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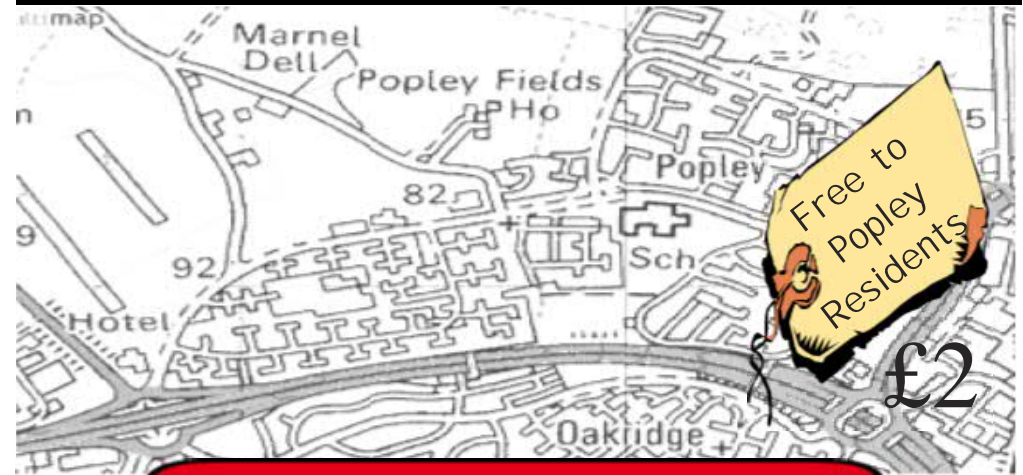
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POPLEY MATTERS

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Issue 229



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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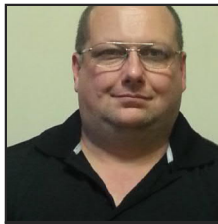
Closing date to submit articles and adverts (5pm 15-03-21) editor@poppleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Editor: Time marches on and spring is in the air. At last, it seems that the dreadful toll from COVID-19 is beginning to come under control. You can read Tony Menday's account as a patient on page 1. The only way we will beat this is by thinking of others and following the experts' guidance. It has been a whole year of ups and downs and sadly we reflect on those who have been so ill and those who lost their lives too. But some good has come out of this despair; people showed their generosity, resilience and compassion. It is impossible to thank everyone individually from the professionals from NHS, police, firefighters, teachers and people who delivered post, food and medication and essential items

to those helping at the vaccine centres. I met some amazing people, some making scrubs and items of uniforms and masks for the staff of hospitals and homes for the elderly. Some staff in parts of the country were having to use bin bags because there was not enough protective equipment. They still went to work knowing they were putting themselves in danger. I dread to think what they must have felt when people who were not involved were saying it was a hoax. I lost family and dear friends to COVID-19 and I am sure you will have too. Can I also thank our Popley Matters deliverers who, when we were allowed to, delivered them. We have had so many people say how much they miss reading about people and events in and around Popley. This copy is digital only but April's, we are convinced, will be back and delivered to your door. Like everyone else I look forward to going shopping again and see our friends and relatives. I am looking forward to seeing our friend Steve Hewlett back on stage as it will mean the theatre and entertainment is back, and that means laughter and joy again. I certainly appreciate what I have and will not take things for granted ever again. If you have any questions for Popley Matters 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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Greetings from Chineham Library!

As I am writing this, we are in Lockdown #3 so the library is only available for collection of Ready Reads (click and collect) and reservations. My crystal ball isn't working at the moment, so I am not sure if we will be slightly more open when you read this – please keep your eyes peeled (ewwwww) for updates online and/or our Facebook page.

If you want to learn something new over the next few weeks there are a number of courses available online as part of the 'Learning in Libraries' scheme. 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 click on 'Online learning' or 'Online events' (there are no face-to-face events running as yet). Be aware that you may need to download Zoom for course access. Online learning courses are in categories, for example learning something arty, or updating digital skills.

The Ready Reads scheme is still up and running 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. You can specify particular genres such as Crime, Romance or Biographies, as well as choosing how many books you'd like for both you and/or children.

If you want a specific book, then you can choose those by reserving them. Did you know that we have a Spydus app where you can search the catalogue and reserve a book from the comfort of your own home? Best news – it's free!

Hampshire Library offers a Home Library Service to support those who cannot visit a library due to ill-health, disability, or caring duties. If you do not use the Home Library Service but are taking additional health precautions, Ready Reads selections and reservations can also be collected on your behalf. Go to <https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/resources/homelibraryservice> to find out more, or ring 01962 454747.

Please remember that joining the library is FREE, the Ready Reads and Home Library Service are FREE, and our e-offerings through BorrowBox and RBDigital are FREE!

