governors or Larissa James, Headteacher via the school's email or telephone number above.

Please note all Governors are required to undertake a DBS check as part of the recruitment process.

We look forward to hearing from you.
Emily Mean

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Old School Friends Reunite and Make a Calendar for Two Local Charities

Old school friends Richard Bone and Brian James had not seen each other for fifty years when they met again in January 2019. Things had changed since those old days when they were at school together at Fairfield's School though, with the two friends meeting again whilst both having treatment for Leukaemia.

There was a lot to catch up on though, with them both having gone into making music, Brian as a solo artist making tapes, CDs and records for many charities and Richard having played drums in the successful group The Crack who also had made demo records.

The two friends talked about how they would like to give something back to those who were helping them through their journey with their treatment of the cancer. "We have some pictures from our school days which we knew would bring a smile from a lot of people Richard said." So we talked about making a charity calendar.

Sadly six months after finishing his treatment, Richard's partner of forty years, Janet, was diagnosed with bowel cancer she was admitted to St Michael's Hospice where in February 2020 she passed away.

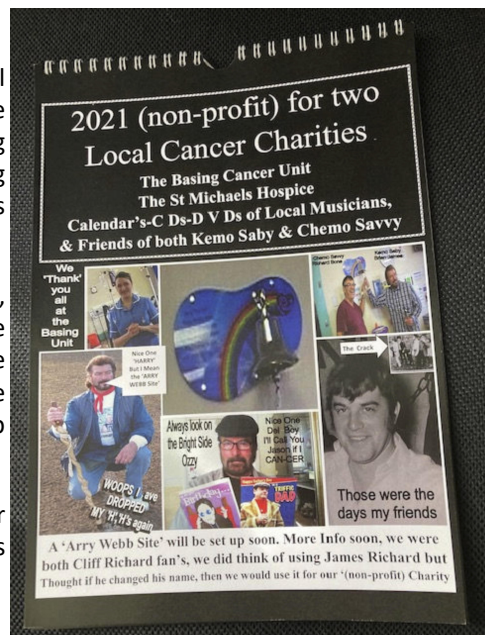
"I cannot praise the hospice staff enough" Richard said "It gives people leaving this world the dignity they deserve."

Brian too has had friends pass through the Hospice so the two friends decided to make the calendar for the Hospice. "It would be wonderful to get the calendar out as far as possible to cheer people up during this time, and it will be a great bonus if we can raise some money for the two charities at the same time," Brian said.

The Hospice is always touched by all the wonderful ways that our supporters come up with to raise funds for us" said Daisy Mitchell Senior Fundraising Manager at the Hospice. "We'd like to say a big thank you to Richard and Brian for supporting us in this way".

We cannot run marathons, we can't bungee jump, we can't swim the English Channel or any of the usual fundraising schemes" Richard said "What we are doing is a bit off the wall but we have seen the hospice work first hand and really want to help them".

If you would like to support by buying a calendar please contact Brian on 07368215927, 52 Fountains Close or brianjames4548@gmail.com.



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Lions Club of Basingstoke

Covid19 is making us work harder. But people are remarkably resilient, inventive and supportive and the problems which we try to address are local, generally involving families or individuals, and can generally be fixed quickly.

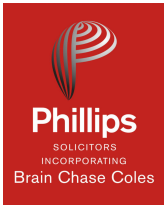
Fundraising: We ran another Zoom Quiz which was well received and more profitable than the last one. But it was somewhat marred by technical problems. We'll try a different approach next time. In spite of the fact that all participants managed to score within 8 points of each other there were the usual complaints about the questions being too hard, too easy, too young, too old, wrong subjects etc. fortunately the question master wears duck feathers.

Welfare: We had a case of a young girl in need of a specialized wheelchair for which her parents had been unable to raise the balance of funds needed. We and the **Loddon Valley Lions** (Tadley) made up the difference.

