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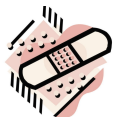
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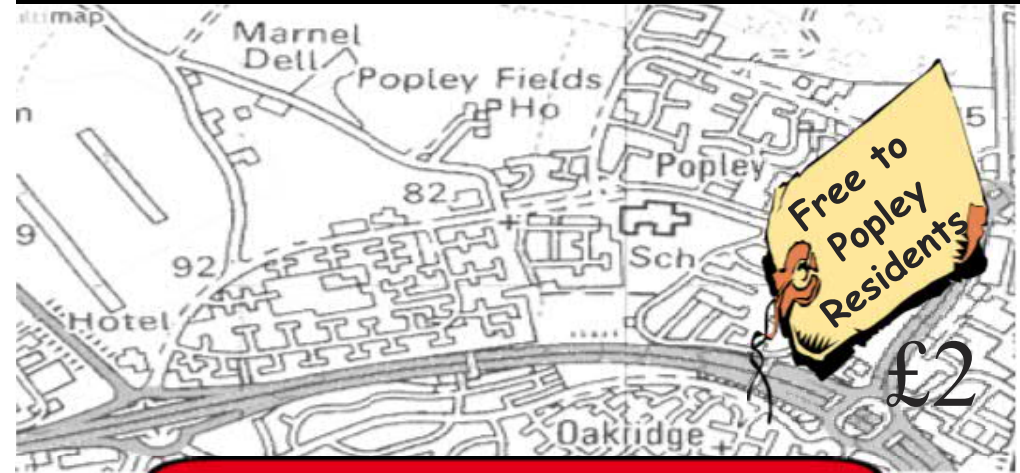
POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVING THE POPLEY COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

April 2021

Distribution of 5,400

Issue 230



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles and adverts (5pm 15-04-21) editor@poppleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Editor: Popley Community Park is nearing completion; the fencing and planting is done and the rest of the gym equipment is installed too. Paul and I are glad at least for one reason that the year extension for the next election has given us time to see the park get to what has been our vision for so many years. Sadly, in May, we cease to be Councillors; it was not of our choosing and are hurt and upset that we can't carry on. Let's hope that whoever is elected has the love for Popley that my family has in the 50 years that we have lived and served here. We are NOT retiring voluntarily it has been forced upon us in circumstances beyond our control. We have been here for Popley for many years and between us we have served equal to 65 years as Councillors, both borough and county. The other knock-on affect is that the May Popley Matters will be the final copy as Paul will be looking for full-time employment and of course it will mean training etc. Sadly we won't have the time; I am sure you realise it takes a lot of time to produce your copy each month. Paul and I did our Borough Councillor roles full time. 20+ years ago Popley was a very different place to what it is now but the one thing that hasn't changed is the great community and the very generous hearts of the residents, and it continues with the new developments. We will miss being here to help people on so many different things and so many different levels.

If you want to write in with memories please do and email to us. I will still keep the Popley Matters Facebook page "Popley Matters" but there will not be any copies of the monthly magazine. However we can all still chat to each other and share any news. 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.

Editorial Team: Chair Terry Jones; Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Treasurer Christopher Martin; Proof Reader Lorraine Beaney. Area Distribution Manager Martin Biemann; Jane Frankum and Jeremy Jackman.

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for further information

Chineham Library Temporary Closure

I am writing to let you know that Chineham Library will be temporarily closed to browsing Monday 26 April 2021 – Friday 14 May 2021 inclusive, reopening on 15 May 2021.

This temporary closure is to facilitate a refurbishment programme which will enable the relocation of the School Library Service from South Ham Library into Chineham. Improvement works will include creating a new workspace for School Library Service, and relocation of Chineham's children's library to accommodate this move.

During the closure period, collection of Ready Reads and Reservations will continue.

Customers will have access to all other local libraries and can make use of our e-resources available through our website: www.hants.gov.uk/library

During the closure, neighbouring libraries in Basingstoke and Tadley will remain open and able to provide service to our Chineham customers.