We are currently open on the following days:

Tuesday: 10 am – 4 pm

Wednesday: 10 am – 1:30 pm

Friday: 10 am – 4 pm

Saturday: 10 am – 4 pm

Chineham Library Team

My Experience of COVID-19

My name is Tony Menday, I have lived in Popley (mainly Abbey Road) for just on 47 years and I would like to share my story about catching COVID 19. Please do not think I am looking for any sympathy or trying to frighten anybody as I know there are people who have suffered far worse than me and even, unfortunately, passed on. I just want to make people aware of this dreadful disease. I work in a residential care home where we are tested twice a week for coronavirus. I was tested on 12th January and my result came back positive on the 14th so I was told I had to self-isolate for 10 days. I did not have any symptoms prior to this or even after the test, to start with. On Saturday 16th I woke up with a headache but thought nothing of it. By Tuesday 19th I had a headache, my back ached and I couldn't breathe properly. I called 111 and an ambulance came out. I was taken into hospital at about 3pm. I was taken to A&E, which was extremely busy, and put on a drip but not oxygen. At 02:00 I was told I could go home, which, although not feeling good, I did. I slept on and off for around 16 hours. Come Thursday morning I felt OK-ish but by Thursday evening I felt dreadful. My head was pounding, I was short of breath and my back hurt so much I was almost in tears. Like an absolute idiot I did not call anyone until Friday morning. An ambulance came in less than 10 minutes of me phoning 111. My oxygen levels were 88% and I was taken back into hospital. I was taken to resus and put on 15 litres of oxygen and given a few injections of antibiotics and a couple of other things. An X-ray was taken and when the doctor came, she said "it looks like something has exploded in your chest and lungs" due to the infection. I will admit I was worried as I honestly thought I was going to die as I had never felt so ill. I don't remember anything for around four or five hours after this before waking up on a ward with other Covid patients. I remained in hospital for 9 days and was on oxygen for 7 of these. I came home on 31st January but have struggled with my breathing since. I have been told my left lung isn't functioning properly but would get better in time and I am slowly getting better. Please, please, please, if you have any symptoms whatsoever, don't do what I did and wait, call your Doctor, 111 or 119 straight away. You are not wasting their time. This disease is real, it can make you extremely ill or even kill, it does not discriminate. Don't let what happened to me happen to you. Lastly, I would like to thank all the staff at the hospital, every one of you are amazing. I would also like to thank all of you that wished me well and I would also like to thank Jane and Paul for sharing my story. Take care and stay safe.

Tony



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Madison, a Year 10 student at Everest Community Academy, has set up 'Mad's Pads' to raise awareness, funds and donations for period poverty. The journey to Mad's Pads began in an open discussion with her mum about the Red Box Project, how good it is that girls can collect what they need at school without any problems. The discussion led to the reality of period poverty and with another national lockdown in place and schools closed, those girls would be unable to access sanitary products. Mad's Pads was then put into action. Madison has now created a webpage explaining her mission to support teens in the local area at risk of period poverty and created a wish list on Amazon allowing friends and family to donate what they could. In addition to this, a crowdfunding page was set up so she could buy supplies from local supermarkets at a low cost.

Boxes were put together containing a week's worth of day and night towels to see a teen through their time of the month; within 24 hours Madison had received 90 packs of sanitary towels and had raised over £250! Mad's Pads has now been available for the past few weeks at Oakridge Methodist Church, on Fridays 1-3pm and will continue while stocks last. To take a look at Madison's page to fight period poverty, head over to Facebook and search for 'Mad's Pads'.



HHCR Basingstoke Community Radio

HHCR have some really exciting news to share with everyone, connected with the annual 'A Place to be Proud of Awards'. This is the 18th year that the awards have been running and the 2021 programme has now been launched. These awards are organised by Destination Basingstoke in partnership with Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. They celebrate individuals, organisations or projects that contribute to the community within the borough of Basingstoke and Deane. As winners of the Arts and Entertainment Award last year, HHCR Basingstoke's Community Radio is delighted to be involved in this year's event as a sponsor of this category.

There are eight other categories all sponsored by local companies:

- Good Neighbour
- Parent In a Million
- Fundraiser of the Year
- Business and the Community
- Community Project
- Health & Wellbeing
- Unsung Hero
- Young Role Model.

It's free to enter, and anyone can nominate someone, a project or an organisation within the categories mentioned. To nominate all you need to do is head to Destination Basingstoke's website: www.destinationbasingstoke.co.uk. Closing date for nominations is 31st March 2021. A virtual awards ceremony will then be held on 29th April 2021.

It is so exciting for HHCR to be part of these awards; we as a station are set up by volunteers to entertain and inform our community. It is our privilege to be part of this important Basingstoke event.

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County Councillor Report: After reports of damage to the kerbside and road in Abbey Road, the officers inspected the road and repairs will be done. I also passed on a complaint from a resident in Ascension Close where there was significant damage and a deep rut in the path that was in need of urgent repair to make it safe. Within a day the officer came out and it has been marked for repair hopefully by the time this Popley Matters goes live. You can report road and path defects on <https://www.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems>.