World Sight Day: Denied our usual spot in the Malls, Morrisons were persuaded to host us and a publicity campaign was conducted accordingly. We'd like to thank Morrisons, and of course Vision Express, Leightons and Specs Warehouse for their usual very welcome support.

Reboot IT: Basingstoke Voluntary Action and our Club are co-operating in this scheme to revamp old computers to be passed on to people who cannot afford new ones. Our Fundraising Chairman is so keen on the project that he went to Upton Grey to pick one up. So if you have a redundant computer you'd like to donate for re-cycling please contact BVA on 01256 423816 or email contact@bva.org.uk with your details and they will arrange collection.

Community: We nearly lost two of our members who went out to support the Keep Britain Tidy campaign on a particularly windy day - but they returned fitter and hungrier than they went out.



Six tips when considering divorce

Dealing with a divorce is never easy but Elizabeth Ford, a family law solicitor and mediator at Phillips Solicitors offers six tips to help make the process as smooth and amicable as possible.

1. Try relationship counselling

Consider Relationship Counselling to see if there is anything you can do to make your relationship work, as after all, starting divorce proceedings or entering into a separation agreement is a life-changing decision which should not be made quickly.

2. Get legal advice

It is important to have a full understanding of your legal rights and responsibilities. Having an idea of what the divorce process involves will help you feel much more in control and less anxious. Write a list of questions to take to your first appointment; no question is trivial or irrelevant.

3. Gather your financial information

You and your spouse will need to share financial information with each other. If possible, work together to gather details about your income, property valuations, mortgages, savings, pensions and debts. If you cannot do this together, write down what you can recall about the financial arrangements during the marriage.

4. Keep communicating with each other

This will be a very difficult time but maintaining open channels for communication can make planning your futures much easier. Make a written note of what you have talked about to remind you both.

5. Mediation is often helpful

For many people, mediation is a quicker and cheaper option for resolving family difficulties about children or finances than going to court. It empowers separating couples to make their own decisions together.

We can refer you to a local mediation service or you can choose to come directly to Haymarket Family Mediation, which is part of Phillips Solicitors instead if you prefer.

6. Update your personal details and entitlements

You should check to see whether you are making the right claims for benefits including Child Benefit, the council tax reduction if you are living separately and Universal Credit.

If you are considering divorce, please contact Elizabeth by emailing elizabeth.ford@phillips-law.co.uk or by calling 01256 854628.

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





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

As the Beavers and Cubs continue to meet weekly on Zoom here is a look at back at our meetings

But first things first, who got the answers to the 3 questions we set you last month?

Well here are the answers

1. How many Scouts are there in the world? – Answer: 31 million
2. What countries do not have Scouting? – Answer: Cuba, North Korea, China, Laos, Andorra & Vatican City
3. The Airline tail belonged to Fiji and the airline is called Air Fiji

How did you do?

Now to back to what we have been up to, we have continued to work on the Stage 2 Air Activities Badge, with activities that have looked at the different types of aircraft there are as well as how to keep yourself safe while visiting an airfield, Once again let's test your knowledge, with a little quiz

1. You are waiting for a helicopter to land. Should you...?
 - A. Run towards it
 - B. Stand on the spot where it's going to land to get a good view
 - C. Keep well away and wait for the rotors to stop and the pilot to signal it's safe before you approach it
2. A jet aeroplane is standing on the tarmac with its engine running. Where is safe to stand?
 - A. In front of the Jet intake
 - B. To the side of the aircraft and well clear.
 - C. Behind the jet exhaust.

Answers next issue

At the end of September, we had a "visit" from our former Scout Leader who is a Loadmaster with the RAF who talked to the Cubs and Beavers about his job on the Voyager in-air refueling planes and what it is like to fly as well as is part time job as a Loadmaster with the Battle of Britain Memorial Flights, Dakota Aircraft

Last month also saw us having a look at hidden disabilities, with the Beavers & Cubs learning how people on the Autistic Spectrum can suffer from sensory overload and had a demonstration of this by being shown a video which had lots of over layered noises and images which overloaded their senses.

