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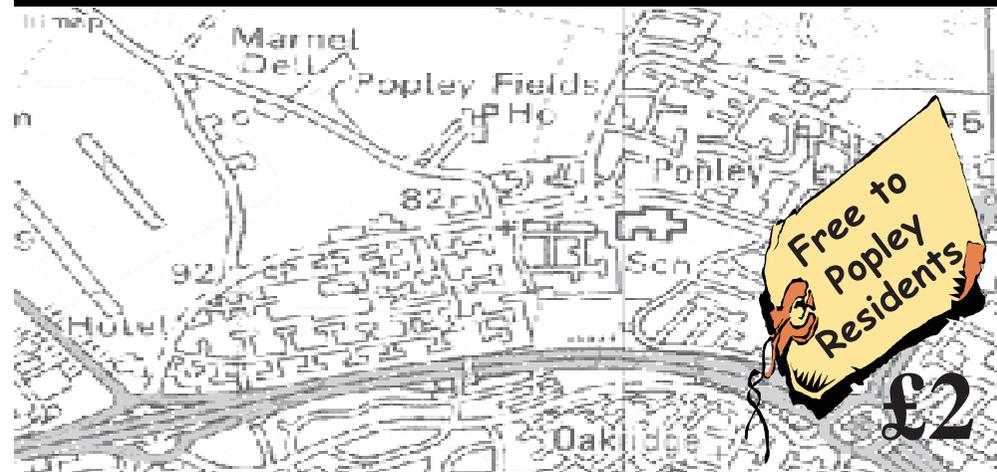
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POPLEY MATTERS

PROUDLY SERVICING THE COMMUNITY SINCE MAY 1992

November 2014 Distribution of 5,100

Issue 153



FULL OF LOCAL NEWS AND VIEWS

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Closing date to submit articles & adverts (5pm 15-11-14) editor@popleymatters.org.uk



Editor
Jane Frankum

Message from the Editor:-Halloween over, and Fireworks early this month, then it is time to get ready for Christmas. There certainly are lots of events and places to buy your gifts in this month's Popley Matters. All you spend also helps a lot of our charities. Light up a Life for St Michael's Hospice on page 28, Christmas Extravaganza at Popley Fields on page 4, Christmas Bazaar at Merton Schools on page 20 and Christmas Fair at Sherborne St John. Not forgetting Abbey Court who are working hard to make their Christmas Bazaar a big success, all are welcome.

There is some good advice and appeals for volunteers for the hospital radio on page 9 and volunteers for the Home Library Service to deliver books to those residents that can't get out much on page 24. All the community groups want your help or input. Popley Islands and Marnel and Merton are on page 6. Melrose Hall wants your views on what you would like to see at the Community Hall on page 7. They are doing a feasibility exercise so they can apply for grant money to enlarge and update the hall and facilities, so please take the time to fill it in and post through the halls letter box. I wonder what kind of winter we will have. The weather reports say it will be a cold one but how reliable are they? I guess it's always wise to be prepared with salt and grit for our paths and easy to prepare food in case it's hard to get out.

Can you also keep a neighbourly eye on each other especially if you know vulnerable people near you?

We do need some more volunteers to deliver Popley Matters for 50 houses in Abbey Road, and some of the roads in Popley Poets and Marnel Park. Just 30 minutes to an hour a month would really help us a lot. Phone me on 819924 email editor@popleymatters.org.uk or write or call at 405 Abbey Road



Sub Editor
Paul Frankum

The views in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editorial Team, the members of the committee, or Popley Matters magazine.

Editorial Team:- Editor Jane Frankum; Sub-Editor Paul Frankum; Chair Terry Jones; Area Distribution Manager Jeremy Jackman and Richard Haver; Treasurer Christopher Martin; Proof Reader Lorraine Beaney, Chris Martin and Iris King

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From the moment my mother and I first visited Marnel Lodge, we knew we had found somewhere pretty special. Elegant surroundings, delicious food and beautiful gardens were made even more appealing by the presence of like-minded residents with whom she can socialise and enjoy activities. For my part, knowing that she's safe in the care of such a dedicated and compassionate team gives me great peace of mind. And for that I'm extremely grateful.

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Light up a Life

Sunday 7th December, 18:00

at St. Michael's Hospice

Remember precious memories of loved ones past and present this Christmas by attending a very special occasion at St. Michael's Hospice. Our Light up a Life service offers time for reflection and to stand together with others to share happiness.

We invite you to dedicate a light in memory of a family member, friend or simply to remember others. You are very welcome to attend our special service whether you have lost someone at St. Michael's Hospice or not.