If you do have any questions, please contact either the Area Manager, Samantha Whiting, samantha.whiting@hants.gov.uk or the Library Team Manager, Marianne Dolan, marianne.dolan@hants.gov.uk

We look forward to welcoming you back into our Library following completion of the works.

Yours sincerely,
Kim Hawker
Library Team Manager

Healthwatch Hampshire is Asking People What Matters to Them When it Comes to Health and Social Care

Healthwatch Hampshire is running a health priorities survey to find out what matters to the people of Hampshire when it comes to health and social care services for this year.

Now that there is a road map out of the pandemic, and the vaccine roll-out is well under way, they want to know what matters to people when it comes to health and social care services across the County:

- What are the big health priorities looking beyond COVID-19?
- What areas should they - as the independent champions for health and social care locally - be focused on for the rest of this year?

You can complete the survey here <http://bit.ly/3tpNHIP> or share your views with them via their website www.hi.co.uk. The survey is running until the end of April and the results will be published in May.

MARNELL BOWLING CLUB

We are looking for new members, come and meet us:

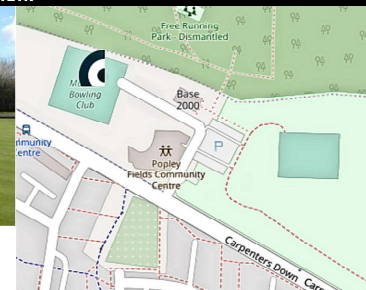
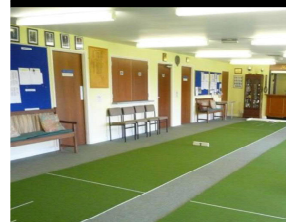


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Practice Outdoor Tuesday 6-9pm; Indoor Monday 7-9pm; Wednesday 2-4pm; and 7-9pm. Come along and have a go (All equipment can be provided).

We are planning to have an Open Day May 23rd

Subject to Covid restriction.



Where are we?

Behind Popley Fields Community Centre.

(next to Basingstoke Air Scouts Hall and Nursery).

For further details or register contact John: **07557407469.**

or Club Captain Sue: **01256 326147.**

or visit Marnell Bowls Club Website.

www.marnellbowlingclub.co.uk

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As Everest students return to school, staff, pupils and the wider community have been integral to ensure both students and staff are continuing to learn and teach in a safe, COVID-19 secure environment, in these paramount times. Paul Grills, Headteacher, said the focus of the four weeks to Easter will be to settle students back in school, with many health and safety steps remaining in place, including Year Group bubbles, Year Group entrances, playground areas and exits, and increased ventilation and hygiene routines.

He added: "Staff have been working hard to plan, prepare and welcome all students back. I would like to thank all students, parents and carers for their ongoing support of the school during this time."

Since welcoming back all Everest students and staff, pupils have settled into the friendly and vibrant learning environment, as they continue to succeed through good learning routines and accessible wellbeing support.



Basingstoke NeighbourCare needs you!

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We provide a service for elderly people in YOUR community. Particularly for those who find it difficult to use public transport or lack the confidence to go out on their own. We provide a driving service to pick them up from home, take them to their appointment and bring them home again, using our volunteers' own car. We also take clients shopping, to social events such as lunch clubs, helping them remain part of their community.

We need drivers who can spare a few hours a week during the day time, Monday to Friday, and who have a car that is comprehensively insured and suitable for carrying an elderly person. In return we will cover your petrol cost from home (currently we pay 45p per mile). Some of our driver currently work shifts and can only offer 1 or part of a day per week but even this amount of time can help us. You can choose what hours/days you are available and what duties you undertake.