On the 13th October we had a look at our local area, with the Cubs and Beavers having to draw a map and placing on the map all the services they think a town or city needs. We then had a look at Basingstoke then and now looking photos to see how the town has changed over the years.

To meet publication deadlines when are unable to report further weeks in October, but will probably include a Virtual Halloween party

Watch this space to find out about more of our adventures online and maybe who knows may a face to face report

Douglas Gowan
Assistant Group Scout Leader



Let's Move....

Free Seated Exercise Sessions for the Elderly
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Use of Local footpaths linking to Popley Area

The pandemic problems have had one great result with many more people of all ages walking the local footpaths for exercise to improve their health and well-being.

Many people who have never used footpaths before are using 208/18/3 from Popley to access the Sherborne St John's recreation ground and the surrounding countryside.

Most people are aware that cycling is not permitted on any footpath.

Unfortunately, during Lockdown a very small number of people have attempted to cycle along the footpaths with several near accidents to children and walkers . There has also been a small number damaging the notices and shouting abuse at people attempting to stop them which is totally unacceptable.

Please continue to enjoy walking the paths but please also respect the regulations to ensure everyone is safe.



Volunteer for Home-Start NWH!



Our volunteers provide positive and friendly support to families with young children. The volunteering roles are varied, increasingly flexible and always tailored to fit around our volunteers own life.

Our volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds and all have their own unique life experiences. We are currently recruiting for new volunteers to join our team. To become a volunteer you will need to undertake a 25hr training course. **During these uncertain times, there may be a mixture of face to face training and online sessions.**

Our next Volunteer Course will run every Tuesday over 5 weeks starting **19th January 2021 from 9:30am-2pm!**



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Probus Hears About an Unusual Hobby

Some people collect items as a hobby: stamps, books, antiques and so forth. David Rawden, a member of the Probus Club of Basingstoke, collected hills. They don't take up room in the house and they don't need dusting. After ascending all the Wainwright listed Lake District fells he turned his attention to the Pennines and county tops. He visited the highest point of all the English counties which gave him a Heineken experience – reaching those parts of the country people would not normally reach.

The highest is Scarfell Pike at 3209 feet situated in the Cumbrian mountains; the lowest is in Norfolk, Beacon Hill at 345 feet, just west of Cromer. Most tops are surmounted by a trig point or cairn so that you know you have succeeded. However, this does not happen in most eastern counties or those near to London. On one occasion he wandered through Pavis Wood near Tring trying to decide which hump was the highest point of Hertfordshire.

There are some tops not far from Basingstoke which can be accessed by a simple walk from a car park. One of these is Leith Hill near Dorking in Surrey and another is Whitehorse Hill, west of Wantage in Oxfordshire. Easiest of all is Ditchling Beacon, not far from Lewes in East Sussex. There is a large, pleasant summit area at Black Down, in West Sussex just south of Haslemere (Surrey). Walbury Hill in Berkshire, near Combe to the south west of Newbury, can be easily reached from the car parks at Inkpen Beacon. Continuing east along the Wayfarer's Walk brings you to Pilot Hill, the highest point of Hampshire situated just west of Highclere.

When we come out of lockdown some of the more active readers might like to visit a few of the local tops. They will be rewarded with a splendid view.



Dear Friends

I'm writing this from a hotel bedroom in sunny Corfu. Yes! we have escaped the doom and gloom for a much-needed break. COVID-19 seems to be resurgent and the figures for new infections slowly climbing! We were warned to expect this and on the face of it, it does seem quite serious. But is it as bad as the media would have us believe?

Not for the first time I have to question the motive and style of reporting that takes place across our media platforms; not to diminish in anyway the seriousness of the rise of infections but rather to highlight just how much negativity and scaremongering we seem to be subjected to in order for the media to sell copy. It feels very much that they have lost sight of their objectivity in order to sustain profitability - after all they are at the root in the business of making money.