To reserve your place and sponsor a light please visit our website at stmichaelshospice.org.uk/events or for more information please call us on **01256 848848**.

Registered Charity No. 1002856

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 St. Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire)

 **EMAIL**
events@stmichaelshospice.org.uk

 **CONTACT**
01256 848848

 **WEBSITE**
stmichaelshospice.org.uk

Christmas Extravaganza

Monday 15th December

Lantern lit processions 5:00pm from
Dryden Close, Merton School
& Appleton Drive

6:00pm Carols in the woods

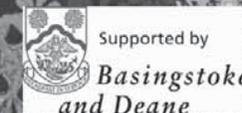
6:30 - 9:00pm Crafts, disco, raffle,
Santa's grotto & much, much more at
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Thursday 11th December

6:00 - 8:00pm lantern making workshop

Free entry but limited places

please contact us at,
office@popleyfields.org



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Diaries from the Old Codger

This month is the time to remember all the men and women that went off to WW1 in France and Flanders. In our small part of the country we must remember all the civilians that turned their hands to jobs that they would not have done, you can see this on the display at the Willis and Milestones museums. A local youth theatre and Fluid Motion are also doing Mrs. Gill's Grand Matinee at the Chesil theatre in Winchester on 14th December at 2pm. You can get tickets at www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/69616. There are 2 groups, one from Basingstoke the other from Southampton who are staging this event set in 1914. I hope you can get to see what a wonderful young theatre group this is. There and, I expect, many other things around to remember the fallen that never returned home.



Well what a lot has been going on in my house, first the roof, now the work has started on the bathroom. this is a big job. I could not get Her Indoors to do it even after all the hints. I gave her, including a pair of overalls. I think she is too tied up now going to her favourite places, shops and more shops buying up for Christmas especially this year as my son and his lovely wife Sharon are coming over to spend the festivity with the family.

I don't know why we go through so much for just a few days; far too much food and loads of people that fill our house O.K. WE LOVE IT.

It's amazing what you can find out, as I have, doing family researching. On my mothers side she was a "Guy" going back we found out that a John Guy was a council member for Bristol, an Member of Parliament and was Governor of Newfoundland. On his return to the UK he went back to being an MP. The shady side was his brother who was raiding Spanish ships and made a fortune out of it. The Guy family were also in what is called the Inner Inns in London so they had over the years a fantastic family story. I would like to thank our MP for helping get information. It was kind of her to go out of her way.

Don't forget all our war heroes this month by buying a poppy and displaying it with pride. Until next month take care and kids stay safe coming home from school as the nights draw in.



The Old Codger

Councillors' Page: At a meeting attended by all the Popley Councillors we discussed the plans we had requested for much needed improvements for A33; Popley Way and A339 Ringway. The first phase of the A33 junction improvement programme would upgrade the A33 junctions with the A339 Ringway roundabout and Popley Way.

Improvements here would include:

- a new approach lane from the A33 to the north;
- extension of the approach lane on Faraday Road;
- current bus lane markings on the eastern side will be removed so the road can be used by all traffic;
- a fourth lane will be added to the southern section by the Norn Hill exit; and
- at the Ringway exit ramp a second lane will be added.

Junction of the A33 and Popley Way Improvements here would include:

- an additional lane for traffic turning left towards Reading; and
- changing the two remaining lanes for use by traffic turning right towards

Basingstoke town centre.

The intention is that these improvements will relieve congestion at the roundabout, reducing delays for all vehicles including buses even after the existing bus lane is re-designated for all traffic. **Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924**

Popley West: At the Tree Appeal panel at long last after 16 years of residents asking for more suitable landscape was won. The huge trees closest to the houses on the bund in Abbey Road that have caused their houses to be constantly cold and in darkness for the majority of the day, high heating and lighting bills even in summer months, and also the roots tearing up paths and their gardens was finally won. More appropriate landscaping will be looked at and replaced.

We have been to Abbey Court residents meeting where Sentinel, carers, catering manager and staff, Fire Service and Basingstoke & Deane re-cycling officer attended. The residents had some concerns that are being addressed and a special request for a steak and chips dinner was agreed. We spoke to the residents after and all agreed it was a good meeting. We are always available if any constituent wants to talk or meet us. The residents group have asked for a grant to help to improve the gardens again and we were happy to help with that.

Cllr Jane Frankum 01256 819924

Cllr Paul Frankum 01256 819924

Popley East: Basingstoke & Deane are looking for a new site for the cemetery as the current cemetery in Worting Road will reach its capacity in 2019/2020.

