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# POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVED THE POPLEY COMMUNITY MAY 1992-MAY 2021

May 2021

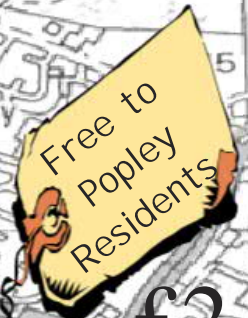
Distribution of 5,400

Issue 231

## Goodbye

## After 29 Years

## this is the last issue



£2

**FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS**

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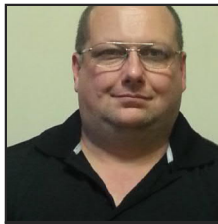
Thank you everyone for all your support for the last 29 years from all at Popley Matters.



Editor  
Jane Frankum

Editor: Well, here we are, the very last Popley Matters. it has been hard work and very difficult at times but, despite all the things that have been thrown at us over the years, we never missed an issue. it was close when my husband was at the end of his fight with cancer but he so wanted us to carry on and he hung on till I told him it was OK to go, Matters was ready and at the printers. Why is it closing down? read the centre pages though I could have filled a book on the long life of Popley Matters and how it convinced us to go into politics. We have so many people to thank for their help: Terry who has been the Chair, Chris our Treasurer and a listening ear when times got tough,

Jeremy for helping to distribute; Martin our printer who also helps with Martin's wife Chandsofa to distribute to our amazing deliverers; and members of Basingstoke Deane Rotary who stepped in when people went on holiday or couldn't deliver for an issue or more. Thank you to our advertisers without whom we could not have paid the printer. Everyone was a volunteer and delivered come rain, wind or snow. Then there are our writers of the articles and Paul and I thank you for your kind words; we will miss you too. I want to give a personal big thank you as Editor to Paul who is the Sub Editor and spent hours laying out every copy and being the calming influence when things got scary, He is my rock and supported me all through Ken's cancer, Also Tony, my youngest, who also delivers the magazines and was always supportive. We will keep the Facebook page Popley Matters and the web site (popleymatters.org.uk) to archive the copies that we have kept since day one, May 1992. We say a sad farewell and thank you, last but not least to all to of you, our readers. If you have any questions for Popley Matters Contact me by 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 Biermann; Jane Frankum and Jeremy Jackman.

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**for further information**

## Why volunteer?

Do you have a couple of hours to spare a month, maybe you have more free time than usual as you are commuting less or want a new challenge or a way to make new friends whilst giving back to your local community?

Basingstoke and District Disability Forum (BDDF) are actively seeking volunteers to support our services such as the buddy scheme and to help on the Scarecrow event.

BDDF would like to expand our Trustee Board. As a Trustee you can help set the strategy for the charity. We have two positions available, one focusing on Diversity and Inclusion and the second a Treasurer/Financial position.

**Why volunteer?** Volunteering offers vital help to people in need but there are many benefits for you, the volunteer. **Aside from the obvious feel-good factor from giving your time to a worthy cause, volunteering has several key benefits which make it well worth considering...**

- **Gain confidence** by giving you the opportunity to try something new and build a real sense of achievement;
- **Make a difference** your actions will have a real and valuable positive affect on people, communities and society in general;
- **Meet people** meet people from across the community, make new friends;
- **Be part of a community** be part of a cause wider than your current network;
- **Learn new skills** gain practical experience, help your CV stand out and learn skills which make you more desirable for prospective employers;
- **Challenge** yourself to try something different, achieve personal goals, practice using your skills and discover hidden talents; and
- **Have fun!** Most volunteers have a great time, regardless of why they do it.

Food for thought? Want to know more about volunteering with Basingstoke and District Disability Forum (BDDF), your local disability charity, please contact sarah@bddf.org.uk or telephone 01256 423869. or by visiting our website www.bddf.org.uk.