A friend of mine recently posted the following on her Facebook Page: "56 Cases in Wiltshire per 100,000 people this last week. I think that works out to be 0.056% of the population and 99.5% of the population who currently haven't tested positive this week. I'm going to focus my energy on the positives which will in turn help my immune system to function at optimum levels and love people as much as I can and wear a face covering when appropriate. Peace x x:

I read elsewhere that there is a similar picture in so many other parts of the country, of course there are hot spots, there was bound to be as we attempt to return to some level of normality and we continue to hold those places in our prayers. It doesn't mean we have to sink into the 'slough of despond' (a fictional, deep bog in John Bunyan's allegory).

Jesus warns His followers often enough not to get caught up in rumours and tales and to focus our lives on Him and He will sustain us through all tests and trials. Believe it, it's true, it is a real hope and substantial hope on which to live! Christmas is looming large on the horizon and whatever shape or form it may take this year let's all strive to be positive, to prepare once again to celebrate the birthday of the Saviour of the world. I'm looking forward to it and I'm certain it will be joyous whether it's restricted to a few or released to all of us.

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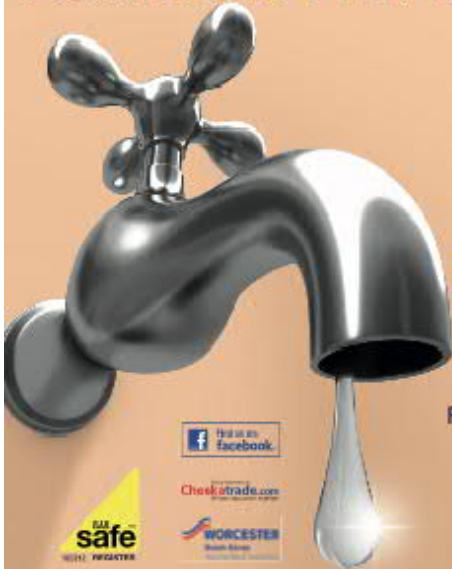
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Hello Popley

We our all still out and about doing everything we possibly can to reach out to our members. Now the colder weather is approaching how about a lovely hot two course meal from Oasis Cafe delivered to your home? If you are interested contact details will be at the end of my article .

What have I been up to in the last month? I have been out and about delivering hot meals, food shopping for members who can't get out, and offering one to one befriending services before the weather really becomes too cold as following national guideline, I need do the one to one outside safely. I have also been out and about delivering yummy cakes. They cost £3 a week for three nice slices of cake. All are home baked by our very own talented Deputy Manager, contact details at the end of this article.

I have just completed making up some art and crafts bags for our members and I have included some word searches and nice bits of colouring to do . I am also doing two Zoom sessions for members that have Internet, and encouraging members who don't to dial in to fun and games Monday. Anyone for bingo every Tuesday? The cost for bingo is £5 for a book of five cards and it's up to members if they use all five cards in one session or one card a week. There is a small gift size chocolate for the winner, delivered by myself. It is a great way to see more of our members from a safe distance. I'm currently looking donations of raffle prizes for our monthly raffle and our Christmas Hamper scheme. I have received some lovely bottles of wine, and biscuits, men's socks,. and some ladies' toiletries. Also included from a lovely Popley resident will be some new Avon products and one of her own paintings which is going to much appreciated.

I have just completed my Christmas Shoe Box appeal by filling some shoe boxes for a child that is run by the Rotary Club. Christmas isn't all just about immediate family and giving and receiving, it's also about charity and helping everyone out this year. I have again decided not to send Christmas cards as I spend ages writing them all out and then I lose them. The charity I have personally decided to do this year is the Rotary Christmas Box Appeal. I will also pop money into a random charity tin. It is a good way of helping others out over the festivities. I'm also sure the Jane and Paul Frankum will be doing up their usual lovely hamper again for a local family which I will also pop a few bits in.