The improvements to pathways and new paths from Abbey Road to the Apollo Hotel end of Popley Community Park, and new path from Tintern Close round to the bus stop have been delayed due to the pandemic, however they should be completed either later this year or early next year.

Although the Library is not fully open you still can order and pick up books. Ready Reads is a fantastic system and I am getting many reports of how well books are chosen for you, comments like "I had never heard of a certain author but I am now hooked". Children's selection is opening up some great books that they would not have heard of. It was a hard fight to save the library others have closed so please use it or we could lose it.

Marnel school will become an Academy and will be run by the same charitable trusty as Everest Community Academy. Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924 email:- jane.frankum@hants.gov.uk.

Popley West: Like many other residents, I am pleased to see the continuing work to complete the Popley Community Park. There was some alarm when some trees and hedges were cut back/down. We contacted the officer and forwarded the emails sent. The old wire fence had grown into the roots. The hedge etc will be replaced with natural mixed native hedgesrow, to support our local wildlife. Further trees will be planted and some more in the park. This will be done at the best time not to disturb nesting. There was some criticism about not being informed but, as most of you know, there was a very successful public consultation about what Popley and surrounding areas wanted. It was online, in Popley Matters, The Gazette, posters in the park and for those who live nearest had personal letters. This consultation resulted in a variety of equipment for all ages and abilities and new paths to enable wheelchairs and buggies so everyone can enjoy the great outdoors in the park. The police apprehended the four youths who were on motorised scooters and zooming around in the park there is a by-law that we campaigned for years ago and it is still in force. The offenders were reminded it is illegal and could be fined £300 as they are considered to be "motor vehicles".

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 remain hopeful that the lockdown will ease over the weeks ahead following the progress being made with the vaccination programme.

We thank all the volunteers, including Popley residents, who have supported the vaccination programme and many other support programmes. We have continued with casework despite the restrictions on face to face working and our contact details remain available to residents.

The works in Lawrence Close are finished and the additional car parking bays are being used. The changes have been well received. Consultation letters have gone out to Dryden Close residents about the provision of three additional bays.

We are very aware of the demand for additional parking bays throughout Popley but the restrictions on funding determined by the Council controls the programme of works.

Updated Environmental Renewal (ERS) plans are on the BDBC website at the end of the week ending 20 February.

The programme of works is agreed as areas 4-5 first followed by areas 1-3.

We are grateful to residents who completed the consultation process.

Nevertheless, within limitations, we seek slight amendments to the scheme when issues are raised by residents.

Stay safe and well.

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



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Public Asked for Best Ways to Have Their Say as Hampshire Together Programme Moves Forward

PEOPLE across Hampshire and the surrounding areas are being asked how they would like to receive information and provide feedback on potential changes to hospital services.

The results will inform public consultation plans for the Hampshire Together: Modernising our Hospitals and Health Services programme, which is expected to consult on proposals for change later this year.

“It’s really important we make information about our proposals as widely available and as accessible as we can,” said Alex Whitfield, Chief Executive of Hampshire Hospitals, which runs Andover War Memorial Hospital, Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital and Royal Hampshire County Hospital, in Winchester.

“We know that people like to receive and respond to information in different ways, whether that is via leaflets and videos or public meetings and drop-in exhibitions. Getting a sense of people’s preferences will help us to tailor the range of information and activities we offer during our consultation. This is particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic as we find our normal ways of receiving information and engaging in our local communities are different.”

The Hampshire Together programme was set up in response to the New Hospital Programme as part of the Government’s Health Infrastructure Plan, which named north and mid Hampshire as one of the areas to benefit from funding to build 40 new facilities before 2030.

It includes the potential for the construction of a brand-new hospital, with health and care partners working together to develop health, wellbeing and care services, that provide everyone across north and mid Hampshire with access to high-quality, timely and sustainable hospital services as close to home as possible. More information about the programme can be found at www.hampshiretogether.nhs.uk.

Dr Matt Nisbet, clinical lead for business and partnerships at Hampshire and Isle of Wight Partnership of CCGs, said: “It’s an exciting programme for everyone in north and mid Hampshire – and we really want to make sure as many local people as possible are aware of the consultation and have sufficient, easily accessible and available information in a range of formats to be able to tell us their views during our public consultation later this year. This work will help to ensure that.”

Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HampshireTogetherSurvey> to take part in the online survey, which will close 5pm on Thursday 24 March 2021.

Thank you for your continued support

Communications Team, Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
01256 313062



CONTACTS

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

Volunteering is good for your Mental Health

Volunteering opportunities



Our Rotary group has been volunteering at the Hampshire Court Hotel, marshalling patients and car parking for the vaccination programme. The Fire Station has also opened for vaccinations with its own volunteers. Basingstoke Voluntary Action is coordinating volunteering opportunities at both centres. See link to volunteer.
www.bvaction.org.uk/vaccination-programme-volunteering/

We are also helping Spotlight UK Basingstoke and Inspero with the delivery of food deliveries to vulnerable people in the borough.