# MARNELL BOWLING CLUB

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**We are planning to have an Open Day May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

*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](http://www.marnellbowlingclub.co.uk)

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Everest Community Academy is proud to announce that Marnel Junior School has joined the Bourne Education Trust as of 1 April 2021. Both schools are delighted to be working closely together to provide a safe learning environment where every pupil can thrive in an aspirational culture, without barriers to achievement. We hope that working together will provide children with a smooth transition into secondary school, where learning will embrace creative and innovative approaches that engage pupils. Everest Community Academy is excited to share the activities and events we have planned over on our social media. To keep up to date, follow us on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter by searching 'Everest Community Academy'.

# 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 are hoping to resume activities.



Thank you for your patience!

Since this is the final Popley Matters issue, we would like to thank Jane, Paul and the other Popley Matters team for all their hard work over the years. Thank you to the readers who have supported our community newsletter as well.

We wish you all the best and we hope to see you all at the hall soon, from Bermuda Hall.



Melrose Community Hall is open!! (sort of). Please check our notice board in the front window to find out which groups and activities have reopened. We aim to be fully reopend on 21st June. You can also call the office on a Tuesday 01256 420676.

On Behalf of Melrose Community Association, we would like to say a massive thank you to Jane and Paul for all your support through your time as County and Borough Councillors. It has been with your help and years of experience that we have been able to provide and improve on the groups and services that we offer, from grant funding to advice and support. Most recently your support for the extension and refurbishment of our building. We are extremely grateful and you will be sorely missed. Thank you both and we hope you will still pop in and see us.

*Melrose Committee*



Finally, we're getting back to normal! From April 12<sup>th</sup> Popley Fields Community Centre has been open to groups meeting the .gov covid-19 advice criteria. Please contact us ( [office@popleyfields.org.uk](mailto:office@popleyfields.org.uk) ) or your group for when you can get back to meeting again.

Popley Fields will be continuing to follow the GOV.UK criteria so hopefully will be fully open, with no restrictions, in June. We're taking bookings for the rest of the year, so please contact us asap as we're booking up fast! As this is going to be the last issue of Popley Matters, I would like to thank both Jane and Paul on behalf of the Community Association. Popley Matters has helped PFCA communicate events, meeting, news and much more to the community; we will truly miss it and the dedication that goes into it.

As Paul and Jane are also stepping down as councillors, not only is Popley losing its local magazine but also 2 of its most dedicated servants. I'd particularly like to call out Jane, whose tireless service has help make Popley the great place it is to live today. So many public facilities, open spaces, traffic management schemes etc.. are due to her championing Popley – Jane you've done an amazing job, you are an example to us all.

We wish you both every success in the future,

**Phil Mean, Chairman PFCA**

and Popley Fields  
Team



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The Austen Academy is a purpose-built special school for young people with autism. It is situated on the site of the old Chineham Junior School on Shakespeare Road and opens on 19 April to the first group of children. The school will grow to accommodate 128 children all with a diagnosis of autism. Classes will be small but expectations of the children will be high with the expectation that some children will be taking GCSEs and all will be taking meaningful qualifications so they can go on to employment in later life. There will also be a focus on developing good health and wellbeing. If local people want more information about the school, please contact us at [info@theaustenacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@theaustenacademy.org.uk).

Liz Cooper  
Headteacher



**CONTACTS**  
Helen Ricketts: -  
[helen@highpathway.co.uk](mailto:helen@highpathway.co.uk)  
or  
Paul Temple:-  
[tempaul45@gmail.com](mailto:tempaul45@gmail.com)

**YOUR LOCAL  
ROTARY  
ROUNDUP**  
May 2021

### Sea of Purple has a special meaning

#### Purple 4 Polio



Earlier in the spring you may have noticed masses of purple crocus on banks and open spaces around our local towns and villages. These crocuses have been planted to draw attention to Rotary's Purple 4 Polio campaign. Locally some of the crocus corms were supplied by Rotary and planted by local organisations as part of local projects. Basingstoke Deane Rotary distributed 3000 corms last autumn which were planted around the borough and were in full flower this spring.

Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years. Our goal to rid the world of this disease is closer than ever. But why Purple 4 Polio? In the early days of administering the vaccine it was given on a sugar cube. The younger children in places such as India thought it was a sweet and would join the queue again for a second sweet. To identify the children who had been vaccinated their little finger was painted with a purple dye. Hence Purple 4 Polio. It is now administered orally by dropping the required dose directly into the mouth using a dispenser.

As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Rotary has reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But it's crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyse as many as 200,000 children each year. Rotary has contributed more than \$2.1 billion to polio eradication since it launched the PolioPlus programme in 1985, and it's committed to raising \$50 million each year for polio eradication activities.



Because of a 2-to-1 matching agreement with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, that means that, each year, \$150 million goes toward fulfilling Rotary's promise to the children of the world: No child will ever again suffer the devastating, paralysing and crippling effects of polio. Proof of how effective vaccination can be.

*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](http://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

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Basingstoke Shed is OPEN

Come and join us!



Our Shed opened from 12<sup>th</sup> April and we are observing COVID-19 rules with masks being worn, social distancing and disinfection points. We are keen to welcome new members who would like to make things in our communal Shed. We contribute to community projects with some members happily making their own creations using the many tools and machines we have.

Our charity aims to engage with those in our neighbourhood who may be lonely or isolated and would benefit from having the social interaction of our Shed members. It's a safe, friendly and inclusive environment where there is plenty of tea, coffee and chatting and laughing.

Interested – then please see our website [basingstokeshed.org.uk](http://basingstokeshed.org.uk) or call us on 07434 678104

We look forward to saying hello and introducing you to Shed life. We are a registered charity.

## THE BLUEBELLS HAVE ARRIVED AND WE'RE BREAKING OUT TOO



Join us as we move into the parks, woods and pathways around Basingstoke

It didn't take our groups long to get going again. Members are already playing croquet, walking and cycling - all being very careful to keep to current rules and regulations. We always make sure we keep up to date with those. Our walking photographers will probably be making the most of the bluebells, and we're looking forward to seeing some of their photographs on our Facebook page too.

We're excited about three new outdoor activities we have in the planning - rounders, walking netball and walking football. Many current members have already expressed an interest in taking part and new members will be very welcome too. We're hoping to start off in our local parks, so please let us know if you're interested.

There's plenty going on indoors too

Carefully controlled indoor exercise is starting up again as well, with activities such as ballroom dancing, line dancing, badminton and table tennis to take part in. Technology has enabled us to do lots indoors during lockdown, especially in our creative and learning groups. Arts, crafts, bridge, science and technology, sewing, flower arranging, languages, history and music carry on - to name but a few! Our *Cooking for Men* and *Ladies who Lunch* groups are on the move too.

You don't need to be online to take part in the fun

Over the past year many of us have enjoyed technology, some haven't wanted to use it, and others, a little more house-bound, have welcomed it. So going forward, Basingstoke u3a will continue to plan to include everyone.

Have a look at the full range of activities on our website, and if you're interested in something that isn't there, let us know. Or ring for further details if that's easier. You can join in with as many groups as you want for just one membership fee - £15 will give you lots to do with us through to August, indoors and outdoors. And as always, you'll be made very welcome by everyone.

email: [basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com)  
phone: 07787 520281





# COMMUNITY FOOD LINK

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[www.bcfed.org.uk](http://www.bcfed.org.uk)

[www.melrosecommunityassociation.co.uk](http://www.melrosecommunityassociation.co.uk)



[www.mcfbasingstoke.com/](http://www.mcfbasingstoke.com/)