BEFRIENDERS REQUIRED

Would you have an hour a week free in the daytime (Monday to Friday)? Many elderly people would love to have someone to come and see them for a cup of tea and a chat. You could be the first person they see that week who has time just for them! You will gain great satisfaction and help them to relieve their loneliness. We try to find you someone who lives near to you so that if you do not have your own transport, you can walk to them. But if you have to use your car or public transport we will reimburse your costs.

We need people who have time and patience and like talking to elderly people. You need to have good listening skills and be able to show empathy. We will provide you with training and support and match you with one of our clients. Our befriending co-ordinator will take you to your first meeting with our client and support you as necessary.

If you are interested in either or both of the above opportunities please contact us by phone on 01256 423855 or email volunteering@neighbourcare.com. See also our website www.neighbourcare.com for further information about our service.

County Councillor Report and Popley West:

This will be the final Councillor report as Paul and I say goodbye as Popley Councillors after 45 years of service between us and a further 20 years as a County Councillor. We can assure you it was not what we wanted and it would have been nice to have been able to choose when we retire. As we look back from 1998 when I was first elected, Popley was very different and we have worked with many other Councillors as they came and went. What did we achieve? Some of our highlights are the regeneration of Popley: new homes including Marnel Park, Merton Rise, Spiers Meadow, Everest, Glaziers and Austen Court. The final of the six phases is drawing near and soon there will be new shops opening too. For education we have seen Everest Community Academy, extensions to all our primary schools and a brand new SEN school, Austen Academy. We campaigned and got Abbey Road Post Office reinstated with Dev and Nayna, and a few years before we did the same with the pharmacy. One of the latest campaigns was to save Chineham library that many of our Popley families students and our older generation used. We have seen and been involved in the building of care homes, Marnel Lodge being the latest one. Community facilities included the refurbishment and upgrading of all the community centres: Popley Fields, Bermuda Hall, Melrose Hall and St Gabriel's Church, Marnell Bowl, Base 2000 the Scout headquarters and, with the help of more S106 money, the upgrading of all the play areas, and worked with all the Councillors for the Splash Pad. But you won't be surprised that the jewel in the crown is Popley Community Park that took 45 years from when we first started campaigning for the then wasteland, that was used as a dumping ground and the council used it to burn branches etc, to be a family park for all ages and abilities. It is just about to be finished at the same time as we are. We have dealt with parking issues; still a long way to go but we made a good start: new disabled bays and started on getting better dropped kerbs. The issue of access is now on the work plan. This summer will see a new path from Tintern Close to the bus stop. There were routine works like overhanging hedges and trees, potholes and the ever ongoing crumbling walls that we had started getting replaced by safer and sturdier railings. Melrose Walk had serious issues with their waste collection and now have at least a chance to recycle. Some of the most rewarding was casework like: new street signs that were damaged; other items that you would not of known or maybe notice included saving residents from eviction, or if made homeless helping them to get new accommodation; issues with schools and council; getting the repainting of markings and white lines; removing fly tipping ;and so many other things. I guess the highlight for me was when I became the first ever female Labour Mayor since 1641 and Paul followed me as Mayor. We raised over forty thousand pounds and were able to financially help fifty three local groups and charities. What can we say about Popley Matters? May, will be the final copy of Popley Matters as Paul will be concentrating on a new career. Popley Matters has seen its highs and lows and all too often gone into debt but we propped it up and kept it going and can proudly say there has been a Popley Matters without any gaps. The whole family has been committed to Popley from the first day we moved into Abbey Road in January 1971 and Ken's final thoughts were "Look after Popley". Well Kenny, I think you would be proud of what we have achieved.