We are always happy to receive enquires for new members and are always happy to speak with potential volunteers, please contact me at francesca.wildash@mha.org.uk or my work mobile 07720680403. My working hours are Monday to Friday 9am to 2pm please be patient with me as I'm out and about alot and will get back to everyone that enquires.

Take care Popley
Francesca Wildash



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Was your child born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017?

If so they will be starting school in September 2021! Marnel Community Infants is an outstanding infant school that provides an exciting and innovative education to all of its pupils including access to our Forest School programme. Our academic results are in the top 10% of all schools in the country and our facilities have all been updated in the last five years. Due to Covid-19 we are not holding any 'in person' tours at this current time, however, we have produced a video which will enable you to listen to the parent talk I usually give as well as giving you the 'normal' tour of the school. I appreciate that this is not quite the same as seeing us in action but, having shown the video to parents who have done this tour in previous years, they agree it reflects what they saw when they visited in person. The video can be found on the school website; there is a link on the home page. I will also be offering telephone or Microsoft Teams meetings with parents too so you will have the opportunity to talk to me directly and ask any questions you may have. It was not an easy decision to make in terms of 'in person' tours but I hope it shows you our commitment to the safety and wellbeing of the children in our care. Please do talk to friends and neighbours about their experience at Marnel Infants and see it for yourself from our video.

The applications for September will open 1st November and close on 15th January. Applications can be done online via the Hampshire website or if you require a paper copy please get in touch and we will get one out to you.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to our school community.

Best wishes,
Miss Susan Cox
Headteacher



New!

Friday Tea Break Club

Friday's 10 - 11:30 am

Starting 30th October

**Join us at our weekly fun & welcoming club
A different activity each week including Arts &
Crafts, Games, Music & Special Guests!**

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All Welcome - FREE online club using Zoom

Extra support available - Including
how to set up & use Zoom



Please Register in Advance - Zoom link below

For More info email: info@bddf.org.uk



A good start to the season so far.

Our U11s are currently looking for one or two more players to boost their existing squad. The team train on a Tuesday and play matches in PHYL on a Sunday. For further details please email U11@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

We also currently have space for Players in our MFC Popley All Stars Team. If you have a child in school Year R or Year 1 and are interested in joining our group, please contact:

Andy Williams - andymfcpopley@hotmail.co.uk

Here's to more football in the coming months.

Find us on Facebook @ MFC Popley Youth.

Kind regards
Vicky Isaacs

Bermuda Community Hall

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.

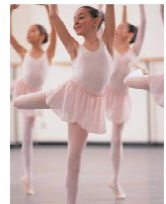
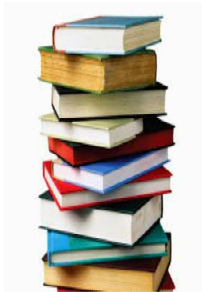


Tuesday night bingo is still cancelled until further notice!

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



Come back and join us! Measures have been put in place to keep you safe.

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

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Basingstoke - Old Basing U3A

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All our activities continue to follow government guidelines and our groups have been taking full advantage of the freedoms we're allowed. Our Excursions & Holidays Group is no exception.

2020 looked marvellous for the Group. So many things planned, and all well supported by our members. Then came lockdown. Cancellation of the holiday to Croatia, the trips to Houghton Lodge, Stratford on Avon and Buckingham Palace, as well as the concert at the Royal Albert Hall. But our Group Leader Joyce takes every obstacle in her way as a challenge to overcome. Virus beware.

A mystery coach tour

Seeing a window in early September, Joyce booked a 48-seater coach and 27 members set off on a socially distanced Mystery Coach Tour. Joyce wasn't sure how many would fancy a coach trip wearing masks, but the response was quick, and good.

With the final pick up complete, driver Gareth doubled round a couple of roundabouts to confuse everyone and start us guessing where we might be going. We agreed we were heading south! We love being in a coach, looking over hedges and enjoying the countryside. People driving usually miss so much, with their eyes on the road ahead. We all look forward to the panoramic views that coach trips can give us.