## Diaries from the Old Codger

Hi everyone, some of the older readers of Popley Matters may remember me and may still read the Old Codger (OC) on Facebook. Firstly, I would like to say how sorry I am to know this is to be the last of our community magazine. So many years of memories and I think I have every copy that has been printed. Jane (we joke and call each other Sis and Bruv) and her son Paul have done a fantastic job putting it together each month. Why "Sis"? well that goes back many, many years. We sort of adopted each other, and yes, like all families, you have dust up's, but you are still a family and I love her for that, and all the great work she has done for Popley over the many years. I wish I could say more but the lump in my throat is getting bigger as I write this. Many of you will hold fond, memories yourselves. The OC wouldn't be the OC without a little story, of what I always called "the lost boy". At the top of my dear old nan's stairs in the East End there was a large portrait photo of a little boy, but no one was allowed to talk or ask questions about him. None of us even knew his name so after my nan passed away, my mum had the photo in a drawer and she in turn gave the photo of the lost boy to me. It was stuck to a card, so I wondered what was on the back? I got the card off with the help of Her Indoors. Yes, she is still with me giving me, the usual ear bashing but after 50 years last December I might as well keep her. Although there was something written there, we were not able to decipher it. Back to the story: my mum had a brother called Fredrick not, long ago, a great aunt of mine in New Zealand said to my cousin, "It was sad when Arthur passed away, he was a lovely man". My cousin said my dad was Fred "No," the Aunt said, "his name was Arthur Fredrick Guy". It turned out they named my uncle Fred after the lost boy but reversed his name. So, we now know the lost boy was Fredrick Arthur Guy. All these years and at last the mystery solved. I am now going to write the story of the lost boy on the back of the photo. He was just six years old when he died, a mystery that lasted just under a hundred years.

So, to end this Old Codger I personally would like to thank Jane and Paul for all their hard work and dedication, not only for Popley Matters, but also the love they have shown to so many of the residents of Popley and I hope you will all join in what I have said. Finally, thank you all for all your kind messages over the years when I wrote in Popley Matters and the many questions you asked. We are a band of people that have over many years stood strong and long may that continue.

Love to you all from Her Indoors and,

of course,  
the Old Codger.



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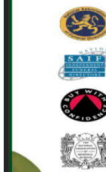
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Hello and sadly goodbye Popley Matters. It is such a shame that this informative newsletter for Popley will be coming to an end. I don't know about all of you but I have personally found this very helpful and full of good news about Popley. I for one am sad to see it go and I wish Paul and Jane all the best for the future.

As lockdown restrictions are lowering over the coming months, we have been looking at ways we can support our members with their mobility and their confidence after many being isolated for over a year. We are currently still offering the hot meal delivery to our members in partnership with Oasis Café based at the United Reform in Church London Street. We are still completing cake delivery, food shops and medication pickup and drop offs plus the forever grateful telephone befriending service, I'm currently supporting members on a one to one basis with a safe distance socially distanced walk plus our one to one sessions in their own gardens in the anticipation in starting up some small local walking groups very soon.

We are still looking for volunteers and also, if you have an elderly family member or neighbour that would benefit from our services, please get in touch. We offer full training and DBS checks on all volunteers and helpers you will get continued friendly support within our staff team. Please contact me via email [Francesca.wildash@mha.org.uk](mailto:Francesca.wildash@mha.org.uk) or telephone 07720680403.

Once again, I shall miss writing in Popley Matters each month like many of us will do. All that is left to say is a massive thank you to Paul and Jane for allowing me to do a write up each month and getting MHA communities out and about in Popley so we can help and support people. Please all take care and remain safe and well.

**Thank you Popley for your support.  
See you all around on the estate  
Many thanks  
Francesca Wildash**

---

## Interested in Your Community

The new Sherborne St. John Parish Council needs to co-opt two residents to join the Parish Council:

- Get involved with your Community and help provide for the future.
- Help ensure it reflects the concerns and hopes of all residents for the future, be they young or older, to continue as a vibrant parish.

The Parish Council's work is wide ranging and interesting from housing, roads, recreation facilities, playgrounds, transport and many other aspects that help residents to live in an environment they have chosen.

There are around 10 monthly meetings each year, so it does not represent a large commitment of your time and if circumstances change, there is no problem in leaving for someone else to take your place.

So if you live within the boundary of the Sherborne St. John parish, give it some thought and help create the Community you want to be part of.

If you are interested, contact the Parish Clerk [clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk) for more information.