In October B&DBC cabinet approved a plan to build a new cemetery in North Waltham adjacent to the Crematorium. It will now go to the planning committee for outline planning. We are concerned that if this was to go ahead people without their own transport will not be able to visit their loved ones when, and as often, as they would want to. Currently there are only 2 buses a day that go to North Waltham and no services at the weekend. Anyone wanting to go to the cemetery will have to walk for 40 minutes down country lanes with no pathways to get there. We feel there are sites that would suit Basingstoke residents better, such as three within the proposed Manydown development, and at Crockford Lane, in Chineham, which had been considered in 1996 as a site for the crematorium. All would be easily accessible by public transport.

Cllr Viv Washbourne tel 07900890088

Cllr David Potter tel 07941507801

Hospital Radio Basingstoke (HRB)

Launches Recruitment Campaign



Christine Rowley, Hospital Radio Basingstoke's public relations officer says: "We are all volunteers and pack so much into the station.

"Most of us hold down day jobs so we are looking for more volunteers to help out.

"Its fun, as well as rewarding with Station Nights, events and lots, lots more.

If you would like to be part of the award winning Hospital Radio team now is the time to find out more, as our doors are open for new recruits.

All our members are volunteers, but not everyone necessarily has to present on the radio. We have a dedicated team of ward visitors who spend their time visiting patients, tuning them in and promoting the service that HRB provides.

Those who do present also visit the wards as this is a very important part of what hospital radio is all about, but full training on all aspects on being an HRB member will be given.

Fundraising is also important for everyone to be involved with, as HRB is a registered charity and relies solely on the support of the public to keep its service running. If you would like to become a committee member, help with fundraising, present, or ward visit, then please let us know.

Visit our website on www.hrbasingstoke.co.uk to apply on line now.

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We have Popley Explorers Pre-school Monday to Friday from 8.30am until 3pm. For full details ring Sharon on 363156.

We also have lots of exciting things going on in the evenings!

Monday night is keep fit and kick boxing from 6-30pm until 8pm Come along and join in the fun.

Tuesday night is BINGO NIGHT! Doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 8pm. New members are welcome. Come along, meet and make new friends. Refreshments are also available and it finishes around about 10pm.

Wednesday evening is Dance to the beat 5pm until 7pm. for details ring Miss Lackey on 321160. Also Kick boxing is 7.30pm-8.30pm.

If you like to dance we have Street dance and ballet classes on Thursdays, for ages from two and a half year olds to adults, 4.30 until 5.30pm. For full details contact Samantha on 07811299484.

Also Kick boxing from 7pm until 8.30pm.

Friday night is available for hire.

The hall is also available to hire for parties at reasonable rates for details ring Janet on 363156.

OUR NEXT FAMILY PRIZE BINGO IS AT POPLEY FIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE ON FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER 2014 - Please note that doors open at 6pm and eyes down at 7pm. Refreshments will also be available. Bring along all your Family and friends.

Operation Resilience: Keats Close Footpath Resurfacing

We are writing to update you regarding the footpath resurfacing works planned for Keats Close. We are sorry that the original start date could not be accommodated due to the impact of changes in the programming of other works in the county.

As part of the programme of works being undertaken by Operation Resilience we will be undertaking footway resurfacing on Keats Close footpath from houses 37-21, houses 20-18, and houses 17-5. The works are programmed to start on Monday 27 October 2014 and are expected to last for up to 4 weeks; working hours 8am-5pm hours.

Information signs advising footpath users of the works will be erected before the start of works and a letter will be sent to residents likely to be affected by the works.

Should you have any questions or require further information please contact the Operation Resilience team on 01962 813063 or email operation.resilience@hants.gov.uk

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Popley Islands Community Group

If you live in any of the roads named after islands in east Popley then you are part of the Popley Islands Community. For some time now a group of us have been working with other east Popley community groups towards drawing up a Community Plan which sets out a vision for our community and outlines what needs to be done to achieve that vision. All the residents in the area had the opportunity to contribute to the plan through a survey carried out last year. The vision and the draft plan can be seen on the Popley Islands notice board in Popley Fields Community Centre. We also have a Facebook page (Popley Islands Community Group).

A few weeks ago we met with a range of stakeholders, agencies and service providers to discuss how they could help deliver the plan and make the vision come true. The response was terrific; schools, charities and statutory agencies are both willing and able to work with us to make our community a more enjoyable, healthier and safer place to live. The final plan will soon be published and you will be able to see for yourself how you can benefit from the work being done and how you can get involved. You can get in touch with us through the Facebook page or by leaving a message for the Popley Islands Community Group at the Popley Fields Centre.