Popley East: This will be our last contribution prior to local elections on 6 May. Whether or not we continue as Councillors will depend on the electorate. Either way we wish to thank the residents of Popley East and Popley more generally for their support over many years, which makes our work worthwhile and fulfilling. We have also been fortunate in working as a team with Councillors Jane and Paul Frankum and Jane's advice as a County Councillor in addition to her work as a Borough Councillor has been invaluable. We secured funding for two play areas at Guernsey Close and Chineham Park. The total cost will be in excess of 125k. with the work to be undertaken in the new financial year. We will publish the timetable when it is agreed. We know that a number of play areas in the ward are in a similar condition and we will continue to try to secure funding for these to be upgraded. There are constant reports of mopeds being driven dangerously on footpaths within the ward. Please report these to the police on 101 – these calls are recorded. The environmental improvements (ERS) for Popley Islands West are currently being carried out. This includes clearing green spaces, improved paths, and better landscaping. Places covered include Tobago Close, Tewkesbury Close, Jersey Close and Guernsey Close, Falkland Road, Anglesey Close, Malta Close and Pershore Road. Continue to stay safe. We remain available, details below.

Clr Paul Frankum 01256 819924
clr.paul.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk
Clr Jane Frankum 01256 819924
clr.jane.frankum@basingstoke.gov.uk

David Potter 07941507801
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Probus Hears about Communist Czechoslovakia

Prague, capital of today's Czech Republic, is a popular tourist destination. Few western tourists were seen forty years ago when Probus Club member, Paul Flint, became a regular visitor over the following twelve years.

Czechoslovakia was part of the Eastern Bloc controlled by the Soviet Union. The 1968 Prague Spring, led by Alexander Dubcek, was overwhelmed by Warsaw Pact troops as protection against imagined invasions by NATO.

Democracy started in late 1989 with the Velvet Revolution, led by playwright Vaclav Havel. 73,000 Russian troops departed.

At Prague airport, if it proved that money had been exchanged on the black-market, any goods were seized and any Czech Crowns confiscated. Special shops had western goods that could only be bought with hard currency – no questions asked.

Meetings in Prague were with a trading house, my company being their UK venture partner for selling and servicing Czechoslovak made printing presses.

European dealer meetings were held at the factory near to Brno, in the south of the country. To entertain their guests, trips were made to glass engravers and vineyards which produced some excellent wines and champagne style products.

Once we collected a rental car from Vienna airport and drove to Brno. One day we were stopped by a Russian soldier aiming a machine gun. Fortunately, we had with us a lady from the trading company who spoke Russian, but I wondered what might have happened to us if we had been on our own.

Representatives from the manufacturers and trading company visited the UK annually. Despite being forbidden for them to be entertained, we saw many West End musicals and dined well.

There was substantial investment by western companies in Czechoslovak businesses with the most well-known being the takeover of Skoda by Volkswagen. As the owner of two Skoda cars over the last six years I can certify their reliability and quality. The Velvet Revolution worked.

See www.probusbasingstoke.club



Basingstoke Deane

Rotary



CONTACTS

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

YOUR LOCAL
ROTARY
ROUNDUP

APRIL 2021

Basingstoke Festival of Transport

Sunday 22nd August 2021 from 11am - 4pm

One of the highlights of the Basingstoke year! A date for your diary and something to look forward to after the restrictions of lockdown.



The War Memorial Park, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH, will once again be filled with over 900 vehicles at the Basingstoke Festival of Transport 2021.



Best Day Ever

The Festival is one of the biggest events of its kind and is run by Basingstoke Deane Rotary in conjunction with Basingstoke and Deane Borough (BDBC). We recognise the work of the Thorneycroft Society in the preservation of old vehicles and in bringing this wonderful Festival of Transport to the Memorial Park for so many years before we took stewardship.

So much on show

Come and see the huge range of vehicles on static display, including classic, vintage, cars and motorcycles as well as buses, fire engines and commercial and military vehicles.

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 will be pleasantly surprised.

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane

Twitter: @RBstokeDeane

There will also be a variety of specialist car clubs, trade stalls, with all manner of items for sale from motor jumble to plants together with catering outlets and live music

As well as the trade stands, amongst them you will find some of the charities our Rotary supports, and we are pleased to be able to provide an opportunity for them to showcase the work that they do.



Supporting the Pink Place Charity

A Great Day Out

Basingstoke Festival of Transport is a great day out for all the family, whether you are a keen motor buff or want an interesting and enjoyable Sunday!