**Save the date for Basingstoke Festival**

Friday 25 June to Sunday 11 July 2021

**Discover art in unusual places in unusual times!**

There's fun for all the family at this year's Basingstoke Festival. The annual arts festival, in its ninth year, will showcase the best of the arts locally, nationally and internationally - from music to dance, visual art to theatre, you will 'discover art in unusual places in unusual times'.

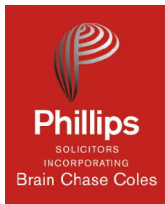
Across Basingstoke and the surrounding areas, you will find acts such as Urban Astronaut from Highly Sprung Theatre Company that combines storytelling with stunning design and an aerial performance, using a unique travelling flying machine that suspends the performer 20 feet in the air. Mimbres Acrobats will return to the festival with their quirky show Lifted, a breath-taking and highly skilled acrobatic piece of performance art, and children and their families will also be invited to look through the windows and doors of My House, a circus theatre experience from Apocalyptic Circus.

Local artists and organisations including Proteus, Scratchbuilt Productions, Pumpkin Pantos and Junk Jodie Arts and Crafts will be featured in the programme highlighting the best of arts and culture Basingstoke has to offer.

The packed programme also features a series of outdoor cinema screenings showing popular movies in a brand-new picturesque location. Film titles will include Frozen 2, Back to the Future and The Greatest Showman plus many more!

Keep an eye on the website for up to date information [www.basingstokefestival.co.uk](http://www.basingstokefestival.co.uk). To ensure Basingstoke Festival is COVID-19-secure and to keep audiences and performers safe, events may be ticketed. These will be available via the website.





### Family Mediation Voucher Scheme

Separating couples are being offered £500 vouchers to spend on family mediation to help them avoid acrimonious court proceedings.

Haymarket Family Mediation, which is part of Phillips Solicitors, is participating in the scheme funded by The Ministry of Justice via the Family Mediation Council (FMC). Launched on 26 March, the scheme, which is limited to 2,000 cases, will offer a financial contribution of up to £500 per family towards the costs of their mediation.

Welcoming the initiative, Sheila Parkes, who heads the Haymarket Family Mediation team and is an accredited member of the FMC, said: **“Family mediation is a proven cost-effective way to resolve differences following separation.** The voucher scheme will make mediation accessible to more people, and help separated families agree to solutions that are best for their children.”

“However, it is important to note that the **scheme does not cover the initial mediation information meeting (the MIAM) but does provide a contribution towards the cost of the subsequent mediation about child arrangements, irrespective of the income of either party. This will make the process more affordable to those who may not be eligible for Legal Aid but are still on modest incomes.**”

Having been a qualified mediator for nearly 25 years, Sheila added: “Over the years, I have seen how much more beneficial it is for separating clients to reach agreement in mediation, rather than go through the adversarial court process which often ends up with an outcome that neither party wanted and almost inevitably leads to a further deterioration in the parent’s relationship.”

“Mediation is often a quicker, cheaper, more amicable and less stressful way of resolving disputes. The biggest advantage of mediation is that it can help you communicate better at a very difficult time which will help you to move on as separate individuals and help when future issues arise.”

“There are a limited number of the vouchers available, and when they are used, the scheme will end. So, if you are thinking about family mediation then it would be a good idea to think about this sooner rather than later.”

Should you wish to discuss the Family Mediation Voucher Scheme, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with Sheila by calling 01256 854652, emailing [sheila.parkes@phillips-law.co.uk](mailto:sheila.parkes@phillips-law.co.uk) or by visiting [www.phillips-law.co.uk/haymarket-family-mediation](http://www.phillips-law.co.uk/haymarket-family-mediation).



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## Over Forum 55s

Due to all the lockdowns, the committee of the Basingstoke and Deane Over 55s Forum decided to cancel all our bi-monthly meetings, events and trips, but we have continued producing our excellent bi-monthly Newsletter, which the members have appreciated very much. It has kept them interested and something to look forward to in these difficult times. We have decided to start running our coach trips from July and some of the bookings have gone very well.

Firstly on 22nd July we have arranged a trip to the "Voulez Vous Aha!". Spend an afternoon immersed in the Seventies with one of the UK's best ABBA tribute bands. Playing live, ABBA Chique bring an authentic sound with great attention to detail. It's ABBA, it's sing-along, it's arm waving, it's great fun. Our live tribute band bring you an uplifting afternoon as they work through the incredible ABBA back catalogue - hit after hit. We have included a 2 course lunch - Mediterranean chicken breast with grilled vegetables and potatoes. White chocolate cheesecake with tea or coffee. Special diets can be catered for. This show will be held on the brilliant Tereza-Joanne boat at the Royal Docks in London. Price £52.50 per person which includes all coach travel, Lunch and the Show. This is very good value for this price. WHY NOT LET US ALL CELEBRATE SOMETHING SPECIAL.

4th August: a visit to Sandhurst for the "Commandants Parade". This is well worth a visit. (No price at price of going to print)

19th November: a visit to Bedgebury Christmas Lights Trail at Goudhurst in Kent. (No price at time of going to print)

18th December: a visit to the Christmas Carols at the Royal Albert Hall with a 3pm performance, Seats near the front of the arena area. Ticket price £45.50 per person. Coach cost in the region of £13.00 will not be needed to be paid for until Oct;/Nov.

On closing I would like to offer Jane and Paul our sincere thanks for all your hard work and supporting our Forum by printing articles for us. Stay Safe.

*Gerald (Secretary & Tour Manager)*

Dear Jane and Paul,

We delivered the latest Popley Matters magazine last week, but we have only just had a chance to read through it, as we always do.

We were saddened to read that you and Paul were not going to serve as County Councillor or Local Councillors for the Popley area of Basingstoke.

We were also sad to read, that due to this, you will be unable to continue producing and editing the informative monthly magazine, Popley Matters, for the Popley area.

The Committee of the Bermuda Community Association would like to thank you both sincerely for the hard work you have done for the Association and the community in general over the many years you have served the area.

We also appreciate all the work and effort you put in to enable the hall to continue after the passing of Ron Rowe (who we know you had a good working relationship with) and even more recently your input to help secure the L.I.F grant, which enabled the hall refurbishment update program to take place for the benefit of the local community. This was completed in June 2019.

Janet, myself and the committee would once again thank you both for your help throughout the years, and wish you every success for the future.

Yours sincerely,

**For and on behalf of the Bermuda Community Association Committee, Les Ward. (secretary)**

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

With the end of restrictions in sight are you looking for a new hobby, challenge or want to get out and about? If you have answered yes, then why not come and join us.

To help us to continue to deliver a fun and engaging program, that teaches the skills the young people need for school, college, university, the job interview, the important speech, that tricky challenge and the big dreams they all have we are looking for more adults to help support our existing Leadership Team.

You do not need to have been a Scout or be an expert in the outdoors to volunteer. We are with you every step of the way with a recognised training plan that will teach you all you need to know.

Whatever your skillset, lend a hand for as little or as much time as you can spare, and we promise you will get more out than you put in.

To see if Scouting is for you, why not take part in the 4 Week Challenge and be amazed at the difference you'll make and the enjoyment you will get out of it.

**Week 1** See what we get up to

**Week 2** Start to help out

**Week 3** Get a little more involved

**Week 4** You will know if Scouting is for you

Here are a couple of quotes from some of our existing Leaders about what they get out of being a Leader

*I became a leader as I wanted to be able to prepare young people with skills for life, supported by delivering an inspiring programme, but at the same time having FUN!!*  
Mandy – Beaver Leader

*Seeing the sheer enjoyment of a Cubs face, after spending the whole evening teaching him to tie a knot for him to finally tie it by himself*  
Colin – Group Scout Leader

*Seeing a shy young person join Beavers at the age of 6 and watching them develop and grow into a confident outgoing person by time they leave Scouts for Explorers*  
Douglas – Assistant Group Scout Leader

So why not contact us today to start your Scouting adventure and help to change lives by giving young people skills for life.

**Douglas Gowan  
Assistant Group Scout Leader**

## My Journey with Art by Patricia Dennis, an Artist/Creator Living in Popley

I grew up in Carshalton, Surrey and moved to Basingstoke in the 70s and loved the mix of countryside plus the busyness of Basingstoke town.