There is such a lot to look forward to if you live in Popley Islands.



Marnel and Merton Community Group

Would you like to be involved in decision making in your community? Marnel and Merton Community Group was set up in January 2011 to develop a community plan. As the result of a range of different consultation events and a questionnaire that went to every household on the estate, the community plan for the area has now been published. Now we need your help to start thinking about how we can put all your ideas into action! We are therefore holding a public meeting for everyone living in the Marnel Park/Merton Rise area on Thursday 20th November, 7.30pm at Everest Community Academy Community room.

Before the meeting you will receive a copy of the community plan through the post which will tell you all about what residents told us about how they would like to see their community. There are loads of projects people can get involved with which will help make Marnel Park and Merton Rise the place you want it to be. Read the plan and come along on the 20th to see what you can do to help!



MFC Popley Youth are delighted to announce that four new members have been elected onto the Clubs Ruling Committee.

The composition of the Committee going forwards is as follows -

Ian Davies - Club Chairman & Club Secretary
Nicci Gambrell - Club Treasurer & Club Welfare Officer
Kerry Slade - Club Minutes Secretary
Zak Collingwood - Social Media & Communications Officer
Steve Halsey - Funding Officer

Dave Gambrell - Club Kit & Equipment Officer
Andrew Williams - Fixtures Secretary
Katie Collingwood - Club Social Events Organiser

The Club would like to take this opportunity to thank all committee members, past and present, for all the time and hard work put into making MFC Popley Youth, FA Charter Standard Club of the Year 2014, one of the (if not THE) best grass roots football clubs dedicated to coaching boys and girls of all ages in Hampshire.

Are you, or do you know someone, interested in coaching youth football?

If so, we are looking to recruit new volunteer coaches into MFC Popley Youth. Experience is not necessarily required, as full training will be arranged by the club, but a passion for football and teaching children how to play the game at grass roots level is a must.

Please contact the club by email at volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk or contact Ian Davies, on 07884 185693 for more details

We are always looking to get more parents involved actively with MFC Popley Youth, especially on match days with refereeing (in particular our under 7s) and the set up of the pitches & Respect lines. So if you are interested in helping out please make yourself known to either the Club Chairman Ian Davies or to the manager of your particular age group.

Do you know a Year R or Year 1 child, boy or girl, who wants to get into football?

The Club is now recruiting for 'All Stars Players'. If you would like your child to join, or if you have any further questions, please contact Sophie Yadegar, All Stars Coach, on 07896 708 252 or by email: allstars@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

Contact the club -

Main website: www.mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

Club Chairman & Club Secretary:

Ian Davies

Mob: 07884 185693

Email: ian.davies.2010@live.co.uk

Club Treasurer & Club Welfare Officer:

Nicci Gambrell

Mob: 07990 520956

Email: mfcpopleyyouth@live.co.uk

Volunteer enquiries: volunteer@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

Allstars Recruitment: Allstars@mfcpopleyyouth.co.uk

You can also get regular updates from the club by following our twitter account, @MFC_PopleyYouth. Also, each MFC Popley Youth age group has a dedicated page on Facebook.



How Does the New Inheritance and Trustees Powers Act 2014 Affect You

We are always encouraging you to make a Will to be sure that your assets pass to the people you want to receive them. So it is really important you know about the new law that affects your estate if you have not made a Will.

If you die without a Will then you die intestate and the distribution of your estate is governed by very strict rules known as Intestacy Rules. This means that your estate may pass to someone who you do not want to benefit and someone who is dependent upon you may be left without anything.

On 1st October 2014 new law came into force changing the Intestacy Rules. If you die before your spouse then they will take the first £250,000 **and** half of the balance of your estate. The other half will then be divided between your children and held on trust until they reach 18. If you do not have any children or descendants then the new rules provide for your spouse to inherit all of your estate.

Whilst these new rules appear more generous towards the surviving spouse, they do not consider other family members or friends whom you may have wanted to benefit. They also may not provide sufficiently for your children, particularly if you marry a second time. In these circumstances, depending on the value of the estate, your children may not benefit at all.

This new law also updates the meaning of “personal chattels” which are your personal effects and belongings and under the new law would pass absolutely to the surviving spouse. Leaving distribution of these items to the Intestacy Rules may mean that any family heirlooms or sentimental items are not left to the family members or friends that you would wish.

To avoid your estate passing under these Intestacy Rules we would strongly advise you to make a Will so you are in control of what happens to your assets on your death.