It is a chance to impress your grandchildren when looking at a Ford Anglia of Harry Potter fame and say, "My Dad had one of these".



This event is free of charge. Parking is available at Old Common, London Road for £2.

For more info - go to Festival of Transport web address www.bstokefot.co.uk

This is all run by volunteers. If you'd like to join our team on the day, please get in touch - email addresses above



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SPRING BREAKS INTO ACTION

- AND WE FOLLOW ON



Our outdoor activities leap into life

Days are getting a little longer, the end of lockdown a little closer, and our u3a groups are raring to go. We're keeping to the rules of course, with our croquet, cycling and walking groups planning to start back in March and April. And for our photographers, the 'Walking with your Camera' group is on the move as well. Although unfortunately we can't actually go on our excursions and holidays together at the moment, planning is well underway for later in the year, and bookings are coming in thick and fast.

And our indoor groups get ready too

Email and Facebook have kept lots of us in touch with each other through recent months, and many groups have transferred their regular meetings to Zoom for the time being. Amongst these, our Literature Group is currently reading *The Enchanted April*, our historians are learning about Ukraine's past, and the Environment Group is looking at the changing climate. Needles and Pins members have started a new project for a wildlife centre in Cornwall and are making woollen nests for the small birds and animals there. Wool is available if you'd like to join in. And to our delight, our bridge players have gone one step further and won a *nationwide* tournament!

But there are many more pursuits waiting in the wings to restart too. Groups like line dancing, badminton and table tennis are looking forward to leading the way again, and we're working hard to try to set up new groups like walking football or walking netball. Please have a look at the full range of activities on our website. Don't forget you can join in with as many as you like for just one membership fee - £15 will give you all sorts of fun with us through to August and perhaps without the need for you to be online. You'll be made very welcome by everyone.

facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a

website: www.basingstokeu3a.org

email: basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com

phone: 07787 520 281

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!

COMMUNITY FOOD LINK

Melrose Christian Fellowship & Melrose Community Association

MONDAYS
11am-12.30pm
Melrose Community
Hall, Abbey Road



BRING A BAG

Melrose Community Association & Melrose Christian Fellowship have partnered with Community Food Link. CFL is a charity who is given food by the supermarkets that has passed its sell by date, but not its best before date, food that would have otherwise been taken to landfill.

The food delivered varies week to week, but certainly helps top up your weekly food shop. Please bring a bag & help yourself. For more info call Rhoda on 07756383068



www.bcfed.org.uk



www.melrosecommunityassociation.co.uk

www.mcfbasingstoke.com/

Basingstoke Samaritans – over half a century of support

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

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

Our brilliant volunteers took over 19,835 contacts from callers and gave over **3,016 volunteer hours last year**. Every person supporting Basingstoke Samaritans is a volunteer.

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

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

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

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

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



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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

Over 55s Forum

The Basingstoke and Deane Over 55s Forum is hoping to start up again later in the year, and we have started to plan trips from July 2021.

1) Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd July we have arranged a trip to the Tereza Joanne in the Royal Docks in London for a fantastic ABBA Tribute show with one of the best ABBA tribute bands in the UK. playing live, ABBA Chique bring an authentic sound with great attention to detail. It's ABBA, it's sing-a-long, it's arm-waving, it's (fingers crossed!) socially distanced dancing, it's great fun. With a 2 course Mediterranean chicken served with roasted vegetables and crushed new potatoes in lemon and thyme. and white chocolate and raspberry cheesecake, also tea/coffee Price per ticket to include all coach travel, show and meal at a fantastic offer of £53.50.

2) November (no date fixed to date) a visit to Bedgebury Christmas Lights trail at Kent.

3) Christmas Carols at Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 18 December 2021. Seats near the front of the arena area. Ticket price £45.50 plus coach £58.50.

If you are interested in any of these trips, please contact Gerald on e-mail gerald.merritt@ntlworld.com or ring 07792535116.

Take care, Gerald (Secretary and Tour Manager)



In the Basingstoke area we continue to receive reports that people's cars are being broken into, tampered with or stolen. As a result we would like to keep residents up to date with relevant crime prevention advice, so that you have a better awareness of how you may protect yourself and your belongings.

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

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

I hope you find this information useful.

Regards, PCSO Holt, 16552.



Property Disputes Involving Unmarried Couples

As more and more people choose to live together rather than marry, there has been an increase in the number of disputes between separating couples.

One of the biggest issues for these people is their interest in and right to occupy the home they had previously lived in as a couple. Other situations can also involve inherited property and property purchased for investment.

Many people do not realise that unmarried cohabiting couples do not have the same amount of legal protection as those who are married.

While property disputes can be complicated, Simon Arneaud, who is an experienced dispute resolution solicitor, is on hand to help you.

“Property ownership disputes are often governed by a piece of legislation called The Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 – often known as TOLATA for short,” explained Simon.

TOLATA gives the Court the power to determine what share of the property each person is entitled to. It can force the sale of a property and it can make an order where one person refuses to leave the property but allows the other to regain access.

“If the property is owned in joint names the Court’s starting point will usually be, unless one party can provide compelling evidence such as, for example, a signed agreement, to order that the sale proceeds for that property should be divided in equal shares,” said Simon.

“In circumstances where a person says they are entitled to a greater than 50% share, despite the property being held as joint tenants, it will be up to that person to prove why they are entitled to a greater share.”

“When a property is in one person’s name the court will generally state that they are the sole owner. However, the non-owning person may still be able to establish an interest in the property, if it can be shown that the couple shared a common intention that the property would be jointly owned.”

If you would like to know more or set up a Zoom meeting, or, if necessary, meet in person to discuss a property ownership matter, please get in touch with Simon by calling 01256 854667, emailing sarneaud@phillips-law.co.uk or visiting www.phillips-law.co.uk



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Don't Forget to Apply to EU Settlement Scheme

European Union citizens living in Basingstoke and Deane are being encouraged to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme before the deadline of 30 June 2021.

Following the UK's departure from the European Union, European citizens living in the UK are required to apply to the scheme to continue living, working and studying in the UK after 30 June.

More than 9,000 residents across the borough have successfully applied to the scheme.

Help and support to apply for the scheme is available locally through Citizens Advice Basingstoke and Tadley. Other support the charity will provide includes guidance on employment rights and EU employees' rights to stay, UK citizens living overseas and looking to return and consumer concerns such as travel insurance.

As well as help and support from Citizens Advice, digital assistance is available for residents who do not have the access, skills or confidence to complete the online form by appointment. To arrange an appointment, please call We Are Digital on 03333 445675.

Leader of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Cllr Ken Rhatigan said: "With the deadline to apply fast approaching, it is really important that eligible residents apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to ensure they can stay living in the borough.

"We know this is a difficult time for residents and we are working closely with our partners to support residents to ensure they have everything they need to complete their application."

Further information about the EU Settlement Scheme, including advice on living and working in the borough and useful links, is available at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/eu-settlement-scheme



*Basingstoke
and Deane*



Base 2000, Carpenters Down, Popley. RG24 9AE
Website, www.base2000.co.uk
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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 GSL/AGSL	

The beginning of March saw the Scout Association announce, that outdoor Face to Face meetings could resume from the end of March and from April 12th indoor meetings can resume, albeit with restrictions on numbers, so we have started making our plans to get back and meeting everyone once again. In the meantime, we will continue our meetings on Zoom until we feel everything is right, so watch this space for the big news of our first face to face meeting

Looking back over the last month, once again it has been a busy time for the Beavers and Cubs, with a varied range of activities been carried out. These have included the return, by popular demand, one of our very first virtual meeting programmes in the form of a virtual Pet Show with everyone talking and showing the pets, both real and imaginary and what a variety there was. Ranging from the normal cats, dogs, rabbits and guinea pigs to the more exotic in the form of a Crested Gecko and even heard about one of the Cubs Pony

This was followed up on the 23rd March by a visit by Blue Cross who talked to the Cubs and Beavers about what pets need, with loads of interesting questions asked by the Cubs and Beavers.

Other activities have included "Minute to Win" challenges, where the Cubs and Beavers had 1 minute to complete a challenge, before moving on to the nest challenge. These challenges included such things stacking as many Lego bricks as possible on the back of their hand, writing their full name on a piece of paper held on the head and standing on 1 leg without holding anything.

The middle of April should see us lifting off in an Eagle Space Shuttle of Space 1999 fame (I know I am showing my age) for a Virtual Space Camp on the Moon staying in the newly built Moon Base, activities planned for the weekend, designing a new module on the Moon Base to be used by Scouts and Guides which will include sleeping accommodation and an activity area, we will also practice manually docking a spaceship with the International Space Station. The space camp will consist of a combination of the Cubs and Beavers working independently on activities and catch-ups over Zoom to find out how everyone is getting on. The Cubs and Beavers will not be allowed to sleep in their own beds so will have to build themselves a sleeping pod to sleep in.

Douglas Gowan
Assistant Group Scout Leader



Annual General Meeting

6 May 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 an ideal time to come and find out more about what we do and understand if you'd like to be involved, we'd love to see you there. If you'd like any more information please contact us,

office@popleyfields.org.uk

Thanks, the Popley Fields Team

Dear Friends

I heard the following amazing song lyrics on the radio the other morning: *"It's been a long dark night. And I've been a-waiting for the morning. It's been a long hard fight. But I see a brand new day dawning. I've been looking for the sunshine You know I ain't seen it in so long But everything's gonna work out just fine And everything's gonna be all right That's been all wrong."*

These lyrics have a particular poignancy for two reasons. Firstly, we are hopefully emerging from a really tough year and can now look forward to the easing of the lockdown restrictions that have, of necessity, blighted our lives over the past twelve months. We can begin to look forward to life returning to some level of normalcy and a time when we can once again celebrate all those freedoms we previously took for granted: family and friends; eating out (I long for a slap-up breakfast somewhere!) and travel just mention a few.

Secondly, I feel we are emerging from a particularly long winter. I look for the spring flowers, buds on trees, nesting birds, and the longer, lighter evenings that raise my spirits. I love the different seasons we enjoy in this country but oh, I am so glad when winter disappears and spring brings all that new life.

Combined together I feel so hopeful about this year and what it may bring. It is also the time of the year when the Church celebrates its greatest festival, the blessings of Easter. The Easter hope is one of emerging from darkness into light, from death into life, old ways to new. My personal faith has sustained me over some pretty rough times, none more so than the past twelve months and I know it will continue to do so whatever may lie ahead.

There is something solid, something real and tangible about the Christian faith. Sadly for so many, God is only the fourth emergency service; to be called on when all else fails! If that is you then my constant hope and prayer for you is that this Easter time you may come to know the one who defeated death and was raised to life just for you.

*"It's been a long long time Since I've known the taste of freedom
And those clinging vines That had me bound, well I don't need 'em
I've been like a captured eagle You know an eagle is born to fly
Now that I have won my freedom Like an eagle, I am eager to fly*

*'Cause I can see the light of a clear blue morning
I can see the light of a brand new day
I can see the light of a clear blue morning
Oh and everything's gonna be all right It's gonna be okay"*

With Easter blessings

**Rev. Arthur
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PS. Lyrics from Dolly Parton's song 'Light of a Clear Blue Morning'



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Myself and Ann walked 200 miles during the month of March. We both work full time and also care for my mum Betty so it was a real challenge. We are trying to raise funds for my nephews Archie, George and Isaac who all have a life shortening illness- Duchenne 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.



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