I have always had an interest in anything artistic. I recall at the age of around 8 or 9 making little animal characters from plaster of Paris, painting them, then trying to sell them door to door to my neighbours. Couldn't do that these days!!

Bringing up a young family, I didn't find time to follow my love of art, although I did continue sketching when I could.

When the children grew up, I started my own mobile business in beauty, hair and nails, also as a nail artist and Reflexologist but then, due to health reasons and lugging heavy equipment to people's houses, I changed direction and put all my efforts into my art and crafts.

So, in the past 4/5yrs I have increased my activity in producing more of the things I love to do, using several different mediums to do that.

I first started by doing crafting sessions with Hobbycraft, making cards and small crafts which I tried selling at craft fayres. I produced some lovely heart shaped boxes decorated in tissue art in Art Deco style, heart-shaped hanging Xmas tree decorations plus lots of other ideas. Craft Fayres are unrewardingly hard work.

I had always wanted to produce my own artwork, so I joined Basingstoke Art and are available today. I love them all. I still continue to enjoy working with Basingstoke Art Class online during lockdown. They can be contacted for previous and new events at <https://www.facebook.com/basingstokeartclass>.

I now work in several mediums and use vibrant colours to produce the varied artwork and crafts that I so enjoy. I am sure you will love them too!

You will often find me plein air sketching in places of interest, in and around Basingstoke. I have done a lot of artwork in Milestones Museum, Holy Ghost Churchyard, War Memorial Park, and Festival Place. I was also commissioned to sketch St Michael's Church, which I made into cards for someone special. I entered a national competition with seven thousand entrants and was awarded 18th place. Selling art is a struggle with so many talented artists around, you have to stand out!

If you would like to take a look at what I do and commission a stunning piece of artwork to call your own, then please contact me via my Unique Hearts and Crafts Facebook Page using this link <https://m.facebook.com/mobiletrician/> where you will find my contact details and price list. There is also my Google Account <https://g.page/r/CcVud7twucheEBA>.

I am also on Instagram under the same name.

*Patricia Dennis*

Dear Friends

As I write I am waiting for the broadcast of the funeral of HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh to begin on television. It will no doubt be a sad occasion as we bid farewell to this dedicated man of service and duty and our thoughts and prayers are with Her Majesty the Queen and the family in their loss and their grief. We will continue to hold them in our prayers in the coming weeks.

It has been a time of sad farewells in our church community over this past very difficult year or so. We have said goodbye and commended to God Mary Herbert, Rose Humphreys, Noel Osmond, Angie Athanasiou and others whom we shall miss greatly.

I'm also greatly saddened to say farewell to our community magazine, Popley Matters. Jane and Paul Frankum have served our community so faithfully during their long tenure in their roles as both editors of the magazine and Local and County Councillors (Jane). Their visible and editorial presence will be greatly missed by many I am certain.

Nonetheless, it is also Eastertide and for Christians it is a time of resurrection and new life. It is a time when we celebrate and give thanks for the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and through His sacrifice we are able to look forward in the firm knowledge that this life is but a beginning of the full life that is His promise and free gift to all.

It is often said and heard that when God closes one door, He always opens another. So, we can say farewell to those familiar things and people, yes with sadness, but always with hope of the new things to come. New people, new ventures and adventures, new life.

As we give thanks for things past lets also look forward to what is to come.  
Alleluia Christ is Risen!

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## Goodbye from Popley Matters.

I can't believe that this is the last Popley Matters; it has been a large part of our families lives for twenty-four years. Back in late 1996, a group of us residents were talking about the terrible name Popley had and we all knew that it wasn't true. It was not deserved. Popley is really a great place to live and bring your family up in.

Ken and I moved to Abbey Road in January of 1971 with our baby Paul, then aged 6 months. We loved our new home so much from the very beginning, and 50 years later I am still here in the same house and Paul with me, now my carer. Our second son Tony lives in Marnel Park.