The gift of time is something that costs very little and can bring unexpected rewards to the giver. At the moment it is the NHS and other COVID-19 needs that are providing opportunities to volunteer. All charities also need volunteers and you don’t have to make a huge commitment. Help for just one event or possibly for just a few hours. Giving your time may also be chatting to an elderly person; you may be the only person they speak to all day.

If you want to meet new people volunteering is a great way of doing it; rewarding and great fun.

As a club, until we can meet in person; we’re meeting each week on Zoom. Zoom has given us the opportunity of some excellent speakers who join us from the comfort of their own home.

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

WHAT IS ROTARY

Rotary is about helping communities, both local and internationally through our network of clubs with 1.2 million members in over 200 countries. It is a non-religious and non-political organization comprised of both men and women who enjoy working together for good causes and also enjoy socialising together.

As Rotarians we do some fantastic work each year whilst having fun and raising money which enables us to donate it to more than 20 local and a few international causes, including locally, Mencap Basingstoke, Besom and Helping Hands for the Blind and many more.

Rotaract in Basingstoke

Having fun while giving back!

Want to volunteer with a group of friends but weren’t sure where to start? Can you share your skills or some of your time to give back to others? Now is the perfect opportunity.

Rotaract is starting a pilot club for you to.....

- Make Friends. Network
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- Widen Horizons
- Support local good causes
- Develop as a Project Leader
- Link with Charities and with Business

Rotaract is a younger part of Rotary

Like Rotary, Rotaract is non-political, non-religious, inclusive, diverse and a catalyst for getting things done both locally and globally.

Interested? Aged in your 20s or 30s - then get in touch to join a small pilot group to exchange ideas and move this initiative forward.

Exciting times ahead!

To find out more

Contact Rotarian Chris Flemming:
Rotaract@bl-rotary.org mob 07942471526



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Households across Basingstoke and Deane are being urged to take part in Census 2021 next month.

The Census, which is run by the Office for National Statistics, is a once-in-a-decade survey that provides the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

Taking place on Sunday 21 March 2021, the survey provides information to all kinds of organisations, from councils and charities to healthcare providers, to help them deliver the services we all need, such as transport, education and healthcare.

This year's survey will be the first digital-first Census and will be easy to complete on any device, with help and paper questionnaires available for those that need them.

Each household will receive a Census pack and instructions through the post in early March and residents needing support, help or translation services can access them, both online and by phone.

As well as questions around residents' sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity, for the first time and to reflect the modern age we live in, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity. This will help shape services for veterans and further work around equality and diversity.

Basingstoke and Deane has previously had a great success rate in Census returns with a response rate of 97% in 2011, compared to 94% nationally.

Leader of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Cllr Ken Rhatigan said: "I would encourage all our residents to complete their Census on 21 March 2021 to help us get an updated snapshot of the borough.

"Together with our Council Plan to 2024, the information provided will be crucial in helping us to shape services that make a real difference to people's lives for the future and identifying the investment required to provide them."

Iain Bell, Deputy National Statistician at the Office for National Statistics, added: "A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed.

"This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That's why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them."

The Census results will be published in 2022. For more information, visit www.census.gov.uk/



LOCKDOWN CONTINUES

BUT SO DO WE!

Join as many of our groups as you want for only £15!

Website: www.basingstokeu3a.org

Still in Touch

Lockdown goes on and Basingstoke's U3A is being even more creative - many of us finding IT skills we never knew we had! More and more groups are getting used to Zoom and WhatsApp meetings, and we're beginning to use our new Facebook page to 'talk' to each other too. We keep in touch by email as well of course. Members are sending out quizzes, presentations and webinars for others to take part in, and like joining our groups, all this is included within the one membership. We've been exploring China and Big Ben from our living rooms, and learning Queen Victoria's secrets!

Still Lots to Do

Not only are we becoming more creative, we've planned a new group (brush up your school-day French) - and if enough people are interested in beginners French, that will be started up too. Philosophy meetings have just been set as well. Nothing deters our Excursions/Holiday Group from planning for 2021 either - April's trip to Croatia may yet have to be postponed, but their diary already has Whitby in October to look forward to.



Around 40 members continue to play 'Real Bridge' regularly. This fairly new way of playing bridge online has both cameras and microphones, so our players can see and hear each other as they compete. It doesn't replace the feeling of playing in an actual club/hall but goes a very long way towards it!

Amongst lots of other things too, our Environment Group will be looking at Mangroves in March, our Readers will be exchanging views on *The Secret Garden* and our Science Group learning how to 'Play their Cards Right'. Look for a fuller list on our Facebook page facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a. If you fancy something more relaxing, our Needles and Pins, Patchwork and Arts & Crafts Groups are still sharing their work, with our Words and Music Group listening to a wide variety of recordings and presentations together.