Leaving a Will also makes it easier for your family and friends to sort out your estate during a difficult time. It also allows you to make important appointments such as Guardians for your children and Executors of your Will.

If you would like professional advice on how to secure the correct disposal of your estate and ensure your last wishes are respected and your chosen beneficiaries are looked after then please do not hesitate to contact one of the Phillips Solicitors Wills team: Zoë McManus on 01256 854677, Jonathan Jacobs on 01256 854638 or Sheila Glyn-Owen on 01256 854637.



Thank you to everyone that has returned our community questionnaire. Your input is helpful to us. If you have not had the chance to fill one in please do so and return to the office, your views are important to us. Here is a small selection of comments received so far:

Nice meeting place, pleased the café has re-opened/How about an afternoon group for over 55s with activities such as Zumba, yoga etc-

We do run a café that is open to all ages on a Wednesday morning, and is financed by MCA. We have had an over 55s club offering activities in the past run by Age UK, but it closed due to lack of attendance. Please register with the office, so we can gauge the interest in this sort of activities group including days and times that would suit best.

The only toilet in Popley, a godsend/Door always locked can't go in to use the toilet-

The main door is unlocked on weekdays between 8-11am, when the office is manned. It is kept shut (but unlocked), so please use the round handle to gain access, no need to knock, just come on in. The toilet is open for use at these times. When the office is closed and/or there is a private hire in the hall, it is down to the discretion of the hirer to let the general public in to use the toilet or not.

Used as a church not community at large -

Melrose Community Association is a registered not for profit charity. We are here for the benefit of the local community. Our main income is generated from hiring the hall for private use. Whilst we are **NOT** a religious body or affiliated to one in any way, we do not discriminate when taking on private hires. We do have three very different churches that hire the hall on a regular basis for worship, youth club and community lunch club, but we also have five other regular private hires that are not religious organizations.

I love your wild flower meadow, so nice to see something being put back for wildlife in an urban environment The gardens outside are just weeds -

We have been looking after the community gardens outside the hall for 6 years now. In the past we have been awarded many certificates as a part of Basingstoke in Bloom, and have had financial assistance from B&DBC for the creation of the wild flower meadow. Unfortunately this last year we have lost all our volunteer gardeners due to ill health. Two of our seven beds have suffered because of this. We are actively seeking new garden volunteers and hope to be back to 'in bloom' standards next year. So if you have green fingers and would like to help please contact Vicki in the office.

Please ring Vicki Jackson on 01256 420676 for more information or e-mail us at Melrosehall@btconnect.com

Also find us on facebook: Melrose hall.

What do you think of Melrose Community Hall? What could we be doing better for you?

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Dear Friends

It may well be that by the time you read this the ashes of Bonfire Night will have cooled and all the fireworks will have been set off, except maybe for that big one you're saving for New Year's Eve! I remember Bonfire Night as a boy in Manchester as a time of wonderful community. For weeks beforehand the boys in the neighbourhood would all be out every spare moment gathering bits of wood (or anything else that would burn) and piling it onto the bonfire in the field near where we lived. Competition for "penny for the guy" would be fierce among the children as we scabbled for the best pitch – usually outside the pub!

On Bonfire Night we'd rush home from school to get changed and gather around the pile of wood and stuff. As it was lit and the flames reached hungrily into the cool of the November evening air, fireworks of every colour shape and size would crackle and flare, lighting the faces of adults and children alike with their bright, eerie colours. We'd share 'hard as rock' treacle toffee, toffee apples and potatoes baked to charcoal in the intense heat at the edge of the bonfire. As the bonfire died down, we children would wander home to bed and the grown ups would sit around the glowing red embers swapping tall stories and drinking warm, flat beer! The next day the air would be thick with bonfire and firework smoke and the lingering smell of expended gunpowder. For me Bonfire Night conjures up very pleasant, powerful and evocative memories.

Community is a vital part of what it is to be human. I'm not talking just about the social gatherings like Bonfire Night which are usually such great fun! It's the sense of community that takes pride in its surroundings, which cares for the vulnerable individual whether old or young, rich or poor, which takes the time to smile, to greet, to look in on someone. In fact it's the community that God created us to be a part of, and to take part in! Unless we all buy in to this idea of community it will never be as it should and that diminishes all of us!

As a Christian I firmly believe that we at St Gabriel's are called to be a people that reflect the nature and character of Jesus to our community. Jesus was the Master of caring and sharing, listening and talking with those among whom He lived and worked each day. I hope that His example and desire today for true community is what forms the heart of our vision for our church and for Popley. If this is what you are looking for in a community we would love to welcome you any time you want to drop in.