We finally arrived in Arundel, with three hours to explore its castle, cathedral and some lovely gardens, and to have some lunch amongst its quaint streets and interesting shops. Members were so pleased to see each other 'face to face' again and everyone went home very happy.

Next stop Greece

Well done to Joyce once again. At the end of September a group left for a planned 10-day holiday in Greece. As Greece uses 'bubbles' rather than social distancing, they luckily received clearance to enter the country. So all good to go - and they went! And from the photo they've sent back, their 'bubble' seems to be thoroughly enjoying itself.

Come with us

Although we call ourselves the Excursion & Holiday Group, any member of the U3A is welcome to join in, and they do. Check our website for details.
<https://www.basingstokeu3a.org/>





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Head Boy and Head Girl – Taking student leadership to the next level

Over the past few weeks, Mr Murray and Mr John have been interviewing Year 11 students for the role of Head Boy and Head Girl. Student leadership is an important element to the success of Everest. We are proud to introduce you to our Year 11 student leadership team for 2020 - 21 academic year:

Head Boy – Josh Attwood

Head Girl – Madison Laye

Deputy Head Boy – Robbie Allaway & Ashu Sunuwar

Deputy Head Girl – Katie Allabush & Abigail Wilson

Virtual Open Evening – Spreading the positive message about Everest

Due to coronavirus restrictions, we are unable to hold our normal open evening this year. As a result, we have entered into the virtual world to notify parents of what Everest has to offer. There is a range of information, videos and staff bios on our website and Facebook page. If you know any prospective parents who are, considering Everest please continue to spread the positive message.

English Competition – Creative writing skills on show

Students with a passion for creative writing were given the opportunity to enter a creative writing competition during lockdown. The event run by Winchester University asked participants to conduct some research and write creatively about their first day at university. We are proud to announce that we have two winners from Everest. Liam Gilbert (Year 10) and Daisy Mason (Year 9) have been rewarded for their outstanding writing skills with Samsung Galaxy Tablets. Well done to both students.



Greetings from Chineham Library!

First of all, well done everyone for taking part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge. It may not have been 'business as usual' – we certainly missed the buzz of everyone visiting the library and claiming their medals and certificates – but thank you and congratulations to those who read so many books!

It seems wrong to mention the 'C' word (Christmas!!) just after the word 'Summer', but it's not that far off now – if you would like ideas on seasonal food, decorations, or even some wintery books to read when it's raining, pop in and see what books we have to offer!

You may notice when you next visit that we have implemented the NHS 'Track and Trace' system as part of the measures currently in place at time of writing (October 2020). It's simple to check in; you can either scan the QR code with the NHS Covid-19 app or we can take a few contact details.

Talking of apps, many of you may have downloaded BorrowBox where you can read books on your phone or tablet. Did you know that you can also read magazines for free by downloading RBDigital? If you want to brush up on gardening, or history, or see what's on TV next week it's perfect.

If you want to learn something new over the next few weeks as the nights start to draw in there are many courses available online as part of the 'Learning in Libraries' scheme. These include: Pilates, art, mindfulness, family history and much more. To find out more and to book a course visit, the Hantsweb shop online on <https://www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home.php?cat=369>. And if the course has whetted your appetite you can visit the library and take out a book on the subject!

Just a reminder that you can book our own study area or one of the public computers by popping into the library or by ringing the call centre on **01962 454747**. All you need is your library card number.

And if you need to print a document or picture you can do this from your own phone without having to log onto our public computers.

We are still running the Ready Reads scheme if you would like us to pick your books for you – if you would like to register, either ring **01962 454747** or go to www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/ready-reads to fill in the online registration form.

We are currently open on the following days:

Tuesday:	10 am – 4 pm
Wednesday:	10 am – 4 pm
Friday:	10 am – 4 pm
Saturday:	10 am – 4 pm

We hope to see you soon!
Chineham Library Team

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