Do check our website as well, for fuller details of some of these groups, other activities you might like, and how to join us. Our new members have all said how friendly and welcoming everyone is, whether you're a beginner, an expert, or somewhere in between!

Meals on Wheels: The Camrose Centre is Still Helping the Homeless During Lockdown

Staff and volunteers from The Camrose Centre have set up a temporary 'meals on wheels' service, delivering hot food to clients. Homeless and vulnerably housed people are unable to access food or support which they usually get from The Camrose day sessions, as the Centre is currently closed for lockdown. Clients are being housed during this time (via temporary Government funding) in several hotels in the region but food is not included.

Camrose staff have begun deliveries of the hot meals which are prepared by volunteers at the Camrose Centre kitchen and personally delivered three times a week.

Clients are being supplied with a hot meal such as sausage casserole and mashed potato, followed by home-made cheesecake, along with additional food packs, toiletries and underwear.

Centre Manager Clare Farrow said "Our homeless clients are missing the atmosphere and care that they normally receive when they come to the Camrose Centre. With the help of staff and volunteers, we can come to them while lockdown continues."

To help us continue to support the homeless and vulnerably housed in Basingstoke please consider donating here >> <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/14589>

Pictured Below: - Volunteers Jen and Leo fill takeaway boxes with hot food.

Pictured Right: - Volunteer Jen loads up the insulated bag with meals for Camrose clients.



Basingstoke and Deane District Disability Forum (BDDF) – your local disability charity wants to reach out to you and keep you connected if you do not have access to technology. As with most charities and businesses, BDDF adapted quickly to the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 by swiftly moving our services online and concentrating on fun and interactive activities. They are all free and enjoyed by our members who have the technology to access them.

Our Lockdown One Members' survey reinforced that the 'digital divide' exists between 'the younger generation' and those of our members who are either 'older' and/or living with a disability. Fifty percent of respondents admit they lack confidence, and/or don't have access to internet/technology.

With 75% of our respondents citing the biggest challenges they faced during lockdown 1.0 were around psychological distress, mental health, social isolation and loneliness, it supports our concerns that confidence and access to digital equipment is leading to increased feelings of isolation and mental health issues.

What we can offer:

- If the barrier is around confidence/knowhow we can help you use your personal devices;
- Our newsletter can be posted out to you;
- A regular 'care call' to say hello and see how you are doing, with one of our volunteers;
- Disability signposting service, connecting you with what is out there to assist you with your queries;
- Our walking clubs for health and social interaction - as soon as they are permitted to resume;
- Family friendly Scarecrow Trail around Chineham and Sherfield Park on 24th/25th July;
- Face to face support groups/coffee mornings (again when allowed),
- Our weekly seated yoga class is currently online only, but will be back in person when possible.

Our activities are free and fully inclusive. If you want to know more about any of our work please call 01256 423869, it is a voicemail, leave your details (home address, name and telephone number) and we will contact you.

If you can receive emails, and want to know more, please email our friendly team on info@bddf.org.uk.

From Amanda, Sarah, Ani & the team of Trustees

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Hello Popley

Well its certainly cold out there. I did have fun in the January snow with my daughter and now February is upon us, it's light drifts off snow as am I sat here writing this.

At the start of February we, as a staff team across Hampshire, all had our first COVID-19 injections, I honestly didn't feel a thing but the day after oh boy did I have a heavy achey arm, but I'm thankful I'm have had my first injection.

We are currently still out and about supporting our members with meals on wheels, in partnership with Oasis Café, food shopping, medication pick ups, Zoom sessions, cake delivery and the forever thankful telephone welfare calls. The members tell me they look forward to having a chat with someone different. Over the last year we have all come to realise that, and what we all took for granted and this dreadful virus has taught us all, to cherish every moment.

I have some leave booked for this month so I will spend some quality time with my children making some memories. Yes I am mad but my nine year old will be helping me to decorate the bathroom. Help does anyone know of a professional painter and decorator who could come and sort the mess we have made, ha ha ha.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with the growing demand of shopping, medication pick-ups, meals on wheels deliveries and telephone befriending. We will do a DBS check on all volunteers, and full training will be given.

If you have a family member or neighbour who may like to join us, or even have a weekly befriending call from myself or a volunteer, please get in touch as again we are all in this together.

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

Francesca Wildash

Community Co-ordinator

MHA Communities Basingstoke & East Hampshire

Bermuda Community Hall

Due to COVID-19 the hall is closed except for Tiny Steps pre-school which is open; for further details ring Helen or Connie on 07907815270.

There is no hall hire, however if restrictions are lifted, we hope to resume activities.



Thank you for your patience!

Marnel Junior School

Latest News



Marnel Junior School is Becoming an Academy and Joining Bourne Education Trust

The Governors and leadership team at Marnel Junior School are delighted to let you know that the school will convert to an academy and join Bourne Education Trust (BET) on 1st April 2021. BET, which is a multi-academy trust of 16 schools, has a proven record of success in supporting its school leaders to achieve ambitious development plans and raise standards. Many of you will know that Everest Community Academy also joined BET in 2017, and of the excellent progress made which secured a Good Ofsted grade in February 2020.