I hope and pray that you have a funtastic and safe bonfire night, shared with family and friends and one that in future years will evoke pleasant and powerful memories for you.

Yours in Christ
Arthur
Vicar, St Gabriel's, Popley.

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Block

If anyone sends you a nasty message or says something that makes you feel uncomfortable – make sure you let your parents or a trusted adult know straightaway. Don't open any pictures or attachments they have sent you.

Always block and delete e-mails from people you don't know.

Report

If you see anything online that upsets you or if anyone asks to meet you, tell your parents or a trusted adult straightaway. If you are worried or unhappy about anything you've seen, don't worry, you won't be in trouble – just make sure your parents or a trusted adult know so they can help.

If a friend you have made online asks to meet you in real life, tell your parents or a trusted adult straightaway. You should never meet up with someone you have met online without an adult as it could be dangerous. Tell your family about the Internet Watch Foundation - www.iwf.org.uk where they can report horrible things.

Filter

Ask your family to install a filter on your PC. Filters will never be able to remove all nasty things but they are a very good start to keeping you safe online.

Most adults with children choose to install filters but over the last three years this has dropped to the point where almost 60% of children are using the internet without filters in the home – so make sure you ask your parents to do this.

Remember

Remember, don't be scared – most people are friendly and very few of them are nasty – but you can never be too sure, so it's better to be safe than sorry.

Always remember, if in doubt, speak to your parents, a trusted adult or your teacher.

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Group Scout Leader: Colin Karslake 01256 410559

Scout section: Jean-Paul Keeth 07899 087 275

Cub Scout section: Douglas Gowan 01256 412326

Beaver Scout section: Eve Alexander 07790 018 171

Spotlight on the Cub section this month ...

The Pack completed all the requirements of the new Disability Awareness Badge in September and October. They learnt a little of British Sign Language - how to sign their name and ask somebody what their name is and how to understand Braille. One of the Cubs spent the evening wearing ear defenders to dull the hearing and get a 'feel' for what it might be like to have a hearing impairment. It also had the effect of making the rest of the Pack more aware of the problems of living with a hearing impediment.



Eleven Cubs joined 69 other Cubs for the annual District Cub Camp held at Downe Activity Centre, near Biggin Hill. They had the chance to try activities such as crate stacking, air rifle shooting, zip wire and archery, and a great time was had by all. An additional highlight of the weekend for the Cub Leader and Group Scout Leader was having the site "buzzed" by a Spitfire out of Biggin Hill Airport.



The Pack has also visited Basingstoke Police Station. They tried on some of the police equipment, including being handcuffed; sat in a Police Car with the flashing



lights on; and were shut up in the back of a police van. The Police demonstrated how they breathalyse someone by breathalysing one of the parents who was helping on the night.

New recruits welcome in all sections – contact the leaders listed above or <http://www.facebook.com/BasingstokeAirScouts>

Base 2000 is available for use by any community group at special rates for both 'one-off' and regular bookings. Childrens' parties and family gatherings welcomed. Hiring rates range from £3.50 per hour for the smaller hall to up to £12 per hour for the larger hall. Enquiries to bookings@base2000.co.uk or call Colin on 07796 772 500 / 01256 410559.

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Bulbtastic Merton!

What a fantastic first half term we have enjoyed. As I write this with one week to go until half term, school is busy getting ready for our annual Harvest Assembly and already the 'C' word has been discussed with children designing Christmas cards for their parents to buy in specially printed packs with all profits going to Friends of Merton.

The weather has been kind to us for most of this term and the children have all enjoyed playing outside. Even when it's drizzling we try and get our children outside, wrapped up warm for a 'run round'. When it is wet, the children have 'wet play' this means they stay indoors and play with board games, colour, complete puzzles and Sudoku, listen to audio books, use the lap-tops and iPads and we put 'zumba' dance on in the hall.

Year 5 have been very busy gardening recently; they have been planting hundreds of bulbs along the side of our lovely new path and near our new gate to Tintern Close. Many of the children had never planted bulbs before and were intrigued they had to plant them at a certain depth and a certain way up. We are all looking forward to a bright splash of colour to make us smile on those dark spring days. Well done Year 5!



A huge THANK YOU to everyone who came along and supported our McMillian Coffee morning recently. We raised over £190—a truly amazing total. Many parents (and others) who came in enjoyed completing the maths puzzles and quizzes with the children.