Back to the story of the beginning of Popley Matters. We called a meeting held in Popley Fields Community Centre: How could we change things, how could we get rid of this undeserved misconception of Popley? Someone said, "Well there was a news-sheet but there had only four copies in 5 years". I didn't remember it, nor did most of the others, so I asked "What was it called?". "Popley Matters," they replied. "That's it," we said because Popley really does matter to us all. We decided we would apply for a grant from the council and in May 1997, we produced the first one, 3,200 copies. It started as a quarterly issue but it soon became obvious that it needed to be monthly as there was so much news and the content sometimes got out of date or events were not always known three months in advance. Paul said he would show us how to layout a copy, "Just one," he said. The following year, Paul still doing all the layout then said, "Why not go that much further and do a bookle?" I said it would never work but Paul insisted it would and, of course, he was right. We went monthly and at thirty six pages long to fill, we needed to sell enough advertising to pay the printer a challenge but we met it.

After a year, and the family getting even more involved with the community, we thought Popley seemed to be at the end of the queue for improvements and the council appeared not to know where Popley was at that time. Remember the old saying "If you can't beat them then join them" so the best way then it appeared was to see if we could get elected. I had been to just about every full council meeting for well over two years to learn but there was no public speaking then so your voice could not be heard. Only one way then! I stood in the 1998 election and won by a nail-biting only 26 votes. The following year Paul got elected so our long journey as Councillors wanting the best for Popley began.

So why after all these years is Popley Matters going to stop? After being Councillors for a couple of years we realised to make changes and achieve what was our dream for Popley and its fantastic residents that we needed to do it as

a full-time job. We got frustrated because borough would say, "That's a County issue" and County said it was borough so to beat them at their own game, I would do both and if you look around Popley, I think you would agree it worked. Sadly, Ken got terminal cancer and we lost him in 2011. His last wish was for us to look after Popley, so we stepped up the fight for the dream of a family park, good schools, care homes and all that is here in Popley now and, of course, all the welcomed new homes that were so needed for our families. We have had so many battles and were so close to fulfilling the complete dream when, with the fast growth of houses tin Basingstoke, it meant the Boundaries Commission drew new boundaries and cut from four Councillors to three in Popley East and Popley West and that meant a new type of selection process. Although everyone said what a great job the present four Councillors were doing and no one would break up the team, it seemed it was a case of which one of us four would step away. But it didn't turn out that way; David and Janet suddenly left the party and went Independent as they did not like the way things were going. We were shocked as we knew nothing about their plans until five minutes before it was announced in the press. We were elected as your local Councillors and would stay that way. Paul lost the selection by the narrowest of votes. I was the only woman and one had to be a woman so automatically I was selected but Paul and I were hard-working active team and eventually I said I could not stand without Paul. Paul was also my ears with my failing hearing and, as I don't drive, he was the one who got us to all the many meetings, and I am not getting any younger! So here we are no longer your Councillors and Paul will build a new career, perhaps back in the world of IT where he was once a senior technician for Microsoft. Now we will put all our efforts into a new career for him, especially hard now as so many other people are jobless too due to the pandemic. We knew because of the hours and efforts to get Popley Matters out each month we could not carry on. We tried for eighteen months to get someone, or a group, to take on Popley Matters as a community magazine but no one wanted to, once they realised how much work and time it took. It just about broke even and many times in the past ran at a loss, also lugging around heavy boxes of magazines was another factor. Everyone involved was a volunteer and we have so many people to thank for sticking by Popley Matters: Terry the Chairman; Chris the treasurer; Lorraine our proof reader; all our amazing deliverers; Martin our printer who also helps to deliver; and Jeremy who also helps with deliveries. I will continue with my charity work for the disabled and Paul with Rotary; you may have seen him volunteering at Hampshire Court Hotel while it is the main vaccine hub for many miles around. He also is delivering food parcels. We hope you understand why we have had to close down Popley Matters; it was our time to step back and take another direction. I can still be found on Popley Matters Facebook page. It may be goodbye Popley Matters but our love for Popley will always be here. **Jane Frankum**