The Governors fully endorse the partnership and look forward to working as part of BET, already seeing benefits from the relationship in terms of training and sharing resources across the Trust. They believe that, as an academy, the school will make sure that the children get the very best care and education possible and will be better placed to secure the interests and professional development of the staff. BET positively encourages all its schools to maintain their own distinctiveness and autonomy, whilst providing opportunities to grow and flourish. When Marnel Junior School becomes an academy, the following will remain the same:

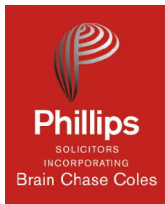
- Our name
- Our ambition for our pupils
- Our vision and ethos
- Our uniform
- Our focus on school improvement
- Our admissions policy

Mr Jordan appointed Head of School

One of the first joint decisions by the school's Governors and BET was to offer Mr Jordan the post of permanent **Head of School** at Marnel Junior School from 1st April 2021, and everyone is delighted that he accepted. This is great news for the school, its pupils and the wider community as they can build on what has already been achieved under his leadership – with the additional support which membership of BET will provide.

Everyone at Marnel Junior School thanks the local community for its ongoing support and looks forward to sharing more news about the next chapter in its exciting journey.

If you would like to find out more, or to get in touch, further information is available on our website: <https://www.marneljuniorschool.co.uk/>.



IR35 What does it mean and are you ready?

The delayed introduction of the new IR35 rules, unless further postponed due to the pandemic, will take effect from 6 April 2021.

IR35 are tax rules designed to combat tax avoidance where businesses hire someone who works in a similar way to a part-time or full-time employee, usually a contractor, but invoices for their services via a limited company, commonly known as a Personal Service Company or PSC.

Currently, workers are responsible for determining whether they are caught by IR35 and should pay income tax and National Insurance Contributions.

Under the new rules, the burden of assessing whether IR35 applies and, crucially, the payment of the relevant taxes shifts to the end user – namely your business.

This means that if you hire a contractor to supply services to you, you will be responsible for determining whether the individual could be deemed a worker or employee for taxation purposes, if that individual did not have the protection of their company.

If the contractor could be regarded as an employee or worker for tax purposes, then your business as the end user will be responsible for paying income tax and National Insurance contributions on the fees paid to their PSC.

The new rules apply even if you use an agency or engage contractors through an umbrella company. If you are the ultimate end user of the services, the buck will still stop with you and you will need to carry out the relevant checks and, if appropriate, withhold the tax.

It is important that all businesses put a regime in place to review anyone “working off payroll” and ensure that they are not at risk of falling foul of the new rules. We recommend as a minimum that businesses carry out an audit for any “off payroll workers” which they have who could be affected by the new rules. This will give you a starting point for identifying the changes which you may need to make to your business including, potentially, engaging those individuals as employees.

The new rules only apply to businesses who meet two of these three criteria:

1. Turnover of more than £10.2 million;
2. Balance sheet total of £5.1 million or more;
3. Employ more than 50 employees.

Small businesses which do not meet the criteria above will not be responsible for the new IR35 rules and the responsibility will remain with the contractor.

We at Phillips Solicitors are able guide you through this significant change and to help to limit your risk if you believe the new rules apply to you either as an employer or as a contractor.

For further details about the IR35 changes please visit www.phillips-law.co.uk If you would like to discuss the IR35 legislation changes or require assistance with any other aspect of employment law, please contact Gill Brown who heads the Employment Law team by emailing gill.brown@phillips-law.co.uk or by calling 01256 854605.




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Disability Awareness Day 26 March – Free to Attend, Online & Radio Event

Basingstoke and District Disability Forum (BDDF), your local friendly disability charity invite you to the Disability Awareness Day.

This year the event will be held online on Friday 26 March . Please share this information with friends and family who may benefit.

Free to attend, the day will be full of video updates from local disability charities and support groups, each providing a current service update.

Main themes for the day are Mental Health Wellbeing and Tackling Isolation, the two topics you told us are most important as per our lockdown survey.

Full itinerary available on our website soon and also includes interactive sessions for both children and adults.

The day will be split into sections, you chose which ones you want to join live and all can be watched later via our website.

Between 10am-12pm you can also join us Live on HHCR, Basingstoke Community radio. Please tune in!

All other sessions are available via Facebook and You-Tube. If you have difficulty accessing the Internet please contact us Signposting@bddf.org.uk on to see how we can help.

For more information please get in touch, Telephone: 01256 423869, or log on at: [ourwww.bddf.org.uk](http://www.bddf.org.uk) you can also check us out on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/bddfforum>.

Thank you from all at BDDF

Supporting the disability community of Basingstoke. Our vision is to create a community that sees the person, values the difference and embraces awareness.

Disability affects many of us in our lives; you can turn to BDDF for information and support in Basingstoke.



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.

For more information, or if you have any queries, please contact the club through our main website: <http://mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk> or on any of the above social media platforms. or on any of the above social media platforms.



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

Group Scout Leader	Colin Karlake	07796772500
Assistant Group Scout Leader	Douglas Gowan	07733325498
Beaver Leader	Mandy Pain	07508204098
Cub Leader	Charlotte Bell	07919148376
Scout Leader	Contact GSI/AGSL	

As I sit here typing this report, I realise it is approaching 12 months since the country went into its first "Lockdown" and with that came the end of Face-to-Face meetings and the start of the world of virtual meetings over Zoom and all the challenges this brings.

I have been looking back at what we have been able to achieve over the last year. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Leadership Team across the sections and WOW we have achieved a lot, so here is a look back at the last 12 months.

Before we hit the world of Zoom, we held a Virtual Sleep-Over with all the young people building dens to sleep in and completing all sorts of fun activities over a Saturday and Sunday while at home.

During May we took the plunge and joined the world of Zoom, starting off initially with a combined Beaver and Cub meeting to gauge the interest and decide whether it was worth running meetings for each section or as it turned out to be the case, to continue running one meeting for both sections?

So, here is a look back at some of the fun and engaging activities we have been able to provide the Cubs and Beavers.

One of the first activities we did was held a virtual pet show, with the Cubs and Beavers showing off their Pets, this was followed up with a virtual magic show with everyone having to perform a magic trick to the rest of the Group.

We have followed these activities on with Guest Speakers from the Museum of Army Flying and Megan talking about her dual-purpose Guide Dog/Disability Assistance Dog and how it allows her to lead a near normal life, both these meeting were followed up by completing the Disability Awareness and Air Activity Badges

Puzzle, Challenge Nights and Scavenger Hunts have also been firm favourites of the Cubs and Beavers.

October saw us having an online Halloween Party with everyone appearing in fancy dress and playing loads of fun interactive games, then to end 2020 we had a family Christmas party, which included the "Big Family Quiz" along with another Christmas themed activities.

We have also enjoyed seeing young siblings and parents taking part in some of our meetings and enjoyed all the positive feedback we have received from both the young people and parents which makes it all worthwhile.

As we move towards the end of this current "Lockdown" we are all looking forward to hopefully be able to start meeting Face-to-Face again and start putting the "OUT" back in to ScOUTing and seeing all the Young People in person again.

We also planning on re-launching of Scout Section again, so if you have a child aged 10 – 14 who might be interested in joining, please get touch with myself of Colin on the numbers above for more information.

Douglas Gowan
Assistant Group Scout Leader



Annual General Meeting

29 April 2021 – 7pm

Popley Fields Community Centre

Can you spare a couple of hours each month? Would you like to make a difference to your local community?

If so, why not consider joining Popley Fields Community Association? We meet (currently online) once a month to discuss the running of Popley Field Community Centre and outreach activities like, events, youth club and Popley Festival.

No experience is necessary and everyone is welcome. Even if you don't feel you have anything to offer, by being willing to help you have all the qualifications required.

Our AGM is planned to be socially distanced pending government advice and for more information please contact us at

office@popleyfields.org.uk

The Popley Fields Team

Dear Friends

So at last some light at the end of the tunnel! Thanks to the fall in the rate of infections and the ramping up of the vaccination programme, the PM was able to announce this week the government's plan for the easing of the restrictions we've been living under for the past year. A cause for rejoicing indeed but I wonder how we might reflect on these times in the future.

Without a doubt there are those who will be relieved that the pandemic is coming to an end but won't share in the rejoicing because they have lost a loved one to the virus, have suffered and continue to suffer the after effects of a bout of COVID-19, or who have lost jobs or businesses and are facing financial hardship. The mental anguish of the past year continues to be both real and tangible for so, so many and yet we are resilient beings. Though we may never be one hundred percent free of COVID-19 (as we are never completely free of flu or the common cold) we can look to the future with real hope and hope sustains the spirit.

I read this while praying in church the other morning: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "Jeremiah 29:11-14 NIV.

I was feeling pretty low at the time but as I reflected on these words and my own situation, I began to have a real sense of God's presence right there with me and the reassurance that He knows me and where and what I am going through and that ultimately, He is the one who sees both the beginning and the end of all things.

It is no easy thing to place complete trust in anyone let alone God but sometimes we just have to let go and let God in. When we are able to do that what can emerge is an immense feeling of peace and knowledge that this too will pass! How do we do that? It's quite uncomplicated really; just ask Him, invite Him to come into your situation, your life! He never ever refuses a genuine invitation!

Speaking of which! I'm immensely excited at the prospect of being able to get back together with family and friends and have already started issuing invitations and I'm sure they'll be accepted as were all anticipating with excitement being reunited with those whom we love and care about.