This year Maths is a key focus for us, we are working hard on supporting our children to reach and exceed the Government's new National Curriculum expectations in all subjects, but especially in Maths. As a school, we are proud that learning tables and key number skills have always been a large part of our Merton Maths Curriculum so many of the new Maths curriculum elements we were already doing. We have introduced 'Merton Maths Madness' this year; this is an additional 15 minute mental strategies session to the hour of maths the children already do. It is fun, quick and allows children to apply and practise what they have learnt to different contexts e.g. time and money.

Parents of children who are to start Year 3 in 2015 are currently choosing their schools for next year and we have held open afternoons for prospective parents and children to tour school and ask questions. We have had many parents 'pop in' and see what we are like in 'full flow!' If you or someone you know didn't get a chance to look around, you are welcome at any time. Drop in or call the office to make an appointment.

We have been lucky to enter Junior Rock Challenge again this year. Auditions were held for all year groups with over 125 children wanting a chance to be part of the great event. The Rock Challenge Team (Mrs Reading, Mrs Bridle, Miss Gregor and Miss Light) had a really hard time choosing the final squad! The final 47 started rehearsing 2 weeks ago. Portsmouth Guildhall here we come in March!

Earlier this term Miss Leather organised for a Performing Arts group to come into school and work with Year 4 and Year 5. The children took part in workshop sessions creating a dance routine which they shared at a whole school assembly. "It was amazing—I loved it" "I learnt new dance moves and we did it together and I was so nervous to show the rest of the school but it was ok as I remembered all my steps" "The workshop was brilliant, and I loved performing to the whole school" "I've never really done anything like that before, I enjoyed the assembly but my tummy had butterflies".

**Follow all our adventures on our website: www.mertonjuniorschool.co.uk
 Miss Helen Palmer, Headteacher**

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Sentinel

Could you be a Champion?

Dealing with money can be difficult. So we're looking for local Money Matters Champions to help people in their community to find the right savings, loans and money advice for them.

What you'll be doing

You'll signpost people to:

- Organisations that can help and give advice, such as Citizens Advice and the Money Advice Service;
- Organisations that offer savings accounts, low cost banking and loans, such as My Home Finance and Credit Unions;
- Crisis help, such as food banks, emergency financial help and welfare funds; and
- Information on lower cost energy providers.

You'll promote alternatives to pay day loans and doorstep lenders by doing leaflet drops, putting up posters on noticeboards and talking about the alternatives at local events or meetings.

And you'll support people who are struggling to fill in application forms or make appointments with services that can help.

You'll need to have empathy with people in financial difficulties, reasonable IT skills, numeracy and literacy (training can be offered) and a friendly and approachable personality. You'll also be flexible, organised and good at record keeping, with an eye for detail.

So if you're willing to learn, have excellent local knowledge and good communication skills we want to hear from you.

We'll cover your expenses for any costs incurred as part of the role (including travel), as well as your babysitting, child minding or carer costs (up to £6 per hour).

To get involved call us on **0800 195 5515**, or **0300 666 5515** from a mobile, or email beinvolved@sentinelha.org.uk.



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in association with the



Saturday 29th November 10am – 4pm
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Kiddies enjoy Sarah's traditional sweets & candies, try the Lucky Dip, have your face painted by Karen, buy a book.

Pamper yourself: have a massage or your nails painted by Cayleigh from SimplyRevive.

Eats & Drinks: Lunchtime soup courtesy of The Swan, our local 17th century traditional pub.

Teas, coffees, soft drinks and cakes. Mulled wine and Christmas nibbles.

Abbey Court Christmas Bazaar



Table Top Sale and Christmas Bazaar.

Free entry.

There will be table tops such as cards, jewellery, home crafted Xmas decorations, calendars of the history of Basingstoke, Phoenix greeting cards and stationery, Forever Living products, face painting and many others.

We will also have some fun games to play. All are welcome, Please come and join us and have a bit of fun and help raise money so we can arrange some entertainment for the residents. I'm afraid they have a no smoking at all on the premises but we do have a smoking area.

Abbey Court
Christmas Bazaar

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To find out more about Basingstoke Discovery Centre and Hampshire Libraries visit www.hants.gov.uk/

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<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/library/bsdc.htm>

<https://twitter.com/BasingstokeDC>

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Papercraft Workshop Thursday 13th November

1 – 3pm

£15

Everything you need for the holiday celebrations. In this Christmas Papercraft workshop with Pauline Barnfather you will make a 3D decoration, table favours for four (including chocolates) and a box card. All materials for these projects will be provided.