The relaxing of restrictions means that we can look forward to celebrating Easter in a gathered and joyful way with the church and community. We will celebrate Maundy Thursday with a service in the evening at 7.30pm; Good Friday morning at 10.30am and Easter Day at 7.00am and again at 10.30am. All our services will also be streamed live to our St Gabriel's YouTube Channel. I hope that you are able to celebrate with us the one who suffered, died and was raised again for each and everyone of us.

With Easter blessings
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Myself and Ann are going to walk 200 miles during the month of March. We both walk full time and and also care for my mum Betty so it will be a real challenge. We are trying to raise funds for my nephews Archie, George and Isaac who all have a life shortening illness- duchenes muscular dystrophy.

We are aiming to raise £1000 to help with the day to day care of looking after three disabled children. You can donate by going to <https://www.idonate.ie/also>
Many thanks.

Rob Kerr and Ann Colpus.



Recruiting Support Workers Now!

The Loddon School provides a home and an education for children aged 8-19 who have exceptional support needs associated with autism and learning difficulties.

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Golden and Diamond Anniversaries

The Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane would like to hear from couples across the borough celebrating their golden and diamond wedding anniversaries.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Mayor is unable to hold an annual tea party which brings couples celebrating milestone anniversaries together.

To ensure couples still have a memorable celebration, an afternoon tea box created by Basingstoke College of Technology students, will be delivered to couples' homes on 18 or 19 March 2021 to mark the special occasion.

Cllr Taylor said: "Golden and diamond anniversaries are very special milestones in a couple's life together.

"Even though we won't be able to celebrate in person this year, I would like to offer my good wishes to all couples who are marking this milestone around the borough.

"If you or anyone you know have their golden or diamond anniversary between 20 May 2020 and 21 May 2021, then please let us know so we can get in touch."

Please contact the Mayoral Events Coordinator Zoe McLaren on 01256 845591 or email mayor@basingstoke.gov.uk before Wednesday 10 March 2021.

For more information, visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/mayors-reception

Basingstoke Sports Council

With COVID-19 slowly being beaten, everyone will soon be able to get active again in the community. Just getting outside, meeting friends and gaining some fresh air and exercise will deliver so many benefits to fitness and social wellbeing. School openings will be a great start but don't forget there are many local sports clubs looking for participants: coaches, officials and volunteers. Check out local websites and maybe get in contact. Note that Basingstoke Sports Council has daily updates on their facebook page and the Borough Council also have details and a wealth of healthy suggestions or you can just get out, walk, cycle or maybe jog. The benefits are feeling so much better and will prepare you for the summer ahead and also a longer, healthier life.

Basingstoke Sports Council are planning a variety of 'Basingstoke Get Active' activities over the coming months which should be publicised locally. In the interim, just ensure you are getting fresh air and exercise on a regular basis.



Encourage an adult to learn to read this World Book Day!

Local charity Read Easy Basingstoke is using World Book Day 2021 to encourage adults who struggle to read to come forward and ask for help.

They are asking people who know of friends and family members who cannot read, to pass on the Read Easy Basingstoke phone number, and encourage them to make a call that could transform their lives.

World Book Day, which takes place this year on Thursday 4 March, aims to inspire children to read for pleasure and read together with their families. But parents and grandparents who cannot read are not able to provide this support for their children and their learning, with many missing out on the important bonding time that comes with sharing a bedtime story.

There are 7,000 thousand adults in Basingstoke who either cannot read at all or can barely read. For them, everyday tasks such as booking a doctor's appointment, reading road signs or doing the food shopping can be incredibly challenging. Life during lockdown has also been particularly hard for those with low literacy skills. Parents who cannot read have found it impossible to home-school their children, whilst many others have been unable to keep on top of the Government's ever-changing health guidance.

Read Easy Basingstoke offers **free and confidential one-to-one coaching**, from trained volunteers. In normal circumstances reading pairs meets twice a week at approved local venues to work for just half an hour at a time through a structured, phonics-based reading programme, which takes up to two or more years to complete. At the moment however, due to Covid restrictions, pairs are meeting instead using WhatsApp and Facetime from the comfort of their own homes.

Read Easy Basingstoke's Team Leader, Jane Ford, says those who struggle to read should not feel embarrassed about coming forward and asking for help: "There are lots of different reasons why people don't learn to read in childhood. For some it may have been a lack of support from their own family or school, for others it may have been undiagnosed dyslexia. But people should not feel ashamed or embarrassed about it. We are friendly, welcoming, and here to help, whatever your age."

Lyn, who is in her 70s, is one of Read Easy's success stories. She joined the programme 18 months ago and has now obtained the skills and confidence to undertake the everyday tasks that most people take for granted, from reading cards from friends and family, to writing shopping lists, reading menus, road signs and TV listings.

She says "Reading has made my life so much better. It's really made lockdown easier for me. Like they say, you are never too old to learn."

For more information, please contact us on: **07952 450 789**
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