Craft Fair

Saturday 15th November

10am – 3pm

FREE ENTRY

Meet a range of local craft-makers and find individual, original items to make a refreshing alternative to the high street shops for your gift buying

If you're an artist / maker interested in holding a stall at the fair, get in touch with us via email: discovery.centre@hants.gov.uk or phone: 01256 478670

The U-Boat Story

Thursday 20th November

2 pm

£3

German U-boat submarines were designed for rapid attack and sunk 14.1 million tons of British and allied merchant shipping. Using rare illustrations of U-boats in action, Alan Gallop will take the audience below deck to learn how crews coped for up to four months at a time in damp, cramped, humid and stinking conditions.

Family Scrabble Coaching

Saturday 22nd November

11am – 1pm

FREE drop-in

With Basingstoke Scrabble Club, Find out how to score maximum points with just 2 letters and other useful tips from members of the Basingstoke Scrabble Club. Children and young adults are welcome together with their families for this fun workshop

The Last Summer & the Great War

Tuesday 25th November

2 pm

£3

Judith Kinghorn has long been fascinated by the Edwardian period and the social and political changes wrought by the First World War. Her bestselling debut novel, 'The Last Summer', starts in a country house near Guildford in the summer of 1914. Her second novel, 'The Memory of Lost Senses', set in Hampshire - her home county, was selected as Lovereading UK's book of the month in June 2013.

Lawless-Crime Author Jessie Keane

Saturday 29th November

10:30 am

£3

It is 1975 and Ruby Darke is struggling to deal with the brutal murder of her lover, Michael Ward. As her children, Daisy and Kit, battle their own demons, her retail empire starts to crumble...Only the lawless will survive . . . Come and hear what inspires Jessie Keane to write chilling crime fiction, her research and storylines.

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Community Safety News

Road tax information

As has been widely publicised, the paper road tax disc has ceased being issued as of 1 October 2014. You no longer need to display tax disc in your vehicle. Motorists are now able to pay by direct debit, making it more affordable for many. The option of six month and twelve month payments also remains. Your local authority continues to liaise with the DVLA and deal with untaxed and abandoned vehicles on public land in the same way.

People can report untaxed and suspected abandoned vehicles to the local authorities customer services team. However, before you do this, we would recommend visiting www.vehicleenquiry.service.gov.uk where information on the tax and MOT status of any vehicle can be checked. You may also find www.fixmystreet.com useful.



Anti-bullying Week

Calling all schools in North Hampshire! Anti-bullying Week returns this month. Running from the 17 - 21 November, the event, organised by the Anti-bullying Alliance, is a week where children and young people, schools, parents and carers come together with one aim: to stop bullying for all.



This year, the school community is being asked to take action to stop the bullying of all children and young people - including disabled children, after research has shown they are significantly more likely to experience bullying in schools and the wider community.

There are many ways to get involved, from school resources and lesson plans to taking part in a school writing competition, bake-sale or non-uniform day to raise funds. For more information please visit www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk.

Parking on the pavement

Following a number of recent incidents, we would like to remind motorists that they should not park their vehicles on the pavement. Although this is usually done with the intention to keep the highway clear, it can force pedestrians to walk onto the road - a particular concern for the elderly, wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs and young children. While a common sense approach is used by officers, if a vehicle is reported to 101 and the officer deems it to be an obstruction, you may receive a fine. You can download our new vehicle nuisance leaflet from www.safernh.co.uk.



Buy With Confidence

In response to concerns about 'rogue traders' which are often highlighted in the media, a partnership of Local Authority Trading Standards Services have taken a ground-breaking step by putting together the Buy With Confidence Scheme.



The Buy With Confidence Scheme is an approved register of businesses, which have been thoroughly vetted and approved by Trading Standards to ensure that they operate in a legal, honest and fair way.

The scheme provides consumers with a list of local businesses which have given their commitment to trading fairly. Every business listed has undergone a series of detailed checks before being approved as a member of the scheme.

For more information and for a list of approved businesses visit www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk.

Firework safety

Major events such as Guy Fawkes Night, Diwali, New Year's Eve and Chinese New Year are approaching in the coming months. Please remember the fireworks code:



- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
- Dispose of sparklers in a bucket of water as soon as they are finished.
- Never give sparklers to a child under five-years-old.
- Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box or tin. Use them one at a time, replacing the lid immediately.
- Follow the instructions on each firework, using a torch or hand lamp. Never use a naked flame.
- Light fireworks at arm's length using a taper.
- Do not drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
- Stand well back.
- Never go back to a lit firework, even if it hasn't gone off - it could still explode.
- Never throw fireworks.
- Keep pets indoors.
- Why not visit an organised fireworks display in your area?

For more information visit www.hantsfire.gov.uk.



Basingstoke and Deane



RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL